



Westchester County Legislator

JOHN G. TESTA
Minority Leader

Proudly Serving the 1st District



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WHITE PLAINS, NY
PERMIT NO. 261

800 Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, New York 10601

PHONE:
(914) 995-2828

E-MAIL:
Testa@westchesterlegislators.com

www.westchesterlegislators.com
www.johngtesta.com

[facebook.com/johngtesta](https://www.facebook.com/johngtesta)

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Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Fall 2018 Newsletter



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District 1 ~ Cortlandt, Peekskill, Yorktown



Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses Act

I believe that we should always be looking for ways to support our military veterans and I am happy to report that we did just that in April when we passed legislation which would give Service Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses (SDVOB) a better shot at securing contracts with Westchester County Government. I'm happy to report that in April, legislation that I sponsored was passed by the Board of Legislators that will make that happen. There are currently approximately 15 certified SDVOB's operating in Westchester County. These businesses provide goods and services across a broad spectrum of industries like construction/demolition, IT services, office furniture distribution, heavy equipment sales, staffing services, and pest control and janitorial services. Veterans deserve our gratitude for the sacrifices they have made on our behalf but



they also deserve real world opportunities to establish themselves and their businesses once their service time has ended. Because of their military experience, Veteran business owners tend

to have strong leadership skills, work ethic and discipline. These are all the things we look for when contracting with private businesses on behalf of Westchester taxpayers. ■

Indian Point Cessation Funds



Like most residents of District 1, I was shocked by the news that Entergy would be closing the Indian Point power plant by 2021. In April, I was proud to announce- along with a bipartisan coalition

of State and Local officials, that we had prevailed upon the Governor to allocate \$24 million in state funds to protect local taxpayers from future financial hardship caused by the plant's closure

in the recently enacted state budget. I grew up in this area in Peekskill. I am not just representing this area, but I am also working on behalf of friends and families I have known for many years who will be directly impacted by the potential closing of Indian Point. We knew when the closing was announced that we needed to build up a fund right away. This stabilization fund is a good start toward helping our schools and our communities survive. We have a long way to go in planning for a future without Indian Point but this was a positive and significant accomplishment that we can build on going forward.

As a member of the State and Local Indian Point Closure Task Forces I will continue to work with local and state officials, business owners, school district representatives and residents to prepare for a future without Indian Point. ■

Improving Our Roads and Parks

We have been very busy in addressing some large infrastructure projects in District 1. Over the last couple of years there has been major rehabilitation work on some of our county-owned roads. One major project is the complete rehab of South Division Street in the City of Peekskill, from South Street to the Cortlandt/Peekskill Town Line and on North Division Street from South Division to Highland Avenue. The projects will include milling, resurfacing, replacement or adjustment of utility castings,

concrete curb replacement, installation of handicap ramps, new traffic loops, and new pavement markings. Similar work will now be done on the entire length of Washington Street between Welcher Avenue and South Street. This will mean over 6 miles of roads will have been rehabilitated after decades of neglect.

In addition to road work, we are making some major improvements at George's Island Park in Montrose. The work at the park will include design and construction of two playgrounds

and picnic areas which will replace the existing ones. The new playgrounds will conform to current accessibility standards. Another major element of the project will be the rehabilitation of the boat launching docks which were last renovated nearly twenty years ago. The sanitary septic systems which service the comfort station buildings will be completely rebuilt. This comes after major improvements were completed at George's Island boat ramps and parking area, and upgrades at Blue Mountain reservation. ■

DISTRICT PHOTO GALLERY



1. Joining Yorktown officials at the Annual ASK Youth Court Graduation.
2. Getting ready for the Peekskill St. Patrick's Day Parade with Grand Marshal Kacey Morabito Grean and Pipe Major Joe Brady.
3. Preparing for the kick-off of the Village of Buchanan 90th Anniversary celebration with Mayor Knickerbocker and board members Funchion, Pasquale and Zachary.
4. Remembering and thanking our area heroes with Purple Heart Veterans Eugene Lang and MORPH Commander Dale Novak.
5. Presenting proclamations to Rick Cerreta of Cortlandt Hook & Ladder Co. and Deputy Chief John Esposito of Centennial Hose Co. to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Peekskill Fleischmann Plant fire.
6. I was happy to join Bruce Bellom, Luis Segarra, Joe Torres and Robert Sullivan on their public access show.
7. With Hendrick Hudson Free Library Director Jill Davis to officially open the new Children's Library addition.
8. Joining Buchanan Mayor Knickerbocker and Assemblyman Byrne during a NY State Indian Point Task Force meeting in Cortlandt Town Hall.
9. Having a little fun with Pastors Coulter and Young before the start of the Annual Peekskill Juneteenth Parade.
10. I was honored to join Jeff Canning and the Van Cortlandtville Historical Society and distinguished educators from the US Military Academy at West Point to commemorate the anniversary of local hero John Paulding and the capture of British spy John Andre.
11. Presenting owner Sunny Cover with a certificate to recognize the 15th year of operation of the Peekskill Coffee House.
12. At the Annual Peekskill Athletic Hall of Fame Installation Dinner with Ed "Pete" Peterson, Athletic Director Louis Panzavano and retired NBA star (and former student of mine) Elton Brand.
13. With owners Lou Lanza, Scott Vaccaro and John Sharp, welcoming Captain Lawrence Brewery and the River Outpost to Peekskill.
14. Joining Yorktown San Gennaro Feast Grand Marshal Mary Capoccia at the kick-off for the 2018 feast.
15. Helping Yorktown Justices Sal Lagonia and Gary Raniolo serve lunch to local seniors at the Annual Yorktown Festival and Street Fair.
16. Participation in the Yorktown Business Symposium with Yorktown Chamber of Commerce President Eric DiBartolo and former County Legislator George Oros.