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# THE BEACON

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Meet  
some local  
scholars  
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## IN THE NEWS



### Brumidi Lodge hosts Testimonial Dinner

The Sons and Daughters of Italy in America, Constantino Brumidi Lodge N0. 2211 in Deer Park, recently had hosted a testimonial Dinner for Immediate Past President, Daniel P. Calise. The dinner dance took place on Sun., July 15, at the Piermont in Babylon. Approximately 160 guests attended including family, friends, lodge members, OSIA officials and local politicians. Calise was presented with many gifts and certificates for his outstanding two-year service as Lodge president from 2016 to 2018.

Standing, left to right, are Carmine E. Soldano-president, Constantino Brumidi Lodge; Daniel P. Calise-honoree and Sabrina Savino, vice president.

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## New CHDS report outlines safety protocols for public entities

### Locals take part in collaborative seminar

by Kelly Mayberry

The images were startling.

The scenarios, frightening.

The incidents all too real and recognizable.

The graphic, but fictional, active shooter scenarios recreated within local schools as part of a unique seminar presented by the Center for Homeland Defense and Security, CHDS, made apparent just how close to home an emergency of such magnitude could hit. In 2018 alone, there have already been 17 school shootings resulting in a total of 31 deaths.

These emergency preparedness videos were created to educate local executive leaders and responders how to prepare for, and recover from an active shooter incident. A report completed after the seminar sets out a working plan that begins with prevention and ends with both short- and long-term resources following such incidents.

"In light of nationwide gun violence events, we owe it to our residents to make sure we are as prepared as we can be," said S.C. Leg. Tom Donnelly, whose office spearheaded the project. "Our most basic obligation is to protect students and the public."

The seminar was different in that it focused not only on what should be done in the event of such an incident but also what can be done to prevent it.

The CHDS seminar was held on June 20, at the Deer Park Fire Department and included officials from both Nassau and Suffolk counties. Organized by Donnelly, and former Deer Park Fire Chief Tom Richardson, the seminar reinforced the need for enhanced collaboration between law enforcement, fire, emergency medical services, school districts and hospitals in each community.

"This is the fifth CHDS seminar ever done in New York State and the first held since 2010," said Karen Klafter, chief legislative aide for S.C. Leg. Tom Donnelly.

Eight experts in active shooter protocol were selected by CHDS and worked with Donnelly and Richardson in developing an agenda with objectives tailored to the concerns voiced by officials on Long Island.

"I was very excited that the school districts were honest and open with us regarding their concerns in the event of an active shooter," said Richardson. "Most districts acknowledge the need for protocol and preparedness and the schools were all in—without hesitation."

Deer Park Superintendent Eva Demyen said her district has already increased security and put pre-

ventive measures in place.

"Our district has a school resource officer who monitors the drills we do, offering criticism and advice on how we can improve and tighten security," she said. "Each school has a "man-trap," or a small room serving as a single point of entry before gaining access to the school."

In Deer Park, as in many school districts, individuals are required to show ID before entering and all visitors are encouraged to make an appointment ahead of time, said Demyen.

The district also conducts periodical backpack checks, monitors social media and maintains close contact with the Suffolk County Police Department when necessary, all of which were recommended by the CHDS.

"If you don't have a safe environment, learning cannot happen," said Superintendent Demyen. "We make it feel as safe as possible and plan for the unplanned."

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### Michael LiPetri challenges Pellegrino for seat in 9th AD

by Kelly Mayberry

Michael LiPetri of South Farmingdale is running on the Republican line against Democratic Assemblywoman Christine Pellegrino in the 9th Assembly District. The election is Tues., Nov. 6.



This is LiPetri's first run for public office, and Pellegrino is completing her first term, having won the special election against Republican Tom Gargiulo in 2017 for the seat formerly held by Joseph Saladino who became Oyster Bay Town Supervisor.

Before coming to the New York State Assembly, Pellegrino was an elementary school reading teacher in the Baldwin Union Free School District.

LiPetri said his campaign is based on his belief that the area is experiencing a suburban quality of

(Continued on Page 3)

# New CHDS report outlines safety protocols for public entities

(Continued from Cover)

Beyond helping schools and others train on how to react to such incidents, the seminar included a discussion of mental health issues with a focus on helping students recognize and report dangerous situations, as well as how to cope following a traumatic event.

Students should be told that they can reach out if they are experiencing difficult situations at home or within the schools and to report suspicious or worrisome behavior by other students, the report notes. Parents are encouraged to explore their school district websites for related literature, create a plan with their family in case of an emergency and attend seminars offered by local police, fire departments and schools.

Richardson pointed out that there is a connection among community resources and that they have to work together and put a plan in place to ensure that their reaction to a serious incident is timely and appropriate.

“We have a large volunteer first responder system; however, we need to do a better job of coordinating the efforts of our policy makers, police, EMS and schools in the case of an active shooter event,” said Richardson.

Those schools and other public facilities serve as the “true first responders,” said Richardson, who emphasized that more extensive training in bleeding control is important and can save countless lives immediately following active shooter incidents.

The idea of training members in the community on how to react quickly and stop bleeding is not a new concept. The Stony Brook Trauma Center offers a training session to citizens as part of the national Stop the Bleed emergency preparedness campaign. With support of SCPD in coordinating sessions, more than 3,000 individuals have already utilized



**Homeland Security School Reps photo (left to right): From the Deer Park School District: Assistant Superintendent James Cummings, Board of Education Trustee Al Centamore, Superintendent Eva Demyen, and Vice President of the Board of Education Donna Elliott; S.C. Leg. Tom Donnelly and Deer Park Fire Commissioner Tom Richardson.**

this training.

“Our hope for the seminar was to focus on the prevention of these tragedies and to make sure that school districts have the resources to be safe,” said Donnelly. “There is a lot of conversation on gun

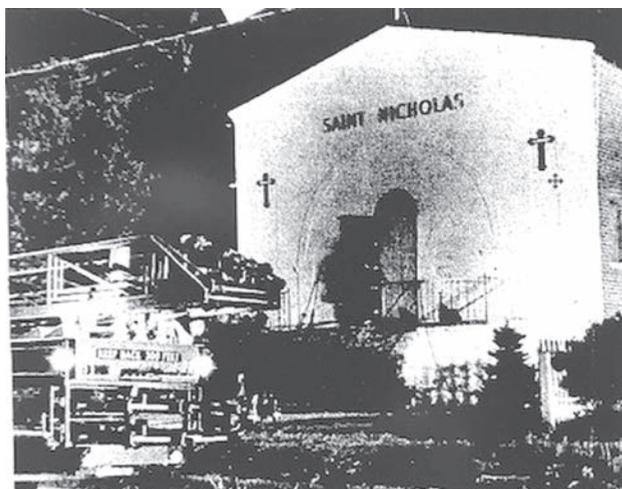
control and not enough on what to do in an active shooter situation.”

Anyone who would like a complete summary of the seminar should contact Donnelly’s office at 631-854-4433.



## Greek Orthodox Church fire

Printed in the Babylon Beacon May 23, 1968—Church Ruined by Firebugs: Babylon firemen worked desperately to save interior of the Greek Orthodox Church on George Street. The structure was completely gutted. Ruined were the vestments and 150-year-old Icons. The Suffolk Arson Squad is investigating.



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## West Babylon Community Meet & Greet set for September 12

The West Babylon Annual Community Meet & Greet will be held on Wed., Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. at Gemelli’s at Bergen Point Country Club. The \$25 cost includes food, raffles and prizes. There will be a cash bar.

Seating at this popular event is limited so attendees are encouraged to RSVP by August 17. To register and pay online, go to [www.wbmsso.org](http://www.wbmsso.org).

This event is hosted by West Babylon Main Street Organization and West Babylon Chamber of Commerce. For more information, call 631-383-1349.

**Send your “Good News” to the Babylon Beacon, 65 Deer Park Ave., Babylon NY 11702, or email it to us at [acjnews@rcn.com](mailto:acjnews@rcn.com). Questions? Call us at 631-587-5612**

## Please meet the 2018 local scholars

Compiled by David Pepa

•The following students have been named to the spring 2018 dean’s list at SUNY Oswego: Elizabeth Albers of Babylon; Lauren Woods of Deer Park; Sabrina Carlo of Lindenhurst; Victoria Kammer of Lindenhurst; Diana Orsini of West Babylon; Stephen Courtney of West Islip; Sarah Feminella of West Islip; Thomas Kozlowski of West Islip; Curtis Naja of West Islip; Gianna Spero of West Islip and Nicholas Volz of West Islip

•The following students have been named to the spring 2018 provost’s list at SUNY Oneonta: Adam Datkun of Deer Park; Connor Hatton of Babylon; Alexis Krulish of Babylon and Julia Musso of North Babylon

•The following students have graduated from SUNY Canton: Samir Bacchus of Deer Park; Steven Sands of North Babylon; Alyssa Ingargiola of West Islip and Travis Schindler of West Islip

•The following students have graduated from UMass Lowell; Kaylan DiModugno of Deer Park and Gregory Ponce of West Islip

•Jonathan Link of North Babylon has been named to the spring 2018 dean’s list at the University of Minnesota Twin Cities

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