



91st Assembly District
Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye



July 14, 2023

Dear Friends,

This newsletter highlights some recent local events and a hearing in Albany this week on the utility rate setting process.

I serve on the Assembly Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions which has jurisdiction over the laws relating to the NYS Public Service Commission. Given increased energy costs globally, we need to do all we can to make sure our rules protect consumers effectively through the laws we control.

I have also included a press release announcing recent state grants to Mamaroneck and Rye for bridge projects that will improve flood resiliency.

My office has received additional N95 masks that are available to the public. If you would like to pick some up, please call the district office to confirm availability. As always, do not hesitate to contact me on issues in this e-mail or any matter in which I can be helpful. My office number is 914-939-7028.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Steve'.

Assembly Hearing on Utility Rate Structure



This week I participated in an Assembly hearing in Albany held by the Committee on Energy and the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions on the state's rate setting process for electric and gas utility companies. Our lead witness was Rory Christian, Chair of the Public Service Commission whom I questioned regarding PSC directions to utilities regarding properly managing the commodity purchasing to protect consumers. You can view this exchange and other [HERE](#). We also heard from the Public Utility Law Project (PULP), a consumer advocate, and from representatives of some utility companies. The goal of the hearing was to identify potential areas for improvement to increase transparency, equity, and affordability for consumers through the rate setting process.

We also discussed the availability and effectiveness of discount plans, the return on equity earned by utilities, whether rates can be targeted to better benefit segments of the population, including the low-income and/or elderly, and actions being taken to ensure compliance with the 6% affordability goal.

Port Chester Together Event



Last Saturday I participated in a local health and safety event, "Together in Port Chester", sponsored by Fidelis Health Care, Open Door Family Medical Center, Don Bosco Community Center, and Don Bosco Workers. Senator Shelley Mayer and I had an information table. The purpose of the event was to share information on the social services and healthcare services available to the Port Chester community by organizations, community agencies and medical providers. I am pictured in these photos with staff from Open Door, Don Bosco Executive Director Jerry Rodriguez, Village Trustees Joan Grangenois-Thomas and Phil Dorazio and Perla Zuniga-Arellano of Senator Mayer's staff. Village Trustee John Allen was also in attendance.



To learn more about applying for health insurance, including Medicaid, Child Health Plus, Essential Plan, and Qualified Health Plans through NY State of Health, The Official Health Plan Marketplace, visit www.nystateofhealth.ny.gov or call 1-855-355-5777.

New El Centro Offices Opens



Last weekend I toured the new home for [El Centro Hispano Inc](https://www.elcentrohispano.org/) to celebrate the opening of their vital facility on Central Avenue in White Plains. The new offices include classrooms, offices, a conference room, and training facilities for their expanded programs. Founded in 1974, El Centro Hispano's mission has been to assist, support, and strengthen Hispanic families, to help them become self-sufficient, and to ease their transition into their new culture while maintaining and enriching their own. This visit came just days before this week's passing of Founding Executive Director Isabel Villar after a long illness. Isabel was a giant in making El Centro a key service provider in Westchester and her broader advocacy for the Hispanic Community. She will be sorely missed. The new center is named in her honor.

Assemblyman Steve Otis and State Senator Shelley Mayer Announce Local Bridge Funding for Mamaroneck and Rye

Bridge NY Funding will Assist Flood Resiliency Projects

Westchester, NY - Assemblyman Steve Otis (AD 91) and Senator Shelley Mayer

(SD 37) announced two important state grants awarded to Sound Shore communities that will assist each community with bridge infrastructure projects that are part of broader flood mitigation plans for their respective watersheds.

The City of Rye was awarded \$5 million for the replacement of the Locust Avenue bridge over Blind Brook. The project will provide for better water flow in storm events and help in the city's broader plans to mitigate flooding on the Blind Brook watershed and within Rye's Central Business District.

The Town of Mamaroneck was awarded \$769,000 to help fund the replacement of the superstructure of the Rockland Avenue bridge over Sheldrake River. This project will improve water flow at the Sheldrake River in Mamaroneck and is part of the multi-faceted flood mitigation program in the Village of Mamaroneck.

The confluence of the Sheldrake and Mamaroneck Rivers is one of the most challenging flood damage locations in the state. Separate from these two bridge projects, Assemblyman Otis and Senator Mayer included \$17.5 million in the recently adopted state budget to provide New York State's share of the Federal Army Corps of Engineers project for the Mamaroneck Sheldrake watershed.

Assemblyman Otis said, "These are important state funds to help address flood mitigation issues on the Sound Shore. Governor Hochul has been very supportive of our water infrastructure and storm resiliency needs in Westchester. Congratulations to the Town and Village of Mamaroneck and the City of Rye for submitting successful applications that brings these state dollars to our communities. Senator Mayor and I have worked closely together on flood mitigation and water initiatives in every community we share.

Senator Mayer said, "I am pleased by Governor Hochul's announcement that the Town of Mamaroneck and the City of Rye each received funding for bridge rehabilitation and replacement through the State's BRIDGE NY initiative. Of the \$60.1 million given to the Mid-Hudson region, I am honored that Mamaroneck will receive \$769,000 to replace the superstructure of the Rockland Avenue bridge and the City of Rye will receive \$5 million to replace the Locust Avenue bridge. Given the impact of climate change and flooding in each of these communities, this funding has been a high priority. This investment is critical to ensure our bridges are resilient in the face of increased climate change-related hazards. I applaud Governor Hochul for her commitment to these issues, and thank her; Commissioner Dominguez and the staff of the State Department of Transportation; Mamaroneck Supervisor Jane Elkind Eney and the Mamaroneck

Town Board; City of Rye Mayor Josh Cohn and the City of Rye Council for their efforts.”

Mayor of Rye Josh Cohn said, “The Locust Avenue Bridge is one of our well-known flood trouble spots. We are delighted to have this Bridge NY funding to help replace it. We are very grateful to Senator Mayer and Assemblyman Otis for their constant support, and, of course, to Governor Hochul.

Town of Mamaroneck Supervisor Jaine Elkind Eney said, ““The Town Board and I truly appreciate the awarding of these funds from Governor Hochul’s office as the Town of Mamaroneck continually makes every possible effort to harden our infrastructure to mitigate the effects of flooding in our community. The planned deck replacement on the Rockland Avenue Bridge will improve resiliency of the vehicle crossing that is located on an important Town roadway. The Town will consider all available storm hardening opportunities during design of the bridge improvements to protect our infrastructure and the broader Mamaroneck community against the effects of climate change. Much appreciation goes out to Senator Mayer and Assemblyman Otis who work tirelessly together to champion the Town’s needs.”

Mayor of the Village of Mamaroneck Tom Murphy said, “I am very grateful to Assemblyman Otis and Senator Mayer for coming through for Mamaroneck once again. Where this bridge is located is at the epicenter of flooding and where significant damage has been sustained by our residents. Any improvement that will help speed stormwater through Mamaroneck is both welcome and needed.”

The bridge funding for Mamaroneck and Rye were provided through the State's BRIDGE NY program, which assists local governments across the state harden their existing infrastructure while boosting the resiliency of bridges and culverts in the state. The State's BRIDGE NY initiative supports projects that combat climate change by reducing the risk of flooding, improves the resiliency of structures, facilitates regional economic competitiveness, and prioritizes projects that benefit environmental justice communities.

This announcement builds upon the more than \$716 million that had previously been awarded to local governments statewide. As part of the State's historic \$32.8 billion capital plan adopted last year, \$1 billion was committed to BRIDGE NY, effectively doubling the size of the program.



Environmental Facilities Corporation

Apply for State Water Grants

Clean Water Grant Application - Deadline July 28th

Following the clean water grant workshop in May, I have been working with Westchester local governments encouraging and advising on clean water grant applications. Bolstered by additional funding from the [Clean Air, Clean Water and Green Jobs Environmental Bond Act](#), there is \$425 million available for this round of Water Infrastructure Improvement (WIIA) & Intermunicipal Grants (IMG) funding this year.

Applications are due by 5 p.m. on July 28. I continue to be available to assist local governments with their applications. When this round of funding is concluded, New York State will have awarded over \$2.6 billion in grants to local governments since we started the program in 2015.



TUESDAYS
FREE
RESIDENTS

Free Beach Access
July 11, 18, 25 & Aug 1



PORT CHESTER - 10573 - RYE BROOK - 10573 - RYE CITY-10580 - RYE NECK - 10543
PROOF OF RESIDENCY REQUIRED - STANDARD PARKING FEES APPLY

Rye Town Park Commission present...

4 TUESDAYS - 4 FREE - 4 RESIDENTS!

These free Tuesdays are opened to residents in the following ZIP codes :

Port Chester - 10573, Rye Brook - 10573, Rye City - 10580, Rye Neck - 10543

* Proof of residency is required.

* Parking not included.

NYS Veterans' Services Benefit Advisors



**Schedule a free consultation
for help and information
about available
veterans' benefits.**



The New York State Department of Veterans' Services has experienced Veterans' Services Benefit Advisors ready to help complete applications, obtain necessary documentation, file claims for veterans' benefits and more. To schedule an appointment with a Veterans' Services Benefit Advisor, visit <https://veterans.ny.gov/>.

