



# News from Legislator Bridget Fleming

*Second Legislative District*

*October 2016 Newsletter*

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

At the suggestion of a constituent, Legislator Fleming requested that the Suffolk County Board of Elections make available a list of candidates in upcoming elections. The Board has agreed to make that list available on their website.

Co-sponsored a bill to establish a working group to maximize the level of transportation services provided by Suffolk County.

Appointed Zachary Cohen, Joyce Rodler, and Daniel Gilrein to the Tick Control Advisory Committee

Authorized three new clean water projects using New Enhanced Suffolk County Water Quality Protection Program funds

## LEGISLATOR FLEMING SPEAKS IN SUPPORT OF THE COMMUNITY PRESERVATION FUND REFEREDENDUM



Legislator Fleming joined with Dr. Christopher Gobler of the Stony Brook University School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences, Kevin McDonald of The Nature Conservancy, Bob DeLuca of the Group for the East End, and Richard Amper of the Pine Barrens Society at a press conference held at Stony Brook Southampton to call on voters to pass the Community Preservation Fund (CPF) Referendum this November. 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 and farm land and historical sites that would have been lost to overdevelopment. The referendum established a 2% tax on property transfers and has helped the East End preserve more than 10,000 acres of land. The referendum on the ballot for this November proposes to extend the fund through 2050 and allow up to 20% of the fund to be used for water quality improvements on the East End.

At the press conference, speakers noted the dire effects that nutrient loading into the groundwater has on our drinking water, wetlands, and coastal regions. Of the 10 sites currently listed by the DEC where harmful algal blooms are affecting water sources in Suffolk County, seven are in the Second District. These blooms are

caused by colonies of algae growing out of control and producing harmful effects on humans, marine life, and birds. The overgrowth is contributed to by nutrient loading into the environment.

Should the referendum pass, the CPF will be an important source of funds for initiatives that seek to replace aging septic systems that have been a major factor in the water quality issues facing the East End. By replacing the outdated systems with new technology that reduces the amount of nitrogen being loaded into the ground, we can stem the growing problem and begin to reverse its effects.

“Water quality is my top priority as Legislator for the Second District and passing this referendum is critical for the long term success in this battle. I am encouraging all voters in our district to flip over their ballot on November 8<sup>th</sup>, and vote yes on Proposal 1,” said Legislator Fleming, noting that the initiative will appear on the back of ballots.

## **LEGISLATOR FLEMING HOSTS “CHARTING THE COURSE” EVENT FOR SMALL BUSINESSES IN WESTHAMPTON AND EAST HAMPTON**



Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming on Monday, October 17<sup>th</sup> hosted two town hall style panels, one in Westhampton and one in East Hampton, to benefit businesses on the South Fork. County and town officials were present at “Charting the Course” to field questions from business owners and community members about local government services available to help businesses thrive.

“This event served as an opportunity for county and town officials to show small businesses how valuable they are to our community. This is an

important first step in creating a partnership between East End businesses and local government to grow our economy,” stated Legislator Fleming. “I would like to thank Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory for initiating these discussions throughout Suffolk County and County Executive Bellone for his support.”

The panels were composed of representatives from Suffolk County Department of Economic Development and Planning, Department of Health Services, Department of Parks, Department of Public Works, and Industrial Development Agency. Additionally, East Hampton Departments of Human Services, Planning, Housing, and Fisheries and Southampton Town’s Community Services, Parks and Planning departments were in attendance at their respective sessions.

Westhampton Beach Mayor Maria Moore, who attended the earlier session, joined Southampton Town Supervisor Jay Schneiderman in sponsoring the event. Deputy Supervisor Frank Zappone participated on behalf of Mr. Schneiderman.

“Partnership between the public and private sector is critical to our area’s economic health. This forum took an important step toward strengthening that partnership” stated Deputy Supervisor Zappone.

“The panel discussion provided an opportunity for important collaboration between a variety of government experts, elected representatives and the business community. This type of coordinated teamwork is sure to yield benefits for everyone,” added Mayor Maria Moore.

The Westhampton session was held in the Hampton Business District, sponsored by Rechler Equity Partners. “We are honored by the opportunity to host this important event focused on growing business on the East End,” said Mitchell Rechler. “We commend Legislator Fleming for taking the initiative to bring County and Town officials together with business owners and providing them with a forum to express their greatest challenges and concerns.” A recording of the Westhampton event will be aired by SEA-TV.



East Hampton Town Supervisor Larry Cantwell and members of the East Hampton Town staff joined Legislator Fleming in sponsoring the East Hampton event. “This was an excellent opportunity for town and local business leaders to share information about our town’s local economy, the need for year-round jobs, housing, and transportation” said Supervisor Cantwell.

The East Hampton session took place in LTV Studio 3 in Wainscott. “LTV was thrilled to host "Charting the Course" both as an integral part of the East Hampton community and as a not-for-profit on the East End with exactly the same concerns as commercial businesses - traffic congestion, lack of affordable housing, and how to thrive and prosper despite those challenges,” stated Morgan Vaughan, LTV Executive Director, “we are always happy to be part of the solution.” A recording of the East Hampton event will be aired by LTV.

“I found the open and frank discussion of the leading issues facing the East End to be a great start to discuss opportunities and solutions for affordable housing, water quality, and transportation problems” stated John Barrows, Long Island Builders Institute. “The East End Council of LIBI looks forward to continuing the discussion.”

Legislator Fleming thanks all who participated in the first “Charting the Course” event on the East End to make it a success and particularly Legislative Aides for Economic Development Robert Fonti and Ray Donnelly, from the Presiding Officer’s office. She would also like to acknowledge James Renner of Il Cappuccino’s restaurant for providing food and Jason Belkin of The Hampton Coffee Company for providing coffee for the event.

“‘Charting the Course’ started as a single event to open a dialogue between businesses and county government,” said Presiding Officer Gregory. “Due to such positive reception, that single initiative has expanded, as we are now going directly into Suffolk’s legislative districts and hosting events tailored to their needs. Legislator Fleming and the ‘Charting the Course’ team did an incredible job hosting the first event in this series, and we look forward to the many more projects already planned in other districts to discuss with business owners the ways the county can help them thrive.”

# LEGISLATOR FLEMING HELPS SYVELSTER MANOR BREAK GROUND ON THE FUTURE OF WASTEWATER TREATMENT FOR THE EAST END



Legislator Fleming joined Assemblyman Fred Thiele, Shelter Island Town Supervisor Jim Dougherty, Deputy County Executive Peter Scully, EPA Chief of Watershed Management Chris Balla, Peconic Estuary Program Director Alison Branco and Sylvester Manor Educational Farm’s planner Sara Gordon for the groundbreaking of Suffolk County’s first non-proprietary alternative onsite wastewater treatment system at Sylvester Manor. This project will serve as an example for many other projects coming in the next few months as Suffolk County joins with local partners to combat the environmental impacts of nutrient loading into groundwater and surface waters caused by 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, like the one being installed at Sylvester Manor, 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.

Suffolk County also recently 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.

The Sylvester Manor project is being funded jointly by Suffolk County, New York State, and private contributions to the Manor. It is expected to cost \$425,000 to complete the project, which includes the system, installation, temporary structures, and fees associated with the project. This project will also act as a blueprint for future systems, and will help decrease costs over time. However, many speaking, including Legislator Fleming and Assemblyman Thiele, noted that the referendum on the ballot for this November that proposes to reauthorize the Community Preservation Fund and allow up to 20% of the fund to be used for water quality initiatives will help pay for future projects like this.

“If we are going to solve this critical issue to the East End, we need to take proactive steps to stop the contamination of our groundwater,” said Legislator Fleming. “I am grateful to Sylvester Manor Educational Farm and the entire Board of Director’s for taking those steps in partnership with the County and State. I especially want to thank Sara Gordon for her visionary initiative to make today happen.”

Sylvester Manor was first established in 1652 as a plantation that encompassed all of Shelter Island. It was operated by African slaves, indentured or paid Native Americans, and European laborers. It serves as an important historical site for the understanding of slavery in the early colonial period of the northeastern United States. Today, the Manor and its 243 acres of fields, forests, gardens, and estuaries serve as an educational experience about our history and the importance of organic farming for all who visit.

# LEGISLATOR FLEMING AND ATTORNEY GENERAL SCHNEIDERMAN HOST SMART SENIORS – DON'T GET SCAMMED PRESENTATIONS FOR SHELETR ISLAND SENIOR CITIZENS

In the wake of the ongoing telephone scams on Long Island, Legislator Fleming and Attorney General Eric Schneiderman joined together to host a Smart Seniors event for the residents of the East End. The presentations were done by Timothy Hatter of the Attorney General's office. During the presentation Mr. Hatter spoke with the seniors about the scams that people were using to take advantage the elderly. All of these scams ask that you either send money or provide your checking and routing number to your bank account by claiming that the victim has recently won



something, like the lottery or a free cruise vacation, that a member of the victim's family is in trouble, or that the senior is in trouble with the IRS. The Attorney General's office recommends not answering the phone if you don't know the phone number or calling your grandchild's parents to confirm their location and safety.

"It is vital that we make seniors aware of these scams and let them know how they can protect themselves," said Legislator Fleming. "If you do not know the person you are talking to, you should avoid giving out personal information."

## LT. GOVERNOR HOCHUL JOINS LEGISLATOR FLEMING AND COUNTY EXECUTIVE STEVE BELLONE TO DISCUSS SUFFOLK'S SMALL BUSINESSES

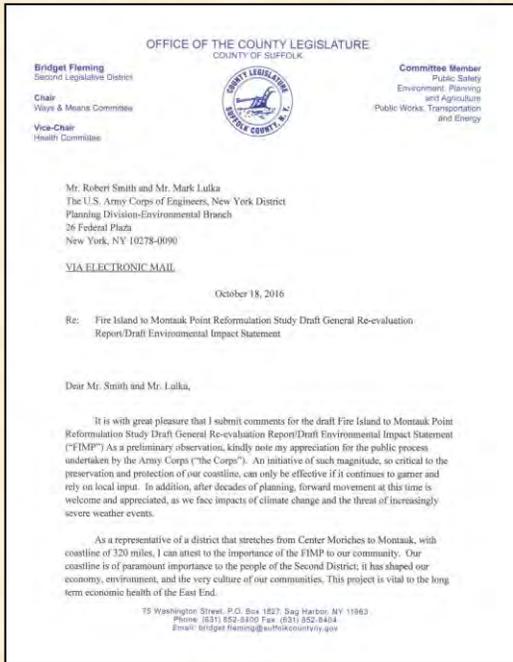


Legislator Fleming joined Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, Senate Majority Leader John Flanagan, County Executive Steve Bellone and over 100 Suffolk business leaders for a meeting of the Suffolk Alliance of Chambers of Commerce on Friday, September 23<sup>rd</sup>. The meeting, which was held at the Denison County Building in Hauppauge, brought State and Local leaders together with the business community to review the first year of the Suffolk Alliance and lay out the legislative agenda for Suffolk's small businesses.

Lt. Governor Hochul discussed the importance of downtown business districts for the growth of local economies. On the East End, business districts are critical to protecting the character of individual villages. They promote small business growth by stopping large developers from building big-box stores and creating overdevelopment in our historic downtowns.

"It was a pleasure to welcome Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul back to Suffolk County to discuss the economic issues facing both our County and New York State as a whole. As she noted, creating well-regulated business districts and supporting local Chambers of Commerce is critical to the long term success of our economy. I look forward to continuing to work with both the Lt. Governor and Governor Cuomo on helping grow our economy," said Legislator Fleming following the meeting.

# LEGISLATOR FLEMING SUBMITS COMMENTS ON THE FIRE ISLAND TO MONTAUK POINT REFORMULATION STUDY



On Wednesday, October 19<sup>th</sup>, Legislator Fleming submitted her comments to the Army Corps of Engineers on the Fire Island to Montauk Point Reformulation Study (FIMP). The study is part of a decade’s long plan to help strengthen and restore the damaged coastline along the south shores of Long Island and Fire Island.

In her letter to the Environmental Branch of the Planning Division for the Army Corps, Legislator Fleming said “An initiative of such magnitude, so critical to the preservation and protection of our coastline, can only be effective if it continues to garner and rely on local input.”

Comments were also submitted by many other local leaders, including Southampton Town Supervisor Jay Schneiderman, East Hampton Town Supervisor Larry Cantwell, and Westhampton Beach Mayor Maria Moore.

[The full letter can be read by clicking here.](#)

# HONORING OUR VETERANS AND FIRST RESPONDERS



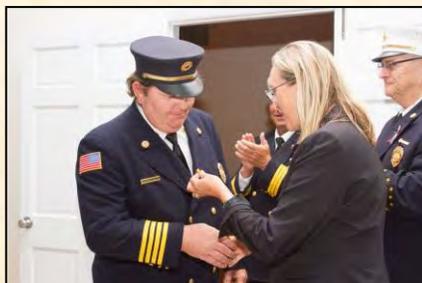
Legislator Fleming with Members of the Quogue Fire Department



Legislator Fleming Presenting a Proclamation to Scott Danvoski, who was awarded the Suffolk Fire Academies Bronze Medal of Honor at the Riverhead Fire Department on September 21st



Legislator Fleming Presenting a Proclamation to Ronnie Paon of the Montauk Fire Department  
*Photo c. Richard Lewin*



Legislator Fleming presents a Veteran Pin to Joey Hernandez at the Bridgehampton Fire Department Banquet on September 16th



Legislator Fleming presents a Veteran Pin to John Hossenlopp at the Amagansett Fire Department Dinner on October 1st



## YOU CAN HELP CLEAN UP LONG ISLAND'S WATER

- 1) Vote YES on November 8th, if you live in an East End town, to extend the Community Protection Fund and add a category for water quality improvement projects. **#CPFVoteYes** on social media.
- 2) Be prepared to upgrade to a nitrogen-reducing wastewater treatment system when such systems become available for residential use.
- 3) Reduce or eliminate fertilizer, especially if you live on or near the water. Wherever you live, choose drought-resistant plants and grasses.
- 4) Limit use of bleach. There is a whole ecosystem in your septic system. Bleach kills the microbes that break down solids and process the waste.
- 5) Wash laundry over several days. This spreads out the loading to the system and allows more time for microbes to do their job.
- 6) Use water and energy as efficiently as possible. Don't use the washing machine, dishwasher and shower at the same time. Don't use sprinklers in the rain!
- 7) Do not flush solids down the toilet, including wipes, diapers, tissues, and paper towels. (Toilet paper is ok.) Dispose of unused pharmaceutical products through drug store and community reclamation programs, not down the toilet.
- 8) Limit or discontinue use of garbage disposals. These add unnecessarily large amounts of solids to your system, accelerating the need for pumping.
- 9) Empty fats/oils before cleaning pots and pans, and dispose of coffee grounds in the compost or trash. Grease and coffee grounds will accumulate in the system, increasing the likelihood of back-up and requiring more frequent pumping.
- 10) Join the Long Island Clean Water Partnership and sign up for action alerts at [longislandcleanwaterpartnership.org](http://longislandcleanwaterpartnership.org).



Call 631-329-7689 for more information

# 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 HALLOWEEN 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.



### Trick-Or-Treating Safety:

- Costumes that are bright and reflective will help ensure that children can be seen by drivers. Add reflective tape to costumes or trick-or-treat bags to increase visibility.
- Before leaving, review with trick-or-treaters how to properly call 9-1-1 if they become lost or if there is an emergency. If possible, keep a cell phone with you at all times for quick communication.
- Young Children should always be accompanied by an adult.
- Older children, who are trick-or-treating without an adult, should have a planned route that is acceptable to you. Set a designated time for them to return home.
- Keep flashlights with extra batteries with you at all times to ensure safety as the sun begins to set.
- Only visit homes that are well lit and never enter a person's home.
- Notify law enforcement of any suspicious or unlawful activity.
- Although rare, make sure to check all candy for tampering. Throw away any unwrapped, spoiled, or suspicious items after returning home.



## COMMUNITY EVENTS

### Second Annual Catholic Health Services of Long Island Suffolk County 2016 Marathon, Half Marathon, 5k Run and Freedom Fest

Come support our local veterans at the 2nd Annual Suffolk County Marathon, Half Marathon and 5k on Sunday, October 30, 2016! All net proceeds will go toward enhancing local veteran services.

*Registration Costs:*

**Full marathon:** April 1 – June 30: \$80, July 1 – October 24: \$85, at the Expo: \$100

**Half Marathon:** April 1 – June 30: \$70, July 1 – October 24: \$75, at the Expo: \$90

**5k:** April 1 – June 30: \$20, July 1 – October 24: \$30, at the Expo: \$35

**For Active-Duty Military and Veterans:** Full: \$50, Half: \$40, 5k: \$20

\*Must provide military ID/proof of service at packet pickup

Register Online at [www.SuffolkMarathon.com](http://www.SuffolkMarathon.com)



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