

COMMUNITY REPORT

Suffolk County Legislator DuWayne Gregory

Fall 2012/Winter 2013



In this issue
DuWayne...

- Helps Neighbors in Need after Super Storm Sandy p. 1
- Overturns Divisive Redistricting Plan p. 2
- Champions Road Safety Initiative p. 3
- Around the Community p. 3
- Lessons from the Wreckage p. 4

Much Needed Southern Hospitality Rolls into Amityville

DuWayne Connects with Louisiana Trucking Company to Help Deliver Relief Supplies

Louisiana is known for its *lagniappe*, that's Cajun for "a little something extra". In the wake of Super Storm Sandy, a Louisiana trucking company – with an assist from DuWayne and Laura McVeety Pawlewicz – delivered some extra and desperately needed southern hospitality to Amityville residents just in time for Thanksgiving.

Two 53-foot tractor trailers rolled into the parking lot of Amityville High School and 120,000 pounds of supplies were offloaded by an army of eager and grateful



volunteers on Tuesday November 19th. The trucks, and their desperately needed contents (*blankets, non-perishable foods and other necessities*), arrived courtesy of the Arabie Family Trucking Company based in Thibodaux Louisiana.

A family-run business in Lafourche Parish, southwest of New Orleans.

The Arabie's chose Amityville, as its donation recipient because it reminded them of their own hometown of Thibodaux, a community of blue collar, hard-working, resilient people.



DuWayne Overturns Redistricting Plan that Would Have Divided Neighborhoods and Communities



At the December 4th meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature, lawmakers from both sides of the aisle came together and unanimously adopted an important voter empowerment initiative put forward by Majority Leader DuWayne Gregory (D-Amityville).

The bill amended the 10-year, national Census based, redistricting plan, previously adopted by the Legislature earlier in 2012.

Gregory's alternative proposal will now keep whole the communities of Wheatley Heights in the northern and Copiague in the southern portions of the 15th legislative district.

Gregory began conceiving an alternate map back before the Legislature approved the spring plan.

The reason Gregory sought new lines was because old map adopted by the Legislature had split the community of Wheatley Heights by leaving the 135th election district in the 15th legislative district but moving out the 90th election district in the neighboring 17th legislative district.

The new map adopted by the Legislature does not totally disregard the previous plan lawmakers had adopted.

Like the previously adopted map, Gregory's plan adds two election districts (34 & 37) in the Hamlet of Copiague into the 15th legislative, thus keeping that entire hamlet whole as well.

Up until now, Gregory had only represented portions of Copiague, another factor that motivated him to redraw the lines. This because Gregory says, it's important to preserve all voters' voices together within the like communities they reside.

"People don't live their lives within the abstract confines of political boundaries but in real communities," says Gregory.

DuWayne Re-elected Majority Leader for a 2nd Time

At an organizational Caucus meeting last December, DuWayne's fellow legislators voted overwhelmingly to reappoint him for a second time as **the first Majority Leader of color in the history of the Suffolk County Legislature.**

"My amended map preserves the democratic process and protects voters by keeping their voices and the communities they live in whole."

24 states – including New York – make preserving "communities of interest" a common criterion when drawing legislative districts.



SIGN UP FOR SAFETY'S SAKE

The Suffolk County Department of Fire Rescue and Emergency Services has established a **Code Red** emergency notification system that can deliver customized pre-recorded emergency messages directly to your home and business. **Code Red** also has high speed email and text messaging capability.

[Click here to sign up to receive Code Red emergency notifications](#)

Those without Internet access may call the Office of Emergency Management's Customer Service Center (631-852-4900), Monday through Friday, (9AM-5PM) to supply their information over the phone.

Protecting the Safety of our Streets



Speeding on CR 28 (aka New Highway) is a significant problem. In the proximity of 43rd Street, there exists a blind corner that is a real safety threat to residents who live on the heavily populated side streets along that stretch of the road. Four lanes wide, it is just south of a known illegal drag racing area.

To protect the residents DuWayne is working with the County's Department of Public Works to put New

Highway on a "road diet". The plan is to reduce the number of lanes from 2 to 1 in each direction. When completed, dangerous speedsters will lose their illegal raceway and residents and drivers won't have to worry about that blind corner becoming a "dead end".



DuWayne Honors Chiefs at Installation Dinner for North Babylon Fire Department

In November DuWayne attended the installation dinner on for incoming Chief of Chiefs James Harrington Jr. of the North Babylon Fire Company. DuWayne also gave a proclamation to honor outgoing Chief Jeffrey Thompson's service.

DuWayne Gets Standing Ovation at New York State NAACP Conference & is Honored by the National Council of Negro Women

On October 6th DuWayne received a standing ovation when he gave an inspiring keynote address to begin the first full day of the *NAACP New York State Conference's 76 Annual Convention* at the Huntington Hilton. The theme for the conference was "Your Power, Your Decision – VOTE."

Later that day, DuWayne was honored by the Suffolk Section of the *National Council of Negro Women* at their annual Founders Day Luncheon in Bayshore. The theme of the luncheon was "Paying Homage to our Elders as we move Forward into the Future."

DuWayne with Dr. Hazel N. Dukes, president of the NAACP New York State Conference



DuWayne Kicks-Off Homeless Veterans Housing Development Ground Breaking Ceremony

In October DuWayne spoke at the groundbreaking ceremony for *Concern Amityville*. The project will construct 60 one-and two-bedroom townhome rental apartments for homeless veterans and their families.

A former Army artillery officer, DuWayne helped secure much needed funding for the project.

Located on the site of the former North Amityville Armed Forces Reserve Center site. Construction will create more than 160 jobs and at least eight permanent positions when the facility is completed.

Are You Registered to Vote?
If not, call the Suffolk County Board of Elections at 631-852-4554 and request a voter application form.

Salvaging Lessons from the Wreckage

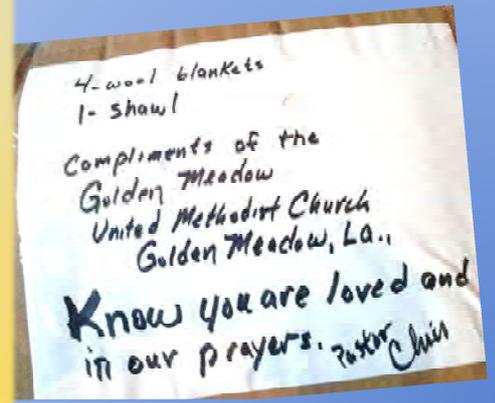
"For everything that Hurricane Sandy took from us and from our community, it wasn't without its gifts. And as hard as they are to recognize for the thousands of people still affected by the storm—there lessons to be found in the wreckage.

There's a certain irony that Sandy hit right before Halloween. Because for many of us, it was the biggest collective scare the Island has ever experienced.

But as we began the difficult process of cleaning up in the days and weeks leading into Thanksgiving and Christmas, we saw people coming together to donate gifts of unparalleled generosity and caring. Not just our neighbors, but even complete strangers living thousands of miles away.

As we continue to find our way out of Sandy, let us be like the homeowners who've had to comb through the wreckage to recover their valuables. May we all have the patience, openheartedness and determination to search past the pain and embrace the goodness that remains in our lives, and in society"

—DuWayne



If You Need Help Please Don't Hesitate to Contact Me At:

Legislator DuWayne Gregory

15 Albany Avenue

Amityville, NY 11701

(across the street from the Sunoco Station on Route 110)

Phone: (631) 854-1111

Fax: (631) 854-1114

duwayne.gregory@suffolkcountyny.gov

Office hours are 9 to 5 weekdays.

Appointments are available, but walk-ins are always welcome.

**You can also follow me on Facebook
and Twitter @duwaynegregory.com**

4-wool blankets
1- shawl
Compliments of the
Golden Meadow
United Methodist Church
Golden Meadow, La..
**Know you are loved and
in our prayers. Pastor Chris**