



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



800 Michaelian Office Building
 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
 White Plains, New York 10601
 (T) 914-995-2834; (F) 914-995-3884
 Barr@westchesterlegislators.com

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 westchesterlegislators.com
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For up-to-date schedules and to watch meetings live or on-demand:
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United States Census 2020

Census 2020 is coming! This will be the first Census where residents can respond online. Please watch your mailbox in mid-March for directions to answer the Census.

It is critical that every Westchester resident is counted. The census is the basis for determining how \$675 billion in federal funding is allocated, and how many seats each state gets in the House of Representatives. NYS officials use the results to redraw the boundaries of their congressional and state legislative districts.

Without a proper count, New York could lose federal funding and representation, which could result in fewer dollars coming to Westchester County to administer vital programs.

Please be sure to fill out the 2020 census when it becomes available, and include every member of your household.

If you would like to volunteer for Westchester's Census 2020 Complete Count, contact Edward Leimbach at eal8@westchestergov.com.

If you would like to apply for a job on the 2020 Census Team, visit: 2020census.gov/jobs or call 1-855-JOB-2020 for more information. The U.S. Census Bureau is an Equal Opportunity Employer.



Grand Opening of Crawford Mansion Community Center in Rye Brook

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Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

2019 Newsletter



Nancy E. Barr

District 6 ~ Harrison, Rye Brook, Port Chester

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

In reflecting on 2019, I want to thank all of you who have helped to make my first two years in office productive. I look forward to working with you during the next two years to continue to improve the lives of the residents in our district, as well as in our County.

I believe communication and accessibility are necessary to provide the representation that people deserve. In addition to this newsletter, I use email and Facebook to let people know what is happening around the County, including services that are available through County resources. I attend many events throughout Harrison, Rye Brook and Port Chester, but I am always open to meeting with people upon request, either at my office in White Plains or in the District.

In addition to Coffee & Conversations I hosted throughout the district, it has been my pleasure to host events with some of my fellow elected officials. I joined a Town Hall with Port Chester Committee for Better Government in February, hosted a Coffee and Conversation with County Executive George Latimer in March, and I was delighted to join Port Chester Village Trustee Joan Grangenois-Thomas and NYS Senator Shelley Mayer in August to host a dinner and conversation focused on women's empowerment. Over 60 people attended, and we had a spirited discussion about how women can become more involved in civic life.

If the first year of my term was focused on projects that had been languishing for years, the second year was about looking forward. As Chair of the Environment, Health and Energy Committee, there is no shortage of initiatives to be explored. This year I co-sponsored a bill to ban the sale and distribution of expanded polystyrene (aka Styrofoam). I have been a proud proponent of food scrap recycling and look forward to reviewing the County's food waste study upon its completion. Meanwhile, Rye Brook's volunteer food scrap recycling program is well underway, and I'm hopeful Port Chester will soon be following suit. Harrison has a Sustainability Committee that is investigating various measures to become more environmentally-friendly. It has been great to connect volunteers from the three communities so they can learn from each other.

As I begin my second term as your County Legislator, I thank you for your continued support and for placing your trust in me. I am truly honored to serve you. As always, I appreciate hearing from you. I can be reached at Barr@westchesterlegislators.com or 914-995-2834.

With Best Wishes in the New Year,



Exploring Ways to Convert Food Waste to Energy at Quantum Biopower

Westchester County Budget

The Board of Legislators began the 2018 legislative term with a mission to stabilize the county's finances and replenish the county's rainy day funds, while continuing to provide essential services to the people of Westchester. I am proud that the 2020 Operating Budget accomplishes these goals. The budget includes a \$1 million cut in the county property tax levy, the elimination of "one shot" deals, a \$10 million addition to the county's rainy day funds (which had been significantly reduced under the prior administration) and does not rely on borrowing to fund operating expenses. At the same time, the budget sends millions in new revenue to municipalities and school districts, strengthens support for Westchester's families through new funding for cost effective, community-based non-profits, commits \$20 million to the development of sorely-needed affordable housing, and allocates funds to speed up repairs to roads, bridges and parks to clear a multi-hundred million dollar capital project backlog.

2019 HIGHLIGHTS



Proud to stand with Advisory Committee Appointees

ADVISORY BOARDS

We are fortunate to have many distinguished individuals who are active in the community and have expertise they are willing to share. In my first two years, I am proud to have nominated residents from Harrison, Port Chester and Rye Brook to serve on several important County Advisory Boards including the Airport Advisory Board, the Women's Advisory Board, and the Citizens Budget Advisory Committee. This year I had the opportunity to advocate for a new committee, the Westchester Advisory Council for People with Disabilities. The Advisory Council will be a crucial resource that will recommend legislation, identify program priorities, and help review County policies and procedures so that we can better serve people with disabilities and their families.

SMALL BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Supporting our local business community is one of my priorities. When I met Andrea Giraldo, Certified Business Advisor of the NYS Small Business Development Center (SBDC), I knew I needed to find a way to bring the resources of the SBDC to our community. The NYS SBDC provides a range of management and technical assistance to small business owners and entrepreneurs, including business planning, financial planning, and marketing, all free of charge. Ms. Giraldo has now hosted workshops and held confidential one-on-one meetings with business owners and entrepreneurs at the Port Chester/Rye Brook Library. If you would like to schedule an appointment with the Business Advisor, free of charge, please contact my office.

EARNED PAID SICK LEAVE & SAFE LEAVE

I was pleased to co-sponsor the Earned Paid Sick Leave Law which went into effect in April 2019. Under this law, employees will earn one hour of paid sick leave for every thirty hours worked. Employees can use this sick leave to access medical or mental health diagnoses, treatment or preventative care for themselves or a family member. I also co-sponsored the Safe Leave Law which went into effect in October 2019. This law provides victims of domestic violence or human trafficking the ability to take up to 40 hours of paid "safe leave" from their jobs to get the support that they need.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Investing in decaying infrastructure and in our County parks has been a priority for me, my Legislative colleagues and this Administration. I supported many infrastructure projects including rehabilitation of the runway at Westchester County Airport, repair of County-owned roads, and rehabilitation of our wastewater treatment plants. In the 2020 Budget, I have requested funding for local road repairs, including \$2.4 million to rehabilitate a 1.12 mile stretch of Union Avenue in Harrison, and \$1.4 million to rehabilitate 0.7 miles of roadway on Willet Avenue in Port Chester.

BAN ON EXPANDED POLYSTYRENE

To protect our local environment and our health, I co-sponsored a bill to ban the sale and use of expanded polystyrene products (aka Styrofoam) in the County. This law, effective December 2019, applies to items such as cups, take out containers and packing "peanuts." Expanded polystyrene does not decompose - it makes up a significant portion of the trash polluting local waterways and comprises up to 30% of our nation's landfills. Polystyrene contains suspected carcinogens and neurotoxins that can leach into food, negatively impacting our health. It is also dangerous for birds and sea creatures that often mistake it for food.

PLASTIC BAG BAN

Derived from fossil fuel, plastic bags are a source of litter on land and in waterways, harmful to marine habitats and wildlife, and problematic and costly to recycle. They also clog our storm drains, contributing to flooding in our communities. New York State law will prohibit the use of certain plastic bags beginning in March 2020, and will allow counties to opt in to a \$0.05 paper bag fee to encourage the use of reusable bags. I am a proponent of the fee, as paper bags have a large carbon footprint.



Honoring PepsiCo for Adhering to the Voluntary Curfew at the Airport

WESTCHESTER COUNTY AIRPORT

As the Board of Legislators' Representative on the County Airport Advisory Board, I continue to monitor what's happening at the Westchester County Airport. I have been supportive of the Noise Study initiative, designed to develop an understanding of the noise generated by aircraft taking off and landing at the County Airport. I continue to advocate for extensive monitoring of the ground water near the airport to ensure that contaminants do not penetrate the Kensico Reservoir and/or local wells and have sponsored legislation to ensure that the airport ground water is tested regularly and that measures will be taken to remove known contaminants. I have supported changes to the operation of the Airport Advisory Board to make it more transparent. Consultants have been hired to prepare a supplement to the Airport Master Plan that will include greater community input than the plan that was submitted previously.

PHOTO GALLERY



Clay Art Center Bench Dedication at Port Chester Middle School Giving Garden



Sharing a Moment with Goldie, a Port Chester Senior



Pleased to present a check to the Harrison Food Pantry



Celebrating Columbus Day in Port Chester



Celebrating the 60's with Rye Brook Seniors



Presenting J-Teen Award during Jewish Heritage Week



Restaurant Week Launch at Eugene's in Port Chester



Honoring our Rye Brook Police & Firefighter Veterans



Harrison Library Play2Learn Festival



Supporting Young Women with an Interest in Public Service