



Stephanie Gurin
Environment Chair - Advocacy Team
stephie@optonline.net
environment@suffolkpta.org
516-236-2781

Report as of February 4, 2019

Offshore Drilling Prevention Bills In The Works

There is a new push to prevent drilling off Long Island's South Shore. Environmental activists and officials announced on 2/3, how they plan to fight offshore drilling and protect the Atlantic Ocean ecosystem. State lawmakers are hoping to pass two bills this week -- one to prohibit New York coastal waters from drilling and the other to protect certain fish in the ocean.

"These are very important bills," says Assemblyman Steve Engelbright. "Our No. 1 industry on Long Island is tourism. And the idea of putting oil and gas exploration off Long Beach and Jones Beach and our other recreational meccas is crazy." New York state reported that the Trump administration's offshore drilling plan could jeopardize over 300,000 jobs generated through tourism and fishing industries.

The second bill will protect menhaden, which are key fish in the ecosystem that provide food for whales and other fish.

Gov. Cuomo Pushes For Statewide Ban On Single Use Plastic Bags

Gov. Andrew Cuomo is pushing for a statewide ban on single-use plastic bags. Currently in Suffolk County, there is a 5-cent fee for single-use plastic bags. Cuomo's proposal could result in a COMPLETE AND TOTAL BAN of the bags, as part of a campaign to reduce litter. It would also encourage shoppers to bring their own reusable bags. Chris Gobler, an associate professor at Stony Brook University says, "any effort made to reduce plastic on land or in oceans is an effort well spent as ocean plastic is becoming a crisis." The state Legislature would still have to vote on the ban, under which paper bags would still be allowed.

Town of Babylon Hiring People With Dogs For Goose Patrol

The Town of Babylon is looking for Long Islanders with dogs to help chase the geese out of its parks. The job position is titled "waterfowl control person." In order to be hired, a person needs to have a Border Collie, Labrador, Golden Retriever, Brittany or similar hunting dog. Detailed information is as follows:

Waterfowl Control Person Town of Babylon

This is a unique position that is available working part-time for the Town of Babylon Department of Environmental Control. Participate in a Waterfowl Control Program to chase Canadian geese from Town Parks. Must have suitable field dog, i.e.: Border Collie, Labrador/Golden Retriever, Brittany, or similar field/hunting dog. Dog must be obedient, have current Town dog license/vaccinations and be spayed or neutered and have good temperament. Dog and Master must be in excellent physical condition to work in this program.

Pay is \$10.00 per hour. Must use own vehicle. Maximum of 40 hours worked per week during the summer months and 20 hours per week for the remainder of the year. A worker in this program must be dedicated, consistent and reliable.

Please E mail your resume to dec@townofbabylon.com and information about you and your dog. Please include a reference contact with phone number for other current or past job positions. For more information please contact Town of Babylon, Department of Environmental Control, 631- 422-7640.