

Assemblymember **MARYJANE SHIMSKY**



DISTRICT 92 - FALL/WINTER 2024

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Dear Neighbors,

As we wrap up the 2023-2024 legislative term, we are looking back at what we've accomplished, and looking ahead to what the future will bring. In the past two years, we have protected or grown investments in public education, mental health care, infrastructure, and many other critical policy areas, and passed laws to protect our State and the fundamental human rights of our residents.

Looking ahead to the 2025-2026 term, we will have much to do to make New York more affordable, healthy, and safe, and to expand opportunity for everyone who calls this State home. Creative fiscal solutions will be critical, given the proposed cuts in federal funding we read about daily. Legislatively, we must keep human rights, public safety, public health, and environmental protection as strong as they can be, and support the policy goals so many of us hold dear. It will be a tall order, but I will do everything I can to make all of this happen in a tough environment.

As you will see in this newsletter, our local initiatives are edging closer to becoming a reality. The Governor recently signed bills I sponsored in the Assembly, and we are discussing other pending legislation with her office. We have also recently learned about State funding for numerous local projects. Still more proposals are currently making their way through the approval process.

Thank you for the opportunity to continue serving the residents of Mount Pleasant, Greenburgh, and northwest Yonkers. I look forward to working with you and for you, in a second term as your Assembly member. If we can be of help, or answer any of your questions, please contact my office at (914) 631-1605 or email shimskym@nyassembly.gov.

Whether celebrating with loved ones or taking time to recharge, I hope your holidays are filled with warmth and joy, and wish you much happiness in the New Year.

DISTRICT UPDATE

State Approves First Red-Light Cameras for Greenburgh Town Roads

In October, Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation that I sponsored—along with Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins—to permit the use of red-light cameras at two locations in the Town of Greenburgh (A.8960). These cameras will enable the Town to enforce traffic safety at two historically hazardous intersections in unincorporated Greenburgh.



At the signing event for red-light camera legislation in October

This bill took on added urgency after the pedestrian death of Stephanie Kavourias, retired Director of the Hartsdale Parking Authority, on East Hartsdale Avenue in August 2023. While the State had previously approved red-light cameras for Westchester County and for numerous cities, this is the first approval of their use in a town in New York State.

Dobbs Ferry's Parking Permit System Becomes Permanent

The Governor also signed my bill to permanently extend the Village of Dobbs Ferry's residential parking permit system near the Dobbs Ferry Metro-North station, which was due to sunset on January 1, 2025. The permit system was first enacted in 2015 and has been successful in alleviating parking and congestion issues for Village residents (A.10034).

Legislation for Valhalla and Hastings Fire Departments



The Hastings-on-Hudson Fire Department's annual inspection

Working in response to requests from local representatives, I sponsored two bills, signed by the Governor, to support the Valhalla and Hastings-on-Hudson volunteer fire departments. These expanded the definitions of their benevolent associations with regard to membership; what insurance coverage they can provide, such as for illness or injury; and funding capital projects to maintain fire house facilities (A.8842-A, A.9573).

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\$2.5 Million to Relieve Flooding at Saw Mill River Parkway, Exit 12



Good news for those who live near the Saw Mill River Parkway: the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson is set to receive a \$2.5 million State grant for runoff management at Boutillier's Brook, a tributary of the Saw Mill River. This work will mitigate the storm-related flooding that has long plagued the area.

\$35,000 Arts Grant for Mural in Downtown Pleasantville

My office helped secure State funding for the Village of Pleasantville for an original mural celebrating the community's resilience and vibrancy. ArtsWestchester will lead the open call for artist proposals. Installation is anticipated for next summer.



At the Arts Alive Awards in White Plains, where 10 artists and organizations from District 92 were recognized this year

Construction Aid to the Hastings-on-Hudson and Warner Libraries

Capital project awards of \$95,112 to the Hastings-on-Hudson Public Library and \$66,154 to the Warner Library, serving Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow, have been granted as part of the 2024 State Aid for Library Construction Program. The aid to Hastings will enable the installation of a rooftop photovoltaic system. At Warner, it will complete the replacement of failing HVAC piping and junctures that have caused water damage to the 1929 structure. These are critical investments that will enhance our communities, while bringing savings to taxpayers on energy expenses and costly future repairs.



Photo by Margaret Fox Photography

Tarrytown Music Hall Receives \$25,000 for Theater Residency Program

We also helped secure \$25,000 in State funding for the Tarrytown Music Hall's school theater residency program. This financial support will help the Music Hall Academy continue to provide free residencies to Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow students at Washington Irving Intermediate School. Kudos to Executive Director Bjorn Olsson, Theater Manager Karina Ringeisen, and the whole Music Hall team for the vibrant education and performance programs they provide to our community.

IN OUR COMMUNITIES



Working with NYSDOT and local officials on road safety improvements in Pleasantville



At the Birth Equity Improvement Project town hall, Westchester County Center



Reading "Pies from Nowhere" to Freedom School students in Fairview



The annual (Dobbs) Ferry Festa

IN OUR COMMUNITIES



The Hearts & Homes for Refugees Fall Family Picnic in Hartsdale



Helping at Help Bag Hunger Day at the Elmsford-Greenburgh ShopRite



At the Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD) Walk, FDR State Park



The Old Croton Aqueduct Trail's 100th birthday at the Keeper's House



Revolutionary Westchester 250's "Revolution on the Hudson!" living history event



At Dare to Be Different Westchester's Senior Breakfast, Theodore D. Young Community Center



At Tarrytown's annual Halloween Parade



Enjoying the Diwali festival at Ardsley Middle School

THANK YOU, STUDENT VOLUNTEERS!



Zubin and Zach were our wonderful 2024 and 2023 student volunteers, where they worked on research, correspondence, and event planning projects, attended meetings with State agencies and local organizations, and joined in our community work. Any high school senior or college student interested

in applying for a spring or summer volunteer position at my district office in Tarrytown should write to Chief of Staff Pascale Jean-Gilles at jeangillesp@nyassembly.gov to begin the application process.

GET HEATING ASSISTANCE WITH HEAP

Applications for expanded heating assistance are **NOW OPEN!**



Don't let the winter cold win! The newly expanded Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) helps families with incomes up to \$76,681 pay their energy bills. For more information and to apply, visit otda.ny.gov/programs/heap/#regular-benefit.

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH



My office is here to help with your constituent needs:

- Navigating state agencies
- Accessing government benefits and forms
- Addressing community problems
- Learning about state government

Feel free to reach out to my district office at **914-631-1605** or email shimskym@nyassembly.gov.

To receive the District 92 weekly email, with news from Albany and across District 92, scan the **QR code** here or visit nyassembly.gov/mem/MaryJane-Shimsky/enews/.



You can follow my official **Facebook** account, "Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky," for more frequent updates.



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