



News from Legislator Bridget Fleming

Second Legislative District

November 2016 Newsletter

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

Secured \$500,000 from the Historic Restoration and Preservation Fund to restore the Cedar Island Lighthouse.

Sponsored legislation to partner with the Southampton and Hampton Bays Rotary Clubs to install life ring posts at Shinnecock Canal.

Secured \$250,000 to finance a new stormwater management system as part of the reconstruction of the Riverside Roundabout.

Sponsored legislation establishing a working group to maximize the level of transportation services provided by Suffolk County.

Sponsored legislation requiring the Department of Public Works to provide notice of certain capital projects to towns and villages.

Appointed Zachary Cohen to the Tick Control Advisory Committee.

Co-sponsored two resolution to sell County-owned real estate to the Town of East Hampton to be used for hiking trails

Co-sponsored a two-year extension for the development of a parcel of land transferred for the Affordable

LEGISLATOR FLEMING CELEBRATES THE SUCCESSFUL VOTE ON THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND INITIATIVE

On Election Day, voters on the East End went to the polls to overwhelmingly support the Community Preservation Fund referendum. The proposal will extend the Community Preservation Fund through 2050 and allow each town to spend up to 20% of the fund on water protection initiatives. The vote, which took place in all East End Towns and was passed overwhelming, is one of the biggest victories yet for the advocates of water protection on the East End.

The fund was first established in 1998, when the five East End towns were authorized by New York State to bring forward a referendum to establish the fund. The referendum was passed overwhelmingly and has been a tremendous success in improving the quality of the life on the East End by preserving open space, farm land, and historical sites that would have been lost to overdevelopment. The referendum established a 2% tax on property transfers over \$250,000 and has helped the East End preserve more than 10,000 acres of land.



Legislator Fleming speaks at a press conference in support of the CPF referendum at Stony Brook University Southampton Campus in September.

The new funding source will allow the five East End towns to support residents and businesses as they begin the vitally important process of upgrading outdated septic systems. The East End's wetlands, waterways, and groundwater are suffering from an abundance of nitrogen and other harmful chemicals that are being deposited into the groundwater. One of the top causes of this is the use of outdated and aging septic systems. Some have become damaged over the years and are leaking nitrogen and other contaminants into the ground. Many of them never prevented runoff in the first place. New advanced septic systems are expected to reduce nitrogen content to at least 19 milligrams per liter of water, which is a significant reduction from the 50 to 60 milligrams per liter in unfiltered waste water.

Last month, Suffolk County approved two Advanced Nitrogen-Reducing Wastewater systems for private residences. Norweco Singular TNT and Hydro-Action have successfully undergone six months of testing and are expected to be certified by the Department of Health in the coming weeks.

"This is the number one issue of our time and I am very satisfied to see the residents of the East End recognizing that as well. The East End must be a leader on this issue because it is affecting us more deeply and in ways that the rest of Long Island isn't," said Legislator Fleming. "This is our opportunity to protect our water right now and for future generations."

LEGISLATOR FLEMING IS WORKING TO IMPROVE OUR COUNTY PARKS AND HISTORIC LANDMARKS



Although the summer months have passed us by, Suffolk County parks on the East End are a major attraction to residents and tourists alike. Long Islanders are enjoying the outdoors and natural treasures of the East End. Legislator Fleming has been working diligently over the last year to protect, improve, and expand our County park system. Two projects, the restoration of the Cedar Island Lighthouse and the new Riverside Maritime Trail, reached important milestones in November.

Since a fire damaged the building decades ago, the restoration of the Cedar Island Lighthouse at Cedar Point has been a long desired project of the East Hampton community. The Lighthouse was built in 1839 and for almost 100 years it guided in

whaling ships and others as they came into Sag Harbor. In 1934, the Lighthouse was decommissioned when newer technologies came into play. Despite bearing witness to many major weather events over the past few decades, the Lighthouse stood as a cultural and historical treasure. However, in 1974 a fire severely damaged the roof and interior structure.

Now, over 40 years since the fire and over 80 years since the decommissioning, Legislator Fleming has secured half a million dollars from the Historic Restoration and Preservation Fund to repair the roof and restore the exterior to its historical state. Full restoration and repurposing of the lighthouse will be done in partnership with the community and the Cedar Island Lighthouse Restoration Committee. “This structure is part of our shared history and a reminder of our roots. Protecting the Cedar Island Lighthouse so we can pass down this legacy to our children is important and I am pleased that the Legislature has recognized that.” said Legislator Fleming on the vote.

Further west in Riverside, Legislator Fleming and County Parks Commissioner Phil Berdolt toured the future site of the Riverside Maritime Trail off of Flanders Rd. The Trail is planned to extend from Flanders Road to the Peconic River where it will highlight the natural beauty of the historically underserved community. Legislator Fleming has been working with local residents, Town of Southampton officials, and County Parks officials on this joint venture. “The natural beauty of the Peconic River will be on full display here in Riverside. I am grateful to our Town and County officials for working together to push this project forward after so much time. I would also like to thank the Flanders-Riverside-Northampton Civic Association for everything they have done to keep our elected officials focused on this project,” said Legislator Fleming.



LEGISLATOR FLEMING HONORS LOCAL CAMPERS WHO ARE HELPING TO RAISE AWARENESS OF TICK BORNE-ILLNESSES



In November, Legislator Fleming was proud to announce the winners of the ‘First Annual Tick Poster Contest.’ The contest, which took place over the summer, was to design an informational poster to help raise awareness of the dangers of ticks and tick borne-illness. Participants from four age groups and four local summer camps submitted over 30 entries. Winners were chosen by April Boitano of the Southampton Hospital’s Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center and Brian Kelly of East End Tick and Mosquito Control based on how informative each poster was and the quality of the work.

Keira Nappi, age 7, from Camp Soul Grow in Hampton Bays was the winner chosen in the Division 1 (Kindergarten to 2nd Grade). Gigi, age 9, from Camp Soul Grow was named as the first place winner of Division 2 (3rd to 5th Grade). In Division 3 (6th to 8th Grade), Frannie, age 11, of Camp Soul Grow placed in first place. And in Division 4 (9th to 12th Grade), first place was awarded to Caitlin Martin, age 15, from Camp Soul Grow. Prizes for the winning students were donated by Splish Splash Water Park, East End Tick and Mosquito Control, Seven Eleven of Sag Harbor, Regal Entertainment Group, and Dick’s Sporting Goods.

“The problems related to Ticks and Tick-Borne Illnesses continue to be a critical health issue on the East End and I appreciate the fantastic work of these campers to help get the word out. I want to also recognize April Boitano of the Tick-Borne Disease Resource Center of the Southampton Hospital for her expertise and help putting this contest together, as well as all of the great organizations who donated prizes,” said Legislator Fleming.

Tick related disease has been a growing issue on the East End of Long Island as the deer population, which carry ticks, has skyrocketed in recent decades. Legislator Fleming recently re-established the county Tick Control Advisory Committee (TCAC) to oversee and advise the County’s newly-created Tick Research and Management Program (TSMP) with unanimous support of the Suffolk County Legislature. The new committee will be made up of 16 committee members who will meet 3-4 times a year to review tick control methods and management options, as well as provide advice to the TSMP and input to the annual vector control plans.



LEGISLATOR FLEMING JOINS HER NORTH SHORE COLLEAGUES TO CALL ON THE FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION TO CHANGE HELICOPTER RULES



On November 15th, Legislator Fleming joined Legislator Al Krupski and a number of local officials in Riverhead and Southold to call on the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) to reconsider the extension of the North Shore Helicopter Route. The route, which was unexpectedly renewed recently, requires helicopters coming from New York City to travel over the Long Island Sound instead of over land except when turning toward their destination. The rule was created in 2008 after local residents complained about the noise of these helicopters flying over their homes.

Most helicopter traffic on the East End lands at the East Hampton Airport. The North Shore Route had the unintended consequence of funneling almost all of the helicopter traffic over the North Fork, Shelter Island, Noyac, and Sag Harbor as helicopters turned south to land at the airport. This caused an increase in noise pollution, rather than decreasing it. The local officials submitted a petition to the FAA asking them to repeal the route and to consider a South Shore Route except in case of safety concerns due to the weather. The South Shore Route would keep helicopters away from Long Island homes while traveling and would reduce the amount of time helicopters spend over land while landing.

“The FAA has ignored the pleas of local residents who want a reprieve from the noise which is hurting our quality of life. I am committed to finding a solution to this problem which will have as little impact on residents as possible,” explained Legislator Fleming.

SUFFOLK COUNTY LEGISLATURE PASSES THE 2017 OPERATING BUDGET

At a meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature on November 9th, the 2017 Suffolk County Operating Budget was passed by 11 -7 vote. The \$2.9 billion budget sets spending priorities for the upcoming fiscal year. The adopted version reduced fees and restored a number of cuts from County Executive Bellone’s proposed budget. One such cut was for the Public Health Nursing Bureau. Speaking at the meeting, Legislator Fleming said, “I want to thank the members of the budget working group, particularly the majority members, who really made a conscientious effort to be inclusive and fair to everyone in the group and worked diligently to present an omnibus that garners broad support.”



Legislator Fleming, however, noted that long term reforms must be made in order to keep Suffolk County on the right track. During the meeting she noted, “I believe we must also commit to further reforms to reduce costs with real diligence, such as badly needed risk management reforms, or for instance the newly-formed public transportation working group, to partner with the Long Island Railroad and local municipalities.”

In recent months, as chair of the Ways and Means committee, Legislator Fleming required the Suffolk County Board of Ethics to appear before the committee to answer questions regarding why the Board had denied disclosure to Newsday of the financial disclosure forms of senior assistant District Attorney John Scott Prudente, that Newsday had requested. During the discussions, it became clear that the system did not work as intended, as important transparency measures were not implemented, and resulted in the newspaper's request being denied.

Contract Agency
Hampton Film Festival
Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center
Bay Street Theater
Guild Hall of East Hampton
Montauk Historical Society
Parrish Art Museum
Children's Museum of the East End
African American Film Festival
Long House Reserve
East End Special Players
Southampton Cultural Center
East End Arts Council, Harvest Gospel Festival
Sylvestor Manor
Eastville Historical Society
Sag Harbor Whaling and Historical Museum
Shelter Island Historical Society
Sag Harbor Historical Society
South Fork Natural History Museum
Bridgeton Historical Society
Southampton Historical Society
OLA of Eastern Long Island
Watermill Center
Westhampton Beach Historical Society

In the 2017 operating budget, Fleming successfully pushed for part-time investigator to support the ethics board. In addition, Fleming will be proposing reforms of the ethics board's duties and responsibilities, to ensure that government is transparent and that the community gets information about any potential conflicts of interest that might undermine the fair workings of government.

In addition, as part of the 2017 Operating Budget, 23 historical and cultural organizations will receive grants by the County to support their work and community events. The requests were made by Legislator Fleming on behalf of her constituents and returns over \$200,000 of Hotel/Motel tax revenue to the district. Most of that tax revenue comes from the Second District.

“The East End’s economy is tourism based, and I greatly appreciate how critically important it is to support the extraordinary cultural organizations that draw the tax dollars that this budget so badly needs,” said Legislator Fleming.

LEGISLATOR FLEMING JOINS A PANEL OF EAST END WOMEN TO DISCUSS THEIR CAREERS AND TALK ABOUT ISSUES FACING WOMEN ON LONG ISLAND



Legislator Fleming joined a panel of female leaders from around the East End for the “Women Leading Long Island’s East End Breakfast” to discuss their personal experiences and insights about how they rose to their position and the issues they faced along the way. The panel was hosted by Campolo, Middleton & McCormick, LLP on November 10th at the Stony Brook University Campus at Southampton. Kelly Canavan, chair of Real Estate department for the firm, moderated the panel. Legislator Fleming was joined by Andrea Harum Schiavoni, Southampton Town Justice and Of Counsel at CMM; Maria Baum, CEO at Tracy Anderson Mind & Body; Neela Mukherjee Lockel, CEO at American Red Cross on Long Island; and Stephanie Bitis, VP/GM, Long Island Radio Broadcasting.

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

Reaching Resistant Readers



Saturday, December 3rd

- ▶ Assessments from: 10am
- ▶ Refreshments: 11:30-12:00
- ▶ Info Session: 12:00-12:30
- ▶ Teachers Info: 12:30-01:00pm
(The Benefits of Multi Sensory Approaches and Orton-Gillingham)

MUST REGISTER

or other
"Is your Child Falling Through the Reading ^ Cracks?"

- Learn about NEW Library Resources to help your struggling or reluctant reader
- Have your child assessed by a reading specialist (grades K-3)
- Learn about dyslexia and other reading related difficulties
- Find out how to HELP Your Child
- Light Refreshments and Giveaways

East Hampton Library
159 Main St, East Hampton

Call to Register:
631-324-0222 (Ext.2)

In Partnership With: Dyslexic Days (Face Book), Evelyn Whitebay and Dyslexia on Long Island.com

COMMUNITY COAT DRIVE

For many Suffolk County residents, choosing between putting food on the table and buying clothes to keep warm has become an unfortunate reality. The Suffolk County Legislature, in an effort to provide our most in need residents with warm clothing, has partnered with Every Child's Dream Inc. to collect:

COATS
SWEATSHIRTS
SWEATERS
BLANKETS
HATS & GLOVES
(NEW OR GENTLY USED - ALL SIZES NEEDED)

Deadline: Thursday, December 8th



Drop off Location:
Suffolk County Legislator Bridge Fleming's Office
75 Washington Street
Sag Harbor, NY 11963



FOR THE LATEST UPDATES ON UPCOMING EVENTS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: [HTTP://WWW.SUFFOLKCOUNTYNY.GOV/DO2](http://www.suffolccountyny.gov/do2)