



Assemblyman

**Steve Otis**



91st Assembly District

Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye

May 8, 2024

Dear Friends,

The last week brought about important community events. Last Thursday was the official opening of the New Rochelle Boys & Girls Club Remington Clubhouse. On Friday Senator Mayer and I hosted an important press conference to announce state funding towards the Mamaroneck Sheldrake US Army Corp of Engineers Flood Program and a new path for funding flood projects with state and county funding in advance of the federal program. We were joined in Mamaroneck by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar.

This Friday Senator Mayor and I will be hosting the first of a series of local meetings to share details of the recently adopted state budget and discuss other state issues raised by residents. See details below for our Rye Coffee and Conversations meeting. Future meetings will be held in New Rochelle, Mamaroneck/Larchmont, and Port Chester/Rye Brook.

**Coffee and Conversations - Rye**



**Friday May 10th at 9:30am - 10:30am**

Damiano Community Center Game Room

281 Midland Ave, Rye NY

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.

Warm regards,

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**Mayer and Otis Announce Two Key Flood Control Actions to Help  
Mamaroneck**



On Friday, at press conference in Columbus Park, Senator Mayer and I announced that the recently approved FY 2024 - 2025 State Budget included an appropriation of an additional \$10.85 million towards the Mamaroneck-Sheldrake Army Corp of Engineers flood mitigation project. We also announced a new state and county initiative to proceed with flood mitigation projects before the Army Corps work begins. We were joined by NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar where the [Mamaroneck and Sheldrake rivers meet.

Last month, USACE officials visited Mamaroneck and indicated that cost recalculations required additional funding commitments towards the project as the next step in moving forward with the \$162 million plan to construct a series of flood mitigation improvements to address flood vulnerabilities in the village. Those commitments are necessary for the signing of two required documents: the Memorandum of Agreement and the Public Participation Agreement (PPA), by USACE, NYS, and Westchester County.

Last year Senator Mayer and I succeeded in having the initial state share, \$17.5 million, included in the 2023-24 state budget. When news of the new cost recalculation arrived on March 7<sup>th</sup>, Senate and Assembly one-house budget proposals had already been submitted. Senator Mayer and I worked closely with leadership in both houses of the legislature, Senate Finance and Assembly Ways and Means Committee staff, the NYS Division of the Budget, and the DEC to win inclusion of this funding in the adopted State Budget.

In addition to the news announced in the state budget, alongside the DEC we have initiated a new model to advance Mamaroneck flood mitigation projects ahead of the Army Corp's timetable through the use of non-federal funding to commence Mamaroneck projects. Over the past two months, regular meetings involving state agencies, Westchester County, the USACE, and village officials took place that have shown great promise.

*Photo caption: At our conference I am flanked by DEC Regional Director Kelly Tuturro, Village Trustee Lou Young, Mayor Sharon Torres, DEC Interim Commissioner Sean Maher, and Senator Shelley Mayer. Also present were County Executive George Latimer, County Legislator Catherine Parker, Town Supervisor Jaine Elkind Eney, Village Trustee Leilani Yizar-Reid, and Vice President of Water Protection for Save the Sound David Ansel.*

[Patch - \\$10.85M Will Jumpstart Mamaroneck, Sheldrake River Flood Mitigation News 12-](#) State officials: \$11M in funding allocated for flood mitigation projects in Mamaroneck

[LMC-TV Video](#)

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**New Rochelle Openings: Boys and Girls Club Remington Clubhouse and Renaissance at Lincoln Park**

The exciting opening of the New Rochelle Boys & Girls Club Remington Clubhouse has been marked by important events in the last few weeks. Last Thursday I attended the official joint opening and ribbon-cutting of the Remington Clubhouse and the Renaissance at Lincoln Park, the new 179 unit housing complex next door. Both projects were part of a joint public private partnership made possible through the vision of the Boys and Girls Club board, local clergy, the City of New Rochelle, Westchester County, and New York State.



Pictured at the historic event (l-r) I joined Reverend Dr. Michael J. Rouse, City Council Member Martha Lopez-Hanratty, CEO of Forward Thinkers Development Kenneth Plummer, New Rochelle Boys and Girls Club President Mary Jo Jacobs, Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert, NYS Commissioner of Homes and Community Renewal Commissioner RuthAnne Visnauskas, County

Legislator Terry Clements, City Council Member Shane Osinloye, State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, County Planning Commissioner Blanca Lopez, County Executive George Latimer, and City Council Member Sara Kaye. Second row: State Senator Nathalia Fernandez, Boys and Girls Club CEO Becky Mazzanobile, City Council Member David Peters, Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, and Jonathan Gertman, Senior Vice President of Development at The NRP Group.

### **Workers Memorial Day in Port Chester**



On April 28th I joined regional labor leaders, Village of Port Chester Trustees and staff, Westchester County elected officials, workers, non-profit leaders, and the Sustainable Port Chester Alliance to mark Workers Memorial Day. The

occasion marks the anniversary of the effective date the Occupational Health and Safety Act became effective, April 28th, 1971. The annual event serves to remember those who died or suffered injuries in workplace accidents and underscores our work together to fight for workplace safety rules. In my comments, I reflected on the tragedy of workers lost in recent accidents and reported on legislation I initiated to improve notice of labor law, OSHA, and health and safety rules to workers that was signed into law in 2022. Congratulations to the Sustainable Port Chester Alliance for organizing the well-attended event and to the many labor leaders who came to Port Chester to add meaning and testimony to the occasion.

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### **New Rochelle Rotary Club Celebrates Cinco de Mayo**



Last week I attended the New Rochelle Rotary Club Cinco de Mayo Fiesta Fundraiser. New Rochelle Rotary is an active branch, which is highly visible in the community. The celebration was held at the El Michoacano Mexican Restaurant at 615 Main Street. Pictured with elected officials and local leaders is Rotary President Tom Geoffino (at the far left), outgoing director of the New Rochelle Public Library and an enthusiastic Rotary leader.

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### **Broadview at Purchase College Holds Grand Opening**

Last week I attended the ribbon-cutting for Broadview, new retirement community on the campus of Purchase College. Broadview is one of first senior retirement communities in the country to be situated on a college campus. The concept, a first for SUNY, was to integrate into the campus housing for the broader community of area residents attracted to Purchase College for the school's outstanding Neuberger Museum, Performing Arts Center, and academic programs. Years before joining the Assembly, I worked on the special legislation that authorized this new use on a SUNY campus when I served as Counsel and Chief of Staff to State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer. Suzi attended the event and we were able to catch up with former Purchase College President Tom Schwartz and Betsy Robertson, now Chair of the Broadview at Purchase Foundation, who were instrumental in planning this innovative idea years ago.



Photo credit: [WestFair Business Journal](#)

*From left: Purchase College President Milagros Peña; Ashley Wade; Nancy Barr, Westchester County Legislator; John Ravitz, COO Business Council of Westchester; State Assemblyman Steve Otis; Carter and Lillian Wolfe, Broadview first depositors; former State Sen. Suzi Oppenheimer; Purchase College Past President Tom Schwartz; Westchester Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins; Elizabeth Robertson, Chairman of the Broadview at Purchase Foundation; Todd Shaw, vice president of Life Care Services and director of development.*

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### **Rye Youth Council Spring Benefit**



I attended the annual Rye Youth Council gala which honored Nancy Pasquale, Co-Founder of RyeACT (Rye Action for Children and Teens), which coordinates drug prevention and advocacy programs. I am pictured here with Jane Anderson, Rye City School District Board of Education President; Lisa Dominici, Rye Youth Council Executive Director; Sabrina Murphy, Rye YMCA CEO; Jennifer Boyle, Board of Education member; and Dr. Eric Byrne, School Superintendent. The Rye Youth Council provides important programming to help support local youth develop social-emotional skills and mental well-being.



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