

Summer 2017



A Message from Assemblywoman

Sandy Galef

Like me on Facebook



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Dear Constituent,

I am very pleased to invite you to my annual Senior Forum. This year's forum will be multifaceted, covering topics from deciphering whether news is real or fake to heart health. The morning will be packed with enticing speakers and entertainment. We will gather on Wednesday, July 19th from 9 a.m. to 12 noon in the Cortlandt Town Hall, located at 1 Heady Street, Cortlandt Manor.

The morning will begin with a light breakfast, during which we will open the forum with a sing along with Howie Kutcher, a talented performer from Briarcliff Manor who will bring us fun music and hopefully remind us of some fan-favorite songs.

I have invited several speakers to talk about important and interesting topics that I hope you will find informative. David McKay Wilson, who writes the TaxWatch column for LoHud.com will join us to discuss tips for identifying whether news is real or fake so that you know you are getting the best information available. Hannah Gross, who is a program specialist and Livable Communities Coordinator at Westchester Community College will be speaking about programs that will keep your mind working as you learn new things. Laura Palmer from the AARP will give an update on the AARP's legislative priorities at the state level. New York Presbyterian's own Dr. Craig Hametz, a Cardiologist, will give some heart-healthy advice for foods and activities you can do to keep you healthy as can be. Assistant Attorney General Gary Brown will update you on scams to watch out for, and how to keep your information safe. I have also invited Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul to say a few words about the centennial of Women's Suffrage in New York State.

Back again this year is a very popular part of last year's forum. The Comptroller's office is providing a booth for you to check if you have any money in the New York State Unclaimed Funds account.

I am eager to see you all in July and welcome you to call me for any reason should you have any comments, questions, or concerns.

Sincerely,

Sandy Galef

New York State
Assemblywoman Sandy Galef's
SENIOR FORUM 2017
Wednesday, July 19th

9:00 a.m. – 12 noon

Cortlandt Town Hall

1 Heady Street, Cortlandt Manor

*Breakfast will be provided

Event is Free. You do not need to RSVP.

Find out about:

Distinguish between Real News and Fake News

Educational Programming for Mature Adults

Livable Communities Initiative:

Bringing People and Places Together

How to Keep Your Heart Healthy through Diet and Exercise

Update from AARP on Federal Government Impacts

Learn how to avoid crimes targeted to seniors

NYS places to visit to Celebrate Women's Suffrage

Featuring:

David McKay Wilson

Tax Watch Columnist

The Journal News

Hannah Gross

Program Specialist and Livable Communities Coordinator

Westchester Community College

Laura Palmer

Associate State Director

AARP

Dr. Craig Hametz, MD

Cardiologist

NewYork-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital

Gary Brown

Assistant Attorney General

Office of New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman

Dan Montez

General Director, Taconic Opera

With Special Performances by:

Howie Kutcher

Sing-A-Long with Howie

Our Senior Forum 2017 Co-Sponsors:

Bethel Homes and Services; Briarcliff Manor Recreation Department; Buchanan Senior Citizens Club; Cedar Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation Center; Cortlandt Seniors; Crompond Seniors; Croton Senior Citizens; Drum Hill Senior Living; NewYork-Presbyterian/Hudson Valley Hospital; Nor-Cort Seniors; Ossining Golden Age Club; Ossining Senior Center; Ossining Senior Citizens; Peekskill Senior Citizen's Club; Philipstown Senior Citizens; Putnam County Office for Senior Resources; Verplanck Seniors; Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services

100th Anniversary of Women's Suffrage-Tourist Attractions

As you may have heard, New York is celebrating 100 years of women having the right to vote. The New York State Women's Suffrage Commission, chaired by Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, has identified a number of sites of interest around the state that were significant in the suffrage movement. New York was certainly a leader in the women's right to vote movement. You may be interested in learning more about some of these historic locations:

Rochester, NY

- **Susan B. Anthony House-** Visitor's center and gift shop, rich history that took place within its walls including Anthony's arrest in her parlor after she tried to vote in the 1872 election.
- **"Let's Have Tea" Statue-** Susan B. Anthony Park
- **Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery-** Susan B. Anthony grave

Seneca Falls, NY

- **The Women's Rights National Historic Park-** Features the Elizabeth Cady Stanton House and the Wesleyan chapel, where Stanton was one of five women to host the first National Women's Rights Convention, as well as many statues.
- **Center for Great Woman and National Women's Hall of Fame**
- **Historic Seneca Knitting Mill**
- **It's A Wonderful Life Museum**

Syracuse, NY

- **Matilda Joslyn Gage House-** The suffragette's house
- **Matilda Joslyn Gage's Grave-** honoring the suffragette

More State Tax Relief on Its Way

I know that we all love STAR and Enhanced STAR and these programs continue. In fact, the household income to qualify for Enhanced STAR increased from less than \$84,550 last year to less than \$86,000 this year.

The second Real Property Tax Relief Program for 2017 will be a tax credit check for those in Basic STAR and Enhanced STAR based upon a percentage of an eligible taxpayer's STAR savings and his or her income. There are two separate formulas, one for basic STAR and one for Enhanced STAR.

Basic STAR Property Tax Relief Credit formula: For the 2017 taxable year for a taxpayer who owned and primarily resided in real property receiving the basic STAR exemption, the amount of the credit shall equal the STAR tax savings associated with such basic STAR exemption, multiplied by the following percentage for the 2017 taxable year:

Qualified Gross Income	Percentage
Not over \$75,000	28%
Over \$75,000 but not over \$150,000	20.5%
Over \$150,000 but not over \$200,000	13%
Over \$200,000 but not over \$275,000	5.5%
Over \$275,000	No Credit

Enhanced STAR Property Tax Relief Credit formula: For a taxpayer who owned and primarily resided in real property receiving the enhanced STAR exemption, the amount of the credit shall equal the STAR tax savings associated with such enhanced STAR exemption, multiplied by the following percentage:

Taxable Year	Percentage
2017	12%

If you are in the STAR or Enhanced STAR tax relief programs, you do not have to apply for this tax relief program. It will be handled automatically by the New York State Department of Tax and Finance and a check will be sent to you by mail in the fall or winter if you qualify.

Sandy had the opportunity to present a proclamation in recognition of Ed Hallisey of Lake Carmel who was named Senior of the Year by the New York State Office for the Aging in its Annual Older New Yorkers Day Celebration. He was chosen for this honor for his years of service to the community, as a member of the United States Navy, a civil engineer, a fire fighter, a participant in the Putnam County Fire Police Response Team and RSVP Volunteer Medical Transportation Program, and volunteer activities for the Friends of the Senior Citizens of Putnam County Board. Congratulations, Ed.



Sock Out Cancer Day saw many members of the Assembly wearing socks striped with colors representing different types of cancers. I took a moment to snap a photo with my colleagues, (l - r) Assemblywomen Shelley Mayer, Pamela Harris and Donna Lupardo.



Assemblywoman Galef met with representatives from the group #bFair2DirectCare during the Budget process as they lobbied for funding support for Direct Care workers to increase wages.



Sandy's 2016 Senior Forum featured musical guests and speakers, and drew a large crowd of attendees. She hopes to see you there again this year, and to welcome those of you who may not have attended in the past.



Sandy poses with trumpeter Phil Miller and Cortlandt Town Supervisor Linda Puglisi at the Town of Cortlandt Vietnam War Memorial Dedication Ceremony to commemorate the 50th Anniversary of the Vietnam War Era and the Vietnam Veterans.



Sandy had the pleasure of hosting local veterans in the Assembly Chamber in Albany.



Jim and Nancy Witt, Cold Spring residents and Founders of the H.O.P.E. for Youth Foundation met with Sandy on the set of "Dear Sandy" to talk about supporting young people in need in the Hudson Valley.

Assemblywoman Sandy Galef Important Phone Numbers

Listed below are agencies in your area that may provide services you need.

Social Services

Putnam County Office of Social Services: 845-225-7040

Westchester County Office of Social Services: 914-995-5000

Information and assistance about long term care.

Social Security

For these benefits: Retirement, Survivors, Disability, Supplemental Security Income (SSI), and

Medicare General Phone Number: 1-800-772-1213

Health Services

The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services: ... 1-800-633-4227

Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage

(EPIC): 1-800-332-3742

County Programs for Seniors

Putnam County Office of Senior Resources: 845-808-1700

Putnam County Retired and

Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP): 845-808-1734

Westchester County Department of

Senior Programs and Services: 914-813-6400

Westchester County Office for the Disabled: 914-995-2957

Senior Community Service Employment Program

(SCSEP): 914-428-5850

Veteran Services

VA Nurses Helpline: 1-800-877-6976

Westchester County Veterans Service Agency: 914-995-2145

Putnam County Veterans Service Agency: 845-808-1620

Veterans Affairs Hospital – Montrose –

Women Veterans Program: 914-737-4400 Ext. 2757

Veterans Affairs Hospital – Castle Point –

Women Veterans Program: 845-831-2000 Ext. 5658

Veterans Affairs Hospital

Caregiver Support: 845-831-2000 Ext. 5487

American Legion: 317-630-1200

Safety Services

American Red Cross:

Metro New York North Chapter

(includes Westchester and Putnam Counties): 203-869-8444

Westchester County Chapter: 914-946-6500

Westchester County Adult and

Protective Services: 914-995-2259

Westchester County Elder Abuse Helpline

(Yorktown): 914-245-9167 (non-emergency)

..... 914-995-2099 (emergency)

The United Way of Westchester and Putnam: 211

2-1-1 provides callers with information about, and referrals to, health and human services for every day needs, and in times of crisis.

Aging in Place Services

Center for Aging in Place: 914-357-8511

Being at Age 80 and Beyond:

Contact Claire J. Dutt 914-941-1582

Miscellaneous

Westchester County District Attorney

Elder Abuse Bureau: 914-995-3000

Economic Crimes Bureau: 914-995-3303

Putnam County District Attorney 845-808-1050

Westchester County

Elder Abuse Helpline: 914-813-6436

Protective Services for Adults: 914-995-2259

Community Resources

Hebrew Home Elder Serve 24-Hour hotline: 800-567-3646

Pace Women's Justice Center Helpline: 914-287-0739

Become an Organ Donor: 914-941-1111

Television Shows

I am always happy to send you DVDs of my television programs, just call or email my office with your name, address, and which show you would like, and my staff will send you a copy as soon as possible. You may be interested in the recently aired programs: "Speak Out: Consumer Beware" and "Dear Sandy: Keeping Busy After Retirement."

My shows air regularly as follows:

Cablevision

Dear Sandy: Fridays at 8:30 p.m.
Speak Out: Wednesdays at 8:30 p.m.
Ossining and Peekskill Channel 15

(Briarcliff, Ossining, Scarborough, Buchanan, Cortlandt, Croton, Garrison, Montrose, Peekskill, Philipstown South, Verplanck)

Wappingers Falls Channel 21
 (Cold Spring, Philipstown North)
 and Yorktown Channel 74
 (Lake Peekskill)

Comcast

Dear Sandy: Fridays at 7:30 p.m.
Speak Out: Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m.
Carmel, Kent, Mahopac and Putnam Valley Channel 8

** Please check your local listings as the air dates for this channel may change*

Verizon Fios

Dear Sandy: Fridays at 9:00 p.m.
Speak Out: Thursdays at 8:00 p.m.
 On Channels 37 and 40 depending on your location



Assemblywoman Galef and Assistant Attorney General Gary Brown on the set of her television show, "Speak Out." They filmed a program focused on the current influx of scams, including ones aimed at senior citizens.



Assemblywoman Galef, Former Westchester County Legislator Richard Wishnie and Croton native Laura Seitz on the set of her television show, "Dear Sandy." They filmed a program focused on how busy the lives of retirees can be and how much they do for their communities.



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 Assemblywoman
**Sandy
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Senior Forum 2017

Summer 2017

New York State Assembly
 Albany, New York 12248

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Other Government Representative Contact Numbers

U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand (Mahopac): ..845-475-4585
U.S. Senator Chuck Schumer (Peekskill):914-734-1532
U.S. Congresswoman Nita Lowey
(White Plains):914-428-1707
U.S. Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney
(Newburgh):845-561-1259

NYS Governor Andrew Cuomo (Albany): 518-474-8390
NYS Senator Sue Serino (Putnam Valley): 845-528-0417
NYS Senator David Carlucci (Ossining): 914-941-2041
NYS Senator Terrance Murphy (Carmel): 845-225-3025
Putnam County Legislative Office: 845-808-1020
Westchester County Board of Legislators: 914-995-2800