



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Terrence Murphy

Murphy, Putnam Officials, urge water safety precautions

TERRENCE P. MURPHY May 22, 2015

| ISSUE: **FAMILIES, RECREATION AND TOURISM, CHILDREN, YOUTH, WATER**



MAHOPAC, NY - With the coming Memorial Day weekend about to mark the unofficial start of summer, Senator Terrence Murphy was joined by Putnam County Officials yesterday to raise awareness about water safety. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, ten people lose their lives to drowning every day.

"In the 40th Senate District we have a number of lakes, ponds, streams and rivers that if not properly respected could cause great tragedy," Murphy said. "Here at Lake Mahopac we are reminded about the importance of not only safety in the water but on the water with our

boats and jet skis. By taking common sense precautions we can ensure a safe summer for everyone."

As of this April, boaters are now able to take the required state safety course online. Individuals born on or after May 1, 1996 are required to complete an approved course on boater education in order to operate a motorboat.

"From the Hudson River to Lake Mahopac, Putnam County has an abundance of natural bodies of water that our residents take advantage of every year," Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell said. "This year, I urge all of our residents to take the necessary precautions before jumping into the water to ensure this is the safest summer in Putnam County's history."

The CDC reports children of ages one to four have the highest drowning rates. In 2009, more than 30% of unintentional deaths of children in that age group were as a result of drowning. However, the CDC points out that most drownings for children occur at home, in swimming pools.

"Safety concerns should not just be limited to the water, but should include safety in our backyards and highways," Putnam County Sheriff Don Smith said. "With Memorial Day upon us, we should strive to protect each other by not drinking and driving or durgging and driving. I look forward to our continued work with local law enforcement across our great county as we keep Putnam the safest county in New York State."

"As a former Carmel police officer I had the privilege of patrolling Lake Mahopac, which I believe is the jewel of Mahopac, and know firsthand of the tragedies that can arise from disrespecting the water," Carmel Supervisor Ken Schmitt said. "I echo Senator Murphy's call

for common sense precautions to be taken when enjoying the lake this year."