



County Legislator
Bill Ryan
 reports to White Plains

Working Together

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In-home services help seniors "age in place." More inside...



Shared Services = Taxpayers Savings White Plains can save money.

By using the county's "Shared Services" program both the city of White Plains and our school district can save money and reduce the burden on local property taxpayers.

Why should city hall or our schools pay more for a service when they can get it for free or at a reduced cost through the county? For example, if our local police department requires forensics investigation services, why not tap the county's expert forensics unit for ballistics analysis, digital evidence and crime scene investigation?

The county has a wide variety of services and resources available to White Plains. So whether it's Emergency Response, Information Technology, Purchasing, Public Works, or a half-dozen others, White Plains can save money by using what the county has to offer.

To see a full menu of county services, and those resources, expertise, technology and programs available, you can visit: www.westchestergov.com/sharedservices.



Chief Peter Pitocco of the County Department of Emergency Services demonstrates hi-tech equipment capable of analyzing and identifying unknown chemical agents, important in emergency response

Job Creation... The Key to Economic Recovery

Creating jobs, putting people back to work, and boosting consumer spending is the key to pulling out of this economic recession. The aim of federal stimulus dollars from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act is to create jobs. Since March, I've taken steps to engage the Board of Legislators in the recovery process.

First, I established the Legislative Task Force on Westchester Economic Recovery. The job of the Task Force is to help the county take full advantage of the many funding opportunities being rolled out by Washington and to maximize Westchester's share of federal stimulus money. The Task Force is also looking to work with local governments, business groups, non-profits and the public on other ideas and initiatives to boost our economy on the local front.

Small and mid-tier companies and the jobs in these segments comprise the core of the local economy. To help strengthen existing minority and women-owned businesses throughout the county and to promote the growth of this important component of county's economy, I created the Special Committee on Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprise. The Westchester economy is varied and diverse. Minority and women-owned businesses are an important part of that mix. A strong and growing MWEB sector will help ensure a successful economic recovery in our region. For more information or to contribute your thoughts and ideas to the work of these two panels, contact me at Ryan@westchesterlegislators.com.



Preserving Open Space

The open space policy adopted by the Board of Legislators encourages the preservation of open space as an important element in shaping Westchester's growth and development and in preserving our quality of life by protecting the county's scenic quality, environmental integrity and recreational opportunities. Since the policy was adopted, the County Board has acted to acquire thousands of acres of open space for active and passive recreation.

A partner in the open space effort is the Concerned Citizens for Open Space (CCOS) in White Plains. Recently, CCOS members and friends gathered on the Greenway to honor Ted Benjamin, a long-time advocate for open space in White Plains. Ted passed away a few years ago and CCOS planted a tree on the Greenway and dedicated it to Ted.



Bill Ryan with former CCOS President, Barbara Benjamin. Since the tree planting a few weeks ago for her late husband, Ted, Barbara Benjamin passed away. She will not be forgotten, but her activism and commitment to open space preservation will be missed.

More White Plains Kids Become Recycling Rangers



A few weeks ago, I returned to Ridgeway. The students presented their projects to me, and I awarded them their certificates of achievement and official badges. Congratulations to our newest class of Recycling Rangers. For more information on this program contact SusanK@westchesterlegislators.com.

"Aging in Place" in White Plains

Senior citizens make up a growing percentage of the White Plains population. Many live in single family homes, others have opted for rental housing or condos and co-ops. Senior housing is limited; we need more and that's why I've proposed the use of county-owned land downtown for senior citizen affordable housing. In addition, for those who value their ability to live independently, the County, through its Livable Communities Initiative is taking steps to help our elderly stay in their homes.



The County Dept. of Senior Programs & Services administers the Expanded In-home Services for the Elderly Program (EISEP), which provides family and caregiver support, training, counseling, respite and medication management for seniors at home.

County Social Services runs Protective Services for Adults (PSA), which can arrange for a home health aide, counsel a senior on money concerns or health care applications or housing options. The PSA referral line is (914) 995-2259.

Visiting Nurse Services of Westchester helps seniors age in place by providing skilled in-home nursing and health care services. If you need these services or you would like to learn more about how VNSW provides support to family members and caregivers of seniors aging in place, call: (914) 682-1480, visit their Mamaroneck Avenue office or go to www.vns.org.



Volunteer. You're Needed!

Residents of all ages are needed by dozens of non-profit agencies and county government departments. They need your time, your skills and your experience to help deliver services to thousands here in Westchester.

Today Americans are being called upon to rededicate themselves to improving their communities through volunteerism, and here in Westchester, we want to do our part. Your help is needed in the areas of health, the arts, emergency services, social services, animal protection and the environment.

To lend a hand, go to www.westchestergov.com/volunteerism.

Library of Publications

The County offers several informational brochures, reports, posters and flyers to residents. Here's a list of some of the more popular selections. **Check the titles** that interest you, complete and mail the form below to have these print publications sent to you — or, browse the online library of publications and video at www.westchestergov.com/libraryofpublications.



"H1N1 Health Alert"



"Home Improvement"



"Hurricanes"



"Quick Recycling Guide"



"Pool Safety"



"Fit Kids Challenge"



"Your Kids & Alcohol"



"Prom Safety"



"College Loans"



"Miracle League"

Name: _____

E-mail: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Mail to: Bill Ryan, Westchester County Board of Legislators,
148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601
or you can email me: Ryan@westchesterlegislators.com

Invest-in-Kids: STEP-UP! Program White Plains

The County's Invest-in-Kids funding supports the STEP UP! initiative in White Plains. This exceptional program, designed by the Youth Bureau for at-risk male youth ages 14-21, is a collaborative effort between the White Plains Police, our schools, Youth Bureau and community. Since its start-up, the effects of the program have been positive for its 110 participants, resulting in increased graduation rates and decreased delinquency and gang involvement. The County has committed \$150,000 to support STEP UP! for the next 3 years.