

District 17 • WINTER 2020/2021

Serving Cold Spring Hills • Deer Park • Dix Hills • Huntington • Huntington Station
• Melville • North Babylon • South Huntington • West Babylon • West Hills



COMMUNITY WATCH

from Suffolk County Legislator

TOM DONNELLY

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Dear Friend,

The year 2020 was like no other. We faced unanticipated challenges, uncertainties and difficulties yet the spirit of community was stronger than ever. Witnessing and hearing about immediate and ongoing acts of generosity and kindness towards each other has been overwhelming and inspiring. You have stepped up in so many ways and I am proud to highlight just some of these positive things.

I am humbled and honored to serve this great community. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me to let me know what you or your neighbors are doing, what is on your mind or how I or my staff can be of any assistance. While we do not know what 2021 will bring, I am confident that your resolve and care will continue to keep our community strong. Please stay safe.

Warmly,

Tom Donnelly



Notary Services and Senior ID Cards Available at My District Office!

If you are in need of a notary, please let us assist! Stop by anytime Monday thru Friday, between 9 am and 4 pm, and one of my aides will be happy to notarize documents for you at no charge. In addition, we provide free Suffolk County Senior Citizen IDs for residents 60 and older. A Senior ID can be used to receive a discount on the Suffolk County Bus and also to prove eligibility for discounts at stores and restaurants. Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, there is no need to come to the office in person for a Senior ID; just give us a call at (631) 854-4433 and we will be happy to mail you one. For those coming to my office to utilize our notary services, please note: all safety protocols will be followed including mask-wearing, a required temperature check and social distancing.



CSM Donna Boyle Honored For Suffolk Women Veterans Day

I proudly selected Huntington Station resident and American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244 Commander Command Sergeant Major (CSM) Donna Boyle to honor for this year's inaugural Suffolk County Women Veterans Appreciation Day program. The ceremony was held via Zoom on June 12 and I then got to thank and recognize CSM Boyle for her military service in person at the outdoor socially-distanced American Legion Greenlawn Post 1244 meeting in July. CSM Boyle joined the United States Army in 1978 under the GI Bill, ultimately earning a Civil Engineering degree. She held numerous positions in the Army, eventually serving as an instructor and Sergeant Major of a training unit from 2003 until her retirement in 2007. CSM Boyle received the "Legion of Merit" in 2007, a military award of the United States Armed Forces that is given for exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services and achievements. It was privilege to thank CSM Boyle for her service.



Delivering PPE to Community Groups, Libraries and Schools

Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, I have personally delivered more than 8,500 pieces of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), including cloth face masks, gloves and hand sanitizer, to local libraries, community groups, food pantries, churches and schools. The safe reopening of community spaces was a top priority of mine and I worked closely with Suffolk County's Fire Rescue and Emergency Services (FRES) and Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone to dispense these critical supplies. I made deliveries to the North Babylon, Half Hollow Hills and South Huntington Public Libraries, Tri-Community and Youth Agency in Huntington, St. Elizabeth's Church in Melville and Meals on Wheels. I was also able to honor the requests of the Deer Park, North Babylon and South Huntington School Districts by providing PPE to students and staff as they prepared for the 2020-2021 school year.



Bringing a Slice of Happiness to Huntington Station Residents



In difficult times, our community powers through because of individuals dedicated to ensuring so. In living up to that ideal, Willy Perez of Huntington Station delivered pizzas every Friday during the Spring, Summer and Fall to families across his hometown at no charge. When asked about the motivation behind his acts of kindness, Willy said it was to "to bring a smile and much needed break." One Friday, my staff and I personally sponsored the pizza donations and helped Willy deliver them, where we got to see those smiles for ourselves. Willy's daughter Casey, community volunteers and my daughter Adrianna were on hand to help as well. Thank you Joe of Mama Lucia's in Huntington Station who deeply discounted these 30+ pies every week and Willy for your kindness! We are grateful!

Local Students Graduate from Suffolk Legislature Page Program

Congratulations to both of my Legislative District 17 Page Program graduates for their successful completion of the intensive program on county government: Ethan Halle of Huntington, a 2020 graduate of Walt Whitman High School in Huntington Station and Rachel Kang of Dix Hills, a senior at Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Policy. This year's ten-week Page Program, which commenced in May was held via Zoom due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Ethan and Rachel attended virtual sessions to learn various elements of Suffolk County government, each took on the



role of a legislator, drafted legislation to debate with fellow pages and created COVID-19 community projects. Graduation was conducted in mid-August via Zoom and Proclamations were given in drive-by ceremonies at the William H. Rogers Legislature Building in Hauppauge and/or at their homes during that week.

LD 17 Firefighter / EMS Volunteer of the Year

Congratulations to Elizabeth Mohr, R.N. who I selected as my Legislative District 17 2020 Firefighter/EMS Volunteer of the Year. Nurse Mohr is a member of the Huntington Community First Aid Squad (HCFAS) where she is an EMT- CC (Critical Care), has served in numerous positions and is currently a day captain. In her duties as a nurse, she is an emergency room pediatric nurse at Cohen's Children's Medical Center. As the proud husband of an emergency room nurse, I have firsthand knowledge and great appreciation of the important work they do and I thank Nurse Mohr and all nurses for the critical role they are playing during this unprecedented time. On November 9, I had the opportunity to surprise and honor Nurse Mohr at the HCFAS monthly Zoom meeting and I later had the privilege of presenting her with a special Proclamation, in person, at my district office. Thank you Nurse Mohr for your tireless work.



Two Outstanding Veterans Named Co-Senior Citizens of the Year

I had the privilege of honoring Kenneth "Ken" Carlson of Melville and Robert "Bob" Santo of Huntington Station as Legislative District 17 Seniors of the Year at an outdoor, appropriately socially-distanced meeting of the Greenlawn American Legion Post 1244 in July. Mr. Carlson, a veteran of the United States Army from 1968 to 1972, served in Vietnam and received the Bronze Star. He serves in the Greenlawn American Legion Post 1244 Color Guard and is the Post's parade organizer and notary. In addition, Mr. Carlson is treasurer and an active member of the Strathmore Civic Association. A veteran who served in the United States Air Force from 1966 to 1970, Mr. Santo is a former 10-year Commander and current financial officer of the Greenlawn American Legion Post 1244. Mr. Santo is also a liaison with the SailAhead Program, a therapeutic sailing platform that helps PTSD-suffering veterans and brings awareness to Post Traumatic Stress and Veteran Suicide. I thank both these men for their service to this nation and their continued service to our community.



Deer Park Youth Thanked for Demonstrating True Community Spirit

In late August, I joined my colleagues in the Town of Babylon - Supervisor Rich Schaffer, Deputy Supervisor Tony Martinez, Councilman Terence McSweeney and Town Beautification Director Viscel Moore - at Geiger Park in Deer Park to honor the outstanding school-aged volunteers in the Deer Park Jr. Community Association (DPJCA). They all contributed in different ways - from making signs for our healthcare heroes to holding car washes and raising money for “little libraries,” these involved youth truly are the future leaders of our community. Thank you DPJCA Co-Chairs Rosaria Cavarra Luppy and Tim Phelan and parent organization, Deer Park Community Association, for their hard work in ensuring we engage all those in our community, regardless of age, and preparing them for a lifetime of active citizenship.



Visiting ELIJA Farm in South Huntington

ELIJA Farm in South Huntington graciously invited me this past September to view the special tree they dedicated to Suffolk County and the Town of Huntington. I was grateful for the opportunity to thank Executive Director Deb Thivierge and her team for the outstanding work they do in carrying out their mission of “...enriching the health and wellness of our community through dynamic learning...” which includes exceptional vocational programs for young adults with autism.



Welcoming Shrimpy's Burrito Bar to Suffolk

In September, I joined New York State Senator Jim Gaughran at the opening of Shrimpy's Burrito Bar to Huntington Station. Located at 135 West Jericho Turnpike in Huntington Station, right across the street from my district office, the Huntington spot is the second location for the beach-themed California vibe restaurant with “a little twist of New York flavor!” I was thrilled to welcome Shrimpy's to the neighborhood, wishing them the same great success that they have enjoyed in their original Massapequa Park location. Judging by the continuously-full parking lot, the community is just as happy as we are to have them here!



Beware of Telephone Scams: Anyone Can Be a Target

New and sophisticated types of phone scams that are specifically targeting senior citizens could make anyone a victim. These scams utilize “spoofing” technology that display the phone number of an actual government department (Social Security Administration, Internal Revenue Service, etc.) or a utility (PSE&G, National Grid) on the caller ID when, in reality, the call is coming from an unknown phone bank. They then may ask you to go out and purchase gift cards and read them the numbers. If you believe you are, or have been, the victim of a scam, get all of the information



you can without providing any of yours and immediately contact the Suffolk County Police Department at (631) 852-COPS, visit your local precinct or call my office at (631) 854-4433. You can also visit AARP's Fraud Watch Network at <https://www.aarp.org/money/scams-fraud/> or call their Fraud Watch Hotline at (877) 908-3360.