

NEWS FROM Legislator **Lou D'Amaro**



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For Immediate Release
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In Search of the Next Picasso! **Leg. D'Amaro Accepting Entries from Students For Suffolk County 'Be Pool Smart' Poster Contest**



Pictured front, Deer Park 3rd Grader Juliana Gentile is honored by Legislator D'Amaro as Suffolk County winner in the 2013 "Be Pool Smart" poster contest. From left joining them are Steven (holding the winning drawing), Elizabeth and Jaclyn Gentile and Teachers Christine Carr, Anna Marino and Laurie Schwartz, as well as Principal Susan Bonner. Not pictured is teacher Michelle D'Auria.

(HUNTINGTON STATION, NY.... March 25, 2014) –Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro (D-Huntington Station) is pleased to extend an invitation to Deer Park, Half Hollow Hills, Huntington, North Babylon and South Huntington elementary school students to participate in

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the 17th Legislative District and Suffolk County Legislature's "Be Pool Smart" poster contest. Established in 2007, the competition invites elementary school students to promote the importance of pool safety by creating a poster that illustrates one or more safety tips. One poster is selected from all of those submitted to be used as part of a countywide message from the Suffolk County Department of Health Services in its seasonal safety campaign.

"The 'Be Pool Smart' poster contest is a fun way to engage children in spreading the important messages about how a few simple steps and precautions can help us avoid tragedies around swimming pools," said Legislator D'Amaro.

Last year, Deer Park student Juliana Gentile's entry was the Suffolk County winner. Initially, Juliana's colorful and creative design was named District 17 winner and then was selected by the non-partisan Legislature's Budget Review Office as the County winner. Her winning design can currently be seen on the Suffolk County Department of Health Services Countywide brochure, and she was honored, along with her family and teachers, before the full Suffolk County Legislature at a General Meeting. Each contest participant received a Certificate of Distinguished Achievement, presented to them at a ceremony at their respective schools.

The contest is open to all elementary school students. Interested students should create a poster, no larger than 22" x 30", with the title "Be Pool Smart." It should creatively illustrate one of more the following ten safety tips:

- Make sure children under five years of age are always within "arms reach" when in or near the water
- Be watchful of all children at all times
- Teach older children to always swim with a buddy
- Never leave children of any age alone in or near the water
- Remove steps and take toys away from the pool area when it is not in use
- Remove the pool cover completely
- Keep a first aid kit stocked and near the pool
- Teach children how to dial 9-1-1 and how to get help in an emergency
- Learn to swim

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- Obtain CPR certification

The child's name, age, grade, school and teacher's name should be attached to the back of the poster and it can be dropped off at Legislator D'Amaro's district office, 130 West Jericho Turnpike in Huntington Station. Deadline for submissions is Wednesday, April 23. For more information or to get a copy of the current brochure, call Legislator D'Amaro's office at (631) 854-4433. Good luck!

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Suffolk County Legislator Lou D'Amaro represents the 17th 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 Budget & Finance committee and a member of the Education & Information Technology and Human Services committees of the Suffolk County Legislature.