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Suffolk County Legislator
Fifth District



Getting the Lead – and Other Toxins – Out...of Toys



Photo: To the applause of parents, environmentalists and health and safety advocates, Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone signs the Toxin Free Toys Act sponsored by Legislator Hahn.

New toys sold in Suffolk County are about to get safer because of the adoption of a law that will limit children from exposure to six toxins that pose a threat to childhood development. Under the law, all new toys sold in the County will need to be in compliance with stricter limits on Antimony, Arsenic, Cadmium, Cobalt, Lead and Mercury than current federal regulations. I introduced the initiative known as the "Toxin Free Toys Act" after reviewing a report issued by the New York League of Conservation Voters and Clean & Healthy New York that found several products containing carcinogenic components on the shelves of Long Island stores. The dangerous materials identified in toys tested in that report have been linked to cancer, cognitive impairments, hyperactivity and genetic disorders in children.

As a mother, I was shocked and outraged to learn that children's toys that I assumed were safe contained these toxic chemicals. This law will give consumers the confidence to know that toys on store shelves in Suffolk County aren't going to give their children or grandchildren cancer, developmental disabilities respiratory, cardiovascular or gastrointestinal disorders.

Suffolk to Enforce Orders of Protection Using GPS

Suffolk will soon be protecting victims of domestic violence from high risk

offenders who violate orders of protection through the use of Global Positioning System (GPS) technology and proximity detectors never before used in the County. The policy change is the latest in a series of initiatives sponsored by Legislator Hahn to transform the way domestic violence incidents are handled in Suffolk. The bills are designed to work in tandem with legislation that provides law enforcement and victims with danger assessment tools that objectively identify high risk offenders. During 2013 alone, there were more than 1,500 violations of orders of protection in Suffolk according to the NYS Division of Criminal Justice.

According to policy, a newly established Domestic Violence Monitoring Pilot Program administered by the Suffolk County Department of Probation will make GPS units available for electronic monitoring of respondents in the Family Court system who are subject to a "stay away" order of protection for a family offense and pose a continuing threat to the physical safety of the victim or the victim's children. Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota will acquire these units using asset forfeiture funds and the cost of monitoring will be paid for by the offender.

Domestic Violence Precinct Caseworkers Going Back to Work

The positions of three Domestic Violence Outreach Precinct Project caseworkers laid off earlier this year due to a loss of funding have been restored following the adoption of a budget amendment by Suffolk County to keep the vital program operating. In mid-March, Long Island Against Domestic Violence (LIADV), the not-for-profit organization that provides domestic violence victim caseworkers within Suffolk's police precincts and courts, was forced to eliminate four positions from its Advocacy Program after a federal grant was lost, leaving a deficit between what the County had allocated for the program in 2015 and its actual operating cost. In May, the agency was able to rehire one of the four laid-off caseworkers after it received a grant through a private foundation to support its outreach program. Under the bill that I sponsored with Legislators Sarah Anker, Kate Browning, Tom Cilmi and Monica Martinez the remaining positions will be restored and funded for the rest of this year through the elimination of a vacant "planner" position within the Department of Probation. Budget officials have found that this will not have a financial impact the County's budget.



Photo: In May, Legislator Hahn joined Senator Charles E. Schumer, Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone and other officials in calling on the United States Department of Justice (DOJ) to restore federal grant funding critical to protecting victims of domestic violence.



Offering Free Volunteer Crisis Counselor Training

Everyone has moments when the support and understanding of others seem hard to find and it is for such moments that RESPONSE of Suffolk County, Inc.

was born. RESPONSE of Suffolk County is a nationally accredited, non-profit agency that provides a confidential and anonymous hotline for anyone who needs to talk. RESPONSE is seeking volunteer crisis counselors and offers a free training program to those interested in becoming the caring voice on the other end of the line.

Part one of the training program will be held on Saturday, September 26th, Sunday, September 27th, Saturday, October 3rd and Sunday, October 4th. Sessions will run from 9:30 am-4:00 pm each day and trainees must attend all four sessions. No experience is necessary, only a sincere willingness to learn and grow, and the ability to make a six-month commitment of four hours a week is required.

Make a difference in our community - one phone call at a time. Those interested in attending the up-coming Fall Training can fill out an online application at www.responsehotline.org or call the hotline at 631-751-7500.

Throughout Our Community

Working to Keep 11776 Beautiful



Spring showers couldn't dampen spirits during a clean-up of Washington Avenue Park in Port Jefferson Station. I joined with other volunteers to remove leaves, litter and other discarded trash from this community gem. The effort was part of this year's Great Brookhaven Cleanup.

Stony Brook Scout Makes Eagle



I had the pleasure of joining the family and friends of new Eagle Scout RunDa Tian during his recent Court of Honor. For his community service project, RunDa made improvements to Stony Brook's Forsythe Meadow County Park which included building a gated entranceway for the trail.

WMHS Golfers Honored



I had the pleasure of recognizing Ward Melville High School golfers Jack Faraci and Danielle Greene for successes during their respective 2015 boys and girls golf championship appearances. Jack shot a 79 during the competition to lead the Patriots Boys Golf Team to its very first Long Island Championship Cup since the award's inception thirty years ago. Danielle shot a 5-over 76 for

"Sea" You in Port Jefferson



Did you know there is a new way to visit Long Island this summer? I was on hand with Port Jefferson Mayor Margot Garant and Brookhaven Councilwoman Valerie Cartright to welcome the recently launched "Sea Jitney" service to our historic harbor front. The new service, through the Bridgeport and Port Jefferson Steamboat Company, will provide travelers from across the tri-state region with

a two-round score of 152 to win the Suffolk County Girls Golf Championship.

an alternative to the congested LIE via a high-speed, luxury ferry service.

Innovation Zone Ahead



I joined with other top elected officials and leaders of the region's top research institutions in support of a comprehensive, regionally transformative plan to make Suffolk a more attractive place for young people and high-tech businesses through investments in economic development, downtown revitalizing and creating modern transportation options for commuters.

Vets Celebrated At Barbecue



I was on hand for the Ward Melville High School Patriot League's annual appreciation barbecue in honor of the Three Village community's veterans. The club was established by Brianna Cea as part of her Girl Scout Gold Award project. The Patriot League club promotes and supports servicewomen and men through fundraisers and other activities.



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