



Legislative Report

Comprising the 11th Legislative District:

Port Washington and The Villages of Baxter Estates, Flower Hill, Manorhaven, Port Washington North,
Sands Point • Glen Cove • Glen Head • Glenwood Landing • Roslyn • Roslyn Harbor • Sea Cliff

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Winter 2023

A Message From Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton



Dear Neighbors:

I hope that you are enjoying a healthy and positive start to 2023! The New Year is a time for great optimism and renewing our resolve for tackling the biggest challenges that we currently face as a County. One of those major issues is municipal cybersecurity.

Last September, Suffolk County was hit with a severe malware attack, during which cybercriminals hobbled the County's information technology infrastructure, exposed the Social Security numbers of more than 26,000 County employees, undermined the security of real estate records, and compromised the personal data of more than 470,000 people who had received moving violations in the County.

The ongoing fallout caused by this devastating cyberattack has spanned nearly half a year, and it is natural that Nassau County residents have expressed concerns about security here. That is why the Legislature's Rules Committee, of which I am a member, recently unanimously approved a contract to bolster our cybersecurity resources to prevent the sensitive personal data of employees and citizens from falling into the wrong hands.

By retaining a cybersecurity firm, Nassau County is taking an important step to strengthen our digital defenses and protect your sensitive data to the greatest extent possible. This firm will also be immersed in bolstering Nassau's cyber-resiliency so that we can swiftly root out, respond to, and recover from any future incident.

Strengthening cybersecurity protocols and enhancing the best practices that are already in place are essential steps that we must take to safeguard our sensitive data and protect the functioning of our government in a digital world. I am glad that there is a broad consensus on the importance of this mission, and I hope that gives you some peace of mind in the days to come.

As we continue to navigate this New Year, please do not ever hesitate to reach out to my office with your questions, comments and concerns. Until then, I wish you and your families days filled with good health, love and prosperity!

Delia DeRiggi-Whitton

A Special Guest For Senior Birthdays



Judy Imerti was a beloved member of the Senior Center.

For 16 years, Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton has enjoyed celebrating senior birthdays by purchasing a rose for each person celebrating each month.

Music has always been such a special part of these celebrations. Unfortunately, last year, we lost our beloved pianist Judy Imerti. The celebrations have not been the same without her, and she will remain

sorely missed.

However, we are gratified that Michael Graziosi has graciously stepped up and agreed to share his beautifully trained operatic voice as part of the monthly festivities. He has brought a new gift to our seniors and we are grateful that he has volunteered to share his great talent with us!



Members of the Glen Cove Senior Center enjoy listening to opera singer Michael Graziosi perform.

LED Lights for Baxter Estates

"Delia has been a tireless supporter of this project. She has worked hard to secure funding, and this project will proceed once the Village has received County approval."

- Village of Baxter Estates Mayor Nora Haagenson

The Legislature recently signed off on contracts that will give the County’s Shared Services Department the ability to purchase LED street lighting for various villages. The Incorporated Village of Baxter Estates is one of the villages that will benefit from

this effort and Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton thanks Baxter Estates Mayor Nora Haagenson for the time she has devoted toward bringing this collaborative initiative to fruition.

Singing the Praises of Girls Rising

Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton is proud to have secured a \$10,000 Hotel-Motel Occupancy Fund grant for Girls Rising. This Sea Cliff-based not-for-profit consists of members of the all-female rock group Antigone Rising Nini Camps and Cathy and Kristen Henderson - women that Delia has been proud to call her friends for much of her life.

The funds will be used to further the mission of Girls Rising which strives to

empower and inspire girls and LGBTQ+ youths to pursue careers in traditionally male-dominated fields. The Foundation works with school districts and youth centers to provide strong role models for youths.

Part of their work centers around live performances, presentations and workshops. A special annual event that engages the entire community is the Girls Rising Music Festival that takes place in Glen Cove’s Morgan Park.

Visit www.antigonerising.com/girls-rising to learn more about this important and engaging foundation.



Military Veteran Organizations Receive Grants



Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Post 347 and American Legion Post 1765 have each received \$10,000 grants from Nassau County in support of their ongoing service to Glen Cove’s veterans and the greater community.

The grants, which were funded using a portion of Nassau’s federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allotment, came at an optimal time for both organizations. VFW Post 347 is still rebuilding from an August 2021 blaze that rendered the hall unusable, and both VFW Post 347 and American Legion Post 1765, like so many other institutions, are continuing to recover financially from economic disruptions caused by the worst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

For generations, the members of VFW Post 347 and American Legion Post 1765 have given back so much to the men and women who served our nation. This grant program is just one token of Nassau County’s appreciation for their service.

“We’re looking forward to being able to make important donations for children’s needs and other special organizations once again. We are thankful to Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton for her guidance throughout the process of securing this funding.”

- American Legion Post 1765 Commander David Hubbard

Ready to “Play Ball!”



Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton secured \$85,000 in Community Revitalization Project (CRP) capital funding for sorely-needed renovations to fields in Sea Cliff’s Clifton Park that have been used for decades by baseball and softball leagues in Glen Cove, Glen Head and Sea Cliff – yielding dramatic improvements to the safety and playability of the fields just in time for the spring baseball season.

Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton is grateful to her colleagues for unanimously approving the funding and applauds Sea Cliff Junior Baseball and North Shore Softball League Commissioner Jay Bader and Glen Cove Baseball/Softball Association President Kim Kessel for their tireless efforts to help promote youth athletics within the community.

County Urged to Accelerate Distribution of Opioid Settlement Funds

Most residents of Nassau County have unfortunately experienced the heartbreaking trauma of opioid addiction either through their own struggles or the suffering of family members or friends. Nassau County has joined national lawsuits against multiple opioid manufacturers and distributors to hold them accountable for their role in fueling the crisis by misinforming consumers, and several of the companies have entered into settlements with those municipalities.

As a result of these court actions, Nassau County has received approximately \$77.3 million. The administration plans to draw a minimum of \$15 million from this fund in each of the next four years for the purpose of allocating funds to entities that provide prevention, education and treatment services.

Jointly, the County issued a request for proposals (RFP) seeking qualified vendors to receive grants drawn from a pool of more than \$50 million in opioid settlement funds. This RFP is expected to be implemented during the spring.

Many family members of those afflicted by this condition have expressed their concern regarding the pace at which this potentially life-saving funding has been issued. Members of Families Anonymous came to a recent Nassau County Legislature meeting to share their personal stories and offer their insights for potential uses, including increasing the number of treatment “beds” and emphasizing a dual diagnosis approach to treatment.

Expediting the allocation of these funds will get new and potentially life-saving

A Sea Wall to Preserve History

Built in the 1920s, Falaise (French for “cliff”) at the Sands Point Preserve is a spectacular home that is perched along a cliff overlooking Hempstead Harbor and the Long Island Sound. The 100-year-old sea wall that once stretched the entire shoreline of the 200-acre property has been nearly completely destroyed by nor’easters, wind and tides over the decades. The cliff upon which Falaise sits has also eroded, bringing its edge closer and closer to the beautiful mansion.

To address these dual threats, Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton has secured funding to replace the sea wall along the shoreline below Falaise. Work on the wall was recently completed so that the seawall can continue to protect this historic treasure for decades to come. Visit sandspointpreserveconservancy.org for information about Falaise and the entire 200-acre preserve.



“This money will enable us to augment our clinical services with support that will promote successful community living for those with behavioral health challenges,”

– Glen Cove’s Charles Evans Center Executive Director Dr. James R. Dolan, Jr., LCSW

resources to agencies that are providing prevention and treatment services on the front lines of the response to the opioid crisis - making it more important than ever for Nassau County to intensify its efforts in this realm.

Another Banner Year For Toys For Tots Drive



On a beautiful and unseasonably warm Sunday morning, thousands of people came to Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum to donate new toys to deserving children in need throughout our region. Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton and all the other volunteers were thrilled to meet many of those needs by gathering over 160,000 individual donations – making this once again the largest one-day Toys for Tots collection event in America.

Delia has enjoyed working with Joe LaPadula and Jon Holzer of Martino Auto Concepts, the Toys For Tots committee and the U.S. Marine Corps for the past 12 years. This event is truly an example of the good side of human nature that makes the holiday season so special!



A Special Note From the DeRiggi Family

I am so blessed to have both of my parents, Judge Donald DeRiggi (86) and Dr. Mille DeRiggi (84). Recently my family experienced three situations in which we needed to ask for help from first responders.

My mom unfortunately broke her hip after falling in my driveway. About three months later, she had an episode of very low blood pressure. Both times, Glen Cove EMS was called. They gave her excellent care and she is doing very well as a result.

My dad recently lost his satchel with his phone,



wallet and eyeglasses. Glen Cove Police Sergeant Bifone found it and returned it to my father, saving us countless hours in having to replace all of the items along with his satchel.

We are so lucky to have our amazing first responders. Sometimes we don’t realize it enough until the day we truly need them, and all of us in the DeRiggi-Whitton family would like to offer our sincere thanks to all of the men and women who serve and protect our communities on a daily basis.