



# Assemblyman Cymbrowitz

## Reports to the Community



Winter 2013

Dear Friend,

The year is almost over and a new legislative session will soon begin. For me, that means weekly trips to Albany and focusing on the multitude of pressing challenges that confront our entire state—the challenge of creating jobs, educating our children, taking care of seniors, improving the quality of life for all, and ensuring that our state continues to be a place where people want to live and work.

Even with the Albany agenda, being accessible to the community remains my foremost priority. My staff and I are here for you, whether that means answering your questions, helping you navigate bureaucracy or providing support with a neighborhood issue or individual matter. Remember that we are your go-to resource right here in the community.

Please take a few minutes to read this newsletter, which spotlights some of the things I've been doing to assist our community. Some of the stories you'll read started with a phone call, email, or visit from a neighbor who had a thought to share or a problem that needed my involvement. It's your voice that often starts the ball rolling. Keep the ideas coming.

Feel free to visit my district office at 1800 Sheepshead Bay Road—any Monday through Thursday, 9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m., and Fridays until 5:00 p.m. You can reach me at (718) 743-4078 or email [cymbros@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:cymbros@assembly.state.ny.us). If you're on Facebook, please "like" my page.

Have a healthy and safe winter –

Steven H. Cymbrowitz  
Member of Assembly

1800 Sheepshead Bay Road  
Brooklyn, NY 11235  
718-743-4078



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz presented Summer Reading Challenge certificates to students who spent many fruitful hours during the summer in the company of books.

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Announces Victory Over Controversial East 21st Street Drug Treatment Center

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz went to bat for the Sheepshead Bay community and ran a controversial drug treatment center out of town.

The state Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services (OASAS) took the unusual step of denying the facility, First Steps to Recovery, Inc., after Assemblyman Cymbrowitz exposed the city Health Department's failure to consider community input or even do a site visit before granting its preliminary approval to the site at 2632 East 21st St. The location had no parking and was in a building with young families.

The lawmaker, Chair of the Assembly's Alcoholism and Drug Abuse Committee, had a heated meeting in his office during the summer with the key players and asked OASAS to issue a "cease and desist" order while the Health Department revisited the proposal. OASAS quickly agreed.

In September, OASAS told the provider that the location was not appropriate and that there is "sufficient capacity in the greater community to meet the needs of those requiring treatment."

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Introduces Bill to Give Communities a Voice in Placement of Drug Treatment Centers

In the wake of his victory over a controversial drug treatment center in Sheepshead Bay, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz is introducing legislation (A.8237) requiring community input to be considered in the placement of outpatient substance abuse treatment facilities.

The bill—sponsored in the Senate by State Sen. Diane Savino—would amend the mental hygiene law by requiring the New York City Department of Health and other local units throughout the state to solicit and include community input as part of their assessment of proposed outpatient drug treatment centers. In the city, that input would come from the community board where the facility would be located.



## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz and Mazel Day School Students Clean Up Holocaust Memorial Park

Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz (D-Brooklyn) led more than 80 children and adults from the Mazel Day School in Manhattan Beach in a neighborhood cleanup that commemorated the first anniversary of Superstorm Sandy—an event that destroyed the yeshiva's Brighton Beach home and at the same time taught the students a powerful lesson in hope and rebirth.

Mazel—a word that means luck in Hebrew—was in short supply when Sandy left the Brighton 6th Street school underwater.

Hard work repaired the damage, and on a bright fall morning everyone from preschoolers to parents to board members pitched in to perform the same labor of love for Holocaust Memorial Park on Emmons and West End Avenues. With supplies from the Parks Department, they planted tulip and daffodil bulbs and left the park free of litter and weeds.

"This was a great lesson for the children," Assemblyman Cymbrowitz said. "After destruction, there can be new life."

***"This was a great lesson for the children. After destruction, there can be new life."***

***– Assemblyman Cymbrowitz***



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz, a member of the Assembly's Health Committee, joins a constituent as she receives her flu shot during one of the many free health screenings the Assemblyman holds for residents in his community office.



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz was on hand as Roslyn Sokol of the Lena Cymbrowitz Foundation presented checks to Bridge Back to Life and the Dynamite Youth Foundation, two worthwhile organizations that help young substance abusers in our community. His tenth annual Lena Cymbrowitz Community Health Fair raised necessary funds for the two groups.



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz visited the students and staff of three schools -- Bay Academy, P.S. 255 and Edward R. Murrow H.S. -- to present them with new computers in recognition of their first-place finish in each division of his Holocaust Essay, Poetry, Performance and Art Contest.

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Gets Perfect Rating for Environmental Record

The state's leading health and environmental advocacy group has given Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz (D-Brooklyn) a perfect legislative rating.

On the annual scorecard released by Environmental Advocates of New York, the lawmaker, who is a member of both the Environmental Conservation and Health committees, earned 100 out of 100 points, placing him among the state's greenest legislators.

During the last legislative session, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz supported legislation that establishes a solar energy incentive and finance program to encourage the use of alternative and cleaner power; places a moratorium on the issuance of certain new natural gas drilling permits to allow for further research of potential risks; and puts limits on greenhouse gas emissions.

"Legislatively, we will continue to confront issues that force us to take a long, hard look at the potential risks to our environment and residents and to examine how we will ensure that our planet lives on far longer than we do. Our work continues and I am pleased to take on this challenge," he said.

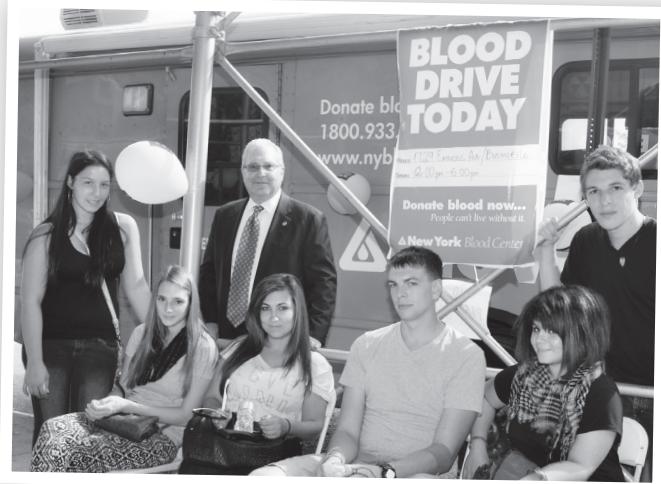


Assemblyman Cymbrowitz presented a New York State Assembly citation to Suleyman Aydogan, Executive Director of the Turkish Cultural Center Brooklyn (left), and Saim Cagirici, Program Director of the Council of Turkic American Associations (center), on the occasion of the recent Azerbaijan Independence Day.

# Save the date!

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' Annual Health Fair

### Sunday, June 8 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Emmons Avenue in Sheepshead Bay



## HERE'S TO YOUR HEALTH!

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz will be sponsoring the following FREE health screenings. RSVP is required.  
Call his district office at (718) 743-4078 to reserve your spot.

|                          |                                      |   |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|---|
| Colon Cancer             | Wednesday, March 12, 2014            | 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  |
| TBD                      | Tuesday, April 8, 2014               | 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  |
| Diabetes                 | Thursday, June 12, 2014              | 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  |
| Mammography              | Wednesday, July 9, 2014              | 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.   |
| Balance (Light Exercise) | Tuesday, July 15, 2014<br>3 sessions | 10:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m.<br>11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.<br>12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. |
| Mammography              | Tuesday, August 26, 2014             | 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.  |
| Health Fair              | Sunday, June 8                       | 11:30 am. – 2:30 p.m.   |



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## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Stands Firm with Community in Brighton Beach Bathroom Battle

Residents of Oceana condominiums in Brighton Beach came to Assemblyman Cymbrowitz for help when the city—with little notice—started bulldozing the beach to make way for a 20-foot-tall comfort station to replace the non-elevated one it had torn down.

The new bathroom was to be built directly in front of the Oceana and there were fears that the bathroom's breakaway design would send pieces flying through windows in the event of another major storm.

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz wrote to Mayor Bloomberg asking him to reconsider the location but the city wouldn't budge. Temporary bathrooms were promised but never materialized. In September, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz announced that a preliminary injunction was signed barring the city from doing construction pending an environmental review. In mid-November, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz testified at a Parks Department public scoping meeting in the hope of finding a solution.

"We are one community and we are united in our desire to move forward. In its zeal to finish this project the city proceeded in a manner that showed zero concern for residents or the environment. It's time to change that," he said.