



OFFICE OF ASIAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS

COUNTY
EXECUTIVE
LAURA CURRAN

EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR
FARRAH MOZAWALLA

BI-ANNUAL NEWSLETTER • JAN-JULY 2021

INTRODUCTORY MESSAGES

From The County Executive

I want to thank Nassau residents for their hard work and resiliency throughout the COVID-19 pandemic and as we strive to recover. I am grateful for your strength and diligence as we work to ensure our businesses have reopened safely and successfully and that our public is vaccinated. Our team at the Office of Asian American Affairs stands ready to serve as a bridge for residents to connect with County resources and services. I would like to thank the dedicated members of our Asian American Advisory Council (AAAC) for helping Nassau County know and respond to the needs of our vibrant Asian American community. I wish everyone a safe and enjoyable summer.



Laura Curran

From The Executive Director

The Office of Asian American Affairs has worked tirelessly to engage, support and celebrate our diverse Asian American constituency. I am grateful for the trust the community has placed in us, and we will continue to be available to respond to the needs of our community members and provide a voice for the Asian community within County government. With this mid-year newsletter, join us in celebrating what we have accomplished together as a community. OAAA looks forward to growing our team and expanding our initiatives in the second half of the year.



Farrah Mozawalla

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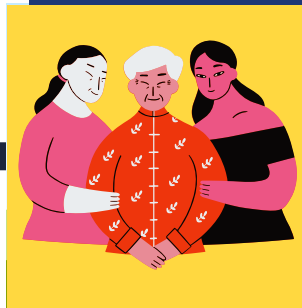
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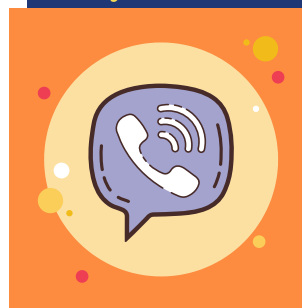
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For Upcoming Events See...



<https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/4772/Asian-American-Affairs>

ACCESS TO COUNTY RESOURCES

Nassau County Services for Seniors

In collaboration with the Nassau County Office for the Aging, the Office of Asian American Affairs hosted a "Services for Seniors" webinar on March 9th. County Executive Laura Curran and OFA Deputy Commissioner Jorge Martinez joined OAAA Executive Director Farrah Mozawalla in the live session.

"It's really important that we reach our Asian seniors," said County Executive Laura Curran. "We want to make sure we are doing everything we can to reach those communities and let them know what is available."

Among the topics discussed were home delivered meals, senior centers, caregiver assistance, and in-home assistance program/case management.

"Data from New York City's AARP shows that the health disparities are the highest among Asian seniors compared to any other ethnicity or race," said Executive Director Farrah Mozawalla. "Based on OAAA's interactions with residents of Nassau County, senior programs have been recognized as one of the main areas of concern."

To watch the full presentation, please visit our Facebook or YouTube page. For more information, please reach out to the Department of Human Services Office for the Aging at (516) 227-8900.

The Nassau County Office for the Aging can be found at: <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/seniors/>



Services for Seniors

Careers in Nassau County Government

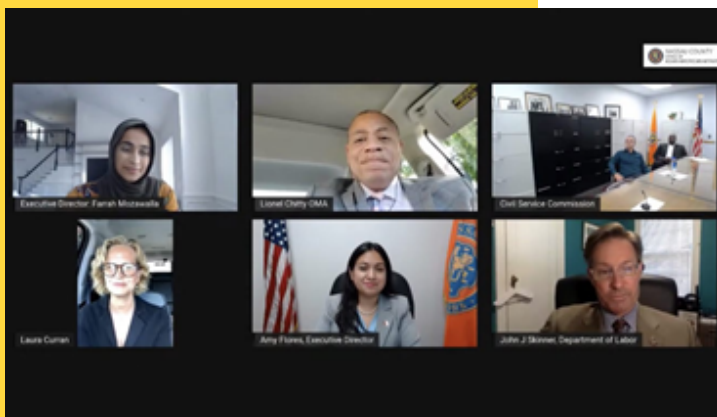
Working with the Nassau County Civil Service Commission, the Offices of Hispanic Affairs, Asian American Affairs and Minority Affairs hosted "Careers in Nassau County Government", an interactive workshop series. The three sessions took place on April 27th, May 26th and June 15th.

"Nassau County employs about 7,200 people. 7,000 of those are civil service jobs," said County Executive Laura Curran. "Our job and the job of this wonderful team that you have here is to demystify the whole civil service process. We have a goal of making sure that all of our diverse communities in Nassau County have access to this information."

Guided by the Civil Service Commission during the presentation, attendees learned more about navigating the civil service website, understanding open announcements and competitive examinations, viewing current opportunities including full-time and seasonal positions, exploring the benefits associated with full-time county employment, along with much more!

To watch the presentation in English, Mandarin, Urdu or Hindi, please visit our Facebook or YouTube page at [Facebook.com/NassauCountyOAA](https://www.facebook.com/NassauCountyOAA) and www.youtube.com/channel/UCni_ihrsEdbe5AxcpBAZ-zQ

The Nassau County Civil Service Commission can be found at: <http://www.nassaucivilservice.com/NCCSWeb/homepage.nsf/HomePage?ReadForm>



Careers in Nassau County Government

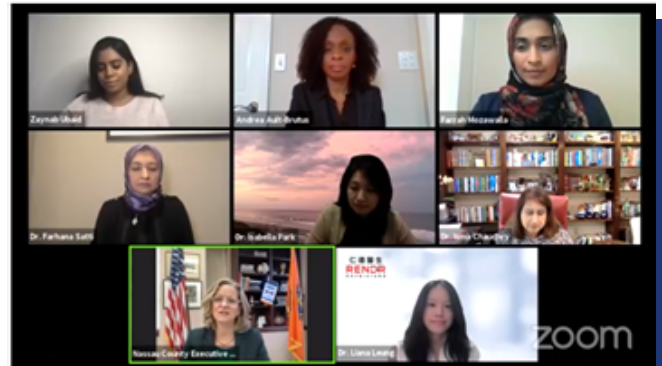
WORKING TOWARDS VACCINE EQUITY

COVID Conversations Webinar

The COVID-19 pandemic brought health inequities to the forefront of society. The County Executive has prioritized assisting underserved and marginalized communities. On March 17th, OAAA collaborated with the Department of Health's Office of Health Equity to host "COVID Conversations." This webinar focused on COVID-19, the efficacy of the vaccines, and dispelling common misinformation. Special thanks to the Director of the Office Health Equity Andrea Ault-Brutus, PHD, MPA; Liana Leung, MD, MPH, FACP; Farhana Satti, MD; Isma H. Chaudhry, MD, MPH; and Isabella Park, DO for taking the time to offer their knowledge and expertise directly with the community.

Nassau County Vaccine Equity Group

The Office of Asian American Affairs is also a part of the Nassau County Vaccine Equity Group to ensure an equitable rollout of the vaccine. This is joint taskforce between the Office of Hispanic Affairs, the Office of Minority Affairs, the Office of Asian American Affairs, the Department of Health's Office of Health Equity, and the Department of Human Services. The goal of the group is to ensure that minority communities and those especially hard-hit by Covid-19 have equal access to vaccine appointments. From January through March, in the early stages of vaccinations when supplies were low, our office contacted constituents directly and made more than 2,500 vaccine appointments for the Asian community. We will continue our efforts to keep every community informed and equipped with the resources to eliminate Covid-19 and help Nassau County come back healthier and stronger than before.



Small Business Support and Outreach

Throughout the pandemic, OAAA has conducted a campaign dedicated to connecting Asian-owned small businesses with County resources and programs. Our staff has visited businesses in Hicksville, Elmont, East Meadow, Levittown, Bethpage, Westbury, and Valley Stream with further plans to reach more areas in Nassau County. Through this outreach initiative, we have raised awareness on the importance of getting vaccinated, our office's services, and most recently Nassau County's Boost Nassau Resource Center, which serves as a one-stop-shop for COVID recovery resources and information. The Resource Center is both an online portal and an in-person hub where constituents can choose to visit by appointment. To access the Resource Center, visit: <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/5217/Boost-Nassau-Portal>



Visiting Halal Express Kebab House in Bethpage

ENSURING FOOD SECURITY

Food Distributions

Following the County's commitment to addressing food insecurity, which provided food to over 35,000 families through 2020, OAAA took additional steps to support food distributions from February through April of this year. In collaboration with Island Harvest and Masjid Al-Baqi, we distributed hundreds of grocery items each week to local relief and community organizations that then distributed these items to vulnerable communities. Working through these organizations' expansive networks, Nassau County was able to take active measures in combating food insecurity.

We thank the Islamic Center of Long Island, Long Island Halal Guide, Faith Bible Hope Center, Indian Association of Long Island, Bismillah Foundation, Masjid Ta-Ha, Afghan Americans of New York, Faith Bible Church, LI Helpers, Masjid Hamza, Domestic Harmony Foundation, Pakistani American Community of Long Island, Ali Hasnain Foundation and Children of Adam for working with us each week to support the community.



County Executive Laura Curran, community leaders and volunteers coming together to support their community

COMBATTING HATE

Interfaith Candlelight Vigil

On April 1st, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, the Office of Asian American Affairs and a diverse group of organizations hosted an Interfaith Candlelight Vigil Against All Acts of Hate and Discrimination on the front steps of the Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building. The vigil was held in honor of the victims of the Georgia massage parlor shootings, which took the lives of eight people, six of whom were women of Asian descent.

Hundreds of community members gathered to demand an end to a surge of anti-Asian racism and violence.

“Nassau County is standing together against the rising tide of Anti-Asian hatred. Although there have been no reported hate crimes targeting Asians in Nassau, the attacks we’re seeing nationwide are unacceptable. Nassau County will continue

to work alongside our state and federal partners to combat hatred with action that will deter violence, protect our residents, and educate the public,” said County Executive Laura Curran.

Thank you to all who joined us on a night of hope, remembrance and unity.

The host committee was represented by: Nassau County Asian American Advisory Council Members Juleigh Chin, Christine Liu, and Gordon Zhang. AAAC Chair Dr. Isma Chaudhry spoke as well.

Sponsoring organizations include the Long Island Chinese American Association, New Hyde Park Chinese Association, Herricks Chinese Association, Roslyn Grace, Great Neck Chinese Association, Chinese American Association of Syosset, Chinese American Association of North Hempstead, Herricks Muslim Families, Afghan Americans of New York, Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County, Muslims of Nassau County, Islamic Center of Long Island, American Jewish Committee Long Island Region, Tanglaw Organization, and Chinese Center on Long Island.

Additionally, our office received several calls regarding alleged microaggressions and discrimination throughout the pandemic. We took several steps to address these concerns, such as assisting constituents in recording and reporting harassment, hosting a Know-Your-Rights webinar, and attending several rallies and vigils to extend our support.

Call or email Nassau County Office of Asian American Affairs if you need help reporting crimes or discrimination.

Image Credit: South Asian Times



County Executive Laura Curran addresses Interfaith Vigil

ENGAGING IN ASIAN FESTIVITIES

The Office of Asian American Affairs takes great pride in honoring the heritage and culture of our County's Asian communities. Thank you for joining our Lunar New Year, Nowruz, Pahela Baishakh and Ramadan virtual events, which received a combined 7k views! We look forward to hosting these events in-person next year!

Lunar New Year

On February 18th, Nassau County virtually celebrated Lunar New Year with vibrant performances. We welcomed the Year of the Ox with a lion dance traditional Hanfu dance, a comedy performance, a puppet show and a Chinese Yo-Yo presentation. What an incredible array of artists and performances!

We thank our host committee Bryant Lew, Christine Liu, Tess Ma, Vanna Ye and Gordon Zhang, as well as our sponsors the Herricks Chinese Association, the New Hyde Park Chinese Association, Roslyn Grace, the Great Neck Chinese Association, Chinese Center on Long Island, Long Island Chinese American Association and the Chinese American Association of North Hempstead for their contributions to this event.

Nowruz

On March 25th, Nassau County celebrated Nowruz to usher in the first day of Spring and commemorate new beginnings. The evening was filled with festive presentations on the significance of Nowruz. Performances included an Attan dance, traditional Sufi music and Persian poetry reading. There was even a delicious cooking recipe that consists of 7 dried fruits.

We thank the Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan Zelgai Sajad and the Consul General of the Republic of Turkey Reyhan Özgür for speaking and celebrating with us. We also thank our host committee Wazma Wardak Hassan, Parviz Nezami and Bektosh Ayoob, and our sponsors Afghan Americans of New York, Nezami Literary Society of New York, Turkish American National Steering Committee, and the Tanbour Institute for contributing to this event.



FESTIVITIES cont.

Pahela Baishakh

On April 8th we virtually celebrated Pahela Baishakh, the Bengali New Year. The evening had many speakers and singers and included performances such as a sajani sajani dance and a beautiful rendition of the song "I see the resonating beauty in you." We were also proud to honor members of the community for their service. The honorees were Fawzia Syed, Awlad Khan, Farhana Islam, Kamrul Ahsan and Akter Kamal. We appreciate everyone for joining us!

We thank our host committee Abdul Aziz Bhuiyan, Sadia Chaudhury, Rahat Hossain, Nazrul Islam and Sabrina Mahboob for helping to coordinate, as well as our sponsors Women of Bangladesh Heritage, Center of Bangla creative works, and Bangladeshi Heritage for their contributions to this event.

Virtual Iftar Program

On April 29th, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran and OAAA held a virtual Ramadan Iftar Program over Facebook and YouTube. Masjids and Muslim organizations came together to showcase the importance of this holy month. Muslim youth presented stories, Islamic songs, and an Eid fashion show, which was shared with the 3K viewers who tuned in.

The program also highlighted the Muslim community's commitment to help essential workers and at-risk communities throughout the pandemic.

We would like to thank Masjid Al-Baqi, Masjid Ta-Ha, Hillside Islamic Center, Masjid Hamza, Islamic Center of Long Island, the Long Island Muslim Society, Muslims For Progress, Crescent School, Herricks Muslim Families for assisting us in bringing this program to fruition!

Nassau County Eid Food Drive-Thru

County Executive Laura Curran and OAAA held Nassau County's second Eid Drive-Thru on May 21st at Eisenhower Park.

Over 500 cars and two thousand people participated in the festivities, enjoying rice platters, pizza, ice cream and South Asian sweets with friends, family and loved ones. Attendees had the opportunity to set up picnic gatherings throughout our beautiful Eisenhower Park.

We thank our host committee Dr. Isma Chaudhry, Zeshan Hamid and Ammad Sheikh for helping to coordinate this event, as well as our sponsors the Pakistani American Community of Long Island New York, Long Island Halal Guide, Shia Ithna' Asheri Jamaat of New York, New York South Asian Chamber of Commerce, Herricks Muslim Families, Council on PAK US Relations-COPUR, Afghan Americans of New York and the Ehsaas Foundation for providing delicious food for the community!



HONORING AAPI HERITAGE MONTH

May is Asian American and Pacific Islander Heritage Month (AAPI Heritage Month). Nassau County Executive Laura Curran and the Office of Asian American Affairs celebrated with a series of events to assist, connect with, and empower the Asian and Pacific Islander residents of Nassau County.

Asian American and Pacific Islanders Youth Roundtable

The Office of Legislator Arnold W. Drucker, in collaboration with the Office of Legislator Joshua A. Lafazan and OAAA, hosted an AAPI Youth Roundtable on May 17th. The AAPI youth from grades 6 through 12 were invited to connect with and engage county government representatives in a safe space. They shared their thoughts and concerns on the rise of anti-Asian sentiments with the goal of finding solutions with their local representatives.

Business Resource Webinar for the AAPI Community

In collaboration with the Nassau County Industry Development Agency (NCIDA), we hosted a Business Resource Webinar on May 19th. The NCIDA shared how it can help business owners and stakeholders to purchase or renovate new or existing commercial properties. The team also shared information about programs available to nonprofits and NGOs through IDA sister agency the Local Economic Assistance Corporation (LEAC). Lastly, the NCIDA unveiled their rebrand and new website, which can be found at XXXX Business stakeholders can now more easily find resources to aid their development and growth. The webinar concluded with questions from members of the audience answered directly by the NCIDA, LEAC, and OAAA.

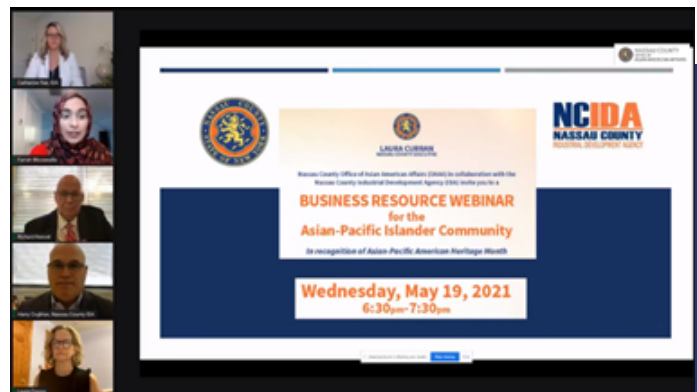
Connecting Communities



Connecting Communities: A Celebration of AAPI Month

Legislator Debra Mulé, in collaboration with County Executive Laura Curran and OAAA, hosted a Connecting Communities event on May 25th to celebrate AAPI Heritage Month. Panelists from organizations including the Indian Association of Long Island, Masjid Al-Rasheed, Long Island Chinese American Association, and Jaam'e Masjid spoke about the resources their organizations provide and how their organization addresses the issues and concerns of those they represent. The speakers provided their perspectives on the increasing rates of AAPI hate crimes and how to form a more inclusive environment.

OAAA would like to thank each organization's representatives--Shashi Malik, Saalim Ahmed, Gordon Zhang and Fahad Qamer--for providing the diverse Asian community with a safe space and platform to amplify their voices.



Business Resource Webinar

Honoring AAPI Heritage Month cont.

AAPI Heritage Month: In the Spotlight Series

Over the course of AAPI Heritage Month, we interviewed organizations recently founded by AAPI youth. We thank them for speaking out about their Asian identity and heritage, as well as their commitment to supporting the Asian American community of Nassau County. We interviewed the Changemaker Interfaith Group, New York Vaccine Angels, Asians Speak Up and Current Events Chronicle. To learn more about our rising stars, click on an image:



Asians Speak Up



New York Vaccine Angels



Changemaker Interfaith Group

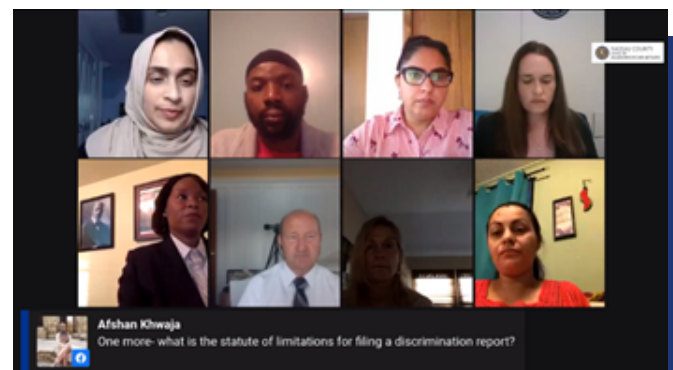


Current Events Chronicle

Asian-Pacific Islander Heritage Month Know-Your-Rights Webinar

For our last AAPI Heritage Month event, we hosted a Know-Your-Rights webinar on May 27th, 2021. The webinar featured information regarding civil rights, resources for domestic violence assistance, reporting hate crimes, micro-aggressions, and social services available. Through this educational program, we empowered the Asian community of Nassau County to become their own best advocate.

We thank the Nassau County Office of Crime Victim Advocate, Nassau County Police Department, Domestic Harmony Foundation, Asian American Cohesion, CAIR New York, Nassau County Human Rights Commission, and Drug Rehab Services/Addicted.org for presenting!



BOLLYWOOD NIGHTS

Nassau County Bollywood Movie Nights

On June 17th and 24th, Nassau County successfully hosted its first-ever set of Bollywood Movie Nights at the Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre in Eisenhower Park. In partnership with the Nassau County Film Commission and Nassau County Parks Department, the Office of Asian American Affairs presented viewings of “Dilwale Dulhania Le Jayenge” and “Jab We Met”.

Thousands of residents gathered at the venue each night to watch the films and commemorate South Asian culture in Nassau County. As we waited for the sun to set to display the movies, speakers blared South Asian music hits. Even the County Executive could not resist dancing along with the audience.

Attendees were also greeted by vendors that catered delectable halal and vegetarian cuisine. The night was filled with laughter shared with family, friends and neighbors alike.

Thank you to all the wonderful organizations that helped make this event possible and gave our community a memorable and fun-filled experience. We look forward to having many more enjoyable movie nights by the lake!



The County Executive, the office of Asian American Affairs team and attendees at the “Jab We Met” screening

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**For Upcoming
Events See...**



@NassauCountyOAA

<https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/4772/Asian-American-Affairs>

Take our Senior Programs Survey!

OAAA in collaboration with the Office for the Aging are planning new programs for Nassau County seniors. Please give us your input below on what activities you would like to see!

<https://forms.gle/cjbEwpmkbr9MH5Ak7>



NASSAU COUNTY
OFFICE OF
ASIAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS