



E-News June 2015

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EVENTS:

Tell the Public Service Commission (PSC) No Surcharge. Comments are due by Friday, July 3rd.

Every voice counts!

You can sign a petition requesting a hearing on UWN's surcharge by visiting sustainablerockland.org

Dear Friend,

June is LGBTQ Pride Month. Rockland was the first county in the lower Hudson Valley to organize a Gay Pride event. Today, over 150 non-profit agencies, community organizations, faith communities, municipalities and elected officials co-sponsor VCS Pride Nyack, sadly, I was unable to attend for the first time in 14 years.



In this issue you can read more about other events that bring our community together as well as the latest update on East Ramapo. The 2015 Legislative Session was scheduled to end on June 17th but there is still more work to be done before we go home. Stay tuned.

~Ellen~



East Ramapo Monitor Bill

Oversight of the School Board by a state Monitor was the primary recommendation made by Fiscal Monitor Hank Greenberg in his report. The bill ([A.5355](#)) I sponsored with my colleague Assemblymember Ken Zebrowski included that strong oversight, and after debating it in the Assembly, it passed with bi-partisan support 80-60. However, on June 15th a new bill was [offered by the Senate that weakens](#) the monitor's role and powers. Providing significant authority to the Monitor is essential to an effective bill. Without this crucial language we believe the Senate bill does not provide appropriate oversight. This is not about taking a strong

stand for the sake of being right. Compromise is often how legislation passes; we did our best to negotiate with Senate leadership, however, the Senate bill, even with the most recent amendments, would appoint a Monitor whose powers would duplicate those powers already given to the State Education Department. Be assured we will continue to work on the behalf of the children of East Ramapo.

Hillburn School Listed on State Register of Historic Places

On June 11th, the New York State Board for Historic Preservation [voted to list the Hillburn School on the State Register of Historic Places](#) Hillburn's Main School, one of the last formally segregated schools in New York State, is significant at the state level in the areas of law and social history as the focus of the prominent 1943 school desegregation battle fought by Thurgood Marshall. About seven years ago brothers of the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity and members of the NAACP met with me to discuss their many efforts around the recognition of Thurgood Marshall and the significance of the Main School. I am continuing our work to have the school listed on the National Register as well. Listing in the registers provides recognition of our national, state and local heritage and assistance in preserving it.



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Pearl River Facility to Manufacture Groundbreaking Flu Vaccine

Keeping our families and older adults healthy is a top priority. That's why I'm pleased to announce that [Protein Sciences Corporation has secured an FDA license to manufacture Flublok](#), its seasonal influenza vaccine, the only flu vaccine made in America by an American company and the only flu vaccine manufactured right here in Pearl River. Rockland County has an opportunity to build well-paying jobs, boost our local economy and the success of the Bio Science Industry in Rockland County.

Planned Parenthood Rockland Benefit

On June 11 Planned Parenthood Hudson Peconic supporters attended the Rockland Benefit at the beautiful home of Annmarie and Bob Uhl, raising \$24,000 for education and training programs in Rockland County. Nyack's own Elliott Forrest was the Master of Ceremonies. Volunteers in the [Teen Information and Peer Services \(TIPS\)](#) program were at the event to talk to guests about their work in the community. These TIPsters complete a 30-hour training program and then engage their peers through educational programs. Last year, they provided 128 programs to 1,700 participants. Special thanks go out to the Benefit Committee, chaired by Geraldine Chery, Carol Fleischmann, Karon Shover-Goldsmith, Denise Lipson, and Johanna Alter Wilson, for their dedication in making this event successful.



Rockland Negro Scholarship Fund Celebrates 50th Anniversary Scholarship Awards



Raquel Laguerre, who was an intern in my office, will be heading to UPenn.

Congratulations to the Rockland Negro Scholarship Fund on achieving this milestone occasion. I am so proud of this organization's remarkable history and heartened by the knowledge that it continues to foster the mission of providing financial support by awarding scholarships to Rockland County African-American college-bound students, who have demonstrated financial need and displayed academic promise. Best wishes to all the scholarship recipients, graduates and others who have paved the way. Pictured is award recipient

Boss Bill Banning Employer Discrimination Passes Assembly

The Boss Bill, which I sponsored in the Assembly, would ban employers from discriminating against employees on the basis of their personal reproductive health decisions. The bill ([A.1142-A/S.2709-A](#)), passed the Assembly by a vote of 114 to 33, with bi-partisan support. [Sen. Liz Krueger \(D-28\)](#), the bill's Senate sponsor said, "I congratulate Assembly Member Jaffee and her colleagues on the bill's passage, and I urge the Republican majority in the Senate to follow suit, support the rights of working women, and send this bill to the Governor's desk."

