

NEWS FROM Legislator

# Lou D'Amaro



SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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## ***Reaching for the Stars***

# **Vanderbilt Planetarium Re-Opens Following 18-Month Renovation Project**

*(CENTERPORT, NY... March 19, 2013)* – It was indeed a starry, starry night when business and community leaders, elected officials and residents from throughout the County joined the Vanderbilt Museum administrators and board members at a preview party for the grand re-opening of the Centerport museum's Planetarium which had been closed for renovations since late 2011.

Suffolk Legislators Lou D'Amaro (D-Huntington Station) and Dr. William Spencer (D-Centerport) were among those who came out for an "An Evening Under the Stars" to celebrate the completion of the \$4 million renovation to the Planetarium. During the event, they met with Museum Interim Executive Director Lance Reinheimer who, working directly with the Vanderbilt board, oversaw much of the renovations.

The highlight of the 18-month project, which was primarily funded by Suffolk County, is a new \$3.2 million projection system. The centerpiece of the system is the state-of-the-art Infinium L Star Projector, part of the GeminarStar System, which replaced the original 41-year-old GOTO projector that had been in operation since the planetarium opened in 1971.

(more)

Other improvements include video and surround sound upgrades, expansion of the pit into which the projector retracts and new lighting. Located at 180 Little Neck Road in Centerport, the Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium sits on the 43-acre former estate of William K. Vanderbilt II and was willed to Suffolk County after his death in 1944. For more information and Planetarium show times, visit the website at [www.vanderbiltmuseum.org](http://www.vanderbiltmuseum.org) or call (631) 854-5589.

“The Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium is a local treasure,” said Legislator D’Amaro. “With the new upgrades and renovations, residents and visitors alike will be able to ‘reach for the stars’ right here in Suffolk County. There is no better place to get away from it all without getting away at all!”

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*Suffolk Legislators Lou D’Amaro (left) and Dr. William Spencer (right) congratulate Vanderbilt Interim Executive Director Lance Reinheimer (center) on completion of the 18-month \$4 million Planetarium renovation project. The previously-used 41 year old GOTO projector is pictured in the background.*

*Suffolk County Legislator Lou D’Amaro represents the 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative District, which includes parts of Huntington, Huntington Station, South Huntington, Melville, West Hills, Cold Spring Hills, Dix Hills, Deer Park, North Babylon and West Babylon. He is chairman of the Ways & Means committee and vice chairman of both the Parks & Recreation and Economic Development & Energy committees of the Suffolk County Legislature.*