

Assembly District 11

Community News and Updates

Dear Friends,

I hope you are having an enjoyable start to the autumn season. I would like to wish the very best to all of our local students, teachers, staff and faculty members who are embarking on a new school year; while things may look a bit different than normal due to new health and safety protocols related to the COVID-19 pandemic, I know we are all relieved to have full in-person learning once again to help foster the academic growth of all our schoolchildren.

As we continue to fight the spread of COVID-19, I strongly encourage all those aged 12 and over to receive their COVID-19 vaccine who haven't already done so. The vaccine is free, safe and effective and remains the single-most effective tool we have to combat this deadly pandemic. While life is slowly getting back to normal and we are able to resume and enjoy many of the fun activities that we missed out on over the last 18 months, we still have further to go to eradicate the harmful effects of this disease once and for all. To schedule an appointment to receive your COVID-19 vaccine, please visit the New York State COVID-19 Vaccine dashboard by clicking HERE.

In addition, certain segments of the New York population are now eligible for COVID-19 booster shots to help enhance immunity against COVID-19. Those New Yorkers aged 65 and older or residents in long-term care settings--as well as those aged 50-64 with underlying health conditions--should receive a booster shot of Pfizer-BioNTech's COVID-19 vaccine at least six months after completion of their Pfizer-BioNTech primary series. Click <u>HERE</u> for more information about booster shot eligibility.

It has been wonderful to see so many of you out in our district over the last few months, and I hope to get the opportunity to connect with even more of you in the coming weeks and months at a local event. Please continue reading this newsletter for additional updates on legislation, community events, services and more, and please continue to do all you can to keep yourself, your loved ones and your neighbors safe. As always, if you have any questions about the legislative process in Albany or if you just want to get involved in some of our great community initiatives, please contact me at 631-957-2087 or jeanpierrek@nyassembly.gov.

Warm Regards,

Kimberly

Visit My Website

COVID-19 Updates

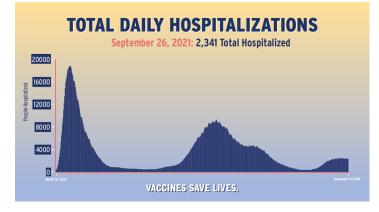
Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre: Apply for the New York State Covid-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program

"Small businesses are the backbone of our local economy and crucial to our recovery; I encourage all of our small business owners to apply for state grants to address COVID-19 related issues and help support their businesses."



Governor Hochul's Latest COVID-19 Numbers

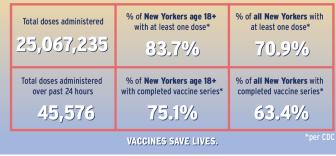
- 128,700 Tests
- 4,004 Positive Infections
- 3.11% Positivity Rate
- 2,341 Hospitalizations (+42)
- 24 New Deaths



Governor Hochul's Latest Vaccination Numbers

- 83.7% of adult New Yorkers have at least one vaccine dose
- 70.9% of all New Yorkers have at least one vaccine dose
- 45,576 doses administered over last 24 hours
- 25,067,235 total doses administered to date

VACCINATION UPDATE: 9/27 11AM



Applications Now Being Accepted for Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre has announced that applications are now being accepted for the federallyfunded Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP) which covers households with income up to 80 percent of the Area Median Income (AMI). Applications for a new, state-funded program for households with income between 80 and 120 percent AMI will be accepted through the ERAP application portal beginning September 15.

To learn more or apply, please visit the OTDA website by clickingHERE.

An additional \$300 million is available for the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP)

to provide rental and utility assistance to low- and middle-income households impacted by COVID-19.

To learn more or apply, visit:

https://otda.ny.gov/programs/emergency-rental-assistance

Albany Spotlight



Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre, Senator Sean Ryan Successfully Push NYS to Extend Emergency Certification Program for Educators

Assemblywoman Kimberly Jean-Pierre and New York State Senator Sean Ryan announced that the New York State Education Department (NYSED) has agreed to take action as a result of the legislators' letter requesting the extension of the Emergency COVID-19 Certificate program past its initial deadline of September 1, 2021. The deadline has been extended one year to September 1, 2022.

The COVID-19 pandemic created obstacles for educators seeking certification and recertification in New York State. Chief among those obstacles was a limited test center availability for certification exams. NYSED recognized these challenges and made temporary emergency changes to certification requirements in May 2020 to account for the difficult circumstances surrounding certification during the pandemic.

In July, with the application deadline for the Emergency COVID-19 Certificate approaching, lingering pandemic-related impediments continued to make it difficult for educators to complete the certification process. As a result, Senator Ryan and Assemblymember Jean-Pierre, who are respectively Chairs of the Senate and Assembly Libraries committees, called on NYSED to extend the application deadline to provide ample time for educators in New York State to get back on track.

In early September, a NYSED representative responded to the legislators' letter, explaining that NYSED recognized the concerns raised in the letter and planned to take action to amend the deadline. A regulatory amendment was then passed at the September Board of Regents meeting on September 14, extending the emergency certificate application deadline from September 1, 2021 to September 1, 2022.

Individuals who applied for the Emergency COVID-19 certificate prior to the extension will automatically have their certificate requirement deadlines extended.

The Emergency COVID-19 Certificate is available to a wide variety of educators including classroom teachers, librarians, school administrators, teaching assistants, school athletics coaches, GED instructors, and jobs skills training instructors.

Assemblymember Kimberly Jean-Pierre said, "I sincerely thank the Department of Education and the Board of Regents for extending the emergency certification deadline an additional year to September 2022. With the COVID-19 pandemic severely disrupting the teacher certification process here in New York State, this accommodation will be vital to ensure that schools across our state have the flexibility to hire qualified professionals and ensure the needs of our schoolchildren can continue to be met."

Senator Sean Ryan said, "NYSED created the Emergency COVID-19 Certificate in response to the obstacles the pandemic created for teachers seeking certification, and many of those obstacles are still affecting the certification process today. I applaud the Board of Regents for their swift response to extend the Emergency Certificate deadline to September 2022. Their action has prevented an issue that would have unfairly hindered qualified educators and exacerbated staffing shortages in our schools."

Briana McNamee, Director of Government Relations & Advocacy of the New York Library Association, said, "We are grateful to the Board of Regents for their ongoing support and the recent decision to extend the Emergency Certificate deadline to September 2022. Seemingly minor, this extension provides immense relief for the library community."

Coverage in the Albany-based Spectrum Local New can be found<u>HERE.</u> Coverage in the Buffalo-based Niagara Frontier Publications can be found<u>HERE.</u>

Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre Elected Chair of Bipartisan Legislative Women's Caucus

On Wednesday, June 9th, 2021, members of the Legislative Women's Caucus of New York State elected Assemblywoman Kimberly Jean-Pierre (D-Wheatley Heights) as Chair for the 2021-22 term. The Caucus is an organization of elected women members of the New York State Legislature. Today, the Caucus is comprised of a record total of 73 women legislators, including 55 women serving in the Assembly and 18 women serving in the Senate.

"Throughout history, women have played an integral role in government, and being elected Chair of the Legislative Women's Caucus by my colleagues provides me an opportunity to better promote women's issues and improve the participation of women in all areas of



government and life," said Jean-Pierre. "I look forward to working with my colleagues in the Caucus as well as women leaders in my community and throughout New York State in moving forward and addressing 21st Century issues impacting women and girls across our great state."

Assemblywoman Kimberly Jean-Pierre was elected to the Assembly in 2014, succeeding Assemblyman Bob Sweeney after he served the 11th Assembly District for 26 years. Prior to her election, she was employed by the Suffolk County Legislature and former Congressman Steve Israel and served as Director of the Town of Babylon's Wyandanch Community Resource Center.

The New York State Legislative Women's Caucus (LWC) is a unique, bipartisan and bicameral organization which was founded in 1983 for all women elected to the New York State Legislature. The LWC serves as a resource for its members, providing networking opportunities, support and various information. The Caucus facilitates an annual Women's History Month display in the Capitol and traditionally holds events with other women partners throughout state government, including commissioners, executive officials and female leaders within the SUNY and CUNY higher education systems.

Over the decades, women legislators through the LWC have advocated for a range of policies that promote equity and inclusivity for women, as well as increased resources for women, children and families throughout New York Sftate. As a bipartisan caucus, the LWC focuses on issues which are embraced by all of its members.

Other officers elected to leadership positions within the Caucus include Assemblymember Carrie Woerner as First Vice-Chair, Assemblymember Mary Beth Walsh as Second Vice-Chair, Assemblymember Karines Reyes as Secretary, Senator Toby Ann Stavisky as Treasurer, and elected Directors include Assemblymembers Marjorie Byrnes, Sarah Clark, Patricia Fahy, Jodi Giglio, Jessica Gonzalez-Rojas, Anna Kelles, Karen McMahon, Missy Miller, Jenifer Rajkumar, Linda Rosenthal, Rebecca Seawright, Stefani Zinerman, Anna Kelles and Senator Rachel May.



Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre Passes Legislation to Improve Library System

Assemblywoman Kimberly Jean-Pierre recently announced that four bills she sponsored to improve libraries on Long Island and across the state have passed the Assembly. The legislation includes increased funds for library projects as well as measures to help libraries run more smoothly.

"While they certainly can be a quiet space to dive into a novel, libraries are far more than places to read," said

Jean-Pierre. "Libraries have served as important centerpieces in our communities for years by providing internet access and educational resources and supporting other local libraries. As chair of the Assembly Committee on Libraries and Education Technology, I'll continue to do all I can to ensure that libraries receive the funding they need to serve our residents as we continue to recover."

One of Jean-Pierre's bills would increase the percentage of total funds appropriated to a library system from 10% to 50% that may be used to support the total costs for projects set to receive state aid beyond 75% of the total project approved costs (<u>A.7060-A</u>). This change would provide greater discretion in awarding capital grants, a change that would support small and rural public libraries that are disproportionately disadvantaged under current statute, noted Jean-Pierre.

Jean-Pierre also authored and helped pass legislation that would:

- require publishers to offer licenses for electronic books to libraries under reasonable terms, which will help save money and offer more copies of books and literature (A.5837-B);
- requires library board of trustees to take basic training so they can better serve their communities and know how to best allocate public funds (<u>A.6121-B</u>); and
- extends the time library construction aid can be used, along with adjusting other requirements so library services can be delivered more efficiently (<u>A.7021</u>).

Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre also helped pass the 2021-2022 state budget, which provided an additional \$20 million for library construction grants for a total of \$34 million.

The budget also restored \$4.5 million in aid to public libraries and increased funding by \$2.5 million, for a total of \$94.2 million.

11th District Spotlight

Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre Attends Groundbreaking for New Town of Babylon Municipal Building in North Amityville

Assemblywoman Kimberly Jean-Pierre recently attended a groundbreaking ceremony for a new state-of-the-art municipal building that will be located at the intersection of Great Neck Road and Albany Avenue in North Amityville.



This new Town of Babylon facility will serve as an important community hub for a variant of government services and Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre looks forward to seeing it come to fruition.

The Assemblywoman also wants to acknowledge the tireless efforts of all who worked so hard to make this project a reality and one that the entire community can get behind, including Babylon Town Supervisor Rich Schaffer, Deputy Supervisor Tony Martinez, Human Services Commissioner Madeline Quintyne and longtime community leaders Delores Quintyne, Rosemarie Dearing and Rev. Dr. Keith Hayward.



Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre Attends Ujamaa Fest in Wyandanch

Assemblywoman Kimberly Jean-Pierre was recently on hand for the annual Black Long Island Ujamaa Fest held at Wyandanch Plaza. Featuring over 100 vendors, small businesses, musical entertainment and more, this event was a great way to bring the community together and support local stakeholders. Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre would like to acknowledge and thank all of the event organizers and participants who helped make Ujamaa 2021 an overwhelming success.



Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre Co-Hosts Candlelight Vigil for Victims of Haiti Earthquake

Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre recently joined Suffolk County Legislator Jason Richberg and the Town of Babylon ifromn hosting a candlelight vigil to honor all those who perished and continue to suffer from the recent 7.2-magnitude earthquake which struck the Republic of Haiti. The vigil featured prayer sessions from several local pastors and remarks from elected officials and community leaders including New York State Senator John Brooks, Legislator Richberg, Suffolk

County Legislator Sammy Gonzalez, Babylon Town Councilman DuWayne Gregory, New York State Assemblyman Clyde Vanel, and Suffolk County Deputy Executive Vanessa Baird-Streeter. In addition, several boxes of medical supplies were collected which have been transported to Haiti by medical professionals who have been summoned to assist with relief and recovery efforts.

Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre Attends Gun Violence Roundtable in Wyandanch

Assemblywoman Kimberly Jean-Pierre recently attended a roundtable in Wyandanch with other local and state officials to discuss initiatives to prevent gun violence in Suffolk County.

"The gun violence epidemic has long plagued our communities and now, as we've begun to resume our normal activities, this ongoing crisis has only grown worse," Jean-Pierre said. "There's nothing more important to me than keeping Suffolk County



families out of harm's way, which means taking steps to protect our youth and ensuring those who are struggling receive the support they need. This roundtable allowed me to work alongside other officials to discuss and implement strategies that will keep our neighborhoods safe from gun violence and encourage a brighter future for all. I thank Governor Cuomo and his team for organizing this important initiative."

Numerous programs were discussed to address the recent scourge of gun violence in Suffolk County, such as the creation of both summer and long-term jobs for at-risk youth. In addition, a variety of summer youth programs will be established at local state parks this summer, including Robert Moses and Belmont

Lake. Other initiatives include hiring new violence interveners to work at existing community intervention programs and expanding assistance for mental health support, substance abuse treatment and family crisis intervention.

Participants at the roundtable included New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance Commissioner Michael Hein, representatives from the Office of Governor Andrew Cuomo, school officials, not-for-profit executives, community leaders, representatives from the New York State and Suffolk County Departments of Labor and other elected officials. This comes after the Governor declared a gun violence disaster emergency in order to strengthen gun violence prevention efforts and allow the state to treat this ongoing problem as a public health crisis.

Jean-Pierre has worked tirelessly to make Long Island a safer place to live, and secured \$100,000 for the Wyandanch SNUG Neighborhood Violence Prevention Program during the past legislative session.



Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre, Cops N' Kids Long Island Host Successful Back-to-School Book Bag Distribution

Assemblywoman Kimberly Jean-Pierre recently joined the nonprofit organization 'Cops N' Kids Long Island' for a backto-school book bag and supply giveaway for local schoolchildren. All together, more than 100 book bags, notebooks, supply bags, masks, sanitizer and other giveaways were distributed to children and families within the 11th Assembly District. Schoolchildren were also treated to a special read-along with Gretchen Cotton Rodney.

"I would like to thank all of the 11th District residents who supported this year's back-to-school supply drive," said Jean-Pierre. "Because of you, we were able to join together to provide local schoolchildren with the supplies and resources they needed to ensure a positive start to a new academic year. I would also like to thank Kwani O'Pharrow, Cindy O'Pharrow and the entire Cops N' Kids organization for their continued partnership with such meaningful community initiatives."



Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre Joins Long Island Elected Officials in Condemning Inhumane Treatment of Haitian Migrants at Nation's Border

Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre recently joined several of her governmental colleagues in denouncing the inhumane treatment of Haitian migrants by U.S. agents at our nation's border. Jean-Pierre, who is Haitian-American herself and the daughter of Haitian immigrants, said the following regarding the incident at the border:

"As an American and the proud daughter of Haitian immigrants, I am disgusted by the recent images depicting the inhumane treatment of Haitian migrants by U.S. agents at our nation's border. For years, our Haitian brothers and sisters have endured unspeakable tragedy and heartbreak from both



political turmoil and destructive natural disasters, and this kind of treatment undermines the moral values that are supposed to define the America we all know and love. I expect the Department of Homeland Security to conduct a swift and thorough investigation into this matter so that these officials are held accountable for their actions."

Community Flyers, Resources and Upcoming Events

<u>RSVP for Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre's virtual discussion on combating</u> <u>antisemitism here on Long Island</u> Please join New York State Assemblywoman Kimberly Jean-Pierre in partnership with AJC Long Island for a discussion on combating antisemitism on Long Island.

Wednesday, October 6, 6:00-7:00 PM via Zoom

RSVP <u>HERE</u>







According to the American Jewish Committee (AJC) landmark <u>State of</u> <u>Antisemitism in America Report 2020</u>, which will soon be followed with the release of the 2021 report later in October, 46% of the general public doesn't know what the term antisemitism means. In addition, when asked if, over the past five years, they think antisemitism in the United States has increased, 82% of the Jewish community answered yes, while only 43% of the general public agreed. In this discussion, we aim to share more about what antisemitism is and how we can work on combating it together.

For more information, please contact Yaryl Gonzalez, Community Relations Director for Assemblywoman Kimberly Jean-Pierre at gonzalezy@nyassembly.gov or 631.957.2087.

AJC.org/longisland f /AJCLongIsland

@AJCGlobal

Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre is proud to be co-sponsoring Senator John Brooks' Golden Gathering Senior Resource Fair at Dominican Village's Helen Butler Hall on Tuesday, October 12th from 9AM-1PM. Details available below:







FREE RESOURCE EVENT

FLU SHOTS - SENIOR ID PROGRAM - BLOOD PRESSURE TESTS COVID-19 VACCINES - HEALTH SCREENINGS ENTERTAINMENT - REFRESHMENTS - AND MORE

NASSAU COUNTY

October 7, 2021 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

FREEPORT RECREATION CENTER 130 East Merrick Road Freeport, NY 11520

Co-Sponsored by Freeport Mayor Robert Kennedy & Nassau County Legislator Debra Mulé

SUFFOLK COUNTY

October 12, 2021 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

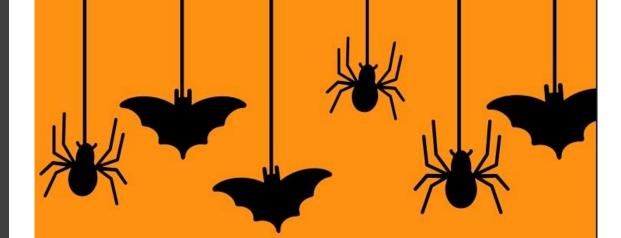
> DOMINICAN VILLAGE HELEN BUTLER HALL 565 Albany Avenue Amityville, NY 11701

Co-Sponsored by Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre & Town of Babylon Supervisor Rich Schaffer

For questions please contact Senator Brooks' office at (516) 882-0630 or Brooks@NYSenate.gov



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HALLOWEEN CANDY & COSTUME DRIVE

DROP OFF AT: 640 W. MONTAUK HWY. LINDENHURST , NY 11757 MONDAY - FRIDAY 10AM-4PM

DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, THE OFFICE OF ASSEMBLYWOMAN KIMBERLY JEAN-PIERRE WILL BE ACCEPTING HALLOWEEN CANDY DONATIONS ALONG WITH NEW OR GENTLY USED HALLOWEEN COSTUMES.



Town of Babylon Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Fall Festival

Saturday, October 2, 2021 12PM - 3PM Phelps Lane Park

DLK C

Rich Schaffer, Supervisor Town Board Tony A. Martinez |Anthony N. Manetta |Terence F. McSweeney| DuWayne Gregory Geraldine Compitellol Jennifer C. Montiglio

Shots for Tots and COVID Vaccination Event Thursdays,

SLANI

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September 2 and 30 Friday, October 29 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

The Suffolk County Department of Health will be providing free immunizations for children, as well as free Pfizer COVID vaccines to anyone 12 and older. The second Pfizer COVID vaccine will also be administered at the Library on subsequent dates.

Children must be accompanied by a parent or legal guardian with documentation. Each child must have their immunization record with them. All shots are being provided on a first come, first served basis. Please arrive by 2:00 PM to guarantee your spot.

> This program is geared towards the uninsured and open to all.

Copiague Memorial Public Library 50 Deauville Blvd. Copiague, NY 11726 - 631-691-1111 - copiaguelibrary.org

Vacuna para Niños y COVID Evento de Vacunación Jueves, 2 y 30 de Septiembre

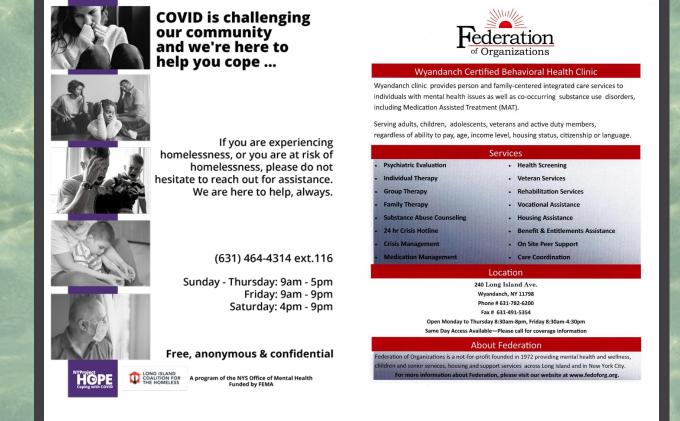
Viernes 29 de Octubre 10:00 AM - 2:30 PM

El Departamento de Salud del Condado de Suffolk estará proporcionando vacunas gratuitas para los niños, así como vacunas gratuitas Pfizer COVID para cualquier persona de 12 años o más. La segunda vacuna COVID de Pfizer también se administrará en la Biblioteca en fechas posteriores.

Los niños deben estar acompañados por un padre o tutor legal con documentación. Cada niño debe tener su registro de inmunización con ellos. Todas las vacunas se proporcionan por orden de llegada. Por favor, llegue 30 minutos antes de la hora de finalización del programa para asegurar su lugar.

Este programa está dirigido a los no asegurados y abierto a todos.

Biblioteca Pública Copiague Memorial 50 Deauville Blvd. Copiague, NY 11726 - 631-691-1111 - copiaguelibrary.org



S.T.O.P. Stop Throwing Out Pollutants

The Town of Babylon is holding a Stop Throwing Out Pollutants (S.T.O.P.) collection day along with the Cleanup Day. This program allows residents to bring **household hazardous wastes** to the Town of Babylon Residential Recycling Center for safe disposal. Participation in this program is vital to insure safe drinking water and a healthier environment for the future.

All materials must be bagged or boxed and labeled so STOP workers can remove them from your vehicle while you remain inside.

S.T.O.P. Collection Day

Saturday, October 9, 2021

Town of Babylon Residential Recycling Center 57 Field Street West Babylon, N.Y. 11704

8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Proof of residency is required.

The following are examples of household hazardous wastes <u>accepted</u> by the Town: • Acids • Aerosols • Antifreeze • Automotive fluids/care products • Chlorine • Cleaning products • Driveway sealer • Fluorescent bulbs • Freon canisters • Full propane cylinders • Gasoline • Granular fertilizer containing insecticide • Herbicides • Mercury containing products • Oil paints and stains • Pesticides/insecticides • Pool Chemicals • Solvents • Thinners and reducers.

The following items <u>will not be accepted</u> under the STOP program but may be brought to the Residential Recycling Center Monday through Friday between 8:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.: • Alkaline and rechargeable batteries • Construction and demolition debris • Kerosene • Latex paint • Non-hazardous recyclable materials • Tires. Ammunition, Asbestos, Explosives and Radioactive Materials are <u>unacceptable</u> under the STOP program or at the Residential Recycling Center and must be disposed of legally and safely.



For further information or questions regarding acceptable or unacceptable household waste materials, please call the Town of Babylon Residential Recycling Center at (631) 249-9347. For information on proper disposal of the unacceptable items, please contact the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation at (631) 444-0375.

** Automobile batteries, empty propane tanks, and used motor oil may be brought to the Town of Babylon Recycling Center during normal business hours.

** Kitty Litter or Speedy Dry may be added to your less than 1/3 full can of Latex (water-based) paint, sealed in a plastic bag, and placed in your regular garbage. (NYSDEC Recommendation.)

Rich Schaffer, Supervisor Antonio Martinez, Deputy Supervisor/Councilman DuWayne Gregory, Councilman Anthony Manetta, Councilman Terence McSweeney, Councilman



Babylon Town Hall 200 East Sunrise Highway Lindenhurst, N.Y. 11757 (631) 957-3072

The S.T.O.P. Collection Program is funded in part by a grant from the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre's Reminder to those commuting on the LIRR: Mask Up to Avoid Fines



The Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) has recently indicated that it plans to step up enforcement efforts for mask-wearing on trains. Beyond the mere avoidance of needless \$50 fines, Assemblywoman Jean-Pierre encourages mask-wearing on public transit given its effective use in mitigating the spread of COVID-19.

Read Newsday's coverage of this developing story HERE.

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