



Westchester County Board of Legislators

800 Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, New York 10601



Meetings Streamed Live!

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www.westchesterlegislators.com



News from Ken Jenkins your County Legislator...

FOCUS ON VOLUNTEERS

Perhaps you are unemployed or under-employed and looking for something worthwhile to do. Perhaps you are retired and want to find an outlet to share what you know. If you've never considered volunteerism before, now might be the right time. Not only can you make a difference in your community, but you can sharpen your skills.

President Obama has called upon Americans to rededicate themselves to bettering their communities through volunteerism. On June 19, Westchester County, the Volunteer Center of United Way and the Westchester Community Foundation co-sponsored the Westchester Serves Expo at the Westchester County Center.

Attendees learned how to transform communities through service. There were workshops on career transitioning, networking and using skills in technology to help non-profits. No pay, but volunteering can take you places.

Start your search for the perfect volunteer match for you at the Volunteer Center. Visit them online at <http://www.volunteer-center.org>.



Contact Us!

CITIZENS --- an important branch of county government.

Please attend our board and committee meetings when you can. The Board generally meets twice a month on Monday evenings at 7:00 PM. Committees meet at least weekly.

Visit our website for up-to-date calendar and meeting agendas and minutes.

www.westchesterlegislators.com

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Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Summer 2009 Newsletter



Ken Jenkins

District 16 ~ Yonkers



Dear Neighbor,

I hear you! Every level of government must do what it can to relieve the burden of paying for services.

As Chairman of the County Board's Government Operations Committee, I have been leading the effort on the Board to address both tax fairness and shared services.

“Every level of government must do what it can to relieve the burden of paying for services.”

Every efficiency study on government shows that County government provides the regional solution that can increase efficiencies. County government always had the ability by State Charter to eliminate local layers of government using a various procedures. However, the State legislature limited the counties power to consolidate. The recently approved NY Government Reorganization and Citizen Empowerment Act, introduced by Attorney General Andrew Cuomo, supported by Governor David Paterson and sponsored by State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, re-establishes those powers for counties and gives citizens power to eliminate local government and special tax districts. I advanced support of this important legislation through the County Board. Now that this law has been enacted, I look forward to working with government partners to aggressively reduce costs.

Westchester County continues to be a leader providing shared services for local governments and community-based organizations. Please read the article regarding Shared Services in this newsletter.

I have led the effort on the County Board to address tax fairness. Yonkers has not done a revaluation on properties for close to 60 years. Yonkers is taking the steps to update the inventory of property data. However, due to the economic climate, may not have the resources to be able to update the information.

I am working on legislation that will create the Westchester County Assessment Commission where the municipal stakeholders will be part of a committee that will recommend a county-wide standard in assessing property. More importantly, municipal officials will have the information to be able to understand the impact of updating assessments and provide appropriate protections. Stay tuned.

I invite you to participate in the gift of democracy by sharing your opinions and concerns with me. Contact me at (914) 995-2829 or Jenkins@westchesterlegislators.com.

Regards,

Ken Jenkins
Legislator, District 16



What's Happening on Tuckahoe Road

IMPROVEMENTS FOR RIDGE HILL VILLAGE. Several improvements are being made to Tuckahoe Road for Ridge Hill Village. The lanes on the bridge over the Sprain Brook Parkway are being re-stripped. The bridge was always 5 lanes – the re-stripping will ultimately create a dedicated left turn lane for the South-bound Sprain Parkway. In addition, the roadway is being straightened to Ridge Hill Blvd. which is adjacent to the Yonkers water treatment plan.

CONEDISON M29 PROJECT. The M29 project comes from Homeland Security concerns relative to the distribution of power to New York City. Basically, the project will start from the ConEd sub-station on Tuckahoe Road and cut across Yonkers to Broadway where the line will enter New York City. The construction involves about 40 feet of roadway per night. Until construction is complete in the section of roadway, metal plates are installed. Be careful. The plates in rain are slippery, so slow down.

Shared Services

Recently, Westchester County held a conference for over 100 local government and school district officials to provide them information about the wide variety of resources and services available through the county. By using the county's "Shared Services" program local government and schools can save money and reduce the burden on local property taxpayers.

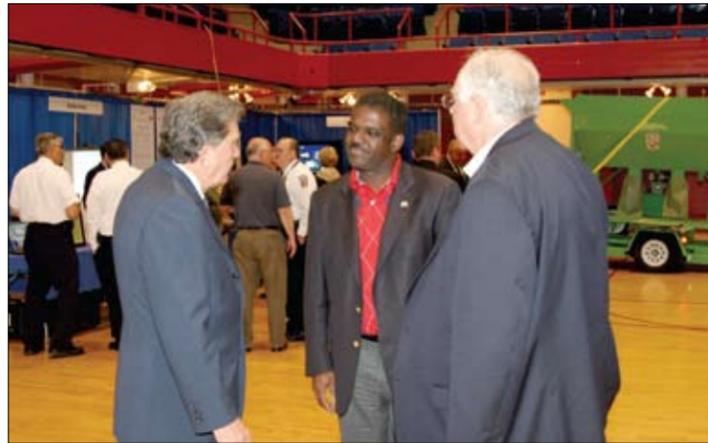
When we share services, we cut costs. Why should Yonkers pay more for something when it can get it for free or at a reduced cost through the county? Does Yonkers need street signs, communications network or e-mail services? Does it need to dispose of e-waste or sensitive documents? Does it want to "go green" and convert a fleet of vehicles to run on cooking oil or install diesel emission control equipment? If our school district needs supplies, it can buy these at a lower price, by taking advantage of county purchasing power.

Why should Yonkers go it alone and incur public bidding costs when the county has already gone through the bidding process. And with public bidding requirements satisfied, Yonkers can reap the advantages of the lower prices offered under existing county contracts.

The county offers many services to local governments and school districts. While the range of resources, expertise, technology and programs are too extensive to mention here, if you'd like to see the full menu of county services available, please visit

www.westchestergov.com/sharedservices.

County "Shared Services" is about smart spending and keeping more money in our taxpayers' pockets.



Special Needs Registry



If you, or someone you know, might require additional assistance, transportation and/or sheltering in the event of a major emergency or disaster consider registering with the Special Needs Registry. The registry is for individuals with physical or mental disabilities who live on their own. The database will be shared with local municipalities to use in their emergency planning efforts.

HOW DO I SIGN UP?

Call 2-1-1 and they will sign you up over the phone. In the event you are having trouble reaching 2-1-1, please call 800-899-1479. You can also apply online www.westchestergov.com/specialneeds



Playland

The season of fun has begun – Playland Park in Rye is now open with a new "pay-one-price" admission for unlimited rides all day, which means the more you ride the rides you love, the more you save.



Non-riders entering the amusement section of the park to walk, watch the park's entertainment or chaperone others pay a modest entrance fee of \$3 for Westchester residents and \$5 for non-residents. If they later choose to go on rides, holders of non-rider wristbands can upgrade to a Fun Band during their visit or use leftover Fun Card points from the prior season or purchases ride cards at \$1 a point.

As in the past, there is no charge for going to the boardwalk - including Big Band concerts and boardwalk arcades and shops, the pier, the ¾-mile Seaside Walk, museum, Fountain Plaza and its adjacent food court, fireworks viewing, lake boating or Read Sanctuary.

Be sure to speak to guest services representatives who can help you decide the best pricing option for you.



Tibbetts Park Pool to be Updated

Tibbetts Brook pool will be closed for renovation this summer and will reopen in time for the 2010 summer season. The pool is approximately 80 years old, has never received major renovations and is in a state of acute disrepair.

The renovation plan approved consists of reconstructing the single large pool area into a series of smaller water play areas, including a lazy river with sprays, waterslides, an aquatic playground, new decking and a new concession/filter building. New piping and filter infrastructure will be state-of-the-art, remaking the pool as environmentally friendly, safe and energy efficient as current technology allows. There will still be a lap pool area. Watch for the opening in 2010.

Skateboard Park



Thanks to an enthusiastic group of skateboarders, Yonkers first skateboard park is well underway. The teens made several presentations to City and County officials and were required to have a petition signed. A partnership between Westchester County and Yonkers will produce a skateboard park at Murray's skating rink. The teenage skateboarders are designing the park with a world-renowned skate park designer and the expected completion is Fall 2009. The skateboard park promises thrills for the enthusiasts and safety for parents.

Odell Bridge

Westchester County's first stimulus project is replacement of a portion of the Odell Avenue bridge project. The Odell bridge will be one-way towards the hospital from approximately June 29 until the middle of September. There will be changes in the Bee-Line bus routes while the construction is taking place.

The South County Trailway is closed from Dover Lane to Hearst Street while the construction takes place on the Odell Avenue Bridge. Westchester County is working with the NYSDOT and Homefield House to develop a detour for the trail.

The entire project is expected to be complete in November.

Mile Square Road Bridge

During 2009, the Mile Square Bridge will be replaced. There will be a one for one replacement of the bridge and the bridge will continue to be one lane. There is no plan to change the bridge to two lanes. The construction will require significant detours. It is likely the replacement will happen in the summer of 2009 when there is the least amount of traffic.

South County Trailway

The plan for the final leg of the South County Trailway was presented in May. Please call the Westchester County Planning Department at 914-995-4400 if your home is adjacent to the trailway and you have specific concerns.