



“NEWS FOR MY NEIGHBORS”

County Legislator Ed Day

(District #5 New City-Haverstraw)

DECEMBER 2009

“The MTA has got to go”

From my first year as your legislator, I have been on the forefront of the fight to get us fair value for the millions of dollars we convey for the meager services the MTA provides to Rockland. We have held hearings, threatened, and cajoled, all to no avail.

Their response? Marginal service at five stations AND the latest insult– A “Mobility” payroll tax on all levels of government, business, and schools. Who pays? We ALL do — through higher taxes and consumer costs estimated as an 8% increase in our cost of living here!

Enough is enough, and to that end I introduced successful legislation now pending in Albany to allow us to withdraw from the MTA. The “value gap”, the amount we pay over and above service received, is now at \$60 million, an amount that unbelievably exceeds the ENTIRE amount of ALL County property tax collected. It is time we consider withdrawal; look at contracting directly for services in order to both maintain a public transportation component and get fair value for your hard earned tax dollars.

The MTA math? ONLY 1% of Rocklanders using five stations + unremarkable service= \$60 million! I don't think so, and I hope you agree. This made zero sense in good times, and with challenges we are all facing in these tight fiscal times, we can no longer afford to be treated like the proverbial stepchild with a bank account.



Legislator Ed Day presented the Distinguished Service Award of Rockland to Mr. Tom Bender (center) for his actions in saving the life of New City resident Bill Boyd (r). Mr. Bender performed CPR on Mr. Boyd when he collapsed and stopped breathing while they were playing racquetball. Both men are friends and retired members of the NYPD, and Legislator Day, himself a former NYPD Detective Commander, said “This is just an example of what the law enforcement profession is about; a quiet, matter of fact, yet heroic approach to crisis.”



Legislator Ed Day, a member of the Foundation Board of ARC of Rockland is seen here proudly leading the ARC contingent at this year's St. Patrick's Day parade in Pearl River. Marching with Legislator Day is ARC of Rockland president, Ms. Audrey Tarantino.

Sign up for **FREE** e-mail “**Community Updates**”; contact Ed with your thoughts; and stay in touch with “your” County Legislator by emailing Ed at - daye@co.rockland.ny.us

Telephone Contact - Ms. Colleen Johnson, Legislative Constituent Assistant - 638-5752 or 638-5100

Mail - **Legislator Ed Day** - Rockland County Legislature - 11 New Hempstead Road - New City, NY 10956

"I recognized the need to take effective steps designed to minimize the chance that our residents fall victim to the criminal conduct of unscrupulous contractors"

Enhanced Protection for Consumers

For the last two years, I have been working with our Consumer Protection and law enforcement professionals to deal with the increasing incidents of illegal contractors ripping off the citizens of this community. With 163 criminal cases in 2008 alone, it was clear we needed to step up on this issue. With a strong background in law enforcement, I am particularly sensitive to seeing my neighbors victimized.

We are not focusing on the contractor who just did not know better, but rather the criminal opportunist who has operated for one, two, and sometimes three years without a license,

along with the traveling bands of itinerant workers, commonly referred to as "gypsy pavers", who traverse our neighborhoods with the sole intention of ripping people off.

I recognized the need to take effective steps designed to minimize the chance that our residents fall victim to the criminal conduct of unscrupulous contractors, and introduced Local Law # 3/2009 that now enables law enforcement to finally do what a number of other municipalities can do; close a legal loophole and allow authorities to impound their equipment, stopping them cold.

This authority is focused on those who consistently ignore the rules honest contractors abide by, and even provides for appropriate discretion and a mechanism to have the tools returned for those who truly are not familiar with licensing regulations.

While the law enforcing the licensing of contractors now has additional teeth, nothing can substitute for good sense. Never deal with someone who shows up at your door with a "bargain"; do your due diligence when hiring a contractor; and always check out prospective contractors with our Consumer Protection Department.

Advocating For Our Community

As a former Civic Association president, I am keenly aware of the importance of advocacy in support of important local initiatives designed to make your life a little bit easier; a little bit safer; and a little bit simpler.

DOWNTOWN NEW CITY

I am very proud to report I sponsored successful legislation that will result in County funding for the purchase of the property directly in front of Dutch Gardens. The plan is for this entire area to be cleared and become a well appointed gateway to this historic park, opening up use by our residents and visitors. This was an effort that came out of the New City Visioning Committee on which I served, and is a testament to Town and County government working together with citizens and local business, all looking to bring a truly unique component to the revitalization of the New City Hamlet Center. A special acknowledgement to my legislative colleagues, the County Executive, and Clarkstown Town Supervisor.

THE FAA REDESIGN PLAN

Back in 2007, the FAA was found to have been hatching an "Air Redesign Plan" that would shift hundreds of daily flights traveling as low as 5000 feet over Rockland County. The plan was finally uncovered, and I found the FAA giving more credence to the vegetables in Hunts Point Market and prisoners in Rikers Island than to the good citizens of our County, all in the name of shaving a few minutes off selected flights.

Joined in unanimity with my colleagues, legislation was introduced, letters written, rallies attended, the news media brought into our fight, and finally we sued the FAA in an effort to get this odious plan overturned. Presently we have an application pending before the United States Supreme Court, and we are all hopeful that they will see the need to stop this plan immediately. We cannot allow this plan to forever negatively impact both the landscape and our families here in Rockland County.

PROTECTING OUR SENIORS

We are fortunate to have a number of support agencies that do great work for the people in Rockland, and one such organization is TRIAD of Rockland County.

TRIAD is a program which focuses on reducing victimization of older Americans and the enhancement of the delivery of law enforcement services to these individuals through a collaboration between local police, the Sheriff's Department, and senior citizen organizations. They have recently begun groundwork to create the Silver Alert Program, modeled after the Amber Alert System which focuses on missing adults who suffer from Alzheimer's disease, dementia, and developmental or cognitive impairments.

I have joined my colleagues in ensuring that TRIAD's good work in service to our seniors continues unabated as we proceed through these difficult economic times. Simply put, it is the right thing to do.



Legislator Day, legislative liaison to Jawonio, presented Paul Tendler, outgoing Executive Director of Jawonio, the Distinguished Service Award on behalf of the Rockland County Legislature in recognition of three decades of dedicated service to the developmentally disabled community.

Protecting our Families from Sex Offenders

A court ruling essentially suspended a law that I authored some time ago, the Sex Offender Free Zone Law, which established restrictions on where predatory sex offenders could reside, work, or loiter. The decision pointed to some recently added State regulations, determined that only the State alone can legislate in this area, and precluded our local government from enhancing efforts here.

Years in law enforcement taught me much, including the fact court cases do not always go your way. I am proud of what was done here locally; emulated by many counties afterwards; and the attention given over the last four years to the

issue of predatory sex offenders moving into our community.

It is my view that these added State "policies" are simply not comprehensive enough and do not give enough weight to the rights of this community. The answer is not to hope for State legislation, but rather commit to finding new ways to protect our families. Case in point — When a family with a first grader inadvertently discovered that a Level 3 sex offender lived right down the street from them for some time, and were unaware of that. They raised the question of the notification policy to their school, and found that a notification did go out ... a few years earlier and before their family registered at the school.

An excellent strategy ... go to the Rockland County Sheriff's Department website listing @ http://www.sheriffalerts.com/cap_main.php?office=54243 where you may make inquiry by neighborhood, name, or obtain a full listing of information on sex offenders in the community. You can even sign up for e mail alerts that will advise families when a convicted sex offender moves into the community. These "e-alerts" work, as I have received them.

I will leave no stone unturned in doing my utmost to identify strategies and initiate legislation designed to keep our families safe. I believe that one more victim is one victim too much.

Our Environment

Regardless of one's income, station in life, or political affiliation, it is an incontrovertible fact that our one most common denominator is the environment we all share. It is critical that we as elected officials take measured steps to ensure we all reap the benefits of a healthy environment.

I am sure you have heard of a number of efforts offered to accomplish just that. But good intentions that are not properly managed can both defeat the best of intentions and result in unnecessary costs to taxpayers. It was with that in mind that I approached our County Purchasing professionals in an ef-

fort to create a comprehensive approach in establishing an environmentally smart approach to procurement policy.

What we were able to accomplish was a detailed process and strategy that would authorize a sustainable procurement policy, integrating fiscal, health, and environmental factors into the County's process of acquiring goods and services.

In my view, this is both good government and smart government, and am proud to have been joined in this now bipartisan effort by my colleague Legislator Wolfe. The legislation amending the County of Rock-

land Procurement Policy has been introduced and now moves its way through the legislative process to what we hope will become a permanent change in the way we do business .

Simply put, the objective here is to establish an efficient and balanced "green" procurement policy that respects our environment and does so without inflicting our already overburdened taxpayers with unnecessary costs.

"The most common denominator in our community is the environment we all share, and we need to establish policies that respects that reality without inflicting our overburdened taxpayers with unnecessary costs"

Reading Programs

For many years, I have been involved in our local "Parents as Reading Partners" programs, and now as an elected official, I believe very strongly that role is even more critical. I see it as an opportunity as your representative to help instill in our children the joy of reading and important life lessons contained within these stories. The fact that I typically run into some of the youngsters I coach just makes it more fun! Two of these events from the spring included (l) Laurel Plains and (r) Little Tor Elementary Schools.



Legislator Day, joined by legislative colleague Jay Hood, was on hand at the S.W. Johnson Fire Engine Company in Garnerville to acknowledge the "Homecoming" of Dorothy O'Donnell, descendant of Samuel Johnson the fire company's namesake. He thanked Dorothy for being there "so we are all reminded of exactly what that connection to history means to our community, and how that helps sustain us always, through good times and bad."

County Legislator *Ed Day*

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“I view being here in these chambers not as an entitlement, but rather as a privilege. I will bring forward the simple, yet rightfully expected notion of “people over politics”, and continue to provide for this community a ground up, hands on approach to the representation of, and advocacy for, the people. My pledge to you is simple; I will serve the people of Rockland tirelessly and to the absolute best of my ability; I will meet head on the challenges that confront our families; I will continue to make every effort to make life just a little bit easier for those whom I serve.

Legislator Ed Day, swearing in ceremony, Rockland County Legislature, January 3rd, 2008

2009 Legislative Session

- Minority Leader - Rockland County Legislature
- Serves on Public Safety, Planning and Public Works, and Economic Development Committees
- Legislative Liaison to ARC of Rockland, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Rockland, and Jawonio

Important Phone Numbers	
<i>EMERGENCY 911</i>	
County Information	638-5000
County Clerk	638-5070
Consumer Protection	708-7600
Gas Leaks “O&R”	(800) 533-5325
Power Outage “O&R”	(877) 434-4100
Poison Control	(800) 222-1222
Suicide Hot Line	354-6500
Senior Care Help Line	354-3444
Mental Health Hotline	364-2200
Rape Crisis Center	634-3344
Emergency Shelter	364-2907
Clarkstown Town Hall	639-2000
Clarkstown Police	639-5800
Haverstraw Town Hall	429-2200
Haverstraw Police	354-1500

“Honoring True Heroes”



Legislator Day was the keynote speaker at the New City Fire Department Memorial Day ceremony held at the New City firehouse.

During his brief address, he thanked those who came out to honor those who gave all, and commented that, as a father of a soldier, just how special that was to him personally. He drew a parallel to those volunteers who serve here with our warriors in the Armed Forces, saying “It is fitting that we gather in front of the building that serves as the forward operating base in protection of our community to honor those who laid down their lives to give us liberty”.

“Here and There”



Legislator Day, a regular blood donor, was at St. Augustine’s Church supporting a blood drive organized by Sarah Vitro’s Girl Scout Gold Award project.



Legislator Day was doing his part as a Board member of the New City Chamber of Commerce to further the revitalization of New City by actively supporting the summer concert series held on the Courthouse Lawn this summer. Pictured here with Legislator Day is the Rockland County Sheriff’s Chief of Patrol Louis Falco and Chamber president Doug Staley.