

# Important News in our Community!



**algraf**  
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News

5<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT  
SUFFOLK COUNTY



*Dear Neighbor:  
The key to effective  
representation is communication.  
There are many important issues  
on the state level and within  
our community that directly  
affect you and your family.  
This newsletter is meant to  
communicate those issues to you.  
Included in this newsletter:*

- *The heroin epidemic plaguing New York State*
- *Education reform for our children*
- *Eager students accept Summer Reading Challenge*
- *Lowering cost of living on L.I.*

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

*Alfred C. Graf*  
Assemblyman Al Graf

Graf  
Assigned  
To Heroin  
Task Force

Graf  
Fighting  
For Our  
Children's  
Education

Students  
Honored at  
Assemblyman  
Graf's Summer  
Reading  
Challenge

Graf Presses  
For Change  
To Lower  
Cost Of  
Electricity

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**\*Follow Assemblyman Al Graf on social media or sign up for email alerts for more news as it happens!\***

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## GRAF FIGHTS HEROIN EPIDEMIC

This year, Assemblyman Al Graf was appointed to travel the state as part of the Assembly Minority's Task Force on Heroin Addiction and Community Response. Graf participated in forums from Long Island, to Plattsburgh, to Buffalo.

Graf is quick to point out that the picture we had of the heroin user in the past has changed. "It's not the person lying in an alley with a needle in their arm. Today's heroin user is your child, your friend's or neighbor's child, your niece, your nephew, or the people next door. We have to stop putting a Band-Aid on a gaping wound and effectively deal with this problem head on."

Now that the forums are completed, Graf has been busy using the information he has gathered to draft a report that will identify the problems, make recommendations to state agencies, and propose legislation to effectively deal with this epidemic. Once the report is completed it will be available online or at the Assembly office so the public may review the findings."

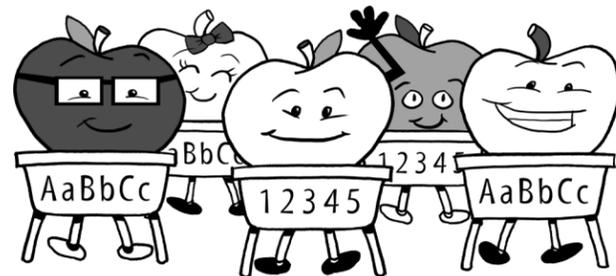
## GRAF'S EDUCATION REFORM EFFORTS GRAB LEGISLATURE'S ATTENTION

Assemblyman Al Graf has been waging a three-year battle to help fix the mess the state has made of our children's education. Graf has been one of the leading voices, pointing out the flaws in the new standards and fighting to make sure that all of our children receive the quality education they deserve.

Graf has fought beside parents, teachers, and other education professionals to encourage the state to step back and re-examine where the legislature and Board of Education are forcing education in our state.

"We have been successful in getting the attention of the governor and the legislature via numerous debates, on-line petitions, and a deafening message sent by the huge opt-out movement," said Graf.

"The signs of our progress are beginning to materialize. However, we cannot stay idle; we must remain vigilant and continue to be the strong voices that will not be silenced when it comes to the proper education of our children."



## STUDENTS COMPLETE GRAF'S SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Assemblyman Al Graf recently presented children with awards for participating in his annual Summer Reading Challenge with this year's theme being "Every Hero has a Story." The award event was held at the Sachem Public Library. This year's program had 72 children participating from Sachem, Middle Country, Connetquot, and Patchogue Medford School Districts.

"Reading is one of the fundamental skills that will help children succeed in their educational pursuits and later in life," said Graf, who sits on the Assembly Committee on Education. "The Summer Reading Program is designed to keep our children on track with their reading skills over the summer vacation so they are well prepared for the coming school year. I enjoy promoting the joy of reading to our children and I think recognizing and applauding the efforts of these students is one way to encourage them to continue to develop their love of reading."



## GRAF PRESSES FOR CHANGE TO LOWER COST OF ELECTRICITY, LIVING ON LONG ISLAND

Assemblyman Al Graf continues to advocate for changes that will reduce the cost of electricity for Long Islanders. He debated against the governor's LIPA Act, pointing to the pitfalls and ramifications of approving the governor's proposal. Unfortunately, Graf's predictions have come to pass. The cost of electricity has not decreased under the governor's plan. The cost of electricity is one significant cost driver that makes Long Island unaffordable.

The following is a chart showing how much local governments and schools are paying for electricity every month. Remember that the cost of electricity paid for by our schools and local governments affects our local property taxes. Graf says he will push for changes in the next session.

### New York State 5th Assembly District Municipal Electric Bills

District/Municipality	Monthly Electric Bill
Suffolk County Government:	\$1,730,000/month
Town of Islip:	\$240,000/month
Town of Brookhaven:	\$523,000/month
Sachem School District:	\$251,000/month
Connetquot School District:	\$121,000/month
Middle Country School District:	\$168,000/month