



August 2018

Assemblyman **Fred W. Thiele, Jr.**



Reports to the People

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Addressing Water Quality on the South Fork

We are facing groundwater contamination problems across Long Island from a multitude of sources as diverse as sand mines, nitrogen, and emerging chemicals. We must protect our only clean source of drinking water.

I have been working with all levels of government to address contaminated sites in Wainscott, Sagaponack, Noyack, and East Quogue, using every tool available, including the extension of public water to the affected communities.

In addition, Senator Kenneth LaValle and I also successfully advocated for the State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to approve a \$1.33 million grant to the Springs School District to install an innovative new wastewater treatment system at the school to reduce nitrogen in our waters, specifically nearby Accabonac Harbor and Pussy's Pond. The funding for the project comes from the \$2.5 billion Clean Water Infrastructure Act approved by the State Legislature in 2017.

Furthermore, Senator LaValle and I passed a (3) bill package to promote water quality protection on Long Island. The bills passed both houses of the State Legislature by overwhelming

margins. They will be submitted to the Governor in the coming weeks for final action.

The three bills are:

A.6314/S.4812, which authorizes the monitoring of groundwater impacts resulting from mining or the reclamation of mines within Suffolk and Nassau counties with populations of one million or more, which draws its primary source of drinking water for a majority of county residents from a designated sole source aquifer;

A.9979/S.7853, which authorizes the use of the Peconic Bay Region Community Preservation Fund (CPF) funds for the construction of public water mains and connections to provide drinking water to inhabitants whose drinking water supply has been contaminated by toxic chemicals, hazardous substances or emerging contaminants; and

A.10445/S.8254, which authorizes any Town in the Peconic Bay region to establish a septic system replacement loan program using water quality improvement monies from the Peconic Bay Region Community Preservation Fund.

Towns Use CPF for Water Quality Improvements

Of the more than 200 laws I have passed during my tenure in the Assembly, the one I am most proud of is the Peconic Bay Region Community Preservation Fund, which has generated more than \$1.323 billion to protect community character on the East End since 1999.

In the first 5 months of 2018, the Peconic Bay Community Preservation Fund produced revenues of \$40.53 million. Last year, \$38.07 million was collected for the same period, representing a 6.5% increase.

While preserving land is still a top priority, protecting our precious waters also deserves a spotlight. In 2016, voters in the five East End Towns extended the CPF to 2050 and added the opportunity for each Town to invest up to 20% of the funds toward water quality improvement projects. Since then, these funds have contributed to drinking water purity measures and updating septic systems.



Wainscott Water Press Conference

Assemblyman Thiele joined East Hampton Town and Suffolk County officials for a press conference on August 20th to kick off the start of the Wainscott water main project, which involves installing 45,000 feet of water main on streets south of the East Hampton Airport. This project, a joint effort between the Suffolk County Water Authority and Town of East Hampton, will provide a safe drinking water supply to an area in which perfluorinated compounds have been detected by public health officials in some private wells.

Protecting the Montauk Lighthouse

I sponsored legislation, enacted into law in 2016, which enables the DEC to enter into agreements with not-for-profits that own national historic landmarks to protect them from shore erosion. The Montauk Lighthouse, owned by the Montauk Historical Society, is one such landmark impacted by erosion and in need of coastal stonework restoration. According to the Governor, the engineering design phase of the revetment project at the lighthouse is nearing completion, and construction is slated to begin later this year. It is expected to take up to 18 months. The project cost is an estimated \$24 million, with DEC funding 35 percent and the federal government funding the remaining 65 percent.

Thiele Passes 19 Bills During 2018 Legislative Session

During the 2018 Legislative Session, I passed 19 bills through the New York State Legislature. Of these bills, 3 have already been signed into law, the most recent of which, is a bill that builds upon the New York State Seafood Marketing Task Force, created by my legislation last year. It establishes a series of roundtable discussions to address the economic growth and sustainability of New York State's seafood industry.

In addition, as the Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Small Business, I believe that the dedication and entrepreneurial spirit of small businesses are vital to the prosperity and vibrancy of every community throughout New York State. As such, this Session I continued to sponsor and successfully pass several pieces of legislation protecting the rights and interests of small businesses across the State, including two that provide an additional source of funding to worker-owned cooperatives, and also create 'Entrepreneurship Assistance Centers.'

This year I also passed legislation to: (1) create the 9/11 commemorative, distinctive license plate program, and establish the World Trade Center memorial scholarship fund (2) provide State recognition and acknowledgment of the Montaukett Indians, and (3) designate the County Route 31 overpass in Westhampton as the "Jolly 51 Memorial Bridge," in honor of the valiant service and sacrifice of seven United States Air Force Airmen, who were killed on March 15, 2018, when their HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopter "Jolly 51" crashed in western Iraq. Four of the men: Captain Andreas O'Keeffe, Master Sergeant Christopher Raguso, Staff Sergeant Dashan Briggs, and Captain Christopher Zanetis, were from Long Island and served as part of the Air National Guard's 106th Rescue Wing, based at Francis S. Gabreski Airport in Westhampton.

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Sand Land Press Conference

Assemblyman Fred Thiele spoke at a press conference on July 13, calling for the closing of the Sand Land mulching site in Noyac. With him are, left to right, Southampton Town Supervisor Jay Schneiderman, County Legislator Bridget Fleming, Southampton Town Councilman Tommy John Schiavoni, Adrienne Esposito, executive director of the Citizens Campaign for the Environment, and Elena Loreto, president of the Noyac Civic Council.

2018 Capital Projects

Sag Harbor Golf Course Road

Senator LaValle and I secured \$300,000 in State funding for the repaving of Route 114 to the Sag Harbor State Golf Course in the Barcelona Neck Natural Resources Management Area.

Napeague State Park

Another \$300,000 in State funding was secured by Senator LaValle and I to clean up Napeague State Park and attract more visitors to the lovely waterfront, beaches and natural open spaces this park has to offer. Improvements include the removal of hazardous remnants from the Fish Factory site to provide a nature path from the parking lot to the beach.

Westhampton Beach Main Street

Senator LaValle and I once again secured a combined \$500,000 in State funding to go towards long overdue surface improvements in Westhampton Beach, including the replacement of curbs and sidewalks on the entire length of Main Street in from Potunk Lane to Beach Lane, bringing the total to \$1 million of State contributions to the project since 2017.

Montaukett Advocacy Day

Assemblyman Fred Thiele welcomed members of the Montaukett Indian Nation who traveled to Albany for their "We are still here!" Advocacy Day on April 24, 2018. The members



of the delegation spent the day meeting with legislators in support for a bill that provides State acknowledgment and recognition of the Montaukett Indians, which the State Legislature passed in the 2018 Session.

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Amagansett Affordable Housing

The availability of affordable housing opportunities for moderate income and working class residents is in short supply, particularly on the East End, and the adverse impacts from this shortage must be addressed. I am thrilled to announce that the East Hampton Housing Authority is receiving a \$7 million Unified Funding award from the New York State Homes & Community Renewal for its affordable housing project at 531 Montauk Highway in Amagansett, which will consist of 37 homes for families and individuals with incomes ranging from very low to moderate. The project will feature a two-story common house, which will include a meeting space, kitchenette, a computer room and laundry facilities.