



Assemblymember

JIM BRENNAN

WINTER
2016

REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE

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This newsletter contains information on activities of my office and the NYC Parking Calendar. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or concerns.

Best wishes for health, happiness and peace in 2016.

Yours,

James F. Brennan
Assemblymember
Jim Brennan

New York State, Federal Government Change School Test Policy

Last month, the New York State Regents voted to put a four-year moratorium on the use of student test results on teacher evaluations. This action follows enactment of changes to the Federal No Child Left Behind Law passed by Congress and signed into law by President Obama. This action freed the State government of mandates to use test results for teacher evaluations as a condition of Federal aid. The Regents vote also followed a report from a Cuomo Commission on the Common Core that recommended a four-year moratorium on the use of the test results. The philosophy of test and punish has suffered a defeat. Let us hope it is permanent. Governor Cuomo has also reversed course from his budget demands from last winter that sought to keep increasing the use of the “test and punish” philosophy.

My office was examining draft legislation to eliminate the use of test results from teacher evaluations as these events were unfolding, and I was waiting to see how their outcome would affect any legislation I would introduce. We still need to repeal last year’s law and create a new metric for teacher and principal evaluations. My office will still introduce a bill to accomplish that result that strikes the use of test results from law. As this newsletter goes to print, Governor Cuomo submits the State budget on January 13th. The budget submission will undoubtedly contain changes from last year’s policies and this will clearly have an impact on the outcome.

I want to thank all the parents and school staff for their hard work on getting the State government to change course.



Good Credit Workshop ■ Co-sponsored by Assemblymember Brennan and the Ocean Parkway Development Corp. (OPDC), and joined by representatives from Ridgewood Savings Bank and the Attorney General’s (AG’s) office. The discussion included: how to maintain good credit scores, what banks look for when reviewing mortgage applications and identity theft. The AG’s representative emphasized the importance of shredding personal information. If you believe that you are a victim of identity theft, and/or a scam, call the AG’s Hotline at 1-800-771-7755. For additional information on any of the topics discussed at the workshop, telephone Assemblymember Brennan’s office **718-788-7221**.



Gas Hearing ■ Assemblymember Brennan Chaired the Assembly’s Corporations, Authorities and Commissions Committee hearing to evaluate statewide natural gas safety efforts that have been implemented following the 2014 natural gas explosion that led to the collapse of two buildings in East Harlem. Representatives from the NYS Department of Public Service, the City of New York, and Gas Utility companies from across the state, including Consolidated Edison and National Grid, testified about several initiatives aimed at improving natural gas safety. The Legislature strengthened the power of the Public Service Commission to enforce laws protecting the public from utility negligence that resulted in harm in 2013.

New State Law Monitors Crime on NYC Transit System

I am pleased to announce that my bill A. 4301A, requiring the reporting of criminal activity on the New York City transit system, has been signed into law by Governor Cuomo.

The new law will require the New York City Police Department to report to the New York City Council on crime that has occurred on subways and buses. The report will include the police precinct, the type of crime, and the specific subway line or bus route. These reports shall be maintained and transmitted electronically, then compiled into monthly reports which will be available to City officials and to the public on the internet. This bill will provide law enforcement with the information they need to allocate resources and stamp out this criminal activity. The new law also requires misdemeanor sex crimes and harassment to be reported as well as crime against employees of the transit system.

Information Sharing Workshops

Additionally, over the last few months, Assemblymember Brennan partnered with several community based organizations to provide important information:

Housing and Family Services of Greater New York, formerly Brooklyn Housing and Family Services, provided housing counselors at two events, one focused on tenant landlord issues, and the other, Foreclosure Prevention Counseling for homeowners. Please feel free to telephone Housing and Family Services of Greater New York at 718-435-7585 if you need assistance with these issues.

Heights and Hills at the Park Slope Senior Center for Successful Aging, formerly the Park Slope Senior Center, discussed legal and healthcare planning for caregivers and seniors. For additional information on this topic, feel free to telephone Heights and Hills at 718-596-8789.

And finally, **Good Neighbors of Park Slope** had an overwhelmingly positive response in assisting senior citizens in completing applications for the Senior Citizen Rent Increase Exemption (SCRIE) Program. Feel free to visit their website at <http://goodneighborsofparkslope.org/> for other events of interest. If you are a senior citizen, 62 years of age or older, with a household income of \$50,000 or less and living in a rent regulated-apartment, you may be eligible to have your rent frozen).

2016 New York City Parking Calendar

Compliments of Assemblymember **Brennan**

January 1 Friday	New Year's Day* – 2016 Major Legal Holiday Rules in Effect	July 5-7 Tuesday-Thursday	Eid al-Fitr Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
January 18 Monday	Martin Luther King Jr.'s Birthday Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	August 15 Monday	Feast of the Assumption Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
February 8 Monday	Asian Lunar New Year Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	September 5 Monday	Labor Day* Major Legal Holiday Rules in Effect
February 10 Wednesday	Ash Wednesday Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	September 12-14 Monday-Wednesday	Eid al-Adha Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
February 12 Friday	Abraham Lincoln's Birthday Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	October 3-4 Monday-Tuesday	Rosh Hashanah Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
February 15 Monday	Washington's Birthday (Presidents Day) Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	October 10 Monday	Columbus Day Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
March 24 Thursday	Holy Thursday Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	October 12 Wednesday	Yom Kippur Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
March 24 Thursday	Purim Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	October 17-18 Monday-Tuesday	Succoth – 1st Day and 2nd Day Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
March 25 Friday	Good Friday Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	October 24 Monday	Shemini Atzereth Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
April 23-24 Saturday-Sunday	Passover – 1st Day and 2nd Day Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	October 25 Tuesday	Simchas Torah Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
April 28 Thursday	Holy Thursday (Orthodox) Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	October 30 Sunday	Diwali Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
April 29 Friday	Good Friday (Orthodox) Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	November 1 Tuesday	All Saints Day Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
April 29-30 Friday-Saturday	Passover – 7th Day and 8th Day Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	November 8 Tuesday	Election Day Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
May 5 Thursday	Solemnity of the Ascension Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	November 11 Friday	Veterans Day Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
May 30 Monday	Memorial Day* Major Legal Holiday Rules in Effect	November 24 Thursday	Thanksgiving* Major Legal Holiday Rules in Effect
June 12-13 Sunday-Monday	Shavuot – 1st Day and 2nd Day Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended	December 8 Thursday	Immaculate Conception Alternate Side Parking Regulations Suspended
July 4 Monday	Independence Day* Major Legal Holiday Rules in Effect	December 25-26 Sunday-Monday	Christmas Day* Major Legal Holiday Rules in Effect

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.

Email Alerts and Twitter: Sign up at www.nyc.gov/html/dot/html/contact/email_signup.shtml or follow @NYCASP on Twitter.

Parking tickets: Parking tickets may be paid online at www1.nyc.gov or they may be paid by mail or in person. Parking tickets can no longer be paid by phone, but if you need phone assistance call 311.

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/parkingrules or dial 311 for further information or log on to www1.nyc.gov/311. TTY deaf or hearing-impaired, dial 212-504-4115.

Reminder:

Parking meters are not in effect Sundays.



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Flu Shots ■ Assemblymember Brennan is joined by Betty Jung, RN (Supervisor) Coordinator, for the Center for Community Health Promotion and Wellness at SUNY Downstate Medical Center and several students from the hospital's medical, nursing and public health graduate program who administered free flu vaccines at our annual community event.

Assemblymember Brennan, in his ongoing efforts to provide assistance to his constituents, will offer the following services at his Flatbush office, 1414 Cortelyou Road, between Rugby and Marlborough Roads.

- **Wednesdays, Noon-5PM**, partnering with Housing and Family Services of Greater New York, a mortgage counselor will provide individualized counseling on foreclosure prevention for homeowners.
- **Fridays, 10AM-1PM**, partnering with the Flatbush Development Corp., a tenant counselor will assist in completing applications for the Energy Share and the SCRIE Programs.

To schedule an individual appointment for either counseling service, kindly telephone my Cortelyou Road office at 718-940-0641.