

Westchester County Legislator **GORDON A. BURROWS**

Proudly Serving the 15th District



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Dear Neighbor,

With the Fall about to end and the winter months approaching, the County Board of Legislators is diligently working on the 2019 budget recently proposed by County Executive George Latimer. The budget as proposed, calls for an increase in county taxes of two percent (2%). As always, I will work to pass a budget that I believe is fiscally sound for all of our residents. In that regard, if you have any thoughts on the budget or on any other county issue, I look forward to hearing from you.

One of the things I enjoy best about being your legislator is hearing from you. My direct line at the county is (914) 995-2830 and my e-mail address is gab@westchestergov.com. Also, if you have not yet signed up, I ask you to consider taking two minutes of your time and sign up at westchesterlegislators.com/subscribe-to-updates. By signing up you will receive periodic important information regarding issues concerning county wide events; pending weather threats; possible road closures; emergency issues and any event impacting our community.

As always, it has been my distinct pleasure to represent you and to serve my neighbors and community.

Best,

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Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Fall 2018 Newsletter



Gordon A. Burrows

District 15 ~ Yonkers



Helping our Environment

Every year New York residents and businesses throw away almost 1.4 billion pounds of usable and recyclable textiles. These items include clothing, footwear, belts, hats, handbags, drapes, towels, sheets and other linens. Fortunately, Westchester



residents now have a place to drop off these items ensuring that they are reused or recycled. The County has contracted with County Recycling, LLC to provide a collection bin at the Household-Material Recovery Facility (H-MRF) located at 15 Woods Rd., in Valhalla, NY.

Under the contract, County Recycling, LLC will pay the County a \$500 annual licensing fee, plus \$0.15 for each pound of textiles that's recovered. Acceptable items include:

- All types of clothing including jackets & coats
- All types of shoes, sneakers, boots and cleats
- All types of accessories including belts, handbags, scarfs, hats & gloves
- All types of sheets, towels and blankets

After collection, approximately 45% of the recovered materials are re-used as apparel; about 30% of recovered textiles are not suitable for reuse and are recycled into wiping and polishing cloths; 20% are reprocessed into fibers for furniture stuffing, carpet padding, insulation and other materials; only 5% is unusable and unfit for recycling.

Since 2005, the County has reduced the amount of its residential garbage by an impressive 30%. In 2017 alone, the County reduced its garbage by almost 6,000 tons, which saved the County over \$540,000 in disposal costs. The addition of recyclable textiles furthers the County's commitment to reduce waste.

Westchester's H-MRF is open to all residents on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday, from 10a.m. – 3p.m., by appointment. Some small businesses also qualify to use the H-MRF for disposal of chemicals and fluorescent bulbs under the Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generator Program. To make an appointment, visit environment.westchestergov.com/new-h-mrf or call the Recycling HelpLine at (914) 813-5425.

Con Ed Announces Text Alert Service

As you know, the Board of Legislators and other elected officials have held a series of meetings with Con Edison to insist that the company improve its response to storm outages.

One of the areas we've stressed that the company must improve is communication with customers -- both before storms and during the restoration process when outages happen.

Con Ed is now offering customers the chance to enroll in a text messaging program that will send pre-storm weather alerts and storm preparation information. In addition, customers who suffer outages and inform the company about them, will get system and safety updates, including an estimated time of restoration.

Customers who want to enroll can use their cell phones to text **REG to OUTAGE (688243)** and follow the prompts. Customers will need their account numbers and to confirm their zip codes. Your account number can be retrieved online by logging on to your Con Ed account and navigating to the "My Account" section or by checking a bill.

If you sign up but decide you don't want the text messages, Con Ed assures us that you can opt out.

More information is available at coned.com/text.



SNAIL MAIL IS EXPENSIVE – MAKE SURE YOU SIGN UP FOR MY EMAILS!

I only send one piece of mail to you via USPS once a calendar year from my office. If you want to stay up to date with the latest news regarding legislation and county events, please sign up at westchesterlegislators.com/subscribe-to-updates.html.

Project LifeSaver

County residents caring for a senior with Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia should be aware of Project Lifesaver, which just might save the lives of their elderly loved ones should they wander from their homes.

Project Lifesaver is a free program that uses radio-frequency technology to find seniors who stray and return them safely to their families.

Through Project Lifesaver, seniors are fitted with bracelets with special batteries; Should they wander away, specifically trained and equipped police from the Westchester County Department of Public Safety can find them using radio signals transmitted by the bracelet.

The Westchester County Department of Public Safety is the current program administrator for Project Lifesaver. For more information or to register, call the Public Safety Department at (914) 864-7979 or e-mail jaw7@westchestergov.com.



Bronxville Seniors



In June, I had the opportunity to host a trip to the movies for a group of constituents that are very special to me, the Bronxville Seniors. We had a great time! We saw the movie *Quartet*, had some popcorn and drinks then headed back to the center to have a pizza party. I am looking forward to our next trip, which I hope will be soon.

Also, I am very happy to report that for the second year in a row my office was able to secure a grant to extend the senior programs.

If you are a senior, over the age of 55, and are interested in joining the fun, please go to their website Bronxvilleseniors.org. If you do not have access to a computer, please call their office (914) 793-2222 or (914)

844-5120, and they will help you through the application process and answer any questions you may have.

Grandparent Scam

According to police and consumer protection advocates, seniors are often targets of scams and con artists, who prey on seniors because they find them frequently accessible at home. One of the troubling deceptions occurs when a scam artist calls a senior and poses as their grandchild. The caller claims to be in some type of trouble or distress (i.e. serious accident, jail, legal trouble), frequently in a foreign country. The alleged grandchild instructs the senior not to contact other family members, but urges the grandparent to wire money or gift card information as soon as possible. Once the victim wires the money or provides gift card accounts – a more recent trend - that money is gone forever and the senior becomes a scam victim.

Make sure that your loved ones follow these simple steps to avoid falling victim:

- Verify that the caller is really your grandchild – hang up and call another family member or grandchild to confirm.
- Never provide personal information on an unsolicited phone call to anyone.
- The best protection is to just hang up the phone when called by someone you don't know



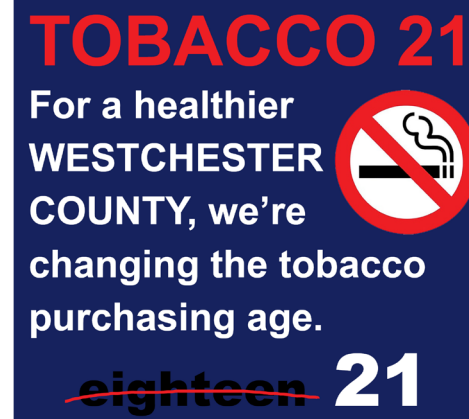
Legislation News

- The age was raised to 21 to purchase tobacco products in Westchester County.

- A resolution was passed to make Con Edison and New York State Electric and Gas more responsible with better management in providing power to Westchester County residents and providing better storm management in response to natural disasters, which

can disrupt residential power lines and lead to outages. This resolution was in response to these energy companies' failure to restore power to thousands of Westchester County residents, which threatened the health, well-being, and safety of our residents. The Board of Legislators called on the Public Service Commission to order rebates or rate reductions whether it be for spoiled food, forced business closure, as well as reimbursements to the County for extensive emergency costs caused by the poor handling of storm recovery.

- My Colleagues and I unanimously voted to pass a local law that will prevent businesses in Westchester County from requesting or seeking the wage history of a prospective employee. The goal of this law was to help safeguard against the gender wage gap precedent of women getting paid less than men. The law will not only help women but will help experienced workers who often have difficulty getting interviews or job offers because current employers don't feel as though they can afford to match an employee's previous salary. The Law will also benefit workers that have left the workforce for various reasons, such as, health reasons or to care for children. It is the Board's hope the law will help the majority of Westchester County Residents.



Bee-Line Buses



I am pleased to announce Westchester County has expanded our hybrid fleet with 78 diesel-electric buses provided by New Flyer of America Inc. The new busses will save the County over 850,000 gallons of fuel while preventing 12,400 tons of greenhouse gas emissions from polluting the environment.

I have been advocating for more environmentally friendly vehicles for years, and I am extremely happy that by the middle of 2019 our busses are expected to be completely hybrid and making Westchester County a healthier place to live.

Roadways Update

PONDFIELD ROAD WEST BRIDGE

The project addresses replacement of bridge superstructure with a pre-cast rigid frame/arch structure including stone facing to provide similar appearance to the existing. The stone parapets will also be replaced with stone-faced pre-cast concrete parapets/spandrel walls.

This project is currently in design and construction timing will be coordinated taking into consideration other Bronx River Parkway bridge projects for 2019 and 2020. The design is funded in the amount of \$1,030,000. The balance of the funding, \$7,720,000, for construction management and construction will be requested as the design nears completion.

PALMER ROAD BRIDGE

The project addresses the rehabilitation of the bridge, consisting of the complete removal and replacement of the roadway pavement, fill, sidewalks and waterproofing membrane; replacement of the bridge rail; rehabilitation of the stone parapet and facing; and associated work. The erosion and scour related problems will also be addressed with streambank stabilization.

The repairs are expected to cost \$2,375,000, which include design, construction management and construction. Design for this project has been completed and the construction contract was awarded and executed on August 1, 2018.

BRONX RIVER PARKWAY— WILL BE REPLACING GUARDRAILS

As soon as I have updates, I will disseminate the information to the community through e-mail notification — if you have not registered for district e-news please contact my office.