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August 11, 2021

Dear Friends,

With the announcement of the Governor's resignation, the spotlight now shines on Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul, who will become governor in two weeks. She will do an exceptional job as governor. She knows every level of government and every community in the state.

I have known Kathy for many years having first met her when she visited Mamaroneck after she was elected to Congress. Kathy served for many years at the local level on her town board and as county clerk. I've had the pleasure of seeing the Lt. Governor meet with constituents across the Empire State: in Buffalo (also my wife's hometown), in the Adirondacks, in Manhattan, and across all of Westchester.

As Lt. Governor she has traveled to every corner of the state, more vigorously than any of her predecessors, visiting local officials, business owners, leaders of not-for-profits and educators. A typical day crisscrossing the state could start with a morning meeting in New York City, an upstate event in the middle of the day and an evening stop in a downstate suburb.

Kathy chairs New York's Regional Economic Development Councils that guide our state's economic development strategies through the participation of business, labor and community involvement. She also chairs the Heroin and Opioid Task Force and has been an advocate for human rights, women's and labor issues throughout her life.

I know firsthand that Kathy Hochul brings the energy, commitment and experience to lead New York State and successfully address the challenges before us.

Warm regards,

Steve



Assemblyman Otis with Kathy Hochul at Rye Playland during one of the Lt. Governor's frequent visits to Westchester.

Federal Commitment on Clean Water: A Win for New York

I have been closely following the federal infrastructure bill just adopted by the US Senate and moving through the approval process. Thanks to the leadership of Majority Leader Schumer, Senator Gillibrand and the congressional delegation, the news is good for New York.

The clean water programs that I have worked on most closely, run by the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation, will receive additional funding. The bill adopted by the Senate will increase federal funding to state clean water revolving loan funds and modify the formula to assist all states. New York has one of the nation's most active revolving loan fund programs.

The federal bill will also provide additional support for state clean water grant programs, a cause I have championed. This will help with the NYS Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) grant program that has benefited many Westchester communities, especially along the Sound Shore.

In addition, the federal bill also gives priority and new funding for lead pipe removal, emerging containments and eliminating lead exposure in schools and at childcare centers.

Earlier this year I wrote Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and the New York congressional delegation on the importance of clean water funding. The Senate approved infrastructure bill delivers on clean water. The bill will move to the reconciliation process and full approval in the near future. I expect these clean water provisions to remain in place.



Emergency Rental Assistance Program

Households adversely affected by COVID-19 can qualify for up to **12 months of past due rent, three months of future rent** and up to **12 months of overdue utility bills**. Applications accepted beginning June 1.

For more information, visit otda.ny.gov/ERAP

 Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance



Empire State
Development

Workforce Development Initiative (WDI)

[Second Round of \\$175 Million Workforce Development Initiative Application](#)

[Portal is Open](#)

Second Round of Funding Makes \$48 Million Available to Help New Yorkers Find Quality, Well-Paid Jobs and to Meet the Short and Long-Term Workforce Needs of Businesses

Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program Virtual Information Session – Funding Still Available!

Thursday, August 19th at 12pm

Register [HERE](#)

[Launch of \\$35 Million Restaurant Return-to-Work Tax Credit Program](#)

Initiative Will Provide Financial Relief to Restaurants That Rapidly Hire Workers; Restaurants May Qualify for Up To \$50,000 in Tax Credits.

More Information and Application Portal Available [Here](#)



NYSDOL is offering FREE virtual workshops on resume writing, interviewing, transferable skills, and more. Review our options for the month and register today. You can take advantage of virtual workshops from any career center in the state. [Register online > Or download the monthly calendar](#)

Job Boards

- **New York Hire** has 72k job listings / <https://nyhirenow.usnlx.com/> Search by job posting or region.
- **Indeed** shows 8k Westchester area jobs posted in June. <https://www.indeed.com/q-Search-jobs.html>
- **LinkedIn** has 27k Westchester area jobs posted in

June. <https://www.linkedin.com/jobs/>

- **NPW** maintains a job board featuring job listings with its local Westchester membership: <https://nonprofitwestchester.mcjobboard.net/jobs>
- **VET Central Direct** Jobs are posted daily by federal contractors in the Westchester-Putnam area. The details of the job listing are available online and can be searched by level, location, and employer. <https://www.jobcentraldirect.com/jobs/vet/39657>

On Sept. 5, 2021, several federal unemployment programs are expiring:

- ▶ Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA)
- ▶ Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC)
- ▶ Extended Benefits (EB)
- ▶ \$300 Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC)



Visit dol.ny.gov/fedexp to connect with state benefit programs and job search resources.

Download Excelsior Pass Plus

Excelsior Pass provides a free, fast and secure way to present digital proof of COVID-19 vaccination or negative test results.

Excelsior Pass is digital proof of vaccination status that can be downloaded to your

smart phone and allows individuals access to venues requiring vaccination status or proof of a negative Covid test. To date, over 3 million regular Excelsior Passes to demonstrate proof of vaccination, have been [retrieved](#) and this new expansion will allow New Yorkers to display their Excelsior Pass Plus at hundreds of businesses and locations that require proof of vaccination. The Passes can also be used when traveling to entities where SMART Health Cards are accepted.

SMALL BUSINESS RECOVERY PROGRAMS

[Empire State Development](#)

[Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program](#)

[Other key programs and information:](#)

[Restaurant Resiliency Program](#)

[Restaurant Return to Work Tax Credit](#)

[NY Forward Loan Fund](#)

[ArtsWestchester Grant Program \[grants@artswestchester.org\]\(mailto:grants@artswestchester.org\)](#)

[NYS Council of the Arts \[help@arts.ny.gov\]\(mailto:help@arts.ny.gov\)](#)

[Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program - FAQ](#)

[Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant Program - Program Overview](#)

[Help Navigating State and Federal Small Business Assistance Programs](#)



Lawn Chair Theater Summer Performances a Success

Lawn Chair Theater is a not-for-profit arts organization that annually produces the plays of William Shakespeare as contemporary works. This year's innovative musical production was "A Midsummer Night's Queen" with well-attended performances in public parks including Bedford, Chappaqua, New Rochelle, Rye and Rye Town Park. The cast of 23 local performers and their 17-person crew featured live band performances of songs by the legendary rock group Queen. This is their 16th season with prior years featuring As You Like It, The Tempest, The Taming of the Shrew, Much Ado About Nothing, Twelfth Night, Two Gentlemen of Verona, and Romeo & Juliet. To learn more go to www.lawnchairtheatre.org

I attended the July 22 show on the Rye Village Green where I ran into Rye Free Reading Room Director Chris Shoemaker.



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