



91st Assembly District
Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye

July 29, 2021

Dear Friends,

The Covid-19 infection rate is increasing, especially where vaccination rates are low. The far more contagious Delta variant has been identified as the primary source for spread, even to vaccinated individuals. If you have not been vaccinated, you can check the [NYS DOH website](#) for up-to-date information.

I again urge everyone to follow changing health advisories. This week the CDC issued [updated recommendations](#) regarding mask wearing indoors under certain circumstances in specific areas. Due to the highly contagious nature of the new variant, I expect updates will be modified by state and federal officials as information changes.

On Monday Governor Cuomo announced that the State [is allocating](#) \$15 million to community organizations to bolster vaccination efforts in ZIP codes with low vaccination rates. Some of the groups receiving funding include the Hispanic Federation, the Federation of Protestant Welfare Agencies, the New York Immigration Coalition, the Asian American Federation, the Charles B. Wang Community Center, and the APICHA Community Health Center.

New York is streamlining the rent relief program application process to get money out faster. The new process immediately relaxes documentation standards for both tenants and landlords and implements a streamlined process for submission of arrears documentation for multi-tenant landlords effective yesterday, July 27. [Learn more](#) about the rental assistance program.

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,

Con Ed Pipe Rupture and Oil Spill in New Rochelle

I have been closely following the Con Ed oil spill in New Rochelle that affects Long Island Sound and the coastline in New Rochelle and neighboring areas. The event occurred on July 17th and the latest NYS Department of Environmental Conservation update is included below. I have been in regular contact with DEC with questions regarding the status of the cleanup, the nature of the event and updates regarding how much of the fluid passed beyond the containment area. Con Ed is responsible for the cleanup and has brought in four outside companies specializing in cleanups to carry out the removal of the oil from the Sound. NYS DEC has staff at the site in New Rochelle overseeing the work of Con Ed and their contractors. The Coast Guard has also played an important oversight role in this incident. Con Ed also brought in wildlife specialists to the site and brought in an information van on-site to answer the questions of residents in the neighborhood. The Westchester County Department of Health has monitored the cleanup as well.

Here is the latest update from DEC:

“The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) continues to oversee the ongoing cleanup of this spill, which is expected to take several weeks. DEC is not aware of any impacts to drinking water supplies and is monitoring potential impacts to wildlife.

For questions related to the safety of water-related activities in the area, please reach out to the Westchester County Health Department.”

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Con Edison owns and maintains underground electric cables that carry electrical power from Westchester County to Long Island. The lines are cooled by dielectric fluid, a fine clear mineral oil-like substance. On Saturday, July 17, the company experienced an equipment failure in the lines that resulted in the release of dielectric fluid flowing down the street and into the New Rochelle Harbor. A portion of the spilled product reached the Long Island Sound at the harbor. Con Edison immediately reported the spill to DEC, repaired the line, and hired several contractors to clean up the harbor area and land adjacent to the spill. The cleanup includes the use of skimmer boats, vacuum trucks and application of absorbent materials.

To expedite the cleanup, Con Ed recently increased the number of contractors

working at the site to more than 150. In addition, the number of work boats increased to 30. Glen Island is the staging ground for equipment, including tractor trailers containing hard boom and supplies, boat trailers, waste roll-off containers, and other vehicles used to support the cleanup effort. Thousands of feet of hard boom have been deployed on the lower harbor stretch of Glen Island while workers spray down the bulkheads and shoreline riprap and collect the oil released during this operation.

Most of the bulk oil recovery effort at Wright Island Marina has been completed. Spill workers are currently cleaning boat slips by manually removing oily debris and absorbents and are working section by section with a goal to open portions of the marina by the weekend. Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research finished up at the site on Sunday. According to their latest report, six waterfowl were captured.

NYS Assistance Programs Available

While some federal relief programs are expiring soon, New York State offers support and services for eligible individuals. To apply for state assistance programs and learn more about eligibility requirements, visit mybenefits.ny.gov

On Sept. 5, 2021, several federal unemployment programs are expiring:

- ▶ Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
- ▶ Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
- ▶ Extended Benefits (EB)
- ▶ \$300 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)



Visit dol.ny.gov/fedexp to connect with state benefit programs and job search resources.

Voting Reforms Signed into Law

Governor Cuomo has signed a number of voting reform measures that we passed this legislative session. The most important, in my view, are changes to improve the process for absentee ballot voting, including making permanent the Covid-19 rule that allowed absentee ballots be requested electronically.

In the last three years, we have reformed a number of election law provisions to make voting easier. More reforms are under review, especially given some of the failures by the NYC Board of Elections in the recent June NYC primaries. The trend to restrict voting that is underway in some states is of concern. New York's laws required updating, and we are going in the direction of making the process easier for voters.

- Allowing voters to request absentee ballots through electronic means.
- Requiring boards of elections to post information about changes in polling places.
- Conforming deadlines for the mailing of applications for absentee ballots to USPS guidelines.
- Allowing candidates who have lost primaries to be removed from ballots as candidates for different parties.



To celebrate Pride month, I attended ceremonies along the Sound Shore, such as the pictured Flag Raising at City Hall in New Rochelle. I believe we can all

celebrate the right of everyone to be who they are, to be embraced within our communities and to be protected against discrimination.

NYSERDA Offshore Wind Youth Action program - Webinar

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) will host an online webinar for the launch of the Offshore Wind Youth Action program (OWYA) on **Tuesday, August 17, 2021 at 3:00 p.m. ET.**

OWYA is a first-of-its-kind opportunity for middle- and high-school-aged students across New York State to learn about and get involved with offshore wind. This free program is designed to easily integrate into classrooms, afterschool programs, and other educational activities.

New York State has made nation-leading climate commitments, including generating 9,000 megawatts of offshore wind energy by 2035. The transition to renewable energy will create thousands of clean energy jobs and healthier environments for communities across the State. Young people play a critical role in achieving our clean energy future, and OWYA paves the way for the next generation to learn about the benefits that an inclusive clean energy economy will provide.

Please feel free to share these materials with anyone who may find them informative:

Offshore Wind Youth Action Program (OWYA) Launch

Date: Tuesday, August 17, 2021

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. ET

[REGISTER](#)



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.



Hosted by the Larchmont Police Benevolent Association and sponsored by Acura of Westchester to benefit the March of Dimes.



CHARITY POKER TOURNAMENT

**\$75K
VALUE
PRIZE
POOL!**

WIN A ROLEX, AN ACURA
SEDAN, & MORE!

Enjoy some of Westchester's top restaurants such as Michelin-rated Maria, 808 Bistro, El Barrio, Lenny's Steakhouse, Company Chophouse, Buffalo Wild Wings & More!

**SATURDAY, JULY 31, 2021, 5:00 PM
HAMPSHIRE COUNTRY CLUB
LARCHMONT, NY**

www.pbaforthebabies.rsvpify.com/

\$200 buy-in includes first round 5000 chips,
food, beer & wine from featured local
breweries and wineries.

Celebrity appearances by Coach Rick Pitino,
Bo Dietl, Paulie Malignaggi, Kathy Narducci



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](#)

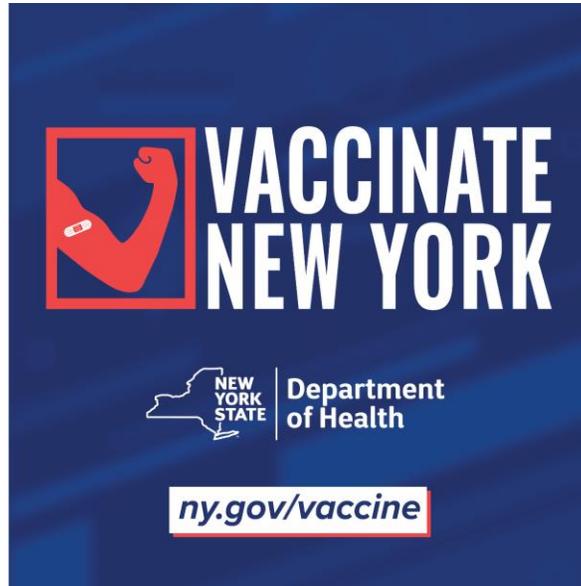
[ArtsWestchester Grant Program grants@artswestchester.org](mailto:grants@artswestchester.org)

[NYS Council of the Arts help@arts.ny.gov](mailto: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](#)



Copyright © 2021 Assemblyman Steve Otis, All rights reserved.