



Assemblywoman **Margaret MARKEY**

Reports to the People

FALL 2012

A message from Assemblywoman Margaret Markey...

Dear Neighbors:

I am pleased to report that there will be new State grants for non-profit community organizations in the 30th Assembly District. Barring any last-minutes changes, this much-needed funding will be available this year.

The programs and services provided by these local groups are a vital part of the fabric of life in our neighborhoods. All of our communities benefit from their work and it is great news that this support will be available again to these worthy organizations after an absence of several years.

When I conducted a survey about your views about these so-called "Member Item" grants a year ago, your response was overwhelming; nearly two-thirds of those who responded to the survey said that these grants should be restored.

Community organizations and non-profits who provide youth, health, senior and other community and social services will get a well-deserved extra boost to their budgets this year and I could not be more pleased to have made this possible. The entire community benefits from their work and we are all grateful for their hard work and commitment.

Senior Services – The grants will support the strong program of activities and services at **Woodside Senior Center, SelfHelp Maspeth Senior Center, SelfHelp Big Six Towers and the St. Mary's Golden Age Club.**

Youth and Community – Important organizations that produce wide-ranging programs for youth, seniors and families and also do community improvement activities are among those receiving support from me this year, including **Maspeth Town Hall, Woodside on the Move and POMOC - Polonians Organized to Minister to Our Community, and Trinity Lutheran Church Food Pantry.**

Business and Community Improvement – Among grants for those working to enhance and improve our commercial corridors are awards to **Maspeth Chamber of Commerce and Central Astoria Local Development Corporation.** The quality-of-life work of **Greater Ridgewood Restoration and Sunnyside Gardens Preservation Alliance** also merits grants.

Veterans Organizations – Organizations that do great work for veterans and who help keep us aware of the debt we owe to those who serve are particularly important. This year I am pleased to support the work of the **United Veterans and Fraternal Organizations**, organizers of the annual Memorial Day Parade in Maspeth; the **Post 870, Catholic War Veterans**, Woodside Memorial Day commemoration; and the multi-faceted work of **Queens Chapter 32 of the Vietnam Veterans of America.**

Youth and Cultural – Grants in this sector go to: **Theater in the Park, Midori Foundation, NY Junior Tennis League, and Department of Education/Diocese of Brooklyn.**

Health and Youth Services – Other organizations that are receiving support from me this year include: **Astoria Queens Sharing & Caring Child Center of New York.**

Sincerely,

Margaret Markey
Margaret Markey



VETERAN ORGANIZATIONS: I was pleased to greet these veteran leaders in my office recently. From left are: Mike Daughtry, Vietnam Vets; Carmela Clark, United Veterans of Maspeth, Catholic War Vets Commander Gerald Olt; Vietnam Vets President Paul Narson; and Paul A. Feddern, Vietnam Vets.



CENTRAL ASTORIA: George Stamatiades, President, and Marie Torniali, Executive Director, greeted me when I recently visited the Central Astoria Local Development Corp. office.



MASPETH SELF-HELP: It was great to visit with members of the Maspeth Self-Help Center during a recent lunchtime program.



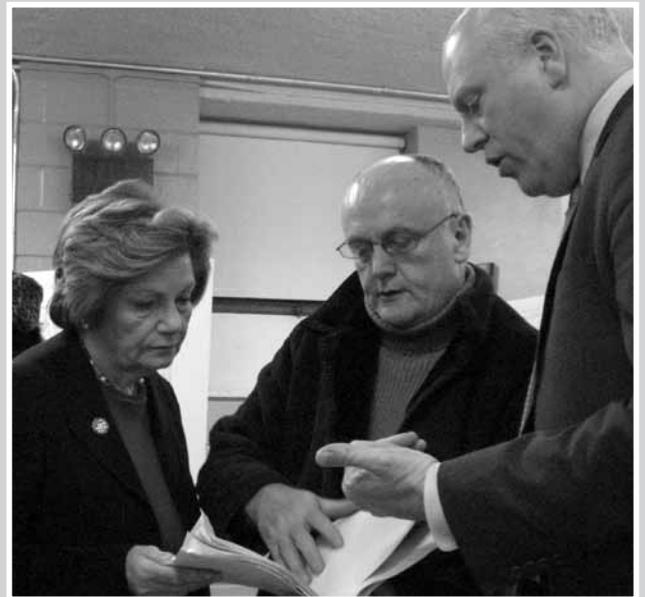
HONORED IN WOODSIDE – It was an honor to be recognized by Woodside on the Move at its annual meeting earlier this year. The grass-roots community organization, which has worked to improve the quality of life in Woodside since 1978, cited me for my “dedication and commitment” to the community. Standing with me for the presentation were Assemblyman Michael DenDekker (left) and district leader John Smyth; seated are long-time Woodside on the Move supporter Michael McSweeney (right) and the organization’s executive director, Adrian Bordoni.



OPERATION SAFE CHILD – The Operation Safe Child program uses digital technology and high resolution photography to create a Safe Child ID card, which provides a handy personal record for parents. I am grateful to the NYPD and the NY State Division of Criminal Justice Services for making this program available at schools and libraries in Queens. Here we are ready to begin the program at PS 151 earlier this year. Operation Safe Child is also coming to St. Stanislaus and St. Adalbert’s Schools.



PHIPPS GARDEN CONCERNS – I joined Congressman Joseph Crowley and other elected officials at a community meeting earlier this year at Phipps Garden Apartments to discuss community issues at the complex and in Sunnyside. Here, with Dorothy Cavallo, Co-President of the Phipps Garden Apartments Tenants Association, are, from the right: Joe Conley, Chairman of Community Board Two; Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan; Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer; and Congressman Crowley.



TOWN HALL ON CONTINUED FLOODING – I joined Congressman Joseph Crowley, Community Board Two and other elected officials in sponsoring a town hall meeting earlier this year to update Woodside residents about the progress of city and state transportation and environmental officials in resolving the severe impact of flooding on many blocks in the neighborhood. Though some progress was reported at the meeting by the officials, many residents still continue to suffer damage to their homes at times of intense rainfall. Here, one man shows Congressman Crowley and me his record of problems at his home.



DUTCH KILLS LEADERSHIP – I was proud to do the honors as the Board of Directors was sworn in for a new term at the Dutch Kills Civic Association, the organization that has worked to improve the growing residential and business community for more than 30 years. Seen here with me are, from left: Kim Teixeira, Daniel Jennings, Patricia Wilson, Doris Nowillo-Suda, Steven Morena and President Jerry Walsh.



AUTO CENTER GOES SOLAR – The Center for Automotive Education & Training in Whitestone, a project of the Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association, has gone solar. I joined association officials and community leaders as they flipped the switch in July to activate a huge array of solar panels which were developed with technical support from the NY State Energy Research Development Authority. Helping to activate the new green system were, from left: Mark Schienbergh, association president; Assemblyman Edward C. Braunstein; Senator Toby Stavisky; Neale A. Koperman, association chair; and Ron Kamen, Chair of Earth Kind Solar Energy. I was pleased to provide support to help build this state-of-the-art industry facility which opened in 2005.



WOODSIDE KIDS PETITION – As school was ending in June, I was at PS 11 where third grade students presented me with a petition from all the school’s third grade students who had turned a computer education process into research and found that not all educational games and websites are appropriate for children. They want legislators to pay closer attention to teaching games that incorporate violence or inappropriate bad behavior. These youngsters did outstanding work and they and their principal and teachers are to be commended.

Great First Year for Entrepreneur Space

It was a great pleasure to celebrate the birthday of the Entrepreneur Space, the year-old facility that serves start-up and small food businesses in Long Island City. I was proud to present a resolution from the New York State Assembly commemorating the occasion to Queens Economic Development Corporation Executive Director Seth Bornstein.

The Entrepreneur Space offers a commercial kitchen, office space and classroom facilities for both local businesses and non-profit organizations. Clients of this program have access to such resources as business counseling and educational seminars to help individuals establish and expand their businesses.

In its first year, the operation has served over 150 new businesses with over 100 full-time jobs and provided products and services to more than 150 customers. As these new businesses grow and succeed, many have already transitioned into more permanent space, meaning yet more jobs for Queens.

In one short year this bustling operation has demonstrated how new businesses can be nurtured to help them grow. It clearly demonstrates the enormous potential this space has for creating jobs and boosting the Queens economy.



I presented QEDC Executive Director Seth Bornstein with the Assembly resolution and we led the audience and Entrepreneur Space businesses in a rousing chorus of "Happy Birthday."

Promoting Queens Tourist Sites

Thanks to the Queens Tourism Council, Queens County was an enthusiastic participant in the first-ever statewide "I Love New York" Museum Week celebration. Organized to put a spotlight on museums, historic homes, nature centers and cultural sites around the state, the Queens kick-off was held at the Louis Armstrong House Museum in Corona.

Other participating sites in Queens were Flushing's Queens Botanical Garden, Astoria's Museum of the Moving Image, Jamaica's King Manor Museum and the Mets Hall of Fame & Museum at Citi Field.

As chair of the Assembly's Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development Committee I have had the opportunity to visit many historic sites and museums in many other parts of the state over the past year. While there are many wonders throughout New York State, it was very special for me to mark the kick-off of this state-wide program right here in Queens and celebrate the wonderful tourist destinations in our borough.

Museum Week may be over, but I hope Queens residents will still take the opportunity to visit the visit Louis Armstrong House and the other participating sites and Queens attractions throughout the year.



Members of the Queens Tourism Council joined me at the Louis Armstrong House Museum in Corona to kick off the state's first-ever Museum Week and put a focus on museums, historic sites and cultural sites in Queens.

We must continue to work to CURE Rail woes in our Community

The continuing challenge to the quality of life in our neighborhoods that is caused by rail freight traffic through the Fresh Pond railyards is certain to intensify in the months to come as a result of New York State's approval of a permit for the expansion of the Waste Management transfer that passes facility in Maspeth. This means we are facing a major increase in the garbage the site will process and a similar increase in the already burdensome rail traffic through our neighborhoods.

While the proposed plant may meet the state's criteria for the permit that will allow a huge expansion of capacity at the company's Review Avenue site, the current level of operation is already an environmental burden on western Queens.

That is why I and every local elected official are united in our

support of CURES and all the community groups that objected to the plan that was recently approved by the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation.

The rail corridor that connects the now-to-be-expanded Review Avenue facility with the national network that takes our municipal garbage out of New York City is already responsible for environmental, health and quality of life problems. It is unacceptable that this expansion will move forward without significant changes in the existing rail operations and the Fresh Pond railyards.

I will continue to work with my colleagues and community organizations as we challenge city, state and federal agencies to address our concerns before the Review Avenue transfer station is fully operational.

Help Make CVA a NY Law

People from around New York State who are concerned about children are supporting my Child Victims Act of NY.

Join them by signing the online petition at:

www.nychildvictimsact.org

We have some of the most antiquated laws in the nation for prosecuting child sexual abusers. Statute of limitations codes severely limit the rights of victims to get justice for the crimes done against them and hold those who hide abusers responsible for their failure to report them.

Learn more about my bill (A.5488) to extend the criminal and civil statute of limitations in NY by signing the petition at www.nychildvictimsact.org



For more information about how you can help enact this law, see my Assembly website or contact: NY Coalition to Protect Children at NYProtectChildren@gmail.com

We Honor Those Who Served Our Nation



MASPETH GRAND MARSHALS

Captain Laura Zimmerman and community leader and businessman Jim O’Kane were the Grand Marshals of the 2012 Maspeth Memorial Day Parade, sponsored every year by the United Veterans & Fraternal Organizations of Maspeth. Captain Zimmerman, now retired, is a Maspeth native who served in the U.S. Army for 25 years. Jim O’Kane, who is an active member of many Maspeth organizations, opened O’Kane Realty after 31 years of service with the NYC Parks Department. Maspeth Federal’s Kenneth Rudzewick joined me in presenting Assembly proclamations to the Grand Marshals.



DOUGHBOY PARK COMMEMORATION

Woodside commemorated Memorial Day this year at Doughboy Park, sponsored by the St. Sebastian’s Post 870 of the Catholic War Veterans, founded in 1946 and led by Commander Jerry Olt. The annual commemoration, held at the Vietnam War Memorial, paid special tribute to veterans of that war from Woodside, the names of 28 of whom are inscribed on that monument. At the ceremonies at the end of the parade, I presented an official New York State Assembly citation to Grand Marshal Jim Dimiceli. Joining me for the moment were, from left, the Grand Marshal, Robert Komuves, who served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army in World War II, and Assemblyman Michael DenDekker.



BOULEVARD GARDENS MEMORIAL DAY

At Boulevard Gardens, I joined members of the American Legion Post 1836 and the Post Auxiliary at their annual Memorial Day commemoration. Jimmy Lanza (left) is Commander of Post 1836. The tribute was emceed by Bill McClean (right), president of the Boulevard Gardens Board of Directors and also a veteran.



MOVING WALL HONORS VETS

Queens paid tribute to the fallen Americans of the Vietnam War as the Moving Wall memorial, a replica of the Vietnam Wall in Washington, D.C., came to Juniper Valley Park for several days before the Fourth of July. Members of Queens Chapter 32 of the Vietnam Veterans of America, led by Paul Narson, provided the color guard at opening ceremonies and joined me at the Wall where we located the name of Marine Tyrone Penell, a schoolmate of my husband, inscribed there. Here, from left, are: Vice President Mike Daughtry; Paul Narson, Ira Abrams, and Pat Toro, a member of the national board of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

CELEBRATE IRISH HERITAGE IN MASPETH TOWN HALL EXHIBIT OPENING ON OCTOBER 12

I am pleased to join with Maspeth Town Hall in raising the awareness of our neighbors about the contributions of Irish-Americans to the development of New York and the Nation.

On Friday, October 12, an exhibit about the contributions of the Irish in the building of New York’s legendary Erie Canal will open at Maspeth Town Hall, 53-37 72nd Street in Maspeth, where it will be on public display for two weeks.

Created by the Irish American Heritage Museum based in Albany, the “Irish and the Erie Canal” exhibit will reveal the historical contributions of the Irish in planning, designing and

building the famed Canal that helped transform New York City into a world economic power by linking the Great Lakes and the interior of America to NYC, the Atlantic Ocean and the world beyond.

I am proud to have provided State support for the work of the Museum that created this traveling exhibit. The Museum does important work in helping tell the story of the contributions of the Irish people and their culture to America, a group that numbers some 40 million people. Find more information on line at www.irishamericanheritagemuseum.org.

HELP FOR WOODSIDE SENIORS

I was delighted to report good news recently to Director Matthew Ancona and members of the Woodside Senior Center. I have been successful in securing a State grant for them to improve their food service facilities and provide a weekly free lunch session for all members.



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