



Assemblywoman
Barbara CLARK
 Reports to the People
 Summer 2012

**CONGRATULATIONS
 TO ALL THE GRADUATES
 OF 2012**

**Invest 2 hours a month in your local Parents Association.
 The return on your investment is a better education for our children.**

Dear Friends,

I am often reminded of my mother's words that "sometimes it is necessary to leave well enough alone." This gentle reminder that often when things aren't where we want them to be, to remember that it is not as bad as it could be, brings some small measure of comfort. That is how I size up where we are in this state. So, a short summary of certain budget highlights is necessary to give meaning to these phrases:

First, this year's budget was passed on time, for a second year in a row. Second, this on-time budget brings the first increase in education aid since 2008. **NYC public schools are scheduled to receive approximately \$292 million dollars from this increase.**

State aid for community colleges and libraries was also increased. This is especially good news for those Campus Magnet High School students who are part of a new program I initiated with former Queensboro Community College President Dr. Eduardo Marti. This program is an outgrowth of the Obama Administration's efforts to support community colleges. Called the "21st Century Community Learning Center," it affords students who might not be headed to 4-year institutions a chance to amass Queensborough Community College credits while still in high school.

New York State's receipt of over **\$90 million in a settlement of litigation against the banking industry** over foreclosure abuses will result in **additional funding to housing, foreclosure, and neighborhood assistance programs across the state.** This should continue to stem the rate of foreclosure in our communities.

In a significant victory, this budget also **restores funding for EPIC's co-payment assistance.** This means that EPIC (Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage) will keep enrollees' co-payments for prescription drugs to only \$3 to \$20. This important change will take effect January 1, 2013. If you dropped your EPIC enrollment when the EPIC program was cut in 2011, you should reenroll. If you are eligible but you have not yet enrolled, you can do so now. The EPIC application and information can be downloaded from **<http://www.health.ny.gov/forms/doh-3409.pdf>**.

Barbara M. Clark

**Assemblymember Clark and
 NYS Department of Labor Sponsor
 Registration for New York Youth Works Program
 At Campus Magnet and Pathways High Schools**

On April 25th and May 4th, NYS Department of Labor Regional Representative John Moye joined Assemblymember Clark in sponsoring two different registration workshops for summer employment opportunities for students attending Campus Magnet and Pathways High Schools. "Scores of students from both schools, as well as some youth from neighboring community schools, showed up seeking an opportunity to find, for some, their very first job," said Clark.

Governor Cuomo signed the NY Youth Works Program into law on December 9, 2011 to encourage businesses to hire unemployed, disadvantaged youth. The program will support job training and employment for eligible youth ages 16 to 24. The program will enable youth to earn up to \$900 if employed by an authorized NY Youth Works employer/provider. Businesses which certify to participate in the program are eligible for up to \$4,000 dollars in tax credits for hiring eligible youth through December 31st, 2012.

Assemblymember Clark especially commended New York State's regional representative John Moye for his efforts in bringing these registrations directly to our local community schools. "The Governor has, in Mr. Moye, an effective representative committed to ensuring that youth from all communities in NYC have access to this program. This is not just about enabling our young people to earn money. It is also about providing real opportunities and exposure to the professional world of work," said Clark.

If you would like more information about the program, please contact the New York State Department of Labor at info@youthworks.ny.gov or by phone at 1-877-226-5724. The eligibility requirements are listed on the back page of this newsletter.



Department of Labor New York City Regional Representative John Moye delivers a presentation to a group of potentially eligible students.

Annual Community Day Cleanup Twice as Nice with the Help of Home Depot and Community Volunteers

Spring cleaning does not have to stay indoors now that Assemblywoman Clark is giving residents a chance to beautify their neighborhoods.

Assemblywoman Barbara Clark (D-Queens Village) invited all community members from Bellerose, Cambria Heights, Hollis, Queens Village, and St. Albans to participate in the 18th annual Spring Cleanup/Beautification Day on Saturday, May 5th.

“We did not expect to clean the entire district in one day,” said Clark. “The event kicked off the spring cleanup season in hopes that the cleanup and beautification efforts will be sustained throughout the year.”

The cleanup was so successful on May 5th that the Assemblywoman decided to extend the efforts for an additional week. Partnering with Home Depot in Springfield Gardens, the Home Depot Foundation, and the Queens Sickle Cell Advocacy Network (QSCAN) on Friday, May 11th, the cleanup and beautification effort of the Queens Village Veterans Plaza continued in preparation for the annual Memorial Day holiday ceremony. Home Depot has generously given a grant for the purchase of flowers, plants, and materials and sent over 30 volunteers to help plant and beautify the park.

Clark has organized the cleanup day for the past 18 years and said the beautification day embodies the spirit of community togetherness and builds alliances between citizens, businesses, and government in a way that inspires everyone to roll up their sleeves and produce real results close to home.

“The cleanup day was so successful that we had to expand it for an additional week. The spring cleanup is a perfect opportunity to bring members of the community together to improve their local environment,” Assemblywoman Clark said. “I was encouraged by the show of support from the community and the city agencies including sanitation, the LIRR, Parks and Recreation, and the Department of Transportation. It’s important that everyone pulls together, no matter how big or small the contribution might be.”

Clark met with officials from city and state agencies to request that they begin cleaning sites in major disrepair in advance of the annual spring cleanup day. Those agencies have concentrated on cleaning local roadways, parks, and other large public areas to much fanfare. “The community has reported that many of the areas that have been historically in disrepair have been cleaned by our city agencies,” said Clark.

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Flanked by Post 301's Commander Levon Whaley on her right and Queens Chaplain Philip Sica on her left, Assemblywoman Clark speaks at the Memorial Day Ceremony in Veterans Park.

Assemblymember Clark Speaks at Memorial Day Ceremony At Queens Village Veterans Park

American Legion Post 301 once again was faithful in its remembrance of those who have served or given their lives for this nation. Queens County American Legion Post 301 Commander Levon Whaley and his fellow veterans assembled for the annual Memorial Day ceremony in Veterans Park with Assemblymember Clark, Congressman Meeks and Assemblyman Weprin. Also in attendance was former Senator Frank Padavan who spoke as a veteran about the importance of recognizing the service of all men and women.

Clark continued that theme in her remarks, “At each of the Memorial Day Services I have faithfully attended during my time in office, two things have always stood out to me: the first is that there are far too few Vietnam-era veterans in attendance and even less from the wars or conflicts in Kuwait, Iraq, and

Afghanistan. Perhaps we must all think about doing more to reach out and recognize those men and women who feel left out and unwanted at these commemorative events. My own brother seldom spoke of his two tours of service in Vietnam, nor did he attend such events. Let’s think about more ways to bring them into the fold.”

Assemblymember Clark and Home Depot sponsored a special cleanup and beautification program at Veterans Park prior to this year’s ceremony so that the pristine grounds would also reflect the pride and importance of the day. “I promised myself at last year’s ceremony, that this year the Memorial Day event would not be obscured by the dirt and neglect of the grounds surrounding the Memorial and I am very glad we accomplished that,” said Clark.

THE COMMUNITY CLEANS UP



Assemblywoman Clark and St. Albans Civic Improvement Association President Bernard Harrigan kicks off the cleanup by surveying litter-strewn areas in Hollis and St. Albans.



Surrounded by a large contingent of Home Depot volunteers, Assemblywoman Clark starts the Cleanup of Queens Village's Veterans Park.



Courtesy of the Long Island Railroad, years and years of collected grime is steamed from columns holding up Veterans Park's rusting canopy.



At the end of a long and exhausting day, Mr. Herrigan and his members had collected and stored this mountain of rubbish awaiting pick up by Sanitation.



QSCAN President Gloria Rochester and grandson, brooms in hand, join Assemblywoman Clark and community volunteers in getting ready for the task at hand.



After scraping and repainting by the NYC Parks Department, Veterans Park's canopy sits resplendent on restored columns.



Home Depot delivers plants and mulch to Veterans Park Springfield Gardens.



Home Depot volunteers begin the day's task.



In a pristine Veterans Park, Assemblywoman Clark thanks Springfield Garden's Home Depot's store manager, Tani-sha Holland, and its community liaison, Vinetta Coleman, for partnering with QSCAN in making for a successful day.

Continued from page 2

Volunteers helped clean and beautify public streets, open lots, schoolyards, and other public spaces. The beautification effort continued with QSCAN, civic and block associations, and friends and families joining in the efforts by beautifying and planting flowers and plants in the Queens Village Veterans Plaza along with volunteers from Home Depot. Businesses will continue to be asked to participate by sprucing up their storefronts.

"I am happy that the community is able to partner with city and state agencies that have already begun cleaning large chronic

sites throughout the community," she said. "I am also pleased that The Home Depot in Springfield Gardens has provided the community with supplies and tools and volunteers for our cleanup and beautification efforts. The Queens Village Veterans Plaza is extremely important to the community, especially for our veterans, many of whom are from World War II. Both QSCAN and Home Depot Springfield Gardens was quick to respond to our request for assistance, affirming their commitment to our community."

The Summer Big Apple Games Program Is Back!

The Recreational Program, designed as an extension of the PSAL, accommodates children from **grades 4 through 12 including students with special needs**. This Summer's Program will operate from **Monday, July 9th, 2012 to Thursday, August 2nd, 2012 at local schools throughout the city**. The program offers a variety of recreational opportunities for children.

The Junior High School Program operates from 9 a.m.–3 p.m. and uses a camp concept in providing recreational opportunities. This program is designed to offer a variety of activities including arts and crafts, game room activities, and various sports skills for students in grades 4 through 8.

The Afternoon & Evening Teen Recreational Centers operates from the hours of 1-5 p.m. & 6-9 p.m. Monday-Thursday. This program provides activities in various sports, such as wrestling, volleyball, basketball, softball, floor hockey, team handball, gymnastics, and ultimate Frisbee. These sites also offer game-room activities, arts and crafts, and swimming instruction.

PSAL also offers sport-specific skills programs for students of middle school and high school age in baseball, softball, football, track & field, and soccer. All sites are staffed with licensed teachers and school safety officers. Locations and programs offered at local schools in District 29 are listed below:

Registration will take place at the school on a daily basis:

School District 29	Math, Science, Tech Magnet HS	207-01 116th Avenue	ASC - Afternoon Teen Center	7/9/2012	8/2/2012
School District 29	Math, Science, Tech Magnet HS	207-01 116th Avenue	ECC - Evening Teen Center	7/9/2012	8/2/2012

New York Youth Works Eligibility

To participate in the NY Youth Works Program, you must be:

- 16-24 years of age
- NYC resident
- Unemployed

Youth who are 16 and 17 years old must also either:

- Be in school
- Have a High School Diploma or GED
- Be enrolled in GED preparation class
- Have permission of a parent or guardian

Youth 18 years or older must meet at least one of the following criteria:

- No High School Diploma or GED
- Be a veteran
- In a family receiving either public assistance, food stamps, SSI or reduced lunch

- Served in jail or prison or be on probation or parole
- Be pregnant or parenting
- Be homeless
- In either foster care now or in the past or in the custody of New York State Office of Children and Family Services
- Be the child of a parent who is currently incarcerated or has been within the past two years or who is collecting unemployment
- Live in public housing or receiving housing assistance

How to Apply

Youth must file an application with the New York State Department of Labor by December 31, 2012.

Application can be completed and submitted online.

The application can be printed from: www.jobs.ny.gov/youthworks.

Assemblywoman Barbara M. Clark

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