

Supervisor Romaine Presents the Town's First Hurricane Preparedness Public Forum

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Farmingville, NY - On June 25, Supervisor Ed Romaine welcomed Brookhaven residents, fire and rescue personnel, weather and emergency management experts and Town officials to the Town's first ever Hurricane Preparedness Forum held in the second floor auditorium of Brookhaven Town Hall. Representatives from key agencies made presentations at the event, including the National Weather Service, New York State Department of Homeland Security, Suffolk County Emergency Management, the Red Cross and LIPA.

The event also featured a presentation by Dr. Nicholas Coch, a well known expert on North Atlantic Hurricanes and on-air contributor to the Weather Channel, CNN, and the Discovery and History Channels. Asking the question, "Is Long Island Ready for the Big One," Dr. Coch reviewed Long Island's storm history and discussed the steps that residents can take to be prepared to safely ride out future hurricanes and how to mitigate potential damages.

"The Boy Scout motto is 'be prepared,' and when it comes to hurricanes, we should all follow their very good advice," said Supervisor Romaine. "Super Storm Sandy proved how vulnerable we are to severe weather conditions and we need to be vigilant to the dangers throughout this hurricane season. I thank all those who participated and shared their expertise to help educate and inform Brookhaven residents about what they can do to be prepared for the next big one."

The National Weather Service's 2013 Atlantic hurricane season outlook indicates an "active or extremely active" season this year. For the six-month hurricane season, which runs from June 1 to November 30, there is a 70 percent likelihood of 13 to 20 named storms with winds of 39 mph or higher. Seven to 11 of those could become hurricanes with winds of 74 mph. or higher, including three to six major hurricanes with winds of 111 mph or higher. On average, each hurricane season generates 12 named storms, six hurricanes and three major hurricanes.

For more information about hurricane preparedness, visit www.brookhaven.org to view the Town's Official Hurricane Survival Guide. The website also posts emergency notifications, weather advisories, evacuation alerts, news and information to assist residents before, during and after severe weather conditions occur.

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