



Assemblyman  
**Michael Cusick**  
**UPDATE**  
**FROM ALBANY**



Spring 2013

Dear Neighbor:

I am writing to you as your new representative in district 63 of the New York State Assembly. As you may know districts change every ten years, and my new district has been partially reshaped. I am happy to inform you that you are now located in my district. It has been a pleasure serving Staten Islanders in the New York State Assembly for the past ten years and I look forward to representing you!

This newsletter provides you with the most recent issues we have been discussing and implementing in Albany, as well as informing you of events that are happening in our community.

Below you will find my contact information. I encourage you to drop a line to me at any time should you have questions or comments about certain legislation, or if you need assistance on any matter or have inquiries on any topic. My office is here to help and we will be glad to assist you.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Cusick



Assemblyman Cusick throws out the first pitch at Westerleigh Little League, the league he played in as a youngster.



Fall Into Wellness Health Fair at the "Big Park" Ball Field in Mariner's Harbor hosted by Assemblyman Michael Cusick, Beacon Christian Community Health Center, and NYC Parks & Recreation.

# VETERANS

Assemblyman Cusick is an avid supporter of the United States military and military veterans, and considers it a privilege to represent Staten Island veterans in Albany. A member of the Assembly Veterans' Affairs committee since 2003, Assemblyman Cusick has shown immense dedication to the well-being of veterans and their families. He has introduced numerous bills which benefit veterans, many which have become law. For a list of these bills and laws, please visit [www.assembly.state.ny.us](http://www.assembly.state.ny.us).



## DISCOUNT PROGRAM FOR VETERANS

Two years ago, Assemblyman Cusick along with the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce, initiated a discount program for Veterans of the United States Military who live in Staten Island. This discount program gives veterans reductions on goods and services at participating businesses. Assemblyman Cusick recognizes the sacrifices made by our veterans cannot be quantified, nor fully repaid. To show our gratitude to local veterans, he implemented this program.

Staten Island veterans who are interested in the program are asked to sign up at Assemblyman Cusick's office (1911 Richmond Ave, 718-370-1384). Bring your discharge papers (DD214) to receive the Staten Island VETS card. This card gives access to discounts at local businesses who have signed up for the program. Veterans receive a listing of participating businesses that offer discounts at their establishments. Assemblyman Cusick's office provides the local VFW, American Legion, and public libraries with updated lists as new businesses join the program throughout the year.

## REMINDER OF DISCOUNTS ON PORT AUTHORITY BRIDGES

A toll relief plan I negotiated last year gives E-ZPass holders a reduced toll on their third trip over New Jersey spans (Goethals, Bayonne, and Outerbridge Crossings) in a 30-day period. Once the third trip is taken, the first two trips paid at a peak rate of \$10.25 are rolled back to \$5.25. I encourage Islanders who want to participate in the three-trip plan to sign up by going to the New York E-ZPass Customer Service Center in Travis or call 1-800-333-8655. Those enrolled in the 10-trip plan will be automatically absorbed into the three-trip plan.





## ASSEMBLYMAN CUSICK ASSISTING VICTIMS OF HURRICANE SANDY

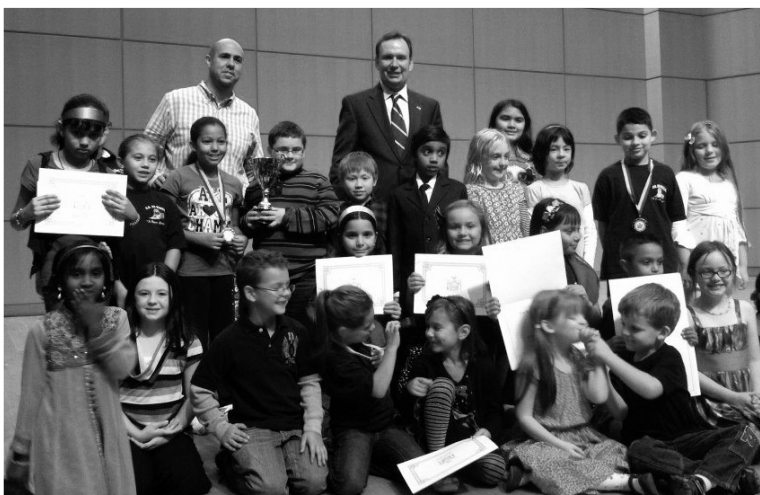
As we continue in the aftermath of Hurricane Sandy, Assemblyman Cusick and his staff are ready to help you.

If you are still dealing with any storm-related issue, please contact our office at 718-370-1384 or email [cusickm@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:cusickm@assembly.state.ny.us).

## TOTAL FITNESS CHALLENGE 2013

In 2008, Assemblyman Cusick founded the Total Fitness Challenge, an Island-wide summer event open to students from pre-kindergarten through the 8th grade. The program combines physical and mental activity during the summer break for school children by challenging them to read and exercise for fun. I established the Total Fitness Challenge program to encourage children to exercise both their mind and body during the summer months.

Participating children have to read at least 30 minutes every day and perform as many physical activities as they want. Different physical activities are assigned varying point values, which count toward each student's total score. A Total Fitness Challenge program medal is awarded to the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place top scorers from each grade. For more information on this year's Challenge, contact my office at 718-370-1384 or email [cusickm@assembly.state.ny.us](mailto:cusickm@assembly.state.ny.us).





*Assemblyman  
Michael Cusick*

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### **ELDERLY PHARMACEUTICAL INSURANCE COVERAGE (EPIC) PROGRAM**



The Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage (EPIC) program is a New York State program for seniors. It helps more than 270,000 income-eligible seniors aged 65 and older to supplement their out-of-pocket Medicare Part D drug plan costs. Seniors can apply for EPIC at any time of the year and must be enrolled or eligible to be enrolled in a Medicare Part D drug plan to receive EPIC benefits and maintain coverage.

EPIC helps pay the Medicare Part D program for members with income up to \$23,000 if single or \$29,000 if married. Higher income members are required to pay their own Part D premiums but EPIC provides premium assistance by lowering their EPIC deductible.

EPIC has two plans based on income. The **Fee Plan** is for members with income up to \$20,000 if single or \$26,000 if married. The **Deductible Plan** is for members with incomes ranging from \$20,001 to \$23,000 if single or \$26,001 to \$29,000 if married. For more information on this program you may call: **EPIC Helpline: 1-800-332-3742**

### **WATER BOARD & WATER BILL FEE INCREASES**

With yet another water rate increase proposed for 2013, a bill (A.131) introduced in Albany by Assemblyman Cusick last year would change the membership of the water board to include all five borough presidents. This proposed change would ensure that all New York City boroughs have input in regard to fee increases, and thus could effectively counter the seemingly impetuous raise in rates.

The make-up of the Water Board is stacked by city representatives who essentially control the vote on rate hikes. This legislation introduced by Assemblyman Cusick will give fair representation on any future water rate increase by realigning the board to include an elected official from each borough.

With the borough presidents accountable to the voters at election time, having a say on New York City water rates gives Staten Island residents and business owners a chance to hinder these outrageous yearly hikes.