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News from **JUDY MYERS,** your County Legislator...



Dear Constituent,

There has been a great deal of discussion lately about the NEED for County Government, specifically what it is that Westchester County does for its residents.

I am using much of this newsletter to profile a number of projects and programs that, I believe, benefit the residents in this County district, specifically New Rochelle, Larchmont, Mamaroneck and Rye.

Is it perfect? Of course not. But as one of 17 County Legislators, I believe that when County Government is used to create policy that positively impacts the quality

of life in our communities, when it is used to consolidate expenditures and lower prices, when it is used to increase communication and education among the 45 municipalities in this County – then it is not only needed but it provides value to its residents and its taxpayers.

As a member of the County Board of Health, I see the benefit of one department that enforces the Sanitary Code and attends to the public health policy for the county's 900,000+ residents. Prior to its establishment, every big city in the County had its own health department. Similarly, the County runs one public bus system instead of 45 municipally-run systems; one corrections and probation system instead of 45; one Department of Social Services (representing 32% of our County Budget); one sanitary sewer department; and one recycling facility.

Please enjoy this long-awaited spring and please don't hesitate to contact me with questions, concerns or suggestions.

Best Regards,

*Judy*

Please **SIGN UP** for District 7 e-news by going to my web page: [www.westchesterlegislators.com/Legislators/D7/Bio/index.htm](http://www.westchesterlegislators.com/Legislators/D7/Bio/index.htm)

**Contact Us!**  
**CITIZENS --- an important branch of county government.**

Please attend our Board and Committee meetings when you can. The Board generally meets twice a month on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM. Committees meet weekly.

Visit our website for up-to-date calendar and meeting agendas and minutes.

[www.westchesterlegislators.com](http://www.westchesterlegislators.com)



**Judith A. Myers**

District 7 ~ Town (part) & City of Rye, Town & Village of Mamaroneck & Larchmont, New Rochelle (part)

**Coffee With Judy & George**

Don't forget to stop by another "Coffee with Judy and George" on May 16th from 1:30-3:00pm at On The Way Café in Rye (note time change in Rye!); or from 3:30-5:00pm at the Nautilus Diner in Mamaroneck.



**Calorie Labeling Law, At long Last, Goes Into Effect**

The Calorie Labeling law that I sponsored in 2007 and 2008, requiring chain food establishments with 15 or more locations globally to disclose the nutritional information of menu items to customers at the time of purchase – on menus and other menu displays - will go into effect in Westchester County on May 12. Making calorie information easily accessible and available has proven to be an effective way to encourage healthier eating, and with that, better health. This is a step in the right direction towards addressing the nation-



wide rise in obesity, heart disease, and diabetes, medical conditions either caused or exacerbated by what and how much a person eats. Having worked on this legislation for two years, I was recently asked to share my experience with a graduate class in public health at NYU. In addition, my seat on the County Board of Health has led to me recently being named one of three legislators to sit on the newly-established Westchester County Health Care Corporation Joint Review Committee at the Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla.

**Goal Reached To End Taxpayer Subsidy Of Rye Playland; Historic Status Preserved**

After years of targeted investments and improvements, effective this 2009 tax year, the amusement park at Rye Playland is no longer being subsidized by taxpayer dollars! Rye Playland is well on its way to becoming economically self-sufficient. Removing the taxpayer subsidy accomplishes two important goals --- reducing the pressure on property taxes while preserving open space. Our investment in Rye Playland has enabled us to preserve what is both a local and national historic treasure.

In our ongoing effort to maintain Playland, the Board has approved bonding legislation for the restoration of various rides and ongoing preservation of this Historic Landmark. As part of this cost-effective project, improvements will be made to the Carousel and the Derby Racer, which

will include installation of protective security doors, restoration of the historic "Lamella Dome" ceiling, installation of a new roof and cupola, upgrade of the horse articulation movement and associated site work.

The structures that house the Derby Racer and the Carousel, which were built in 1928 and are original to the park, have never had a major overhaul and are long overdue for extensive renovation. Playland has been designated a national landmark and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Seven of its rides, including the Derby Racer and the Carousel, hold individual landmark status. This project



**On The Way To Playland...The Playland Parkway Pathway**

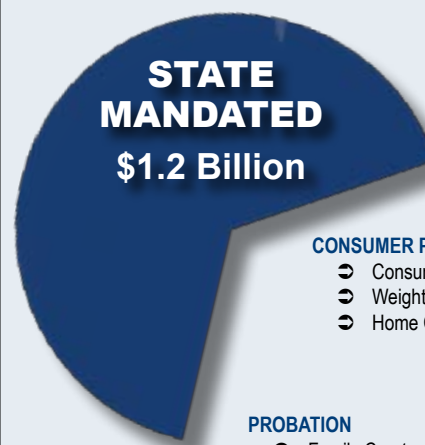
To secure a \$1.58 million NYS grant, and at my urging, the county has committed a 20% match or \$385,000 toward the rehabilitation of the Playland Parkway Pathway. The newly extended and redesigned Pathway will connect the current series of disconnected walkways into one continuous path between Playland Park and the Rye and Harrison Metro-North stations. The Pathway project will also include bicycle racks, new share-the-road signage and pedestrian bridges.

**Lights Up At Playland**

As part of the County's ongoing effort to increase energy efficiency, my colleagues and I have approved funding for the replacement of approximately 30,000 incandescent light bulbs with energy efficient lighting and fixtures at Playland. This minor change will save 600,000 kilowatt hours and \$100,000 annually.

# What Does County Government Do?

About two-thirds of the county's operating budget goes toward paying for services mandated by the state. The cost to deliver social services—\$570 million—accounts for almost half of those mandates. County government provides a regional, cost-effective solution for delivering services that local municipalities would have to otherwise provide and fund through property taxes. The bottom-line—county government offers efficiencies that save taxpayer dollars.




**STATE MANDATED \$1.2 Billion**

- SOCIAL SERVICES**
  - Medicaid
  - Child Protective Services
  - Child Support Enforcement
  - Family Emergency Assistance
  - Housing Placement
  - Homeless Services
- CONSUMER PROTECTION**
  - Consumer Complaints
  - Weights & Measures
  - Home Contractor Licensing
- PROBATION**
  - Family Court
  - Criminal Court
- PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR**

- COUNTY CLERK**
  - Land Records
  - Legal Documents
  - Passports
  - UCC filings
  - Pistol Permits
  - Licensing-Plumbers, Electricians
- PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY**
  - Communicable Disease Control
  - Environmental Health
  - Community Health
  - Inspections: restaurants, hotels, day camps; water, solid waste systems
- DISTRICT ATTORNEY**
  - Prosecutions
  - Special Bureaus: Environmental Crimes; Narcotics; Gang & Gun; Stop DWI; High Tech Crime; Child Abuse; Domestic Violence Bias Crimes; Economic Crimes
- CORRECTIONS**
  - County Jail
  - Penitentiary
- BOARD OF ELECTIONS**
  - Voter Registration
  - ALL county, village, water, fire, library & school district elections

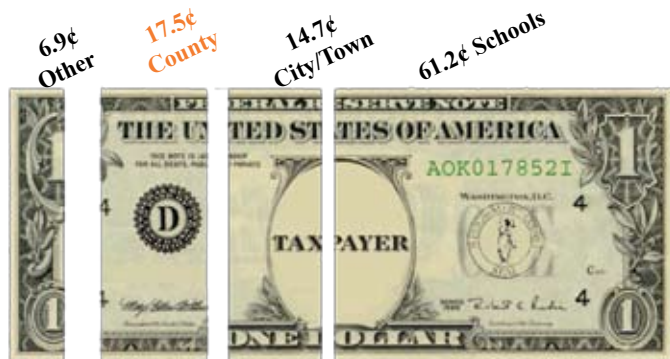
- EMERGENCY SERVICES**
  - 24/7 county-wide fire & EMS coordination
  - Special Operations
  - Fire Training Facility for local depts.
  - HAZMAT Team
  - Bomb Squad
  - Arson Unit
  - WMD Response
  - Emergency Evacuation: hurricanes, Indian Point
  - Regional emergency response coordinator
- PUBLIC SAFETY & SECURITY**
  - Highway patrols
  - Local Law Enforcement Training
  - Units: Environmental Security, Bomb Squad, Aviation, Special Ops., Canine, Narcotics
- PLANNING**
  - Affordable Housing
  - Open Space
  - Water Quality
  - Farm Protection
  - Community/Economic Dev.
  - Land Use Planning
- PUBLIC WORKS**
  - 154 miles county roads
  - 165 county bridges
  - 2 million sq. ft. office space
  - 600 county acres
  - 300 county vehicles
- TRANSPORTATION**
  - Bee Line Bus System (89 routes)
  - Westchester County Airport
  - Para transit

- PARKS, RECREATION & CONSERVATION**
  - 18,000 acres of open space
  - 6 golf courses
  - 17 Parks
  - 5 Conservation areas
  - Rye Playland
  - Westchester County Center
  - New ballfields
  - Historic Sites
  - Bronx River Conservancy
- LABS & RESEARCH**
  - Medical Examiner
  - Public Health Labs
  - Forensics: Crime Labs
  - Environmental Labs
- COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH**
  - Case Management
  - Depression Help Line
  - Substance Abuse
  - Mental Health Court
  - Alternative to Incarceration Services

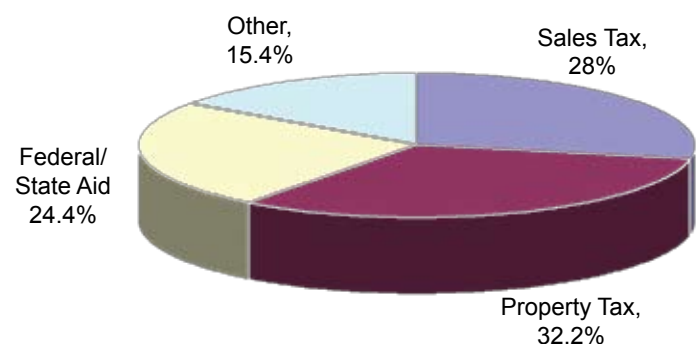


**QUALITY OF LIFE SERVICES \$570 Million**

## County Taxes Are A Small Piece Of Your Property Tax Bill



## County Revenues Come From Many Sources



New York State Counties do not collect income taxes.

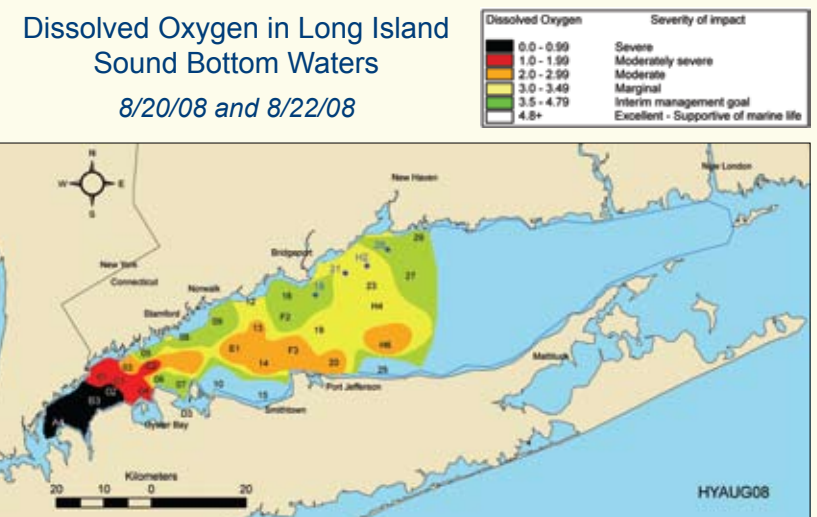
# Focus On The Environment

## MAINTAINING & IMPROVING LONG ISLAND SOUND

### Sound Shore Sewer Upgrades

As you've undoubtedly heard, the latest battle to clean up Long Island Sound comes at a hefty price tag! Nitrogen discharge in wastewater from the area's sewage treatment plants have helped to create a "dead zone," an oxygen starved environment that kills marine life. Homeowners and businesses in the four affected sewer districts (New Rochelle, Mamaroneck, Blind Brook and Port Chester) were on the hook to shoulder the full cost of this \$235 million project, the largest capital project in the county's history. The County Board approved this newly negotiated settlement before the end of 2008 in order to avoid DEC penalties of \$150,000 per day that would have started in 2009.

However, we have just been notified that endless rounds of letter-writing, phone calls, e-mails and general nudging have been successful. The project has been selected to receive \$55 million in stimulus funding! Federal stimulus funding for this project will not only reduce the cost to property taxpayers, but provide jobs as well.



### Sound Shore Home to Top 3 Proposed Environmental Benefits Projects

As you may know, this Nitrogen Reduction Consent Order requires the County to undertake \$780,000 worth of Environmental Benefits Projects within the four Long Island Sound Sewer Districts that will benefit the Long Island Sound Watershed and address the hypoxia in the Long Island Sound. The 3 selected projects are:

- A tidal wetland and coastal buffer restoration project, at Manursing Lake, in Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary and Natural Park, Rye. Funding will supplement existing County funds and state and not-for-profit organization grants, enabling the project's scope of work to be expanded.
- A riparian wetland and buffer restoration, in the Mamaroneck River at the County's Saxon Woods Park, adjacent to Mamaroneck Avenue, Harrison and Mamaroneck Village.
- Stormwater swales and wetlands, on Playland Parkway, immediately north of the bridge over Blind Brook, on the west and east sides of the parkway in Rye.



### Flow Monitoring

The Board has passed a resolution to bond up to \$5,700,000 to implement a stormwater flow reduction strategy aimed at reducing the excessive inflow and infiltration (I/I) that reaches the County's four Sound Shore Waste Water Treatment Plants.

87 flow meters have been installed along sewer lines in order to isolate and measure the flows coming from each of the local municipalities. As of March 1, 2009, data is being successfully collected.

## FLOOD UPDATES

### Flood Mitigation Efforts

As a member of the Flood Action Task Force, I have spent the past two years developing and implementing a county grant program to assist municipalities with flood mitigation. I am pleased to say that five applications for funding have made their way through the arduous planning and review process and are slated to go before the Board of Legislators for bonding approval in mid-May.

### Flood Study Funding

As announced at a press conference in mid-March, thanks to Congresswoman Nita Lowey, the confluence of the Mamaroneck and Sheldrake Rivers in the Village of Mamaroneck has been selected by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as the focal point of a "flood damage reduction study." This 30-month flood study will re-evaluate alternative solutions to reduce the impact of flooding in Mamaroneck Village and surrounding areas. The cost of this study is \$6.5 million, 75% of which is federally funded and 25% is divided between the State Department of Environmental Conservation and Westchester County.

### Flood Mitigation Projects

The Gardens Lake reconstruction project in the Town of Mamaroneck and the purchase of a sluice gate at the Bowman Avenue Dam to help mitigate the flooding of the Blind Brook in Rye are two of the five initial flood mitigation projects to be presented for approval by the Board of Legislators later this spring. The projects both include modification of water body outlet control structures to allow for easier draw-down, without impacting created habitats prior to storm events. The water bodies will retain a greater volume of stormwater during storm events and release it gradually downstream after the storm abates.