



***Community Report
from your Suffolk
County Legislator
Steve Stern***

***Wishing you and your
family a Happy and
Healthy New Year***

January 2013

**Legislator Steve Stern
2013 Committee
Assignments**

Chairman:

Veterans & Seniors

Vice-Chairman:

Economic Development
& Energy

Vice-Chairman:

Public Works &
Transportation

Vice-Chairman:

Ways & Means

Member:

Parks & Recreation

Dear Neighbors:



As we begin a New Year, we reflect on the past year, which was filled with challenges for our Nation and our own community. We continue to face both economic challenges, and work to recover from Superstorm Sandy. I understand that during these difficult times it is important to continue to hold the line on taxes while maintaining essential services and ensuring public safety. Please know that you have my commitment to do just that. My staff, Deborah



Harris, Mary Young, Bryan Galgano, and I are always available to assist you. Feel free to stop by our district office, call, e-mail or write and we will be pleased to address your concerns.

Legislator Steve Stern's "Suffolk's Safer Waterways Act" Approved Unanimously



Our world-class beaches, boating, sailing, and fishing are among the best parts of our quality of life we cherish here on Long Island. Boating brings families and friends together and for many, it is why we live here. A day on the water should be a pleasure not one that ends in tragedy. Unfortunately, recent events, including one that claimed the lives of three young children, remind us that even as we enjoy recreational water activities, we must also respect the water and take the necessary steps to become educated about

boating safety. Prior to this initiative, there was no requirement for adults in New York State to complete a boating safety course in order to operate a pleasure craft in our waters. For any of us that are concerned about our personal safety, the safety of our passengers, and knowing and respecting the “rules of the road” that should be unacceptable. That is why I introduced ***“Suffolk’s Safer Waterways Act,”*** legislation that passed unanimously and was signed into law by County Executive Steve Bellone. It will require all boaters operating a vessel on Suffolk County waterways to complete an approved boating safety course. I have worked closely with the US Coast Guard, our regional Power Squadrons, and most importantly, boaters in our community, who strongly support this effort to ensure that all boaters have received essential safety training. Although this initiative will not prevent every accident, in the absence of state action, I strongly believe that the time to act is now, so that we can help prevent tragic loss of life in the future. Suffolk County has a long and proud tradition of leading the way in protecting the safety and well-being of our residents. It is my sincere hope that this important initiative will protect all of us who enjoy our waterways.

HEAP Benefits Available for Eligible Residents

Many Suffolk residents will face difficulties keeping their homes warm this winter. No one should have to choose between heating their homes and putting food on the table. The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) provides one regular benefit and one emergency benefit for low-income residents. Eligibility guidelines and applications can be downloaded from the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance at <http://otda.ny.gov/programs/heap> For additional information, please contact the Department of Social Services (DSS) HEAP hotline at 631-853-8326. Those over 60 or those under 60 who are receiving Social Security Supplemental Income may apply through the Suffolk County Office for the Aging at 631-853-8825. For emergency assistance, please contact DSS at 631-854-6684. After business hours and on weekends, please call 631-854-9100.

Keeping You Informed:

The aftermath of Super Storm Sandy demonstrated Long Island's vulnerability and how important it is to be prepared. Suffolk County has instituted a number of programs to protect and inform our community in emergencies. Please sign up for these vital programs to ensure that you and your loved ones will receive this critical information.

JEEP PROGRAM PROVIDES ASSISTANCE TO PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES IN EMERGENCIES

The Suffolk County Department of Fire Rescue and Emergency Services (FRES) Joint Emergency Evacuation Program (JEEP) provides shelter and transportation assistance for people with disabilities who have no other way to evacuate their homes in the event of a natural disaster or emergency. JEEP is available to those who are disabled and unable to leave their homes without emergency assistance. Residents must apply for this service. To obtain an application, please call FRES at (631) 852-4900, or the Office for People with Disabilities at (631) 853-8333 (voice) or (631) 853-5658 (TTY), or visit the county webpage, www.suffolkcountyny.gov and click on the J.E.E.P. icon.

CODERED PROVIDES EMERGENCY NOTIFICATIONS

You can sign up to receive Emergency Notifications of an actual or impending emergency at the **CODERED** link provided at www.suffolkcountyny.gov. Those without Internet access may call the **Office of Emergency Management's Customer Service Center** at **(631) 852-4900 Mon.-Fri., 9am to 5pm** to supply their information over the phone. Residents with Smartphones can also download a **CODERED** application to get real-time emergency alerts.

SILVER ALERT/SPECIAL NEEDS ALERT

My groundbreaking, first in the state legislation created the "Silver Alert" program, which like "Amber Alerts" notify the police, media and residents when a person with a cognitive disorder is reported missing. This program has aided in the safe return of Suffolk County residents with Alzheimer's disease and other cognitive disorders. I am pleased to announce that the "Silver Alert" program has been expanded by the Suffolk County Police Department to include those with special needs, such as Autism, developmental disabilities and severe mental illness. Parents, guardians, relatives or other caregivers can now register information with the Police Department to assist in the safe return of those with Special Needs, should they become lost or wander away. Persons registering for the Silver Alert can also request a "Silver Alert" Bracelet that contains a distinctive number and instructions that can assist first responders. To register visit the Department website at www.suffolkpd.org, by clicking on the Amber/Silver Alert icon on the homepage or by calling (631) 852-6983.

NIXLE COMMUNITY INFORMATION PROGRAM

The Suffolk County Police Department has introduced the **NIXLE** Community Information Program. Residents of the Towns of Huntington and Babylon can sign up for free emergency notifications by e-mail, phone or text and receive news of community events. Visit www.suffolkpd.org, click on Precincts, click on 1 for Babylon and 2 for Huntington and click "Sign-Up" to enroll in this valuable service.

Legislator Stern Continues to Lead the Way...

“Safer Sales Slip Act” protects public from exposure to BPA in thermal paper receipts



I am proud that Suffolk County continues to lead the way in protecting public health with the passage of the ***“Safer Sales Slip Act,”*** my initiative to prohibit the use of BPA in thermal paper sales receipts in Suffolk County. BPA is used to “develop” the print on receipts from retail stores, gas stations and at bank ATMS. This unbound BPA is absorbed through the skin and from hand-to-mouth contact and has been linked to neurobehavioral disorders, including hyperactivity and learning disorders, disorders of the prostate and uterus, links to heart disease, abnormal liver function and diabetes and increased susceptibility to breast and prostate cancer. Inexpensive BPA-free alternatives are readily available. This measure will protect the public from a significant source of every day exposure to BPA.

“Toxin-Free Toddlers and Babies Act” Adopted Nationwide

I am proud to report that my ***groundbreaking, first-in-the-nation legislation*** to protect babies and toddlers from ingesting the synthetic estrogen Bisphenol-A (BPA), contained in hard plastics used in baby bottles and cups designed for young children, has been adopted by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA). In 2009, the Legislature passed my bill, making Suffolk County ***the first jurisdiction in the nation*** to prohibit the sale of infant and toddler drinking items that contain BPA. Since the passage of the ***“Toxin-Free Toddlers and Babies Act,”*** more than a dozen states, including New York, Minnesota, Massachusetts and California and the European Union have passed similar measures. This FDA action finally extends this policy nationwide. Suffolk County has always taken the lead in protecting public health. I strongly believe we must follow the precautionary principle and be pro-active, especially when the health of our most vulnerable citizens, our babies and young children, is at risk and safe alternatives are available. I am proud to have led this initiative to protect the health of our young children.

“Protect Our Fallen Heroes Act” Adopted Nationwide



My “*Protect our Fallen Heroes Act*” which protects military funerals in Suffolk County from protestors seeking to inflame and disrupt services, has finally been adopted by Congress and signed into law by the President. In 2010, the Legislature unanimously passed my bill, which was necessitated by nationwide and local protests by members of a radical fringe group who have and continue to disrupt military funerals at churches and cemeteries

with disrespectful and abusive signs and verbal assaults on family members grieving the loss of their loved ones. “*The Honoring America’s Veterans and Caring for Camp Lejeune Families Act of 2012*” was signed into law, providing protection to military families nationwide. Suffolk County has always taken the lead in protecting our veterans and it is gratifying to know that the Federal Government is finally extending this protection to all of our military families across the nation.



Deer Park Avenue Dedicated in Honor of American Hero Jacob Samuel Fletcher

I was proud to join with Gold Star Mother Dorine Kenney, County Executive Steve Bellone, Babylon Supervisor Rich Schaffer, other elected officials, veterans and community groups and the Patriot Guard Riders to dedicate Deer Park Avenue and Village Line Road as “*Army Specialist Jacob Samuel Fletcher Avenue.*” Jacob, who was born and raised in Babylon Village, made the ultimate sacrifice for our great nation in Samarra, Iraq on November 14, 2003. Jacob cared deeply for his fellow troops, asking his mother, Dorine Kenney to send care packages and letters to servicemen and women who did not have family support. After Jacob’s death, Dorine continued Jacob’s wish and founded the Jacob’s Light Foundation, which to date has sent more than 570,000 pounds of supplies to the brave men and women protecting our freedom overseas. This dedication will ensure that Jacob’s service and sacrifice will always be remembered.

E-Newsletter Saves Taxpayer Dollars

Once again, I have joined with my colleagues in the Legislature in voluntarily suspending the mailing of newsletters to constituents to save more than \$100,000 in taxpayer money over the next year. My newsletters will now be published electronically and can be accessed at <http://legis.suffolkcountyny.gov>. If you would like to receive e-mail updates and future e-newsletters, please send your e-mail address to: steve.stern@suffolkcountyny.gov



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Please join us on Facebook to see videos, photos and share the latest news @ LegislatorStern@gmail.com

Legislator Stern Collecting “Cell Phones for Soldiers”

Our office is collecting “Cell Phones for Soldiers” to provide support for our troops and their families. “Cell Phones for Soldiers” recycles used cell phones and uses the proceeds to purchase pre-paid calling cards for our troops serving overseas. Please bring your used cell phones to my office: 1842 E. Jericho Turnpike, Huntington, NY. For further information, please call (631)854-5100. Thank you for your support.



Contact Legislator Stern:

Our office is located at 1842 E. Jericho Turnpike, Huntington, NY 11743. You can reach us by phone at (631) 854-5100 or by e-mail at steve.stern@suffolkcountyny.gov. We look forward to hearing from you.

Legislator Steve Stern In Our Community



Steve honored Caitlin Kennedy, New York State Champion in the American Legion Oratorical Contest. Caitlin was sponsored by Greenlawn Post #1244.



Steve visited Sawmill Intermediate School to meet with students learning about the Edgewood Preserve, the largest open space remaining in Western Suffolk County.



Steve joined with Premier Taekwondo Studio in Deer Park in a successful food drive for Mercy House Food Pantry.



Steve awarded a proclamation to Savina Kim, Commack High School, Intel Science Search Finalist, one of only 10 students in New York State to receive this prestigious honor.



Steve honored the back-to-back New York State Girls Championship Elwood-John H. Glenn Spiders, completing a 15-0 season.



Steve honored the Half Hollow Hills High School West Wranglerettes, winners of the 2012 National Dance Championship Title.