



Westchester County Legislator
BEN BOYKIN
Addressing the Needs of District 5



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✂ What Do You Think? I'd like to know your thoughts about what are often called "pocketbook" issues. Please consider completing the short questionnaire below, and return it to me at:

Legislator Ben Boykin, Westchester County Board of Legislators, 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor, White Plains, NY 10601

1) Generally, what cost of living expenses worry you the most?

- Mortgage or Rent College and Education Property Taxes Transportation
 Other (please identify) _____

Comments _____

2) What financial aspects of living in Westchester deserve more focus from the County Legislators?

- Job Creation Housing County Taxes Bridge and Road Repairs Child Care
 Business Development Flood Mitigation Sewage and Water Infrastructure
 Other (please identify) _____

Comments _____

3) What keeps you here in Westchester County?

- Family and Friends Employment Community/Religious Community
 Educational Opportunities Cultural Offerings Recreation/Open Space
 Other (please identify) _____

Comments _____

(Optional) Name _____ E-mail _____

Mailing Address _____

Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Fall 2014 Newsletter



Legislator Ben Boykin

District 5 ~ White Plains, Scarsdale, Harrison



Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Here is an update on activities so far this year at the Westchester County Board of Legislators (BOL). Please know that I have been working hard to ensure a better future for all constituents in District 5 and Westchester County.

As Chair of the BOL Appointments Committee, I help evaluate and make recommendations on appointments from the County Executive and the BOL to various Westchester County Boards and Commissions, as well as to the Westchester County Medical Center Board of Trustees. My Committee has vetted numerous individuals who volunteer their services and bring expertise to our County Government. Also, I have worked to get the County's Ethics Board operating with full transparency, with its members legally appointed and confirmed.

Additionally, I am Co-Chair of the Task Force on Minority Affairs and serve on the Budget & Appropriations, Economic Development & Capital Projects, Legislation, Public Safety, and Seniors & Constituencies Committees, where I have been able to represent and advocate for the residents of Westchester County.

Protecting our residents, including those who rely on safety net programs, is my first priority, and I promise that my efforts at the Board of Legislators will reflect this.

Many legislative successes have been achieved this year. As always, I am fighting to keep our taxes low, reduce costs, and improve efficiencies to enhance our quality of life. I voted to approve over \$120 million in capital projects to invest in and protect our infrastructure, which also creates jobs for Westchester residents.

The Board of Legislators has stepped up efforts recently to resolve the housing settlement lawsuit through communication and dialogue rather than litigation. More good news: Progress is being made finally to comply with federal requirements that the County provide ultraviolet treatment to ensure safe drinking water for our residents.

We have much more work to do. I ask for your continued support and cooperation. Working together, we can make a difference.

Sincerely,

Get Rid of Your Unused Medications!

Unused medications, prescription drugs and ointments pose dangerous risks to children and others. The best way to dispose of these drugs is to drop them off at the County or local police department collection units.

To learn more, call the County's Recycling HelpLine at (914) 813-5425. Please note unused medications can be dropped off anytime at the White Plains Police Department (phone 422-6111) or the Scarsdale Police Department (phone 722-1200).

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation asks that the unwanted household medications not be flushed down the toilet or poured down the drain.

Want E-News?

I regularly send out e-news letters, which include important information about different issues affecting residents, as well as notices about events that you may want to attend. To receive my e-news, please email me your full name, email address and mailing address and I will add you to my distribution list. My email address is Boykin@westchesterlegislators.com.

Storm Water Plans Approved

Five separate Storm Water Reconnaissance Plans for the Bronx, Croton, Pocantico and Saw Mill River and Coastal Long Island Sound watersheds, have been approved by the Board of Legislators, paving the way for more specific recommendations for capital projects and other actions to address flooding around Westchester.

The storm water plans are necessary to comply with a Westchester law adopted in 2011 to map out an overall strategy for combating the persistent flooding problems impacting every municipality in the county. The five plans cover an area in which water generally moves in a southwestern direction and drains in the Hudson River or in a direction toward the Long Island Sound. These watersheds include a number of smaller watersheds, streams and storm water drains.

The Reconnaissance Plans were three years in the making, and will go a long way toward helping some of Westchester's most flood-prone areas to start the planning process for projects to mitigate this all-too-familiar scourge. The county has seen a noticeable uptick in flooding problems caused from heavy downpours and super-storms. But now we're moving forward with data collected from the municipalities to help prioritize what projects will have the most benefit for our residents and business owners.

Legislators Approve Infrastructure Repairs for Roads and Bridges

The Westchester County Board of Legislators recently approved a \$5 million Capital Budget Amendment and a corresponding Bond Resolution to rehabilitate forty roads and bridges throughout Westchester County.

The bonds will fund several separate projects in District 5, including the rehabilitation of Anderson Hill Road in Harrison, part of Central Avenue in White Plains and sections of the Bronx River Parkway in Scarsdale.

These roadways have pavement condition index (PCI) ratings that require structural rehabilitation to ex-

tend the life of the roadway. The work involved in the rehabilitation will include milling, resurfacing, replacement or adjustment of utility casings, concrete curb replacement, installation of handicap ramps, new traffic loops and new pavement markings.

Taking a pro-active position on repairing these roadways make sense in so many ways. The extreme weather conditions of the past few years have been particularly harmful to our roads and bridges. Our residents and business owners depend on the safety of our roads, and we must remain vigilant in their upkeep. ■



Ben and Legislative Aide Lucy Ortiz at a recent visit to Playland

Review of Playland Revitalization Finalists

The Westchester Legislators continued its review of finalists to revitalize Playland when it met in September with representatives of Central Amusements International LLC (CAI) and Standard Amusements LLC on how they might restore and operate the County's iconic 280-acre amusement park and recreation area.

The CAI and Standard Amusements representatives separately addressed the Legislators for about an hour and offered attractive plans for

boosting attendance at Playland, which include major infrastructure investments, added attractions and enhanced operational management of the amusement area of the park.

I feel these are two great potential partners for running a much-loved park that should be a destination for generations to come. I'm hopeful that the County Executive and Board of Legislators can work together and finish the process of choosing an operator for Playland in time for the 2015 season. ■

Keeping an Eye on Capital Projects Spending

Westchester county residents and business owners expect that their County tax dollars will be carefully and wisely spent. This means close scrutiny of each capital project is necessary to ensure that design, construction and purchase costs are reasonable and match earlier appropriations.

As a member of two committees

of the Board of Legislators—Budget & Appropriations and Economic Development & Capital Projects—charged with oversight of capital projects, I participate in a vetting process that is the final fail-safe step to protect taxpayers from needless cost overruns and spurious spending. Our job is not complete when funding is authorized, however;

we look at the projects right up until the construction is completed.

Included among the nearly sixty bond acts for capital project funding that have come before these committees are authorizations for road and bridge repairs, new roofs for County facilities, technology upgrades, sewage system rehabilitation and park improvements. ■

Pushing for Cleaner Heating Oil Used in County

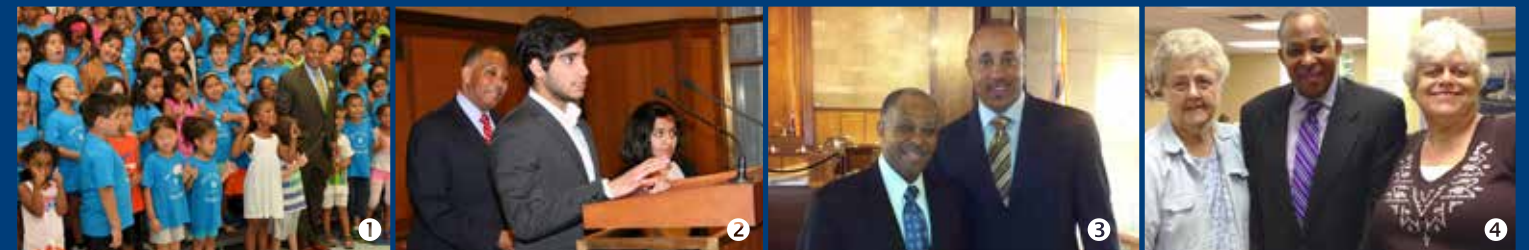
I recently co-sponsored new legislation at the Westchester County Board of Legislators (BOL) to ban use of heavy, dirty heating oils #6 and #4. This will lead to cleaner air in the county.

Right now, there are over five hundred buildings in Westchester us-

ing these problematic heating oils year round and spewing toxic polluting matter into the air we breathe. Using alternative methods for heating buildings and providing hot water will improve people's health, and will be considerably cleaner and less expensive.

The pollutants caused by these dirty heating oils are linked to many health problems, including asthma, cancer and cardiovascular diseases. If enacted into law, the ban on the use of #6 and #4 oils will take place gradually until no property will use these heavy oils beyond 2018. ■

PHOTO GALLERY



1 The "Recycling Rangers" program for 160 participating grade-schoolers was part of the Bits 'n' Pieces Enrichment Camp, a summer program run by the White Plains Youth Bureau and held at Church Street School. The "Recycling Rangers" learned how to protect our environment by recycling items. Each participant received a recycling certificate and a sheriff-like "Recycling Ranger" badge for his or her completion of the program.

2 Earlier this year the Westchester County Board of Legislators (BOL) honored a number of high school students from around the county who placed as semi-finalists in the prestigious Intel Science Talent Search competition. A special congratulatory ceremony took place in the BOL Chambers, and the students being honored all received proclamations. Two Scarsdale High School seniors, Zubin Singh Koticha and Archana Ram (speaking), were honored as Intel Semi-Finalists.

3 Legislator Boykin with former Knicks player John Starks, now the team's Alumni Relations & Fan Development Advisor. Great news: professional basketball is coming to Westchester! In February it was announced that the Madison Square Garden Company (MSG), owners of the New York Knicks basketball team, would contract to use the Westchester County Center for a National Basketball Association (NBA) Developmental League team. MSG will pay the County for each game played and also for additional costs to get the court and stands ready for games. The County will receive fees for parking, tickets, food, merchandise and advertising sales. Total revenues could net the County between \$2,000 and \$12,000 a game.

4 Legislator Boykin with senior citizens at the White Plains Community Center. He meets with seniors to better understand and address their needs for services including housing, health care, food and transportation.