



Inside this issue...

Page 2
**New Yorkers Pay Too
Much For Power**



Page 2
**Affordable
Housing**

Page 4
**Building Stronger
Local Nonprofits**

2014 New York City Parking Calendar Page 3

Assemblymember Jim Brennan REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE

WINTER 2014

416 Seventh Avenue, Brooklyn, NY 11215 • 718-788-7221 ■ 1414 Cortelyou Road, Brooklyn, NY 11226 • 718-940-0641
Room 422, LOB, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-5377 ■ Email: brennanj@assembly.state.ny.us

Green Energy Forum Inspires

The GREEN-OVATION event sponsored by my office offered a wealth of ideas and opportunities to go greener at home. Presenters included Con Edison, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority, Solarize Brooklyn, Radiator Labs, Keen Energy, CUNY Energy Institute, NYC Department of Buildings, and Midboro Management (representing Council of NY Co-ops and Condos).

Their presentations offered homeowners practical, actionable, money-saving ideas, advice, programs, products and services that will reduce emissions and energy costs, increase the efficiency of our homes and the buildings in our communities, and result in a cleaner, greener, better Brooklyn and beyond. For direct links to websites for additional details and depth, visit my website, <http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/James-F-Brennan>. And, as always, you can also contact my Park Slope District Office for more information.

Here are some of the companies and organizations that made presentations:

NYSERDA – New York State Energy Research & Development Authority Green Jobs/Green NY Programs

<http://www.nyserda.ny.gov/Energy-Efficiency-and-Renewable-Programs/Green-Jobs-Green-New-York.aspx> This statewide program, administered by NYSERDA, promotes energy efficiency and the installation of clean technologies to reduce energy costs and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. The program

will support sustainable community development and create opportunities for green jobs. The Green Jobs – Green New York (GJGNY) Program provides New Yorkers with access to energy assessments, installation services, low-cost financing (currently for residential customers only), and pathways to training for various green-collar careers. The GJGNY Program delivers services in targeted communities with the support of Constituency-Based Organizations (CBOs). CBOs recruit residential, small businesses, Not-for-Profits (NFP), and multi-family building owners into the energy assessment and financing programs; and encourage individuals to take advantage of clean energy training opportunities.

Solarize Brooklyn

Solarize Brooklyn was organized by two local groups, Sustainable Flatbush and Sustainable Kensington Windsor Terrace. It is completely led by volunteers that want to help their neighbors go solar. Solarize Brooklyn’s advisor on the project is Solar One, a nonprofit green energy, arts, and education center. The solar installers are EmPower Solar for solar photovoltaic (electric) and Quixotic Systems for solar thermal (hot water). They were selected through an open, competitive process that considered experience and qualifications, pricing, and commitment to local job training and employment. For more information about Solarize Brooklyn visit www.solarizebrooklyn.org.

ConEd

The Con Ed Green Team offers rebates and incentive for residents, multi-family buildings, small businesses, and large commer-

Continued on next page

Not-For-Profit Revitalization Act Signed into Law

My office was proud to announce the enactment of a revamped Not-For-Profit Corporation Law just last month. The Not-For-Profit Revitalization Act will modernize New York State law governing the formation and dissolution of not-for-profit corporations, as well as providing oversight and accountability. I believe that these changes will make for a more welcoming environment for the formation and continued operation of the not-for-profit sector of our economy.

This sweeping measure addresses concerns about oversight and

accountability as well as eliminating obsolete and onerous regulations that hindered the efficient administration of the not-for-profit sector in New York State.

This law is a product of years of work and discussions with the New York State and City Bar Associations, the New York State Law Revision Commission, the Attorney General’s Office and many not-for-profit corporations. This fall my office sponsored a forum on building stronger local nonprofits (see page 4).



More Comfort in Parade Grounds!

A brand new comfort station opened in the Parade Grounds on September 25. My office designated \$125,000 in state funds for the project, and other elected officials designated funds, too. Here we are at the ribbon cutting (l to r: Assemblymember James Brennan, Prospect Park Alliance President Emily Lloyd, 70th Precinct Community Council President Ed Powell, Assemblymember Rhoda Jacobs, Community Board 14 Chairman Alvin Berk, Prospect Park Community Committee Chair Danny Cunningham, Councilmember Mathieu Eugene, District Leader Jake Gold, Borough President Eric Adams).

New Yorkers Pay Too Much for Power

New York City residents pay nearly the highest electric rates in the nation, about 26 cents per kilowatt-hour. While historically this has been true for decades, actions taken by the administration of former Governor George Pataki in the late nineteen-nineties made matters much worse. During those years, the State Public Service Commission, without approval from the State Legislature, directed utilities like Con Edison to sell their power plants to newly “deregulated” companies. Entergy, for instance, bought the Indian Point nuclear power plants, and other private companies bought the big power plants in Long Island City and Astoria.

A new pricing system exists that is under the control of a combination of the generators, whose prices are not regulated by the Federal or State government and the distributors like Con Edison, which is still regulated. Utilities bid each day for a supply of power to meet their needs, and must pay the price that is bid from the generators to meet the utility’s peak demand. All producers then receive that price, called the market clearing price, no matter what their actual costs.

My office recently completed a study of 2010 electric prices and determined that New York City ratepayers are paying at least \$800 million a year, and probably much more, in excess of what

they would pay if the companies that own the power plants were subject to traditional utility regulation. We reviewed available Federal and state public information for 13 of the largest generators of electricity in New York State representing about 40% of all the power generated in New York State. The excess charge is about 10% of the current electric bill. We believe these estimates are very accurate, since fuel and other costs are public information submitted by electric generators to the Federal government, and the prices at which the companies bought these plants from the utility industry were publicly reported in the press. Some companies and their power plants that generate electricity for the New York metropolitan area were not included in the study, but it is likely those prices are excessive and bring the rate overcharges above 10% of the bill.

The New York State Public Service Commission was established at the beginning of the 20th century to regulate utilities because they were natural monopolies with too much economic power. Right now the PSC is still regulating the distribution of electricity and just prevented an immediate Con Edison rate increase. My office will introduce a bill in the 2014 legislative session to assert greater control over the price of electricity.

Accelerate Completion of Atlantic Yards’ Affordable Housing

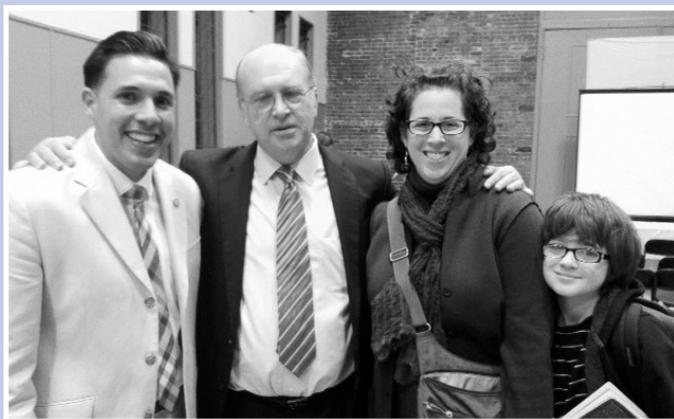


On November 15, 2013, my office organized a press conference with local elected officials and community leaders where we asked state officials and Forest City Ratner Companies (“FCRC”), the developer, to accelerate the construction of 2,250 units of affordable housing in downtown Brooklyn near the Barclays Center. Currently,

one of the project’s 16 apartment buildings is under construction but behind schedule. The first building will include 180 units of affordable housing, but the apartments are not expected to be occupied until 2015. The remaining 15 buildings are not scheduled for completion until 2035.

At the time Atlantic Yards was approved in 2006, FCRC committed to completing its arena and 16 towers with 2,250 affordable apartments by 2016. However, in 2009, FCRC renegotiated the timetable for the project so that it could delay completion until 2035. The socioeconomic damage to the community from the delay is resulting in tremendous pressure on families and seniors who cannot afford the rise in rental prices in the vicinity. The coalition is continuing to work together to see that the completion date is escalated for the affordable housing units promised to the community.

When the original development project was proposed, I testified that the affordable housing should come first, not last, and that the overall development should not be approved without that requirement. Now, as the affordable housing crisis deepens, my goal is to get the timetable restructured. As we go to print with this newsletter, FCRC has agreed to meet with local elected officials to discuss this important issue.



Green Innovators

Among the presenters at my Green-Ovation event were Esteban Duran, Community Organizer for Green Jobs-Green NY; and Ellen Honigstock, Director of Construction Education at Urban Green Council and Co-Founder of Solarize Brooklyn. On the far right is Ellen’s son and perhaps a future presenter, Jonah Kipnis.

Continued from page 1

cial customers. Visit the ConEd Green Team at www.coned.com/energyefficiency to find a program that fits your needs and learn how upgrading to more efficient equipment can help you save big!

Urban Green

Ellen Honigstock, Urban Green Board Member, spoke

about one of Urban Green’s missions: To support green building, Urban Green Council promotes the LEED (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design) rating system, a voluntary, consensus-based standard to support and certify successful green building design, construction, and operations. LEED provides a common framework, guidelines, and certification system to promote integrated, whole-building design practices. Properly designed buildings can help address many of our most critical environmental and health problems, whether the issue is global warming, water conservation, or asthma. A typical green building saves 30% in energy; 35% in greenhouse gas emissions; and up to 50% in water usage. In New York, it is vital to green the 950,000 buildings that are already in existence to reduce the city’s negative impact on the environment. **For more information on LEED, visit the national USGBC Website.**

CUNY Energy Institute

The CUNY Energy Institute produces cutting-edge research and develops innovative sustainable energy technologies that have practical and economical applications. Led by the renowned chemical engineering professor Sanjoy Banerjee, the Institute offers world-class opportunities to top-notch students: the chance to work side by side with a multidisciplinary faculty from CUNY’s New York City campuses, and to be part of one of the nation’s most ambitious and innovative energy research organizations. To learn more, visit www1.cuny.edu/mu/energy-news/2012/05/07/novel-battery-technology-scaled-to-36-kwh-demonstration-at-cny.

2014 New York City Parking Calendar

Compliments of
Assemblymember Jim Brennan

January 1 Wednesday	New Year's Day* – 2014 Major Legal Holiday Rules in Effect	July 4 Friday	Independence Day* Major Legal Holiday Rules in Effect	November 1 Saturday	All Saints Day Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
January 20 Monday	Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	July 28 Monday	Idul-Fitr Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	November 4 Tuesday	Election Day Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
January 31 Friday	Asian Lunar New Year Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	July 29 Tuesday	Idul-Fitr Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	November 11 Tuesday	Veterans Day Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
February 12 Wednesday	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	July 30 Wednesday	Idul-Fitr Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	November 27 Thursday	Thanksgiving* Major Legal Holiday Rules in Effect
February 17 Monday	Washington's Birthday (Presidents Day) Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	August 15 Friday	Feast of the Assumption Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	December 8 Monday	Immaculate Conception Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
March 5 Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	September 1 Monday	Labor Day* Major Legal Holiday Rules in Effect	December 25 Thursday	Christmas Day* Major Legal Holiday Rules in Effect
March 16 Sunday	Purim Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	September 25 Thursday	Rosh Hashanah Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended		
April 15 Tuesday	Passover – 1st Day Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	September 26 Friday	Rosh Hashanah Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended		
April 16 Wednesday	Passover – 2nd Day Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	October 4 Saturday	Idul-Adha and Yom Kippur Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended		
April 17 Thursday	Holy Thursday Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	October 5 Sunday	Idul-Adha Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended		
April 18 Friday	Good Friday Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	October 6 Monday	Idul-Adha Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended		
April 21 Monday	Passover – 7th Day Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	October 9 Thursday	Succoth Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended		
April 22 Tuesday	Passover – 8th Day Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	October 10 Friday	Succoth Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended		
May 26 Monday	Memorial Day* Major Legal Holiday Rules in Effect	October 13 Monday	Columbus Day Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended		
May 29 Thursday	Solemnity of the Ascension Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	October 16 Thursday	Shemini Atzereth Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended		
June 4 Wednesday	Shavuot Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	October 17 Friday	Simchas Torah Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended		
June 5 Thursday	Shavuot Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	October 23 Thursday	Diwali Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended		

Alternate Side Parking or ASP (Street Cleaning Rules).

Most Alternate Side Parking signs are clearly marked with the "P" symbol with the broom through it. Some signs are the traditional 3-hour ones, but others can vary considerably. Some metered parking zones have Alternate Side Parking rules. When Alternate Side Parking is suspended for a holiday or other reason, the parking meters remain in effect.

***Major Legal Holiday Rules.** The city suspends ASP rules on the legal and religious holidays listed in this brochure. No Stopping, No Standing and No Parking regulations are also suspended, except where those regulations are normally in effect seven days a week (for example: "No Standing Anytime"). Parking meter regulations are also suspended. On all other holidays, only street cleaning rules are suspended. All other regulations remain in effect.

Alternate Side Parking regulations may be suspended from time to time because of snow emergencies, inclement weather conditions or other emergencies. Visit www.nyc.gov/dot or dial 311 (212-New York) for further information or log on to www.nyc.gov/311. TTY Deaf or hearing-impaired, dial 212- 504-4115.

Reminder:
Parking meters are not in effect Sundays.

Building Stronger Local Nonprofits

On Tuesday, November 12th, my office hosted Taking Nonprofits to a New Level, a forum that focused on strategies to strengthen and develop community based organizations that was held at Temple Beth Emeth in Flatbush. The distinguished forum panel included Danny Rosenthal, a nonprofit consultant who specializes in strategic planning, advocacy and fundraising; Bill Chong, Deputy Commissioner for Program Operations at the NYC Department for the Aging; Karin Kunstler Goldman, a section Chief in the NYS Attorney General's Charities Bureau; Michael Clark, President of the Nonprofit Coordinating Committee of New York; Gretchen Maneval, Executive Director of ThinkBrooklyn, a data mapping, analysis and research organization; Hedwig O'Hara, Senior Staff Attorney at Lawyers Alliance for New York; and Karen Kithan Yau, Executive Director of Coalition for Asian American Children and Families.

Several of the presenters provided printed materials for the attendees. Here are links and contact information for the presenting organizations that support nonprofits across the city: NYS Attorney General's office on nonprofits: www.charitiesnys.com, Lawyer's Alliance for New York, which is a leading provider of business and transactional legal services to nonprofits: www.lawyersalliance.org, and www.ThinkBrooklyn.org, contact Gretchen Maneval at 347-678-9912, or gmaneval@ThinkBrooklyn.org.

This was an all-star panel of nonprofit experts. I know that everyone who attended genuinely benefitted from the information that was presented and the connections that were made at this event.



Nonprofit Networking

Some terrific organizations attended my nonprofit event. Here I am with Pamela Esposito-Amery, CEO and Co-Founder of Tell Every Amazing Lady About Ovarian Cancer Louisa M. McGregor Ovarian Cancer Foundation, also known as T.E.A.L.



My office enlisted the help of Nurse Patricia Rochford from Maimonides Hospital to offer free flu shots to 140 of my constituents this fall. The shots were available at both the Park Slope and the Cortelyou Road offices.

2014 New York City Parking Calendar Page 3



Assemblymember
Jim Brennan
Reports to the People
WINTER 2014



Local Schools Work Together

A few days after Cortelyou at Twilight, a Cortelyou Road dining and shopping fundraiser benefiting P.S. 217 and P.S. 139 organized by Flatbush Development Corporation, I joined P.S. 139 principal Mary McDonald and community activist Jan Rosenberg (holding signs) with local parents and residents at the presentation of the funds.