
Suffolk County
Department of Environment & Energy

ENVIRONMENTAL NEWS

November 2009

It is my pleasure to update you on the most recent activities and accomplishments of the Department of Environment & Energy. I encourage you to share this newsletter with others and send information to us, to help the department continue to preserve our natural resources and protect the quality of our environment.

Cancer Awareness Task Force Prevention Strategy

Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy and his Cancer Awareness Task Force unveiled a checklist of products and ingredients that concerned residents may wish to keep out of their homes as a way to lessen exposure to potential toxins and reduce cancer risks. The Home Product Checklist includes many types of consumer products -- such as plastics and food storage containers, household cleaners, paints, and yard and garden products -- as well as personal care products, including cosmetics and lotions. Along with describing potential concerns about the products, the checklist also provides alternative or “home remedy” solutions.

At a Press Conference highlighting the Prevention Strategy, County Executive Steve Levy stated, “According to the National Cancer Institute, 50 to 70 percent of all cancer deaths could be prevented through lifestyle modifications. Avoiding smoking and maintaining a proper diet are obvious modifications, but there is also growing concern about many of the products we use and store in the home, which is why I charged the Cancer Awareness Task Force with developing this educational program.”

The release of the Home Product Checklist coincided with the launch of the Suffolk County Cancer Awareness Task Force Website, which is another tool that not only helps educate the public about the prevention of cancer, but also raises awareness about the access to care and the available cancer services to County Residents.

You Can View the Website Here and Print Out Your Own Home Product Checklist:

<http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Home/departments/EnvironmentandEnergy/CancerAwareness.aspx>

East End “Green” Career Fair

On October 7th 2009, the Suffolk County Department of Environment and Energy participated in the East End Career Fair at the Bridgehampton School. Long Island Works Coalition organized the event which helps to keep students aware of future employment opportunities. This year the event focused on the “green industry” and featured exhibitors and panelists from a variety of environmental positions here on Long Island. DEE participants informed the students of the many environmental job opportunities that the County offers, the different environmental programs DEE is involved with, typical daily work activities, and how the students’ current school curriculum is applied to their job.



Jennifer McGivern, a Research Technician for the Suffolk County Division of Water Quality Improvement, answering questions from students about her environmental career.

Electronic Recycling Program a Success

To date, the program has collected over 63,000 lbs of old and unwanted computers, monitors, phones, copiers, fax machines, televisions, stereos and other electronics. The program, which began in April, has provided an outlet for residents to responsibly get rid of their “E-waste”. The consistency of the collection weight from these events show that residents are aware they should not be disposing of their old electronics through regular trash collection, but have lacked a safe and environmentally friendly alternative until now. Instead of sending the waste to a landfill where the toxic components of these materials can leach into the environment, e-Green Management, LLC, an Islip Terrace firm, responsibly recycles the materials collected.

Due to the continued success of the program, the County is in the midst of planning future events. Please visit the Department of Environment and Energy’s website for more information about the E-cycling Program and Upcoming Events:

<http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/departments/environmentandenergy/ewaste.aspx>

Suffolk County Open Space and Farmland Acquisitions

In October, the Division of Real Property Acquisition & Management closed on 6.75 acres of environmentally sensitive open space in Bridgehampton. The acquisition was funded through the Drinking Water Protection Program that strictly dedicates a portion of the sales tax to environmental purposes.

To date, in 2009, the County has closed on 29 properties totaling 330.31 acres. These acquisitions have either preserved important areas of open space or protected Suffolk County Farmland through the purchase of development rights.

Suffolk County Hosts Movie Premiere of No Family History for Breast Cancer Awareness Month

As part of Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, in conjunction with his Cancer Awareness Task Force, hosted a premiere of a film documentary which follows one local woman's moving struggle with the disease. A reception where local cancer advocacy groups provided information to the public was held before the premiere of the film was shown Monday, October 19, at 7:30 p.m. at the H. Lee Dennison Building.

Entitled "No Family History," the documentary follows the life of Robin Caslenova, a West Islip resident unexpectedly diagnosed with breast cancer, and the daily trials and tribulations she endured as a result. The film emphasizes the need for prevention and early detection of breast cancer -- even for people who have had no family history of the disease.

Following the film Sabrina McCormick, the director of the film, and Robin Caslenova fielded a question and answer session that uncovered further details into Robin's experiences with the disease as well as the importance of taking active steps to help prevent cancer.

QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, OR TO GET YOUR OWN COPY OF THIS NEWSLETTER

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