

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE

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PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEGISLATOR STEVE STERN JOINS COUNTY EXECUTIVE AND HUNTINGTON LEADERS TO EXPAND 'SHED THE MEDS' PROGRAM

Senior center visitors now easily able to dispose of unused medications each month.



Suffolk County Legislator Steve Stern speaks at the Huntington Senior Center, accompanied by Town Board members Tracey Edwards and Susan Berland, Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, Police Commissioner Edward Webber and Det. Lt. Bob Donohue.

HUNTINGTON, NY – Legislator Steve Stern (D-Huntington, 16th L.D), joined Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, Police Commissioner Edward Webber and Huntington Town officials to announce the

expansion of Operation Medicine Cabinet, “Shed the Meds,” program at the Huntington Senior Center on Thursday, March 27th.

The expansion of the program builds upon the County’s efforts to reduce drug abuse and protect our environment. National and local studies have found evidence of medications, pharmaceuticals and personal care products in our waterways, as well as our groundwater, with potentially serious impacts to ecological and human health.

In addition to receptacles, which are already available seven days a week, 24 hours a day, at every Suffolk County police precinct, residents are now able to anonymously and safely dispose of their medications at six senior centers within the jurisdiction of the Suffolk County Police Department during the first Wednesday of each month from 10 a.m. until 1 p.m. The medications are then taken to an incinerator where they are disposed of in an environmentally friendly way.

“This is a terribly important initiative to protect our environment, the water we drink and to keep dangerous prescription drugs out of the hands of our young people,” said Suffolk County Legislator Steven Stern.

The Shed the Meds program, started in 2010 by Legislator Stern, continues to be well-received. During Legislator Stern’s last collection event Tuesday, March 25th, at the Commack Public Library, residents brought in 41 pounds of prescription drugs, enough to fill two large receptacles, in just two hours.

“Think about all of the little pills that it would take to fill up a garbage can and do it twice just in couple of hours. That gives you an indication of the overall concern,” Legislator Stern said. “The success of the program relies on raising awareness and the participation of our entire community.”

The program will continue to expand to senior centers around the county on the first Wednesday of every month from 10-1 p.m. with a police officer present at these centers:

Babylon: North Amityville Senior Center– 48-C Cedar Road, Amityville

Huntington Senior Nutrition Program – 423 Park Avenue, Room 105, Huntington

Islip: Joyce Fitzpatrick Center– 50 Irish Lane, East Islip

Brookhaven: 39 Montauk Highway, Blue Point, NY

Brookhaven: Rose Caracappa Senior Center – 739 Route 25A, Mt. Sinai

Brookhaven: Brookhaven Mastic Community Center – 15 Herkimer Street, Mastic

The program begins April 2nd at all senior centers listed.

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