

# Westchester Rising

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## Unofficial Westchester Democratic Primary Results



Long serving Westchester Democrats, County Clerk Tim Idoni, left and Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner, right, have unofficially won their democratic primaries

By Dan Murphy

With very few Westchester Democrats coming out to vote in their party's primary June 22 and before in early voting, unofficial results show the following:

**County Clerk:** Incumbent County Clerk Tim Idoni is narrowly holding onto a lead over Yonkers City Councilmember Shanae Williams by a 51%-49% margin, with mail in ballots and absentee ballots still to be counted.

While it appears that Idoni will hold on and serve a fourth term, Williams can also call this a victory for her campaign, because nobody thought she would come this close to beating a well known and respected Westchester Democrat. Less than 325 votes separate the two with mail in ballots to be counted.

Early on Primary Day June 22, the Idoni campaign sent out an email to supporters explaining the voter turnout is very low and we need you to come out and vote.

One reason for Williams' almost getting 50% of the vote is that her home City of Yonkers had several contested primaries and that a large share of the vote in the primary countywide came from Westchester's largest city. Regardless of the final outcome, Williams political future remains bright.

In Greenburgh, unofficial results have incumbent Supervisor Paul Feiner with 60% and his opponent Tasha Young with 40%. Many believe that Young's impressive campaign means that we will see in her in another political office soon.

In the three democratic primaries for County Legislator, incumbents Christopher Johnson, 62%, Jose Alvarado, 48%, and T Woodson Samuels, 57% all won their primaries challenges.

In Mt. Vernon, Darren Morton won the primary for Comptroller with 62% of the vote, and the race for three seats on the City Council had seven candidates running, and six of the seven candidates are only separated by 200 votes and is too close to call until the mail in ballots are counted.

In Peekskill, Councilmember Vanessa Agudelo lost her democratic

continued on pg 7-

## Pelham Native Kate Douglass Headed to Olympics in Japan



Kate Douglass

By Dan Murphy

Pelham native Kate Douglass is going to the Olympics. Douglass, who was a standout swimmer in Westchester for most of her teenage years, now swims for the University of Virginia as a sophomore. Douglass participated recently in the US Olympic trials in Omaha, Nebraska and qualified in the 200-meter individual.

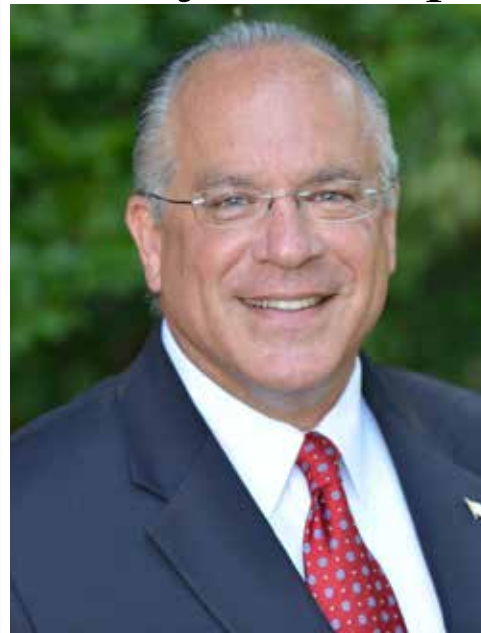
Douglass now joins famous U.S. Olympic swimmers Katie Ledecky as the U.S. Team heads to the Olympics in Tokyo in July. Douglass is a former three-time Westchester/Putnam Swimmer of the Year. Look for Douglass on TV in a few weeks.

Another female star athlete that you may see in four years in the Olympics is Erin Waters. The senior at Lakeland High School recently competed in the New York State Showcase, a track and field tournament that featured Waters' specialty, the hammer-throw.

Waters competed against the best athletes from around the country and won the 144-throw, easily defeating the competition. She is #1 in New York State in her category, and ranked #20 in the United States.

Erin is headed off to SUNY Binghamton in the fall, where she will compete and who knows what the future holds. Congratulations to Erin Waters, who also happens to live down the road from me.

## Town of Eastchester Says No to Marijuana Dispensaries, Cafes



"The multitude of issues generated by not opting out far outweigh a small tax revenue"

**Eastchester Supervisor Anthony Colavita**

By Dan Murphy

At their June 15th meeting, the Eastchester Town Board unanimously voted to adopt a local law opting-out of allowing cannabis retail dispensaries and on-site consumption sites in the Town of Eastchester. This makes Eastchester the first community in Westchester to say thanks but no thanks to permitting marijuana cafes and retail stores from operating in their community.

Local governments have until the end of this year to Opt-Out of permitting marijuana from being sold once New York State government comes up with a mechanism to regulate who will have the right to sell legal pot. While the State legislature and Governor Andrew Cuomo passed legislation legalizing recreational marijuana, the details and licensing about who will be allowed to sell Marijuana has yet to be worked out, and could take a year or more to do so.

But the Eastchester Town Board and Supervisor Anthony S. Colavita did not delay in rejecting the idea, and New York State law expressly authorizes the Town Board to adopt a local law requesting the Cannabis Control Board to prohibit the establishment and operation of cannabis retail dispensary licenses and/or on-site consumption licenses with the jurisdiction of the town.

"We are one of the first, if not the first, Towns in the County to opt out of permitting dispensaries and on-site consumption locations. The multitude of issues generated by not opting out far outweigh a small tax revenue", said Supervisor Anthony S. Colavita.

Eastchester Police Chief Tim Bonci further discussed the Police Department's opposition to the state law and indicated that multiple police organizations and PTA's were also supportive of opting-out of permitting dispensaries and consumption sites

The Town of Eastchester is the first local government in Westchester to Opt Out of Marijuana sales and consumption sites. There is opposition to permitting the retail sale and of marijuana cafes in other Westchester towns but the leaders we spoke to "didn't want the aggravation" of opting out and

continued on pg 4-

## Westchester Police Unions Claim DA Rocah "Hunting Cops" After Arrest of NRPD Detective



Westchester District Attorney Mimi Rocah, left, called recent comments by Police Union presidents in New Rochelle and Mt. Vernon "inflammatory and irresponsible," concerning the arrest of New Rochelle Police Detective Michael Vaccaro

By Dan Murphy

Any political honeymoon that existed between Westchester District Attorney Mimi Rocah and members of Westchester County Police Unions ended last week when Rocah's office charged New Rochelle Police Officer Michael Vaccaro with third-degree attempted assault for actions that took place on Feb. 15,

Vaccaro, a 16-year veteran of the force, was off duty when he saw a Mount Vernon man harassing and threatening his mother on Main Street. Vaccaro pulled over and intervened on behalf of the woman, only to have the man turn his rage on Vaccaro resulting in a call for backup, and then, varying accounts of what happened next.

Vaccaro's attorney, Brendan Quinn, said that "When on-duty NRPD officers arrived, Detective Vaccaro assisted them in placing the belligerent and violent suspect under arrest before he could harm anyone else," adding that a video shows Vaccaro using "reasonable and justifiable force."

DA Rocah stated, "We have evaluated the evidence – including a review of police reports, video surveillance, a cellphone video recording, and recorded calls made to NRPD – and determined that Vaccaro's actions warrant charges of attempted assault in the third degree, given the repeated physical blows and the fact that other uniformed police officers had the suspect and the situation under control at the time.

continued on pg 7-

## No Fireworks, But Lots to do in Westchester County This Summer



**Ferris Bueller's Day Off will be shown on July 9 at Kensico Dam Plaza**

While most local fireworks displays have been cancelled for July 4, (Yonkers is the only one we know left), there are a number of events hosted by Westchester County to keep you and your family busy.

Several Friday nights this summer, Screenings Under the Stars features family-friendly, drive-in movies across the county. The cost is \$25 per car. Movies and locations include:

June 25: "Trolls World Tour," Kensico Dam Plaza

July 9: "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," Kensico Dam Plaza

July 23: "Tom & Jerry," Croton Point Park

Aug. 6: "Godzilla vs. Kong," Kensico Dam Plaza

Aug. 20: "Forrest Gump," Kensico Dam Plaza

Sept. 10: "Pixar's Soul," Croton Point Park

Sept. 24: "Disney's Mulan," Tibbetts Brook

Westchester County government is also hosting five concerts. They are:

June 29- High Noon, Croton Point Park

July 1: Songs in the Attic, Kensico Dam Plaza

July 20: The Nerds, Kensico Dam Plaza

This year's list of events is an expansion, due to pent up demand by Westchester families and the success of the drive-in movies last year. "I think that's reading the marketplace, and there is a clamor for it because people talked to me over the course of the year, and said we loved the drive-in movies, can you do more," said County Executive George Latimer.

Social distancing will be maintained at all events. Tickets can be purchased at <https://www.showclix.com/event/wcp-scs21>.

The county beaches are also open, so get out and enjoy the summer. Visit [Westchestergov.com](http://Westchestergov.com) for more information.

## Stepinac Valedictorian Nicholas DeSanctis Headed to Harvard



*Nicholas DeSanctis*

Congratulations to all of the high school graduates in Westchester County in 2021. Like all of us, you have been through a difficult COVID year, but you have made it and are moving on with your lives.

Stepinac High School Valedictorian Nicholas DeSanctis, from Ossining, gave us some words of wisdom, as he heads off to Harvard in the fall.

"As we go out into the world as men, we must learn to follow new dreams while discovering who we are and sticking to what we know about ourselves. We are entering a recovering world no one has seen before; the future is unwritten and we must make choices for how we will change it. With lives going back to normal, we enter a new world of hope knowing that we carry with us Stepinac strength and no matter where we go, we will always have an entire community supporting us. We go out as men of justice, strength and confidence, turning our obstacles into opportunities."

"Even with a shortened junior year, I'm sure I speak for most of us in saying that this year was by far the toughest year of high school, each for our own separate reasons. For many it was the lack of motivation; for others, it was the added stress of an unknown pathogen. We didn't know where our next meal was coming from (n)or if our loved ones would be safe.

"It would be a fault of mine to not state that we as students did not give up. We took on the present and began to push forward."



## Yonkers Philharmonic Online Orchestra Concerto June 27

Have you ever wondered what became of the fantastic concerto competition winners that you've heard perform with the Yonkers Philharmonic over the years? Did you know Josephine Caruso, who started and ran the competition for the orchestra? Have you wondered about Bob Sherman's involvement through the years? We answer these questions with our YPO@Home program: The Concerto Competition Retrospective premiering on June 27, 2021. We asked previous winners to send in a short performance videos and/or an update on what they've been doing. We asked long time Board Member, adjudicator and competition organizer, Joyce Henery, and emcee, Bob Sherman, to provide insight about the history and evolution of the competition since its inception. So join us for music and conversation starting June 27th.

We're getting back together live as an ensemble. In July, the Yonkers Philharmonic Brass section announces their triumphant return to the stage with a YPO@Home outdoor performance. In August, the Yonkers Philharmonic strings close out the Hudson River Museum's Summer Amphitheater program with a return to the stage, live for a select audience on August 20, 2021 but available through YPO@Home in September. Check out the YPO Facebook page or signup for the newsletter at [yonkersphilharmonic.org](http://yonkersphilharmonic.org) for further details. Our planning for live performances with audience is well underway for the 2021-2022 Season. We're eager to get together as a community orchestra and keep the music playing for our audience once again.


Key concert information: Premiere: Sunday, June 27, 2021. Place: ON-LINE ONLY <http://yonkersphilharmonic.org/athome>. Streaming starts at 8am.

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All Untermyer Performing Arts Council programs are admission free and open to the public.

In case of potential inclement weather, this program may be postponed. Please call the Untermyer Performing Arts Council's Arts Line after 2 pm the day of the performance; updates will be on the voicemail message.

This program is made possible by ArtsWestchester with support from Westchester County Government, the City of Yonkers, Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins, Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblymember Nader Sayegh, and our loyal arts patrons.

## First Responders Honored by Mid-Westchester Elks



**Gathered for the Mid-Westchester Elks 2021 First Responder Award Recipients Presentations: L-R-Armonk Assistant Fire Chief Brian Fenster; Armonk Fire Chief Philippe Goulet; Elks Chairman Jim Comstock; Laureen Smith-Arena, Northern Westchester Hospital; Robert Boddie, West Point Fire Department; Julie Gallagher, Armonk Fire Department; EMT, Byram Hills High School Nurse; Elks exalted ruler Jay Singer, and Elks member Arthur Adelman. Standing behind Laureen and Robert is the Elks' Anthony Gilberti,**

**Submitted by Grace Bennett, TheInsiderPress.com**

Following a traditional Flag Day Service, members of the Mid-Westchester Elks, Lodge #535, honored three first responders commending their courage, perseverance and dedicated service over this most challenging last year.

Honored by the Mid-Westchester Elks were Laureen Smith-Arena, an occupational therapist at Northern Westchester Hospital; Julie Gallagher, an Armonk Fire Department volunteer firefighter, EMT and Byram Hills High School Nurse; and Robbie Boddies, a firefighter with the West Point Fire Department and a paramedic. Certificates of appreciation were also first presented to each of the recipients on behalf of Westchester Board of Legislators Margaret Cuzio and state Senator Shelley Mayer. Attending too was Barbara W. DiGiacinto, town council member of North Castle. Following a variety of laudatory remarks on their behalf, each of the honorees shared their gratitude and/or described their respective experiences.

The ceremony, which also brought together many long time friends and neighbors after a 'skipped year' during COVID, took on special meaning this year as attendees gathered for an evening to recall milestones in the fascinating history of the U.S. flag, enjoy cherished traditions, and to share gratitude again to community leaders honored inside Armonk American Legion Hall on Bedford Avenue.

Following a rousing march into the hall and a variety of traditional songs played by the Westchester County Firefighters Emerald Society Pipe Band, a moment of silence honored departed Elks members and first responders killed in the line of duty due to COVID. Amazing Grace was presented by the Westchester County Emerald Society. A delicious dinner, prepared by long time Elks member and volunteer chef Tony Ciccio, who also cooks for the local senior center, was enjoyed by all.

The Mid-Westchester Elks, a 153-year old charitable organization, is actively seeking new members to join its ranks; Lodge #535 has over 100 members actively supporting charitable activities, including Scouting generally, and especially at Cerebral Palsy of Westchester (CPW), where members sponsor and support a Pack of boys and girls. The members are also active in supporting U.S. military veterans, the elderly, the poor, people with disabilities, schools, scholarship programs, and a variety of not for profit community organizations.

In 2018, the Elks launched a First Responders Appreciation Awards Dinner and honored police officers. Five area police chiefs each proposed an officer in their command particularly worthy of recognition at that time. In 2019, four firefighters from Armonk, Port Chester, and White Plains were honored. Each year, a short ceremony is performed in observance of Flag Day. In 2020, the event was canceled due to the pandemic. The mid-Westchester Elks Lodge # 535 has resumed meeting at the American Legion Post 1097 at 35 Bedford Rd. in Armonk on the second and fourth Wednesday evening of each month. For more information about the Elks, including joining, please visit [elks.org](http://elks.org), or contact Lodge Secretary Raymond Scully at [rayscully@optonline.net](mailto:rayscully@optonline.net).

## The Fitting Room is Open. I Went to The Theater!



**By Eric Schoen**

As I write this column, a week has gone by since Governor Cuomo announced that COVID-19 Restrictions were lifted as 70% of adult New Yorkers had received the first dose of the COVID-19 Vaccine. New Yorkers who had been vaccinated did not have to wear masks anymore unless the venue they were visiting required it.

It was no longer a requirement for the vaccinated to mask up at Retail, Food Services, Offices, Gyms and Fitness Centers, Amusement and Family Entertainment, Hair Salons, Barber Shops, and Personal Care Services unless the owner of that institution requested that you do so.

Unvaccinated individuals still had to mask up as did individuals in settings including Large-Scale Indoor Events Venues, Pre-K to 12 Schools, Public Transit, Homeless Shelters, Correctional Facilities, Nursing Homes and Health Care Settings. These facilities must adhere to COVID-19 Health Protocols Per Center for Disease Control (CDC) Guidelines.

We've spent over a year complaining about the harsh mask requirements our government has imposed on us. Let's face it. No matter what type of mask you wore on your face, whether it be a blue medical mask distributed widely or a mask you made at home with 3-ply material it's no fun having something on your face. Except for Halloween. Putting the mask on when you went into a store or were around a group of people, taking it off when you were alone or in the house, always making sure you had a mask with you! All of this no fun.

I spent the first few days after the mask requirements were lifted looking in store windows to see the mask policy for the particular venue making sure that when I entered I was following their guidelines. Many stores that didn't require masks were slow to take down their signs. I laughed when I went to a TJMAXX store, meticulously looked at the windows for the stores protocols, saw a friend who manages the store fixing a display and asked her just to be sure what the mask protocol was in that particular branch of their chain.

So a week later, Monday of this week I had to return something to TJ-MAXX. When I entered the store I noticed I was probably the only person in the store not wearing a mask. The person at the door who would normally enforce the mask policy was gone, no stations were set up for customers to get a squirt of Purell or a mask. The separate station for employees to get screened, temperature checked and masked was long gone.

But over 90% of people were still wearing masks. This after the cries of people across the country to relax mask requirements. No one was telling them to put them on, but people were still masked up. I wondered why?

Could it be that all these masked people were not vaccinated? If that was the case, as they say, 'Houston, We Have a Problem!' It would probably be the end of my shopping if I found out so many people were unvaccinated. So I took an elevator ride up to Marshalls to see if people were wearing masks there at the same percentages as TJMAXX. And you know what? They were.

As I walked around the store, people were often looking at me and giving me strange looks without my mask on. I wondered, had someone changed the rules and not told me? Could it be that people are not trusting the government and don't believe the worse is over. Have we just become so accustomed to wearing facial coverings that it is a hard habit, like cigarettes to break?

All the screaming and moaning from adults and children for over a year. Finally the Governor lifts the mask mandate and we are still wearing them. Are we too lazy to take them off and put them on when needed?

Now driving around town I still see people driving alone in their cars wearing masks. There's no one in the car with you. Unless you are an Uber or Lyft driver going for the next pickup or one of the food delivery services heading to McDonald's to pick up a Big Mac and fries or to 7- Eleven to pick up a Slurpee (don't think they travel too well in the heat!) to deliver to a

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## Hospice of Westchester Hosts 19th Annual Golf Invitational



From left: William J. Flooks; William F. Flooks, Jr., vice-chair, HOW board of directors, event co-chair and sponsor, Beecher Flocks Funeral Home, Inc.; Bob Adams; Norm DiChiara



First row from left: Gail O'Connor; Jenny Yake; Joyce Connell; Second row from left: Jim O'Connor, HOW board member, event co-chair and sponsor, Empress Ambulance; Tom Connell; Joe Castelli.

More than 100 business and community leaders participated in the Hospice of Westchester (HOW) 19th Annual Golf Invitational. The event was held at Westchester Hills Golf Club in White Plains on June 15th. This year's event was held in honor of Entergy and proceeds will support HOW's commitment to providing compassionate end-of-life care.

"The Golf Invitational always provides a wonderful opportunity to raise much needed funding for our important programs and services, and we were humbled to honor Entergy for their unwavering support for 19 years" said Mary K. Spengler, MS, Chief Executive Officer of HOW. "This was our most successful golf invitational to date. We are grateful for the continued generosity of our sponsors and the local business community."

Hospice of Westchester (HOW) is a private, not-for-profit health-care agency that provides skilled, compassionate and comprehensive end-of-life home care to patients diagnosed with any serious or life-limiting illness and gives support to their families and loved ones. Hospice of Westchester is located at 1025 Westchester Avenue, Suite 200, White Plains, NY. For additional information, visit [www.hospiceofwestchester.com](http://www.hospiceofwestchester.com) or call (914) 682-1484.

## Cross County Center Announces Summer Fest 2021



Nothing feels more like summer than outdoor festivals and Cross County Center is bringing back Westchester's favorite summer celebration, SUMMER FEST 2021! Kicking off this week, the series will continue through Labor Day weekend and have something for all family members. (plus, there's always great shopping, dining, and year-round FREE parking too!)

New to 2021 is an exclusive Drive-In Freestyle Concert on July 30 from 8-10pm featuring the hottest freestyle artists including: TKA, Judy Torres, Lisette Melendez, and DJ Serg. Concert goers will enjoy live performances from an elevated stage, featuring LED screens. A predesignated radio station will also be available to turn up the volume right from the comfort of your car! The Drive-In concert takes place in the north parking lot, behind Shake Shack, Zara, and Macy's. Tickets are on sale now via: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/cross-county-carstock-drive-in-freestyle-concert-tickets-159845571407?aff=Freestyle>

"We are thrilled to be able to welcome visitors back to Cross County Center this summer in a safe way," said Liz Pollack, Senior Manager of Marketing for Cross County Shopping Center. "What better way to celebrate summer than with outdoor activities that the entire family can enjoy including the only Freestyle Concert in Westchester County this summer!"

Additional events this summer include:  
Zumba Class with Guillermo Ruiz, on The Green Thursdays in June  
Details here: <https://crosscountycenter.com/event/Zumba-Class-on-The-Green/2145550684/>  
Outdoor Yoga Class with Bronxville Wellness Sanctuary on The Green Wednesdays in July  
Details here: <https://crosscountycenter.com/event/Yoga-Class-on-The-Green/2145550688/>  
Food Truck Friday's, every Friday in July from noon-6pm  
DJ & Street Performers, select Tuesdays, 5pm-7pm  
Concerts on The Green  
FDR Drive Band, Wednesday, June 23, 6pm, FREE  
3D Rhythm of Life, July 15, 6pm, FREE  
Movies on The Green (to be named soon!)  
August 11, 18 and 25 at sundown

Additional events will be added throughout the summer. For up-to-date information on events, sign up for emails at [crosscountycenter.com](http://crosscountycenter.com) or download the Cross County Center App.

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Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins & Senator Mayer Celebrate Passage of SLEEP Act



Loud mufflers on cars have become a problem in Westchester at night

On Thursday, June 17, New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Senator Shelley B. Mayer joined with Yonkers residents to celebrate the passage of the SLEEP Act (S784B/A.471C), which stands for Stop Loud and Excessive Exhaust Pollution. It prohibits the sale or installation of devices to increase the sound of a muffler on a motor vehicle or motorcycle and increases maximum fines for modifications.

Like many residents across New York State who live near high-speed roadways, Matt and Sweet Orefice of Whitman Road in Yonkers, located between Central Park Avenue and the Sprain Brook Parkway, have experienced disruptive and excessive motor vehicle noise. At the end of the New York State Legislative Session, Stewart-Cousins, Mayer and their colleagues in both the Senate and Assembly passed the SLEEP Act, sponsored by Senator Andrew Gouardes and Assemblymember Bill Magnarelli, to address this persistent problem.

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said: "We are taking action at the State level to ensure our roads are safe and to eliminate the nuisance of the noise. The SLEEP Act is a good step forward in partnership with our local officials and police to help reduce dangerous drag racing and the noise and pollution it causes."

Senator Shelley B. Mayer said: "For as long as I have been in elected office, there have been complaints about excessive noise by cars. It is a serious issue throughout my district. I was proud to co-sponsor the SLEEP Act. Excessive noise is not just an annoyance – it affects quality of life. By banning noise amplifiers and allowing for the suspension of operating certificates of repair shops that install these devices, we will reduce the number of people being subjected to unnecessary noise."

If signed by Governor Cuomo, the SLEEP Act will expressly prohibit the sale or installation of devices to increase the sound of a muffler on a motor vehicle or motorcycle and increase maximum fines for such modifications from \$150 to \$1,000. Maximum fines for motorcycle operators with altered exhaust systems will increase to \$500.

Additionally, the bill allows the Commissioner of Motor Vehicles to deny or revoke a license to operate a vehicle inspection business upon a third or subsequent willful violation of regulations regarding mufflers within an 18-month period.

Assemblymember Nader Sayegh said: "As aftermarket modifications on vehicle exhaust systems become more prevalent, they continue to present a significant nuisance for local communities like ours here in Yonkers. It's why I was proud to support the SLEEP Act in the Assembly. Thanks to this new legislation, law enforcement, and regulatory agencies will have new tools at their disposal to ensure that these vehicles comply with existing regulations and don't pollute our neighborhoods with excessive noise and emissions pollution."

Whitman Road Resident Matt Orefice said: "While I can appreciate the knowledge and craft of custom car enthusiasts, it crosses the line when noise pollution infringes on others. Loud mufflers can be a nuisance, especially in neighborhood settings and for those with young children and pets. Being woken up in the middle of the night is both irritating and frustrating, in that the same car can pass by almost every night with no recourse. This is a quality of life issue that I am happy to say is being addressed by our local representatives."

Westchester County Legislator Ruth Walter said: "A significant number of the constituent calls and emails my office receives are about noise in the district due to deliberately modified mufflers. During the pandemic, noise complaints became even more urgent. As people tried to work from home, facilitate Zoom school for their children or care for themselves or a family member suffering from COVID-19, they were unable to sleep or focus due to this deliberate and disruptive noise. This law will help allow residents of District 15 as well as people living across New York State to sleep more soundly at night. Thank you Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senator Shelley Mayer and your colleagues for your hard work in passing this legislation."

Reinforcing the Law During the Return of Prom Season



(L-R): Westchester County Police Officer S. Cusano, Westchester County Department of Public Safety Program Specialist Elvera Apicella, Westchester County Office of Drug Abuse and Prevention and STOP-DWI Director Patricia Tomassi, Chairperson of the Westchester County Taxi and Limousine Commission Leandra Eustache, Esq., Westchester County Police Officer K. Marco

A rite of passage returns for Westchester County High School students as the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions allows for gatherings including the prom.

With the onset of prom, comes the reinforcement of drugs and alcohol. The Westchester County Office of Drug Abuse and Prevention and STOP-DWI, Westchester Coalition for Drug and Alcohol Free Youth Program, Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) all under the umbrella of the Westchester County Police Department joined together for prom safety checkpoints, completing four so far this year.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: "This type of enforcement works. We don't want to restrict our young people from having a good time, but we want them to be safe and smart, so their memories of the prom will be good ones."

While many proms are hosted off-campus, the checkpoints are considered an extension of school grounds. Vehicles are stopped and inspected for drugs, alcohol and compliance with TLC rules and regulations.

Chairperson of the Westchester County Taxi and Limousine Commission Leandra Eustache, Esq. said: "Not only does this help ensure the safety of the students, but it also helps to combat illegal car service operators who take business away from licensed companies. Our role is to ensure students attending their proms are using safe and reliable transportation and not bringing alcohol or drugs into the prom venues."

The Office of Drug Abuse Prevention and STOP-DWI makes information available to schools and students ahead of prom season including assemblies for safety measures, letters to principals and brochures. Brochures and fact sheets are available in both English and Spanish.

Office of Drug Abuse Prevention and STOP-DWI Director Patricia Tomassi said: "This is a very different prom season for us, there are many more instances of alcohol consumption, so we decided to be more proactive about it. It's all about protecting students and helping them celebrate what is supposed to be one of the happiest times in their lives."

The program began in 2003. Superintendent Christopher Borsari of the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns has participated in the program for several years. Borsari said: "Keeping our kids safe is always our top priority. We appreciate the partnership with the County Police in ensuring their safety on such a memorable evening."

Checkpoints are already scheduled for other Westchester County proms this year.

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## LM Lions & Fuller Center Work to Revive the Sheldrake Gardens



*Jim Killoran & Jocelyn Kleinman /Fuller Center volunteers*

Sheldrake Nature Center, established in the 80's, houses community gardens. Residents planted, maintained and harvested the produce for the community meals in the area and the LM Food Pantry. The gardens fell into disuse about 10 years ago.

Fuller Center President and LM Lions VP Jim Killoran and Lion Board member Carolyn Gallaher have taken the lead to re-establish the community garden, which will provide fresh vegetables for the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Hunger Task Force, among other recipients.

Carolyn is working with Jocelyn Kleinman, Educational Director of the Sheldrake Environmental Center to coordinate the project. Jim and Fuller Center volunteers are handling the physical aspects of the restoration, including putting in 8 new fences and gates and repairing the potting shed door.

Funding was provided by Sheldrake, the LM Lions Club and Larchmont Woman's Club. Victory Farms will provide seedlings and other plants at a discounted price.

As the gardens are returned to productivity, the intent is to involve the community in the maintaining of the gardens.

The first phase of the project is completed, with seedlings donated by Victory Farms and others to be planted in anticipation of a harvest this fall.

The Fuller Center for Housing is an organization of thousands of volunteers who seek to eliminate poverty housing and homelessness throughout Westchester County, and to make decent, affordable shelter a matter of conscience and public action. To learn more about the Fuller Center, visit: <https://www.fullercenterny.org/>

The Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions support existing non-profit and community service groups by bringing leaders together to determine needs, solutions and resources. They are part of Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service organization of about 1.5 million members. Its five core causes are eye-health, hunger, the environment, diabetes and childhood cancer; and they are signatories of the United Nations resolutions on women's and refugee rights.

### CONDENSATE AND BOILER FEEDWATER SYSTEM RELACEMENT (3 BUILDINGS) AT BUILDINGS OWNED OR MANAGED BY THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers ("MHACY") hereby solicits proposals from qualified firms for the provision of condensate and boiler feedwater replacement for MHACY at various locations specified in the Request for Proposals ("RFP").

This RFP package contains submission requirements and terms and conditions and other pertinent information for submitting a proper and responsive proposal. This RFP is the only information provided to prospective bidders (hereinafter "Responders") and is available online starting June 30, 2021 at [www.mhacy.org](http://www.mhacy.org) under the "About" section.

The RFP questions deadline is July 9, 2021 at 3:00PM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions must be emailed to [procurement@mhacy.org](mailto:procurement@mhacy.org) by the deadline. No telephone calls and/or written communication sent via mail will be accepted. Date for on-site visits: TBD

Proposals must reach MHACY no later than 3:00 PM (EST) on July 30, 2021. Late submissions will be handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B. Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria stated in the RFP. Negotiations may be conducted with contractors who have a reasonable chance of being selected for the award. After evaluation of the proposal revision, if any, the contract will be awarded to the responsible firm(s) whose qualifications, price and other factors are considered to be the most advantageous to MHACY.

MHACY reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any irregularities or informalities if it is in MHACY's best interest to do so. MHACY reserves the right to cancel this RFP or to reject, in whole or in part, any and all proposals received in response to this RFP, upon its determination that such cancellation or rejection is in the best interest of MHACY.

MHACY is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or family status. MHACY solicits and encourages the participation of minorities and small businesses in procurement.

Contact, related to this procurement, with members of MHACY's Board of Commissioners, or MHACY's officers and/or employees other than the contact person show above, during the procurement process could result in disqualification of a proposal.

Wilson Kimball  
President, CEO  
Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers  
1511 Central Park Avenue  
Yonkers, New York 10710  
Project No. RFP 2021-04

### 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](http://www.Auction.com) or call (800) 280-2832

### 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 7, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. either virtually or 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 14, 2021

### NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT, WESTCHESTER COUNTY INDEX NO.: 58848/2019

BONITA WEST LLC v. 164 ELM REALTY CORP., et al., Defendants.  
Pursuant to Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, dated January 22, 2020 and entered on January 24, 2020, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction, in the Courtroom 200 of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, New York on the 25th day of June, 2021 at 11:30 A.M., the premises directed by said Judgment to be sold, being in Section 1, Block 455, Lot 6 on the Tax Map of the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester, and known by the street number 164 Elm Street, Yonkers, New York.  
Approximate amount of Judgment is \$23,431.15 plus interest, costs, attorneys' fees and advances. Said premises will be sold subject to the provisions of the filed Judgment and the Terms of Sale.  
FRANK APICELLA, ESQ., Referee.  
SANDERS, GUTMAN & BRODIE, P.C.,  
Attorneys for Plaintiff, 18 North Central Avenue, Suite 204  
Hartsdale, New York 10530 (718) 522-0666

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 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. 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. Candellario 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 Sale

Supreme Court: Westchester County T11 Funding v Manuel Pereira et al. Defendants, Index#: 51986/2019 Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale filed and entered on January 24, 2020, I will sell at public auction in Courtroom 200 of the Westchester County Courthouse 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd White Plains NY 10601, on July 9, 2021 at 3:30 P.M. premises located in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester, State of New York known as Section 1, Block 463 Lot(s) 25. Sold subject to the terms of sale and filed judgment of foreclosure. Bank Checks Only, must be payable to the Referee for 25% of Bid Price. Leticia Arzu,

**Rocah, Police Unions, continued from pg 1-**

“It is important to note that other NRPD officers who were present at the scene acted appropriately and attempted to stop Vaccaro’s actions. We are committed to ensuring the integrity of law enforcement personnel and to holding everyone accountable for their actions, including police officers when warranted,” said Rocah.

Vaccaro’s arrest resulted in strong comments and rebuttals of Rocah from Westchester Law Enforcement. Det. Chris Greco, president of the New Rochelle PBA, called Rocah’s actions “a politically motivated referral, politically motivated arrest and continued attack on law enforcement.” He also accused the DA of “hunting cops” while ignoring crime victims.

“The Westchester County District Attorney has sent a clear and extremely risky message to all of law enforcement in Westchester County – that the DA will personally decide what is acceptable and what is not, rather than determine what is lawful and what is not,” Greco stated.

“Officer Vaccaro, who was ‘off-duty,’ observed and intervened in a violent domestic dispute when he lured an out of control suspect away from his intended victim (his elderly mother) and provided her an opportunity to flee to safety,” Greco wrote in a statement. “During this incident, the suspect turned his rage on Officer Vaccaro. Officer Vaccaro, now acting in an ‘on-duty’ capacity, called for backup, identified himself to the suspect as a police officer and was repeatedly threatened with violence by the suspect. The suspect ignored police commands and when New Rochelle Police Officers went to arrest the enraged suspect, he attempted to punch Officer Vaccaro, causing him to defend himself,” said Greco.

Rocah responded to Greco’s comments, saying, “While the New Rochelle PBA is entitled to its view of the facts, there is no place for the type of inflammatory and irresponsible language used which crosses a dangerous line. I have a long history of working with and strongly supporting law enforcement and work with them every day to keep Westchester safe.

“But no one is above the law, and in those rare and unfortunate cases where the facts and law warrant bringing charges against an officer, my office will do its job – just as the NRPD did its duty in suspending the officer and referring the case to us for investigation,” said Rocah.

Vaccaro has been suspended by the City of New Rochelle for 30 days over the incident, calling his actions “inappropriate.”

Other Police Unions and Associations condemned Rocah’s actions.

Lt. Nicholas Mastrogiorgio, president of the Mount Vernon Police Association, called Rocah’s actions “out of control,” adding, “The DA Mimi Rocah should be ashamed of herself. Punishing good cops for doing their jobs will lead to good cops not getting involved or hesitating to act. That will lead to a decrease in public safety and Police Officers being at risk of being hurt.”

In April, Rocah has called on the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the Mt. Vernon Police Department for what she called “disturbing allegations of patterns of inappropriate and potentially unlawful conduct.”

Yonkers PBA President Keith Olson, who is also the President of the Affiliated Police Associations of Westchester called Rocah’s arrest of Vaccaro “outrageous.”

“Sadly, Det. Vaccaro has been caught in the crossfire of an agenda-driven District Attorney and a politicized criminal justice system. In her misleading and inflammatory CNN Op-Ed, written months ago, D.A. Rocah ominously wrote about “vigorously pursuing” the prosecution of police officers, specifically those involved in “off-duty road rage incidents.” It is clear that her mind was made up months ago and that the decision to charge Det. Vaccaro was not based on any true “evaluation of the evidence,” as the District Attorney’s Office claims.

In fact, Rocah’s office made NO attempt to interview Det. Vaccaro. This ridiculous decision contradicts the most basic tenets of conducting a true, fair and impartial investigation.

At the same time of her Op-Ed, D.A. Rocah Tweeted “Let’s go” in referencing the prosecution of police officers. Unfortunately, we have yet to see the same vigor from the D.A. when discussing the prosecution of violent gang members, sex offenders or any other actual criminals.

Det. Vaccaro’s actions in dealing with a violent and aggressive suspect were clearly justified and reasonable. This statement is supported by video evidence and eyewitness testimony. The decision to arrest this decorated, veteran police officer was disgraceful and only works to undermine a crucial relationship between police officers and the prosecutor’s office. Recklessly damaging this much-needed partnership while violent crime is skyrocketing throughout New York State, and the country, is frustratingly dangerous.

We look forward to the full vindication and exoneration of New Rochelle Police Det. Michael Vaccaro. In the meantime, police officers from every corner of our county will continue to risk their lives while protecting our communities,” said Olson.

**Yonkers Police Look for Witnesses in “Outrageous Gang Assault”**



On Thursday, June 17, Yonkers Police responded to an incident on North Broadway and Ashburton Avenue, where a fight between two males turned into what YPD Commissioner John Mueller called “an outrageous gang assault.”

The fight spilled out into the street, where gang members jumped one male, beating and kicking him to the point of sending him to the trauma ward of a local hospital where he is in critical condition with a brain injury. The victim, who was also hit in the head with a bottle, has not yet been identified.

The incident occurred at 9pm on 06/17. “Last night, Yonkers Police Officers and Detectives dealt with an outrageous gang assault, where a male victim was hit in the head with a bottle and stomped on by a group of people that included known gang members; the victim is currently in the trauma ward in critical condition with a brain injury,” said YPD Commissioner John Mueller.

“The Yonkers Police Department have made several arrests, but there are more suspects that need to be held accountable for their despicable actions. Well over fifty people last night saw what happened, and we need them to come forward and do the right thing. There is a lot of talk about police responsibility and police accountability, but there is also community responsibility and community accountability to each other. The overwhelming majority of people who live and work in Yonkers are wonderful people; we need to stand together to make sure that these people are brought to justice. I can say with absolute certainty that everyone would agree this is not the kind of world we want to live in.

“Anyone with information about this crime is asked to call the Yonkers Police Detectives at (914) 377-7724,” said Mueller. Calls can be kept anonymous.

Yonkers Police are looking for at least 12 and up to 20 individuals who participated in the attack.

**Apparent Suicide Investigation at Kensico Dam Park in Valhalla**

On June 18, Westchester County Police investigated the death of a man who jumped from the Kensico Dam in Valhalla.

The deceased, a man in his late 50s, was found in the northeast corner of the plaza at Kensico Dam Park. The plaza area is adjacent to the base of the dam. EMS responded and pronounced the man dead at the scene.

His identity is being withheld pending notification to his family.

The plaza area remained closed for several hours as the investigation was conducted. Westchester County Police were assisted by the New York City Department of Environmental Protection Police Department. The dam is owned by DEP and the park property is owned by Westchester County.

**Democratic Primary, continued from pg 1-**

primary after she decided to split with the Peekskill Democratic Party and run with a separate slate of candidates, all of who lost. Agudelo remains one of the most well known progressive office holders in Westchester.

In Yonkers, incumbent City Council President Mike Khader was defeated in his bid for re-election after he lost the democratic primary to Lakisha Collins-Bellamny decisively by a 57%-49% margin. This primary was one of the most negative elections in 20 years in Yonkers. More on this in our July 9 issue and online at YonkersTimes.com

**Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-**

hungry or lazy customer, what are you sitting alone in the car wearing a mask for?

Exercising at Tibbetts Brook Park over the weekend, I see park goers in the fresh air wearing masks. People exercising as I was wearing masks. Individuals eating ice cream pushing their masks up and down to enjoy their frosty treat!

I can’t figure what’s going on here. Even in situations where people were not required by the state to wear masks they are wearing them. Can you shed some light on this for me. You can find my email address at the bottom of this column.

There are many things we have learned from this pandemic. Some we should have learned when we were two years old. Like washing your hands with soap and water. Cleaning the grocery cart with a wipe before you put your child in the seat of the cart with his or her legs hanging out. Way before the pandemic hit us we were wiping off the handles of the grocery carts before we would push them around the store.

Restaurants, especially fast food or quick service chains should not only have a dispenser for napkins on the table but should also have a dispenser for disinfecting wipes so you can clean the table and chairs before you sit down (I want the patent on that!). If you have a busy restaurant with heavy table turnover, it’s still hard for staff particularly in fast food to clean every table as fast as customers turn over. Leave a dispenser for sanitizing wipes on the table this way we know we are sitting someplace clean.

All stores need to make sure the disinfecting wipes and Purell dispensers are full. Many local companies and realtors, lawyers, cleaning services, etc. sponsor those dispensers. If they are not full do yourself and the company a favor and first, notify the store it’s in that’s it’s empty and if still not filled notify the merchant sponsoring the dispenser.

Fitting rooms are finally reopened so people like my poor sister need not bring home over a \$1000 in swimsuits to pick out the \$300 worth she likes and fit her properly. The closure of fitting rooms in stores was probably the stupidest thing most retailers did during the pandemic. Did it really make sense to have people bring items they wanted to try on home to a house where Covid could have been spreading or maybe was not the cleanest home in America!

I had a treat last weekend. Something I haven’t been able to do for 15 months. Go to the theater. It was Off Broadway not On Broadway. Broadway theaters for the most part will not open until mid September.

REOPENING - “Judy Garland LIVE: In Concert! As If We Never Said Good-bye” the Award-winning and critically-acclaimed Tribute Artist Peter Mac returned as Judy Garland in his first show since closing for COVID-19 has reopened at the Producer’s Club, 358 West 44th Street in Manhattan. Shows are selling out quickly not only because it is so well done but people are dying to get back to see LIVE theater and there are so few options.

Call 1-978-818-5571 for reservations and further information. You will have a wonderful night enjoying the great Judy Garland portrayed by Peter Mac in a live show. You truly will be ‘Over the Rainbow!’

Reach Eric Schoen at [thistoosyonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistoosyonkers@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.

**Eastchester, No to Legal Marijuana , continued from pg 1-**

then having protestors in their communities.

Before adjourning for summer recess, the State Legislature failed to move forward on several key provisions in the NY Marijuana law, which are required before actual retail establishments and cafes can ever be opened in The Empire State.

The next question for Westchester residents is now that Eastchester has said NO, which Town or City will be next?

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