



## COMMUNITY NEWS from Assemblyman

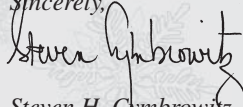
# Steven CYMBROWITZ

WINTER 2009

*Dear Neighbor,*

*As the holiday season comes to an end and we look toward a new decade, please accept my best wishes for a happy and healthy New Year. In 2009 we faced a true challenge in dealing with our State's economy and tough choices had to be made. There was no escaping the fact that State revenues were seriously impacted by our nation's economic downturn. My primary concern throughout the initial budget process and end of year adjustment was limiting the impact our difficult decisions would have on the average New Yorker.*

*Even with concerns over the budget, much has been going on in our community. This newsletter discusses some of these positive events and also details a few new State programs that you may benefit from. Please read through the following pages and if you have any comments, don't hesitate to let me know.*

*Sincerely,*  
  
Steven H. Cymbrowitz  
Member of Assembly

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Expands His Street Cleaning Program

Concerned about the worsening litter problem, especially around corner garbage cans in our community, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz has expanded the street cleaning program along Emmons Avenue. Students from the Jim Thorpe School are cleaning the subway underpasses from Avenue K to Sheepshead Bay Road under the supervision of a teacher. "I realize, given the limited number of hours the students are working, there is only so much they can accomplish, but seeing our community getting dirtier, I had to take action. That's why I have teamed up with the dedicated students and staff of the Jim Thorpe School to do what we can to make our community a little bit cleaner. I hope that if you see the young people as they're working, wearing their 'Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Community Care Team Member' vests, you tell them that you appreciate their efforts," Assemblyman Cymbrowitz explained.



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz with the students and staff from the Jim Thorpe School after he presented them with their "Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Community Care Team Member" safety vests.

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Rescues School from List of Failing Schools

We are fortunate to have a selection of excellent public schools in our community. When Cunningham JHS, found itself labeled "a school in need of corrective action" despite the fact that it wasn't, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz got involved. The problem started when this school which has an "A" rating, accidentally failed to check a box on a survey form. That oversight resulted in students who were in America for less than one year being recorded as required to take a proficiency test, which they never took because they were not supposed to. When

the mistake was realized and communicated to the education bureaucrats, they wouldn't remove the school from the "failing list." Assemblyman Cymbrowitz refused to take no for an answer, bringing his arguments to Richard P. Mills, then the Commissioner of the New York State Department of Education. The Commissioner agreed that a school with Cunningham's record wasn't "a school in need of corrective action" and he ordered the school removed from the list.

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Protects Hundreds from Seasonal Flu

Hundreds of Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' constituents were spared the inconvenience and expense of going to their doctor by getting their Seasonal Flu shots, provided by Beth Israel Medical Center's Kings Highway Division, at his community office. These shots became even more important when, by late October, many local doctors were having problems getting the vaccine. The shots were offered either in the morning or afternoon on four separate dates.



*Assemblyman Cymbrowitz watching as one of his constituents receives a free flu shot at his community office.*

## Free Prescription Drug Discount Now Available

New York State now offers the NYS Prescription Saver Card which enables many of us to save as much as 60 percent on generic and 30 percent on brand name drugs. You are eligible for this free card if you are between the ages of 50 and 65, or have a disability as determined by the Social Security Administration, and if your household income is under \$35,000 (single) or \$50,000 (married) and are not on Medicaid. The card may only be used at participating pharmacies, but many drug stores in our community accept the card. Please contact Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' office to either get an application or for additional information.



## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Expands Health Screenings/ Talks Schedule

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz has expanded his schedule of health screenings and talks. Please read through the schedule and call or e-mail his office to make a reservation for any that are of interest to you. All are from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., except as noted.

In addition to providing the health screenings and talks in his community office, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz is continuing to sponsor his annual health fair along Emmons Avenue, which will be held on May 23, 2010 and annual blood drive over the summer.

Wednesday <b>March 17, 2010</b>	<b>Colon Cancer</b>
Wednesday <b>April 21, 2010</b>	<b>Prostate Blood Test</b>
Thursday <b>May 13, 2010</b> (10 am - 2 p.m.)	<b>Vascular (leg)</b>
Wednesday <b>June 16, 2010</b>	<b>Skin Cancer (visual)</b>
Wednesday <b>July 14, 2010</b>	<b>Balance Improvement/ Light Exercise</b>
Thursday <b>August 26, 2010</b>	<b>Living with Allergies</b>

*Contact Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' office for mammogram dates.*

## Assembly Speaker & Mayor Come to Community to Congratulate Assemblyman Cymbrowitz & His Wife Vilma



*Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver and Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg came to our community to congratulate Assemblyman Cymbrowitz and his wife, Vilma, on their being named Man and Woman of the Year by the High-Way Club. "Vilma and I were honored that the Speaker and Mayor both took time out of their busy schedules to present us with our awards," Assemblyman Cymbrowitz said.*

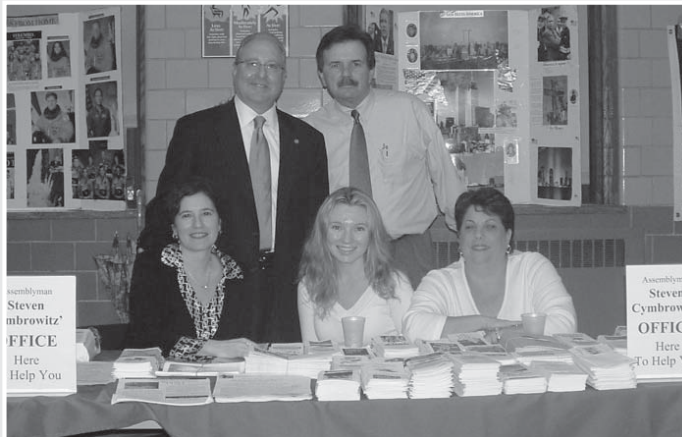
## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Working in Our Community

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz devotes the months between Legislative sessions to deal with issues and problems in our community. At times they involve the entire community and sometimes only one person or family. While personal problems do not affect a large segment of our community, each one is important. That's why Assemblyman Cymbrowitz was happy to resolve a \$1,300 problem with Delta Airlines for Bernice W. after she was told that she didn't have sufficient frequent flyer miles for a ticket to Israel, forcing her to purchase a ticket because her trip was already planned. Her protests fell on deaf ears until Assemblyman Cymbrowitz got involved. Delta very quickly realized its "error" and refunded the \$1,300 she paid for her ticket.

All Sarah C. wanted to do was change health insurance companies. She told Aetna, her original company, that she wanted to switch and got a confirmed date when her coverage will end. She then arranged for her new coverage with GHI. Unfortunately, Aetna failed to drop her as promised and GHI was not able to begin her coverage because she was still legally covered by Aetna. Ms. C. only found this out many weeks later. She attempted to rectify the situation, but bureaucracies being what they are, she got nowhere. That's when Assemblyman Cymbrowitz stepped in. The problem with Aetna was resolved and GHI was able to cover Ms. C retroactively.

### Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' Mobile Office is Making the Rounds

Committed to reaching out to his constituents, Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' mobile office has added locations. In addition to monthly visits to the Midwood Library and Sephardic Community Center, the mobile office was at St. Mark Church's Family Day in early May, at the 61st Precinct's National Night Out and the Brighton Neighborhood Association's Brighton Jubilee in August, and the Sephardic Community Center's Environmental Day in September. The mobile office is also at the newly renovated Kings Highway Library each month. "While I maintain a full time community office, I realize that it's not always convenient for some constituents to get to the office, that's why I am continuously looking for ways to bring most of the services of my community office to different areas of my district," Assemblyman Cymbrowitz explained. Please call his office to find out when the mobile office will be at each location.



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz and staff manning his mobile community office at St. Mark Church's annual Family Day. Standing with the Assemblyman is George Donnelly, St. Mark Church's Business Manager.

### Responding to the 2010 Census Means More Money for Our Community

Next April we're all going to be asked to answer Census questions. Our responses are confidential and may NOT be used by any other government agency. It's important that everyone answer honestly. Assemblyman Cymbrowitz wants to be sure that everyone is counted because government programs and dollars are allocated based on a community's population. Census personnel will NEVER ask for your Social Security Number or banking information. Also, they will NEVER contact you by e-mail. Do not open any e-mails claiming to be from the Census Bureau. Legitimate Census employees will have a badge, hand-held device, Census Bureau canvas bag and a confidentiality notice.

If you have any questions about the Census please contact the Census Bureau at either (800) 923-8282 or [www.census.gov/2010census](http://www.census.gov/2010census).



## New Developments at the "DMV"

Assemblyman Cymbrowitz wants you to know that the State's Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) has two new programs that might be of interest to you. The first gives New York drivers the option of taking the six hour defensive driving course, which provides a ten percent discount on collision and liability premiums or the removal of up to four points from your license, through the internet or some other non-classroom form such as CD, DVD, video or cable TV.

The DMV's website describes the options and the companies that provide the coursework ([www.nydmv.state.ny.us/pirp.htm#ipirp](http://www.nydmv.state.ny.us/pirp.htm#ipirp)). If you do not have internet access please contact Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' office for the information.

The second DMV innovation is the Enhanced Driver License/Non-Driver ID. The Federal Government now requires either a passport or Enhanced Driver License/Non-Driver ID to reenter the country, by land or sea, from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and many Caribbean countries (a passport is required for reentry by air). The DMV is issuing this new type of ID at its local offices. It is important to have the proper identifying documents. A list of what is required may be viewed at [www.nysdmv.com/broch/C159.pdf](http://www.nysdmv.com/broch/C159.pdf). The cost is \$30 above the normal cost of a Driver License/Non-Driver ID. Current Driver License/Non-Driver ID holders may upgrade their ID's to the enhanced version.

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Acknowledges Students' Summer Reading Efforts

Assemblyman Steven Cymbrowitz, once again, sponsored a Summer Reading Challenge to motivate students to read over the summer. Every student who read for at least 15 minutes on 40 or more summer days received a New York State Assembly Excellence in Reading Certificate. Assemblyman Cymbrowitz presented the certificates to many of the enthusiastic readers early in the fall term. "I was pleased to see that so many of the students had not only met the minimum requirements for a certificate, but read many additional books," Assemblyman Cymbrowitz stated.



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz surrounded by many of the participants in his Summer Reading Challenge as they proudly display their New York State Assembly Excellence in Reading Certificates. Those summer readers who were unable to attend the ceremony received their certificates by mail.

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Presents PS 206 with their Holocaust Contest Computer



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz presented the students and staff of PS 206 with the computer they won for coming in first place in his Holocaust Memorial Art, Essay and Poetry Contest's elementary school division. Over 750 entries were received from public and parochial schools and yeshivas. Assemblyman Cymbrowitz has sponsored the contest in conjunction with the Holocaust Memorial Committee and Lena Cymbrowitz Foundation for the last nine years. Assemblyman Cymbrowitz pointed out that, "With fewer Holocaust survivors to provide firsthand accounts of the atrocities it's more important than ever to encourage our young people of all faiths to explore this horrific period of history."

## Local Synagogue Receives Historic Honor



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz watches as Rabbi Pinchas N. Pearl of Beth El Jewish Center of Flatbush unveils a plaque proclaiming that his congregation's building has been placed on the U.S. Department of Interior's National Register of Historic Places. "While much has changed in our community over the past 80 years, this congregation, with its active congregants, has remained a stable, positive presence. I am happy that the federal government has recognized the importance and beauty of this building," Assemblyman Cymbrowitz said.

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz Lauds 61st Precinct



Assemblyman Cymbrowitz complimented the officers of the 61st Precinct for their dedicated work that resulted in a 25% drop in most serious crime since last year. Speaking at the precinct's National Night Out, which brought the community together, the Assemblyman thanked the men and women of the "61" for their concern about the residents of our community. Pictured with the Assemblyman are precinct commander Captain Georgios Mastrokostas and Community Council President Yves Etienne.

## Assemblyman Cymbrowitz' Office is Easy to Contact

**CALL:** 718-743-4078  
**COME IN:** Monday to Thursday:  
9:30 a.m. – 5:30 p.m.  
Friday: 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
**WRITE:** 1800 Sheepshead Bay Road  
Brooklyn, NY 11235  
**E-MAIL:** cymbros@assembly.state.ny.us