

DISTRICT 92 NEWSLETTER: WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES

Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky

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LEGISLATION THAT SUPPORTS OUR COMMUNITIES

Fully Funding School Aid

The 2023-24 State Budget represents a milestone for public education funding in New York. Every public school district is now fully funded under the Foundation Aid formula that was adopted in 2007. This year's \$2.6 billion increase brings total Foundation Aid up to \$24 billion. There remains work to be done to make the formula more equitable, which we hope to address for the 2024-25 fiscal year budget, but this year's increase represents a significant stride for our schools and our children.

- \$4 million increase for the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns
- \$2 million increase for the Irvington Union Free School District
- \$1.8 million increase for the Dobbs Ferry Union Free School District
- \$1.6 million increase for the Hastings-on-Hudson Union Free School District
- \$4 million increase for the Ardsley Union Free School District
- \$2.7 million increase for the Mount Pleasant Central School District
- \$2 million increase for the Elmsford Union Free School District
- \$2 million increase for the Pleasantville Union Free School District
- \$250,000 increase for the Greenburgh Central School District
- \$14 million increase for Yonkers Public Schools
- \$149,000 decrease for the Pocantico Hills Central School District (overfunded in previous years)

Additional education increases made this year include \$135 million to provide free school meals for up to 300,000 more students, \$115 million for Schools for the Blind and Deaf, \$150 million to expand universal pre-kindergarten, and \$281 million to the SUNY and CUNY systems to keep public higher-ed tuitions flat.

Passing Home Rule Legislation

Much of the legislative calendar deals with matters more directly concerning our County and municipal governments. These bills often get into the minutiae of government, but they are needed to help our local bodies function properly – which benefits us all.

Examples include four successful efforts by Westchester's State legislative delegation to pass laws:

- Authorizing Westchester County to set pistol license fees that are commensurate with the cost of providing the service, including background investigations (A.5092)
- Authorizing Westchester County to install red light cameras to protect pedestrians and the motoring public along the Bronx

River Parkway and other County thoroughfares (A.7206B)

- Authorizing Westchester County to continue its sales tax extension through November 30, 2025 (A.6246A)
- Allowing for guardians ad litem in Westchester County to be considered employees for the purpose of representation and indemnification in civil actions (A.5263)

The Assembly also enacts Home Rule legislation for individual municipalities: Three local authorizations that I sponsored were passed by the Legislature, for the Town of Mount Pleasant (A.6693, A.7453) and Village of Dobbs Ferry (A.6492). My office is already hard at work with our local governments to prepare more such legislation for 2024.

Saving the Hudson River

When Holtec announced its plan to discharge 1.3 million gallons of radioactive water from Indian Point into the Hudson River, our community rose in opposition. The "Save the Hudson" law, enacted by Governor Hochul in August, will protect this invaluable resource and promote the economic vitality of our Hudson River waterfronts for generations to come. (A.7208)

Letting Our Municipalities Lead on Housing Development

While most of our legislative achievements reflect those items that we succeed in getting passed, sometimes they also include items we were able to defer. In this year's budget negotiations, our Westchester delegation uniformly opposed the Governor's Housing Compact and Transit-Oriented Development proposals, which would have overridden local zoning laws, bypassed environmental reviews, and increased housing density without investing in the infrastructure needed to go with it. For our communities, with their small and, in some cases, historic downtowns, a one-size-fits-all approach will not work. I am pleased to see that the Governor has since implemented, and our communities are making use of, an incentive-based approach for creating new housing.

NEW YORK STATE INVESTS IN DISTRICT 92



Inspecting the Tarrytown waterfront with Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie

\$13.9 Million Project on South Broadway in Tarrytown

The New York State Thruway Authority is working on a \$13.9 million multimodal project along South Broadway (Route 9) in Tarrytown. This project features the construction of a new pedestrian-bicycle bridge over I-87/I-287 to provide a much-needed safe connection between Tarrytown and Irvington. Also included are an extension of the side path on the Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge south to Lyndhurst Mansion, a new traffic signal at Paulding Avenue, and several other traffic and infrastructure improvements in this busy corridor.

\$4.5 Million for Downtown Revitalization in Sleepy Hollow

Sleepy Hollow was one of two Mid-Hudson Region villages to receive a \$4.5 million grant from the NY Forward program. This award by New York State will support the revitalization



In session at the New York State Assembly Chambers in Albany

of Sleepy Hollow's historic downtown corridor, as the Village expands residential development of its riverfront.

\$2.1 Million for Infrastructure Projects in the Rivertowns

It was my great pleasure to host Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie on a tour of District 92 this August, where he announced investments in critical local infrastructure projects. \$2 million will be used to repair the High Street Bridge in Dobbs Ferry. \$500,000 will help fund repairs to the H-Bridge in Tarrytown, and an additional \$100,000 will help fund an initiative for electric vehicle charging stations Irvington.



Viewing deterioration under the High Street Bridge in Dobbs Ferry

Funding to Keeping Our Communities Thriving:

- Nearly \$500,000 in State Aid for Library Construction awards to the Greenburgh, Hastings-on-Hudson, and Warner libraries
- \$149,000 for renovations to Valhalla American Legion Post 1038
- \$34,000 for technology updates and programs at the Dobbs Ferry Senior Citizen Program
- \$28,000 for a health and wellness program at the Shames JCC on the Hudson in Tarrytown
- \$12,000 for the community garden project at the Theodore D. Young Community Center in Greenburgh



Commemorating the Four Chaplain Heroes of World War II at Valhalla American Legion Post 1038

Funding to Enrich the Lives of Our Residents:

- \$140 million in 2023 NYSCA Funding to local arts and cultural organizations statewide, including Broadway Training Center, Greater Hudson Heritage Network, Hudson Valley Writer's Center, Jacob Burns Film Center, Jazz Forum Arts, Magic Box Productions, Lyndhurst Mansion, Random Farms Kids Theater, RiverArts, Tarrytown Music Hall, and Westchester Music of India Group
- \$35,000 to ArtsWestchester for a public art mural in Pleasantville
- \$27,000 for arts and cultural programs at the Thornwood American Legion
- \$25,000 for the summer basketball camp at the New York School for the Deaf in Greenburgh/White Plains
- \$24,000 for a children's music program at Abbott House in Irvington
- \$20,000 for educational programs at Historic Hudson Valley

I will continue to work with our town and village representatives to identify more areas of opportunity, and look forward to sharing more grant confirmations in the weeks and months to come!

LISTENING TO OUR RESIDENTS

Hearing from you is essential to my work as your representative. In addition to a virtual Budget Forum held last February, I have participated in Coffee & Conversation events at the Theodore D. Young Community Center and Dobbs Ferry Public Library, and hosted a listening event dedicated to our small business owners. We will continue to hold more of these events throughout the district, and welcome your participation.

Listening isn't confined to special events. It happens every day, at all kinds of settings. That is why I attend as many community events as I can. If you are hosting an event that you believe I should know about, contact shimskym@nyassembly.gov and either I or a member of my staff will try to attend.



Coffee & Conversation event in Dobbs Ferry, with County Executive George Latimer and County Legislator David Imamura

HATE CRIME REPORTING

Call 1-844-NO-2-HATE (1-844-662-4283) to report bias-motivated threats, harassment, or discrimination. New York's new toll-free hotline is open 9 AM- 5 PM, Monday to Friday.

A report also can be filed online at on.ny.gov/45KNUQj. The Hate and Bias Prevention Unit at the New York State Division of Human Rights will review each report and offer support, resources, or referrals as appropriate. Your personal identifying information will not be disclosed under the State's Freedom of Information Law.

If you need to report a crime or fear for your safety, please call 911 immediately.



STOP the HATE



With the NAACP White Plains/Greenburgh chapter for their screening of *Selma*



Keeping our environment healthy and beautiful at the Great Saw Mill River Clean-Up, Ardsley



Marching in the Sleepy Hollow St. Patrick's Day Parade



Honoring master barber Jerome Campbell at the 2023 Colby Jenkins Day Senior Breakfast, Greenburgh



Touring the new disaster simulation and education facility at New York Medical College in Valhalla



At the Elmsford Fire Department inspection



At National Day Out in Greenburgh with members of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority



Celebrating Black History Month at Mercy University in Dobbs Ferry



Thank you to the nearly 40 people who made our June 30th blood drive a success; here with donors Sleepy Hollow Mayor Martin Rutyna (left) and MaryJane's husband, David Agosto (right)



Celebrating the Irvington Girls Soccer team, New York State 2022 Class B champions



Learning about gas-free induction cooking at a Mothers Out Front event in the Zwilling Cooking Studio in Pleasantville



September 11th commemoration at the Dobbs Ferry Fire Department



Our Unclaimed Funds event with Comptroller DiNapoli, at the Hastings-on-Hudson Public Library



My ceremonial swearing-in at Springhurst Elementary School, Dobbs Ferry



Celebrating the Pace University Women's Lacrosse Team, 2023 NCAA Division II champions — a Westchester County university's first national team title!



At the Court of Honor for Ardsley Troop 3's newest Eagle Scouts

LET'S STAY IN TOUCH!

Please sign up for the District 92 email list to receive the "news you can use" in our area. To subscribe, scan the QR code here or visit nyassembly.gov/mem/MaryJane-Shimsky/enews/.



You can also follow my official Facebook account, "Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky," for more frequent updates.



Dear Friends,

In this, my first year as your Assemblymember, I have had the privilege of serving the 12 communities that comprise the 92nd Assembly District. And I am proud to send you my first newsletter about how we have worked cooperatively in our local communities.

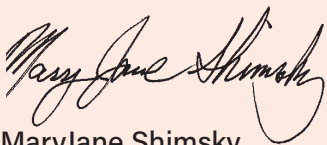
I have met or communicated with many of you; I have visited our municipal buildings, school facilities, agencies, and parks, as well as many businesses and homes; and have attended a wide range of celebrations, meetings, discussions, and other local events. I have heard from many of you about your achievements, your hopes and fears, and your dreams for the future — the kinds of conversations that result in the legislative initiatives our communities need. I plan to keep listening to you and working with you, and elected officials at all levels of government, to help make our district the best place possible in which to live, work, visit, learn, and raise a family.

I have worked with our local governments to pass State authorizations allowing them to ensure the public safety and achieve economic sustainability; laws to help their employees, residents, and businesses; and statewide laws with important local ramifications. As this year draws to a close, my staff and I are working cooperatively with many of our localities on such laws for next year's session.

My office also is in the process of distributing grants to local governments and organizations, for projects ranging from infrastructure improvements to enrichment programs. In addition to funds allocated to all members, our Assembly district received extra funding from Speaker Carl Heastie, to repair bridges that connect two of our Villages to waterfront train stations, and to provide more charging stations for electric vehicles. These grants can make all the difference for our communities, and support our economic well-being.

I have worked steadfastly to serve you as your Assemblymember this year, and I am excited to share with you some of the highlights of our local initiatives and activities. If you would like to receive weekly updates and occasional news alerts, please visit nyassembly.gov/mem/MaryJane-Shimsky/enews/ to sign up for my email list.

Wishing you a happy and safe holiday season!



MaryJane Shimsky

Assemblymember 92nd District

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Assemblymember **MaryJane Shimsky**

**DISTRICT 92 NEWSLETTER:
WORKING WITH OUR COMMUNITIES**

HEAP ENROLLMENT IS OPEN

**SAVE ON YOUR
ENERGY COSTS**



The Home Energy Assistance Program (HEAP) can help eligible New Yorkers heat and cool their homes. Eligibility is determined by income, household size, the primary heating source,

and the presence of a household member who is under age 6, age 60 or older, or permanently disabled. To learn more about HEAP and to apply, visit ny.gov/services/apply-heap.

GET VACCINATED, STAY HEALTHY

We all have a role in keeping our communities safe. If you are medically able, please help limit the spread of infection and protect against severe illness this holiday season by getting vaccinated.

The current COVID-19 and flu vaccines are recommended for everyone six months and older. The RSV vaccine is recommended for those 60 years and older, and older individuals also may want to get the pneumonia and shingles vaccines. Children should be kept up to date with their annual physical check-ups and routinely recommended vaccines. Please check with your health care provider to determine which vaccines are recommended for you and your family.

COVID-19 vaccination appointments can be made online at www.vaccines.gov or by calling the national vaccine hotline at 1-800-232-0233. Every U.S. household can also request to receive four free COVID-19 rapid tests at www.COVID.gov/tests.

**Free at-home
COVID-19 tests**

**ORDER
TODAY!**

