



A message from
Assemblywoman
**SANDY
GALEF**

SENIOR FORUM 2012

SUMMER 2012

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Dear Constituent,

It has been a busy year in Albany, as I have worked in the legislature to continue making New York an even better state to live in. As you may know, the legislature passed the 2012-13 New York State budget on time this year, while keeping within a self-imposed 2% tax cap, without raising new taxes and fees. The budget will help restore the EPIC program, which is vital to so many seniors in my legislative district.

I am pleased to announce that New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman will join me at my annual Senior Forum to discuss the launch of "Smart Seniors," a statewide elder fraud prevention program. The goal of "Smart Seniors" is to teach seniors how to recognize potential scams before they happen, and to empower seniors by providing them with information they can use to stay safe in their daily lives. This launch will be followed by a powerful short documentary video on the impact of elder abuse and a discussion with Assistant Attorney General Gary Brown on points raised in the film.

I also look forward to hearing from the other speakers at this year's Senior Forum. Meryle Richman will share ways to live a healthier lifestyle through motivation, awareness and education. Laura Traynor will speak about local community programs and how communities have come together to help the aging population with tasks and chores. In addition, Suzanne Mateo will discuss Hudson Valley Hospital Center's new NICHE (Nursing Improving Care for Healthsystem Elders) program, a national geriatric initiative to improve care of older hospitalized adults.

As always, I greatly appreciate Hudson Valley Hospital Center's co-sponsorship of this event and for providing the breakfast available during my forum. I would also like to thank all of the senior groups in my district who are co-sponsoring the Senior Forum.

Please join me on the morning of Wednesday, July 18th, for my annual Senior Forum (details are on the right.) I look forward to seeing you there.

Sincerely,

New York State Assemblywoman
Sandy Galef's

SENIOR FORUM 2012

Sponsored by
Hudson Valley Hospital Center*

Wednesday, July 18th
9:00 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Cortlandt Town Hall
1 Heady Street, Cortlandt Manor
Event is free. You do not need to RSVP.



Featuring:

**New York State
Attorney General
Eric Schneiderman**

Speakers:

Gary Brown

Assistant Attorney General
In Charge of Attorney General Schneiderman's
Westchester Regional Office

Suzanne Mateo

Nursing Administrative Director and Chair,
NICHE Team, Hudson Valley Hospital Center

Meryle Richman

Director, Physical Therapy at Briarcliff & Jefferson Valley, P.C.

Laura Traynor

Executive Director, The Center for Aging in Place

Find out about:

- **Elder Abuse**
- **Avoiding Financial Exploitation**
- **How to Avoid Identity Theft**
- **Nursing Impact Care During Hospital Stays**
- **Living a Healthier Lifestyle**
- **Support Networks to Help You Stay in Your Home**

*Breakfast provided by Hudson Valley Hospital Center

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Smart Seniors Launch

At this year's Senior Forum, New York State Attorney General Eric Schneiderman will announce the launch of "Smart Seniors," a statewide elder fraud prevention program. The goal is to teach seniors how to recognize potential scams before they happen, and to empower seniors by providing them with information they can use to stay safe in their daily lives. We will screen "An Age for Justice: Confronting Elder Abuse in America." This powerful 16-minute documentary film features interviews with four elder abuse victims, and illustrates the devastating impact that abuse can have. The screening will be followed by a short discussion on issues raised in the film.

Hudson Valley Hospital Center's NICHE Initiative

We will learn more about this new program at the Senior Forum. Hudson Valley Hospital Center (HVHC) in Cortlandt Manor is among only 300 hospitals and nursing facilities in the nation to be accepted by a prestigious network that promotes superior care for older adults. The Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing designated HVHC as a NICHE (Nursing Improving Care for Health-system Elders) hospital. NICHE is a national geriatric initiative to improve care of older hospitalized adults. To receive the NICHE designation, HVHC had to develop a program that treats older people with compassion, keeps their health from deteriorating and works with their families to prepare patients for leaving the hospital. Nurses have been specially trained to care for geriatric patients in ways which encourage the patients to adopt healthy lifestyles.



Here, I am at my 2012 Desmond-Fish Library town meeting talking with a constituent.



At last year's Senior Forum, I had the opportunity to speak to many of the attendees.



At my 2011 Senior Forum, attendees and I enjoyed listening to Michelle LeBlanc of Putnam Valley sing some wonderful jazz songs.

Senior Forum Co-Sponsors:

Briarcliff Manor Senior Citizens
Buchanan Senior Citizens Club
Cortlandt Seniors
Crompond Seniors
Croton Senior Citizens
Nor-Cort Seniors
Ossining Golden Age Club
Ossining Senior Center
Ossining Senior Citizens
Peekskill Senior Citizens' Club
Philipstown Senior Citizens
Putnam County Office of the Aging
Putnam Valley Seniors
Verplanck Seniors
Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services

Assembly Priority 2012 Legislation

A.643-A

(Passed Assembly)

This bill would require the Department of Transportation to conduct a state-wide survey to evaluate the safety of senior pedestrians and study the feasibility of enhancing their safety. Every year senior citizens are disproportionately represented among those killed or injured in pedestrian accidents. Preventive pedestrian safety measures have been successfully implemented outside New York State, so it makes sense for New York State to learn from its neighbors.



I am pictured here with Rosalind Morrissey, the Grand Marshal at the 2012 Croton Summerfest. Over the years Rosalind has run the Croton Blood Drive with a lot of dedication and much success.

A.9611

(Passed Assembly & Senate)

Legislation has recently passed both houses which would allow veterans to have their New York State driver's license indicate that they are a veteran. This bill will be effective in giving standard recognition to veterans on a single identification card. It will also give veterans a convenient form of ID to carry with them in place of other records. This legislation will make it easier for local businesses that provide discounts to veterans to identify such customers.



I was recently joined in Albany by residents of Putnam who were honored for their dedication to their communities. Pictured from left to right are: Steve Katz, Assemblyman; Mary White, Putnam County RSVP Director; Marie Zarcone of Putnam Valley (Community Service Award); Nicholas "Nick" Mucciarone (Senior of the Year Award) and his wife, Helen, of Mahopac; and Stanley Graham of Putnam Valley.



I have now held three movie events to screen the footage of my trip to Pennsylvania to learn more about hydraulic fracturing. I am pictured here at my movie screening in Ossining talking to constituents about this important topic.

A.2154-A

(Passed Assembly)

This bill would require the New York State Office for the Aging to publish a guide explaining the purpose, function, potential side-effects, and potential drug interactions of drugs commonly used by persons over the age of 62. Since seniors are often prescribed multiple medications and/or take over-the-counter medicines whose interactions can be life threatening, such a guide would be useful in making seniors aware of the likely contraindications of certain commonly prescribed drugs and over-the-counter medications.



Betty Budney, a Philipstown Town Councilwoman, Ande Merante, a Nelsonville Village Trustee, and I attended a press conference at Glynwood Farm to promote Community Supported Agriculture.

A.9352

(Currently in Assembly Codes Committee)

I am a co-sponsor of this bill, which would prohibit business entities from charging extra fees when customers pay with a method deemed "undesirable." Currently, companies may charge additional fees specifically for customers who choose to mail in payments. This legislation would still allow companies to encourage specific forms of payment, but would prevent them from penalizing those customers unable or unwilling to pay in that form.

New York State EPIC Funding Restoration

We have restored \$30.6 million to the Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program. This program covers drugs on a senior's Part D formulary during the initial coverage and catastrophic phases of Medicare Part D. The initial coverage phase is when Part D co-payments average 25% of the drug's cost. Under this change, which takes effect on January 1, 2013, seniors will only be responsible for their EPIC co-payment, which will be no higher than \$20. This is an improvement from the 25% part D co-payment. Those who wish to benefit from the restored EPIC program must first enroll in a Part D Plan. For more information, please call the EPIC hotline at 1-800-332-3742 or visit their website at http://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/epic/.

Farmers Markets in the 90th Assembly District

Farmers markets near you and their hours:

Cold Spring Farmers Market

Boscobel, 1601 Route 9D
Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
May 12 through November 17
<http://www.csfarmmarket.org>

Croton-On-Hudson Farmers Market

Municipal Lot on Municipal
Place & Riverside Avenue
Wednesdays 1:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m.
May 30 through mid-November
<http://www.communitymarkets.biz/market.php?market=30>
(914) 923-4837

Muscoot Farmers Market (Katonah)

51 Route 100, Katonah
Sundays 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
May 13 through October
<http://www.muscootfarm.org/farmersmarket.htm>
(914) 864-7282

Ossining Farmers' Market

Corner of Main and Spring
Streets, next to Market Square
Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
May 26 through mid-December
<http://www.communitymarkets.biz/market.php?market=1>
(914) 923-4837

Peekskill Farmers Market

Bank Street
Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m.
June 9 through November
http://www.downtownpeekskill.com/documents/farmers_markts.html
(914) 737-2780

Pleasantville Farmers Market

Memorial Plaza off Manville
Road
Saturdays 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.
May 26 through mid-December
<http://www.communitymarkets.biz/market.php?market=2>
(914) 923-4837

Putnam Valley Farmers Market

Grace United Methodist Church
337 Peekskill Hollow Road
Fridays 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
June 22 through September 28
<http://www.putnamvalleyresidents.com>
(845) 528-0066

Check out your local
farmers market.

