



A SEASON'S GREETING

2012 proved to be a year of unprecedented challenges for many of our families, friends and neighbors. Despite it all, however, we as a community rose to confront the great obstacles that came our way this year and continue to work together to rebuild our homes, our neighborhoods and our economy. These challenges and our determination to overcome them will make us stronger as a community and gives me great hope for what we will accomplish in 2013.

As we collectively reflect upon all that we have to be thankful for, be mindful of those who lost everything during this past year due to natural or manmade calamities and let us hold tight the promise of optimism. Please take a moment to remember the volunteers who, as we have seen during Hurricane Sandy, are willing to put their own lives on hold to help rebuild a neighbor's. Most importantly, be thankful for the time we have to spend with our families and friends. Make the most of each moment and be thankful for everything that you do in each of them.

May peace, joy, hope and happiness be yours during this holiday season and throughout the coming year!

Best Wishes,

Suffolk County Legislator
Fifth District



Photo: Legislator Hahn with a Victorian Era chimney sweep during the 17th Annual Charles Dickens Festival in Port Jefferson

REMEMBERING OUR VETERANS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



Photo courtesy of US Veterans MC.

The US Veterans MC is organizing a holiday card drive for Active Duty Military members and Veterans. Please send cards to USVMCLI, PO Box 675 Bellport NY 11713. From there volunteers will divide the cards and mail them to Afghanistan, Walter Reed at Bethesda Hospital, or bring them to the Northport VA.

Please try to send the cards as soon as possible because transportation and distribution of the cards can be a lengthy process. Additionally, please mark on the outer envelope where you would like the card to go to and please leave card envelopes unsealed so that they may be checked.

For More Information contact US Veterans MC at info@usvmcli.org.

FIFTH ANNUAL COPS WHO CARE FOOD DRIVE

The Suffolk County Police Department and the New York State Police are joining forces to help reduce hunger this holiday season.

This year, the need is expected to be much greater due to the mass devastation Suffolk County residents suffered during Hurricane Sandy.

With so many people in need, we are looking for donations to purchase hams and turkeys for as many families as possible. All donations will be used to purchase food. Please consider making a contribution – every dollar helps. Checks should be made payable to:

Trooper's Memorial Fund
PO Box 526
Mount Sinai, New York 11766

Free turkeys and hams will be distributed to families in need on Friday, December 21st at 1:00pm in Suffolk County Police Headquarters •30 Yaphank Avenue •Yaphank• 11980. Please note that food will be distributed on a first come, first serve basis and one item will be given per family.

**5th Annual
Cops Who Care
Food Drive**

A partnership between the
Suffolk County Police Department & the New York State Police

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For more information, please contact:
D/Sgt. Bob Donohue at 631-452-4530

PICKING-UP THE PIECES AFTER SUPER STORM SANDY

As we continue to rebuild our lives after Super Storm Sandy devastated this region, I want you to know that there is assistance available from Suffolk County and our partners in the State and Federal Government. Everyone's situation, circumstances and needs are different, so please visit the Suffolk County Office of Emergency Management's website for a listing of various program available to help you get back to normal: <http://scoem.suffolkcountyny.gov/>.



Suffolk County in conjunction with FEMA has established Disaster Recovery Centers for residents needing assistance. FEMA, Small Business Administration, Suffolk County Departments of Health, Economic Development, Labor, Social Services, and Transitional Housing in addition to other Suffolk County and New York State representatives will be on hand to assist residents in filling out applications, answer any questions and provide lists of resources. For assistance please call (631) 852-4900 from 8:00 AM till 5:00 PM, 7 days a week or visit the FEMA website at: <http://www.fema.gov/disaster/4085>.

Small businesses that were impacted by the storm are also eligible to receive assistance. If your business has been affected by Sandy, please contact the New York State Small Business Development Center for immediate assistance with NYS Emergency Loan Fund Applications, SBA Disaster Loan Applications, Insurance Matters and all other business questions, for FREE as always. Business Advisors will walk you through the loan application paperwork and assist with the processing, as well as help you make a plan to apply the funds to your business if you are approved. Please call: 631-632-9837 or e-mail: sbdc@stonybrook.edu for additional information.

Additionally, Small business owners who have had their place of business damaged by Super Storm Sandy may be eligible to participate in an emergency sales tax relief program from the Suffolk County Industrial Development Agency aimed at helping owners rebuild. The program will provide sales tax relief for purchase of building materials and for the repurchase of equipment of up to \$100,000 in purchase costs. There will be 200 businesses eligible for the program. A business must have 25 or fewer full-time employees to be eligible. For additional information or to apply please visit: www.SuffolkIDA.org or call (631) 853-4802.

HEARING ON SANDY RESPONSE SET FOR TONIGHT

The Suffolk County Legislature's Public Safety and Economic Development and Energy committees will hold a joint public hearing on the "Post Sandy Response Assessment" on Thursday, December 6 at 6 p.m. at the Rose Y. Caracappa Auditorium, in the William H. Rogers Building located at 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown.

The purpose of this public hearing is to give the public an opportunity to express their concerns regarding the overall response to the Super Storm Sandy relief efforts. As a result of the storm, thousands of residents throughout Suffolk County were left with property damage, power loss, and a number of other issues related to the storm. This public hearing will allow an opportunity for the public to express any grievances related to Sandy, and offer recommendations for future storm preparation.

After the public hearing, a follow-up meeting will be scheduled to allow an opportunity for all departments, agencies, and companies involved in the post Sandy relief to respond to the public concerns and comment on their recovery efforts. For more information or to RSVP your participation in this meeting contact the Suffolk County Legislature at (631) 853-4070.

FIREFIGHTER TRAINING WILL SOON BE A MOUSE CLICK AWAY



Photo: Legislator Hahn and Chief Richard Stockinger during a tour of the Suffolk County Fire Academy.

Suffolk County's volunteer firefighters will soon be able to go online to complete some continuing education and training courses thanks to a bill that I sponsored. [Resolution 872-2012](#) establishes an online firefighter training program intended to augment the in-person preparation provided to volunteer firefighters while also expanding their knowledge base and expertise. The move is

expected to make training easier for volunteer firefighters to participate in and less expensive for the County to offer.

The goal of this bill is to make training more accessible and to accommodate our volunteer firefighters' busy schedules as much as possible. Volunteers offer so much of themselves and their schedules in order to safeguard our communities. Providing more convenient training options for them could help to lessen the imposition on their personal and family obligations of their volunteerism.

In addition to offering more flexibility for firefighters to stay up-to-date on their training, the proposal is also seen as being a more cost-effective way to supplement and refresh

volunteers' skills than traditional courses offered in person, since fewer personnel will be present for the classroom style coursework. My

BUS RIDERS MAY GET NEW TICKET TO RIDE

Bus riders in Suffolk may soon have new ways to pay for their fares after Suffolk County adopted a [bill](#) that I sponsored directing the Department of Public Works (DPW) to begin considering alternative methods for purchasing tickets on its transit bus lines.

Currently, a rider must have exact change as they get on the bus and tickets cannot be bought online. In addition, no monthly pass is currently available. The resolution calls on Suffolk's DPW, which owns and manages 50 bus routes throughout the County, to study the feasibility of establishing a system by which riders can purchase tickets online, through e-tickets or on a stored-value card. During the course of its study, DPW is requested to collaborate with the Suffolk County Department of Information Technology on various available options and platforms to be considered. Within six months of the bill's adoption, DPW is requested to report on its finding and offer recommendations to the Legislature for possible future action.

Improvements in technology seem to be making it easier for the consumer to gather information, compare items and even make purchases. Businesses everywhere are embracing different payment options that fit their clients' lifestyles. Throughout the nation, various transit operators have been experimenting with different technologies aimed at giving riders options beyond exact fare. This bill and any actions that may come from it are meant to steer Suffolk County Transit toward making ridership easier for its users.

According to a review of the proposal by the Office of Budget Review, there is no cost associated with this study. However, proponents suggest that giving riders more options will ultimately increase ridership, decrease congestion and reduce pollution.

"We applaud Legislator Kara Hahn and the Suffolk County Legislature for adopting legislation to explore new and improved fare collection for Suffolk County Transit riders," said Ryan Lynch, associate director of the Tri-State Transportation Campaign, a non-profit transportation policy watchdog organization working in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. "Stored value cards, such as the MTA's Unlimited MetroCard, boosted ridership, sped up commutes, and provided seamless transfers—all leading to more satisfied riders. E-ticket programs, recently piloted on the LIRR, have also been successful. Improved fare collection provides many benefits for the transit user and the transit agency and we are pleased to see Suffolk County Transit advance these measures."

COMMUNITY SHORT TAKES

Legislator Hahn in the Community

REPOPULATING STONY BROOK'S CLAM AND OYSTER POPULATIONS

Since early spring, volunteers have been working to restore the North Shore's native Clam and Oyster populations through a partnership between the Avalon Preserve, Stony Brook Yacht Club and Ward Melville High School.

I recently had the pleasure of joining these volunteers as they concluded the 2012 season with a final release of these important marine creatures.



TD BANK WELCOMED TO PORT JEFFERSON STATION

TD Bank recently opened its newest branch at the intersection of Old Town Road and Route 347 in Port Jefferson. I presented TD Bank with a proclamation to mark its opening.



LEGISLATOR HAHN SPONSORS FALL PREVENTION WORKSHOP FOR SENIORS

Each year, more than one-third of adults over the age of 65 experience a fall severe enough to require medical attention in the United States, resulting in over \$19.2 billion in costs annually for these victims' treatment and care. In an effort to help seniors prevent debilitating falls, I sponsored a training seminar that was aimed at teaching participants techniques that will improve their ability to stay independent for life.

If you would like to participate in a future fall prevention workshop, please call my office at (631) 854-1650. You will then be



notified when a future seminar is scheduled.

REMEMBERING A LOCAL HERO

A portion of County Road 97 was formally dedicated in memory of fallen New York City and Setauket firefighter Joseph DiBernardo Jr. who passed away last November.

DiBernardo was one of six FDNY rescuers who were searching for people they thought might be trapped in an illegally subdivided building when they themselves suddenly became trapped. The firefighters desperately jumped or fell trying to escape the flames that surrounded them. DiBernardo reportedly helped another firefighter safely escape the fire before the rope that he was climbing down gave out. He landed on his feet, but shattered every bone below his waist, spending 18 days in a coma and requiring 20 hours of surgery on his legs. Two of the six firefighters did not survive the fall on what would come to be known as "Black Sunday."

This dedication marks the gratitude that we have for Joe DiBernardo's service and selfless volunteerism to his fellow man. Dedicating this part of County Road 97 is a tribute not only to the sacrifice that Joe made to keep us safe, but will serve as a continual reminder of the dedication and bravery of firefighters across America.



COMMUNITY AND LEGISLATOR HAHN SEEK A NEW SUNY/SOCCER CLUB AGREEMENT

I attended a recent community meeting that focused on reaching an agreement between the Three Village Soccer Club and Stony Brook University for use of athletic fields. PHOTO CREDIT: Greg Catalano



TIMOTHY AIGEN MAKES EAGLE SCOUT

I was on hand for Timothy Aigen's Eagle Court of Honor held at the VFW Post 3054 in East Setauket. For his Eagle project, Timothy Planned and oversaw the construction of a decorative wooden planter box bench at the Anita Smith Day Treatment Center in Setauket.

STONY BROOK PASTOR OFFERS LEGISLATURE'S INVOCATION

Elizabeth Braddon of the Stony Brook Community Church offered the customary invocation during a recent Suffolk County Legislature meeting. An invocation is delivered at the beginning of each general session of the Legislature and is chosen by a different legislator each meeting.

Reverend Braddon was appointed to be pastor of the Church in 2007 and has been an active part of the Stony Brook community.



PORT JEFF'S JUNIOR CLARKETTES TWIRL TO NATIONAL TITLE

I recently honored the Junior Clarkettes Baton Twirling team from Port Jefferson during a Legislature meeting in Riverhead. The Junior Clarkettes placed first in the Junior Large Twirl Team Category and won the Junior Open Parade Corps Division at the 2012 National Baton Twirling Championships held in Fairborn, Ohio.



CAN'T DUCK HAVING FUN

Residents from across the 5th Legislative District came out to enjoy the Three Village

Kiwanis Club's 15th Annual Duck Race in Setauket. Proceeds from the fundraiser will go to support the Kiwanis Club's community service projects, including Kamp Kiwanis, Thanksgiving Day Food Baskets, Holiday Adopt-A-Family program, and maintenance of the East Setauket Pond.



REMEMBERING THREE VILLAGE SOCCER CO-FOUNDER ED BARAN

I joined the Three Village Soccer Club in posthumously honoring Ed Baran at it recent fall Festival. Mr. Baran was a founding member the Club and its first president.

HONORING MAHATMA GANDHI'S LEGACY

I celebrated the life, accomplishments and legacy of Mahatma Gandhi on what would have been his 143rd birthday. The Shanti Fund sponsored event was held at the H. Lee Dennison Building where a statue honoring the civil rights leader stands in his memory.



STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY OPENS NEW CAMPUS RECREATION CENTER

Stony Brook University's new campus recreation and exercise facility officially opened for the campus community's enjoyment during a recent ribbon cutting ceremony.



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