

Councilwoman Bonner Announces 2012 Polar Plunge to Benefit Special Olympics to be Held at Cedar Beach on November 17

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Participants will be "freezin' for a reason" to help over 4,000 athletes across Long Island.



Pictured (from left to right) are Town Clerk Patricia Eddington; Councilman Steve Fiore-Rosenfeld; Councilwoman Jane Bonner; Special Olympics Athlete Matthew Schuster of Medford; Acting Supervisor/Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh; Councilman Dan Panico; Councilwoman Connie Kepert; and Councilman Timothy Mazzei.

Farmingville, NY - At the October 23rd Town Board meeting, Councilwoman Jane Bonner announced that the Town will host the third annual "Polar Plunge: Freezin' for a Reason" event to benefit the Special Olympics at Cedar Beach in Mount Sinai. Polar Plunge events are held across the country and involve thousands of participants who raise money for the Special Olympics by jumping into the freezing cold Long Island Sound. A presentation was made by Special Olympic Athlete Matthew Schuster, who spoke to those in attendance about how important the event is to those with intellectual disabilities.

Councilwoman Jane Bonner, who has participated in the past two Polar Plunge events, and many Town of Brookhaven employees will be taking part in the event, as well as Special Olympics athletes, students from Stony Brook University, Dowling College, St. Joseph's College, Suffolk County Community College, local high schools, businesses, and members of the community.

"I am proud to be one of the many who will be 'freezin' for a reason' to benefit a great cause once again at this year's Polar Plunge," said Councilwoman Jane Bonner, "As a past participant, it truly is a rewarding experience to dive into the chilly Long Island Sound in the middle of November to support thousands of great athletes across Long Island. I hope that you will join me and the hundreds of brave souls who will be taking the plunge to support this wonderful organization."

Kristina Aquilone, Associate Director of Development for the Special Olympics New York, Long Island Region said, "Thanks to the Town of Brookhaven and all of the supporters of the Polar Plunge, the Special Olympics continues to provide programs at no charge to over 4,500 individuals with intellectual disabilities on Long Island."

"Polar Plunge" events assist Special Olympics athletes in year-round athletic training and competition in over 22 Olympic-style events for more than 55,698 children and adults with intellectual disabilities living in New York. The

funds raised at "Polar Plunge" events allow the participants to compete at no cost to them or their family. Last year, the Polar Plunge at Cedar Beach attracted more than 500 participants and the total amount raised was over \$73,000.

Those interested in forming a team or sponsoring a participant can visit tinyurl.com/brookhavenpolarplunge2012 . Event day registration starts at 10:00 am at Cedar Beach in Mount Sinai. The plunge will take place at noon. For more information please call Kristina Aquilone at (631) 254-1465 ext. 10 or send an e-mail to kaquilone@nyso.org .

Division of Public Information * Office of the Supervisor

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