



Weekly Report from Assemblyman Charles D. Fall

October 11, 2019

Advisory Notice: On Monday, October 14, 2019 my Staten Island and Albany offices will be closed for the holiday observance. Please direct any emails to Agosas@nyassembly.gov. Both offices will be open again on Tuesday, October 15, 2019.

Honoring the Life of Rev. William Edgar Merryman Jr.

I want to personally express my condolences on the passing of Reverend William Edgar Merryman Jr. who passed away last week at the age of 86. As pastor of First Presbyterian Church of Staten Island for over 30 years, a founding member of Project Hospitality and the founder of the first women's shelter on Staten Island he had a role in many aspects of life on the North Shore. Reverend Merryman exemplified what it means to be a great Staten Islander and community role model. He is - and will always be - an inspiration for all those who seek to be a force for good on Staten Island.



District 61 News

North and South Shore District Swap with Assemblyman Mike Reilly

Assemblyman Michael Reilly of the 62nd district and I took part in an Assembly district swap in an effort to familiarize ourselves with the one another's district. During my tour of the South Shore I visited Intermediate School 7, Christopher's Reason Recovery Center, and Volunteers of America Early Learning Center. Assemblyman Reilly's visit to the North Shore consisted of visits to P.S. 31 Samuel Dupont, Goodhue Center and the Museum of Maritime Navigation.

I would like to thank my colleague Assemblyman Reilly for visiting my district. There are many unifying concerns that we share across the Island including a desire for better transportation, safe streets and affordable

healthcare. Issues we will continue to certainly address in both our districts, across the Island and in Albany.



Janice Blanchard Street Renaming Ceremony

I joined the Blanchard family and my colleagues in government to commemorate the life and legacy of Janice Blanchard. Janice was a coordinator of the annual Travis Fourth of July Parade for more than a decade and served as secretary for the Travis Civic Association. Sadly, she lost her battle with breast cancer in 2017. This street sign will commemorate her legacy in our community for years to come. Thank you to Council Member Steven Matteo and Borough President Oddo for ensuring the corner of Melvin Ave. & Victory Blvd. is Janice Blanchard Way.

P.S. I certainly support Borough President Oddo's idea to have a local public school named after Janice!



Forest Avenue Business Improvement District (BID) and Made in Staten Island Harvest Festivals

'Tis the season for harvest festivals! I had a great time at the Forest Avenue BID and the Made in Staten Island harvest festivals. There are an endless number of unique small businesses in our community helping to spread community spirit. I look forward to

meeting more constituents at upcoming festive activities this season.



Updates from Albany

Albany Budgetary and Legislative Check-in

This week I went to Albany to meet with the Speakers team and receive updates on pending legislation, capital projects and potential priorities for 2020. I also had the opportunity to express frustration regarding the MTA five-year capital plan and the Staten Island projects that should be included. While Albany session does not return until January 2020, I am committed to implementing common sense legislation and sharing information about funding opportunities that can benefit our community.

Attending the 2019 New York State Fallen Firefighters Memorial Service

In 1997 the official New York State memorial to honor the memory and heroism of those NYS firefighters who died in the line of duty, came into existence. The memorial is located in the Empire State Plaza, adjacent to the Egg Center for the Performing Art. It houses the memorial in a park-like setting with brick pathways and charcoal and red pavers, forming a Maltese Cross.

On October 8th, twenty-three brave souls, including Jim Martinez and George Frolich from Staten Island, who made the ultimate sacrifice while protecting the lives of others were memorialized with their family members present. As we honor these fallen heroes, we must consider that nine of the twenty-three were firefighters who succumbed to Ground Zero related illness after the attack on 9/11. The terrible effects of 9/11 continue to permeate the lives of too many.

Below are links to several resources and services available for September 11 victims and their families:

- [Victim Compensation Fund](#)
- [World Trade Center Health Program](#)
- [Friends of Firefighters Inc.](#)
- [The Families of Freedom Scholarship Fund](#)
- [The American Legion's Legacy Scholarship](#)
- [Stephen Siller Tunnel to Towers Foundation](#)
- [The Carl V. Bini Memorial Fund](#)



- **Participating in the ‘Align US Pathway To Your Future Panel Symposium’ via skype video**
Despite being in Albany, I was able to participate in a local event hosted by the Align US organization focused on pathways to future success for the younger generations. It was great to speak with organizer Dr. Uzma Syed and the robust audience attending the symposium. It was great to share my personal advice to always listen and absorb information. I wish all the youth and young professionals the best as they embark on their career journey.



Grant, Scholarship, and RFP Opportunities

NYC Health + Hospitals (H+H) and the city administration announced that **NYC Care**, a health care access program committed to guaranteeing accessible and affordable health care for all New Yorkers, will launch in Staten Island in January 2020. The Mayor's Office of Immigrant Affairs (MOIA) and H+H have issued an RFP to engage community-based organizations to help community members gain access to essential health care services through NYC Care.

- **Deadline:** Nov. 8, 2019
- **Contact:** [Visit this website](#) for more information.

New York State Education Department (NYSED), Smart Start Computer Science Grant Program

The purpose of this grant is to develop, implement and share innovative programs that provide professional development and support to increase expertise in computer science, engineering and/or educational technology among teachers in grades K-8.

- **Eligibility:** Public school districts and consortia of districts and BOCES are eligible.
- **Funding:** \$6 million will be allocated annually for five years.
- **Deadline:** Nov. 19, 2019
- **Contact:** Mary Ann Valikonis at 518-474-5461, edtech@nysed.gov or [visit this website](#) for more information.

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF), Culture of Health Prize

The RWJF Culture of Health Prize honors and elevates U.S. communities that are working at the forefront of advancing health, opportunity and equity for all. Through the RWJF Culture of Health Prize application process, a community comes together to tell its inspiring stories of collaboration, action and results. Communities should understand they are applying for a prize and not a grant. **The prize recognizes work that has already been accomplished, so there is no required work plan or budget.**

- **Eligibility:** A community must be a geographically defined jurisdiction in the U.S. that falls into one of the following categories: county, parish, borough, city, town, village or other municipality with a publicly elected governing body or a federally recognized tribe or Native Hawaiian organization.
- **Funding:** Winners receive \$25,000 and a prize package of communications materials about their community, communications guidance and help in promoting their successes.
- **Deadline:** Nov. 4, 2019
- **Contact:** Melissa Blair at 877-843-7953, media@rwjf.org or [visit this website](#) for more information

American Association of University Women (AAUW), American Fellowships

AAUW American Fellowships support women scholars who are completing dissertations, planning research leave from

accredited institutions or preparing research for publication. Applications are being accepted for American Dissertation Fellowships, American Postdoctoral Research Leave Fellowships and American Short-Term Research Publications grants.

- **Eligibility:** Applicants must be U.S. citizens or permanent residents. Candidates are evaluated based of scholarly excellence, quality and originality of project design, and active commitment to helping women and girls through service in their communities, professions or fields of research.
- **Funding:** Awards are \$20,000, \$30,000 and \$6,000, respectively.
- **Deadline:** Nov. 1, 2019
- **Contact:** aauw@applyists.com or [visit this website](#) for more information.

Staten Island Arts

Staten island Arts offers grants for artists, arts and cultural organizations, and arts-in-education programs. Grant applications and deadlines are posted as they become available. Subscribe to the Staten Island Arts e-blast or check back here regularly for up-to-date information.

- **Deadline:** For 2020 grants cycle is November 3 at 11:59pm
- **Contact:** Email Staten Island Arts Grants Administrator Gena Mimoso at gmimoso@statenilandarts.org or call (718) 447-3329 x1003 or [visit this website](#) for more information.

Community Resources

IlluminArt Productions has established a new “Arts Empowerment” program. This program aims to support young people who are impacted by a caregiver’s substance use with a safe and creative space to express themselves. This free program is available to K-12 youth. For more information contact the program manager Keith Taylor at Keith.illuminart@gmail.com or 347-829-2703.

The Staten Island Children’s Museum is accepting nominations for its annual “**Kid of Achievement**” Award. The SI Children’s Museum’s **Circle of Friends Awards Luncheon**, now in its 28th year, recognizes people and organizations that have significantly contributed to the lives of Staten Island’s children. At the Luncheon, the Children’s Museum honors a “**Kid of Achievement**,” and is seeking nominations from the public.

- Children and teens up to age 17 who are involved in volunteerism, have overcome obstacles and challenges to help others and who display leadership qualities are what the “Kid of Achievement” award is all about.
- The public is invited to send their recommendations to the Children’s Museum by **today, Friday, October 11**. The **Nomination Form is available online** and should include the nominee’s name, contact information and a brief description of their accomplishments.
- Email jdudley@sichildrensmuseum.org for more information.

Love Your Block is an initiative of NYC Service and the Citizens Committee for New York City that provides a unique opportunity for neighborhood groups to transform and improve their communities through local action while leveraging City services.

- Resident-led volunteer groups are eligible for \$1,000 grants to help improve their block. In addition to the grant and City services, groups receive project planning and community building assistance as well as support with local media coverage for the project.
- Applications are accepted from volunteer-led groups based primarily in low-income neighborhoods in all five boroughs of New York City.
- **Apply here by: November 15**. Contact Di at DCui@citizensnyc.org or call 212-822-9563 for more information

boroughs, you may be eligible to apply for a small grant of up to \$3,000 for park projects including events, tools, websites, and outreach materials.

- **Apply here by: November 15, 2019**

Community Events

- **The Breast and Women's Center at Richmond University Medical Center** will be offering **FREE 3D mammogram screenings on Tuesday, October 15 from 11am – 7pm at 1161 Victory Blvd. 10301.**
 - Appointments are required. **Call 718-818-1161** to secure an appointment.
 - About 1 in 8 U.S. women (about 12%) will develop invasive breast cancer over the course of her lifetime. **Mammograms** can detect cancer early — when it's most treatable and has proven to reduce breast cancer deaths.



- The City Parks Foundation hosts **Senior Fitness trainings** throughout the fall. Come out and get active in your neighborhood park! New Yorkers 60+ to participate in free tennis lessons, yoga and fitness walking in 16 neighborhood parks across the city. Activities take place twice a week for a six week period (**September 16 - October 25**) and all equipment is provided. Register the senior in your life today!
The programs on Staten Island include:
 - Yoga at Faber Park on Tuesday and Thursday at 11am
 - Tennis at Greenbelt Park on Monday and Friday at 12pm
 - Contact sports@cityparksfoundation.org or call [\(718\) 760-6999](tel:(718)760-6999) for more information
- **Join me, The Friends of Mariners Harbor and the New York Center for Interpersonal Development** at a Voting Expo on **Saturday, October 26 from 11am – 1pm at Port Richmond High School.** There will be opportunities to register to vote, explore civic engagement opportunities and participate in early voting. This interactive event will cover the basics while connecting new and seasoned voters to government resources. Free food will be available!



- The Central Family Life Center will host a **Small Business Expo on Saturday, October 26 from noon - 4pm**. A variety of vendors, workshops and resources will be available to help with your unique business needs. Email Sylvia.byrd@ymail.com for more information.
- Enjoy a **Halloween Festival** at the Ocean Breeze Athletic Complex on **Sunday, October 27 from 11am – 3pm**. It'll be a fun family filled day with a pumpkin patch, live music & food trucks. All ages are welcome to attend.

Sincerely,

Charles D. Fall
Member of Assembly

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