

PRESS RELEASE

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FREEHOLDER BRENDAN GILL HONORS FORMER BLOOMFIELD COUNCILWOMAN PEGGY DUNIGAN FOR HER SERVICE TO THE RESIDENTS OF BLOOMFIELD

Dunigan Stepped Down in December After 9 Years on the Municipal Council

(Newark, NJ) – Former Bloomfield Councilwoman Margaret “Peggy” O’Boyle Dunigan was honored by the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders for her 9 years of service on the Bloomfield Municipal Council during the Freeholder Board’s Wednesday, June 25, 2014, meeting held at Montclair Town Hall. The Board’s commendation was sponsored and presented by District 5 Freeholder Brendan W. Gill of Montclair, whose district includes the Township of Bloomfield.



Former Bloomfield Councilwoman Margaret “Peggy” O’Boyle Dunigan (right) receives a Commendation from Freeholder Brendan Gill of Montclair honoring her for her 9 years of outstanding service as a member of the Bloomfield Municipal Council. The presentation was made during the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders’ Wednesday, June 25, 2014, meeting at Montclair Town Hall. (Photo by Glen Frieson)

“Tonight it truly is my honor to acknowledge the work of a long-serving and outstanding public servant from Bloomfield, Margaret ‘Peggy’ O’Boyle Dunigan, who, at the end of 2013, completed three terms and nine years as a member of the Bloomfield Municipal Council”, said Freeholder Gill. “Peggy, the residents of Bloomfield were very lucky to have you as their Councilwoman for nine years, and the Township is a better place because of your service”, said Gill, who also thanked her for all she has done for him over the years and presented her with a Commendation from the Freeholder Board.

“Brendan (Gill) has been a good friend of mine for a long time”, said Dunigan, who thanked the freeholder for honoring her and wished him well in his upcoming re-election campaign, calling him a “very talented and professional young man.”

Dunigan began the first of her three 3-year terms as a Councilwoman in 2002, and was re-elected twice to also serve from 2005-2007 and from 2011-2013. During her tenure she served many years as the Council's liaison to the Board of Health, as well as a member of other Council committees. A major focus of her efforts was the Township's first redevelopment project in 30 years to revitalize Bloomfield Center, the downtown business district; she also worked tirelessly in support of the Township's police and fire departments.

A lifelong resident of Bloomfield, Dunigan began her service to her community long before her election to the Council. She has been involved in Home and School Associations for Brookside Elementary and Sacred Heart schools for 40 years; is active at Sacred Heart Parish where she is a member of the Rosary Society and Parish Council, and having served as president of both; she is a Trustee of United Way, Oakeside Cultural Center and Job Haines Home; and also served as Chair of the Archbishop's annual fundraising drive, among many other volunteer endeavors.

Dunigan grew up in Bloomfield where she attended Sacred Heart Grammar School and then Mount Saint Dominic Academy in Caldwell, before going on to attend Seton Hall University where she majored in Business. She began her professional career as a Customer Account Representative for New Jersey Bell, before taking leave from the workforce to raise her family with her late husband, Paul Dunigan. She re-entered the workforce in 1986 as a living skills counselor at Jespy House, Inc., in South Orange, a residential program designed to assist adults with learning and developmental disabilities to live independently and gain competitive edge employment. Thereafter, she explored her entrepreneurial interests at the Brookside Garden Center for almost twenty years, which became a successful family business located at the intersection of Broad and Bay streets in Bloomfield.

A proud Irishwoman, Peggy O'Boyle Dunigan has also been very active in the Irish-American community and its organizations. She served as a member of the Nutley Irish-American, Giblin, Cryan and Belleville Irish-American associations; was First Vice-Chair of the Newark St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and Deputy Grand Marshal of its parade in 2001; and was named the "Irish Woman of the Year" by the Essex County Board of Chosen Freeholders in 2006.

Freeholder Gill is currently serving his first term as the Freeholder for District 5, which includes the municipalities of Belleville, Bloomfield, Glen Ridge, Montclair and Nutley.

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