

Greetings Neighbor,

I hope you had a Happy Thanksgiving and that you and your families have been enjoying the Holiday Season.

November included meaningful and engaging community events. The most important being an opportunity to recognize the veterans who have served our nation. I was honored to attend Veteran Ceremonies throughout the district. I thank and appreciate all our veterans for their dedicated service and acknowledge the sacrifice they made in serving our country.

This year I was honored to be assigned to the Veterans Affairs Committee in the NYS Assembly. On November 12, I participated in an extremely informative Veterans Affairs Public Hearing. One of the key topics was examining ways to increase veterans' access to mental health services. We also discussed, in depth, how veterans can access resources and support on Long Island and in NYS.

Congratulations to the 2025 Women of Distinction for Assembly District 21. It was a wonderful evening to shine a light on women who make a difference in every corner of our district.

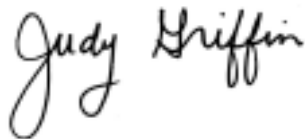
Thank you to all who have contributed to my Holiday Toy & Pajama Drive. There is still time to donate to help children and families. Throughout our district, celebrate the holidays.

We are experiencing some challenging times and often the holidays can cause more stress for individuals and families. For those facing food insecurity, please refer to the resources included about local food banks and pantries.

Wishing you and your families a Happy Hannukah, a Merry Christmas, and a Happy Kwanzaa. May your holidays be filled with peace, love and joy.

As always I welcome you to email griffinj@nyassembly.gov or contact my office at 516-561-8216 if I can be of assistance.

Warmly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Judy Griffin". The ink is dark and the signature is fluid, with the first and last names clearly legible.

Judy Griffin

Assemblywoman, 21st District

Upcoming Community Events Activities

Holiday Toy & Pajama Drive

Please help make the holidays special for children throughout the district.



Local Resources

Nassau Navigator: A One-Stop Resource Directory for County Services

Nassau Navigator is a new online resource directory designed to help Nassau County residents quickly and easily find free or low-cost services based on need and location. Whether someone is looking for healthcare, housing support, food assistance, or other resources, this tool connects

them to help from hospitals, community organizations, and government programs all in one place. It is also a valuable resource for making referrals when fielding calls from constituents. By having a go-to directory at our fingertips, we can save time and provide more efficient, accurate assistance. The platform is available at www.nassaucountyny.gov/Navigator and can also be shared directly with the public.

*Resources provided last month are listed at the end of this newsletter.

My Latest Op-Ed Dependability and Affordability Must Be Part of Our State Energy Policy

In my latest Op-Ed, I discuss why New York's clean energy goals must go hand in hand with providing affordability, ensuring grid reliability, and supporting our communities. As we work toward a cleaner future, we cannot overlook the real costs and challenges facing families, seniors, homeowners, and small businesses.

A balanced, responsible approach to energy policy is essential—and I'll continue advocating for solutions that keep New Yorkers safe, secure, and supported.

Read the full piece here: <https://www.liherald.com/stories/judy-griffin-affordability-must-be-part-of-our-state-energy-policy,218966>

Important State Info

NYS Department Labor wants to learn from your experience:

Please complete this survey if you have applied for unemployment benefits, used their employment resources or are an employer.

Your feedback can help enhance their system and help shape the future of our workforce.

Two statewide surveys are now open to better understand the challenges facing workers and businesses, strengthen our economy, and inform workforce development efforts. We especially encourage constituents who have received services from **NYS DOL** to take a few moments to complete the survey and share their feedback.

Deadline to participate: December 31, 2025

🔗 Take the surveys here: <https://dol.ny.gov/news/new-york-state-department-labor-invites-job-seekers-and-businesses-help-shape-workforce>

Future Forward Internship Academy — Now Accepting Applications

The New York State Office of the Comptroller is now accepting applications for the Future Forward Internship Academy, a valuable opportunity for students and emerging professionals to gain hands-on experience in public service.

This program offers participants the chance to develop professional skills, explore careers in government, and contribute to meaningful work that serves New Yorkers.

Application Deadline: February 17, 2026

Learn more and apply:

https://www.osc.ny.gov/jobs/interns?fbclid=IwY2xjawOwSGhleHRuA2FlbQIxMABicmlkETFORXRzM01kOUM4QTU5TnJsc3J0YwZhcHBfaWQQMjIyMDM5MTc4ODIwMDg5MgABHqeCc_6OrInNr_Ej5kRDnZJVS0pkwoEva-e1CIYoLwTxgyFs02sYcGcGWMJg_aem_J-wWm8rGb-gfF73TKDSSpA

Need-to-know State info:

Tips For Protecting Yourself from Scammers

This month's Medicare Fraud of the Month focuses on Medicare Card Scams.

Seniors are receiving fake calls claiming Medicare is issuing new plastic or metal cards or asking them to “verify” their Medicare number to avoid losing coverage. These calls are 100% scams.

Please know:

- Medicare does not issue plastic or metal cards
- Medicare will never call to ask for your Medicare number
- Medicare cards do not expire unless you request a replacement
- Scammers may spoof caller ID to appear legitimate

Protect yourself:

- Never share personal or medical information with unexpected callers
- Hang up immediately if asked for your Medicare number
- Review Medicare Summary Notices and Explanation of Benefits for unfamiliar charges
- Treat Medicare and Social Security numbers like credit cards—keep them private

If something doesn't feel right, trust your instincts and hang up. Staying informed is the best defense against fraud.



StateWide is a 53-year-old non-profit organization dedicated to serving the needs and well-being of our State's more than 3.6 million senior citizens. One of our key initiatives is the Senior Medicare Patrol (SMP), the definitive resource for New York State's Senior citizens and caregivers to help detect, prevent, and report Medicare fraud, errors, abuse and waste.

A key component of the Senior Medicare Patrol program is a monthly "Fraud of the Month," which calls attention to the various kinds of fraud perpetrated on our state's elderly. **The Medicare Fraud of the Month for December is Medicare Card Scams.**

This month, StateWide urges Seniors to beware of fake Medicare Card calls. Scammers are once again calling people and claiming that Medicare is issuing new plastic Medicare cards or that Seniors must "verify their Medicare number. to avoid losing coverage. All of these calls are 100% fake.

The SMP urges Seniors to remember:

- Medicare is NOT mailing out new cards made of plastic or metal. Medicare cards don't expire — new ones are never issued unless requested.
 - Medicare or a doctor will never call to ask for Medicare information.
 - Medicare only issues standard paper cards.
- Scammers spoof caller ID to make it look like Medicare or a patient's doctor is calling.
- Scammers will say a new card is required for the New Year — but this scam pops up at the start of each year.
 - Never share personal or medical information with unexpected callers.
 - Hang up immediately if anyone calls asking for Medicare numbers.

Important Reminders for Medicare Recipients to Protect Themselves:

- Never share personal or medical information with unexpected callers.
 - Hang up immediately if anyone calls asking for Medicare information.
- Review your Medicare Summary Notices (MSNs) and Explanation of Benefits (EOBs) for unfamiliar charges.
- Beware of Fake Medicare Card Calls
 - Scammers are once again calling people and claiming that Medicare is issuing new plastic Medicare cards or that you must "verify your Medicare number" to avoid losing coverage.
 - Don't get fooled, these calls are 100% fake!
- Treat Medicare and Social Security numbers like credit cards — keep them private.

Honoring Veterans Day in Assembly District 21

Mount Sinai South Nassau (MSSN) Veterans Day Celebration

On November 6th, I had the privilege of attending the MSSN Veterans Day Celebration at the Oceanside Library. It was truly impressive to witness the large number of veterans employed by MSSN being recognized, several of whom participated directly in the ceremony.

Stephen Biscotti, U.S. Navy Veteran and Director of Safety & Security, served admirably as Master of Ceremonies. Retired Major Karin Landmann-Herd, U.S. Army, delivered a powerful and moving keynote address. I also extend sincere thanks to Robert F. Garrison VFW Post 3350 of East Rockaway for presenting the colors and performing TAPS. The talented singers and musicians who contributed to the program were also part of the MSSN Family, adding a personal and heartfelt touch to the event.

Through their dedicated fundraising efforts, including bake sales held at the hospital, the MSSN Veterans Committee raised over \$3,000, which was donated to three deserving organizations:

Paws of War, Military Blue Star Mothers of Nassau County, and Catholic War Veterans of the USA, Post 172.



Freeport Veterans Day Observance

On November 11th, I had the privilege of participating in the Freeport Veterans Day Observance—a meaningful tribute to the men and women who have served and continue to serve our nation.

William Clinton Story Post No. 342 Veterans Steven Nicolino and Lincoln Parsons, both Past Commanders, were formally recognized for their distinguished service. I was honored to present each of them with a citation and to learn more about their exemplary contributions to our nation.

My deepest gratitude goes to all veterans—past, present, and future—for your courage, sacrifice, and steadfast commitment to protecting our freedoms.



Annual Veterans Day Salute Valley Stream

On November 11th, I was honored to join the Village of Valley Stream for their Annual Veterans Day Salute, a meaningful tribute to the brave men and women who have served our nation with courage and devotion.

During the ceremony we reflected, remembered, and expressed our deep gratitude to those who have dedicated their lives to protecting our freedoms. Thank you to American Legion Post 854 and VFW Post 1700 for the Presentation of Colors and for leading the Pledge of Allegiance, and to Nicolette Bett for her beautiful performance of the National Anthem. The program also included a poignant POW Remembrance delivered by George Catalanotto of Disabled American Veterans.

My sincere thanks to all veterans for your service and sacrifice, and to Mayor Fare for hosting such a thoughtful and dignified ceremony.



Thanksgiving Food Drives in Assembly District 21

Green Acres Gives Back Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway

On November 19th, I was honored to join Green Acres for their annual Green Acres Gives Back Thanksgiving Turkey Giveaway. I extend my sincere gratitude to the Green Acres team for coordinating with partners to distribute 1,000 turkeys to families and community organizations across our region, and for generously providing 30 turkeys to my office to share with residents of AD 21.

I was pleased to participate in this meaningful initiative, helping to ensure that local families celebrate Thanksgiving with a warm and nutritious meal. Moments like these exemplify the power of community partnership. Thank you to RVC PBA President Mike Rollo, my husband, Mike, and Samatha Cools, District Director for assisting with the transportation of turkeys.



This Thanksgiving, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Assembly District 21 community for your incredible generosity. Special thanks to Green Acres for donating 30 turkeys to our Thanksgiving Turkey and Food Drive, to the Baldwin, East Rockaway, Lynbrook, Malverne, and Rockville Centre libraries for collecting contributions, and to the RVC PBA for their support and donations.

Because of your generosity, we were able to deliver much-needed holiday essentials to families at the Rockville Centre MLK Center, St. Christopher's in Baldwin, Freeport Methodist Church, and the Freeport Solidarity Group.



MLK Center's Thanksgiving Celebration

On the evening of November 20th, I had the pleasure of attending the MLK Center's Thanksgiving celebration in Rockville Centre. I greatly enjoyed visiting with community members who came together to celebrate this special holiday as a warm, welcoming, and supportive community. I was honored to join Mayor Murray, Trustee Shaughnessy, village officials, Legislator Scott Davis, and RVC Police Officers in recognizing the spirit of gratitude, community, and service that defines Rockville Centre.

Thank you to Patrick Morris, Sharon Sheppard, and the entire team for organizing such a festive and meaningful celebration.



Rockville Centre PBA 3rd Annual Drive-Up Food and Toy Drive

On November 15th, I stopped by to drop a donation to the RVC PBA's 3rd Annual Drive-Up Food and Toy Drive. I extend my gratitude to the RVC PBA and the Hispanic Brotherhood of Rockville Centre for partnering to support local families to bring greater joy and comfort to those in need during the holiday season.



Special Event in Assembly District 21

Women of Distinction Ceremony

On November 6th I had the honor to host my Women of Distinction Ceremony, recognizing the incredible women across AD21 who make a lasting impact in our Assembly District. The honorees represented a diverse array of accomplishments and backgrounds; each contributing in meaningful ways to strengthen and uplift their community and our greater communities.

Each of these women have shown what it means to lead with purpose, compassion, kindness, and inclusiveness. Their determination, community involvement, and unwavering commitment to others serve as an inspiration to us all. I was both honored and humbled to recognize these powerful, dynamic, and engaging women.

Congratulations to this year's honorees: Johane Ligondé (Baldwin), Meta Mereday (Baldwin Oaks), Cheryl Poland (East Rockaway), Maria Jordan-Awalom (Freeport), Shantay Carter (Hempstead), Karen Cordoso (Hewlett), Maria Dente-Higgins (Lynbrook), Jillian Policastro and Tracee Galante (Oceanside), Liliana Polo, Joan Hyland, and Cristine Daly (Malverne), Ellen White and Rena Riback (Rockville Centre), Stephanie Tambini (West Hempstead), Laura Mallay (South Hempstead), and Sherisse Dowling (Valley Stream).

I want to extend my sincere thanks to Legislator Debra Mulé and Legislator-Elect Cynthia Nuñez for attending and presenting citations to their constituents, and to Baldwin High School for

graciously hosting this event. These remarkable women inspire us all through their leadership, service, and dedication to the communities of AD21.





Community Events in Assembly District 21

The Central Memorial High School PTSA Fall Festival

On November 1st, I had the pleasure of attending the Central Memorial High School PTSA Fall Festival in Valley Stream.

The festival highlighted the impressive involvement of Central's students—including the newly elected Student Council Officers for the Class of 2027, the talented Cosmetology program students, and the many dedicated student volunteers who planned a memorable and engaging event for the community. The Valley Stream Fire Department provided treats for the children and enjoyed a successful day of recruiting new volunteer firefighters.

Thank you to all involved for organizing such a fun-filled event for local families.



RVC Little League Dinner

I was honored to attend the 2025 Rockville Centre Little League Dinner on November 5th, where parents, players, coaches, and community members came together to celebrate another outstanding season. I was glad to join Mayor Murray, Legislator Scott Davis, and the dedicated RVC Little League Board in recognizing the hard work, teamwork, and sportsmanship demonstrated by our young athletes throughout the year.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the RVC Little League Board for organizing this celebration and for their continued commitment to supporting youth sports in our community. Congratulations to Paul Sewall, who was honored for 12 years of exceptional service to RVC Little League. Although he is retiring from the Board, his leadership, service and enthusiasm have made a lasting impact.



American Legion Auxiliary's Law and Order Night in Lynbrook

On November 6th, my Chief of Staff, Chris Gardner, was proud to represent my office at the American Legion Auxiliary's Law & Order Night in Lynbrook, where he presented citations to this year's distinguished honorees, on my behalf.

Congratulations to Lynbrook Police Officer Christopher Lopez and EMT Lieutenant Susan Domingue. Their dedication, professionalism, and unwavering commitment to public safety exemplify the very best of our community's first responders.



Herald Senior Health and Beyond Expo in Oceanside

I was pleased to attend the Herald's Senior Health & Beyond Expo on November 7th in Oceanside. It was great to see so many community partners, healthcare professionals, and service organizations come together with a shared commitment to supporting the well-being of our senior residents.

It was a pleasure to meet Ms. New York State Senior and the Seasoned Steppers, and to speak with the dedicated volunteers from AARP—who proudly shared that they collected nearly 70 signatures for their Social Security initiative. I am grateful to my staff, Nicolette and Valeria, for tabling on behalf of my office and engaging with attendees to share helpful information and resources.

Thank you to Richner Communications, the LI Herald, and all participating organizations for offering such an informative and impactful event. This highlights the strength of our community and our collective dedication to ensuring that seniors have the resources and support needed to live healthy and vibrant lives.



SIBS Place 25th Anniversary Gala

On November 8, I was honored to attend the SIBSPlace 25th Anniversary Gala, a milestone celebration recognizing a quarter-century of compassionate support for children and families navigating the challenges of a loved one's serious illness.

The event honored Suzanne Kornblatt and Arlene Basner for their outstanding leadership and dedication. For 25 years, SIBSPlace has provided comfort, connection, and resilience to hundreds of families, offering a safe and nurturing environment during some of life's most difficult moments. Congratulations to SIBSPlace on 25 remarkable years!



Davison Avenue PTA Celebration

On November 14th, I was happy to attend the Davison Avenue PTA Celebration and Fundraiser. It was a privilege to recognize several outstanding members of the Davison Avenue community for their dedication and service.

I presented Ms. Beaumont with a citation honoring her exceptional teaching, creativity, and unwavering commitment to her 4th grade students. Congratulations as well to staff members Mr. Mike and Mr. Anthony for their dedicated commitment to the Davison Avenue family. They were not able to attend the event.

I enjoyed seeing PTA leaders, parents, educators, and Board of Education Trustee Kathleen Kasal and appreciate their efforts to enrich student life. I am grateful to Principal Dr. Rachel Yudin and the dedicated faculty for providing a dynamic education to their students.



Rockville Centre Family Fun Run

I was pleased to join the Rockville Centre community for the Village's annual 5K Race and Family Fun Run the morning of November 15th. I extend my gratitude to Mayor Murray, the Village staff, the RVC Police Department, the Chamber of Commerce and all participants for making this a safe and enjoyable event each year. I loved seeing the children's enthusiasm at the start of the race and presenting them with medals at the finish.



Senator Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick's Veterans Hall of Fame

On the evening of November 17th, I had the honor of attending Senator Canzoneri-Fitzpatrick's Veterans Hall of Fame ceremony at the Elmont Memorial Library, where 19 distinguished local veterans—including five from Assembly District 21—were inducted into the 9th Senate District's Hall of Fame.

Congratulations to the AD21 honorees:

Dominick Amendola, Jerome Goldstein, Peter J. Herzich, Ralph Lambiase, David Marshall

It was a privilege to celebrate these heroes and to recognize their service, sacrifice, and unwavering dedication to our nation.



Valley Stream School District 24: Student council elections at Brooklyn Ave School and William L Buck school

I enjoyed visiting Valley Stream School District 24 to listen to the candidates running for Student Council at Brooklyn Avenue School and join Assemblywoman Michaelle Solages and Legislator-Elect Cynthia Nuñez at William L Buck Elementary School. I was deeply impressed by the number of student candidates, their eagerness to serve their peers, their courage, thoughtfulness and their heartfelt speeches. Their leadership, determination, and enthusiasm

were inspiring! I appreciated their colorful campaign posters and the support of their families cheering every step of the way.

Every student demonstrated compassion, confidence, and engagement that embodies true leadership. Their passion, initiative, and commitment to their peers are truly commendable. I appreciated the invitation to observe and cheer these students on.



Baldwin Oaks Civic Association November Meeting

On the evening of November 18th, I was pleased to be the guest speaker at the Baldwin Oaks Civic Association's meeting to engage directly with so many community residents. I greatly appreciated the thoughtful discussions regarding education, green space, support for senior citizens and veterans, quality of life issues and community concerns, particularly ongoing issues

with speeding in this residential neighborhood and the potential installation of speed bumps on certain streets to enhance safety for residents and children.

Thank you to Wayne Miles, Civic President, and to all residents who participated, shared their insights, and continue to work toward a stronger, safer, and more vibrant Baldwin Oaks community.

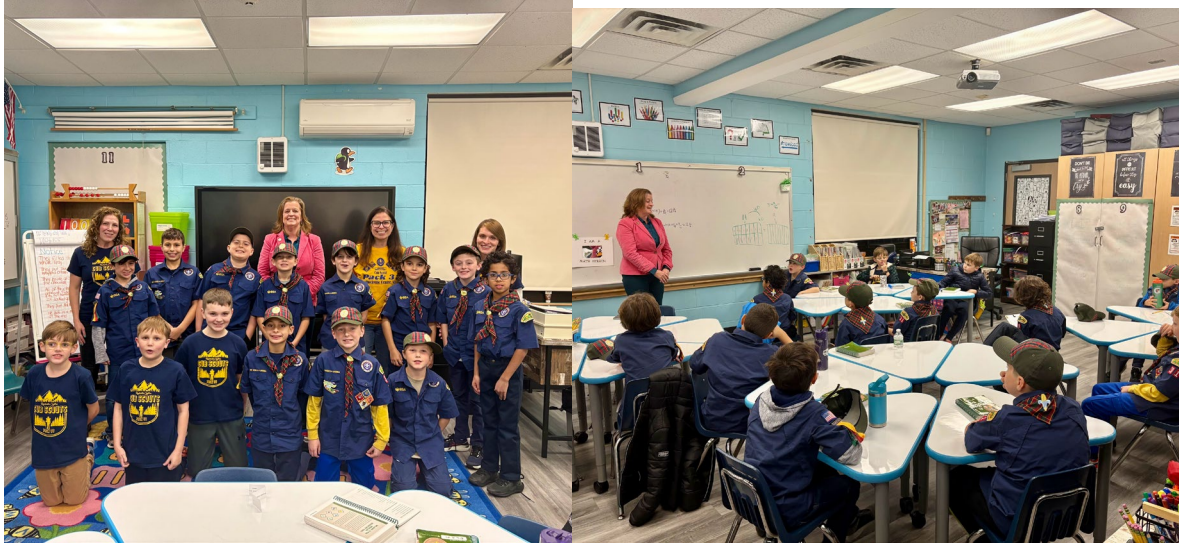


Meeting with Rockville Centre Webelo Den 4 from Pack 31 Cub Scouts

On November 19th, I had the pleasure of meeting with Webelo Den 4 from Pack 31 in Rockville Centre.

These young leaders have already been exploring the voting process and the three branches of government, and it was truly inspiring to observe their enthusiasm and engagement. After sharing insights about my work as an Assemblywoman, the Scouts posed thoughtful questions that reflected a genuine understanding of how government functions and a sincere desire to make a positive difference in their community.

I extend my thanks to Den Leaders Maura Callan, Heather Incandela, and Devon Klobach for inviting me to speak with this remarkable group of 15 energetic 4th-grade Scouts.



Historical Society of East Rockaway & Lynbrook Celebrate the Permanent Installation of a To-Scale Model of the Grist Mill

On the evening of November 19th, I was privileged to join Frank Torres, President, Madeline Pearson, Executive Director of the Historical Society of East Rockaway & Lynbrook, Robert Sympton and his family, Bob Mill, and members of the community at a special exhibition celebrating the permanent installation of a meticulously crafted model of the historic East Rockaway Grist Mill at the East Rockaway Public Library.

I commend Robert for his decades of dedication to building this incredible to-scale model, and Bob for his contributions to this remarkable project. I also extend my gratitude to the volunteers, Historical Society members, and residents who collaborated to bring this installation to life and secure a permanent home for it, a project that not only highlights one of the community's most cherished landmarks but also serves as a meaningful example of the importance of preserving historic buildings.



Celebrating World Kindness Day at MSSN

On November 19th, I was honored to join the MSSN Oceanside F4 Outpatient Infusion Suite for their World Kindness Day celebration. This international observance, established in 1998, emphasizes the transformative power of kindness and its positive impact on our communities.

Staff, volunteers, and partners brought joy to the infusion floor with treats, music, massages, and hand-knit scarves donated by Geri Barish of Hewlett House, while patients and caregivers honored National Caregiver Month by writing thank-you cards. It was inspiring to witness the MSSN team create such a warm and compassionate environment for patients and their families.



Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center's 30th Annual Tribute Dinner

On the evening of November 19th, I had the honor of attending the Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center's 30th Annual Tribute Dinner at the Old Westbury Hebrew Congregation. The evening featured a moving performance by John Ondrasik, Five for Fighting, a meaningful awards presentation, and a panel discussion highlighting HMTTC's critical work on educating the community about the Holocaust and confronting modern-day antisemitism.

Congratulations to the evening's honorees: John Ondrasik, Samuel Nahmias, and HMTC Vice Chair Jolanta Zamecka, for their leadership and dedication to this mission.

Thank you to the HMTC Board, Chairman, Alan Mindel, Executive Director, Bali Lerner, Tribute Dinner Committee Chair, Robert Rapheal, staff, committee members, and all who made this night a success.



Unveiling of the Patriot Sign at the Freeport Public Library

On November 24th, I was honored to present a citation to the Long Island Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution in recognition of their steadfast dedication to preserving our shared history.

It was a privilege to join the community and meet local descendants of Freeport Revolutionary War Patriots Benjamin Raynor and Adam Smith as a new commemorative sign was unveiled on the library grounds in their honor. This unveiling also marked the beginning of Freeport's America 250th anniversary celebrations, serving as a reminder of the rich history and enduring legacy of those who helped shape our nation.



Celebrating a new business on Long Island

Grand Opening of McBride Consulting, Babylon

It was a pleasure to attend the Grand Opening of McBride Consulting & Business Development Group's new Long Island office in Babylon on November 13th. McBride is a highly respected firm specializing in consulting, public policy, business strategy, and government relations, with a strong and growing presence across Long Island.

Congratulations to Robert McBride, President, CEO, and Owner, and the entire McBride team on this significant milestone.



Legislative Events

Long Island Press Conference on PAPA (A5882/S5939)

On November 18th, I was proud to join local pharmacists, like Howard Jacobson and Anthony Valenti, PSSNY, and advocate at a press conference, in RVC, about the importance of passing the Patient Access to Pharmacy Act (PAPA) (A5882/S5939).

Our small neighborhood pharmacies are disappearing, and access to high-quality, affordable care is diminished every time a local pharmacy is forced to close their doors.

I am a proud co-sponsor of this common-sense bill which will lower prescription drug costs for patients, keep neighborhood pharmacies open and add transparency to drug pricing practices.

Our seniors and low-income residents simply cannot afford these escalating costs! Local pharmacies are the frontlines of our health care system. We know the benefits, services, and informed personal touches that local pharmacies provide in our community, and we must ensure they are given the tools and resources they need to keep their doors open.

<https://patch.com/new-york/rockvillecentre/lawmaker-backs-bill-ensure-pharmacies-can-keep-doors-open-face-escalating>



NYS's Unemployment Benefit Rate has increased!

As of October 6, 2025, unemployment insurance benefits increased for more than half of unemployed New Yorkers.

The maximum benefit rate is the highest benefit amount available to unemployed New Yorkers. How much an individual receives on a weekly basis is based on their previous income. The maximum benefit rate has increased from \$504 per week to \$869 per week. The increased benefit rate was reflected in payments as of October 13. Visit the Department of Labor to learn more about the [maximum benefit rate](#).

Do you want to know how the change will affect your current benefits or a future claim? Add your income information in the DOL's benefit rate calculator.



FAFSA & TAP Applications Now Open — Don't Miss Out on Financial Aid!

The FAFSA and NYS Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) applications are officially open! Completing the FAFSA is the key to unlocking federal and state financial aid—and it's also the easiest way to apply for TAP.

Every year, millions of dollars in aid go unclaimed in New York because students don't submit the FAFSA. Last year alone, over \$200 million in federal financial aid was left on the table. We can't let that happen again.

For the 2025–2026 academic year, both the FAFSA and TAP applications must be submitted by June 30, 2026—but students are strongly encouraged to apply as early as possible, as some aid is awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

If you're a graduating senior or know someone who is, take a few minutes to complete the FAFSA today—it could make all the difference for your future.



Albany Updates and Actions

Supporting Our Neighbors: Food Pantries Serving AD 21

Assembly District 21 is home to several dedicated food pantries working tirelessly to support families facing food insecurity. Throughout the year, these community partners open their doors to ensure no one goes without essential groceries or daily necessities. From weekly distributions to emergency support, each pantry provides compassionate, reliable assistance to residents across our assembly district. I am so grateful for their compassion and diligence and encourage anyone in need to contact the following pantries and anyone looking to give back — to connect with these local organizations and help strengthen the wellbeing of our community.

Visit— <https://otda.ny.gov/programs/snap/> – to find out how these federal cuts are impacting Nassau County and find resources to help those affected.

To find help getting food, visit:

- Find Your Regional Food Bank: locate the regional food bank and Emergency Food Relief Organizations (EFRO) in your area.
- The Food Pantries Food Connect Map: find local food pantries, community meals, mobile food resources and more.
- Resources for Working Families | OTDA: discover nutrition programs and resources that can help you feed your family.

Ongoing Resources to Help People Facing Food Insecurity:

 Food Bank Resources in AD21 and beyond 	 Food Bank Resources in AD21 and beyond 
<p>You can access vital support through local food pantries that offer year-round groceries, essentials, and a welcoming environment for individuals and families in need. Whether seeking assistance or wishing to donate, these pantries remain a reliable resource dedicated to strengthening our community.</p> <p>1. Valley Stream</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• House of Hope – 22 E Fairview Ave, Valley Stream, NY 11580 (516) 887-1708• Holy Name of Mary – 65 E Jamaica Ave, Valley Stream, NY 11580 (516) 825-0177• Long Island Cares Pantry – 241 Rockaway Ave, Valley Stream, NY 11580• Valley Stream Catholic Family – 225 N Central Ave, Valley Stream, NY 11580 (516) 561-8969 <p>2. Baldwin</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• First Bethel Church – 2079 Grand Ave, Baldwin, NY 11510• Renacer Outreach – 475 N Brookside Ave, Freeport, NY 11520• St. Christopher's Parish Office – 15 Pershing Blvd, Baldwin, NY 11510 (516) 223-0723 <p>3. East Rockaway</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bethany Congregational Church – 100 Main St, East Rockaway, NY 11518 (516) 599-5768 <p>4. Oceanside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Saint Anthony Conference – 110 Anchor Ave, Oceanside, NY 11572 (516) 764-0048• Bethany Congregational Church – 100 Main St, East Rockaway, NY 11518 (516) 599-5768• Ocean Community Service – 145 Merle Ave, Oceanside, NY 11572 (516) 678-6152• Full Gospel Church (Island Park) – 4101 Austin Blvd, Island Park, NY 11558 (516) 432-02326 <p>5. Lynbrook</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Our Lady of Peace Roman Catholic Church – 25 Fowler Ave, Lynbrook, NY 11563 (516) 599-6414• Saint Raymond's Parish Social Ministry – 12 Roosevelt St, Lynbrook, NY 11563 (516) 887-9197 <p>6. West Hempstead</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Church of the Good Shepherd – 732 Donlon Pl, West Hempstead, NY 11552 (516) 483-7922	<p>You can access vital support through local food pantries that offer year-round groceries, essentials, and a welcoming environment for individuals and families in need. Whether seeking assistance or wishing to donate, these pantries remain a reliable resource dedicated to strengthening our community.</p> <p>7. Freeport</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Salvation Army – 66 Church St, Freeport, NY 11520 (516) 378-4557• Ladies of Hope – 87 Pine St, Freeport, NY 11520• Long Island Harvest – Freeport• Long Island Cares – 21 E Sunrise Hwy, Freeport, NY 11520 (516) 442-5221• Word of Life Ministries – 80 W Merrick Rd, Freeport, NY 11520• Soup to Nuts Pantry – 61 N Grove St, Freeport, NY 11520 (844) 466-7687 <p>8. Rockville Centre</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Pantry – 525 Merrick Rd, Rockville Centre, NY 11570 (516) 766-8848 <p>9. Hempstead / Uniondale / Garden City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Iglesia Pentecostal de Hempstead – 600 Greenwich St, Hempstead, NY 11550• Saint Martha Outreach – 546 Greengrove Ave, Uniondale, NY 11553 (516) 292-1603• Grace Lutheran Church – 311 Uniondale Ave, Uniondale, NY 11553 (516) 489-2182• Union Baptist Church – 24 Clinton C. Boone St, Hempstead, NY 11550 (516) 483-3088• Mary Brennan Inn – 100 Madison Ave, Hempstead, NY 11550 (516) 486-6243• Nassau County Office of Hispanic Affairs (CASA) – 40 Main St Suite B, Hempstead, NY 11550 (516) 572-0750• Nassau-Suffolk Coalition for the Homeless – 38 Old Country Rd, Garden City, NY 11530
 <p>Office of Assemblywoman Judy Griffin Griffinj@nyassembly.gov 516-561-8216</p>	 <p>Office of Assemblywoman Judy Griffin Griffinj@nyassembly.gov 516-561-8216</p>

¿Le gustaría recibir mi E-NEWS en otro idioma? Por favor, envíe un correo electrónico con su solicitud para recibir este boletín en español u otro idioma.

