

An update on important news in our community



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5TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT
SUFFOLK COUNTY



Dear Neighbor,
The key to effective representation is communication. There are many things going on at the state level and within our community that can affect you and your family, and this newsletter is meant to make sure you receive the information you need. Issues covered in this newsletter include:

- Fixing our schools: Budget gimmicks will not fix the problem.
- Easter Basket collection a great success, brings smiles to the faces of 143 children.
- Shining the light on the high cost of electricity.
- Effectively dealing with the Heroin Epidemic plaguing our communities.

Updates from my office are also available via social media and email. Please contact me if you'd like to receive automatic updates in the future or to share feedback on this newsletter.

Sincerely,

Assemblyman Al Graf

Fixing our schools:
Budget gimmicks will not fix the problem

Easter Basket collection a great success, brings smiles to the faces of 143 children

Shining the Light on the Cost of Electricity



Effectively Dealing with the Heroin Epidemic

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Follow Assemblyman Al Graf on social media or sign up for email alerts to receive news as it happens!

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FIXING NEW YORK SCHOOLS

When we first took on the issue of the new Common Core curriculum, no one wanted to listen. Through the efforts of parents, grandparents, children, and educators across the state, this became the number one issue during the legislative session. More residents of New York State are focused on the problems facing our schools and our students than ever before. We still have a lot of work to do. This budget process gave us a lot of lip service, but failed to solve the many issues facing education. I debated the portion of the budget that dealt with Common Core and pointed out deficiencies.

With your help the Governor's office received over 27,000 letters.

There is a new petition on my fixnyschools.com website. I encourage everyone to visit the site, read the APPLE Plan report that I helped develop after holding 14 forums throughout the state, and sign the new petition to demonstrate that we want our children to receive the best education possible so that they can succeed in the future and help our state have a thriving economy.

EASTER BASKET SUCCESS

This year, our Easter Basket collection program yielded an outstanding response; because of the members of our community. Thanks to Friendly Drugs owner Rick Ammirati, the Holbrook Chamber of Commerce, and the Holbrook Branch of the Teachers Federal Credit Union, and Saint Joseph's College students, 143 children enjoyed the holiday.

Every year I call on the community to help with this program and every year I am amazed at the response. Many of these Easter Baskets went to children who were the victims of domestic violence and left their homes with literally just the clothes on their backs.

To all that donated, your efforts brought smiles to the faces of 143 children and their parents, and I cannot thank you enough.



COST OF ELECTRICITY

The cost of electricity is making Long Island unaffordable. Since the governor put in his LIPA Reform Act, the cost of electricity has skyrocketed. This had a devastating impact on everyone's home budget, and is a leading reason that it's almost impossible to live, raise a family, or start a business on Long Island.

The cost of electricity has a direct impact on the high costs of property taxes. The following table reflects the cost of electricity being imposed on local governments.

District/Municipality	Monthly Electric Bill	Annual Cost of Electricity
Suffolk County	\$1,880,265.00	\$22,563,180.00
Town of Islip	\$254,660.00	\$3,055,920.00
Town of Brookhaven	\$523,435.00	\$6,281,220.00
Sachem SD	\$251,000.00	\$3,012,000.00
Middle Country SD	\$168,000.00	\$2,016,000.00
Connetquot SD	\$121,000.00	\$1,452,000.00

I have recently authored and submitted several bills aimed at truly reforming LIPA and cutting our costs of electricity. I have FOILED all of LIPA's contracts and I am presently reviewing all of them. I have the New York State Assembly staff examining the New York Power Authority's budgeting and billing practices after discovering through this year's budgeting process that, since 2003-2004, the state has swept \$1,134,000,00 out of the Authority's unexpended fund balance into the state's general fund. I questioned this transfer of funds during the state budget debates and inquired as to why these funds were not used to reduce the cost of electricity.

I have consistently pressured the Governor's office to keep their promise of creating the new super-energy highway he announced in his State of the State speech two years ago that would bring cleaner, cheaper energy from Upstate to Long Island.

This is a battle I am determined to win. I will be calling for your help in bringing this issue to the forefront once all the research is completed.



THE HEROIN EPIDEMIC

The increase in heroin use has led to an increase in crime, the destruction of families, and a strain on government resources. This summer I will be involved in forums around the state talking to parents, law enforcement, and healthcare professionals to ascertain a full understanding of the problem.

Once the forums are completed we will issue a report on our findings, as well as recommendations on how to attack the problem.

If you are a family member of a heroin user, healthcare professional, or law enforcement professional and wish to speak at one of our forums, please contact my office at 585-0230. If you have a story to tell or a recommendation for consideration related to the topic, we want to hear from you.

In the past, I have found these forums are crucial to developing a plan of action to combat a serious issue facing our state. Hopefully by conducting these forums we can get to the root of the problem, and find the solutions necessary to prevent the destruction of other families.

View Assemblyman Graf fighting for you on the Assembly Floor by scanning the QR code with your smartphone.

