



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

August 8, 2024

Dear Friends,

Our region is expecting more severe weather over the coming days. It is recommended to call your utility company if you experience any outages ([ConEd Report an outage](#)), have batteries and other supplies handy and don't drive through flooding. For more Safety and Prevention Tips see the [NYS Department of Homeland Security](#) page.

This newsletter includes stories on the New Rochelle Youth Board Eco-Ambassadors Program, traffic safety advocacy in Mamaroneck, a major clean water project in Ossining, and Back to School Book Bag events sponsored by local not-for-profits.

The Boys and Girls Club of New Rochelle, the Community Resources Center, Hope Community Services, Helping Hands for the Homeless and Hungry and the Sharing Shelf are five of countless not-for-profits in Westchester offering Book Bags for students beginning school in September. There are ways you can help these local efforts and the many other Book Bag events sponsored by other groups across the county.

The NYS Department of Mental Health now provides the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline to offer help to individuals in crisis. Additional details can be found in this newsletter.

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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### **Five Islands Park Hosts Day of Marine Science on the Sound for New Rochelle Students**

In late July I visited an exciting student program, a partnership between the New Rochelle Youth Board Eco-Ambassadors program and the Energy Justice Law and Policy Center to provide students with exposure to environmental issues and STEM learning in the community. The program is supported by a \$100,000 grant from the Long Island Sound Community Impact Fund and Restoring America's Estuaries with the goal of increasing access for all to the Long Island Sound while promoting environmental stewardship through hands-on education and community engagement.

The program employs New Rochelle High School students to assist in science-based programming. On the day of my visit, 150 middle schoolers from Mercy University's STEM program participated in a series of coastal science activities at Five Islands Park. The day featured the exciting opportunity to observe the students launch a camera-equipped Remote Operated Vehicle (ROV) into the water at the park. We were able to view the underwater life via video screens in

the park.

The Eco-Ambassadors assisted the middle school students in various hands-on science activities, including identifying organisms, drawing nature, making observations, beach clean-up and operating the ROV.

As Chair of the Assembly Committee on Science and Technology, I have been an advocate for STEM education in the schools. Mercy University and the New Rochelle City School District both support this mission.



At the New Rochelle Youth Eco-Ambassadors Day of Marine Science at Five Island Park with Mercy University Science Education Professor and Department Chair Dr. Amanda Gunning.

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## **Mamaroneck Traffic Safety: A Major Focus this Summer**

A major priority this summer has been discussions regarding efforts to address the next steps needed to improve traffic and pedestrian safety around Mamaroneck Avenue School, the Village of Mamaroneck, and surrounding communities.

Following the tragic deaths of Molly Murphey Donovan and her son Michael “Mikey” Donovan Volpe, Senator Shelley Mayer and I have had numerous conversations with village, county, and state officials about traffic and pedestrian safety issues in the village. We both attended the Village Trustees’ meeting on July 8<sup>th</sup> and were able to hear first-hand of the many comments that were made by concerned parents and their children about how critically important it is that we all redouble our efforts to improve safety in all parts of our lives.

We have spoken to the village and Westchester County regarding long and short-term improvements to the Mamaroneck Avenue corridor, which is a county road. We have also been in touch with the NYS Thruway Authority regarding pedestrian safety improvements at the I-95 Intersections on Mamaroneck Avenue.

Earlier this year, Senator Mayer and I had already been in discussion with parents, school officials, and municipal leaders in the villages of Mamaroneck and Larchmont, and the town of Mamaroneck, as part of the upcoming reconstruction of Route 1, the Boston Post Road, covering the three jurisdictions. The NYS DOT has a major repaving project for all of Route 1, a state road, within the village of Mamaroneck, town of Mamaroneck, and village

of Larchmont, which has yet to be fully designed. There will be an open and full public participation process conducted by NYS DOT to work with the three municipalities, two school districts, and the public regarding traffic and pedestrian safety measures as part of the Route 1 design.

Mamaroneck's experience in implementing 2017 improvements on the Boston Post Road in the vicinity of Mamaroneck High School is a good guide for added safety improvements today. We were part of a broad coalition of Safe Route to Schools parents, municipal and school officials, and NYS DOT to implement a new School Speed Zone on the Boston Post Road between the Mamaroneck Town Center and Richbell Road.

This kind of collaboration is a model for new discussions on the larger Boston Post Road corridor. I will continue to make this work a major priority. Through numerous ongoing discussions, Senator Mayer and I have maintained and enhanced communication among all the key officials with the local governments, school districts, state and county officials, and law enforcement with the goal of implementing improvements to better protect pedestrians, drivers, and students. We will continue to make sure that pedestrian and traffic safety improvements are brought to the forefront in all of these discussions and are implemented in coordination with the local officials involved.

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**Drinking Water Treatment Plant Groundbreaking**



On Tuesday I attended the groundbreaking for construction of the Indian Brook Water Treatment Plant serving the town and village of Ossining. The \$100 million project is being funded through a variety of sources including the Mid-Hudson Momentum Fund, the Green Innovation Grant Program (GIGP), and the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) grant program that I helped initiate in 2015.

I continue to be a major advocate for the clean water programs across the state. The GIGP and WIIA programs are administered by the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation. The Mid-Hudson Momentum Fund is managed by Empire State Development. State funding is vital in making clean water infrastructure projects affordable for local governments and taxpayers. Communities across the Sound Shore have been aggressive at securing funding for projects in Southern Westchester. The Westchester Joint Water Works was recently awarded \$30 million in WIIA funding for their Rye Lake Water Filtration Plant.

I was joined at the groundbreaking event by numerous local officials, municipal staff, and engineers who designed the project. Those in attendance included Assembly colleague Dana Levenberg, Former Village of Ossining Mayor Victoria Gearity, Town of Ossining Supervisor Elizabeth Feldman, Village of Ossining Mayor Rika Levin, Westchester Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, and State Senator Peter Harckham.

**Backpack Giveaway Events - Mamaroneck, New Rochelle,  
Port Chester & Rye**

Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle Presents

# BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

**GIVEAWAY**  
Supplies & school bags for the children

**SATURDAY AUGUST 10TH  
11AM-1:30PM**

Soccer Clinic  
Giveaway- First Come First Serve, Grades K-12.  
Student Must be present.

**Where**  
Columbus Field - 79 Seventh Street

**POLICE**  
NEW ROCHELLE  
POLICE AND COMMUNITY OFFICERS

**BOYS & GIRLS CLUB**  
OF NEW ROCHELLE

**MASCARO WOMENS**

**COLUMBUS**

**There's a BETTER WAY**

914-235-3736    wiannuzzi@bgcny.org    www.bgcny.org

The Boys & Girls Club of New Rochelle is committed to serving Westchester County youth and families by ensuring safe spaces, providing high-quality outcomes-based programs and support services, and effectively partnering with school districts, government, and community leaders. They continually work to meet the evolving needs of local youth and families by introducing innovative programs/activities; expanding access; and addressing high-need areas such as health/mental wellness, workforce training/development, college prep, SEL, and STEM. Their two locations, the Remington Clubhouse and the Mascaro Clubhouse, provide vital programs to the youth of New Rochelle.

## **Donate Backpacks & School Supplies!**

**Help us support local students by donating backpacks and school supplies!**

**Drop off backpacks at St. Thomas Church, 3rd door, by August 30**

168 W. Boston Post Rd  
Mamaroneck, NY 10543





Founded in 1998, the Community Resource Center has been a dynamic not-for-profit organization serving immigrant and low-income families on the Sound Shore for decades. CRC provides resources and services to help families become self-reliant and thriving members of the community. To celebrate the start of a new school year, Community Resource Center has committed to creating and distributing 200 backpacks to local kids. You can drop backpacks off at **St. Thomas Church from August 19 through August 30th. CRC is open Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Friday from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.**, closed every day from 1 p.m. to 2 p.m. for lunch. Visit their website for more information about their work.

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Aug  
10<sup>TH</sup>



# BOOKS, BAGS, & BALL

## A COMMUNITY EVENT

Sponsored by:



**FREE BACKPACKS, SUPPLIES GIVEAWAY & BASKETBALL CLINIC \* 10AM - 12PM**

**BOUNCE CASTLES, ACTIVITIES, & BASKETBALL GAMES \* 12PM - 5PM**

Reilee Gunsher  
(914) 636 - 4010

AARON WILLIAMS  
(914) 563 - 6745

VIVIAN SPADY  
(914) 297 - 5648

[Rgunsher@HOPE-CS.ORG](mailto:Rgunsher@HOPE-CS.ORG) [Everythingbrandllc@gmail.com](mailto:Everythingbrandllc@gmail.com) [BIGVIV515@GMAIL.COM](mailto:BIGVIV515@GMAIL.COM)

LINCOLN PARK, NEW ROCHELLE, NY. (95 LINCOLN AVE - GPS)

HOPE (Help Our People Eat)\_Community Services is a not-for-profit, non-sectarian organization serving the people of New Rochelle and surrounding

communities. Founded in 1984, HOPE has a long history providing nutrition programs and services to families in need of help. Now the largest emergency food program in Westchester County, HOPE continues to rise to the challenge of its founder – striving to meet the needs of its community with warmth and respect. HOPE will be moving to a new location which will allow them to expand their mission of serving the community.

The Sharing Shelf | BACKPACKS  
TO SCHOOL

## BACKPACKS TO SCHOOL Community Packing Day

**Join us to pack backpacks for local children**

.....  
**SATURDAY 10 : 10AM to : 47 PURDY AVE**  
**AUGUST 10 : 1PM : PORT CHESTER**  
.....

**Donation of \$35 per person  
which provides a new backpack for a child in need.**

**Crafts & other activities courtesy of the  
Westchester Children's Museum**  
.....

**Volunteers must be at least 6 years old  
Children under 18 must be accompanied by their parent  
Pre-registration required. Space limited.**

The Sharing Shelf\_ has created an innovative program to address clothing insecurity and other basic needs of low-income children and teens in Westchester County.

The Sharing Shelf provides programs that demonstrate their commitment to the whole child, from birth through age 19, by providing each child they serve with a Wardrobe Pack – a week’s worth of seasonally appropriate clothing – together with essentials including diapers for infants and toddlers, toiletry kits, period products, new socks, and new underwear. You can learn more about their work by contacting The Sharing Shelf directly.

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## **HELPING HANDS RYE**

### **Mission Backpacks**



**August  
14-15**



[www.HelpingHandsRye.org](http://www.HelpingHandsRye.org)

In 1987, a group of concerned citizens from the Churches and Synagogues in Rye and Harrison came together to form a partnership ~ a partnership to aid the homeless and hungry in Westchester County. Helping Hands purchases and donates food, clothing, school supplies and makes cash grants to organizations for distribution to those in need.

For over 32 years, Helping Hands has partnered with dozens of social service agencies and churches who are on the front line providing for the basic needs of our neighbors.

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### NY State 988 Suicide and Crisis Lifeline



The New York State 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline provides a 24/7 connection to trained crisis counselors who can help anyone thinking about suicide, struggling with substance use, experiencing a mental health crisis, or any other kind of emotional distress. You can also call, text or chat 988 if you are worried about someone you care about who may need crisis support. You can learn more [HERE](#).



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