

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE



DuWayne Gregory, Presiding Officer

Press Release

June 28, 2014

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OPENING DAY FOR WYANDANCH BASKETBALL LEAGUE PRESIDING OFFICER GREGORY PARTNERS WITH TOWN AND LOCAL SPONSORS TO CREATE COUNTYWIDE LEAGUE



Amityville, NY – Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory joins the Wyandanch Championship League Committee to announce the opening day for the 2014 Wyandanch Basketball Championship League this Sunday, June 29th, with eight basketball games to be played throughout the day. Sunday kicks off the league's 5-week, 40-game season at the Wyandanch Park on Mount Ave.

The Wyandanch Basketball Championship League is a newly formed Coed League, a summer program of National Night Out, for 160 youth 14-18 years of age throughout Suffolk County. This joint effort was created by the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Big Kidz Auto Club, Wyandanch Compare Foods, the Town of Babylon, the Suffolk County Office of Minority Health and Presiding Officer Gregory. Participation is FREE of charge, thanks to the sponsorship of the following organizations:

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Suffolk County Police Athletic League, Compare Foods, the Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Big Kidz Auto Club, Wyandanch Weed and Seed, The Family Life Wyandanch Youth Center, 100 Black Men of Long Island, Man in the Mirror, Inc. and private donors.

“Thanks to the help of local partners and sponsors, we are excited for the launch of this basketball league, which will bring fun and competition to Wyandanch,” said Babylon Supervisor Rich Schaffer. “I applaud the community for giving young people a creative outlet during the summer months.”

I am elated that the basketball championship league is commencing this Sunday, said County Executive Steve Bellone. The collaboration of all levels of government and the not-for-profit and private sectors is a testimony to the hard work and dedication of those who want to see the Wyandanch community continue to rise. I thank the sponsors of this league for helping to provide an outlet for our youth and I wish all participants a successful summer season.

“This league is a fantastic example of community leaders and government officials working together to continue to provide recreational activities for our youth and I am proud to be a part of this movement,” said Kimberly Jean-Pierre; Director of the Wyandanch Resource Center.

“Big Kidz Auto Club is proud and honored to have teamed up with so many positive elements to be able to give back to our community,” said Guy Jackman of Big Kidz Auto Club. “We look forward to much success in making a difference and positive influence in our youth's lives.”

D/Lt. Bob Donohue, Commanding Officer of the SCPD Community Response Bureau said, “Suffolk County PAL is celebrating 40 years of providing sports, recreational and educational programs to children living in Suffolk County, and we are proud to work with Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory, and the community to offer valuable recreational activities in the Wyandanch community.”

“Our work with the Wyandanch Basketball Championship League is an excellent example of the partnership building that has become the foundation of Health Services,” said Dr. Gregson Pigott, Director of Minority Health. “Working with strong community partners in local government, community based organizations and clubs, has fueled the Office of Minority Health’s mission to increase the awareness and understanding of the major public health problems affecting our communities. Through initiatives such as this, we are not only providing safe spaces for our youth but educating and empowering racial and ethnic minorities about the resources that exist right here in Suffolk County.”

“As a Program of Wyandanch National Night Out, this first time expansion is the kickoff for many great community events to come in the Wyandanch Community,” said Virginia Dawson- Taylor, Coordinator of Wyandanch National Night Out. “I am excited to see the efforts of this committees work come into vision.”

“The Family Life Wyandanch Youth Center is grateful for the opportunity to participate in the Wyandanch Basketball Championship League,” said Jeanine Reynolds, Executive Director of The Family Life Wyandanch Youth Center. “This League offers the young people of Wyandanch safe and fun activities to be part of throughout the summer.”

“As a Community Stakeholder, it is great to be a part of the Wyandanch Basketball Championship League. Together we have created a recreational and fundamental avenue for our youth this summer and



A partnership of:

Wyandanch Weed and Seed, Wyandanch Compare Supermarket, Family Life Center, Man in the Mirror, Inc., 100 Black Men of Long Island, Suffolk County Police Department, Suffolk County Dept. Of Health Services OMH Wyandanch Resource Center

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I look forward to working on future projects with the community,” said Alex Guzman, owner of Compare Foods Wyandanch.

Amun Handa, President of 100 Black Men of Long Island said, “The best part of this endeavor is the community support we are getting not only from Wyandanch but all over the county. We at the 100 are privileged to join in with this coalition and show our communities positive role models who make a difference every day, and have our children interact, compete learn with each other.”

“The Wyandanch Basketball Championship League benefits teens throughout Suffolk County,” said Presiding Officer Gregory. “I want to thank Supervisor Rich Schaffer and the Town of Babylon for providing the space and the many sponsors who came together to provide support and funding. This is a perfect example of a public-private partnership with a shared vision to provide an opportunity for fun, healthy, safe summer activity for teens.”

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