



Westchester County Board of Legislators
 800 Michaelian Office Building
 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
 White Plains, New York 10601
 Tel: 914.995.2817; Fax: 914.995.3884
 Pinto@westchesterlegislators.com



Vito J. Pinto
 Chair - Committee on Public Safety and Security
 District 10 ~ Eastchester, New Rochelle and Tuckahoe

News From **VITO J. PINTO**
 Your County Legislator



Peter, Jennifer and Peter Parente in New Rochelle.

VETERANS CORNER

MEMORIAL DAY 2009 - RESPECT—REFLECT—REMEMBER

I want to thank Peter Parente, the New Rochelle Committee, Mayor Noam Bramson and the New Rochelle City Council, as well as the Eastchester/Tuckahoe Veterans Ceremony and Parade Committee, Eastchester Town Supervisor Anthony Colavita, Tuckahoe Mayor John Fitzpatrick, Eastchester Town Board, Tuckahoe Village Board, and all the groups who participated in allowing us to **REFLECT** upon the purpose of Memorial Day (formerly known as Decoration Day) **RESPECT** the day by taking a few moments of our daily activity and **REMEMBER** those who sacrificed their tomorrow to make our today possible. **Eastchester Grand Marshalls Tony Cusma and Mario Pomponio**, posthumously (standing in for his brother Mario, is Dino Pomponio).



ARMED FORCES DAY - To celebrate those on active duty and those who served in the military the County Armed Forces Day committee held a dinner in New Rochelle and a parade in Sleepy Hollow and honored as **Grand Marshal, Colonel Roger Donlon**, the first Green Beret and Vietnam recipient of the Congressional Medal of Honor, a humble individual whose heroic actions saved the lives of hundreds. A copy of his personally autographed book was purchased by the Lt. Col. Sam DiRienzo VFW Post 2285 and placed in each of the High School libraries. During his speech, Colonel Donlon reflected on words that his wife Norma said to him, "God's gift to us is our life, how we use it is our gift to God".

WOUNDED WARRIORS - Remember the "Wounded Warriors" who are presently returning from their service in Iraq and Afghanistan. Their quality of life has been tremendously altered due to the severity of their injuries. Please support them in any way that you can.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

EASTCHESTER - TUCKAHOE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

- Wilmot Road Repaved
- Veggie Van
- E-Waste
- Shredder

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Tougher Penalties Proposed for DWI
- Alcohol and Minors Don't Mix: Social Host Law Targets Irresponsible Adults
- Firing Range
- Shared Services
- New Programs Reduce Recidivism

NEW ROCHELLE - IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

- Attention New Rochelle Sewer District Residents

DID YOU KNOW?

- Westchester County Child Care Scholarships
- Special Needs Registry
- Recreation Info
- Quaker Ridge Road Bridge

VETERANS CORNER

- Memorial Day 2009
- Armed Forces Day
- Wounded Warrior

Dear Friends and Neighbors:

It has been an honor to serve my district of Eastchester, New Rochelle and Tuckahoe for the past 12 years and to report some important events presently occurring.

It has been a priority of mine to work with my colleagues on the Board of Legislators to ensure that we control property taxes over which we have control, to reduce spending, to preserve our environment and quality of drinking water, to provide for the public's safety, to ensure adequate bus and Para transit transportation for those who work or need to keep appointments, to provide for the recreation of our residents, be it swimming, golf, or just passive walking and biking. All of this adds to our quality of life issues with which we are faced in our county on a daily basis.

The county has been a leading force in providing for tax savings in our communities by sharing services with our local governments and school districts, which in turn reduces the tax burden on local property taxes.

Sharing services cuts costs. Some of the areas in which this is accomplished are: Police forensics investigations, communications network, e-waste disposal, paper and cardboard recycling, shredding of government and individuals sensitive documents, introduction of the veggie vans. We have also made available to local schools and governments excess vans for their use in whatever manner they see fit.

You should also be aware that we are one of a few counties that share our sales taxes with local government and school districts. New Rochelle has its own sales tax that it uses for both the school district and local government. Here's a breakdown through March 2009 for the past year.

It definitely pays to shop in Westchester!

Eastchester	- \$2,601,953	Eastchester School District	- \$876,314
Tuckahoe	- \$870,542	Tuckahoe School District	- \$376,828

I have enjoyed working with my colleagues in a bipartisan manner to ensure that Westchester remains a place where you can live and raise a family.

Your comments are important to me and I certainly welcome them. Please feel free to call me at 995-2817 or visit our web site www.westchesterlegislators.com.

Vito J. Pinto

EASTCHESTER TUCKAHOE - IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD

WILMOT ROAD REPAVED

I want to thank all of the residents and businesses located on Wilmot Road for



their patience. When the project began, there were a number of requests to add additional new curbing which caused a delay. We were able to work out an agreement with the contractor to do so by bringing in a new curb making machine - a "Star Wars Look a Like" that performed the task quicker and proved to be less costly.

VEGGIE VAN

The county has encouraged local communities to convert some of their vehicles to the use of vegetable oil as an additive to lessen the cost of using gasoline. Most restaurants in the community have accepted providing their used oil for this purpose. Saves them the trouble of discarding this oil.



E-WASTE

All of our communities have taken advantage of collecting and discarding e-waste material either through curbside or by collection that takes it to the Yonkers MRF.

SHREDDER

The two shredder machines have proven to be very useful to our community for the disposal of secure material. Communities inform their residents of the scheduled dates and times, while the county uses the automated phone system to do so.

PUBLIC SAFETY

TOUGHER PENALITES PROPOSED FOR DWI

Citing increased arrests and the growing cost burden in the County, the Public Safety and Security Committee, Chaired by County Legislator Vito Pinto, has introduced legislation to toughen the penalties for those convicted of DWI in Westchester. The legislation is modeled on the Nassau County forfeiture law. National Transportation Safety Board studies have found that forfeiture can reduce recidivism and first time offenses. The law is also currently being debated in the Committee on Legislation.



ALCOHOL AND MINORS DON'T MIX: SOCIAL HOST LAW TARGETS IRRESPONSIBLE ADULTS

We all know that underage drinking parties lead to a number of dangerous situations, ranging from alcohol poisoning and possibly death to neighborhood disturbances and violent crimes. State law already penalizes adults who actually purchase or provide alcohol to minors. To further curb underage drinking, the County Board passed the "Social Host Law" to penalize adults who may not purchase the alcohol but who knowingly allow an underage drinking party on their premises. The law punishes intentional actions.

PROPER DISPOSAL OF DRUGS

Westchester County encourages residents to bring their expired or unneeded medications to Household Recycling Days (HRD) or prescription take back events (Rx event), held periodically throughout the county. Medications collected at these events are incinerated at RESCO. The schedule of upcoming events may be found at: http://www.westchestergov.com/environment_householdrecyclingschedule.htm. It is imperative that residents do not flush medications down the toilet, since this undermines drinking water quality in the county.

FIRING RANGE

Following a meeting with members of the County Police Chiefs Association, the county has reviewed and developed new policies and fees associated with the use of the new Firing Range at the county facility in Valhalla.

SHARED SERVICES

In addition, the county and communities continue to share costs for prisoner transport. Local police departments continue to use, at no cost, our forensics investigation services, for ballistics analysis, digital evidence and crime scene investigation.

NEW PROGRAMS DECREASE RECIDIVISM

Our Corrections Department in cooperation with Public Safety and Probation continues to be proactive in decreasing recidivism through new educational programs, social awareness support and life skills education which amounts to a savings of around \$100,000 annually. The department recently received Federal accreditation from the American Correctional Association for its progressive programs and outstanding facility. They continue to be in the forefront working with recently released individuals in assisting them in their educational and social needs which has also lessened the recidivism and saved tax dollars.

NEW ROCHELLE - IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD ATTENTION NEW ROCHELLE SEWER DISTRICT RESIDENTS!!!

A Call To Arms.

I am calling your attention to the recently unfunded mandate by the Federal Environmental Protection Agency Decision to reduce the discharge of Nitrogen from wastewater treatment plants into the Long Island Sound. While this affects the four treatment plants of Rye Brook, Blind Brook, Mamaroneck and New Rochelle, it comes with a tremendous price to property and business owners. This price tag of \$235 million dollars will be shared by all four districts with the work being done at both the Mamaroneck and New Rochelle treatment plants to lessen the potential ending cost. **I HAVE VOTED "NO" ON THIS PROJECT TO SEND A MESSAGE TO MY COLLEAGUES THAT THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT SHOULD BE DOING MORE BY STEPPING UP TO THE PLATE AND PICKING UP A LARGER SHARE OF THE COST.** As of this mailing, through letter writing and communications, federal stimulus money in the amount of \$55 million will, hopefully, be made available to abate the cost. It is my hope that through letter writing and emails to our Congressional delegation in Washington you can make them more aware of the impact to you, our taxpayers, and the need for more federal dollars. I am, therefore, asking that you take the time to do so now!



Senator Charles E. Schumer
757 Third Avenue
Suite 17-02
New York, NY 10017
(212) 486-4430 (TEL)
(212) 486-7693 (FAX)
<http://schumer.senate.gov>

Senator Kirsten Gillibrand
780 Third Avenue
Suite 2601
New York, NY 10017
(212) 688-6262 (TEL)
(212) 688-7444 (FAX)
<http://gillibrand.senate.gov/>

Congresswoman Nita Lowey
222 Mamaroneck Avenue
Suite 310
White Plains, NY 10605
(914) 428-1707 (TEL)
(914) 328-1505 (FAX)
<http://lowey.house.gov/>

Please note that due to heightened security in the U.S. Capitol, mail service to Washington, D.C. Senate and Congressional offices is significantly delayed. If possible, I recommend that you use alternative means of communications, such as e-mail, phone, or fax. Emails can be easily sent to each representative by visiting the Contact page on their government web sites, listed above.

DID YOU KNOW?

SPECIAL NEEDS REGISTRY

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 or disaster. Call 211 to sign up.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY CHILD CARE SCHOLARSHIPS

are available to working families in Westchester who are over income for

public subsidies but have difficulty paying for child care. Call 914-761-3456 or visit www.childcarewestchester.org

RECREATION INFO

Why not enjoy a Staycation and attend one of the many Movie Nights and Barbeques of hot dogs, hamburgers and salads, at one of our Pools and Beaches. Parties begin at 7 PM to 8:30 PM with the movie beginning at sundown. Cost is only \$10 per person, free for children under age 3. Admission wristbands go on sale the day of the event, first come first served. Call 914-864-PARK or log on to www.westchestergov.com/parks.

Also, don't forget to visit Playland this summer; hike one of our trails at Ward Pound Ridge Park; visit one of our other passive parks; or play golf at one of our six County Courses.

QUAKER RIDGE ROAD BRIDGE AT PINE BROOK BOULEVARD

The work on the bridge for the most part is complete. Paved just in time for the recently held Soap Box Derby. Thanks to the New Rochelle Fire Department for their continued support of the Derby. A special thanks to the neighbors for their understanding.

