



Rockland County Legislator Aney Paul 2015 - District 14 Newsletter

*Serving the Communities of Nanuet, New City, Chestnut Ridge,
Pomona, Spring Valley, Monsey, and Hillcrest*

Spring 2015

Legislature Passes Budget Under 2% Tax Cap

My Legislative colleagues and I, with a great deal of input from an engaged public, ended a lengthy Budget process by passing a 2015 Budget that not only passed under the 2% Tax Cap, but did so via bipartisan support with a vote of 15 to 2. It also restored many of the cuts proposed by the County Executive and reduced the proposed property tax increase to 1.90%, ensuring compliance with the tax cap legislation and eligibility for tax rebates.

Two key items in the Budget were restored while still staying within the tax cap. Both the partial restoration of the Sheriff's Patrol Division and the restoration of funding to not-for-profit organizations meant that residents' safety and quality of life would not be jeopardized and costs would not be passed down to the towns. Each provides vital services to county residents that can not be replicated and it would have cost Rocklanders far more down

the road had they been eliminated or cut.

We must think of our not-for-profit organizations and our Sheriff's Department as investments in our infrastructure. If we build a weak infrastructure now, by cutting the important and preventative services these agencies provide, we will pay millions for it down the road.

Cutting funding for all not-for-profit contract agencies and our Sheriff's Department is not only fiscally irresponsi-

ble, but it does not reflect our common values as a community. The people of Rockland County have spoken and we have listened. I am proud that we presented a budget that represents our shared values.



Legislator Aney Paul Calls for Legislation to Save Women's Lives

In March, I sponsored a resolution urging the New York State Assembly to pass Bill A00917, an act to amend the insurance law in relation to health insurance coverage for diagnostic testing for ovarian cancer.

The bill provides that every health insurance policy that provides coverage for hospital, surgical or medical care shall provide coverage for the standard diagnostic testing for ovarian cancer upon the recommendation of a physician. Such standard diagnostic testing shall include a pelvic examination, a sonogram and a CA 125 blood test, and related laboratory and diagnostic services.

There are few if any early symptoms of ovarian cancer, and it is often only detected at a later stage once the cancer has spread. According to the American Cancer society, while ovarian cancer accounts for about 3% of cancers among women, it causes more deaths than any other cancer of the female reproductive system. "Estimates for ovarian cancer in the United States for 2015 are about 21,290 women will receive a new diagnosis of ovarian cancer and about 14,180 women will die from ovarian cancer." **Access to early diagnostic testing is crucial to effective treatment.**

Legislator Paul Sponsors Discussion on Anellotech - Public Welcome on March 31, 2015

Many residents have questions regarding proposals for the Anellotech property. Together with my colleagues, Chairman Alden H. Wolfe and Legislators Ilan Schoenberger, and Patrick Moroney, I am sponsoring a discussion item regarding the Anellotech Plant proposal at the former Pfizer site in Pearl River. I invite members of the public to the March 31st meeting to learn details of the proposal and discuss the issues and concerns they may have.

The meeting is scheduled on Tuesday, March 31, 2015, during the Planning & Public Works committee, at 7:00 P.M.

Legislature Appoints Grant Valentine to Rockland Community College's Board of Trustees

The Rockland County Legislature unanimously approved the appointment of Mr. Grant Valentine, EJD to the Rockland Community College Board of Trustees. I was pleased to sponsor the appointment, which was co-sponsored by Chairman of the Legislature Alden H. Wolfe.

Grant Valentine is an esteemed member of our community and has distinguished himself as an advocate for youth and education. He presently serves as Chairman of the Board of a local charter school where he has encouraged the development of a culture that is conducive to academic achievement, student learning, and staff growth.

Mr. Valentine will join the ten member Board of Trustees that has the responsibility

of periodically reviewing and evaluating the policies and procedures of the college. I am certain that he will be a great asset to the RCC Board of Trustees and the student body.



Legislator Aney Paul's Walking Program: "Building a Healthy Community"

Thank you and congratulations to everybody who has committed to join my 8-week Walking Program on our journey together to building a healthier community. I would like to thank Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski's representative, Dustin Hausner, The Nanuet Lions Club, the Nanuet Leo Lions, the Indian Nurses Association, Jeevan Jyodi (Indian Senior Citizen Group), and all the Rock-

landers that made our February kickoff a big success! Thank you also to the Palisades Center for providing a great venue to exercise during the winter.

Research has proven that walking and moderate physical activity can help reduce the risk of coronary heart disease, improve blood pressure and blood sugar levels, maintain body weight and lower the risk of obesity, and reduce

the risk of (type 2) diabetes. Obesity is a growing concern, with more than one-third of U.S. adults considered obese, so for a number of years I have organized walking groups to help Rockland residents improve their health. This new walking group was begun in conjunction with the Rockland County Department of Health's "Steps to a Healthier Rockland," which provided free pedometers to our walk-



Legislator Paul's Advocacy Leads to New Safety Measures by Tennyson Park, Nanuet - Clarkstown

I brought residents' concerns regarding cars speeding by Tennyson Park in Nanuet to the Town of Clarkstown. As a result, I am pleased to report that Clarkstown's Traffic and Traffic Fire Safety Advisory Board determined that two 30 mph speed signs should be installed at the entrance and mid-point of Tennyson Drive. Additionally, they have requested increased police enforcement in that area along with the installation of a radar notification speed limit sign in the spring. With the weather warming up, please drive slowly by playgrounds and watch out for children!

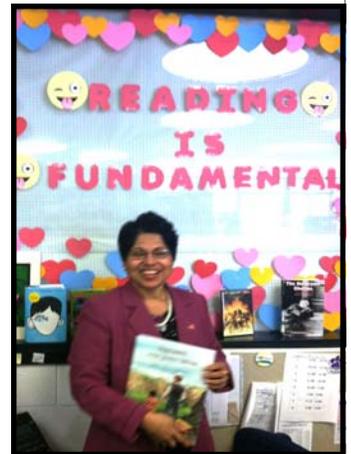
Legislator Paul Urges Safeguards for Children, Due to Dangers of Liquid Nicotine

Following the tragic death of a toddler from liquid nicotine in December, I wrote to Governor Cuomo urging him to sign legislation that would mandate child-proof bottles for this toxic substance used in E-cigarettes. I am pleased to announce that he has now signed this life saving legislation into law. I will also continue to urge our federal representatives to finally put through the previously proposed FDA regulations on E-cigarettes, as per the legislation I sponsored earlier last year that passed the Legislature.

Chestnut Ridge & Summit Park Schools Read-In Days



It is a privilege visiting the students in District 14 and I always look forward to being invited to read to classes during their annual Read-In days. This year, I was fortunate to read to classes at both Chestnut Ridge Middle School and Summit Park Elementary School.



Legislator Aney Paul Denounces Offensive Anti-Irish Merchandise



derogatory and offensive St. Patrick's Day T-shirts and paraphernalia denigrating Irish-American culture at stores like Spencers and Walmart. Rockland is a multicultural community that prides itself on its diversity. The sale of such merchandise is both divisive and offensive. It is incumbent upon all of us to speak out when any group faces blatant intolerance.

(photo left to right: NYS Assemblyman Ken Zebrowski, Legislator Ilan Schoenberger, Ramapo Councilman Pat Withers, Legislator Aney Paul, & Legislator Pat Moroney, who gathered a petition with 2,000 signatures to oppose the sale of these items.)

In October, well in advance of this year's St. Patrick Day's celebrations, I spoke at a press conference at the Rockland County Legislature denouncing the manufacture and sale of

Around the Community with Aney



Congratulating new citizens at a Naturalization Ceremony.



Supporting Sheriff Lou Falco III and the Rockland County Sheriff's Civil Division as they were honored at a ceremony for the Civil Division's re-accreditation by the New York State Sheriffs' Association.



Participating in Ramapo High School memorial for the victims of the 2010 earthquake in Haiti .



Volunteering to serve lunch at St. Joseph's Church in Spring Valley on Thanksgiving Day.



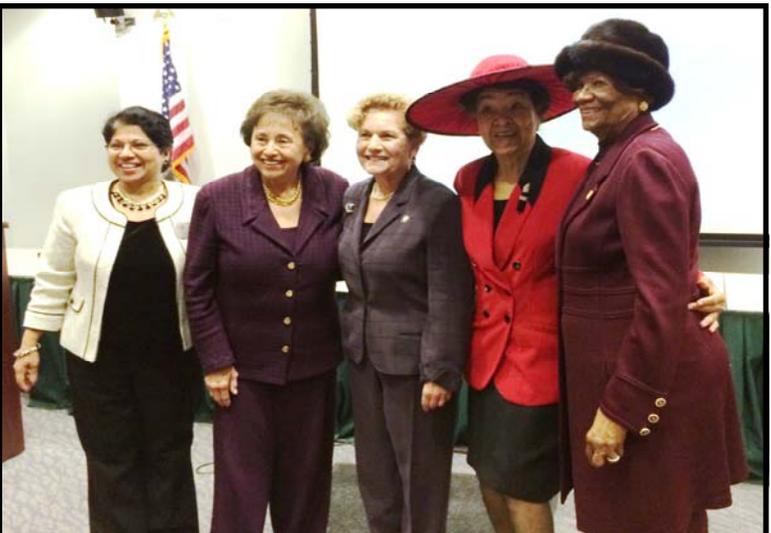
Sharing expertise at a Health Fair in Spring Valley for the Latino community, held at the Ramapo Cultural Arts Theater.



Donating toys for kids in need at the MLK Center in Spring Valley, one of Rockland County's invaluable not-for-profit organizations.



Encouraging participants at one of the Health Department Flu Vaccine Clinics at the Robert L. Yeager Health Center.



Joining Assemblywoman Ellen Jaffee at her Swearing-in Ceremony along with Rep. Nita Lowey, Frances Pratt, President, Spring Valley NAACP, and Dr. Hazel Dukes, President, New York State Conference, NAACP.

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