



Westchester County Legislator
DAMON R. MAHER
Proudly Serving the 10th District



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IMPORTANT CONTACT INFORMATION

New Rochelle City Hall - Noam Bramson, Mayor

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**Town of Eastchester – Anthony S. Colavita,
Town Supervisor**

40 Mill Road, Eastchester, NY 10709

(914) 771-3301

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Village of Tuckahoe – Greg Luisi, Mayor

65 Main Street, Tuckahoe, NY 10707

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gluisi@tuckahoe-ny.com

www.tuckahoe.com

HIGH SCHOOL INTERNSHIPS AVAILABLE

Legislative internships are available to high school students who live in District 10. These part-time and unpaid internships focus on legislative research, analysis of county and local issues, correspondence and assisting constituents with problems they may be having with governmental agencies.

If you are interested in applying for the fall/winter academic term, please send a cover letter and resume to me at Maher@westchesterlegislators.com.

SNAIL MAIL IS EXPENSIVE – MAKE SURE YOU SIGN UP FOR MY EMAILS!

I send one piece of mail to you via USPS annually. If you want to stay up to date with the latest news regarding legislation and county events, please sign up at westchesterlegislators.com/subscribe-to-updates.html.



Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Fall 2019 Newsletter



Damon R. Maher

District 10 ~ Eastchester, Tuckahoe, New Rochelle



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Serving you as County Legislator for the 10th District (Eastchester, Tuckahoe and most of New Rochelle) since January 2018 has been the greatest honor and privilege of my working life. I hope that this summer you have been taking advantage of the many County parks and other recreational facilities, arts and cultural events that your tax dollars support.

Since I last wrote to you last fall, we in the County Legislature have continued the serious long-term work of restoring fiscal responsibility in annual and multi-year budgeting. We have done this while keeping the increase in the County share of property tax bills well below the New York State-mandated tax cap and will be positioned to **freeze** (that's right, zero increase!) the property tax for the next two years. We will do this by equalizing the sales tax payable throughout the county, including a penny per dollar increase in certain municipalities. On average, this will be fairer about who will be paying. Big spenders will be paying more. Seniors on fixed incomes wanting to hold onto their homes, for example, would likely pay less. Moreover, the towns and villages whose merchants will be collecting more sales tax, as of August 1st, as well as their local school districts, would receive significant rebates. The annual estimated increase in sales tax funds that will flow into this district will be a little over **\$2.2 million**, which the appropriate taxing bodies can use to reduce taxes, invest in additional programs or infrastructure, or do some of both.

I have stood **shoulder-to-shoulder** with working people by pushing for and gaining a bigger investment in quality day care to keep low-income parents in the job force. Early childhood education and parental peace of mind better guarantee readiness for grade school and a path to a happy and successful life.



The Tuckahoe Police Department invited me back again to speak at the annual Police Memorial Remembrance Ceremony this past May. Pictured here with me are County Executive George Latimer and Cadet Camilla McCart of the Tuckahoe Police Department's Explorer Troop

After last year's Sick Leave Act, we passed the complementary **SAFE** Act that provides leave for those dealing with domestic violence problems. In addition, we passed a law that directs the Westchester Consumer Protection Department to de-license any home-improvement contractor (such as kitchen/bath remodelers, interior/exterior painters, roofers, gardeners etc.), who fails to pay workers earned wages.

And I would like to congratulate the dedicated children and coaches of the Tuckahoe Cheerleaders who became World Champions for the second time.

Sincerely,

Damon R. Maher



HOUSING SEMINARS, HOUSING SYMPOSIUM AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

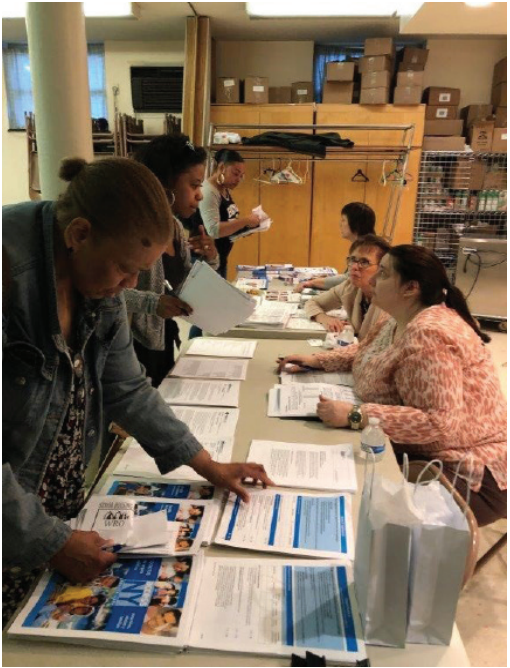
On March 13th and 26th, I hosted two housing seminars held at the New Rochelle Public Library. These programs presented information for first time homebuyers as well as information about federal, state and county Fair Housing protections for renters and buyers. I am thankful to Ariana Calderon of Westchester Residential Opportunities, Inc., Barry Kramer of Westchester Choice Realty, Terry Fleischman of Housing Action Council and Sharene Long of Bestmatch Real Estate for their informative presentations.

On June 4, 2019, I was thrilled to have collaborated with Shiloh Baptist Church in New Rochelle to hold a 2-hour housing symposium. Whether you owned, were looking for a new home, were a first time homeowner or



a family looking to downsize, this forum provide our community an opportunity to speak with experts and take home information provided by Energize New Rochelle, Con Edison, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, Westchester Residential Opportunities, Westchester County DSS, Housing Action Council, City of New Rochelle Housing Choice Voucher Program, Westcop, Clarke Realty, Citibank and Coldwell Banker Real Estate.

On April 23, 2019, the Board of Legislators unanimously passed a series of measures that will bring 95 units of quality affordable housing to 14 LeCount Place in a 381-unit building, in downtown New Rochelle. These 95 units are to be held affordable for 99 years at real family-affordable rental rates. As Chairman of the Legislature's Committee on Labor & Housing, I know that expanding opportunities for housing at all levels of affordability near good transportation is the most important thing we can do to make Westchester County more livable and sustainable for us and our children. I am committed to supporting efforts that go beyond the minimum local zoning requirements for affordable housing.



EHS CIVICS LESSONS

I spoke with several Social Studies classes at Eastchester High School about the role of County Government in our lives, and fielded many interesting questions about that and about electoral politics in general. At the end of the last lesson, I surprised Superintendent Walter Moran with the first of many proclamations that he would receive, celebrating his retirement after a long and distinguished career as an educator and administrator. Dr. Moran delights now in being a full-time grandfather and musician. Good luck to you, sir!



HONORING OUR HERITAGE

At Parkway Oval on **Veterans Day**, November 11, 2018, Tuckahoe commemorated the 100th anniversary of the Armistice that ending World War I. In my speech I talked about it also being the 80th anniversary of the first time Irving Berlin's *God Bless America* was sung in public, and so we all sang it at the Oval. Veterans' advocate and former County Legislator Vito Pinto organized this both solemn and celebratory ceremony.

CELEBRATIONS AT THE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS

Among the best days at the Board of Legislators are when we get to celebrate those in our community who are extraordinary.



2019 Jandon Scholars Award recipient, Brandon Thomas of New Rochelle High School



Women's History Celebration honoring Barbara Davis, New Rochelle City Historian and NR Public Library Community Liaison



Caribbean Heritage Celebration honoring Alvin Clayton, restaurateur, artist, athlete and professional model

BUGS IN THE (ECO)SYSTEM

The Eastchester Environmental Committee sponsored its annual post winter cleanup of the Girl Scout Cabin on Highland Avenue in Eastchester. On hand, with her family, was 8 year old Anusha Vaish, founder of Save the Insects (www.saveinsects.com). Anusha presented a valuable lesson on the importance of insects in the ecosystem. The rest of the Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts were busy clearing debris after the long winter. Thank you Peter McCartt and Rhonda Miller for organizing this great community event!

