



Westchester County Legislator
DAVID J. TUBIOLO
Proudly Serving the 14th District



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Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

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Winter 2023/24 Newsletter



David J. Tubiolo

District 14 ~ Yonkers, Mount Vernon
Chair, Parks & Recreation Committee

Dear Constituent,

It is my honor and privilege to continue to serve as your Legislator for Westchester County, District 14. 2023 was another year of keeping Westchester an affordable and beautiful place to live. As Chair of the Committee on Parks and Recreation on the County Board, it is my pleasure and duty to keep our parks accessible and clean for the taxpayers of my district and Westchester County. Additionally, we took steps to maintain and improve our infrastructure we voted to improve our roads and rehabilitate our sewage systems. In addition, we voted to add positions to the Department of Public Safety and provide them with the equipment they need to save lives and keep us safe.

Another initiative that I was proud to support, is the Stop-Arm Camera program to protect our children. No parent should have to fear for the safety of their child while picking them up from school or having them dropped off. It is my hope that this new program deters those who would pass the Stop-Arm on school buses and reduce the threat to the safety of parents and their children, by imposing escalating fines on those drivers who would violate the law.

In keeping with my commitment to keep Westchester affordable, 2023 saw the implementation of The Senior Citizens and Persons with Disabilities Home Owner's Tax Exemption, which benefits those Westchester residents who are 65 or older with a combined income of \$50,000.

Additionally, transparency is one of the cornerstones of our democracy. I was delighted to support and pass the Truthful Disclosure Law, which would require new candidates for County Legislature and County Executive to certify that the information presented in their Candidate Disclosure Form is both true and correct.

2023 was a very productive year, and as your County Legislator it is my goal to ensure that 2024 is just as productive. As your representative on the Board of Legislators, I will continue to advocate on your behalf to improve the quality of life for the hard-working families of our district.

Respectfully,

Hon. David J. Tubiolo,
Legislator, 14th District

CARING FOR OUR ENVIRONMENT & PROTECTING OUR PARKS

In 2023, we saw a great deal of improvement throughout our County Park System. At our beloved Tibbetts Brook Park in the heart of District 14, this year brought about a season of much needed improvements. Through legislation we supported and passed, we were able to secure funding to update and fix the drains, retaining walls, turf, making it safe and operational for our community. Additionally, the Summer of 2023 saw the much-needed completion of paving of asphalt roadways making our beautiful park more accessible. This year, the Board also submitted legislation to tackle the scourge of illegal dumping in our County Parks. Parks are for people, and they should not be used as a refuse ground for commercial or private waste. Much more on this to come! ■



HONORING OUTSTANDING COMMUNITY LEADERS IN DISTRICT 14



Celebrating Irish-American Heritage Month and Caribbean-American Heritage Month

There are thousands of dollars in **UNCLAIMED FUNDS** currently being held by the NYS Comptroller's office.



Visit <https://ouf.osc.state.ny.us/> to verify if you have money waiting and, if so, file a claim!



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IMPROVING INFRASTRUCTURE



With Legislator Woodson-Samuels

As we strive to improve our infrastructure, we must always keep in mind that these decisions have a meaningful impact on the quality of life for our constituents. That is why, in cooperation with my colleagues, I was proud to vote on and pass legislation to improve the West 3rd Street Pump Station in the City of Mount Vernon. This legislation creates an Intermunicipal Agreement (IMA) between Westchester County and the City of Mount Vernon for the West 3rd Street Sewer Project. Under this IMA, the County will coordinate with the City of Mount Vernon and partners in New York State Government to fund and design the construction of the West Third Street Pump Station and Sanitary Sewer Project. This project will serve to address the discharges of raw

sewage and other pollutants from storm sewer systems into the Hutchinson and Bronx Rivers. Additionally, the improvements on the pump station will serve to assist areas that are prone to persistent flooding. The implementation of this project is poised to mitigate the burden on the community's infrastructure. The presence of a solitary pump stationed outside Levister Towers serves as the sole catalyst for the flushing of approximately 1,000 toilets in the vicinity. This \$9 million investment holds immense potential in augmenting the standard of living for all residents in the all of Mount Vernon. ■

MAINTAINING INTEGRITY IN OUR ELECTIONS

In 2023, Westchester witnessed another piece of ground-breaking legislation. I voted in the affirmative for the **TRUTHFUL DISCLOSURE LAW**, which was then signed into effect by County Executive Latimer. The new law will require candidates for County Legislator and County Executive to complete a Candidate Disclosure Form that provides biographical information, including the candidate's educational, military, and employment histories. The Candidate Disclosure Form will also require the candidate to certify that the information contained in the form is true and correct. This form shall be open for public inspection. ■

SUPPORTING OUR COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

One of my proudest duties as a Legislator is to assist in securing funding for our Community-Based Organizations. These organizations do so much to help those in our community through various outreach initiatives and programs. One of those organizations that is vital to my district is the Aisling Irish Center, for which I was able to secure \$30,000 in funding for Fiscal Year 2023. ■



With members of the Aisling Irish Community Center on McLean Avenue

SUPPORTING OUR SENIORS



The Annual Seniors on the Move Summer Show

In 2022, the Board introduced and I sponsored the amendment: **THE SENIOR CITIZENS AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES HOME OWNER'S TAX EXEMPTION**. Residents 65 years of age or older whose combined annual household income is \$29,000 or less now qualify for a property tax exemption. Under the proposed amendment, the combined annual household income would increase to \$50,000, thus benefitting more seniors across Westchester. 2023 saw this new tax benefit go into effect. ■

PUBLIC SAFETY

In 2023, the Board voted on and passed the Public Safety Budget, which includes an increase in the significant support services provided to every municipality in Westchester, including but not limited to, Specialized Units such as the SWAT team, Hazardous Devices Unit, and the Police Academy. The County is also proud to announce the inclusion of a new state-of-the-art helicopter that will



With Acting Westchester County Police Commissioner Terrance Raynor



2023 Yonkers Police vs. Fire Charity Hockey Game

expand the County's Police capabilities, including search and rescue. Additionally, the Board passed a \$6.4 million increase in the overall Public Safety Department Budget, resulting in a 12% increase from Fiscal Year 2022, which also includes an addition of eight new positions that I hope will aid in assisting County-wide Public Safety initiatives including the expansion of the School Resource Officers Program (SROs); enforcement of the DWI laws by the Patrol Division on the Bronx River, Saw Mill, Hutchinson River, and Cross County Parkways; and the Special Operations Division which provides support to local agencies including maintenance of the Emergency Service Unit. ■

PROTECTING OUR RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS; PROMOTING TRANSPARENCY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Responding to issues raised by community leaders and advocates, the Board strives each year to implement innovative legislation in the areas of social and economic justice to benefit all Westchester residents. The **ACCESS TO COUNSEL BILL** ensures legal representation to household tenants facing eviction and other covered proceedings when the household's annual income is at or below 300% of the federal poverty line, or 60% of the County's Area Median Income (AMI), whichever is higher. Approved unanimously, this new law levels the playing field and gives low-income households facing eviction access to free legal representation. ■