



Winter 2019

Assemblyman
Fred W. Thiele, Jr.

Reports to the People



Support for Small Business Sewer Access in Mastic and Shirley

Construction for phases 1 and 2 of the Forge River Watershed Sewer Project is set to begin in 2020. While sewer construction and private homeowner connections to the system will be 100% funded by state and federal grants as part of the Suffolk County Coastal Resiliency Initiative, there are approximately 150 small businesses

located within this vicinity that will be financially responsible for their connections. I was pleased to secure \$250,000 through the New York State and Municipal Facilities Program to support efforts by the County to mitigate the out-of-pocket costs associated with accessing the sewer lines for many of these businesses.

Funding for the William Floyd School District Sidewalk Project

This past September, my nomination of the William Floyd School District to receive a grant for \$250,000 through the New York State and Municipal Facilities Program was approved. These monies will enable the district to move forward with a public safety project that will benefit students, families, faculty and residents of

the community without placing any financial burden on local property taxpayers. The sidewalks are expected to be installed near William Floyd and John S. Hobart Elementary Schools in Shirley including Clyde Road, Lexington Road, Fleet Road, Van Buren Street, and Meadowmere Avenue.



Announcing New York State and Municipal Facilities Program funding for the William Floyd School District Sidewalk Project. Pictured left to right: Daniel Losquadro, Brookhaven Highway Superintendent; Rudy Sunderman, Suffolk County Legislator; Assemblyman Thiele; Robert Vecchio, President of William Floyd School District Board of Education; Keith Fasciana, Principal of William Floyd Elementary; Stacey Scalise, Assistant Superintendent for Elementary Instruction, Administration and Pupil Personnel Services; and Kevin Coster, Superintendent of Schools.

Financial assistance for Brighter Tomorrows to keep victims of domestic violence out of harm's way

Victims of domestic violence go through unspeakable trauma at the hands of someone close to them and need to be supported every step of the way so they can break away from their abusers, regain their lives and begin healing. Located in Shirley, Brighter Tomorrows, Inc. is a human services agency that offers safe and secure housing, counseling and legal advocacy services to domestic violence victims including adults and children throughout Long Island. This year, it was my pleasure to provide Brighter Tomorrows with \$15,000 in funding to support critical programming aimed at empowering survivors of domestic violence.



I met with Dolores Kordon, Executive Director of Brighter Tomorrows, to discuss funding I secured for the Shelter Program for victims of domestic violence.

Aid for School Districts located in the Town of Brookhaven

	2019-20 Total Aid (\$)
William Floyd	129,067,951
Center Moriches	13,222,773
East Moriches	6,853,333
Eastport-South Manor	37,748,843

The enacted 2019-20 State Budget provided a total of \$27.8 billion in education funding, an increase of \$1 billion – or 3.7% – over last year. During budget negotiations I strongly advocated for increases in state aid for school districts located in my Assembly District. Notably, all of the school districts within the Town of Brookhaven saw increases in total aid.

Legislation subjecting state-owned lands in the Eastport-South Manor School District to taxation for school purposes, A.7291-A/S.5270-A

The Eastport-South Manor (ESM) School District was formed in 2000 upon the merger of two local districts, Eastport Union Free School District (UFSD) in Eastport, and South Manor UFSD in Manorville. Prior to the merger, the Eastport Union Free School District was receiving payments in lieu of taxes (PILOTs) from New York State for state-owned lands within the district that were located within the

core preservation area of the Central Pine Barrens. Senator LaValle and I have introduced legislation to provide these payments for the entire Eastport-South Manor Central School District so that the PILOT payments can officially be maximized. Passage of this bill will be one of my legislative priorities for the upcoming 2020 Session.

Community Voices / Colonial Youth

The enacted 2019-2020 State Budget has provided \$1.5 million in funding to Community Voices, a coalition of Long Island agencies that provide services to children, youth and families across Long Island, including Colonial Youth and Family Services. Colonial

Youth has a demonstrated track record for providing services to families in need in the William Floyd School District and helps to ensure that all children in our community have the chance for a successful future.

Supporting our Veterans

The members of our military and their families make incredible sacrifices through their service to protect all the freedoms we enjoy, and it is our job to ensure they can fully enjoy those rights themselves. On Veterans Day, two of my bills to support veterans and members of our military were signed into New York State Law. A.7293 provides military voters the opportunity to vote in school district elections, including the election of members of the board of education, public library trustees, and the adoption of the annual budget. Voting is not only the right of every American but also a hallmark of our values and our democracy. By extending military voting to school district elections, we are making certain that members

of our military are afforded every opportunity to have their voices heard to help determine the direction of their communities.

In addition, legislation to authorize the counties of Nassau and Suffolk to waive certain fees for veteran's organizations (A.7234) was also signed into law. Our veterans deserve to experience a sense of community and camaraderie following their courageous service to our nation. Organizations that provide this to our veterans should never be put in a position of having to increase dues, and potentially discourage some veterans from participating, in order to facilitate building construction and improvement.

Restoring AIM

In my first year as the Assembly Local Governments Committee Chair, I successfully fought for the 2019-2020 Budget to include a full restoration of the Aid and Incentive to Municipalities Program (AIM) funding, totaling \$715 million. AIM has provided essential state

aid to towns, villages and cities outside of New York City since the 2005-2006 Budget. The Town of Brookhaven is set to receive a total of \$1,808,932 in AIM funding for the 2019-2020 fiscal year.



As the new Chair of the Assembly Committee on Local Governments, I had the opportunity to meet with the Executive Director of the New York State Association of Counties, Stephen J. Acquario, to discuss AIM and Road Recovery funding in my Legislative Office in Albany.

Road Recovery Funding

I fought to restore \$65 million in State funding for the Extreme Winter Recovery (EWR) program. The EWR program provides necessary support to our municipalities and local governments for the rehabilitation and reconstruction of local highways and roads. This funding is in addition to the \$478 million in State funding provided through the Consolidated Local Street and Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS) and Marchiselli programs, and \$200 million for PAVE-NY and Bridge NY.



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The highest achievement of leadership in Scouting is the distinguished rank of Eagle Scout. This past October, I was pleased to join with Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine and Councilman Dan Panico in congratulating brothers Thomas and Joseph Luongo, Kenneth Schneider and Angelo Nicholes from Center Moriches Boy Scouts Troop 414 on this prestigious accomplishment. A special ceremony was held at Our Lady Queen of Apostles Catholic School in Center Moriches.

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