



# Rockland County Legislator Alden H. Wolfe

Chairman of the Legislature

District 6 - Suffern, Monsey, Montebello

Fall 2015

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## An Update From Your Legislator

Dear Neighbor,

Here's a quick update to make you aware of goings on in the Sixth Legislative District and around the County. I've been involved in some exciting projects, and as always, I welcome your ideas and comments.

I wish you a happy, healthy Labor Day holiday, a smooth transition back to school, and for those celebrating Rosh Hashanah, a sweet new year.

Very truly yours,  
Alden H. Wolfe

## Wolfe: Repeal MTA Taxes Now

Rockland County Legislature Chairman Alden H. Wolfe has called for the repeal of the unfair and costly MTA taxes during a legislative meeting.

"These taxes and fees are costing Rockland's businesses and residents millions of dollars but bringing very few, if any, benefits to them," Wolfe said. "They must be repealed now."

Since 2009, Rockland residents have been forced to pay more than \$35 million in MTA Supplemental Vehicle Registration and Licensing Fees, according to state Department of Motor Vehicles records. Millions more have been paid out in the form of payroll taxes by businesses and nonprofit organizations.

Local governments have not been immune, a double-

whammy for taxpayers. In the case of Rockland County government alone, the payroll tax has cost taxpayers more than \$3.3 million since 2009, with another \$556,595 expected to be paid out in 2015.

"This is an anti-job creation tax," Wolfe said. "It's a flat-out job killer and it's past time for it to go."

To add insult to injury, NJ Transit will eliminate the 12:45 a.m. on Sept. 30, to help close a \$56 million gap in the \$2.1 billion in its operating budget.

Legislator Wolfe said, "This train provides an excellent option for people who want to enjoy nightlife in the city—and don't want to drive. I realize this isn't MTA—but once again Rockland gets stuck with fewer transit options."



### VCS Award

The Rockland County Legislature Received an Award from VCS for Restoring Funding to Rockland Non-Profits in the 2015 Budget!

Photo: (L to R) VCS Executive Director Sarah Goforth, Rockland County Legislature Chairman Alden Wolfe, County Legislator Richard Diaz, VCS Board Member Stephen Papas.

## Opposing Water Surcharge

Legislator Alden Wolfe has been a staunch opponent of United Water's request for a \$50 million surcharge for its proposed desalination plant.

"The project isn't right for Rockland," Wolfe said. "Our ratepayers should not be further strapped with costs for the most expensive means to increase our water supply. I'm confident that the Water Resources Management Task Force will arrive at a sensible conservation plan. Above all, we must repair our infrastructure, as too much water is being lost every day through leaky pipes."

To that end, Alden has expressed his strong opposition to United Water's recent attempts to raise water rates on Rocklanders. More must be done to explore sustainable and cost-effective plans to provide clean drinking water to Rockland.

## Recognizing Volunteers at Fountain View



Rockland County Legislator Alden Wolfe recently visited with the residents of the Fountain View Retirement Community to recognize volunteers. "I am proud to honor the many individuals who give so much of their time and themselves to improve our community and the lives of its residents," said Wolfe. When it comes to Rockland's aging population, Alden has been working hard to expand public transportation and other needed services aimed at making Rockland County more senior-friendly.

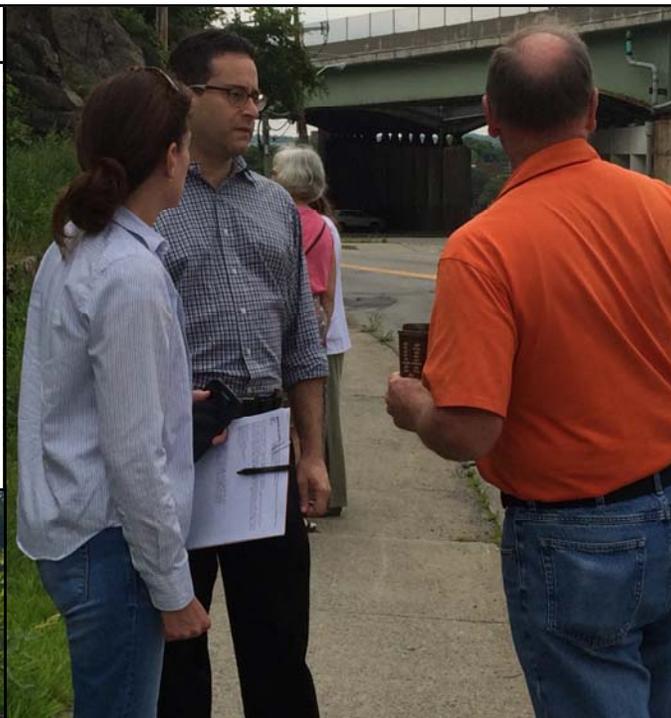
## Legislator Wolfe Working to Repair Roads Around Rockland

### Montebello Bridge Set to Reopen

Alden Wolfe has been continually working on the rebuilding of the Montebello Bridge, which was destroyed during Tropical Storm Irene.

"I applaud the patience of all who traveled regularly on the bridge," Wolfe said. "Soon we will have a beautiful new and strong bridge that will be able to better withstand major weather events."

In recent days, Wolfe announced that construction of the bridge is almost done. The utility lines are being installed, and the stonework around the bridge is being completed. Finally, the bridge decking and guide rails are being put up. The Highway Department estimates that the project will be completed by the end of September.



Legislator Wolfe Meets with NYS Department Of Transportation officials to improve hiker and tourist access to the Harriman trails.



The Montebello Bridge being laid into place. The project to replace the Montebello Bridge was shepherded by Alden Wolfe, and is almost finished.

### Local Roads Repaved

The Rockland County Legislature recently approved the resurfacing of several County roads. Among these was a major project to resurface Saddle River Road from Milrose Lane to Route 59 in Alden Wolfe's legislative district.

Potholes and other major surface issues were taken care of, and our roads are now safer and cleaner for residents.

### Wolfe Promotes Bicycle Safety

During the summer, Legislator Wolfe attended one of the Community Outreach Center's many bicycle safety outreach workshops where local police officers instruct parents and children on the importance of wearing a properly fitted helmet. "It's critical that our children understand that bike helmets are a matter of life and death," said Wolfe, adding, "The Community Outreach Center's (COC) safety programs inform parents on the need for safety at all times, because accidents happen."

Other programs COC provides include parent outreach on the critical need for car seats and how to install those correctly. According to COC, "3 out of 4 well-informed parents install child car seats incorrect-

ly, or fail to buckle up their children appropriately, providing minimal or no protection." Wolfe agrees. "We all assume we're doing the best for our kids, but we can all use a refresher course to ensure the safety of all children for whom we are responsible."

In addition to safety sessions, COC sends out monthly safety awareness publications on a variety of topics such as rules for home fire safety, winter driving, CPR, electrical safety, playground hazards, poison prevention, and more.

Wolfe said, "Events like these are a reminder that we can't take safety for granted. I

am grateful that COC has taken the lead in educating Rockland families on how to minimize the everyday risks we all face."



Legislator Wolfe putting a bicycle helmet on a child during the recent COC bicycle safety event in Monsey.

# Wolfe Promotes Western Ramapo as Hiking Destination



Suffern Is Ready For Hikers: Legislator Alden Wolfe holds future trail sign with Alexandria Evans of the Suffern Chamber of Commerce.

A little over a year ago, Alden Wolfe pulled together specialists in tourism, transit and recreation to figure out how to attract tourists from New York City, Bergen County and beyond to Rockland.

“Western Ramapo has it all - world class hiking trails in Harriman State Park, Suffern’s great restaurants, and rail access from three points,” Wolfe said. “I’m very excited about the momentum this concept has generated.”

Since the initial meeting, Wolfe’s concept has attracted interest and participation from many groups and organizations, including New Jersey Transit and the New York-New Jersey Trail Conference.

“The Suffern Chamber of Commerce, the Village of

Suffern and the Trail Conference have been pivotal in making this happen,” Wolfe said. “A number of proposals have been discussed, including shuttle buses from various points in Harriman.” On Sept. 19th, there will be a rollout of various options sponsored by the Village of Suffern and the Suffern Chamber.

Wolfe became interested in this project when he saw the explosion of hikers traveling to hiking destinations on the eastern side of the river to points much farther than Suffern.

“Western Ramapo offers the most options - and better places for hungry hikers to enjoy a meal,” Wolfe said. “I am very optimistic that in the near future, recreational tourism will become a major part of the economy of what I like to call



## Legislator Wolfe Promotes Recreational Tourism at Suffern Chamber of Commerce Mixer

Legislator Alden Wolfe was joined by other speakers at the Suffern Chamber of Commerce Mixer where he promoted recreational tourism.

(Left to Right) Josh Goldstein of Orange Avenue Associates ( The Orange Avenue Project - Condominiums), Mayor Trish Abato, Jonathan Turco of Turco Landscaping, Suffern Chamber President Aurelius Licata of Licata Insurance Management, and Ariel Aufgang of Aufgang Architects.

## Rockland Water Resources Management Task Force Update

A new report submitted by world-renowned water use analyst Amy Vickers indicates that Rockland's water supply is far more robust than previously thought.

Dr. Albert Appleton, former head of New York City's Department of Environmental Protection, stated, "Rockland doesn't have a water supply problem, it has a water management problem." Vickers' study of

Rockland's water supply found that we lose approximately seven million gallons per day through leaky pipes. United Water's estimate is significantly lower. The study was undertaken in accordance with the Public Service Commission's November 2014 order instructing UWNY to work with the Task Force to identify ways to reduce water demand by 2 million gallons per day.

Wolfe said, "I'm eager to see the Task Force move ahead with its study and recommendation of the most effective ways we can conserve water, because water must be affordable. Rockland has the fifth highest rainfall among New York State's counties - and we're a state with good precipitation rates. We must solve our water management problems without more rate increases."

## Wolfe Assembles Agencies to Fight Hunger in Rockland

Legislator Alden Wolfe has announced plans to create a task force to reduce food waste to benefit hungry neighbors. Wolfe said, "I feel that bringing together a group of concerned and knowledgeable citizens is the best way to tackle this. There are so many opportunities when it comes to food recovery, from preventing waste to reducing organics sent to landfills."

Relief agencies estimate that more than 10 percent of Rockland's 315,000 residents go to bed hungry or without knowing where their next meal is coming from.

"It's a tragedy that in Rockland County in 2015, there are people who go hungry," Wolfe said. "What's truly unforgivable is that people are hungry amidst out-of-control food waste."

As much as 40 percent of the American food supply goes to waste annually, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Wolfe's task force plan follows two successful information sessions that focused on the EPA's Food Recovery Challenge and brought together anti-hunger advocates, business owners, farmers, representatives of the US EPA and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and others.

The EPA's program aims to reduce food waste and in the process, help shrink costs for businesses, reduce municipal use of landfills and provide food to hungry residents.

New York State also wants to reduce the amount of food waste New Yorkers dispose of each day from about 4 pounds per person per day to about half-a-pound per person per day in the next 15 years, said Terry Laibach of the DEC, who indicated that the state plans some financial help and technical assistance in the fight against food waste.

Wolfe said, "We have the expertise in Rockland to not only participate in these solutions, but we can attract grant money coming from Albany. Having a task force in place will make Rockland 'shovel ready' for such an important project."



Legislator Wolfe hosts a meeting of the Food Recovery Task Force. "I am optimistic that we can end hunger in our county, because we have agencies that work miracles every day," Wolfe said.



**It continues to be a rewarding experience to serve as your Rockland County Legislator. Thank you for your trust and confidence as we work to make Rockland a better place. If you would like more information on these or any other issues, or need assistance: Feel free to call my office at (845) 638-5100, or e-mail me at [WolfeA@co.rockland.ny.us](mailto:WolfeA@co.rockland.ny.us)**

**ALDEN H. WOLFE**  
County Legislator  
Chairman