

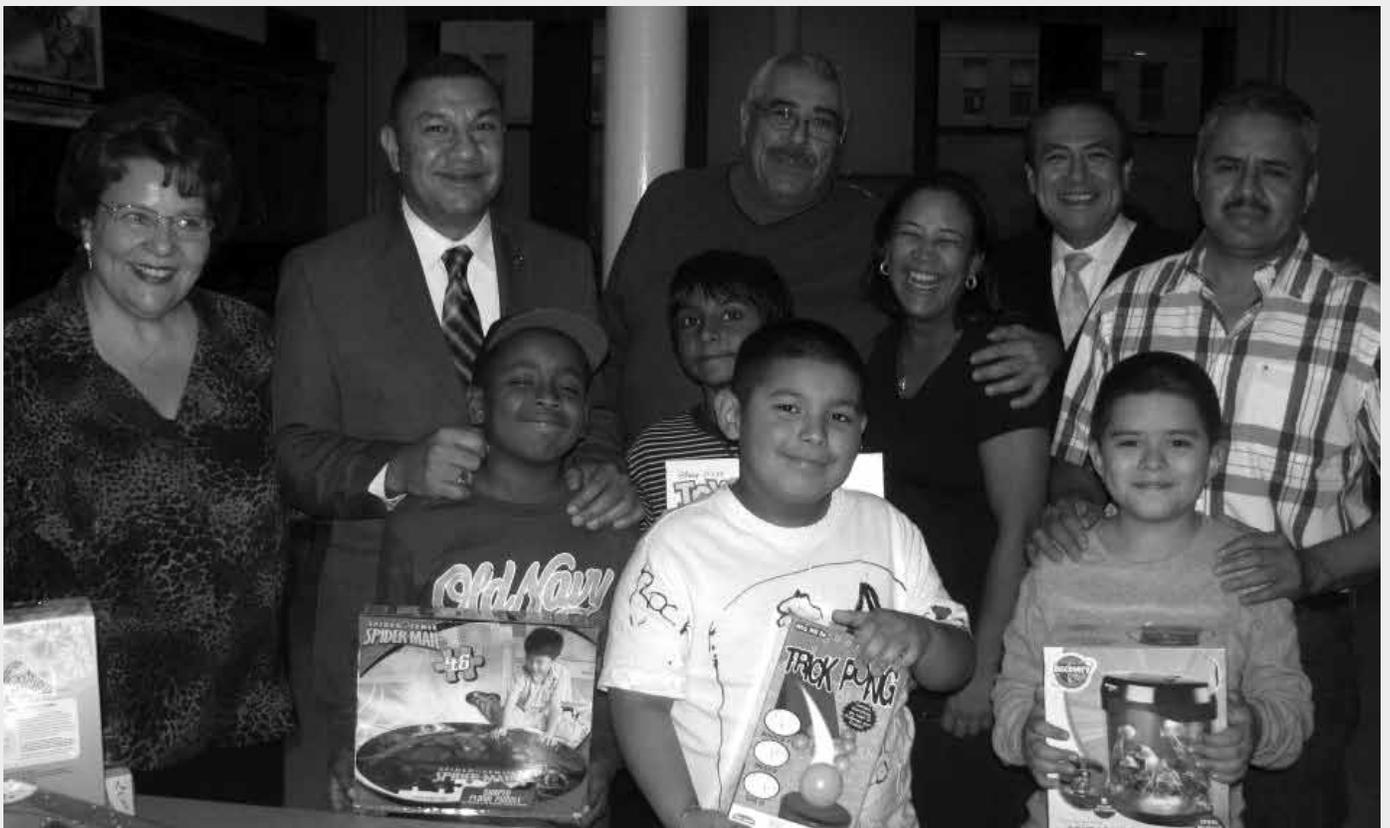


Community
News

**Assemblyman
Phil Ramos**

Assemblyman Ramos reports to the community

Assemblyman Ramos continues his work to make the lives of Suffolk County families a little easier. Take a look and see what he's been up to.



Three Kings Day celebration at Shepherd's Gate Academy – Assemblyman Ramos brings local children a little piece of home

In January, Assemblyman Phil Ramos presented over 100 toys to Shepherd's Gate Academy students on behalf of local residents and businesses who donated toys in celebration of Three Kings Day, and in recognition of the remarkable difference this child-care program has made on each student's educational and social development.

For nearly 12 years, Shepherd's Gate Academy has provided affordable, high-quality before- and after-school programs, universal pre-kindergarten and summer camps for local families. Every child that attends Shepherd's Gate receives homework assistance, a light supper, arts and crafts and other recreational activity programs, field trips and more in a structured, well-cared-for environment that focuses on promoting academic success and growth.

Many of these students are immigrant children and find themselves far away from their culture's traditions. This celebration offers up a little piece of home.



Helping families facing potential foreclosure

Long Island has one of the state's highest rates of foreclosure, so back in February, Assemblyman Ramos – along with other local officials – worked to have the state Department of Financial Services deploy its Mobile Command Center to Brentwood. Here, mortgage foreclosure counselors provided valuable assistance to local homeowners who were at risk of losing their homes, making the process less stressful and helping Suffolk County families potentially avoid foreclosure.

Assemblyman Ramos fought to make sure this year's state budget increased funding for the neighborhood preservation program that helps community organizations such as Adelante of Suffolk County and the Central Islip Civic Council continue to help families by providing them with affordable housing and assistance to make sure they aren't forced out of their homes and onto the streets.

Additionally, Assemblyman Ramos supported the Assembly's passage of the Foreclosure Fraud and Prevention Act, which would impose misdemeanor- and felony-level penalties on bankers and lenders who cheat and defraud homeowners.

Valentines for Vets – Assemblyman Ramos delivers 600 valentines, hand-made by local children, to Long Island State Veterans Home

As chairman of the state Assembly's Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Assemblyman Ramos wanted to do something special to honor our veterans. For this year's Valentine's Day, Assemblyman Ramos initiated the Valentines for Vets program, which invited school-aged children to create valentines for local veterans. He hand-delivered over 600 Valentine's Day cards to Suffolk County veterans at the Long Island State Veterans Home.

The hand-made cards brought smiles to the faces of our heroic veterans.





Assemblyman Ramos recognized by Central Islip School District for restoring nearly \$37 million in school building aid

Assemblyman Ramos was recognized by the Central Islip School District on Saturday, April 28, 2012, for his efforts in securing nearly \$37 million in vital school building aid that was previously promised to the district in the 2012-13 state budget.

Due to the paperwork delays of a previous school district administration, the NYS Department of Education insisted the Central Islip School District pay back almost \$14 million in aid already received and spent. The Education Department also refused to release approximately \$28 million that Central Islip had expected for future purposes. Working closely with Superintendent Craig Carr, Assemblyman Ramos was able to help secure an agreement to restore the funding.



The DREAM Act – Assemblyman Ramos fighting to ensure every child has access to higher education

In April, Assemblyman Ramos met with members of Make the Road NY in Brentwood to discuss the importance of the DREAM Act, which would expand access to higher education to more students.

In May, Assemblyman Ramos voted for the DREAM Fund. The DREAM Fund would create a commission to raise scholarship money, determine criteria for recipients, create and publicize a training program



Assemblyman Ramos stands alongside Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and other members of the state Assembly at the DREAM Act press conference.

for education professionals and develop a public awareness campaign for the scholarship awards.

Assemblyman Ramos is urging the state Senate to vote on this important measure.

Marching for minimum wage increase – Assemblyman Ramos urges the state Senate to bring minimum wage bill up for a vote!

At the end of April, Assemblyman Ramos marched with over 100 members of Make the Road NY, calling on the state Senate to vote for an increase in the minimum wage.

Joined by Assemblyman Ramos, members made their message loud and clear – \$7.25 an hour is not enough to live on, especially on Long Island. The event featured a press conference and encouraged local families to sign petitions of support.

Already passed by the state Assembly, the bill would increase the minimum wage to \$8.50 an hour and boost the incomes of over 1 million New Yorkers. Minimum wage would then be tied to the rate of inflation beginning in January 2014. This would ensure minimum-wage workers continue to have purchasing power in the future. In order to become law, the bill must pass the Senate and receive the governor's approval.



Historic Puerto Rican/Hispanic Day Parade marches on – Thanks to Assemblyman Ramos and community leaders working together

Following a May announcement that the historic Puerto Rican/Hispanic Day Parade was set to end after 45 consecutive years of operation, Assemblyman Ramos and community leaders throughout Suffolk County went to work to fundraise and save the parade.

The parade has long been a summer staple in the Brentwood, Bay Shore and Central Islip

communities. Assemblyman Ramos is the highest ranking Puerto Rican elected official on Long Island. He worked tirelessly to make sure this valued community tradition continued.

The parade's cancellation was slated after Adelante of Suffolk County, a non-profit organization in charge of the parade's coordination, announced that, due to budget cuts, it just couldn't afford the parade. Together, Assemblyman Ramos and Teatro Yerbabruja, a non-profit organization dedicated to community involvement through the arts, met with local supporters, fundraised and called for the creation of a committee to help organize the parade.

This year's parade is set to take place on July 22.