

NEWS FROM Legislator

Lou D'Amaro



SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE
17th Legislative District
130 West Jericho Turnpike
Huntington Station, NY 11746
Tel: (631) 854-4433
Fax: (631) 854-4415
Lou.Damaro@suffolkcountyny.gov



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Planning & Agriculture

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Karen Klafter (631) 854-4433

Poster Contest Participants Honored by Legislator D'Amaro



Suffolk Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-Huntington Station) recognizes students at Birchwood Intermediate School in Melville for participating in the Suffolk County Legislature's "Dump the Water" poster contest. Standing with him are 3rd Grader Ashley Barker, whose entry was selected as the local winner, and her teacher, Mrs. Shepherd.

(HUNTINGTON STATION, NY... February 3, 2010) – Students at Birchwood Intermediate School in Melville were recently honored by Suffolk Legislator Lou D’Amaro (D-Huntington Station) for participating in the Suffolk County Legislature’s “Dump the Water” poster contest. The annual competition invites elementary school students to create posters that spread the message about how stagnant pools of water become breeding grounds for mosquitoes, significantly increasing the risk of spreading mosquito-borne illnesses like West Nile Virus.

In 2000, the Suffolk County Legislature created the annual Dump the Water Campaign. Each January, Legislature members invite elementary schools students in their district to participate in a poster contest to visually demonstrate reminders about the need to eliminate stagnant water. One poster is selected from all of those submitted to be used as a part of a countywide message from the Suffolk County Department of Health Services in its seasonal “Dump the Water” awareness campaign. Birchwood 3rd grader Ashley Barker’s entry was chosen as District 17 winner and now advances in the competition to the County level.

“It is a known fact that West Nile Virus and other diseases are spread to humans through the bites of infected mosquitoes. By reducing mosquito-breeding areas, we can directly reduce the transmission of these sometimes-fatal diseases,” Legislator D’Amaro said. “I thank the teachers at Birchwood for their outstanding job instructing the students about how they can play a role in keeping the community healthy. I also applaud the 63 students who creatively came up with ways to spread the word via their magnificent entries.”

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