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# Assemblymember Jim Brennan REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE

Spring 2014

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**Thursday, May 29th | 6:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.**  
Park Slope Armory  
361 15th Street (7th/8th Avenues)

The **BROOKLYN VOLUNTEER FAIR** will host nearly 100 Brooklyn-based organizations and cater to anyone who is ready and willing—from high school students looking to earn community service credit to retired individuals looking to contribute to their community.

Un(der)employed? Dedicate your skill and talent to a good cause this summer; take the opportunity to find something that piques your interest and beefs up your résumé...it may even lead to a job!



@BKVolunteerFair



BrooklynVolunteerFair

**FREE + OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

Opportunities for individuals, families, seniors, students\* and anyone with a spirit for giving!

**TRANSIT**

**F**

**G**

**R**

**B61**

**B67/ B69**

\* Community Service Credit available for middle, high and college students through many of the participating organizations!

**REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED BY WHOLE FOODS/KIND BARS + FAIRWAY**

**SPONSORED BY...**

Assembly Member Jim Brennan; Assembly Member Joan Millman; Borough President Eric Adams; State Senator Velmanette Montgomery; Council Member Brad Lander; Community Boards 6, 7, 12 + 14; New York Methodist Hospital; the Prospect Park Alliance; the Park Slope Civic Council and ThinkBrooklyn

# BIG GAINS FOR NEW YORK CITY KIDS IN STATE BUDGET

## Universal Pre-K and Increased State Aid to Public Schools

The State Legislature adopted the State budget with a historic win for New York City children: \$300 million a year in State funding for the next two years to implement full-day universal pre-kindergarten for New York City's four-year-olds.

Mayor de Blasio deserves great credit for championing the Pre-K cause, a major social advancement. New York City parents and residents should be pleased that this year's budget helps kids make progress in school and for the future.

The New York City public school system got a boost in State Aid for education: a \$435 million or 5.5% increase. School operations got \$402 million, or 5.3%. New York City also got \$33 million to help pay debt service on the bonds the City government issues for school construction and renovation. The State government committed in 2005 to pay 50% of future debt service for New York City school construction and has honored that commitment.

Mayor de Blasio has said that the City can implement full-day pre-kindergarten for 73,000 4-year-olds within two years because the City has an advanced program already. The State Legislature initiated half-day Pre-K in 1998 and now provides \$230 million for that program to the City. Currently, nearly 59,000 4-year-olds are served in a program, including 19,000 in full-day Pre-K, 12,000 in child care, and 27,000 in half-day programs. The City believes it can convert the half-day programs rapidly into full-day programs.

The Legislature is also placing a \$2 billion Smart School Bond Act on the ballot in November. If the voters support it, the State will borrow \$2 billion for schools and New York City would get \$783 million for technology and infrastructure for the schools. The State would pay the interest on the bonds.



*Here I am with P.S. 39 principal Anita de Paz and some of the children as they prepare for Family Fitness Friday.*

## Budget Deal Limited the Sweep of MTA Funds



*I attended a press conference organized by the Riders Alliance to protest the Governor's use of \$40 million for general budgetary needs when it was collected for funding the MTA. The final budget saved \$10 million for future needs of the MTA.*

Governor Cuomo's proposed state budget included a plan to sweep \$40 million dollars of dedicated transit funds from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) for transfer to the General Fund of the State. I, along with my colleagues in the New York State Assembly and Senate, worked with transit advocates to encourage the Governor to think twice before raiding the already strapped MTA. The fare-driven ridership system that provides subway, bus, Metro-North, and Long Island Railroad service is still reeling from the service reductions in 2010. The State budget adopted on March 31, 2014, was successful in preserving \$10 million dollars for mass transit from being diverted from the MTA, limiting the sweep to \$30 million.

Next year, the Governor and the Legislature must approve the next five years of the MTA's construction budget, called the MTA Capital Plan. The MTA is already estimating the cost at \$31 billion and will present its proposals in October.



# FREE BREAST CANCER SCREENING

## Wednesday, June 25

The American-Italian Cancer Foundation's Mobile No-Cost Breast Cancer Screening Program is coming to my district offices.

To take advantage of this free service:

- Must be age 40 or older
- New York City mailing address
- No mammogram in the past 12 months
- Appointment is necessary

The mammograms are performed by certified, licensed mammography technologists and radiological interpretations are performed by board certified radiologists. If you bring any previous mammogram films, the radiologist will compare the films. Results will be sent to you and/or your doctor within 10 business days. If you would like the results sent to your doctor, please provide all contact information.



### Park Slope Office:

416 7th Avenue  
Between 13th & 14th Streets  
June 25: 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

### Ditmas Park Office:

1414 Cortelyou Road  
Between Rugby & Marlborough Rds.  
June 25: 2:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Call for Appointment: **1-877-628-9090**

For more information about American Italian Cancer Foundation visit [www.americaitaliancancer.org](http://www.americaitaliancancer.org) or call 212-628-9090.



## Benefits for Seniors



### SCRIE Expansion

In the State budget, SCRIE eligibility was increased from \$29,000 to \$50,000. This means that many more seniors will be eligible for these benefits which help to hold down the cost of their rent. Seniors already on the program are not affected. The City Council must adopt the proposal before it can go into effect on July 1.

### EPIC (Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage)

This program, which helps lower income seniors pay for their prescriptions has seen its limits expanded as well. Now single seniors whose income is under \$75,000 and married couples whose income is under \$100,000 can qualify for these benefits. For more information on this program, call 1-800-332-3742.

## Walgreens to Open Early Summer, Key Food to Follow in the Fall

My office has been in contact with Walgreens management in regards to the construction of the new store in Windsor Terrace. There is much to report. The tentative opening date is July 7th, 2014. According to the company, delays occurred late last year and into this spring due to the poor condition of the building and the severe winter weather, which postponed necessary foundation work. The company considered working on Saturdays and on a 24 hour schedule, but concerns about disturbing nearby residents forced the company to reject those options. Walgreens tells my office that the community should see major progress at the site by mid-May at which time the roof and parking lot will be completed.

Unfortunately, these delays have also affected the scheduled opening of Key Food. After meeting with Walgreens, Key Food reports to my office that it will take possession of the portion of the site dedicated to the grocery store at the beginning of July. All the equipment, fixtures, and refrigeration have been ordered, are ready, and in storage. Key Food should be ready to open for business in the first week of October of 2014, though, hopefully sooner if at all possible.

My office will make every effort to obtain the latest information for the community as it is available. My thanks to the many neighborhood activists and the local elected officials for their hard work during this fight.



Assemblymember

**Jim Brennan**

**Reports to the People**

SPRING 2014

## National Popular Vote for President

The National Popular Vote movement guarantees the Presidency to the candidate who receives the most popular votes in the entire United States. The bill preserves the Electoral College, while ensuring that every vote in every state will count equally in every presidential election.

New York joined the National Popular Vote movement on April 15 when the Governor signed the bill into law. This sends a clear message to the presidential candidates that no person's vote can

be viewed as unimportant. This will mean that the candidates will pay more attention to New York voters than they have been in recent elections.

This system will only take effect when it has been enacted in the identical form by enough states to elect a President, that is, by states possessing a majority of the 538 electoral votes, or 270 votes. New York was the eleventh jurisdiction to enact this bill (10 states plus the District of Columbia) making it equal 165 electoral votes.



*I enjoyed visiting Brookdale Senior Center with Rabbi Aaron Heineman.*

## No More Surprise Medical Bills

Changes in the Insurance Law will protect consumers from unexpected charges by doctors who are out-of-network when their plan does not have a qualified in-network provider. They will also be protected from paying large bills to a doctor if they were referred by an in-network provider if the fact that the doctor is not part of their network was not disclosed to them at the time.

In the event of a dispute over a bill, it will be up to the insurers and providers to resolve it with the help of an independent dispute resolution entity.

## Lend a Hand! Come to the 2014 Brooklyn Volunteer Fair!

### Who will be at the Volunteer Fair on May 29?

Nearly 100 organizations will be represented from major cultural institutions including the Brooklyn Public Library, the Brooklyn Museum, Brooklyn Botanic Garden, and Prospect Park Alliance; to small, grassroots, community-based organizations that involve and engage residents in the fabric of their neighborhoods such as Mighty Mutts, Fixer's Collective, Little Essentials, and the Park Slope Senior Center. Many of the organizations represented offer community service credit for students and outstanding experiences to build your resume and prepare you for a brighter and more gratifying future.