

District 17 • SPRING 2015

Serving Deer Park • Dix Hills • Huntington • Huntington Station •
Melville • North Babylon • South Huntington • West Hills



LEGISLATIVE WATCH

from Suffolk County Legislator

LOU D'AMARO

130 West Jericho Turnpike, Huntington Station, NY 11746 • Phone: (631) 854-4433
lou.damaro@suffolkcountyny.gov

A Message From Legislator D'Amaro

This is now my tenth year as your representative in County government and it remains a privilege to serve our community. I take my responsibility as your legislator very seriously and I continue to work hard each day addressing issues that are important to our neighborhood quality of life. You have my commitment that I will constantly strive to ensure that your County tax dollars are wisely spent while at the same time fighting to make sure our community gets the resources it needs to thrive.

I am pleased to again be serving on several vital legislative committees that will help me accomplish these goals and protect your interests in County government. As the Chairman of the prestigious Budget and Finance Committee, I am working diligently with County Executive Steve Bellone to find common sense solutions to our County's financial challenges. This position allows me to continue my focus on protecting taxpayers and controlling the size of government. I am happy to report that we have been successful on both counts. This past fall, the Legislature held the line on County General Fund property taxes for the ninth consecutive year while still providing funding for critical services including youth groups, food pantries, anti-gang efforts and organizations that provide support for the homeless and victims of domestic violence. We were able to accomplish this even with 1,000 less employees on the County payroll since 2012, which has been a critical factor in significantly reducing the budget shortfall that resulted from the global financial downturn several years ago.

In addition to chairing the Budget and Finance Committee, I am also again serving on the Education & Information Technology and Human Services Committees. The Education Committee oversees Suffolk County Community College, an outstanding and affordable higher education option for residents of all ages. The Human Services Committee is tasked with ensuring that the County adequately provides a social safety net, which is essential during these difficult economic times. I look forward to continuing to bring my fiscally-responsible governing perspective to these two important committees.

Thank you again for placing your trust in me to be your local government advocate. Do not hesitate to contact me at (631) 854-4433 should you need any type of assistance. My staff and I are here to help.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lou D'Amaro".

JOB POSTINGS

Did you know that the Suffolk County Department of Labor regularly distributes job posting announcements? From entry level to top management, your next position could be just an email away. Get a jump on the competition and find your new career! If you would like to receive listings and announcements, send an email to Karen.klafter@suffolkcountyny.gov and I will include you on the distribution list. Happy job hunting and good luck!



SMOKING CESSATION CLINICS

Residents interested in breaking their tobacco addictions are urged to sign up for Suffolk County's "Learn to Be ...Tobacco Free" program, held in locations countywide throughout the year.



The six-session programs are free to Suffolk County residents, though there is a nominal fee for medication for medically eligible participants. Local classes are currently being held in South Huntington and Hauppauge, but others are planned in the future. Call (631) 853-4017 for more information.

Individuals who are trying to stop smoking will find that these free and effective cessation clinics will provide them with the important tools they need to lead a healthy smoke-free lifestyle.

CIVIL SERVICE EXAMS

In addition to distributing job postings for public and private companies, Suffolk County also administers competitive exams for civil service positions in over 241 municipal jurisdictions including the county, its 10 towns and the multitude of villages, school, fire, water and library districts.

Hundreds of exams are administered annually for these municipalities, which collectively employ almost 50,000 individuals. New employment opportunities may be just a mouse click away as individuals interested in becoming civil servants can find out about scheduled exams and available positions online. The program, administered through the Suffolk County Department of Civil Service, provides information on positions available both locally and across the country. For more information about upcoming civil service exams, please visit: <http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/civilservice.aspx> and click on "Current List of Exams." Each exam listing includes information on available job openings. While some exams are administered for future job vacancies only, it is in prospective employees' best interest to take exams as they are offered to ensure prompt placement on the Civil Service Eligible List when openings do occur.

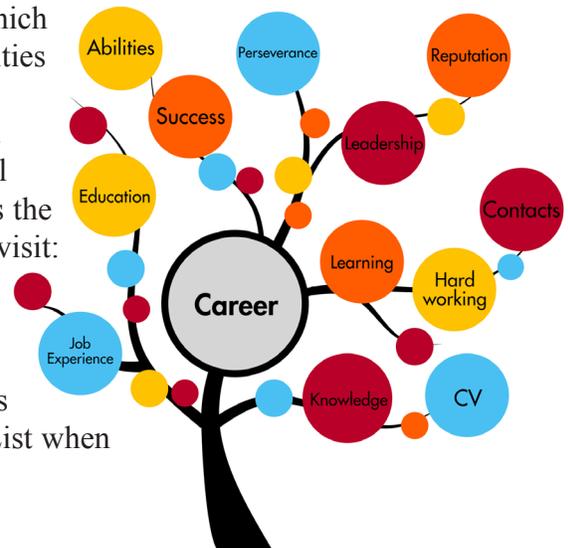
This could be the start of an exciting new career!

Hall of Fame

SOUTH HUNTINGTON SCHOOL DISTRICT HONOREES

Congratulations to the most recent honorees inducted into the South Huntington School District Hall of Fame! I was proud to welcome and congratulate them in a public ceremony at the Walt Whitman High School football field.

Chosen by a special selection committee, the inductees were: Steven Axman '65, Christopher Cerrone '02, NYS Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci '97, Dr. Michael Macari '98 (posthumously), Brenda L. Moore '68, Jane M. (O'Donnell) Reich '78 and Genevieve Walker-Lightfoot '90. The South Huntington School District Hall of Fame inducted its first class in 2008. Once again, congratulations all!



Know an outstanding woman, senior citizen, firefighter, emergency services technician, volunteer or student? Legislator D'Amato is always interested in honoring our neighbors who are doing extraordinary things. If you or

anyone you know is deserving of this recognition, please send an email to Karen.klafter@suffolkcountyny.gov and tell us about him or her.

ALMOST HOME ANIMAL RESCUE GROUP PRESENTS AWARD TO LEGISLATOR D'AMARO

Almost Home Animal Rescue and Adoption, a 501c3 all-volunteer organization that provides services and community outreach to animals in need, recently honored Legislator D'Amaro with its Hero Award. The award was given in recognition of Legislator D'Amaro's successful efforts to institute new safeguards and regulations on the outdoor restraint of pets.

Specifically, "A Local Law to Further Strengthen the County's Regulation on the Outdoor Restraint of Pets," was unanimously approved and subsequently signed into law by County Executive Steve Bellone. In 2011, Suffolk County originally placed several regulations on the outdoor tethering of animals. However, concerns were raised by numerous animal welfare groups that the regulations as written were either ineffective or did not go far enough to protect dogs. Accordingly, Legislator D'Amaro's bill added the following new provisions:

- No person shall tether a dog outside for more than 2 hours in any 12 hour period
- No person shall tether a dog using a device that is less than 10 feet in length
- No person shall tether a dog using a device that weighs more than 25% of the dog's total body weight, not to exceed 25 pounds for any dog
- No person shall tether a dog using a device that may become embedded in the dog's skin or restrains the dog in such a manner that it causes choking or impairs the flow of oxygen or blood to the dog

For more information on Almost Home, visit their website at www.almosthomeli.org or call (631) 627-3665.



NYS TROOPER AND MELVILLE RESIDENT HONORED FOR HIS HEROIC ACTIONS

It was a privilege for my fellow legislative colleague William J. Lindsay III and I to present New York State Trooper Christopher Nolan, who also serves as the Third Assistant Chief in the Melville Volunteer Fire Department, with a Proclamation at a Legislature Meeting in recognition of his heroic efforts in saving the life of an 8 year-old boy on the Southern State Parkway in January. We were joined at the presentation by Trooper Nolan's wife Michelle and their children Sarah and Christopher.

After getting word that a boy was in respiratory distress, Trooper Nolan dashed to the scene and used his emergency medical training skills to open the boy's airway and get him breathing again. He continued to administer critical treatment until emergency vehicles arrived and took the boy to the hospital, where he spent ten days before making a full recovery. Congratulations and thank you, Trooper Nolan!

A RITE OF SPRING: PLAY BALL!

After the harsh winter we had, it was great to celebrate the true beginning of spring as I recently joined other local elected officials to commemorate the start of the 58th season of the North Babylon Youth League (NBYL) at their Opening Day ceremony. Under the direction of NBYL President Ken Primm and coordination of Secretary Valerie Grube (pictured), the parade stepped off from North Babylon High School and concluded with a celebration and ceremonial first pitch at Phelps Lane Park. Established in 1957 and chartered through the Williamsport Little League, the North Babylon Youth League provides baseball and softball programs to youths ages 5 to 18. Visit the website www.nbyl.com for schedules and more information about the league.



In the Community

EMS WORKER OF THE YEAR

As a tribute to his service and unmatched commitment to the community, I was honored to recognize Huntington Community First Aid Squad (HCFAS) volunteer Thomas O’Leary of Huntington Station as my Volunteer Firefighter/EMS Worker of the Year.

Mr. O’Leary joined the HCFAS in 2007 and has quickly risen through the ranks to become a vital member of the Squad. Mr. O’Leary became a certified EMT in 2008. He covers three 4-hour shifts per week and is always available when called upon for back-up calls. Mr. O’Leary also serves on the Board of Directors, assisting in the daily operations of the Squad. In addition, he has been instrumental in the critical function of recruiting and retaining members. Mr. O’Leary constantly strives to serve the community and is a true credit to the EMS profession. Pictured with me from left are his son Michael, Mr. O’Leary and HCFAS Chief Thomas Lemp.



SENIOR OF THE YEAR

Yolanda “Bunny” Tagliaferri, a remarkable 92 year old North Babylon resident who consistently finds the time and energy to help her fellow seniors, has been named the 17th Legislative District Senior Citizen of the Year. Ms. Tagliaferri has been an active and visible presence at the Spangle Drive Senior Center in North Babylon since 1988, when she was elected Secretary. Within a short time, she was elected President of the Senior Center, a position she still holds today. In addition to her leadership role, Ms. Tagliaferri regularly visits seniors in need, assisting them in any way necessary – from driving them to doctor appointments to bringing them food or picking up medications. In nominating her for the award, Spangle Drive Senior Center Director Lauren Van Kirk noted how Ms. Tagliaferri has been a true role model, inspiring young and old alike with her kindness, spirit and dedication.

Surrounded by some of her friends, I recently presented Ms. Tagliaferri with a Suffolk County Proclamation at the Spangle Drive Senior Center. Pictured here from left with me are Lauren Van Kirk, Tom Nolan, 102-year old Sara Ameri, Bunny Tagliaferri and Antoinette “Toni” Giles.

WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

Each year, all 18 Suffolk County Legislators honor a “Woman of Distinction” from their local district. Nominations are sought from community members and presentations are made to honorees each March in conjunction with Women’s History Month. This year, I was so pleased to name Jane Barbato of Huntington Station as the 17th Legislative District Woman of Distinction.

For more than 18 years, Ms. Barbato has been tirelessly committed to the Town of Huntington Animal Shelter. She initially volunteered as a dog walker and now oversees the entire Dog Volunteer Program for the Shelter’s not-for-profit all-volunteer League for Animal Protection of Huntington, Inc. (LAP). She also fundraises for LAP and serves on the Board of Directors. As the head of the LAP Dog Volunteer program, Ms. Barbato instructs others on how to train and walk the Shelter dogs to help ready them for adoption. She is one of the two LAP liaisons to the Town of Huntington, constantly working and communicating with Town officials about issues involving the Shelter. She is pictured here with her husband Paul Barbato.

