



*Community Report
from your Suffolk
County Legislator
Steve Stern*

June 2013

*2013 Committee
Assignments*

Chairman:

Veterans & Seniors

Vice-Chairman:

Public Works &
Transportation

Vice-Chairman:

Ways & Means

Member:

Economic
Development &
Energy

Member:

Parks & Recreation

Dear Neighbors:



I am pleased to send you my June newsletter as part of my on-going commitment to keeping our community informed about issues that are important to all of us. Please know that my door is always open and 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. 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. Wishing you and your family a safe and enjoyable summer.



Be Prepared for Hurricane Season

Our recent experiences with Hurricane Irene and Super Storm Sandy have heightened the importance of being prepared for hurricanes and other weather events. Hurricane season runs from June 1st through November 30th, and experts are again predicting an active hurricane season. There are important steps that you should take to protect your family, your home and your possessions from potential storms.



You should have the following in place to prepare your family for possible storms:

- ✓ Have a plan to reach family members and designate a meeting place in the event you must leave your home.
- ✓ Have cash on hand. ATMs may not be operational in a power outage.
- ✓ Plan an evacuation location.
- ✓ Have at least one gallon of water per person, per day for 3-7 days.
- ✓ Have food for at least 3-7 days, including non-perishable goods and a manual can opener.
- ✓ Formula, baby food and any infant care items.
- ✓ Pack blankets and pillows in plastic bags.
- ✓ Ensure an adequate supply of medications and keep a list of all prescription medications with dosages and name, phone number and address of pharmacy and physician if you need additional medicine.
- ✓ Flashlights, battery-operated radio and batteries.
- ✓ Keep cell phone chargers and other charging devices in a plastic bag.
- ✓ First aid kit and toiletries
- ✓ Keep important documents in water-proof bags.
- ✓ Fill your automobiles and gas cans for generators. In the event of an extended outage, gas stations may not be able to pump fuel.
- ✓ Make plans for your pets, and ensure an adequate supply of food, water and medication.
- ✓ The Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue and Emergency Services (FRES) has established a **Joint Emergency Evacuation Plan (JEEP)** for persons with special needs. Individuals are encouraged to obtain a **JEEP** application by calling FRES at (631) 852-4900
- ✓ If you or a family member is dependent upon life-support equipment, contact LIPA at 1-(800) 490-0025 to register for their Critical Care Program.
- ✓ **Don't use a generator, charcoal grill, camp stove or charcoal burning device inside your house or garage or near an open window.**
- ✓ Sign up for CodeRed Emergency Notifications at www.suffolkcountyny.gov and click on the CodeRed link, or call (631)852-4900.
- ✓ Individuals with cognitive and/or developmental disorders can be voluntarily registered with the Suffolk County Police Department "**Silver Alert/Special Needs Alert**" program. This program enables residents caring for those with special needs or cognitive disorders to register their loved ones and provides vital information to law enforcement, the media and the community in the event a person wanders or becomes separated during a storm. To register, please visit the SCPD website at www.scpd.org and click on Amber/Silver Alert icon or call (631) 852-6983.

I hope that we will not face major storms this Hurricane Season, but urge everyone to prepare and stay safe.

Legislator Stern Advises Residents to “Dump the Water”

West Nile Hotline is Open

Suffolk County has activated a West Nile Hotline as part of an on-going effort to detect and prevent the spread of West Nile virus in our community. If you see a dead bird, call the Department of Health Services' Public Health Hotline at 631-787-2200 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday. The Health Department will determine whether the bird will be picked up for testing. The Hotline will be active until Labor Day.

West Nile virus, first detected in Suffolk County in 1999, is transmitted by the bite of an infected mosquito. The virus can cause serious illness, and in some cases, death. It is estimated that 20 percent of those who become infected will develop West Nile Fever. Mild symptoms include fever, headache and body aches and occasionally a skin rash and swollen lymph glands. Symptoms of severe infection, or West Nile encephalitis or meningitis, include high fever, muscle weakness, stupor and disorientation. If you experience any of these symptoms, seek immediate medical attention.

Individuals, especially those 50 or over, or those with compromised immune systems, who are most at risk should take precautions to avoid being bitten by mosquitoes. Check your property for areas where water may collect and provide a breeding ground for mosquitoes. These include: old tires, tarps and buckets, unused swimming pools, bases of flowerpots, watering cans, pet dishes and bird baths. To keep mosquitoes from breeding in bird baths, pet bowls and wading pools, remove all water and scrub the sides every three days to remove eggs. Make sure window screens are in place and in good condition, eliminate standing water from around your home and place of business, minimize the amount of time you spend outdoors between dusk and dawn, wear shoes, socks and long pants and a long sleeved shirt when outdoors for extended periods and use a mosquito repellent containing DEET. Do not apply insect repellents to children under the age of three and make certain to follow package directions to assure proper application.

For medical questions relating to West Nile virus, contact your health care provider or call 631-854-0333. For further information on mosquitos and mosquito-borne illnesses visit the Department of Health Services website, www.suffolkcountyny.gov/health and look under “seasonal trends.” To report mosquito problems or stagnant pools of water, call the Department of Public Works Vector Control Division at 631- 852-4270.



Free Car Seat Inspection Available from the Dix Hills Fire District

I encourage residents to have their infant and child car seats and booster seats inspected by the Dix Hills Fire District's (DHFD) Car Seat Inspection program. Infant, child and booster car seats are required by law and when properly installed, save lives in the event of an accident.

Unfortunately, the vast majority of car seats are improperly installed, creating a risk of failure. It is important to remember that child safety seats should not be installed in the front seat of a vehicle. Children should be placed in rear-facing seats until age two (2). Children under 4'9" should use a booster seat. Car seats have expiration dates and should be replaced if the vehicle in which they are installed has been in an accident.

The National Highway Transportation Safety Administration (NHTSA) issues guidelines regarding proper installation of child safety seats and conducts training programs to ensure that seats are properly installed. Glenn Kaleita and George Fleites of the DHFD are certified to conduct these inspections. Free inspections are available Monday-Friday from 8:00 am-2:30 pm. Please call the DHFD at 499-8836, extension 137 to schedule an appointment. Please bring your vehicle's owner's manual and the installation instructions for your child's car seat.

As we enter summer driving season, it is especially important to make sure that your child's car seat is properly installed. The safety of our children is every parent's concern and I encourage our community to take advantage of the DHFD's outstanding program and have a safe and happy summer.

Mets Spirit Award



I was honored to be presented with the New York Mets "*Spirit Award*" at Half Hollow Hills Little League Day at Citi Field in a pre-game ceremony. As a life-long Mets fan, receiving this award from the New York Mets organization is especially exciting. But it is working with the children in our community as a Little League Coach and helping foster skills that will help them throughout their lives that is the greatest reward. I thank the New York Mets and the Half Hollow Hills Little League for this special award.

Legislator Stern Donates Surplus Computers to Thundercolts Robotics Team

I recently presented surplus county computers to the Half Hollow Hills “*Thundercolts*” Robotics Team and awarded a Proclamation to the team in recognition of its outstanding performance in the “*For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology*” (FIRST) Robotics Competition. The “*Thundercolts*” team, composed of more than 50 students from high schools East and West, competing in just its third year, outscored 64 other high schools to win the coveted *Xerox Engineering Design “Creativity Award”*.

The Club will utilize parts from the computers in the design and build of next year’s robot. It was my pleasure to recognize the outstanding achievement of these students and their advisors, Julian Aptowitz and Christian Mirchel and to present these computers to the “*Thundercolts*”. I look forward to seeing next year’s robot and sharing in the “*Thundercolts*” continued success.



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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.

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We look forward to hearing from you.

Legislator Steve Stern in Our Community



Steve honored Nick Amin, Ankur Amin and Chase Ceperano of Renarts in East Northport. Renarts donated more than 50 pairs of shoes to needy children in our community through its ***“Kicks for Kids”*** program.



Steve celebrated Flag Day with Patriot Guard Riders, the Greenlawn American Legion, the Marine Corps League, and veterans residing at the Bristol Assisted Living in East Northport, to honor their service to our great nation.



Steve joined Half Hollow Hills High School West student Christopher Baransky, at Green Cactus restaurant to raise funds for ***“Building Homes for Heroes.”*** Christopher, a Navy Sea Cadet, organized the fundraiser to help wounded veterans remain in their homes and community.



Steve was joined by Legislator Lynne Nowick to honor local artist Chuck von Schmidt, whose sculpture ***“Don't Look Back: Lot's Wife”***, fashioned from 300 pounds of Himalayan Sea Salt, is on display at the Legislature as part of the ***“Art in the Alcove”*** Program.