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December 21, 2023

Dear Friends,

This newsletter includes award of the 2023 Round of NYS Clean Water Grants and recognition for local High School State Championship Teams: Mamaroneck High School Girls Varsity Field Hockey, Rye High School Girls Varsity Soccer, and Rye High School Boys Varsity Football.

I also include some holiday gatherings and highlights from some important not-for-profits serving our communities.

This e-mail also includes information about new legislative proposals to promote flood mitigation work throughout the state.

The updates are also included on:

Furniture Sharehouse

Hope Community Services

Port Chester Job Fair for An Emerging Economy

Free Bee-Line Bus Service for the Holidays

Minimum Wage Increase

As always, do not hesitate to contact me or my staff on issues in this e-mail or any matter in which we can be helpful. My office number is 914-939-7028. I hope you have a joyous and meaningful holiday season with family and friends. Let us all wish the best for everyone in the New Year.

Warm regards,

**NYS Clean Water Grants Announced – Westchester communities awarded
over \$49 Million**

Governor Kathy Hochul announced the latest round of NYS Clean Water grants providing \$479 million awards to 156 projects across the state. Seven Westchester projects received funding totaling \$49,637,465 through the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) and Intermunicipal (IMG) grant programs.

As has been the case since I helped initiate these programs to assist local governments in paying for clean water projects, Sound Shore communities have again secured funding. Awarded grants in this round were:

Blind Brook Wastewater Treatment Plant - \$6.05 million for equipment improvements
Village of Port Chester - \$2.46 million for Sanitary Sewer Rehabilitation projects
Westchester Joint Water Works - \$30 million for the Rye Lake Water Filtration Plant

The state grants help reduce the cost to property taxpayers and ratepayers. Over the years, every Sound Shore community has been awarded funding through these programs.

Since the clean water grant programs were created in 2015, WIIA and IMG have provided almost \$2.5 billion in grants to local governments, including almost \$130 million to Westchester municipalities for important clean water projects. Statewide water infrastructure grants have been awarded to over 950 projects. The NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) administers these programs and works closely with the Departments of Health (DOH) and Environmental Conservation (DEC).



Jubilation was in the air for the New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce Tree Lighting at Memorial Plaza where I was joined by local officials and a large crowd of families enjoying the season. The many local holiday chamber of commerce events throughout Westchester are a reminder to shop local and support our local merchants. They are an important part of community life on the Sound Shore.

Celebrate Our Local High School State Championship Title Winners

Mamaroneck High School Girls Varsity Field Hockey

Rye High School Girls Varsity Soccer

Rye High School Boys Varsity Football

To win a high school state championship is no easy task. New York is a big state with many competitive school district athletic programs. This fall three Sound Shore teams won state championships. Each championship is made possible through the dedication, hard work, and pursuit of excellence necessary to succeed through the regional and state tournaments. Congratulations to all the players, coaches, families, athletic programs, and communities that have supported these student athletes for the years that brought them to their championship titles. Youth sports is an important part of education. Our local teams also provide an important gift to their school districts and the fans that follow every team throughout the school year. Congratulations to all.

Mamaroneck High School Girls Varsity Field Hockey Team

Class A State Championship

Title won on November 12th



Rye High School Girls Varsity Soccer Team Class A State Championship

Title won on November 12th



Rye High School Boys Varsity Football Team Class B State Championship

Title won on December 3rd.



Tree Lighting at the Capitol



In the first week of December, I was in Albany for legislative meetings and was able to attend the annual Albany tree lighting outside of the State Capitol. Governor Kathy Hochul, Santa Claus, and I were flanked by my Capitol District Assembly colleagues (l-r): John McDonald, Pat Fahy and Angelo Santabarbara.

New Legislative Proposals to Enhance Flood Mitigation



I recently joined state legislative colleagues Senators Shelley Mayer and Pete Harckham at the Community Resource Center campus in Mamaroneck to announce the introduction of two new legislative proposals we sponsor to enhance the state's role in flood mitigation planning and funding. The Community Resource Center, which remains under construction because of storm damage from Hurricane Ida and is being rebuilt, is a vital service provider in the community.

These legislative proposals provide for increased strategy, policy coordination, and dedicated funding to support flood prevention and mitigation efforts. New York State agencies have been working with local governments in assessing, addressing, and funding local flood projects. One example important here in Mamaroneck is the \$17.5 million included in our 2023-24 state budget to support the Mamaroneck-Sheldrake Army Corps of Engineers project. These two new bills will enhance statewide efforts with a unified approach to planning and state funding support.

The upcoming year will bring the rollout of new NYS flood mitigation programs that were included in the voter approved 2022 Environmental Bond Act. The Bond Act included my proposal for a new \$250 million stormwater grant program to provide state funding to support these local water infrastructure projects identified as a major vulnerability in Hurricane Ida.

I am pictured above with Village of Mamaroneck Deputy Mayor Nora Lucas,

Senator Mayer, Senator Harckham, Town of Mamaroneck Supervisor Jaine Elkind-Eney, County Legislator Catherine Parker, and CRC Executive Director Jirandy Martinez.

You can learn more about the work of the Community Resource Center on their website @ <https://www.crcny.org>.

Holiday Party at Hudson Park Children's Greenhouse



The holiday party at the newly opened Hudson Park Children's Greenhouse in New Rochelle provided an opportunity to celebrate the work of very successful HPCG not-for-profit committee and their partnership with the City of New Rochelle. I am pictured here with HPCG Committee President Millie Radonjic-Ilich and New Rochelle City Councilman Al Tarantino. For more information visit the committee's website at hpcgreenhouse.org.



Why Does Furniture Matter?



In Westchester County, there are individuals and families struggling with such financial hardship that they have no means to buy furniture, even at thrift store prices.

Living this way is destabilizing and strips people of comfort, dignity, and a feeling of safety. Furniture share house fills that gap to provide families in need with quality furniture.

To learn more please visit: <https://furnituresharehouse.org/>



Town of Rye Holiday Celebration



Attendance estimates were over 1000 for the Town of Rye Christmas Tree and Menorah Lighting at Crawford Park in Rye Brook where I was joined by local

officials and a large crowd of families enjoying the season. Activities for kids and food trucks attract increasing numbers each year to this annual event centered around the restored Crawford Mansion and rejuvenated Crawford Park. Congratulations for the Town of Rye officials and staff for making this such a popular event.



**PORT CHESTER
JOB FAIR FOR AN
EMERGING ECONOMY**


SCAN ME

Opportunities in: Green Construction - Clean Energy - Technology & More!

Friday, January 19th: 3:30 PM - 7:00 PM

Carver Center

400 Westchester Ave, Port Chester, NY

Register Now:

www.tinyurl.com/2024CareerFair

FREE REFRESHMENTS

FREE CHILDCARE AVAILABLE FROM

4 PM - 6:30 PM



Department of Labor



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
Westchester Chapter



In Partnership With:



**Office of Congressman
Jamaal Bowman**
New York's 16th District



**Office of State Senator
Shelley B. Mayer**
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Steven Otis**
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**Office of County Legislator
Nancy Barr**
Vice Chair of the Board | District 1

CELEBRATE THE HOLIDAYS ON BEE-LINE!
ENJOY FREE RIDES ON ALL BUSES!
DECEMBER 16 THROUGH JANUARY 1, 2024



VALID ON ALL ROUTES INCLUDING PARATRANSIT!
WORK, PLAY OR A HOLIDAY SHOPPING DAY! GET THERE FREE ON THE BEE-LINE!



George Latimer, Westchester County Streets Director

For information, visit www.westchestergov.com/beelinebus
Or call (914) 813-7777 weekdays, 8 a.m. – 8 p.m.
and weekends 8 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Automated information is available 24 hours a day.

**Minimum
wage is
increasing**

On Jan. 1, 2024 the minimum wage for New York City, Long Island and Westchester County will be **\$16 an hour.**

