



Westchester County Legislator
CATHERINE PARKER
Proudly Serving the 7th District



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What Do You Think? I'd like to know your thoughts about what are often called "pocketbook" issues. Please consider completing the short questionnaire below, and return it to me at:

Legislator Catherine Parker, Westchester County Board of Legislators, 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor, White Plains, NY 10601

1) Please rate what you feel is most important for Westchester County government to address on a scale from 1 least important to 6 most important.

- Flood Mitigation
- No tax Increase
- Infrastructure Improvements
- Management of Playland
- Reduce the County's dependence on Fossil Fuels
- Programs for early intervention, childcare, and senior citizens, and public health

2) Would you be willing to see a county tax increase, within the tax cap, if that money went to a program to address:

- County Revaluation to ensure Tax Equity
- Additional work on Flood Mitigation
- Infrastructure Improvements with Renewable Energy
- Better Roads for cars, pedestrians, and bicyclists
- County purchase of land for flooding and/or composting programs
- To pay pension costs due annually instead of deferring and paying with interest

3) What keeps you here in Westchester County? _____

(Optional) Name _____ E-mail _____

Mailing Address _____

Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Fall 2014 Newsletter

Legislator Catherine Parker

District 7 ~ Mamaroneck, Rye, Larchmont,
part of New Rochelle, part of Harrison

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

As your Legislator representing Westchester County's 7th Legislative District, I am taking this opportunity to update you on recent issues, activities and accomplishments regarding the Board of Legislators (BOL). We all know the importance of keeping a watchful eye on government activities, since they play such an important role in maintaining our quality of life.

One particular issue, or concern, to us, is the cost of running government. As you may know already, Westchester County has had 0% tax increase in each of the last four years. Maintaining a 0% tax increase over this period of time means we must take a critical look at programs and services each year to ensure that the most vital services continue to receive the funding necessary to accomplish the goal of providing the most good for the people in the county.

A good example of smart use of tax dollars is the recent BOL authorization of a \$9.9 million capital project that will bring the County into compliance with U.S. Department of Environmental Protection (EPA) requirements regarding ultraviolet (UV) treatment for drinking water. The County was set to construct water treatment facilities costing \$100 million, but negotiations with affected municipalities and federal officials resulted in new legislation for \$765,000 of funding for County engineers to design a less costly solution. This alternative solution is expected to cost \$9.9 million, saving county residents \$90 million.

Protecting the environment has been a passion and concern of mine for many years, and as Chair of the Environment & Energy Committee, it has been exciting for me this year to help the County set a direction of less dependence on fossil fuels, more resiliency in the face of climate change, and finding cost savings wherever possible through energy efficiency and reliance on renewable energy sources. Legislation that I have sponsored, which I hope to see passed this year, will be a better green vehicles law regarding the County's municipal fleet purchases, the creation of the position of Energy Director for Westchester County, and the elimination of polluting #4 and #6 residual heating oil. My committee has also discussed issues such as removal of food waste from the waste stream and composting, electric charging stations, and financial incentives for homeowners, non-profits, and affordable housing to become energy efficient.

We have much more work to do. I ask for your continued support and cooperation. Working together, we can make a difference.

Please take time to contact me with any concerns or suggestions regarding budgeting or any other matter. I look forward to hearing from you!

Sincerely,

Catherine F. Parker

Get Rid of Your Unused Medications!

Unused medications, prescription drugs and ointments pose dangerous risks to children and others. The best way to dispose of these potentially toxic chemicals and drugs is drop them off at the County and local police department collection units. To learn more, call the County's Recycling HelpLine at (914) 813-5425 or your local police department. Please remember that the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) asks that the unwanted household medications are not flushed down the toilet or poured down the drain.

Want E-News?

I regularly send out e-news letters, which include important information about different issues affecting residents, as well as notices about events that you may want to attend. To receive my e-news, please e-mail me your full name, e-mail address and mailing address and I will add you to my distribution list. My e-mail address is Parker@westchesterlegislators.com.

Westchester Legislators Pass Resolution on Algonquin Pipeline

The BOL passed a resolution recently, which I co-sponsored, that calls for a stricter review process and full risk assessments in regard to the proposed expansion of the Algonquin natural gas pipeline through the county by Houston, Texas-based Spectra Gas Corporation. This major construction project would replace existing 26-inch diameter pipe for pressurized gas with new 42-inch pipe from Rockland County to Massachusetts via Northern Westchester and Putnam County, including passing through the Blue Mountain Reservation, a Westchester County Park.

The approved resolution from the BOL focuses primarily on two specific risks regarding the proposed pipeline: its location in highly populated areas in Westchester, where potential accidents and regular emissions could be harmful to the populace, and proximity to the Indian Point Nuclear Power Plant and two geological faults.

This particular project definitely calls for a more stringent review. There will need to be independent assessments and monitoring completed before permitting takes place, all of which should be funded by Spectra, and then continuous monitoring of air, water and land around the pipeline after its built. Along with many of my BOL colleagues, I worry about blowdowns, when the gas is removed from the pipeline at various stations for maintenance.

The BOL understands the importance of keeping our residents and those who work in the county safe, which is why this resolution received wide bipartisan support.

Legislators Approve Infrastructure Repairs for Roads and Bridges

The Westchester County Board of Legislators approved a \$5 million Capital Budget Amendment and a corresponding Bond Resolution this month to rehabilitate forty roads and bridges throughout Westchester County.

The bonds will fund a number of major projects around Westchester, including five in this legislative district: the rehabilitation of three roads in Mamaroneck and two separate projects on Midland Avenue in Rye.

The roadways to be repaired all have pavement condition index (PCI) ratings that require structural rehabilitation to extend the life of the roadway. The work involved in the rehabilitation will include milling, resurfacing, replacement or adjustment of utility casings, concrete curb replacement, installation of handicap ramps,



new traffic loops and new pavement markings.

Taking a pro-active position on repairing these roadways make sense in so many ways. The extreme weather conditions of the past few years have been particularly harmful to our roads and bridges. Residents and business owners depend on the safety of our roads, and we must remain vigilant in their upkeep. ■

County Storm Water Plans Approved by BOL



In the past few months Storm Water Reconnaissance Plans for the Croton, Saw Mill and Pocantico Rivers, the Bronx River and Coastal Long Island Sound watersheds have been approved by the Board of Legislators, paving the way for more specific recommendations for physical projects and other actions to address flooding around Westchester.

The storm water plans are necessary to comply with a Westchester law adopted in 2011 to map out an overall strategy for combating the persistent flooding

problems impacting every municipality in the county. They also encompass a wide range of land use and development density in municipalities which have experienced substantial flooding problems and attendant property damages and road closures.

The Reconnaissance Plans were three years in the making, and will go a long way toward helping some of Westchester's most flood prone areas to start the planning process for projects to mitigate this all-too-familiar scourge. The county has seen a noticeable uptick in flooding problems caused from heavy downpours and superstorms. But now we're moving forward with data collected from the municipalities to help prioritize what projects will have the most benefit for our residents and business owners. ■

Review of Playland Revitalization Finalists Continues at BOL

The Westchester Legislators continued its review of finalists to revitalize Playland when it met in September with representatives of Central Amusements International LLC (CAI) and Standard Amusements LLC on how they might restore and operate the County's iconic 280-acre amusement park and recreation area.

The CAI and Standard Amusements representatives separately addressed the legislators for about an hour and offered attractive plans for boosting attendance at Playland, which include major infrastructure investments, added attractions and enhanced operational management of the amusement area of the park.

I feel these are two great potential partners for running a much-loved park that should be a fun destination for generations to come. I'm hopeful that the County Executive and Board of Legislators can work together and finish the process of choosing an operator for Playland in time for the 2015 season.

In the meantime, I have started a series of meetings in Rye on Playland. Coming up, we will have another session at the Rye Free Reading Room on Monday, November 3rd and Monday, November 17th from 7-9 PM.

Rye citizens have had no shortage on ideas of what they would like to see at Playland, from a restored amusement park, to a more curated collection of historic rides, a great lawn, field house, and some even suggested that a better use for that land would have been a grocery store and shops. There seems to be consensus within the community about maintaining public access to the Long Island Sound, restoration of historic buildings, preservation of historic rides and sensitivity to environmental



concerns.

As a community, Rye is greatly affected by what happens at Playland. The park strives to be a good neighbor, and for the most part it is. In the meantime, it important for the BOL to collect as much information as possible and hear more about future plans. Details always matter, especially when it comes to making decisions that will impact our communities in the years to come. ■

Push for Cleaner Heating Oil Used in County



I recently co-sponsored new legislation at the Westchester County Board of Legislators (BOL) to ban use of heavy, dirty heating oils #6 and #4 used by large institutions, which will lead to cleaner air in the county.

Right now, there are over five hun-

dred buildings in Westchester using these problematic heating oils year round and spewing toxic polluting matter into the air we breathe. Using alternative methods for heating buildings and providing hot water will improve people's health, and it will be considerably cleaner and less expensive.

The pollutants caused by these dirty heating oils are linked to many health problems, including asthma, cancer and cardiovascular diseases. If enacted into law, the ban on the use of #6 and #4 oils will take place gradually until no property will use these heavy oils beyond 2018. ■

CLIMATE MARCH in NYC



I was proud to march with the Concerned Families of Westchester at the People's Climate March in New York City on September 22, 2014.