



Westchester County Legislator
GORDON A. BURROWS

Proudly Serving the 15th District



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Dear Neighbor,

I am extremely fortunate to serve the residents of Westchester County's 15th Legislative District, representing portions of the City of Yonkers and the Village of Bronxville. Protecting taxpayers and advocating for the needs and concerns of people is what I love to do.

As the Minority Whip serving on the important committees of Legislation, Law and Major Contracts and Public Safety, I have the unique opportunity to bring my legal experience to county government to improve Westchester County, and our community as a whole, to be the best we can be.

As always, I welcome the opportunity to hear from you and encourage you to contact my office by phone, (914) 995-2830 or e-mail at Burrows@legislators.com, if I may be of assistance. Also, if you have not signed up for e-news, I urge you to please do so and stay informed of what is happening in Westchester County.

Best,

Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Fall 2019 Newsletter



Gordon A. Burrows

District 15 ~ Yonkers



Several Voting Laws have changed – the following laws will affect 2019 voting. Early Voting will allow registered voters in New York the option to vote early .

VOTING DATES: In 2019, the dates for Early Voting will be Saturday, October 26th through (and including) Sunday, November 3rd. This law creates a 10-day 'early voting' period, making voting more convenient for everyone including those whose professional or family situations make it difficult to physically get to the polls on Election Day. It will also reduce waiting times at the polls.

EARLY VOTING PLACES: The Westchester County Board of Elections will select multiple voting locations specifically for Early Voting (which may not be a regular polling place). At least seven locations for early voting are required under State law. The Westchester County Board of Elections will notify you by mail of your Early Voting polling place. Although this new law is effective immediately, the first opportunity for early voting will take place before the General Election on Tuesday, November 5, 2019.

NOTE: In 2019, there was no Early Voting for the Primary Election

VOTER CHANGE OF ADDRESS (as of 3/25/19): Voters will no longer have to re-register in person when they move. This law ensures that when a voter moves elsewhere within New York State and the Board of Elections receives notice of an address change from the U.S. Post Office, a State Agency or an affidavit ballot, their voter registration will seamlessly go with them.

For more information on voting and elections, go to the Board of Elections' website: www.westchestergov.com/boe or call (914) 995-5700.

Helping Our Environment

In June, I joined my colleagues on the Board of Legislators in voting unanimously to regulate the sale and use of expanded polystyrene (EPS) containers for takeout food and restaurant leftovers in Westchester County.

Americans throw out billions of tons of EPS coffee cups and other food containers every year. This material doesn't biodegrade, so it clogs landfills for decades or more. Once it is used for food, it is difficult to recycle economically, and when it breaks up into smaller pieces, it drifts off into our waterways, where it's often eaten by marine life mistaking it for food.

Our new law eliminates the sale or use of EPS for takeout food containers and utensils by vendors and restaurants or sold in stores. The measure also prohibits the sale of loose-fill EPS packing foam in Westchester. Prepackaged food that arrives sealed in EPS package, packaging for raw eggs, and butcher case packaging are exempted.

With this common-sense, bi-partisan legislation, Westchester will join its neighbors in Nassau and Suffolk Counties and in New York City, in acting to reduce this troubling source of pollution.

As elected officials, environmental protections are one of the most important things we can do for current and future generations, and I'm proud that this measure to reduce polystyrene waste in our environment is part of this Board's legacy.

To read the bill, visit <http://bit.ly/2JWN4T>.



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.



SENIOR CORNER

Bronxville Seniors

I had the pleasure of having another fun day of movies and pizza with the Bronxville Seniors. Mayor Marvyn came by to visit with us too! We saw the movie, "On the Basis of Sex"; the story is based on the life of Ruth Bader Ginsburg. I am also happy to report I was able to secure another grant this year to extend their wonderful programs through July 2019.

If you would like to join the Bronxville Seniors please call (914) 793-2222 or e-mail bronxvilleseiniorcitizens@gmail.com.

Yonkers Seniors

I had the pleasure of meeting with the Dehaven-on-Hudson Seniors at their monthly meeting. Jim Maisiano, Director of Consumer Protection joined me as well. We disseminated information and reference materials on the role of County Government, spoke about issues in the District and had informative discussion about the functions of the Consumer Protection Department and how seniors can protect themselves from various scams. I look forward to meeting with them again and working on community issues.

If you would like to join Dehaven-on-Hudson Seniors or get more information, call (914) 376-9532.



KEEPING WESTCHESTER PETS SAFE

Chapter 681 – Restrictions on the outdoor tethering of dogs

In an effort to keep our dogs safe the Board of Legislators have passed a law making it illegal to tether a dog outside and restrain them by the use of a rope or chain to a pole or tree or similar object, intended to restrict their movement unless the owner is present with the dog. There must be at all times adequate shelter, easily accessible food and water and separate area to defecate from where they eat or lie down.

No responsible person/dog owner may tether a dog under any circumstance including but not limited to:

- If the dog is less than 6 months old
- During a weather alert or extreme weather conditions or between the hours of 11:00 pm and 6:00 am
- A nursing mother whose offspring is present
- They cannot be tethered to a mobile device such as a trolley or pulley
- Does not allow the dog to walk at least 10 feet
- Does not have swivels on both ends to prevent twisting or choking to impede the the flow of oxygen or blood to injure the dog

The intent of this law is to improve the safety of Westchester County and their pets.

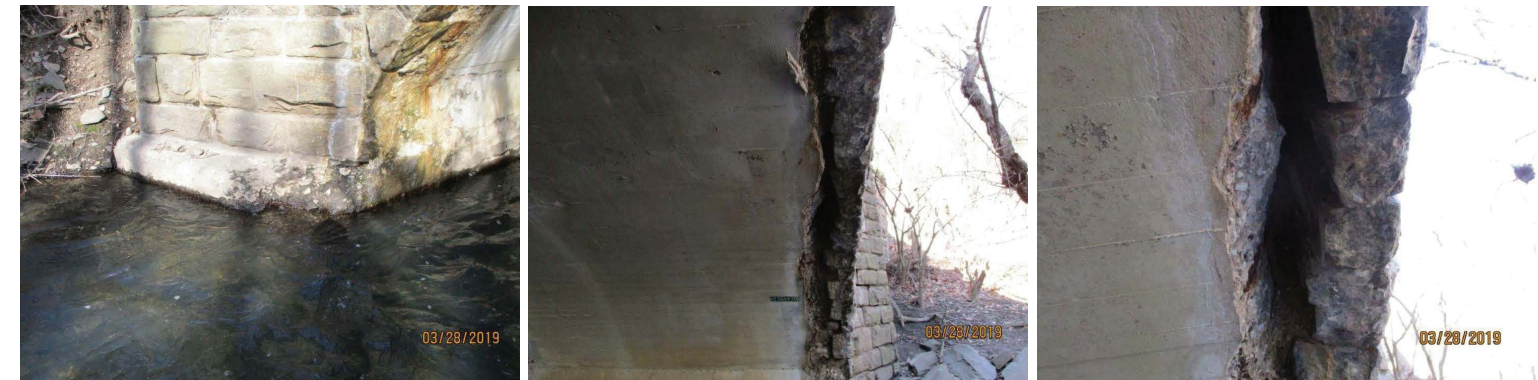


PALMER ROAD BRIDGE

Over the past several weeks my office has received numerous inquiries regarding the status of the Palmer Avenue Bridge. By this correspondence I will attempt to address some of the questions posed in an effort to keep you apprised of the latest news.

WHY DID THE PALMER ROAD BRIDGE REQUIRE REPAIRS?

Several years ago the Department of Transportation conducted an inspection and deemed the bridge unsound and unsafe (see photos below).



After conducting its own review and putting the project out to BID, the County awarded the contract to repair the bridge to ELQ Industries for the lowest BID of 1,715,984 million dollars. The work required in part the following:

Complete removal and replacement of the roadway pavement, fill, sidewalks a 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.

HOW LONG IS THE REPAIR OF THE PALMER ROAD BRIDGE SUPPOSED TO TAKE AND WHY OVER THE SUMMER?

The work started approximately April 2018 and is estimated to be completed in mid/late November of 2019. The summer was chosen as the traffic studies demonstrated there is less traffic during this period due to people's summer vacation plans and children not being in school.

WHY DID WORK ON THE PALMER ROAD BRIDGE STOP FOR A PERIOD OF TIME?

Once the work crews began repairing the bridge they ran into unanticipated events requiring a redesign of the concrete core parapet and stone face (apparently original drawings of the bridge which were prepared decades ago showed one conduct and one gas line when in effect there are eight). Once the engineers completed their redesign, crews from ELQ Industries returned to the site. I am advised that the repair crews are near completion of phase 1 of the project, which calls for the North half of the bridge to be fully restored before turning their attention to the South side of the bridge.

HOW WILL TRAFFIC FLOW TO THE PALMER ROAD BRIDGE BE AFFECTED ONCE WORK ON THE SOUTH SIDE BEGINS?

It was determined by Public Safety that all traffic flow should be diverted in the direction of Lawrence Hospital to ensure quick access in the event of a medical emergency. Therefore, even though the repair work to the Palmer Road Bridge will essentially "flip" from the North side to the south side all current traffic flows and detours will continue as is.