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Proudly Serving the 1st District



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Westchester County Board of Legislators NEWS

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Fall 2016 Newsletter

John G. Testa Minority Leader

District 1 ~ Cortlandt, Peekskill, Yorktown



PROTECTING TAXPAYERS



The 2016 County budget was the 6th consecutive budget with no tax increase. Over the course of those 6 years, I, along with my colleagues have worked with the County Executive to find savings through shared services with municipalities, streamlining county operations and taking advantage of new cost saving technologies.

We will be receiving the County Executive's proposed 2017 budget on November 10th. The County Executive has stated publicly that this budget will again carry no tax increase. My guiding principle when it comes to the budget is to protect taxpayers while ensuring that we are properly funding essential County services like Police, road and bridge maintenance and programs that serve our neighbors who are in need. ■

SAVING OUR WATERFRONT

I sponsored a resolution in September in opposition to the federal government's plan to establish "anchorage sites" for oil barges in the Hudson River just yards from our communities' waterfronts. My colleagues joined me in passing the resolution unanimously. The U.S. Coast Guard plans to create 10 anchorage sites for up to 43 oil vessels in the Hudson River between Yonkers and Ulster County. Nearly 1000 acres of the Hudson River would be used by the anchorage sites off the shores of Westchester County alone. This plan will be a threat to our environment and an eyesore for people who use our waterfronts. I have been working with lawmakers in local and state government to stop the proposed anchorage sites. As a result of our continued efforts, the federal government has extended the public comment phase of the plan



until December 6th. Please join me in telling the federal government that we have worked too hard to reclaim our post-industrial waterfronts to allow them to use us as a parking lot for big

oil vessels on their way to refineries. You can email a comment to the coast guard at: <https://www.regulations.gov/comment?D=USCG-2016-0132-0001>. ■

HUD UPDATE



Westchester County is rapidly approaching the completion of the Fair and Affordable Housing Settlement which was entered into with the Federal Government in 2009. Under the terms of the settlement the County was obligated to develop 750 units of affordable housing by the end of 2016. According to the Westchester County Planning Department's report to the Board, 784 units have been approved for financing and 679 units have build-

ing permits or have been completed as of November 1, 2016.

In addition to building the 750 units, the County is required to submit an analysis of municipal zoning laws which it has done. The federal government has yet to accept the County's analysis. It is my belief that upon the development of the 750 units of affordable housing, Westchester County will have fulfilled its obligations under the 2009 Settlement. ■

DISTRICT PHOTO GALLERY



1. Waiting for the Peekskill July 4th Parade to begin with Dr. John McGurty and Councilman Joe Torres.
2. At the ceremony with Mr. Eugene Booth to rededicate the little known Annsville WWII Monument restored by the Cortlandt Rotary. Mr. Booth is the only surviving Veteran listed on the plaque.
3. I was honored to recognize the proprietor of the Quiet Man Public House, Cathal "Chuck" McGreal as he became a full-fledged Citizen of the United States.
4. I always enjoy seeing my friends at the Annual Spaghetti Dinner hosted by the Keon Center in Peekskill.
5. It was a pleasure and a lot of fun honoring this year's Grand Marshal Joe Ryan and his Aides Mike Guida and Bob Kelleher at the Buchanan St. Patrick's Day Parade Annual Kick Off Party.
6. With Senator Terrence Murphy, The Alliance for Safe Kids, Inc. (ASK) Board members Tricy Cushner, Nancy Levin and Liz Talbert at their 9th Yorktown Youth Court Graduation.
7. Congratulating the Lakeland High School State Champion Field Hockey Team for their 7th straight State Title.
8. It was a pleasure to support and recognize Cortlandt resident Lawrence A. Chiulli III for his impressive Eagle Scout achievement.
9. Participating in the Opening Ceremony for the 8th Annual Hudson Valley Irish Fest.
10. Stopping by the Guiding Eyes for the Blind booth to see Stephanie Vaughey and friends during the Cortlandt Family Fun Day event.
11. Joining Councilman Ed Iachterman, Tom Diana and Greg Bernard for the Yorktown San Gennaro Feast Opening Procession.
12. County Executive Astorino along with the Peekskill City School District asked me to participate in an awareness event for an ongoing initiative called 'Dads Take Your Child to School Day' held at Oakside School.
13. It is always an honor to participate in the Peekskill Memorial Day Ceremony hosted by the Oliver C. Chase American Legion Post 274.
14. On Armed Forces Day I was honored to be a part of an awesome ceremony to dedicate the Rt. 129 bridge in Yorktown renaming to the "Army Specialist David R. Fahey Jr. Memorial Bridge."
15. Supporting the Peekskill Rotary at the Annual Horse Show at Blue Mountain Reservation.
16. At the 2nd Annual Juneteenth Flag Raising Ceremony hosted by the Lincoln Depot Museum with Pastor Gary Colter of the Mount Lebanon Baptist Church, Mount Lebanon Choir member Michael Simpkins, Pastor Dr. Robert E. Young of the Mount Olivet Baptist Church, and Pastor Stephany Graham of the Presbyterian Church of Peekskill.