



Deputy Speaker

**Earlene  
HOOPER**

Assemblywoman, 18th Assembly District



Summer 2016

## Message to the People

*I have learned (what I deem an abuse) that patients who hold insurance coverage at the HIP center in Hempstead (and what I am advised) all of Nassau County that the ophthalmological services at this facility are no longer available on-site. The service “disappeared” July, 2015 and has not been available since.*

*Instead, patients are directed to seek services off-site or travel long distances to obtain this coverage for which they continue to pay for on-site.*

*This is an egregious insult to a community which has supported this health provider for over forty (40) years.*

*To reduce an access to services without a reduction in premiums and without prior notice is an act of injustice.*

*The communities in the 18th AD who utilize this health care provider often do not have access to travel to far-away sites seeking a service that was originally in their local communities.*

*What a dis-service this is to seniors, diabetics, other illnesses and financially challenged persons to be “thrown” into the wilderness of the medical world.*

*I have introduced A.10211 that will disallow an insurer to reduce a service without comparable reduction in premium and without prior notice to the public.*

*I shall utilize any/all efforts to ensure that medical services are not abbreviated by your carrier.*

*I ask you to contact your health-care provider at 646-447-4516 and register your objection to the reduction of services and demand they be reinstated at all of our HIP centers.*

## State/Town Join Efforts to Fight Against Tax Increases

State and town officials (Deputy Speaker Hooper and Hempstead Town Supervisor Anthony J. Santino) have joined their efforts to prevent a tax increase for ALL residents of the Town of Hempstead.

The combined discussion resulted in the Deputy Speaker introducing legislation A.10547 that would save the town millions of dollars, reduce overhead and continue to save for a “rainy-day” with their fiscal reserves intact.

I look forward to on-going joint efforts with the town (as I already have with the county – Edward P. Mangano, County Executive) as we utilize our joint missions to address this egregious tax-burden. (see page 3 for photo)

## Freeport Armory Legislation: Not A Precedent



### A.7429

The City of Newburg was awarded an armory for one dollar (\$1.00) by New York State. This was done in 2010, the same year that the Freeport Armory (which sits on a wetland) was introduced in the New York State Assembly.

The difference between the two (Newburg/Freeport) is that Newburg sought and obtained a non-profit community organization to develop and utilize the armory for programs for their city-residents.

Since 2010, Newburg has developed relationships with private organizations that provide services to children, youth, families, an incubator of innovation, education, health, sports, meeting rooms and hundreds of activities that benefit the people.

There are classes for adults, English as a second language, voter education, computer classes, GED and preparation for citizenship.

This creative, smart, ambitious, productive, people-oriented use of this facility is what can/should happen in a building such as this and in Freeport, too.

It appears Newburg “borrowed” my idea, put it to use and they are now a beacon for good, common sense usage.

We can/should do the same at the Freeport Armory.

Imagine, all-of-the above services and good, safe, clean water as a Bonus!!

**Support A.7429.**

## Assembly Passes DREAM Act to Send More Young People to College

Helped pass the New York State Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act to ensure college-bound students with immigrant parents have a fair chance at a successful future (A.4311-A). This legislation grants these students access to state tuition assistance, scholarships and educational opportunity programs and establishes a private scholarship fund (the DREAM Fund) to help with financial assistance for college.

New York State has long been a leader in expanding educational opportunities so that all students have equal access to an affordable, quality education. Undocumented immigrants who earned a high school diploma in New York are currently eligible for in-state tuition at SUNY and CUNY colleges and universities.

The DREAM Act would increase these students' ability to afford college by allowing them to apply for the Tuition

Assistance Program (TAP). The DREAM Act would help these students succeed in college by making them eligible for state assistance available through programs like the Higher Education Opportunity Program (HEOP), Educational Opportunity Program (EOP), Collegiate Science and Technology Program (C-STEP) and opportunity programs at community colleges.

Undocumented immigrants, who meet certain requirements, including attending high school in New York State for at least two years and having graduated or received a high school equivalency diploma, would benefit from the DREAM Act, A.4311-A.

The Dream fund is a component of the DREAM Act, and will help raise private funds for scholarships to assist college-ready students with at least one immigrant parent. The legislation also expands access to the New York State College Tuition Savings (529) Program, making family tuition accounts available to anyone with a valid taxpayer identification number.

Now is the time to pass the DREAM Act in New York. Ask your State senator to pass the DREAM Act so that more hardworking students achieve their dream of earning a college degree in order to build solid careers.

## New York State Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Incentive Program

The Assembly has established a special **STEM** scholarship program for students who have graduated in the top 10% of their high school class and who commit to this area of study in **SUNY** or **CUNY** colleges. See details and requirements of the program below. Further information is available at the link: <https://www.hesc.ny.gov/pay-for-college/financial-aid/types-of-financial-aid/nys-grants-scholarships-awards/nys-science-technology-engineering-and-mathematics-stem-incentive-program.html>.

The New York State Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) Incentive Program provides full tuition scholarships to students who:

- graduate from a high school located in New York during or after the 2013-14 school year;
- are ranked in the top ten percent of their class;
- enroll in full-time study each term beginning in the fall after his or her high school graduation in an approved undergraduate program in science, technology, engineering or mathematics at a **SUNY** or **CUNY** college;
- earn a cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 2.5 or higher each term after the first semester; and
- work full-time in a **STEM** scholarship-field and reside in New York for five continuous years upon completion of said degree.

Students receiving a **STEM** scholarship-field are entitled to an annual award for up to four academic years of full-time undergraduate study, or five academic years if the program of study normally requires five years. If a scholarship recipient fails to complete his or her degree in STEM or does not work in New York State for five continuous years upon graduation in a STEM field, the scholarship would be converted to a student loan, plus interest.



## PILOT Legislation (A.8097 - 2014) Mis-Used

A.8097 of 2014 was introduced by me and signed into law December 17, 2014.

The intent of A.8097 was to **Prevent** more off-tax-rolls and added tax burdens to incorporated village tax-payers.

The PILOT that was requested by and granted to the Hempstead Village tax-payers was a mis-use of this well-intended legislation.

*I am sorely disappointed.*

# Haitian Unity Day

“Haitian Unity Day” in Albany was celebrated on Monday, May 23, 2016. It was a time of honoring the contributions of the Haitians to peoples around the world (freedom), reflections on the history of this country and its on-going struggles.

*La célébration de “la journée de l’unité haïtienne” a eu lieu lundi 23 mai 2016 à Albany pour honorer les Haïtiens et leur contribution à la lutte des peuples pour la liberté à travers le monde, et pour réfléchir à l’histoire de leur pays et ses difficultés actuelles.*

*Yo te selebre “Jou Inite Ayisyen” an nan Albany, nan jounen Lendi, 23 Me 2016 la. Se te yon moman pou onore kontribisyon Ayisyen yo a yo nan lit pou libète pèp yo atravè lemond epi pou reflechi sou istwa peyi sa ak lit kontini li yo.*

Assembly members acknowledged with proclamation, verbal accolades, delicious Haitian cuisine and the privilege of meeting the elected officials who traveled from Haiti to join us in the assembly chamber.

*Les membres de l’Assemblée ont proclamé leur appréciation de la visite des élus haïtiens venus nous voir depuis Haïti, et exprimé bien haut leur appréciation de la délicieuse cuisine haïtienne.*

*Manm Asanble yo te manifeste apresyasyon yo pou kwizin bon gou Ayisyen an ak privilèj pou rankontre ofisyèl ki eli yo ki te vwayaje soti Ayiti pou reyini ak nou nan chanm asanble a, ak pwoklamasyon ak felisitasyon vèbal.*

We are very happy to have the Haitian elected delegation visit us in the Capital.

*Nous sommes très heureux de recevoir cette délégation de parlementaires haïtiens dans la capitale de l’Etat de New York.*

*Nou trè kontan genyen avèk nou delegasyon Ayisyen ki eli a ki vizite nou nan Kapital la.*



Shown L to R: Eudson Francois; Leman Premier, Haitian Congressman; Deputy Speaker Hooper; Richard Herve Fourcand, Haitian Senator; Jean Philippe Kethel, Haitian Congressman; and Alix Celestin, Director of National Customs of Haiti.



Deputy Speaker Hooper is joined by Town of Hempstead Supervisor, Anthony J. Santino as they combine their ideas to seek tax-relief for all Hempstead Town residents. (See details on page one)

## Is this appealing in your neighborhood?



\$26,000.00 has been allocated to the Coordinating Council of Hempstead Civic Associations from your tax dollars. Contact your Village elected officials (Mayor/Trustees) and ask to have your tax money released to your council (not from a Private Donor). (516) 489-3400 x200.

Shown L to R: Deputy Speaker Hooper, Barbara Borum, Secretary/Office Manager, HCCCA, Reginal Lucas, President, HCCCA.

The council provides services to all residents of the village such as “May-Day Clean Up,” code enforcement, voter information and many more.

The left pictured property is the sad example of “non-appealing” curb appeal addressed in A.10213.

## Your Real-Property at the Mercy of Negligent owners

*“Curb-appeal is a major factor as to the desirability of a neighborhood.”*

*“The Broken Window Syndrome”*

**W**hen the outside of a property is an eyesore (unkempt lawns, abandoned vehicles in the driveway, over-grown shrubbery, pests, vermin, stray animals etc.) it has a negative impact on the value of your most valuable asset – your home.

Absentee landlords, over-crowding, dis-engaged inhabitants or transients have little/no vested interest in the community/neighborhood.

To protect your real property investments, I have introduced A.10213. This would permit a municipality (villages/towns) to clean the property in order to establish a more aesthetic environment and assess a fine on the owner of record. That fine would be added to the owners' tax bill.

If a property in your neighborhood is in a state of “non-curb-appeal” contact your local government and ask to have the offending property mitigated and the owner assessed a fine.

This would be a salve to your eyes and an increase in the value of your pride and joy-raising the value of your home.



**Earlene  
HOOPER**

*Deputy Speaker*

*Assemblywoman*

*18<sup>th</sup> A.D.*

**Message to the People**

Summer 2016

*Deputy Speaker*

**Earlene  
HOOPER**

**DISTRICT OFFICE:**

33 Front Street, Suite 104  
Hempstead, New York 11550  
516-489-6610 • 516-538-3155 *fax*

**ALBANY OFFICE:**

Room 739 Legislative Office Building  
Albany, New York 12248  
518-455-5861 • 518-455-4329 *fax*

**Email:** [hoopere@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:hoopere@assembly.state.ny.us)

*Assemblywoman, 18th Assembly District*