



# TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

# Access Newsletter

December 2014

Winter Edition



## A Message From Supervisor Petrone

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Please look through this Winter Edition of the Access Newsletter as it has numerous resources and articles that may be informative and helpful to you. Take note of our Snow Berm Program which is presently accepting applications for the 2014 - 2015 season. Also, I encourage residents with special needs, who are at risk during an emergency and require special planning involving sheltering and/or transportation, to register with the Joint Emergency Evacuation Program (J.E.E.P.) and the Special Needs Registry.

Winter is upon us, and with winter comes flu season. Influenza is a serious, contagious disease that can lead to hospitalization and even death. The Center for

Disease Control (CDC) urges you to take certain actions to protect yourself and others from the flu. First and foremost, you should get vaccinated as soon as the current season's vaccine is available. Secondly, you should also take everyday preventative actions to stop the spread of germs, such as avoiding close contact with sick people, washing hands, covering your mouth when coughing, and touching your eyes, nose and mouth. For more preventative tips visit the CDC's website at <http://www.cdc.gov/flu/protect/habits/index.htm>. The third thing you can do is take flu antiviral drugs if your doctor prescribes them. Antiviral drugs are different from antibiotics. They are prescription medicines and are not available over-the-

counter. Antiviral drugs can make an illness milder and shorten the time you are sick. They may also prevent serious flu complications. For people with high risk factors, treatment with an antiviral drug can mean the difference between having a milder illness versus a very serious illness that could result in a hospital stay.

Finally, after our difficult winter last year, it is essential that you plan ahead for the possible winter storms. Please don't forget to have an extra supply of medicines and copies of your prescriptions on hand, plenty of batteries, flashlights, radio, water and non perishable food.

Wishing you and your family a warm, safe, healthy winter season.

*Frank P. Petrone*

### Snow Berm Removal.

The Office of the Highway Superintendent will remove the mound of snow from your driveway within the right of way caused by the plows if you are a person with a disability, meet the income eligibility criteria

and you do not have an able-bodied person with whom you reside to remove the berm caused by the plow trucks. This program requires annual registration. Applications for this program are available and may be

obtained by calling Janet Serrao in the Office of Handicap Services at (631) 351-3068. You may also download our [Snow Berm Removal Appli-](#)



### Town of Huntington Social Program Without Walls

The Social Program without Walls is for independent adults with developmental disabilities, ages 21 and older, who are interested in making friends and socializing with their peers. Participants visit local restaurants, recreation establishments, i.e., bowling centers and

movies, or go to concerts, sporting events and museums both locally as well as in Nassau County and in New York City. Public transportation is utilized for certain trips. Participants are expected to assist in selecting and organizing activities. Meetings take place two weekends per month

from October through June. There is a fee of \$80 for those with a recreation ID card or \$110 for those without. To register or find out more information please call The Town of Huntington Department of Parks and Recreation at 351-3071.

## According to the NIH's National Eye Institute...

### January is Glaucoma Awareness Month

More than four million people in the United States have glaucoma, a group of eye diseases that damage the optic nerve and destroy eyesight. Unfortunately, nearly half of those with glaucoma are not even aware that they have it. Are you one of them? You owe it to yourself to find out by getting a comprehensive dilated eye exam that includes having drops put in your eyes. With its painless and gradual loss of vision, glaucoma may have no early warning signs, but it can be detected during a comprehensive dilated eye exam. Anyone can develop glaucoma, but those at higher risk for developing the disease include:

- African Americans over age 40

- Everyone over age 60, especially Mexican Americans

- People with a family history of the disease



During a comprehensive dilated eye exam, an eye care professional can see inside the eye to detect signs of glaucoma, such as subtle changes to the optic nerve, before any symptoms appear. This allows the eye care professional to determine if you have glaucoma or are at risk for it, to monitor your condition, to treat glaucoma as early as possible, and to look for other vision problems. Once symptoms appear, it may be too

late to prevent vision loss and the progression to blindness.

If glaucoma is detected early, treatments such as eye drops or surgery can slow or stop vision loss. High pressure inside the eye, which may be associated with glaucoma, does not by itself mean that you have glaucoma. Only a comprehensive dilated eye exam and evaluation of the optic nerve by an eye care professional can tell you that.

If you know someone at risk for glaucoma, let them know you care - send them a glaucoma e-card. For more information, visit [www.nei.nih.gov/glaucoma](http://www.nei.nih.gov/glaucoma).

### Joint Emergency Evacuation Program (J.E.E.P.) & Special Needs Registry

If you are, or know someone who is, disabled and has special needs, you may be at risk during emergency situations and require special planning, which may involve transportation and/or sheltering, the Joint Emergency Evacuation

Plan (JEEP) may be of assistance. *The Suffolk County Office of Emergency Management* maintains the JEEP database and activates it prior to an impending disaster. This database will help the Department of Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services (FRES) coordinate

assistance to eligible disabled individuals with special needs.

**You must apply ahead of time to be included.** For more information, questions, or if you require assistance applying you can call the Office of Emergency Management at 631-852-4900.

### Education Advocacy from Birth to 21

The LIAC assists families in learning how to access and obtain for their children the educational services to which they are legally entitled. This program offers advice and when necessary, representation at school-related meetings as well as information and referrals. LIAC education advocates have extensive knowledge, experience and resources to help empower you as you advocate for your child.

Services are generally provided via phone consultations and technical support such as e-mail, fax or they can mail information to you. To speak with an advocate, you must complete an intake by calling 631-234-0467, or you can complete the online form: <http://www.theliac.org/education-online-intake.html>.

**Q. Someone at my child's school told me that my son/daughter scored too high, and therefore is**

**too smart to qualify for special education, yet my child is not doing well. What can I do?**

A. You have a right to have your child evaluated. The decision must be made by the entire Committee on Special Education. Put your request in writing and send it to the Director of Special Education.

**Q. Are all kids with learning disabilities entitled to special education services (FAPE - Free Appropriate Public Education)?**

A. To be eligible, a child with a disability must meet one of thirteen classification categories and because of the disability need special education services to benefit from the general education program. If the Committee on Special Education decides your child meets these two requirements, then an IEP (Individual Education Plan) is developed.

**Q. When is the district required to pay for a private evaluation?**

A. By definition, an Independent Educational Evaluation (IEE) is conducted by a qualified professional who is not an employee of the school district. Parents may request an IEE paid for by the school district when they disagree with the school district's special education evaluation. In response to your request for an IEE, the district must take one of two actions: (1) Provide the IEE at public expense, or (2) Initiate a due process hearing to show the district's evaluation was appropriate.

The LIAC of Suffolk County  
490 Wheeler Road  
Hauppauge, NY 11788  
(631) 234-0467  
<http://www.theliac.org/>

## **Resources for the Disabled:** Check these agencies out: they have lots of Services!

### **Town of Huntington Handi-capped Services**

Phone: (631) 351-3058

Web: <http://HuntingtonNY.gov>

### **Disabled American Veterans Transportation Network at the Northport VA Medical Center**

Phone: (631) 543-2245

Web: [http://](http://www.davtnnorthport.org/)

[www.davtnnorthport.org/](http://www.davtnnorthport.org/)

### **Suffolk County Accessible Transportation (SCAT) Services**

Web: [http://www.sct-bus.org/](http://www.sct-bus.org/scat.html)

[scat.html](http://www.sct-bus.org/scat.html)

### **Office of Disability Employment U.S. Dept. of Labor**

Phone: (866) 633-7365

Web: <http://www.dol.gov/odep/>

### **Helen Keller Services for the Blind**

Phone: (631) 424-0022

Web: <http://hknc.org/>

### **New York State Office for People With Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)**

Phone: (866) 946-9733

Web: <http://www.opwdd.ny.gov/>

### **Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities**

Phone: (631) 853-8333

Web: <http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/CountyExecutive/PeoplewithDisabilities.aspx>

### **New York State Library – Talking Books and Braille Library**

Web: [www.nysl.nysed.gov/tbbl/index.htm](http://www.nysl.nysed.gov/tbbl/index.htm)

### **Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind**

Phone: (631) 930-9000

Web: <http://www.guidedog.org/>

## **Telephone Numbers Useful in an Emergency**

- Town of Huntington Office of Emergency Management: (631) 351-3030
- PSEG Long Island: (800) 490-0075.
- National Grid (gas emergency): (800) 490-0045.
- Suffolk County Water Authority (24 hour repair): (631) 665-0663.
- Suffolk County Transit Information: (631) 852-5200.
- Suffolk County Accessible Transportation (SCAT): (631) 738-1150.
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) - If you are out of home heating fuel or in need of emergency burner. Weekdays: (631) 853-8820. Evenings & Weekends: Suffolk County DSS (631) 854-9100.
- FEMA: (800) 631-3362.
- Suffolk County Health Department: (631) 853-6974.
- American Red Cross Suffolk County: (631) 423-0307.



## **Town Board Meetings**

Dates for Fall/Winter

**January 14, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.**

**February 10, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**

**March 10, 2015 at 2:00 p.m.**

**April 14, 2015 at 7:00 p.m.**

All Town Board Meetings are held at Huntington Town Hall,  
100 Main Street, Huntington.

Meetings can also be viewed on the Town's public access channels  
18 on Optimum and 38 on Verizon.



Town of  
*Huntington*  
A Shore to Explore Since 1653  
*Long Island, NY*



**Supervisor  
Frank P. Petrone**



**Councilman  
Mark Cuthbertson**



**Councilwoman  
Susan A. Berland**



**Councilman  
Eugene Cook**



**Councilwoman  
Tracey A. Edwards**