



Michaelle C. SOLAGES

Assemblywoman
22nd Assembly District

FALL 2022



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to get updates on community news, events, and resources.

SOLAGES REPORTS TO THE PEOPLE: LOOKING BACK, THINKING AHEAD



Dear Neighbor,

I hope this newsletter finds you well. I would like to share an update on the 2022 legislative session and some of the events that have taken place in our community. I am proud of all that we accomplished in this session which will add to New York's continued fight for equality, transparency, and justice for all. This recent session was genuinely productive. I sponsored bills and enacted a budget that benefits all New Yorkers. It is an honor to be your representative and to secure additional resources to address the needs of our families. As always, if you have any questions or concerns, please contact my office so we can assist you.

Thank you for taking the time to read our newsletter.

Sincerely,

*Hon. Michaelle C. Solages
Assemblymember District 22*

BILLS AND BUDGETS THAT SUPPORT ALL NEW YORKERS

The New York State Legislature continues to build on our historic wins. The Fiscal Year 2022-2023 budget uplifts small businesses, tenants, homeowners, small landlords, and essential workers recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. We also passed legislation to ensure New York's recovery continues from the bottom up. In addition, the Assembly and Senate took nation-leading action to aggressively combat gun violence and create an opioid settlement recovery fund. I'm committed to continuing the hard work of strengthening our forecasted recovery in the coming months.

Relief for Homeowners and Tenants



Inflation and rising housing costs are hitting New Yorkers hard as we navigate the COVID-19 pandemic. In the 2023 budget, we included substantial funding to support tenants, landlords, and homeowners who

are struggling. We allocated funds to help with residential gas and electric utility payments, emergency rental assistance, and financial support programs to landlords with tenants behind on rent. The State Legislature also expanded funding for free legal representation in housing court in addition to reauthorizing the Homeowner Protection Program, which provides legal services and housing counseling to homeowners across New York. Homeowners who want more information about HAF grants can call 1-844-77-NYHAF (1-844-776-9423).

Electric and Gas Utility Bill Credit Program: New Yorkers enrolled in the Energy Affordability Program (EAP) will receive a one-time credit to help eliminate unpaid utility bills accrued through May 1, 2022. The program also authorizes the same relief for eligible low-income customers enrolling in EAP by December 31, 2022. Contact your utility providers regarding the energy affordability program.

Property Tax Rebate Checks

Nearly three million New York homeowners are receiving property tax rebate checks this year. No action is needed for those who qualify – if you haven't received your check yet, it should be arriving soon. If you believe there is an issue, please contact Assemblywoman Solages' district office via email: solagesm@nyassembly.gov.

Signed by Governor Hochul: Lactation Accommodation in Airports



Governor Kathy Hochul signed Assemblywoman Solages legislation to provide lactation accommodations in New York State airports (A.7813). This legislation requires airports to provide a non-bathroom space for breastfeeding mothers behind the security screening area equipped with a chair, an electrical outlet, and in larger airports, a sink.

Expanding Childcare and Pre-K Slots on Long Island



Assemblywoman Solages secured significant funding in this year's budget to help all families. By investing in young people, we guarantee that the economy of New York State will flourish for years to come. This budget included more than double the current investment in childcare, providing nearly \$3 billion more in childcare over the next three years alone, expanding eligibility for subsidized care, and allocating a total of \$375 million for the universal pre-k step-up program. The budget we passed also provides \$25 million to create a five-year property tax abatement for property owners who build a new childcare center or expand an existing center.

Assemblywoman Solages & Advocacy Groups Push for Hearing Aid Coverage



This session, Assemblywoman Solages proposed legislation that requires hearing aid insurance coverage for all (A.5035, A.9572). Hearing loss is a major public health issue that is the third most common physical condition after arthritis and heart disease. Yet, insurance companies are not required to cover hearing aids. Contact our office via solagesm@nyassembly.gov if you want to join our advocacy coalition.

Making Historic Investments in Public Safety



The New York State budget included changes to cash bail. These changes included expanding which crimes are bail eligible such as gun possession, gun sales, and hate crimes. In addition, we maintained a balance by ensuring that the lowest-level nonviolent crimes remain bail ineligible as pre-trial detention does not reduce future crime and disproportionately harms low-income New Yorkers and people of color.

The Public Safety Budget makes a \$65 million investment in approaches to discovery that ensure public safety, including system-wide coordination, technology, expanded storage capabilities, administrative support; and \$25 million for pretrial services, alternative to incarceration services, and reentry programs. These services include reminders and monitoring of court attendance, screening, and referrals for mental health and substance abuse treatment.

UPDATES ON LOCAL INFRASTRUCTURE

Redesign of Southern State Parkway Exit 13

Infrastructure like roads, bridges, and bike paths are pieces of infrastructure New Yorkers use daily. That is why it is a top priority to ensure they are safe and free of potholes. This year, Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages fought for more significant funding for local infrastructure improvements and aid to localities. Locally, Assemblywoman Solages was able to secure \$20 million for the reconfiguration of the eastbound Central Avenue interchange at Exit 13 of the parkway in Valley Stream, which is a danger to many.

Pave our Potholes

In this year's budget, Assemblywoman Solages successfully advocated for \$100 million for a new "Pave our Potholes" program to prevent car damage and make our roads easier to use. This budget also provides \$754 million for local governments in Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) and \$538.1 million for the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program.

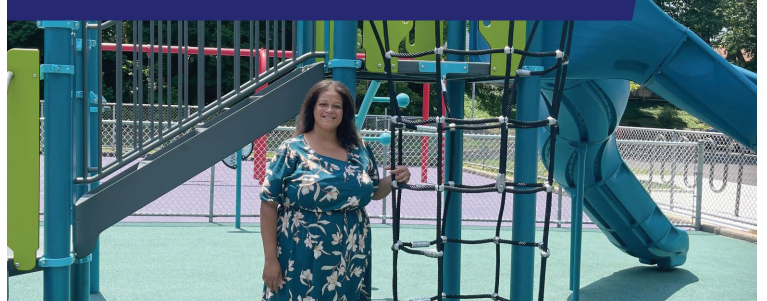


ELMONT AND FLORAL PARK RESIDENTIAL PARKING ZONES



For residents of Elmont, Bellerose Terrace and Floral Park, the redevelopment of the Belmont Park Racetrack and the opening of the UBS arena have introduced an influx of event-goers to our neighborhoods. In response, Assemblywoman Solages successfully passed bills A.3593 and A.10085 to relieve traffic hazards, congestion, and air and noise pollution. These bills will allow Floral Park and the Town of Hempstead to establish their own parking permit system to safeguard its residents.

ELMONT ROAD PARK IS NOW OPEN!



Elmont Road Park reopened after a \$3 million renovation. Renovations at Elmont Road Park included a drainage project, upgraded basketball courts with new nets, new playground equipment, a splash park, a walking path, additional lighting, and an adult fitness area. It also includes a multi-use sports court, field, and scoreboard.

ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS AROUND TOWN



Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages and Senator Kaplan hosted their first-ever community Iftar Dinner.



Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages hosted a low-waste art workshop commemorating Earth Day. Community members of all ages joined us in painting decorative planting pots.



Assemblywoman Michaelle C. Solages participates in a "Senior Chat" at a local library.



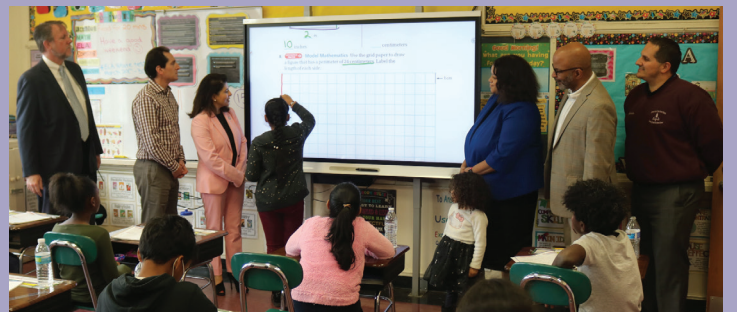
Since December 2021, Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages and her team have distributed thousands of COVID-19 at-home test kits. Thank you to the dozens of volunteers who helped disseminate the kits.



Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages honored Fiesta Food Mart of Valley Stream. They offer many Filipino delicacies for everyone to enjoy. Please send your suggestions on local businesses that you would like to see recognized with an award.



Valley Stream Civilian Patrol is looking for new members to serve and protect the community. Become a volunteer and be the watchful eye for Valley Stream. Call (516)-823-9088 or visit valleystreamcivilianpatrol.org for more information.



Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages remains committed to making the necessary investments in our children's future, which includes ensuring equitable access to state-of-the-art technology.



Assemblywoman Michaelle C. Solages supported the FDR Services workers union at the Workers United rally.



The Floral Park/Bellerose Girl Scout Troop 1285 collaborated with Assembly-member Solages to draft and pass a resolution to proclaim May 3, 2022, as Juvenile Idiopathic Arthritis Awareness Day in the State of New York.



Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages hosted her annual Summer Reading Hour at the Valley Stream Library.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES



Free COVID-19 Antigen Rapid Self-Test at Home Kit

Free at-home COVID-19 rapid tests are available at our district office.

To receive your rapid at-home kits, please call (516) 599-2972 to arrange a time for curbside pick-up.

Report Aircraft Noise

If you have aircraft noise complaints, please report them.

If you don't call, you don't count.



We ask that residents report airplane noise to the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey and the Federal Aviation Administration. With this data, we can demand that these entities lessen airplane noise over our homes.

To file an aircraft noise complaint:

1. Complete and submit the PANYNJ form on this page: <https://bit.ly/3cL-6L7U>, or leave a voicemail on our airport noise complaint hotline at 1-800-225-1071.

2. To contact the FAA Aviation Noise Ombudsman, please email 9-aea-noise@faa.gov or leave a voicemail at (718) 553-3365.

We ask that you kindly provide as much information as possible. Details will help the Port Authority review and process your complaint.

Information for Homeowners that Need Help

Assistance may be available if you struggle with residential gas and electric utility payment obligations. Contact PSEG LI at 1-800-490-0025 if you would like to discuss payment options and see if any financial assistance programs work for you.

Are you a homeowner that needs immediate help? Call Homeowner-HelpNY: 855-HOME-456 (855-466-3456) now. There is no cost to homeowners. Advocates are available to work on a range of everyday challenges, including:

- Managing mortgage payments
- Unsustainable tax debt
- Foreclosure prevention
- Reverse mortgage foreclosures
- Scam prevention
- Senior assistance

Do You Need a Free Smoke Alarm?

Do you need a smoke alarm?

For a free smoke alarm installation appointment, sign up here:

<https://forms.gle/kKnC34J7YL73Mg7X6>

or call (516) 599-2972 / email solagesm@nyassembly.gov.



Assemblywoman Solages is partnering with The American Red Cross to help promote their important Sound the Alarm initiative, aimed at reducing the occurrences of home fires by spreading fire safety awareness and providing free smoke alarms and smoke alarm installations.

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Assemblywoman Michaelle C. SOLAGES

Legislative Highlights

Assemblywoman Solages' COMMUNITY OFFICE SERVES YOU

1690 Central Court Valley Stream, NY 11580

Telephone: (516) 599-2972 • Email: district22@nyassembly.gov
Monday-Friday. 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

We will help you with: Small Business concerns, housing issues, unemployment, STAR/E-STAR, HEAP, SNAP benefits, health insurance, navigating through State/Town/Village Agencies, quality of life issues, obtaining traffic control measures, and much more.

Upcoming Event: WINTER WONDERLAND



Assemblywoman Solages is hosting her annual Winter Wonderland Celebration. Children will receive free toys, treats and more. Date and location forthcoming.

We encourage attendees to register today. To register for this free event, please call our district office (516) 599-2972.