

Assemblywoman Michaelle C. Solages



Summer 2014

Serving the communities of North Valley Stream, Valley Stream, South Valley Stream, South Floral Park, Floral Park, Bellerose Terrace, North Woodmere, Elmont, Stewart Manor, and parts of Franklin Square.

WISHING YOU AND YOUR FAMILY A SAFE AND RELAXING SUMMER BREAK!

As the New York State Assembly 2013-2014 session comes to a close, I thank the constituents of the 22nd District for their support throughout this year. I continue to work with local, state and federal officials to ensure that vital resources necessary are brought to our community. During this session I worked with the Assembly to advocate for change that will have a lasting impact and improve the quality of life on Long Island for all. Highlighted in this newsletter is some of the legislation passed during this session. I remain committed to working on solutions to concerns surrounding housing, crime, and high taxes.

Please feel free to stop by my District Office located at 1690 Central Court, Valley Stream, NY 11580. My office hours are from 10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m., Monday- Friday. There are resources available regarding rights of senior citizens, healthcare information, and housing resources.



Assemblywoman Solages District Office is located at 1690 Central Court, Valley Stream, NY 11580.



Assemblywoman Solages recognizes Dutch Broadway Elementary School for their fundraising efforts on behalf of the non-profit organization, Home for Heroes. Dutch Broadway Elementary School students and staff raised over \$4,000 that will go toward building homes for our Veterans.



Assemblywoman Solages reads to children at the Elmont Memorial Library during National Library Week, April 13-19, 2014. Please join Assemblywoman Solages as she hosts a reading hour at the Elmont Library on July 23, 2014 from 11:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m.



Assemblywoman Solages joins members of Raise Up New York to advocate for the increase in the current minimum wage rate.



Assemblywoman Solages joined the Indian Nurses Association of New York as they discussed unifying, supporting and empowering nursing professionals in the community in order to deliver the best quality health care possible.

ASSEMBLYWOMAN SOLAGES HELPS REDUCE THE PROPERTY TAX AND UTILITY TAX BURDEN

This year's budget provides significant property tax relief for homeowners across the state by offering a two-year property tax credit in the form of a direct check, provided that a local government and school district stay within the 2 percent property tax cap. To benefit for a second year, schools and localities would have to propose a detailed cost-cutting plan. This measure will not only help families save money

but will also incentivize efficiency, saving taxpayers over \$1.5 billion over the next 3 years. In addition, in last year's budget, the Assembly fought to phase out the 18-a utility surcharge imposed on energy bills. This year's budget accelerates the phase-out, lowering the surcharge rates by \$200 million annually for both residential and commercial customers and \$600 million over the next three years.

DISTRICT OFFICE: 1690 Central Court, Valley Stream, NY 11580 • 516-599-2972
ALBANY OFFICE: Room 827, LOB, Albany, NY 12248 • 518-455-4465
E-MAIL: solagesm@assembly.state.ny.us

ASSEMBLYMEMBER SOLAGES HELPS PASS VITAL TAX RELIEF FOR HARDWORKING FAMILIES

Assemblywoman Solages helped pass the 2014-15 state budget that will provide significant tax relief for middle-class families.

“This year’s budget ensures that hardworking families continue paying the lowest tax rate in over 60 years and provides for a \$350 child tax rebate, while also giving them substantial property tax relief,” said Assemblymember Solages.

Assemblywoman Solages pictured with volunteers from the Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Program. Assemblywoman Solages hosted VITA Program volunteers in her District Office in advance of the tax deadline. Taxes were filed free of charge for those with lower income.



ASSEMBLYMEMBER SOLAGES SUPPORTS GMO BILL

In recent news there has been much debate over the labeling of genetically modified organisms, also known as GMO’s. Genetically modified organism processed products derive from plants or animals that contain ingredients that are genetically engineered. It is important to know that GMO’s are manufactured to resist through use of herbicide or to produce an insecticide. Assemblywoman Solages supports the labeling of GMO’s for the protection and awareness of her constituents,

and all consumers in New York State. In addition she believes that consumers have the right to make an informed purchase when going to the local grocery store. We should also consider the environmental damages and safeguards for farmers. Assemblywoman Solages strongly supports GMO labeling and will continue to fight for our constituents to have the option to make safe and informed decisions when purchasing food products in our neighborhoods.

REFORMING COMMON CORE

The 2014-15 state budget incorporates recent legislation passed by the Assembly that helps fix the flawed implementation of Common Core. Earlier this year, Assemblywoman Solages voted to delay the effects of high-stakes testing associated with the Common Core in order to address the poor rollout of new education standards. As students continue to adjust to the Common Core, teachers are also adjusting and learning how to effectively implement the curriculum. By taking the Common Core test results out of evaluations for two years, we can alleviate the burden our hardworking educators are experiencing and give these teachers ample opportunity to fit their instruction to the Common Core.

The Common Core reforms also protect students from unfair consequences based on test results and ensure the security of sensitive student data. Among some of those protections are:

- Ban standardized tests for students in grades K-2;
- Prohibit Common Core test scores from solely or primarily determining grade promotion;
- Make changes to assessments for students with disabilities and English language learners pursuant to a federal waiver submitted by the State Education Department (SED);

- Require third-party vendors to notify the school or SED of any data breaches and establish penalties for failing to do so;
- Create a “Parents Bill of Rights” that places limitations on sharing student data with third-party vendors; and
- Provide for the elimination of inBloom and require SED to request that all student information already provided to inBloom be deleted.



Armed Forces Day

Assemblywoman Solages honored our men and women in uniform during Armed Forces Day in South Floral Park.



I Love My Park Day

Assemblywoman Solages celebrates I Love My Park Day on May 3, 2014 with over 100 volunteers. Pictured are Assemblywoman Solages with Tim Watson, Park Manager; Wayne Horsley, Regional Director; and volunteers.



Prostate Cancer Awareness Informational Discussion

Assemblywoman Solages is joined by Dr. Leester D. Woo (pictured 3rd from right), of South Nassau Communities Hospital with attendees during a discussion regarding the importance of early cancer screening.



Women of Distinction Luncheon

On March 23, 2014, in celebration of Women's History Month, Assemblywoman Solages hosted a free luncheon which honored women nominated by the community for their dedication to improving the 22nd District.



Haitian Unity Day

Assemblywoman Solages pictured together with Long Island Haitian Community Leaders in celebration of the New York State Assembly declaring May 28, 2014, Haitian Unity Day.



SLAIG NY

Assemblywoman Solages pictured in Albany with members of the State Legislators Against Illegal Guns (SLAIG NY) seeking meaningful reform.

SUPPORT FOR LEGISLATION THAT CREATES A HOMEOWNERS BILL OF RIGHTS

- Assemblywoman Solages supported a Homeowners Bill of Rights which passed in the Assembly.
- The Homeowners Bill of Rights would require insurers to provide homeowners with a disclosure notice detailing their property and casualty coverage in the event of a disaster. Specifically, the disclosure notice would include information on:
 - Coverage or limitations on coverage for certain catastrophic losses;
 - Claims investigations and proceedings;
 - The rights of the insured under the law;
 - Provisions that could be modified or changed in accordance with the law following a disaster; and
 - Any other information deemed necessary by the state Superintendent of Financial Services.

UPCOMING EVENTS and SAVE THE DATES:

For additional information regarding upcoming events please contact Assemblywoman Solages' District Office at **516-599-2972** or via email at **SolagesM@Assembly.state.ny.us**

JULY 23, 2014

Summer Reading Hour with Assemblywoman Solages:

Join Assemblywoman Solages at the Elmont Memorial Library from **11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.** for a summer reading hour in the Children's book section. Bring your children and have them bring their imaginations along!

AUGUST 5, 2014

National Night Out 2014:

Join Assemblywoman Michaelle C. Solages for National Night Out 2014, a free community event! Enjoy free food, entertainment and give-a-ways. National Night Out is an evening dedicated to promoting crime prevention, police-community partnerships, and a way to send a message to expand and strengthen crime prevention programs for the next 364 days.

When: August 5, 2014

Time: 6:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

SEPTEMBER 21, 2014 Fitness Day:

Join Assemblywoman Solages for a day of fitness in celebration of Women's Fitness Health Day (9/24/14). Time and Location TBD.



Assemblywoman
**Michaelle C.
SOLAGES**

Reports to the People

Summer 2014

STAY INFORMED:

Please know that my Assembly Website is available to keep you informed of legislation and other issues of interest to you and the community. You can also use this page to send me e-mails, view video footage of Assembly floor debates and more.

You can visit the site at:

<http://assembly.state.ny.us/mem/Michaelle-C-Solages>