

# Westchester Rising

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Friday August 6, 2021

## NYAG James: Gov. Cuomo Sexually Harassed Multiple Women, Violated State & Federal Laws

**“The Attorney General’s findings are clear and compelling. The Governor must resign. The patterns of sexually harassing, intimidating and inappropriate behavior towards women cannot be tolerated.”**

**-County Executive George Latimer**

**“This report highlights unacceptable behavior by Governor Cuomo and his administration. As I said when these disturbing allegations first came to light, the Governor must resign for the good of the state. Now that the investigation is complete and the allegations have been sustained, it should be clear to everyone that he can no longer serve as Governor”**

**-State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins**

By Dan Murphy

Numerous Westchester democrats have called on New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to resign after a report was released on Aug. 2, which found that Cuomo sexually harassed 11 women, most of who worked for NY State government.

The release from NYAG James’ press conference states, “The independent investigators appointed by New York Attorney General Letitia James — led by Joon H. Kim and Anne L. Clark — today released their report into the multiple allegations of sexual harassment by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo. After nearly five months, the investigators concluded that Governor Cuomo did sexually harass multiple women — including former and current state employees — by engaging in unwanted groping, kissing, and hugging, and making inappropriate comments.

Further, the governor and his senior staff took actions to retaliate against at least one former employee for coming forward with her story. Finally, the Executive Chamber fostered a “toxic” workplace that enabled “harassment to occur and created a hostile work environment.” The investigators find that Governor Cuomo’s actions and those of the Executive Chamber violated multiple state and federal laws, as well as the Executive Chamber’s own written policies.

“This is a sad day for New York because independent investigators have concluded that Governor Cuomo sexually harassed multiple women and, in doing so, broke the law,” said Attorney General James. “I am grateful to all the women who came forward to tell their stories in painstaking detail, enabling investigators to get to the truth. No man — no matter how powerful — can be allowed to harass women or violate our human rights laws, period.”

Starting in December 2020, multiple women came forward with allegations that Governor Cuomo sexually harassed them. Over the course of the investigation, the investigators interviewed 179 individuals. Those interviewed included complainants, current and former members of the Executive Chamber, State Troopers, additional state employees, and others who interacted regularly with the governor. More than 74,000 documents, emails, texts, and pictures were also reviewed as evidence during the investigation.

Backed up by corroborating evidence and credible witnesses, the investigators detail multiple current or former New York state employees or women outside state service who were the targets of harassing conduct on the part of the governor.

As part of the investigation, Governor Cuomo also sat with the interviewers and answered questions under oath. While the governor denied the most serious allegations, the investigators found that he did so by offering “blanket denials” or that

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## Westchester Says Goodbye to Bear 211



By Dan Murphy

A black bear that roamed the backyards of homes in Connecticut and Northeast Westchester was hit by a car on July 26, and had to be put down. The bear was known as Bear 211 for the tags that were placed on his ears by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Conservation.

Bear 211 became a national sensation when a Facebook page was set up and thousands of followers enjoyed photos from homeowners in and around Armonk, who posted about the 125-pound black bear.

The auto accident occurred near Easton, Connecticut, but the vehicle left the scene. After the accident, Bear 211 was seen with serious injuries and had to be euthanized.

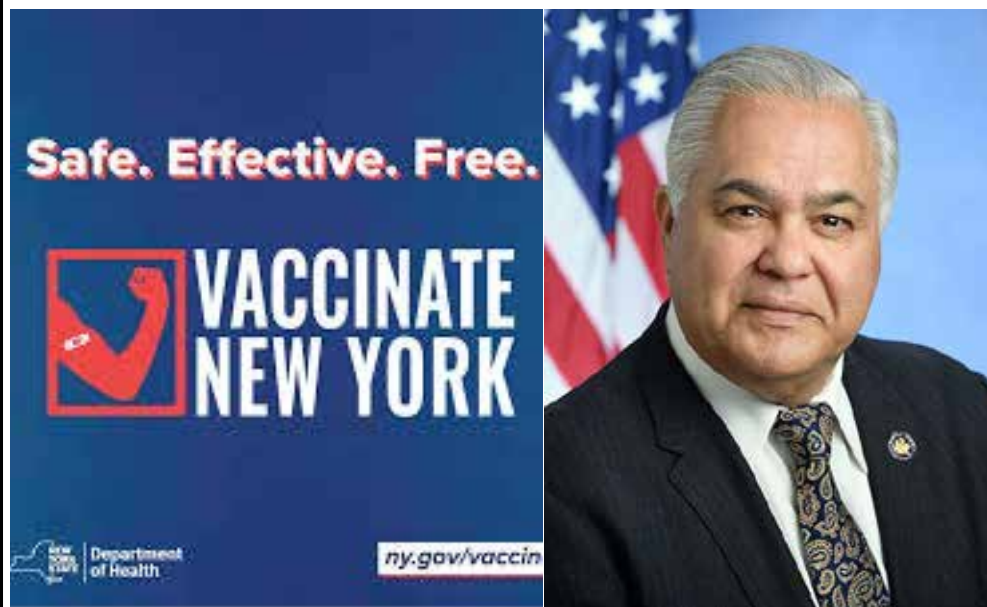
News of Bear 211’s death hit many Westchester residents hard, including many of the 5,000 followers of the Bear 211 Facebook page. “My heart is broken right now to the point where I can’t stop the tears. I am in the middle of making a Bear 211 album, (which I will continue), because of the joy he has brought me, and so many others. Never has a wild/forest animal been loved so much in this area. There is the blessing, Bear 211 is loved. I am trying to focus on that and the unity he gave us within his FB page. I am happy we have wonderful memories of Bear 211. Rest in Peace, Bear 211. We love you,” was one post.

Another post-“This bear brought so much happiness and was often the topic of conversation at the dinner table with our children.. (they actually put their phones down). Thank you again Bear 211 for bringing light to many people who needed it.”

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## Westchester Hits 80% Vaccination Mark; Vaccinated Assemblyman Tests Positive

*Parents, Students, Teachers Await Guidance on School in Sept.*



**While 80% of Westchester residents over 18 have a least one shot of a COVID vaccine, vaccinated Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, tested positive**

By Dan Murphy

Westchester County hit a milestone on Aug. 2 when County Executive George Latimer announced that 80 percent of adult residents (18+) living in Westchester County have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The 80 percent vaccination rate equates to 653,829 people vaccinated out of a total population of 967,612 in Westchester. Westchester County continues to outpace the national vaccination rate for adults, as well as over-performing vaccination rates in neighboring Bronx, Suffolk, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess and Ulster counties.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: “I am extremely proud that we have achieved this great milestone with 80 percent of our population receiving the COVID-19 vaccine. The vaccine has proven month after month to protect the people that we serve, with positive cases on a general downward trend along with hospitalizations and deaths. We have a long way to go and COVID is not yet behind us, but these vaccination statistics are proof that we are moving forward, we are united, and we will be stronger because of it.”

Since the COVID-19 vaccine first became available to Westchester’s residents, the County set the stage with a robust marketing campaign to get the public vaccinated and keep them informed. Westchester County successfully ran vaccine distribution centers at the Westchester County Center, Westchester Community College, and the Health Department clinics in Yonkers and White Plains. The County also worked to create pop-up vaccination sites across Westchester, to ensure that the largest number of people had access to the vaccine.

The marketing campaign included a series of town halls targeted to specific populations such as youth, seniors, veterans, people with disabilities, the business community and others. Using the tagline “Kick COVID to the Curb,” a series of public service announcements were released on social media and in local news, featuring testimonials from residents young and old, students, religious leaders, members of the non-for-profit community, athletes, celebrities, Spanish language PSA’s and more. Westchester County’s Department of Senior Programs and Services established the in-home vac-

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## Westchester’s Three Olympians Bring Home Silver, Bronze Medals



**(L-R) Pelham’s Kate Douglass (Swimming), Mount Vernon’s Rai Benjamin (Track & Field) and Mount Kisco-born Ashley Twichell (Swimming)**

By Dan Murphy

The best chance for a Gold Medal for Westchester’s three top Olympians came less than a second short as Mt. Vernon native track star Rai Benjamin took home the silver medal in the 400 meter hurdles.

Benjamin lost to Norway’s Karsten Warholm, who finished the race with a new world record time of 45.94 seconds. Benjamin also eclipsed the world record with his 46.17 second race. The contest between the two is being called a race for the ages, and a great rivalry that will continue because both are young athletes.

After the race Benjamin said, “I think ... no, that was the best race in Olympic history,” Benjamin said. “Three guys pretty much broke the world record and two lost. Nature of the beast.” Never ran that fast before, so it’s just a matter of experience I would say. “But if you would have told me I was going to run 46.1 and lose, I would probably beat you up. And tell you to get out my room. But I’m happy to be part of history.”

Both Benjamin and Warholm are friendly. “The kid’s amazing, man. You can’t be mad at that at all,” said Benjamin who can’t wait for 2022 in Oregon and the next Olympics in Paris. I’m excited for the next couple years to come.”

Pelham native Kate Douglass brought home a bronze medal for the Westchester community who was rooting for her at the Olympics in Tokyo Japan. Douglass, 19, finished third in the 200-meter individual medley with

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## The Indomitable Nita Lowey

## 3 New Members Join WJCS Board



'Westchester's Congresswoman' Nita Lowey



WJCS, one of the largest human service organizations in Westchester, is proud to announce the appointment of three new members to its Board of Directors: Joel Beckman, Steven Beckman, and Julian Gomez.

Joel Beckman co-founded Greenbriar Equity Group, L.P. and, before that, was a Managing Director and Partner at Goldman Sachs. Now retired, he has been actively involved in numerous philanthropic causes, including UJA-Federation of New York, the University of Rochester, Yale Law School, the JCC of Budapest, Stepping Stone Day School for handicapped children, Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty, and the Chordoma Foundation. He lives with his wife Shari in Scarsdale and has two sons and four grandchildren. "I have admired the work done by WJCS for many years and am thrilled to be on the Board and to be a more active participant going forward," he said.

Steven Beckman leads Global Creator Representation Partnerships at YouTube, a subsidiary of Google. In his role, Steven oversees monetization, product enablement, business development, and content partnerships with talent agencies and management companies across YouTube's Creator ecosystem. Prior to YouTube, Steven led Content at FilmBuff, where he acquired and distributed feature film projects globally, developing digitally driven release strategies across new media platforms. He has served on UJA-Federation's Young Leaders Executive Committee and New York University's Dean's Advisory Council. Steven lives in Scarsdale, New York with his wife and two children. "I am delighted to join the Board of WJCS," he said. "WJCS makes a positive difference in the lives on thousands of Westchester residents each year. I look forward to working with my fellow Board members so that WJCS continues to provide state-of-the-art services and programs to the people of Westchester county."

Julian Gomez is the General Counsel and Chief Compliance Officer at Sojitz Corporation of America, a subsidiary of a Japanese publicly traded corporation. Previously, Mr. Gomez was the Chief Counsel in Tokyo for the parent company for four years. Prior to that, he worked at the international law firm of Proskauer Rose in their New York Corporate Department. Julian is a graduate of the WJCS Parent Child Home Program (now called Parent-Child+) and served on its national board of directors from June 2005 through March 2014. Julian also previously served on the board of directors of WJCS from June 2008 through February 2014. Julian lives in Mount Kisco, with his wife Margarita, an attorney who works with the Legal Aid Society, and two sons Diego and Mateo. "My life has been positively impacted by the services provided by WJCS, so it is an honor and pleasure for me to have the opportunity again to work collaboratively with the talented individuals on the Board and staff at WJCS. As a Board member, I am committed to ensuring that WJCS remains a vital source of support for the residents of Westchester who are in need of their services," said Mr. Gomez.

"Joel, Steven, and Julian bring to WJCS tremendous experience serving on and leading many national and local Boards," said Mariquita Blumberg, president of WJCS Board of Directors. "Already we have seen how that experience will add new perspectives and ideas to our Board and we look forward to working with each of them to secure a better future for all Westchester residents."

"We are honored to have Joel, Steven, and Julian join our Board", said WJCS CEO Seth Diamond. "Each has deep roots in the community and their backgrounds and experience will strengthen the work we do every day serving the residents of Westchester." Learn more at [wjcs.com](http://wjcs.com).

To the Editors:

The Moving Harrison Forward team would like to recognize and celebrate a beloved politician, our congressional representative Nita Lowey. Nita retired in January after an outstanding thirty-two years of service as a member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Nita represented New York's 17th Congressional District that included of a portion of Westchester County, most especially our town of Harrison.

As election day approaches, we think about the impact we would like to have as elected officials. Nita is the kind of politician we hope to emulate: moral, bold, principled, committed to justice and to her constituents.

Among her many accomplishments, Nita was a pioneer for women in politics. She was one of only 31 women in Congress when she was first elected in 1989 (today there are 127 women). In 2001 and 2002, Nita served as the first woman to chair the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee. And in 2018, Nita became the first woman to chair the House Appropriations Committee.

Nita's legislative achievements are almost too numerous to recount. She helped author a Congressional bill that required food manufacturers to clearly label food allergens on their products. Her hard work led to legislation instituting a blood alcohol level of .08 as the drunk driving standard for all states. She passed legislation that allowed her to procure record-high funding to clean up Long Island Sound. Nita also appeared before Congress with Sesame Street characters Bert and Ernie to support PBS funding.

Nita was an advocate for early childhood education and at every level (especially for girls around the globe), quality health care and robust biomedical research, environmental protection and women's issues. She was an early advocate for pandemic preparedness, a proponent of gun violence protection, stricter public safety laws and national security. Nita was recognized as a key figure in the effort to rebuild New York after the tragic events of 9/11.

Nita's public service career is best summed up by something she said as her Congressional career neared its close. When reflecting on her 32 years of service she said she was always guided by a basic principle – "when you see a problem, do something about it."

The Moving Harrison Forward team looks forward to serving you, fixing problems in our community and pushing for positive change, just as Nita did for so many years.

Sincerely,  
Frank Gordon, Candidate for Mayor  
Rachel Berkey, Candidate for Town Board  
Adam Weiner, Candidate for Town Board  
Moving Harrison Forward  
More information on the Moving Harrison Forward team can be found at [www.movingharrisonforward.com](http://www.movingharrisonforward.com).

## NYS PTA & United Way Westchester/Putnam Team to Launch State-wide Reading Checkup Program

NYS PTA and the United Way of Westchester and Putnam have partnered with Learning Ovations, an Irvine, California-based early literacy support company, to launch a state-wide literacy program - Reading Checkup - a community-based program that encourages reading skills development at home.

Reading Checkup is designed for children in grades K through third grade. In the program, a child completes two online quizzes, then parents/caretakers receive evidence-based recommendations for specific reading skills to focus on at home, while choosing from targeted activities that meet the child's needs.

"NYS PTA is committed to supporting all children across NYS, and we know that literacy continues to be the key to student success," offered NYS PTA President Dana Platin. "We are thrilled to work with United Way of Westchester/Putnam and Learning Ovations to bring this family-based literacy program into every NYS home."

"Every child deserves the opportunity to succeed and helping them to read on grade level by the end of the third grade puts them on the right track," said Tom Gabriel, CEO of United Way of Westchester and Putnam. "By working with NYS PTA and Learning Ovations we are able to offer a resource to help children continue learning outside of the traditional classroom setting."

Reading Checkup uses breakthrough applications to provide students in grades K-3 with reading instruction customized to their individual needs. Backed by almost 20 years of research funded by the US Department of Education and The National Institutes of Health, Learning Ovation's early literacy school-based program, called A2i, has 90 percent of participating students reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade.

"Our research shows that there are two critical elements in supporting a child's reading development: you must know what their individual instructional needs are and then precisely match the type of instruction and the time spent to those needs," said Jay Connor, CEO and Founder of Learning Ovations. He explained that Reading Checkup provides each participating child and family with a detailed and customized plan to support their child's literacy development. "For this age group, having parents or caregivers actively engaged in supporting their child is powerful. So much better than just plopping them in front of a screen. AND Reading Check-Up makes it fun for both -- shared activities and a shared sense of accomplishment!" Connor noted.

"Schools and educators supported our students in the most amazing ways during the pandemic," offered Kyle Belokopitsky, NYS PTA Executive Director. "It's our job to do everything we can to support their work, and the work of our incredible children and families in the home. This new groundbreaking program will provide a year-long literacy tool that families can easily use to support at-home reading and literacy activities." continued on pg

Families interested in Reading Checkup can sign up directly on the new NYS PTA Reading Checkup webpage - <https://nyspta.org/learning-ovations-reading-checkup/>. continued on pg 5-

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## Legendary Winged Foot Golf Club Gets Caught in National Debate Over Trump



By Dan Murphy

On September 20, 2020, Bryson DeChambeau won the U.S. Open at Winged Foot Golf Club in Mamaroneck. The tournament solidified Winged Foot as one of the great courses in the United States, and the best course in Westchester.

Now Winged Foot has fallen into the national debate over former President Donald Trump, by hosting an event at the club honoring the 45th President, who has been a paying member of Winged Foot for more than 40 years.

Club member and Trump supporter Ted Virtue set up the Gala. Virtue, CEO of Mid Ocean Partners hedge fund, and the other members at Winged Foot are shocked at the outcry from democrats not only in Westchester and NY State about anyone honoring Trump.

First, Winged Foot and its members have every right to honor one of their members, and especially a former President. But they also should have been better prepared for the opposition. Several media reports claim that Virtue and the club had made “quiet plans” for Trump’s visit.

But the rage against Trump resulted in the club having to deactivate its Twitter account and not answering the phone.

The plans for the event, include Virtue and investor Paul Queally playing a round with Trump before the dinner. Winged Foot has two courses, East and West, and the East course is the most difficult, and where several major championships have been played over the past 95 years.

The gala will take place on August 4, one day before Trump is scheduled to headline a fundraiser for the NY GOP in Braircliff, most likely at Trump National Golf Club in the village.

Membership at Winged Foot is split on Trump’s visit, and their support or dislike for the former President, much like the rest of the country. Some members have called honoring Trump “pathetic.”

Some reports have cited the fact that former President Barack Obama, when he was President in 2014, was not granted access to Winged Foot when his staff requested that he be invited in for a round. But Obama was not a member of the club, and was sitting President at the time. Trump is a member and now former President.

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## Andrew, the Boy From Queens



By Eric W. Schoen

As I prepare to file this column, Attorney General Letitia James has issued her report on Governor Andrew Cuomo. By the time you read this article, the title Governor may be removed from in front of his name. Congratulations Attorney General James.

Congratulations for being the official who finally was willing to take on the Cuomo machine. It has been allowed to go on for way to long. It was the Cuomo way or the highway. If you dared to disagree with King Andrew, you lost your job. You lost your contract. You lost your ability to interact with the state.

Trust me, Andrew’s behavior has gone on for years. He was the enforcer during his father’s administration. I knew someone from Yonkers who at one point didn’t do what the Cuomos wanted and lost his job. Yes his job was a patronage job. There is plenty of that at all levels of government. It’s nothing new. It even goes on in the City of Yonkers!

And a lot of these patronage appointees have no qualifications for the jobs they get. They usually work to get a candidate elected to office and the candidate rewards them with a job. No problem if they are qualified for the job. An elected official has the right to surround him or herself with loyal people.

But when they are not qualified for the job they can be a liability to the official who appointed them. And you have some officials like Andrew who think that because he appointed you, he can interact anyway he wants with you. You don’t like it? He will show you the door. It’s that simple.

People knew not to mess with Andrew. He has that sweet, public, you would want him to be your grandson face and demeanor. But in private he is, to quote Senator Lloyd Bentsen when he ran against Dan Quayle for Vice President, ‘No Jack Kennedy!’

Andrew Cuomo is no dummy. Far from as smart as his father was, but no dummy. What happened to Andrew happens to so many elected officials. The power goes to their heads. They think they are untouchable. Invincible. They can do as they please until they are caught, no pun intended with ‘their pants down.’

And many times we the folks that continually elect them to office are to blame for letting the power go to their heads. And For letting this behavior go on. If there is any reason for term limits it’s Andrew Cuomo.

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## A Diverse Workforce for a Diverse County



After graduating from law school, Leandra Eustache landed a job as a junior prosecutor at the New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission. She immediately began charting a path toward the career goal she had set for herself: a position in executive leadership.

“I hit the ground running and I took on roles of leadership pretty quickly,” she said. “I was able to move up the ranks and before I left I was managing the entire prosecution division.”

In 2019, Eustache found a new home for her talents and leadership skills, being appointed to head the Westchester County Taxi & Limousine Commission. These days, she is known by these titles: Chairperson and Chief Executive Officer.

“As chief executive officer, I oversee the operations of the office on a day-to-day basis. Our office licenses and regulates all of the for-hire vehicles in Westchester County. What makes me very passionate about the work that I do is that it has a very large impact on public safety. The drivers and vehicles that we license are

transporting passengers every day” she said.

In the County government, she said, she has found a supportive community of other women leaders, including working moms like herself.

“I know the struggles and challenges faced by women in the workforce. I do have an 8-year-old at home, in the third-grade, and school is completely remote. It can feel as though I’ve run a marathon by 8 a.m. each morning.” Eustache is also proud to be a role model for others who aspire to hold leadership positions one day.

“I grew up in a very disadvantaged socio-economic neighborhood,” said Eustache. “Growing up in that type of environment – obtaining positions of leadership doesn’t always seem possible. Being in such an important role is an example for young people of color who don’t think it’s possible they can succeed. I think it gives children of color hope.”

To receive notifications of all upcoming civil service exams, people can sign up to receive email notifications at <https://exams.westchestergov.com/webexam/emailSubscription/subscribe.htm>.

## The Sharing Shelf – Packing Backpacks for Children in Need



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Schools closed just 5 weeks ago, ending a year of remote and hybrid learning. The new school year begins in a little more than a month, when children will optimistically return to their classrooms full-time for in-person learning the first time in a year and half. Many lower income children will be in need of backpacks stocked with pencils and pens to write with, calculators for geometry and science classes, notebook paper they can write on, plus markers, colored pencils and crayons for pictures, projects and crafts.

Each summer, The Sharing Shelf organizes its “Backpacks to School” initiative to buy new backpacks and fill them with grade appropriate school supplies for low-income children in Westchester County. During these dog days of summer, the program has been working with individuals and businesses county-wide to raise the funds needed to purchase everything needed for this initiative, from new backpacks to binders, notebooks, folders, crayons, pencils, pens and paper.

Even before the pandemic, Westchester County was a community with a mix of great wealth yet home to nearly 60,000 low-income children. In some of our communities, 8 in 10 public school students live below the poverty line or in low-income homes.

According to Deborah Blatt, Executive Director, “we believe the number of children who need backpacks, given the current environment, is probably much higher. We have seen an exponential rise in demand for our services in the last year. These backpacks and supplies are critical to the academic success of poor and low-income children and will allow them to return to school prepared, confident, and ready to learn.”

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: “When we think back on our first day of school memories from our childhood, I’m sure many of us think about Mom or Dad dropping us off at school with a book bag filled with new school supplies for the year. For a lot of families in Westchester, new school supplies is something that they cannot afford. I want to encourage everyone who can to donate to this wonderful program, which at the end of the day is all about our kids. I applaud the work of The Sharing Shelf in partnership with our Department of Social Services, for their efforts to ensure that every child in Westchester starts the school year on the right path.”

The Sharing Shelf plans to provide backpacks to at least 1,500 children and seeks to raise \$45,000 for this project. Volunteers are assembling the backpacks at The Sharing Shelf’s Port Chester warehouse in a series of packing days during the month of August.

To find out more about how to help or to donate, please contact The Sharing Shelf Program Director, Deborah Blatt at [dblatt@sharingshelf.org](mailto:dblatt@sharingshelf.org) or (914) 305-5950. You may also visit [www.sharingshelf.org](http://www.sharingshelf.org) and click on Backpacks to School.

## Untermeyer Performing Arts Council Presents Swingadelic August 7

The Untermeyer Performing Arts Council will present Swingadelic at 7pm on August 7th at Untermeyer Park, located at 945 North Broadway, Yonkers.

Mixing blues, swing, and a variety of other musical genre with their own original songs, Swingadelic, will bring an amazing evening of the big band sound to Yonkers.

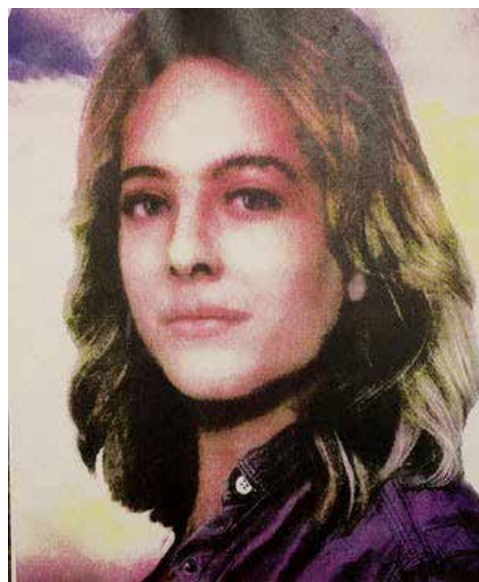
Swingadelic began in 1998 when upright bassist Dave Post gathered his jazz & blues-playing friends, playing engagements at New York City’s Supper Club, Swing 46 and Windows On The World. As their popularity grew, they expanded to playing concerts and festivals.

Swingadelic has released seven CDs and has recorded for the ZOHO Music label since 2011. Swingadelic CDs have been in JazzWeek Radio charts Top 25, garnering critically acclaimed reviews in publications such as Jazz Times and All About Jazz.

The Untermeyer Performing Arts Council is delighted to welcome Swingadelic back to Yonkers and to World Fest 2021!

For more information, call the UPAC Artsline at 914-375-3435, visit our website at [www.untermeyerperformingarts.org](http://www.untermeyerperformingarts.org), or email us at [untermeyer@outlook.com](mailto:untermeyer@outlook.com).

## 30 Year Old Westchester Cold Case Murder Victim ID’d as Veronica Wiederhold



A sketch of  
Veronica Wiederhold

### New DNA testing and DA’s Cold Case Bureau helps ID Mt. Vernon Homicide from 1988

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that her newly-created Cold Case Bureau, in partnership with the FBI, Mount Vernon Police Department and the Westchester Department of Laboratories and Research, has successfully identified a woman who was found dead in Mount Vernon over 30 years ago.

Through the use of DNA testing and investigative genealogy, the victim, formerly known as “Jane Doe Mount Vernon” has officially been identified as Veronica Wiederhold. On February 14, 1988, at around 11:54 a.m., in the vicinity of 22 Carleton Ave. in Mount Vernon, Wiederhold was found dead and nude on the street by Mount Vernon Police.

“The remarkable work by our Cold Case Bureau and law enforcement partners has granted one family the certainty and ability to mourn for their loved one after 33 years. A main goal of this Bureau is to give closure to families of homicide victims, and we know this is pain that never goes away,” DA Rocah said. “I know firsthand that solving crimes is one of the best ways we can try to get closure to victims’ families.”

Wiederhold was last seen by her family in Brooklyn in late 1987 before she was found dead. She currently has family in New York City and out-of-state who have been notified of the Cold Case Bureau’s identification.

The Bureau is led by Assistant District Attorney Laura Murphy, who is assisted by Chief Investigator Daniel McKenna. Together they oversee the Cold Case Bureau and work collaboratively with other investigators in the District Attorney’s Office, the FBI Task Force, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety and law enforcement from across the county.

“There has been a lot of speculation over the years about the identity of this victim. We now know who she is: Veronica Wiederhold,” Murphy said. “This is why we continue working on these cases and never give up seeking justice for these victims.”

While the Mount Vernon Police Department has been diligently attempting to utilize new forensic science for several years to determine Wiederhold’s identity, the use of advanced genetic genealogy through the FBI made it possible to begin the process to successfully identify the victim.

When the Westchester Forensic Lab determined it had sufficient DNA from the victim, the FBI’s genetic genealogy unit was able to connect it to possible relatives who had submitted their DNA to a genealogy website. Family members then provided DNA samples to the FBI, which aided in the investigation.

The DNA match positively identified Wiederhold and a final identification was made in April.

“I am proud of the fantastic team that we have assembled in the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office that will join forces with our law enforcement partners across Westchester to address as many cold cases as resources allow,” DA Rocah said.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Westchester District Attorney’s Office at 914-995-TIPS.

## Westchester Rising

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### COMPUTER PROBLEMS?



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## Mosquitoes With West Nile Virus Found in Westchester

**County Health Department Reminds Residents to Remove Standing Water and Use Repellents**

On July 30, the Westchester County Health Department announced that this season's first two batches of mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus in Westchester were detected in Mount Vernon. The areas surrounding the positive mosquito batches were inspected today by the Health Department, and nearby catch basins that held standing water were treated to protect against further mosquito breeding nearby.

To date, these are the first positives out of 105 batches of mosquitos collected from 11 locations throughout Westchester that were tested for West Nile Virus by the New York State Department of Health. New York City announced on July 22 that it had detected West Nile Virus in mosquitos in all five boroughs. Last year, five Westchester batches of mosquitoes had West Nile Virus out of 190 submitted for testing, with the virus first detected in mosquitoes collected on July 23.

Sherlita Amler, MD, Commissioner of Health, said: "With so many of us spending more time outdoors, protect yourself and your family by using repellents. Apply sunscreen first, and repellent second."

The Health Department reminds residents about mosquito safety through news releases, social media and our website, where a report on mosquito control and surveillance can be found on the West Nile Virus page. Throughout the season, the Department also traps and tests mosquitoes to track the presence of mosquito-borne viruses.

So far this year, there have been no reported cases of West Nile Virus in Westchester. Symptoms include fever, headache, body aches and joint pain, but can be more serious for people 60 and older, and those with underlying medical conditions.

For more ideas on how to reduce the mosquito population near your home, go to <https://health.westchestergov.com/west-nile-virus> and follow these tips:

Avoid the outdoors in the late afternoon and early evening when mosquitoes are active and feeding, or use insect repellents then and follow the label instructions.

Adults can use insect repellents with up to 30 percent DEET on infants over two months of age by applying the product to their own hands and then rubbing it onto their children, avoiding their hands, eyes and mouth. Products containing DEET are not recommended for use on children under two months of age.

Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and socks when outdoors, especially in areas where mosquitoes are active and feeding.

Check around your property for anything that can hold water, and pour it out or put it away.

Check and remove standing water from children's toys and play houses left outside.

Remove discarded tires.

Drill holes in the bottoms of all recycling containers left outdoors.

Turn over plastic wading pools, buckets and wheelbarrows.

Change the water in birdbaths at least twice weekly.

Keep storm drains and gutters clear of leaves and debris.

Continue to chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor spas and hot tubs until properly winterized or drained for the season and drain water that collects on their covers.

Residents who notice large areas of standing water on public property should report them to the Westchester County Department of Health at (914) 813-5000.

## Maria Fareri Children's Hospital Offers Free Bike Safety and Helmet Check to Help Keep Children Safe Aug. 10

Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, a member of the Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHHealth), will hold a bike safety and helmet checkpoint to educate families on the proper fit of bicycle helmets. Injury prevention experts will answer questions about proper use of bike helmets and will share other bicycle safety tips on Tuesday, August 10, from 10 am-230 pm, at the Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla.

Riding without a bicycle helmet or with an improperly fitting one significantly increases the risk of sustaining a head injury in the event of a crash, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

At this free community event, experts from Maria Fareri Children's Hospital will demonstrate proper bicycle helmet use and fit. No appointment is required. Children of all ages and their parents/caregivers are welcome.

A limited supply of free helmets will be available. Event will not be held if raining.

## Mount Vernon Forward Celebrates Victory in Dem. Primary Council and Comptroller Races

The Board of Elections has completed its historic hand recount of the closest election in Mount Vernon history and confirmed Cathlin Gleason's victory by three votes - completing the Mount Vernon Forward team's overall victory in the race for three City Council seats in a primary election that will help define our city's future.

The team of Danielle Browne, Cathlin Gleason and Ed Poteat will be the Democratic nominees for City Council in November, joining Comptroller nominee Darren Morton and incumbent County Legislator Tyrae Woodson-Samuels on a unified ticket that signals a new day in Mount Vernon politics.

"Allow me to remind everyone within the sound of my voice that every vote matters!" said a jubilant Gleason, who waited for a month since the June 22nd primary for her victory to be confirmed. "More seriously, we need to work together in Mount Vernon, to unify and commit to a better future. I'm thrilled with these results today, and deeply honored to be called to service by the voters of Mount Vernon."

Gleason, Browne and Poteat thanked the Board of Elections, Reginald Lafayette and Doug Colety and all Board of Election workers for their hard work, as well as their opponents for their willingness to step forward. And they reiterated their pledge of unity and transparency, as they prepare for the general election on November 2nd:

"We will continue to talk with the people of Mount Vernon right through November and into January. Thanks to so many of you, including our incredible volunteers and campaign team, we have created a lasting movement for change in this great city. It has been a joy to work together, learn from each other, and collaborate on a vision for a better Mount Vernon. We also thank all of our opponents for City Council and look forward to sitting down with each of them, and working with their supporters in November. After this long election campaign, now is the time for all of us to come together to move Mount Vernon forward."

Mount Vernon Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard, who endorsed the Mount Vernon Forward vision and its slate of candidates, called for unity and collaboration:

"January is coming and that means this fine team of public servants will work hard through the general election to move Mount Vernon Forward. But we must begin to unify now, to get through these months, and build a partnership that will allow our team to hit the ground running. I couldn't be prouder of these Democratic nominees, and look forward to working closely with them in City Hall."

Darren Morton, Democratic nominee for Comptroller:"Now that the primary election is behind us and the people of Mount Vernon have chosen their leadership, it is time for us to face forward. We must be dedicated to work collectively as Democrats to restore trust. It won't be easy, there is work to be done - especially on our city's finances - but we now have the team in place that will raise up collaboration and commitment to all in our community."

Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, incumbent Democratic nominee for Westchester County Legislator: "The people have spoken and we have an incredibly strong Democratic team to move Mount Vernon Forward. This is a new day for our city, a new day for our Democratic party, and we've got our work cut out for us. I'm thrilled for Cathlin, Danielle, and Ed - and for my colleague Dr. Morton - and look forward to working closely with them as we change Mount Vernon."

### Reading Checkup Program Offered, continued from pg 2-

The year-long literacy program only costs \$16 per child in grades K-3 throughout this new partnership. Scholarships will also be available to cover program costs for high-need families, and the program is offered in both English and Spanish.

This program will join NYS PTA's current literacy programs, including the statewide and long-standing Pick a Reading Partner Program (formerly Parents as Reading Partners).

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Notice of formation of SaucyGuava, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/21/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 332 Palisade Ave Apt C1, Yonkers, NY 10703-2918. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of iFantasy, LLC. Arts of Org. filed with the SSNY on 6/8/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228 . Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of THE LAST PACK LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/05/2021. Office: Westchester County, New York. SSNY has been designated as Agent of the LLC upon whom the process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, Joseph A. Candelario 74 Radford Ave., Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of Capital Efficient Strategies LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on May 10, 2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 128 Fuller Road Briarcliff Manor NY 10510. Purpose: any lawful act or activity

Notice of Formation of Pumpkin Vine Publishing, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 6/11/21. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Pumpkin Vine Publishing LLC, 22 Boulder Trail, Bronxville, New York 10708. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of MJV Construction LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/29/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 455 Tarrytown Road, Mailbox 1135, White Plains, NY 10607. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY (LLC). NAME: TRUCK & CAR REPAIR CENTER LLC, LLC Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 06/01/21. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: United Corporate Services, Inc. 10 Bank St Ste 560. White Plains, NY 10606. Purpose: any lawful business activity.

Notice of Formation of Joyful Ventures LLC. Filed with the SSNY on 06/07/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 145 Valentine Lane apt#4E, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of SUHANA HOLDINGS LLC. Filed with the SSNY On 05/10/2021. Office location: Westcheter County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 27 Ravine Avenue, Apt. 2B, Yonkers NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

## Music Program for People with Dementia &amp; Loved Ones Offered

The Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter will present "Something for Alz: Musical Moments" led by music therapist Timothy Doak via Zoom through August. This interactive music program utilizes music to help people with dementia interact and reconnect with their loved ones. The program, which started on Saturday, July 31, will be held from 11 a.m. to noon Saturdays Aug. 7, 14, 21, and 28.

Now in his second year presenting the program, Doak spoke fondly of the interactions he has with participants, even when it is presented over Zoom.

"One really wonderful thing about Zoom is you can see everybody right in your sight," he said, adding that he finds the interactions between him and the participants very easy and effective because he can make eye contact with participants and watch what everyone is doing at the same time. This also makes it easy for participants to see him and follow along.

Doak said the music itself is an important aspect of the interaction with the participants. "Even if you are sitting back and just listening, you are still interacting with the music and having a shared experience," Doak said.

He said gaining people's attention and keeping them involved is also an important part of the experience, adding that one way he does this is by choosing songs familiar to the participants' age demographic.

"That experience alone brings back memories, creating experiences where the individuals are remembering their lyrics and singing along," Doak said. He said he usually has participants fill in the lyrics to songs or sing while he plays and even encourages them to write their own songs to stay engaged.

Doak said he is passionate about rekindling connections between people with dementia and their loved ones, recalling how hearing their wedding song made it possible for a wife with dementia to cherish that moment with her husband, something she hadn't been able to remember for years.

Doak says music is a powerful tool that can be used to heal and comfort. He said he wants people to remember how music rebuilds connections from our past, reminding others about the love they have for one another.

To learn more about the programs and services offered locally, visit alz.org/hudsonvalley.

*Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-*

Much credit for the unveiling of Andrew's despicable behavior goes to Assemblyman Ron Kim. Kim criticized Cuomo over the Nursing home scandal. In Yiddish we call the scandal a shanda. But we haven't got that report about the loss of thousands of lives needlessly yet so I won't comment on it.

Assemblyman Kim went public with a bullying conversation he had with Andrew. Kim said that Andrew told him 'We're in this business together and We don't cross certain lines and I hadn't seen his wrath and that he can destroy him.' It's funny when all of Kim's accusations became public, I didn't see many elected officials jump to Andrew's defense. That's got to tell you something.

Credit also must go to our Senator, Andrea Stewart-Cousins who while leader of her chamber when there was a power sharing arrangement going on said to Cuomo, 'You look at me, Mr. Governor, but you don't see me. You see my black skin and a woman, but you don't realize I am a suburban legislator.' Cuomo according to press reports was stunned with Stewart-Cousins remarks.

I've known Andrea since our time working for then Yonkers Mayor Terence Zaleski almost 30 years ago. She is a thoughtful, caring person. I was a bit disappointed in her when she refused to call for Andrew's resignation 'until one more woman would come forward.' That comment disappointed many of her supporters.

Andrea however represents Yonkers well in Albany, having 'brought home the bacon' particularly in terms of education funding this year with her colleagues Shelley Mayer, Nader Sayegh and Gary Pretlow. Bringing home money long overdue. I don't think she has higher ambitions in Albany but I think you will see Shelley Mayer among those talked about for the top job in our state. Most definitely for the top job in Yonkers unless the 'City Hall Gang' figures out a way to extend Spano's tenure.

The headlines in the conservative press will probably call Cuomo 'a pervert' for the way he supposedly, according to the report treated women. It wasn't one woman. It was many women. Including a State Trooper charged with protecting him. Pathetic. Sad. Disgusting. It's like can you believe what you are reading and hearing?

This abusive culture towards women in Albany has got to stop. And it has gone on not only in the Executive Mansion but also in both Chambers of the Legislature. Maybe with Andrew out of the picture there will be some real reform in Albany. Who would have thought that his demise would bring about reform.

Cuomo claims he never touched anyone and called the report biased. He will fight the accusations and the many civil lawsuits, some possibly criminal that will come out of it. Can he do this while at the same time being Governor. The report, coming from an Attorney General of his own party is too damaging. He will do the people of the State of New York a disservice trying to hang on.

And don't forget, we haven't seen the reports on the \$5 million dollar book deal, the Nursing Home deaths, the use of state resources for Covid testing for his friends and family while you and I waited on line and begged to get tested and I am sure as I hit deadline I am forgetting something.

It's time for change in Albany. Not only a change in the person or persons in charge, but a change in the culture that has existed for way to long. And again, no pun intended, 'Leadership.'

But remember. It is you and I that have the responsibility to vet out those people who want to run for office and elect people who are going to demand change. We must take that responsibility very seriously!

And now, show some leadership yourself. Make sure you have received your Covid vaccination. Your health, the health of your friends and family and everyone you love. In my book that's the most important thing!

**Reach Eric Schoen at thistoisonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen and Dan Murphy on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.**

**Notice of formation of 475 Sierra Vista Lane, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed on 07/23/2021. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 20 Skywood Court, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

**Notice of formation of 394 Sierra Vista Lane, LLC. Arts. of Org filed on 07/23/2021. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 20 Skywood Court, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.**

Notice of formation of Daphne Cuts, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/10/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 59 Fairmont Ave, Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of The Vision Junkie LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 5/14/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The Vision Junkie LLC, 100 Riverdale Ave., Apt. 8C., Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

**COVID, Back to School continued from pg 1-**

nation program, to ensure that those who were homebound or disabled and their caregivers could still receive the vaccine. Free ParaTransit Transportation Service was also made available for seniors and people with disabilities to transport constituents who needed help getting to the vaccine. Latimer continues to hold regular conference calls with the local school districts and municipal leaders, to build public confidence in the COVID-19 vaccine.

If you have not yet received the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit the Westchester County Health Department website at [www.westchestergov.com/health](http://www.westchestergov.com/health).

In other Westchester COVID news, a Westchester Assemblyman who was vaccinated has tested positive for COVID. Yonkers Assemblyman Nader Sayegh says he is in good spirits while under a seven-day quarantine after he tested positive for COVID-19, despite the fact that he was vaccinated for the virus. "I was surprised, really I was shocked. Here I am, vaccinated, and I got COVID-19," said Sayegh, who recorded a public service announcement encouraging Westchester residents to get the COVID-19 vaccine at the NY State Mass Vaccination Site at the Yonkers National Guard Armory, when it opened in March of 2021.

Sayegh received the Moderna vaccine in February but said he is regularly tested as a precaution to protect his family, friends, Assembly staff and constituents. He was tested for COVID after feeling a little under the weather and received a result he was not expecting, and tested positive.

"This is something that for me was a wakeup call that you can never feel there are enough safeguards," said Sayegh, who is going public with his story in the hopes that it will encourage more hesitant New Yorkers to realize the COVID-19 Delta variant is, as reported by the CDC, far more contagious than earlier strains of the virus, and a serious health threat to those not vaccinated.

With less than 30 days before the start of the 2021-22 school year, educators await guidance from the NYS Department of Education regarding health and safety guidelines. Last week state Education Commissioner Betty Rosa said that she herself was waiting for Governor Cuomo and the NYS Health Department to release their guidance and guidelines on whether all students and staff will be vaccinated and how far apart students need to be in the classroom.

"While the nature and extent of COVID-19 and its variants are still dynamic, it is essential that schools receive whatever guidance the Governor and the (Department of Health) intend to offer about the 2021-2022 school year as soon as possible to provide time for you to take necessary measures to safely welcome students in September," Rosa wrote in a memo to Superintendents and School Boards.

Rosa, who added that the delays were "frustrating with a sense of urgency" said that for now, school districts can rely on guidance from the CDC, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, which Cuomo's staff says will be the basis for the Health Department's upcoming guidance.

But the guidance from the CDC has been evolving and changing as the Delta Variant of COVID becomes more prevalent. In May, the CDC said that all who are vaccinated can travel about their business without a mask; now they recommend masking for all individuals indoors, whether you are vaccinated or not.

As of August 2, the CDC recommends that residents in 23 counties in New York State, including Westchester, should be wearing masks while indoors regardless of whether you are vaccinated or not. "This virus has always been unpredictable, and in the face of the Delta variant, our hard-won progress is only as good as our determination to build on it," said Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who added at his update on August 2 that local governments should use the guidance from the CDC.

County Executive George said that County government is considering requiring masks for all county facilities, including buildings beaches and parks, but no decision has been made. "This is not something we look at lightly. Those will be restrictions that we think are necessary for public safety," said Latimer.

**AG Report, Cuomo Sexual Harrassment continued from pg 1-**

that he had a "lack of recollection as to specific incidents." The investigators also found that the governor's recollection "stood in stark contrast to the strength, specificity, and corroboration of the complainants' recollections, as well as the reports of many other individuals who offered observations and experiences of the governor's conduct."

Additionally, the investigators found that the Executive Chamber was "rife with fear and intimidation" that not only "enabled the above-described instances of harassment to occur," but also "created a hostile work environment overall." Further, Governor Cuomo, himself, and the Executive Chamber engaged in "retaliatory" behavior by "intend[ing] to discredit and disparage" a former employee that came forward with her story of harassment.

The investigation found that Governor Cuomo's sexual harassment of multiple women and his and the Executive Chamber's retaliation against a former employee for coming forward with her claims of sexual harassment violated multiple state and federal laws, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the New York State Human Rights Law, and 42 U.S. Code § 1983, in addition to the Executive Chamber's own equal employment policies," end of press release by AG James.

In a video released shortly after the AG's presser, Gov. Cuomo denied touching anyone, and

Governor Cuomo repeatedly denied touching any of the accusers, and even attempted to attack the attorneys who conducted this investigation.

One of Cuomo's accusers was Charlotte Bennett who grew up in Westchester. Bennett's accusations, which were outlined in great detail during the press conference, has now been validated, while Cuomo's denials have now been found to be lies. More on Bennett's courageous journey next week.

A female NY State Trooper is also in the report describing the sexual harassment made against her by Cuomo.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer issued a statement minutes after NY Attorney General Leticia James' press conference. "The Attorney General's findings are clear and compelling. The Governor must resign. The patterns of sexually harassing, intimidating and inappropriate behavior towards women cannot be tolerated," said Latimer.

Westchester State Senator and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins stated, "This report highlights unacceptable behavior by Governor Cuomo and his administration. As I said when these disturbing allegations first came to light, the Governor must resign for the good of the state. Now that the investigation is complete and the allegations have been sustained, it should be clear to everyone that he can no longer serve as Governor"

State Senator Shelley Mayer stated, "Today's report by the investigative team appointed by the Attorney General is a damning indictment of the conduct – and culture – of the Governor and his Executive team. Their detailed substantiation of the complaints of 11 individual women validates those who were courageous enough to tell the truth and then face a campaign of ridicule and retaliation for doing so. The Governor's effort to denigrate them and this investigation were shameful. The report found the Governor violated both state and federal law, laws he knew full well prohibited this harassment and abusive conduct. No one should be subjected to abusive words, unwanted touching, sexualized banter and intimidating surrogates at the ready. That's what happened here. I applaud the courageous women who spoke the truth, and the Attorney General and her team for their work which thoroughly investigated and then validated their complaints. Now the Governor must resign immediately. That's the right thing to do. The time is now."

Assemblymember Amy Paulin stated, "The @NewYorkStateAG's report and its conclusions are clear—Governor Cuomo has broken the very law he signed by sexually harassing several women, all of whom were brave enough to come forward and tell their painful stories. I appreciate what they've done and stand with them. The Governor's behavior was not only dehumanizing and degrading to these women, but it also demeans his office and position. It's unacceptable for anyone to act as he did, let alone the Governor of our State. He needs to resign now, and if that does not happen, we in the Assembly must begin impeachment proceedings."

**Goodbye Bear 211, continued from pg 1-**

Bear 211 seemed unafraid of people and was found in backyard polls, playgrounds, on deck furniture.

The environmental conservation group, Wildlife in Crisis Inc, gives us knowledge with it post. "A tribute to a much loved bear: He was known as Bear 211 due to the unsightly plastic tags pierced through his beautiful ears. He had a Facebook page. He was beloved by residents of Westport, Weston and surrounding towns. He swam in pools, he sat on porches, he lingered on lawns and he roamed. He weighed 120 pounds, a yearling bear. He touched the hearts of many during his short time on this earth. On July 26th, this majestic bear was critically injured after being hit by a car and local police officers ended his suffering.

"We are heartbroken at Wildlife in Crisis. We've raised orphaned bear cubs and know first-hand just how endearing this species can be. We are proud of our community for their compassion for this bear. There is much we can learn from Bear 211. As suburban sprawl has overtaken Fairfield County, we are now more than ever stewards of the wild animals that live amongst us. We can all make a difference for wildlife from bears to butterflies, by being good stewards. Enlighten your neighbors. Leave mature trees standing. Don't use pesticides, rodenticides or herbicides, and work towards banning them. Allow half your lawn to grow into a life giving meadow. Don't trap wildlife, leave them be. Keep cats indoors and supervise your dogs. It's really easy and so fulfilling to live in harmony with nature. We must teach our children to be tolerant and respectful of our ecosystem. Incessant development killed this bear and so many other wild animals.

"Lack of foresight has caused the overdevelopment of our towns. Traffic is out of control. There's no time for bureaucracy, there is no time for procedures, the time is now to preserve what little is left of open space. All privately owned land will be lost to development unless it is permanently protected. The most meaningful thing we can do as a community to honor Bear 211's memory is to actively preserve remaining open space.

"Black bears are omnivores, with a preference for succulents, greens, roots, nuts, seeds and berries. They will prey on fish and occasionally newborn fawns in the spring, bringing natural balance to our ecosystem. They vary in color from white to brown to black. Mating season is in May and June with delayed embryo implantation happening in the fall once female bears have sufficient fat reserves. They only breed every other year, and only if they are fit enough to raise young. One to five cubs are born in the mother's winter den and remain with her for 18 months.

"A bear habituated to humans will eventually be killed. Black bears will almost always retreat from humans. If they are nervous they will sometimes bluff charge-pounce once, slam their front feet down, blow loudly, and sometimes smack their lips. Blustery bears are not about to attack, they are simply showing their discomfort around humans before they retreat or tree. Keep your distance from bears and they will do the same. Don't run from a bear, simply walk away. Bears are easily scared by clapping, yelling and a water hose if necessary. Just use common sense. Keep bird feeders far from your house. Supervise your dogs! Keep garbage in bear proof containers or closed securely in your garage. A little ammonia in a garbage can will mask food odors. Bears have an incredible sense of smell and are now bulking up for winter. They are not true hibernators, they will emerge from dens on warmer winter days, especially if they are on the thin side. Let's appreciate these magnificent creatures by respecting their space and keeping remaining trees standing, especially old growth trees that produce vital life giving mast. Much appreciated donations in Bear 211's memory can be made on our website: [www.wildlifeincrisis.org](http://www.wildlifeincrisis.org)."

I'm sure there are some homeowners in Armonk that were not thrilled by a visit from Bear 211, for the safety of their young children. But most enjoyed the reprieve from the reality of the pandemic and for the moment that it brought joy to our lives.

"We fell in love with his beautiful face and soulful eyes. We loved watching the joyful antics of a juvenile bear with no cares in the world. As he cemented a place in our hearts he was unknowingly cementing his fate. We can't lose sight of what he did for all of us. He was the common denominator that brought us all together and we all fell in love with him. "

"211 gave us a temporary reprieve from all the divisiveness that fills the rest of our world every day. There are so many posts on this page that many of us missed important information about how and when he lost his fear of humans. We can blame the birdfeeders, the garbage, the grills left in our yards but he started at a very young age when he was hand fed at a homeless encampment in Waterbury. He was relocated to Naugatuck after that but clearly not far enough"

One homeowner enjoyed the visit. "You could tell he just wanted to cool off, was a little tired and probably a little hungry," says Stein. "But it was nice and definitely gratifying to know that he had a fun filled afternoon with us...In hindsight I'm really thankful that I did get to spend some time with him."

**Westchester Olympians continued from pg 1-**

a personal best time of 2:09.04.

Douglass, who was a standout swimmer in Westchester for most of her teenage years, now swims for the University of Virginia. The Pelham Picture House hosted a watch party for Douglass on July 27.

The U.S. Women's Swim team now has 11 medals, led by noted U.S. Olympic swimmer Katie Ledecky.

Ashley Twichell, age 32, from Mt. Kisco, swam in the 10k open water swim in Tokyo and finished 7th. Twichell's appearance at her first ever Olympics made her the US swimming team's oldest Olympian since 1908.

**Trump, Winged Foot, continued from pg 3-**

But one fact remains when comparing Obama's request and Trump's invite. Both require extensive secret service and the closure of major parts of the course, which winds its way through the quiet streets of Mamaroneck, with many homes back yards sitting on the edges of the course.

In 2017 some Winged Foot members tried to hang a portrait of then President Trump but were denied.,

The outrage to Trump, and disappointment at Winged Foot, continues to grow. Larchmont -Mamaroneck Indivisible Tweeted-"are you really going to honor the first US President to refuse to transfer power peacefully? We stand with club members who are outraged by plans to hold such an event."

Never Trump republican Rick Wilson, Tweeted, "Wow. @WingedFoot\_GC is about to take a huge s\*&@ on their brand. Plan to honor Trump with banquet becomes flashpoint at one of America's most elite golf clubs."

Author and Westchester activist Amy Siskind was one of the most vociferous against Trump. "Winged Foot is rightfully embarrassed by this news. Trump's not welcome either place. Organizing is getting underway."

Never Trump republican Steve Schmidt Tweeted, "Winged Foot Golf Club should never ever host a @usopengolf@PGATOUR again. The man being honored, Trump, incited a racist, extremist mob to attack the US Capitol."

Most members are said to want this event over as soon as possible. But to not have foreseen the controversy was a mistake, and a surprise to a club that has some of the titans of corporate America as members. Nothing about Trump goes unnoticed!

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