



Westchester County Legislator  
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*Proudly Serving the 9th District*

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**What Do You Think?** I'm curious to know your thoughts about some of the issues facing Westchester County. Please tear off this short survey and return it to me at: *Catherine Borgia, Westchester County Board of Legislators, 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor, White Plains, New York 10601*

1) Do you favor more housing for middle income families in your community?  
 yes    no    maybe    don't know

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

2) Do you think the County should invest more money in infrastructure likes roads, bridges and parks?  
 yes    no    maybe    don't know

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

3) Do you favor a ban on hydrofracking?  
 yes    no    maybe    don't know

Comments \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

**Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS**  
*Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years*  
 Winter 2012 Newsletter



**Catherine Borgia**  
 District 9 ~ Briarcliff Manor, Cortlandt, Croton-on-Hudson, Ossining, Peekskill



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

During my first year on the Westchester County Board of Legislators, I've focused on three goals: Putting Westchester residents back to work by approving capital projects; helping small businesses; and working to find ways to make government operate work more efficiently. I'm pleased to report that my colleagues and I have made progress on all three goals.

As the chair of the Government Operations Committee, I've had the opportunity to learn a great deal about the working of county government, as that committee provides legislative oversight of Public Works, Environmental Facilities, Transportation, Parks and Recreation, Housing, and Labor issues in the county. In Government Operations, we've discussed scores of capital projects, many of which have successfully made it through the legislative process and been approved by the Board of Legislators. These projects, including work in Blue Mountain Park, repairs to streets in Peekskill, a renewal of the Ossining campus of Westchester Community College, and a housing project in Briarcliff, will put Westchester county businesses and residents back to work and will improve our infrastructure for the long term.

Another focus has been on helping small businesses in Westchester. After speaking to a constituent and one such small business owner, I introduced legislation that makes it easier to permit plumbers and electricians to install solar panels. This bill was passed unanimously by the Board of Legislators. I've also contacted other small business owners and municipal leaders to discuss their concerns and to brainstorm what the county can do to help enhance the business climate in Westchester.

Making government work smarter in times of reduced resources has been the third focus in my first year. My legislation to remove a legal impediment to money-saving intermunicipal contracts for police services between the county and municipalities also passed with unanimous, bi-partisan support. In addition, I've introduced legislation that increases our commitment to save taxpayer money by replacing all of the lighting used in the county with long



lasting high-efficiency lights. Many business establishments and local municipalities have seen large reductions in their energy costs. Money is also saved because of reduced inventory and manpower costs for switching out burned-out bulbs.

It's been an eventful first year for me as your elected representative. Please contact me at [cxb9@westchestergov.com](mailto:cxb9@westchestergov.com) or 995-2812 or 262-8873 with any ideas or issues you have about Westchester County. Let's work together to keep Westchester great.

*Catmi*

## Want to know What's going on in Westchester?

### Watch Hudson Valley News and Views

*Air Times: Cablevision Public Access Channel 15, Saturday at 11am; Ossining GO-TV, various times and days.*

Please tune in to watch my local TV show, profiling community, educational, and public service organizations and interesting people and events going on in our County.

#### Some recent shows profile:

1. Croton Harmon High School students who worked in an AP Environmental class to build and install a solar powered hot water heater at Croton Landing.

2. NYSigN-Westchester, a coalition of local non-profit agencies, educational institutions, government agencies, and individuals, that has been

advocating for intergenerational strategies as a means of achieving successful programming and policy. I was very fortunate to be invited to the intergenerational Program in Yonkers this past September where I learned firsthand what a valuable resource these programs are.

3. Ossining high school students who traveled to Nicaragua and New Orleans during their spring break to help build houses for poor communities.

#### Upcoming shows:

- A tour of some of Westchester's beautiful parks.

- Hope's Door's "Love Shouldn't Hurt" Teen Symposium on how to recognize and prevent teen dating violence.



▲ Enjoying a book with some of the young readers in the intergenerational summer reading program.

## Know a High School Student Interested in Government and Public Policy?

### BOL Internships Available

As a County Legislator and parent, I know how important it is for young people to learn about state and local government and to experience participatory democracy first-hand. Students really benefit from the hands-on setting an internship that the County Board can provide. Interns become part of my office team

and are able to gain and apply critical thinking, writing and public speaking skills. These engaged students also bring a fresh perspective to issues that greatly benefits my colleagues and me.

Please contact my office at 914-995-2812 if you or someone you know is interested in interning.



◀ Some of the budding policy makers who interned at the Board of Legislators during Summer 2012. My office was very fortunate to have four young students intern this past summer from the Briarcliff, Ossining and Croton Harmon school districts respectively. The students worked together and learned from one another and from my staff and co-workers. The experience was mutually rewarding and fun.

## Need Help? Call Your County Legislator!

One of the most rewarding parts of being an elected official is to help advocate for constituents when they are facing difficulties navigating government agencies, insurance companies, or other private entities. Please call or email me, or come to my office in White Plains if you'd like, with any issue or concern, or if I can help you in any way.

☎ Office: 914-995-2812

☎ Cell: 914-262-8873

✉ Email: [Cxb9@westchestergov.com](mailto:Cxb9@westchestergov.com)

## Enjoy Westchester Parks!

We are so fortunate to have an extensive, diverse and beautiful park system here in Westchester County. As a new legislator and chair of the Government Operations committee which provides legislative oversight for our parks, I'm enjoying visiting every county park

in the system, where I see firsthand the benefits and charms of our parks and recreations areas and witness how these special places contribute greatly to Westchester's quality of life.

At the Board of Legislators, we are committed to maintaining our investment in our parks.



Last year, hundreds of county residents and business owners testified during the BOL's budget hearings about how important the parks are to them and their families. As a result,

the BOL restored funding that had been cut in the proposed budget and overrode the veto of the County Executive in order to save 18 parks jobs for curators in charge of managing popular parks programs.

Friends of Westchester County Parks released an economic and fiscal impact analysis report that shows that Westchester's parks generate over \$180 million in annual support to the county's economy. Their report makes it clear that it is in the best interest of County taxpayers and residents for the Administration and Board of Legislators to work together to keep the County's parks at their highest operational level possible.

◀ Recently the BOL approved two capital projects for upgrades to Blue Mountain Park and the Sportsmen's Center. This beautiful facility offers many recreational activities for the whole family.

## Government & Operations Committee Update

In Government Operations, we are currently evaluating proposals to reconfigure Playland Park. The committee has been meeting with Sustainable Playland and several other possible groups to hear about the proposal they made to the County Executive.

Also this year in my Committee, I:

- Passed an Agreement with **New York State and the Jay Heritage Center** that will enable the JHC to develop, manage, operate and maintain the **Jay Property** for park and recreational uses;
- Authorized funding for a 'Gas to Energy Program' at the **Croton Landfill**;
- Authorized funding for electric and infrastructure improvements at the **Kensico Dam Plaza**;
- Secured **grant funding** from the NY State Office for the **Aging for Transportation** for our seniors;
- **Ratified Labor Contracts** for the County's Correction Officers (COBA) and Teamsters;
- Provided funding to our **Public Safety Department** to upgrade our **Armory** in order to accommodate and assist our local municipalities;
- Passed an agreement enabling the County to receive **federal grant funds** for the **Westchester County Airport**, which includes funding for upgraded taxiways, a stormwater management plan and other planning studies.

