



News from Legislator Bridget Fleming

Second Legislative District

September 2016 Newsletter

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

Sponsored legislation requiring the department of public works to provide notice of projects to towns and villages (IR1867-16)

Introduced a bill to fund a Public Safety project on Long Beach Road in Sag Harbor (IR 1688-16)

Re-established the Tick Control Advisory Committee to ensure that proper actions are being taken to reduce the incidence of ticks and tick-borne illnesses in Suffolk County (IR1668-16)

Supported a law to reduce the use of wasteful single-use carryout bags at stores (IR 1649-16) and created the 5 & 5 education and effectiveness working group to conduct outreach and education efforts to promote awareness of the new law (IR 1767-16)

LEGISLATOR FLEMING TESTIFIES AT A JOINT STATE ASSEMBLELY AND SENATE HEARING ON WATER QUALITY



Photo by JD Allen – WSHU Public Radio Group

Legislator Fleming, along with County Executive Steve Bellone, Legislator Al Krupski, Legislator Kara Hahn, and Brookhaven Supervisor Ed Romaine spoke before a hearing of New York State Assemblymembers and Senators to discuss Water Quality and contamination issues in Suffolk County. The panel focused on replacing aging septic systems with new technologies that will reduce nitrogen contamination into the groundwater which contributes to damage to drinking water, red tides, harvest impacts, and fish kills. These issues are especially

important on the East End as the vitality of our bays, ponds, creeks and harbors is the primary driver of our economy.

Also at the hearing was State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos who announced that 64 water wells at private homes near Francis S. Gabreski Airport in Westhampton Beach have been designated as ‘Superfund’ sites by the State. He said that New York State will pay for all 64 homes to be connected to municipal drinking water supplies after a contamination of perfluorooctanesulfonic acid, or PFOS, was found at the Airport. Officials were concerned that the contamination might affect nearby private wells and began testing for contamination earlier in the year. Although most of the wells were unaffected, connecting the homes to municipal supplies is a necessary as a precaution.

“Residents of our community must be able to count on access to clean drinking water. I am grateful for the care that government officials at all levels have taken in this instance to ensure that groundwater contamination is detected and remediated.” said Legislator Fleming.

Residents around the Gabreski Airport who have concerns about water quality should contact our office at (631) 852-8400.

The Commissioner also said at the hearing that the state is granting \$5 million to Stony Brook University’s Center for Clean Water Technologies to research new septic systems that will curb ground water contaminants. These actions from New York State come on the heels of a concerted effort by Suffolk County lawmakers to stop the growing problem of nitrogen loading into the groundwater that threatens Suffolk County’s water quality.

LEGISLATOR FLEMING REESTABLISHES THE TICK CONTROL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

At the General Meeting of the Suffolk County Legislature on September 7, 2016, Legislator Bridget Fleming and her present colleagues voted unanimously to reestablish the county Tick Control Advisory Committee (TCAC) to oversee and advise the County’s newly-created Tick Research and Management Program (TSMP). The TCAC was initially constructed by former legislator Jay Schneiderman in 2014.

The reestablishment of the committee comes just a few short months after Legislator Fleming successfully advocated to include funding in the 2017-19 Capital Budget for tick management and control purposes, a new Capital Project (CP 4091) which led to the establishment of the “TSMP”. The 2017-19 Capital Budget is the first Suffolk County Budget to allocate funds specifically for tick management and control purposes. “Tick-borne illness is a serious threat to the health of Suffolk County residents, and deters locals and tourists alike from enjoying our world class parks and natural resources” stated Fleming. “The goal of the Tick Surveillance and Management Program is to develop a plan to control the tick population in Suffolk County efficiently and effectively, and to serve as a national model for addressing this public health crisis.”



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 LICAP TO ANNOUNCE A NEW WATER QUALITY MAPPING DATABASE AND WEBSITE



Legislator Fleming joined The Long Island Commission for Aquifer Protection (LICAP) on Friday, September 16th to launch WaterTraq, a new GIS-based water quality mapping and database website.

“WaterTraq is valuable tool that allows us to share information with regulators and the general public at the click of a button,” Suffolk County Water Authority Chief Executive Officer and former LICAP Chairman Jeffrey W. Szabo said.

The system uses data from multiple sources for interactive maps that give users a clear picture of the current conditions of groundwater on Long Island. [WaterTraq](#) will be used to help New York State’s new water quality rapid response team identify and respond quickly to drinking water issues. Residents will also be able to access critical information on drinking water quality at any time at liaquifercommission.com.

“Water quality is our top priority in Suffolk County. This is yet another piece of an ongoing effort by the County to tackle to water quality issues on Long Island. Access to clean and safe drinking water is vital to our residents and this tool will be a great way to monitor that,” said Legislator Fleming.

[The 2016 Drinking Water Quality Report](#) published by Suffolk County Water Authority earlier this year found that Suffolk County surpassed the water quality standards set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency and New York State Health Department. New tools, such as WaterTraq, will help Suffolk County continue to pass state standards and improve the quality further.

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LEGISLATOR FLEMING HONORS COMMUNITY MEMBERS AT SEPTEMBER GENERAL MEETING



On Wednesday, September 7th, Legislator Fleming joined her fellow Legislators at the Riverside Legislative Auditorium. She and her colleagues participated in a marathon work session where they considered dozens of important matters facing Suffolk County. The Legislature began the session by honoring the people who are serving their communities with distinction and dedication. Legislator Fleming welcomed two constituents to the meeting, Officer Gennaro DeScalo of the Westhampton Beach Police Department and Jack Lochheim of Sagaponack.

Officer DeScalo was recognized for his heroic acts on August 12th, 2016 when he responded to a distress call from a woman who was 30 weeks pregnant and going into labor. With Officer DeScalo's assistance, she successfully delivered the baby. Both she and the baby are recovering well. Officer DeScalo had been an officer with the Westhampton Beach Police Department for just six months when he responded to the call but, he has proven himself early in his career.



Legislator Fleming also honored 15 year old Jack Lochheim, of Sagaponack, who brought his passion of tennis to underserved children at the Bridgehampton Childcare Center. Jack started the Bridgehampton Youth Tennis Program to bring the sport to children who might otherwise not have the opportunity to learn it. He presented his ideas to his Center's board and raised over \$50,000 to make his dream a reality.

The Legislator also welcomed two constituents of the Second District to open the meeting. 10th Grader Anna Schiavoni of Sag Harbor sang the National Anthem and Revered Jack K. King of the Beach United Methodist Church provided the opening prayer.

The meeting was held at the Riverside Legislative Auditorium in the Town of Southampton.

LEGISLATOR FLEMING FIGHTS TO STOP EAST END BUS CUTS



On Thursday, September 8th, Legislator Fleming attended a Public hearing held by Suffolk County Transit to discuss proposed cuts to the public bus system in Suffolk County. The proposed cuts would affect eight lines throughout Suffolk County, three of which are in the Second District. Those lines are the 10A, 10DE, and S90. Legislator Fleming spoke out against the cuts because they would affect hundreds of daily riders, many of which are in her district, which would have no alternative means of getting to places like their jobs, doctors, or grocery stores.

“Suffolk County has a unique and difficult problem when it comes to public transportation; we are spread out and have lower ridership than many other systems and these service changes will have the biggest impact to some of the most vulnerable residents” explained Legislator Fleming. “Residents will be forced to walk, in some cases, miles along roads not equipped for pedestrian traffic to find an alternative bus routes. Great care must be taken to ensure that members of the community experience the least possible impacts of any service changes. My office will do everything we can to ensure that these cuts will have as little impact on residents as possible.”

At the meeting, Legislator Fleming pointed out the proposed plan does take into full account the costs associated with the cuts, including reduced funding from State and Federal transportation department, potential layoffs to drivers and maintenance workers, and the increased use of alternatives services like SCAT Buses, which have a higher cost per ride compared to the regular bus services.

Legislator Fleming is working with Bus Operators on the East End like Hampton Jitney, Inc. to find ways to reduce costs of bus services while still serving residents. “I am committed to finding savings for tax payers without hurting residents who rely on these services for their critical day-to-day activities” said the Legislator.

The final decision on the proposed changes is being considered by Suffolk County Transit following the public hearing.

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.

MOSQUITO PREVENTION

An important part of mosquito control around your home is making sure that mosquitoes don't have a place to lay their eggs. Mosquitoes need standing water for two stages of their [life cycle](#).

- Get rid of standing water in rain gutters, old tires, buckets, plastic covers, toys or any other container where mosquitoes can breed.
- Empty and change the water in bird baths, fountains, wading pools, rain barrels and potted plant trays at least once a week to eliminate potential mosquito habitats.
- Drain temporary pools of water or fill with dirt.
- Keep swimming pool water circulating and treated



LEGISLATOR FLEMING'S BACK TO SCHOOL 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





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.

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



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