



TOWN OF HUNTINGTON Access Newsletter

Winter 2023 Edition



TOWN OF HUNTINGTON **CITIZENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE** **for People with Disabilities** **Established 1976**

MISSION STATEMENT

To advise the Town Board of concerns and needs of people with different disabilities.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- Compliance with ADA: various town parking lots, ramps, bathrooms and general accessibility
- Expanded Hart Bus stops along Commack Road to health facilities: Memorial Sloan Kettering, Stony Brook Health Facility, St. Catherine's Health Facility & St. Charles Medical Facility
- Hearing Loop System and Closed Captioning at Town Board Meetings
- Mobile Floating Chair & Mats for people with disabilities at Town Beaches
- Improved signal volume at various crosswalks on Main Street, Huntington
- Designated times for children with disabilities at various spray parks
- Access Newsletter – bi - annual

For more information contact humanservices@HuntingtonNY.gov or contact Carmen Kasper at (631) 351-3304 or CKasper@huntingtonny.gov



Edmund J. Smyth
Supervisor

Eugene Cook
Councilman

Joan Cergol
Councilwoman

Dr. Dave Bennardo
Councilman

Salvatore Ferro
Councilman



Long Island Rail Road



Important Message

HUNTINGTON LIRR - NORTH ELEVATOR

This is an important notice to all Huntington Long Island Railroad riders. The North side elevator at the Huntington LIRR Station will be out of service for the foreseeable future.

The Town of Huntington has been notified by the elevator service company requesting the elevator be taken out of service. The Town is working with the elevator service company to resolve issues to get the elevator fully functioning again.



SHUTTLE SERVICE AVAILABLE

To assist with the transfer of riders from one track to the other, the Town of Huntington will utilize HART Bus support vehicles to provide shuttle services on an as needed basis. **(Please note: that these vehicles are not ADA accessible).**

The shuttle will be available Monday through Friday between the hours of 8am and 5pm only to provide shuttle service for riders from one side of the LIRR tracks to the other and only within the vicinity of the Huntington LIRR station.

In order to request this service, riders should contact the HART Bus dispatch office phone number at (631) 427-8287. When requesting shuttle service, please alert the HART dispatchers which track you are transferring from - the north or south side of the tracks.

This service will be provided free of charge during the period of the elevator repairs

The Town will keep residents and riders updated as plans progress.

Thank you for your understanding and patience.

We apologize for any inconvenience.

Resources for Persons with Disabilities

Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center: Long Island Events & Seminars

Phone: (631) 580-5100

<http://www.adrcinc.org/>

Disabled American Veterans Transportation Network at the Northport VA Medical Center

Phone: (631) 261-4400 ext. 7487

<http://suffolkcountyny.gov/veterans/transportation.aspx>

Office of Disability Employment, U.S. Department of Labor

Phone: (866) 633-7365

<https://www.dol.gov/odep/>

Guide Dog Foundation for the Blind

Phone: (631) 930-9000

<https://www.guidedog.org/>

Long Island Alzheimer's Foundation (LIAF)

Phone: (516) 767-6856

<https://www.liaf.org/>

NAMI National Alliance on Mental Illness

Phone: (631) 385-0754

<http://www.nami-huntington.org/>

New York State Office for People with Developmental Disabilities (OPWDD)

Phone: (866) 946-9733 Suffolk County: (631) 434-6100

<https://opwdd.ny.gov/>

SILO - Suffolk Independent Living Organization

Phone: (631) 880-7929

<http://www.siloinc.org/>

Special Olympics

Phone: (631) 254-1465

<http://specialolympics-ny.org/>

Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities

Phone: (631) 853-8333

<http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/CountyExecutive/PeoplewithDisabilities.aspx>

Town of Huntington Office for Persons With Disabilities

Phone: (631) 351-3068

<http://www.huntingtonny.gov/content/13749/13861/16626/99666/16632/default.aspx>

United Cerebral Palsy Association of Greater Suffolk, Inc.

Phone: (631) 232-0011

<http://ucp-li.org/>

Huntington YMCA

Phone: (631) 421-4242

<https://ymcali.org/locations/huntington-ymca>

The Social Security Administration Ticket to Work Program

(866) 968-7842 / (866) 833-2967 (TTY)

<https://www.ssa.gov/work/>

Anyone age 18 to 64 who receives Social Security Disability Insurance and/or Supplemental Security Income (SSI) is eligible to participate in this program. Participation is voluntary and free. Services available through this program include career counseling, vocational rehabilitation and job placement and training.



**Check all these agencies out!
They have lots of services for people with disabilities!**

Resources for Persons with Disabilities

Suffolk County Office for People with Disabilities (OPD)

Phone: (631) 853-8333

<https://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Elected-Officials/County-Executive/People-With-Disabilities>

Handicapped Hotline

OPD operates a Handicapped Hotline to answer questions on jobs, housing, education, transportation, health services, rehabilitation, etc.

Information and Referral Programs

OPD acts as a one-stop information resource for disabled persons. Appropriate referrals will be made to public and private agencies.

ID Card Program - (631) 853-8335

OPD has established the Suffolk County Handicapped Identification Card Program. Eligible permanently disabled county residents may apply for an ID card, which, when used with the Parks Department Green Key card gives free "weekday" admission to county parks and reduced rates at some recreational activities. It also provides reduced fares on county bus routes. For bus route schedule information, phone number (631) 852-5200 weekdays from 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

Advocacy Programs

OPD has an advocacy program to foster positive change in areas where problems exist for people with disabilities.

Ombudsman Service

OPD contacts both public and private agencies for clients in an effort to cut red tape.

Accessibility Program (631) 853-4405

Working in conjunction with other county departments, OPD fosters the removal of architectural barriers and provides technical assistance.

Deaf Telephone Access Center

OPD operates a Text Telephone (TTY), a Deaf Message Relay Center for all county departments and agencies. Hearing and speech-impaired individuals who have their own TTY's can contact Suffolk County Government directly by telephone to conduct business.

Employment Program

OPD coordinates the Section 55A employment program for people with disabilities under the State Civil Service Law. Suffolk County leads other New York State counties in employment of people with disabilities in this program.

Handicapped Parking Enforcement Program (631) 853-4405

OPD, in conjunction with local Police Departments, has implemented a Handicap Parking Enforcement Program where volunteer agents patrol with Polaroid cameras to ticket violators. Parking areas are also checked for compliance with the handicapped parking requirements of the State Vehicle and Traffic Law. Violations in the Town of Huntington, please call (631) 351-3234.

Paratransit Eligibility ID Card Program - (631) 738-1150

Under strict Americans with Disabilities Act Regulations, OPD certifies paratransit eligibility and issues Suffolk County Accessible Transit (SCAT) ID cards. In general, under federal regulations, curb-to-curb paratransit services are only for those who are unable to use the regular public bus system because of a physical or mental disability. All regular Suffolk County Transit buses are wheelchair lift-equipped. OPD reviews applications and issues SCAT paratransit ID cards.

Paratransit Trip Reservations: Rides are on a first-call, first-served basis. Once you have a SCAT paratransit ID card, to arrange for a ride call: **Suffolk Paratransit Dispatcher (631) 491-6500, Huntington Town Paratransit (631) 427-8287.**

Local Emergency Agencies

American Red Cross
Serving Suffolk and Nassau Counties
195 Willis Avenue
Mineola
516-747-3500

Centerport Fire Department
9 Park Circle
Centerport
Emergency: (631) 757-4444
Non-emergency: (631) 261-5916

Cold Spring Harbor Fire Department
2 Main Street
Cold Spring Harbor
Emergency: (631) 692-4747
Non-emergency: (631) 692-6772

Commack Fire Department
6309 Jericho Turnpike
Commack
Emergency: (631) 499-5777
Non-Emergency: (631) 499-6690

Dix Hills Fire Department
115 East Deer Park Road
Dix Hills
Emergency: 911
Non-emergency: (631) 499-8836

Eaton's Neck Fire Department
55 Eaton's Neck Road
Northport
Emergency: 911
Non-emergency: (631) 757-8932

East Northport Fire Department
1 9th Avenue
East Northport
Emergency: 911
Non-emergency: (631) 261-1177

Greenlawn Fire Department
23 Boulevard Avenue
Greenlawn
Emergency: (631) 261-1616
Non-emergency: (631) 261-9106

Halesite Fire Department
1 North New York Avenue
Huntington
Emergency: (631) 427-7250
Non-emergency: (631) 427-1910

Huntington Fire Department
1 Leverich Place
Huntington
Emergency: (631) 423-3131
Non-emergency: (631) 427-3030

Huntington Manor Fire Department
1650 New York Ave
Huntington
Emergency: (631) 385-3434
Non-emergency: (631) 427-1629

Melville Fire Department
531 Sweet Hollow Road
Melville
Emergency: (631) 547-4121
Non-emergency: (631) 423-2635

Northport Fire Department
204 Main Street
Northport
Emergency: (631) 757-1111
Non-emergency: (631) 261-7504

Commack Volunteer Ambulance Corps
P.O. Box 819
Commack
Emergency: 911
Non-emergency: (631) 499-9342

Huntington Community First Aid Squad
2 Railroad Street
Huntington Station
Emergency: 911
Non-emergency: (631) 421-1263

Suffolk County Department of Fire, Rescue,
and Emergency Services (FRES)
P.O. Box 127—Yaphank Avenue
Yaphank
(631) 852-4900

Who Has The CAC Met With?

Engineering Services

The CAC met with Jim Ahrens, Director of Engineering Services in June. Jim shared with the group that he is sensitive to the issues and needs of the disabled and very eager to work with the CAC. The Engineering Services Department is responsible for overseeing a variety of critical health and safety functions that protect Huntington residents by ensuring that public and private construction projects are properly designed, and built in compliance with applicable standards of design, oversight and construction management. These functions are carried out by four divisions: Engineering Design, Building and Housing, Fire Prevention Bureau, and the Dix Hills Water District.

Jim discussed the final phase of the parking project at the Flanagan Center which involves widening part of the driveway to allow for two-lane traffic, as well as progress and opening details for projects at both the Manor and Cuba Hill Rd. Spray Parks and the Heckscher tennis courts. The members discussed their idea to re-arrange handicap parking spots in front of ProHealth in town. They shared they don't need so many spots there and the parking spots could be more useful in adding accessibility to more places other than ProHealth for the disabled, if spread to other locations in the lot. They also discussed the idea of adding sensory board(s) to parks to facilitate communication/interaction for non-verbal children. Both ideas were welcomed and the CAC is excited to work together with Jim on these projects.

Parks and Recreation

The CAC met with Todd Jamison, Director of Parks and Recreation in May. Todd shared many updates with the group. There are three new beach buggies at the beaches, which are available by reservation. There are beach mats also available that extend all the way to the water so the person with the disability can better enjoy the beautiful Town beaches.

Todd's updates on the Parks included the upcoming opening of the Manor Park Spray Park. There is a new playground at Manor Field and he is also planning to get a mural painted on the handball court. Greenlawn Park is completed with new restrooms installed. He also informed the group that Al Walker Park has been approved to be redone, as well as Fair Meadow Park, which includes a walking path. John Walsh Farm in Northport will also be restored.

A member of the group spoke to Todd about the Sensory Park which was also brought to the Supervisor's attention.

Who Has The CAC Met With?

Department of Public Safety

The CAC met with Joe Cirigliano, Director of Public Safety in November. He explained that his department is responsible for security of the Town beaches, properties and roads. He also shared that the Town has a Park Ranger Division. This includes Peace Officers which are law enforcement agents that also control parks and beaches in addition to security officers. There is always someone available to review complaints and receive calls/emails 24/7. The telephone number to call is 631-351-3234.

Joe answered questions about leaf blowing rules: Constituents are allowed to blow leaves 8 A.M. - 5 P.M., Monday - Friday and Saturday from 9 A.M. - 5 P.M. Never on a Sunday and no Saturday blowing from Memorial Day through Labor Day.

When discussing Handicap Parking, Joe made the CAC aware that there are nine more parking spots for persons with disabilities located in the front of LIRR ticket office at the Huntington Train Station. He also reminded the CAC that if you have a Handicap Parking tag, you can park in any legal parking spot for free.

Maritime

The CAC met with Garrett Chelius, Deputy Director of Maritime Services in October. Garrett informed the CAC that the Town decided to build a concrete ramp and platform with handrails at Crescent Beach to be more handicap accessible. Also, the gangways are all 10" wide (ADA compliant). The finger docks are also designed to be more accessible for the person with disabilities.

The CAC discussed many needs at our beaches for the disabled including better beach mat design for beach accessibility, need for a mat for Senior Center at Centerport Beach, curb cut in front of existing beach mat at Center Port Beach, and the re-striping of handicap spaces 8' apart for ADA compliance at the beaches.

Garrett was great about listening to all the suggestions. He offered to take the CAC committee on a tour of the Town Beaches so he could best understand the needs and suggestions. Together they composed a list including all the aforementioned suggestions for improvements and also some updated signage and additional curb cuts for better accessibility to the pavilions and beaches. This beach tour was very productive and Garrett will work with the Town to put together the best action plan for the upcoming 2023 beach season!

WHAT HAS THE CAC BEEN WORKING ON?

Bathrooms at the Flanagan Center

The CAC worked with Town officials to correct existing bathrooms on the first floor so that they would become ADA compliant. Two bathrooms for people with disabilities were being installed on the second floor of the Flanagan Center. The CAC checked the site during the construction process; as a result of the visit, some changes were recommended and implemented immediately. Now there are two brand new fully functioning and fully ADA compliant bathrooms for the use of people with disabilities that attend the Flanagan Center.

Spray Park Hours for the Disabled Children

The CAC asked the Parks and Recreation Department that hours, 10-11am on Tuesdays and Thursdays, for children with disabilities be extended to the weekend so that children attending summer school would have a better chance to enjoy this activity. There is now an hour for children with disabilities on Saturdays from 10-11am.

Heckscher Museum bathroom

The Heckscher Museum's bathrooms are located on the bottom floor and there is no elevator to get to them, only stairs. The Museum had applied for a grant and it was denied solely because it lacked a public accessible restroom. The Museum then requested help from the Engineering Department to add a unisex accessible bathroom on the main floor. The CAC was consulted to help ensure the new restroom was ADA compliant. All plans were approved, including the budget. The General Services Department built the bathroom at no cost to the Museum with all materials provided by the Museum.

Heckscher Park new dog walking policy

Members of the CAC were part of Councilwoman Cergol's committee that enable the people with disabilities to continue enjoying the walkways without dog walking issues by increasing the stay-on walking paths through Heckscher Park in the new dog walking policy.

Dix Hills pool device

Years ago, a pool chair was purchased for the Dix Hills pool that enables a wheel chair bound person to float in the pool. Through the CAC's involvement this very old chair was re-furbished for better functionality and use.

Increased assistance - HART bus

CAC contacted the Transportation Department to suggest some changes, which were immediately put in place: All drivers are to assist individuals while entering and exiting the bus. Drivers are to provide a steady hand between the curb or pavement edge and the vehicle, assisting customers on and off the bus so that the customers' hands are free to hold onto the grab-rails. Additionally, drivers are to look for the safest location to stop.

Fixing of dangerous opening at Panera's parking lot

CAC members noticed there were two large holes in the Panera parking lot located by ProHealth Urgent Care in the village, making it dangerous and impossible for wheelchair navigation. The CAC brought this matter to the Town's Department of Traffic and Safety's attention. The holes were filled with concrete for safer passage. The CAC is also working on re-distributing a surplus of handicap parking spots in the Panera parking lot. There are four handicap parking spots in front on ProHealth. It would be a better use of these spots if they were spread out to other areas to allow access to other locations more feasible to the disabled. It seems unlikely four handicap spots would be needed at the same time for ProHealth only. The Department of Engineering will be getting an aerial view of the parking lot to make plans for re-distribution of spots with the hopes of this getting done soon.

Programs Offered Through the Town for the Developmentally Disabled

Did you know?

Several years ago, it became very apparent that adults with special needs had very few choices for social activities once they left school. Two members of the CAC contacted the Parks & Recreation Department to explain their ideas. There already was a program in place for adults with more challenging special needs. Since then the Town of Huntington has different programs for the developmentally disabled.



Maplewood School Program:

ELIGIBILITY: The program is geared for adults, 16 years of age through adulthood. Applicants must be independent in personal care areas or have an aid.

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION: The recreation program involves such activities as sports, a bowling tournament socializing with friends, arts & crafts, viewing movies, and adult coloring. Special events such as holiday parties, dances, theme luncheons and end of the year picnic are also held. Meetings at a local bowling alley as well as at local theaters & sporting events may also occur. A program schedule is distributed each month. Participants must bring lunch and a beverage. Professional staff in special education & recreation direct the program.

LOCATION: Maplewood Intermediate School, 19 School Lane, Huntington Station, NY 11746.
From Jericho Turnpike: Travel North on Park Ave. Left turn onto Maplewood Road (there is a traffic light at this intersection). Left turn onto School Lane which leads directly to Maplewood School. From Pulaski Road: Travel South on Park Avenue, right turn onto Maplewood Road (there is a traffic light at this intersection). Left turn onto School Lane, which leads directly to Maplewood School.

DATES & TIMES: Saturdays from October 01, 2022 to June 10, 2023 from 10 AM to 2 PM, except for school vacation periods. Program hours/ days may be changed for certain activities. Such changes will be noted on each month's program schedule.

REGISTRATION: Participants who have attended in the past will receive a registration form in the mail. The registration form and payment may be mailed to the Parks & Recreation Department; brought to the program in October 2022 or on the first day attended. New participants must contact Mike Ducie by email, mducie@gmail.com.

Programs Offered Through the Town for the Developmentally Disabled cont....



Social Program Without Walls:

The Social Program Without Walls is for adventuresome, independent adults with developmental disabilities, age 21 and above, who are interested in making friends and socializing with their peers. Participants visit local restaurants, recreation establishments, i.e. bowling alleys and movies, or go to shows, concerts, sporting events and museums both locally and in New York City. Members are expected to assist in selecting and organizing activities. Transportation is not provided. Most often participants meet directly at the program sites, public transportation is utilized for some meetings.

LOCATION: Various restaurants, recreation facilities and other venues in the Town of Huntington and elsewhere.

DATES & TIMES: Two weekend meetings per month from October through June, usually on Friday evenings and Sundays.

REGISTRATION: Participants who have attended in the past will receive a registration form in the mail. The registration form and payments may be mailed to the Parks & Recreation Department or brought to the first program on October 7, 2023. New participants interested in registering for this program should contact Jack Fass, Recreation Supervisor or Mike Solimando, Program Coordinator for a screening in order to determine eligibility. Registration forms may be obtained from the Department of Parks & Recreation, Town Hall, 100 Main Street, Huntington, NY 11743 Telephone (631) 351-3089. Preference is given to Town of Huntington residents.



Town of Huntington Summer Employment Opportunities for People With Disabilities

The summer is a great time to have a work experience for many young people. The Town of Huntington recognizes the importance of this experience and allocates budget money annually to support this working initiative for young persons with disabilities. Applications are due by Friday, May 5, 2023 Personnel Office, Room 210 in Town Hall.

For more information, please contact the Department of Human Services (631) 351-3726



Resident Recreation I.D. Card

Resident Recreation I.D. Cards (and Golf I.D. Cards) are for residents only and offer discounts on Parks & Recreation Department programs, admission to the ice rink, swimming pool, Town of Huntington golf courses, and free entry into the spray park! Purchases and renewals can be now done online and by email. This new process allows residents to receive the benefits of obtaining one of these cards without the stress of visiting a Town facility. Online Purchase or Renewal: <https://huntingtonny.formstack.com/forms/recid>

Email Purchase or Renewal:

Use your smart phone to take a picture of your photo ID and utility or tax bill with your current address and name on it and email it to the Parks Department at parksandrec@huntingtonny.gov.

Let them know what kind of card you would like to purchase:

- o 1-Year Adult Rec Card - \$25
- o 2-Year Adult Rec Card - \$40
- o 2-Year Teen / Senior / Disabled Rec Card - \$15
- o 1-Year Golf Card (all) - \$30
- o 2-Year Golf Card (all) - \$50

The Parks Department will then follow up with you to help complete the transaction!

When your payment is made, the card will be eligible to be used online immediately for admissions to the ice rink or to sign up for any Parks and Recreation Programs. We will also mail the physical card to your home.



DISABILITY PARKING

New York State Department of Motor Vehicles parking permits for persons with disabilities, permanent or temporary in nature that affect mobility, are issued to Town residents through the Town Clerk's Office. An application (either downloaded from the Town's website or obtained from Andrew Raia, Town Clerk, 100 Main Street, Room 102, Huntington, New York 11743) must be completed by the applicant and the applicant's physician.

If you have any questions or concerns please call the Town Clerk's office at (631) 351-3206 between 8:30am and 4:30pm. Or visit them online at:

<https://www.huntingtonny.gov/disability-permits>





Where Are Dogs Allowed and Not Allowed?

After two trials were done throughout 2020 and the CAC working with Councilwoman Joan Cergol, it has been decided by the Town Board that leashed dogs will be allowed at Heckscher Park. New signages have been made and located throughout the park to remind residents of the new rules. Here are some things to keep in mind:

On-Leash Dog Parks & Trails: Dogs are allowed on-leash in most of the Town of Huntington's 140+ parks. Pet parents should keep in mind several rules to ensure enjoyment for all park visitors:

- Keep you dog leashed (6 ft or shorter)
- Pick up after your dog and place waste in the proper receptacles
- Never leave your dog unattended or off-leash
- Correct any aggressive behavior
- Yield to other park/trail users
- Keep your dog and yourself on the marked trails, if applicable
- Never leave your dog unattended, inside or outside of the car



Suggested Trail Walks with Dogs:

- Jerome A. Ambro Memorial Wetland Preserve – Seaside Court in Northport
- Dix Hills Park Woodland Trail – Vanderbilt Parkway Dix Hills
- Sunshine Acres Park (upper paved paths) – Townline Road Commack
- Frazer Drive Park – Frazer Drive Greenlawn
- Phragmites Park – Ft. Salonga Road Centerport

Off-Leash Dog Run:

- Well behaved dogs can go off-leash at the Town of Huntington Animal Shelter's dog run located on Deposit Road East Northport.

Off Limits to Dogs: It is unlawful for any person to allow a dog, leashed or unleashed, to be in any of the following properties or parts thereof:

- Betty Allen Nature Preserve
- Heckscher Park's Harry Chapin Rainbow Stage area during performances or events
- ALL playgrounds
- ALL picnic areas
- ALL park benches
- ALL active recreation areas including courts and sports fields
- ALL town camp or town-licensed education program areas
- ALL town beaches except for paved areas and boardwalks



News at the Huntington Train Station!

The Huntington Train Station has added nine more parking spots for persons with disabilities. These spots are located in front of the LIRR Ticket Office.



Town of Huntington Snow Berm Removal

The Office of the Highway Superintendent will remove the mound of snow from your driveway within the right of way caused by the plows if you are a person with a disability, meet the income eligibility criteria and you do not have an able-bodied person, with whom you reside, to remove the berm caused by the plow trucks.

This program requires annual re-registration. Starting in November, applications for the next winter storm season may be submitted. Applications for this program may be obtained by calling Janet Serrao in the Office of Disability Services at 631-446-3726 or download application at

HuntingtonNY.gov/snow-berm-removal

If you do not fall within the income guidelines and would like to get your snow berm removed/cleared, please contact the Human Services office in Town Hall at 631-446-3726 for a list of vendors **prior** to the snow fall. Office hours Monday through Friday 8:30am - 4:30pm. See list on the next page.





TOWN OF HUNTINGTON SENIOR CENTER



SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES THAT DO NOT QUALIFY FOR THE SNOW BERM PROGRAM

**THE VENDORS BELOW HAVE AGREED TO OFFER THEIR SNOW REMOVAL SERVICES.
THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT IS PROVIDING NAMES, NOT RECOMMENDATIONS.**

IF INTERESTED, CALL FOR AN APPOINTMENT AND FEE:

- 1. Gene @ Nightingale Landscapes: (516) 790-1037 - Dix Hills**
- 2. Gus @ Anax Home Improvements: (631) 462-2262 - East Northport**
- 3. Ciro Aliperti - (516) 330-9358 - East Northport**
- 4. Jack Bento - (516) 984-4943 - Dix Hills or Huntington**
- 5. Brandon Casey - (631) 741-5784 - Centerport**
- 6. Darrin Giachetti - (631) 742-9920**
- 7. Richard Gomberg - (516) 652-6771 - Melville**
- 8. Christopher Higgins - (631) 360-0016 - Elwood or Fort Salonga**
- 9. Pedro Lobos - Navarro - (631) 478-1430**
- 10. Bennet Pizzurro - (631) 445-5543 - Dix Hills or Huntington Station**
- 11. Al Silvestri - (631) 445-7974 - Dix Hills**
- 12. Thomas Torres @ Towers Turf Co. - (631) 456-6968 - Huntington**

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION PLEASE CALL
THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES (631) 351-3304
OR
THE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT (631) 499-0444**



Edmund J. Smyth
Supervisor

Eugene Cook
Councilman

Joan Cergol
Councilwoman

Dr. Dave Bennardo
Councilman

Salvatore Ferro
Councilman

The COVID-19 vaccine will help protect you from getting sick. If you do get sick, it can help in preventing symptoms, hospitalization and death. Decreasing the number of people with the virus is an important way to reduce spread and end the pandemic. Once you are fully vaccinated, you can start doing many of the activities you had stopped because of the pandemic. Talk to your doctor about questions you may have before getting your shot.

You make a difference in keeping your community safe!



Scan to book now.
Walk-ins welcome. Visit
[Northwell.edu/COVIDVaccine](https://www.northwell.edu/COVIDVaccine)
for more information.



Get the facts about COVID-19 vaccines



We are closer than ever to ending the pandemic. Here are the facts you need to know about these vaccines.



COVID-19 vaccines are safe

They are effective in:

- Teaching your immune system to recognize and fight off the COVID-19 virus. When your body learns how to fight off infection, this is known as "immunity."
- Reducing the likelihood of becoming sick with COVID-19, being hospitalized and possibly dying.

How they work

- The COVID-19 vaccine teaches your body to recognize the virus and may protect you from getting the infection.
- Vaccination requires one or two doses, depending on the type of vaccine you receive. It is important to take the full recommended dosage.

- After you get vaccinated, your body may start experiencing some signs and symptoms that are caused by the vaccine. These are called side effects. Side effects after vaccination are normal and may not happen to everyone who gets the vaccine. These side effects usually do not

interfere with what you do every day and may include:

- Arm pain or soreness near the vaccination site
- Mild fever that does not last for a long period of time
- Feeling cold and/or tired

COVID-19 vaccine: Myth vs. fact

Myth: The vaccine will alter my DNA.

Fact: DNA is unique to each individual and is passed from one generation to the next. The vaccine does not change or interact with your DNA. It teaches your cells that help fight infection to start creating protection against COVID-19.

Myth: I had COVID-19, so I don't need the vaccine.

Fact: While more research is needed, it does not appear that having COVID-19 produces long-term immunity, which is protection from getting the virus in the future. So, even if you've had COVID-19, you should get the vaccine on day 11 after getting sick, only if your symptoms are improving and you have not had a fever for more than 24 hours. The only time you should delay vaccination for more than 90 days after having COVID-19 is when you received something called "monoclonal antibodies." This is a medication given to you that goes directly into your vein with a needle attached to a tube and medication bag.

Myth: The vaccine might give me COVID-19.

Fact: The vaccine does not contain a live virus, so it will not give you COVID-19. However, since it takes a few weeks for your body to build protection, it's possible you could catch the virus after taking the vaccine and get sick before your body creates immunity.

Myth: Researchers rushed vaccine development, so its effectiveness and safety cannot be trusted.

Fact: The way the vaccine was developed is not new. Years of research had already been underway, which allowed scientists to bring it to the people who needed it to protect them from the virus safely and quickly. The vaccines were given to tens of thousands of people and side effects were monitored. The monitored side effects showed the vaccines were safe and effective in fighting off infection. The vaccines were then approved for emergency use by the FDA after reviewing the monitored side effects. Since FDA approval, the vaccines have been given to millions of people around the globe, and continue to be considered safe and effective.

Myth: I'm young and healthy, so I don't need to take the vaccine.

Fact: COVID-19 can cause serious problems such as mild or severe illness, development of symptoms that become chronic (meaning they never go away), hospitalization and death for people of all ages. There is no way to know how COVID-19 will affect you. If you get sick, you could also spread the virus to friends, family and others around you, which can lead to serious problems for them such as severe illness, hospitalization and death. Once they become sick, COVID-19 continues to spread to others. The vaccine can stop transmission, and will protect you and people around you from getting COVID-19.

Myth: If I have an underlying health condition, I cannot get the vaccine.

Fact: Adults of any age with underlying medical conditions that they've had for a while are more likely to get severely sick from COVID-19. The COVID-19 vaccine should be given to everyone, even those with known medical conditions. If you have any questions or concerns about your medical condition, you should speak with your doctor. Questions can also be answered at COVID-19 vaccination locations.

Myth: The vaccine can cause infertility or miscarriage.

Fact: There is no evidence that the vaccine causes infertility or miscarriage. It has been found safe for women who are planning a pregnancy, pregnant or breastfeeding. Getting vaccinated while pregnant will also protect your baby from COVID-19. You should speak with your doctor if you have any questions or concerns. Questions can also be answered at COVID-19 vaccination locations.

Myth: The vaccine contains a microchip or implant that can track you.

Fact: There is no microchip or any electronic component in the COVID-19 vaccine, or in any other vaccine, that can track you.

News from the Town of Huntington Senior Division...

Seeing our seniors thriving: socializing, learning new skills, volunteering and receiving services, is a special gift. So many in our community continue to rally and donate time, services or goods to support our senior programs.

In addition, we are so grateful for our building expansion and renovated bathrooms, new enlarged parking lot, plantings and all enhancements to better serve our community.



Senior Center Activities. Entrance by red awning door and by the front sliding door, 423 Park Avenue, Huntington. Classes are Monday-Friday by reservation only. For all programs call (631) 446-3705 as early as the prior to Friday to make reservation(s) for the following week's programs. All activities are limited to registered seniors with current senior membership card. There are varied activities per day based on instructor's availability. Arrival is 15 minutes prior to activity start time. Sample programs: Tai Chi, Bingo, Exercise, Fitness, Zumba, Chair Yoga, Cardio-Drumming, Pool Playing, Bridge, etc.



News from the Town of Huntington Senior Division...

Senior Clubs meet at various locations throughout the township for activities and socialization. To inquire, please call Senior Center (631) 351-3253.

Senior Citizens Beach House located at 239 Little Neck Road, Centerport Winter hours are Monday, Wednesday and Thursdays from 10 am to 3:45 pm and Sunday 11 am to 3:45 pm. (631) 261-9186. Entrance at front door only, senior membership card required. The Beach House continues to be a beautiful haven for many.



Senior Support Services are available at the Senior Center. Social Worker and senior advocate are ready to assist. Please call the Senior Center (631) 351-3253 to inquire. Bereavement, caregiver and Veteran support groups available.

The Adult Day Care Program provides in-house services and continues to actively engage members (functionally impaired) and caregivers, with services and support. Our activities include interactive themed programs such as Jeopardy, Trivia, Bingo, etc. Dedicated staff provide musical entertainment, exercises and yoga. In addition, the program provides special presentations; seasonal and celebratory. We are adept at inspiring conversation on a variety of researched topics for the enjoyment of our members. Support services for caregivers are on-going.



News from the Town of Huntington Senior Division...

Nutrition Hot meals are being served to hundreds of seniors Monday through Friday at the Senior Center dining room. These hot meals are prepared daily by our kitchen staff. The Dining Room is located at 423 Park Avenue. There is a suggested, voluntary, anonymous contribution of \$3.00 per meal both at the dining room and for home delivered meals. The Home Delivered Meals to home bound seniors continues and they have increased this year.

Home Delivered Meal deliveries include five frozen meals, delivered on Tuesdays and Wednesdays to homebound senior residents who are registered for the Home Delivered Meals Program. For information regarding how to register, please call the Senior Center (631) 351-3253.

The Expanded In-Home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP) continues to serve enrolled members, Monday-Friday as scheduled. For information, call the Senior Center (631) 351-3253.

Residential Repair program services our senior citizen population with minor home repairs on a safety first, priority driven basis. For information, call the Senior Center (631) 351-3253.



Additional Town of Huntington Senior programming is available online.
Please visit: www.HuntingtonNY.gov/Seniors

**Senior Center staff is on-site to assist/answer questions by phone
Monday - Friday 8:30 am - 4:30 pm (631) 351-3253.**

Funding provided by Town of Huntington, the Administration for Community Living
through New York State Office for the Aging and Suffolk County Office for the Aging.

Notify Me

This program is an opportunity for residents to receive weekly electronic updates regarding a variety of pertinent town related topics. To register, please visit our website
<https://www.huntingtonny.gov/content/13865/19050.aspx>



TOWN OF HUNTINGTON

ADULT DAY CARE CENTER

423 PARK AVENUE, HUNTINGTON, NY 11743

(631) 351-3293

Amy.Geist@HuntingtonNY.gov

HuntingtonNY.gov/ADC

Welcome ...

to a caring and friendly place serving
frail seniors with special needs.

Caregiver respite

Low cost

Medicaid accepted

Transportation available

**OPEN ENROLLMENT
STOP IN FOR A TOUR
TODAY!**



Baking Club
Brain Gym
Creative Arts
Games
Gentle Exercise/Yoga
Hot Lunch & Snacks
Intergenerational Activities
Language Arts
Large and Small Group Activities
Music/Pitch Pipe Program
Parties/Entertainment
Themed Presentations
Trips to Centerport Beach House
... and so much more!



Edmund J. Smyth

Supervisor

Eugene Cook

Councilman

Joan Cergol

Councilwoman

Dr. Dave Bennardo

Councilman

Salvatore Ferro

Councilman

Funding provided by Town of Huntington, the Administration for Community Living through
New York State Office for the Aging and Suffolk County Office for the Aging.

PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION



Local public transportation is available Monday through Saturday. The Town of Huntington's HART system (631) 427-8287 and Suffolk County Transit (631) 852-5200 operate a network of regularly scheduled bus routes that serve many of the places seniors might want to travel, including the Senior Center. Buses are handicap accessible. Senior citizens, individuals with disabilities, and Medicare cardholders are eligible to pay reduced fares.

Minibus service is also provided, at somewhat higher fares to persons who are prevented from using the regular buses because of a disability. This paratransit service is operated on a shared-ride, advance-request, curb-to-curb basis by HART (for rides entirely within the Town of Huntington) and Suffolk County's SCAT program (for rides within Suffolk but not entirely within the Town). Both agencies require prior enrollment by application. Personal travel assistance is limited. HART also extends paratransit service, with reduced priority, to non-disabled senior citizen residents who do not drive and do not have access to regular buses. Paratransit is not offered as a more convenient alternative to regularly scheduled buses.

HART Paratransit is now accepting applications to provide service for Town residents who wish to go to the following Health Care Facilities along Commack Road in Commack: Memorial-Sloan Kettering, St. Catherine & St. Charles Health & Wellness Center, and Stony Brook Advanced Specialty Care.

For information call:

**HART at (631) 427-8287 [TTY: (800) 662-1220]
SCAT at (631) 853-8337 [TTY: (631) 853-5658]
Bus schedules are available at the Senior Center**

Paratransit hours of operation are:

**Monday through Friday 6:55 am - 7 pm
Saturday 9 am - 6:55 pm**

HART has enhanced cleaning and sanitizing routines of their buses and monitor what the neighboring transit agencies are doing in order to continue keeping the community safe.

MTA Long Island Rail Road:

Approximately 85% of MTA Long Island Railroads are accessible via ramps and/or elevators. They are: Babylon, Rockville Centre, Seaford, Wantagh, Atlantic Terminal - Brooklyn, Jamaica, Penn Station, Woodside, Hempstead, Queens Village, Long Beach, Lynbrook, Patchogue, Hicksville, Huntington, Mineola, Northport, Port Jefferson, Flushing, Great Neck, Port Washington, Ronkonkoma, and Belmont Park. Elevator installation projects are underway or about to begin at Nostrand Avenue, Murray Hill and Floral Park stations.

The Long Island Railroad has also launched a new program called LIRR CARE, which helps individuals with special needs receive assistance with the bridge-plate to board the train. To ensure adequate time for assistance, it is recommended customers call (718) 547-7227 at least two hours before the desired departure time. The customer should provide the date, departure time, where they will be departing from and the destination.

People with disability parking permits can always park for free at metered spaces within Huntington Village and at the Huntington LIRR Train Station parking lot all year long, as long as the vehicle has handicap license plates or displays a valid disability parking permit.

There is never a fee for parking in one of the spaces in the parking lot in front of the Huntington LIRR Train Station dedicated for handicap parking next to the station house, as long as the vehicle has handicap license plates or displays a valid disability parking permit.



Physician's Signature: _____ Date: _____ Physician's Stamp: _____



Suffolk County Executive Steven Bellone

SUFFOLK CARES



Food Delivery Program for those who are Homebound and in Dire Need

Call 311 if you are in need of food and do not have ANY access to transportation

- You will be asked a few questions as part of Suffolk's 311 assessment
- When approved for food delivery, you will receive a box of non-perishable food items within 24-30 hours of your request
- Non-perishable food items will be dropped at your place of residence-no contact with delivery person
- Call 311 Monday-Friday between the hours of 9:00am-4:30pm (if you call on a Friday, food will be delivered on Monday)



GET YOUR **FREE** HOME ENERGY AUDIT TODAY!

Get a **FREE** energy audit & find the areas where your home is wasting energy

Fix problem areas with affordable energy upgrades

Save \$1,000 a year on your home energy bills

Make your home more comfortable year round

Long Island Green Homes makes energy efficiency simple and easy. Our knowledgeable Energy Navigators are ready to guide you every step of the way.



Regardless of income level, if you are a Long Island homeowner you can participate in Long Island Green Homes. Assistance of 10-50% is available for home energy improvements depending on your family's income and size.



New York State also provides low interest financing for approved energy efficiency measures. Home improvements can be made with little to no out-of-pocket expenses.



Join thousands of homeowners across the state who have lowered their energy bills and enjoy year-round comfort in their homes.

CALL US TODAY! 800-567-2850
longislandgreenhomes.org



NYSERDA
Supported





New Resources to Connect Seniors and People with Disabilities to

The Elderly Simplified Application Project (ESAP)

Seniors and people with disabilities who have no earned income and live in households where all adults are 60 and over and/or disabled can qualify for ESAP. Participants receiving SNAP under ESAP benefit from a simplified application, a longer certification period, and fewer recertification requirements. Interested, please go to:

<https://hungersolutionsny.org/federal-nutrition-programs>

or call: (518) 436-8757 / Toll Free: (800) 865-5542



NYS Nutrition Improvement Project (NYSNIP) and NYS Combined Application Project (NYSCAP)

Seniors and people with disabilities who live alone and receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI) are automatically enrolled in NYSCAP. NYSCAP is replacing NYSNIP, a similar program that will phase out by 2023. For more detailed information, please go to:

<https://hungersolutionsny.org/federal-nutrition-programs>

or call: (518) 436-8757 / Toll Free: (800) 865-5542

Seniors who are ineligible for ESAP and NYSNIP/NYSCAP may still qualify for SNAP. SNAP rules include special provisions that expand access and maximize benefits for seniors and people with disabilities.

Inflation Reduction Act

Medicare



The Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 will lower health care costs for millions of Americans and put money back in the pockets of American families and seniors. The Act **will cap prescription drug costs** for millions of New York Medicare beneficiaries, **reduce health insurance premiums** for tens of thousands of New Yorkers by hundreds of dollars per year on average while expanding coverage to about 49,000 New Yorkers, and **cap insulin co-payments** for the tens of thousands of New York Medicare beneficiaries that use insulin.

Below are highlight how the Inflation Reduction Act lowers health care costs for New Yorkers:

- ⇒ **Extends Enhanced Premium Assistance to New Yorkers with Marketplace Coverage**
for Affordable Care Act Marketplace coverage for 3 years (through 2025), saving money for older adults not yet eligible for Medicare.
- ⇒ **More low-income Medicare beneficiaries will be able to afford coverage and care**
The bill eliminates the partial Part D Low-Income Subsidy (LIS) benefit - which left enrollees exposed to high costs and extends eligibility for the more comprehensive full subsidy to those who would have qualified: individuals with incomes between 135% and 150% of poverty and resources at or below the partial LIS limits
- ⇒ **Protecting Millions of New Yorkers from Catastrophic Drug Costs by Capping Medicare Beneficiary Out-of-Pocket Costs in Part D at \$2,000**
The bill creates a \$2,000 cap on annual OOP drug spending and allows these costs to be paid monthly. It also eliminates the 5% coinsurance requirement for catastrophic coverage and holds Part D premium growth at no more than 6% per year.
- ⇒ **Saving Hundreds of Thousands of New York Medicare Beneficiaries Money by Ending Cost-Sharing for Vaccines in Part D**
While Medicare Part B covers vaccines such as the flu vaccine at no cost-sharing, patients receiving vaccines covered under Medicare Part D, such as the vaccine for shingles, must pay for a portion of the cost out of pocket. **Starting in 2023**, the legislation will require \$0 cost-sharing for vaccines for Medicare Part D beneficiaries.
- ⇒ **Saving New York Medicare Beneficiaries Money by Capping Insulin Copays at \$35 per month**
Starting in 2023, the legislation will cap the out-of-pocket cost of insulin for Medicare beneficiaries at no more than \$35 for a month's supply



HEAP

Home Energy Assistance Program

HEAP is a federally funded program that assists qualifying New Yorkers with the cost of heating their homes. HEAP benefits are not a loan. You do not have to repay any assistance received through this program.

HEAP – November 1, 2022

Federally funded program to assist with heating payments

****NO PAYBACK****

Assists with Primary Heating Source ONLY

Eligibility

Customers may qualify for a HEAP credit based on their income and household size as well as their primary heating source

www.Mybenefits.ny.gov

HEAP Income Guidelines:

Family Size Monthly Income

1	\$2,852	6	\$7,241
2	\$3,730	7	\$7,405
3	\$4,608	8	\$7,570
4	\$5,485	9	\$7,734
5	\$6,363	10	\$7,899
		11	\$8,064

**** Gross Monthly ** 12+ add \$590 per person****



EHEAP

Emergency Home Energy Assistance Program

EMERGENCY HEAP – January 3, 2023

Federally funded program to assist heat or heat related emergencies

****NO PAYBACK****

Eligibility

Income eligible (Follow H.E.A.P. Guidelines)

Must have heating emergency within 7 days of Final Turnoff Notice

Must exhaust available resources first

What to bring Emergency HEAP:

Current bill with final disconnection

Proof of total household Income within last 30 days

Proof of residence (tax bill, lease/rent receipt)

ID for each household member (birth certificate, SS card)



HAR

Household Assistance Rate

Eligibility

Customers may qualify for a **discount** if they have an active residential account in their name and currently receive benefits from at least one of the following:

Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)

Medicaid

Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)

Supplemental Security Income (SSI)

Temporary Assistance - Family Assistance (FA)

Temporary Assistance - Safety Net Assistance (SNA)

Veteran's Pension - Non-Service Connected Disability

Veteran's Surviving Spouse Pension - Non-Service Connected Disability

*****Must provide certification documents dated in the last 12 months*****

18 Month
Program

REAP

Residential Energy Affordability Partnership

Eligibility

REAP helps income-eligible customers lower their energy costs by finding household energy-saving opportunities and can provide families energy-saving appliances and devices installed in their homes for FREE.

Size of Family	Annual Income	Monthly Income
1	\$67,450 or less	\$5,621 or less
2	\$77,050 or less	\$6,421 or less
3	\$86,700 or less	\$7,225 or less
4	\$96,300 or less	\$8,025 or less
5	\$104,050 or less	\$8,671 or less
6	\$111,750 or less	\$9,313 or less
7	\$119,450 or less	\$9,954 or less
8	\$127,150 or less	\$10,596 or less

For each additional person add \$7,700 to Annual Income/\$642 to Monthly Income.

1-800-263-6786 Call to schedule a REAP visit

HEAP SEASON 2022-2023 - OPEN NOVEMBER 1, 2022

The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) can help eligible New Yorkers heat and cool their homes. **If you are eligible, you may receive one regular HEAP benefit per program year and could also be eligible for emergency HEAP benefits** if you are in danger of running out of fuel or having your utility service shut off.



HEAP may be able to help you if you heat your home with:

Electricity, Natural Gas, Oil, Coal, Propane, Wood/Wood Pellets, Kerosene, or Corn

Regular HEAP Benefit:

Eligibility and benefits are based on: income, household size, the primary heating source, and the presence of a household member who is under age 6, age 60 or older or permanently disabled.

Regular benefits for households that pay directly for heat based on actual usage are paid directly to the vendor that supplies the household's primary source of heat.

2022-2023 HEAP Monthly Income Limits

Your total household gross monthly income for your household size must be at or below the following guidelines:

2022-2023 HEAP Benefit Gross Monthly Income Guidelines

Household Size	Maximum Gross Monthly Income
1	\$2,852
2	\$3,730
3	\$4,608
4	\$5,485
5	\$6,363
6	\$7,241
7	\$7,405
8	\$7,570

Questions regarding the HEAP program? Please call:

Suffolk County Department of Social Services - (631) 853-8825 | Monday-Friday, 8:30am-4:30pm

Scheduled to
open
12/19/22



Project Warmth is an emergency assistance program administered by United Way of Long Island to help low-income families and individuals with energy emergencies. You may be eligible to receive a one-time grant to pay for heating costs.

Eligibility

To receive funds from Project Warmth, you must:

- Be a resident of Nassau or Suffolk Counties, or the Rockaways
- Show financial need
- Provide an acceptable explanation for any unpaid energy bills
- Applicants must have first exhausted or been denied emergency HEAP assistance.
- Have not topped off your oil tank in any previous year

[Click HERE](#) Or Call the United Way at
[For More Info](#) 888-774-7633 or dial 211.

Winter Topics

How much energy are your Holiday lights using?

Your display size and choice of bulbs, whether incandescent or LED, will influence your energy bill the most. For scale, the typical light user will use approximately 10 strings just to wrap their outdoor trees.

Incandescent

100-count string of
incandescent mini lights



VS

LEDs

70-count string of
5mm Wide Angle LEDs



Power Usage

On Average Uses 40 Watts an hour

Power Usage

On Average Uses 4.8 Watts an hour

Winner
LEDs

Incandescent wattage is 80-90% more costly than LED wattage, the cost to power an incandescent can be up to 90x greater than powering an LED.

Town of Huntington Citizens Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities

The Citizens Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities was founded in 1976. It is comprised of residents from the Town who are interested in issues related to disabilities. Carmen Kasper, Director of Human Services is the liaison to this Committee.

The Town of Huntington Citizens Advisory Committee meets the third Wednesday in the months of: January, February, March, April, May, June, September, October and November from 2:00 to 4:00 p.m. The meetings are open to all residents. For more information, please contact:

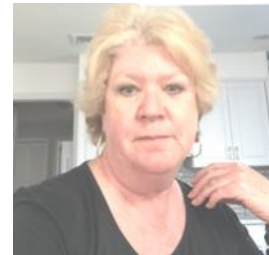
humanservices@huntingtonny.gov or call (631) 351-3304.



Marianne Iannaccone
Chair



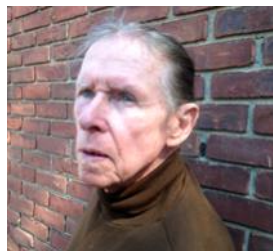
Carmen Kasper, Director
Human Services



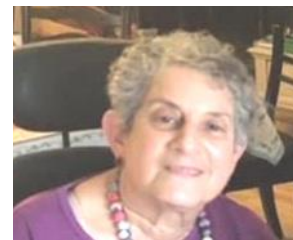
Michelle Schmitz
Vice Chair



Maureen Donohue



Thomas Mangan



Tamar Sherman



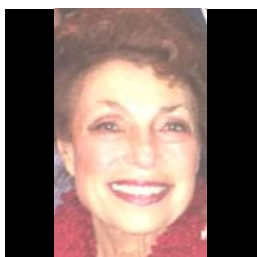
Leonard Urban



Jo-Ann Raia



Dr. Alfred Huberman



Trudy Exelbert



Martin Mandelker



Peter Ferolito



Pearl Levy



**Councilman
Eugene Cook**



**Supervisor
Edmund J.M. Smyth**



**Councilman
Dave Bernardo**

Upcoming Huntington Town Board Meetings

Tuesday, March 14th @ 2pm

Tuesday, April 11th @ 7pm

Tuesday, May 9th @ 2pm

Tuesday, June 13th @ 7pm

Tuesday, July 11th @ 2pm

Tuesday, August 8th @ 2pm

Tuesday, September 12th @ 7pm

Tuesday, October 17th @ 2pm

Thursday, November 2nd @ 7pm

Thursday, November 16th @ 7pm

Tuesday, December 12th @ 2pm



**Councilwoman
Joan Cergol**



**Councilman
Sal Ferro**

Most all Town Board Meetings are held at Huntington Town Hall,
100 Main Street, Huntington

Meetings can also be viewed on the Town's public access channels
18 on Optimum and 38 on Verizon.

Carmen Kasper

Director of Department of Human Services
(631) 351-3304 CKasper@HuntingtonNY.gov

<https://www.huntingtonny.gov/content/13749/13861/16626/16628/default.aspx>