

## Deadline Approaching For Disaster Assistance

*Applications due by January 28*

Assemblyman Chad Lupinacci (R,C,WF,I–Huntington Station) today reminded residents and small businesses about the pending deadline to file for Superstorm Sandy disaster relief. Applications for federal assistance for both personal and business recovery are due by January 28.

“Getting residents and employers back on their feet is among my top priorities as we begin 2013. Getting the doors of our businesses open again and our residents back to their jobs are some of the most important things we can do to rebuild our community,” said Lupinacci. “Re-invigorating our local businesses not only generates economic growth for our communities but starts residents moving in the right direction again. Job creators remain the backbone of our community. A true recovery will not be possible without first putting people back to work.”

Residents must first register with FEMA to be eligible for federal disaster assistance even if they have contacted the state, their local emergency-management agency, the American Red Cross or other charitable organizations. Anyone who has not registered with FEMA for disaster aid, has questions about his or her application or needs more information about recovery programs may call FEMA’s toll-free helpline at 1-800-621-FEMA (3362) or visit [www.DisasterAssistance.gov](http://www.DisasterAssistance.gov).

Once a resident or business has registered with FEMA they may begin applying for assistance through the Small Business Administration (SBA). Renters may be eligible for loans up to \$40,000 to repair or replace their disaster-damaged personal property. Homeowners may be eligible for up to \$200,000 to repair or replace disaster-damaged real estate, plus up to \$40,000 to repair or replace their disaster-damaged personal property. Other programs available include low-interest loans as low as 1.688 percent with repayment terms up to 30 years.

Non-farm businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations may be eligible for up to \$2 million to repair or replace business assets physically damaged by the disaster – including damage to buildings, machinery and equipment, furniture and fixtures, inventory and other business assets.

In addition, small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private, nonprofit organizations (of all sizes) that were or were not physically damaged but which suffered economic losses due to the disaster may also be eligible for SBA economic injury disaster loans (EIDLs). These working capital loans provide funds for necessary and ongoing expenses until business returns to normal.

For additional information regarding programs and assistance through the Small Business Administration, visit online at [www.disasterloan.sba.gov/ela](http://www.disasterloan.sba.gov/ela) or contact the SBA at 1-800-659-2955 or [www.sba.gov](http://www.sba.gov).

Officials are available across Long Island to provide residents and businesses with assistance completing the disaster aid applications. In the 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly District offices are available at the following locations:

### *Lindenhurst Library*

1 Lee Avenue

Lindenhurst, NY 11757

Hours: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Mon – Sat

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sun

### *Mastic Recreation Community Center*

15 Herkimer Street

Mastic, NY 11950

Hours: 9 a.m. – 6 p.m.; Mon – Sat

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sun

### *Farmingdale State College:*

*SBDC Training Center*

2350 Broad Hollow Road

### *Islip Town Hall West\**

401 Main Street

Farmingdale, NY 11735

Hours: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Mon – Fri

9 a.m. – 3 p.m.; Sun

Islip, NY 11757

Hours: 9 a.m. – 7 p.m.; Mon – Sat

10 a.m. – 5 p.m.; Sat-Sun

*\*Also operates as Business Recovery Center*

Additional assistance is available through New York State.

Businesses in Suffolk County are still able to apply for an emergency sales tax exemption on purchases related to Sandy reconstruction. The Suffolk Industrial Development Agency will exempt certain small businesses that sustained physical damage from Hurricane Sandy from the county's 8.625 percent sales tax for purchases related to reconstruction, renovation, repair and/or the purchase of replacement equipment. To learn more, visit <http://bit.ly/UPfWPU> or call 631-853-4802.

The New York State Insurance Fund has also extended payment deadlines for all policyholders directly affected by Hurricane Sandy. For affected workers' compensation and disability benefits policyholders with a premium payment due date between October 26 and December 26, 2012, the payment deadline is extended to January 26, 2013. In addition, there will be no penalties or cancellations during this time for affected policyholders. For more information, please visit <http://bit.ly/UhNzPA>.