

# THE SUPERVISOR'S BULLETIN

Vol. 1 , No. 3 A Communication from Southampton Town Supervisor Anna Throne-Holst March 2010

## Town Lands Grant to Save Residents Money

### Pilot Program will Finance Upfront Costs of Efficiency Upgrades

The Town of Southampton is preparing to launch a pilot version of a Residential Energy Efficiency Program (REEP) thanks to a grant awarded to the Town by the federal Department of Energy. The goal of the program is to enable homeowners to make their homes more energy efficient by providing financing for the installation of efficiency measures such as improved heating systems and insulation.

Modeled after a similar program used in Babylon Town, the pilot opportunity comes at no cost to Town taxpayers and is currently funded in the amount of \$100,000, with additional funding provided to cover the administration of the

**“The REEP program is focused on energy conservation, which is ultimately the most effective tool for reducing the use and high cost of oil, electricity and gas.”**

program. Through the pilot program, homeowners will have the opportunity to finance (via a loan administered by the Town) up to \$12,000 in improvements following an energy audit (an assessment required to participate in the program) by Town-approved and qualified local contractors. The contractors will also provide the recommended installations, the average of which is expected to cost approximately \$7,000 to \$8,000 per home.

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(continued on page 2)



#### UPCOMING MEETINGS

- *Town Board Work Session*  
Thursday, March 18 at 9:30 a.m.  
Location: Town Board Room
- *Town Board Meeting*  
Tuesday, March 23 at 6:00 p.m.  
Location: Town Board Room  
*Incoming Councilmember Bridget Fleming will be sworn in.*
- *Town Board Work Session*  
Thursday, March 25 at 9:30 a.m.  
Location: Town Board Room

## Throne-Holst Co-Sponsors Effort to Restore Environmental Protection Funds

On Friday, March 5, elected officials, environmental leaders and concerned residents from across Long Island gathered in Old Bethpage for a conversation with state officials about rescuing Long Island from EPF Cuts. The event, spearheaded by local environmental groups and co-sponsored by Supervisor Throne-Holst was attended by more than 200

people. Together, the group made the case to Albany that the proposed cuts to the Environmental Protection Fund would severely impact Long Island's economy where tourism, farming and second homes are the area's top industries. "We all know times are tough, but not all budget cuts have equal impacts," said Supervisor Throne-Holst. "On Long

Island, the economy is our environment. Forcing us to close our beaches and parks and undermining our land preservation programs cuts right to the core of our most lucrative industries. Not only does it show how little Albany understands our region, this decision will weaken our ability to recover from the economic downturn," she said.



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## (...continued) Town Lands Grant to Save Residents Money

cost of oil, electricity and gas,” said Supervisor Anna Throne-Holst. “And we are very fortunate and excited to be able to present this innovative pilot program to our residents at no cost to the Town,” she said.

Under the REEP program, the only upfront cost to the homeowner (typically the most deterring factor) would be the expense of the initial energy audit, for which the homeowner would be responsible for 50 percent, or approximately \$125.

Research and planning for the program was conducted by the Town’s Sustainability Committee, a 12-person volunteer group comprised of local professionals with backgrounds in engineering, architecture, construction, scientific research

and environmental advocacy and education.

“The Sustainability Committee is focused on helping the Town and its residents save money by reducing expensive energy consumption and adopting practices that are less damaging to our natural environmental,” said Throne-Holst. “The REEP is a perfect example of the cost-saving opportunities we can create by making energy efficiency upgrades more accessible to homeowners. It’s good for the environment, even better for your pocket book and it will help to create much needed jobs for our local contractors,” she said.

The Town plans make REEP applications available by the fall.



### SAFE AND SOUND:

Town Safety Officer John Ryan conducted the first quarterly safety meeting on Monday, March 8 in the Town Board Room. Southhampton Town is well recognized for its outstanding commitment to safety and the high rate of participation of its staff in safety trainings. In 2009, the average rate of participation in general safety trainings by New York State municipalities was only 31 percent. In Southhampton Town it was greater than 80 percent. Thank you to John Ryan for helping to keep us all safe and sound. And thank to everyone who attended the meeting. As John would say, safety is everyone’s responsibility.

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## Southampton Town Pursues Consolidation Shared Services is Path to Tax Reduction

Sharing services amongst local municipalities and school districts has long been discussed as the best way to reduce taxes, and Southampton Town is moving quickly to identify and implement partnerships that will reduce expenses and save taxpayers money.

“There are 9 public school districts and 7 village governments within the Town of Southampton, and everybody is doing their own thing,” said Throne-Holst.

“That kind of independence get expensive and inefficient very quickly,” she said.

Among the strategies in the works are:  
(1). An application for federal funding for an East End Shared Services Study. Spearheaded by the Town of Southampton, five town supervisors and even mayors have signed-on.

(2). A school/municipal shared ser-

vices grant application to the New York State Department of State, spearheaded by Hampton Bays School and supported by Southampton Town.

(3) A municipal/school district forum hosted by Stony Brook Southampton and organized by Southampton Town. Topics to be discussed include assessments, shared services and opportunities for grant applications.

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