

# The TIMES

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## Busy weeks ahead for MCPL

### Eighth annual Women's Expo, contingency planning coming

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A pair of Middle Country Public Library programs aim to showcase the best of the region's female entrepreneurs — and ensure that all area businesses are prepared for the worst.

In the coming weeks, the library's Centereach branch will host Is Your Business Ready? A Business Contingency Program and Fair and the eighth annual Women's Expo, designed to highlight talents and goods offered by businesswoman from across Middle Country and Long Island.

First up is the contingency planning and fair, scheduled to run from 8 to 11 am Sept. 18 at the Centereach branch. Featuring guest speakers such as state Sen. John Flanagan (R-East Northport) and Thomas Abruzzo, president of TAMP Systems, a Merrick-based firm specializing in contingency business plans in case of natural or man-made disaster, the event is part of the Allstate Readiness Series, a year-long calendar of programs.

According to library spokeswoman Barbara Jordan, the series — supported by a grant from the Allstate Foundation — is designed to promote personal readiness

in case of the unthinkable. The Sept. 18 event is slated to include 18 local exhibitors representing various aspects of emergency preparedness, Jordan said.

From 11 am to 6 pm Oct. 2, the Eastwood Boulevard library will turn itself over to the ladies for the annual Women's Expo, a presentation of the Middle Country Library Foundation and the Long Island Fund for Women & Girls. The expo started in 2000 as a way of promoting economic independence for women, according to the event's website, [www.womensexpoli.org](http://www.womensexpoli.org).

"It's really to provide an opportunity for women, many of whom start their businesses in their homes [and] don't have a lot of venues to market the products that they're creating," Jordan noted. "It takes a lot to market a business. It's a very complex marketplace, and I think that when you're starting out, you need all the opportunities you can get to get out to the public."

Event attendees will be able to buy a variety of products from the 75 exhibitors slated to attend, and can also enjoy lunch at 11 am and a 3:30 pm tea courtesy of Rocky Point-based catering company Rhea's Parties & Event Planning, owned by Rhea Buckland.

Other scheduled exhibitors include first-timer Michelle Zimmerman, a Centereach resident who recently launched children's book publisher Rainbow Star Books, and Sound Beach resident and sculptor Patricia Swyler, who attended her first Women's Expo two years ago.

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**'It takes a lot to  
market a business.'**

— BARBARA JORDAN  
MIDDLE COUNTRY  
PUBLIC LIBRARY

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