

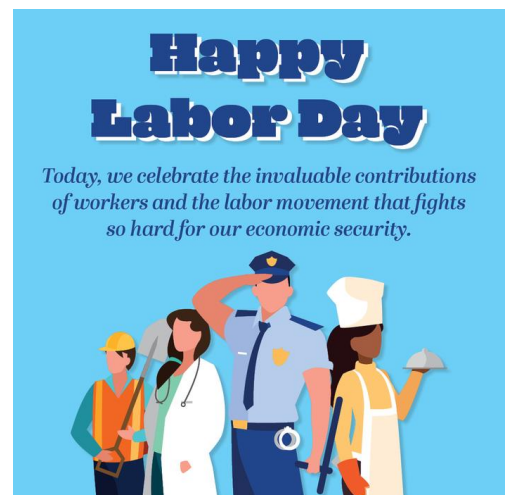


Dear Constituent,

Below please find my latest Resource Roundup message, containing information about helpful programs, services, and opportunities from New York State government and other entities serving Assembly District 95. If you know of anything that should be included in a message like this, please feel free to send it to district95@nyassembly.gov.

Holiday Closure

Assembly offices will be closed on Monday, September 2 in observance of Labor Day. We will reopen at 9 AM on Tuesday, September 3.



Back to School

It's hard to believe the summer is already over! I send my best back to school wishes to all of the students and teachers heading back into the classroom. Please drive extra carefully as school children and buses become more prevalent on the roads.

If back to school is prompting more distress than usual for members of your family, the National Alliance on Mental Illness can help. [Click here for a list of resources](#) that can help with the adjustment to the normal stressors that accompany the back to school transition, as well as assistance with acute issues like bullying or mental health crises.

This is also a good time to check in with kids and continue conversations that can support healthy habits and avoid pitfalls like substance use and abuse. Ossining Communities That Care has great online resources that anyone can use to help guide these conversations; [click here to access them](#).



Fall 2024 NAMI Family-to-Family Program



NAMI Family-to-Family is a free, 8-session online educational program for family, significant others and friends of people with mental health conditions. It is a designated evidenced-based program. This means that research shows that the program significantly improves the coping and problem-solving abilities of the people closest to a person with a mental health condition.

NAMI Family-to-Family is taught by NAMI-trained family members with experience supporting people with mental health conditions. It includes presentations, discussions and interactive exercises. There is no cost to attend, though donations are accepted. Registration is required. [Click here to register](#). There are two Fall 2024 series: Mondays from 6-8:30 PM (Sept. 9-October 28) and Saturdays from 9-11:30 AM (Sept. 14 - Nov. 2).

Unclaimed Funds - Get Your Money Back!

I recently asked the Comptroller's office for a report of all unclaimed funds in Assembly District 95. This report found that residents and businesses in my district have nearly **\$48 million** in unclaimed funds waiting to be retrieved. My office is now working with the Comptroller's Office to help people claim their money.

If you would like to see if you have unclaimed funds, you can visit <https://www.osc.ny.gov/unclaimed-funds> to find out online. You can also call the Comptroller's Unclaimed Funds hotline at 1-800-221-9311 during their normal business hours (Monday - Friday 8 AM - 5 PM). You can also call my office at (914) 941-1111 to see if you are on the list that the Comptroller's office provided to me. My staff will also be joined by staff from the Comptroller's office during our mobile office hours events, so that you can start the process in person and receive direct guidance on next steps.

Mobile Office Hours for Fall 2024

My staff hosts mobile office hours to bring the services of our main office to all corners of the district. This fall, our mobile office schedule is as follows:

- **Monday, September 9, 1:15-4 PM:** Croton Free Library, 171 Cleveland Drive, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520
- **Monday, September 23, 1-4 PM:** Desmond Fish Library, 472 NY-403, Garrison, NY 10524
- **Monday, October 7, 1-4 PM:** Hendrick Hudson Library, 185 Kings Ferry Rd, Montrose, NY 10548
- **Monday, October 21, 1-4 PM:** Julia L. Butterfield Library, 10 Morris Ave, Cold Spring, NY 10516
- **Monday, November 18, 1-4 PM:** John C. Hart Library, 1130 E Main St, Shrub Oak, NY 10588

- **Monday, December 2, 1-4 PM:** Field Library, 4 Nelson Ave, Peekskill, NY 10566

Stop by for help navigating state agencies, information about state programs and resources, and more!

STAR Direct Deposit



School Tax Relief (STAR) credit recipients across the state now have the option to receive their STAR credits by direct deposit. Homeowners will be able to enroll in the STAR Credit Direct Deposit program through a new Homeowner Benefit Portal within the Department of Taxation and Finance's secure Online Services system. Homeowners will also be able to use the Homeowner Benefit Portal to register for STAR and to manage STAR benefits easily and efficiently.

If you have an existing Tax Department [Individual Online Services](#) (OLS) account, you will find the Homeowner Benefit Portal under *Real Property Tax* after you log in to OLS. If you do not yet have an OLS account, you will be prompted to create one to get started. Visit the [Homeowner Benefit Portal](#) to access log in instructions or create an individual account.

You can find more information about [STAR Credit Direct Deposit](#) on the Tax Department's website. For more information about the STAR program in general, visit the [STAR Resource Center](#) online or call the STAR call center at 518-457-2036.

From Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand - Service Academy Information Session in Westchester

The office of Senator Kirsten Gillibrand will be holding information sessions for students and families who are interested in learning more about opportunities to attend one of the nation's five service academies (U.S. Air Force Academy, U.S. Coast Guard Academy, U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, U.S. Military Academy, and U.S. Naval Academy). The session for constituents in the Lower Hudson Valley region will be held at Westchester Community College (75 Grasslands Rd., Valhalla, NY 10595) on **Wednesday, September 18 from 6-8 PM.**

This event will also feature a representative from a Reserve Officer Training Corps (ROTC) program in the Hudson Valley, as well as representatives from local institutions that are designated as National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity (NCAE-C). The NCAE-C institutional representatives will be able to discuss potential opportunities through the [Department of Defense's \(DoD\) Cyber Service Academy Program](#), which is expected to mirror the existing process for the DoD's Cyber Scholarship Program.

Senator Gillibrand is also currently accepting applications for her 2024 Service Academy Nominations. Interested students may apply for a nomination through Senator Gillibrand's website at <https://www.gillibrand.senate.gov/help/academy-nominations/>. The deadline to apply and submit all materials in consideration for a nomination through her office is **Sunday, October 13, 2024, at 11:59 PM.**

Answers to frequently asked questions about the nomination process are available on Senator Gillibrand's [website](#). Should you have questions not answered there, please feel free to contact Senator Gillibrand's Service Academy Nominations team at nominations@gillibrand.senate.gov.

Surveys

Your opinions matter! Participating in surveys is an important way to share what you are thinking and help leaders such as myself as well as local government agencies to better serve you. Here are some open surveys for you to take.

My office is currently running two surveys. The first, my 2024-25 Issues Survey, will be landing in your mailbox soon with my summer newsletter, and is also available online: [click here to take it](#).

I have also just launched a survey inquiring about constituents' experiences with the healthcare system. Healthcare is a necessity that is also a major expense for most households, and something that I hear about often from constituents. [Click here to take my healthcare experiences survey](#).


Putnam County Community Health Survey: Putnam County is also conducting a survey about community health, in collaboration with Nuvance. [Putnam County residents can click here to take that survey](#).

Westchester County Business Development: Westchester County's Office of Economic Development (OED) is working on a new initiative to educate people, especially women, about how their choices can be more impactful in terms of economic development. They are conducting a survey to establish a baseline of local knowledge and activity as they get started. [Click here to take the survey](#).

Career Development Opportunities

Strategies for Re-Entering the Workforce: Planning to re-join the workforce after some time away? [Click here to RSVP for a free virtual session](#) on strategies for successful re-entry, taking place on **Wednesday, September 18 from 12-1:30 PM**. Get tips for updating your resume, accessing training, and interviewing.

Westchester County Diverse Abilities Job Fair: The Diverse Abilities Job Fair provides opportunities for people with disabilities by offering access to dozens of employers and resource providers. The Diverse Abilities Job Fair is a partnership between the Westchester County Office of Economic Development, the Westchester County Office for People with Disabilities and several local organizations. Previous iterations of the fair have seen over 250 attendees and have included employers like Amazon, AppleGreen, Goodwill NY/NJ, New York State Department of Corrections & Community Supervision, NewYork-Presbyterian, and Northwell Health.



The poster for the Westchester Diverse Abilities Job Fair features a dark green background with a white icon of a person with arms raised. The text reads: "WESTCHESTER Diverse Abilities JOB FAIR" and "WESTCHESTER COUNTY CENTER". Below this, it says "OCTOBER 9" and "10AM - 12:30PM". There are three columns for "FULL TIME EMPLOYMENT", "PART TIME EMPLOYMENT", and "SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT". A QR code is present with the text "Job Seekers Register Here rb.gy/hq8zw4". Contact information for Jeff Zitofsky is provided: "For more information or for help with registration, contact: Jeff Zitofsky at 914-995-2956". Logos for Catalyst, Diversity, Westchester County, Office for People with Disabilities, and ACCES are at the bottom.

Job seekers can click here to RSVP: <https://westchestercatalyst.com/westchester-diverse-abilities-job-fair-2024/>

Employers interested in recruiting at the fair can sign up to do so here: <https://westchestercatalyst.com/westchester-diverse-abilities-job-fair-2024-employer/>

Clean Energy Jobs Insight from NYSERDA: New York's clean energy investments, plus billions in funding from the [Inflation Reduction Act](#), continue to drive renewable energy development, building efficiency upgrades, and consumer adoption of emission-free equipment like heat pumps. Though future-looking, these investments are adding new jobs to New York's economy today.

Clean energy jobs in New York State grew by 8.4% from 2020 to 2022, outpacing economy-wide employment growth. Moving forward, more clean energy workers are needed to support the manufacturing, construction, planning, and problem solving required to bring New York

toward a clean energy future. [Click here to learn more about green job opportunities in our state and how you can set yourself up for success with one.](#)

Westchester County Clean Energy Jobs & Resource Fair: On Tuesday, November 19 from 2-7 PM, connect with employers about high-paying jobs, network with clean energy professionals, and explore training programs. [Click here to RSVP.](#)

[Visit the Westchester-Putnam Career Center Network for information on upcoming job fairs and more.](#)

Project MOVER

The Village of Ossining has recently launched a pilot for a program called Project MOVER. Project MOVER is dedicated to expanding mobility options for the community through e-bike sharing, and will grow to encompass a variety of mobility options in Ossining and nearby communities. [Click here to read more about it and share your feedback with the Village.](#)

SPECIAL OFFER
\$3.00
off your first ride
Activate with code
BikeOssining

PROJECT MOVER
THE FUN NEW WAY TO GET AROUND OSSINING

\$1.00 to unlock **\$0.12 per min**

Logos at the bottom: Westchester County, Westchester Mobility, Westchester Clean Transportation Prices, N.Y.C. City, InnoEnergy, powered by drOp, E-ZPass.

PROJECT MOVER Payment and Pricing

How To Pay

There are multiple ways to pay for an e-bike:

- Credit card with these logos:
- Debit card
- Cash card (prepaid reloadable debit card)

Cash is **NOT** accepted. Gift cards are **NOT** accepted.

Bikes must be docked for the payment session to end. Charges will continue until that time.

If you don't have a credit or debit card, you can use a cash card!

It is a prepaid reloadable debit card. You can purchase and add money to cash cards from many different stores.

A few places where you can find a reloadable cash card:

- 7-Eleven (230 N Highland Ave)
- CVS Pharmacy (202 S Highland Ave)
- Walgreens (78 Croton Ave)
- Mana Food Center* (120 Spring St)

*Spanish-speaking

To use the cash card for the e-bike, make sure your card:

- Is activated
- Has enough money
- Is a Mastercard or Visa Card

Accepted cards include: Western Union Reloadable Prepaid Cards and Green Dot Reloadable Cards.

How Much Does It Cost?

During the pilot, pricing is designed to be the same for everyone, regardless of income level. After the pilot, long-term pricing may change.

\$1 Unlock a Bike + **\$0.12** Cost per Minute = **A 30-minute ride is \$4.60**

*There will be a \$10 hold put on the card for use of the system. The \$10 hold will be released (minus any incurred charges) after the ride has ended.

Avoid Text Scams



The Thruway Authority has been proactive in alerting customers about phishing scams, which have been on the rise throughout the summer. The Authority's webpage prominently features *Consumer Tips to Avoid Scams*: thruway.ny.gov. Additionally, they frequently post scam warnings on our social media platforms.

A recent text message scam claims that the recipient owes money to tolling authorities in New York. Please note that E-ZPass NY or Tolls By Mail **WILL NEVER** send an email or contact customers requesting sensitive personal information such as a credit card number, social security number, user names, passwords, etc. Real communications from E-ZPass **WILL ONLY** refer customers to the following official websites: e-zpassny.com and tollsbymailny.com. For more information on how to avoid phishing scams, please visit thruway.ny.gov/cashless.

Customers are encouraged to frequently check their accounts online at e-zpassny.com or tollsbyemailny.com, and on the Tolls NY mobile app.

If you receive a scam message, please file a complaint with your service provider and the Federal Trade Commission (FTC) at ReportFraud.ftc.gov.

Trail Closure

Park Alert: TRAIL CLOSURE



Due to road construction, the Brook Trail (Red Trail) is CLOSED between the Cornish Connector trail and Route 9D.

Access to the trailhead, Route 9D, and the tunnel is prohibited. The trail will remain closed until further notice.

Thank you for your cooperation.



Park Office:
(845) 265-3175

Website:
parks.ny.gov

Hudson Highlands State Park Preserve



Attention hikers: the NYS Department of Transportation has officially begun their construction work in the Breakneck Tunnel between Philipstown and Beacon. As a result, New York State Parks has closed the Lower Brook Trail (the highlighted portion of the Red Trail in the adjacent image) between the Cornish Connector trail and Route 9D. Pedestrian use of the tunnel is also prohibited at this time.

If you're a pedestrian needing to get from one side of the tunnel to the other, DOT has set up a shuttle service that you can call to take you through, free of charge. Look for the gray booths at Lower Brook and Wilkinson Trailheads on the east side of the road with the number to call. Happy Hiking!

Note: This work is not part of the Fjord Trail project. Any questions should be directed to New York State Parks (trail closure) and DOT (tunnel work and shuttle).

Prepare for the 2024 General Election



November will be here before you know it. Make sure you are ready to vote!

New Yorkers can use <https://voterlookup.elections.ny.gov/> to check voter registration and polling sites as well as the status of absentee ballot information.

If you need to register to vote, [click here](#).

Westchester County residents seeking an absentee ballot should [click here for instructions](#). Putnam County residents seeking an absentee ballot should [click here for instructions](#).

Interested in working the polls? Westchester residents can [click here to learn more about becoming a poll worker](#). Putnam County residents can [click here to learn more about being a poll worker](#).

New York State Equal Rights Amendment: There is one statewide ballot proposition on everyone's ballot, along with local ones that vary by municipality. The statewide proposition concerns the adoption of an equal rights amendment, which would add protections against discrimination on the basis of age, disability, ethnicity, national origin, and sex (including sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, in addition to pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes) to the state constitution.