



Westchester County Legislator

JOHN G. TESTA

Minority Leader

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Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

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Summer 2017 Newsletter



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Legislators Approve \$1.2 Billion BIO-Science Development on County Property



In April The Westchester BioScience & Technology Center commonly referred to as the “North 60” project cleared a major hurdle when it was approved in a unanimous 17-0 vote by the Board of Legislators.

The 99-year lease which paves the way for \$1.2 Billion in private sector investment is the largest business contract ever approved by the Legislature. The project will be built on a parcel of county-owned land just north of the Westchester Medical Center and New York Medical College.

Upon completion of the project, the county will receive an estimated \$7 million in annual rent along with \$9 million in new tax revenue. Additionally, the biotech center will create 4,000 construction jobs and 8,000 new permanent jobs. ■

2017 Budget



Back in December, the Board of Legislators passed the \$1.8 Billion 2017 Operating Budget. The 2017 budget is the 7th consecutive county budget that carries no tax increase. In addition to not raising taxes, the 2017 budget contains no reductions to the county work force, in fact the budget added 6 positions to County Police and 4 engineering positions to the Department of Public Works. Funding remained level for the county’s non-profit partners who provide many important services. During Budget and Appropriations Committee meetings, The BOL learned that the Title XX subsidized childcare program would not be able to accept new applicants beginning sometime in August 2017 based on current funding levels. To ensure that low income families are able to access safe and affordable childcare while they are at work, the BOL added \$1 million to the Title XX program. ■

Legislator Testa Fights for Future Planning in Wake of Indian Point Closure Announcement



Back in January Westchester residents were shocked when the New York Times reported that Governor Cuomo, Riverkeeper and Entergy had reached a secret deal to close the Indian Point nuclear power generating facility. Indian Point supplies about 25% of the electricity used in Westchester and New York City. The plant also employs about 1000 workers, creates about a billion dollars in economic

activity in Westchester County, makes up half of Buchanan’s tax revenue and 30% of Hendrick Hudson School District’s taxes. The Governor appointed Legislator Testa to a NY State Task Force to address the closing and help affected communities deal with the closure. In this position, he will be actively involved in pushing for a realistic plan for the future that takes into account the ever-growing ripple effects of the plant’s closure that go beyond the loss of power. Unfortunately, the Governor has not offered a plan to replace the lost jobs, taxes and millions of dollars lost by local businesses and community groups. Another thing the Governor has not

provided is a critical review based on the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) which would identify and study the impacts the closure will have on local communities. In May, County Executive Rob Astorino announced that he would take the Governor to court in order to force him to comply with New York States Law which requires the SEQRA study. ■



Legislator Testa Co-Sponsors Law to Ban Synthetic Marijuana (K2) in Westchester

In May, Legislator Testa co-sponsored a Local Law banning the sale and possession of synthetic drugs. These drugs are commonly referred to as “K2” or “spice” and have become a serious problem for Law Enforcement. Because of the inconsistent nature of the chemical compounds used, it is impossible to predict how the drug will affect the user and how severe those effects might be. This is especially dangerous for kids who are the prime target of synthetic drug suppliers. As a retired high school teacher, Legislator Testa knows the vulnerability of teenagers. The drug is generally marketed in brightly colored packages featuring familiar cartoon characters. Anyone caught selling or possessing these drugs will be subject to fines between \$500-\$2000 and possible jail time. ■



DISTRICT PHOTO GALLERY



1. Congratulating graduates of the 11th Annual Youth Court program sponsored by the Yorktown Alliance for Safe Kids (ASK).
2. Standing with local, county and state leaders to fight the proposed Barge Anchorage sites along the Hudson River.
3. Helping the Caring for the Homeless in Peekskill (CHOP) organization at their annual telethon.
4. Thanking outstanding performer Daisy Jopling for her generosity and support for the Lincoln Depot Museum.
5. Honored to stand with military veterans and members of the Military Order of the Purple Heart for the unveiling of the headstone of local Vietnam hero Henry Bethea.
6. Presenting Stephanie Carlone a County Proclamation commemorating the Dorsy (now Dorsey-Carlone) Funeral Home 125th Anniversary in business.
7. Stopping by Arthur Weeks & Son Jewelers in downtown Peekskill to acknowledge and help them celebrate 120 years in business.
8. It is always an enjoyable time at the Town of Cortland's Annual Family Fun Day.
9. Joining NY Senator Murphy at a fundraiser to help the Sisters at Mt. St. Frances in their plight to replace the failed heating system in their buildings.
10. Attending the first of what will be many public meetings to address the effects of the closure of Indian Point.
11. Joining Mayor Catalina, Councilman Joe Torres and Police Chief Johansen as they accepted a gift of a drone for the Peekskill Police Department.
12. Catching up with fellow retired teacher and ambassador for the Buchanan Seniors, Gabe DiRubbo at the Annual Buchanan Community Day.
13. It was a pleasure to be a part of the Opening Event for the beautifully restored Dramatic Hall on Main Street in Peekskill. Gabriel and Maria Arango spared no expense and kept a careful focus on the historic nature of the 1838 building.
14. Legislator Testa participated in an important roundtable discussion in Yorktown on sex offender issues and updating Megan's Law in New York.
15. One of the best things about celebrating St. Patrick's Day in Peekskill is getting to see friends from Castlebar, County Mayo, Ireland. They come every year and both guests and hosts have a great time.
16. Joining Yorktown officials to cut the ribbon for the new Dick's Sporting Goods in the JV Mall. Construction of the mall's much needed redevelopment is well underway and tremendous progress to create many new retail spaces.