



Official Newsletter of the Nassau County Office of Asian American Affairs



Fall Newsletter

As part of the administration of County Executive Laura Curran, the Nassau County Office of Asian American Affairs (OAAA) continues to keep our community informed during these uncertain times for our residents and businesses.

In recent months we have created Public Service Announcements to share developments on the pandemic, assisted our wonderful non-profit partners with a distribution of backpacks to schoolchildren in need, raised awareness on the census and the voting process, hosted roundtable discussions on topics of interest to the Asian community, and answered hundreds of calls per month from our residents.

Although we have been unable to meet in person to the same degree as we would like, we have worked hard to create new, virtual opportunities to celebrate Nassau County's diverse Asian community. In the past few months, we have hosted lively programs for independence days, Diwali, Eid, Lunar New Year and so much more! We also seek every opportunity to participate in conversations on diversity, inclusion and combatting racial intolerance.

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Your Vote is Your Voice-- The Voter Series!



Thank you to the Board of Elections, Asian Advisory council member Ammad Sheikh for moderating, and last but not least—thank you everyone for watching!

View the Facebook Live event [here:](https://fb.watch/1A9bmcCe_L/)

https://fb.watch/1A9bmcCe_L/

As an added measure to encourage eligible voters to vote, OAAA also conducted a social media Voter Information Series. This series of PSAs informed people of their rights as voters. (Shown bottom Left)

Asian Americans are the fastest growing bracket of eligible voters in the United States. In Nassau County, Asians make up 10 percent of the population. In an effort to educate the expanding Asian electorate on the voting process, the Nassau County Office of Asian American Affairs teamed up with the Nassau County Board of Election to host a virtual Voter Engagement Information Session. Over 1,300 viewers tuned in to watch! Representatives from the Board of Election, Jan Robin, Ricki Casta and Abraham Haygood, discussed COVID-19 protocols at the polls to ensure each voter's safety. The representatives also provided more details on early voting, absentee voting, and important deadlines.

The information shed light on accessibility measures at the polls for those with limited English proficiency or a disability. To further ensure language access, the Office of Asian American Affairs dubbed the session in Bangla, Farsi, Hindi/Urdu, and Mandarin.

LAURA CURRAN
NASSAU COUNTY
EXECUTIVE

NASSAU COUNTY
OFFICE OF ASIAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

FARRAH MOZAWALLA
EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR

Tomorrow, NOVEMBER 3rd, is Election Day
Here is a last minute voter checklist ☒

- Need assistance to vote due to blindness, a disability or limited English proficiency? You may bring someone into the voting booth to help you.
- Not permitted to vote at the poll site? If you believe you are eligible, you can ask for an "affidavit ballot." After the election, the Board of Elections will check its records and your vote will be counted if you are indeed eligible to vote and are at the correct polling site.
- Haven't requested an absentee ballot? Today, November 2nd, is the last day to request an absentee ballot in-person at the Nassau County Board of Elections by 4:45 p.m. today.
- Haven't submitted your absentee ballot? Your signed absentee ballot can be dropped off at a poll site or Nassau County Board of Elections no later than November 3rd by 9 p.m.

For reference, visit
<https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/566/Board-of-Elections>
<https://www.elections.ny.gov/>

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Count Yourself In! The Census Series

Throughout this year, we worked with local nonprofits to ensure that the Asian community is counted. The Office of Asian American Affairs took a three-pronged approach for our Census outreach programs:

OFFICE OF ASIAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS CENSUS OUTREACH APPROACH

#1 Connecting Community Organizations with the Census Bureau

- Informative PPTs
- Hosted info sessions at all events
- Introduced organizations to additional resources



#2 Promoting outreach to under-represented populations

- Raised awareness of micro-grants through the Asian American Federation



#3 Posting Our Social Media "Census Series"

- Dispel misconceptions about the Census
- Honored local groups with proactive Census initiatives
- Posted factoids on language assistance and importance of filling out the Census



Our very own Asian Advisory Council Member, Jamillah Abdul Kareem, was hired as a Census Enumerator at the Nassau County Census Job Fair. She was able to assist constituents with questions regarding the census.

Special thanks to Islamic Center of Long Island, American Pakistani Advocacy Group, Ali Hasnain Foundation, Hillside Islamic Center and the Nassau County Gavel Club for making sure Long Island was counted!

Nassau County Back2School Event

On September 3rd, County Executive Laura Curran and OAAA hosted a Back2School Drive, which was supported by OHA and OMA. The event's sponsors, ICNA Relief, American Pakistani Advocacy Group, and Youth Innovation Lab, provided 400 backpacks filled with school supplies and masks. County Executive Curran worked alongside the volunteers to distribute these items.

The drive, located at Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building, accommodated both curbside pickup and walk-ins to ensure safety protocols were maintained.

Thanks to stellar teamwork, Nassau County's hundreds of underprivileged children were safer and better prepared for school. We would like to give a heartfelt thank you to our sponsors and #TeamNassau for a successful drive!



Workplace Development Initiative

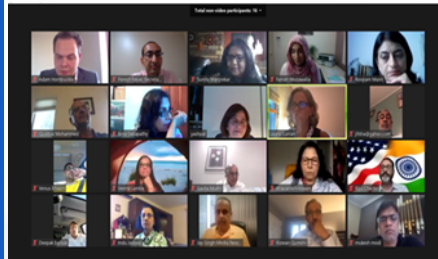
In these trying times, entrepreneurs starting new businesses display a committed, resilient and enterprising spirit.

The Office of Asian Affairs, OHA and OMA partnered again in September to host a Business Basics Webinar. County Executive Laura Curran kicked off the webinar, which featured a discussion with Pierre Lespinasse, a certified business advisor from Farmingdale State College's SBDC.

Lespinasse highlighted the hard work and dedication needed to be a successful entrepreneur. He offered practical advice and outlined strategies for longevity in business, including continuous research, seeking advice and listening to feedback. Mr. Lespinasse also offered thoughts on innovative ways to do business in the face of Covid-19.

Thank you, Pierre Lespinasse and Farmingdale SBDC, for providing guidance for new businesses! For more information on the services SBDC Farmingdale provides, call 934-420-2765 or email sbdc@farmingdale.edu

Nassau County Wants to Hear from You!



Indian leaders' roundtable

On September 4th, the Office of Asian American Affairs hosted a virtual community roundtable with stakeholders in the Indian Community. County Executive Laura Curran and Executive Director Farrah Mozawalla addressed various questions and concerns, such as Covid-19 safety protocols, healthcare and Asian seniors' needs. County Executive Curran described the precautions being taken to prevent a resurgence of the virus, such as closely monitoring testing and social distancing. Curran went on to discuss the health disparities among minorities, and the county's efforts to support clinics and testing in these communities. Executive Director Mozawalla stated that one of the Office of Asian American Affairs' main initiatives for 2021 is programming and creating recreational activities for Asian seniors. The Nassau County Administration is thankful for the Indian leaders' input, and the County will continue its work to support and serve the Asian community.

Pakistani Leaders' Roundtable



PAKISTANI LEADERS AT OAAA'S SEMIANNUAL PAKISTANI STAKEHOLDERS' VIRTUAL MEETING

On September 23rd, Pakistani leaders throughout Nassau County gathered for the OAAA's semiannual Pakistani stakeholders' virtual meeting. The leaders virtually connected with the County Executive Laura Curran and Executive Director Farrah Mozawalla to discuss timely and impactful topics. County Executive Curran spoke about the importance of receiving a flu shot to prevent a "twin-demic."



Fight the Flu! Get a Flu Vaccine
Free Drive-Up Flu Shots

Friday, November 6, 2020
Mercy Medical Center
1000 N Village Ave, Rockville Centre, NY 11570
Call (516) 62- MERCY to schedule an appointment

Friday, November 13, 2020
St. Joseph Hospital
4295 Hempstead Turnpike, Bethpage, NY 11714
Call 516-520-2500 to schedule an appointment

For more information and updates, visit
<https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/5079/Fight-the-Flu-2020>

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FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT FLU VACCINE EVENTS, VISIT [HERE](#).

Welcome to the Celebration Corner!

Nassau County India Independence Day Celebration 2020

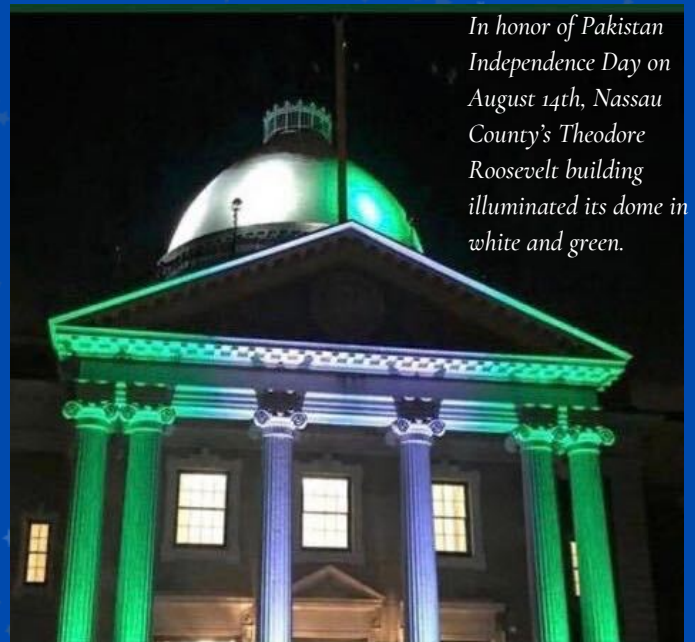


On August 12th, County Executive Laura Curran and the Nassau County Office of Asian American Affairs hosted its first-ever virtual Zoom celebration for India's 74th Independence Day. Special guests to this sold-out event included the Consul General Mr. Randhir Kumar Jaiswal of the Consulate General of India in New York, Senator Kevin Thomas, and India Host Committee members Human Rights Chair Dr. Bobby Kumar, Indu Jaiswal, Mohinder Singh, Shashi Malik, Mukesh Modi, Jyoti Bhatia Gupta, and Pink Jaggi. We enjoyed high-spirited performances by Nassau residents, followed by eloquent messages from Indian community leaders and tuneful patriotic melodies.

On August 15th, Nassau County's Theodore Roosevelt building illuminated its dome in the colors orange, white, and green in honor of Indian Independence Day



Nassau County Pakistan Independence Day Celebration 2020



In honor of Pakistan Independence Day on August 14th, Nassau County's Theodore Roosevelt building illuminated its dome in white and green.

On August 13, County Executive Laura Curran and OAAA hosted a virtual Facebook Live event in honor of Pakistan's 74th Independence Day.

Over 2,000 viewers joined our celebration!

Special guests included Consul General Ayesha Ali of the Consulate General Pakistan New York, Senator Kevin Thomas, and Pakistani community members Shan Hamid, Dr. Isma Chaudhry, and Ammad Sheikh. The event began with the American's and Pakistan's national anthems, followed by a live performance by Pakistani comedian and impressionist Syed Shafaat Ali. The celebration concluded with a video of local Pakistani American organizations wishing attendees a happy Independence Day

Nassau County Diwali Celebration



On November 18th, Nassau County hosted a virtual Diwali Celebration via zoom.

A beautiful rendition of the American and Indian national anthem kicked off the celebration, courtesy of Asha and Leela Bahadkar.

Stunning dance performances lit up the screen as performers donned bright and colorful traditional attire. Melodic singing performances graced viewers' and listeners' screens. Thank you to the wonderful artists who contributed-- Shridhar Ji, Satyam, Mathy Pillay, Swati Group, Jyotika Patel Group, Jyoti Gupta and Gunjan Rastogi.

Diwali—the festival of lights—symbolizes the triumph of knowledge over ignorance, good over evil and light over darkness. This lively event showcased just that!

A special thanks to our host committees: Dr. Bobby Kumar, Indu Jaiswal, Mohinder Singh Taneja, Jasbir Singh, Mukesh Modi, Shashi Malik, Jyoti Gupta and Pinky Jaggi—and our sponsoring organizations: Indian American Forum, India Association of Long Island, IDP USA and Long Island Ladies Circle!

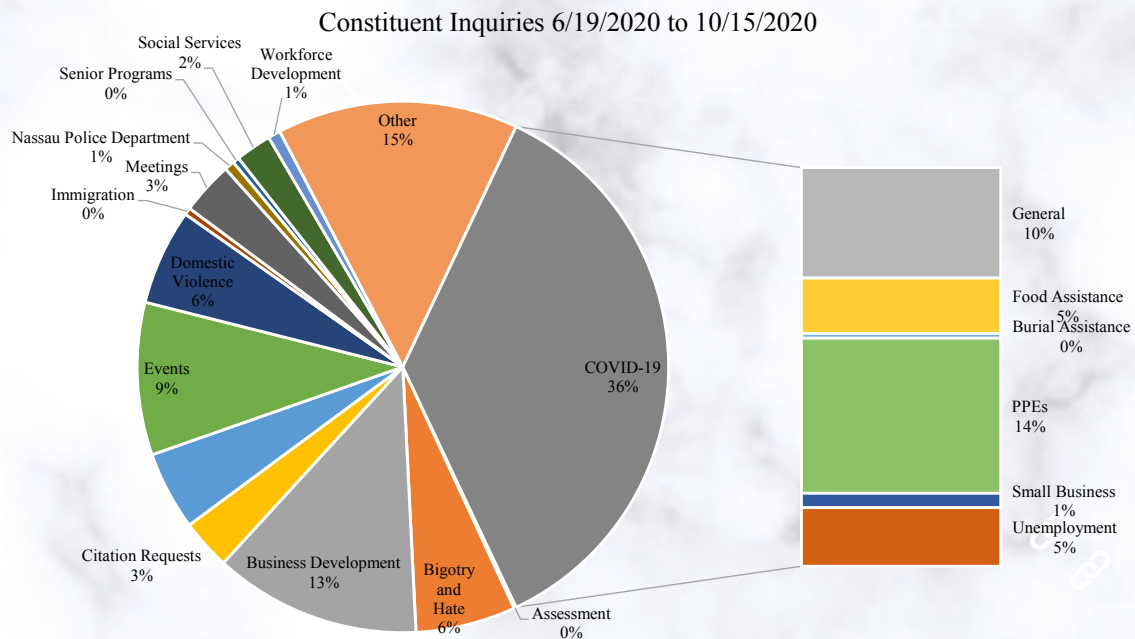




Constituent Inquiries

The Nassau County Office of Asian American Affairs works diligently to address constituent concerns. From 6/19 to 10/15, our office averaged over 100 calls from constituents weekly. The calls concerned a wide range of topics, outlined below, such as business protocol during the pandemic, how to take advantage of the County's business loans and free PPE kit programs and a host of inquiries about various County services. Our Office works diligently to support callers in working with such agencies as the Department of Social Services, Office of the Aging and more, to be a bridge to services and ensure our constituents' issues are addressed.

Constituent Inquires Snapshot



CONTACT US!



Farrah Mozawalla Executive Director
Email: asianaffairs@nassaucountyny.gov
General Office Line 1: (516) 572-2244

Priyansh Raval: (516) 571-3146
Demi Guo: (516) 571-3142
Zaynab Ubaid: (516) 571-3021
Jackie Townsend: (516) 572-2245