



Councilman Panico

6TH COUNCIL DISTRICT

Town of Brookhaven

CouncilmanPanico@brookhaven.org



Improving Our Quality of Life

Council District Six consists of Mastic, Mastic Beach, Smith Point, Moriches, Center Moriches, East Moriches, Eastport, Manorville, Calverton, with parts of Brookhaven Hamlet, Shirley, East Yaphank and Ridge.

SUMMER 2010

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COUNCILMAN PANICO PASSES TAX CAP BALLOT REFERENDUM

At the June 15, 2010 Brookhaven Town Board Meeting, Councilman Panico presented a series of expert witnesses supporting the merits of a tax cap during the Public Hearing of the proposed tax cap. Offering expert testimony on the cap included Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, Former Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi, Suffolk County Legislator Ed Romaine, Suffolk County Legislator John Kennedy, Suffolk County Legislator Tom Muratore, Town of Brookhaven Tax Receiver Lou Marcoccia. Financial author and expert Lance Wallach, Long Islanders for Educational Reform Andrea Vecchio, and economist Dr. Thomas Conoscenti.

The tax cap resolution, at its' core, is to ensure that taxpayers do not suffer an increased burden because elected officials fail to moderate spending. This measure does not simply limit the increase in property taxes to 4%, rather it simply ensures that all voters have a say in any increase above 4%. "This returns to our core American values of "No taxation without representation" commented Councilman Panico.

Ultimately, the financial decisions will be made by elected officials, and this tax cap will surely act as a sound responsible guideline to be followed that protects the taxpayer from inordinate increases.

"While we are fortunate that the Brookhaven Town's property tax has remained relatively reasonable, that may not always be the case and is not a reason to forgo its moderation. Again, because this is a fairly guaranteed source of revenue, imposing self governance now on the property tax rate of growth ensures that future boards will be less inclined to increase the property tax to garner revenue for "pet projects"

which would not otherwise be supported by traditional "fee based" revenue structures."

"On August 4, 2009 late Councilman Keith Romaine initially sponsored a resolution to set a public hearing to consider enacting a similar tax cap law. It is unfortunate that for reasons that are still unclear and unknown, he never got the public hearing to simply consider the measure and present experts to discuss the pros and cons of such a proposal. Although, I am proud that even though months later this public hearing was set, and this resolution was adopted to set a tax cap proposal on the ballot for November, there is no doubt in my mind that this public hearing should have been set back on that fateful day of August 4th, 2009," concluded Councilman Panico.



Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, Former Nassau County Executive Tom Suozzi, Suffolk County Legislator John Kennedy & Suffolk County Legislator Ed Romaine

Contact Councilman Panico at 631-451-6502 or CouncilmanPanico@brookhaven.org

COUNCILMAN PANICO

Panico joins Osprey Community Standing Firm Against Vandalism. Neighborhood Watch offering \$1000 for information assisting in the apprehension of those responsible.

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Councilman Panico Waives Pool Fees for Disabled Veterans

Councilman Daniel J. Panico sponsored a resolution to waive fees at all Brookhaven Town pools for resident disabled veterans. In continuing efforts to support, recognize and honor local veteran heroes, the Town of Brookhaven looks for innovative ways to provide assistance to its resident veterans.

Stated Councilman Panico, "It is important to honor and thank our veterans who served and sacrificed so much to protect our freedom. This is another opportunity to provide a benefit to our disabled veterans who will be able to use any Town Pool facility to rehabilitate their injuries through frequent swimming. Time and again our veterans placed themselves in harms way, their service is completed; now it's our duty as a community to provide some needed help and support."

Especially in today's economic climate, usage fees can make it prohibitive for many disabled veterans to take advantage of this type of beneficial rehabilitation. With this resolution Brookhaven Town has an opportunity to say thank you in a small way – by providing these services while exempting the fees.



Sheriff Vincent DeMarco and Councilman Daniel J. Panico utilizing the SLAP program to help clean up Mastic Beach and Shirley.

Putting Inmates To Work

The Sheriff's Labor Assistance Program has been activated on a countywide basis by Sheriff Vincent DeMarco. This program places screened, low-security inmates into labor projects, to clean up roads, remove graffiti and participate in other community beautification projects. Originally these inmates were used exclusively for projects within the jail system until Sheriff DeMarco instituted this program on a countywide basis to clean roads, parks, historic sites and public buildings.

Councilman Panico Congratulates our new Eagle Scouts David Phillip Schnall, Daniel Edward O'Sullivan, Anthony Ricci, Matthew Haughn

Contact Councilman Panico at 631-451-6502

Councilman Panico Congratulates our new Gold Awards Amanda Beck and Victoria LeDeoux

Town Board Unanimously Passes Panico's Anti-Nepotism Law

At the June 1st board meeting, a Public Hearing was held for Councilman Daniel J. Panico's, anti-nepotism resolution to amend the "business practices" chapter of town code. This new local law is designed to address the employment, supervision, transfers or recommendation of the immediate family of elected and appointed town officials, regardless of time worked. The legislation impacts positions that are not subject to competitive examination, thus will not impact the status of civil service union employees. After a public vetting, the Town board subsequently passed the measure 7-0.

"I commend the Town Board for supporting this important legislation. This legislation is an important step in promoting the public confidence, integrity and transparency of the hiring practices at Town Hall," commented Councilman Panico. "While the job titles that are not subject to competitive examination through Suffolk County Civil Service law always need scrutiny, extra scrutiny is necessary when that position is going to be potentially filled by a family member of an elected or appointed official."

"This law will provide transparency in the town hiring process that is on par with Suffolk County's," said Legislator Romaine. "I congratulate Councilman Panico and the Town Board for moving forward with this needed reform."

This law requires resolution approval by the Town Board for the hiring or promoting of the relatives of municipal officials who are assigned positions; Civil Servants are not subject to this requirement. Prior town practice lacked any specific oversight of hiring or other personnel decisions pertaining to relatives of officials. The new practice requires each and every employment decision pertaining to a relative of an elected or appointed official to be brought directly to the Town Board for consideration. The new Anti-Nepotism policy steers the Town of Brookhaven on a path toward greater openness and transparency, fostering public confidence for the integrity of municipal personnel practices.

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Some Ongoing Projects

Chapman Blvd Bike Lane

Manorville Ambulance HQ

Mastic Ambulance HQ

Mastic Beach Ambulance HQ

Shirley Ambulance HQ

Forge River Task Force

Center Moriches Revitalization

Shirley & Mastics Drainage Projects

Signage Replacement Project

Quality of Life Enforcement Projects

Webbies Beach Restoration

Open Space Acquisitions



Legislator Ed Romaine and Councilman Dan Panico working together to remove blight

COUNCILMAN PANICO

Dans' Update ...

I am proud to bring you the first community newsletter for the Sixth Council District. This is a great opportunity to keep you informed of what is being done to improve the quality of life and Town services in your community.

I am humbled that the people of the Sixth District have entrusted me with the opportunity to serve as your Town Councilman. In my first three months I am pleased to report that much has been accomplished. Reading through this newsletter you will see just a sampling of the many initiatives that have been achieved for the Sixth District as well as Town-wide. I am confident that we will continue together on this pace of progress and success for the Sixth District.

From cutting spending, capping taxes and providing the services necessary that make our community a great place to live. I am proud to be your voice at Town Hall. Please feel free to contact me at 631-451-6502 with any concerns or comments that you may have regarding your quality of life. Additionally, I encourage you to contact me with any reports of suspected illegality so that I may investigate these matters. Together we will shape our community into the best possible place it can be.



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Councilman Dan Panico

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