



Westchester County Legislator

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Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

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Summer 2017 Newsletter



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I would love to hear from you!**

"It's Not About Me, It's About Us!"

Please know you are encouraged and welcome to attend our board and committee meetings at the Westchester County Office Building.

Hello Friends!

Since I took office, a day after the election, on August 10, 2016, I have been very busy sponsoring and passing legislation, supporting local community centers, organizing senior trips, patronizing our friends and local businesses throughout the district and supporting our community through events, meetings and everyday life! More specifically, here is what I have been up to:

TACKLING THE OPIOID CRISIS

Our community faces a truly terrifying opioid crisis, claiming far too many lives. The "Opioid Crisis" does not discriminate, it affects all ages, creeds, races, religions and people.



Mayor Mike Spano and I hosted a Press Conference regarding the accessibility and convenience of Medical Drop-Boxes around our area.

As Chair of the Seniors committee I'm working with all of our government partners in Bi-Partisanship for the benefit and well-being of the people. The Opioid Crisis disproportionately affects our senior population.

The Yonkers Police Department (YPD) has agreed to bring these Medical Drop-Boxes to 6 seniors centers, throughout the year, for the disposal of excessive medication.

These Drop-Boxes will help people dispose of outdated and excess medica-

tion, preventing theft, misuse, abuse and even over-dose or death.

LEGISLATION BANNING SYNTHETIC MARIJUANA - "K2"

It is a privilege and honor that my first bill sponsored, "Banning of Synthetic Marijuana" has passed, in bi-partisanship.

Synthetic Marijuana, also known as K2, Spice, Scooby-Snax, AK-47, along with several other nicknames, has had devastating consequences, causing people to hallucinate, suffer horrible seizures, act violently and ingestion has even led to death.

Our Local Law now allows the Department of Health to coordinate with the Department of Public Safety for inspections, seizures and enforcement, including the implementation of fines and even jail time.



This bill gives our law enforcement the tools and instruments necessary to successfully fight the horrific epidemic of

"Synthetic Marijuana."

My motto from the outset has been, "It's Not About Me, It's About Us," and that includes the safety and protection of all!

SENIORS COMMITTEE



As Chair of the Seniors Committee, we have worked closely to follow the example set by living-legend Bernice Spreckman. Bernice and I similarly share the mindset of people over politics!

My office has hosted several senior trips including traveling to the Jacob Burns Film Center, Salute to Seniors, Legislative Speak-Out, Older Americans Act Advisory Council and the Senior Summer Show.

We're also tackling the Opioid Crisis and over-pricing of prescription drugs on behalf of senior citizens, while fighting Senior Isolationism. Keeping our seniors active, healthy and social is the best way to fight isolationism, which negatively affects 1 in 3 seniors today. If you or some-

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one you know is interested in participating in our senior outings, please contact my office at (914) 995-2815.

AISLING IRISH COMMUNITY & CULTURAL CENTER



The Aisling Irish Community & Cultural Center was established in 1996, with its principle goal of assisting Irish Immigrants in their transition to life in America. Contained within the Center is a senior program known as the Young-at-Heart Senior Club, which has over 250 members. This Club seeks to keep our seniors socialized through a variety of energizing and enjoyable programs and activities!

My office worked diligently to deliver \$15,000 in allocated community funds to the Young-at-Heart Senior Club of the Aisling Irish Community & Cultural Center. The community funds will be used for lunches, health screenings, computer classes, educational programs and so much more.

HISPANIC AFFAIRS TASK FORCE COMMUNITY FORUM



The Hispanic Affairs Task Force serves as a liaison between the local government and community; it plays a pivotal role in planning and executing Hispanic community events, education and outreach.

As a member of the Hispanic Task Force, I'm happy to report that we hosted our first Hispanic Community Forum. The Forum was designed to inform the Hispanic community of options Westchester County offers to help in services and quality of life, but also hear the most pressing issues from the people themselves. We listened to the Hispanic Community with their most pressing issues and continue to act as a liaison between our local government and our community.

NORTH-60

Fellow members of the Legislature successfully voted and passed a local law, which entered into a lease agreement with Fareri Associates regarding a large-scale development project, known as North-60.

North-60 is a \$1.2 billion-dollar project, which is forecasted to create 8,000 permanent jobs and 4,000 construction jobs. North-60 is also projected to have \$9 million dollars per year in new real estate property taxes and \$7 million dollars of rental income to the County.



The complex will contain approximately 3 million square feet of developed space, utilizing 46% of the land, including Bio-Technology/Research Labs (2,252,600 sq. ft.), Medical Offices (400,000 sq. ft.), Retail Shopping (114,000 sq. ft.), Neighborhood Shopping (100,000 sq. ft.), a Hotel (100,000 sq. ft.), and a Living Science Center (34,000 sq. ft.).

North-60 is a County-owned 60-acre parcel of land, located on the Grasslands Reservation in Valhalla, New York, adjacent to Westchester Medical Center, New York Medical College, Touro Dental College and Westchester Community College.

Westchester County is also known as the Golden Apple, hopefully it will also be known as Bio-Chester in the near future.

FLEETWOOD NEIGHBORHOOD ASSOCIATION (FNA) MEETING



The Fleetwood Neighborhood Association (FNA) is comprised of residents of Mt. Vernon committed to the vitality of their community. Members meet with local and state officials to discuss the quality of life in Fleetwood.

At the recent meeting of Fleetwood Neighborhood Association (FNA), we discussed the delivery of funds to the Mount Vernon Youth Basketball Program. I proudly worked in a bi-partisan manner to deliver over \$20,000 in funds to at-risk-youth in the City of Mount Vernon!

Fleetwood is one of the most historically significant neighborhoods in Westchester, as well as the cornerstone of our local community and the beating heart of Mount Vernon. Our children are our future and I am committed to providing the best possible quality of life to all in the 14th Legislative District!

As for a brief history lesson, before 1850, Fleetwood got its name because it was the name of a farm owned by Jonas Farrington, which survived through present day.

NYSNA - NURSES RALLY



Earlier this year, the New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) rallied out-

side Westchester Medical Center to call on hospital administrators to reopen discussions for a contract that they have been working without since 2011.

Nurses are truly the backbone of our medical community and deserve a contract that supports a fair living wage. Myself and several other government representatives were proud to join the Nurses in their fight for a fair and affordable contract.

QUINN FOR THE WIN - BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT

On March 8, 2013, Our dear friend Pat Quinn was diagnosed Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS), commonly known as Lou Gehrig's Disease. ALS causes muscles weakness and atrophy throughout the body. Pat has been a tireless advocate, raising money and awareness of the disease.



It was my distinct pleasure to sponsor a team in the "Quinn for the Win" Basketball Tournament. Pat is one of the bravest people I know, he is championing the fight against ALS!

My office is proud of support Pat and the fight to find a cure for ALS.

MICHAEL NOLAN MEMORIAL BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT



The Michael Nolon Scholarship Fund was established in the memory of Michael

Nolon. Michael was a gifted athlete, drafted by the Oakland A's in 2014. Our community still mourns the tragic loss of Michael Nolon.

The Nolan Family and The Michael Nolan Scholarship Committee is hosted their first Basketball Tournament, which to helped raise money for the scholarship fund. The Scholarship Fund supports eight deserving student athletes in Yonkers Public Schools, one student per high school.

I was proud to sponsor a team in the Basketball Tournament to help support both the scholarship fund and the Nolon family during this difficult time.

MATTHEW WALLACE FOUNDATION - 5K WALK

Our community continues to mourn the tragic loss of Matthew Wallace. Matthew was a vibrant soul filled with happiness, charm and endless humor. Matthew touched many lives through different sports and athletic programs.

Our office was happy to show continued support to our dear friends and neighbors in Remembrance of Matthew at the 3rd annual 5K walk to benefit the Matthew Wallace Scholarship Fund.



The Matthew Wallace Foundation is a national, not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization, founded in 2014, as a living memorial to perpetuate the memory of Matthew, through the advancement of private education among students in need. The Foundation's goal is to award 22 scholarships annually to students who are as dynamic as Matthew and exhibit the following traits: humility, courage, camaraderie, community service and a humanitarian interest.

GUARDIA LOMBARDI ASSOCIATION - SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

Association of Former Citizens of Guardia Lombardi of Avellino Italy Inc. is

a non-profit organization located in Mount Vernon, NY. The Association is a fraternal organization comprised of former citizens of Guardia Lombardi, Avellino, their sons and descendants. The Association was founded on August 6, 1938.



The Association of the Former Citizens of Lombardi Guardia hosted its annual Scholarship Awards Dinner. Each year, a student is honored and recognized for hard-work and dedication. Congratulations to Dominic Squillante for receiving this year's scholarship award.

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE

As someone who grew up and presently resides in the McLean Heights neighborhood of Yonkers, it is my distinct pleasure to know how culturally enriched the Irish community is in Westchester. We had an outstanding turnout for this year's St. Patrick's Day parade! We hope that you attended the parade this year, but if not, we hope to see you in 2018!

As a parishioner of St. Barnabas Church,



honorary member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH), former full-back for the Celtic Gaelic Football Club, supporter and participant of the Gaelic Athletic Association (G.A.A.), Rose of Tralee, Aisling Irish Community & Cultural Center, Lansdowne Boys Football Club and dozens of other County Associations, it's an honor to represent McLean Avenue, also known as 'The Emerald Mile' and '33rd County.'