



Westchester County Legislator
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Proudly Serving the 6th District



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Legislator Gelfarb
 with his son Daniel
 and daughters
 Lauren and Allison


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Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS



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Fall 2014 Newsletter



David B. Gelfarb

District 6 ~ Harrison, Rye Brook, Port Chester

Road Repairs



At the Westchester County Board of Legislators meeting on August 4, 2014, my colleagues and I unanimously passed a \$5 million bond act to rehabilitate 40 roads and bridges throughout the County, including critical sections of roadways in Harrison. The bond act will fund the design, construction management, and construction to make our roads safer, including repairing potholes and other damage caused by last winter's unusually severe weather.

The work will cover several vital roads in our community, namely Halstead Avenue/Theodore Fremd Avenue in Harrison/Rye from Haviland Street to North Street, Union Avenue in Harrison between Mamaroneck Avenue and West Street, and Anderson Hill Road in Harrison between Lincoln Avenue and Blind Brook. The work will

run the gamut from rehabbing short sections on some roads to complete milling and resurfacing of road surfaces on others. The design phase of the work is expected to take as little as two months and the construction phase is anticipated to take three months to complete.

In addition to the repairs to be done this year to a portion of Halstead Avenue, we are working hard to get a bond act passed for more comprehensive roadwork to the stretch of Halstead Avenue from the Mamaroneck/Harrison line to Haviland Street.

I want to thank my fellow legislators and the Department of Public Works for joining my efforts in advocating for this vital infrastructure work, which will greatly benefit our local residents and businesses. ■

Tax Lawsuit Resolved

We all breathed a sigh of relief when, after extensive work, the Board passed legislation to ensure that Signature Flight Support, a Fixed Base Operator at the Westchester County Airport, dropped its lawsuit in State Supreme Court claiming that it was exempt from paying property taxes. If Signature had been successful in asserting its claim, it could have forced Westchester County, the Town of Rye, the Village of Rye Brook and the Blind Brook School District to refund over \$3.4 million in property taxes. Most significantly, not only would the Blind Brook School District have had to refund over \$2.3 million, but Signature would no longer pay any taxes going forward. By lobbying my fellow legislators, I ensured that the necessary legislation would be passed by the County Board. I worked diligently with officials from the Blind Brook School Board, the Village of Rye Brook and the Town of Rye in mobilizing community support. Many thanks to all the schoolchildren and their parents who attended the County Board meetings to urge passage of the legislation. The incredible turnout was a testament to the level of concern and commitment of local residents. The resolution of this lawsuit is great news not only for the taxpayers, but also for: a) the airport, which will benefit from having a strong tenant remain, extend its lease and make capital improvements; b) the general aviation community, namely the businesses that are served by Fixed Base Operators that provide services at the airport such as hangar space, lounges, de-icing service and fuel for general aviation aircraft; and c) Signature and its many employees, who live in Westchester and will continue to work and pay taxes in our community.

Committee Report

My second legislative term has been extremely productive. I was named a member of several committees, including the Budget and Appropriations Committee, the Economic Development and Capital Projects Committee, and the Law Committee. I also proudly serve as Chair of the Public Safety Committee and Vice Chair of both the Appointments Committee and the Law Committee.

As chair of the Public Safety Committee, I am working hard to ensure that Westchester residents enjoy the highest level of protection and security possible. The Public Safety Committee has oversight of the County Police Department, Probation Department, Department of Emergency Services, Corrections Department and the District Attorney's office. After thorough vetting of the issues, we passed several important pieces of legislation out of committee, which were then unanimously passed by the Legislature. These include: working out agreements for the County police to provide School Resource Officers in local school districts; financing the renovation of the County's Public Safety Headquarters and upgrading the Armory Public Safety Academy; improvements to the Fire Training Site;

replacement of the County radio system; video surveillance upgrade; purchasing an emergency response vehicle; and authorizing the county to enter into a Regional Partnership Agreement with Dutchess and Putnam Counties to receive funding from the New York State Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Services.

The Budget and Appropriations Committee passed legislation out of committee which was unanimously approved by the Board authorizing the County to provide \$3000 to the John F. Kennedy School in Port Chester to fund an after-school garden greenhouse program for elementary grade students focusing on nutrition and healthy eating. This program will provide a great hands-on learning experience for the students in our community.

The Economic Development and Cap-

ital Projects Committee worked jointly with the Budget and Appropriations Committee to pass a bond act to repair Highland Road in Harrison, and to pass legislation to make several improvements at the Westchester County Airport, including rehabbing various taxiways, shortening the light pole at Bellefair which obstructed the approach to Runway 34, and purchasing much-needed heavy equipment, including an airfield plow truck, aircraft deicer vehicle and runway sweeper. I closely monitor Airport activity in my role as a member of the Westchester County Airport Advisory Board.

I have reappointed several local residents to various boards, including:

Dr. Peter S. Liebert, *Board of Health*

Ron Kuntzman, *Council for Seniors*

Donald Heithaus, *Airport Advisory Board*. ■

Community Events

I always welcome the opportunity to meet with my constituents at various events throughout our community. I have enjoyed attending several ceremonies, award presentations, and other community events.

This summer, I was honored to speak on behalf of the Board of



Legislator Gelfarb spoke on behalf of the Board of Legislators at Playland at the Department of Social Services Annual Family Fun Day.

Legislators at Playland at the Department of Social Services Annual Family Fun Day. It was a great day, and a wonderful opportunity to recognize and thank foster and adoptive parents for all they do. I attended the Port Chester/Rye Brook/Rye Town Chamber of Commerce Annual BBQ at the Port Chester branch of TD Bank and the Port Chester Latino Network's Asi Es Guatemala celebration at St. Peter's Church. I spoke at the Port Chester Memorial Day Ceremonies at Veteran's Memorial Park and marched in the parade. I also attended the Memorial Mass at Our Lady of Mercy Church in Port Chester in honor of the village's fallen firefighters and police officers, which

was followed by the Annual Communion Breakfast at the Port Chester Senior Center. I also took part in several ceremonies held at the Board of Legislators, including a ceremony in honor of Women's History Month which recognized several women who have dedicated themselves to public service, and another honoring Westchester high school seniors who were recognized in the Intel Science Competition, as well as their teachers, including Jason Rosenberg, a 2014 graduate of Blind Brook High School. At the County's annual 9/11 ceremony at the Rising at the Kensico Dam, I proudly read the names of several Westchester residents who were lost on that day. ■

PHOTO GALLERY



1 Legislator Gelfarb attended the Westchester Emergency Communications Association (WECA) Field Day at Harbor Island Park in Mamaroneck. 2 Legislator Gelfarb hosted several groups of bright, inquisitive students at the mock legislature program at the Board of Legislators, including Ms. Camac's 4th grade debate team at Ridge Street School in Rye Brook, and 5th graders from Parsons Memorial School in Harrison. 3 Legislator Gelfarb was pleased to attend the Port Chester Old Timer's Association 60th Honoree Dinner at Spadaro Ristorante in Port Chester, where he awarded proclamations to Judge John Colangelo, Daniel Colangelo, Jr., Dominick Paniccia, Daniel Paniccia, Stephen Purdy, and Joseph Acocella, Jr. 4 Legislator Gelfarb was honored to take part in the Gold Star Mothers Ceremony at the Kensico Dam with his fellow Legislators Sheila Marcotte and Michael Smith. The ceremony honored the families of Westchester County service members killed in Iraq and Afghanistan, including Lance Corporal Efrain Sanchez Jr. and Sergeant Anthony Kalladeen. 5 Legislator Gelfarb presented a proclamation to George Marshall for his 50 years of service with the Washington Engine & Hose Co. #4 of the Port Chester Volunteer Fire Department, and to Robert Thalheimer and Frank Thalheimer in recognition of their 50 years of service with Reliance Engine and Hose Co. #1 of the Port Chester Volunteer Fire Department. 6 Legislator Gelfarb with County Executive Rob Astorino and Rye City Councilwoman Julie Killian at the Westchester Children's Museum Spring Gala. 7 Legislator Gelfarb spoke and presented a certificate of appreciation to the students who took part in the International Walk to School Day at the King Street School in Port Chester. 8 Legislator Gelfarb presented a proclamation to Father Albert Hilario from St. Peter's Church, one of the honorees at the Port Chester/Rye NAACP's 6th Annual Freedom Fund Luncheon.