

DISTRICT 17 • SPECIAL COVID-19 UPDATE 8

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COMMUNITY WATCH

From Suffolk County Legislator

TOM DONNELLY

SPECIAL COVID-19 UPDATE

5/15/2020



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New York State on PAUSE has been extended to May 28 for parts of the state including Long Island.

Re-Opening: What to Know

Governor Andrew Cuomo has outlined the plan to re-open New York State. With a focus on getting people back to work and easing social isolation without triggering renewed spread of the virus or overwhelming the health system, New York will re-open on a regional basis as each region meets the criteria necessary to protect public health as businesses re-open in Four Phases:

Phase One:

- Construction
- Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting
- Retail - limited to curbside or in-store pickup or drop off
- Manufacturing
- Wholesale Trade

Phase Two:

- Professional Services
- Retail
- Administrative Support
- Real Estate / Rental & Leasing

Phase Three:

- Restaurants / Food Services

Phase Four:

- Arts / Entertainment / Recreation
- Education

While New York State remains on PAUSE and some regions upstate will begin Phase 1 opening this weekend, low-risk businesses such as landscaping, gardening and low-risk recreational activities will reopen today state-wide regardless of the criteria. To see the re-opening criteria, where each region stands, and which low-risk business can open, you can visit this website, which is continually updated: <https://forward.ny.gov/>.

Legislator Tom Donnelly, 17th Legislative District
130 West Jericho Turnpike, Huntington Station, NY 11746
Phone: (631) 854-4433 Email: Tom.Donnelly@suffolkcountyny.gov



Suffolk Updates

Scam Reporting Hotline

The Suffolk County Police Department has launched a new hotline so that they can quickly investigate scams that target residents, especially those that are related to COVID-19. If you think you have been a victim or hear of any schemes, please call (631) 852-SCAM (7226) from 8 am to 6 pm to report it!

Free Rides to Local Pantries and Restaurants

The ride-service LYFT, in partnership with Island Harvest, is providing free transportation to and from local pantries and restaurants for those in need. Please call (516) 805-1642 or visit www.islandharvest.org for more information.

General Meeting Next Week: Stay Involved Even While You Stay Home

To continue to ensure the safety of residents and employees during this COVID-19 crisis, the Suffolk County Legislature General Meeting on May 19 at 9:30 am will be closed to the public. It will be broadcast at www.scnylegislature.us as always and you can still participate during the public portion or during the public hearings through one of the four options detailed here. Your input is encouraged! Call my office at (631) 854-4433 if you have any questions.

How to Submit Comments for May 19th's General Meeting of the Legislature			
Leave a Voicemail Call (631) 853-3685 and leave a three-minute message about topics of concern or specific resolutions 	Send an Email Comments may be submitted in writing by emailing Clerk.Legislature@suffolkcountyny.gov 	Mail a Letter Address a letter to the attention of the Clerk's Office at the Suffolk County Legislature, William H. Rogers Building, 725 Veterans Memorial Highway, Smithtown, NY 11787 	Testify at a Public Hearing via Zoom Speakers can testify at the public hearings scheduled for the May 19th General Meeting through Zoom. Sign up to receive the meeting invitation by filling out the online form at www.scnylegislature.us/publichearing 
Watch Live at www.scnylegislature.us			

Town Updates

Town of Babylon

With the deadline for property tax payments approaching the due date of June 1, the Town of Babylon's Receiver of Taxes is now accepting payment via a drive-through system at Town Hall. Residents should enter the western parking lot via North Indiana Avenue off Sunrise Highway in Lindenhurst where you will be directed by signage and Public Safety Officers. In-person payments are by check or cash only.

Residents can continue to pay via online at www.officialpayments.com, by mail or by calling 1 (800) 272-9829. If you are paying in-person, it is asked that you wear a face covering to protect both yourself and town employees. For more information please visit:

www.townofbabylon.com/150/Receiver-of-Taxes-Office

Town of Huntington

The Town of Huntington has opened a single drive-through tax payment location at 295 New York Avenue in Huntington (the former Chase Bank) as an alternative for those who are unable to use primary payment methods. Primary payment methods (mail, drop-off at the black "Tax Payments Only" mailbox at Town Hall, phone using Official Payments or online) continue to be available. For more information please visit www.huntingtonny.gov/receiver-of-taxes.

Additionally, per New York State guidance on the pre-phased opening of certain recreational activities as described on Page 1 of this newsletter, Town of Huntington tennis courts will reopen today for singles play only. Visit www.huntingtonny.gov for more information.

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Online Bereavement Support Groups

During this already difficult time, people are unable to grieve the loss of loved ones in ways they are used to: no wakes for Christians, no sitting shiva for Jews, no three-day mourning periods for Muslims. That is why Long Island's two leading county-based mental health organizations, the Association for Mental Health and Wellness and the Mental Health Association of Nassau County, are launching online bereavement support groups designed to provide comfort, support, and "grief tools" to those who have lost loved ones to the COVID-19 virus. The first group begins on Tuesday, May 19. For details, go to www.bereavement.mhaw.org.

2020 Census

The 2020 Census is more than a population count. It is an opportunity to shape our community's future in more ways than one. When you respond to the census, you help your community get its fair share of the more than \$675 billion per year in federal funds spent on schools, hospitals, roads, public works and other vital programs. That is why it is more important than ever that you make sure you are included. For more information and to complete the Census online, visit www.census.gov.

WE ALL COUNT!

Volunteers from Touro Law School Available to Assist

Touro Law has established a helpline to answer legal questions arising from the pandemic. Open Monday through Friday from 10 am to 2 pm, volunteer attorneys provide referrals to their clinical program and appropriate partners on a wide range of legal issues. For more information and to complete an intake form, go to www.tourolaw.edu/AboutTouroLaw/TLCResponse

The Importance of Staying Fit

The evidence is clear. Adults who get regular physical activity rack up lots of health benefits. Being active can help:

- Boost your mood and improve your sleep
- Lower your risk of heart disease and some cancers
- Help keep diabetes and high blood pressure under control

Make a plan to stay on track! Visit Move Your Way at www.health.gov/MoveYourWay/Activity-Planner/ to get started! Thank you to the US Department of Health and Human Services – Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion for this great resource! (<https://www.hhs.gov/>)



Thank you, Signarama of Deer Park!

Signarama of Deer Park owner Paul Wyhowanec has been creating “Thank you Frontline Heroes” signs and donating all proceeds to feeding those working to fight COVID-19. They recently donated \$1000 of food to the Deer Park Community Food Pantry at Deer Park High School. If you would like to purchase a frontline heroes sign, stop by Signarama at 1807A Deer Park Avenue in Deer Park, Monday thru Friday, 9 am to 5 pm or call (631) 242-6710. Thank you for helping our community!



The Giving Box: A Pop-Up Food Pantry Shows True Neighborhood Spirit



North Babylon residents Lisa and Michael Pomilla started the Giving Box Food Pantry in the front of their home as a way to help families during this difficult time. The pantry is set up daily from 10 am to 5 pm with the concept: take what you need and give when you have extra. If you would like to make a monetary or food donation, it can be dropped off at 120 Miller Avenue in North Babylon. Thank you Lisa and Michael Pomilla and all of our generous neighbors!

Deer Park Opens Community Pantry

The Deer Park School District’s food service company Aramark has been feeding all students in need since the school closures, working hard to provide thousands of meals daily for the children. The district saw the importance of doing even more for the community and, working with local business, churches and nonprofits, has now opened a food pantry out of the high school.

The district has incorporated some great new initiatives to speed up distribution and help even more families: grocery bags are given out curbside to cars every Wednesday from 7 to 10 am at Exit 2 of the high school off North 5th Street; food donations are accepted in person by appointment with Deer Park High School Assistant Principal Craig Evans; two tables outside of Exit 2 are now available for a “drop and go” on Monday, Wednesday and Friday from 7 to 10:30 am. Those donating are asked to leave a note.

“It is times like this where I know Deer Park will work together to help our community,” Evans said. “I am so proud to be a part of this town. Thanks to the teachers, staff, administrators and community members who have already generously donated, and special thanks to Donna Elliott and the Board of Education for their donations, help and support throughout this process.”



To read past issues of our Special COVID-19 Updates please visit www.scnylegislature.us/1141/COVID-19-Newsletters

Know of a “Hometown Hero” doing special acts throughout our community? Send an email to Karen.Klafter@suffolkcountyny.gov and let us know!

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