



Assemblywoman  
**MARGARET MARKEY**  
*Reports to the People*

SUMMER 2014

**Assemblywoman Markey Reports on Her Work and the 2014 State Legislature**

**New York State is Back on the Right Track**

Dear Friends:

The past few years have been remarkable ones for New York State as the Legislature and the Governor have worked together to put state government back on the right track. It's good news for every New Yorker and I am pleased to have this opportunity to update you on my work.

During the recent legislative session, continuing to help working families get ahead and provide better opportunities for our children have been my highest priorities. Laws we passed this year will give children better opportunities to learn while making life more affordable for our families.

**Historic High School Funding** - Historic high funding for our public schools, including an increase of \$435 million for NYC, and universal pre-K education are two important 2014 achievements. A \$2 billion bond act we authorized will help modernize school facilities and increase technology in the classroom if approved by voters.

**Economy Continues to Grow** - After years of challenges, our economy continues to grow, generating new jobs and economic activity in New York City and across the state. As a member of the pivotal Assembly Ways and Means Committee, I'm proud to have participated in ensuring we had an on-time state budget for the fourth year in a row.

**Benefits for Families, Seniors** - The 2014 budget included important benefits for working families and seniors. They include expanded access to child care, tax credits for renters and co-op owners, expanded eligibility for seniors who qualify for the EPIC drug benefit and the SCRIE rent increase program, and increased funding in state programs to make college more affordable.

**Boosting Tourism Sector** - As Chair of the Assembly Tourism, Parks, Arts and Sports Development Committee, I have worked with the administration this year to boost this important economic sector, participating in the Governor's Tourism Summit, serving on his Tourism Advisory Committee, and supporting \$35 million in funding for non-profit arts organizations.

**Funding for Parks, Jobs** - We also approved \$148 million in capital funding for the coming year to improve and expand state parks and historic sites, including restoration of facilities at Jones Beach damaged by Hurricane Sandy. We also approved tax credits to provide new jobs in this industry sector as they boost movie and TV production in New York.

**Tourism Committee Work** - Of the 89 bills reviewed by my committee this year, some of the most important ones included measures to ensure consumer protections for resale of e-tickets to entertainment and sports events, better use of state parks properties and a tax check-off on individual tax forms for state parks.

**Help for Families of the Fallen** - I am particularly proud that my legislation to provide a cost of living increase for widows and families of fallen police officers and firefighters was adopted again this year. This annual bill, which is supported by the NYC Uniformed Fire Officers, Uniformed Firefighters and many police and law enforcement organizations, is extremely important to survivors of emergency workers.

I am grateful for the opportunity to represent you in Albany. New York is back on the right track and I am proud of my contribution to put us there.

Sincerely,

*Margaret M. Markey*  
 Margaret M. Markey



Martin O'Muilleoir, Lord Mayor of Belfast, visited as Albany commemorated St. Patrick's Day.



Angela Villota of Woodside (right) and fellow student from the NY Institute for Special Education represented the 4201 Schools Association which brought its concerns to Albany.



**FILM TRIBUTE TO HER MOTHER**

It was an honor to welcome filmmaker Donna Zacarro, daughter of Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro, to the floor of the Assembly, to talk about the tribute to her legendary mother.



**SAVE THE PAVILION** - As we mark the 50th and 75th anniversaries of the New York World's Fairs this year, saving the iconic NY Pavilion from the 1964-65 Fair has become an important priority for our borough.



**SAFER STREETS** - After meeting with DOT Borough Commissioner Dalila Hall and NYPD's 114th Precinct officers, a fix was made to dangerous Grand Avenue intersection where a pedestrian was killed this year.



**TRIBUTE TO VETS** - My colleagues and I paid tribute to veterans at the annual Maspeth Memorial Day Parade, here on Grand Avenue with Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan, David Aglioloro, Senator Joseph Addabbo and Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley.

**ASSEMBLYWOMAN MARGARET MARKEY**

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# COMMUNITY NEWS BRIEFS

## SENIOR RENT BENEFIT EXPANDED

Starting July 1st, seniors who rent their apartments and are eligible for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) received good news as the benefit has just been significantly expanded. This makes it possible to prevent or limit future rent increases for those living in a rent controlled or stabilized apartment. Starting July 1st, the combined household income to qualify for this benefit will rise from \$29,000 to \$50,000 for seniors at least 62 years old. The benefit affects tenants whose rent is more than one-third of their household income. For more information about whether you qualify for this expansion and how to apply see the SCRIE Guide on the NYC Finance Department website [nyc.gov/scrie](http://nyc.gov/scrie) or call my office.

## TRACKING AIRPLANE NOISE ON LINE

When I held a town hall meeting about airplane noise over our neighborhoods last fall, Port Authority and FAA officials promised that we would have access to a new tracking system that would enable us to respond to excessive noise from airplanes heading to land at LaGuardia Airport. That system, WebTrak, is now here. It can help local residents better identify which airplanes and aircraft patterns are causing local noise problems. It can track planes and flight patterns for both LaGuardia and JFK Airports and provides graphics identifying aircraft, decibel noise levels, altitudes, airspace location and origin and destination airports. Noise complaints may also be filed through WebTrak, which is accessible at <http://webtrak.bkx.com/panynj>.



## MOTHER'S DAY PARADE IN WOODSIDE

*It was a special honor to be Grand Marshal of the annual Mother's Day Parade sponsored by Woodside on the Move. I was delighted to share the honor with Abba Efkarpidis, Principal of P.S. 11. The Sunnyside Drum Corps led the way as we began at 50th Street and continued along Skillman Avenue to P.S. 11 where a warm celebration took place.*



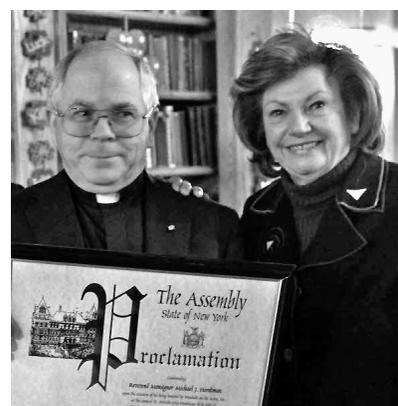
## COMPUTER LEARNING LAB FOR WOODSIDE

*It was a pleasure to be at the offices of Woodside on the Move to cut the ribbon on a new state-of-the-art computer and technology center that has been opened thanks to a generous donation by Time Warner Cable. The lab features a network of 16 Dell PCs and MAC Air Pros for advanced programmers and designers and is powered by high-speed Internet service of Time Warner Business Class. Congressman Joseph Crowley, Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer and I joined Woodside on the Move's Adrian Bordoni and Cathleen Sims and Brian Kelly of Time Warner. For information about free access to the lab, call Woodside on the Move at 718-476-8449.*



## HUNTERS POINT PARKS CONSERVANCY

*As Chair of the Assembly Tourism, Parks Committee, it was a great pleasure to join the celebration as the Friends of Gantry Neighborhood Parks marked 16 years of waterfront improvements at the only state park in Western Queens. The event also marked the creation of the Newtown-Hunters Point Parks Conservancy to devote attention to all the parks in the area.*



## HONOR FOR ST. SEBASTIAN PASTOR

*I was pleased to honor Reverend Monsignor Michael J. Hardiman, pastor of St. Sebastian's Church, for his service to the Woodside community. He has recently been re-assigned to St. Patrick's Church. Pastor Hardiman came to St. Sebastian in 2002.*



## WE HONOR LEGENDARY WOODSIDE LEADER

*Community Board Two Chair Joseph Connelly and I hold the new street sign honoring the legendary Walter McCaffrey that has been installed at 61st Street and Woodside Avenue. The dedication honors Councilman McCaffrey for his years of public service to the city and his beloved Woodside community. Among those friends, neighbors and family members who came to pay tribute were Congressman Joseph Crowley, Senator Michael Gianaris, Assemblywoman Cathy Nolan and Councilman Jimmy Van Bramer.*



## SALUTE TO SENIOR CENTER DIRECTOR

*At its annual Mother's Day celebration, the Woodside Senior Center honored its long-time director, Matthew Aconna for his dedicated and wise leadership of the busy center and I was pleased to join in the tribute. Here with us is Sirat Wang, the center's "Senior of the Year."*

**MASPETH STREET HONORS HOLY VISITOR**

Parishioners and visitors to Holy Cross Church on 56th Road in Maspeth have many reminders of Pope John Paul II, one of their most famous visitors --- from his statue in front of the church, to the guest book so proudly displayed inside, to his name on the Parish Hall.

Now, the co-naming of 56th Road as Pope John Paul II Way provides all Maspeth residents and visitors to our community a permanent reminder of our historic connection to a revered spiritual leader who has just been canonized as a saint.

As a borough that is home to many nationalities and religions, this Pope's connection to Queens seems particularly appropriate. The first non-Italian Pope in 400 years, he boldly reached out to the many cultures and religions of the world, creating dialogue and championing human rights for all. This designation will forever remind us of our special connection to a spiritual leader for all Catholics, and of a man who showed us how to act with love and devotion for all humanity.



*These young parishioners were part of the proud audience for the ceremony, initiated by Councilmember Elizabeth Crowley at the request of the parish and several Polish organizations. Left, I stand with Holy Cross Pastor Witold Mroziewski (center) and Brooklyn Diocese Auxiliary Bishop Octavio Cisneros.*



**SAFE CHILD ID FOR OUR KIDS**

Operation Safe Child creates a Safe Child ID Card for parents in case the unthinkable ever happens and their child disappears. Information on the card can be used within minutes to connect to the

NYS Amber Alert and Missing Child programs for statewide notification in the event of a disappearance. Over the past few years I am pleased to have brought this program of the NYPD to many local schools where trained police officers take the data and prepare the card within minutes. This spring we conducted an Operation Safe Child program for students at St. Adelbert's School thanks to Principal Sister Kathleen. Another session for Maspeth parents and children took place at Maspeth Town Hall, some of whom are pictured at left.



**SAFE RECYCLING FOR ELECTRONICS, PAPER**

Congressman Joseph Crowley and I hosted a successful E-Recycling spring cleaning day in Woodside and residents brought more than a ton of old computer equipment, cell phones, printers and other unused electronic equipment for safe and secure recycling. With us here below were Bill McClean, President of the Boulevard Gardens co-op association and Michael Barnes and Ernest Smith

from Green Recycling Management. A few weeks ago, the Congressman and I joined with Senator Michael Gianaris and Councilman Costa Constantinides at a second Community Shredding Event in Woodside where residents brought documents to discard that were shredded before their eyes. Here (below), some of the residents who brought their papers for shredding with me and Senator Michael Gianaris and Councilman Constantinides.



**Neighbors Honor Their Heroes on Memorial Day**

Memorial Day is a time to pay tribute to those who have died to defend our freedoms and to also thank every man and woman for their service in our Armed Forces.

Many may not realize that commemoration of Memorial Day began right here in New York State in Waterloo, NY, where families first gathered in 1866 to place flowers on the graves of loved ones and lower American flags to half-staff.

In our modern commemoration of Memorial Day family and friends come together in Maspeth, Woodside and all of America in the same spirit to show gratitude to those who lost their lives to preserve our liberties. We also take the opportunity that day to show our appreciation for those who continue to serve in the military and to living veterans among us for their distinguished service.

Many of the brave men and women on active duty service are mothers and fathers who have given up precious time with their families and put their lives on the line in order to defend our country. While we go about our daily lives throughout the year, it is important to remember the sacrifices of these surviving veterans and their families and keep all members of the armed forces in our thoughts.

**MARKING THE SPECIAL DAY IN WOODSIDE**  
*Marching with the community and members of the Boulevard Gardens American Legion Post 1836, including Commander Jimmy Lanza, Councilman Costa Constantides, NYC Clerk Michael McSweeney, 114th Precinct Deputy Inspector Kevin Maloney. We recited the Pledge of Allegiance with Father Patrick West and Girl Scouts at the ceremony.*



**MASPETH** - I was pleased to present Assembly proclamations to Karen Burke and Leonard Masone, two dedicated community leaders who were honored as Grand Marshals of the United Veterans and Fraternal Organization of Maspeth's annual Memorial Day Parade.

# Queens Celebrates its Two World's Fairs

The eyes of the world were on Queens in 1939 and 1964 when the New York World's Fairs opened those years. I am proud to co-chair the World's Fair Anniversary Committee with Borough President Melinda Katz as cultural and civic organizations across the borough are holding special events this year to mark the 50th and 75th anniversaries of those events.



*A long-delayed recognition for architect Gilmore Clarke, designer of the Unisphere, the centerpiece of the 1964-65 Fair that has become the iconic symbol for Queens, was installed in May by the NYC Parks Department. Borough President Melinda Katz and I presented his widow, Delores Clarke (foreground), with official proclamations from the New York State Assembly and the Borough of Queens to mark the occasion. With us, from left, are Borough Parks Commissioner Dorothy Lewandowski, NYC Public Advocate Leticia James, Queens Historical Society's Richard Hourahan.*

Funding I secured helped support activities in May at an all-day festival in Flushing Meadows-Corona Park that drew tens of thousands for a day that was capped by a soaring finale of fireworks that followed a performance by the Queens Symphony Orchestra.

There are many other commemorative activities scheduled over the coming months at the site of the two fairs and at cultural and performance venues throughout Queens. Go to the website of the Queens Tourism Council, [www.itsinqueens.com](http://www.itsinqueens.com), for details.



*On stage before the program with QSO music director Constantine Kitsopoulos (far left), were: Assemblyman Michael DenDekker, Queens Parks Commissioner Dorothy Lewandowski, Congressman Joseph Crowley, my co-chair Queens Borough President Melinda Katz, Assemblyman Michael Simanowitz, Councilmember Julissa Ferreras and Park Administrator Janice Melnick.*

**ASSEMBLYWOMAN MARGARET MARKEY**  
*is pleased to present*  
**MOVIE IN THE PARK**  
**Juniper Valley Park**

**Juniper Boulevard South & 77<sup>th</sup> Street – Baseball Field**  
**Wednesday, August 13th, 8:00 p.m. (sundown)**

**“Despicable Me 2”**

*Please be sure to bring your own lawn chairs*

**For information call my district office at 718-651-3185**