



# Rockland County Legislator Aney Paul

## 2015 - District 14 Newsletter

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

Fall, 2015

### Message From Legislator Aney Paul



Dear Neighbor,

I hope you had an enjoyable summer. With school beginning, please use extra caution when driving to keep our kids safe!

As your Legislator for District 14, keeping you informed on what is going on in our community is important to me. If you have any questions or issues that concern you, I appreciate input from residents. Please contact me at PaulA@co.rockland.ny.us or (845) 638-5100.

Best regards,

*Aney Paul*

### Legislator Aney Paul Calls for Legislation to Amend the "Smoke-Free Air Act of Rockland County"

In August 2015, the Legislature held a Public Hearing on legislation I initiated. The new law would prohibit the use of e-cigarettes in the same places where smoking cigarettes is already banned. That means parents won't need to worry that their children will be exposed to dangerous chemicals while going to the movies or restaurants.

It has been determined that carcinogenic chemicals, including formaldehyde, have been found in varying amounts in electronic cigarette aerosols, raising significant health and safety concerns. In the absence of Federal and New York State enacted laws, Rockland County is committed to protecting the public health and welfare of infants, children, and other members of the public who might be exposed to toxic chemicals found in electronic cigarette aerosols.

Electronic cigarettes are battery-powered devices that emit doses of vaporized and highly addictive nicotine that are inhaled. Numerous counties have been passing similar laws, due to rising health concerns and evidence that e-cigarettes are being used by growing numbers of young non-smokers, and could act as a gateway to a lifetime of nicotine addiction and tobacco use. Young people may be at particular risk, as many of the e-cig aerosol cartridges come in bright colors and sport such flavors as Bubble Gum, Yummy Gummy, and Cherry Crush.

Statistics released in April show that e-cig use among middle and high school students tripled from 2013 to 2014, according to data published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the FDA's Center for Tobacco Products.

The findings from the 2014 National Youth Tobacco Survey also showed that e-cig use among high school students, defined as use on at least one day in the past 30 days, increased from 4.5 percent in 2013 to 13.4 percent in 2014, rising from about 660,000 students to about 2 million students.

Among middle school students, e-cig use more than tripled from 1.1 percent in 2013 to 3.9 percent in 2014 - increasing from about 120,000 students to about 450,000 students. The 2012 Surgeon General's Report found that about 90 percent of all smokers first tried cigarettes as teens. It also found that about three of every four teen smokers continue into adulthood.

As a health professional, I continue to urge our federal representatives to finally put through their previously proposed FDA regulations on E-cigarettes, as per the legislation I sponsored earlier last year that passed the Legislature. Until that comes to fruition on the Federal level, it is incumbent on State and Local municipalities to ensure the health and well being of our communities.

## Albany Declared August Indian-American Heritage Month, Legislator Aney Paul Honored as First Indian-American Elected as a County Legislator in NYS

In late May, I traveled to Albany, along with local Indian-American leaders, to witness the introduction of a resolution by Rockland Assemblyman Kenneth P. Zebrowski to proclaim August 2015 as Indian-American Heritage Month in New York State. It was a proud day for New York's Indian-American population and a day that my long-time wish came true, a formal recognition of the contributions that Indian-Americans have made to this great state, and the recognition that Indian traditions, customs and ethnic pride add to the wonderful cultural diversity of New York and help to strengthen bonds between all. I was truly honored to be distinguished in the body of the resolution as the first Indian-American woman elected as a county legislator in New York State.

There are approximately three million Indian-Americans residing in the U.S. and immigration from India is currently at its highest level. Indian-Americans have one of the highest educational levels of all ethnic groups with an astounding 71 percent attaining a bachelor's degree compared to the 28 percent national average.

Thank you to Assemblyman Zebrowski and Senator David Carlucci for introducing the resolution and to the Senate and Assembly members who spoke so eloquently to support it. It was a great day and achievement for all Indian-Americans and I look forward to the creation of a national heritage month. Additionally, I am pleased that the Rockland County Legislature joined me in declaring August 2015 as Indian-American Heritage Month in Rockland County.



## Legislator Paul Recognizes Contributions of June Molof, Director of County Office for the Aging Upon Department's 40th Anniversary



remain as independent as possible through a network of public and private programs and services, which support older adults and their families. Under Ms. Molof's leadership, the office now serves over 59,000 people in Rockland over the age of 60.

It is an honor to serve on the Office for the Aging Advisory board with June Molof, the Director of the County's Office for Aging (OFA), and to have presented her with a Distinguished Service Award in recognition of over four decades of advocacy for senior citizens. The OFA assists senior citizens to

Programs and services such as case management, non-medical in-home services, home repair assistance for the disabled, and an energy assistance program are designed to help eligible seniors to maintain maximum independence in the home. Other programs provide employment, volunteer activities, education and socialization. This is a great milestone for June and the Office for Aging as both are celebrating a fortieth anniversary this year. June has spent a lifetime dedicating herself to our seniors and the programs that she oversees are critical to the well-being of Rockland's seniors. Credit must also go to the agency's staff members who, over the past forty years, have acted compassionately, in a knowledgeable and professional manner, for the benefit of our senior population. County government is very proud of the Office for Aging, its operations, its staff and of course, its dedicated director, June Molof.

### Legislator Aney Paul Supports First Responders

I introduced two resolutions, which were unanimously approved by the Rockland County Legislature that requests the NYS Legislature pass Assembly Bill (A1576) and the U.S. House of Representatives pass Bill (HR343), each proposing to provide tax relief to qualifying active volunteer firefighters, volunteer ambulance workers and volunteer emergency medical personnel. The NYS Assembly bill would amend the state tax law to allow volunteers a tax credit for active service. Active volunteers would be allowed a \$200 service credit for one year of service and \$100 per year thereafter, for up to 10 years and a maximum credit of \$1100. The House of Representatives bill would amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to

allow volunteers to claim up to 300 hours of services at the rate of \$20 per hour as a charitable contribution to their respective department. These bills are sincere in the intent to compensate our volunteer firefighters, ambulance corps workers and emergency medical personnel for the invaluable services they perform to protect lives, and the health, safety and property of our residents and business owners. Because of the cost to the volunteer in time and money, it has become increasingly difficult to retain and recruit volunteer personnel.

Our brave volunteer First Responders deserve our support as they unwaveringly support our community.

### Join the Rockland Community Emergency Response Team (RCERT)



emergency and disaster response team focused on preparing the greater Rockland County region and its citizens for emergencies and disasters. CERT is a training program that prepares you to help yourself, your family and your community in the event of a disaster. By getting trained in CERT, you will have the skills to help emergency responders, save lives and protect property. Join CERT and become trained in everything from light search and rescue to CPR and Disaster First Aid at no cost to you. The only thing you need to give is your time to volunteer. CERT creates a more adaptive, resilient, and capable community preparing for everything and working to mitigate the impact of emergencies and disasters. For more information, please contact the Rockland Conservation & Service Corps at [rcamericorps@co.rockland.ny.us](mailto:rcamericorps@co.rockland.ny.us) or call 845-708-7308 for future class schedules.

*(photo: CERT graduation at Fire Training Center)*

My husband, Augustine, and I had the opportunity to take part in a great program available to all Rockland residents, the Rockland Community Emergency Response Team (RCERT). RCERT is a FEMA trained

### Improvements to Downtown Nanuet

I am pleased to sponsor legislation to support the Nanuet Streetscape Rehabilitation and Enhancement project proposal to be done jointly with the Town of Clarkstown. The improvements to downtown will address immediate concerns over the repair and rehabilitation needed for existing street, crosswalks, ADA handicapped access ramps, and sidewalks. This work will complement the Transit Development planning project, a separate project funded by a state grant.

With the opening of the Shops at Nanuet attracting more people to the area, we need Main Street's infrastructure to be more accessible and

better able to attract businesses and residents to this central economic hub.



*(Leg. Paul meeting with Supervisor Alex Gromack and the Nanuet Chamber of Commerce to discuss plans for improvements to downtown)*

**Around the Community**



*Volunteering at Keep Rockland Beautiful with Clarkstown Supervisor Alex Gromack*



*Celebrating Indian culture at the India Independence Day Parade in New City*



*Honoring Doctor Frances Pratt and Doctor Elizabeth Simon during National Nurses Week*

**County Highway Paving & Project**

**Senior Citizen of the Year**



**Park and Ride Lots Resurfacing Projects**

The following park and ride lots are scheduled for resurfacing projects:

- Exit 10 of the Palisades Interstate Parkway (Middletown Road Lot) is scheduled for October 2015.
- Exit 14 of the New York State Thruway (East, West and North Lots) and the Smith Street Lot. This project has been delayed until 2016, as modifications to facilitate access are made to accommodate pedestrian and vehicle traffic according to a NYS Department of Transportation expansion project. The resurfacing will include new pavement markings and raised catch basins/manhole covers. Existing lighting and fencing will also be repaired, drainage issues addressed, and there will be a new shelter. The NYS Department of Transportation will fund the improvements and direct the project timeline. The NYSDOT project designs are scheduled to be ready by Fall 2015 and construction should begin in Spring 2016.

**Paving Projects in District 14**

- Route #71 (Hungry Hollow Road): From Route 45 to Old Nyack Turnpike, material (chipseal), Ramapo
- Route #73 (Saddle River Road): From Milrose Lane to Route 59, material (Microseal), Ramapo
- Route #60 (Smith Road): From Pascack Road to North Middletown Road, material (Overlay), Clarkstown
- Route #80 (New Hempstead Road): From Route 45 to Town Border, material (Overlay), Ramapo

I am pleased that the person I nominated, Suresh Arya, was honored as Senior Citizen of the Year via the Rockland County Office for the Aging. Mr. Arya, who retired from Letchworth Village as its Deputy Director of the Developmentally Disabled, is an outstanding senior who gives back so much to our community. He volunteers as the Executive Director of Jeevan Jyoti, Inc., which is an Indian-



**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

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