

**PRESS RELEASE FROM
LEGISLATOR LESLIE KENNEDY.**



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CONTACT: Zach Viola
LEGISLATIVE AIDE
PHONE: (631) 854-3735
FAX: (631) 854-3744

Email: zach.viola@suffolkcountyny.gov

LEGISLATOR KENNEDY CELEBRATES ITALIAN HERITAGE

June 27th, 2015 – The Commission for Social Justice, in conjunction with the anti-defamation arm of the Sons of Italy in America organized the Italian Heritage Festival at the Smithtown Historical Society Fairgrounds. The Festival is held to honor the Italian American Heritage of Long Island, and with Suffolk County having the biggest Italian American population in the country, what better place to have the festival at than Smithtown. Leslie Kennedy was in attendance to celebrate her heritage and the heritage of many people here in Suffolk County.



(Joanne Grove, Mike Fitzpatrick, Joe Rondonalli, Tom Lupo, Lee Zeldin, Leslie Kennedy, John Kennedy, and Mr. and Mrs. Megna)

Italian Americans have not always been portrayed in a positive light in American cinema and media. This festival aims to celebrate the positive aspects of Italian American Culture and to put an end to the negative stereotypes that Italian Americans have in our culture. The focus was on the music, food, and culture that Italians have brought to America.

Leslie Kennedy met with Dr. Vincenzo Sellaro Lodge #2319, the local Sons of Italy Lodge who put together this Festival. "As an Italian American I was proud to see all the culture that Italians have brought over to America" said Legislator Kennedy.

Leslie was among many public officials celebrating Italian heritage last Saturday, including: Congressman Lee Zeldin, Assemblyman Mike Fitzpatrick, and Suffolk County Comptroller John M. Kennedy Jr.

For any questions about this event or any other events in the area feel free to contact Leslie Kennedy's office at (631) 854-3735, and don't hesitate to reach us online at Leslie.kennedy@suffolkcountyny.gov or [facebook.com/legislatorlesliekennedy](https://www.facebook.com/legislatorlesliekennedy).

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