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December 10, 2021

Dear Friends,

This newsletter contains many updates including:

- Shop Local and Support Small Businesses
- New Homeowners Assistance Fund
- Deadline Extension for Ida Relief
 - FEMA Deadline Extension
 - SBA Deadline Extension
- NYS Association of Conservation Commissions
- Update on Excluded Workers Fund
- NY League of Conservation Voters
- Covid Vaccine Updates

I continue to assist local governments and individuals on storm recovery related issues. Last week Senator Mayer and I provided the municipalities we represent an updated compendium of possible funding sources and programs for flood mitigation projects. Please call my office at 914-939-7028 if I can be of assistance on issues where I can be of help.

Wishing you and your families a very happy holiday season!

Warm regards,

Steve



The holiday season brings events in every community to draw shoppers to local retailers. One way we can all help local businesses is to support the merchants when shopping during the holidays and into the new year. Local retailers are an important part of our Westchester economy. They provide jobs and are part of the fabric of each of our Sound Shore communities. Your patronage will help in many ways.

Port Chester tree lighting ceremony with Village Trustee Alex Payan, Mayor Luis

Marino, County Legislator Nancy Barr, Trustee Joan Thomas, Port Chester schools superintendent Dr. Aurelia Henriquez, and Curt Lavalla of the village planning department.

Help for New York Homeowners Affected by COVID is Here



Homes and
Community Renewal

1-844-77-NYHAF
(1-844-776-9423)

First in the Nation \$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](#) or Contact the New York State Homeowners Assistance Fund Call Center at 1-844-77-NYHAF

Applications Accepted Beginning Monday, Jan. 3, 2022

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced that New York State is the first state in the nation to receive U.S. Department of the Treasury's approval to launch its Homeowner Assistance Fund, a program that will provide up to \$539 million to help eligible homeowners avert mortgage delinquency, default, foreclosure, and displacement. Applications will be accepted beginning Monday, Jan. 3, 2022.

<https://www.nyhomeownerfund.org>

**Deadline Extension to Provide Hurricane Ida Relief to
Excluded New Yorkers**

Governor Hochul announced the deadline for applications for the Ida Relief Fund will be extended until **January 4th** to provide relief to excluded survivors of the storms and flooding caused by the remnants of Hurricane Ida. New Yorkers who are not eligible to receive storm recovery assistance through the FEMA Individual Assistance Program or other means can apply for funding that is being distributed through an established network of community organizations.

The extension bolsters the State commitment to support these not-for-profit organizations in a joint effort to distribute assistance and offer more time to gather information and documents to those who need to apply for this assistance. As of November 30th, more than 1,800 people reached out about this program, and of these initial contacts, 403 households have submitted applications and 507 households qualified for FEMA funds and have since been referred there. To date, 54 households have received approximately \$228,376. An additional 31 households have approved applications and are pending payment. Orange County has been included in the Disaster Declaration and impacted residents of this county should contact the ONA Hotline.

In Westchester & Rockland - NeighborsLink, 27 Columbus Ave, Mount Kisco, NY 10549 is providing assistance.

To get connected with assistance, impacted residents should call the ONA Hotline at 1-800-566-7636 9:00am to 8:00pm, Monday through Friday or visit the partner not-for-profits organizations. Hotline assistance is available in over 200 languages.

Governor Hochul previously announced the launch of the new online resource hub for impacted New Yorkers, available [here](#).



FEMA

Individuals affected by Hurricane Ida have until **January 10th** to register for FEMA Assistance.

The fastest way to apply is through DisasterAssistance.gov. You can also apply by calling 1-800-621-3362 (TTY 1-800-462-7585) or through the [FEMA mobile app](#).

[Learn more about the application process.](#)



U.S. Small Business
Administration

The SBA offers low-interest loans that provide the funds necessary to repair, rebuild and recover. These loans are intended to cover what isn't covered by insurance or other recoveries and can provide the funds to allow you to get your property back to where it was, pre-disaster.

As of Monday, December 6, 2021, **the deadline for the SBA applications for physical damage to Jan. 4, 2022**. That also coincides with the FEMA deadline for registration.

The only Business Recovery Center (BRC) that remains opened is in New Rochelle (Westchester County) and that is scheduled to close permanently on Tuesday, Jan. 4, 2022, at 5 p.m., unless otherwise announced in the next weeks.

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, applicants should register with FEMA online at DisasterAssistance.gov or download the FEMA mobile app. If online or mobile access is unavailable, applicants should call the FEMA toll-free helpline at 800-621-3362. Those who use 711-Relay or Video Relay Services should call 800-621-3362.

Applicants may apply to SBA online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA's secure website at:

<https://DisasterLoanAssistance.sba.gov/ela/s/>

SBA declaration # 17147

Businesses and individuals may also obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA's Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955



At the annual conference of the NYS Association of Conservation Commissions in October, Rye's Carolyn Cunningham was awarded the Margery Sachs Award for a lifetime of service to the environment. City of Rye Conservation Commission Chair Tracy Stora and I presented the award to Carolyn this week.

Carolyn has been a leader on environmental issues in the City of Rye, Westchester County and New York State for decades, including vital service on Rye's Conservation Commission Advisory Council separated by over three decades. Carolyn served on Rye's CCAC from 1975 to 1980, where she served as Chair from 1978 to 1980 and again from 2013 to 2018, both as member and Chair. On the CCAC she worked on issues affecting nature, habitats and environmental education.

Carolyn has also been an indispensable leader with the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County (FCWC) for decades. She holds the distinction of serving

FCWC's longest-serving Board Member. Over the past 40 years, she has assumed many leadership positions, which include serving as Executive Director from 1981-1985 as well as Vice President, Treasurer and Chair of the Membership Committee for over 10 years. Last year she was awarded the FCWC Green Seal Award for her longstanding commitment and outstanding leadership on environmental issues at its Annual FCWC Green Seal and Edith Read Awards Ceremony.

At the state level, Carolyn was active in advocating on behalf of environmental issues on behalf of FCWC and working with Environmental Advocates/Environmental Planning Lobby (EPL).

The Margery Sachs award is NYSACC's highest honor presented for outstanding service to Conservation Commissions and the environment. Tracy Stora accepted the award for Carolyn at this year's conference. I have served on the NYSACC Board of Directors for over 30 years, and I was elated to nominate Carolyn for this year's award.



The New York State Excluded Workers Fund application website and portal will no longer be operational as of 7 pm on December 30, 2021. After this date and time, users will no longer be able to sign in and access their accounts. Live agent phone calls will continue through the close of business on December 17, 2021.

All monies from the fund have been completely allocated with over 120,000 New

Yorkers having received much needed pandemic relief totaling over \$2 billion. Should applicants encounter any organization or entity seeking to charge money or solicit personal information to provide application assistance, please call the New York State Attorney General at (800) 771-7755 to report potential fraud.

NY League of Conservation Voters



This week I attended the annual Westchester reception for the NY League of Conservation Voters. The League is a strong voice on environmental issues in Albany.

Westchester Awardees recognized at the reception were:

- Joule Community Power for their work in Community Choice Aggregation that helps communities across NY State access cleaner and cheaper electricity on their own terms by leveraging the collective bargaining power of their residents and small businesses.
- Groundwork Hudson Valley for their work in promoting community-based partnerships in urban neighborhoods to create on-the-ground environmental projects at the community level.

I am pictured here with NYLC President Julie Tighe who now heads the League as a key official at the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. She has been a great advocate for the environment whom I have worked with on issues for many years.



#VaxToSchool Campaign - Full List of Sites Updated Weekly [Here](#)

Governor Hochul announced New York State's Excelsior Pass [Blueprint](#), a national framework to aid in the development of digital health credentials. **Download the [Blueprint Here](#)**

Vaccines available for 5-11 at vaccines.gov

Testing sites available here: <https://health.westchestergov.com/covid-19-testing>

Governor Hochul Announces New Mask Guidelines

Effective December 13

Masks required in all indoor public places unless businesses or venues implement a vaccine requirement.