



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

www.NassauCountyNY.gov

dderiggiwhitton@nassaucountyny.gov

Fall 2023

A Message From Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton



Dear Neighbor:

I hope that you and your family are enjoying a wonderful start to the 2023-24 school year! As our children return to classrooms and the leaves begin their autumnal change, our nation is highlighting another vital milestone as we observe September as National Recovery Month.

Since being established in 1989 by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, National Recovery Month has become a powerful vehicle for promoting and supporting new treatment and prevention practices, honoring the hard work and courage of Americans in recovery, and recognizing the countless service providers, communities, and organizations that make recovery available and possible for all who seek it.

In Nassau County and across our country, the perils posed by the disease of addiction are more severe than I can ever remember. As if the fentanyl crisis wasn't frightening enough, drugs like "tranq" are adding a new type of danger to the crisis. Formally known as Xylazine, "tranq" is an animal tranquilizer that is increasingly being used as an additive to heroin, cocaine, and fentanyl. It is beginning to appear in drug tests at Nassau County treatment centers, and the effects upon users are truly horrific. Worse yet, we are learning of an emerging group of synthetic opioids that may be even more powerful than fentanyl.

These disturbing new developments illustrate how high the stakes are in the ever-evolving battle against addiction. Now more than ever, if there is a potentially life-saving resource that we can add to our toolkit, we must avail ourselves of it. That is why my office was one of the first in Nassau County to begin hosting Narcan training sessions years ago, and I have continued to work closely with stakeholders since that time to expand upon these tools.

During this Legislative term, my Minority Caucus colleagues and I have co-sponsored legislation that would require the County to add fentanyl-detecting test strips to any Narcan kit that we distribute. A second proposed law would facilitate the distribution of kits that safely destroy and dissolve unwanted prescription drugs at home. While I am disappointed that the Legislative Majority has not yet even held a public hearing on these proposals, I will not give up in the fight to enact common-sense, low-cost, and most importantly – potentially life-saving – policies.

I furthermore remain concerned by the manner in which the County is distributing tens of millions of dollars that we have received from various settlements with opioid manufacturers, distributors, and sellers. While significant sums have been earmarked to an array of worthwhile entities who are serving on the front lines of the addiction crisis, we have received little – if any – information from the administration as to whether the County has distributed the funds. With so many threats on the horizon, it is essential for these resources to be delivered in as expeditious and transparent a manner as possible.

As new proceeds arrive from future settlements, I believe that Nassau County would be well served by investing those funds into expanding Nassau University Medical Center's detox and in-patient rehab facilities to ensure that nobody is ever prevented from getting treatment for addiction because there isn't a bed available for them. Our unique relationship with NUMC offers Nassau County a golden opportunity to establish ourselves as a regional leader in the delivery of recovery opportunities, and it is one we should take full advantage of.

Never forget that people who are in recovery very seldom do it alone – and if you are struggling as you read this, I want you to know that there are people out there who care about you and are eager to extend a helping hand. If you need assistance with substance abuse or a mental health crisis, I encourage you to call the Nassau County Crisis Helpline at 516-227-TALK (8255) and take that first step toward reclaiming your life.

Delia DeRiggi-Whitton

Free Backpacks for Schoolchildren



Before students returned to class for the 2023-24 school year, Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton partnered with the Nassau County PBA to distribute more than 600 free backpacks loaded with supplies. Hundreds of children received filled backpacks during the drive-through/walk-up event that took place outside of Glen Cove High School. Thank you to the Glen Cove PD PBA and all our volunteers for your assistance with an event that has become a much-anticipated annual tradition!

Baxter's Pond Renovations Nearly Complete



Using funding secured by Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton, repairs to Baxter's Pond are now nearly complete. Pavers have been replaced and reset, new benches and garbage receptacles were recently installed, lighting was improved, and some trees were pruned. Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton is gratified that she had an opportunity to partner with the Baxter's Pond Foundation to beautify this wonderful community park.

Call 516-500-0657 to Report Hate Crimes and Bias Incidents

Hate has no place in Nassau County. The Nassau County Police Department has established a dedicated phone line for reporting hate crimes and bias incidents – an initiative which was unfortunately necessitated by the rising number of incidents of harassment, vandalism, and worse targeting minority groups in our community.



If you are a witness to or a victim of a hate crime or a bias incident, we encourage you to “recognize it, report it, and stop it” by calling, texting, or sending photos to police at 516-500-0657 or emailing them at combatbias@pcdn.org. Emergencies should still be reported directly to 911.

Shore Road Streetscape Planning Moves Forward

Comments from meetings with residents related to the Shore Road traffic safety and beautification project in Glen Cove and Sea Cliff will be incorporated into forthcoming plans for transforming this mile-long thoroughfare.

Persistent flooding is one of the major concerns residents have expressed. At a recent meeting, Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton informed residents that Nassau County's Department of Public Works will inspect outflow pipes and order repairs where they are not functioning properly. Those findings will also be incorporated into a comprehensive drainage study which will be used to launch the design phase for the project.

To support the initial phases of this important road project, Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton recently secured \$700,000 in additional bonding, bringing the total bonded amount thus far to \$1.05 million.

Planned pedestrian and bicyclist safety improvements include the installation of additional and wider sidewalks, bicycle lanes, radar speed devices, and new curbs to make the Sea Cliff waterfront safer and more walkable. Decorative lamp posts, brick walkways, benches, garbage receptacles and other amenities are also envisioned as part of the streetscape. Once the design phase is complete, draft plans will be presented to residents for review and feedback.

Reimbursements for Sea Cliff Sewer Hookups

Sea Cliff property owners who need to connect to the expanded sanitary sewer system or have already done so are now eligible to be reimbursed for up to \$7,500 in costs associated with the project. Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton advocated for and secured the use of federal American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) resources for this initiative.

Reducing the use of septic systems by expanding and upgrading Sea Cliff's sewer system will go a long way toward protecting our natural resources for many years to come.



Glen Cove Basketball Courts Refurbished



A \$65,000 Nassau County Community Development Block Grant was applied toward renovating basketball courts at the Glen Cove City Stadium. Renovations included stripping and resurfacing the asphalt, purchasing six backboards, and replacing rims and nets. The Glen Cove Community Development Agency helped to oversee the project.

These basketball courts assist several public service agencies that serve our youth and all the residents of Glen Cove. Thank you to Ann Fangman and Spiro Tsirkas for spearheading this project!

Nassau Pursues Text-To-911 Service



To make it easier for residents to contact the Nassau County Police Department in the event of an emergency, the Legislature's Rules Committee, of which Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton is a member, approved a contract with a vendor that will install a system making it possible for residents to text 911 in addition to calling. These services will be especially valuable for people who are deaf or hard of hearing; have limited English proficiency; or need to reach authorities discreetly, such as in an active shooter, hostage, or domestic violence crisis.

Once activated, the interface will automatically transfer text message 911-related information to NCPD's current Computer Aided Dispatch system. Anyone who misuses text to 911 would be subject to the same penalties as those who misuse 911 by phone.

Text to 911 is already live in numerous New York State municipalities, including Suffolk, Ulster, Niagara, and Putnam Counties. Nassau County was required to implement a program under the terms of a May 2023 settlement in a case alleging violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

Sands Point Preserve Bridge Restoration

The long-awaited project to repair the Sands Point Preserve bridge is moving forward. Following Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton's advocacy, the Legislature recently approved an additional \$200,000 in capital funding for the refurbishment project, bringing the total bond authorization to \$2.4 million. We will keep you up to date on the latest details about this important public works project!

Another Fabulous Downtown Sounds Season



Co-sponsored by Nassau County, the 26th Downtown Sounds concert series was better than ever. For four Fridays each in July and August, downtown Glen Cove came alive as concertgoers danced in the streets to live music from eight fabulous bands. Thank you as always to the Glen Cove BID for organizing this amazing event series!

Property Tax Exemption Workshop



On Thursday, October 5, 1 p.m. Department of Assessment staff will provide individual assistance to homeowners on filing for various tax exemptions and ensure that they are receiving every exemption that they qualify for.

Sea Cliff Village Hall
300 Sea Cliff Ave.
Sea Cliff, N.Y. 11579

Bringing Composting to Schreiber High School

Port Washington Schreiber High School senior Sadie Muller, who interned with Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton this summer, is heading up a program that will hopefully result in the installation of a composter in her school cafeteria’s kitchen and/or lunchroom. She will guide staff and students on how composting works and engage ReWild Long Island at the Dodge House and the Science Museum of Long Island to use the composted material in their respective gardens.

Sadie also helps Residents Forward organize programming for their annual Youth Climate Summit and is pursuing to a career in environmental policy and sociology after college. We look forward to working closely with Sadie as we pursue additional environmentally friendly legislation and community initiatives.

Millie DeRiggi Celebrates Her 85th Birthday



Delia recently joined with her father, former Glen Cove Mayor Don DeRiggi, in marking a milestone birthday for her mother Millie. Thank you to the Glen Cove Senior Center for hosting special events each month to celebrate our birthday babies!