

DISTRICT 17 • SPECIAL COVID-19 UPDATE 9

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COMMUNITY WATCH

From Suffolk County Legislator

TOM DONNELLY

SPECIAL COVID-19 UPDATE

5/22/2020



Have a Safe and Happy Memorial Day!



**STAY
HOME
SAVE
LIVES**



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Beaches Reopening in Suffolk County: What to Know

Starting today, Suffolk County beaches reopen just in time for Memorial Day weekend! To ensure the safety of residents, state regulations for both public and private beaches mandate that:

- Beaches are only allowed 50% capacity
- Social distancing of at least six feet must be maintained for visitors not of the same household as well as employees
- Face coverings must be worn when social distancing is not possible
- Group contact activities such as organized or “pick-up” sports of any kind are prohibited
- Concession stands and social gathering areas including picnic areas, playgrounds and pavilions are closed

For a full list of State mandated beach regulations visit <https://forward.ny.gov/statewide-guidelines>.

Suffolk County Beaches: Cupsogue Beach County Park in Westhampton Beach and Smith Point County Park in Shirley open today for Suffolk County residents only. You must have valid ID.

Town of Babylon: Starting this weekend, Overlook Beach, Cedar Beach and Gilgo Beach are open to Town of Babylon residents only. Must provide valid driver’s license. There is no fee through May 31. For more information visit www.townofbabylon.com/461/Summer-2020-Parks-Recreation-Information

Town of Huntington: Also starting this weekend, Centerport Beach, Crab Meadow Beach, Hobart Beach and Quentin Sammis West Neck Beach are open to Town of Huntington residents only. There is no fee until permit sales begin on May 30. Residents must provide valid driver’s license. Visit <http://www.huntingtonny.gov/news/?FeedID=4428> for more information.

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Suffolk County Updates

Elective Surgeries

Per Governor Andrew Cuomo, elective surgeries and ambulatory care in Suffolk County may resume. Contact your doctor for more information or go to <https://www.health.ny.gov/>.

Suffolk County Parks

All Suffolk County Parks are open for Suffolk County residents only. Areas that do not allow for social distancing including park offices, playgrounds, dog runs and restrooms remain closed. Visit www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/Parks for more details.

Obtaining an Absentee Ballot for the June 23rd Primary

Our constitutionally-guaranteed right to vote is one of our most sacred democratic principles. So that you can exercise this right safely during this very challenging time, Governor Cuomo has issued several executive orders modifying the absentee voting process. These orders apply only to the Primary being held on June 23:

- The signature requirement of the absentee ballot application has been waived, allowing electronic filing of application/request
- The acceptable reason to request an absentee ballot due to COVID-19 concerns is “temporary illness or physical disability”
- All absentee ballot applications and/or requests must be postmarked, emailed, faxed or phoned-in on or before June 16

The Suffolk County Board of Elections (BOE) is sending absentee ballot applications to all registered voters who are qualified to vote in the primaries along with a postage paid return envelope. Suffolk County BOE will also accept a phone call to request an absentee ballot at (631) 852-4500. However, staff is very limited so unless this option is your only recourse, please request by email. To download an application online:

English: www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/download/voting/AbsenteeBallot-English.pdf

Spanish: www.elections.ny.gov/NYSBOE/download/voting/AbsenteeBallot-Spanish.pdf

SCPD Reminds Drivers to Lock Vehicles as Thefts Increase

The Suffolk County Police Department is reminding residents to lock parked vehicles as the number of reported thefts has been on the rise since the beginning of the year. Reports of stolen motor vehicle thefts increased 21.3% and thefts from a motor vehicle were up more than 30% during the first four and a half months of 2020 compared to the same timeframe in 2019. Don't be a victim – lock it so you don't lose it!

New York State Updates

NYS Hiring Contact Tracers for Suffolk County

New York State is hiring contact tracers! Tracers will be trained and work remotely to support the work of NYS Department of Health and local health departments in communities across NYS including Suffolk County. Contact tracers will reach out to the contacts of anyone diagnosed with COVID-19 to assess symptoms, ensure compliance with quarantine and determine social support needs. For more information and to apply: <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/get-involved-how-you-can-help>

Testing Expands – Find out Where You can Take One!

New York State has launched a new, interactive map that allows you to search for the nearest COVID-19 testing site. As we move closer to reopening, it is imperative that as many people get tested as possible. Visit <https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/find-test-site-near-you> to view the map.

Business Guidance for Re-Opening

New York State has a new website that will provides businesses guidance on when they can re-open and what restrictions will be in place. View it at <https://www.businessexpress.ny.gov/app/nyforward>.

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Virtual Family Assistance Center Helps NYers Suffering a COVID-19 Loss

The American Red Cross has opened a virtual Family Assistance Center (FAC) for New York State families that have lost loved ones to COVID-19. Different from a long-term bereavement group counselling program, the FAC provides 8-9 days of immediate emotional and spiritual care, referrals and guidance to help family members come to terms with their unimaginable loss, complete vital tasks and develop a plan to move forward.

After registering, those in need of this program are linked with a “companion” who will guide them through the unique processes to accomplish tasks specifically related to a COVID-19 death including: dealing with hospitals, nursing homes, medical examiner or coroner, funeral directors, faith leaders and DMV (what to do with the person’s car and driver’s license) while also providing referrals to legal resources.

All guidance is delivered virtually to maintain physical distancing and isolation safety. The program is free but you must register via the website (redcross.org/NYSCOVIDFamilySupport) or by phone (585) 957-8187.

Need a Mask? Our Office is Here to Help!

Governor Andrew Cuomo’s Executive Order dated April 15 requires that all New Yorkers wear face coverings in public if social distancing cannot be maintained. I understand many constituents may not have access to face coverings or the required materials to make their own. That is why my district office is offering face masks to constituents who need them. Please call us at (631) 854-4433 for more information.



First and Second Precinct Updates



Due to the pandemic, police officers in Suffolk County are confronted with new challenges and duties while maintaining a dedicated level of service to the community. Since the First Precinct and Second Precinct could not hold their monthly community public meetings as normal, First Precinct Inspector Kevin Kane and Second Precinct Inspector William Scrima have put together video summaries of notable incidents/events/arrests that occurred in the confines of their Precincts. The First Precinct’s presentation can be found at <https://twitter.com/SCPD1stPrecinct> and the Second Precinct’s presentation can be viewed at <https://vimeo.com/scpd2ndprecinct>. Thank you Inspector Kane and Inspector Scrima for keeping our community informed!

SC Association of Women Police Hold Drive

In addition to keeping our communities safe, the Suffolk County Police Department came together for a department-wide food drive spearheaded by the Suffolk County Association of Women Police. During this very successful drive, clothing and approximately 1,000 pounds of food were collected, all of which were donated to local food pantries. Police officers also collected donations for hospital staff. Thank you Suffolk County Police Department for giving back to the community during this difficult time.



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SCPD Second Precinct Luncheon

Willie Perez, Hombres de Palabra NY, Latinos Unidos de Long Island, Housing Help and congregants from the Light of Salvation Church all participated in honoring the Suffolk County Police Department Second Precinct with a luncheon on Tuesday, May 12. The luncheon was to thank them for all of their support during these difficult times. It was an enjoyable afternoon for all. What an outstanding demonstration of how mutual respect and cooperation makes a community great!



DPJCA Writes to Our Healthcare Heroes

Members of the Deer Park Junior Community Association (DPJCA) recently sent handmade cards to those on the frontline of the COVID-19 crisis at Good Samaritan Hospital. What beautiful cards - great job DPJCA!

St. Anthony's Baseball Team Donates Meals to the Police

With the help of Pat's Marketplace in East Northport, St. Anthony's High School Baseball Seniors donated over 100 meals to the officers of the 2nd Precinct in Huntington. Thank you!



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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