



Westchester County Legislator
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Proudly Serving the 6th District



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Meet my Legislative Aide

If you have ever called or emailed the office with questions of any kind, you have very likely interacted with my amazing Legislative Aide, Debbie Friedman. Debbie will connect you to the right person or resources, or even research the problem herself. She is my “go to” person for organizing community events and communicating with various constituencies. With over 56,000 people to serve, I could not do this job without her!

A Final Note...

As this year draws to a close, I want to honor all of the people we lost in 2020, including many in our own community. I extend my deepest sympathy to those who lost a loved one, whether to COVID or to another cause. And I extend a special thank you to our front line and essential workers who helped us through this incredibly difficult year. Wishing you all a happier and healthier 2021.

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Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

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2020 Newsletter



Nancy E. Barr

District 6 ~ Harrison, Rye Brook, Port Chester



Dear Friends & Neighbors,

What a difference a year makes! One year ago, who would have imagined a global pandemic which would kill over 250,000 people in our country, devastate local economies, and leave far too many people without jobs or adequate food and healthcare? Families have faced unprecedented challenges – economic hardship, isolation, remote work while their children learn nearby, forfeited visits to elderly relatives, and sometimes illness and death. The challenges have been many, and have affected all aspects of our society and lives.

Despite these problems, I have been incredibly proud of our community and the strength and resilience that have been on display. Our first responders and healthcare providers worked tirelessly to keep our community safe and healthy. Businesses and nonprofits stepped up to provide food and services to needy families, and neighbors organized volunteer groups to ensure that no one went without food or basic supplies. Although there are many challenges ahead, I know that we will continue to work together to help one another through this crisis.

As your County Legislator, I have worked closely with my colleagues at all levels of government to protect the health and safety of all residents. Regular briefings were set up between state, county and local officials to make sure everyone had access to the latest information. This collaboration enabled the county to scale up testing, expand hospital capacity, implement safety protocols for our bus system, provide personal protective equipment to medical personnel and other essential workers, enforce health and safety measures and provide relief for businesses and nonprofits in the form of loans and grants..

I have done my best to keep you up-to-date through emails and social media posts, and to answer your concerns and questions as they arise. I have hosted or participated in numerous zoom meetings to provide information and answer questions on many issues, including police reform, social services and voting. I remain optimistic that by working together, we can weather the worst of this storm.

Like many of you, I have been working from home, but can still be reached at Barr@westchesterlegislators.com or 914-995-2834. Thank you for your continued support and for placing your trust in me. Please be careful and keep following all COVID protocols so that we can get through this and return to doing all the things we love, especially hugging our family members and friends!

Warmly,



Delivering Face Masks to Harrison Police Dept. and Salvation Army, Port Chester



Thomas A. ... Caritas & Carver Center Collaborate to Deliver Meals at Edison School

Westchester County Budget

Westchester County has been hit hard financially by the impact of COVID-19. As in any unanticipated emergency, it is necessary for the government to expand its services at precisely the time when sources of revenue are most limited.

Fortunately, due to the county’s budget discipline last year, we had leeway in this emergency to respond rapidly to the dramatic loss of county revenue resulting from the pandemic – including reallocating \$10 million previously earmarked for the county’s rainy day fund. In addition, over 225 county employees opted to take advantage of a voluntary separation incentive in July.

Unfortunately, the pandemic has greatly reduced county revenue from sales tax and other sources. We expect to face difficult decisions ahead, absent substantial help from the federal and state governments.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

AIRPORT

Development of the Supplemental Airport Master Plan was delayed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2021, I expect extensive outreach to stakeholders and the general public to be incorporated into the master plan process as planned. The county took advantage of the reduced air traffic at the airport to move up the timeline to successfully complete the runway paving project. As of this writing, limited commercial flights have resumed and general aviation continues, but it will likely be some time before flight schedules are back to normal.



Announcing Airport Master Plan Project

The Airport Advisory Board continues to meet remotely, and has had presentations from noise experts, air quality experts, and an expert on potential flight path modifications. These meetings are open to the public and recorded – view here: airport.westchestergov.com/about-us/airport-advisory-board/meetings-documents/2619-2020-meetings. Additionally, the County hosted a well-attended public information session with the FAA in January 2020.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Making capital improvements now, when interest rates are historically low, is a smart investment in Westchester's future. In October, the Board approved two Port Chester projects – the repaving of Westchester Avenue and the redesign of the dangerous intersection at Westchester Avenue and Regent Street. The design phase is underway for Union Avenue in Harrison and Willet Avenue in Port Chester. For the 2021 Capital Project Budget, I have requested \$2.9 million in funding to rehabilitate the Lincoln Avenue Bridge in Rye Brook.

STORM RESPONSE

Local power and telecommunications companies were tested when Tropical Storm Isaias ripped through Westchester in August. Unfortunately, preparations and response by these companies once again proved inadequate. My colleagues and I met with Con Edison and Altice (Verizon declined to meet) to discuss how they can improve services to our communities. While I do not expect changes overnight, it is important to let them know that we are paying attention and will not turn our backs on our constituents. One positive outcome of the meetings was the repair of the unsightly and unsafe pole on Meadowlark Drive in Rye Brook. If you feel something is unsafe in your neighborhood and you have not been able to get anyone to fix it, please contact my office and we will work with you to get it done.

ENVIRONMENT

As Chair of the Board of Legislators' Environment and Health Committee, I prioritized projects to combat climate change and create a more sustainable future for Westchester's residents. In 2020 we approved a plan to partner with municipalities to make food scrap collection more accessible and affordable. Food waste accounts for approximately 22% of the county's residential waste stream. By recycling food scraps into useful compost, we can reduce greenhouse gases and save money on trash disposal for our local municipalities.

Municipalities that offer a food scrap drop-off can now join a new county-sponsored program to collect and transport food scraps to our private partner for composting at a cost comparable to that of regular garbage disposal. Communities that choose to drop off their own food waste can do so at an even more reduced rate, saving substantial money.

I also lobbied for and the BOL approved a food scrap recovery and information center at the County's Household Material Recovery Facility in Valhalla. When the site opens in 2021, municipal leaders will be able to learn about setting up composting

sites in their own communities, which will further reduce our carbon footprint.

The county continues to replace old diesel and gas vehicles with hybrid and electric vehicles. In the first year of this process, we saved \$1,000,000 in fuel costs! This year the Board approved a plan to replace over 100 additional diesel buses with hybrid electric buses.

We also approved the installation of public-use electric vehicle charging stations in county-owned parking facilities to encourage cleaner transportation and to reduce carbon emissions. Additional charging stations will be added as the county builds or refurbishes existing lots.

YOUTH

One of the most hopeful and important aspects of my job is connecting with our youth, who bring fresh ideas and unique insights to every discussion. I encourage them to develop leadership skills and engage with local government. This year I had the opportunity to meet with young women at Ursuline School in New Rochelle, speak to a group of teen environmentalists in Greenberg and chat with the BBHS Political Action Club. I hosted a teen-focused virtual "Conversation with Legislator Barr" to discuss police reform and spoke with over eighty teens about voting and the census



Port Chester Youth Bureau Summer Interns

at J-Teen's opening event. I was pleased to connect with the Port Chester Youth Bureau Summer Interns, speaking with them about the role local government plays in their lives, watching their progress over the course of the summer as they immersed themselves in their work, and celebrating their successful completion of the program at their "graduation" dinner.

PHOTO GALLERY



Bag It Documentary Screening at Harrison Library



Student-Led Protest Against Danskammer Power Plant



Honoring Marini's Deli in Port Chester on 25th Anniversary & Port Chester Diner Prepares Meals for Seniors



BBHS Varsity Soccer Donates AED to Don Bosco Community Center



Harrison Firefighter Installation



Rye Brook Senior Center Delivers Ice Cream Treat During COVID



Meadowlark Pole Repair – Before & After



Black Lives Matter March in Port Chester