

District 17 • WINTER 2019/2020

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COMMUNITY WATCH

from Suffolk County Legislator

TOM DONNELLY

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Dear Neighbor:

I was overwhelmed by the generosity of not just local residents but from those as far away as New Jersey after the successful donation drive we hosted for Long Island Blue Star Mothers, NY #6, who were seeking toiletries, clothes, canned goods and more for its annual holiday gift box packing that would ultimately ship 200 of these boxes to our servicemen and women overseas.

With the help of CBS 2 News and CBS Radio we were able to get the message out far and wide about this important cause. Town of Babylon Councilwoman Jackie Gordon, retired from the United States Army Reserves and whose office also served as a drop off location, is a Blue Star Mom herself, and was on hand with a touching message on how, at one time, she was on the receiving end of these boxes. To see and hear these news reports, go to my Facebook page. (www.facebook.com/LegTomDonnelly)

I was delighted at the sight of the lobby in my office filled to the brim with donations and on behalf of our Long Island Blue Star Moms and our deployed military members. Thank you everyone!

Sincerely,

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

Tom Donnelly
Suffolk County Legislator



Melville HEY! Founder Miss Long Island 2019 Honored

I had the pleasure of honoring Miss Long Island 2019 Michelle Pierrot of Melville, the founder of HEY! (Healthy Excited Youth), at a General Meeting of the Legislature. HEY! is a nonprofit which aims to “enlighten and guide students as they strive for their future success.” In addition to being crowned Miss Long Island 2019 by Long Island Pageants, the Half Hollow Hills High School East and the George Washington University graduate received the Pageant Leader of Tomorrow Award. She is currently working towards a degree as a nurse practitioner. For more information on HEY! please visit: www.healthyexcitedyouth.org.

Visiting the Huntington Tri-CYA Summer Performing Arts Program

Through a County grant provided by me and fellow Legislator Susan A. Berland, The Marcus Center for the Performing Arts provided a Summer Performing Arts Program for local youth at the Huntington Tri-CYA. When I was invited to some of their classes, I got to witness the enthusiastic students learning about all aspects of the performing arts including film and stop motion animation, dance, writing, voiceover work and production. The six-week workshop culminated in a free public performance at the Huntington Spirit of Art Center in Melville.



Deer Park Student Contributes More than 5K Pounds of Food to Baxter’s Pet Pantry

I recently joined Long Island Cares, Inc. in recognizing and honoring Deer Park High School freshman Daniel Thompson for a year-long tremendous pet food drive where he collected 5,411 pounds of pet food for Baxter’s Pet Pantry of Long Island Cares. Daniel was named a Long Island Cares / Baxter’s Pet Pantry Outstanding Student and I presented him with a County Proclamation for his efforts. My office also participated as part of the non-profit’s Legislative Pet Food Drive, raising 656 pounds thanks to the generosity of community residents. I commend Daniel for his extraordinary pet food drive; it will go a long way in helping many families in our community.



Meeting with Parkdale Civic Association of North Babylon

I attended the Parkdale Civic Association of North Babylon’s monthly meeting at Parliament Place Elementary School in early November where I spoke with members about issues of local concern that impact them, their families and the community. We discussed the County’s Deer Lake Rehabilitation Project currently underway. I would like to thank President Danielle Leacock and Recording Secretary Sue Macaluso, pictured here, and everyone in attendance for being so welcoming and interested.

Fifteen Local Students Earn Distinguished Youth Awards

I am so impressed and proud of the students in my district who participated in the Suffolk County Legislature's 2018-2019 Distinguished Youth Award Program, challenging themselves in the areas of Volunteer Service, Personal Development, Exploration and Physical Fitness. A total of 31 students County-wide completed the program, with 15 residing in Legislative



District 17. They were recognized with bronze, silver and gold medals and certificates in a special ceremony at the Suffolk County Legislature's William H. Rogers Building. If you know a youth between the ages of 13 and 18 who may be interested in participating, call our office or go to:

<https://www.scnylegislature.us/896/Distinguished-Youth-Award>.

A New Centenarian in Suffolk County

We have a new Centenarian in Suffolk County! Congratulations to Estefana Olivares who turned 100 on August 2. Born in Peru in 1919, Ms. Olivares immigrated to the United States with her two children in 1967, moved to Suffolk County in 1972 and became a U.S. Citizen in 2000. Ms. Olivares spends much of her time at Prestige Adult Center in Huntington Station, also the location of her festive birthday celebration, where she is affectionately referred to as the "matriarch." When I asked her what the key to a long life was, Ms. Olivares smiled and remarked: "To lead a good and happy one."



Melville Resident Earns Eagle Scout Honors

Congratulations to Henry Rivas of Melville on earning the prestigious rank of Eagle Scout, the highest-recognized achievement bestowed by the Boy Scouts of America to its members. For his Eagle Scout project, Henry constructed rabbit hutches for the Brookhaven Ecology Site, Park and Nature Preserve. The Animal Preserve helps to educate the community and has more than 100 injured and non-releasable wild animals and farm animals for viewing. I joined his family, friends and fellow members of Boy Scout Troop 708 in Huntington at his Court of Honor where I presented Henry with a County Proclamation.



District 17 Mobile Office Hits the Road

Local residents came out in force to receive their free Suffolk County Senior Citizen Identification Cards during my October Community Outreach "Mobile Office" Program. Held at the Deer Park Library (pictured), North Babylon Library and the South Huntington Library, notary services were also provided free of charge. Senior ID cards were provided that enable bearers to take advantage of the senior discount fare of 75 cents on the Suffolk County bus and can also be used for other County and local discounts. It was great to see so many come out and participate and if you missed us at your local library, I hope that you will stop by my office so that we can provide these services, as well as assist with any issues or concerns.





Deer Park Fall Festival is a Rousing Success

Geiger Park was transformed into an unofficial Main Street on Sunday, October 6 when hundreds of enthusiastic residents came out to celebrate a special day with their neighbors from near and far at the 3rd Annual Deer Park Community Association (DPCA) Fall Festival. The Festival has quickly become a great family-friendly event and, as a proud life-long resident of this community, I look forward to it every year. I was happy to be able to secure a County grant to help the DPCA offset some of the costs. It was a wonderful day and I thank everyone for coming out to help celebrate Deer Park.

Community Unity Celebrated at Huntington Awareness Day

There was “Unity in the Community” and a major show of spirit and pride when I joined Huntington schools, civics, non-profits, residents and local dignitaries at the annual Huntington Awareness Day on Saturday, September 14. Under the direction of Chairs Dolores Thompson of the Huntington Station Enrichment Center and Dr. David Bennardo, superintendent of the South Huntington School District, the picture-perfect weather day began with a parade stepping off from Huntington High School and culminated at a free family festival at Stimson Middle School on Oakwood Road in Huntington Station. I had the honor of presenting a Proclamation to Willie Perez, a leader of the Light of Salvation Church in Huntington Station, who served as Grand Marshal.



Welcoming Local Businesses to the Community

I am proud to support our local small businesses and recognize them for the contributions they make to our local economy and community. Over the past several months I have had the privilege of welcoming several local businesses to Deer Park. In June, Bestway Auto Collision (right) opened



its second location in Deer Park, where its new facility will offer state of the art technology to residents. In August I joined other local officials at the grand opening of Hops Scotch Bottle Shop (left), a craft beer bottle shop supporting local and independent breweries owned by one of my constituents, Mark Doublet. I presented each with a county proclamation for contributing to the Deer Park community.



NCNW Family Fun Day in Huntington Station

On a beautiful Saturday in October, the Huntington Section of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) held its free Annual Family Fun Day at the Bethany Presbyterian Church in Huntington Station where Suffolk County Legislator William “Doc” Spencer and I enjoyed food, crafts, games and music with residents of all ages. The NCNW Annual Family Fun Day is unique in that it is specifically designed to meet and serve the needs of the local residents in a fun and entertaining way. I applaud NCNW President Glenda Jackson and First Vice President Betty Miller, pictured here, for organizing this great event and thank them for all they do for the community.

