

JAMES MAXWELL

WCAMPWA 2013 Person of the Year

The Westchester County Association of Municipal Public Works Administrators is proud to announce that James W. Maxwell, a Life Member of the Association, has been selected as the 2013 Person of the Year.

Jim was born in Elmsford, NY but moved to the Town of Mount Pleasant at an early age where he continues to live today.

Jim began his Public Works career when he was recruited out of Westchester Community College in 1970, by the Westchester County Department of Public Works. Following 2 years of active military duty, he spent 17 years in the County's Division of Traffic Engineering and Highway Safety where he worked on the design, operation and maintenance of signs, traffic signals and pavement markings. He also worked closely with Westchester's 43 municipalities as the New York State DOT and local police departments in solving traffic control related problems on the county highway and local roadway systems.

Leaving the engineering side of Public Works, at the end of 1987, he was elected Highway Superintendent in the Town of Mount Pleasant, where he began his public works management career and served the Town from 1988 to the fall of 1993. During this time, he completed his Bachelor's Degree and in 1993 received his Master's Degree in Public Administration from Pace University.

After serving as Superintendent of Public Works in the Village of Mamaroneck from 1993 to 1996, Jim joined the City of New Rochelle as Deputy Commissioner of Public Works. In his role as Deputy Commissioner, he oversaw a staff of approximately 120 individuals through six bureau managers. It was during this time that he became involved in Stormwater and Emergency Management. He implemented a program with Iona College undergraduate students for monitoring water quality in the City's five lakes and served as chair for the City's initial Flood Mitigation and Natural Disaster Loss Program.

In 2001, he was appointed Commissioner of Public Works where he served until his retirement in April 2005. During this time, he was involved in a number of major projects including the Transportation Center and the redevelopment of a portion of North Avenue. In 2003, he drafted legislation for the City's Office of Emergency Management and was appointed Deputy Director with responsibilities for grant development and infrastructure.

Upon his retirement, Jim became associated with Dolph Rotfeld Engineering, P.C. where he continues to work on a part-time basis on stormwater related projects. Jim joined WCAMPWA in 1989. He is a past president of the Westchester County Association of Town Superintendents of Highways and currently serves as Vice President of the Southeast New York Branch and a Director of the New York Metro Chapter of the American Public Works Association. He is a member of APWA's nationwide Emergency Management Recovery Subcommittee and Stormwater Manager's Council. Jim was recently designated a Public Works Life Fellow by APWA, acting as a mentor to individuals wishing to advance their public works careers. He is a Certified Emergency Manager through the International Association of Emergency Managers as well as a Certified Stormwater Manager through the American Public Works Association.

Jim has been an active member of the Thornwood Fire Department for 45 years and is currently in his 23rd year as a Fire Commissioner. He and his wife Betsey live in Thornwood and have a year round retreat in the Southern Adirondacks. They have been married since 1972 and have a son James, daughter-in-law Joanne and two grandchildren, James and Julia.