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Mt. Vernon's Rai Benjamin Could Win Gold at Tokyo Olympics



Rai Benjamin

By Dan Murphy

Mount Vernon NY native Rai Benjamin will compete in the Tokyo Olympic Games in two weeks, and he has the best chance at winning a gold medal for Westchester. Benjamin was a national high school champion in the 400 Meters and the 400 Meter hurdles before attending college at the University of Southern California, USC.

At the U.S. Olympic trials held on June 26, he ran the second fastest 400 meter hurdles EVER at 46.83 seconds. The fastest 400 meter hurdles time ever was recorded back in 1992 by American Kevin Young who ran a 46.78. Young's record has stood up for almost 30 years, but Benjamin feels good about his chances at winning the Gold and breaking the record.

"I know it's there. I just have to tweak some more things. ... I can run so much faster. I know it. I can feel it. I felt really strong coming home." And falling just short of the all time record is "just more fuel for the fire," said Benjamin.

While the favorite in the 400 meter hurdles, Norway's Karsten Warholm and Qatar's Abderrahman Samba, could easily win Gold.

The 24 year old graduate of Mt. Vernon high school, Benjamin is the son of Winston Benjamin and Jeanette Mason, who were both born in Antigua. Benjamin will also compete in the 400 Meter run.

Good Luck Rai! We will be watching!

Dr Michael DiGiorno, St. John's Medical Group:

Catch Up With Preventative Health Care-Testing



Dr. Michael DiGiorno

By Dan Murphy

With most Westchester residents vaccinated, and with COVID-19 positivity rates at less than 1%, Dr. Michael DiGiorno, Medical Director of St. John's Medical Group, is encouraging patients and our readers to return to their pre-COVID routine of getting tested, including getting their annual physicals, screening colonoscopies, bone density testing and mammograms.

"It's important not to let your health lapse because of the pandemic any longer. At least come in and have an annual physical and ensure that your health screening tests are up to date. It is an extraordinarily safe time for patients to come in and catch up with their health care needs, and we are here to help them through the testing process."

"Part of our challenge during the COVID-19 pandemic was to make sure that we stayed open, and that we continued to deliver care to Yonkers and the surrounding communities. We thought it was crucial to maintain a presence in the community during a very difficult time, and if you had an underlying medical condition, or had a medical question or needed a prescription refill, we were open for in person and telemedicine appointments. We concentrated on the safety of our physicians and staff and made sure we were all protected, and we did so quite successfully," said Dr. DiGiorno.

"Now we are moving towards a return to normalcy. People are vaccinated and we can accommodate more patients in person. We are main-

continued on pg 7-

Astorino vs. Cuomo Part 2? Probably Not and Why Both Might Not Make it



Gov. Andrew Cuomo, right, and former County Executive Rob Astorino

By Dan Murphy

At a recent republican fund raiser held in Northern Westchester for Matt Slater, Supervisor in the Town of Yorktown and one of the few rising republicans in the NY suburbs, Congressman and Gubernatorial candidate Lee Zeldin showed up and made his way around the crowd of over 100. Missing from the event was Westchester native and resident Rob Astorino.

Astorino, the two-term Westchester County Executive didn't know about the event, but the fact that Zeldin showed up in Astorino's backyard to seek out GOP support drew the interest of a number of local republicans in attendance. Which brings us to the question in our headline. Can Astorino get through a republican primary and get to a rematch against Governor Andrew Cuomo? And can Cuomo make it through his scandals and investigations to be on the ballot in 2022?

Cuomo and Astorino squared off in 2014 with Cuomo getting 54% of the vote, to 40% for Astorino. Cracking the 40% threshold was a small victory for Astorino, but since then, a Blue Wave landed on Westchester in 2017 after the election of President Donald Trump, resulting in Astorino losing his re-election bid to a third term as County Executive.

Three years later, Astorino ran for State Senate in the 40th District and narrowly lost to democrat State Senator Peter Harckham. For some Westchester republicans there love for Astorino is still there, but most are doubtful he can pull off another race for Governor. "If he can't win a race for State Senate, how can he ask us to support him for Governor?" asked one Westchester elected republican.

Astorino announced his candidacy on May 11. "In normal years, New York leads the nation in highest taxes, government corruption, worst busi-

continued on pg 7-

New Rochelle Police Det. Vaccaro's 'Sucker Punch' Caught on Video Both Support & Outcry for His Actions



NRPD Det. Michael Vaccaro about to punch Malik Fogg who has his hands cocked to punch. from TalkoftheSound.com

By Dan Murphy

The incident between off duty New Rochelle Police Detective Michael Vaccaro and Malik Fogg, that includes recently released video, has resulted in both support for the officer and outcry for his actions. Westchester DA Mimi Rocah charged Vaccaro with attempted third-degree assault after the June 15 incident, in which Vaccaro, after witnessing Fogg in a heated argument with his mother, pulled over and called for backup.

An agitated Fogg did not back down to Vaccaro, resulting in Fogg preparing to swing at Vaccaro, but while being held back by another NRP officer, Vaccaro swings at Fogg, landing a punch to his face which has been characterized as a sucker punch.

Vaccaro also kicks Fogg as more NRP officers arrive and places his knee on Fogg's head while he is placed under arrest. One of the officers is heard saying "Mike relax" in response to Vaccaro's actions. During the video, Fogg is at first baiting Vaccaro into a fight, but later on after being held down by several officers, is asking them to "ease up" after he is handcuffed but still being restrained by three officers.

The video was taken by a witness and obtained by the Westchester DA, who released it to the public. Another video from the gas station where the incident took place, shows Fogg chasing and smacking a car driven by his mother. Fogg then goes after Vaccaro when he sees Vaccaro recording the confrontation between Fogg and his mother. Fogg then chases Vaccaro's car,

continued on pg 5-

Playland is Open for the Summer and Fireworks Returns July 9



Westchester County Executive George Latimer on the historic Grand Carousel at Playland, which opens June 26

After being closed to the public for the 2020 season due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Playland Park in Rye is officially reopening for the 2021 season on Saturday, June 26 at noon. Patrons are welcomed back for rides, entertainment, food and fun from Opening Day through Labor Day; Wednesday through Sunday, and Mondays July 5 and September 6. For the season's full schedule go to PlaylandPark.org or call the park at (914) 813-7000.

The celebration began with a ribbon-cutting ceremony of the historic Grand Carousel and Derby Racer, where the horses are finally riding again. Joyful children hopped onto the completely restored historic wooden horses, and joined Westchester County Executive George Latimer for the first ride on the Grand Carousel at Playland Park in four years.

Latimer said: "I was devastated by the news of the carousel fire in 2017 – the historic carousel is one of the crown jewels of the park. Since I came into office we have worked hard to restore the ride to its original splendor, and this is another example of motivated County government at work. The employees at Playland have done a fantastic job readying the park for the 2021 season, and I look forward to hearing the roar of the Dragon Coaster coupled with laughter under the warm sunshine this summer."

The 106-year-old Mangels-Carmel carousel, originally built for an amusement park in Connecticut, has been a staple at Playland Park since it opened in 1928. Flames, smoke and water caused significant damage to the roof and 66 hand-carved horses in 2017. Across the Great Lawn lies the Derby Racer, the Grand Carousel's rougher, faster big brother – one of only three steeple chase rides still in existence. Built in 1927 for Playland by Prior & Church, the horses move back and forth as well as up and down, simulating a true gallop as it races around the track.

Playland Park is welcoming back visitors at a lower admission price this season. Rider wristbands are \$20, and Junior Rider wristbands are \$15, per person. Spectator wristbands are free for Westchester County residents (proof of residency required) and \$10 for non-residents. Parking is \$10 per car. Fireworks displays over Long Island Sound will take place Friday, July 9, at 9:15 p.m. and then every Friday evening through September 3 with a final show on Sunday, September 5, at Playland Park in Rye. All shows start at 9:15 p.m. Visit PlaylandPark.org, for more information.

Parishioners Say, Father Wiggins Please Don't Go



Father Tim Wiggins

On Tuesday, June 29, 2021, a group of approximately 50 parishioners from Our Lady of Sorrows church in White Plains, New York, held a press conference questioning the intentions of the New York Archdiocese after their beloved charismatic priest and Administrator, Tim Wiggins, was transferred to another parish.

"After a difficult year for our community and the entire globe in getting through the pandemic, we are now faced with another obstacle that is frankly unnecessary," said parishioner Joseph Amato.

Marina Colella harkened, "Father Tim has been a part of our Catholic community for over a decade. He has been instrumental in so many life markers in each of our families. Whether it be weddings, communions, confirmations, or funerals, Father Tim has guided us through some of the most important and many times difficult parts of our lives. Father Tim is an extension of our families. To lose him now would be devastating to us and our children."

Our Lady of Sorrows community questions the intentions of the Archdiocese after the transfer was made without feedback from the parishioners themselves. Many feel that Father Tim not only unified the entire church community during a deeply trying time but created a place of peace, welcoming and support beyond traditional church parameters. Father Tim is also credited with bettering the financial outlook of the parish and bridging the gap during a racially sensitive time in our nation's history. As an African American priest in a predominantly white parish, the synergy that Tim has created with the community is a model example of unity and understanding and transcends any racial or ethnic boundaries.

Our Lady of Sorrows Parishioners are appealing to the Archdiocese of New York to keep Father Tim as Resident Priest of the church and they have gathered over 500 petition signatures which have been delivered to the NY Archdiocese and his Eminence Cardinal Dolan.

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“Welcome Home Westchester” Campaign

Launches to Combat Affordable Housing Shortage



Members of the Welcome Home Westchester coalition pose in front of the Regent Street Senior Apartments, an affordable housing unit in Port Chester

On June 24, stakeholders from across a broad spectrum of the real estate, construction and affordable housing industries gathered to officially introduce the “Welcome Home Westchester” campaign, a multi-stakeholder effort to address the housing issue that has reached a crisis point over the past several years.

The “Welcome Home Westchester” campaign combines several companies involved in the home building and development of housing with economic leaders like the Westchester County Association and Nonprofit Westchester, academics and think tanks that have extensively examined the housing question, organizations dedicated to fighting against homelessness and supporting families in need, faith leaders and community advocates to drive forward a new conversation around housing in the county.

The campaign intends to focus on several key areas: Reforming the way volunteer land use boards work and re-examining zoning to produce stronger, more resilient, and more economically dynamic communities

The campaign will also address the impact that the housing shortage has had on the economy, how it increases the difficulties in tackling climate resiliency, and how it significantly affects extremely low-income renters, people with disabilities, senior citizens, large families, and the homeless.

An issue briefing on the current state of housing in Westchester and how the Welcome Home Westchester campaign intends to move the conversation forward is available at welcomehomewestchester.org.

“When it comes to housing, inaction has costs. Outdated processes in need of reform at the municipal level have costs. “The way we’ve always done it” has costs. Right now, Westchester residents are paying for all of them,” Tim Foley, CEO and Executive Vice President of the Building and Realty Institute (BRI) said. “We believe that a multi-stakeholder campaign like this one can make the invisible visible, with respect to the everyday barriers to providing the housing we need, and encourage communities to make different, better choices to secure a Westchester that is welcoming to all who wish to live and work here – to our shared prosperity!”

“At the Westchester County Association, we are pleased to be working with Tim Foley and the Building and Realty Institute on its Welcome Home Westchester campaign. The WCA has identified the shortage of affordable housing as one of our region’s principal economic challenges and last year we revised our Real Estate Policy Playbook to include a separate section on this issue,” Michael Romita, President & CEO of Westchester County Association said. “Adequate housing impacts directly the availability of a skilled local workforce for our businesses and nonprofits. It is not simply that there is not enough residential real estate. It is that the cost of housing is fast becoming out of reach for middle-class families

continued on pg 4-

America! From Sea to Shining Sea



By Eric W. Schoen

From sea to shining sea, it was so good to see Americans out and about enjoying the Fourth of July over the weekend. Though the weather in our area could have been better on Friday and Saturday, that didn’t stop most folks from getting out of the homes they spent the last year in and eating that crunchy grilled hot dog or enjoying a picnic in the park.

By the way if you were listening to my radio show last week you would have learned of the best frankfurters for your Fourth of July grill. Hebrew National always makes the list, but frankfurter testers at the New York Times also included a brand found only at Whole Foods, Wellshire Farms. Never tasted Wellshire Farms, and healthy Whole Foods isn’t the place where I would think to go buy frankfurters.

The second level of frankfurters included my favorite, Nathan’s. I had Nathan’s frankfurters at the press opening of Playland Park two weeks ago, and as my dining partner Tony Aiello from CBS 2 News said, they have that wonderful crunch to them. Now why they weren’t serving that Nathan’s famous brown mustard (yellow mustard doesn’t no pun intended cut the mustard) with the hot dogs I don’t know. Let’s hope the culinary folks at Playland read this column and replace the yellow mustard with the brown mustard we grew up on enjoying our franks at the Nathan’s giant, now no more outpost on Central Avenue in Yonkers.

A study came out over the weekend regarding condiments that should go on your frankfurter. Ketchup was a no no. Growing up I never knew anyone who would put ketchup on a hot dog. Just like people I know didn’t put mustard on a hamburger. People dipped French fries in ketchup. The mayonnaise dip wasn’t the kind of thing we did in Yonkers.

Now I am told that the old Nathan’s on Central Avenue was bigger and had more seating than the flagship store at Coney Island, a New York must see tourist attraction to this day. It’s been a while since I have been there, but at Playland they serve those wonderful Nathan’s French fries of all shapes and sizes that the chain is famous for.

People rave about Shake Shack’s crinkle cut French fries. They remind me of the crinkle cut French fries my mom would make that she bought from the frozen foods section at Bohack’s. There are so many far superior French fries than Shake Shack, including the many sweet potato fries currently available all over. But as far as I am concerned, if I am going to cheat on my diet with French fries hot, crisp Nathan’s are the way to go.

County Executive George Latimer was of course the main attraction at the Playland opening. This man, who we have seen talking about the coronavirus on television for over a year looked like a different person at the opening of the park. His lovely wife who I had never met before accompanied him and he told me about her long affiliation with Playland. She looked like the happiest person in America waiting to go on Playland’s famous Dragon Coaster, a wooden roller coaster built in 1929. The good County Executive and I decided to forgo the roller coaster experience. It’s fun, but not the best thing for my back.

The County Executive and I did go on the famed Grand Playland Carousel,

continued on pg 7-



A Diverse Workforce for a Diverse County



Dr. Dial Hewitt and his colleagues in the Westchester County Department of Health have been on the front lines of the Covid-19 pandemic for the past year, working exhausting hours and putting their own health and safety on the line to serve others.

Despite the risks and the challenges they face, the Department’s doctors, nurse practitioners, public health nurses, lab techs and support staff remain firmly committed to their mission: protecting the health and safety of the people of Westchester.

“You go into this field because you care about people and you get gratification from helping them,” said Hewlett, who is board certified in Internal Medicine and in the sub specialty of Infectious Diseases.

“I am fortunate and blessed to work with such dedicated professionals,” he said of his colleagues at WCDOH. Most recently, he has been helping oversee the County’s vaccination clinic on Court Street in White Plains.

Hewlett noted that Westchester was ground zero for the Covid-19 pandemic, where an outbreak occurred in New Rochelle.

The virus spread through houses of worship, congregate care settings and other locations – and the Health Department staff mobilized swiftly to respond.

“They were willing to put their lives on the line when we didn’t know very much about this disease,” Hewlett said of the entire Health Department team. “Whatever we have asked of them, they do it.”

Dr. Hewlett has also been involved in outreach to Westchester’s minority communities to provide “accurate, scientific information” and encourage people of color to get vaccinated. He said he hopes to alleviate the hesitation of some Black and Latino residents to get the vaccine.

The executive team at the Health Department has been praised for its leadership during the pandemic, including: Dr. Sherlita Amler, commissioner; Renee Recchia, first deputy commissioner; Dr. Hewlett; Dr. Marisa Montecalvo, Dr. Ada Huang and Lori Smittle, PhD (doctor of nursing).

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>.

Latino U College Access (LUCA) Awards \$10,000 in Scholarships to 1st Generation College Students



A group shot of this year's LUCA scholarship recipients

On June 19, 2021, Latino U College Access (LUCA) hosted its second annual Familia Appreciation Day honoring the Latino U Scholars graduating Class of 2021 who represent four Westchester County high schools – Alexander Hamilton High School, Ossining High School, Sleepy Hollow High School, and White Plains High School. This celebration was hosted at the Wilson House in White Plains and brought together Scholars, Families, Volunteer College Coaches, and the LUCA team for the first time in-person this academic year.

Familia Appreciation Day kicked off with the First En Familia Scholarship presentation. Since 2015, LUCA has distributed \$53,000 to commendable Scholars. This year alone, the organization was thrilled to award \$10,000 in scholarships to ten exceptional winners.

Four awards were graciously given by a pair of the organization's corporate partners: Univision New York and PepsiCo. At the scholarship presentation, LUCA welcomed Hector Gonzalez from PepsiCo and Univision New York's morning anchor for Al Despertar, Elián Zidán, to present the awards to the winners. The remaining six scholarships were established in memory of loved ones who motivated first-generation students to pursue their college dreams.

"We are so proud of the Latino U Scholars Class of 2021 – who are LUCA's first virtual class from start to finish – for reaching this important milestone and becoming the first in their families to attend college," shared Cosette Gutierrez, Executive Director of Latino U College Access. "Congratulations to our First En Familia Scholarship winners and special thanks to our corporate partners and those who have honored loved ones by supporting LUCA Scholarships. We know these awards will have a lasting impact on our Scholars' lives!"

The event continued by celebrating the achievements of Latino U Scholars and recognizing the dedication of their Volunteer College Coaches. Scholars and their families received special graduation gifts, and all of the guests enjoyed Peruvian fusion food from Latusion Food Truck.

LUCA continued to honor the Class of 2021 during a Virtual Graduation Celebration held on June 29. Founded in 2012, Latino U College Access (LUCA) is a social impact organization that transforms lives by making college dreams a reality for low-income, first-generation, Latino youth. LUCA guides students, who have demonstrated academic ability, through individualized coaching and culturally relevant programming, as they navigate higher education and enroll in schools that meet their financial and academic needs. To learn more about LUCA or to make a donation in support of its mission, please visit www.latinou.org.

Westchester County Department of Health Offers BackTo School Immunizations

The summer has just begun, but it's not too early to start thinking about back-to-school vaccinations for your kids. The Westchester County Health Department will be offering back-to-school immunizations to students who qualify at the County clinic in White Plains. Call the Health Department at (914) 995-5800 to find out if you qualify for an appointment.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: "Getting our children vaccinated is one thing we all can do as parents to keep our kids safe when they return to school in September. It is our responsibility to make sure that our kids are up to date on their vaccinations, and our Health Department is helping to create a safe and healthy future for Westchester County's youth."

The back-to-school vaccination clinics are as follows:
Westchester County Health Department Clinic, 134 Court Street, White Plains, Fridays, July 9 through August 27, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Appointments are encouraged. Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) available to anyone age 12 months and older. Tetanus, Hepatitis, Varicella and all required vaccines available to eligible students.

The facility is fully accessible with wheelchairs available onsite. Visit www.westchestergov.com for more information.

County Board Passes Co-Op Disclosure Law

New Measure Will Require Co-ops to Provide a Reason When Applications Are Rejected

On June 28, night, the Westchester Board of Legislators approved a measure to require co-op boards to provide written notice of a reason for rejection when a prospective buyer's application is declined. Under the measure, the reason for rejection must be included when the co-op files notice of a rejection with the County's Human Rights Commission. The legislation passed Monday by a vote of 15-2. Legislators Margaret Cunzio and Terry Clements voted no.

The measure is similar to one that has been in effect in Suffolk County since 2009. The new provision does not change any of the reasons that co-op boards may legally reject buyers.

Co-ops have wide-ranging discretion in choosing who to approve and why. Applicants can be rejected for anything from financial reasons to the belief that the applicant would be a bad neighbor. However, under fair housing laws, applicants cannot be rejected on the basis of race, familial status, national origin, religion, disability, or sex.

The requirement to provide a reason for rejection will allow the County's Human Rights Commission to better identify any pattern of illegal discrimination if it occurs. The Human Right Commission will prepare a form that co-ops will have to use for the notification.

The new legislation also requires co-ops to inform prospective buyers of their co-op's minimum financial requirements or financial preferences before home seekers file an application, and requires fair housing training for co-op board members.

Legislator Catherine Borgia, the legislation's chief sponsor, said, "This measure increases transparency and fairness in the co-op buying process. Buyers will know in advance what the financial requirements are — before they spend money on application fees; and they'll know after the fact, if they're rejected, exactly why. Furthermore, the Human Rights Commission will have the information it needs to protect Westchester residents if discrimination is taking place."

Legislator Damon Maher, chair of the Board's Labor & Housing Committee said, "This is an important strengthening of the co-op disclosure law we passed in 2018. It will open up the process of buying and selling co-ops, which will be good for buyers and sellers. Providing a reason won't have any negative impact for co-ops that aren't discriminating illegally. Suffolk County has a provision like this in place for more than a decade, and that law has not led to increased litigation or insurance costs, as some co-op boards feared that it would. There's really no evidence that this will have a negative impact on any co-ops that are behaving properly. In fact, having a reason for rejection in writing, and having co-op board members get fair housing training will probably protect co-op boards from possible litigation."

Legislator and Majority Whip Christopher Johnson, one of the measure's co-sponsors, said, "Co-ops are often the first and most affordable way for people to become homeowners in Westchester County. Buying one shouldn't be a mystery, with no clear idea of what the financial requirements are, and no clear idea of the reason if a buyer is rejected. It also shouldn't be a mystery to the Human Rights Commission whether or not a co-op is violating fair housing laws."

Board Chairman Ben Boykin said, "I'd like to thank the sponsors of this legislation – Catherine Borgia, Chris Johnson and Kitley Covill – as well as the staff of the County's Human Rights Commission, the County Law Department and members of the public, for working to establish sensible guidelines that will make the process of buying and selling co-ops in Westchester more transparent and better ensure fairness."

Welcome Home Westchester continued from pg 3-

lies. That threatens the long-term health of our economy. The BRI has heard the call and are helping take on this challenge."

"Economic inequality in income and wealth has continued to widen since the Great Recession of 2009. With home equity accounting for nearly 30 percent of household wealth, affordable housing and home ownership must be a priority and legislative objective for communities committed to realizing opportunity for all people," stated Jan Fisher, Executive Director of Nonprofit Westchester. "This will begin to address the life-limiting issues in health care, education and other critical areas resulting from systemic racism. We are proud to collaborate with BRI, government partners and other stakeholders in advancing affordable housing in Westchester."

"There is no amount of taxpayer subsidy that will solve the problem without adequate supply of affordable housing. And the key to that is allowing the free market to operate without the discriminatory local zoning that has discouraged less expensive housing models," Alexander Roberts, former CEO and co-founder of Community Housing Innovations (CHI) said.

"Along with many of Westchester's parents, nonprofit workers who provide direct care to children are among those who are most directly affected by our county's housing crisis," said Kathy Halas, Executive Director of the Child Care Council of Westchester. "The Welcome Home Westchester campaign is an opportunity to help these individuals, who serve as the backbone of our economy and quality of life, obtain the safe, affordable housing everyone deserves."

"We at Lifting Up Westchester believe that having a safe, stable and affordable place to live is the foundation on which all other economic and social advancement can be built. We are proud to stand with the other members of the Welcome Home Westchester Campaign who share our belief that if Westchester County has a range of housing options at all income levels our communities will thrive," Anahaita Kotval, CEO of Lifting Up Westchester said.

"As a provider of single-room occupancy housing in Yonkers, the YMCA is completely attuned to this crisis in affordable housing. The men who live at the Y, mostly low-income and working-class, need focused support from case managers in order to find permanent stable housing in Westchester County, which can take many months. We look forward to being a part of this campaign in order to continue to bring awareness and actionable change," Lucría Ortiz, President & CEO, Yonkers Family YMCA said.

NY AG James Reaches \$230 Million Settlement With Johnson & Johnson, Ends Sale of Opioids

On June 26, New York Attorney General Letitia James today announced an agreement with Johnson & Johnson (J&J) — the parent company of Janssen Pharmaceuticals, Inc. — that will deliver up to \$230 million to New York state, in the largest monetary settlement ever secured by Attorney General James. The agreement resolves claims made by Attorney General James for the company's role in helping to fuel the opioid epidemic and would allocate payments over nine years, with substantial payments made upfront.

The agreement also makes enforceable a bar stopping J&J and all of its subsidiaries, predecessors, and successors from manufacturing or selling opioids anywhere in New York, and acknowledges Johnson & Johnson's exit from the opioid business nationally.

"The opioid epidemic has wreaked havoc on countless communities across New York state and the rest of the nation, leaving millions still addicted to dangerous and deadly opioids," said Attorney General James. "Johnson & Johnson helped fuel this fire, but today they're committing to leaving the opioid business — not only in New York, but across the entire country. Opioids will no longer be manufactured or sold in the United States by J&J. We are also delivering up to \$230 million to fund opioid prevention, treatment, and education efforts across New York state. While no amount of money will ever compensate for the thousands who lost their lives or became addicted to opioids across our state or provide solace to the countless families torn apart by this crisis, these funds will be used to prevent any future devastation. Our trial against the remaining defendants will commence this coming week, where we will lay bare the callous and deadly pattern of misconduct these companies perpetrated as they dealt dangerous and addictive opioids across our state. As always, our goal remains getting funds to those devastated by opioids as quickly as possible."

In March 2019, Attorney General James filed the nation's most extensive lawsuit to hold accountable the various manufacturers and distributors responsible for the opioid epidemic. In addition to J&J, the manufacturers named in the complaint included Purdue Pharma and its affiliates, as well as members of the Sackler Family (owners of Purdue) and trusts they control; Mallinckrodt LLC and its affiliates; Endo Health Solutions and its affiliates; Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. and its affiliates; and Allergan Finance, LLC and its affiliates. The distributors named in the complaint were McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health Inc., Amerisource Bergen Drug Corporation, and Rochester Drug Cooperative Inc.

The cases against Purdue Pharma (and subsequently the Sackler family), Mallinckrodt, and Rochester Drug Cooperative are all now moving separately through U.S. Bankruptcy Court. The trial against all other defendants is currently slated to begin this coming week. As part of today's agreement, J&J will pay New York state a total of up to \$229,862,769.25, with payments made over the course of nine years.

In addition to negotiating the largest monetary settlement since she took office, Attorney General James negotiated substantial injunctive relief securing the end of J&J's manufacturing of opioids and their distribution across New York and the rest of the nation. J&J has committed to ending the manufacture and sale of all opioids and opioid products for distribution in the state of New York, as well as to no longer ship these products anywhere within the United States.

New Rochelle Police Officer, continued from pg 1-

resulting in Vaccaro pulling over and violently helping place Fogg under arrest.

Members of Westchester law enforcement and police unions have supported Vaccaro's actions before the video was released to the public, and after. Keith Olson, President of the Affiliated Police Associations of Westchester said, "The suspect prepares to punch him. Vaccaro punched him first, and we're allowed to do that. Cops are not punching bags for the public."

New Rochelle PBA President Detective Christopher Greco also supported Vaccaro after the video was released. "If Officer Vaccaro swung at this guy three times and Officer Vaccaro went to kick him one time, and this individual was armed with a gun, took out that gun and shot Vaccaro, would we be having this conversation? Probably not."

Oppositor to Vaccaro's actions included a statement from Congressman Jamaal Bowman said, "While the responding on-duty officers acted appropriately to restrain Officer Michael Vaccaro, his actions while acting as a civilian were unacceptable. That sentiment was echoed by the New Rochelle Police Department's subsequent suspension of Officer Vaccaro and the ensuing referral to District Attorney Mimi Rocah's office. To that end, I am in full support of District Attorney Rocah as she carries out her duty to Westchester County."

"Police have a place in our community, but that place isn't to act as vigilantes when they are off the clock. Video footage of the incident in question shows that Officer Vaccaro was acting in anger, in rage, and not in the interest of the law or our greater community. If any member of our district acted in that same manner, they would be facing the same charges that Officer Vaccaro is facing today," said Rep. Bowman.

Julie Davis Carran, from Westchester Coalition for Police Reform, said, "It looked as if Detective Vaccaro was intruding on a situation where he didn't belong and kept intruding, even after the on-duty officers were there, and that he was abusive."

Two candidates for County Legislator had two completely different takes on the video. County Legislator Damon Maher, who represents New Rochelle, said, "The video footage in which he (Vaccaro) swings around and sucker-punches a man already under control and being cuffed, then kicking at his head and having his own mini-Derek Chauvin moment in mashing the civilian's face into the pavement — because the civilian yelled at him — is enough for immediate termination from employment with the City in my book. Aside from the direct personal wrong done to this civilian, consider the fact that nearly every instance of violent urban uprising is ignited by an incident of police brutality. We can thank our luck in New Rochelle that this incident didn't occur on a crowded street corner in the middle of a hot summer day. It is much too risky to have a man like this in the NRPD. He is a ticking time bomb and I shudder to think what might have happened if he had his weapon with him," said Maher.

Maher's opponent, republican Anthony Giacobbe, said, "I fully support the statement by New Rochelle PBA President Christopher Greco. Once again, our law enforcement has been sent a politically motivated message. This type of anti-law enforcement rhetoric by our elected officials must end immediately. They are sending a very clear message that they support criminals over law enforcement. They are putting both our police and citizens in danger. Handcuffing our police will lead to more violence in our streets."

Fogg was arrested and charged with second-degree reckless endangerment, third-degree stalking and fourth-degree criminal mischief and second degree harassment, all misdemeanors. A video of the incident can be found at <https://talkofthesound.com/2021/06/22/westchester-county-district-attorney-releases-charging-materials-with-video-in-case-of-new-rochelle-police-detective-facing-assault-charge/>

Ridge Hill Announces Summer Lineup for "Movies on the Lawn"



Starting July 5-The Lion King and a Movie Every Monday Evening This Summer

Ridge Hill is once again bringing the big screen to the South Lawn with the announcement of "Movies on the Lawn," a weekly evening under the stars experience featuring blockbuster movies from a variety of genres. The movies will be screened on Monday nights for a total of ten weeks beginning on July 5 and running through September 6, 2021. Ridge Hill is offering an extensive list of films including comedy, action, animation and more, making it fun and appealing for all members of the family.

"It's exciting to continue our summer series at Ridge Hill with Movies on the Lawn," said Meghann Hongach, Marketing Director at Ridge Hill. "Our outdoor films have become an annual tradition for our guests, and this year, we're showing more movies than ever before with classics like The Wizard of Oz, Marvel favorites like Guardians of the Galaxy, and new Disney hits such as Raya and the Last Dragon."

Festivities begin at 7pm with food trucks, both savory and sweet, and games for families to enjoy on Lembo Street adjacent to the lawn. Movies begin at sunset for a clear viewing under the stars.

The lineup of movies is as follows:

- 7/5 – The Lion King (2019)
- 7/12 – Trolls World Tour (2020)
- 7/19 – The Wizard of Oz (1939)
- 7/26 – Godzilla vs King Kong (2020)
- 8/2 – The Incredibles (2004)
- 8/9 – Captain Marvel (2019)
- 8/16 – Guardians of the Galaxy (2014)
- 8/23 – Wonder Woman 1984 (2020)
- 8/30 – Raya and the Last Dragon (2021)
- 9/6 – Jumanji: The Next Level (2019)

Films will be shown on the South Lawn located at the corner of Market Street and Lembo Street near Whole Foods Market. Admission is free and seating is available on a first come basis, so it is recommended to get there early for a good spot and to bring blankets and chairs.

Movies on the Lawn are part of Ridge Hill's Outdoor Summer Series also consisting of the Market on Market Farmers Market on Fridays 11am – 5pm, Market on Market Artists Market on Saturdays 1pm to 7pm, and Music in the Streets on Friday and Saturday evenings. Details at www.RidgeHill.com/events.

United Way Awards \$130,000 in COVID Response Grants to Food Pantries & Non Profits

United Way of Westchester and Putnam awarded \$130,000 to local nonprofits helping disadvantaged individuals and families recover from the crises brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic.

"The health and economic crises created by the COVID 19 pandemic disproportionately affected the marginalized members of our society. The nonprofit community has been working tirelessly to respond to community needs and our United Way is committed to supporting their efforts," said United Way of Westchester and Putnam CEO Tom Gabriel.

The grants were made through the United Way of Westchester and Putnam Community Disaster Recovery Fund, a collection of different funds administered by United Way of Westchester and Putnam to provide direct disaster recovery assistance to local nonprofits affected by colossal natural and human-made disasters.

Since the start of the COVID-19 public health emergency, UWWP has administered over \$1.8 million in funds to nonprofits in Westchester and Putnam.

The following organizations were awarded grants in this latest round: 914 Cares, Boys & Girls Club of Mt. Vernon, Cancer Support team, Inc, Caring for the Hungry and Homeless of Peekskill, Caritas of Port Chester, Community Center of Northern Westchester, Community Resource Center, Cove Care, Feeding Westchester, Food Bank of the Hudson Valley, Girls Inc of Westchester County, Giving Tree Global, Guidance Center of Westchester, Hearts and Homes for Refugees, HOPE Community Services, Human Development Services of Westchester, Interfaith Emergency Food Pantry of Pleasantville, Latino U College Access, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, Lifting Up Westchester, Meals-on-Wheels of New Rochelle, NAMI Westchester, NY WEI Corp, Open Door Medical Center, Pace Women's Justice Center, Peekskill Education Foundation, Putnam CAP (WestCOP), Rye YMCA, Second Chance Foods, Inc, STEM Alliance of Larchmont-Mamaroneck, Westchester Jewish Community Services, Westchester Library System, YMCA of Yonkers, Inc, Yonkers Partners in Education, Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, YWCA White Plains and Central Westchester. Visit www.uwvp.org for more information.



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*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.



Classifieds**Auto Donations**

Drive Out Breast Cancer: Donate a car today! The benefits of donating your car or boat: Fast Free Pickup - 24hr Response Tax Deduction - Easy To Do! Call 24/7: 855-905-4755

Buying / Selling

Buying diamonds, gold, silver, all fine jewelry and watches, coins, paintings, better furs, complete estates. We simply pay more! Call Barry 914-260-8783 or e-mail Americabuying@aol.com

Education / Career Training

TRAIN AT HOME TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 855-543-6440. (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

Education / Career Training

COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM! Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer & Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain programs for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! (844) 947-0192 (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

Events

ANTIQUA LOVERS TAKE NOTE! BRIMFIELD IS BACK- ALL SHOWS! July 13-18. New shows open daily.

Visit www.BrimfieldAntiqueFleaMarket.com for info on individual shows. Next Show

Dates:

September 7-12.

Health

VIAGRA & CIALIS! 60 pills for \$99. 100 pills for \$150. FREE shipping. Money back guaranteed! 1-855-579-8907

Help Wanted

\$18.50 NYC, \$17 L.I. up to \$13.50 Upstate NY!

If you need care from your relative, friend/ neighbor and you have Medicaid, they may be eligible to start taking care of you as personal assistant under NYS Medicaid CDPA Program. No Certificates needed. 347-713-3553

Home Improvement

Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off and 0% financing for those who qualify. PLUS Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-763-2379

Home Improvement

The Generac PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-888-871-0194

Home Improvement

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Miscellaneous

BEST SATELLITE TV with 2 Year Price Guarantee! \$59.99/mo with 190 channels and 3 months free premium movie channels! Free next day installation! Call 888-508-5313

TV Internet Phone

DISH TV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 7/21/21. 1-888-609-9405

Vacation Rentals

OCEAN CITY, MARYLAND. Best selection of full/partial week rentals. FREE Color Brochure. Holiday Real Estate, Inc: 1-800-638-2102 Online reservations: www.holidayoc.com. \$75 discount - new rentals. Code: "ToTheOcean2021" (Expires 08-01-2021)

**CORPORATION NOTICE
CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK****PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, July 13, 2021 at 5:00pm, Mayor's Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

A LOCAL LAW CREATING A NEW CHAPTER 39 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS ENTITLED 'HOTEL LICENSING'

Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary. Further information, including access to a copy of said proposed local law, may be obtained at the City Clerk's office, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York and on the City's Website.

MIKE SPANO, Mayor

Date: June 28, 2021

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.

Westchester Rising

PO Box 705, Yonkers NY 10702-914-833-1588.

Proudly serving all of Westchester County with hyperlocal news. Member NY Press Association.

Daniel Murphy, Publisher & Editor in Chief, dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com. Bayan Baker, Assistant to the Editor in Chief risingmediagroup@gmail.com. Legal notice inquiries to: risinglegalnotice@gmail.com. Advertising requests to the Editor: dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

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 SALE**SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER**

Manufacturers and Traders Trust Company, a/k/a M&T Bank, successor by merger with Hudson City Savings Bank,

Plaintiff

AGAINST

Nigel B. Kelly a/k/a Nigel Kelly a/k/a Nigel Brian Kelly, Defendant(s)

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated November 4, 2020 I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction in Courtroom 200 of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, New York on July 23, 2021 at 9:30AM, premises known as 221 Betsy Brown Road, Rye Brook, NY 10573. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the Village of Rye Brook, Town of Rye, County of Westchester, State of NY, Section 135.44 Block 1 Lot 12. Approximate amount of judgment \$956,569.17 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 50722/2019. The auction will be conducted pursuant to the COVID-19 Policies Concerning Public Auctions of Foreclosed Property established by the Ninth Judicial District.

Ralph D. Amicucci, Esq., Referee

LOGS Legal Group LLP f/k/a Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC

Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff

175 Mile Crossing Boulevard

Rochester, New York 14624

(877) 430-4792

Dated: May 26, 2021

For sale information, please visit www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832

MDG Design + Construction is currently seeking construction Section 3 eligible applicants for a moderate rehabilitation project, Calcagno Homes Located in Yonkers, NY.

Section 3 eligible applicants are invited to submit a resume for the work in the following trades:

- Electrician Mechanic, Junior Foreman, & Helpers.
- Duct Installer & Refrigeration Piper.
- Plumber
- Elevator Repair and Maintenance (union)
- Roof Laborer
- Masonry Laborer
- General Laborer

Work is to be performed in Westchester County under Davis Bacon Act (prevailing wage) requirements.

Section 3 residents are:

- Public housing residents or
- Persons who live in the area where a HUD-assisted project is located and who have a household income that falls below HUD's income limits.

For more Section 3 information: <https://www.hud.gov/section3>

Eligible applicants must have an active Osha 30 card. If interested in applying, please send a resume with the position desired to:

Jeffrey Goritz; jgoritz@mdgny.com

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.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING FOR AMENDMENT TO ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF YONKERS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the undersigned has applied to the City Council of The City of Yonkers for an amendment to the Zoning Map of the City of Yonkers to change the zone district classification of the property located at 612 E. Grassy Sprain Road, Yonkers, New York, also known as Block 4391, Lot 435 on the Tax Assessment Map of the City of Yonkers from "S-100" to "S-60," and that, pursuant to Section 43- of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Yonkers, a public hearing on such application will be held by the City Council on July 14, 2021 at 11:00 a.m. at the City Council Chamber, located at 40 South Broadway, New York. Those interested in speaking at the public hearing should contact the Office of the City Clerk of the City of Yonkers for instructions to speak at the hearing.

Dated: Yonkers, New York
June 23, 2021

612 SPRAIN BROOK LLC, Applicant

By: _____
Joseph E. Royce, Managing Member

BLEAKLEY PLATT & SCHMIDT, LLP
Attorneys for Applicant
One North Lexington Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

MOUNT VERNON MAN ARRAIGNED ON MANSLAUGHTER CHARGE IN SHOOTING DEATH OF SLEEPY HOLLOW RESIDENT

A Mount Vernon man was arraigned June 30 on a charge of Manslaughter in the First Degree for the for the June 28 killing of a Sleepy Hollow man, Westchester District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced.

Emmanuel Valentin Perez, 18, appeared in Sleepy Hollow Village Court where he was charged with the shooting death of 32-year-old Manuel Salazar. During the incident, which took place in Margotta Courts Park in Sleepy Hollow, another man also sustained a gunshot wound.

Salazar was taken to Westchester County Medical Center, where he died. The second victim was treated and released. Valentin Perez was arrested on June 29 and remains in custody at the Westchester County Jail.

"We extend our deepest condolences to Mr. Salazar's family, and we have already reached out to them to offer victim support services," said DA Rocah. "We share Westchester residents' concerns about gun violence and will continue to fight this problem aggressively."

St. John's Medical Group, continued from pg 1-

taining processes in place, including using masks and enhanced cleaning to ensure optimal safety. We provide a very safe, clean environment, so now is the time to pivot and focus on health care maintenance.”

“Our physicians and staff are available and understand that not everyone has the same level of comfort. If you have any specific concerns, let us know and we will work to ensure your return is a positive experience. In addition to primary care, our specialty physicians are on-site and available to address your gastroenterology, nephrology, physical medicine, vascular, podiatric and pain management needs.”

Dr. DiGiorno stressed that, “unfortunately, underlying health conditions don't wait for the pandemic to pass. We do see some patients, with diabetes who have strayed and have weight gain because of a lack of activity. As a result, their diabetes has become poorly controlled. Similarly, we are seeing patients with chronic hypertension, which was once well-controlled, now require additional therapy. We understand why—gyms were closed, our diets and routines were interrupted, and we were told to stay home, and it all took a toll on our health.”

“Now is the time to get people back on track, with basic testing, and diabetes and blood pressure treatments and screenings. While we have seen some slippage with chronic conditions in some patients, we want that to be the exception and not the rule.”

“So go back for your basic labs, physicals, and colonoscopies. The environment is safe and clean and accessible. They will expedite your appointment and connect you to your primary care physician. If you do not have a physician, St. John's has lots of options and it all starts with a phone call.”

“We understand what our community, and the world has been through. There is no judgement here. Our goal is to achieve wellness, so don't be afraid to see a physician. We just want everyone to get well again, and move forward as a community” said Dr. DiGiorno.

Michael DiGiorno, DO, MHSA, FASN, is the Vice-President, Medical Operations, and the Chief of Nephrology at St. John's Riverside Hospital, and the Medical Director of the St. John's Medical Group practice.

To make an appointment or contact a member of St. John's Riverside Hospital, or St. John's Medical Group call 914.964.4DOC.

Idoni Wins Democratic Primary in County Clerk Re-Election Bid

Westchester County Clerk Tim Idoni won the democratic primary against Yonkers City Councilmember Shanae Williams by a 51%-49% margin. The totals came from the Board of Elections after all of the ballots were counted.

“I am humbled, grateful, and proud of the support from my fellow Democrats,” said Idoni “My entire career has been based around government, from being a city manager to my serving as mayor and now as County Clerk, I have always done my best to help the people I am tasked to represent. Thank you for your confidence.”

Councilmember Williams said, “While I did not win the race for Westchester County Clerk I am not disheartened. I'm grateful for the opportunity and the experience of running a county wide race. Grateful for the people I met along the way. Grateful for the people who have been inspired by our campaign. Grateful for the fact that we made some powerful people work their tails off and now they will continue to work hard for the people, because we are all watching.

Westchester, this is not the end. To my friends, family and supporters, thank you again We ran a great, honest, and independent campaign.”

To many Westchester democrats, Williams 'loss' is actually a win, because she came within 2% points from the biggest political upset in the county in more than a decade. And for Idoni, it is four more years to continue the improvements and efficiencies he has made to the County Clerks office.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

much tamer than the roller coaster. A fire several years ago damaged a good part of the carousel, and I am happy to say that the ride has been meticulously restored and is ready for that nostalgic ride for so many and for newcomers to enjoy. The park is in pristine condition, and if my experience visiting Tibbets Brook Park for exercise during the pandemic when gym going was not an option is any indication, those of us who live in Westchester are pretty lucky to have a magnificent, clean, well kept park system.

By the way the parks in Yonkers are really nice to visit at this time of year and all year round. So glad to see music alive for all to enjoy at Untermyer Gardens Conservancy, the fancy name for Untermyer Park so many of us have enjoyed since it was donated to Yonkers by Samuel Untermyer oh so many years ago. And now that we have had so much fun it's time to go into the serious business of the day.

Primary 2021 and Politics

One thing Yonkers does not need is rank choice voting, the chaos we are observing and in the midst of in New York City. Over 80% of New Yorkers ranked a second choice for Mayor, but I would bet that of those 80%, 75% don't understand how it works. Add to this chaos the traditional incompetence of the New York Board of Elections, and you have a monumental mess.

The County Clerk race between incumbent Tim Idoni and Shanae Williams race was by far the biggest surprise in Westchester this year. Both of them are excellent public officials. By mistake the paperwork for a license that Idoni's office handles didn't reach me last year. I went to his office and his staff promptly took care of the situation for me. I personally thanked him for that great service.

Shanae Williams had a fraction of the money Idoni had and no name recognition outside of her Yonkers district. For her to pull as close as she did in the race shows her hard work and the support team she developed. Take my word we will be reading about her mounting a race for higher office in the not too distant future. She is a force to be reckoned with in Democrat politics, and a nice one at that.

After the Yonkers Democrats and the Spano 'Democrats' slept and caused the loss of Congressman Eliot Engel and Judge Tom Daly last year, interesting to see that they woke up this year and all the candidates they supported won soundly. Lakisha Collins Bellamy led the pack for Council President, and we look forward to her expanding her community involvement when she takes office.

As for Mayor Mike Spano, as he is term limited rumor has it that he will challenge Congressman Jamaal Bowman for the Democratic nomination for Congress next year. Spano is big on constituent service in Yonkers, something Engel was big on in Washington during his many years of service. I have attempted to contact Bowman via social media several times to no avail.

One thing that we learned in the New York City Mayoral primary and certainly is applicable in Yonkers and Westchester is that people are increasingly worried about their safety and security. Continuous calls to defund the police are becoming increasingly unpopular with the electorate. Something candidates will have to keep in mind in the future. If New York loses a Congressional seat with redistricting, Bowman is the low man on the totem pole. Loss of his seat will add to the pain that occurred when we lost Engel's power in Washington, D.C.

Speaking of Washington, D.C. it's time, particularly with summer upon us that we reopen the halls of our Nation's Capitol to the American Public. People want to visit their legislators office in Washington, D.C. What occurred on January 6 is that the Capitol police, underfunded for years and using outdated equipment let the Trump constituency take over. Six months have passed and now we are setting up Congressional committees to investigate what occurred?

Americans flew the friendly skies via plane over the Fourth of July. Enough of this Proxy Voting by our legislators in Washington, D.C. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has designated Congressman Bowman as her proxy in the halls on Congress. If she is afraid of a plane take a car like many of us will do to Washington this summer!

A Closing Note: The tragedy in Surfside, Florida should be a wake up call to local officials locally and throughout the country to inspect buildings on a more periodic basis. Particularly when there are streams of reports saying structural problems exist. If I was on a Coop Board I would be having the building I reside in inspected right now. Not the best of times to be on a Coop Board or a board running housing anywhere in the country! We will explore this further next week. Pray for those who died and are missing in Surfside, Florida.

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.

Astorino Cuomo Part 2? continued from pg 1-

ness climate and losing our people to other states. This past year, we've also led the nation in Covid deaths and job loss,” said Astorino. “And despite being bailed out by the federal government, Cuomo and state legislators still raised taxes and still went on a wild spending spree, passing a budget this year that increased spending by a staggering and unaffordable \$18 billion. New York now spends more money annually than more populated states Texas and Florida combined. Just think about that for a minute. It's crazy. Especially when you realize how healthy the economies of those states are, how fast they're growing and the fact that neither has a state income tax,” said Astorino in his kick-off.

Long Island Congressman Lee Zeldin has quickly picked up more than two dozen County GOP endorsements and has raised \$2.7 Million. But most important, Zeldin won a straw poll of republican party county chairman with 85% of the vote, with Astorino getting 5%. NYS GOP Chair Nick Langworthy supports Zeldin, saying, “Lee achieved 85 percent of the weighted vote. It was substantial, it was representing all regions. I think he really, truly earned this title of presumptive nominee. I think this will give an added boost to his campaign as he goes to raise funds and build support both in the Republican party and cross over voters.”

Langworthy added that republican donors “don't want to waste money on a primary. The task is too great. It's so hard to win in a blue state.”

Astorino vowed to continue his campaign. “The three million Republicans throughout New York will be deciding who the strongest candidate is in next June's primary, not a few dozen party insiders, many of whom have told me they were pressured into making an endorsement they weren't ready to make.”

Another roadblock for Astorino is Andrew Guiliani, the son of Rudy Guiliani, who is also running for the republican nomination for NY Governor. Guiliani got 0% of the leadership vote in the strawpoll but is vying for the headlines. Zeldin also has the Conservative Party nod.

There is also no guarantee that Governor Andrew Cuomo will run for a fourth term in 2022. Cuomo has \$17 Million in cash on hand and is holding a fund raiser on June 29. All indications are that Cuomo wants to run for a fourth term, but the allegations over the past year of improper behavior with female staffers have put his political future in jeopardy, along with allegations of providing misleading information during COVID of Nursing Home Deaths.

NY Attorney General Tish James is conducting an investigation, which could result in impeachment proceedings in the State legislature. Cuomo has refused several calls from prominent democrats for him to resign, including State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, from Westchester.

It is very possible that neither Cuomo or Astorino make it to the November 2022 ballot for Governor. One Westchester republican said, “I have voted for Rob 5 times. Three for County Executive, once for state senate and once for Governor. But I think its over now.”

much tamer than the roller coaster. A fire several years ago damaged a good part of the carousel, and I am happy to say that the ride has been meticulously restored and is ready for that nostalgic ride for so many and for newcomers to enjoy. The park is in pristine condition, and if my experience visiting Tibbets Brook Park for exercise during the pandemic when gym going was not an option is any indication, those of us who live in Westchester are pretty lucky to have a magnificent, clean, well kept park system.

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Shanae Williams had a fraction of the money Idoni had and no name recognition outside of her Yonkers district. For her to pull as close as she did in the race shows her hard work and the support team she developed. Take my word we will be reading about her mounting a race for higher office in the not too distant future. She is a force to be reckoned with in Democrat politics, and a nice one at that.

After the Yonkers Democrats and the Spano 'Democrats' slept and caused the loss of Congressman Eliot Engel and Judge Tom Daly last year, interesting to see that they woke up this year and all the candidates they supported won soundly. Lakisha Collins Bellamy led the pack for Council President, and we look forward to her expanding her community involvement when she takes office.

As for Mayor Mike Spano, as he is term limited rumor has it that he will challenge Congressman Jamaal Bowman for the Democratic nomination for Congress next year. Spano is big on constituent service in Yonkers, something Engel was big on in Washington during his many years of service. I have attempted to contact Bowman via social media several times to no avail.

One thing that we learned in the New York City Mayoral primary and certainly is applicable in Yonkers and Westchester is that people are increasingly worried about their safety and security. Continuous calls to defund the police are becoming increasingly unpopular with the electorate. Something candidates will have to keep in mind in the future. If New York loses a Congressional seat with redistricting, Bowman is the low man on the totem pole. Loss of his seat will add to the pain that occurred when we lost Engel's power in Washington, D.C.

Speaking of Washington, D.C. it's time, particularly with summer upon us that we reopen the halls of our Nation's Capitol to the American Public. People want to visit their legislators office in Washington, D.C. What occurred on January 6 is that the Capitol police, underfunded for years and using outdated equipment let the Trump constituency take over. Six months have passed and now we are setting up Congressional committees to investigate what occurred?

Americans flew the friendly skies via plane over the Fourth of July. Enough of this Proxy Voting by our legislators in Washington, D.C. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez has designated Congressman Bowman as her proxy in the halls on Congress. If she is afraid of a plane take a car like many of us will do to Washington this summer!

A Closing Note: The tragedy in Surfside, Florida should be a wake up call to local officials locally and throughout the country to inspect buildings on a more periodic basis. Particularly when there are streams of reports saying structural problems exist. If I was on a Coop Board I would be having the building I reside in inspected right now. Not the best of times to be on a Coop Board or a board running housing anywhere in the country! We will explore this further next week. Pray for those who died and are missing in Surfside, Florida.

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.

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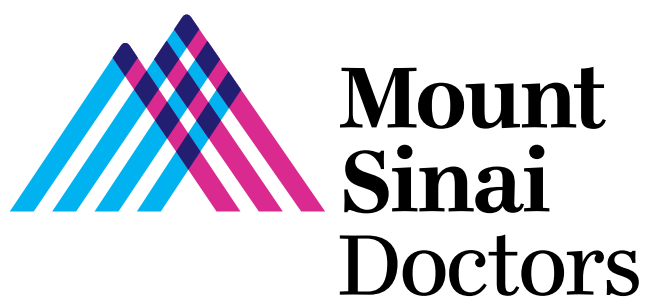
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