

January 24, 2021

Dear Friends,

Last week Governor Hochul presented her state budget proposal for the 2022-23 Fiscal Year. Below please find links to the Governor's budget documents. The Governor has given priority to many issues that I have been working on of importance to Westchester. The next step in the process will be review by the Assembly and Senate, followed by negotiations on a final budget by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

Part of that budget review is hearing from Westchester organizations, schools, local governments and residents. Annually I help organize the Westchester Assembly Delegation State Budget Hearing to inform our advocacy in the budget process. That hearing will be held by zoom on February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Details for participating or viewing are found below.

On Wednesday Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer brought great news from Washington with the announcement of full federal funding for the village of Mamaroneck [Army Corp of Engineers Flood Mitigation Project](#). Along with Senator Gillibrand and Congressman Bowman, Senator Schumer has restarted the project that had been blocked by the previous administration and provided for full federal funding through the post Hurricane appropriation. The \$88 million project was originally to be funded with state, county and local contributions. Assumption of full costs by the federal government will save state, county and village taxpayers approximately \$40 million.

On flooding I am working closely with Mayor Tom Murphy in Mamaroneck and with local officials in every community to bring federal, state and county resources and expertise to match the challenges faced throughout the Sound Shore. I am working with federal and state agencies on programs that address the flood mitigation needs of every community on the Sound.

**This newsletter includes:**

- Governor Hochul's State Budget Proposal
- Westchester State Budget Hearing

- Mamaroneck Flood Project
- State Electric Vehicle Grant Awarded to New Rochelle
- Winter Fire Safety Warnings & Relief Efforts for Bronx Fire Victims
- COVID-19 Testing Update – Free at home tests and Westchester sites
- Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)
- Homeowner's Assistance Fund for New Yorkers at Risk of Foreclosure or Displacement & AG warning of related scams.
- Federal Assistance for Broadband and Devices
- Sharing Shelf helps those in need in Port Chester

As always, please contact me on flooding, Covid-19 or any issue on which I can be of assistance. Please call my District Office at 914-939-7028.

Warm regards,



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### **Governor Hochul's State Budget Proposal**

The Governor's budget proposal highlights many important issues including investment in education, health care, small business tax relief, child-care, property tax relief, infrastructure and the environment. I was especially pleased to see continued commitment to clean water programs I have championed and expanded commitment to growing use of electric vehicles and EV charging stations to accommodate them. I will be co-chairing a hearing in February on EV charging stations.

For a full look at the Governor's budget proposal, see the budget highlights and address [HERE](#)

For the full budget website [CLICK HERE](#)



## **Westchester Assembly Delegation FY 2023 State Budget Forum**

The Westchester Assembly Delegation of the NYS Legislature will hold a Virtual State Budget Forum to invite community leaders, organizations, municipal and school officials and community members, to share their views on the Governor's Proposed 2022-2023 New York Executive Budget available [HERE](#).

**Thursday, February 3, 2022**

**10:00 AM – 2:00 PM**

To watch live on Facebook click [HERE](#)

To register to testify click [HERE](#)

Please submit written testimony to Lisa Urban at [urbanl@nyassembly.gov](mailto:urbanl@nyassembly.gov) by Tuesday, February 1st at 5pm. Oral testimony is limited to three minutes.



**\$88 MILLION IN FUNDING TO BEGIN CONSTRUCTION OF THE MAMARONECK FLOOD MITIGATION PROJECT;** *REPS SECURE GAME-CHANGING 100% FEDERAL SHARE, AFTER DECADES OF DEADLY STORMS, HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS IN DAMAGE, FINALLY PREVENTING FLOODS & SAVING LIVES*

*Reps Say \$88 Million Project Will Construct Flood Defenses For Westchester Community That Has Been Victim of Severe Flooding, Lost Lives & Suffered Hundreds of Millions In Damages Over Decades; Reps: After Years Of Fighting, Mamaroneck Will Finally Move Forward With The Flood Protection It Deserves*

Following years of advocacy and a Schumer-convened visit to the Village of Mamaroneck to survey the hundreds of millions in damage caused by Hurricane Ida, U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles E. Schumer, U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and U.S. Representative Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D, announced that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will provide \$88 million in funding for the final design and construction of the Mamaroneck and Sheldrake River Flood Risk Management Project.

This announcement comes after years of trying and the project being blocked under [the Trump administration](#), as well as multiple direct calls to top administration officials by Schumer making the case for this project.

The full press release is available [HERE](#). A fact sheet by USACE on the project is available [HERE](#).

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### **New Rochelle Receives \$35,000 for 7 Electric Vehicles**

The City of New Rochelle has been awarded \$35,000 toward seven battery electric vehicles. This award is part of Governor Hochul's \$2.7 million in grants for the 2021 round of the DEC Municipal Zero-Emission Vehicle (ZEV) program funded by the State's Environmental Protection Fund and administered by DEC. This program awards grants to local governments to purchase electric vehicles and install zero-emission charging/fueling stations for public use to address climate change and build healthier communities.

More than \$12 million was also added to the Drive Clean Rebate program to help consumers save up to \$2,000 on the purchase of an electric vehicle. For consumers purchasing or leasing an electric vehicle, the Drive Clean Rebate program offers a point-of-sale rebate that reduces upfront costs. The rebate, administered by the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), is offered by car dealers. Rebates ranging from \$500 - \$2,000 are available on more than 60 models of vehicles and consumers receive higher rebates for the purchase or lease of longer range, all-electric vehicles with a base Manufacturer Suggested Retail Price of less than \$42,000.

Together, the consumer rebate program and the grants awarded to 49 community-based projects total \$14.7 million to advance the State's efforts to achieve New York's ambitious Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 85 percent by 2050. Since its inception in 2016, the DEC Municipal ZEV Program has awarded more than \$7.5 million towards the purchase of 144 plug-in hybrid vehicles, 106 all-electric vehicles, 622 Level 2 charging ports, 16 fast charge pedestals, and three hydrogen fueling nozzles. I have been a proponent of expanding New York State's programs for growing electric vehicle use and EV charging stations.

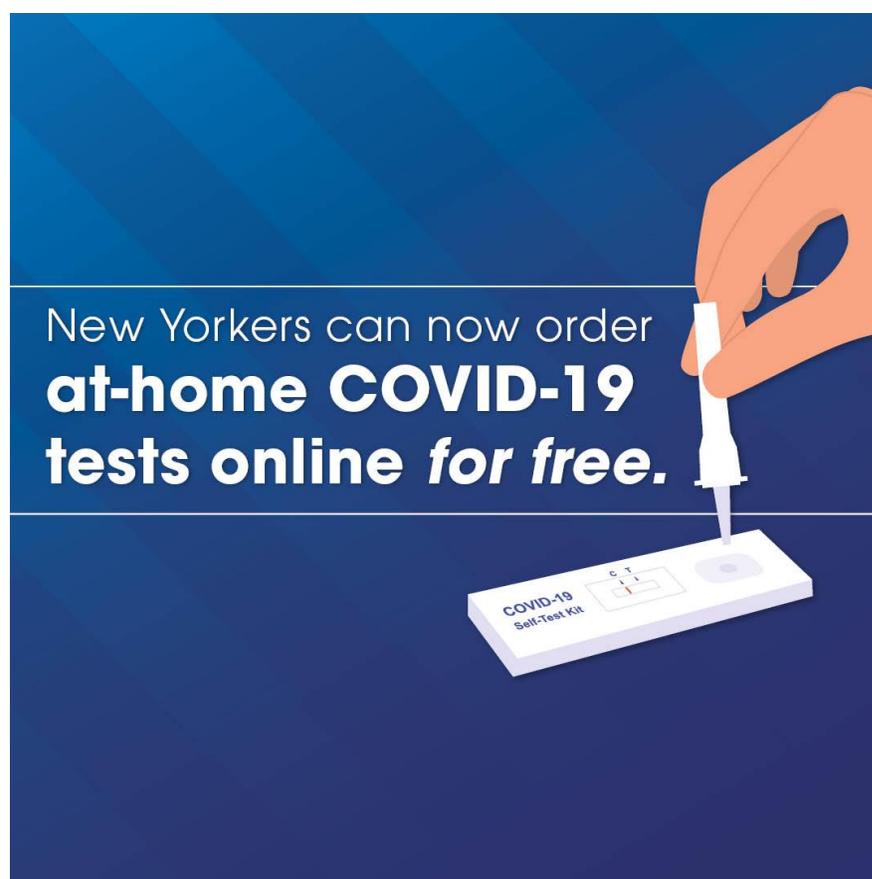
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### **Traagic Bronx Fire A Reminder of the Importance of Fire Safety**

One of the worst fires in recent New York City history provides a serious warning to everyone about added fire risks during cold winter months. Space heaters, oven use and other actions people typically take when problems with heat often come with risks. The NYC Fire Department provides [tips](#) regarding space heaters. For other fire safety tips go FEMA Fire prevention [HERE](#).

To support the victims and families of the Bronx fire consider donating to the [The Bronx Community Foundation](#) or the [NYC Mayor's Fund](#) .

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Order FREE at-home Covid test kits here: <https://www.covidtests.gov>

Booster Shots [Now Recommended](#) for 12-15 Year-Olds, Along with Previously Authorized 16+ Age Group

### **Covid-19 Testing Sites**

[NYS Testing Site Directory](#) by zip code

Call (914) 202-4530 or visit [Westchester Medical Center](#) for testing in Valhalla.

Free PCR COVID-19 testing is available at the Westchester County Center. Tests can be scheduled here: <http://www.westchestergov.com/health>

### **SUNY PURCHASE TEST SITE**

Testing at SUNY Purchase will take place at the school's **Performing Arts Center, 735 Anderson Hill Road, Purchase**. You can book an appointment online [HERE](#).

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### **Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP)**

Recent days remind us that winter has arrived in force. Eligible homeowners and renters may still apply for the Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP), which can provide up to \$751 depending on income, household size and how they heat their home. Administered by the state Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance, applications for HEAP are accepted at local departments of social services in person or by telephone, with funding provided on a first-come, first-served basis. A list of local offices by county can be found [HERE](#). Residents outside of New York City may also apply online for regular heating assistance benefits.

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### **\$539 M Homeowner Assistance Fund for Eligible New Yorkers at Risk of Foreclosure or Displacement**



*Funding Will Help Low- and Moderate-Income Homeowners Impacted by the Pandemic Stay in Their Homes*

To Learn More, Residents Can Visit the [HAF Website](https://www.nyhomeownerfund.org) or Contact the New York State Homeowners Assistance Fund Call Center at 1-844-77-NYHAF

<https://www.nyhomeownerfund.org>

This is a valuable program to eligible families. It is very upsetting to see that unscrupulous individuals are trying to take advantage by charging a fee to access the program. I have also included an alert from NYS Attorney General Tish James warning of this consumer scam

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### **Attorney General James Warns of Scams Related to the Homeowner Assistance Fund**

Attorney General James is warning homeowners to be on guard against anyone charging a fee to apply for HAF or promising that they can make sure you will be awarded HAF money. Applying for HAF is free.

It is illegal to request upfront fees for mortgage assistance, which includes applying for HAF, loan modifications, forbearances and short sales. Even attorneys cannot

request an upfront fee for mortgage assistance unless you and the attorney have entered into a contract to provide services (what is known as a “retainer”) and the attorney has filed a notice of appearance on your behalf in an active court case. You can learn more about how to apply by going to HCR’s website about HAF here: [nyhomeownerfund.org](http://nyhomeownerfund.org).

**If you need assistance with the HAF application or have questions** about what other help is available, you can get **FREE** assistance by contacting New York State’s HomeOwner Protection Program (HOPP) hotline at (855) HOME-456 or (855) 466-3456. Or by visiting HOPP’s website: [homeownerhelpny.com](http://homeownerhelpny.com). For over a decade, the Attorney General has helped fund HOPP and works closely with HOPP advocates across New York State.

If you believe you have been contacted by a HAF or mortgage assistance scammer, please file a complaint with the Attorney General: [ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds/Filing-a-Consumer-Complaint](http://ag.ny.gov/consumer-frauds/Filing-a-Consumer-Complaint) or (800) 771-7755



***Need help getting connected?***

**The Affordable Connectivity Program  
can help eligible households receive:**

**Up to a \$30 per month  
discount on internet service**

**A one-time discount of up to \$100 for  
a laptop, tablet or desktop computer**

The federal Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) helps income-eligible households pay for internet service and devices. It's replacing the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) and families currently enrolled in EBB will receive info on

how to transition to the new program. To apply or learn more, visit: [www.acpbenefit.org](http://www.acpbenefit.org).



The Sharing Shelf is located at 47 Purdy Avenue in Port Chester and was founded to address clothing insecurity and meet other basic materials needs of children and teens in Westchester County. If you are interested in making a donation sign up here: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/clothingdonor> and please note their drop-off guidelines.

