



Westchester County Board of Legislators
800 Michaelian Office Building
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor
White Plains, New York 10601



Legislator Gordon A. Burrows was pleased to honor three students from Bronxville High School and two adult mentors for their roles in a project called "Hearts to Home," the goal of which is to purchase phone cards for troops at Camp Bucca in Iraq and local soldiers. Approximately \$60,000 has been collected to buy the cards. Pictured are (L-R) Bronxville High School Librarian Clare Gorman, mentor Sandy McManus, senior Charlotte Minetti and senior Mike McManus. (Not shown, junior Travis Sprague)

How Can I Help You?

Your concerns or suggestions are always welcomed. Thank you. P.S. You can also e-mail me any time at Gab6@westchestergov.com or call (914) 995-2828.

Name: _____ Email _____

Street: _____ City _____

Zip: _____ Phone _____

Comments: _____



Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Spring 2009

Gordon A. Burrows

County Legislator

District 15: Yonkers, Bronxville

Tough Times Call for Tough Decisions

Dear Neighbor,



Times are tough. The economy is struggling. Unemployment is increasing every week as companies downsize and businesses close up shop. The value of homes, the security blanket many count on as their primary investment, has plummeted, leaving many families handcuffed.

In such trying times, people often turn to government and their elected officials for help. Rest assured that as your county legislator I will continue to fight spending in county government in an effort to keep county taxes in check. It's a tough battle, but a necessary one to wage.

When the 2009 budget was being negotiated, several of my colleagues and I steadfastly insisted that we could cut expenses, maintain services and hold taxes at last year's level.

Much to my chagrin, the majority of the legislators approved a \$1.77 billion budget with an average tax increase of 1.77%. Although taxes slightly increased, I am pleased to say that I opposed the increases and, because of my and the efforts of a few other legislators, the attempt to give commissioners, deputies and department heads raises was squashed.

County government has been under fire from many fronts for the way it does business, and rightfully so. As your representative, I have heard the public outcry and have tried to convey those concerns. Over the past year, I have been a strong advocate for downsizing county government and have introduced legislation calling for term limits on the county board.

Taxpayers deserve and expect better. The economy has a tight grip these days, but things will turn around. At the county level, I am committed to being your advocate and always welcome any suggestions you may have. Please take the time to drop me an e-mail or fill-out the form on the back of this newsletter. I will do my best to personally respond to your concerns.

Spring is a time of renewed hope. Together, with hard work and smart decisions, brighter days lie ahead.

Sincerely,
Gordon A. Burrows

Plans in the works to address flooding issues

I have been advised by the County Executive’s office that they are in the process of reviewing informal preliminary applications for two projects: one to dredge a mile-long segment of the Bronx River and the other to increase the storage capacity of Sprain Lake. The county’s Flood Action Task Force has encouraged the communities in the southern tier to continue to evaluate the potential flood mitigation value of Sprain Lake, Bronx River and the Saw Mill River and to follow up with the Task Force to submit a final application for a flood mitigation project for review.

Meanwhile, the county’s Department of Public Works is hiring a consulting firm to conduct a hydrologic and hydraulic assessment of the Bronx River watershed to enable county staff and others to better evaluate potential flood mitigation and water quality improvement projects in the watershed.

In addition, the Village of Bronxville and the Bronxville Union Free School District recently submitted a final application for a flood mitigation project at Bronxville High School that will include the installation of a new stormwater pipe underneath Midland Avenue with a new outfall discharging to Scout Field in the Bronx River Parkway Reservation. This proposed project is currently being reviewed by the departments of Planning, Public Works and Parks, Recreation and Conservation.

Sand Bag Equipment Available from County to Assist Municipalities

Westchester County can assist local communities in preparing to avert problems in flood prone areas of District 15. The county has a sandbagger machine that it can lend to local highway and DPW departments so they can fill and pre-stage sand bags in “at risk” residential developments. The equipment cannot be lent to private individuals or private developments, only to municipal highway and public works departments.

It may be possible for residents in the risk areas to coordinate with the local municipal highway or public works department so that filled sandbags can be stored before the waters rise. The local municipality must operate the machine, supply the manpower and the sand. It is best to fill the bags as close to the site of need as possible. The bags do break down when exposed to sunlight over time so they should be filled at the start of the season and stored under cover.

Please call or e-mail Legislator Burrows’ office for assistance.

Local and County Contacts:

City of Yonkers	
Mayor: Philip Amicone	377-6300
City Council	377-6309
City Hall	377-6000
Police Department	377-7900

Web site: www.ci.yonkers.ny.us

Village of Bronxville	
Mayor: Mary Marvin	337-6500
Village Hall	337-6500
Police Department	337-0500

Westchester County	
Airport	995-4860
Board of Legislators	995-2800
Board of Elections	995-5700
Consumer Protection	995-2162
County Clerk	995-3080
County Executive	995-2900
Courts (County, Supreme)	824-5100
Court (Family)	824-5500
District Attorney	995-3414
Health Department	813-5000
Parks	864-7275
Social Services	995-5000
Transportation	813-7777
Veterans Services	995-2145

Web site: www.westchestergov.com



Odell Avenue Bridge to be Rebuilt

The rebuilding of the Odell Avenue Bridge is one of the first projects in the state to be funded by federal stimulus money. The \$2.8 million project will replace the existing structurally deficient bridge.

Also being installed this spring with stimulus funds are \$500,000 worth of traffic data sensors on the Bronx River Parkway to provide real time volume, speed and travel time data at eight locations.

Did You Know?

- Yonkers Arts, a new arts council, is spotlighting the work of local artists and arts organizations throughout the month of May and into early June with Yonkers ArtsFest 2009. For more information, visit www.YonkersArts.org.
- Bicycle Sundays are back, which means the Bronx River Parkway will be closed on certain Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. to cars for exclusive use of bicyclists, joggers, walkers and those with scooters and strollers. For more information, call (914) 864-PARK.
- To avoid those nagging marketing calls, you can register your cell phone number on the National Do Not Call Registry. Call 1-888-382-1222 or visit www.donotcall.gov.
- If your family or school is planning to visit the nation’s capital, Congresswoman Nita Lowey’s office can help set up a tour. Visit www.house.gov/lowey.

Newsletter production: Rick Pezzullo



Legislator Burrows honored Jenny Mullakary and Bayan Baker (not shown) from Yonkers High School for a research project concerning the high school's use of energy and ways they could reduce the amount of energy used.



Legislator Burrows honored Christian Yoo, president of the Environmental Club at Bronxville High School, for his efforts to begin a "Green Roof Project" at the school, some of which took place in 2008.