

District 17 • SPRING/SUMMER 2018

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COMMUNITY WATCH

from Suffolk County Legislator

TOM DONNELLY

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A Message from Legislator Tom Donnelly

Dear Neighbor:

Currently midway through my first year as your County Legislator, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the trust you've placed in me as your representative in County government. I am honored to represent you and pledge to work hard on your behalf.

As your representative, my primary responsibility is to make sure that you have a voice on all that impacts you, your family and your quality of life. The 17th Legislative District is a diverse community, and from that diversity comes a wonderful opportunity to embrace every point of view and bring us all together for the greater good. I encourage you to contact me and my staff to ensure that your voice is heard.

I am pleased to have been appointed by Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory to chair the Education & Human Services Committee, as well as serve on the Public Works, Public Safety, Seniors & Consumer Protection and Veterans Committees. In addition, I recently chaired the Suffolk County Community College Budget Working Group where, in true bi-partisan fashion, we recommended a fiscally-responsible increase in the County portion of their funding that will enable them to continue to serve as our educational jewel while still keeping mindful of our County's budget challenges.

I have been very active throughout the many communities in our district, attending neighborhood events and listening to your concerns and suggestions. A number of these events are detailed inside this newsletter. To effectively govern, I need to know what's on your mind and my door is always open. I look forward to hearing from you with your ideas and suggestions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tom Donnelly".

Tom Donnelly
Suffolk County Legislator

It was a privilege to have Reverend Dennis Carter, Pastor of the Community Presbyterian Church of Deer Park and Chaplain of the Deer Park Fire Department, provide our opening prayer at the March 20 Legislature General Meeting in Hauppauge.



Taking the Mystery Out of Reading



I would like to thank Sunquam Elementary School in Melville for inviting me to participate in its annual “Mystery Reader Day.” The “Oh, the Places Reading Will Take You” themed event was held in conjunction with the annual state-wide Pick a Reading Partner (PARP) program. As I was escorted through the hallways, I was truly impressed by the decorations which portrayed the Dr. Seuss-style theme and the enthusiasm displayed by everyone in the building. I applaud Sunquam Principal Karen Littell, PARP Committee Mystery Reader Day Liaison Janie Pollack and the entire Sunquam community for an engagingly educational morning!

Huntington First Aid Squad Celebrates Fifty Fabulous Years of Community Service

Congratulations were the order of the evening as I joined the Huntington Community First Aid Squad and their families at the Squad’s 50th Anniversary Installation and Inspection Celebration on Saturday, March 3. I had the privilege of presenting a special 50th Anniversary Proclamation to the HCFAS and also honored 50-year member Robert Loysch who joined the squad in 1967. In December 1967, the Huntington Community First Aid Squad was formed as an emergency service with on-duty, in-house crews responding to calls on a 24/7, 365 days-a-year basis. The Squad has grown to over 280 members and now responds to over 6,000 calls yearly. We are extremely grateful to all of the Huntington Community First Aid Squad volunteers over the past 50 years for their selfless service to our residents.



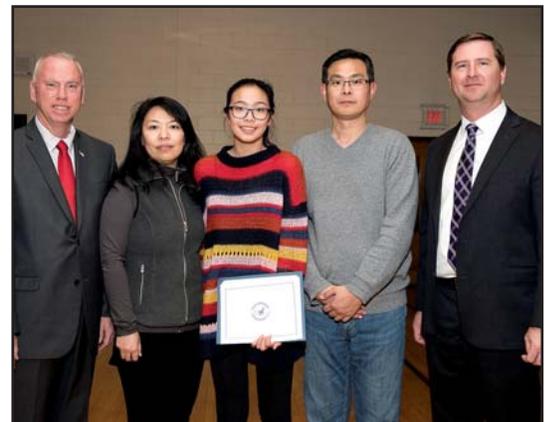
North Babylon Resident Honored at Woman of Distinction Luncheon

I recently had the honor of designating Jeanette Perez as District 17 Woman of Distinction. I presented a Proclamation to Ms. Perez, a 15-year resident of North Babylon who is active in her local school and community and has also raised significant funds for cancer research. Ms. Perez has demonstrated a spirited commitment to the school, community and charitable organizations and causes.



Student Named LI Delegate to National Junior Sciences & Humanities Forum

Earlier this year, I proudly joined the Half Hollow Hills School District in honoring Cassandra Ye, a Half Hollow Hills High School East sophomore who was selected as one of only five Long Island delegates for the 56th National Junior Sciences and Humanities Symposium (JSHS). The JSHS science, technology, engineering and mathematic (STEM) competition promotes original research and experimentation at the high school level and recognizes students for outstanding achievements in STEM.





John's Crazy Socks: Legislators Recognize a Local Business Built on Love

Fellow Huntington Legislator William Spencer and I recently visited John's Crazy Socks, a local business "built on love," to present the father-son owners, who both reside in Huntington, with a Proclamation and thank them for all they do for the community and local and national causes. Founded in late 2016 and headquartered in Melville, John's Crazy Socks was inspired by John Cronin, a young man with Down's Syndrome, with assistance from his father, Mark X. Cronin. Their company is so much more than an online sock store. Their company fulfills the notion that a mission to spread love and joy is a successful business model. See for yourself at: <https://johnscrazysocks.com/>

Visiting Food Pantries LI Cares & Island Harvest

As the chair of the Legislature's Education & Human Services Committee, I have been touring several of our non-profit agencies that receive County funding and provide food and other essentials to help feed the hungry. I recently visited the Hauppauge headquarters of two vital agencies providing these critical services: Long Island Cares (below) and Island Harvest. Both of these agencies, under the direction of their directors Paule Pachter and Randi Shubin-Dresner, accordingly, support our local communities and supply an array of innovative programs to help those in need.



Dedication of Historic Library at Walt Whitman Birthplace Museum

I had the privilege of attending a dedication ceremony of a unique 300-book collection of Walt Whitman-related volumes for the new Norman and Jeanette Gould Library at the Walt Whitman Birthplace in Huntington Station. I was joined by fellow Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming and Executive Director Cynthia Shor in extending our gratitude to Trustee Jeffrey Gould and the Feinstein Family who generously made this extraordinary donation to the Walt Whitman Birthplace.



Half Hollow Hills Students Receive Top Scholarship Honors at Prestigious Siemens National Competition

Legislator Susan Berland and I presented a Proclamation recognizing Half Hollow Hills (HHH) School District Juniors Arooba Ahmed, Jiachen Lee and Jillian Parker for winning top honors, and a \$100,000 scholarship that they will share, in the prestigious Siemens Competition, the nation's premier research competition in math, science and technology for high school students.

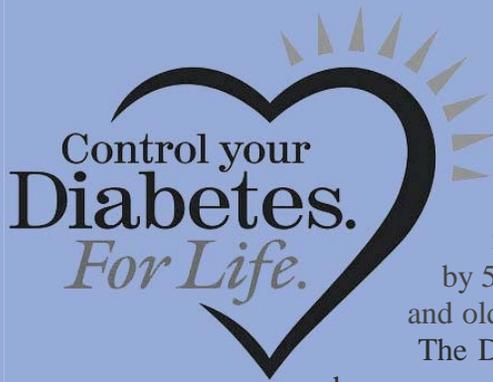


Legislator Donnelly Meets with Parkdale Civic Association

Suffolk County Department of Public Works Project Manager Paul Clinton and I recently attended the Parkdale Civic Association of North Babylon's monthly meeting at Parliament Place Elementary School. At the meeting, we spoke about issues of local concern that impact them, their families and the community. At the meeting, we discussed the County's Deer Lake Rehabilitation Project currently underway and answered members' questions. I thank the members of Parkdale Civic Association for the opportunity to provide an update on Deer Lake. This capital improvement project is very important to the entire community and their interest and engagement was both welcome and enlightening.



Register for Free Diabetes Prevention Programs



I would like to encourage residents who are at risk for developing type-2 diabetes to participate in the free County-administered National Diabetes Prevention Program (DPP). The program supports moderate behavior changes and has proven to reduce risk in those who are susceptible to a type-2 diabetes diagnosis. Studies have shown, that with intensive counseling and motivational support, participants were able to make behavioral changes, reducing their risk for developing type-2 diabetes by 58 percent. Lifestyle changes worked particularly well for participants aged 60 and older, reducing their risk by 71 percent.

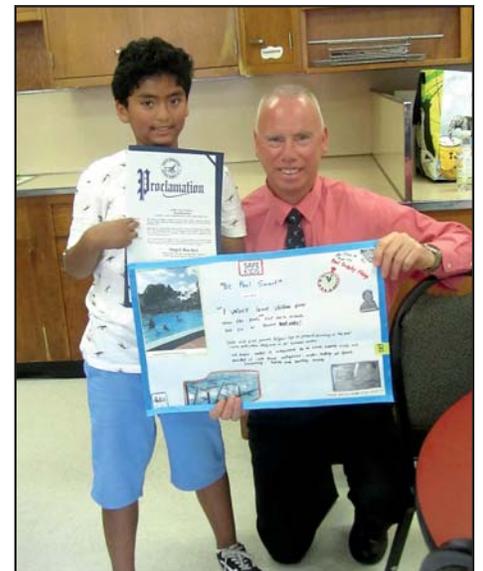
The Diabetes Prevention Program is led by a trained lifestyle coach. It meets one hour per week for 16 weeks, then monthly for the remainder of one year.

For more information visit www.suffolkcountyny.gov/health located under Healthy Living or call the Office of Health Education at (631) 853-3162.

Deer Park Student Wins Poster Contest

I recently honored Angel Bachez of John F. Kennedy Intermediate School in Deer Park as the 2018 Be Pool Smart poster contest winner. Established in 2007, the competition invites elementary school students to promote the importance of pool safety by creating a poster that illustrates one or more safety tips. I received many great entries and each contest participant received a Certificate of Distinguished Achievement. However, Angel was awarded a special Suffolk County Proclamation in front of his classmates, Associate Principal Ms. Kelly Benson and teacher Ms. Ann Bullis.

The Be Pool Smart poster contest is a fun way to engage children in spreading the important message about how a few simple steps and precautions can help us avoid tragedies around swimming pools. If you would like to receive information about next year's contest or receive a copy of the County's Be Pool Smart brochure, contact my district office at (631) 854-4433.



Know an outstanding woman, senior citizen, firefighter, emergency services technician, volunteer or student? Legislator Donnelly is always interested in honoring our neighbors who are doing extraordinary



things. If you or anyone you know is deserving of this recognition, please send an email to karen.klafter@suffolkcountyny.gov and tell us about him or her.