

MAKING SURE KIDS HAVE THE RIGHT TOOLS TO LEARN



TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES AT I.S. 204.

Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer announced his capital funding allocation of \$50,000 for 2011 to improve technology at I.S. 204, including purchasing new smart boards. Over the past two years, Van Bramer also allocated an additional \$40,000 for the school's Cultural After-School Adventure (CASA) program with the Intrepid Museum.



Saving the After-School Program at P.S. 150.

Council Member Van Bramer joined P.S. 150 for the first PTA meeting of the fall. He has secured \$100,000 in funding over the past 2 years, which has allowed for significant technological upgrades, including a fleet of new desktops for the computer lab and smart boards. For the second year in a row, Van Bramer saved the after-school program, run by Sunnyside Community Services.



Announcing Technology Grant for P.S. 78

Council Member Van Bramer has allocated \$100,000 to P.S. 78 for technology improvements.



P.S. 152

Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer honored P.S. 152's ballroom dancers who won the city-wide dance competition. He also allocated \$50,000 to the school.

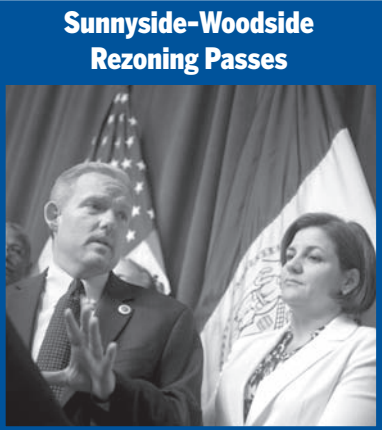


P.S. 166

Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer delivered supplies donated during his 2nd Annual Back to School Supplies Drive to I.S. 125 and P.S. 166. This year, the drive received over 4,000 items for local children in need.

IMPROVING OUR QUALITY OF LIFE

One of the great things about Queens is the rich history and smaller communities that exist throughout the City of New York. During my time in office, I have fought hard to preserve and enhance quality of life in our neighborhoods.



Sunnyside-Woodside Rezoning Passes

The Sunnyside – Woodside rezoning was one of Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer's top priorities since taking office in January 2010. The Council Member hosted a town hall with over 100 in attendance last June and collaborated with many entities, including community groups, City Planning, and the Community Board to push the plan to completion. The 130-block rezoning works to preserve the character of local neighborhoods by preventing development that is out of character while protecting the low density nature of much of the area.



Kicking Off the 2nd Annual Anti-Graffiti Initiative.

For the second year in a row, Council Member Van Bramer and CitySolve joined the community to take a stand against graffiti. Last year, over 1,000 locations were cleaned monthly, including the corridors of Broadway, Skillman Avenue, 47th Avenue, Roosevelt Avenue and Woodside Avenue. The second year of Van Bramer's Graffiti Clean-Up expanded to 43rd Avenue and 48th Avenue. To report graffiti, call Van Bramer's anti-graffiti hotline at (718) 383-9566 ext.3.

718.383.9566 | jvanbramer@council.nyc.gov

Sunnyside, New York 11104
47-01 Queens Boulevard, Suite 205

District Office

*Este boletín de noticias puede ser visto en español leyendo a <http://council.nyc.gov/d26/html/members/home.shtml>

As always, my office is available to help address any questions or concerns you may have. Feel free to call us at (718) 383-9566 or visit our District Office located at 47-01 Queens Blvd, Suite #205 in Sunnyside. / Como siempre, mi oficina se encuentra disponible para ayudar a afrontar cualquier cuestión o preocupación que usted pudiera tener. Siéntase libre de comunicarse con nosotros al (718) 383-9566 o visite nuestra Oficina Distrital ubicada en 47-01 Queens Blvd, Suite #205 en Sunnyside.

FALL 2011
NEWS From Council Member
Jimmy Van Bramer
26th District, Queens



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FALL 2011

NEWS From Council Member

Jimmy Van Bramer

26th District, Queens



DEAR FRIENDS,

For nearly two years, I have had the distinct honor of representing the 26th Council District as your City Council Member. My staff and I have been working hard every day to make sure our neighborhoods have the services they need. We have achieved many important victories together like saving our firehouses and libraries; saving after-school programs; keeping senior centers

open; preventing teacher layoffs; and allocating millions to our parks and cultural institutions. I couldn't imagine doing anything else other than serving the people of the 26th Council District. I work for YOU.

This newsletter will give you a brief overview of what we've accomplished over the last several months as a unified community working together and pushing for results. My staff and I will continue to work tirelessly

on your behalf, bringing the services we need and quality of life enhancements we all want to the communities of Long Island City, Astoria, Sunnyside, Woodside and Maspeth.

Sincerely,

Jimmy Van Bramer
City Council Member
District 26

IMPROVING OUR PUBLIC PARKS



The new park being constructed at Hunter's Point South, in Long Island City, will help to green the landscape near the waterfront. Council Member Van Bramer has allocated \$320,000 in funding to add more greenery to the park including more real grass to the oval park, as opposed to an entirely synthetic surface, once proposed by the City.



1st Ever Community Design Initiative for Noonan Playground. Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer joined students from P.S. 199 and community members to kick off his Noonan Park Community Design Initiative in Sunnyside. Van Bramer, who secured \$600,000 in order to redesign and renovate Noonan Park's Playground, is the first elected official to ask the community for their vision for the design of a public space.



Lou Lodati Park Redesign Unveiled. Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer's plans for a \$1.4 million park renovation were unveiled at the newly redesigned Lou Lodati/Torsney Park. Council Member Van Bramer and Borough President Helen Marshall successfully secured the funding for the project, which will include a state of the art dog run, modern basketball courts, a resurfaced softball field, ecuavoli courts, expanded lighting, and additional greenery, including thousands of new plants, trees and shrubs.



Cutting the Ribbon at Windmuller Park. This summer, Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer and members of the community cut the ribbon on the \$1.7 million in improvements to Windmuller Park in Woodside. This newly renovated one-acre sitting plaza includes thousands of new plants, shrubs and trees.

SOLVING PARKING PROBLEMS AND MAKING STREETS SAFER

Parking and issues related to available parking are among the biggest and most frequent issues that I have been asked to address as a Council Member from business owners and residents. Since I took office nearly two years ago, I have worked with DOT to accomplish much for the community, including:

- **20 miles of roadway in District 26 have been repaved in the last six months, including portions of: Roosevelt Avenue, Skillman Avenue, Woodside Avenue, Greenpoint Avenue, Queens Blvd., 36th Avenue, Crescent Street, 34th Avenue, and more.**
- **60 spaces previously reserved for 12 hour commuters have been returned back to the community for short term parking along Queens Blvd.**
- **Restrictions on parking during rush hour have been lifted on stretches of Queens Blvd.**
- **Speed bumps were added on Maurice Avenue to stop drag racing in Maspeth.**
- **Parking meters along Queens Blvd. were increased from 1 to 2 hours.**
- **Speed bumps were added outside of I.S. 125.**



Collaborating with DOT for Restoration of Woodside Roadway. Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer worked with the DOT to expedite the resurfacing of a critical, seven-block stretch of Roosevelt Avenue between 51st and 58th Streets in Woodside. This effort restored a seven-block section, and 1.4 lane miles, of a key Queens corridor in need of improvement.



Putting the Brakes on Drag Racing. New speed bumps were unveiled by Council Member Van Bramer and the Department of Transportation to combat dangerous drag racing on Maurice Avenue in Maspeth.



Protecting Our Children: Speed Bump Unveiled at I.S. 125. At the request of I.S. 125, Council Member Van Bramer worked to have a new speed bump installed on 47th Street between 47th and 48th Avenues, increasing student safety near the school. Van Bramer joined Principal Judy Lynn Mittler, students and teachers to unveil the new speed bump.

BUILDING A SAFER, STRONGER COMMUNITY

Our firefighters put their lives on the line every day, so I have worked hard to make sure their efforts are recognized and that firehouses across the district remain open.



Ladder 128 is Saved. Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer led the successful fight to save Ladder 128 in Blissville. To thank him for his efforts, he was invited by members of Ladder 128 to take a tour of the firehouse, which included a celebratory dinner.



Remembering the Fallen Heroes of Rescue 4. Council Member Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer led the ceremony co-naming 65th Street and Queens Boulevard as “The Boulevard of Bravery” in recognition of the Rescue 4 heroes who lost their lives in the line of duty, including those who died on September 11, 2001.

SUPPORTING OUR CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS AND LIBRARIES

As the Chair of the Cultural Affairs and Libraries Committee, I have worked to protect the cultural institutions and libraries that help fuel our economy, educate our children and expand our horizons. This year, a record \$130 million was restored to libraries and cultural institutions, saving thousands of jobs and maintaining

a minimum of five day library service with some community libraries staying open six days. Over the last two years, I have led the charge to restore nearly \$250 million to cultural organizations and libraries and funded teen and children's rooms at the Woodside and Broadway Libraries.



Council Member Van Bramer celebrated the one year anniversary of the Library Card Act with kids at the Sunnyside Library. Thanks to this legislation passed by Van Bramer, each year kids across the city can sign up for their cards on the first day of school. Since the passage of the act over a year ago, more than 60,000 kids have become library card-carrying members within the three library systems in New York City.



The Chocolate Factory Theater in Long Island City continues to grow. Van Bramer has secured \$20,000 for the theater. In conjunction with Speaker Christine C. Quinn, he also secured approximately \$1,000,000 for 2013 in capital improvements.

FIGHTING FOR SENIORS



Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer has allocated nearly \$300,000 to the Queensbridge Senior Center toward nutritious meals, renovations of the restrooms, hot meals, fieldtrips, educational workshops, nursing services, case management and more.

Our seniors nurtured families and built communities. We owe seniors our gratitude as well as the ability to grow older with dignity and comfort. Over the past 2 years, I have allocated over \$1.3 million to senior services. I will continue to fight for our seniors.



I visit my senior centers often, including the Woodside Senior Center, pictured above.



Council Member Van Bramer dances with seniors at the Ravenswood Senior Center.



Council Member Van Bramer advocated with local elected officials and community members for the new and improved Vernon Boulevard dog run.

WORKING FOR US!

Delivering results for my constituents and improving their quality of life are among the most important and enjoyable of parts of my job. Working for Us is something I want members of the community to see every day. In less than two years, my staff has handled over 4,000 cases including: getting leaks and damages repaired in NYCHA apartments; assisting with sanitation services with new trash cans and additional pickup; addressing quality of life complaints; linking the community with the local police precincts to keep our communities safe; and working with city agencies to get constituents the results they need. My team and I put our constituents first everyday.

Here are just a few of the things we were able to accomplish:

- After my office applied pressure, NYCHA fixed routine maintenance issues that were being ignored for almost a year at a building at Ravenswood Houses by stripping and waxing each floor and trimming the over-grown grass outside.
- A Queensbridge South resident had both a collapsing ceiling in her shower and a closet filled with mold, creating an unlivable situation. After my office intervened, both problems were quickly repaired.
- A family of four had a disconnected stove for two months despite 6 tickets requesting repair. The stove was repaired two days after our office contacted NYCHA.
- Our office has expedited dozens of SCRIE applications.
- Thanks to our outreach to DOT, potholes were repaved on the ramp at 65th Place and Queens Boulevard.
- A disabled woman was able to get full Access-A-Ride transportation when my staff contacted the MTA.
- A six year old boy was not receiving bus service to and from school. I put pressure on the DOE, which then rectified the situation.
- A Queensbridge Houses single mother of four who is battling cancer lost her Medicaid coverage after her case was mistakenly closed for one month. Our office intervened and had it retroactively reinstated.



Honoring Ravenswood Houses on their 60th Anniversary. The Ravenswood Houses welcomed Council Member Jimmy Van Bramer to Family Day where he presented a proclamation to resident association board members and residents honoring the community's 60th anniversary.