



*Community Report
from your Suffolk
County Legislator
Steve Stern*

May 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 May 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.



Legislator Stern Protects Consumers from Crooked Contractors

I was pleased to join with my colleagues in the Suffolk County Legislature in co-sponsoring an important initiative to provide information to consumers regarding contractors licensed by Suffolk County. The ***“Consumer Protection and Awareness Act”*** will allow residents to obtain information including a description of all complaints filed against a contractor, the number of violations issued in the past five years, an explanation of how complaints were resolved and whether fines were issued and paid. This new law will provide needed protection to consumers to enable them to make informed decisions before hiring a contractor. Home renovations are costly and often disruptive. It is vital for residents to have confidence when they hire a contractor and this measure will help provide peace of mind to our Suffolk County homeowners.



Legislator Stern Honors Second Precinct “Top Cop” Harry Jos



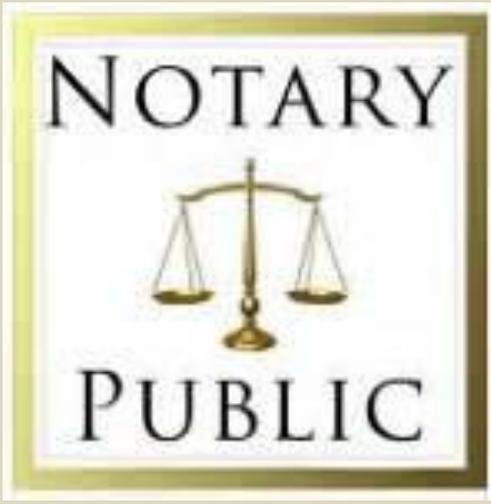
I was proud to honor Police Officer Harry Jos, at the Pre-Prom meeting at Half Hollow Hills High School West. Officer Jos is an 18 year veteran and has earned five Departmental Commendations, one Command Commendation, two letters of recognition, five Excellent Police Duty Awards and has twice been named the Second Precinct’s “Cop of the Month.” In addition, he was named a “Top Cop” for DWI arrests in 2012 at the annual “STOP-DWI Top Cop” award ceremony. Officer Jos’ dedication to duty and leadership has saved countless lives by removing drunk drivers from our roads and he has earned our thanks and gratitude. Each year, I speak at Pre-Prom meetings throughout our community to raise awareness of the dangers of drinking and driving. The period between Memorial Day and Labor Day is called “The 100 Deadliest Days,” when drunk driving incidents peak. As students celebrate Prom and Graduation, it is important to make summer a time to celebrate and not mourn the loss of a loved one.

Legislator Steve Stern Welcomes the Honorable John J. Toomey to Veterans and Seniors Committee



The Veterans and Seniors Committee recently welcomed the Honorable John J. Toomey, Presiding Judge of the Suffolk County Veterans Court to the Legislature. The Veterans Court was established in February, 2011 to help meet the needs of returning servicemembers who face difficulty re-integrating into civilian life after military service. It is one of the first in the nation and the second in New York State, developed specifically to address the unique and serious challenges faced by our troops upon their return home. Many have served multiple deployments and many suffer from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Many have difficulty securing employment and face financial challenges and strained family relationships. Some have alcohol or substance abuse issues and may find themselves in our criminal justice system. The Veterans Court's programs are designed to provide treatment, rehabilitation, monitoring and potential for reduction of charges and sentencing. Judge Toomey informed the Committee that the program is "not a free pass" and that veterans must complete the program or face jail or prison time. The program has a strong mentoring component with Vietnam Veterans providing services and support to other veterans and also works in conjunction with the Veterans Administration. Veterans must be honorably discharged and present a copy of their dd-214 to be considered for the program. The Veterans Court recently graduated its first class and to date, none of the graduates have reoffended. A new class will graduate this coming June. I extend my sincere thanks and deep appreciation to Judge Toomey for the outstanding job that he has done as Presiding Judge of the Veterans Court. A Vietnam Veteran and an American hero himself, he has used his own experiences not only as a Judge, but as a fellow veteran to provide support, compassion and a path to a bright and successful future to those who served our nation and deserve a second chance. I look forward to marking many successes with him in the future.

Notary Public Services Available



All members of my staff are Licensed Notary Publics and are available to notarize documents for members of our community at no charge. Documents that may need notarization include Powers of Attorney, medical documents, leases and deeds and other official documents. Notaries verify the identity of the person signing the document and witness the signature to protect against fraud. If you need to have a document notarized, please feel free to stop by my office at 1842 E. Jericho Turnpike, Huntington, NY during business hours, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm. Please be sure to bring valid identification, such as a driver's license, a

state issued ID card, a passport or military identification card.

Pet Supply Drive



Our office is collecting supplies for The Little Shelter Animal Adoption center in Huntington. One of Long Island's oldest no-kill animal shelters, the Little Shelter is dedicated to saving all companion animals whose lives are in

jeopardy and provides medical care and rehabilitation, a spay and neuter program and

adoption services. Super Storm Sandy left many pets lost or with owners no longer able to house and care for them. The shelter is in need of pet treats, toys and cleaning supplies and bedding.

Please stop by during office hours, Monday to Friday from 9am-

5 pm, to help the Little Shelter care for the animals in its charge and continue its mission of finding forever homes for its dogs and cats.



Unclaimed Funds

Did you know that more than \$12 billion dollars in unclaimed funds are located in bank accounts, stocks and bonds, utility deposits and insurance funds? Many people are unaware of money that may be in their name in these accounts. The Office of the New York State Comptroller has an on-line database that residents can check for unclaimed funds. I encourage anyone who thinks they may have unclaimed funds to visit www.osc.state.ny.us/ouf/index.htm or call toll-free at 1-800-221-9311



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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:

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Legislator Steve Stern in Our Community



Steve joined with Huntington Supervisor Frank Petrone, Councilwoman Susan Berland, Assemblyman Andrew Raia and members of the Huntington Township Chamber of Commerce to cut the ribbon at Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza.



Steve honored Tyler Grimaldi, a senior at Half Hollow Hills High School West, the New York State 160 pound class Wrestling Champion. Tyler is an academic champion as well and will be attending Harvard University in the fall.



Steve presented a Proclamation to Jon Ten Haagen, Executive Officer and Liaison of the Greater Huntington Council of Yacht and Boating Clubs to mark "Safe Boating Week" in Suffolk County. Steve was joined by Legislator William Spencer.



Steve met with participants in the Babylon Parent Leadership Training Institute, a twenty week, nationwide initiative to equip community members to become more engaged in civic matters.