



Information from Catherine Nolan

WORKING FOR OUR COMMUNITY

Dear Neighbor:

As the year draws to a close, I have reviewed the issues affecting our neighborhoods and I am working to create a legislative action agenda for the 2014 Legislative Session that reflects those needs. I will continue to fight for more school seats in our community.

I will continue to work with our local elected officials, local civic groups and community boards to ensure that our neighborhoods remain good places to call home. The district offices are here to serve you; please do not hesitate to call upon us.

I wish you, your family and friends a very happy and healthy New Year.

Sincerely,

Catherine Nolan
Member of Assembly

Tackling Overcrowding in Our Schools

As Assembly Education Chairwoman and a public school parent, I have worked to bring more school choices and help to alleviate some of the overcrowding issues that our community faces in Western Queens. There is still more to do but I am proud that we have been able to add the following schools to our community:



A new annex was just completed to give more space and seats to P.S. 78 as it moves from a K-5 to a K-8. The addition of the annex will also help reduce the overcrowding in the area and give parents another option for their children's education. I had a wonderful time at the ribbon cutting ceremony and I look forward to continuing to work with the Department of Education to build more schools in our community.

I accompanied Chancellor Walcott on the first day of school in IS/HS 404. This new school was part of major redevelopment by the city as they continue to improve access to the waterfront. IS/HS 404 is just one of many new schools that will open its doors over the next several years and will greatly benefit Community School Districts 24 and 30 as many new seats are created.

With the opening of Hunters Point Park, the housing development of Hunters Point South, IS/HS 404 will continue to give residents, parents and students more options as the community continues to grow.



SUPPORTING OUR Community

Over the summer, members of my staff and I visited with residents all over the 37th Assembly District. Many residents shared their concerns on the current traffic issues, request for stop signs, noise complaints and several other quality of life issues. We were also made aware of several areas where the fire hydrant needed to be replaced, sidewalks needed fixing and pedestrian crosswalks needed to be repainted. We were able to get several issues and concerns resolved including:

1) I wrote to the Parks Department to express my concern about the maintenance of the medians along 11th Street between 44th Drive and 46th Avenue. In their response letter, the Parks Department explained that they will continue to work with the Department of Sanitation to make sure that the medians are cleaned and maintained. The crew will trim the weeds 4-6 times per year. I appreciate the Parks Department's response.



The Greater Ridgewood Youth Council offers many programs to the community. These programs include summer youth employment and after school programs for students. I attended a tour of this great organization with Jeanne B. Mullgrav, Commissioner of the NYC

Department of Youth and Community Development (DYCD). I will continue to advocate for organizations like this that work to help support our communities' needs.

MASPETH

There has been some recent news about an establishment known as the 'Knockdown Center' located at 52-19 Flushing Avenue in Maspeth. In September, the owners and developers presented their case at the monthly Community Board 5 meeting of their intention to apply for a liquor license. After talking with many residents in the community, I have serious concerns about this establishment and have written several letters to the State Liquor Authority, the NYC Buildings Department and the NYC Small Business Services Department expressing my opposition.

Some of my concerns include: the Knockdown Center has repeatedly been denied a valid certificate of occupancy and has been forced to apply for temporary assembly permits. As a former factory the safety of this establishment is highly questionable after being denied a building permit to house 5,000 people. There is also a lack of public transportation in the Maspeth area and this establishment would put more strain on the system.

At their October meeting, Queens Community Board 5 denied their request for a liquor license application because they lacked a valid certificate of occupancy. I will continue to closely monitor this issue and will keep you informed.

SUNNYSIDE

I have written a letter to the NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission to express my opposition to the recent proposal to build an "Aluminaire House" in the Sunnyside community. Queens

Community Board 2 recently held a vote opposing this project and called on the Landmarks Commission to deny the application. I have heard from the community and agree that this proposed development would not be suitable for the Sunnyside area. This proposal is currently under review by the Landmarks Commission and I will continue to keep you involved on any recent developments.

LONG ISLAND CITY



I had the privilege to meet with the Ravenswood Tenant Association led by Tenant Association president Carol Wilkins. Many residents voiced concerns on many issues including safety, schools and services. Pictured here, Assemblywoman Nolan with Officer Johnson and Deputy Inspector Miguel Iglesias from the PSA#9 Police, NYCHA.

OUR COMMUNITY

Community Outreach

2) I wrote to the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) to follow up on the operation of traffic signals at the intersection of Metropolitan Avenue and 60th Street. In their response letter, DOT confirmed that pedestrian signals were installed to regulate the crossings at the location.

We sent over 46 letters to the various state and city agencies requesting that your problems and issues be addressed. I will continue

to follow up with the various agencies to make sure these issues are addressed. I would like to thank my constituents for bringing these concerns to my attention. In the future, please feel free to reach out to either of my district offices if you have any other concerns about the neighborhood. We are here to help and it is important that we continue to take care of our community.

I was thrilled to have Chancellor Walcott, the Ferraro Family and many others join me in dedicating the new Geraldine A. Ferraro Campus this fall. The Geraldine A. Ferraro Campus will house P.S. 290, the A.C.E. Academy for Scholars. The new building will open in September

2014 and be located at 55-20 Metropolitan Avenue, just a few blocks from the late Congresswoman's district office.

The five-story school, currently under construction, will have 616 seats serving pre-kindergarten to fifth grade. The new building will include two playgrounds, a gymnasium that also will serve as an auditorium, a second gymnasium, library, kitchen and cafeteria, 23 classrooms and 7 special education District 75 classrooms with a separate therapy room.



From L to R: Congresswoman Nydia Velazquez, Councilwoman Elizabeth Crowley, Queens Borough President Helen Marshall, Assemblywoman Margaret Markey, Mieasia Harris, Principal of P.S. 290Q, Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Assemblywoman Deborah Glick, Assemblywoman Aravella Simotas, Council Speaker Christine Quinn, Denise Vittor, Principal of Grover Cleveland High School, Lorraine Grillo, President of the NYC School Construction Authority and members of the Ferraro Family).

CELEBRATING OUR COMMUNITY



Pictured from L to R: Ira Greenberg, past honoree, Judy Zangwill, Executive Director, Sunnyside Community Services and Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan

This year I was also honored by Sunnyside Community Services. Sunnyside Community Services has been a leader in providing our community with vital services and activities that enrich the lives of residents of all ages. Their work in our community is priceless and I look forward to continuing to work with them in assisting as many residents as we can.



This year the Friends of Gantry Park celebrated its 15th-year anniversary. Starting in 2001, with an agreement with the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation, a group of volunteers began to work in the park with the help of the state park's staff to maintain the gardens and planted areas of the park. This volunteer-run group has helped to keep our beautiful state park a destination for all residents of Queens. I was honored to receive an award from the Friends of Gantry Park and I look forward to working with them in the future.

Update on the New Housing Development at Hunters Point South

In the last newsletter, I informed you of a new affordable housing development that will be going up in the Hunters Point South area in Long Island City. The application process is underway and residents may sign up and create a profile on the website called NYC Housing Connect. The website can be found here: www.nyc.gov/housingconnect

NYC Housing Connect, will simplify the housing lottery system by allowing New Yorkers to fill out a single

application and apply to multiple new housing lotteries using an automated online system accessible on the website above. Residents will be able to use the NYC Housing Connect website to apply to all available housing lotteries using the new automated application system. Paper applications will continue to be accepted for all projects. I will continue to keep the community updated on this issue. I urge every resident to consider applying for these apartments.



Assemblywoman

**Catherine
NOLAN**

*Helping to keep the
community informed*

Assemblywoman
CATHERINE NOLAN

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