



# News from Legislator Bridget Fleming

*Second Legislative District*

*November 2018 Newsletter*

IR 1856-2018, A Local Law to restrict information regarding salary and earnings (“Rise” Act).

IR 1886-2018, Bond Resolution of the County of Suffolk, New York, authorizing the issuance of \$1,000,000 Bonds to finance the improvements to County roads on Shelter Island (CP 5585.310)

IR 1903-2018, Appropriating funds in connection with Improvements to CR 38, North Sea Road (CP 5505)

IR 1908-2018, Bond Resolution of the County of Suffolk, New York, authorizing the issuance of \$350,000 in Bonds to finance planning costs associated with improvements to CR 79, Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike (CP 5583.110).

## ***FLEMING PARTNERS WITH U.S. MARINE CORPS TO HOST ANNUAL TOY DRIVE***



**Legislator Fleming Accepting the Toys for Tots box from Marine Sgt. Wagner**

Suffolk County Legislator Bridget Fleming announced that her district office will be accepting donations for the annual U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program.

Legislator Fleming’s office will be collecting new, unwrapped toys for children starting Wednesday, November 28<sup>th</sup> to Friday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Donations can be dropped off at the district office between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday at 75 Washington Street, Sag Harbor.

“This year, I am proud to once again be spreading a bit of holiday season cheer by hosting a Toys for Tots Toy Drive which will provide new toys for underprivileged children. Every child deserves a gift regardless of their family’s financial status and this is a great opportunity give back(or maybe say “share with”) to those less fortunate during the holiday season. If you are interested in getting involved and making a difference in a child’s holiday, stop by my District Office with one or more new unwrapped toys.” **said Legislator Bridget Fleming**

The Toys for Tots charity was established in 1947 by the Marine’s Los Angeles Reserve Unit to collect and distribute toys to less fortunate children whose parents were unable to provide presents for them. Since the inception of the U. S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program, Marines have distributed more than 530 million toys to over 244 million less fortunate children.

For more information on the Toys for Tots drive, please call Legislator Fleming’s district office at 631-852-8400.

## ***FLEMING FIGHTS AGAINST THE GENDER-BASED WAGE GAP AND HARMFUL PAY DISCRIMINATION PRACTICES***



At the November 20<sup>th</sup> General Meeting Introductory Resolution 1856-2018, A Local Law to Restrict Information regarding Salary and Earnings (“RISE” ACT), which was introduced by County Executive Steve Bellone, cosponsored by Legislator Fleming and others, gained overwhelming support to restrict pay history from being used by an employer during an interview process or when setting compensation for new employees.

The Legislature found that women and racial and ethnic minority workers are statistically proven to be paid lower wages across all positions and industries and unlikely to be successful in negotiating for salary, and that they can be negatively impacted by employers who rely on salary and wage history when making an employment offer. Restricting access to a prospective employee’s salary history will help break the cycle of wage discrimination and close the wage gap, because salary history is often used as a tool for setting wages, and thus can perpetuate the inequitable pay scale that women and people of color face with each successive job.

Women and racial and ethnic minority workers have historically encountered lower wages and salaries causing a wage gap that pervades all industries. A report issued in April 2018 by the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL) found that women in Suffolk County earn 78.1% of what their male counterparts earn, compared to the State-wide percentage of 86.8%. The same April 2018 NYSDOL study revealed that women of color in New York are faring worse than women of other racial identities, with African American or Black women earning 64.4% and Latino or Hispanic women earning 55.3% of what their male counterparts earn.

A 2016 analysis commissioned by the New York Women's Foundation in partnership with the Institute for Women's Policy Research found that if New York's women were paid the same as comparable men, each would earn \$6,600 more per year, an earnings increase that would add \$29.6 billion to the state economy. If New York's working women were paid the same as their male peers - men who are of the same age, have the same level of education, work the same number of hours, and have the same urban/rural status - it would reduce the poverty rate for the state's women and their families by more than half, from 7.5 to 3.6 percent.

Legislator Fleming's observation of gender barriers throughout her career as an elected official, an Assistant District Attorney and Sex-Crimes Prosecutor in Manhattan, and lawyer focusing on Matrimonial and Family Law as well as professional mediation made this a high priority for her.

“For decades there has been a persistent and significant gap in the pay for women performing comparable work to that of their male colleagues. The disparity is well known, and presents an obstacle to the success of women in the economy. It runs counter to the basic tenants of our nation, that we are all treated equally. It is a very real problem and this bill provides a good fix.” **Said Legislator Fleming.**

Fleming led support of the bill during a debate at the General Meeting, offering a spirited rebuke to Legislator Steve Flotteron (R-Dist.11), who at points argued that the wage gap is a “myth”, and that Fleming's arguments were based on emotion. At the conclusion of the exchange, Flotteron (R-Dist.11) withdrew his motion to table the bill and instead voted with a unanimous Legislature to approve the measure.

## ***FLEMING DELIVERS INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING***



On November 20<sup>th</sup>, at the Suffolk County General Meeting Introductory Resolution 1903-2018; Introductory Resolution 1908-2018; and Introductory Resolution 1886-2018 appropriated funding for improvements to CR 38, North Sea Road; CR 79, Bridgehampton-Sag Harbor Turnpike; and County Roads on Shelter Island, resolutions sponsored and co-sponsored by Legislator Fleming all gained support of the Legislature.

Improvements will include resurfacing and repaving, drainage improvements, and improvements to curbs, sidewalks, shoulders, and traffic signals. Sidewalk improvements include the installation of mountable curbing in some locations that are safer for motorists, pedestrians, and wildlife.

“Improvements to these County roads are necessary for the safety and security of our residents and visitors on the East End. These are some of our most travelled roads that act as arteries for our downtown areas. The structural status of these roads are vital for daily life for the residents of the Second Legislative District. Not only are we repairing the roads but we are improving them as well by installing mountable, or shoulder-less, curbing where appropriate to increase safety for motorists and pedestrians and to allow for easier migratory patterns for wildlife.” **said Legislator Fleming**

Introductory Resolution 2004-2018, introduced by Presiding Officer DuWayne Gregory (D-Dist.15) and co-sponsored by Fleming, secured funding for necessary maintenance and security enhancements at the BOMARC site in Westhampton. Fleming serves on a Task Force created by P.O. Gregory looking at possible use(s) for the site. The Task Force recommended that IR 2004-2018 be passed.

Improvements include the installation of additional fencing and upgraded security gates and guard booths to further secure the property where valuable property is held and has been damaged and vandalized by trespassers in the past. “These upgrades to the BOMARC site are necessary to protect the property and to protect the taxpayers and prevent higher costs in the future.” **said Legislator Fleming**

# 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

**NARCAN  
TRAINING  
SESSION  
& Rx DRUG  
DISPOSAL**

**Sponsored by:**  
Legislator Bridget Fleming  
In conjunction with  
County Executive Steve Bellone  
HUGS, Inc.  
SAFE In Sag Harbor  
Southampton Police Department  
Suffolk County Dept. of Health Services  
Suffolk County Sheriff's Office

**WHEN:**  
December 18, 2018  
6:00 P.M.

**WHERE:**  
The Hampton Library  
2478 Main Street, Bridgehampton

**RSVP:**  
Legislator Bridget Fleming's Office  
631-852-8400  
Paul.Brady@suffolkcountyny.gov or  
Cheryl.Rozzi@suffolkcountyny.gov

**WHAT IS NARCAN?**  
Narcan is a drug that reverses the effects of heroin and other opiates.

**WHY DOES THIS MATTER?**  
Suffolk County continues to battle an opiate and painkiller epidemic that has taken too many lives already. Within the first year that the county police carried Narcan, more than 50 lives were saved.

**HOW CAN I HELP?**  
Come to this training session, which is open to anyone. You will be trained to react to an overdose and administer the drug that can save a life.

**WHY NOT FLUSH Rx DRUGS IN TOILET?**  
Studies have shown Rx drugs are leaching from cesspools into our waterways.

THE SOUTHAMPTON YOUTH BUREAU'S 6TH ANNUAL  
**HAMPTONS GOT  
TALENT**  
Auditions

NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR SOLO ARTISTS, BANDS, DANCE GROUPS, POETS, MAGICIANS, COMEDIANS AND OTHER ARTISTIC ACTS!

**OPEN TO GRADES 5 - 12 4:30PM - 6:30PM**

**FRI, JAN. 25TH - SOUTHAMPTON TOWN HALL**  
116 HAMPTON RD, SOUTHAMPTON

**MON, FEB. 4TH - FLANDERS COMMUNITY CENTER**  
655 FLANDERS RD, FLANDERS

**COMPETITION TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH**  
(INCLEMENT WEATHER DATE: FRIDAY, APRIL 12TH)

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL (631) 702-2425  
OR VISIT [WWW.SOUTHAMPTONTOWNNY.GOV/YOUTHBUREAU](http://WWW.SOUTHAMPTONTOWNNY.GOV/YOUTHBUREAU)

FOLLOW US ON  
Facebook, Instagram, Twitter  
@SouthamptonNY

FOR THE LATEST UPDATES ON UPCOMING EVENTS, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT: <http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/do2/Home.aspx>

# ASSISTANCE FOR FAMILIES

## **Project Warmth: Helping Families Afford Home Energy**

Project Warmth is a program administered by the United Way of Long Island. There are currently more than 177,000 Long Islanders living below the poverty line and for 20 years Project Warmth has helped many of these Long Island families in need of financial support. Project Warmth partners with local utilities, oil companies and community based agencies to assist with utility payments to help families get on a stable financial path. Project Warmth has raised up to \$9.8 million to help over 28,000 families.

Qualifying families with heating emergencies will receive a one-time grant to pay for fuel services. A customer may use a Project Warmth heating grant to pay for any fuel source: oil, gas or electric, propane, kerosene, coal, wood, and an electric bill if electricity is needed to operate the heating source. To be considered, eligible applicants should have exhausted their Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) grants for the year or be ineligible for federal HEAP.

If you or someone you know needs emergency heating assistance, call United Way's 2-1-1 Long Island Information and Referral Center by dialing 2-1-1 (or 1-888-774-7633) Monday - Saturday 10:00am – 5:00pm or on Sunday 12:00pm – 4:00pm, or visit [www.unitedwayli.org/project\\_warmth.asp](http://www.unitedwayli.org/project_warmth.asp) on the web.