



The Giblin Report

News from Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin

BACK TO SCHOOL IN STYLE

There was music in the air and singing and dancing in the streets. Where do you find an atmosphere like that off Broadway? How about at the opening of a new school? Assemblyman Giblin was on hand for the 34th District's newest school—The Cicely Tyson School of Fine and Performing Arts in East Orange.

Also present were Senator Nia H. Gill, Assemblywoman Shelia Y. Oliver, Mayor Robert L. Bowser, New Jersey Department of Education Commissioner Lucille Davy, School Development Authority CEO Chris Kolluri, and members of the East Orange City Council.

“This facility is state of the art,” said Giblin, “not only are these kids going to benefit from the arts features, they’re going to benefit academically as well.”

The new school combines the old Cicely Tyson School with the Washington Academy. The campus is a total of 280,000 square feet spread over four building and will house 1,300 students from Pre-K through 12th grade. Among other features are two theaters and a TV studio.

The school was one of six “demonstration projects” that was awarded by the state and is suitable for both academic and community use. Facilities which are open after hours for the public include a library and media center, cafeteria, gymnasium, health and dental clinic, and performance art space, which will serve as a small performing arts center. The school is the anchor of a redevelopment plan which will include brownstone homes built within walking distance of commuter service to New York City.

“This is another great example of what can happen when the State and local school districts work together,” Giblin said.

Giblin also noted that all of the towns in the 34th District have had funds committed by the Schools Development Authority. “In total, the 34th district received more than \$171 million,” Giblin said.

Assemblyman Giblin was an early advocate and co-sponsor of legislation to fund the School Development Authority. “If kids are going to schools that are unsafe or overcrowded, learning suffers,” Giblin said at the time, “this legislation gives many of those kids a fighting chance.”



At the recent opening of the Cicely Tyson School of Performing and Fine Arts (L to R) Assemblyman Giblin, Schools Development Authority CEO Chris Kolluri, and East Orange Mayor Robert L. Bowser

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ASSEMBLYMAN GIBLIN HAS LONG BEEN A SUPPORTER OF THE ARTS.



Featured left to right at a recent New Jersey State Council on the Arts event at the State House are: Steve Runk, Executive Director, NJ State Council on the Arts; Carol Ann Herbert, Chair, NJ State Council on the Arts; Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin; Charlotte McKim, Chairwoman, New Jersey Theatre Alliance; Deborah Cooperman, Director of Marketing and Public Relations, New Jersey Theatre Alliance; Robert Carr, Manager of Programs and Services, New Jersey Theatre Alliance; Sharon Burton Turner of Montclair, Chair, NJ State Council on the Arts.

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TECHNOLOGY AND JOBS-PERFECT TOGETHER

People aren't hiring and Assemblyman Giblin is doing something about it. That's why he co-sponsored a bill aimed at job creation.

"One of my priorities has always been to keep and create jobs in the state," said Giblin, "that's what this bill does."

The bill, known as the "tech firm bill" (A-3883) expands existing technology incentive programs offered to individuals and businesses that invest in the state's technology sector. It encourages investment in technology businesses that have fewer than 225 employees. Until now, only larger companies were eligible.

Currently, there are unused funds that were set aside for highly specific technology companies. Under the Bill, the unused funds will be put into a general pool, which will allow more businesses to access them. The bill also increases the maximum lifetime benefit per business from \$10 million to \$15 million. It encourages companies to remain in New Jersey by allowing the State to reclaim tax benefits from any business that moves its headquarters out of New Jersey within five years of receipt of benefits.

"These incentives will not just help protect existing jobs and businesses in the state but will also act as a catalyst for investors which, in turn, will attract new businesses to New Jersey and help existing companies in the state expand," said Giblin.

THE ARC TUNNEL: BETTER TRAIN SERVICE FOR THE 34TH DISTRICT

Construction has begun on the Access to the Region's Core Mass Transit Tunnel, a new rail tunnel under the Hudson River that will double commuter rail capacity between New Jersey and New York, and make train travel smoother within New Jersey itself.

Assemblyman Giblin, who serves on the Assembly Transportation Committee, has a special interest in the \$8.7 billion project, because of its many benefits for residents of the 34th District and New Jersey.

Essex and Passaic county residents who use NJ TRANSIT'S Montclair-Boonton, Main-Bergen and Morris & Essex rail lines will see more frequent train service and more express trains once the massive project is completed. Importantly, for the first time ever, the new tunnel will mean riders on the Main-Bergen and those boarding the Montclair-Boonton line west of Montclair State University will have the convenience of one-seat, transfer-free rides into and out of Midtown Manhattan.

The Mass Transit Tunnel will accomplish these long-needed rail service improvements by constructing two new single-track tunnels under the Hudson River to supplement the two century-old tracks that exist today. Because the current tunnel offers only "one track in and one track out," it has long been a chokepoint for NJ TRANSIT and Amtrak trains operating into and out of New York.

The new tunnel will allow NJ TRANSIT to double the number of trains during each peak hour—23 trains today to 48 when the tunnel opens—creating faster trips, and new one-seat (direct) rides for thousands of customers. And, the project creates some 6,000 jobs per year during the peak construction period, as well as generating some 44,000 new, permanent jobs once service begins.



Flanked by Union members are (L to R) Heavy and General Construction Laborers Local 472 Business Manager Louis A. Giammarino, Assembly Transportation Chair John Wisniewski, and Assemblyman Tom Giblin.



GIBLIN MAKES A CLEAN SWEEP

Assemblyman Giblin took part in the 5th Annual "Golden Broom Clean Sweep" sponsored by the City of East Orange. This year's theme was "Slam Dunk the Junk."

Pictured with the Assemblyman at the event are:

Back row, (L to R) East Orange Campus High basketball team members Mario Moody Jr., Muhamadou Kaba, and Tyrone Kornegay; Coach Daron Hoges, Gordon Parks Academy Principal Norman Stanley, and Campus High team member Tremaine Beals. Middle Row: Harlem Wizard Basketball Player Eric "Broadway" Jones, Campus High team member Jashed Gaskins, Harlem Wizard Jack "Blackjack" Ryan, Assemblyman Giblin, and Executive Director of the New Jersey Clean Communities Council Sandy Huber. Front Row: East Orange Assistant Public Works Director Carl Turner, East Orange Environmental Ambassador 12 year old Quamir Payton, and East Orange Clean and Green Coordinator Knayda O'Kelly.

WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW COULD HURT

Shouldn't consumers have the most accurate information in order to make educated decisions?

In August, a bill co-sponsored by Assemblyman Giblin was signed into law to do just that. It targets mistakes that hospitals make.

"Knowledge is power," said Giblin, "This bill gives individuals knowledge that will allow them to make the best choice when it comes to treatment options."

The new law requires the state to make public preventable medical errors at hospitals. Four years ago the "Patient Safety Act" required hospitals to report medical errors to the State Department of Health and Senior Services. It stopped short of making the information public so as to ensure disclosure.

"This is a natural extension of the Patient Safety Act," Giblin said, "It's great that we've been collecting this information but now, consumers can make use of it."

The legislation covers errors such as medical equipment left inside a patient, accidental puncture, and operating on the wrong body part.

In addition, the legislation bars hospitals from charging patients, insurance companies, and Medicaid for treatment related to: Transfusion reaction, air embolism, foreign objects left during a procedure, surgery on the wrong side, wrong body part, or wrong person, or wrong surgery performed on a patient.

"It's really common sense," said Giblin.

The report and related data charts are available on the New Jersey Department of Health and Senior Services web site at www.nj.gov/health/hpr.

ENSURING THE COMMUNITY IS "FAIRING" WELL

In September, Assemblyman Giblin lent his support to East Orange General Hospital's health fair. The fun-filled day included free health screenings for blood pressure, cholesterol, and other chronic conditions.

"It's important to make sure that the public is informed about some of the threats to their health," Giblin said, "not only does the fair make information available but, free screenings allow individuals to find out if they are in a high risk category. Armed with this information, individuals can manage these illnesses and live long healthy lives."

Giblin has long been a supporter of East Orange General as well as other hospitals in New Jersey. "East Orange General has always been an important hospital in Essex County," Giblin said, "but even more so in recent years with the closing of nearby hospitals."

St. James and Columbus hospitals in Newark, Irvington General Hospital, and the Hospital Center at Orange have all closed within the past few years.

Giblin was instrumental in keeping Mountainside Hospital open when he endorsed a sale to save it. He was one of the first to recognize the hospital crisis and continues to monitor and intervene when possible.

"People think it's not a big deal when a hospital closes. They figure they'll just have to drive a little farther," he said, "That ride can be the difference between life and death in an emergency situation."



(L to R) Assemblyman Giblin, East Orange City Council Chairwoman Quilla E. Talmadge, East Orange Mayor Robert L. Bowser, NJ Department of Health and Senior Service Commissioner Heather Howard, Orange Mayor Eldridge Hawkins, East Orange General Hospital President Kevin Slavin, East Orange General Hospital Board Chairperson Antoinette Ellis-Williams, and Essex County Freeholder Carol Y. Clark

ASSEMBLYMAN GIBLIN ATTENDS ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SEMINAR

In June 2009, Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin attended an "Alternative Energy Seminar" at Liberty Science Center, in Jersey City.

The seminar kicked off with a presentation from David Guralchuck, from Noveda Technologies, based in Branchburg, N.J. In May 2008, the Liberty Science Center (LSC) installed Noveda's SunFlow Monitor™ and EnergyFlow Monitor™ to optimize the facility's newly installed solar photovoltaic system. SunFlow Monitor records and displays in real-time all electrical energy coming into LSC from the grid, electrical energy going out from the building, and electrical energy produced by the solar photovoltaic system.

Also participating in the seminar was NJ Board of Public Utilities Commissioner, Joseph L. Fiordaliso, who spoke about the many incentives and rebates offered to companies and residences for renewable energy projects.

Commissioner Fiordaliso referred attendees to the website: www.njcleanenergy.com. "Energy conservation and renewable energy not only makes sense for our global climate, but makes good business sense and can help to create jobs," said Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin.

Giblin further noted, that the green energy field is rapidly changing and it is important that New Jerseyans stay abreast of this exciting field. New Jersey's new Energy Master Plan calls for 30% of energy from renewables by 2012- this includes wind, solar, and biomass. "Our state

is one of the most progressive in the country in terms of leading the effort towards renewable energy," said Giblin.

Solar energy installations in New Jersey have increased ten-fold since 2006. The State has 100 megawatts of solar energy installed, enough to satisfy the energy needs of more than 15,000 homes. New Jersey has the most solar energy installations per square mile in the nation.



Blue Wave
Assemblyman Giblin lent his support to the Blue Wave New Jersey Summer Empowerment Program. Above, the Assemblyman and Montclair Councilwoman Kathryn Weller are interviewed for the children's newsletter, "The Blue Wave Times."

EXTENDING A HELPING HAND

Economic Development in New Jersey is important, especially in these tough economic times. In certain instances, businesses may need help to get through and keep citizens working. Assemblyman Giblin has co-sponsored a bill that helps make that happen.

The "permit extension act" (A-2867) extends the expiration on building permits for up to four years. Currently, many permits are due to expire because builders have had difficulty obtaining financing due to the downturn in the economy and the banking crisis.

"We need to make sure that new development and the jobs that go with it will stay right here," said Giblin, "by requiring businesses to go through the expense of reapplying for permits, we run the risk of having them go elsewhere."

A state of economic emergency has existed in New Jersey since January 2006. The conditions are anticipated to prevail through the end of 2012. The permit extensions are valid only during that period. A similar piece of legislation was passed during the 1990s when the same economic conditions were present.

The act does not apply to federally issued permits or to orders issued by the Department of Environmental Protection during that period.

"Times are tough for everyone," said Giblin, "we need to do our part to make sure we bridge the gap to economic recovery."



Assemblyman Giblin recently toured the Styertowne Apartments in Clifton. Styertowne Apartments, LLC owns and manages 344 studio, one, and two bedroom apartments. The visit was arranged by the New Jersey Apartment Association. "This is another example of quality housing in New Jersey," said Giblin.

Pictured with the Assemblyman are:

Front Row (L to R): Maintenance Staff members Anthony Ramos and Keith Farrington, Jr. Middle Row (L to R): Owner, George Jacobs, Leasing Agent, Jamie Wohr, Property Manager, Barbara Ahn Back Row (L to R): Maintenance Superintendent, Keith Farrington, Assemblyman Thomas P. Giblin, Owner, Ray Kunz

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REPRESENTING NEW JERSEY'S 34TH LEGISLATIVE DISTRICT

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Transportation Funds

34th District Senator Nia H. Gill and Assembly Representatives Shelia Y. Oliver and Thomas P. Giblin announce the awarding of funds for street improvements to all towns in their District:

East Orange	Various Streets	\$654,560
Glen Ridge	Various Streets	\$360,000
Montclair	South Mountain Avenue	\$456,838
Clifton	Day Street	\$320,948
Clifton	John Street	\$232,000
Woodland Park	Mount Pleasant Avenue	\$300,000

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Dear Assemblyman Giblin,
 Thank you for alerting me to the possibility that I had unclaimed property held by the state...sure enough, there was some kind of refund I was not aware of.
 Marjorie Link
 Clifton, NJ

Dear Assemblyman Giblin,
 Thank you again for your leadership and support in giving New Jersey voters the choice on November 3rd of continuing the state's vital preservation efforts. The Green Acres Water Supply and Floodplain Protection and Farmland and Historic Preservation Bond Act of 2009 enables voters to invest \$10 annually per household to maintain our water quality, invest in our working farms and provide a better New Jersey for our children and our grandchildren.
 Kelly A. Mooji, Esq.
 New Jersey Audubon Society

Dear Assemblyman Giblin,
 I thank you for supporting the nomination of Anderson Park to the New Jersey and National Registers of Historic Places.
 Mark N. Mauriello, Commissioner
 New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection

Dear Assemblyman Giblin,
 Thank you very much for your letters of support for JVS' proposed *Maturity Works: New Career Opportunities for Mature Workers* project...your time and continued support of our agency are truly appreciated.
 Dr. Leonard Schneider
 Jewish Vocational service

Dear Assemblyman Giblin,
 Thank you for writing so eloquently in support of weekend service on the Boonton Line. Your letter to New Jersey Transit really helped show how the communities and their elected representatives are eager for high quality public transportation that will benefit our area both economically and environmentally while improving our quality of life.
 Mayor Jerry Fried
 Montclair



Assemblyman Giblin honored Clifton Library Director Christine Zembicki with a ceremonial resolution. Zembicki retired after 17 years at the library.

Don't get the flu-no matter what they call it!

Whether it's Swine, H1N1, or the regular flu you want to avoid it. Here are some things you can do.



Get Vaccinated
 A shot can do a lot to prevent the flu



Cover Your Mouth and Nose
 A cough or sneeze can go far—and spread germs



Wash Your Hands
 It will help protect you from germs



Don't Touch
 Your eyes, mouth or nose



Stay Home When You're Sick
 Just being around others can spread the flu



Stay Physically Fit
 Eat right, exercise, and get plenty of rest