



News from Legislator Bridget Fleming

Second Legislative District

January 2017 Newsletter

Here's what Bridget's up to....

Sponsored legislation approving the appointment of Erin Mcgintee, M.D. as a member of the Suffolk County Board of Health. (IR 2132-16)

Co-sponsored legislation adopting Local Law No. -2017, A Local Law to ensure continuity of farmland preservation and agricultural production in Suffolk County. (IR 1025-17)

LEGISLATORS FLEMING, KRUPSKI, COUNTY EXECUTIVE BELLONE AND ADVOCATES ANNOUNCE NEW LEGISLATION TO MAINTAIN VIABLE FARMING OPPORTUNITIES



On Friday, January 6, 2017 Legislator Bridget Fleming joined Legislator Al Krupski, County Executive Steve Bellone, County Officials and farming advocates representing the farming community to discuss the newly introduced County Legislation, which will allow the County's historic and highly successful farmland preservation program to continue and all sound agricultural practices to be permitted under the Suffolk County Farmland Preservation Program.

In September 2016, the NYS Supreme Court ruling, rendered by Judge Whalen, overturned provisions of Chapter 8 of the Suffolk County Code which allowed for hardship exemptions and special permits for certain structures on preserved farmland. Particularly, the ruling indicates that the Suffolk County Farmland Committee shall no longer have the authority to review or issue agricultural development permits, permits for farm stands and processing facilities, or special event permits, nor may the Committee waive maximum lot coverage requirements.

“We believe that the findings in this lawsuit strike at the very heart of future agricultural success in Suffolk County and that the findings fail to recognize that support structures on agricultural lands have always been an essential and inherent component of agricultural production,” said County Executive Steve Bellone. We have already filed an appeal on the State level. “While we are appealing on the State level, I, along with Legislator Krupski and Legislator Fleming, have introduced County legislation which ensures that standard agricultural practices that are reasonable, necessary and appropriate for a farm operation and agricultural production continue to be allowed on preserved farmland in Suffolk County.”

“Land preservation not only benefits this generation, but future generations, said Legislator Al Krupski. “As food security becomes an increasingly important issue to more people, it is vital we preserve productive farms in Suffolk County.”

“Our goal is not to allow development on farmland,” stated Legislator Bridgett Fleming. “On the contrary, the goal is to prevent overdevelopment by preserving and supporting our working farms. Our critically important agricultural industry will only survive if farmers can undertake the basic practices that make a farm work and turn a profit. Row crops must be watered, protected from wildlife, and supported by machinery that needs to be stored. Our preservation program must allow for these basic practices, our legislation confirms.”

In 1974, Suffolk County created the Farmland Preservation program, the oldest farmland protection program in the nation. Since its creation, over 10,750 acres have been preserved in in the program.

Farmland protection programs across the State and across the nation all recognize that farming requires accessory support structures, including greenhouses, barns, fences, animal pens, and farm stands to maintain the economic viability of the agricultural operation. Accessory structures have always been essential to the art and science of agriculture. They are inherent and necessary components of agricultural production and working agricultural lands.

“The Long Island Farm Bureau supports temporary changes to the County’s Farmland Preservation program that will clarify the ability of farmers to continue their operations for the immediate future,” stated Rob Carpenter. “Just to clarify some misinformation that has been circulated among the public---commercial solar farms, wedding and catering halls have never been permitted, nor do any currently exist on County preserved land. We would like to thank County Executive Bellone, Legislators Fleming and Krupski, and the full County Legislature for their continued support if the agriculture industry on Long Island.”

“We are very pleased and completely supportive of the County Executive’s decision to take two actions – a proposed local law to address the recent court ruling and a legal challenge to the judge’s decision, stated Vito Minei Executive Director – Cornell Cooperative Extension – Suffolk County. “The leadership of County Executive Bellone, Legislator Krupski, and Legislator Fleming will hopefully prove successful in undoing the potentially devastating effects on agriculture that could result from the judgment.

Failure to act on the recent court ruling may result in a huge loss of agricultural properties in Suffolk County. Structures are inherent to the agricultural process. In Suffolk County, the economic success of an agricultural operation is tied to its ability to innovate, market, and process its crop. In order to preserve the essential character of Long Island’s East End, the County must support a farmland preservation program that gives farmers the ability to succeed. This recently introduced legislation is an important step to reaffirm the economic viability of this important industry and protect the future of farming in Suffolk County.

LEGISLATOR FLEMING HOSTED NARCAN TRAINING AT SAG HARBOR



On Tuesday, January 17, 2017 Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming in conjunction with County Executive Steve Bellone, Suffolk County Department of Health Services, Sag Harbor Village Police, Suffolk County Sheriff's Office, HUGS Inc., Thomas' Hope, and SAFE in Sag Harbor hosted a NARCAN training session and prescription drug disposal at the Sag Harbor Firehouse.

“The first class which was held in August 2016 was a huge success with over thirty residents attending,” said Legislator Fleming. “And given the number of people that has called my office requesting that I host another class, it is clear that there is a need for the class in this area. Being able to administer the NARCAN antidote could be the huge difference between saving and losing the life of someone that has overdosed on opioids.”

THE NEXT CLASS WILL BE HELD AT WESTHAMPTON BEACH FIREHOUSE, LOCATED AT 92 SUNSET AVE, WESTHAMPTON BEACH.

LEGISLATOR FLEMING SPEAKS AT THE JUNIOR STATESMAN OF AMERICA MEETING



On Friday, January 13, 2017 Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming attended the Junior Statesmen of America local chapter at Southampton High School, where she was the guest speaker of their January meeting. The Junior Statesmen of America is a nationally recognized partisan youth organization that helps high school students acquire leadership skills and the knowledge necessary to be effective debaters and civic participants.

During the meeting Legislator Fleming spoke to the group of young people about her experience as a Southampton Town Councilwoman and her current role as a Suffolk County Legislator. She also offered them the opportunity

work as interns in her office, should they need to do an internship in government.

LEGISLATOR FLEMING ADMINISTERS THE OATH OF OFFICE



(Photo taken by Jen Newman, Southampton Press)

On January 4, 2017 Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming administered the oath of office to Southampton Town Judge Andrea Schiavoni. Schiavoni has been a town justice since 2008 in Southampton and was elected village justice of Sag Harbor in 2010, serving one term. She was appointed the East End Veterans Court Judge in 2013 and East End Regional Intervention Judge in 2016. She will now serve her third term as a Judge of the Town of Southampton.

“It was an honor to have had the opportunity to administer the oath office to Justice Andrea Schiavoni,” said Legislator Fleming. “She is a hard worker that cares deeply about the Town and her community, and she is undoubtedly one of the most experienced Justices in the Town.”

A MESSAGE FROM NATIONALGRID AND BRIDGET FLEMING

Our Commitment to Safety

National Grid operates over 35,000 miles of natural gas pipeline within Massachusetts, Rhode Island and New York. We provide safe and reliable natural gas service to more than 3.5 million customers throughout those regions. Safety is the natural gas industry's top priority. The industry spends millions of dollars each year to maintain the gas distribution system's excellent safety record. We work very closely with industry and government agencies on a variety of measures used to ensure pipeline safety including:

- Coordination with local One Call Center - New York 811
- Visual inspection programs
- Design and construction techniques
- Workforce training
- Industry safety practices and government oversight
- Pipeline markers and facility mapping
- Public education programs

Training and periodic drills are also conducted with emergency responders to prevent and prepare for emergencies. These exercise test procedures, logistics, communications and more. Emergency plans and procedures are periodically updated, and made available to state authorities.

Small Gas. Act Fast.

National Grid is required by federal and state regulation to inspect and maintain our delivery, pressure control and gas metering equipment. In many cases, this equipment is located outside your home or business, and this work can be performed without notice or inconvenience to you. However, if your gas meter is located inside your home or business, we will need access to the meter and gas service entry to perform these mandated inspections.

We ask that you keep the area around the gas meter clear and free from debris. Storing boxes or other items in the path of the meter may deny access to the main shut off in the event of an emergency or may interfere with our ability to complete mandated inspections and maintenance. In addition, we are required to replace gas meters periodically. This may require a temporary interruption of your gas service while the meter is being changed. Our employee will also need to gain access to your gas meter and appliances in order to restore your gas service.

There is never a charge for any mandated inspection or maintenance of National Grid's equipment, and all our employees and contractors working for us carry Identification Cards. We urge you to ask to see them. If you have any questions or concerns about anyone contacting you claiming to be from National Grid, call us at: **1-718-643-4050 (NYC)** or **1-800-490-0045 (LI)**.

Gas theft is not only illegal and dangerous, it's a crime!

Thieves who steal energy by tampering or bypassing meters or piping put lives in danger, threaten public safety and damage property. If you have information about energy theft, please call our toll-free number at **1-718-643-4050 (NYC)** or **1-800-490-0045 (LI)**. All information will be kept confidential.

CM4422 NYC/LI (5/16)

nationalgrid
HERE WITH YOU HERE FOR YOU.

New York City/Long Island

Natural Gas Pipeline Safety

Your actions can be just as important as ours.

For Gas Emergency Service
24 Hours a Day 7 Days a Week Call:

In Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island
911 or 1-718-643-4050

In Nassau, Suffolk and The Rockaways
1-800-490-0045 or 911

New York 811
811 or 1-800-272-4480
www.newyork-811.com



Smell Gas. Act Fast.

This is an important notice.
Please have it translated.

È una notizia importante. Questa notizia va tradotta.
È un aviso importante. Sir va mandarin traduir.
Avis important. Veuillez traduire immédiatement.

È un lamot ban thong cau quan trong.
Mìn vullong chò thong lai thong cau ai.

Questa è un'informazione importante.

Su pregati di tradurla.

Это очень важное сообщение.

Пожалуйста, переведите это сообщение.

Please keep this information for future reference and share with family and friends.

**Smell Gas.
Act Fast.**
Call 911 or National
Grid immediately!



Whether you are at home, at work, or in a public place, it's likely you are in an area served by natural gas pipelines. These pipelines quietly, reliably and efficiently deliver natural gas every day to our residential, commercial and industrial customers.

Like all forms of energy, natural gas must be handled properly. Despite the industry's excellent safety record, a gas leak caused by damage to a pipeline may pose a hazard and has the potential to ignite.



Many pipelines are underground in public areas. Line markers are sometimes used to indicate their approximate location, but not depth. The markers display the name of the pipeline operator and the telephone number where the operator can be reached in the event of an emergency. It is important for you to be familiar with the characteristics of natural gas and be prepared to react quickly and properly to ensure your safety and the safety of your family and coworkers.

Using Your Senses

A gas leak is often recognized by smell, sight or sound.

SMELL - Natural gas is colorless and odorless. A distinctive, pungent odor, similar to rotten eggs, is added so that you'll recognize it quickly. Not all transmission lines are odorized.

SIGHT - You may see a white cloud, mist, fog or bubbles in standing water or blowing dust. You may also see vegetation that appears to be dead or dying for no apparent reason.

SOUND - You may hear an unusual noise like roaring, hissing or whistling.

What You Should Do if You Suspect a Leak

MOVE to a safe environment.

CALL 911 or **1-718-643-4050** for our customers in Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island. And call **1-800-490-0045** or **911** for our customers in Nassau, Suffolk and the Rockaways.

DO NOT smoke or operate electrical switches or appliances. These items may produce a spark that might ignite the gas and cause an explosion.

DO NOT assume someone else will report the condition. Provide the exact location, including cross streets. Let us know if sewer construction or digging activities are going on in the area.



Know What You're Digging Into

The greatest risk to underground natural gas pipelines is accidental damage during excavation. Excavation damage accounts for almost 60 percent of all reported pipeline incidents. Even minor damage, such as a gouge, scrape, dent or crease to a pipeline or its coating may cause a leak or failure.



To protect pipelines and other underground facilities, the law requires that all excavators contact the local One Call Center—

New York 811 (**811** or **1-800-272-4480**), before excavation work begins on public or private property. The One Call Center will contact the owners of underground facilities in the immediate area so the location of pipelines can be marked prior to excavation. This service is performed at no cost to you. **Be safe. Always call 811 before any digging project. It's not only the right thing to do, it's the law!**

Underground pipelines often run along a public street, but may also be under private property. The area along each side of the pipeline is known as a right-of-way, which gives the facility owner the "right" to restrict certain activities, even on private property. Right-of-way locations must be respected and are usually marked on maps filed with local municipalities. The One Call Center can provide excavators with specific details regarding precautions required in addition to having the location of underground facilities marked. Failure to comply with the law can jeopardize public safety, result in costly damages and lead to substantial fines.

TICK PREVENTION

Ticks will remain active year-round (above 40 degrees Fahrenheit/4 degrees Celsius). Preventative measures should be used whenever tick exposure is likely. Here are some ways to protect yourself:

- Wear lightly colored clothing
- Wear long pants and sleeves
- Tuck your pants into your socks
- Tuck your shirt into your pants
- Use repellents as directed
- Walk along the center of trails
- Conduct frequent clothing checks
- Carefully inspect your body for ticks
- Keep pets away from tick infested areas and check them before entering the house
- Once home, dry clothing on the highest temperature setting for 10 minutes to kill ticks



Tick removal kits and information can be picked up at our District Office, located at 75 Washington Street in Sag Harbor, or by calling the Southampton Hospital Tick Borne Disease Resource Center at 631-726-TICK.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

THE SOUTHAMPTON YOUTH BUREAU'S ANNUAL

SKI AND SNOWBOARD TRIP

Fun for the Whole Family!

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH
SKI BUTTERNUT IN GREAT BARRINGTON, MA
DEADLINE TO REGISTER: FRIDAY, JANUARY 20TH, 2017

\$90 INCLUDES LIFT TICKET & TRANSPORTATION
SEE BACK FOR ADDITIONAL PRICING INFORMATION

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (631) 702-2425 OR VISIT WWW.SOUTHAMPTONTOWNNY.GOV/YOUTHBUREAU

NARCAN TRAINING SESSION & Rx DRUG DISPOSAL

WHAT IS NARCAN?
Narcam is a drug that reverses the effects of heroin and other opiates.

WHY DOES THIS MATTER?
Suffolk County continues to battle an opiate and painkiller epidemic that has taken too many lives already. Within the first year that the county police carried Narcam, more than 50 lives were saved.

HOW CAN I HELP?
Come to this training session, which is open to anyone. You will be trained to react to an overdose and administer the drug that can save a life.

WHY NOT FLUSH Rx DRUGS IN TOILET?
Studies have shown Rx drugs are leaching from cesspools into our waterways.

Sponsored by:
Legislator Bridget Fleming
in conjunction with
County Executive Steve Bellone
HUGS, Inc.
Westhampton Beach Fire Department
Westhampton Beach Village Police
Suffolk County Dept. of Health Services
Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Thomas' Hope

WHEN:
February 6, 2017
6:30 P.M.

WHERE:
Westhampton Beach Fire Department
92 Sunset Avenue, Westhampton Beach

RSVP:
Legislator Bridget Fleming's Office
631-852-8400
Paul.Brady@suffolkcountyny.gov

THE SOUTHAMPTON YOUTH BUREAU'S 4TH ANNUAL

HAMPTONS GOT TALENT AUDITIONS

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SOLO ARTISTS, BANDS, DANCE GROUPS, POETS, MAGICIANS, COMEDIANS AND OTHER ARTISTIC ACTS!

FOR GRADES 5 - 12 4:30PM - 6:30PM

FRI. JAN. 13TH - HAMPTON BAYS COMMUNITY CENTER
25 PONQUOGUE AVE. HAMPTON BAYS

THURS. JAN. 19TH - SOUTHAMPTON TOWN HALL
116 HAMPTON RD. SOUTHAMPTON

TUES. JAN. 24TH - FLANDERS COMMUNITY CENTER
655 FLANDERS RD. FLANDERS

COMPETITION ON MARCH 17TH

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (631) 702-2425 OR VISIT WWW.SOUTHAMPTONTOWNNY.GOV/YOUTHBUREAU

EMERGENCY BLOOD SHORTAGE PLEASE GIVE!

2nd Annual Jim Federico Memorial Blood Drive

Friday February 10, 2017
2:30pm - 8:00pm
Sag Harbor Fire House
Brick Kiln Rd, Sag Harbor, NY

Sponsored by the Sag Harbor Ambulance & The Federico Family
For more information, call 631-377-6510

FOR THE LATEST UPDATES ON UPCOMING EVENTS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:

<http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/do2/Home.aspx>