

District 17 • SUMMER 2019

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COMMUNITY WATCH

from Suffolk County Legislator

TOM DONNELLY

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DEER PARK RESIDENT NAMED COUNTY WOMAN OF DISTINCTION

We have a celebrity in our legislative district!

Yes, it's true - Deer Park resident Gina Lieneck, who I selected as my local Woman of Distinction earlier this year was chosen as the Suffolk County 2019 Woman of Distinction by the Suffolk County Women's Advisory Commission! I had the privilege of being joined by the entire Legislature in honoring Gina for this prestigious recognition, in conjunction with Women's History Month, at the Legislature's General Meeting in March.

In 2005, Ms. Lieneck suffered an unthinkable tragedy while boating on the Great South Bay which resulted in the death of one of her daughters, Brianna, and serious injuries to her and her entire family. Gina turned tragedy into action, advocated and lobbied New York State for a change to boating laws, and, as a result of her efforts, "Brianna's Law" was passed during the last session and signed into law by the governor in June.

In addition to her advocacy, Ms. Lieneck is very active in the Deer Park community where she created a very successful girls softball facility, Breezy's Field of Dreams in memory of her daughter, helped raise more than \$100,000 to assist these girls in attending tournaments to be recruited for athletic commitments and scholarships to colleges, is currently president of the Deer Park Community Association, serves as a Town of Babylon Beautification Ambassador and is working on the Deer Park Revitalization project.

I can think of nobody more deserving of being called a Woman of Distinction than our neighbor and my friend, Gina Lieneck. Congratulations again, Gina!



Dear Neighbor:

Welcome to another issue of my newsletter! I am proud to represent such an outstanding community and share with you some of the things happening all around us. As always, I 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 continue to work hard on your behalf. Do not hesitate to contact me or my staff at (631) 854-4433 if you would like to tell me about a local event, seek assistance with a concern, make a suggestion, have something notarized (it's free!) or just say hello. We look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

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

Tom Donnelly
Suffolk County Legislator

SUNQUAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SADDLES UP FOR A GOOD BOOK!

I was recently invited by Sunquam Elementary School in Melville to participate in its annual “Mystery Reader Day.” The theme was “Saddle Up and Read a Good Book” and was held in conjunction with the annual state-wide Pick a Reading Partner (PARP) program. The school was decorated Wild West-style to go with the theme. I attended the mystery reader session in Ms. Sison’s class where her fourth-grade students asked me questions about my job as a County Legislator. I then read the book *The Invisible Boy* by Patrice Barton and discussed the story’s lessons with the students. I thank the Sunquam community for allowing me to be a part of this wonderful reading event.



FUTURE LEADERS LEARN ABOUT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Today’s civic-minded students are tomorrow’s government leaders! I had the pleasure of recently attending the student government clubs of both William E. DeLuca Jr. Elementary in North Babylon (left) and Silas Wood Sixth Grade Center in Huntington Station (right). The students and I spoke about the importance of representation in government and how elected officials are always responsible to the people. I look forward to meeting other future government leaders during the next school year.



MELVILLE LIEUTENANT IS FIREFIGHTER OF THE YEAR

It was privilege and honor for me to recognize Lieutenant David Hobart of the Melville Fire Department as the Legislative District 17 Firefighter/EMS Worker of the Year at a recent meeting of the department. The Department’s top responder in 2018, Lt. Hobart has been a member for more than four decades and recently retired as district manager, a position he held for 35 years.



As a retired member of the FDNY and a volunteer firefighter myself, I know first-hand that this is a testament to his dedication to our community. I thank him and all of our community volunteer heroes for all that they do to keep us safe and protected.

A CONVERSATION WITH THE DEER PARK CHAMBER OF COMMERCE



Town of Babylon Deputy Supervisor Tony Martinez and I had the pleasure of attending a meeting of the Deer Park Chamber of Commerce where we spoke with members about the revitalization of Deer Park Avenue, a top priority of the Chamber. We look forward to working with them on this important initiative. If you would like to get involved, contact my office and we will be happy to assist.

STUDENTS NAMED SCIENCE TALENT SEARCH SCHOLARS



Congratulations Half Hollow Hills High School East Seniors Rinni Bhansali and Matthew Weltmann (pictured here) on being named Regeneron Scholars. Each of them received a \$2000 scholarship and I had the privilege of presenting them with County Proclamations for their achievements. The Regeneron Science Talent Search is America's oldest and most prestigious pre-college math and science competition.



MEETING WITH CIVIC ASSOCIATION

I recently attended the Bagatelle Civic Association's meeting at the Half Hollow Hills Library Annex in Melville. At the meeting, we spoke about issues of local concern that impact them, their families and the community and I was able to answer questions from residents. I thank the members of Bagatelle Civic Association for the engaging discussion and the opportunity to assist them in their efforts to preserve their neighborhood quality of life.

"BE POOL SMART" THIS SUMMER!

The warm weather is here and we all enjoy jumping in the swimming pool but safety must always come first. On June 12, I met with students at John F. Kennedy Intermediate School in Deer Park to honor those who participated in Suffolk County's 2019 "Be Pool Smart" poster contest and to thank them for their commitment to swimming safety. Established in 2007, the annual competition invites elementary school students to promote the importance of pool safety and prevent accidental drownings by creating a poster illustrating safety tips. This year's local winner was JFK Intermediate School student Emerson Smulian who was also the County-wide second place winner as well. Emerson received both a Local and County Proclamation for her creativity.



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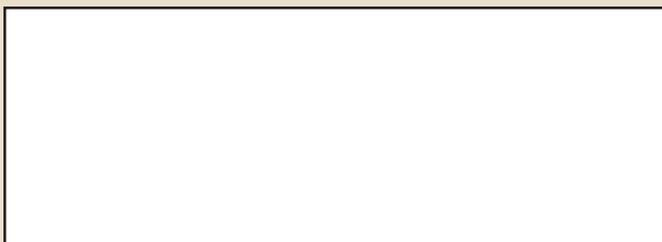
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CELEBRATING SENIOR PARENTS AT SPANGLE DRIVE CENTER

For both Mother's Day and Father's Day, I attended festivities at the Spangle Drive Senior Center in North Babylon, joining Center Director Carolyn Epifane and local seniors in recognizing both their Mother and Father of the Year for 2019. Pictured left is Mother of the Year Mary Campanella and right is Father of the Year Joe De Lora. Everyone enjoyed good food, dancing, and the company of friends at both celebrations. I would like to thank the staff of the center for making these and other great events possible.

