



# News...

FROM COUNCIL MEMBER

## JESSICA S. LAPPIN



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## MAY COMMUNITY BULLETIN

### Medicare Forum – May 5

Many seniors depend on Medicare to cover their health and prescription drug expenses. However, Medicare is a huge and complicated program and recent changes may have left people feeling confused about just what benefits they are entitled to.

In order to answer that question, I'm sponsoring a Medicare Forum along with the Lenox Hill Neighborhood House and the Medicare Rights Center. The event will help you learn more about Medicare and recent changes to the program as a result of the Affordable Care Act. We'll also leave plenty of time for questions.

**Date:** Thursday, May 5th

**Time:** 2:00 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

**Location:** Lenox Hill Neighborhood House Auditorium, 331 East 70<sup>th</sup> Street

Space is limited and reservations are requested. **Please RSVP** to Cullen Barrie at **212-980-1808** or [cbarrie@council.nyc.gov](mailto:cbarrie@council.nyc.gov).

### Mayor Restores MTS Funding – Fight Continues

Just last month, we were celebrating the good news that the 91st Street Marine Transfer Station funding had been pushed back and would not come online until at least 2018. That's why I was surprised and dismayed to learn that the Mayor has reversed course and is now seeking to restore the funding for the East 91st Street MTS in his capital budget.

The 91st Street Marine Transfer Station is an outrageously expensive bad idea. We can't afford this garbage dump and we shouldn't build it.

I have always supported the broad goals of the City's Solid Waste Management Plan. We do need to reduce the number of garbage trucks on the road. But not by opening a facility in the

heart of a densely populated residential neighborhood. And not in the middle of a park and athletic facility - Asphalt Green - that sees over 675,000 visits a year. The site of this proposed dump is also within 600 feet of public housing projects. That's not to mention the fact that the MTS will lead to garbage trucks queuing daily in a neighborhood that already ranks among New York's worst in terms of air quality.

In recognition of these facts and the ballooning costs associated with building this ill-considered facility, the Mayor had planned to push the funding for it back so that it would not come online until at least 2018. This would give time to find a better alternative for dealing with New York's trash. That's what he should do and what I will continue to fight for every step of the way.

## **Free Mammogram Screenings**

I am pleased to announce that I will be sponsoring a Mobile Mammogram Van Clinic in our neighborhood.

According to the Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, breast cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death among New York City women. Mammograms greatly increase the likelihood of early detection and successful cancer treatment.

The American Italian Cancer Foundation and I have joined together to offer women in my district the opportunity to receive a mammogram and a breast cancer screening. This program is for women 40 and older who have not had a mammogram in the last year.

Please schedule an appointment in advance in order to be screened. Space is limited, so call 212-980-1808 as soon as possible to ensure availability.

The scheduled appointments will be offered on **Thursday, May 19<sup>th</sup> between 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. at Lenox Hill Senior Center. The Mobile Mammogram Van will be parked on First Avenue & 70<sup>th</sup> Street.**

Please contact Taina Prado in my District Office at 212-980-1808 to schedule an appointment.

I hope that you or someone you know will take advantage of this opportunity.

## **Rent Regulations Up for Renewal**

Many New Yorkers count on the rent stabilization and rent control laws to make living in the city possible. Every six years these laws expire – and they're up on June 15, 2011. If they are not renewed by the State Legislature, millions of New Yorkers will be at risk of losing their apartments.

I support renewing and strengthening the rent laws. Please contact my office to learn what you can do to help. One million residents in our city depend on the protections these regulations provide. Let's work together to make sure they stay in place.

# Help Improve the East River Esplanade on It's My Park Day

Anyone who's spent any time on the East River Esplanade knows that it's in desperate need of an overhaul and some repairs. Yet the Esplanade should be a jewel of waterfront space for our community. That's why I started an Esplanade Task Force to makeover that space. Now, there's a chance for you to get involved and help.

It's My Park Day is a citywide event that brings thousands of New Yorkers together to care for and celebrate New York City's many parks and open spaces. This year, the Carl Schurz Park Conservancy, East River C.R.E.W., Upper Green Side, and The Esplanade (East 60th – 125th) are teaming up to help us focus on the Esplanade. They're looking for volunteers to spend a few hours working to spruce up the area to improve conditions for everyone.

In addition to the efforts to improve the Esplanade, there will also be C.R.E.W. boating, pulling up minnow traps, and an Esplanade walk.

**Date:** Saturday, May 21

**Time:** 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.

**Location:** Meet at East 90<sup>th</sup> Street on the East River Esplanade.

This promises to be a fun, productive, and rewarding day and I hope you'll be able to participate. If you're planning to come, please RSVP to (212) 427-3956 or e-mail [tgilbert@eastrivercrew.org](mailto:tgilbert@eastrivercrew.org).

## Senior Discounts Fair

Want to learn more about free or low-cost cultural offerings for older New Yorkers? Then come to our Senior Cultural Discounts Fair.

**What:** Join Council Member Lappin, Council Speaker Quinn, and Council Member Brewer as we co-host a forum with the American Museum of Natural History to provide seniors with information from citywide cultural and arts groups – theaters, museums, and more – about free or low-cost tickets and offerings for seniors.

**Where:** American Museum of Natural History. Please enter through the Weston Pavilion entrance located on Columbus Avenue at 79th Street.

**When:** Tuesday, July 19th from 2:00 to 4:00 pm.

Light refreshments will be served and there will be also be door prizes. **You must RSVP to attend: 212-980-1808 or [lappin@council.nyc.gov](mailto:lappin@council.nyc.gov)**