



Assemblyman

Phil Ramos



Fall 2013

Community News

Assemblyman Ramos has been busy working in and around the district. Take a look at what he's been up to.

Around the Community



Assemblyman Ramos observes Day of Dignity and Respect

On October 5th Assemblyman Ramos and Make the Road New York observed the National Day of Dignity and Respect by protesting the exploitation of workers hired by companies contracted by FEMA during the Hurricane Sandy Relief efforts.



Assemblyman Ramos donates pumpkins to Head Start

Assemblyman Ramos donates 130 pumpkins to Brentwood Head Start during the harvest season.

See page 4 for more Community News...

2013 Long Island Somos El Futuro Black-Brown Alliance Conference

Assemblyman Ramos organizes first-ever event in Suffolk



Assemblyman Phil Ramos recently organized the first-ever Somos El Futuro Black-Brown Alliance Conference in Suffolk County. The goal of the event, said Ramos, "is to build a coalition among Long Island's growing minority community, which is approximately 35 percent of the region's population." Over 1,200 participants from in and around Long Island attended this year's Black-Brown Alliance Conference. The conference is scheduled to be an annual event and is expected to grow in attendance and influence.

The Somos El Futuro conference was a byproduct of the creation of the New York State Assembly/Senate Puerto Rican/Hispanic Task Force in 1987. For the past 26 years the task force has mobilized Hispanics in an effort to focus attention to issues of importance to communities across the state. In the presence of the ever-growing minority community on Long Island, it was only natural that political leaders, community leaders and private and nonprofit sectors got together to bring attention and work on the issues of utmost importance to the minority community of Long Island.

Workshops were held on issues ranging from education to the changing demographics on Long Island. The conference also served as a stage to highlight the contributions made by minorities on Long Island in the areas of education, business, politics and immigration reform.

Office of Assemblyman Phil Ramos

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2013 Summer Reading Challenge



Assemblyman Ramos recognizes 2013 Summer Reading Challenge participants

Each year as the school year draws to a close, Assemblyman Ramos invites school-age children to take the “Summer Reading Challenge.” The program encourages children to continue reading during the summer months after the school year ends.

Assemblyman Ramos recently recognized the children of the 6th Assembly district who took “the challenge” and read a minimum of 15 minutes every day for at least 40 days throughout the months of July and August. They gathered at the Brentwood Library where the children received a certificate for their dedication and hard work in the 2013 Summer Reading Challenge program. Eighty-five dedicated readers took the challenge this year. A number of them were on hand with their proud parents to be recognized by Assemblyman Phil Ramos.



Assemblyman Ramos will introduce legislation to designate bridge to memory of Corey J. Swinson



Assemblyman Phil Ramos will soon be introducing legislation to designate a portion of the state highway system in the hamlet of Bay Shore the “Corey J. Swinson Memorial Bridge.” The bridge renaming will honor former NFL player and local resident who passed away in September. After his NFL career, Swinson returned home to Bay Shore to volunteer and make a difference in his community.

100%

Assemblyman Ramos receives a perfect 100 score on Environmental Advocates of NY Scorecard

Leading environmental group protecting NY’s environmental community

This past month the EPL/Environmental Advocates released its 2013 Environmental Scorecard – giving Assemblyman Phil Ramos a perfect 100 score for his support of numerous environmental measures.

“Protecting the well-being of the people of my district has always been my number one priority,” said Ramos. The Environmental Advocates of New York has always fought strong and hard on behalf of New York’s environment. “I’m happy to stand with them in protecting families and the environment they live in,” added Ramos.

The EPL/Environmental Advocates 2013 Environmental Scorecard is the first and only record of its kind of New York State lawmakers’ votes on legislation that impacts the environment. The scorecard had been in existence for more than 40 years

Participating students and program director, Charles Fox, had the opportunity to talk about the program on Assemblyman Ramos’ TV show. The program has seen many students since its inception and it has a great track record of inspiring students to reach their full potential beyond their high school careers.

Assemblyman Ramos brings together National Geographic & Cablevision for local essay contest

Winner will receive an educational trip of a lifetime

Assemblyman Phil Ramos addressed Brentwood High School students about the National Geographic essay contest and the benefits of world travel with regard to learning and enrichment. The winning student will receive an all-expenses paid educational trip to their choice of 30 different countries.

Assemblyman Ramos was instrumental in bringing together Cablevision and National Geographic to sponsor this contest in Brentwood. "I want to thank Nat Geo Mundo and Cablevision for this joint venture which will provide a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for one of our young shining stars," said Assemblyman Ramos. "The students of the Brentwood school district represent the beauty of diversity and display the hardworking characteristics that are embedded in the pursuit of the American Dream," concluded Ramos.

The contest runs from **October 30, 2013 through January 31, 2014**. To learn more about the rules and eligibility of this exciting program, visit www.natgeomundoexplorer.com.



"The students of the Brentwood school district represent the beauty of diversity and display the hardworking characteristics that are embedded in the pursuit of the American Dream."

– Assemblyman Ramos

STAR Registration Program

Notice from Assemblyman Ramos on new tax law

A new law now requires all homeowners receiving a Basic STAR exemption to register with the New York State Tax Department in order to receive the exemption in 2014 and succeeding years. Homeowners will not have to register to receive their 2013 STAR exemption. There will be no need to re-register every year. The Tax Department will monitor homeowners' eligibility for future years based on the information provided during the registration process.

There are two ways to register – online and by phone.

To register online go to <http://www.tax.ny.gov/pit/property/star13/>. You will need to:

- ★ provide a STAR code (the Department of Taxation and Finance are mailing codes to all Basic STAR recipients; or you can use the STAR code lookup online)
- ★ provide the names and social security numbers for all owners of the property and spouses
- ★ confirm that the property is the primary residence of one of its owners (married couples with multiple residences may only claim one STAR exemption)
- ★ confirm that the combined income of the owners and their spouses who reside at the property does not exceed \$500,000
- ★ confirm that no resident owner received a residency-based tax benefit from another state

To register by phone, call 518-457-2036

- ★ Monday – Friday from 8:30 a.m. – 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Saturdays between 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Registration runs now through December 31, 2013.



Around the Community (continued)



Assemblyman Ramos helps put students through the Suffolk County Police Youth Academy

The Suffolk County Police Youth Academy, funded by monies secured by Assemblyman Phil Ramos and in conjunction with Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, helped put 50 students from Central Islip and Brentwood through the Suffolk County Police Academy's training to expose them to a potential career in law enforcement. Assemblyman Ramos, a retired Suffolk County detective, said, "Involving our youth in positive activities is just another vehicle in fighting gang violence in our community."



Assemblyman
**Phil
Ramos**

Community News

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Assemblyman Ramos wants to ensure you receive your Basic STAR exemption



A new law now requires all homeowners receiving a Basic STAR exemption to register with the New York State Tax Department in order to receive the exemption in 2014 and succeeding years.

Don't forget - the deadline to register is

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Registration is easy (see page 3 for details)