



May 2021 Newsletter

**UNTIL FURTHER
NOTICE, OUR
GENERAL
MEMBERSHIP
MEETINGS WILL BE
ZOOM MEETINGS**

(Zoom links will be sent by email)

**Tuesday, May 11
at 5:30 pm**

Congressman Tom
Suozzi
followed by
a conversation
concerning the myriad
aspects of the new NYS
marijuana law lead by
Thomas Levin, Esq.

[Click here for our 2021 meeting
schedule.](#)



*President Daniel Serota
Mayor of the Village of Brookville*

Save the date:

Thursday, June 24 at 5:30 pm
Election & Installation of Officers
with District Attorney Madeline Singas
and Congresswoman Kathleen Rice

FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK:

Dear Colleagues:

By now, we all share something in common: COVID-19 fatigue. After more than a year of living and working through unprecedented restrictions, we are more than ready to return to normal routines. Now that widespread vaccination efforts have accelerated, there is light at the end of the tunnel. Each day we move closer to the goal of attaining herd immunity and a much anticipated end to what has been a long and exhausting struggle against this deadly virus.

As the pandemic has impacted your lives and your roles as village officials, it also has affected the NCVOA. This has been a challenging year for our organization as we have had to be nimble and make the adjustments necessary for maintaining ongoing operations. While Zoom cannot match the intimacy of in-person gatherings, this technology has allowed us to maintain regular contact with the membership.

As the year progressed, we noticed a drop off in attendance at our Zoom meetings. While we look forward to resuming in-

person meetings, I urge you to continue to be patient and make every effort to set aside just one hour each month to participate remotely. We have had excellent speakers whose presentations have provided valuable information.

A case in point is the April 13 General Membership Zoom meeting. We were fortunate to have Nassau County Legislators Ellen Birnbaum and Presiding Officer Richard Nicoletto as our guest speakers. Legislator Birnbaum focused her comments on Nassau County's Community Revitalization Project funds that are available to villages. She provided guidance as to the types of projects the county will support, the funding requirements and the application process.

Presiding Officer Nicoletto discussed the COVID relief package and how it will impact the county. The passage of the American Rescue Plan Act instantly transformed Nassau County's fiscal condition from bleak to optimistic by allocating nearly \$400 million in relief funding. Instead of facing an operating deficit, the county is projecting a \$70 million surplus. According to Nicoletto, this is the first time in a generation Nassau County will be in a position to address some lingering problems.

With the County slated to receive \$398 million for pandemic-related expenses, the Presiding Officer is awaiting the federal government's spending guidelines. In the meantime, he is seeking input as to how the funds should be allocated for the benefit of county residents. He encouraged village officials to contact him or Legislator Tom McKeivitt, who is spearheading the outreach effort, with suggestions.

Nassau County's 64 incorporated villages represent one third of the county's residents. We know our communities better than any other level of government. This is an excellent opportunity for mayors and trustees to provide direct input and I encourage you to become involved.

Let's continue to stay strong and stay together.

Sincerely,



Mayor Daniel Serota

IF YOU MISSED OUR APRIL 13 MEETING, YOU MISSED:

New Executive Board Members

President Serota appointed Edward Novick, Mayor of the Village of Old Westbury, and Steven Weinberg, Mayor of the Village of Thomaston, to our Executive Board to fill vacancies.

Previously, Executive Board member Geoffrey Prime, Mayor of the Village of South Floral Park, was appointed treasurer when the officers moved up a position after Ed Lieberman, our immediate past president, left office having not run for reelection.

County CRP funds are available

Legislator Ellen Birnbaum spoke about Community Revitalization Project (CRP) grants that may be available for your Village. These capital projects must have an expected useful life of at least five years and they must have a county purpose.

Examples that she cited included street signage, LED lights for streets, replacements of trees and retaining walls. To get this process started, contact your Legislator for assistance. Once the project is submitted, it may take time for approval from various departments before coming to the full Legislature. Work can not commence until after all these approvals take place. Funding will be provided after the project is completed and all the paperwork is submitted.

If you have County related issues

Legislator Birnbaum also advised our villages to reach out to its local Legislator if there are any concerns regarding County roads, parks, drainage, sewers, buildings, etc. in your Village. She stated that we can and should work together for the betterment of our residents.

PSEGLI has grants available for Chambers of Commerce, BIDs and businesses

Kim Kaiman informed us that, although PSEGLI cannot give funds to a municipality, they do have several economic development funding opportunities for downtowns through chambers of commerce and BIDs as the applicant. If a village mayor is interested in improving his or her downtown, please reach out to your chamber or BID and share this link with them: <http://www.psegliny.com/inthecommunity/revitalization>.

John Kiernan and others briefed us on aspects of the State budget, marijuana law and other recent legislation.

NASSAU COUNTY SEEKS YOUR INPUT:

County Executive Laura Curran and her Economic Advisory Council for COVID-19 are seeking responses to a [Needs Assessment Questionnaire](#) to identify areas for potential investment of COVID-19 federal recovery funds under the American Rescue Plan (ARP). The County is set to receive \$397M over two years.

Nassau County is awaiting specific federal guidance on how ARP funds can be allocated. This questionnaire is designed to solicit broad-based input and is not an application for funding or

otherwise intended to make any commitments to future funding opportunities. As you may know, the County Executive and the County Legislature passed a bi-partisan 2021 budget agreement that directs all such federal relief money into a special fund, with each use and initiative to be mutually agreed upon.

The questionnaire was developed and is being administered by Hofstra University. Responses are due May 7, 2021.

[Click here to access the Needs Assessment Questionnaire.](#)

MAY 17 & 24 EVENING PROGRAMS THAT MAY BE OF INTEREST:

Thomas Levin, Esq. has informed us that, for the past many years, it has been his pleasure to be a speaker at the annual Allen I. Sak Municipal Law lecture series hosted by the Suffolk Bar Association's Academy of Law. This year's program is going to be held virtually, and includes many topics which would be of interest to NCVOA members, members of their various boards or agencies, and Village counsel.

[Click here](#) for a flyer for the program, which shows some of the topics. Attendance costs are minimal, and there is a discount for multiple attendees from the same village (under Scholarships). This program will provide required Continuing Legal Education credits for attorneys, and will also qualify for training credits for zoning and planning board members in those villages which have not exempted from these requirements.

DID YOU KNOW?

Hempstead is #1 in New York

Long Island has the distinction of being home to New York State's largest and smallest incorporated village.

According to the 2010 census, the Village of Dering Harbor in Suffolk County is the smallest, having only 11 residents.

The Village of Hempstead is the largest, with more than 53,000 residents. Forty-eight of New York State's 62 cities had populations in 2010 smaller than Hempstead.

In addition, approximately 20% of all New York State village residents live in our Nassau County villages and over 10% of the states over 500 villages are in Nassau County.

NOMINATIONS FOR OFFICERS SOUGHT:

At our Thursday, June 24 annual meeting, we will elect and install our officers for the year starting that day. In accordance with our By-Laws, our officers – President, First Vice President, Second Vice President and Treasurer – must be a mayor of a member village in good standing.

If you are interested in serving in one of those positions, please send your resume and any other relevant information to our Executive Director, Ralph Kreitzman at exec@ncvoa.org by May 28. He will forward them to our Nominating Committee. Nominations also may be made by a writing signed by at least 25 elected officials representing at least five member villages and filed with our Executive Director no later than June 14.

Please note that the annual meeting will be on Thursday, June 24, not on the usual second Tuesday of the month.

MEET THE FRIENDS OF THE NCVOA:

Welcome to our newest Friend of the NCVOA, the New York State Conference of Mayors and Municipal Officials – NYCOM.

The logos of our Friends of the NCVOA appear at the end of this newsletter and on our website – ncvoa.org. If you click on a Friends' logo, you will be taken to their website home page.



The Last Word:

“The unique ability to take decisive action while maintaining focus on the ultimate mission is what defines a true leader.”

— Robert Kiyosaki

Published by the NASSAU COUNTY VILLAGE OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION
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FRIENDS OF THE NCVOA

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