

2022 NEWSLETTER

BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE



NASSAU COUNTY
OFFICE OF
HISPANIC AFFAIRS

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Nassau County
Office of Hispanic Affairs CASA



@NassauCASA



@HispanicAffairsCASA



Nassau County
Office of Hispanic
Affairs CASA

OUR MISSION

The Office of Hispanic Affairs (C.A.S.A.) is a Department of Nassau County tasked with serving as the liaison between County government and its large Hispanic population. OHA's mission is to coordinate resources for the Hispanic community with the goal of educating, empowering and developing integration initiatives that will foster greater participation in Nassau County's social, economic, and civic life. Our staff work with the County Executive's Office and other County agencies on the research, analysis, and implementation of policy to ensure that the Hispanic community is afforded equal opportunities, meaningful engagement, and access to Nassau County government.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNTY EXECUTIVE



Bruce A. Blakeman
Nassau County Executive

As Nassau County Executive, it is of the utmost importance that everyone is afforded equal access to Nassau County government, resources, and critical information. I am proud that in the County we have a department solely dedicated to our Hispanic community to ensure that they receive crucial services that help them prosper in our County.

Throughout the 2022 year, the Office of Hispanic Affairs partnered up with key community stakeholders, County departments and the private sector to host a multitude of educational, cultural, and informative events with the goal of empowering the Hispanic community. As we embark on the 2023 year, my administration remains committed in ensuring that the Hispanic community has increased access to opportunities in all sectors to ensure their advancement. I would like to wish everyone a safe and prosperous New Year!

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Herberth Flores
Executive Director

We are proud of our accomplishments in assisting an increased number of constituents with County resources and applications that include immigration, social services, translations, and housing among others. We are grateful for the unconditional support of County Executive Blakeman for providing us with the resources necessary to empower our Hispanic community. This collective support enables us to continue to expand programs and establish new partnerships with key stakeholders. As a result, we are able to ensure that residents have the support that they need to succeed.

In the coming year, we remain committed in playing a crucial role in serving as the liaison between County departments and government representatives to ensure that every resident has equal access to government resources. We will continue to host educational and informative workshops including assisting business owners with the MWBE certification process, in addition to celebrating our diverse Hispanic culture.

On behalf of the Nassau County Office of Hispanic Affairs, we would like to wish you all a safe and prosperous New Year!

CULTURAL EVENTS



Mexican Independence Day



Dominican Independence Day



Ecuadorian Independence Day

Celebrating Nassau County's diversity and preserving the Hispanic culture has given residents the opportunity to celebrate the importance of keeping our culture alive and enriching others about our heritage, influence, and the contributions Hispanics make in the United States and in Nassau County.

This year we were proud to host a multitude of events and recognize many community leaders for their efforts in making positive changes in our community. Residents enjoyed learning about our culture through musical performances, ethnic food, and historical facts.

HISPANIC LEADERS EVENT



To kick-off the 2022 year, our office hosted a "Reunion de Líderes Hispanos" event to bring together Hispanic leaders and learn about how the Blakeman administration can better address the needs of the Hispanic community. It was also an opportunity for leaders to learn about the services, and resources that our office offers and our trajectory for the year.

ADULT ENGLISH CLASSES

As part of our mission to educate and empower our community, our office offers English classes in partnership with Hempstead Adult & Community Education Program. Classes are offered FREE of charge and are open to adults over the age of 21. To register for classes, please call (516) 434-4047 or visit our office.

**Hempstead
Adult & Community Education
Program**

**CLASES DE
INGLES**

**Registration
Now Open**
Monday-Thursday
9:00am-1:00pm

**Registración
abierta**
lunes-jueves
9:00am-1:00pm

Nassau County Office
of Hispanic Affairs
40 Main Street
Hempstead, NY
(516) 434-4047

CIVIL SERVICE OPPORTUNITIES

As we continue to diversify the workforce and reflect Nassau County's population, we co-hosted informational sessions with the Nassau County Civil Service Commission, Nassau County Office of Asian American Affairs, and the Nassau County Office of Minority Affairs.

In these sessions, constituents learned about job opportunities, navigating the Civil Service website, and how to set up alerts for when an exam opens. This was in effort of our ongoing commitment to an equitable economic recovery by connecting individuals and jobseekers to job openings within the government.

 To learn more about the civil service process, visit the Nassau County Civil Service Commission website at: <http://www.nassaucivilservice.com/>

EDUCATION

The Office of Hispanic Affairs is committed to supporting Latino educators and students of Nassau County. This year, the Office of Hispanic Affairs was proud to join the Long Island Latino Teachers Association (LILTA, a not-for-profit organization) in collaboration with Stony Brook University at their annual conference where students got to Hear the stories of struggles and triumphs echoed by educators and professionals from across Long Island.

Students who attended the conference pledged that they would graduate from high school and pursue a post-secondary education.


The Office of Hispanic Affairs fully supports LILTA's efforts to transform the lives of young people. To be a part of their success in reaching their full potential and will continue to do our part to ensure that once students graduate from high school, they can pursue higher education and training opportunities through ongoing workforce development initiatives.

Our office also works closely with Nassau Community College & are available to speak with any students inquiring about higher education.

A great educational achievement in 2022 was supporting several students in securing scholarships to pursue higher education. We look forward to continuing the educational work necessary in 2023 for the advancement of the Hispanic community.

CITIZENSHIP CEREMONY

One of the most impactful services that our office offers is assistance with Citizenship applications spearheaded by Program Coordinator, Yolanda Martinez. This year Nassau County Executive, Bruce A. Blakeman, welcomed Nassau County's newest citizens with a ceremony at the historical Theodore Roosevelt Executive & Legislative Building. The County Executive presented each Citizen a congratulatory certificate and special Nassau County pin. Once again, we congratulate Nassau County's newest citizens!

 If you would like more information on becoming a Citizen, please contact Yolanda Martinez at (516) 572-0750.



Left to Right: Amelia Vallecio, Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman & Herberth Flores



Left to Right: Yolanda Martinez, Herberth Flores, Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman



Peggy Phillips' Husband, Peggy Phillips, & County Executive Bruce Blakeman

IMMIGRATION FORUM



Long Island Hispanic Bar Association
Volunteer Attorneys



Immigration Forum Attendees

A key partner of the OHA is the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association. In addition to our ongoing partnership which provides free legal information, we hosted an Immigration Forum. Residents were informed about the most recent changes in immigration, the citizenship process, and family petitions. Attendees also had the opportunity to speak to an attorney one-on-one to listen to their individual case and we provided legal information.


 WATCH Telemundo's Coverage here: <https://bit.ly/3UAXiAa>

MWBE- HISPANIC OWNED BUSINESSES

Latino entrepreneurs are starting small businesses faster than the rest of the startup population and becoming a bigger part of the total U.S. market every day. Estimates are that they will make up 29 percent of the U.S. population by 2050, up from 17 percent today. According to a Stanford Graduate School of Business study, if those businesses grew as fast as the U.S. average, they could add \$1.4 trillion to the U.S. economy.

As this important sector grows, in Nassau, the Office of Hispanic Affairs is committed in ensuring that our Hispanic owned businesses have access to vital resources that ensure they continue to flourish. This year, we were proud to team up with key stakeholders in our business community to secure thousands of dollars in funding through programs available at the State and Federal level such as the "New York State Seed Funding", "New York State COVID-19 Pandemic Recovery Grant" and the "Employee Retention Credit".

Our office was also proud to support several grand openings of local businesses like "5 de Mayo Steakhouse" in Farmingdale and "Eye 2 Eye Optical" located in Mineola. We wish these businesses much success!

 If you are a small business owner and would like more information the MWBE certification or resources for your business, contact Melissa Figueroa at MFIGueroa@nassaucountyny.gov or call (516) 572-0750.

Source: Stanford Graduate School of Business



Small Business Seminar on New York State COVID-19 Pandemic Small Business Recovery Grant in partnership with Atlas Collective



Deputy Director of Minority Affairs, Melissa Figueroa, walking business owners through the Vendor Registration & informing them about the M/WBE process



Grand Opening of "Eye 2 Eye Optical" in Mineola

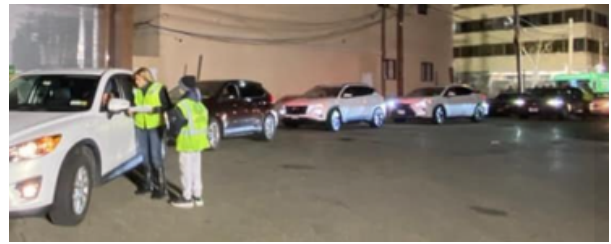


Grand Opening of "5 de Mayo Steakhouse" in Farmingdale

GIVING BACK TO OUR COMMUNITY



Back to School Backpack Distribution



Turkey Distribution

As a way to give back to the community we serve, our office hosted numerous events throughout the year to help the most vulnerable. This year we were proud to host a Mother's Day Dinner, Back to School Backpack Giveaway, Prom Dress Distribution, & Turkey Distribution.

SUMMER YOUTH PROGRAM



This year we welcomed four Hispanic youth to our office where they learned critical workforce skills that will serve them well into their careers. Natalie Alvarado, Christian Castillo, Juliet Reyes, & Gianmarco Rios played a vital role in our office from researching & gathering resources to assisting us in the coordination of special events. Their participation in this program & our office gave them a hands on experience in the government sector and helped them develop and career skills they will utilize to succeed in the workforce.

ADVISORY BOARD



From left to right: Victor Perez, Giovana Bracchi, Jorge Martinez, Ever Padilla, Milagros Vicente, Helen Dorado Alessi, and Angel Reyes



From left to right: Angel Reyes, Milagros Vicente, Mimi Pierre Johnson, Dorothy Santana, Víctor Perez, and Nassau County Board of Elections Representative

This year our Advisory Board was proud to support our office in the development and coordination of numerous cultural, educational, and civic events. Our Advisory Board teamed up with La Fuerza CDC, Hofstra University and the North Shore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to host a networking event geared towards small businesses. They also hosted Civic Engagement event in partnership with Latina Moms Connect, Elmont Cultural Center, & Women League of Voters to educate our community about civic responsibilities.

HEALTH EQUITY



Betty Rodriguez founder of Betty's Breast Cancer Foundation at our Mammography Screening event

Across the country, people in some racial and ethnic minority groups experience higher rates of poor health and disease for a range of health conditions, including breast cancer. Disparities in breast cancer mortality rates adversely affect minority women. Mammography screening is the most effective early detection method and means of reducing mortality rates. In September, we partnered with Betty's Breast Cancer Foundation & Nassau University Medical Center to provide FREE mammograms at our office location. It's important to remove barriers to care for our community, so that they don't miss out on prevention, early-intervention care, and critical diagnosis.

FELIZ NAVIDAD CONCERT & TOY DISTRIBUTION



Left to Right: Herberth Flores, Federico Guerrero, Ambassador Milena Mayorga, Natalia Suaza, County Executive Bruce Blakeman, Judy Torres, Mateo Flores, & Elias Levy Cohen



Left to Right: Federico Guerrero, Judy Torres, County Executive Bruce Blakeman, Santa Clause, Ambassador Milena Mayorga

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and the Office of Hispanic Affairs (C.A.S.A. Agency) held a successful toy giveaway as part of a 'Feliz Navidad' Christmas 2022 celebration. The concert at Mitchel Field featured artists who performed Christmas music to highlight the festive season, including the Freeport High School Band, Mariachi Guerrerense, Juan Jose Rodriguez Junior, Melissa Bonilla, and Westbury Public School Student Melanie Luis.

Children took photos with Santa Claus and enjoyed complimentary refreshments with desserts during the event. The Mineola and Uniondale Fire Departments brought holiday cheer with special appearances by: Rudolph the Red Nose Reindeer, and Frosty the Snowman among others.

Joining County Executive Blakeman were the Ambassador of El Salvador to the United States, Milena Mayorga, Consulate of Panama Elias Levy Cohen and Consulate of El Salvador Federico Guerrero. Miss Long Island Teen 2023, Natalia Suaza, and "The Queen of Freestyle", Judy Torres, also participated as special guests.



SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY

In addition to hosting office events, the Office of Hispanic Affairs attends community events coordinated by community Agencies. These events give us the opportunity to share information about our office, resources available and upcoming events.



Westbury Youth Soccer League Long Island Champions Ceremony



NSHCC Women's Event



SUMAQ Peruvian Food Festival at the Cradle of Aviation



Nassau County Hispanic Police Society



Long Island Hispanic Pastoral Association



Hispanic Brotherhood



Circulo de la Hispanidad Annual Gala



Long Beach Latino
Civic Association

COUNTY EVENTS



Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman at Toys for Tots Collection at Nassau Coliseum



Feliz Navidad Toy Distribution



Nassau County Bruce A. Blakeman welcomes Nassau's Citizens



Mexican Independence Day Celebration



Grand Opening of Local Nassau County Business in Uniondale



Nassau County welcomes Miss Universe Portugal



Eisenhower's Arts & Crafts Festival



Food Distribution in Mineola

The Office of Hispanic Affairs looks forward to another successful year in partnership with our community leaders, and non-profit organizations to service the evolving needs of our residents!



Nassau County's Latino Night at Eisenhower Park



Nassau County's Police Explorers



Book Launch



Ecuadorian Independence Day



Dejus Center Labor Rights Event



Betty's Breast Cancer Foundation
Founder Christmas Tree Lighting



Nassau County joins the National Puerto Rican Day Parade in New York City



New Citizen of Nassau County