

**Beautification Focused. Community Rooted. Education Enriched.**  
~ Since 1968 ~

**Dear Port Washington Community,**

*As the leaves turn and the air gets crisp, we're excited to share everything Residents Forward has been up to this fall! Our projects and programs are in full swing, and we're thrilled to invite you to get involved in making Port Washington even more beautiful, sustainable, and thriving. Together, we can make Port Washington a model for environmental leadership and sustainable growth.*

*With gratitude,*

Dawn Serignese  
CO-PRESIDENT

Michael Bitalvo  
CO-PRESIDENT

Trish Class  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Curt Trinko  
CHAIRMAN



**Oyster Garden Program:**

**Improving Water Quality in Manhasset Bay!**

As fall brings new beauty, we're thrilled to share the success of our Oyster Garden Program. This summer, we partnered with Councilwoman Mariann Dalimonte, Girl Scout Nicole Maliagros, and Cornell Cooperative Extension of Nassau County to launch Port Washington's first Oyster Garden at The Town Dock.

**Community in Action**



With the help of 80 dedicated volunteers of all ages, our inaugural oyster gardening season was successfully completed. From July through September, volunteers worked together to nurture juvenile oysters, cleaning cages and tracking their growth. These oysters will be released into restoration areas as part of the Million

Oyster Initiative, helping to improve the water quality of Manhasset Bay.

**Creating Meaningful Volunteer Opportunities**

We're incredibly grateful to our volunteers for their commitment to this ecological effort. Their work has been instrumental in improving the bay's health, and they've left empowered, knowing their efforts will have lasting benefits.

**Looking Ahead**

As we continue our mission, we invite everyone in the community to get involved. Whether you can volunteer, spread the word, or make a financial contribution, your support makes a difference in preserving Manhasset Bay for future generations. Get Involved!

**Join us!**



**Oysters for a Cleaner Bay  
2024 Annual Meeting  
Thursday, November 14TH, 7PM**

Help celebrate our Oyster Garden program, its volunteers, and learn from a Cornell marine biologist about how our oyster gardens are cleaning Manhasset Bay. Looking for a service opportunity? Sign up to get involved with this ongoing project! Meet our board, enjoy light refreshments, and get to know Residents Forward. Everyone is welcome!



# Environmental Education Update: Cultivating Leadership: Grades 1-12

Residents Forward is dedicated to nurturing the next generation of environmental stewards, from elementary school all the way through high school. Here's how our Cultivating Environmental Leadership program is preparing students to lead in our community, college and beyond:

## IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL WE EDUCATE

**Life Cycle of a Backpack (2ND Grade)** An interactive program that connects natural resources — water, air, sun, and soil — to our everyday lives, while teaching students about renewable/non-renewable resources.

**Baxter's Pond Study (3RD Grade)** A field trip to teach students about pond ecosystems and the importance of recycling and reducing toxins in our waters.

**Every Drop Counts: Long Island Aquifers (5TH Grade)** An immersive experience at Bay Walk Park, where students explore the basic hydrology and origins of their drinking water and how pollution affects it.

## IN MIDDLE SCHOOL WE MENTOR

**Climate Awareness Garden Program (April-June)** An after-school mentorship where middle and high school students learn about square foot gardening and mentor elementary-aged students in sustainable practices.



**Youth Climate Summit Planning Committee:** Students in grades 8-12 deepen their understanding of climate issues and solutions, working together to plan the Residents Forward biennial Youth Climate Summit, giving younger students the opportunity to learn from their high school peers.

## IN HIGH SCHOOL WE ACT

**Youth Climate Summit Leadership** Students play leading roles in the planning and execution of the Youth Climate Summit, gaining real-world experience that enhances their college applications and resumes.



**Post-Summit Climate Action Projects** Following the summit, students work with mentors from Residents Forward along with changemakers in climate action to develop and implement projects that will help Port Washington thrive in a changing climate.

## Save the date!

**The 2025 Youth Climate Summit: March 29, 2025**

Since its inception in 2018, the RF Youth Climate Summits have inspired local youth, igniting hope and building a movement that shapes regional policies, transforms practices, and drives ongoing projects aimed at systemic change. Grounded in science and evidence-based research, the summit brings together experts to guide and empower the next generation of leaders.



# Fall Mums in Planters – Our Gift to Port Washington!

This fall, Residents Forward gifted the community with vibrant seasonal mums, replanting our summer planters to brighten Main Street and Port Washington Boulevard! These 13 beautifully curated planters are a celebration of the season, adding warmth and charm to our Business District. We hope the colorful blooms bring a smile to your face!

The planters are just one way we enhance Port Washington's beauty. Your membership will help make next year's community gardens and planters even more spectacular!



# NICE Shuttle Ridership Update: A Stress-Free Commute!

Our collaboration with the Town, Nassau County, and Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton to launch the Soundview to LIRR NICE Shuttle has been a tremendous success! Since its launch, hundreds of riders have taken advantage of this convenient, stress-free commuting option, which also helps improve air quality and free up parking spaces at the LIRR station. We're actively exploring opportunities to expand shuttle service. Stay tuned for updates!



## Board of Directors

<b>Chairman</b>	Curt Trinko
<b>Co-President</b>	Dawn Serignese
<b>Co-President</b>	Michael Bitalvo
<b>Vice President</b>	Mindy Germain
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	Cindy Huang
	Lauren Summa
	Gary Lewandowski
	Melissa Vissicchio
	Cynthia Litman
	Joel Ziev
<b>Executive Director</b>	Trish Class

# Get Involved: Become a Member

As a community, we've already achieved so much, but there's still more we can do. Your support is critical to continuing the work that makes Port Washington such a special place to live, work, and play. Whether you've been following our updates, volunteering, or simply enjoying the beauty of our town, now is the perfect time to take the next step and become a supporting member of Residents Forward.

## The Next Chapter - Where You Can Make a Difference

Over the next three years, we have set bold, community-driven goals to enhance the quality of life in Port Washington, and with your continued support, we can turn these goals into reality.

**Beautification** With your support, we will add more planters next year, expand our vibrant mural program celebrating Port Washington's maritime heritage, revitalize key gardens, including the LIRR Train Station, and expand Let's Walk PW to include an exciting Art Walk showcasing local talent.

**Environmental Education** Your support will allow us to expand our Cultivating Environmental Leadership curriculum, helping students develop into the

environmental stewards our world needs. By continuing to invest in their education, we are preparing them to lead in college and beyond.

**Advocacy** Your generosity will allow us to continue our PW Oyster Garden Pilot Program with Councilwoman Mariann Dalimonte, and launch a pilot Food Scrap Recycling Program to reduce waste and support our ongoing efforts to protect local natural resources. We will also advocate for better public transportation and work with the Town of North Hempstead to ensure that the North Hempstead Beach Park project reflects the community's needs and vision.

## Every Donation Makes an Impact

Please consider becoming a member today and help us continue making Port Washington a greener, more beautiful community for generations to come. To donate, please use the enclosed remit envelope, or scan this QR code.



**Thank You, Port Washington!**

“We absolutely see a difference in the plentiful variety of birds that land on our pier. Thank you for all you do – for the town but especially for the Bay!”  
Fathoms Hotel and Marina on Residents Forward PW Oyster Garden Pilot Program with Councilwoman Mariann Dalimonte

**Save The Dates:**  
11/14/24 Annual Meeting  
12/7/24 Let's Walk PW Holiday Walk  
3/29/25 Youth Climate Summit  
4/26/25 Clean Green Main Street  
6/5/25 Gala Fundraiser at Manhasset Bay Yacht Club



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