



Westchester County Legislator **GORDON A. BURROWS**

Proudly Serving the 15th District



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Happy Holidays!

Dear Neighbor,

I am happy to report that we passed the 2017 budget. It is the seventh consecutive year, with **no increase in County taxes**. Some of the services we were able to add include; six new county police officers, four engineers to the Department of Public Works and \$1 million for Title XX child care program. This budget demonstrates there are alternatives to balance a budget other than raising taxes and placing the burden on taxpayers.

Protecting taxpayers and advocating for the needs and concerns of people is what I love to do. I am honored to continue to serve the 15th Legislative District, which encompasses sections of Yonkers and the Village of Bronxville. I serve on several committees, Legislation, Law, Public Safety and Social Services and Federal and State Affairs. I always utilize my experience and skills to try and improve our community and Westchester County as a whole to be the best we can be.

I hope you enjoy the holiday season and have a wonderful new year!

Best,

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Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Winter 2016 Newsletter



Gordon A. Burrows

District 15 ~ Yonkers

Improving Air Quality

I am pleased to report that my colleagues and I have passed a local law that will prohibit the use of fuel oil grade no. 6 on and after July 31, 2018 and no. 4 on and after July 31, 2020. Both fuel grades no. 4 and 6 release a mix of pollutants, some of which are proven to be harmful. The law is not only beneficial to the health and well-being of our residents, but to the economy as well. This new law will help prevent illnesses linked to air pollution, thus cutting the medical expenses of Westchester County residents. Economic incentives will be provided for building owners to assist them in switching from these toxic fuel grades to 'cleaner' forms of energy. ■



HUD Update

Westchester County is rapidly approaching the completion of the Fair and Affordable Housing Settlement which was entered into with the Federal Government in 2009. Under the terms of the settlement the County was obligated to develop 750 units of affordable housing by the end of 2016. According to the Westchester County Planning Department's report to the Board, 784 units have been approved for financing and 679 units have building permits or have been completed as of November 1, 2016.



In addition to building the 750 units, the County is required to submit an analysis of municipal zoning laws which it has done. The federal government has yet to accept the County's analysis. It is my belief that upon the development of the 750 units of affordable housing, Westchester County will have fulfilled its obligations under the 2009 Settlement. ■

Dispose of Prescription Drugs

Having to take prescription drugs is necessary for many people and in many cases saves lives. However, when you are done with your medication we encourage you to please not flush it down the toilet or throw medication in the garbage. It is important we work together to prevent contamination to our water supply or to have the drugs end up in the hands of someone who will abuse them. To learn where to dispose of your medication please go to <http://environment.westchestergon.com/medications>. ■

I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU

Much of the job of a county legislator is staying in touch with the residents - it is important that we hear from you so that we can continue to represent your best interests. Over the course of my legislative terms, I have always held an "open door" policy. You can contact my office at **914.995.2830** or e-mail me at Burrows@Westchesterlegislators.com. If you would like to receive my e-news, please send me your name and e-mail address.



Kensico Dam Ice Skating Rink

The Kensico Dam is located in the center of Westchester County, a perfect location for winter activities for the entire family to enjoy. County Executive Rob Astorino has announced plans to convert the reflecting pool at the bottom of the Dam into an ice skating rink.

My colleagues and I approved the plans to refurbish the water fountains at the dam in last years budget. Plans to build the skating rink were developed by County Executive Astorino. This is the perfect time during the renovations to install the piping for the ice skating rink. We plan to review the proposal and vote on the ice skating rink sometime in February or March 2017.

If the ice rink is approved, the rink will include a regulation sized hockey rink, as well as a 1/3 of a mile straight away and loop configuration around a 30 foot perimeter that will be geared for lessons and recreational skaters. The project will create approximately 3,000 jobs and should be ready next year, just in time for the 100th anniversary of the Dam. ■

LONG AWAITED PROJECTS AND COMMUNITY UPDATES

The Temple of Love

Untermeyer Park is one of Yonkers' most beautiful landmarks. Samuel Untermeyer, a prominent attorney at the time, had a passion for horticulture and created the beautiful gardens we enjoy today. In 2010, Stephen Byrns, former New York City Landmark Preservation Commissioner, founded the Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy. He has been raising money over the years for renovations to this historic landmark. Over the past five years, Mr. Byrns has raised \$2 million to revive the 43-acre gardens. The most recent renovation is the Temple of Love which has quickly become a destination point to take pictures and become one with nature. The renovations include a large waterfall that flows into a man made pond. I strongly urge everyone to visit Untermeyer Park to enjoy the wonderful views of the Hudson River and this wonderful landmark.

Note: Untermeyer Park was featured as a photoshoot backdrop for the Aug 2016 edition of Vogue Magazine ■



Yonkers Business Updates

THE BOYCE THOMPSON CENTER, located by Executive Blvd., has scheduled a grand opening for April 2017. However, some tenants will be taking occupancy beginning in January 2017. St. John's Hospital will be leasing the entire glass building. It will include the Family Wellness Corp. pharmacy, Fortina Restaurant, Gastroenterology of Westchester LLC, Taco Project Yonkers LLC, Global Medical Services PC (Medi Spa) and Mahopac Bank.

The sale of **THE AUSTIN AVE. PROPERTY** brought \$13 million to the City of Yonkers and \$19 Million to Westchester County.

Target will be coming to Yonkers and will be built near Stew Leonard's. The store will bring 560 permanent jobs. ■



Scout Field

Since 2005, I have been advocating for improvements to Scout Field. I am happy to report, on May 16, 2016, my colleagues and I approved a bond act in the amount of \$1,932,000 for the necessary renovation of Scout Field. Scout Field is utilized by three municipalities, Bronxville, Mount Vernon and Yonkers. After all these years, I am happy to see this project finally come to fruition. This agreement is an excellent example of what we can accomplish when municipal and county government officials collaborate. These improvements will make Scout Field a much better asset for town and county residents for decades to come. ■



Safety Improvements

The Village of Bronxville Police Department is installing 30 security cameras at entry and exit points throughout the village. They have also installed new bronze light poles to better illuminate the streets. The cameras are designed to

aid with criminal investigations and will not be used for traffic infractions. Video surveillance is a key part of solving criminal investigations. The new cameras will enable the police department to better serve the residents and business owners in the village. In addition, the Bronxville Police Department offers options to assist residents with increased safety. If a home or business will be left unoccupied for a length of time, the police department will perform "vacant house" checks. They will also hold a key to your home at the police department for emergencies. ■

Flood Mitigation

I am pleased to announce that Phase 1 of the FEMA Midland Valley Drainage Project has begun. 48-inch pipes are being installed underground to divert the water from the school and surrounding neighborhoods which empty into Laurel Brook. This project will help mitigate the longtime flooding problems in the area.

The Sprain Brook and Bronx River Flood Mitigation Project has begun on the east side of the Bronx River Parkway between the Stone Place access ramps and DeWitt Avenue at the Yonkers Bronxville border. This project will greatly aid in preventing flooding. ■

Pondfield Road Underpass

The Pondfield Road underpass at the train station has been a longtime eyesore in the business district. The Village of Bronxville continues to fight for the needed upgrades with Metro-North. The village, at its own expense installed new underpass lighting so commuters can navigate safely. ■

NEW SCAM DESIGNED TO STEAL BANK ACCOUNT AND CREDIT CARD ACCOUNT INFORMATION

Cyber-thieves have launched a new scam to steal bank account and credit card account information. The attack uses automated telephone calls and bogus text message alerts that are supposedly from Wells Fargo bank. The messages warn that a suspicious purchase has shown up on your account, or falsely say your account has been or is about to be closed. In either case, they then ask for personal info such as your account number, credit card number or social security number.

