

# Supervisor Lesko, County Executive Bellone, and JVC Broadcasting Announce "Volunteer Emergency Services Appreciation Day" on May 19, 2012

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**Free Thank you concert to be sponsored by Suffolk County and all Towns in Suffolk**



*Pictured left to right are Legislator Sarah Anker, Assemblyman Dean Murray, Councilman Dan Panico, First Assistant Chief of the Ridge Fire Department Steven Gray, Legislator Tom Muratore, Manorville Second Assistant Chief Sal D'Amato, County Executive Steve Bellone, Supervisor Mark Lesko, Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh, JVC President John Carraciolo, Islip Town Councilman Steve Flotteron and Riverhead Town Councilman John Dunleavy.*

**Farmingville, NY** - On Thursday, April 12, 2012, Supervisor Mark Lesko, County Executive Steve Bellone, and President of JVC Broadcasting John Carraciolo joined to announce "Volunteer Emergency Services Appreciation Day" on May 19th, 2012 from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Brookhaven Amphitheater. "Volunteer Emergency Services Appreciation Day" will include a free Thank You concert open to the public, sponsored by many public and private organizations including Suffolk County and all Suffolk County Townships, JVC Broadcasting, Pepsi Bottling Ventures of Long Island, Clare Rose Distributors, the Suffolk County Association of Municipal Employees, Cody's of Riverhead, WALK 97.5, and the Long Island Comedy Company. The concert will be dedicated to all of the volunteer emergency services workers whose heroism resulted in the containment of the Manorville and Ridge brushfires on April 9th and April 10th, 2012. The concert will be family friendly, include activities and games, and feature rock and country themed national and local acts.

"Our volunteer firefighters and emergency services workers put their lives on the line to contain the brushfires in Manorville and Ridge earlier this week. They are heroes and this is our small way of thanking them for their brave actions," said Supervisor Mark Lesko, "I also thank our partner JVC Broadcasting, Suffolk County, all of the Towns, and the private sponsors for coming together to do something special for our courageous volunteers."

"The valiant efforts of our fire fighters and emergency responders helped to save people's lives and homes," said County Executive Steve Bellone, "This day to honor our first responders is well deserved and serves as a token of our appreciation for all of their efforts and sacrifices. I thank Supervisor Lesko and Suffolk County town Supervisors for coming together to salute and honor our volunteer firefighters and emergency service workers."

John Carraciolo, President of JVC Broadcasting said, "When Supervisor Lesko asked us to get involved, the staff of

all four of our radio stations immediately jumped into action to put together the biggest thank you party we could come up with. Our sponsors, vendors and friends have all come forward to pitch in. This is going to be a great day of music, and family fun and a wonderful opportunity for all of Long Island to come out with their families and help us say Thank you to our emergency service workers."

"I would like to send my heartfelt thanks to all of the departments and members who came out and helped us with the brushfires, as well as the State, County, and Town officials who helped out. I would also like to express my gratitude to the communities of Manorville and Ridge, including the residents and businesses, for their generous donations to the fire departments," said First Assistant Chief of the Ridge Fire Department, Steven Gray. "We appreciate this event and look forward to attending it. I want to again thank everyone who helped the Manorville Fire Department in this massive effort to control and contain this extremely large brushfire," said Manorville Fire Chief Elio Zapparrata.

"Our dedicated volunteer firefighters never ask for special recognition, but they certainly deserve it for their outstanding job in preventing loss of life and limiting property damage in the fire emergency. I know the community looks forward to showing them how much we appreciate their bravery and skill," said Congressman Tim Bishop.

"Riverhead is proud to be a sponsor of the Volunteer Emergency Services Appreciation Day to honor the men and women who worked around the clock to heroically battle the dangerous brushfires earlier this week. I thank them for their bravery every day," said Sean Walter, Supervisor of the Town of Riverhead.

Anna Throne-Holst, Supervisor of the Town of Southampton, noted, "The Town of Southampton is so proud for the service that our volunteer firefighters provided during the recent brushfires. Sacrificing time from their own families and places of employment, they worked tirelessly with other fire departments to prevent a dangerous situation from turning tragic. Once again, our volunteer fire fighters exhibited the bravery and heroism for which we offer our grateful thanks and appreciation."

"Over the last week the efforts of the volunteer firefighters from across Long Island have truly saved lives and homes," said Town of Babylon Supervisor Rich Schaffer. "The coordination and professionalism of the over 35 departments involved helped minimize damage in this brush fire that ultimately could have been much worse. I applaud the efforts of our own Babylon firefighters and all those involved that bravely served during this dangerous ordeal."

"We would like to recognize the volunteer firefighters and EMS from all communities in Suffolk for reaching out, regardless of distance, to help the greater Suffolk Community," said Bill Wilkinson, East Hampton Town Supervisor.

"There are no adjectives to adequately describe and thank the firefighters and other emergency workers for their commitment to our community and selfless actions when we needed them most. Thank you," said New York State Senator Kenneth P. LaValle

"Our volunteer firefighters and emergency services personnel put their lives on the line every day and it's perfectly fitting to honor them with this wonderful event," said Deputy Supervisor/Councilwoman Kathleen Walsh, "The way they battled the recent brush fire is just another example of their bravery and professionalism in the line of duty."

"We owe the greatest debt of gratitude to our volunteer Fire and Emergency Service personnel," commented Brookhaven Town Councilman Dan Panico, "They leave their families and the safety of their homes to protect ours."

Assemblyman Fred W. Thiele, Jr. stated, "Once again, the heroic efforts of our firefighters and emergency services personnel during the Manorville and Ridge Brushfires have saved life and property on Long Island. We are blessed to have individuals who are willing to volunteer their time and risk life and limb for the greater good of Long Island. I commend Supervisor Lesko and County Executive Bellone for taking the initiative for this event so that we can all give a well-deserved 'Thank you' to our local heroes."

"I want to express my heartfelt thanks to all of our courageous volunteers that answered the call to duty this week," stated Legislator Kate Browning, "The amazing response to the Shirley gas leak last year and the brushfire earlier this week continues to show their professionalism and dedication. So many volunteers weren't able to get time off of work and literally came to and from their workplace to protect their neighbors in a time of need. We don't do enough to

honor the sacrifices of our volunteers and we must not forget all that they do for us without compensation."

"This week volunteer firefighters from throughout Long Island came together to battle the enormous brush fire that raged in the Pine Barrens of Ridge and Manorville, this once again brings to light the importance of Long Island Volunteer Fire Departments and the hard work and dedication they bring to our communities. Through their valiant efforts, the fire was extinguished. I wish to commend all our local volunteers for their courage, and bravery in our time of need," stated Legislator Schneiderman.

"It's always appropriate to thank those who volunteered their time, effort and lives to keep us safe and protect our property. I congratulate the Town of Brookhaven for this initiative," said Suffolk County Legislator Ed Romaine.

### **About the Brookhaven Amphitheater**

The Brookhaven Amphitheater is located at Bald Hill in Farmingville and has a permanent stadium seating capacity of 2500 and lawn seating to accommodate an additional 4000 people. The Town of Brookhaven has been hosting concerts at Bald Hill since 1965, when it was known as the Bald Hill Ski Bowl. The current Amphitheater was built in the late 1980's and modeled after venues like the PNC Bank Arts Center in New Jersey. Over the years, many artists have performed at the Amphitheater, including James Brown, B.B. King, Eric Church, Big Time Rush, Blondie, Journey, the B52's, Lynyrd Skynyrd, Alice Cooper, and the Go Go's. For more information visit [www.brookhaven.org](http://www.brookhaven.org) or log on to the Town's tourism website at [www.visitbrookhaven.com](http://www.visitbrookhaven.com).

### **About JVC Broadcasting**

JVC Broadcasting is the largest independently owned radio group on Long Island with four radio stations including Classic Rock WRCN, Top 40/Dance Party 105, My Country 96.1, and LaFiesta. The company has recently produced concerts at the Brookhaven Amphitheater, Bethpage Ducks Stadium in partnership with owner Frank Boulton, the Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts, Harrah's and Bally's in Atlantic City, the Hammerstein Ballroom, Webster Hall, and the MGM Grand at Foxwoods, as well as other local venues on Long Island. The Brookhaven Town Board recently approved a five-year agreement with JVC Broadcasting to produce shows and events at the Brookhaven Amphitheater. For more information about JVC Broadcasting, visit [www.jvcbroadcasting.com](http://www.jvcbroadcasting.com).

### **Division of Public Information \* Office of the Supervisor**

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