



Information from Catherine Nolan

Helping to keep the community informed



CATHERINE NOLAN
37th Assembly District
Queens County

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STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY

CHAIRWOMAN
EDUCATION COMMITTEE

COMMITTEES
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Dear Neighbor,

The 2013 legislative session was successful in passing legislation aimed at boosting our economy, creating jobs and cutting taxes. This year marked the state's third consecutive on-time budget. The budget makes a commitment to keeping more money in the pockets of working families by extending the middle class personal income tax reduction for three more years.

We also fought for, and won, a raise in the state's minimum wage. The current minimum wage of \$7.25 will be raised three times according to the provisions of this budget. The hourly minimum wage will reach \$8.00 on December 31, 2013, \$8.75 one year later and, in 2015, will reach \$9.00 an hour.

One of the highlights of any legislative session is greeting local residents in our state's Capitol. It is always a pleasure to be joined by our neighbors in advocating for children, seniors and neighborhoods. By working together we will continue to improve our neighborhoods.

I am very excited to announce that we were successful in advocating for our new neighborhood school, PS 290Q, to be named in honor of the late Congresswoman Geraldine Ferraro. As many of you know, Congresswoman Ferraro was a strong fighter for our western Queens communities when she represented us in Congress.

As Chair of the Assembly Education Committee, I would like to welcome all students, teachers, principals and parents back to school. Our office wants to hear from you about your experiences as we start the school year. My offices are always here to help. If you have a question or problem, please do not hesitate to call, drop by or send me an email. I look forward to seeing and hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Catherine Nolan
Member of Assembly

ALBANY WRAPUP:

Nolan bills that passed both houses:

A.3560-A requires school districts to distribute informational materials to students about local library cards. This bill exempts New York City because my colleague Councilman Van Bramer passed a similar local bill. A.3560-A has been signed into law by the Governor.

A.7302-A would mandate audits of every special education services program provider for preschool children with disabilities in the state. It requires the New York State Comptroller to audit expenses of each 4410 provider as reported to the State Education Department (SED) at least once before March 31, 2018 and inform the Governor and Legislature of those findings. This bill would also increase the oversight on special education services and programs for preschool children with disabilities. The Committee on Preschool Education (CPSE) would have to provide notice to the New York State Education Commissioner if it recommends placing a child in an approved program which also conducted the evaluation.

Nolan bills that passed the Assembly:

A.29 would require the New York City School Construction Authority to undertake an environmental review when it leases buildings for schools.

A.121 would require the Board of Regents to give the public adequate notice of its meetings, the agendas and actions taken by the Board.

A.145-A would increase penalties for violations of state law relating to the protection of underground facilities. This bill was drafted in response to the pipeline accident in Long Island City that occurred in 2009.

A.151-A would restrict the sale, lease, transfer and certain uses of existing outdoor school playgrounds and thereby preserve outdoor play space for student activities.

A.1792-A is the Farmworkers Fair Labor Practices Act. It would establish workplace rights and protections for workers on New York State farms.

A.6593-A would prohibit the use of standardized tests for students in kindergarten through grade two.

A.6715-A would establish a standard procedure for the orderly closure of a special act school district which services students with special needs.

A.7872-A would protect student privacy. The bill would allow parents and students to opt out of a school program to release personally identifiable student information to third parties.

A.7873 would prohibit a fee for any exam that leads to a high school equivalency diploma including the GED.

AROUND THE DISTRICT



P.S. 313 GROUND BREAKING - SUNNYSIDE
I was delighted to be at the groundbreaking for P.S. 313. This new school will help alleviate the overcrowding we face in Western Queens.



GOVERNOR CUOMO AT LAGUARDIA COMMUNITY COLLEGE
Governor Andrew Cuomo came to LaGuardia Community College to talk about his support for CUNY. Sunnyside Chamber of Commerce activist Lily Gavin and other elected officials were also present.



QUEENSBRIDGE TENANT ASSOCIATION
April Simpson, President of the Queensbridge Tenants Association, called an emergency meeting to discuss the crimes that were committed recently. I was honored to participate and I value her leadership on these issues. Also pictured, is Lydia Green.

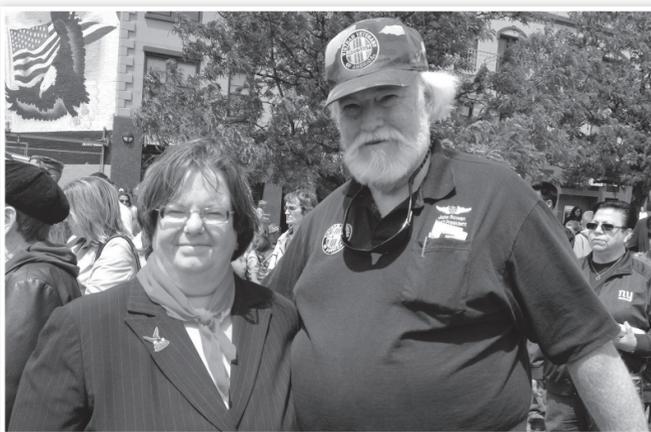
RIDGEWOOD MEMORIAL DAY PARADE



TASTE OF RIDGEWOOD
I was very grateful to be honored at the first "Taste of Ridgewood" to benefit the YMCA. It was great to see many people and local restaurants participating. Lakeisha Harris, Executive Director of the Ridgewood YMCA, and Vinny Arcuri, Chairman of Queens Community Board 5.



WOMEN'S HISTORY IN LONG ISLAND CITY
Our annual women's event is always very special to me because we get to honor many important leaders. The honorees this year were: Anne Marie Anzalone, Chief of Staff for U.S. Rep. Joseph Crowley; Alithia Rodriguez-Rolon, Director of State Governmental Affairs for the Council of School Administrators; Randy Seabrook, Principal of PS 111; Denise Vittor, Principal of Grover Cleveland High School; Vivian Selenikas, Principal of Long Island City High School; and Eileen Taylor, retired Principal of Aviation High School. Also pictured are Gail Mellow, President of LaGuardia Community College, Chancellor Dennis Walcott and Ernest Logan, President of CSA.



MASPETH MEMORIAL DAY PARADE
Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan with John Rowan, National President of the Vietnam Veterans of America.

ALBANY VISITORS

I am always delighted to see visitors as they travel up to Albany to advocate on issues that are important to our community:



Several students from City University (CUNY) who were also United States veterans stopped by my Albany office. They came to advocate for funding for additional programs that assist veterans with their education.



Representatives from the Firefighters Association stopped by my office to advocate for many issues including fire safety. Also pictured is Marty Steadman, former writer for the Woodside Herald.



Members from Local 1 of the New York State Pipe Trades Association came to advocate for labor and energy issues.

DISTRICT UPDATES

Public School 290Q to be named the Geraldine A. Ferraro Campus

I am excited to announce that the New York City Department of Education will be naming Public School 290 the Geraldine Ferraro Campus. The school will be named after the late Queens Congresswoman and Vice-Presidential Nominee Geraldine Ferraro and will be opening in September 2014. The campus will be located on Metropolitan Avenue in Ridgewood, New York.

Geraldine Ferraro was the first woman ever to be nominated to the national ticket of a major political party. Born and raised in the great borough of Queens, she started out as a school teacher, became a district attorney and then was elected to the United States Congress.

She devoted her life to this community and fought hard to make sure it received the necessary services.

Congresswoman Ferraro was a great role model to both women and families throughout our city and country. Naming this school after her is most fitting.

New Housing Development at Hunters Point South

A new affordable housing development is currently being built in Hunters Point South. The development will feature over 5,000 housing units with 60 percent reserved for affordable housing. In addition, the Hunter's Point South Development will also include retail space, community/cultural facilities, school space, parking and a new continuous waterfront park. More information can be found about the project on the New York City Economic Development Corporation website at www.nycedc.com/project/hunters-point-south.

Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan

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