March 4, 2013

Councilwoman Kepert and, Legislator Rob Calarco speak to the community

**Farmingville, NY** - On Wednesday, February 27, Councilwoman Connie Kepert was a guest speaker, along with Legislator Kate Browning, at Legislator Rob Calarco’s Community Chat at the Boys and Girls Club of the Bellport Area. "I want to thank Legislator Calarco for inviting me to attend and speak at his Community Chats event in Bellport. Meetings such as this provide an opportunity for elected officials to communicate with communities in an open public forum and to share accomplishments, concerns and ideas," stated Councilwoman Kepert.

"This meeting was an important opportunity to hear directly from residents regarding their needs and concerns," stated Legislator Browning. "Legislator Calarco, Councilwoman Kepert and I have worked closely with each other to improve the quality of life for Bellport residents, but there is more to be done. As I stated to those in attendance, we also need the cooperation from the community because they are our eyes and ears. Active involvement from those constituents living within the community is critical, and I hope to hear more directly from residents in the future. My doors are always open."

The Councilwoman informed the community that they will soon be able to enjoy sidewalks along Station Road from Beaver Dam Road to Head of the Neck Road that will be paid for with Caithness monies secured by the Councilwoman. In addition, the entire length southbound along the east side of Station Road to Woodside Avenue will also have sidewalks as part of a condition of approval the Councilwoman negotiated on the proposed expansion of Amneal Pharmaceuticals.

Councilwoman Kepert also spoke about recent enhancements at Robert Rowley Park, including new basketball and handball courts, three new, age-appropriate playgrounds, a walking path, shade shelters, and picnic tables. To improve security, six cameras have been installed at the park, which is now also an Optimum HotSpot. In addition, the Councilwoman presented some of the improvements that have been accomplished at Martha Avenue Park, including baseball/softball fields that have been renovated with new fencing, irrigation, and sod. Planned improvements for the park include new playground equipment, sod and seed for the multipurpose field, and a BMX bike track.

"Community Chats provide a forum for residents to meet directly with their representatives to discuss their concerns. North Bellport has unique challenges and an active community willing to work with government to tackle those challenges. That was my goal for this forum”, said Legislator Rob Calarco.
The next Community Chat meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 26 at 7:00 p.m. at the Gordon Heights Firehouse.