

# WHAT DOES COUNTY GOVERNMENT DO FOR YOU?

## WESTCHESTER COUNTY BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

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



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

Tel: 914-995-2821; Fax: 914-995-3884  
Abinanti@westchesterlegislators.com



### Thomas J. Abinanti

District 12 ~ Irvington, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings on Hudson, Ardsley, Greenburgh

December 2009

### PUBLIC HEALTH AND SAFETY

#### DISTRICT ATTORNEY

- Prosecutions
- Special Bureaus: Environmental Crimes; Narcotics; Gang & Gun; Stop DWI; High Tech Crime; Child Abuse; Domestic Violence Bias Crimes; Economic Crimes

#### CORRECTIONS

- County Jail
- Penitentiary

#### EMERGENCY SERVICES

- 24/7 county-wide fire & EMS coordination
- Special Operations
- Fire Training Facility for local depts.
- HAZMAT Team
- Bomb Squad
- Arson Unit
- WMD Response
- Emergency Evacuation: hurricanes, Indian Point
- Regional emergency response coordinator

#### PROBATION

- Family Court
- Criminal Court

#### LAW ENFORCEMENT

- Highway patrols
- Local Law Enforcement Training
- Units: Environmental Security, Bomb Squad, Aviation, Special Ops., Canine, Narcotics

#### HEALTH

- Communicable Disease Control
- Environmental Health
- Community Health
- Inspections: *restaurants, hotels, day camps; water, solid waste systems*

#### LABS & RESEARCH

- Medical Examiner
- Public Health Labs
- Forensics; Crime Labs
- Environmental Labs

#### COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

- Case Management
- Depression Help Line
- Substance Abuse
- Mental Health Court
- Alternative to Incarceration Services

County governments provide state services on a regional level. They provide other necessary services that can't be done efficiently by municipalities.

All U.S. residents live in one of 3,067 counties. 48 out of 50 states use county government to deliver services.

### HUMAN SERVICES

#### SOCIAL SERVICES

- Medicaid
- Child Protective Services
- Child Support Enforcement
- Family Emergency Assistance
- Housing Placement
- Homeless Services

#### CONSUMER PROTECTION

- Consumer Complaints
- Weights & Measures
- Home Contractor Licensing

#### BOARD OF ELECTIONS

- Voter Registration
- ALL county, village, water, fire, library & school district elections

#### COUNTY CLERK

- Land Records
- Legal Documents
- Passports
- UCC filings
- Pistol Permits
- Licensing-Plumbers, Electricians

#### PLANNING

- Affordable Housing
- Open Space
- Water Quality
- Farm Protection
- Community/Economic Dev.
- Land Use Planning

#### PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR

### PUBLIC INFRASTRUCTURE

The County Environmental Facilities Department disposes of all solid waste from 36 municipalities--90% of the county's population and disposes of sewage from all sewers in the county.

- 13 sewer districts
- 7 wastewater treatment plants
- 194 miles of sewers
- 4,000 manholes
- 42 pump stations
- Water Filtration Systems
- 4 water districts
- Kensico Dam
- Trash Disposal Plant
- Materials Recycling Facility

#### TRANSPORTATION

- Bee Line Bus System (89 routes)
- Westchester County Airport
- Para transit

#### PUBLIC WORKS

- 154 miles county roads
- 165 county bridges
- 2 million sq. ft. office space
- 600 county acres
- 300 county vehicles

#### PARKS, RECREATION & CONSERVATION

- 18,000 acres of open space
- 6 golf courses
- 17 Parks
- 5 Conservation areas
- Rye Playland
- Westchester County Center
- New ballfields
- Historic Sites
- Bronx River Conservancy

### 2010 BUDGET: SPENDING DOWN—TAXES +2.9%

The Board of Legislators approved a \$1.8 billion Budget which cuts proposed County spending by \$1 million and covers anticipated revenue losses with a 2.9% property tax increase. The final budget approved by the Board spends less than the County Executive's proposal and cuts his proposed tax increase almost in half. It maintains vital services affecting Westchester's quality of life and continues to share county sales tax revenues with localities and school districts--all in the face of anticipated sales/mortgage/hotel tax shortfalls of \$51 million and increased mandated expenses of \$70 million. In its efforts to be fiscally responsible, the Board planned the merger of two departments (health and community mental health), defunded positions now vacant or expected to become vacant, provided no salary increases and eliminated most of the County's subsidy of the Westchester Medical Center.

### COUNTY SHARES SALES TAX

Ardsley Village	\$ 598,348
Ardsley School District	\$ 486,740
Dobbs Ferry Village	\$1,488,793
Dobbs Ferry School District	\$ 470,251
Edgemont School District	\$ 359,175
Town of Greenburgh	\$5,862,665
Greenburgh Central 7	\$1,096,240
Hastings Village	\$1,076,646
Hastings School District	\$ 423,487
Irvington Village	\$ 929,409
Irvington School District	\$ 501,611

Dear Neighbor,

Meeting our communities' needs requires a coordinated effort by federal, state and local governments. County government, the regional government, has been doing its part. Here's a brief review of some of what we've been doing on the County level since I last wrote to you.

Your input is important: write, fax, call or e-mail.

Go to my web page: [www.westchesterlegislators.com/Legislators/D12/Bio/index.htm](http://www.westchesterlegislators.com/Legislators/D12/Bio/index.htm) to sign up for District 12 e-news!

#### ANNOUNCEMENT

I am pleased to report that I have been elected Majority Leader of the Board for the 2010/11 term. I previously served two terms as Majority Leader (1998-2001.)



# PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT



Reduce, reuse and recycle were the words of the day when Legislator Abinanti deputized the 3rd grade "recycling rangers" at Irvington's Dow's Lane Elementary School.

## RECYCLING

We renewed an organic yard waste program, begun in 1998, which transports and disposes of yard waste from several Westchester communities, including Greenburgh, Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings and Irvington at a subsidized rate far below usual solid waste disposal fees

## WATER QUALITY

We approved a new law intended to minimize the harmful nutrients in water run-off. The law prohibits the application of any fertilizer on a lawn between December 1 and April 1. It bans the sale and use of any lawn fertilizer that contains phosphorous. Phosphorous and nitrogen contributes to eutrophication or 'algae blooms' in surface water bodies, as seen in several drinking water reservoirs in northern Westchester County, Long Island sound and other bodies of water.

In light of the expected shutdown of access to the Catskill Aqueduct at the County's Grasslands Reservation (including Westchester Medical Center), we approved a project to provide an alternate water source. We authorized construction of a new water main to access the Kensico Reservoir, a new pump station and a state of the art ultraviolet purification system.

## SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL

As Chair of the Environment & Energy Committee, I led the Board of Legislators to protect the environment. We entered into a new 10 year agreement with most Westchester municipalities, including Greenburgh and all of its villages, for the collection of solid waste and recyclables. This continues the County's program, first begun 25 years ago, to dispose of municipally collected solid waste at the garbage-to-energy plant in Peekskill and recyclables at the Materials Recovery Facility in Yonkers. A new provision allows the County to divert up to 10 percent of the waste stream for consideration of new disposal technologies. The new agreement provides a stable and economical disposal option, as well as retains the benefit of alternative energy generation.



Legislator Abinanti with Hartsdale residents John and Lorraine Russo in a fuel cell automobile. The Russos participated in a trial of the hydrogen-powered vehicle with only water emissions.



I led a forum at the Greenburgh Nature Center about implementation of the new County law prohibiting idling of vehicles for more than three minutes. Intended to decrease carbon dioxide and other harmful emissions, the law took effect on February 10, 2009.



Legislator Abinanti honored Ardsley High School student Jiwoo Ryu for special achievement in Italian language studies. They were joined by teacher Michelle Genna.

## COUNTY GOVERNMENT REFORM

The Board approved my resolution calling for a joint County Executive-Board of Legislators effort to revisit the mission, structure and financing of government in Westchester County, in general, and County government in particular with a deadline of March 31, 2009.

With property taxes a significant burden and government becoming too complex for everyday needs, we need reform which doesn't just regroup existing county employees, but refashions all local government relationships, reduces costs and taps additional non-property tax revenues.



## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Emergency	9-1-1
United Way Helpline	2-1-1
Airport	995-4860
Commissioner of Jurors	995-3200
Community College, Westchester	785-6600
Community Mental Health	995-5220
Consumer Protection	995-2155
County Clerk Information	995-3080
Cultural Affairs	995-2922
Disabled, Office for the	995-2957
District Attorney	995-3414
Elections Board	995-5700
Health Department	813-5000
Human Rights Commission	995-7710
Information, Public & Citizens	995-INFO
General Information	995-4636
Naturalization Information	995-3089
Parks Department	864-PARK
Parks Department Golf Reservations	995-GOLF
Passport Information	995-3086
Police	741-4400
Senior Programs and Services	813-6400
Social Services Department	995-5000
Solid Waste Commission	813-6850
Tenant/Landlord Relations	995-2738
Tourism	995-8500
Transportation Information, Bus & Train	813-7777
Veterans Assistance	995-2145
Women, Office for	995-5972
Youth Bureau	995-2745

## TOM ABINANTI



### County Legislator

800 Michaelian Office Building  
 148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor  
 White Plains, New York 10601  
 Tel: (914) 995-2821  
 Fax: (914) 995-3884  
 Abinanti@westchesterlegislators.com