



**Westchester County Board of Legislators**  
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**News from  
Jim Maisano  
Your County Legislator...**  
 District 11—New Rochelle and Pelham

**HOW TO REACH ME!**

Please feel free to contact Legislator Maisano with your concerns & suggestions.

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Jim recently attended the New Rochelle Little League Baseball Opening Day Ceremony along with Councilman Lou Trangucci. Jim volunteers as a Little league coach for his son's team, the Dodgers, and the kids are having a terrific season.

**Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS**



*Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years*



**James Maisano**  
 County Legislator - Minority Whip

**District 11—New Rochelle & Pelham**

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

It has been my honor to serve the people of New Rochelle and Pelham for the past 12 years as your County Legislator. We are all facing challenges with today's economy. Whether you're currently working or recently unemployed, we are all taking a look at our bottom-line and doing some belt-tightening. Governments need to do the same.

I want to let you know that I am doing all I can to ensure that Westchester County's budget is reviewed the same way we are reviewing our family finances. While I cannot single-handedly eliminate every line of irresponsible spending, I do promise to identify ways to eliminate unnecessary spending and reduce the budget. I have done my best to be an independent voice committed to engaging my colleagues in a thoughtful and active debate on how the County can better reduce spending and property taxes.

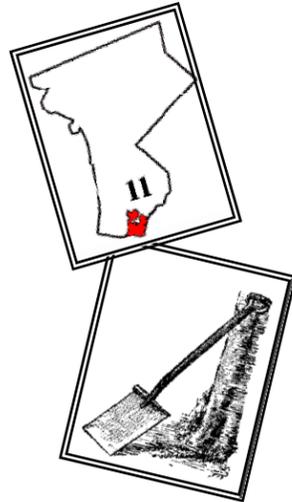
Since taking office in 1998, I voted against every property tax increase contained in the budgets I reviewed. But I have done more than just vote "no" on tax increases — I proposed detailed and responsible budget cuts. Along with some of my colleagues, I've recommended tens of millions of dollars in spending cuts to each budget. I will continue to be the voice for my district's hard-working taxpayers and will keep fighting for more fiscally responsible budgets. My number one priority for the 2010 County Budget will be to reduce wasteful spending and stop further property tax increases.

I will keep addressing the issues facing our County in a bipartisan manner and continue working positively with my colleagues to pass laws to improve our quality of life in Westchester. You have my guarantee that I will continue to be an advocate for reform. My goal is to keep Westchester a great place to live and raise a family.

**UNFORTUNATELY, SEWER TAXES ARE BEING INCREASED DUE TO FEDERAL-STATE MANDATES**

There is more bad news on County sewer taxes. As discussed in my last newsletter, in 2008, the County approved \$235 million in bonding to upgrade the New Rochelle and Mamaroneck sewage treatment plants to eliminate nitrogen emissions into the Long Island Sound. This is the largest **unfunded mandate** in Westchester's history. The State originally ordered us to approve about \$573 million for these projects and only reduced the cost after the County Legislature and County Executive strongly opposed this irresponsible demand. We were forced to approve the funding under threats of massive fines by the New York State and Federal governments. I voted "NO" on this legislation because this cost was not spread to all Westchester taxpayers and is only being paid by the residents of the four sewer districts located on the Long Island Sound.

In 2009, the County was forced to approve an additional \$173 million to increase the flow capacity at the New Rochelle Sewage Treatment Plant. Once again, this is an **unfunded mandate** from the State and Federal governments, and we were threatened with fines. I voted "NO" on this legislation because it is unfair for New Rochelle's taxpayers to be forced to pay for this mandate on top of last year's other huge mandate. Plus, these costs should be spread to all taxpayers in Westchester. I fought this legislation every step of the way and proposed reforms several times in the past decade to change the way we fund sewer repairs. I am disappointed, that despite my best efforts, I could not stop these unfunded mandates, and we will all now be hit with large sewer tax increases. The only option we have left is to work diligently to obtain funding for these mandates from the Federal stimulus legislation. I am continuing my efforts to obtain this stimulus funding and on the next page we will discuss our first success on this front.



## Economic Recovery Task Force

Leg. Maisano is proud to announce that County Board Chair Bill Ryan asked him to serve on the "Economic Recovery Task Force." This Task Force will focus on ensuring that the County is taking maximum advantage of the billions of dollars in funding available from the Federal American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (and other stimulus related legislation). The Task Force will work with local governments, business groups, and the public to develop initiatives relating to the stimulus legislation to boost Westchester's economy.

The Task Force has already met to discuss potential projects such as infrastructure improvements and green projects. By proposing the best possible plans for "shovel-ready" projects, Westchester County will be better positioned to take advantage of stimulus money to fund local projects. Jim's priority is to obtain every dollar possible to reduce the cost to taxpayers for the mandated Sound Shore sewage treatment plant upgrades. Leg. Maisano is pleased to have been part of the **successful effort to recently obtain \$55 million in stimulus money** for the nitrogen reduction projects mandated for the Long Island Sound waterfront.

## Saluting Westchester's Irish Community



Legislator Maisano was part of the County Legislature's annual ceremony celebrating Irish Heritage Month. Jim stated, "On behalf of the Board of Legislators I would like to honor those contributions of the Irish Americans throughout my District and join them in celebrating the 90th anniversary of the Irish Declaration of Independence." At the ceremony, Irish leaders were honored with proclamations for their promotion of Irish culture and history. Jim is proud of his own Irish heritage, which comes from his mother.

Pictured here with Legislator Maisano is **Paul Clarke**, President of Westchester County's *Ancient Order of Hibernians (AOH)*; **Frank O'Brien**, Westchester Aide to Grand Marshall, 248th New York St. Patrick's Day Parade; **John Hyland**, District 4 Director of AOH; Majority Leader Marty Rogowsky; Legislator Judy Myers; and Chairman Bill Ryan.

## Lending a Helping Hand to Constituents



Leg. Maisano always makes it his priority to be there when constituents need help. In 1999, Jim worked with the residents of Neptune House (620-640 Pelham Road) to ensure that a sewer tank was not built next to their buildings and moved to a new location. This year, Jim was able to help them again. While the parking garage at Neptune House is being repaired, Jim arranged for the residents to park their cars at Glen Island Park through the assistance of the County Parks Department.



Jim Maisano with his friends at Neptune House.

# Recreation

## Historic Glen Island & Pelham Rowers

Jim is proud to promote Glen Island as an historic landmark. This 105 acre park offers a variety of recreational facilities including a beach, playgrounds, picnicking areas and magnificent waterfront views. It is also home to the Glen Island Harbour Club, a great catering facility. Jim encourages his constituents to visit this nice park.



Jim has been excited to support an innovative opportunity for exercise and fun at Glen Island – the Pelham Community Rowing Association (PCRA). This community rowing organization offers a number of programs for all ages, ranging from learn-to-row to nationally competitive programs.

"Glen Island is a flagship park for Westchester County with lots to offer this season"  
Leg. Jim Maisano

The PCRA, in cooperation with Westchester County Parks Department and Town of Pelham, is creating a self-sustaining regional rowing center at Glen Island—open to the public. Through Legislator Maisano's advocacy, PCRA entered into an agreement with the County to build a boathouse at Glen Island. This project is an example of Jim's continued effort to improve public access to the Long Island Sound waterfront. The PCRA Boathouse, modeled after historic boathouses, will serve as a home for recreational, masters and high school rowing programs. Jim is very excited to have helped this impressive community recreation group find a home at Glen Island. (Contact PCRA at: [www.pelhamrowing.org](http://www.pelhamrowing.org)).



Here is Leg. Maisano standing next to the partially constructed PCRA Boathouse at Glen Island Park.

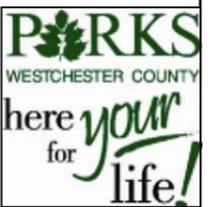
## DID YOU NOW



If you are unemployed, you may be eligible for food stamps—it works through a debit card system—accepted by all major grocery stores. (Contact DSS at 914-813-6122).



Westchester County Park Passes are available to all County residents. (Contact: 914-864-PARK).



Westchester County Child Care Scholarships are available to working families who are over income levels for other public subsidies, but have difficulty paying for child care. (Contact: 914-761-3456).



Westchester County is putting together a list of residents (those who live independently) who may need additional help leaving their homes in the event of a major emergency. (Call 211 to sign up for Special Needs Registry).



You may qualify for the New York State Prescription Saver Program, which offers discounted prescription drugs to those with limited incomes, the disabled and those between the ages of 50 and 64. (Contact: 800-788-6917).

