

## Earth Day Taking Points

First observance of Earth Day occurred on April 22, 1970 for peaceful demonstrations in favor of environmental reform. This year is the 49th anniversary of the first observance of Earth Day, which is now observed globally in over 190 nations.

But really, we must all remember that EVERYDAY SHOULD BE EARTH DAY.

That's how we in Mount Vernon feel, so I'll describe some of our day-to-day work to make every day Earth Day.

- We are in active discussions with LimeBike to bring their bike-sharing program to Mount Vernon. LimeBike already operates in our neighbor Yonkers and the bike-sharing program's users are riding the LimeBikes into Mount Vernon. So, it only makes sense to expand LimeBike into Mount Vernon so that our residents can improve their commutes.
- This week two of our public schools will have a park clean-up and a launch of a recycling program.
- On Wednesday the Mount Vernon IDA will host an environmental education seminar at 6:30 p.m.
- Today our city workers are at Hartley Park doing a beautification program.
- We have replaced almost 4,500 old streetlights with new energy efficient LED lights. The streetlight upgrade and replacement will save Mount Vernon taxpayers an annual \$776,000 in energy and maintenance costs while also reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2,500 tons a year—the equivalent of taking 530 cars off the road.
- We have joined Sustainable Westchester Inc., a network of 45 municipalities in Westchester County dedicated to sustainable development.
- We've joined the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County Inc., an environmental organization founded in 1965 as an umbrella organization for citizens, municipalities and organizations committed to preserving and rehabilitating the natural resources of Westchester County.
- My administration has asked the City Council to adopt a Resolution for the creation of a Conservation Advisory Committee to unite citizens and the business community to be part of Environmental Discussion for the City of Mount Vernon.
- My administration also asked the City Council to adopt a resolution that would make the City of Mount Vernon a Climate Smart Community so that we can receive additional support from the State Department of Environmental Conservation and the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority in accessing state grants to fix our environmental issues, and engage in sustainable development with renewable technology.

In summary, Mount Vernon is committed to reducing its carbon footprint. We still have more to do, but we are on the green path to success.