



Westchester County Legislator
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County Invests in Flood Protection and Park Access for District 11 Residents

STORMWATER: The rising threat of stormwater flooding is a major concern for many in District 11, one that Westchester County takes very seriously. Persistent flooding has the potential to devalue property and stagnate economic growth. We at the Board have taken an aggressive approach to get ahead of this problem. Since 2022, the County has more than doubled its per-year spending on flood mitigation, from \$11 million in 2022 to more than \$30 million in 2025. This is in addition to the funds made available to individual municipalities to curb flooding through a Capital Funds allocation.

At the Board, we are working hard to protect the homes and livelihoods of at-risk residents, and we aim to work harder. The Board has created a new

position—Director of Flood Mitigation and Resiliency—to oversee and expedite the construction and restoration of storm and flood infrastructure across Westchester County. The County is taking a proactive approach to this problem and we aim to improve our capacity for floodwater in the coming years.



GLEN ISLAND BRIDGE: With a bid formalized and a plan in place,

construction is finally set to begin on rehabilitating the historic Glen Island Bridge. Originally built in the 1920s, the bridge is in pressing need of substantial repair and improvements. The required upkeep of the bridge, which is the only means of accessing the island, will mean the bridge will be non-operational, potentially for several years. To prevent Glen Island, Westchester's second-largest park and a treasured community space, from closing with the bridge, a temporary bridge will be constructed to service the island. The temporary bridge will be smaller, and although it may become backed up on Glen Island's busiest days, like Memorial Day and July 4th, it will ensure that one of Westchester's most beautiful green spaces remains free and open to the public. ■



Westchester County Board of Legislators

Voice of the People of Westchester County for over 300 years

Summer 2025 Newsletter

Terry Clements

District 11 ~ New Rochelle, Pelham, Pelham Manor
Chair, Public Safety Committee



Affordable Housing Update

The Board of Legislators took decisive action to address the critical need for affordable housing in New Rochelle by unanimously approving a Bond Act and Land Acquisition Act in June 2024. These measures were designed to promote the creation of affordable condominium units, with guarantees that these homes would remain affordable for at least 50 years.

Today, I am proud to report that construction on this much-needed affordable housing is well underway. A key example is the ambitious Stella Phase II building, where concrete is already being poured. This project reflects the County's commitment to providing quality, affordable homeownership opportunities.

Housing affordability remains a top priority for the Board. We continue to work alongside our partners to secure additional funding through state subsidies, tax credits, and other sources to ensure that these and future developments can meet the needs of our communities. The success of initiatives like the Stella project demonstrates what is possible when we match strong leadership with sustained investment in affordable housing. ■



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is a profound honor to serve as your representative on the Westchester County Board of Legislators. As we move forward through another busy and consequential year, I want to take a moment to reflect on our shared progress and offer a look ahead to what's on the horizon. Your continued involvement, commitment, and care make our community stronger and more resilient with each passing year.

This year, we have remained focused on the issues that matter most: affordable housing, public safety, environmental protection, and infrastructure investment. I am proud to report that we passed a fiscally responsible and balanced budget for 2025 that protects core services while preserving Westchester's triple-A bond rating. For the fifth consecutive year, we have done so without raising County property taxes.

We have made meaningful strides in infrastructure across the district, improving roadways, drainage systems, and community facilities. I am especially pleased to share that construction has officially begun on the long-anticipated restoration of the historic Glen Island Bridge.

I am also excited that Rye Playland was open and operational this summer thanks to a last-minute intervention from the County. With ongoing upgrades and improvements, Playland remains a treasured landmark and a vibrant part of Westchester's identity. Families can look forward to more seasons of fun, tradition, and new memories.

Throughout this year, we have continued to strengthen our partnerships with local nonprofit organizations and community leaders who serve residents of all ages and backgrounds. These organizations provide critical support, from youth development programs to mental health services and senior care. Their work is essential to the wellbeing of our neighborhoods.

We have also supported initiatives that promote economic development, particularly for small businesses, the backbone of our local economy. By creating opportunities for growth and investing in long-term stability, we are building a stronger and more inclusive future.

Serving you remains one of the greatest responsibilities and privileges of my life. I am committed to continuing this important work and ensuring that your voice is reflected in every decision made at the County level. With focus, transparency, and collaboration, we will keep moving forward together.

Sincerely,

Nonprofit Organizations in Westchester

I am proud to support the vital work of nonprofits throughout Westchester County, including key organizations in Pelham like Pelham Together, the YMCA, and the Boys & Girls Club. These nonprofits play an essential role in strengthening our communities by providing critical services, fostering connection, and supporting residents of all ages.

Through their youth outreach programs, nonprofits in our district and across Westchester are making a powerful impact by engaging young people in positive activities, mentorship, and educational opportunities. Their efforts help guide our youth toward healthy choices and build a foundation for future success.

Westchester County remains committed to collaborating with nonprofits across the region to build stronger, more resilient communities. Together, we can ensure that these vital organizations continue to thrive as pillars of support for families and individuals in Pelham, New Rochelle, and beyond. ■

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Rye Playland Opens for the Season

Rye Playland officially opened for the summer, and once again families from across Westchester were able to enjoy one of our most treasured public spaces. Despite recent challenges, the County acted to ensure that the park opened on time, protecting both summer traditions and local jobs.

When complications arose between the park's private operator and the County, leadership acted quickly to bring in support, complete necessary inspections, and reopen core attractions. This is what effective government looks like. It means stepping up when it counts and delivering real results



for the people we serve.

Playland has been part of Westchester's identity for generations. I will continue to work with County officials to ensure it remains safe, welcoming, and publicly accountable for years to come. ■

New Village Hall

Pelham's new municipal center on Fifth Avenue is now complete, marking a major milestone for the Village and its residents. The new facility brings together a modern village hall, police department, and fire station, all designed to improve efficiency, safety, and public access to essential services.

The Village government and fire department have already moved in and are operating out of the new space. This project reflects strong leadership at the local level and a commitment to

smart, community-focused development. Westchester County supported the effort through coordination on infrastructure and planning needs, helping to ensure the long-term success of this vital investment.

I'm proud to have worked alongside Mayor Chance Mullen and Village leadership to bring this project across the finish line. The completed municipal center strengthens Pelham's core services and stands as a model for how local and county governments can partner effectively to meet the needs of residents. ■



Blue Envelope Program

Earlier this year, Westchester County took an important step in promoting public safety and inclusivity by launching the Blue Envelope Program in partnership with our local police departments. As Chair of the Public Safety Committee, I am proud to support this innovative initiative, which is designed to improve interactions between law enforcement and individuals with autism and other disabilities during traffic stops.

The Blue Envelope Program equips drivers with a distinctive blue envelope containing their essential documents and

key information about their communication needs. Law enforcement officers across the County have received training to recognize these envelopes and follow the guidance provided to ensure that traffic stops proceed calmly and effectively.

HERE'S HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS: if a participant is stopped by police, they should inform the officer that they have a blue envelope, retrieve it, and hand it to the officer. The officer then uses the instructions on the envelope to guide communication and minimize stress for the driver.

Traffic stops can be stressful for anyone, but for individuals with autism or other disabilities, the experience can be particularly overwhelming. Sensory sensitivities and communication differences can sometimes lead to unintended behaviors that may be misinterpreted. The Blue Envelope Program, along with the crucial training provided to our officers, helps mitigate these challenges. It ensures that public safety is upheld while fostering understanding, respect, and positive interactions between law enforcement and all members of our community. ■



Handing out blankets with Youth Service Opportunities Project (YSOP) >>>

<<< Supporting the Westchester-Rockland Guardians



Distributing Food with Hope Community Services >>>



<<< Teaching Seniors to Avoid Scams with the County's Department of Consumer Protection



Preventing Gun Violence

I am also honored to serve on the Westchester County Gun Violence Prevention Taskforce (WCGVPT), led by Deputy County Executive Richard Wishnie and County Legislator Shanae Williams, which is making real progress in addressing gun violence across our communities. Building on the strong foundation established by the Westchester County Department of Public Safety under Acting Commissioner Terrance Raynor—including

the vital work of Community Resource Officers and School Resource Officers—we are advancing comprehensive efforts to keep our schools and neighborhoods safe. One important step forward has been recent changes to permitting laws that strengthen oversight and help prevent illegal firearms from reaching our streets. These reforms, combined with the task force's work, target the social factors that contribute to youth involvement in gun

violence. The task force actively engages victims and perpetrators in constructive dialogue while advocating for critical resources to support prevention and intervention programs.

This task force highlights the strength of unified leadership. Through collaboration among government, law enforcement, nonprofits, and businesses, we are making significant strides toward safer communities for all Westchester County residents. ■