



Westchester County Legislator  
**NANCY E. BARR**  
*Proudly Serving the 6th District*



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### Environment and Sustainability

The Board is committed to practical and progressive solutions to stave off climate change, increase sustainability, and reduce the proliferation of toxic agents in our environment.

Westchester County is helping municipalities by providing funds for engineering studies and by helping to secure grants for flood mitigation projects. Rye Brook is one of the first municipalities to receive a County grant to reduce flooding at Avon Circle and at Port Chester Middle School. I also worked with my NYS colleagues and town officials to secure state funding for flood mitigation in Harrison.

I was pleased to co-sponsor the **UPON REQUEST/SINGLE USE FOODWARE** legislation which the Board passed unanimously, and which is a win-win-win for businesses, consumers and the environment. This law will save businesses money and reduce waste, while still providing consumers with the items that they need. Single use utensils, condiments, and straws will be provided “upon request.”

**Additional Green Initiatives:**

- **ELECTRIC VEHICLE CHARGING STATIONS** - increased the inventory from 40 to 189 operating stations in 2023 for both County and residential vehicles.
- The **LEAD FREE PARKS ACT** prioritizes the safety of our residents by monitoring and remediating drinking water in all County parks.
- The **RENEWABLE ENERGY DATABASE ACT** empowers municipalities by providing access to a database that assists in siting renewable energy infrastructure.
- The **EQUITY IN ENVIRONMENTAL LEGISLATION ACT** guarantees fairness in our decision-making processes by considering the historical cases of environmental justice.
- **HOLDING HOLTEC ACCOUNTABLE** to monitor the safe decommissioning of Indian Point and prevent incidents like radioactive water being dumped into the Hudson River from occurring. As a result of our lobbying, the Governor signed the “Save the Hudson” legislation. ■



Save the Hudson River Rally

# Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

*Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years*

Winter 2023/24 Newsletter



**Nancy E. Barr**

District 6 ~ Harrison, Rye Brook, Port Chester  
*Vice-Chair of the Board*



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

Since assuming office in 2018, I have been impressed by the depth of talent in our County. I constantly meet people who bring their skills, education, cultural identity and life experience to their jobs and their volunteerism, making Westchester the best it can be. This past year, it was my pleasure to nominate and honor several of my constituents for their exemplary service to our community at celebratory Senior, Community Service and Heritage events, and I look forward to nominating additional constituents next year.

Despite wonderful work and dedication throughout our County, I worry about increasing tensions around our country and around the world, as this has a direct impact on us here at home. I am proud of the effort that our County Executive and the Board have made to ensure Westchester remains a welcoming community for all.

To this end, the Board supported the first Westchester Asian-American and Pacific Islander needs assessment. The findings of this study illustrate its value as a tool for collecting vital information to inform anti-discrimination policies for this group, and for others within our County.

I have also attended numerous vigils and services to celebrate Westchester’s diversity. At one service I was moved by personal accounts from Afghan refugees who, through the hard work of local volunteers, have made Westchester their home. The annual Thanksgiving Diversity Breakfast, sponsored by AJC Westchester/Fairfield, was started after 9/11 and is attended by elected officials, clergy of various faiths and interested individuals. I found this year’s event, the largest ever, especially meaningful, as participants joined together in support of the Jewish people and Israel, and against hate in all its forms. It is my fervent hope that 2024 will bring a path to peace in the Middle East, in Ukraine, and throughout the world.

As always, I thank you for your continued support. Please feel free to reach out to me at [neb7@westchestercountyny.gov](mailto:neb7@westchestercountyny.gov) or at 914-995-2834 should you have any questions or suggestions. My Legislative Aide Debbie and I would love to hear from you.

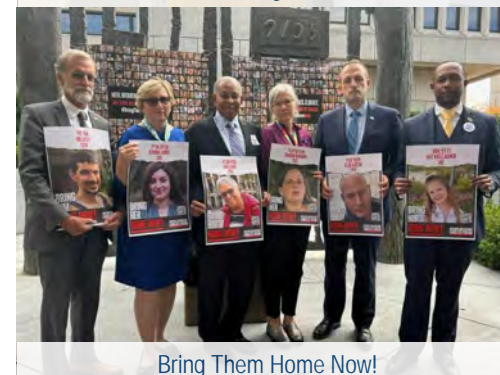
With Hope for a Bright Future,



Volunteers for Refugees



We Stand Against Hate



Bring Them Home Now!

### Relief For Our Hard-Working Taxpayers

For the 2nd year in a row, the Board supported the County Executive’s initiative to provide free Bee-Line bus service during the 2023 summer and December holiday season. The Board also approved sales tax relief for heating fuel in winter 2023, passed a resolution opposing Con Edison’s proposed rate increases, and expanded childcare subsidies and financial assistance for food insecurity programs. ■



Signing Access to Counsel Bill

## Housing

There continues to be a housing crisis across our country, and Westchester is no exception. Access to safe and stable housing is a critical component of thriving communities, yet in many of our communities, the cost of housing is out of reach.

I am proud to have co-sponsored the **ACCESS TO COUNSEL** law, which will provide legal representation to eligible households facing eviction and other covered proceedings. This will help keep residents at risk of displacement and homelessness in their own homes. Not only is this the right thing to do, but it will save the County money in the long run, as stable housing is a key factor in finding and holding a job, succeeding in school, and accessing basic health care. ■

## Accountability and Transparency

The **TRUTHFUL DISCLOSURE** law, passed last March, establishes an effective mechanism for transparency and accountability in our elected County officials. Candidates must complete a disclosure form that captures essential biographical information, including education, military, and employment histories. Candidates must certify its accuracy. This information will remain on file with the County Ethics Committee. ■

## Budget & Fiscal Responsibility

The fiscal health of Westchester County is strong. In November 2023 Westchester Fitch Ratings recognized Westchester with a prestigious “AAA” credit rating, the highest possible. Additionally, S&P Global Ratings revised its outlook on Westchester County from stable to positive, affirmed its ‘AA+’ long-term rating on the County’s existing general obligation (GO) bonds, and simultaneously assigned an ‘AA+’ rating to the County’s latest bond issuances. This positive outlook reflects the County’s strong financial performance, prudent financial management and ability to navigate economic uncertainties.

In December, the Board of Legislators voted on the 2024 Operating Budget, which, for the 5th consecutive year, contains no increase in the property tax levy, while reflecting Westchester’s values by investing in public safety, emergency preparedness, health/mental health services, environmental initiatives, economic development programs, infrastructure, and funding for housing. As Covid funds are depleted and New York State cuts back on Medicaid reimbursements, the County budget will get tighter, making it even more important that we make prudent financial decisions now. ■

## Public Health and Safety



Supporting EMS

After hearing from firefighters and our County Department of Emergency Services, the Board passed a **LAW TO REGULATE LITHIUM-ION BATTERIES**. Batteries that have been refurbished can cause fires which can be very difficult to extinguish, endangering lives. For safety tips related to lithium-ion batteries, see <https://emergencyservices.westchestergov.com/lithium-ion-battery-safety>.

We continue to see critical shortages in fire and ambulance volunteers. To help municipalities recruit more volunteers, a H.E.R.R.O. scholarship was created in 2022 to provide tuition or student loan reimbursement. This program has been successful and will be expanded in 2024. The Board also passed legislation in 2023 making it easier for volunteers to qualify for property tax breaks, by changing the requirement from five to two years of active service. ■

### SUBSCRIBE TO MY MAILING LIST!

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## PHOTO GALLERY



Supporting Labor



Coffee & Conversation with Constituents in Harrison



Welcoming New Business to Rye Brook



Community Council Honors Lifelong Volunteers



Fighting for Disability Rights



Rallying Against Wage Theft

## Supporting Our Youth

I am incredibly proud of our young people and I continue to advocate for funds and programs to help them reach their full potential. I successfully advocated for funding for a new van for the Port Chester Youth Bureau. In the 2024 Budget, I allocated program funding to The Sharing Shelf and ACT-SO for the first time, allowing them to expand their efforts to help children and families within our district, and throughout the County. I also secured funding to bring the highly successful “Summer Reading Buddies” program to Port Chester. In addition, among many other worthy organizations, Carver Center and Latino U will continue to receive funding in 2024. ■



Lions Club Peace Poster Contest Winners at BBMS



Hosting Summer Interns



Summer Reading Buddies



PC Youth Bureau Gets New Van