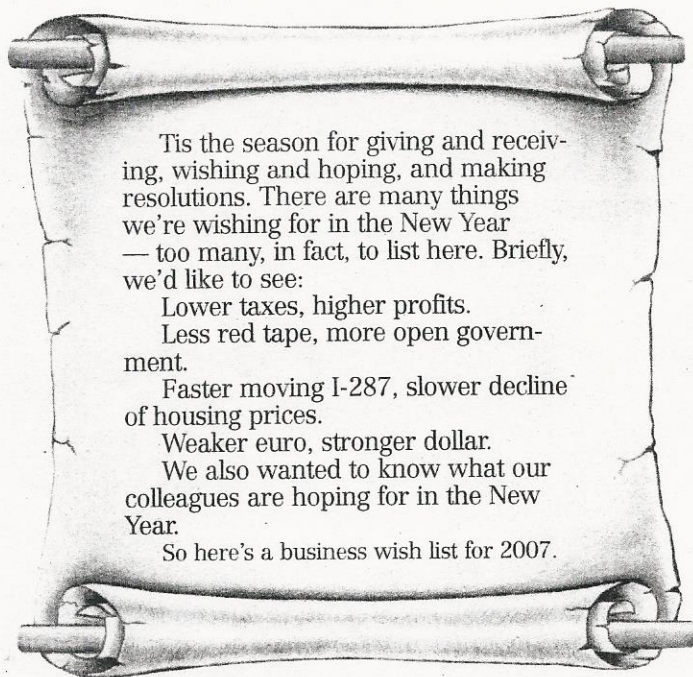


# Our View

12/18/06 WC55



'Tis the season for giving and receiving, wishing and hoping, and making resolutions. There are many things we're wishing for in the New Year — too many, in fact, to list here. Briefly, we'd like to see:

- Lower taxes, higher profits.
  - Less red tape, more open government.
  - Faster moving I-287, slower decline of housing prices.
  - Weaker euro, stronger dollar.
- We also wanted to know what our colleagues are hoping for in the New Year.
- So here's a business wish list for 2007.

"That the chosen solution for the Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 corridor moves forward expeditiously with a new bridge and a commuter rail linking Suffern to Stamford, creating an integrated transportation network for the region."

**Marsha Gordon, president**  
*The Business Council of Westchester, White Plains*

"That the real estate market has bottomed out and begins a strong recovery period and also that interest rates remain low."

**Hank Fries, owner**  
*Henry W. Fries Real Estate, White Plains*

"One wish would be to see our hospitals and doctors get parity on reimbursement rates from HMOs. Right now health-care reimbursement rates range 18 to 30 percent higher in neighboring states. This would restore financial stability to both the hospitals and doctors and help them reinvest back in their organizations for such things as electronic medical records and IT. In the same vein, I would hope to see the upward spiral of the uninsured — roughly 45 million people, hard to believe — change for the better."

**Bill Mooney, president**  
*Westchester County Association*

"To do more for my employees ... I wish my managers knew how much they are appreciated. I wish my customers knew how important each and every order is to us ... for all of us who work for small, underfunded companies the strength in the new year to stick with it."

**John Engel, president**  
*Paper.com, New Canaan*

"That the brain trust responsible for our transportation issues actually come up with a definitive plan on how to alleviate rush-hour vehicle traffic on our major thoroughfares."

**Mike Siegel, executive vice president**  
*CB Richard Ellis, Stamford*

"That nonprofits, and in my case libraries, be recognized as a significant component of the economic engine that fuels Westchester. We are employers, caregivers, service providers, educators, artists and innovators that work hand in hand with the business community to provide information and resources to support active work force and career development participants. ... we look forward to contributing to and participating in the continued growth of the business sector ... it's a mutually beneficial scenario."

**Siobhan Reardon, director**  
*Westchester Library System, Tarrytown*

"That Leake and Watts Services Inc. will succeed in securing those necessary financial resources so as to enable our not-for-profit corporation to continue building brighter tomorrows for vulnerable children and families in need in the Greater New York region."

**Richard Schaab, public relations department**  
*Leake and Watts Services Inc., Yonkers*

"For politicians to put the good of the nation above personal gain. That should win me the absurd wish of the century award."

**Bill Welch, president**  
*Welch Inc., Portsmouth, R.I.*

"I'd like to receive all of Westchester's PR and advertising business. And world peace."

**Bobby Knight, media director**  
*Harrison Edwards, Bedford Hills*

"That employers would stop rejecting prospective employees based on their resume. There is more to a candidate than just their resume!"

**Maureen Mackey, principal**  
*Mackey & Guasco Staffing Associates L.L.C., Darien*

"That more business executives understood the role of the press as a neutral gatekeeper and the consequent value of public relations compared to advertising."

**Willy Gissen, president**  
*Cut-It-Out Editing Inc., Hartsdale*