



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Malcolm Smith

## **Senator Malcolm A. Smith Announces**

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November 25, 2007

Senate Democratic Leader Malcolm A. Smith (D-Queens) today announced that the Seaside Adult Community Center has reopened at its original Rockaway Beach Boulevard location, according to information received from New York City Department for the Aging in response to a letter sent by the senator.

"Seaside's roof has finally been repaired," said Senator Smith. He noted that the building's damaged roof caused chronic leaking and flooding conditions, which disrupted program operations and created an unhealthy environment for the seniors.

Senator Smith also said he has been reaching out to city officials to help expedite additional long-term arrangements for the popular Rockaway senior center, operated by Catholic Charities Neighborhood Services.

"Senior centers provide a rich sense of community, a welcoming place where good company and good food frequently go hand in hand, " Senator Smith said. "All people, regardless of age, race or ethnicity, need social interaction. Everyone thrives on the bonds that we build between one another."

The Seaside Adult Community Center closed its doors for repair work in early August. During the intervening months, local area seniors gathered in the morning to be transported to another senior center in Far Rockaway.

"It has long been a priority of mine to make sure that seniors have access to the kinds of services they need and desire," Senator Smith concluded. "I encourage the seniors in my district to consider visiting their local senior center. I think you'll find they offer many opportunities that truly enrich our lives."