

West Islip Association Hosts Emergency Preparedness meeting.

On December 2, 2009, the West Islip Association held its monthly meeting at the West Islip Public Library. Mr. Ed Schneyer, Director of Emergency Preparedness, Suffolk County, spoke to a “packed house” about the work of Emergency personnel in times of severe weather, flooding, fires, plane crashes, oil spills and a host of other types of disasters.



With the benefit of a computer generated slide presentation Mr. Schneyer explained that, in emergency situations, his agency utilizes the resources of utilities, transportation, fire, police, health, EMS, Public Works, volunteers, and private, government and local services.

Among the services employed by the Preparedness Program:

- Hurrivac plots forecasts to assist in decisions regarding evacuation.
- The American Red Cross designates 145 school buildings as shelters for 60,000 with food, water, basic medical supplies and volunteers. (Beach Street Middle School can accommodate about 1000.)
- JEEP (Joint Emergency Evacuation Program) for disabled who may need assistance.
- Reverse 911 will dial designated houses to inform residents about evacuation.

Mr. Schneyer encouraged the use of ICE telephone numbers in cell phones. The In Case of Emergency (ICE) numbers will help with contacting spouses, parents, children and significant people to inform in case of an incident in which the cell phone owner is unable to give that information. Mr. Schneyer’s last admonition was to “Run from the water; hide from the wind” toward the center of Long Island northward to the Long Island Expressway.