



Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney  
**REPORTS TO**  
*Roosevelt Island*

Dear Friend,

Roosevelt Island, New York's "small town," presents unique challenges and opportunities, and I have enjoyed working with residents since my days in the New York City Council.

Thankfully, I have had an extraordinary team to work with: Assemblyman Pete Grannis and Speaker Gifford Miller are among the island's greatest friends and strongest advocates. I am pleased that Roosevelt Island will soon have a RIOC board that will be comprised of a majority of island residents. I look forward to continuing to work with all of these fine representatives on behalf of Roosevelt Island residents.

I have worked hard on behalf of Roosevelt Island and have had a number of successes, securing \$700,000 for Security cameras in the subway, helping to open a public library, helping to secure funding for the Blackwell house repairs and obtaining the much-needed Army Corps of Engineers report on the Roosevelt Island Seawall. Roosevelt Island has seen a lot of progress. It is also heartening to hear of the many ongoing improvements on the island including the restoration of the bus schedule, continuing efforts to repair the tram, the new Metro Card service for the tram, funding and repairs for the Good Shepherd Chapel and the Blackwell House, and the strides made in public safety.

In this report, you'll find an update on issues affecting Roosevelt Island. I hope to hear from you on these or any other concerns you may have.

Sincerely,

*Carolyn B. Maloney*

CAROLYN B. MALONEY  
Member of Congress

p.s. You can sign-up for periodic e-mail updates on my work in Washington and issues affecting your community at <http://www.house.gov/maloney/email.html>

# ***Blackwell House***

## ***Restoration of the Blackwell House—One of New York's most venerable sights:***

Main Street's Blackwell house, one of the oldest wooden houses in New York City, is a city, state and federal landmark. The house, originally built in 1796, became city property in 1828, when the Blackwell family sold their island to New York City. Over the years, the building has deteriorated significantly. I was saddened to see the neglected state of the porch and roof and joined RIOC and other elected officials to do something about it.



***Representative Maloney and residents Linda Heimer and Margie Smith examine the porch of the Blackwell House, Roosevelt Island's city, state and federal historic landmark.***

That is why I am so encouraged by the efforts of the Roosevelt Island Historical Society (RIHS) to ensure a secure future for the Blackwell House. In July of 2002, I wrote a letter in support of RIOC's request for funds from the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, to repair and restore the Blackwell House, and I am pleased to report that they were awarded a \$250,000 matching grant.

Blackwell House is one of Roosevelt Island's cherished landmarks and I aim to see that it receives the adequate care that it deserves. I look forward to watching the restoration of the Blackwell House to its original beauty. Once it is restored, this historic landmark will add new life to the island and will be used as a social, educational and cultural resource center.

## ***Improving Public Safety***

Like all New York City residents, quality of life and public safety are among the greatest concerns of Roosevelt Island residents. Roosevelt Island has the rare benefit of a small town feel within New York City. For years I have worked to improve safety on the island, securing a CPOP officer to patrol the island, making sure that the subway had adequate security surveillance cameras, and working with residents to improve communications with public safety agencies.

Last fall, I hosted a series of public safety meetings on Roosevelt Island, inviting officials from the NYPD, the District Attorney's office, Roosevelt Island Management, Roosevelt Island Public safety, RIOC, RIRA and the residents of Roosevelt Island.

An item of particular concern to residents is the lack of a coherent and cohesive method of reporting and addressing problems. With the help of Roosevelt Island Management, Deputy Inspector Barrere of the 114th precinct, and all of those who participated in the series of meetings, there has been progress.



***Congresswoman Maloney discusses Roosevelt Island concerns with Public Safety Director Jim Frye, Deputy Inspector Barrere, RIRA President Matthew Katz, and community members.***

# ***The Hank Carter Rehabilitation Center***

## ***Island Hospital Dedicates Center to invaluable philanthropist Hank Carter***

Hank Carter is one of Roosevelt Island's greatest friends and advocates. He has single-handedly transformed the Rehabilitative Medicine Department of Coler-Goldwater Specialty Hospital and Nursing Facility into one of the best-equipped facilities of its kind, giving more wheelchairs to patients than any other facility in the nation. That is why I recognized his incredible work by entering a description of his outstanding achievements into the *Congressional Record*.

At the dedication of the Hank Carter Rehabilitation Center, I read the Extension of Remarks and spoke about Hank Carter's efforts. In 1968, Hank's best friend, was paralyzed from the waist down. Hank was present through the arduous rehabilitation process, and was appalled to learn how difficult it was for an injured individual to simply obtain a wheelchair. Paralysis, which strikes so many lives, is often exacerbated by the lack of wheelchairs and adequate facilities necessary to manage challenging disabilities. Hank refused to stand idly by. He founded Wheelchair Charities, Inc.

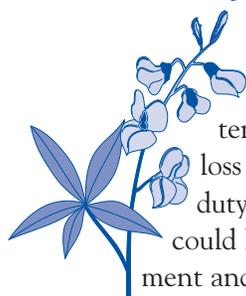
Over the course of 30 years, Hank has single-handedly transformed Coler-Goldwater's Rehabilitation Center into one of the finest of its kind. Expanding beyond providing wheelchairs to those in need, he has also secured state-of-the-art rehabilitative equipment ranging from exercise equipment to mobile ventilators, voice machines and computers that are controlled by the blink of an eye. When Coler-Goldwater Hospital proposed financing its Rehabilitation Medicine Department in his honor, it was clearly the right move. In a letter to Bruce Teitelbaum, Chairman of the Capital Committee of NYC Health and Hospitals Corporation, I wrote, "I cannot imagine anyone more deserving of this honor than Hank Carter. His impact on Coler-Goldwater's rehabilitative services is incalculable."

Hank has given the lame mobility, the mute a voice, and the severely compromised the opportunity to engage in a fuller and richer life. Now, his efforts will forever be etched into this nation's history.



***Carolyn Maloney joins Hank Carter, hospital staff and the patients of the newly dedicated Hank Carter Rehabilitation Center.***

## ***9/11 Firefighters Remembered***



Roosevelt Island firefighters were among the first to respond to the terrifying call they received on 9/11. The loss was so great from this facility because a duty change was in progress. Men who could have gone home grabbed their equipment and headed to the scene. Valiant and eager to serve their community, the unit raced across the bridge. They were the first to respond to the horrors of that day, and they were among the first lost in the line of duty. This group of men is irreplaceable. With them disappeared years of experience that it will take NY's Bravest decades to replace. But the valor, commitment and passion of these men will never diminish. I am honored to have been present for the 9/11 wreath-laying and tree-planting memorial in commemoration of these fine men.

In loving memory, these men live on. Many thanks to Roosevelt Island for the bench, the plaque and the tree that serve as enduring memorials to these extraordinary heroes.



***The Congresswoman joins the community in dedicating a commemorative plaque, tree and bench in honor of the island residents and members of the special operations unit who lost their lives on 9/11.***

# Speaking Up for the Elderly

During my recent visit with friends at the Roosevelt Island Senior Center, where dozens of Island Seniors come to exercise, socialize and learn, it was important to address concerns about recent changes to Medicare.

While some people who cannot afford prescription drugs will benefit, the new Medicare law will leave half of all seniors paying more out of pocket for important medications than they do now. It will leave millions of seniors without any drug coverage at all for a portion of the year, and it prohibits the Secretary of Health and Human Services from negotiating with pharmaceutical companies to lower prescription drug prices. Over 2 million retirees, including 200,000 NYC residents will lose their current prescription drug coverage. That is why I voted against this bill and will fight vigorously to amend it.



*Rep. Maloney speaks to long time resident Joan Matula about the new Medicare Bill.*



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