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Dear Friends, July 21, 2021

This update provides updates and access to resources of importance to Westchester.

On the Covid-19 front, New York has benefited from high vaccination rates and decreases in infections, illness and loss of life. Most serious new cases are impacting non-vaccinated individuals. If you have not been vaccinated, you can check the NYS DOH website for up-to-date information.

As a number of cases in the news have demonstrated, you can still contract Covid-19 if vaccinated. Reports are that vaccination reduces the severity of symptoms if one is infected. Please follow the latest health advisories, especially related to confined indoor spaces where exposure to infected individuals may be possible.

This newsletter covers the following topics:

- Clean Water Funding on the Way
Meeting with new Port Chester School Superintendent
United Hospital Site Environmental Cleanup Plan Comment Period
Working to Restore Buffer for Residential Neighborhood in Mamaroneck
Rye Arts Center and Rye Rotary Combine Efforts to Support Education
Child Care Tax Credit
Public Health Corp
Small Business Resources

My staff and I continue to work with small businesses, individuals needing help with unemployment insurance processing, not-for-profits and any issue where we can be helpful. Please call my office at 914-939-7028 if you need assistance.

Warm regards,



Save the Sound Clean Water Community Forum

During the last week in June, Save the Sound led an important Clean Water Forum at the Jay Heritage Center in Rye. The event covered the state of water quality in the area and outlined challenges and opportunities for future ecological restoration projects.

Save the Sound does a tremendous job promoting water quality efforts in Westchester and Connecticut and is a major advocate for environmental policies in Albany. All of the forum presentations were exciting and timely.

As I have done in previous years, I will be sponsoring a county-wide workshop on the 2021 water grant application process with the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation when the application dates are announced.

Port Chester Schools Superintendent Dr. Aurelia Henriquez



Last week I met with Port Chester's newly appointed School Superintendent Dr. Aurelia Henriquez. Dr. Henriquez brings tremendous background to her new responsibilities, having served in key positions on Long Island. For a start she has released a 100-Day Entry Plan with a focus on connecting with the entire district and the community.

School funding for all of the school districts I represent has been a priority for me. This year saw great gains on Foundation Aid funding, an issue I have championed for many districts across the state, including Port Chester.

In our meeting we discussed many of the challenges and successes of the Port Chester School District and plans for the future. Dr. Henriquez succeeds Superintendent Dr. Edward Kliszus who retired after serving a decade as Port Chester's top school administrator. I worked closely with Dr. Kliszus on state school aid and other issues facing the district. I look forward to the same teamwork with Dr. Henriquez.

Throughout the year I am in regular contact with all the school districts I serve. I will be meeting with new Superintendents in New Rochelle and Rye Neck in upcoming weeks.



United Hospital Redevelopment and Site Remediation Brownfield Environmental Clean-up of the Former United Hospital

Public Comment Period Notice

The NYS Department of Environmental Conservation has scheduled a new comment period to hear concerns and questions regarding the cleanup plan submitted by the owners of the former United Hospital property at 406 Boston Post Rd.

The comment period runs from July 21 through August 20, 2021. Please send your questions and comments to:

William Bennett, Project Manager
Division of Environmental Remediation
625 Broadway, 12th Floor
Albany, NY 12233-7014
(518) 402-9662; william.bennett@dec.ny.gov

You can access key documents on the DEC website: For a project description go to: https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C360202/Fact%20Sheet\_BCP\_C360202\_2021-07-21\_RIWP.pdf

For project description in Spanish (en Español): https://www.dec.ny.gov/data/DecDocs/C360202/Fact%20Sheet\_BCP\_C360202\_2021-07-21\_RIWP%20Spanish.pdf

The Village of Port Chester also has a dedicated page with relevant information. Proper cleanup of the site and how the cleanup process is conducted is important to protecting the public health on, and surrounding, the property. Senator Shelley Mayer and I want to see a safe cleanup and are both following this process as is the Village of Port Chester. Please feel free to contact my office with any questions.

Working to Restore Buffer for Residential Neighborhood in Mamaroneck

State Senator Shelley Mayer and I have been meeting with Metro-North leadership to address removal of trees and vegetation in a residential neighborhood in Mamaroneck along the New Haven line tracks. The railroad was originally planning to use the site for a storage area along the tracks. Through our discussions, the railroad has agreed to find a location in a non-residential area. Senator Mayer and I are working with affected homeowners to identify ways to restore the buffer and with Metro-North to find solutions. County Executive George Latimer has provided help from Westchester County and both the Village and Town of Mamaroneck support addressing the issues raised by the neighborhood.

Rye Arts Center & Rye Rotary Club Join in Fundraising Effort for Education

The Rye Arts Center and Rye Rotary Club have teamed up to do a fundraising project to support local education programs. If you drive by Rye's Village Green on the Boston Post Road, you will enjoy the sight of giant butterfly sculptures created by local artists using aluminum and steel sculptures to create original works of art. The exhibit will remain on the Green throughout the summer. Smaller butterflies are exhibited in storefronts and businesses in Rye. The butterflies are now available for purchase in an online auction. Net proceeds from the auction as well as sponsorships will be utilized for educational programs and scholarships for students in our area. For more information and to place your bid visit: https://www.ryeartscenter.org/yesabove

Advance Federal Child Tax Credit Payments Start in July

Important changes to the Child Tax Credit will help many families get advance payments of the credit starting this summer. The IRS will pay half the total credit amount in advance monthly payments, which began July 15. Eligible individuals will claim the other half upon filing of their 2021 income tax return. These changes apply to tax year 2021 only. If you did not file your taxes this year, you need to register with the IRS HERE in order to receive the child tax credit.

For every child under the age of 6, families will get up to \$3,600 under the expansion, or \$300 per month. For every child ages 6-17, the amount is \$3,000, or \$250 per month. This is a significant increase from past years when the credit was \$2,000 per child, ages 0-16. The amount starts phasing out for families with higher incomes, above \$150,000 for married couples filing jointly, or \$112,500 for single parents who file as head of household.

Applications for the NYS Public Health Corps Fellowship Program Now Open

Up to 1,000 Fellows to Be Trained by Cornell University and Deployed for Public Health Operations

Rolling Applications Can Be Submitted Here

Governor Cuomo announced that applications are now open for the New York State Public Health Corps Fellowship Program, a first-in-the-nation program that will assist with immediate COVID-19 response and vaccination efforts and strengthen local and statewide workforce capacities required to respond to future public health emergencies. This program will provide up to 1,000 full-time, paid positions with placements at the New York State Department of Health, local health departments except for New York City, or other public health partners throughout the state. Fellows will complete online coursework and receive a Public Health Essentials Certificate from Cornell University, as outlined in the Governor's 2021 State of the State Address.

Fellows selected for the program will include recent graduates and students advanced in their graduate public health studies; individuals from nursing, medical, dentistry, pharmaceutical and allied health programs; retired medical professionals; emergency preparedness and other New Yorkers who will receive an intensive public health training curriculum developed by Cornell University. Once selected for the New York State Public Health Corps Fellowship Program, fellows will complete Cornell University's Public Health Essentials Certificate Program, offered by the Master of Public Health Program. The program will assist in New York's ongoing COVID-19 vaccination and response operations and establish an emergency response public health capacity that lasts beyond the current pandemic. Individuals are encouraged to apply here.

SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY PROGRAMS
Empire State Development
Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program
Other key programs and information:
Restaurant Resiliency Program
Restaurant Return to Work Tax Credit
NY Forward Loan Fund
Arts/Westchester Grant Program grants@artswestchester.org
NYS Council of the Arts help@arts.ny.gov
Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program - FAQ
Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program - Program Overview
Help Navigating State and Federal Small Business Assistance Programs



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