



BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE

NASSAU COUNTY OFFICE OF HISPANIC AFFAIRS ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2025



Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman joined Executive Director Herberth Flores at this year's Hispanic Heritage Month Celebration, proudly honoring Panama with a special cultural tribute.



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BRUCE A. BLAKEMAN
 NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE

A MESSAGE FROM OUR COUNTY EXECUTIVE



Bruce A. Blakeman
 Nassau County Executive

As Nassau County Executive, I am fully committed to supporting our local Hispanic community. This vital part of the cultural fabric of our County is a major reason why we remain the best place to live in all of New York. My administration will continue to ensure that all residents have equal access to essential government services, resources, and information that enhance their quality of life.

As always, **Nassau County's Office of Hispanic Affairs stands ready to serve as an important link to our Hispanic community.** In addition to their daily efforts to support and empower our residents, its members will continue to host important educational, cultural, and informational events that benefit the community as a whole. Under my leadership, every community in Nassau County will thrive.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Herberth Flores
 Executive Director

As we welcome the new year, we reflect on a year defined by progress, collaboration, and meaningful impact across Nassau County. Through targeted initiatives and community engagement, the Office of Hispanic Affairs worked diligently to expand access to resources, strengthen neighborhoods, and support families throughout our diverse communities.

These efforts were made possible through the leadership and continued support of Nassau County Executive Bruce A. Blakeman, whose commitment to responsive and inclusive government continues to drive meaningful results for our residents.

We remain steadfast in our mission to serve with accessibility and purpose ensuring that every resident feels supported, valued, and heard. We also reaffirm our commitment to strengthening small businesses and fostering economic opportunity throughout the county.

As we move into 2026, we look forward to continued collaboration with our community partners, civic leaders, and residents as we work together to build a stronger, more united Nassau County.

Best wishes for a blessed a successful 2026! We remain proud to serve you!

OFFICE OF HISPANIC AFFAIRS MISSION

The Office of Hispanic Affairs is tasked with serving as the liaison between County government and its large Hispanic population.

Our 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.



NASSAU COUNTY
 OFFICE OF
 HISPANIC AFFAIRS

CELEBRATING OUR HISPANIC HERITAGE

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC INDEPENDENCE DAY



The spirit of unity and cultural pride filled the Theodore Roosevelt Executive & Legislative Building as Nassau County marked the 181st Anniversary of the Dominican Republic's Independence. Community leaders, residents, and guests gathered to honor the nation's rich history and lasting contributions to the County.

The celebration was honored by the presence of **Bray Vargas** Senator of the Dominican Republic, whose participation highlighted the strong cultural and diplomatic ties shared between Nassau County and the Dominican community.

PERU'S INDEPENDENCE DAY



Nassau County honored Peru's Independence Day in partnership with PACAA and PACCLI, celebrating the nation's rich history, traditions, and the growing Peruvian community throughout the County.

Guests enjoyed cultural presentations and moments of recognition that highlighted Peru's influence on the arts, cuisine, and civic life reinforcing Nassau County's commitment to honoring the diverse communities that shape its cultural and economic landscape.

COLOMBIA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY



Nassau County proudly celebrated Colombia's Independence Day with a meaningful gathering honoring Colombian culture and heritage. The event recognized **Alexis Lozano** and **Nino Caicedo**, founders of the world-renowned *Orquesta Guayacán*, for their lasting impact on Colombian music and cultural identity.

Community members came together in unity as the evening concluded with a moving rendition of Colombia's National Anthem, celebrating pride, resilience, and shared heritage.

ARGENTINA'S INDEPENDENCE DAY



Nassau County marked 209 years of Argentina's independence with a meaningful celebration honoring the nation's heritage and global influence. Held in partnership with the **Comité Cívico de Argentina**, the event welcomed distinguished guests, including **Michel Capelo Portillo**, descendant of Simón Bolívar, highlighting the significance of this historic occasion.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT IN ACTION

Strengthening Families, Celebrating Tradition, and Serving Our Communities

Across Nassau County, meaningful initiatives continue to uplift families, strengthen neighborhoods, and ensure that residents have access to essential resources during key moments throughout the year. From seasonal support to holiday traditions, these efforts reflect the County's ongoing commitment to compassion, equity, and community connection.

THANKSGIVING TURKEY DISTRIBUTIONS



Nassau County hosted two Thanksgiving Turkey Distributions in Freeport and Hempstead, ensuring families had access to essential holiday meals during a time centered on gratitude and togetherness. The first distribution took place in the Village of Freeport in partnership with **Gorayeb & Associates**, where 1,000 turkeys were distributed to residents. Families also received fresh produce and warm jackets, reinforcing the County's commitment to meeting both nutritional and seasonal needs. Just days later, a second distribution was held at 43 Main Street in Hempstead, expanding outreach to reach even more families. In partnership with Grigo Law Group, residents were welcomed into an organized and respectful environment where they received turkeys and support with dignity and care. Together, both distributions reflected Nassau County's proactive response to food insecurity and its dedication to ensuring families can gather, celebrate, and feel supported during meaningful moments of the year.

ANNUAL FELIZ NAVIDAD CONCERT & TOY DISTRIBUTION



One of Nassau County's most cherished holiday traditions, the Feliz Navidad Concert and Toy Distribution returned to Uniondale, bringing joy, generosity, and community spirit to thousands of families. Through partnerships with **Toys for Tots**, community organizations, and dedicated volunteers, children received toys and experienced the magic of the holiday season. Live music, cultural performances, and festive entertainment transformed the event into a joyful celebration highlighting the power of community and the importance of coming together to uplift one another.

BACKPACK & SCHOOL SUPPLY DISTRIBUTION



Just before the start of the academic year, Nassau County hosted a Backpack and School Supply Distribution in Hempstead to ensure students were fully prepared for the classroom. Hundreds of students received backpacks filled with essential supplies, including notebooks, folders, and writing materials—helping ease the financial burden many families face at the start of the school year. The event ensured students returned to school feeling confident, supported, and ready to succeed. This initiative reinforced Nassau County's commitment to educational equity and youth empowerment, recognizing that access to essential tools plays a critical role in shaping students' academic journeys and long-term success.

WINTER CLOTHING & SWEATER DISTRIBUTION

As temperatures dropped, Nassau County expanded its winter assistance efforts by providing warm clothing and seasonal apparel to families and seniors throughout Hempstead. Seniors receiving monthly food boxes through the Bureau of Health Access at the Department of Health also received warm clothing, ensuring those living on fixed incomes were supported without added barriers.

COMMUNITY FOOD DISTRIBUTION

Nassau County partnered with SUFI Social Adult Day Care in Hempstead to host a large-scale food distribution supporting hundreds of families across the community. The event provided essential groceries including fresh produce, meats, eggs, and other nutritious food items—ensuring families had access to healthy meals during a time of need.

This initiative served residents of all ages, with a special focus on supporting seniors and households facing food insecurity. Community members were welcomed into a dignified and supportive environment where access to nutritious food helped ease financial burdens and promote overall wellness.

JOCKEY JUNIOR ALVARADO DAY

Celebrating a Hometown Champion



County Executive Blakeman officially declared June 18, 2025, as “**Jockey Junior Alvarado Day**,” honoring the Nassau County resident for his historic victories at the 2025 Kentucky Derby and Belmont Stakes. Recognized at a ceremony at the Theodore Roosevelt Executive & Legislative Building, Alvarado was celebrated for his discipline, perseverance, and national impact, inspiring young athletes across the community.

NATIONAL PUERTO RICAN DAY PARADE

Showcasing Nassau County's Leadership and Culture in the Heart of New York City



We proudly participated in the **National Puerto Rican Day Parade**, joining thousands of marchers and spectators in one of the largest cultural celebrations in the United States. County Executive Blakeman was joined by members of the **Nassau County Police Hispanic Society** and community leaders as they came together to honor Puerto Rican heritage, history, and contributions to American society.

OFFICE OPEN HOUSE: COMMUNITY ACCESS & SUPPORT

One Space. One Team. Resources for Every Resident.



Nassau County hosted a collaborative Open House in partnership with the Office of Minority Affairs and the Office of Asian American Affairs, bringing all three outreach teams together under one roof at our Hempstead location. The event created a welcoming space where residents could meet one-on-one with staff, receive personalized assistance, and access important resources tailored to their needs.

By uniting multiple outreach offices in one location, the Open titled enhanced accessibility, streamlined support, and ensured that community members received direct, meaningful assistance in a single visit.

EMPOWERING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH EDUCATION & WELLNESS

Sharing Knowledge, Prevention, and Community Well-Being

FRAUD PREVENTION & COMMUNITY EDUCATION WORKSHOP



In response to the growing prevalence of fraud targeting vulnerable populations, Nassau County hosted “*Protégase de Fraudes*”, an educational workshop focused on fraud prevention and victim support. The event provided residents with critical information on identifying scams, protecting personal information, and accessing legal and law enforcement assistance.

This initiative was conducted in partnership with the Nassau County Police Department, the Nassau County District Attorney’s Office, and the Long Island Hispanic Bar Association. Presenters shared real-world examples, prevention strategies, and guidance on steps to take if victimized. The workshop underscored Nassau County’s commitment to public safety, education, and empowerment ensuring residents are informed, protected, and supported when facing complex legal and financial challenges.

COMMUNITY HEALTH FAIR: ADVANCING ACCESS TO CARE



Nassau County hosted a comprehensive Community Health Fair designed to increase access to preventive care, health education, and insurance resources for residents and families. Held at the Office of Hispanic Affairs in Hempstead, the event welcomed individuals of all ages seeking guidance on maintaining healthy lifestyles and navigating healthcare options.

In partnership with Anthem Blue Cross Blue Shield, attendees received information on health coverage, wellness screenings, and referrals to ongoing care. Community members were able to ask questions, receive educational materials, and engage directly with health professionals in a trusted and accessible setting.

This Health Fair reinforced Nassau County’s commitment to public health equity recognizing that informed, preventive care strengthens families, reduces long-term healthcare burdens, and improves overall quality of life.

HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH CELEBRATION

A Special Tribute to Panama

As part of the County's Hispanic Heritage Month celebrations, Nassau County proudly honored the Republic of Panama during a distinguished evening recognizing its rich culture, history, & lasting contributions to our community. The event welcomed Her Excellency Maricel Cohen de Mulino, First Lady of the Republic of Panama, and María Eugenia Herrera, Minister of Culture, whose presence elevated the significance of the celebration. The program also brought together an esteemed group of dignitaries, including José Miguel Alemán, Ambassador of Panama to the United States; Ana Irene Delgado, Ambassador of Panama to the Organization of American States (OAS); Roosevelt Thayer and Vilma Di Bello Quijano of the Panamanian Consular Corps in New York; Nassau County Comptroller Elaine Phillips; and New York State Senator Jack Martins.



During the ceremony, Nassau County Executive Bruce A. Blakeman presented a County Citation to the First Lady and Minister of Culture of Panama, recognizing the nation's rich cultural heritage and the strong, enduring relationship between Nassau County and the Panamanian community. In return, the First Lady of Panama presented the County Executive with traditional artisan pieces and authentic Panamanian delicacies, symbolizing cultural exchange, mutual respect, and the deep ties shared between both communities.



The evening featured vibrant cultural presentations by the Conjunto Folklórico Tradicional del Ministerio de Cultura de Panamá, as well as musical performances by The Beachers, celebrating Panama's artistic traditions and cultural pride. Guests were also welcomed by the warm hospitality of Jackie and Manny Carvalho of the Carvalho Foundation, whose leadership helped bring together diplomatic, civic, and community leaders for this meaningful occasion. The celebration concluded with the illumination of the Theodore Roosevelt Executive and Legislative Building in the colors of the Panamanian flag — a powerful and symbolic tribute to Panama's heritage and the enduring contributions of its people.



A CELEBRATION OF CITIZENSHIP AND OPPORTUNITY

Honoring New Americans and Strengthening Our Community



Nassau County Executive Bruce A. Blakeman proudly welcomed new Americans during a meaningful Citizenship Ceremony held at the Theodore Roosevelt Executive & Legislative Building. The event marked a powerful milestone for individuals and families who completed their journey to becoming United States citizens—many of whom received guidance and support through the Nassau County Office of Hispanic Affairs, which assists residents throughout the citizenship application process.

In partnership with the Economic Opportunity Commission of Hempstead, the ceremony honored individuals who officially took the Oath of Allegiance, embracing both the rights and responsibilities of civic participation. Families, community leaders, and local officials gathered to celebrate this important achievement, creating a moment filled with pride, reflection, and hope.

The ceremony highlighted the dedication, perseverance, and commitment demonstrated by new citizens, while reinforcing Nassau County's ongoing mission to ensure immigrant communities feel welcomed, supported, and empowered. Through education, outreach, and accessible services, the County continues to help residents navigate the naturalization process and fully participate in civic life.

This meaningful celebration reaffirmed Nassau County's commitment to inclusion, opportunity, and strengthening the diverse communities that make our County thrive.



SUPPORTING SMALL BUSINESSES & STRENGTHENING OUR LOCAL ECONOMY

The Nassau County Office of Hispanic Affairs remains deeply committed to empowering small businesses and entrepreneurs as essential drivers of economic growth, job creation, and community vitality. Through education, outreach, and celebration, we continue to support business owners at every stage of their journey—from launching new ventures to honoring long-standing establishments that have helped shape our local economy.

C3 WORKSHOP: EMPOWERING SMALL BUSINESSES FOR SUCCESS

We hosted a C3 Workshop designed to empower local entrepreneurs and small business owners with the tools needed to grow and succeed. Hosted in collaboration with Atlas Collective, TruFund Financial Services, and community partners, the workshop focused on Certifications, Capital, and Contracts—three essential pillars for business development.

Participants learned about Nassau County’s Minority- and Women-Owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) goal, as well as opportunities available through TruFund’s contract mobilization loan program. The workshop provided practical guidance for business owners seeking to expand operations, secure government contracts, and strengthen their long-term sustainability.

This educational initiative reflects the County’s continued commitment to supporting small businesses, fostering economic growth, and ensuring that local entrepreneurs—especially minority- and women-owned businesses—have access to the resources needed to thrive.

CELEBRATING NEW BEGINNINGS: BUSINESS OPENINGS

In addition to educational support, Nassau County proudly celebrates the opening of new businesses that contribute to the economic vitality of our communities. These grand openings represent more than storefronts — they reflect perseverance, innovation, and the entrepreneurial spirit that fuels local neighborhoods. Each new business brings job opportunities, services, and renewed energy to the community. By standing alongside these entrepreneurs during their openings, the County reaffirms its commitment to fostering a business-friendly environment where local enterprises can grow and succeed.

HONORING MILESTONES & BUSINESS ANNIVERSARIES

Equally important is recognizing the longevity and resilience of businesses that have served our communities for years. Business anniversaries are powerful milestones that highlight dedication, adaptability, and the lasting impact these establishments have had on residents and the local economy.

By celebrating these achievements, Nassau County honors the hard work of business owners who continue to create employment opportunities, strengthen commercial corridors, and serve as pillars of economic stability.

Nassau County is



Grand Opening: Azucar in Massapequa



Grand Opening: Shop Fair Supermarket in Hempstead



Grand Opening: Citibank in Hempstead



C3 Workshop Panelists at the Yes We Can Community Center



3rd Year Anniversary: Mojo in Rockville Centre

STRENGTHENING OUR COMMUNITY THROUGH FAITH BASED LEADERSHIP

*Hispanic Faith Leaders meet with our County Executive to
Build Trust, Safety, and Resilience*



One of the most impactful initiatives of 2025 was the continued convening of Hispanic Faith Leaders Meetings hosted by Nassau County Executive Bruce A. Blakeman. These gatherings brought together pastors, ministers, and faith-based leaders representing congregations throughout Nassau County. The meetings served as working sessions focused on public safety, community needs, family stability, and collaboration between faith institutions and County government. Faith leaders—often the first point of contact for families in times of crisis—were recognized as trusted partners in community resilience. By maintaining open and consistent dialogue with faith leaders, Nassau County demonstrated inclusive leadership and a deep respect for the vital role faith plays in the lives of residents.





ELVIS CRESPO & TITO PUENTE JR. IGNITE THE STAGE AT EISENHOWER PARK

Two iconic concerts celebrating Latin music, culture, and community at Eisenhower Park.



As part of Nassau County's highly anticipated **Eisenhower Park Summer Concert Series**, thousands of residents gathered for two unforgettable nights of live music, culture, and community at the Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre.

The summer celebration featured two powerhouse performances that energized audiences and brought generations together. Grammy Award-winning merengue icon **Elvis Crespo** delivered an electrifying show, filling the park with energy as fans sang and danced to his timeless hits, including the iconic “*Suavemente*.” His performance transformed the evening into a vibrant celebration of rhythm, movement, and shared joy.

On a separate night, legendary musician **Tito Puente Jr.** took the stage, honoring his father's enduring musical legacy while delivering a dynamic performance that blended Latin jazz, salsa, and Afro-Caribbean rhythms. The concert paid tribute to the lasting influence of Latin music and its deep connection to culture, history, and community.

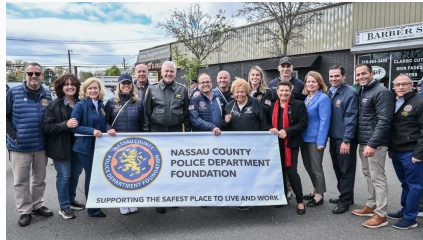
County Executive Bruce A. Blakeman welcomed residents and visitors alike, reaffirming Nassau County's commitment to providing high-quality, inclusive entertainment that brings people together. With thousands in attendance, the concerts created an atmosphere filled with excitement, unity, and appreciation for the arts.

From families enjoying a summer evening outdoors to lifelong music lovers celebrating legendary performers, the Eisenhower Park Summer Concert Series once again proved to be a powerful gathering place where music, culture, and community come together under the stars.

NASSAU COUNTY: A NATIONAL LEADER IN PUBLIC SAFETY

*Honoring Those Who Serve While Empowering the
Next Generation to Lead*

NASSAU COUNTY POLICE DEPARTMENT 100TH ANNIVERSARY PARADE



Nassau County proudly celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the Nassau County Police Department with a historic parade and community celebration honoring a century of service, dedication, and public safety. Thousands of residents lined the streets of Wantagh to take part in this milestone event, which featured antique police vehicles, mounted units, pipe bands, helicopters, and law enforcement partners from across the region.

Led by County Executive Bruce A. Blakeman and Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder, the celebration recognized the men and women who have served and continue to serve with courage and commitment. The parade reflected the strong bond between the community and the Nassau County Police Department—an agency that now serves more than 1.3 million residents and has helped earn Nassau County the distinction of being named the Safest County in America by U.S. News & World Report.

Following the parade, residents gathered for a festive block party, celebrating the department's legacy, honoring those who have served, and reinforcing the shared commitment to public safety. This historic centennial not only honored the past but also reaffirmed Nassau County's ongoing investment in protecting its communities and building a safer future for generations to come.



NASSAU COUNTY POLICE YOUTH ACADEMY: BUILDING THE NEXT GENERATION OF LEADERS



As part of Nassau County's continued commitment to public safety, youth empowerment, and community engagement, the Nassau County Police Youth Academy provided young residents with a meaningful opportunity to learn directly from law enforcement professionals. This initiative was proudly hosted in partnership with the Nassau County Police Hispanic Society, led by President Officer Victoria Ojeda.

Participants took part in hands-on activities, demonstrations, and discussions that introduced them to the responsibilities, training, and values of the Nassau County Police Department. Through these experiences, youth gained insight into public safety careers while developing leadership skills, discipline, and a deeper sense of civic responsibility.

The program strengthened trust and collaboration between law enforcement and the community, reinforcing the importance of inclusion, mentorship, and open dialogue. By investing in youth from diverse backgrounds, Nassau County continues to promote safety, opportunity, and unity—helping shape the next generation of leaders and reinforcing its reputation as one of the safest counties in the nation.