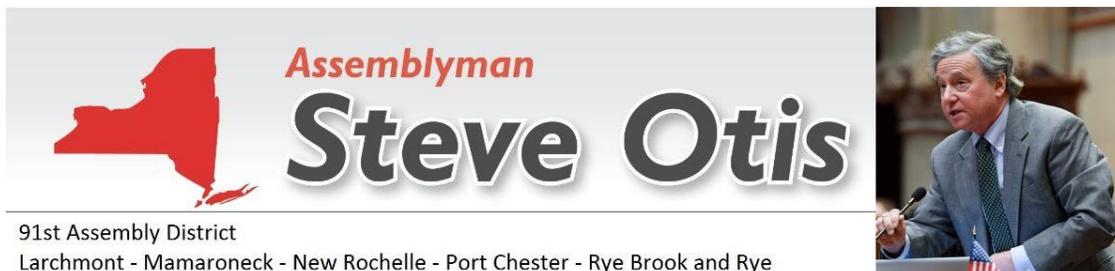


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91st Assembly District
Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye

September 7, 2021

Dear Friends,

Tropical Storm Ida brought historic levels of flood damage to businesses, homes and public property. Having worked on flood and disaster response issues for years, I know the challenges, pain, loss and helplessness that this kind of storm event brings.

Tragically, the storm brought loss of life with over 40 deaths in the region, including two flood victims in Rye Brook. Dedicated and beloved Iona College Professors Ken and Fran Bailie were caught in the overflow current on Lincoln Avenue. Everyone in the Iona community and in all of Westchester mourns their loss.

I toured storm damaged areas in Larchmont, Mamaroneck, New Rochelle, Port Chester, Rye and Rye Brook. The response from officials, business owners and residents was the same: for many the flood damage was worse than even the storms of 2007 and the more recent hurricanes or nor'easters. In 2007 the region had not seen a major flood event since the 1970s. Now the storms are more frequent and bring higher water levels and greater damage.

The first response needs to be to identify assistance where programs exist and provide help for those displaced. This newsletter lists some local ways you can help neighbors in need.

At the same time, we need to continue efforts in each community to fortify our infrastructure against storm impacts. On the Sound Shore the number one hazard is flooding. The NYS \$3 billion environmental bond issue, delayed last year because of Covid-19, will appear on the ballot in 2022. It includes my proposal to create a new stormwater grant program for municipalities of at least \$100 million. I will be advocating that we establish a new stormwater grant program in advance of the bond issue. We need to accelerate these essential local projects.

On Friday Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, Governor Kathy Hochul and Senator Kirsten Gillibrand joined us in Mamaroneck to view storm damage, talk with first responders and commit to providing help now and to prevent future damage.



They committed to restarting the federal Army Corp of Engineers project for the Village of Mamaroneck that after years of planning and support from every level of government was blocked by the Trump Administration. Army Corp of Engineers projects take years to approve, but we were at the finish line and the project should have already been underway.

In every community there are resiliency projects that have been implemented and others that communities have studied but not acted upon. Given the increasing severity of storms, every community needs to look at the risks, assess the increasing prospects for damage, and prioritize needed projects. It is tragic and unacceptable that the same neighborhoods, not-for-profits, businesses and houses of worship suffer repeated damage in flood events.

I have also stayed in contact with ConEd and our telecommunications companies regarding service restoration, storm preparedness issues and communication with their customers and local governments. These have been longstanding issues for me as a former local official and as a member of the Assembly Committee that

oversees the NYS Public Service Commission.

Last week before the storm, the Legislature met in special session to pass legislation to modify the rules for eviction of tenants during the pandemic. Procedures were added to allow for court determination of whether a tenant experienced financial hardship because of the pandemic. Previously a property owner could not challenge such a claim because the courts were closed. The eviction moratorium, originally established by executive order, then by statute, was not intended to forgive rent. The new funds under the ERAP program are intended to pay back-rent in order to assist both tenants and landlords.

Over \$2 billion in funding is available under ERAP to pay back-rent to property owners on behalf of tenants who could not pay rent and qualified under the program. The rollout of the program has been slow, and the modified prohibition of evictions is being continued temporarily. On the day she took office less than two weeks ago, Governor Hochul made moving that money a top priority of her administration. It is a priority for the Legislature and for me as well.

Please look for ways you can help families displaced by the flood. Please support local businesses as they reopen. They need your local patronage more than ever.

My staff and I are available to help with issues related to storm recovery, Covid-19 assistance, reopening of the schools or any issue that we can be of assistance.

Warm regards,



Steve



Port Chester Mayor Luis Marino, Congressman Mondaire Jones and Assemblyman Otis surveying road damage on Glen Avenue. They were joined by County Executive George Latimer, County Legislator Nancy Barr, Village Trustee Joan Grangenois-Thomas and village staff.



FEMA

President Biden Approves New York's Request for Disaster Declaration

Yesterday Governor Hochul's request for expedited approval of New York's [disaster declaration](#) was approved by President Biden. This approval will speed the process for application of federal assistance for New York businesses, local governments and families.

Ida has been declared a federal disaster that qualifies for FEMA funding to support both emergency response measures taken by local and state governments as well as individual assistance for residents who suffered damages.

[Apply to FEMA](#)

FEMA will be able to offer financial assistance to residents through 'individual assistance' programs.

Please make sure you are carefully documenting all damage in writing and with photographs, receipts and other documentation.

FEMA will set up Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) where people can file claims for assistance in communities which are particularly damaged. The County is working with FEMA to organize DRCs throughout the county as well as mobile DRCs where residents can file online or remotely.

Those eligible for assistance are impacted residents with eligible disaster related losses.

- Damage must have occurred during the incident period of the declaration and be a direct result of the incident.
- Eligible losses include non-insured damage/loss to primary residence, damage/loss to eligible personal property.

For more information, and to view the FEMA individual assistance application and required application information please visit <https://www.disasterassistance.gov/>

If you need further information or assistance you may also call the FEMA Helpline at 1-800-621-3362. This number is also for users of 711 or Video Relay Service (VRS). TTY users can call 1-800-462-7585. Helpline services are available 7 days a week from 7 a.m. to 1 a.m. ET.

Small businesses recovering from Ida damage may also qualify for disaster loan assistance from the Small Business Administration. For information please visit <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/> or call 1-800-659-2955 (TTY/TDD: 1-800-877-8339)

Governor Hochul's Ida Relief and Response

[NYS Flooding Resources and Recovery Assistance](#)

[Westchester County Emergency Services](#)

[Westchester County Social Services](#)



Senator Schumer, Governor Hochul, Mamaroneck Mayor Tom Murphy and Assemblyman Otis near where the Mamaroneck and Sheldrake Rivers meet in the village.

Ida Recovery ~ How to Help: Local Volunteer Opportunities

Mamaroneck



[Community Resource Center](#) & Coalition for the Community has set up a [recovery fund](#) to collect monetary donations for families affected.

[Mamaroneck Chamber of Commerce](#) is collecting funds to support businesses badly affected by the storm.



[Larchmont-Mamaroneck Hunger Task Force](#) Accepting donations of LIMITED food items ONLY on Tuesday, Sept 7th ONLY from 1pm to 3pm at their tent (corner Jefferson & Van Ranst, Mamaroneck). Requested items are ONLY: fresh fruit, water and juice. Please observe date, time and requested items in order to improve our ability to serve clients.

Rye

[City of Rye](#) has a dedicated page for storm recovery updates.

Rye Brook

[Village of Rye Brook](#) updates.

New Rochelle



[Fuller Center of Greater NY](#) is accepting donations to help flooding victims with housing.

Port Chester

[Village of Port Chester](#) updates

General

[Furniture Sharehouse](#) will have special drop off hours at their warehouse next Saturday, September 11th from 9:30 - 11:30am.

[Fuller Center of Greater NY](#) is accepting donations to help flooding victims with housing.



[Feeding Westchester](#)

Assemblyman Otis visiting flood damaged businesses including Telly's Taverna and Mary Ann's Mexican Restaurant in Port Chester with federal and local officials.





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](#)

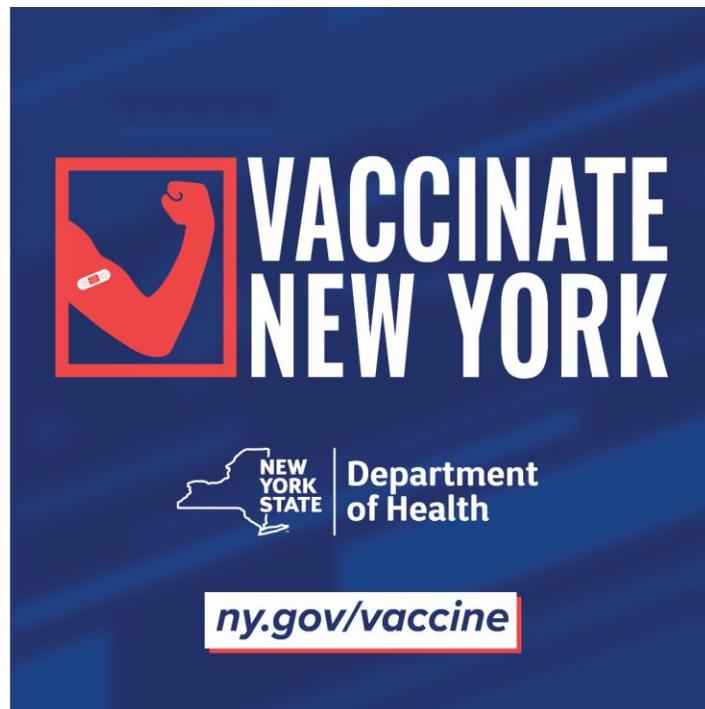
[Help Navigating State and Federal Small Business Assistance Programs](#)



Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Households adversely affected by COVID-19 can qualify for up to **12 months of past due rent, three months of future rent** and up to **12 months of overdue utility bills**. Applications accepted beginning June 1.

For more information, visit otda.ny.gov/ERAP



Or to find vaccine sites near you - Text your zip code to '438829' or visit

vaccines.com



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