



# Rockland County Legislator Aney Paul

## 2012 - District 14 Newsletter

*Serving the Communities of Nanuet, New City, Chestnut Ridge, Pomona, Spring Valley, Monsey, and Hillcrest*

### Message From Legislator Aney Paul

Dear Neighbor,

In November 2011, I had the privilege to be elected to represent Legislative District 14. I have dedicated my life to serving our community as a Registered

Nurse at Nyack Hospital, an Adjunct professor at Dominican College, a former President of the New City Library Trustee Board, and many other



community boards and organizations. I feel that being a Legislator is an extension of my commitment to making our community a better place to live, work, and raise our families.

I hope you and your loved ones have enjoyed a healthy and happy summer. I have already met with many of you and will continue to address the concerns and impor-

tant issues affecting Legislative District 14 residents. This newsletter will bring you up-to-date on some of these issues. I value your input and encourage you to contact me on these or other county matters that concern you and your family.

Best regards,

*Aney Paul*

### Senior Focus: West Nile Virus

In light of the recent spread of West Nile Virus (WNV), I spoke with constituents at the Hubert Humphrey Senior Center in Chestnut Ridge to relay important information regarding symptoms and prevention. WNV is a mosquito-borne infection that can cause serious illness, and sometimes death. New York State has a moderate amount of West Nile virus every year. Persons over 50 years of age are at the highest risk for severe disease.

What all Rockland residents can do: get rid of mosquito breeding sites, minimize outdoor activities when mosquitoes are most active, and use personal protection- long sleeves and pants or use of a repellent.

I look forward to visiting more senior centers in the district in the coming months to discuss other issues that concern our seniors.



### Safety First: Repairs Complete & New Signage

Recently, a safety issue was brought to my attention by residents of Chestnut Ridge. Residents reported that a portion of a stone wall over a culvert on Hungry Hollow Road was partially knocked down as the result of a vehicular mishap. The sidewalk in that area is a popular pedestrian route and residents were concerned for the safety of young children.

I met with residents at the site to view the damaged wall and subse-

quently held meetings with Superintendent Vezzetti of the County Highway Department, Director Altieri of the Rockland County Drainage Agency, and Mayor Jerome Kobre. Superintendent Vezzetti advised that the department would take action to have the wall repaired and would install additional road signage, such as chevrons, to more clearly mark a curve in the road. The repairs have since been completed and the

Drainage Agency removed debris from the wall that fell into the creek below.

I am pleased the residents brought this safety matter to me. It was definitely a pedestrian hazard, especially for youngsters. The swift response by Superintendent Vezzetti and Director Altieri to remediate the damage and add additional signage has eliminated the hazard.

*(photo: Leg. Paul with Sup. Vezzetti & Mayor Kobre)*



### Useful Numbers For Seniors

- Office for the Aging (845) 364- 2110
- Dept. of Public Transportation (845) 364-3333
- TRIPS (Seniors/Disabled) (845) 364-8747
- Mini-Trans (845) 623-0667
- AARP Health Insurance Info 1-800-444-6544
- Clarkstown Parks & Recreation (845) 639-6200
- Ramapo Parks & Recreation (845) 357-6100

## Addressing Flooding Issues In Nanuet

Ongoing flooding concerns in several Nanuet neighborhoods have prompted me to visit the sites and have a series of meetings with the Rockland County Highway & Drainage Departments and representatives from the Town of Clarkstown. They are assessing the situation and working towards finding solutions, where possible, as the area is a flood zone.

### Naurashaun Creek Flooding

Flooding of the Naurashaun Creek has occurred with regularity in the vicinity of Cottage Place, Nanuet and also at Fulton Street and Etna Place, Nanuet. I visited the site with the Director of the Rockland County Drainage Agency Vincent Altieri. Subsequently, the culvert was cleaned out from Smith Road to Tenyson Road by the town.

The area of concern, which is in a flood zone, has water depth equal on both sides of the pumphouse at the property belonging to United Water. The area is also flat and swampy, and is a state and federally regulated wetland so it can't be drained out. As a regulatory agency, the County Drainage Agency advised they would take any proposals the Town of Clark-

stown submits and have the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the Army Corps of Engineers review it and ask for a site visit.

### Pascack Brook Flooding

I recently visited residents of Clark Drive, who have been experiencing continual flooding from Pascack Brook, which abuts their properties. The catch basins are regularly cleaned out, but since the area is in a flood zone, it allows for mostly groundwater to go through neighboring homes. During my visit, I viewed a significant amount of construction debris that had been placed in the stream by a nearby property, partially blocking the flow of water. I have asked the Town of Clarkstown to rectify this unsightly and potentially hazardous obstruction.



## Legislator Paul Supports Bills Requiring Workplace Accommodations for Pregnant Women

I introduced a resolution, which was unanimously approved by the Rockland County Legislature that requests the NYS Legislature pass Senate and Assembly bills (S.6273 and A.9114) proposed to amend the law to require employers to provide reasonable accommodations for pregnant working women.

Pregnant women are often forced to take unpaid leave or are fired for requesting small accommodations such as limits on lifting, access to places to sit, and more frequent bathroom breaks. Working during pregnancy is a necessity for many women. Pregnant women who are forced to leave their jobs because of inadequate accommodations often have no choice but to use government resources such as public assistance and Medicaid, which drain taxpayers' funds. A reasonable accommodations law can keep pregnant women in the workforce, earning income to support their families - with limited imposition on the employer.

Having been a nurse for more than 30 years, and currently working in the Maternity Department of Nyack Hospital, I feel a strong obligation to advocate for women's health issues, both here in Rockland, and throughout the state. I will continue to strive to do so.

## Legislator Paul Collaborates with Department of Health

As I am currently completing my Doctoral thesis on promoting breastfeeding, I wanted to impart my knowledge and experience to the residents of Rockland County. I partnered with the County Department of Health to help promote the health benefits of breastfeeding during World Breastfeeding Week. Together with Laurie Messinger, Breastfeeding Promotion and Support Program Coordinator, and lactation experts, I helped disseminate information about breastfeeding and answer questions of the many mothers visiting the Spring Valley Farmer's Market.

Breast milk is the best milk for ba-

bies. It is very rich in nutrients and antibodies to protect your baby from illness. Breastfeeding is good for moms, too. Breastfeeding helps to decrease the risk of health problems in women. It can save money and it is better for the environment.

New mothers should also take advantage of free Health Department Breastfeeding Promotion and Support programs. Call (845) 364-3865 or email [messingl@co.rockland.ny.us](mailto:messingl@co.rockland.ny.us) for more information and to register for the support groups.



## Legislator Aney Paul

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