



Community Update

from Assemblywoman
Ellen Jaffee

December 2010

Dear Neighbor,

With the 2011 legislative session about to begin, New York State is slowly recovering from the national recession. Even so, unemployment remains high, as does the number of Rockland businesses that are struggling. We must take bold steps to speed up our state's economic recovery.

I will continue to advocate for measures to revitalize Rockland's businesses. This past year, I have collaborated on a variety of events with business development organizations including Rockland Economic Development Corporation, the Women's Forum of the Rockland Business Association, and the Rockland Women's Business Network. A highlight was a panel discussion on services the state offers to help women-owned businesses. In addition, I am meeting with business leaders to form an advisory board to help me respond to the needs of local businesses.

In order to achieve a healthy economic climate, we must act on the urgent need for property tax reform for New York families. Several options are being discussed; I remain committed to solutions that balance the financial strain on taxpayers with the need to protect vital services.

As we head into 2011, I will be scheduling additional business opportunity forums. Please contact my office if you wish to be notified about those events, or if you have questions or need information about any state program. Call me at 845-624-4601 or email me at jaffee@assembly.state.ny.us.

Best wishes for a healthy and happy new year.
Sincerely,

Ellen C. Jaffee
Member of Assembly

Jaffee Meets with Small Business Owners in the 95th District



Joining Assemblywoman Jaffee in Pearl River, from left to right, were Kevin Brady, President of Pearl River Chamber of Commerce, Michelle Worob, Co-Owner of Madelyn Rose, Senator-Elect David Carlucci, and Susan Jaffe, Regional Director for Empire State Development.

Assemblywoman Jaffee arranged a tour of various retail outlets for the Empire State Development Corporation's new regional director, Susan Jaffe. They were joined by Senator-elect David Carlucci.

The group visited Madelyn Rose, the children's apparel store in Pearl River where they discussed challenges facing the downtown area. Chamber President Kevin Brady said that shoppers are rediscovering downtown Pearl River, in what he hopes represents a reversal of the exodus of shoppers to local malls.

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Dozens Attend Women's Business Forum Co-Hosted by Ellen Jaffee and REDC



Over 50 women gathered at Suffern Library last October to get the latest information from Assemblywoman Jaffee and Rockland Economic Development Corporation (REDC) on programs the state offers for women-owned businesses.

“The fact that so many women joined us at 8:30 on a workday morning showed me how vital it is to provide this information on a continuing basis,” said Assemblywoman Jaffee. “I am pleased that we were able to provide funding in the 2010-11 budget for small businesses. I will continue to advocate for aid to businesses. The only way New York can sustain a healthy, on-going recovery is by supporting business owners.”

Those who attended learned about local counseling services, business plan assistance, financial assistance, special certification for women-owned businesses, and how to secure government contracts. Among the attendees were several established business owners who shared success stories along with suggestions on how the state can best respond to small businesses.

Keynote speaker, Susan Jaffe, Regional Director of the Empire State Development Corporation (ESD) recounted her personal journey with a start-up agricultural business in nearby Sullivan County. Ron Hicks, CEO of Rockland Economic Development Corporation said, “We thank Assemblywoman Jaffee for reaching out to women business owners so that they are fully aware of the assistance that is available to them.” Ellen Jaffee replied, “REDC has been very responsive to our community. Their expertise has been pivotal in producing events such as this.”

Jaffee Meets with Small Business Owners in the 95th District *continued from page 1*



Joining Assemblywoman Jaffee in Spring Valley, from left to right, were Senator-Elect David Carlucci, Mayor Noramie Jasmin, Village of Spring Valley, and Susan Jaffe, Regional Director for Empire State Development.

Spring Valley Mayor Noramie Jasmin discussed strategies for filling the vacant retail space at the new senior housing complex on Main Street. The hope is that the renewal of Spring Valley will be a step toward economic development. The group also visited Elegant Party Rental on Commerce Street.

Upcoming Neighborhood Assemblies

Ellen will continue to hold community meetings throughout the 95th District to provide information on matters of importance to constituents. Please come and share your thoughts.

For last-minute cancellations due to inclement weather or emergency legislative session scheduling, please check local listings or call the district office at 624-4601.

ORANGEBURG

Thursday, January 27th, 7pm-8:30pm
Greenbush Auditorium
20 South Greenbush Road, Orangeburg, NY
10962 (Behind Orangeburg Library)

SUFFERN

Thursday, February 17th, 7pm-8:30pm
Suffern Library
210 Lafayette Avenue, Suffern, NY 10901

SPRING VALLEY

Saturday, March 12th, 3pm-4:30pm
Finklestein Library
24 Chestnut Street (and Route 59)
Spring Valley, NY 10977

To receive updates on events sponsored by Assemblywoman Jaffee send an email to jaffee@assembly.state.ny.us with the subject line “Add my name to mailing list”

If you do not use email, call the District Office at 624-4601 to leave your phone number.

Jaffee Continues Support of Fair Property Tax Reform

“The people of the 95th District deserve a plan that will control property taxes. We must work to find a solution that will balance the needs for a quality education with the economic reality Rockland taxpayers face.”

-Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee



Assemblywoman Jaffee traveled to Orange County for a talk on how New York State and local property taxes are structured. Frank Mauro, from the Fiscal Policy Institute focused on the Circuit Breaker, which lowers taxes for middle-income families and seniors on fixed incomes. Ellen says, “The people of the 95th District deserve a plan that will control property taxes. We must work to find a solution that will balance the needs for a quality education with the economic reality Rockland taxpayers face.”

Jaffee Casts her Vote for Jobs and Economic Recovery

During the 2010-2011 legislative session a number of laws passed that will encourage economic development in New York State. Here are a few:

Power for Jobs (A11523)

The law extends the Power for Jobs and Energy Cost Savings Benefit Programs through May 15, 2011, assuring the businesses participating in these programs that their benefits will continue through next year. This extension allows the government to develop an even better long-term, low cost power program.

High Speed Rail (A11553)

The law sets up a planning board to pave the way for high speed rail in New York State. High speed rail promotes economic development while cutting greenhouse gases and dependency on foreign oil. The Federal government has awarded the state some funding for the project. Definitely a win-win!

Business for Vets (A7093B)

Requires the Division of Veterans' Affairs to provide information to veterans on how to start a veteran-owned business. This would be supplied on the department's website.

Opportunities for women and minorities (A11526)

This law increases competition and diversity in procuring state contracts, correcting past disparities that a state study found. (“2010 Disparity Study” April 29, 2010)

Assemblywoman Ellen C. Jaffee

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E-mail: jaffee@assembly.state.ny.us

TAKE THE SENIOR SURVEY!

Your responses are very important. Thank you for taking the time to fill this out.

1. What form of transportation do you use most frequently?
(Circle) automobile, taxi, bus, other (explain) _____

2. Do you have sufficient access to transportation? (Yes, No) (Explain if necessary)

3. Have you ever used the T.R.I.P.S. service? (Yes, No)
4. Are you familiar with Safe Streets legislation? (Yes, No)
Safe Streets is a proposed law that would provide a range of safety measures for pedestrians, including more time to cross at busy intersections.
5. Do you know about Enhanced STAR? (Yes, No)
All older adult homeowners whose incomes are less than \$79,050 qualify for Enhanced Star. Your tax assessor can provide more detailed information. If you live in the Town of Ramapo, contact Scott Shedler, Town Assessor (845) 357-5100 Ext. 255. If you live in the Town of Orangetown, contact Brian Kenney, Town Assessor (845) 359-5100 Ext. 2280.
6. Would you attend an info session to review Star and Enhanced STAR? (Yes, No)
7. Do you know if you qualify for EPIC (Elderly Pharmaceutical Insurance Coverage), a plan that helps older adults pay for drugs? (Yes, No)
New York State residents over 65 years old with an income less than \$35,000 (single) or \$50,000 (married) qualify for EPIC, which helps lower drug costs. EPIC Hotline 1-800-332-3742.
8. Do you use a computer to get information or to send and receive emails? (Yes, No) If yes, and you would like to receive updates on matters affecting older adults in the 95th Assembly District please print your e-mail address clearly: _____
If you don't use a computer but would like to be contacted by phone,
please provide your phone number: _____
9. Have you gotten brochures from the Attorney General's office on senior scams? (Yes, No)
10. Would you attend a meeting to alert you to common scams? (Yes, No)
11. Do you have enough information about reverse mortgages and other financial arrangements for older adults? (Yes, No)
12. Did you know that New York State has laws that prevent older adults from elder abuse? (Yes, No)
To report senior abuse, call: 1-800-342-3009 and select option 6 on the menu.

Please fax or mail your responses to:

Fax: 845-624-2911

Mail: Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee, One Blue Hill Plaza, Box 1549, Pearl River, NY 10965