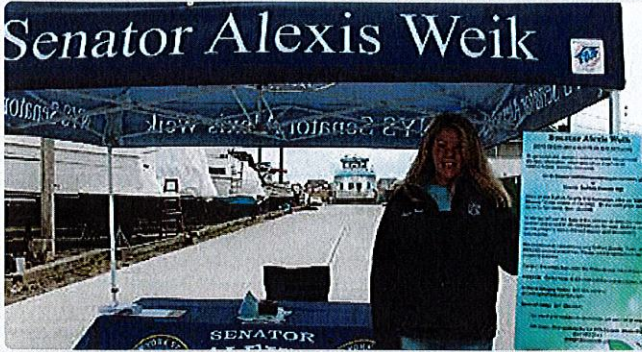


Senator brings awareness to native planting



State Sen. Alexis Weik (R, C-8th District) held an informative event on Earth Day, April 22, near the Sayville ferries, to educate the community about the benefits and necessity of native planting.

Specifically, Weik addressed wetland areas, which are areas saturated by surface or groundwater and described by Weik as "sufficient to support distinctive vegetation adapted for life in such soil conditions."

With wetlands such a common feature of the landscape of the South Shore of Long Island, and Weik's district, they are natural habitats for many flora and fauna species and absorb flood and tidal erosion that could affect upland soil.

"Wetlands can be a beautiful addition to the natural vistas of Suffolk County's South Shore," said Weik in

a statement.

Invasive plants, however, primarily phragmites, have overrun most of the wetlands and as non-native plants, deplete the wetlands of their ability to maintain proper tidal flow and inhibit suitable natural habitats.

Weik proposed that planting trees and shrubs native to the wetlands "can do wonders to protect our communities."

Weik pointed to the once ubiquitous cedar, maple, willow and oak trees and bayberry shrubs that dominated the wetlands and prevented erosion and shrinking of shorelines.

"Planting native plants and trees, we can renew and restore our wetlands as beautiful maritime forests, returning our wetlands to their best natural state," said Weik.

-Sam Desmond

Luxor designated a 5-star skilled nursing facility

On April 21, on the patio outside of the Luxor at Sayville 180-bed skilled nursing facility, leadership treated the residents and staff to a tasty barbecue filled with hot food, live music and a congratulatory large strawberry-filled sheet cake. It

SAYVILLE was also a very proud moment as New York State 8th District Sen. Alexis Weik (R-NY) and her chief of staff Steve Kosin came to present two plaques, one to the facility as a whole in recognition of this 5-Star 2023 official status by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and the other directly to the work being done by director of nursing (DON) Jaclyn Donnelly and her nursing staff.

"We all love our residents, their families and for this, we have a close family here that's like nothing you've ever seen before," said Luxor Sayville administrator Michael Scarlone. "But when CMS gives you a rating like this, it says that the care for our residents is top-notch and that's Jaclyn and her team. It's also important that the Sayville community and the surrounding towns are aware of the care we offer to our residents."

Scarlone attributes this status to the hard work that both his clinical and non-clinical leadership, but he points



Luxor Sayville administrator Michael Scarlone, Jaclyn Donnelly, Weik's chief of staff Steve Kosin and Sen. Weik.

Photo courtesy of Luxor at Sayville and M&M Social Media

out that his dedicated nursing staff headed by Donnelly should be singled out as the care for the residents at the 200-bed facility at 300 Broadway Avenue in Sayville has been at the utmost professional.

"The residents here mean the world to us," said Donnelly. "If you walk down the halls in the buildings or into any of the rooms where our nurses are caring for them, you will see the sincerity from the nurses and therapists and how the residents respond to them."

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