



Dear Neighbor -

Below are a few updates from Albany as the legislature enters negotiations with the Governor for this year's New York State Budget.

Please let us know if there are any priorities you would like to see further advanced this year, and don't hesitate to contact my office if we may assist.

All the best,

Andy

—

Andrew Hevesi

Assembly District 28

Advancing Universal Child Care

As New York advances towards the goal of Universal Child Care, Assemblyman Hevesi is working with his colleagues for a system that can both meet the immediate needs of families and remain sustainable over time.

To make this a reality, Assemblyman Hevesi, in his role as Chair of the Children & Families Committee, is prioritizing **1)** pay for the child care workforce — specifically ensuring sustained living wages — without which the system cannot provide high quality care; **2)** the Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) funding and deadline, so that funds make their way to families and unnecessary waitlists for child care are eliminated; and **3)** including a thirty-percent (30%) enhanced rate for subsidized child care, when needed for child care providers to serve a child with a disability.



Assemblyman Hevesi Speaks for Universal Child Care in Albany

For more information about Assemblyman Hevesi's specific priorities, see his goals outlined in the **attached letter**.

Human Services Budget Hearing

Assemblyman Hevesi recently led the questioning of the Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS) Commissioner at the Joint Senate / Assembly Human Services budget hearing.

The goal of this convening was to shape this year's state budget priorities that relate to children and families. Matters discussed included increasing wages for the entire human services workforce, placing 211 on the Governor's Executive Budget, creating a liability insurance fund for foster care agencies, funding the modernization of older New York State supportive housing units, and increased investment in Raise the Age detention capital, including authorization of the use of body scanners at youth facilities run by OCFS.



Assemblyman Hevesi Chairs this Year's Human Services Budget Hearing

Assemblyman Hevesi is continuing to advocate for programs such as the expanded [Empire State Child Credit](#) (family-based tax credit), [removing bureaucratic stopgaps](#) for survivors of domestic violence that prevent assistance from being provided, supporting youth through afterschool, and numerous additional investments.

[Here is where](#) you can find clips from this year's hearing.

This Saturday! Lunar New Year Celebration with the Forest Hills Asian Association

Happy Year of the Horse! Join the Forest Hills Asian Association and numerous community partners this Saturday to celebrate the Lunar New Year.

Forest Hills Stadium Community Fund
Forest Hills Stadium

11375
FOREST HILLS
ASIAN ASSOCIATION
Serving the community since 2015

RIDGEWOOD SAVINGS BANK

**HAPPY LUNAR
NEW YEAR 2026
YEAR OF THE HORSE**

All are Welcome
Event is free

Lion Dance and
Cultural Performances

Ridgewood Savings Bank
107-55 Queens Blvd
Forest Hills, NY 11375
SAT, FEB 21, 2026 2:30PM

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH INVITED ELECTEDS

CM Lynn Schulman AM Andrew Hevesi Rep Grace Meng Sen Leroy Comrie Sen Joe Addabbo QBP Donovan Richards

QUEENS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
Metro Village
FOREST HILLS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

The event will be held **February 21, 2:30pm at Ridgewood Savings Bank** (107-55 Queens Boulevard).

Wishing all a very healthy and prosperous year ahead.

Helpful Resources

- **Assemblyman Hevesi recently chaired a hearing about maintaining financial stability of seniors.** In addition to legislation and sponsoring the *Master Plan on Aging* in this budget cycle, the Department for the Aging identified useful resources. [Find free resources for older adults here](#), and [See tips how to avoid financial scams here](#).
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- **The Department of Veterans Affairs** has identified numerous programs in recent hearings aimed to bolster the veteran population. To find a full list of their resources, [visit their webpage](#), and contact our office if we may assist in this outreach.

Stay Tuned! Volunteer Opportunities

As warmer weather approaches, our office will be resuming its volunteer series across the district.

Stay well in the meantime, reach out if we can assist, and hope to see you soon!

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