



November 16, 2010

The County Budget

The 2011 Proposed County Budget has been released. For full details, see:

<http://www.westchestergov.com/budget>

The proposed allocation for Westchester Library System (WLS) is \$1 Million; and a summary of the general approval process for the County Budget follows:

- County Executive releases proposed version of the budget.
- Proposed budget is submitted to the Board of Legislators for review and approval
- Board of Legislators' Committee of Budget and Appropriations (B&A) is the lead Committee for review of the Executive's submission
- B&A Committee meets daily to review each department's request
- To insure public input, the Board of Legislators schedules Budget Hearings; this year's have been scheduled as follows:

Wednesday, November 17, 7:00 PM [for residents who live in Yonkers, New Rochelle, Mount Vernon, Bronxville, Pelham, Pelham Manor, Eastchester and Tuckahoe]	Riverfront Library in Yonkers One Larkin Center Yonkers, NY
Tuesday, November 23, 7:00 PM [for residents who live in Lewisboro, North Salem, Somers, Yorktown, Cortlandt, New Castle, Bedford, Pound Ridge, Mount Kisco, Peekskill, Croton-on-Hudson, Buchanan, Ossining and Briarcliff Manor]	Pleasantville High School 60 Romer Avenue Pleasantville, NY

- Board of Legislators must adopt the budget for the coming year no later than December 27th
- County Executive has veto power over increases made by the Board; a two-thirds vote of all members of the Board is required to override the County Executive's veto.

If anyone is interested in attending and/or speaking at one of the public hearings, please contact Elise Burke at the WLS Headquarters at 914-231-3225 for further information. You can also help by emailing, calling or writing one of the members of the Budget & Appropriations Committee. Their contact information along with a number of talking points about WLS Services are included on the next page.

Terry L. Kirchner
Executive Director

Westchester Library System – 2010 County TALKING POINTS

Efficiency – Consolidation of Services

Cataloging Service:

- ⇒ This centralized processing of materials saves our member libraries over **80%** versus individual processing
- ⇒ Interlibrary Loan (ILL) upgraded to an online system in 2010 – This will enable library users to place ILL requests directly, saving library staff time and creating a more efficient transaction.

Delivery Service:

- ⇒ More than **2.5 million** items were delivered in 2009 to member libraries on behalf of their users.
- ⇒ The cost per delivery transaction is approximately **18¢**, almost a third the price of a U.S. postage stamp – this service is very cost effective.
- ⇒ Distribution of informational brochures and other materials from Westchester County departments and agencies helps save thousands of dollars.

Preparation of the County's Work Force

- ⇒ **624** computers for public use and an extensive wireless network available for laptop users—providing the only source of free Internet access countywide
- ⇒ *Learning Ambassadors Project:* **7** Libraries participated in this innovative program to support the work experience needs of underserved youth in Westchester. **8** Learning Ambassadors successfully completed a week of intensive pre-service training, attended a workshop on financial literacy relevant to first work and pay experiences, and were gainfully employed at the participating libraries over the summer.
- ⇒ Conducted Job Search Skills Training covering topics such as resumes, job applications, interviews, and job search techniques
- ⇒ Developed a Teen Job Finder Guide to assist youth with finding employment

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All legislators can be written to at the following address: The Honorable Jane Doe, The County Board of Legislators, 800 Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601 [Dear Ms. Doe:]