



News from Legislator Bridget Fleming

Second Legislative District

June 2017 Newsletter

Legislative Updates

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Home Rule Message 3-2017 Co-Sponsored, Message supporting legislation introduced by NYS Senator LaValle and Assemblyman Thiele permitting farm operations on farmland where the development rights have been purchased by the County.

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[IR 1399](#) In the debate surrounding a resolution authorizing the acquisition of land under the New Enhanced Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program 2014 Referendum - land purchases for Open Space Preservation (CP 8732.210) - for the Menu of Homes, Inc. property - Mastic/Shirley Conservation Area - Town of Brookhaven directed that authorization include the flexibility to include coastal resiliency on open space parcels.

LEGISLATOR FLEMING JOINS SOUTHAMPTON TOWN SUPERVISOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS FOR TIANA BAYSIDE FACILITY RIBBON CUTTING



CAPTION: *Legislator Fleming addresses the group at the Tiana Bayside Facility ribbon cutting*

On Wednesday, June 28th, Legislator Fleming joined Southampton Town Supervisor Jay Schneiderman, Southampton Town Council members John Bouvier and Julie Lofstad, members of Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program and local community advocates at the Tiana Bayside Facility for a ribbon cutting

ceremony at its new center for marine education and restoration and stewardship. “The Tiana Bayside Facility” located on Dune Road in Hampton Bays across from Tiana Beach. The Bayside Facility will be operated by Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County Marine Program (CCE) scientific professionals and educators. Community participants, of all ages, are invited to learn more about our local marine and coastal environment by participating in on site classes this summer.

The Facility grounds have been host to CCE’s Suffolk Project in Aquaculture Training (SPAT) program for a number of years, and will be expanded upon this year. Participants of the SPAT program receive all the equipment and instruction needed to maintain an oyster garden at Tiana Bayside. The Tiana SPAT program coordinates their efforts with the Southampton Town Trustees, who also oversee the shellfish enhancement seeding that will enable millions of oysters, clams and scallops to be released into local waters annually.

The building, once used as a police barracks many years ago, will contain a touch tank room and classroom space for a variety of marine science based programming offered by CCE through the Town Parks and Recreation Department. Outside the classroom, a coastal plant nursery will be set up to grow a variety of native coastal plant species, including dune and marsh grass that will be utilized in local shoreline restoration projects.

Solar panels have been erected on the roof of the building, the first on a Town facility, to help run equipment used in raising oysters and other shellfish. One additional goal of the Tiana Bayside Facility is to pilot a wind energy program that could be used together with the solar program as an uninterrupted source of power to keep breeding stock and first growth alive should there be a power outage in the area. The main goal of the Facility is to engage the public in efforts to protect enhance and restore our marine environment through participating in the SPAT program and the many other educational programs to be offered at the site.

“Nitrogen continues to be a critical problem for a resident here in Suffolk County and the only way we are going to be able to restore our ecosystem is by implementing programs and initiatives, that will teach the community to be good stewards of our natural resources,” said Legislator Fleming. “The program at the Tiana Bayside Facility will increase the number of shellfish and oysters in our bays and waterways, which in turn will help to reduce the levels of nitrogen and restore and improve the water quality”.

“With this initiative between the Town of Southampton and Cornell Cooperative Extension at Tiana, we are working together to increase the numbers of filter feeders in our waters, improving water quality for other species such as eelgrass, a nursery for many fish and shellfish our baymen and sportfishers depend on,” said Cornell Cooperative Extension Marine Program Director, Chris Pickerell.

It is believed that the facility could produce more than one million native hard shell clams, scallops and oysters a year. “The Tiana Bayside Facility is the first of many future Town commitments to restore our water quality through aquaculture, education and community participation,” said Councilman John Bouvier.

The Facility plans to offer school field trips and teach classes to the general public. “We look forward to working with the community and offering opportunities for involvement in stewardship projects and participation in our science-based educational programming,” said Kimberly Barbour, CCE Marine Program Outreach Manager.

Supervisor Jay Schneiderman thanked Councilman John Bouvier for his leadership on this project. “With the stewardship of Cornell Cooperative of Suffolk County, we will improve the water quality of our bays and teach our children how they can play an active role in protecting our environment,” said Schneiderman.

FLEMING SECURES INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT WITH SOUTHAMPTON TOWN, FUNDING FOR FEASIBILITY STUDY ON CR 39, CO-SPONSORS FARM BILL, AND ADVOCATES FOR WETLANDS PARCEL



CAPTION: *Legislator Fleming advocating for funding for feasibility study along County Road 39 at the June 6, 2017 General Meeting.*

Legislator Fleming accomplished a great deal for the residents of the South Folk at the June 6, 2017 General Meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature, delivering a total of four bills.

One of the victories of the day was the approval of the Intermunicipal Agreement with the Town of Southamptton to establish and maintain Riverside Maritime walking trail. In 2013 the Town of Southamptton worked with the community to develop and adopt the Riverside Revitalization Action Plan (RRAP) and in 2015 passed the Riverside Overlay District (ROD). One proposal within the RRAP was the creation of a handicapped accessible walking trail connecting Flanders Road/SR 24 to the Peconic River, in order to provide pedestrians access to the water. The pedestrian trails and greenways would offer walkways, benches, and picnic tables leading up to and alongside the Peconic River to enhance the recreational experience for residents of the Town and County alike.

In order to accomplish this goal, The County and the Town had to enter into an Intermunicipal Agreement to transfer County parkland that the trail would pass through to be maintained on behalf of the County by the Town of Southamptton.

The legislature also passed Home Rule Message 3-2017, a bill sponsored and co-sponsored by Legislators Krupski and Fleming to support of State Legislation introduced by Senator LaValle and Assemblyman Thiele that would permit farm operations on properties where development rights have been purchased by the County. This bill is in response to the Chapter 8 court ruling.

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.

“Farms in Suffolk County generate hundreds of millions of dollars in revenue and create thousands of jobs. As a mom, I value the ability to feed our kids and families fresh local foods,” said Legislator Fleming. “We can only have access to that food, if our farmers can operate reasonably. As an environmentalist on a South Fork Town Board, I have witnessed how the enormous financial pressure toward overdevelopment marches inexorably on. And I have seen that our working farms play a critical role in keeping overdevelopment at bay. Preservation programs have allowed agriculture to survive and have prevented sprawl. So our program must support working farms, as practices evolve in a rapidly changing world. This state legislation will restore a stable and predictable program. I strongly support the legislation because without it, Suffolk County’s farmland preservation efforts are in jeopardy.”

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 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 of 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.”

“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.

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.

Another big highlight of the day was the approval of [IR 1428](#) which appropriated funding for a feasibility study for sidewalks to be conducted along County Road 39. The \$350,000 was requested by Legislator Fleming in the last Capital Budget, after concerns were raised about the safety of pedestrians walking along the roadways. The study will look at current available right-of-way, land acquisition, bus stop transfers, retaining walls and

future cost estimates. The project will run from the Lobster Inn through Shrubland Road; the first phase of the project will address the section of CR 39 between the Lobster Inn and Hillside Street. The project is expected to begin fall 2017.

Legislator Fleming was also successful and instrumental in ensuring that wetlands parcels acquired in the Mastic Shirley area could be used for state of the art coastal resiliency efforts. ([IR 1399](#) Authorizing the acquisition of land under the New Enhanced Suffolk County Drinking Water Protection Program 2014 Referendum - land purchases for Open Space Preservation (CP 8732.210) - for the Menu of Homes, Inc. property - Mastic/Shirley Conservation Area - Town of Brookhaven - directed that authorization include the flexibility to include coastal resiliency on open space parcels.

The complete list of Legislator Fleming's legislations that were approved at the General Meeting on June 6 are as follows:

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FLEMING JOINED BY STATE AND LOCAL OFFICIALS FOR RIBBON CUTTING CEREMONY



CAPTION: Legislator Fleming inaugurating a pair of memorial signs for Barbara Tocci.

On Friday, June 9th Legislator Fleming was joined by New York State Assemblyman Fred Thiele, Southampton Town Council members, members of the Tocci family, Flanders, Riverside and Northampton Community Association (FRNCA), and community leaders to unveil a pair of cautionary signs in memory of the late

Barbara A. Tocci who was killed on her way to work along State Road 24 in 2014 after a utility truck driver strayed from his lane and struck Barbara's car head on.

"Texting while driving puts not only the person sending the text in danger, but everyone else driving, walking, riding, and at times playing near, on or along the road at risk," said Legislator Fleming. "It can wait, no message is more important than a person's safety, life and well-being. I hope these memorial signs will serve as a reminder to drivers to resist the urge and not to text and drive".

"Barbara Tocci was an amazing grandmother, mother, daughter, sister, aunt and friend. Barbara was taken from all of us too soon at the young age of 47," said members of the Tocci Family. "Barbara was killed on January 16, 2014 when she was involved in an automobile accident, a head on collision, on this road, less than one mile from this rest stop, where the other driver, believed to be texting while driving, crossed into Barbara's lane. The dedication of these signs to Barbara keeps Barbara's memory alive and hopefully drivers will use this pull off area which will prevent future tragedies and therefore save numerous lives. We appreciate the extensive efforts of Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming and her staff for making this possible. Don't put others at risk. Don't text and drive; it can wait".

"Today, we fulfill the second of two promises to make NY 24 safer. We began our efforts by having this road repaved, and we finish with a special naming ceremony to officially make this rest stop the 'Tocci Text Stop.' I applaud Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming for her insistence to re-appoint this rest stop as a safe area where drivers can stop and text", said Assemblyman Thiele. "The Tocci Text Stop memorializes the late Barbara Tocci and reinforces the grave need for drivers to take the dangers of texting and driving seriously. In 2014, Ms. Tocci was killed along this road after her car was struck by a driver who had strayed from his lane. Today, we take steps to ensure her death was not in vain and also remind drivers of the importance to pull over when they want to text for the safety of everyone on the road."

Every year hundreds of people are injured and/or killed as a result of distracted driving. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) Texting while driving is the most alarming distraction; sending or reading a text takes your eyes off the road for 5 seconds. At 55 mph, that's like driving the length of an entire football field with your eyes closed.

"No one should ever risk their own life or the lives of others to text a message while driving," said Supervisor Jay Schneiderman. "This text messaging rest area will encourage drivers to pull over and stop before they text."

The NHTSA released a report in 2015 on distracted driving and in that year alone, 3,477 people were killed, and 391,000 were injured in motor vehicle crashes involving distracted drivers. The agency goes on to say, that the leading cause of distracted motor vehicle crashes was texting while driving, and that during the daylight hours approximately 660,000 drivers are using cell phone while driving.

"Texting while driving has continued to result in tragedies across our nation", said Southampton Town Councilman John Bouvier. "It is my sincere hope that this text stop will make our roads a safer place, and prevent families in our Town from experiencing such unimaginable loss."

"Distracted driving has become commonplace, and accidents associated with distracted driving are on the rise. We need to change our behavior," said Councilwoman Julie Lofstad. "Hopefully the creation of this Text Stop, and others like it, will make it easier for a driver to quickly pull off the road to use the phone. Even glancing at a photo or checking a message on your cell phone while driving can increase your odds of being involved in an accident. Please, the text can wait".

"Thank you to the Tocci Family for sharing this day with us, in memory of Barbara Tocci".

LEGISLATORS BRIDGET FLEMING AND AL KRUPSKI HONOR VETERAN JOURNALIST KARL GROSSMAN



Caption: *At the General Meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature are, from left to right: Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming, Suffolk County Legislator Al Krupski, Karl Grossman and East Hampton Library Director Dennis Fabiszak.*

Journalist and investigative reporter Karl Grossman was honored at the June 20, 2017 General Meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature for his 50 plus year career and to celebrate the establishment of the Karl Grossman Research Archive at the East Hampton Library earlier this year.

The [archive](#) will include Mr. Grossman’s extensive body of writing and reporting dating back to 1962 as well as documents related to his backup research.

According to East Hampton Library executive director Dennis Fabiszak, the library is in the process of scanning the thousands of documents that will make up the archive, which he estimates is about one fifth complete. The Library hopes to obtain grant funding that will enable completion of the project by the end of the year. “The East Hampton Library is very happy to be able to provide digital access to the extensive history of articles and research collected by Karl Grossman over the past half century,” said Mr. Fabiszak. “This digital research archive will be a great resource for both local residents and political leaders.”

In addition to a syndicated weekly column which appears in several Long Island publications including *The East Hampton Press*, *The Shelter Island Reporter* and the *South Shore Press*, Mr. Grossman’s work has appeared in a broad range of diverse publications including *Newsday*, *The New York Times*, *The Boston Globe*, *The Philadelphia Inquirer*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Baltimore Sun*, *E The Environmental Magazine*, *The Village Voice*, *Long Island Jewish World* and the *Columbia Journalism Review*. He regularly writes for a number of websites including *CounterPunch* and *The Huffington Post*.

Mr. Grossman is the author of several books, including *Power Crazy* about the now defunct Shoreham nuclear

power plant. He is the host of *Enviro Close-Up* which can be viewed nationally on Free Speech TV. Mr. Grossman has been recognized for his significant contributions to journalism and is the recipient of several prestigious awards including the George Polk Award and the James Aronson Award for Social Justice Journalism. He is a professor of journalism at SUNY Old Westbury where he teaches a class in investigative journalism.

“Karl Grossman is a shining example of journalism at its best,” said Legislator Bridget Fleming. “His insights have shed light on critical issues in our community and the world for decades. I congratulate East Hampton library for compiling this important collection of Karl's work, and I'm grateful that he continues to inform and enlighten us with his excellent reporting.”

Legislator Al Krupski agrees, “Karl has had an extraordinary career and his reporting greatly contributed to the betterment of our society. He often covered issues overlooked by others and he certainly raised awareness about the threats to our natural environment by educating and informing his readers. His reporting is just as relevant today as it has been in the past. The Karl Grossman Research Archive is such an important project because it will give future generations of writers and historians key insights to our time.”

Those interested in supporting The Karl Grossman Research Archive can do so by contacting the East Hampton Library.

SEPTIC PROGRAM



Caption: Legislator Fleming joins County Executive Steve Bellone, New York State Assemblyman Thiele, and Shelter Island Mayor James Dougherty and members of Sylvester Manor Education Farm

The Suffolk County Legislature passed and County Executive Steve Bellone signed into law a program that will help homeowners replace their outdated septic systems or cesspools at an affordable rate with advanced wastewater technologies designed to significantly reduce nitrogen pollution.

Under the Reclaim Our Water Septic Improvement Program, homeowners who decide to replace their cesspool or septic system with the new technologies will be eligible for a grant of up to \$11,000 — inclusive of installing a pressurized shallow drain field — to offset the cost of one of the new systems. In addition to the grant, homeowners can qualify to finance the remaining cost of the systems over 15 years at a low 3% fixed interest rate. The loan program will be administered by Community Development Corporation of Long Island Funding Corp, with financial support from Bridgehampton National Bank in the amount \$1 million, and financial commitments from several philanthropic foundations.

For more information about the application please call my office at 631-852-8400.

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.

LEGISLATOR FLEMING'S SUMMER TIPS

Pedestrian Safety:

- Follow the rules of the road and obey signs and signals
- Walk on sidewalks whenever they are available
- If there is no sidewalk, walk facing traffic and as far from traffic as possible. Cyclists should always ride with traffic and use hand signals when turning
- Cross streets at crosswalks or intersections whenever possible
- Keep alert at all times – don't be distracted by electronic devices that take your eyes and ears off the road

Camping Safety and Tips:

- Prepare safe food and water, don't litter
- Follow tick prevention tips above



- Stay away from wild animals at night
- Wear bug repellent to avoid pesky mosquitos
- Always wear sunblock to stay protected from intense summer rays

Community Events

**Attorney General
Eric T. Schneiderman**

Presents:

**SMART
SENIORS
Don't Get Scammed!**

Learn How To Avoid Becoming a Victim of Scams and Financial Fraud:



- The Warning Signs
- Avoid Becoming A Victim
- Getting Help If You've Been Victimized

In Partnership With:

**Legislator
Bridget M. Fleming**

Tuesday, August 1, 2017 at 1:00 PM
Montauk Library
871 Montauk Highway
Montauk, NY 11954

**NARCAN
TRAINING
SESSION
& Rx DRUG
DISPOSAL**

WHAT IS NARCAN?
Narcan 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 Narcan, 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.
Flanders, Riverside and Northampton
Community Association (FRNCA)
Catholic Charities
Suffolk County Dept. of Health Services
Suffolk County Sheriff's Office
Thomas' Hope

WHEN:
July 26, 2017
6:30 P.M.

WHERE:
David W. Crohan Community Center
655 Flanders Road
Flanders, NY 11901

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



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