

Westchester Rising

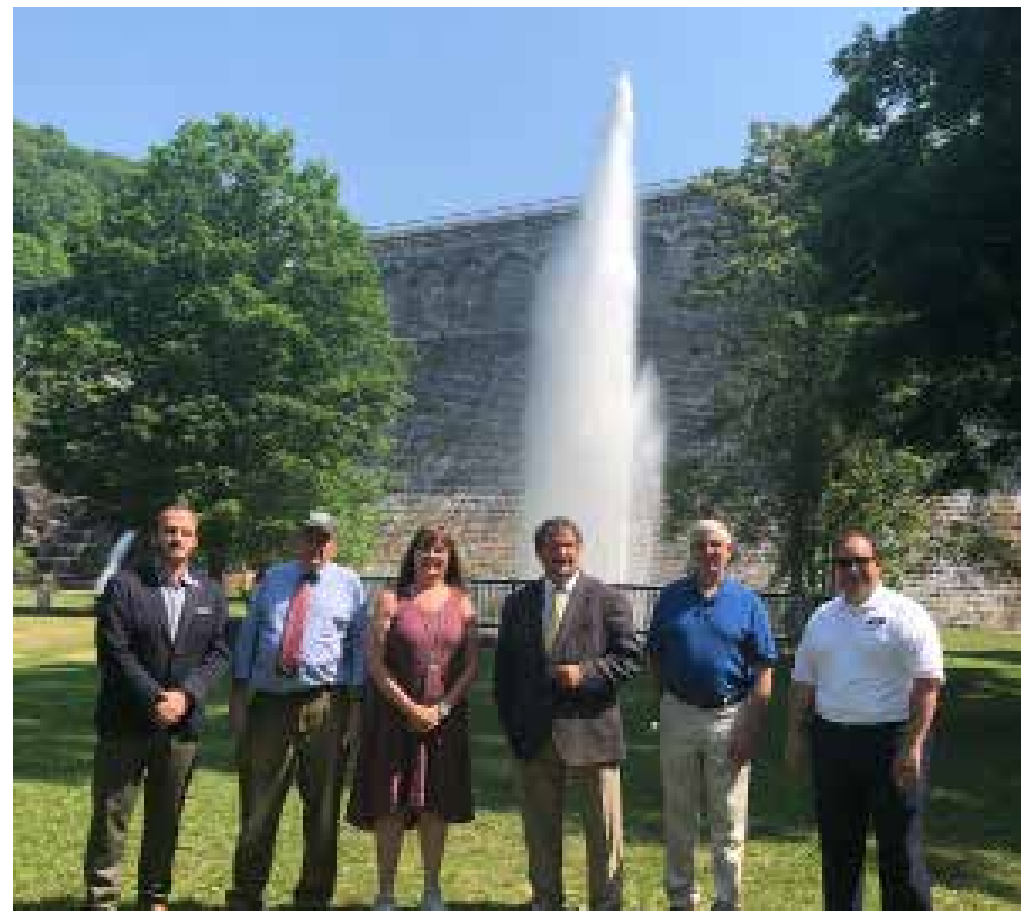
PRESORT-STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
White Plains, NY
Permit #7164

Yonkerstimes.com

www.RisingMediaGroup.com

Friday June 4, 2021

Latimer Turns On Croton Gorge Fountain: A Great Westchester Visit



(L-R): Westchester County Legislator Vedat Gashi, Westchester Parks Board Chairman J. Henry Neale, Westchester County Parks and Recreation Commissioner Kathleen O'Connor, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, Westchester Parks Board Member Marty Rogowsky, NYC DEP Commissioner Vincent Sapienza

On May 26, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, in one counter-clockwise maneuver of a lever, planted firmly into the ground at Croton Gorge Park, turned on the historic 20th century fountain. The spray of nearly 20 feet of water, shot up into the clear blue sky, as passers-by applauded and took pictures. The fountain has not been on in nearly a decade, after maintenance and reconstruction of the Dam.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: "Our local parks are truly a gem for people who live here and a treasure for people to discover when they visit Westchester County. The strength and success of our parks, including Croton Gorge Park, is critical to our strength as a County. What New York City has done in protecting the drinking watershed has been essential to the success of Westchester County as well."

New York City Department of Environmental Protection, owns the Dam. The fountain along with the Dam were built back in 1906. Croton Gorge Park became a Westchester County Park during the 1960's. NYC DEP Commissioner Vincent Sapienza said: "New York City has been happy to collaborate with Westchester County to activate the fountain in Croton Gorge Park for the first time in roughly a decade. As more families participate in outdoor recreation and utilize our parks, the city and County play the important role of keeping these outdoor spaces accessible, beautiful and inviting."

The fountain operates from the head pressure of the reservoir being so far above the fountain so there are no pumps. The water is piped through the Dam, underground to the fountain, and the overflow drain goes right into the Croton River. Major repairs have been made to the Dam over the years including the installation of railing around the fountain.

During the height of the pandemic, Croton Gorge Park saw a record number of visitors, so much so, County police were called in to assist in regulating parking. Westchester County Parks and Recreation Commissioner Kathleen O'Connor said: "People have found parks to be very healing and naturally essential during this pandemic, and to be able to turn on the fountain after ten years is just another great symbol of coming out of the dark."

Croton Gorge Park is located at 35 Yorktown Road in Croton-On-Hudson and is open seven days a week from 8 a.m. to dusk. If you have never visited this park, put it on your list of summer outdoor activities.

Latimer, Idoni Endorse Mt. Vernon Democrats Committee Slate for City Council, Comptroller

For City Council-Janice Duarte, Andre Wallace and Lauren Carter; Darren Morton for Comptroller

MT. VERNON'S CHOICE, MT. VERNON'S VOICE

DUARTE WALLACE CARTER MORTON

Mt. Vernon Democratic Party Nominees Tuesday, June 22, 2021

On June 1, Westchester County Executive George Latimer and Westchester County Clerk endorsed the Mount Vernon Democratic Party Committee's endorsed candidates: Darren Morton for Comptroller, Councilwoman Janice Duarte, Andre Wallace and Lauren Carter for City Council in this year's Mount Vernon Primary elections on June 22.

Darren Morton's well known commitment to accountability in government will promote a much-needed atmosphere of openness in the area of the city's finances. Andre Wallace's experience as a public service gives him the wisdom and insight to make the right decisions that will ensure our city's economic success. Lauren Carter is ready to step up and lead the charge to make a dramatic change in the way Mount Vernon does business. Councilwoman Janice Duarte has always brought a sensitive and intelligent voice to city government that enables her to stand up to the special interests that have a hold on the community.

County Executive George Latimer said, "As a young man growing up in Mount Vernon, I know the potential for greatness this city possesses. This year on your ballot, you have a chance to vote for candidates who are committed to strive for that greatness. The party's grassroots endorsed candidates will comprise a city council intent on working for the people, restore order to the comptroller's role - a vital position in Mount Vernon's day to day governing - and continue a fruitful partnership with our County Legisla-

continued on pg 4-

How A Fight Between Cuomo & Cynthia Nixon Cancelled My Party



Sex in the City star Cynthia Nixon challenged Andrew Cuomo for Gov. in 2018

By Dan Murphy

As more and more Americans identify themselves as independents, and reject the two major party labels, the choices for third parties here in New York have been cut in half, from 8 political parties to 4. The reason? A political war between Governor Andrew Cuomo and actress Cynthia Nixon dating back to 2018 that resulted in the "cancellation" of my political party earlier this year (2021).

My last vote for a major party Presidential candidate was in 2008, when I vote for John McCain. Since then I have voted third party, and had hoped that someone with the financial resources and gravitas would step forward and run as an Independent for President. I'm still waiting.

In 2018, many progressive New Yorkers were becoming dissatisfied with Governor Andrew Cuomo. One of my state's minor parties, The Working Families Party, (WFP) decided to nominate and endorse actress Cynthia Nixon for Governor.

Nixon also ran against Cuomo in a democratic primary, but lost 65%-35%, after which Cuomo leaned on WFP leaders and the powerful union bosses in NY, to force her off the WFP ballot. Eventually, the WFP capitulated, removing Nixon from the ballot. Cuomo won re-election in a landslide.

I found a new, third party to support in 2018: The SAM Party of NY. SAM collected the required number of signatures to get on the ballot and then ran a fusion ticket, of a Democrat, Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner, and Republican, former Mayor of Pelham in Westchester County, Michael Volpe. I knew Volpe from our Westchester ties, and enthusiastically voted SAM on election day. The SAM ticket received more than 50,000 votes statewide on election day 2018, which gave them automatic ballot status through 2022.

Even though Cuomo got his wish (Nixon was kicked off the ballot), his anger at the WFP continued to the point where he worked to remove them from their automatic ballot status in the state. Cuomo formed a commission to examine all of the minor parties in New York to determine what an appropriate threshold number of votes should be required of them to receive.

continued on pg 7-

35% of Westchester Opposes Legalizing Marijuana Why Assemblymembers Galef & Byrne Voted No



By Dan Murphy

Polling on the legalization of marijuana in New York State, which was passed by the State legislature and signed into law by Governor Andrew Cuomo in April 2021, has consistently found between 60%-65% of suburban voters, including Westchester residents, in favor of legalization, while 30%-35% are opposed, based on Siena College polling over the past year.

Two members of the Westchester State delegation voted against legalization. Assemblywoman Sandy Galef and Assemblyman Kevin Byrne. Galef said, on the floor of the Assembly on the day of the vote, "I have thought about this day for many years and many Assembly sessions and tried to do as much research as I continued to study the issue. And I have heard the Majority Leader's passion.

"However, the question I always came back to was- does legalizing marijuana (I am not speaking of medical marijuana which I supported) but how does legalizing marijuana help the health and well-being of New Yorkers?"

"So I met with my constituents - many of them who had lost family members to overdoses and considered marijuana as the gateway drug in those instances, I attended town meetings to learn from the experts in the field, I interviewed doctors who cared for young adults or children in the emergency rooms of hospitals who were medically impacted by marijuana, I heard from law enforcement about the issues of driving while under the influence of drugs, I heard from representatives of other states, from the school community, the substance abuse community groups... and nowhere did I get a positive answer to my main and driving question - how does

continued on pg 7-

Hudson River Museum Announces Summer Amphitheater to Re-Open



The Hudson River Museum is pleased to announce our Summer Amphitheater Series on Friday and Saturday evenings from July 9–August 20, 2021, featuring artists of the highest quality across multiple disciplines and genres, with a focus on both iconic and emerging performers who give memorable shows every season. All performances are FREE and begin at 8pm, with doors opening at 7:30pm. No reservations required. Seating is on a first-come, first-serve, basis and we retain the right to limit capacity following NYS and CDC guidelines. Free parking is available. Learn more at hrm.org/amphitheater.

During such a challenging time, the HRM Summer Amphitheater Series offers culture-hungry audiences a safe outdoor venue, overlooking the majestic Palisades and the Hudson River, where they can come together to enjoy top-quality entertainment. Now celebrating its ninth season, this year’s captivating performances include tango, jazz, classical, R&B and soul, magic, and even a falconer showing off birds of prey.

Free Evening Hours: The Museum will also offer free admission on Friday and Saturday evenings, 5–7pm, from July 16–August 28, 2021. We will also be offering a free planetarium show on Fridays at 6pm. The Museum is thrilled to be reopening the HRM Planetarium on Friday, July 16, with a free show, after being closed since March 2020 due to the pandemic.

HRM’s Free Evening Hours is sponsored by Entergy. The Amphitheater schedule is as follows:

Friday, July 9, 8pm- Afro-Peruvian Ensemble. An unforgettable live experience that celebrates a unique heritage that will get you up on your feet! This all-star ensemble brings you the joyful sounds of the Peruvian coast with a contemporary treatment that is rooted in rich tradition.

Saturday, July 10, 8pm- Skyhunters in Flight. As twilight turns into night, watch trained birds of prey fly above you as master falconer Brian Bradley demonstrates their special powers. Get a closer look at live owls, hawks, and falcons from around the world. Learn how these beautiful birds play an important role in our environment, at the top of the food chain.

Friday, July 16, 8pm. Unison. The four core band members of Unison all reside in Westchester and have been performing together for the past four years. They play a range of covers as well as original music, with Joshua Bayonne on vocals and keys, Benjamin Martinez on guitar, Tyler Morgan on saxophone, and James Langley on drum pads and vocals.

Saturday, July 17, 8pm. Getting to Know You: Mind Reading Under the Stars. Forget everything you know about mind reading. Andy Gershenson, The Brooklyn Wizard, has been a professional magician for more than 15 years. His unique brand of magic and mentalism has been enjoyed by all.

For more information, visit HRM.org.

First Yorktown Pride March To Be Held On for Saturday June 12



Rainbow flags, the well-known symbol of the LGBTQ+ community, will be out in abundance as Yorktown for Justice (YFJ), a local grassroots collaborative, marks Pride Month on Saturday June 12, at noon, at Yorktown Town Hall.

“Pride month is a time for celebration, reflection, and recommitment to the work of advancing LGBTQ+ justice. After a long and challenging year, I can’t wait to celebrate Pride with our vibrant and diverse LGBTQ+ community at the Northern Westchester Pride March next month” said Congressman Mondaire Jones, who will be speaking at the start of the march, along with local religious leaders and community members.

Following the speakers at Town Hall, the group will march to Jack DeVito Memorial Field, a community gathering area in Yorktown Heights. Executive Director Judy Troilo of the Loft, Westchester’s LGBTQ+ community center, urges the public to remember the history of Pride:

“Each June LGBTQ+ folx and allies gather to celebrate our community with authenticity and pride but we must never forget that Pride started as a riot. June is a time to stand up and speak OUT. We are proud of Yorktown for Justice for organizing this march in the true spirit of activism.”

Yorktown for Justice co-founders Marisa Ragonese and Rachel Frederick are excited to help bring this event to the community. “Recognizing pride month embodies YFJ’s commitment to honoring diversity, equity, and inclusivity. We are honored to play a role in amplifying our community members’ voices. And we are, simply, better together!”

This will be the first Pride March in Yorktown and will be followed by an official post-march party beginning at 1:30 p.m. at the Yorktown Grille. Yorktown resident and post-pride party organizer Anthony Calbi captures the spirit of many residents: “I have lived in this area since 1996. I knew I was gay 2 years later when I was 10. The idea of us gathering for the first Pride March in Yorktown brings so much joy to my heart. It seemed like a pipe dream many years ago but it is reality today. This is history and I couldn’t be more excited!”

The march will kick off at Yorktown Town Hall, 363 Underhill Ave. The Yorktown Grille is at 347 Downing Drive. Yorktown for Justice is asking local government leaders and businesses to show their support by flying a rainbow flag on June 12th. For more info, visit YorktownforJustice.org.

LISTENING. CARING.

THE WAY MEDICINE WAS MEANT TO BE



FROM LEFT TO RIGHT:
LOUIS ANDRONE, MD; ANDREW FADER, MD
ANA ANDRONE, MD; ROLANDO CHUMACEIRO, MD;
THOMAS APUZZO, MD; ROBERT DeMATTEO, MD



“They treat me with respect.”

Lourdes J., patient

ACCEPTING NEW PATIENTS | CLOSE-TO-HOME | BI-LINGUAL | POST COVID CARE REFERRALS
AMPLE FREE PARKING | EXTENDED HOURS | EFFICIENT, FRIENDLY ENVIRONMENT

Be Proactive. Open for Regular Appointments & Screenings.

914.207.0004

stjohnsmedgroup.com

© 2021 St. John’s Riverside Hospital | All Rights Reserved.

**ST. JOHN’S
MEDICAL
GROUP**

Ice Bucket Challenge Co-Founder Pat Quinn
Delivers Posthumous Iona Commencement Address



Pat Quinn, photo by Donna Davis

By Dan Murphy

Patrick Quinn '06, the late ALS Ice Bucket Challenge co-founder and proud Iona College Gael, delivered a posthumous keynote address during Iona's 77th annual Commencement Ceremony held virtually on May 23.

Here is Quinn's speech, God Bless Pat. "ALS has taken so much from me, however, it will never beat me. The disease will never win because I won't allow it. It may one day take my physical life, but my fight will last forever.

"My name is Pat Quinn, I'm born and raised in Westchester. Grew up in Yonkers, lived in White Plains for a little bit. I went to Iona Prep, went to Iona College – that's where I played rugby and met some of the best guys in my life.

"I traveled down to Baltimore, Maryland, to visit the world-renowned Johns Hopkins Hospital. On this one day, they would run me through a million tests – most of which I had already done a number of times. After all the tests, I remember sitting in the small room by myself just waiting for the doctor to come in and tell me what he was thinking. Every Google search I did, every scientific medical opinion I ever read – it was all flying around in my head. But, what I most remember was having that last bit of hope come over me. I still had hope it wasn't ALS and boom the door opened and my head went completely blank.

"The next thing I would hear is, "Patrick, it's conclusive that we can diagnose you with ALS." I remember walking out of the hospital, sitting on a bench and just staring into the sky. Even though I researched my symptoms and had a feeling it was ALS, I still had this hope inside of me that the doctors would find something different. They didn't. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. On March 8, 2013, I was diagnosed with ALS at the age of 30.

"Okay, now what? I was just diagnosed with a disease that patients' life expectancy is two to five years. I was diagnosed with a disease that no one has ever beaten.

"My disease is named after a baseball player, Lou Gehrig, who died over 75 years ago at the time and there is still no cure, even a treatment. It would have been really easy for me to give up. No one would have been mad at me if I decided to be quiet and accept what doctors were telling me was a death sentence. I want you to know that you can be great no matter what life throws your way. I want to show you goals can be achieved no matter what you are put up against. Doing something special, creating positive change, being successful, getting to where you want to be in life – none of this comes easy. Life is really difficult and I am sure many of you have gone through

continued on pg 7-

Don't Get a Flat on the
Major Deegan, Darlin



By Eric W. Schoen

I learned something from an experience I had on the Major Deegan going south bound between the Yonkers border and the George Washington Bridge last Wednesday night. Simply, don't get a flat on the Major Deegan Expressway.

It all started out so simple. I was meeting friends for dinner by Yankee Stadium. Originally I was worried about stadium traffic. The threat of rain, thunderstorms, locusts, the sky falling that night postponed the Yankee game. Boy was I in luck! Other than the weather it should be smooth sailing to my destination without baseball traffic and the Thursday is the new Friday weekend getaway traffic as the weekend weather was supposed to be crappy.

I entered the Deegan from the Cross County and just to be sure I stopped to use the bathroom facilities at the gas station at the Yonkers/Bronx border with the \$4 gas. You know it. During the Mario Cuomo administration they upgraded all the service areas on Interstate I 87 from Yonkers to Buffalo, but somehow they missed this one.

I pull out of the gasoline station and somewhere between the 230th Street and Fordham Road exits I hit a pothole or something in the road and my right front tire starts to go flat. Right before traffic leading to the entrance to the George Washington my car is shaking and I know I have to pull over. So I pull over right passed the Bridge entrance, underneath all the connecting roadways so that in case it started raining cats and dogs I would be protected.

Now I have like every intelligent person should have AAA (Automobile Association of America) for towing and car break downs. But some rocket scientist or elected official who clearly must have been paid off big time over the years put a rule in effect that AAA cannot tow from roadways such as the Major Deegan or parkways or highways. So I would have to use the 'Authorized' tow, tow service allowed on the roadway to put on my spare 'donut' and get me moving. It's not as easy as it sounds.

I called AAA even though I knew they could not pick me up to get instructions as to what I should do. The Major Deegan is a busy road, I can barely put gasoline in my car at self service stations so I am not changing the tire myself. AAA told me (after waiting on hold what seemed like an eternity) they could not tow me and that I would have to be towed by the 'authorized tow' for where I was at. AAA Would reimburse me for towing costs.

I called 911, told the dispatcher I was on the Deegan south right passed the entrance to the Washington bridge. The minute I said Washington Bridge they said oh no, I was to call the George Washington Bridge-Port Authority for a toll. Lesson number 1. If you are on the Deegan never mention the George Washington Bridge because immediately the dispatcher wants to shift you from their jurisdiction to another jurisdiction. Tell them (hopefully you know) the exit numbers on the Deegan you are passed or right before.

I called the George Washington Bridge-Port Authority and we determined (not that I continued on pg 5-

COMPUTER PROBLEMS?

Friendly Certified Computer Repair Experts

Simply mention coupon code 42513 and get **\$20 OFF** any service you need!

Geeks on Site

Call Now for a FREE Diagnosis
1-866-848-0045

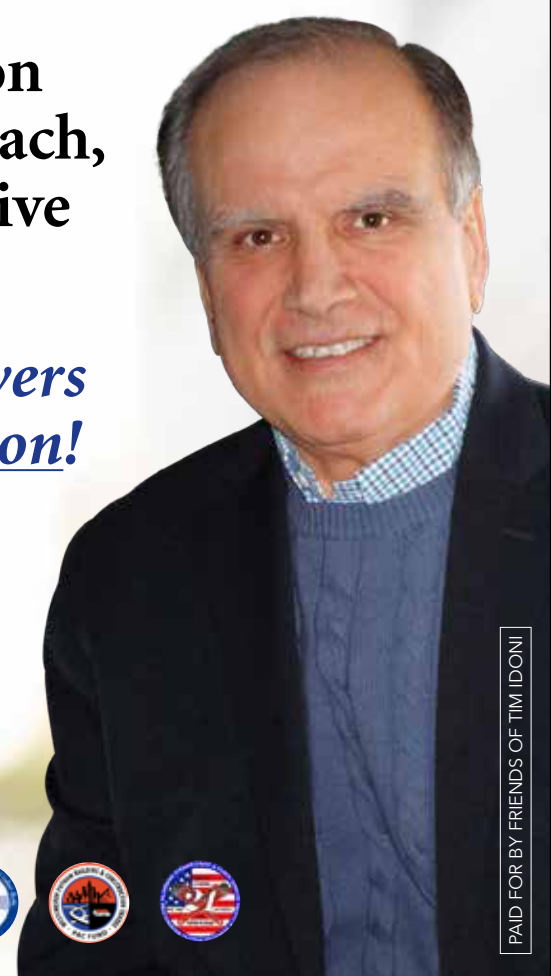
RE-ELECT

TIM IDONI

WESTCHESTER COUNTY CLERK

Delivering on services, outreach, and progressive values.

Saving taxpayers over \$37 million!



VOTE IN THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY
★ **TUESDAY, JUNE 22** ★
(EARLY VOTING: JUNE 12-20)

Learn more at timidoniforwestchester.com

BE A HERO



BE THE CHANGE

TAKE THE TEST

Applications Available – Friday, May 14, 2021

Applications Deadline – Wednesday, July 14, 2021 (4:30 PM)

Police Officer Exam Date – Saturday, September 18, 2021

POLICE OFFICER STARTING SALARY

\$72,233 PER YEAR PLUS BENEFITS

PAY AFTER 5 YEARS \$102,258

- New York State Pension after 20 Years of Service
- Health Benefits into Retirement
- Promotional Opportunities & Specialized Training

Visit our website
joinYPD.com

for more info and to download official exam announcement and application when available.

The Yonkers Police Department is an equal opportunity employer.



DiBartolo Case Adjourned to June 11

The case involving former Yorktown Highway Superintendent and Yorktown Heights Fire Chief Eric DiBartolo has been adjourned again to June 11. DiBartolo is charged with working with an accomplice, Cortlandt Manor resident Tyrone Bass, to steal nearly \$15,000 in merchandise from the Home Depot in Cortlandt. Bass was a cashier at the store. The case has been adjourned several times since DiBartolo was arraigned on Feb. 11.

Westchester County Police Charge Bronx Man in Tire Dumping Incidents

Westchester County Police arrested a Bronx man early this morning as he was allegedly preparing to dump a load of tires on County parkland in Yonkers. After additional investigation, the suspect was charged in three other incidents in which tires were illegally dumped on County property and in a city park in Yonkers.

The incident began shortly after 1 a.m. when Yonkers Police observed a U-Haul truck near the entrance to County property off Midland Avenue. Due to the recent illegal dumping incidents, Westchester County Police were notified and responded to the scene.

The U-Haul was found to contain a load of tires and was impounded by Patrol officers. The driver was taken in to custody and brought to County Police headquarters in Hawthorne for further investigation by detectives from the General Investigations Unit.

Jose Rivera-Osorio, 38, of East 162nd Street was charged about 6 a.m. with four counts of Criminal Mischief (Intent to Damage Property), misdemeanors. He was released pending a June 8 appearance in Yonkers City Court.

Rivera-Osorio is accused of dumping tires:

- on April 30 in Sunnysbrook Park, a City of Yonkers park;
- on May 6 in Tibbetts Brook Park, a Westchester County park;
- on May 20 on the County-owned bike path/walking path adjacent to the Bronx River Parkway near Scarsdale Road.

The fourth criminal mischief charge is in connection to his alleged intent to dump more tires early this morning on the County-owned property off Midland Avenue. The area includes a path that leads to the Flynn Footbridge that spans the Cross County Parkway.

New Rochelle Police Investigating Reported Carjacking/Robbery

At 11:40 pm on May 27, 2021, New Rochelle police officers were dispatched to 132 Beechwood Ave on a report of an armed robbery of a motor vehicle. A 39-year-old New Rochelle resident reported that after he pulled into his driveway and exited his car, he observed a Hyundai sedan pass him in a suspicious manner. Shortly thereafter, according to the victim he was confronted by a black male in his twenties wearing a dark colored gator style mask, and a N.Y. Yankees baseball cap. The victim stated the male brandished a handgun and ripped the complainant's chain from his neck before entering the victim's car and driving off. The stolen BMW and the Hyundai were last seen fleeing the area on Beechwood Ave towards Main St. This incident remains under investigation, and anyone with information is asked to contact the New Rochelle Police Department's General Investigation's Unit at (914) 654-2270.

Guilty Plea in 2020 Peekskill Stabbing Death of Omarion Mckenzie

Jahliv Niles of Peekskill, pleaded guilty on May 11, to Manslaughter in the First Degree for the stabbing death of 17-year old Omarion McKenzie. He is expected to be sentenced on August 19 to 18 years in prison plus five years post-release supervision.

Niles also pleaded guilty to Assault in the Second Degree, stemming from a May 2020 attack on a fellow detainee at the Westchester County Jail, where Niles has been held since his arrest following the Peekskill incident. He is expected to be sentenced to two years in prison plus three years post-release supervision on the assault charge, to be served concurrently with his sentence on the manslaughter charge.

On March 27, 2020, Niles, then 18, approached McKenzie, a senior at Peekskill High School, and stabbed him in the chest, stomach and back. McKenzie was transported to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Niles was apprehended by police shortly thereafter.

"This senseless crime was terrible tragedy for Omarion McKenzie's family, friends and community, and our hearts go out to them," said Westchester DA Miriam E. Rocah. "At the sentencing later this year, they will have the opportunity to tell the court about how this loss has impacted them and we will work to ensure Jahliv Niles is held accountable for his actions."

Letter to the Editor:

"Thank you for Disagreeing With Me"

At State Senator Shelley Mayer's recent Annual Labor Breakfast, Westchester County Executive George Latimer said that having worked with Senator Mayer for decades, he had deep respect for her intelligence, judgment and work ethic. So much so, he said, that when they disagreed on an issue, it caused him to reassess his own position.

On a broader level, I believe the County Executive was expressing something fundamental yet often overlooked: disagreement is a gift.

In my decision-making, I like to think that I carefully consider every significant alternative and make the optimal choice, while at the same time avoiding unintended consequences.

That approach only gets a person so far. I am of course biased when it comes to my own decision-making. I would like to think I am often right, but realistically I know that I am not. That is why disagreement is so valuable.

Dissenting views cause me to reevaluate my own views. If opposing opinions reveal flaws in my thinking, I modify my position accordingly. Sometimes I find that I have missed the boat entirely. But through this process of encountering and evaluating disagreements, I make better decisions. Disagreement, then, is an essential tool in my decision-making toolkit.

Should I become Harrison's next Mayor, please do not be surprised if from time to time I greet you in a way you may not expect: "Thank you for disagreeing with me."

Sincerely, Frank Gordon, Candidate for Mayor, Harrison, movingharrisonforward.com

Mt. Vernon Endorsements, Continued from pg 1-

tor on behalf of the people. These candidates have my full endorsement and I look forward to working with them to better our city."

County Clerk Tim Idoni said, "Darren Morton, Councilwoman Janice Duarte, Andre Wallace and Lauren Carter are dedicated individuals committed to working for the people of Mount Vernon by staying in touch with both the needs and desires of the citizens and business owners of the city. Through their positive campaigning, meeting citizens and undertaking challenges, once elected they will serve as the people of Mount Vernon's voice. Together they represent the full fabric of the city that is accomplished, ready to lead and completely committed to being effective partners in City government.

A slate of three democratic city council candidates are also running on June 22. They are: Danielle Brown, Cathlin Gleason, and Edward Poteat, are running on a Mt. Vernon Forward coalition. And Derickson Lawrence is running for Mt. Vernon Comptroller.

Members Night at Hudson River Audubon Society

Members share their best nature and bird photos of the year online. The public is welcome to attend.

Wednesday, June 23

7:30-8:30 p.m.

Free

Email hrasbirder@gmail.com for Zoom invitation.

Irvington Theater Presents Summer Film Series & Pride Events in June



Irvington Theater's Sunset Cinema begins on June 10 with *Stop Making Sense*

After 15 months of exclusively virtual programming, Irvington Theater is thrilled to welcome back patrons of all ages with in-person, outdoor events this summer — the first summer season in its 119-year history!

The fun begins with Sunset Cinema, IT's all-new series of music films that will be screened outdoors on the lawn behind Main Street School. Audiences are invited to bring a blanket or chair, pack a picnic (no alcohol on school grounds), and enjoy live music from 7:30pm each night until the film begins around sunset.

Sunset Cinema will feature one film during each summer month, starting on June 10 with *Stop Making Sense*, the 1984 concert movie featuring beloved rock group Talking Heads. Amazing Grace, the story of Aretha Franklin's 1972 performance with the New Bethel Baptist Church Choir, will screen on July 8, followed by Gimme Shelter on August 12, the documentary chronicling the tumultuous final weeks of the Rolling Stones' 1969 United States tour.

Safety is a top priority for Irvington Theater, and all COVID protocols will be followed in accordance with up-to-date guidance from CDC and New York State. For the latest information, visit irvingtontheater.com/safety.

Join Irvington Theater for Sunset Cinema on June 10, July 8, and August 12 at 7:30pm on the lawn behind the Main Street School, located at 101 Main St, Irvington, NY 10533. (Rain date for all 3 films is August 19.) All tickets are \$12 and must be purchased in advance at irvingtontheater.com/sunsetcinema.

Irvington Theater is also presenting a streaming event just in time for Pride! One Thing I Want You to Know centers queer voices and celebrates living one's truth as members of the LGBTQIA+ community share their art, their stories, and indeed, the one thing they want Irvington audiences to know. The event, which streams on demand from June 23-25, is presented as part of In Our Own Words, IT's series that brings issues of social justice center stage through art and conversation.

The program features nearly 30 artists and advocates who share messages of hope, calls to action, and deeply personal stories of love triumphing over fear. The lineup includes Jim Obergefell of Obergefell v. Hodges, the Supreme Court case that legalized same-sex marriage in the United States; 22-year active duty soldier and Iraq War veteran Sergeant First Class Freyja Eccles; Lisa Linsky, attorney and member of the Executive Committee at the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, & Transgender Community Center; the Boston Gay Mens Chorus; and two-time Emmy Award-winning NBC New York meteorologist Raphael Miranda.

One Thing I Want You to Know will be available to stream on demand from Wednesday, June 23 at 12:01am EST through Friday, June 25 at 11:59pm EST. Purchase your \$12 per-household ticket to receive the viewing link and password at irvingtontheater.com/one thing.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

didn't know) that I was on the Major Deegan. So then I had to call 911 for New York City/The Bronx for the 'Authorized Tow.'

The 911 dispatcher asked if I was off the road and in a safe area. I told her yes, I was on the shoulder. Lesson number 2. It was nice of me to pull over on the shoulder, but cars safely on the shoulder without injured passengers or leaking fluids are not a priority for tow operators or police. Cars blocking traffic, with (god forbid) injured passengers and leaking fluids are. And so began my over 5 hour wait for the 'Authorized Tow' who I assumed would take off the bad tire and put on the donut spare so I could be on my way.

Shortly after 8 p.m. I got a call from the New York City police that they were turning around at Fordham Road and because of traffic it might take them a bit to arrive. They never did. 8:46 p.m., 9:48 p.m., 11:02 p.m. I called 911. No tow truck nor Police Car. I was on the list or schedule! After I called a Police Supervisor would call each and every time and say help was on the way.

I even draped a white blanket I had in my SUV over the back of my car. I figured it would serve as a distress signal.

For the next hour and a half not one Police Car, Tow Truck nor civilian vehicle pulled over to see what was wrong. So much for friendly New Yorkers! By midnight from inhaling all the automobile fumes I was feeling sick, called 911 and asked them to send EMT and ambulance. They found me and arrived within 8-10 minutes.

After checking my vitals and seeing everything was ok, the kind Emergency Medical Supervisor saw I was in distress and offered to attempt to change my tire. Above and beyond the call of duty. The car was on a decline, and the piece of crap jack that comes with the Nissan buckled. I needed a professional jack you see at your local garage. Even calling a friend to help me would not work unless he or she had a professional jack to lift the car. Or a flatbed or other lift.

The EMS Supervisor got on the phone with his Supervisor to see what was going on. Apparently, the police didn't see me and would close my case out every time I called 911. Heck, the EMS saw me. I don't know what was up with the New York Police responsible for the Deegan.

The EMS Supervisor called his Supervisor and finally the 'Authorized Tow' arrived. Could he simply change the tire and put on the donut? Nope! The 'Authorized Tow' contract only allows them to tow the car off the road to the next exit. The 'Authorized Tow' driver said he had passed the section of the road I was stranded on numerous times during the night and did not see me. I guess NYC needs to include eye glass coverage in their next contract with 'Authorized Tow.'

'Authorized Tow' told me he could not tow me to my home in Yonkers but could only tow me to the gas station on the northbound side of the road where I started the evening using the facilities. He then suggested that he take me to Jerome Avenue at 1 in the morning and he knew a guy who would put on the donut for me. For \$10 and a \$5 tip he promptly did it.

Then the 'Authorized Tow' guy gave me his bill. \$140 for 20 minutes of work and he didn't even change the tire. Nice work if you can get it. He told me his credit card machine always has problems. Could I pay him in cash? Go to the ATM. I said listen, I am have an MBA, a BA, I am a Paralegal, a Newspaper Columnist for Rising Newspapers and even have a radio show on WVOX. I will bet the contract his company has with the city requires him to take credit card payments.

The liar 'Authorized Tow' guy didn't have one of those credit card machines with him. He called his dispatcher and my credit card was approved.

What did I learn from this experience. The 911 dispatcher system in New York is broken. Mind boggling that in over 5 hours no Police Officer saw my car and stopped, not even the original one who was on this way. No city vehicles including dozens of passing garbage trucks stopped to help. The white blanket 'distress' signal was meaningless as no one stopped to help or see if I was alive.

The 'Authorized Tow' company on the Deegan, Autorama Enterprises of Bronx passed the spot I was located at numerous times, and according to driver Jose did not see my car and did not stop. The 'Authorized Tow' should be authorized to change a flat tire.

And 'Authorized Tow' company drivers from Autorama like Jose, Dept. Vehicle Plate Number 4, who gave me a bill with unreadable Tow ID License and NY Registration Numbers, New Yorkers aren't stupid. They don't have \$140 in cash in their wallets in 2021. And they certainly are smart enough not to fall for the give me cash, credit card machine don't work BS! And, 'Don't Get a Flat on the Major Deegan, Darlin'.

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisyonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericnyonkers. 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.



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, congregated 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>.

Adoption: Family-oriented single woman looking to welcome a child into her life. Any ethnicity welcome, expenses paid. Please call (347) 470-5228 or my attorney: (800)582-3678 for information.

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: 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)

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)

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 CDDA 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

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

Never Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Complete Care Home Warranty COVERS ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE. \$200.00 OFF + 2 FREE Months! 866-440-6501

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

Wanted To Buy: FREON WANTED: We pay \$\$\$ for cylinders and cans. R12 R500 R11 R113 R114. Convenient. Certified Professionals. Call 312-291-9169 or visit RefrigerantFinders.com

Notice of formation of SJK Treasure House, LLC. DBA Royalty PR Consultant Agency filed with the SSNY on 02/17/2021. 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, 130 Mount Vernon Ave. Mount Vernon, NY Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

-----X

BOARD OF MANAGERS OF MEADOWS CONDOMINIUM, Index No. 52205/2019
on behalf of the Unit Owners of Meadows Condominium,
pursuant to Real Property Law, Section 339-aa,
Plaintiff,

- against -

SHANNON SIMPSON, Trustee of that Certain
trust known as the Full Circle Heritage Foundation,
SHANNON SIMPSON, individually, U.S. BANK NATIONAL
ASSOCIATION, AS SUCCESSOR TO BANK OF
AMERICA, N.A. SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO
LASALLE BANK N.A. AS TRUSTEE FOR THE
FIRST FRANKLIN MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST
MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES,
SERIES 2006-FF18, SELECT PORTFOLIO SERVICING,
INC., who holds a limited Power of Attorney for US
Bank National Association, successor trustee to Bank
of America N.A. successor by merger to LaSalle Bank
National Association, as Trustee for First Franklin
Mortgage Loan Trust, Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed
Certificates, Series 2006-FF18; DEPARTMENT OF
TREASURY - IRS,
Defendants.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT pursuant to a money judgment and judgment of foreclosure and sale in the above-entitled foreclosure action dated November 30, 2020 and entered on December 29, 2020 in the office of the County Clerk of Westchester County, I, the undersigned referee named in said judgment, will sell in one parcel at public auction on the 4th day of June, 2021 at Courtroom 200 at the Courthouse at 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., Room 200, White Plains, NY 10601 at 11:30 a.m., the unit known as 14 High Meadow Trail, Peekskill, NY 10566, City of Peekskill, County of Westchester, New York (Tax Parcel Section 23.19, Block 1, Lot 24./1902), and as designated in the Declaration establishing a plan for the Condominium recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Westchester County, Division of Land Records, at Liber 8876 at page 186, and more particularly described as:

ALL those certain pieces or parcels of Real Property being part of a condominium known as "Meadow Condominium", in the City of Peekskill, County of Westchester and State of New York, being known and designated as follows:

UNIT No. 18B together with 1/92 percent undivided interest in the common elements.

THE above described unit and the undivided percentage of interest in the common elements of the condominium appurtenant to each unit, are defined in the Declaration of Condominium hereafter referred to. The above described units are to be used for residential purposes. The real property above described is a Unit shown on the floor plans of a Condominium prepared and certified by Flavio Franco and filed in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Westchester on the 29th day of March, 1984, as Map No. 21879 Page 21880, defined in the Declaration of Condominium entitled, "Meadows Condominium", under Article 9-B of the New York Real Property Law, dated February 21, 1985 and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Westchester, Division of Land Records, on the 29th day of March, 1985 in Liber 8064 of Conveyances at Page 129, covering the property therein described.

Said premises are sold subject to the prior mortgage lien of U.S. Bank National Association, as Successor To Bank Of America, N.A. Successor by Merger To LaSalle Bank N.A. as Trustee For the Mortgage Loan Asset-Backed Certificates, Series 2006-FF18, as Assignee, subject to all taxes, assessments, and water rates which are liens upon the Premises, and subject to all covenants and restrictions of record and any state of facts an accurate survey may show.

The approximate amount of the lien to satisfy for which the above-described property is to be sold is \$20,928.04, together with interest thereon from December 29, 2020, as well as the sum which is owed to the plaintiff by the defendant Shannon Simpson on account of common charges, late fees, assessments, and costs which accrue from December 2, 2019, to the date of conveyance of the premises pursuant to the judgment of foreclosure and sale, together with Referee's fees of \$750.00, and the expenses of the sale.

Stuart Ball, Esq., Referee

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 SALE PUBLIC AUCTION Supreme Court of New York, WESTCHESTER County.

NEW RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2018-1, Plaintiff, -against- JOSEPH FERRANTE A/K/A JOSEPH FERRANTE III; COMMISSIONER OF TAXATION AND FINANCE,

Index No. 58682/2019. Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated, December 4, 2020 and entered with the Westchester County Clerk on December 21, 2020, Daniel P. Hollis II, Esq., the Appointed Referee, will sell the premises known as 537 South 2nd Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York 10550 a/k/a 537 South Second Avenue, Mount Vernon, New York 10550 at public auction in Courtroom 200 of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, New York 10601 on June 11, 2021 at 9:30 A.M. Please note, the new auction rules for the Ninth Judicial District and all applicable COVID-19 Health and Safety Protocols will be in effect at the auction. For additional information Please visit: http://ww2.nycourts.gov/courts/9jd/westchester/foreclosure_westchester.shtml. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, situate, lying and being in the City of Mount Vernon, County of Westchester and State of New York known as Section: 169.47; Block: 3118; Lot: 14 will be sold subject to the provisions of filed Judgment, Index No. 58682/2019. The approximate amount of judgment is \$269,246.47 plus interest and costs.

FRIEDMAN VARTOLO LLP 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, New York 10004, Attorneys for Plaintiff.

TOWN OF EASTCHESTER
LEGAL NOTICE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Supervisor and the Town Board of the Town of Eastchester, will hold a public hearing at Eastchester Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York on TUESDAY, June 15, 2021 at 8:00 o'clock p.m., to consider the adoption of a local law "Opt-out of Adult Use Cannabis Retail Dispensaries and On-Site Consumption Sites" within the Town of Eastchester". A copy of the proposed local law is available in the Town Clerk's office at Eastchester Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York 10709.

All interested parties are urged to attend this hearing, at which time, they will be given an opportunity to express their opinion for or against the above proposed local law.

BY THE ORDER OF THE SUPERVISOR AND
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF
EASTCHESTER, NEW YORK
LINDA LAIRD TOWN CLERK

DENTAL Insurance
from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company.
Call to get your FREE Information Kit
1-855-225-1434
dental50plus.com/mypress

Includes One Participating On Site Dispensary Locations and Prescribe Benefits Rider. Product not available in all states. Insurance provided by one insurance corporation of life here. Contact us for complete details about this insurance policy. This service cover is not available in NY, NJ, PA, MD, VA, DE, DC or covered by other for other countries. Cash is cash. The actual insurance policy form does provide it's own full and proper. THE FRONTIER BLUE CROSS OF THE STATE.

PENFIELD
CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT
PRINCIPAL
PENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL (9-12)

Penfield Central School District is seeking a dynamic and collaborative instructional leader with a focus on supporting the social and emotional needs of all learners. Ideal candidates will possess teaching and leadership experience, strong background in teaching & learning and a passionate commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion for all learners. Interested candidates please visit www.penfield.edu, click on the Job Opportunities and follow directions to apply.

GENERAC

Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!
877-516-1160

FREE
7-Year Extended Warranty*
A \$695 Value!
Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

Special Financing Available
Subject to Credit Approval
*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.

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

Cancelled My Party, continued from pg 1-

50,000 votes would no longer be the magic number. Now all minor parties had to get 130,000 votes, AND run a candidate for President in 2020. Some political parties, like SAM, did not want to run a candidate for President. They were more concerned about statewide issues and running local and county candidates for office. Seven political parties ran Presidential candidates in New York, including the Democratic and Republican parties, Conservative Party, Working Families Party, Libertarian Party, Green Party, and Independence Party. Only four of those political parties met the new 130,000 vote threshold set by Gov. Cuomo's commission meant to eliminate the WFP on election day 2020. The Democrats and Republicans both got millions of votes for Joe Biden and Donald Trump. The Conservative Party also nominated Trump and got 295,000 votes, while the WFP nominated Biden and got 386,000 votes. So the only two minor parties that met the threshold did so by running Trump or Biden, or by acting as 'subsidiaries' of the two major parties. The other three parties that ran a truly 'Independent' candidate for President did not meet the threshold and were tossed off the ballot in 2021. And my party, the SAM Party was also tossed off for not running a candidate for President.

It is interesting to note that the WFP survived Cuomo's purge of minor parties, even though they were the target of his so called "Ballot Access Law."

And what was so harmful about Cynthia Nixon and her campaign for Governor in 2018? As a member of the LGBTQ community, Nixon ran on increased funding for education, criminal justice reform and legalizing marijuana. Three years later, those issues are now in the mainstream of the NY democratic party.

"Still every day multiple people come up to me and say, 'I voted for you. When I see all these things gaining steam not just in New York but on the national stage, too, I feel like I won. I ran to win. I hoped to win. I did everything I could to make that a possibility,'" she says. "But at the end of the day, I knew the most important thing about my running was to shed light on these issues," said Nixon, whose 2018 campaign is now looked back on as "the Cynthia Effect," for the impact it had on progressive democratic politics in NY/

But while Nixon and progressive-democrats across New York State are now winning, I lost my political party and received a postcard from my Board of Elections notifying me that my political party no longer exists in February of this year (2021). 531,000 other New Yorkers also received the same postcard. Our parties were cancelled, thanks to the bullying of Gov. Cuomo, and his rage over the fact that one progressive party had the nerve to run a candidate against him.

Eight political parties in New York were cut down to four with the stroke of a pen. The SAM Party of NY refuses to go away and is pushing back on this decision to limit political discourse in the Empire State. "We will keep building SAM, locally, regionally and across the state to serve and solve the problems everyday New Yorkers face. The incumbent power brokers cannot keep us down," said SAM-NY Chair Michael Volpe.

If SAM decides to run a candidate for Governor next year (2022), we will have to collect 35,000 signatures statewide to get on the ballot. "SAM is successfully building a national coalition of independent voters who put problem solving over ideology. We have clearly created an electoral threat to the power brokers in Albany, and we can't let up. Now is the time for independent New Yorkers to push back on the Governor and the Legislature and make your voices heard," said SAM National Executive Director David Jolly, (SAMstudio.org).

Now that Governor Cuomo appears on the verge of having his political career 'cancelled,' Cynthia Nixon, while supporting progressive candidates in New York City and across the state, has not commented on Cuomo's efforts to cancel her party, or on his success in cancelling my party.

Opposition to Legal Marijuana, continued from pg 1-

legalizing marijuana help the health and well-being of New Yorkers. "I also thought about all the legislation we have passed over the years to curtail the usage of tobacco products – by prohibiting flavored cigarettes, expanding no smoking zones, and trying to deal with the expanded use of vaping (especially with our youth in our schools) as well as limiting vaping shops in our communities. We continue to address and strengthen DWI laws and even Boating while intoxicated laws– year after year in the Assembly.

"After years of examination of the issue and deciding what direction I would go with my single vote... I thought of my original question. Would legalizing marijuana make the health and well-being of New Yorkers better?"

"So, I will be voting no on the bill before us today," said Galef. Assemblyman Kevin Byrne wrote the following on April 1, after the vote. "Throughout my time in the Assembly, I have consistently embraced opportunities to lift burdensome restrictions on medicinal marijuana, but have also contended it should remain a controlled substance. We know there can be medicinal benefits from cannabis, but its use should be a decision made between a patient and their doctor, nurse practitioner or physician assistant.

"Like many in the medical community, including the Medical Society of the State of New York, I have also consistently opposed efforts to legalize marijuana for recreational use and voted against the Marihuana Regulation & Taxation Act (MRTA).

"That said, understanding over the last several years that legalization was likely to pass, I made myself available to listen to colleagues and advocates to try and help ensure guard rails were put in place to better protect public health and safety should legalization eventually occur.

"Unfortunately, it is my determination that many of the guard rails our state needed to safeguard public health and safety were absent in the MRTA. Arguments highlighting years of social injustice were largely addressed years ago when the state repealed many of the Rockefeller Drug Laws and more recently with last year's decriminalization bill. As it stands, last year's decriminalization bill, which may have been very well-intentioned, already went too far when it eliminated the additional violations that were previously enforceable against a person who smoked cannabis in public spaces. This problem has now only worsened that cannabis has been fully legalized.

"Today, under the MRTA a person can smoke marihuana outside anywhere they can smoke tobacco, including some public parks frequented by our youth. Tobacco and cannabis are inherently different and should be regulated as such. I have written to the sponsor of the MRTA advocating again for reforms that would better enable local governments to regulate and restrict cannabis use in public spaces.

"While legalization will most assuredly bring in some new tax revenue, we know it will also increase costs that affect our state and local budgets as well as put the health and well-being of our families at greater risk. To me, whatever fiscal benefit may exist from the MRTA is simply not worth the price tag," wrote Byrne.

In addition to Galef and Byrne, the New York State PTA opposed legalization. "With the serious crisis of youth vaping and tobacco use, and in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic which affects the lungs, while still battling the opioid crisis, this harmful legislation is counterintuitive. Especially now," the email states."Tell Albany they need to heed the recommendations from leading medical and public health organizations, education groups, and the law enforcement community and OPPOSE the legalization of recreational marijuana."

NY Democrats support legalization by a 65%-35% margin, while republicans oppose legalization by the same 65%-35% margine. Some Westchester communitis are considering whether they want to "opt-out" of allowing the sale of Marijuana in their communities. Some local officials have told us that their communities are seriously considering not allowing the sale of pot anywhere, but are not willing to come out publicly and state it.

"I think that our town doesn't want to allow the sale of marijuana, but we are not going to come out and say that right now because the sale of marijuana will not happen until late next year or even 2023, and we don't want rallies and protests in our town for two years," said one Westchester elected official.

Local governments have until Dec. 31 to opt out. A referendum in communities that opt out could be held to try and overturn any opt-out decision. A bill to legalize marijuana on the Federal level is slowly making its way through Congress.

The one oddity in the way in which New York State is moving forward with its marijuana legalization is that it is now legal to possess up to 3 ounces of marijuana. But there is no legal way to purchase marijuana in NY, not it is technically legal to grow your own in NY. And you are not legally permitted to purchase marijuana in Massachusetts and bring it over the state line to NY.

Pat Quinn, Iona continued from pg 2-

tough times or maybe you're going through something right now. You need to know you can overcome these tough times, but you can't do it alone. You need to build support. That is what I did next.

"Shortly after the shock wore off, I decided I was going to fight this thing with everything I possibly could. I needed to start somewhere so I decided to put a team together for the local ALS walk. We named our team, "Quinn for the Win." Over 100 people would show up to support my fight. This is the first time I felt like I could really do something positive. This successful first event gave me the confidence to put myself out there and publicly fight the disease. I saw the way people responded to a young man struggling with a disease that had no hope. It inspired me to do everything I could to create that hope people needed. My belief was that creating awareness for ALS will build support and that support will lead to more funding for research. The disease that was supposed to take my strength was turning me into a pit bull. I became engulfed in ALS, putting myself out there with hopes of bringing attention to the disease. I can't lie, I had selfish motives to start. I wanted to live. My fight started with a desire to grow old but it grew into a passion; not just a fight for myself but for everyone, and that passion would get stronger the more I got involved. Every time I met a new ALS patient, I became more inspired. My drive to fight this disease quickly became way bigger than a personal battle. This passion, this inspiration, this drive – it would all land me in the right place and right time to be a driving force behind something special, something that would make a difference and it led me to the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge.

"My message to you is that life isn't about getting hit and hiding in a corner. Life is a challenge -it's meant to be. The fight isn't what I want you to think about, though, I want you to think about how you fight and what you're going to do when the fight doesn't go your way. You're all going to face incredible challenges in your life; it's about having the mental strength to see it and not be afraid. I want to light your inner fuel; I want you to know you can be a game changer. Take your life head on and be prepared to fight for everything you want in life. It's in all of you, you just need to have the courage to let it out. This is an incredible part of your life. You're learning about yourselves and figuring out who you want to be. See that and seize every opportunity in life. You're not just some young college kids. The sooner you realize the time to be great is right now, the more you will accomplish along the way. You will all face difficult times but it's up to you how you will respond when these times come around. Life will challenge you, you don't win every battle thrown at you. There will always be ups and downs but you never give up on what you believe in. Who do you want to be? Find it and pursue it with everything you have in you. Greatness is waiting.

"When I look in the mirror every day I think, keep going and make a difference – because life is amazing."
Thanks to Iona for remembering Pat Quinn.

Our New Conservation Rates Are In Effect This Summer



Rates in your area are now based on three tiers that increase as water is used in each tier in single family households. By becoming an efficient household that only uses the amount of water it needs, you will not only help save water, but you will save money on your water bill.

Register for an account on MySUEZWater.com and create your green profile to learn how you can conserve water in your home!



Get Smart About Lawn Watering

Upgrading to a smart irrigation system can save nearly 8,000 gallons of water each year! WaterSense smart irrigation controllers reduce water use by automatically adapting to changing weather conditions.

Learn more at SUEZConserve.com



THE RIGHT CARE, RIGHT HERE IN WESTCHESTER.



Receive high-quality care from the nationally recognized physicians at the Mount Sinai Health System. Our three convenient locations in Westchester County offer primary care and multiple specialty services, including cardiology, gastroenterology, orthopedics, breast surgery, and more.

Get the care you need safely and confidently.

Book an appointment today at
mountsinai.org/westchester



**Mount
Sinai
Doctors**

**MOUNT SINAI DOCTORS-
PELHAM**

116 Fifth Avenue
Pelham, NY 10803-1504
914-813-3133

**MOUNT SINAI DOCTORS-
SCARSDALE**

341 Central Park Avenue
Scarsdale, NY 10583-1301
914-370-5000

**MOUNT SINAI DOCTORS-
YONKERS**

1086 North Broadway
Yonkers, NY 10701
914-968-3535