



Westchester County Legislator
BEN BOYKIN
Addressing the Needs of District 5



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Playland Update

Earlier this year, the Board of Legislators approved a revised agreement between Westchester County and Standard Amusements, LLC (“Standard”), the organization that has been chosen to manage Playland. In addition, the Board approved \$33.2 million of capital investments for Playland. I voted to approve the agreement and the capital spending.

I fought for and got included provisions in the revised agreement that will save taxpayers millions of dollars by ensuring that Standard does not double count its management investment. I also had provisions included in the agreement to clarify that rides added to Playland by Standard could not be removed. These changes will permit the County to begin to share in net profits sooner and will reduce the financial impact on our taxpayers.

While not perfect, this agreement and Board approved capital spending will result in much needed investment in Playland by the County and Standard of at least \$61 million. While neither party got all they wanted, I believe that we negotiated a better situation for our taxpayers while enhancing this historical jewel.

The Board must decide the future of the Playland pool. Information is being gathered and analyzed to help the Legislators decide whether to close or replace this asset. ■



Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Fall 2016 Newsletter

Legislator Ben Boykin

District 5 ~ White Plains, Scarsdale, Harrison

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It has been a very busy and productive year at the Board of Legislators. Numerous bills have been enacted to protect our residents, invest in our infrastructure and to enhance our quality of life in Westchester County.

As Chair of the Public Safety and Social Services Committee (PSSS), I provide oversight for County Departments which account for nearly 45% of the County’s \$1.8 billion operating budget including the Departments of Public Safety, Corrections, Emergency Services, Probation, Social Services, Mental Health, Youth Bureau and Human Rights Commission. The protection and safety of our residents and visitors is a primary function of government. That is why I am fighting to fill the vacant County Police Officer positions created due to retirements. Additionally, after many years of discussion, the PSSS Committee and the full Board of Legislators passed a resolution to support the State initiative to raise the age of criminal responsibility in New York from 16 to 18. The PSSS Committee also met with the Director of International Relations of the Jerusalem region of Magen David Adom in February. This Israeli organization provides a rapid and skilled emergency medical response, including disaster, ambulance, and blood services. Numerous Emergency Management Services Departments from around the County attended this meeting.

In June, the Board of Legislators unanimously approved a bill colloquially known as the “Boykin Bill” which I authored and introduced. This legislation requires County offices to display and provide voter registration forms and is an effort to increase voter participation. Other key legislative actions include; approval of a revised agreement negotiated between Westchester County and Standard Amusements, LLC for this organization to manage Playland; passage of a bill to eliminate the use of No. 4 and No. 6 heavy heating oils which will improve our environment by removing toxic pollutants from the air; approval of numerous fair and affordable housing units moving toward meeting the 750 unit benchmark required to be completed by year-end 2016.

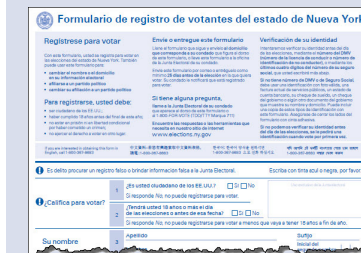
I continue to work on your behalf for a better Westchester County. I am always available to discuss issues and hear your suggestions to improve our future. I appreciate your support and confidence.

I hope you enjoy the rest of this year.

Sincerely,

“BOYKIN BILL” Passes to Increase Access to Voter Registration Forms

Access to the ballot box is the cornerstone of our democracy. The “Boykin Bill”, which I sponsored, was unanimously approved in June by the Board of Legislators. It is a common sense measure intended to increase access to voter registration forms, in both English and Spanish. The bill requires Westchester County offices to display and provide voter registration forms. The Act also requires County departments to maintain a link to a New York State Voter Registration Form on their webpage. This measure does not cost any additional taxpayer money. The easier we make it for people to participate in our democratic system, the more informed and engaged an electorate we will have now and in the future. The deadline to register to vote in the November 2016 general election is October 14, 2016. ■



Sign Up For Ben’s E-News

I regularly send out e-news letters, which include important information about different issues affecting residents and notices about events that you may want to attend. To receive my e-news, please go to www.westchesterlegislators.com, click on “Subscribe to Updates”, fill in your information and choose “District 5”. Alternatively, you may e-mail me at Boykin@westchesterlegislators.com and include your full name, e-mail address and mailing address and I will add you to my distribution list.

Recycling Rangers Learn to Protect our Environment

The Recycling Rangers program was created as a way to engage young people to think about their role in protecting the environment. Students who participate in the program are asked to put their creativity behind a project or an activity that raises awareness about the importance of recycling.

This year Post Road School in White Plains participated in the Recycling Rangers Program. As part of a series of activities during Earth Week, Legislator Boykin was invited to visit the school to discuss what recycling is all about and how it helps the environ-

ment. During his visit, fourth grade students who worked on recycling projects in their art class, presented their work to Legislator Boykin. Post Road School art teachers, Ms. O’Keeffe and Ms. Westerberg encouraged the students to create imaginative pieces of artwork using recycled household items such as toilet paper rolls, boxes, plastic bottles and bottle tops. The students took their artwork to every class in the school and invited each student to create their own recycled art project. Legislator Boykin also met with Ms. Ortiz’s 3rd grade class and Ms. Mollo’s 1st grade class.

These classes performed original plays which taught students about decomposition rates and ways kids can make a difference in preserving the environment. Each student who participated was awarded a Recycling Ranger Certificate and a Recycling Ranger Badge.

Whether students create a poem, an art project or implement an original idea to encourage others to remember to recycle, students find these activities not only challenging and fun but get a great lesson on the environment and the community. This is a wonderful lifelong learning experience for our young students. ■



Housing Settlement Update

By year end 2016, Westchester County must have financing and building permits in place for 750 units of affordable housing as required by the 2009 Housing Settlement with the Department of Justice. The County is moving toward achieving this goal with the status as of September 12, 2016:

Description	HOUSING SETTLEMENT	
	Financing in Place	Building Permits in Place
Total Units Required	750	750
As of September 12, 2016	771	637
Needed by December 31, 2016	0*	113

***Goal Achieved**

The County Administration must also complete an Analysis of Impediments (AI) that is acceptable to the Department of Housing. In addition, in August 2016, the County was required by the Courts to hire a consultant to educate the public on affordable housing. ■

Your Property Tax Dollars

Two-thirds of Westchester County’s operating budget involves services and programs mandated by the federal government and the state of New York. Some of these services are funded entirely by federal and state aid; however the State shifts a significant portion of the cost of other programs (in particular Medicaid) to the County to be funded through tax revenue (property taxes and sales taxes). Westchester County’s 2016 operating budget of \$1.8 billion includes property taxes of \$548.4 million. Your local municipality collects all property taxes. The property tax dollars collected by your local municipality goes to fund County operations, local governments and school districts as shown on the right. Please note that, contrary to popular perception, County services are the smallest piece of the total property tax dollar. ■



Legislation to Ban No. 4 and No. 6 Heating Oils Approved

As a co-sponsor of this law first introduced in 2014, I am very happy that it was unanimously approved by the Board of Legislators in June 2016. The banning of the use of heavy, dirty No. 4 and No. 6 heating oils will improve our environment by eliminating a mixture of pollutants which these oils release into the air. These toxic chemicals are proven carcinogens and respiratory irritants. Phasing out these heating oils will provide improved health and cost savings to county residents. The ban on use of these heating oils will be effective July 31, 2018 for No. 6 and July 31, 2020 for No. 4. ■



① Speaking at 100th anniversary celebration of White Plains as a city ② Presiding at Public Safety & Social Services Committee Meeting ③ In front of the West Harrison Fire Station ④ With Scarsdale Fox Meadow fifth grade students at MOCK Legislature Session