



# Legislative Report

Comprising the 2nd Legislative District:

Hempstead - Hicksville - Lakeview - New Cassel - Rockville Centre

Uniondale - Westbury - West Hempstead

## STEM Scholars Shine In New Scholarship Program At Back-to-School Event

Continuing her efforts to ensure students of all ages are prepared for success, Legislator Bynoe had the pleasure of presenting \$1,500 college scholarships to three STEM scholars at the Tanglewood Preserve in Lakeview this past August.



The scholarships were awarded during Legislator Bynoe's fourth annual "Road to Success" school supply giveaway in Lakeview. Back-to-school essentials were sponsored by Bethpage Federal Credit Union.

Legislator Bynoe also partnered with the Able Body of Believers Alliance, Inc., under the leadership of Evangelist Reginald Benjamin, to distribute school supplies and daily essentials to hundreds of youngsters at an event hosted by Hempstead's Bethlehem of Judea Church.

And in Westbury, Legislator Bynoe partnered with North Hempstead Town leaders, the Nassau County Police Department, NCPD Police Department Foundation, NCPD Detectives Association, the Nassau County Police Benevolent Association and the Superior Officers Association to provide backpacks for more than 1,000 children at that community's fifth annual "Road to Success" Backpack Giveaway. Stay tuned for more on next year's events and scholarships!



## First-Time Homebuyers Get Resources at Seminar



To ensure residents have the knowledge and resources they need to pursue the American dream of home ownership, Legislator Bynoe partnered with Minority Leader Kevan Abrahams, the Long Island Housing Partnership, State of New York Mortgage Agency, and Nassau County Office of Housing and Community Development to host a first-time homebuyer and housing seminar.

Residents learned about down payment assistance programs, default and foreclosure prevention counseling, emergency mortgage assistance programs and a housing rehabilitation grant program that aims to encourage the purchase and rehabilitation of foreclosed homes.



## A message from Legislator Siela A. Bynoe



Dear neighbor:

I hope you and your family are enjoying a wonderful start to the New Year. During this time of reflection, I would like to update you on some key issues facing our district and take a look back at some of our accomplishments in 2018:

- ◆ I am proud to have secured passage of legislation that will require all Nassau County employees that provide services to the public to receive **mental health first aid training** (page 1).
- ◆ My efforts to ensure ongoing funding of **college tuition grants for volunteer firefighters and EMS workers** in 2019 were also fruitful (page 2).
- ◆ To ensure minority and woman owned businesses are supported properly, the 2019 budget includes \$90,000 in additional funding for the **Office of Minority Affairs** and \$48,000 for the **Coordinated Agency for Spanish Americans** (page 2).
- ◆ I will continue to fight for taking a methodical and thoughtful approach to correcting Nassau County's **broken assessment system** (page 3).
- ◆ Studies are underway as part of several multi-million dollar **streetscape road improvements in Lakeview, West Hempstead, and Westbury**. In addition, I am proposing \$1.5 million in the 2019 capital plan for improvements at the **Rosa Parks Hempstead Transit Center** (page 3).
- ◆ I am also proud to have secured **\$500,000** for the **African American Museum of Nassau County** (page 3).
- ◆ The Center for Science Teaching and Learning in Lakeview and I launched a new **scholarship program** for **STEM scholars** pursuing their college education (page 4).

As you read this newsletter, I invite you to reach out to my office and share your thoughts on how we can work together to make Nassau County a better place for all its residents in 2019.

-Siela A. Bynoe

## County Adopts Legislator Bynoe's Mental Health First Aid Legislation

Many County employees will receive mental health first aid training this year thanks to legislation that was proposed by Legislator Bynoe and enacted with bipartisan support.



The legislation, which was ratified unanimously by the full Nassau County Legislature on Monday, Dec. 17, 2018 requires employees who frequently interact with the public, such as EMTs, corrections personnel, social services and human services staff, among others, to be trained.

"Mental health first aid is an evidence-based solution that will enable us to connect residents in crisis with the help they need," Legislator Bynoe said. "By guiding people to assistance, we are also setting the stage for addressing the underlying issues facing communities grappling with anti-social individuals, aggressive behavior, and opioid addiction. I am deeply grateful to my colleagues for their unanimous support of this proactive legislation."

First introduced by the National Council for Behavioral Health, more than 1 million people worldwide have received mental health first aid training, and 21 states have implemented the discipline.

Since 2014, Legislator Bynoe forged a bipartisan agreement to bring mental health first aid training to Nassau County and worked with school leaders, local municipalities and community groups to establish a pilot training program.

Legislator Bynoe would love to hear your comments. Please call her at (516) 571-6202 or email [sbynoe@nassaucountyny.gov](mailto:sbynoe@nassaucountyny.gov). For the latest news, you can also follow the Legislator on Facebook.

## Commissioner's Community Council Sworn In



Legislator Bynoe was on hand when the members of the Nassau County Police Commissioner's Community Council were sworn in at the Cradle of Aviation Museum.

The council includes members from each of the County's 19 legislative districts. That team of community stakeholders is tasked with serving as a liaison to the Police Department for expressing issues, concerns and priorities in each district.

The initiative, spearheaded by NCPD Commissioner Patrick Ryder, was in part an outgrowth of conversations between Legislator Bynoe and the new commissioner about strengthening bonds between law enforcement and community leaders, and fostering more collaborative police work through enhanced communication and partnership. Initial meetings of the Commissioner's Council, which convenes monthly, have focused on school safety, gangs, community engagement and quality-of-life issues.



## Decisive Action Preserves First Responder Tuition Grants

After learning that Nassau County has been denied critically important federal funding that the County uses to assist volunteer firefighters and EMS workers with college tuition costs, Legislator Bynoe, in partnership with Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, co-sponsored and secured swift passage of legislation that directs the County to restore funding that was previously provided through FEMA's Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response Grants (SAFER) tuition assistance program.

Any Nassau County college student who enrolled with a participating fire company or EMS squad is eligible to potentially receive thousands of dollars in tuition assistance at Nassau Community College. However, Nassau County was denied funding for the balance of 2018 and the entirety of 2019. Legislator Bynoe's bill that corrects the shortfall was unanimously approved on Monday, Nov. 19, 2018 —just four days after being filed.

"Not only does the SAFER program reward courageous volunteers and encourage college students to become stakeholders in their communities, these funds can play an integral role in helping young people set themselves on the path to a bright and successful future," Legislator Bynoe said.

## Securing Funds to Better Serve Our County's Diverse Communities

Legislator Bynoe's ongoing commitment to ensuring residents from all walks of life have access to important County resources resulted in \$138,000 in new funding to better serve diverse communities, women and service-disabled veterans in 2019.

During the budget process, Legislator Bynoe, in partnership with her colleagues in the Minority Legislative Caucus, secured \$90,000 to fully fund the Office of Minority Affairs and hire two part-time program coordinators and a project director.

Those new staff members will contribute to ensuring the County is fully compliant with project-specific minority/woman business enterprise (MWBE) and veterans' goals.

In addition, Legislator Bynoe and the Democratic caucus secured \$48,000 to hire a program director for the Coordinated Agency for Spanish Americans (CASA).

CASA is a resource and referral agency which contributes to the education and general welfare of Hispanic Americans in Nassau County by providing resources during the immigration process as well as ESL, GED and basic computer educational resources.

Existing resources will also be used to fund the position of Executive Director in accordance with the Nassau County Charter.

"I am thankful that this budget includes funding that will ensure the Office of Minority Affairs is adequately staffed to meet the needs of the diverse business community it serves and ensure compliance with all contracting requirements," said Legislator Bynoe.

## \$500,000 Secured For African-American Museum

The African American Museum of Nassau County is undergoing an extensive overhaul thanks to a \$500,000 Nassau County investment secured under the leadership of Legislator Bynoe.

The funds are being used to improve the visitor experience at the Hempstead Village museum by updating the HVAC system, improving the facility's safety systems and upgrading the structure aesthetically.

The mission of the African American Museum of Nassau County is to "promote understanding and appreciation of African American culture, art and tradition through education, interpretation, exhibitions, collections and programs for the enrichment of the public; with an emphasis on Long Island."



## Investing Millions In Our Infrastructure

Lakeview and Westbury roads will be a priority in Nassau County's ongoing capital projects plan in 2019 thanks to Legislator Bynoe's advocacy for her constituents.

The Nassau Legislature has allocated \$3 million to finance a project that will determine and implement necessary improvements for Union Avenue in Westbury. The two phases of the project are to include a span from School Street to Brush Hollow Road, followed by construction from the crosswalk near the railroad to School Street.

In a second project, an additional \$4 million will be used to improve Maple Avenue from Union Avenue to Post Avenue. There is also \$2.455 million in capital funding in place for a multi-use path in Westbury.

In addition, a \$1.1 million project will yield improvements to Woodfield Road from Oakford Street to Lakeview Avenue in West Hempstead and Lakeview.

Based on initial community feedback, desired improvements include street lights - particularly at Scaneateles and Canandaigua Avenues - new crosswalks, street lights and bus stop shelters throughout the stretch of road. Studies that will determine and chart the final course of these important infrastructure projects are currently underway.

In 2019, Legislator Bynoe is pursuing additional improvements that will enhance the County's transportation infrastructure, and has proposed \$1.5 million in capital funds for improvements to the Rosa Parks Hempstead Transit Center.

## How To Get Answers About Your New Assessment

During 2018, County Executive Curran completed a reassessment of all the homes in Nassau County. The new assessed values, which are posted online at [www.mynassauproperty.com](http://www.mynassauproperty.com), will be utilized during the 2020-2021 tax season.

Residents who have questions or concerns about their assessment can schedule one-on-one meetings with Assessment professionals before Jan. 31 by calling 516-571-4374 or visiting [www.AsktheCountyAssessor.com](http://www.AsktheCountyAssessor.com). Meetings are being conducted at the main Assessor's office in Mineola and four satellite offices throughout the county, including one on Prospect Avenue in Westbury.

The deadline to file a grievance with the Assessment Review Commission (ARC) has been extended to April 30. Residents who are interested in grieving their taxes can learn how during workshops being hosted by Legislator Bynoe and ARC. The workshops are scheduled for:

- ◆ February 6 — Uniondale Library (7 p.m.)
- ◆ February 25 — Lakeview Library (6 p.m.)
- ◆ Workshops in Westbury and Hempstead are being finalized.

For additional details on the assessment workshops, contact Legislator Bynoe's office. To file a grievance online, visit [www.nassaucountyny.gov/arc](http://www.nassaucountyny.gov/arc). For translation services, contact Language-Line Solutions at 1-800-752-6096 or visit [www.languageline.com](http://www.languageline.com)