



HELPING LOCAL BUSINESS SEE GREEN

Suffolk County recently adopted [a bill](#) that I sponsored establishing an educational outreach program for small businesses to assist them in capturing the economic value generated by cultural events occurring in their communities. As a member of the Legislature’s Economic Development and Energy Committee I introduced the bill to help local small businesses and merchants better connect with local arts organizations and benefit from the increased visitation that occurs during festivals and other cultural events they produce.

When visitors attend cultural events and festivals in downtown business districts there is an opportunity for local shops to make new customers. This legislation originated from the realization that festivals, concerts, parades and special seasonal events draw people into downtown business districts, providing nearby shops and restaurants with a unique opportunity to market their products and services. In discussions with local art groups and businesses over the past year, it became apparent to me that not all stakeholders were taking advantage of the true potential that each event holds to lure new customers, grow sales and improve these businesses’ financial footing.



Photo: Legislator Kara Hahn (center) at the “Start-up Connect”, where entrepreneurs, venture capitalist and public officials gathered to discuss small business development and innovation. Legislator Hahn has been working to attract more investment to Suffolk to promote the emerging technology sector, especially at Stony Brook University and other Suffolk-based R&D institutions. Suffolk County’s Industrial Development Agency (IDA) sponsored the forum.

The bill calls on Suffolk’s Department of Economic Development and Planning to develop a program aimed at businesses and chambers of commerce to identify best practices for taking advantage of the economic value that can be realized during local special events. This outreach will be available through a new web page that will be administered by the Department of Economic Development and Planning and via brochures that will provide guidance on how the art and business communities can collaborate to best optimize their interactions with the influx of visitors

and tourists during these happenings.

THANK YOU FOR PARTICIPATING IN COMMUNITY MEETING SERIES

I would like to thank everyone who was able to take time out of his or her busy schedule to share a glimpse of the vision held for our community during one of the four community meetings that I held throughout the Fifth Legislative District over the last two months. The insights and suggestions offered to me during these meeting will serve as a guide for my continued service to you as your Suffolk County Legislator.

I look forward to continuing this dialogue with all of you, and encourage everyone to reach out to me with any issue or concern that you would like to bring to my attention.

EELGRASS SAPLINGS SET SAIL IN EFFORT TO IMPORT SOUND ECOSYSTEM



As a small boat pulled out from Port Jefferson Harbor, for me it marked the conclusion of a community effort, but also the beginning of a new chapter in the life of the Long Island Sound. On board that boat, divers from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County headed for the Harbor’s western edge with discs of marine-life supporting eelgrass that was recently assembled by local volunteers during a Marine Meadows Program Workshop held days before at the Port Jefferson Village Center.



Photo: Suffolk County Legislator Kara Hahn and daughter Hope assemble Eelgrass disks with other volunteers during the Marine Meadows Workshop held at the Port Jefferson Village Center.

I partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County (CCE) and the Long Island Sound Study to offer the workshop that attracted nearly 30 local residents, families and children interested in learning about the importance of eelgrass to our marine environment and provided hands-on activities that helped to further restoration efforts in the region.



Photo: Suffolk County Legislator Kara Hahn holds a finished Eelgrass disk shortly before SCUBA divers from Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County depart Port Jefferson Harbor.

serve as important environment for both fish and shellfish.

During the workshop, participants weaved eelgrass shoots (harvested from healthy donor meadows in local waters) into burlap planting discs. Last week, those discs were brought back to Port Jefferson to be planted by CCE SCUBA divers at a carefully selected restoration site in Long Island Sound near Old Field Point. When planted, these newly created “marine meadows” serve as important marine habitat for many species of fish. These habitats, in turn, help enhance the health and productivity of the Sound and

Though the workshop was short in duration, its message will forever remain in the hearts and minds of each participant. And the work done by the hands of everyone involved will be an enduring legacy on our environment.

SAVING LIVES...ONE PINT AT A TIME

Thank you to everyone involved in helping to make the recent blood drive that I co-sponsored at the North Brookhaven Chamber of Commerce’s welcome center in Port Jefferson Station a resounding success. Because of the dedication of everyone who helped organize this event and the commitment of our community, many of our neighbors from across Long Island will be given the “gift of life” during a time of true need.



Photo (left to right): Ray Annicelli - North Brookhaven Chamber of Commerce and owner of Schaefer Exterminating, Suffolk County Legislator Kara Hahn and Jennifer Dzvonar - North Brookhaven Chamber of Commerce President and owner of Bass Electric at yesterday’s blood drive in Port Jefferson Station.

Blood donations are always needed. If you would like to make a donation, please call 1-800-933-BLOOD (2566) or go to <https://drm.nybloodcenter.org/publicscheduler/BloodDriveLocator.aspx> to schedule a time and location convenient for you.

AROUND TOWN



MAKING THEIR VOICES HEARD

I recently visited the Arrowhead Elementary School classroom of Ms. Maffia to personally thank her students for sharing their thoughts on the issue of hydrofracking. The messages were delivered to me last year, at the same time the Legislature was considering a bill that I sponsored to prohibit the acceptance of hydrofracking waste water at Suffolk County sewage treatment facilities.

WORKSHOPS HELP PARENTS

I recently partnered with Cornell Cooperative Extension to offer seven unique parenting workshops to area residents. The topics ranged from *Living with a Teenager* to *Temper Tantrums: Yours and Theirs* and they were well attended.



JUNE IS “GUN VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH”

Suffolk County has joined with communities statewide in declaring June “Gun Violence Awareness Month.” This declaration aims to promote awareness, discussions and activities intended to reduce gun violence within our communities. In addition to the tragedies of Newtown, Aurora, Virginia Tech and Columbine, gun-related incidents occur every day in America and take approximately 30,000 lives each year. Homicide or suicide, intentional or not, gun-related violence is increasing at an alarming rate. Let us pause to reflect on those lives cut short and how we can prevent future deaths, preserve life and promote safer communities.



SHOPPING FOR A GOOD CAUSE

The Retreat, a Suffolk County based not-for-profit that provides supportive and residential services to individuals and families who are in abusive domestic relationships, opened a boutique in the Village of Port Jefferson. All proceeds from sales of gently used apparel, furniture and other odds and ends at this second Retreat location will be used to support the organization's anti-domestic violence programs. The new shop is located in Chandler Square.



COMSEWOGUE SISTERS "ENERGIZE" DISCOVERY

Twin sisters Shilpa and Shweta Iyer were honored at the Suffolk County Legislature for placing first in the Long Island Science & Engineering Fair held at Brookhaven National Laboratory. I invited the Comsewogue seniors to recognize their development of a low-cost and portable system to extract hydrogen atoms from water, which has the potential to provide cheap and easy access to alternative energy.

AN EAGLE IN OUR MIDST

Steven Lauto of East Setauket, was joined by family and friends during his Court of Honor held at the New Village Recreation Center in Centereach. I was on hand to honor Steven, who for his Community Service Project, Planned and constructed a retaining wall and garden at Pal-O-Mine Equestrian Center. The Islandia based facility is devoted to assisting mentally disabled children and adults grow, learn and heal, utilizing equestrian therapy.



THE LITTLE EINSTEINS

I was privileged to have been invited as a guest to Minnesauke Elementary School's Science Fair. It was great to see all of the thoughtful projects at this year's event and to be able to present medals to all of the budding scientists.

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