



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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Spring 2023

A Message From Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton



Why Nassau Needs a Strong, Independent Inspector General's Office

As a Legislator who served during the height of corruption in Nassau County and witnessed the indictment of former County Executive Ed Mangano, I know firsthand how important it is to have mechanisms in place to protect taxpayer money from the pitfalls of waste and fraud.

During the past last few years, I have worked closely with my Minority Caucus colleagues to strengthen the integrity of Nassau's procurement system and make the process of awarding contracts as fair and secure as possible. We did so by increasing the rigor of our contract reviews; requiring vendors to submit the names of all principals and any political contributions they have made; and mandating the disclosure of any violations an applicant may have been issued. Soon after, we created the Office of the Inspector General and appointed the County's first Inspector General, Jodi Franzese – a proud moment in my legislative career.

Operating as an independent official, the Inspector General and their team promote transparency and increase the accountability of County operations by reviewing each contract to detect and prevent waste, fraud, and the abuse of taxpayer money in Nassau County procurement.

Continued support for the Inspector General's office is critical to further ensuring the integrity of our procurement system – one that encompasses hundreds of millions of dollars each year. However, it appears that there are efforts being made to weaken this crucial County government watchdog.

After her four-year term expired at the end of 2022, the Inspector General worked for months without being reappointed by the Legislature, placing her and the entire office into an uncertain posture. Without the protection that being formally appointed by a bipartisan, 13-vote supermajority provides, the Inspector General's ability to achieve its mission of serving as an independent watchdog is inherently weakened. That is why the Minority Caucus introduced legislation in April to extend the Inspector General's term through 2026. Unfortunately, the Majority rejected our proposal.

Preserving and enhancing ethics safeguards like the Inspector General's office will not only protect taxpayer money from waste, fraud, and abuse, it will also deter future bad actors and help to ensure that elected officials have all the information they need to reach informed decisions. The Minority Caucus will continue to fight tirelessly to dramatically improve the procurement process to make it more transparent, inclusive, and cost-effective because it is essential for Nassau County to continue down this path.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to my office about this or any other issues you would like to discuss.

Delia DeRiggi-Whitton

Investing Federal Relief Money to Achieve Long-Lasting Good

\$600,000 ARPA Grant for Nassau Chambers of Commerce

The Nassau County Legislature authorized the allocation of \$600,000 in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce (NCCC). Those resources will provide the NCCC and its member Chambers with technical assistance to ease the financial burdens that they experienced during the most severe stages of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Potential uses for the funding include business and financial software; website design; social media; search engine optimization; network needs; customer relationship

management software; and more. Visit <http://www.ncchambers.org> for more information.

The NCCC grant program is just one of the many benefits that local businesses have received to date through Nassau County’s use of its \$385 million federal ARPA funding allotment. Other initiatives that have been funded to support local small businesses include the Boost Nassau Main Street Recovery Grant program; low-interest loan opportunities; and other forms of financial assistance. Visit <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/5215>

for more information about Nassau County’s ongoing programs.



Delia with Nassau County Council of Chambers President Frank Camarano

\$2 Million More For Septic Upgrade Program

An additional \$2 million in New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) funding was approved to help residents and small business owners upgrade and modernize their septic systems.

Nassau homeowners and small businesses that discharge less than 1,000 gallons a day of wastewater are eligible to receive up to \$20,000 in grants toward the installation of nitrogen-reducing septic systems through Nassau County’s S.E.P.T.I.C.

(Septic Environmental Program to Improve Cleanliness) program.

The initiative is funded by NYS EFC resources and matching funds from the County’s American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) allotment. To date, Nassau County has allocated more than \$7 million in ARPA funds toward this environmental initiative.

Call 516-364-5861 or visit <https://www.nassauswd.org/SEPTIC> to learn if you are eligible for a S.E.P.T.I.C. program grant.

“I encourage every property owner with a traditional septic system to take advantage of this opportunity while funds are still available.”

– Leg. DeRiggi-Whitton



Resurfacing of the walkways in Baxter's Pond Park has begun, with other beautification improvements to follow.

\$1.725 Million For Sea Cliff Sewer Hook-Ups

Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton spearheaded Legislative approval of an intermunicipal agreement (IMA) that will deliver \$1.725 million in federal American Rescue Plan Act funding to make it more affordable for Sea Cliff property owners to connect to the Village’s newly expanded sanitary sewer system.

The County will use the funding to provide up to \$7,500 to each of the 230 residential and commercial

property owners who can now connect to the sewer system. This federal funding is in addition to approximately \$3 million in state grants and approximately \$1 million in village resources that were invested in the sewer expansion.

Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton is gratified that the County has agreed to invest a significant amount of ARPA funds in a program that will help property owners pay for

improvements that will deliver tremendous environmental, economic, and quality of life benefits.



\$1.55 Million to Combat Emerging Contaminants in Our Water

The Nassau County Legislature has allocated \$1.55 million in American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding toward efforts by water



suppliers to remove emerging contaminants and toxins from our drinking water. This funding will be drawn from \$6 million in federal funding already dedicated to support an array of water quality initiatives, and each eligible public and private water supplier will receive a \$50,000 grant in support of their efforts.

In pursuit of these priorities, water districts can apply the funding toward conducting studies; planning and design remediation initiatives; purchasing equipment, materials, and supplies; developing operations manuals, guidelines, and materials; maintaining removal systems that are

already online; and defraying the cost of lab testing. The Nassau County Department of Public Works will oversee the administration and implementation of these projects.

These funds will equip water districts to continue their efforts to combat emerging contaminants such as 1, 4-Dioxane and PFOs/PFOAs (perfluorooctanoic acid), which have been found in the aquifers that provide Long Island with all of its drinking water.

Contact your local water district to learn more about these ongoing efforts to preserve and protect our drinking water.



Manorhaven Boulevard is even more beautiful for spring with the new hanging planters courtesy of the Greater Port Washington Business Improvement District.

Overcoming Challenges and Making a Difference

Crossing Guard Carlos Vazquez

In March, Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton and her colleagues welcomed Glen Cove School District crossing guard Carlos Vazquez to the Theodore Roosevelt Executive & Legislative Building. Everyone in attendance celebrated his remarkable recovery from life-threatening injuries he sustained after being struck by a car outside Deasy Elementary School.

In the aftermath of this incident – and a previous 1985 incident in which he was hit by a 40-ton Mack truck while riding his motorcycle and suffered the loss of one of his legs – Vazquez has distinguished himself as a beacon of inspiration in Glen Cove through his positive attitude, remarkable resilience, dedication to the children he protected, and commitment to giving back to the community.

After Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton congratulated him on his outstanding recovery and years of dedicated service to the children of Glen Cove, Carlos met with Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman who presented him with a Nassau County Police Department Challenge Coin in recognition of his service as a Nassau County crossing guard.



A Grandmother’s Grief Turns to Staunch Advocacy

On November 20, 2022, Corinne Kaufman’s beautiful granddaughter Paige Gibbons passed away from an accidental fentanyl overdose just four days after her 19th birthday. Kaufman channeled her grief by launching “Families Against Fentanyl,” which advocates for getting Narcan kits in every middle and high school nurse’s office and making fentanyl test strips readily available.



Last summer, Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton and other Legislative Minority members introduced the “Families Against Fentanyl” law, which requires fentanyl detecting test strips to be bundled with Narcan kits distributed by the County. The law also authorizes the Department of Mental Health, Chemical Dependency and Developmental Disabilities to provide strips upon request directly to residents.

In March, the Nassau County Legislature recognized Corinne as a Women’s History Month Trailblazer for her relentless advocacy in the fight to prevent fentanyl overdoses and deaths on Long Island.

If you or a loved one is in need of assistance with substance abuse and addiction, please call Nassau County’s 24/7 Behavioral Health Helpline at 516-227-7057.

“Cooking For a Cure” Honors the Paolillo Family

The 17th Annual “Cooking For a Cure” gala took place on April 17 at the Crescent Beach Club in Bayville. This event and others conducted through the year raise money for the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation (DRI). This year’s gala honored the Paolillo family for their unwavering support of the organization and their fundraising efforts, which include launching new ones of their own.

Soon after Kathryn Paolillo was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetes at the age of 18, she and the rest of the Paolillo family and their

friends eagerly jumped into multiple fundraising events for the DRI.

Four years and dozens of initiatives later, the Paolillos are devoting more and more time and energy toward raising money and awareness as the pursuit of a cure continues. For three generations, the family has lived in Glen Cove and owns S. Paolillo & Sons, a successful Electrical and HVAC contracting business.

Visit <http://www.diabetesresearch.org> for more information.