

## Business Owners Learn How to Prepare for Catastrophic Events

What would happen if disaster struck? How would you continue to operate your business? With the recent downturn in the economy and hurricane season fast approaching, sustainability for business owners is key, and planning in advance is critical.

The Miller Business Resource Center at Middle Country Public Library presents "Is Your Business Ready? A Business Contingency Planning Program and Fair" on Tuesday, September 18, at 101 Eastwood Boulevard, Centereach. The event runs from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. This event is part of the Allstate Readiness Series, a year-long calendar of events at the Library being sponsored by the Allstate Foundation.

Business owners will learn how to keep their losses during a catastrophe to a minimum while maximizing sustainability in times of crisis. Multiple exhibitors will be on hand to talk about their emergency preparedness products and services.

"Business contingency planning is important because you never know when a crisis is going to happen, and whether it's a crisis of a few hours' duration or one like a hurricane that can cause you to close for a number of days, a disruption can dramatically impact your ability to conduct business," said Sophia Serlis-McPhillips, head of the Miller Business Resource Center and Middle Country Public Library. "You need to have a plan in place that can be implemented immediately, regardless of the cause, that addresses things like communication with your staff and

customers, protecting your property and resources, how or even if you will be able to maintain services."

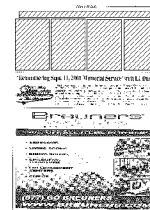
"The Allstate Foundation and Middle Country Library have formed a strong partnership to take initial steps towards providing essential catastrophe resource information to Long Island businesses in a user-friendly way," said Allstate Foundation Chairperson Inez Birbiglia. "We can't stop natural disasters from occurring, but collectively we can do a much better job preparing and protecting the Long Island economy from their consequences."

The opening program will feature Tom Abruzzo, President of TAMP Systems and board member of the Contingency Planning Exchange, and New York State Senator John Flanagan (R-Smithtown), who sits on the NYS Senate Committee on Veterans, Homeland Security & Military Affairs.

Registration starts at 8 a.m., along with a continental breakfast. The opening program begins at 8:30 a.m. The Contingency Planning Fair starts at 9:30 a.m., where exhibitors will feature the latest goods and services to assist business on planning for a variety of catastrophic events.

The Business Contingency Planning Program and Fair is part of the Allstate Readiness Series and is run in conjunction with the Miller Center's Library Business Connection, which is sponsored by Citibank.

For more information, call (631) 585-9393, extension 295 or 219.



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