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Friday October 15, 2021

Dec. 31 Deadline Looms for Towns to “Opt -Out of Marijuana Cafes

Peekskill & New Rochelle Opt-In, More than 12 Opt-Out



By Dan Murphy

The legalization of marijuana in New York State has allowed local governments to determine whether they wish to permit the establishment of marijuana dispensaries or cafes. The law allows local Town, Village or City Councils to ban such marijuana stores and bars by Opting Out, but they must do so by Dec. 31.

This law also means that if your local government does not act by Dec. 31, then they are Opting-In to legal pot being sold and consumed in their downtown. This has resulted in more than a dozen Westchester communities, both opting-in and opting out.

The Peekskill Common Council recently discussed their views on allowing Marijuana dispensaries and cafes to open in their city next year. In March of 2021, New York State passed the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act, which will permit the sale and consumption of pot in communities across the state.

In Peekskill, four members of the common council expressed support of opting in and having dispensaries and cafes-lounges. Councilwoman Kathie Talbot, Mayor Andre Rainey, Councilman Dwight Douglas and Councilwoman Vanessa Agudelo, all expressed their support for Opting-In.

Talbot said that dispensaries and cafes “won’t be harmful to the city.” Douglas said, “It would be a grave mistake to opt-out,” and that opting-in “is 100% to our benefit.”

Agudelo said, “I would hate for us to paint a negative picture of marijuana. These will be legitimate businesses, and we would be leaving money on the table if we Opt-Out. We can make good use of the money (revenues).”

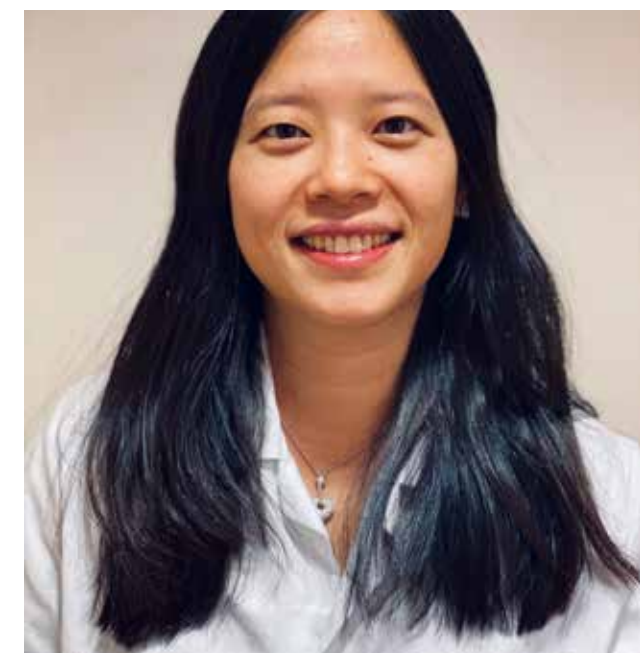
Three common council members wanted to Opt-Out or needed more information. Councilwoman Patricia Riley said “I do have a problem with dispensaries in Peekskill. This would send a mixed message.”

Deputy Mayor Vivian McKenzie, who will likely be the next Mayor in 2022, said “I don’t want that for Peekskill. Not all money is good money.”

Councilman Ramon Fernandez said he is seeking more input from the community before deciding. But with four votes needed to opt-out, Peekskill will be opting in.

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Mount Sinai’s Dr. Tsang Says Early Detection of Breast Cancer Saves Lives



Dr. Ashley Tsang, left encourages women to get screened during Breast Cancer Awareness Month In October

By Dan Murphy DRAFT

The announcement by U.S. Senator and former Presidential candidate Amy Klobuchar in September that she had been diagnosed and treated for breast cancer in 2021, is a case that should be shared with woman about how early detection and screening can lead to successful treatment, according to Dr. Ashley Tsang, Mount Sinai Doctors Westchester.

On Sept. 9th Senator Klobuchar, 61, wrote, “In February of this year, doctors found small white spots called calcifications during a routine mammogram. After this was discovered, I had a biopsy and then learned that I had Stage 1A breast cancer.

“After a number of other tests, I returned to Mayo and had a lumpectomy on the right breast which involved the removal of the cancer. In May, I completed a course of radiation treatment, and after additional follow-up visits, it was determined in August that the treatment went well. At this point my doctors believe that my chances of developing cancer again are no greater than the average person,” said Klobuchar.

Dr. Tsang said that Klobuchar’s successful early diagnosis and treatment of breast cancer should be used as an example and wake up call for women about the importance of how patients can use screenings to maintain their own health, especially during Breast Cancer Awareness month in October 2021.

“We know that one in eight women get breast cancer, and that figure has not changed in decades, despite the advancements in health care and medical research,” said Dr. Tsang. “The fact that Sen. Klobuchar had a mammogram in February, and they detected something which a biopsy confirmed

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Should Our Elected Officials be Selling Guns?

Esposito Questioned about Gun Store in Yorktown Race

Veterans Outraged at False Claim

of American Legion Endorsement



By Dan Murphy

Westchester Rising recently received two letters questioning the candidacy of Sergio Esposito, republican candidate for Yorktown Town Board.

In one letter, a Yorktown Veteran and Purple Heart Recipient, questioned Esposito’s “Fake Endorsement” by the American Legion. A second letter asks voters a simple question: Do We Want Our Elected Officials Selling Guns?

The gun store in question is called American Arms, located on Commerce Street in Yorktown. The store accepts customers by appointment only.



Yorktown Town Board candidate Sergio Esposito

A recent story on TapIntoYorktown reads that “Esposito, a father of three, serves on the town’s Board of Ethics and owns two small businesses: Comprehensive Computers (a computer repair and IT services company in Mamaroneck) and American Arms (a firearms retailer on Commerce Street in Yorktown)” Esposito’s campaign literature makes no mention of the weapons business.

Here are both letters: Dear Editor:I am SHOCKED AND ANGERED at the misrepresentation by Sergio Esposito in his advertisement implying that the American Legion endorses him! I’m a Veteran and longtime resident of Yorktown. I expect Honor and Truth from candidates for political office. In the October 7th issue of Yorktown News, the American Legion Executive Committee states how they were misled when a photo of AL members and Sergio Esposito which was taken at a non-political event was used deliberately in a political advertisement which implies an endorsement.

This is unethical at a minimum. What is also upsetting is to find out

Westchester Election 2021:

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Low Turnout Expected as Most Voters Tune Out; Is Trump Factor Wearing Off? Walter-Nolan, Smith-Torres, Two BOL Races to Watch



County board candidates, clockwise, Colin Smith, Joe Torres, Ruth Walter, James Nolan



By Dan Murphy

One Westchester democrat told us that while campaigning and knocking on doors for a competitive County Board race, most voters who answered, “didn’t even know there was an election.”

In fact, both parties fear low turnout and are working to invigorate their base to get out and vote, either by absentee ballot, early voting, or on Nov. 2.

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NY Attorney General James Delivers \$13.5M to Westchester to Combat Opioid Crisis



Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, with New York Attorney General Letitia James and elected officials

NY Attorney General Letitia James today continued her statewide ‘HealNY’ tour of New York state with a stop in Westchester County today, where she announced that she will deliver up to \$94 million for the Hudson Valley to combat the opioid epidemic. The funds come from different settlements Attorney General James has negotiated following her March 2019 lawsuit against the various manufacturers and distributors responsible for the opioid crisis. Attorney General James’ tour will make stops in dozens of New York counties throughout the month of October, with up to \$1.5 billion in funds going to counties across New York state.

“After more than two decades of having lethal opioids spread across every county of the Hudson Valley, today we are helping this community heal by announcing we will be delivering up to \$94 million to invest in opioid prevention, treatment, and recovery,” said Attorney General James. “These funds will help the Hudson Valley turn the tide on the opioid crisis. While no amount of money will ever make up for all the lives lost, these funds will be vital in helping to prevent future deaths.”

The lawsuit Attorney General James filed in 2019 was, at the time, the nation’s most extensive lawsuit against the various manufacturers and distributors of opioids. These manufacturers and distributors were responsible for heavily marketing opioids to doctors, hospitals, health care systems, and others, which led to the over prescription of the drugs across New York and the rest of the nation over the last two decades. The manufacturers named in Attorney General James’ complaint included Purdue Pharma and its affiliates, as well as members of the Sackler Family (owners of Purdue) and trusts they control; Janssen Pharmaceuticals and its affiliates (including its parent company Johnson & Johnson); Mallinckrodt LLC and its affiliates; Endo Health Solutions and its affiliates; Teva Pharmaceuticals USA, Inc. and its affiliates; and Allergan Finance, LLC and its affiliates. The distributors named in the complaint were McKesson Corporation, Cardinal Health Inc., Amerisource Bergen Drug Corporation, and Rochester Drug Cooperative Inc.

Last month, a settlement that secured more than \$4.5 billion — at least \$200 million of which will be earmarked for New York — from the Sackler family and foundations that they control, ends the Sacklers’ ability to manufacture opioids ever again, and will shut down Purdue Pharma was announced. In July, a settlement with McKesson, Cardinal Health, and Amerisource Bergen that will deliver up to \$1 billion to New York state to combat the opioid epidemic was announced.

In June, a settlement that ended Johnson & Johnson’s sale of opioids nationwide and that will deliver \$230 million to New York alone was announced. The cases against Mallinckrodt and Rochester Drug Cooperative are now moving separately through U.S. Bankruptcy Court. The trial against the two remaining defendants — Teva Pharmaceuticals USA and Allergan Finance — is currently underway and continues in state court.

Pursuant to the new law establishing the opioid settlement fund, all funds collected by the state from opioid settlements or litigation victories will be allocated specifically for abatement efforts in communities devastated by the opioid epidemic and will not go towards the state’s general fund. Every region in the state will receive millions of dollars for prevention, treatment, and recovery programs to combat the opioid crisis.

Westchester County received \$13.5 Million in funds to combat and treat Opioid abuse, and the City of Yonkers received \$5.3 Million, for a combined total of \$18.8 Million. And, as the other lawsuits and bankruptcies continue, more funds may be

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County Executive Latimer Signs Anti-Discrimination Harassment Bill



County Executive George Latimer at bill signing

When County Executive George Latimer first took office in 2018, he made it a priority to strengthen and revitalize the Westchester County Human Rights Commission in an effort to combat discrimination and harassment incidents throughout the County. On Friday, Latimer will fulfill his promise by signing into law the Anti-Discriminatory Harassment Bill, legislation that expands the type of harassment that can be prosecuted under the law.

Latimer said: “When I sign this bill into law, we do away with any further reference to ‘other’ and ensure that there is only a ‘we’ in our County. Westchester is very diverse, and we should all embrace any differences that exist between us. Today, I stand together with each and every one of you, solidifying our message that harassment and discrimination must end in Westchester County.”

Under the current Westchester County Human Rights Law, it is unlawful to discriminate in relation to employment, public accommodations, housing accommodation, commercial space and land transactions, and the issuing of credit – but what the Human Rights Law does not currently protect against is discriminatory harassment outside of these specific actions.

The change initiated by Latimer makes it an unlawful discriminatory practice for a person to by “force or threat of force, knowingly injure, intimidate or interfere with, or threaten any other person in the free exercise or enjoyment of any right or privilege secured to such other person by the constitution or laws of the United States, the constitution or laws of this state, or by local law, or by this chapter.”

With the new law in place, individuals are prohibited from interfering with a person’s right to the enjoyment of their home or residence, or to utilize and enjoy public transportation free from threats, intimidation, harassment, coercion or violence because of the person’s actual or perceived membership in a protected class.

Executive Director of the Human Rights Commission Tejash Sanchala said: “This new law is a timely and proactive approach to combatting discrimination in venues that are not otherwise covered by the County’s Human Rights Law. With this expansion of the Commission’s jurisdiction, the County’s Human Rights Law is a leader in affording anti-discriminatory protections to residents and visitors in Westchester.”

Chair of the African American Advisory Board Barbara Edwards said: “Westchester County has the proud distinction of having a progressive statesman in County Executive George Latimer, who is committed to fostering a policy that prohibits discrimination and harassment, and encourages appropriate conduct among all citizens. The law that he will sign reflects the requirements of federal, state and local policy, which governs the prevention of discrimination and harassment. The African American Advisory Board is encouraged by the signing of the Anti-Discriminatory Harassment Bill and reassured to know that Westchester County government embodies a policy that does not tolerate unlawful practices that will be forbidden by its tenets.”

Co-Chair of the Asian American Advisory Board Marjorie Hsu said: “The Asian American Advisory Board applauds County Executive Latimer and our Board of Legislators for passing this Anti-discriminatory harassment legislation to combat the abhorrent attacks against our AAPI community these past 18 months, often against seniors and the most vulnerable.”

Robin Bikkal of the Hispanic Advisory Board said: “The Hispanic Advisory

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Monticello Central School Special Education Openings

The Monticello CSD is seeking the following Special Education Teaching Positions.

Biology Teacher (7-12) • English Teacher (7-12)

Grant Funded Positions

**Biology Teacher 7-12 • ELA Teacher (7-12) • Mathematics Teacher (7-12)
Social Studies Teacher (7-12) • Spanish Teacher (MS & HS)**

Leave Replacements

Mathematics Teacher (7-12)

NYS Certification Required

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<https://monticelloschools.tedk12.com/hire> EOE

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Democratic Supreme Court Candidates Hyer & Davis Campaigning Hard in Westchester



L-R- Tom Davis, County Executive George Latimer, Jim Hyer

Attorneys James Hyer and Tom Davis have been campaigning all over Westchester, in seeking to earn the votes from residents in their upcoming election for State Supreme Court in the 9th Judicial District by explaining their legal experience and how it will serve all if elected a State Supreme Court Justice.

Attorney James Hyer is currently the President of the Westchester County Bar Association. Hyer has also served as an Administrative Law Judge for the Westchester County Human Rights Commission, Corporate Counsel for the Legal Aid Society of Westchester, and a Hearing Officer for the WCBA Grievance Committee.

Attorney Tom Davis has spent 29 years practicing law in all of the five counties that make up the 9th JD. Davis has focused much of his life and legal career as an advocate for the disabled. He is a former trustee of the Down Syndrome Association of the Hudson Valley and is a member of the Executive Committee of Abilities First, Inc., a large not-for-profit agency providing residential, educational and rehabilitative services to the developmentally and intellectually disabled. Davis is the father of a child with Down Syndrome

Both Hyer and Davis sat down with Ru Ros of the Yonkers Voice to talk about why they want to serve on the State Supreme Court. Davis said, "I've been a practicing supreme court attorney for almost 30 years. I have learned that the power of a supreme court judge is a vitally important position, and the decisions a supreme court judge makes can be life altering to the people who appear before them"

"I have come to the point in my career where I have learned so much through my legal experience that its time in my life and career to give back and serve the people," said Davis.

Hyer said, "I have always wanted to help people and work to fix problems, and I being a Supreme Court Judge is a wonderful opportunity to help people. It is important that all people who appear before the court are treated fairly and equally."

"I bring a fair and unbiased reputation to this election, based on my leadership of the Westchester Bar Association and its 2,000 members. I want people to feel comfortable when they come to court no matter who they are, and have confidence that I can bring honesty, integrity and impartiality to the court. I have always sought to build bridges between the legal system and the community and I'm running with four other amazing candidates for Supreme Court who will also do that," said Hyer.

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The Westchester GOP Isn't Abe Lincoln's GOP



By Eric Schoen

Anyone who knows anything about political debates recognizes the importance of the Lincoln/Douglas debates in American history. Abraham Lincoln was running against Stephen Douglas for Senator from Illinois. The Senate campaign featured seven debates between Lincoln and Douglas.

These were the most famous political debates in American history. They had an atmosphere akin to a prizefight and drew crowds in the thousands. The principals stood in stark contrast both physically and politically.

Four years ago, George Latimer debated Rob Astorino at Iona College in New Rochelle. It was moderated by a guy named Richard French whose father owned one of the networks on our 500 channel television sets. Astorino packed the house with county employees who were given the 'subtle' direction to go. French couldn't control the debate. The Astorino supporters acted like animals.

I felt bad for State Senator George Latimer who ended up winning the County Executive race. The debate was held at Iona College. The President of the college sat in the audience while this debacle went on. In my mind it will always be a stain on Iona College, a school where many friends were educated and with a stellar reputation.

2021. County Executive race. George Latimer running for re-election against Republican Party activist and long time Westchester government employee Christine Sculti. Sculti is a good dancer. I danced with her years ago at a friends wedding.

Sculti has been called upon to participate in debates, forums, candidates events, etc. and has refused. She even refused to appear on the WVOX AM morning show featuring Dennis Nardone and Miss Connie. Two of the nicest, fairest people. I learned about this when I had a forum set up for candidates for Westchester County Legislative District 15 featuring Democrat Ruth Walter and Republican James Nolan last Thursday on the Westchester Rising Radio Show on WVOX.

(By the way when I confirmed the forum as I do the day before with the candidates, Nolan informed me that, 'Sorry due to a scheduling conflict I won't be able to attend, hope it goes well! This after we went out of our way to accommodate him. We continued the forum with Ms Walter who gave an excellent presentation on what she has done as a County Legislator.)

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Join the Conversation

Westchester County Requests Your Participation at the 2021 Westchester County Budget Public Input Sessions

Before the 2022 Westchester County budget is finalized, come and share your priorities for County programs and services. This year's information is as follows:

Monday, October 25

11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
 New Rochelle City Hall
 Council Chambers – 1st Floor
 515 North Avenue
 New Rochelle, New York 10801

Register to join via WebEx
<https://bit.ly/3a7roqx>

4 to 6 p.m.
 Mount Kisco Public Library
 100 East Main Street
 Mount Kisco, New York 10549

Register to join via WebEx
<https://bit.ly/3ojl2vh>

Those who wish to submit written comments may do so by emailing Communications@Westchestergov.com



Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus 45th Anniversary



“Celebrating Women of Character, Courage and Commitment”

The Westchester Black Women Political Caucus will celebrate its 45th Anniversary with an in person event on October 17 at Castle Royal in Yonkers. The keynote speaker will be State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

This year's honorees are:

Greenburgh-White Plains Chapter- Hon. Eddie Mae Barnes, Hon. Alfreda Williams
 Mt Vernon Chapter- Diane Atkins, Hon. Ruth Hassell Thompson
 New Rochelle Chapter- Jean Anderson, Hon. Pearl Quarles
 Peekskill Chapter- Matilda Gilbert-posthumously, Karlene Virgo-posthumously
 Yonkers Chapter -Joanne Robinson, Roberta Robinson

As we celebrate this milestone, we pause to reflect on the vision led by the late Alice C. Scott and the late Joan Mosley, in 1976. The founding members were determined to expose and fulfill pivotal roles for black women in Westchester County politics. Today, WBWPC is a five-chapter, multi-partisan, political organization with chapters in Greenburgh-White Plains, Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Greater Peekskill Area and Yonkers.

Our honorees are wonderful, wise, and talented ladies with incredible minds and sound judgment. These courageous and strong women proudly continue to bear the responsibility to advocate for those who cannot advocate for themselves.

“We stand on the shoulders of those who founded WBWPC in 1976. As we look towards the future, we are ready to face the new challenges it will bring as our organization is guided by our mission of strengthen our communities through volunteerism, sustainable operations, and the advancement of equality.” States WBWPC President Subomi Macaulay.

We are honored to welcome our Political Associates: Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, Governor Kathy Hochul, Lt. Governor Brian Benjamin, Congressman Mondaire Jones, Attorney General Leticia James, Brooklyn Borough President Eric Adams, Brooklyn Deputy Borough President Ingrid Lewis Martin, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, Westchester Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins.

As we celebrate this momentous occasion, let us recognize not where we have been, but where are going. We look forward to seeing what the next 45 years will bring.

Visit WBWPC.org/contribute to support this event.

Anti-Discrimination Harassment Bill, continued from pg 2-

Board is grateful to County Executive Latimer and the Board of Legislators for their hard work on behalf of the most vulnerable in our community. Our immigrant communities too often are the target of attacks, discrimination and harassment.”

President of the Westchester Jewish Council William H. Schrag said: “It’s gratifying to know that hate not only has no home in Westchester, but that any attempt to change that will not be tolerated in Westchester.”

James Young (he/they) of the Westchester County LGBTQ Advisory Board said: “It is exciting that this bill was introduced during Pride Month, a time of the year when LGBTQ+ identities are celebrated and honored, and is being signed into law on Friday, October 8 in the midst of LGBT History Month, and just a few days away from October 11, National Coming Out Day. We thank County Executive Latimer and the Board of Legislators for taking a stance to end discrimination in Westchester County, and making it safer for folks to fully be

State Supreme Court, continued from pg 3-

County Executive George Latimer recently endorsed Hyer, Davis, Greenburgh Judge Christie D’Alessio and Yonkers Judge Tom Quinones.

“I’ve done my homework and that’s why I’m endorsing, Tom Davis, Jim Hyer, Judge Tom Quinones and Judge Christie D’Alessio. They are four candidates that possess the experience, integrity and compassion to serve the citizens of our community. Let your voice be heard on Nov. 2,” said Latimer.

Hyer and Davis have also been endorsed by the Westchester County Corrections Officer Benevolent Association, The Hispanic Law Enforcement Officers Association, Teamster Local 456, Westchester-Putnam AFL-CIO, Yonkers Firefighters Local 628-State Senator Shelley Mayer, Mayor Mike Spano, and the Westchester-Putnam Building Trades Council.”

Several Bar Associations have found the candidates “Well Qualified” to serve as a Supreme Court Justice.

Tom Davis and Jim Hyer have been campaigning all over Westchester County because they want the people to know that there is an important election on Nov. 2, but also that early voting starts on Oct. 23. You can also vote by absentee ballot.

Voter turnout will be one of the determining factors in this year’s election. Don’t sleep on election 2021, and who your Supreme Court Judges will be for the next 14 years.

Visit Votesupremejudges.com for more information.

The Lesson They’re Not Teaching in Schools Letter to the Editor: Kiley Blackman

“The Lesson they’re not teaching in schools’

As the war rages on over what should be taught in schools, it’s interesting to note that Humane Education is being ignored and not taught - though in fact teaching it is mandated, enacted as NYS Education Law Sec. 809. Humane Education is defined as a field of study that draws connections between human rights, animal protection, and environmental sustainability; It was created in the late 1800’s as a way to address social injustices and prevent cruelty to animals before it started; that should be the teaching standard for our children instead of engendering rancor, assigning labels and creating division.

An easy first step could be to abolish animal dissection in school, which lays the groundwork for contempt of other beings - who have a right to share this earth without being ‘test’ subjects or academic ‘points’ for children or anyone else. Animal dissection is a foundation primer for making children callous and insensitive. Many are frightened into this repulsive activity - which serves absolutely no purpose - with the threat of a failing or mediocre grade; many are encouraged into bullying laughter at others, and at the poor animal victims as well.

But it provides another unfortunate lesson extending much more profoundly - which is that it shows children they have the ‘right’ to dominate and harm those who can’t fight back. Children, the elderly and the animals are the most easily victimized in society; the schools would do a huge service by guiding young minds toward good citizenship and being stewards of the earth instead of plunderers of it. According to the NY-based organization HEART, whose stated mission is to develop a generation of compassionate youth who create positive change for people, animals and the natural world, ‘Humane education is effective because it can be easily integrated into any subject. Students can read humane literature and write letters to legislators about issues affecting animals, people, and the environment.’

Humane Education is designed to teach young people to treat each other, and the planet, with respect and kindness - a necessary lesson that’s also been ignored by the Board of Education along with other failings. Issues such as bullying, which is epidemic in schools, would benefit from Humane Ed’s non-violent conflict resolution teachings. One large study showed that students who participated in such programs showed significantly greater gains in the type of behavior that benefits other people and society as a whole, than students who didn’t participate. Students who participated in an expanded version of the program achieved even greater gains.

‘Teaching a child not to step on a caterpillar is as valuable to the child as it is to the caterpillar.’ By including all beings in the circle of kindness and compassion, and teaching the interconnectedness of life, teachers will be showing students that even the littlest of us deserve decency, dignity and esteem, instead of placing barriers between us - by species or anything else.

And that’s what teaching is really about after all.

Kiley Blackman, founder
 Animal Defenders of Westchester
www.ADOW.org

Funding to combat Opioids continued from pg 2-

coming.

“I want to thank Attorney General Tish James for fighting to secure these funds. This year, the State Senate and State Assembly, working in partnership with the attorney general, passed legislation to guarantee that these funds from opioid settlements are used for the development of new services and support,” said State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. “We can’t bring back the tragic losses experienced by too many families in Westchester and across New York state, but we can and will seek justice.”

“The impact of opioid abuse on individuals and families is devastating,” said State Senator Shelley Mayer. “I applaud Attorney General James for holding manufacturers and distributors accountable, and I am pleased the money from these settlements will soon begin to heal communities across New York state, including right here at St. Vincent’s Hospital.”

“Westchester County knows far too well the devastating impacts of the opioid epidemic — the lives cut short and the families torn apart,” said Westchester County Executive George Latimer. “Thank you to New York Attorney General Leticia James for her leadership and for helping Westchester County fight back against opioid addiction. Westchester County is set to receive a minimum of \$10.6 million and a maximum of \$18.8 million under the settlement — this is a significant amount of money that will help countless victims rebuild their lives.”

“Attorney General Leticia James has led the fight to hold those responsible for the horrors of the opioid epidemic accountable, and we are now seeing the results of this effort,” said Ardsley resident Stephanie Marquesano, founder of The Harris Project. “This is very personal to my family and me, as my 19-year-old son Harris misused opioids and died by accidental overdose in 2013. Our repeated attempts to get the appropriate treatment for his addiction and mental health challenges — co-occurring disorders — failed because the system was not designed to meet his needs. We founded The Harris Project with a mission of improving outcomes for the millions with co-occurring disorders. We thank Attorney General James and the New York State Legislature for putting safeguards in place, so these dollars do not simply go to the state general fund, but will be used to build a better system of care across the continuum — enhancing prevention, intervention, treatment, and housing opportunities to ensure long-term sustainable recovery.”



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Free Flu Clinics in Bronxville, Eastchester, Tuckahoe Offered by NY Presbyterian Hospital

This year, flu vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines are both widely available, leading some people to wonder: Is it safe to get both shots? There is very good data to show that both vaccines are safe, and no reason to avoid getting them both around the same time. Last year, the U.S. saw very little flu, due largely to the measures put in place to stop the spread of the coronavirus, including masking, distancing, and hand hygiene. But health authorities are concerned that the easing of COVID-19 restrictions and a lack of immunity from the flu last year could lead to a worse-than-usual flu season.

Early flu and early COVID-19 can look a lot alike, which can lead to people worrying if they have COVID-19 and may necessitate quarantining people and family members. It would be better to avoid it in the first place by having increased immunity against both the flu and COVID-19.

New York Presbyterian's Health Matters gives you the latest information from our leading experts about the safety of getting both a flu shot and the COVID-19 vaccine, what to expect from this year's flu season, and the best time to get the shots.

Are there any health risks to getting the flu vaccine at the same time as a COVID-19 vaccine? No. When the COVID-19 vaccine first came out in December of 2020, the CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommended against getting any other vaccine within two weeks before or after the COVID-19 vaccine. They were being extra careful to ensure that nothing interfered with the effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine, but they rescinded that guidance because there wasn't evidence to support it. We already give people multiple vaccines at the same time.

This year, you can get both the flu vaccine and COVID-19 vaccine. You may experience more side effects if you get both at the same time. And that's why splitting them up, if you're nervous about the side effects, is reasonable. It often takes a few days after the COVID-19 vaccine before the arm soreness and other mild reactions are gone, so you can plan to get your flu vaccine a couple of days after the COVID-19 shot if you don't want to get them on the same day.

Dates and Locations: Friday, October 15, 9AM – 2PM, Bronxville Court Room at Village Hall, 200 Pondfield Road, Bronxville, 9AM – 2PM, Eastchester Public Library, 11 Oakridge Place, Eastchester. Wednesday, November 3, 10AM – 1PM, Tuckahoe Community Center, 71 Columbus Avenue, Tuckahoe.

For more information, call the Flu Shot Hotline at 914-787-6060. For more stories about science, care and wellness, visit www.healthmatters.nyp.org.

Mount Vernon Woman Arraigned for Possessing Fraudulent COVID-19 Vax Cards

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that Mount Vernon resident Diana Finlay has been arraigned for possessing nearly two dozen fraudulent COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards.

Finlay, 53, was charged on October 12, 2021, in Harrison Town Court with five counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a felony. The Westchester County District Attorney's Office made the arrest on September 23, 2021, with assistance from the United States Department of Homeland Security.

On September 23, 2021, at approximately 4:45 p.m., Finlay was pulled over in Harrison after she was observed driving her car with a forged New Jersey temporary registration license tag. Following her arrest, 21 forged COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards and three additional forged New Jersey temporary registration tags were recovered.

"The District Attorney's Office will vigorously investigate and prosecute anyone who is found purchasing, possessing, making, or selling forged vaccination cards. The health and safety of the public is our top priority, and we will not tolerate conduct that puts individuals at increased risk of the serious effects of COVID-19," DA Rocah said. "Our investigation is ongoing and any individuals who may have relevant information about someone in possession of or selling fake vaccination cards are asked to contact our office."

Finlay is scheduled to appear again in Harrison Town Court on December 7, 2021. The case is being prosecuted by the Trials and Investigations Division Economic Crimes Bureau. If anyone has information on someone purchasing, in possession of or selling fake vaccination cards, please call the District Attorney's Office at (914) 955-TIPS.

Liberty Lines Modified Service Announcement

Liberty Lines is launching the Choice Transportation Bus Schedule on Monday, October 11, 2021, in order to better meet the needs of Bee-Line passengers and provide dependable service.

The Bee-Line bus system is currently experiencing a reduction in ridership due to the pandemic. As ridership levels increase service levels will be reevaluated. The modified schedule will remain in effect for the remainder of the year. Saturday and Sunday service will remain on regular schedule and Paratransit service will not be impacted or modified.

Liberty Lines, like other transit operators nationwide, is also actively recruiting bus drivers. To find out more about working for Liberty Lines please visit our website at www.libertylines.com or call (914) 969-6900.

For a full list of the service changes please visit www.westchestergov.com/beelinebus.

Last month, Liberty Lines announced that it was facing a shortage of bus drivers due to the pandemic. "We are taking this shortage seriously and are actively recruiting new Bee-Line bus drivers daily, currently running three classes to train new drivers," said the company.

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Eric Schoen continued from pg 3-

I then heard that Republican candidates in Westchester were not participating in media probably inherited from the former President. Sculti is a personable candidate after his opponent as Astorino did four years ago.

I tried to make sense of what was going on here. I made it my goal to try to get myself as a fair person. Since I started voting in 1978 I have never voted a straight Democratic ticket. How could I have voted against Republican State Senator John 'Chippy' Flynn. I would have been tarred and feather in Yonkers if I did.

My Cousin was State Assemblyman Republican Alvin Suchin, well respected by his colleagues in Albany. His mom who was my mom's first cousin, Evelyn Suchin was Vice Chairperson of the Westchester Republican Party. So I have bipartisan blood in my body.

I wrote to Ms. Sculti requesting her to appear on the radio. I wrote to the person who apparently runs the Republican campaigns in Westchester. I have gotten a response from neither.

Made me think of my cousin Assemblyman Suchin. For some reason I was upset with his fellow Republican, Yonkers Mayor Angelo Martinelli and penned a letter to him. He always responded whether or not he agreed with you. As did Senator Flynn. My, have times changed when people don't have the decency to respond to an invitation!

So there we are. Sculti's war chest is small compared to Latimer's. She should take advantage of any and every opportunity to be heard. Abraham Lincoln agreed to 7 debates. I guess she's no Abraham Lincoln.

Voters have the right to see and hear candidates discuss the issues. I had a successful discussion of all things Yonkers with City Council President Candidates Lake-sha Collins Bellamy and Ron Matten. Both Democrat Tim Hodges and Republican Anthony Merante will discuss issues in their Yonkers district October 21 10 a.m. on WVOX. I vowed I would never participate in the type of candidates forum that took place at Iona 4 years ago. Candidates have always brought their posse's to cheer them on at open debates. Cheering on is simply not acting like animals.

The invitation is still open. With all due respect, County Executive George Latimer has never met a microphone he didn't like. I know he will participate. If only the Republican candidate would participate in a forum as did her predecessors who built this great nation!

NYC Congestion Pricing-The Next Gimmick to Take Money out of Your Pocket

I remotely addressed the New York City Congestion Pricing Task Force recently. There are proposals that would put a toll on vehicles that go south of 60th Street in Manhattan. The stated goal is to reduce traffic congestion in New York City. The real goal is to raise money to 'improve' mass transit. How many more taxes, tolls, etc. are they going to put on consumers including those from Westchester to pay for mass transit?

There are limited details on how much the tolls will cost. \$9-\$15 is the range you hear. Think people who are working from home in Westchester and the suburbs now due to Covid? Watch the increase if they put these exorbitant tolls in place. Minimal information and a way for you to weigh in on this insanity is available at <http://new.mta.info/project/CBDTP>

Speakers were given a measly 2 minutes to provide testimony remotely. I spoke at the hearing for the Hudson Valley and was #3 after 2 upstate legislators so I don't think many folks from Westchester spoke. I share with you my testimony:

You should be ashamed in the middle of a pandemic to be talking about congestion pricing. People where I live in Yonkers have no convenient 24 hour a day public transit options into New York City. People are afraid due to Covid to ride public transit. Many like me go into New York City for cultural experiences at night and weekends. No congestion then there should be no congestion pricing. No details on pricing disgraceful. Concentrate on using toll money we pay to fix the potholes that destroy our cars. Think fix, not tax. 2 minutes to comment. Who are you kidding. Opening up New York. Have live public hearings!

Tips of the Day: You can get your flu shot at the same time as your Covid vaccination. You should be able to wash your hands before you eat. Complain, even tweet the company if a restaurant or fast food joint has closed their bathroom as the Manager at the Dunkin Donuts at 269 South Central Avenue in Hartsdale said to me because of 'Covid.' Some folks just suffer from terminal dumbness!

Reach Eric Schoen at 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.

debates, forums or even making radio show appearances. There's this distrust of the And Latimer is not one to load an audience up with rowdy supporters. Nor go nuts

Sculti to appear on WVOX in a discussion of the issues with Latimer. I think of Democratic ticket. How could I have voted against Republican State Senator John

his colleagues in Albany. His mom who was my mom's first cousin, Evelyn Suchin

was Vice Chairperson of the Westchester Republican Party. So I have bipartisan blood in my body.

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Yorktown Gun Store, continued from pg 1-

that Mr. Esposito claims to have global management experience when all he runs is a small local computer company, in addition to a weapons and ammunition business on Commerce Street.

Lastly, and perhaps the most upsetting is that Mr. Esposito is a member of the Town's Ethics Board.

This is all SHAMELESS AND DISGRACEFUL, not to mention UNETHICAL!" writes-Neil Gross.

Another letter we received reads, "Letter to the editor, Do we want our elected officials selling guns? One of the candidates running for town board, Sergio Esposito sells guns and runs a gun business right here in Yorktown. The name of the company is AMERICAN ARMS. This is alarming to me given the amount of school shootings and gun violence across our country.

"Residents want to know how a gun store contributes to our community? Will Mr. Esposito address this question in the upcoming debate?

"Interestingly, Mr. Esposito serves on the Ethics board!? Is this who we want on the Ethics board? Mr. Esposito is also the President of Yorktown Chamber of Commerce. As President, he has allowed Eric DiBartolo to remain a member of the chamber and hold a Chairperson position. Eric DiBartolo was recently charged with larceny, a class D felony. Shouldn't Mr. Esposito have asked Mr. DiBartolo to step down from his Chairperson position?

"Mr. Esposito also falsely claimed the American Legion endorsed him and we know this is not case as Mr. Gross's letter to the editor clearly pointed out. Mr. Gross, a purple heart veteran was outraged that Mr. Esposito would falsely claim this endorsement.

"As a Mother concerned about gun violence in our schools, with Sandy Hook being a mere 45 minutes from our town, how could anyone want a gun selling candidate on the Town Board making decisions?

"Will Mr. Esposito apologize to the American Legion for misrepresenting them and putting out a false endorsement? We shall see. Actions speak louder than words," writes Yorktown resident Trish Sullivan-Rothberg.

Esposito and republican Luciana Haughwout are running on the GOP ticket for two seats on the Town Board. Democrats are running Councilman Vishnu Patel and former Supervisor Lanny Gilbert.

Supervisor Matt Slater is running for re-election unopposed. Democrat Alice Roker is not running for re-election. to the town board. Republicans currently hold a 3-2 majority.

The criminal case against Eric DiBartolo, referenced in the letter above, has been adjourned again, to October 21.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK –
 COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER
 INDEX # 65171/2020 FILED: 8/11/2021
 SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Plaintiff designates WESTCHESTER County as the place of trial. The basis of venue is: The location of the real property being foreclosed. BANK OF AMERICA, NA, Plaintiff, against UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF MARY A. DAVIS A/K/A MARY DAVIS A/K/A MARY A PICKNEY A/K/A MARY PICKNEY A/K/A MARY PICKNEY DAVIS A/K/A MARY TEMPLE DAVIS, if they be living and if they be dead, the respective heirs-at-law, next-of-kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said defendant(s) who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lien or inheritance, any right, title or interest in or to the real property described in the Complaint, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, Defendant(s). To the above named Defendant(s): YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to Answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's attorney(s) within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Honorable David F. Everett, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Westchester County, granted on the 3rd day of August, 2021, and filed with the Verified Complaint and other papers in the office of the County Clerk of Westchester County. The object of this action is to bar and forever foreclose of and from all right, title, interest, claim, lien and equity of redemption in and to real property situated in the County of Westchester being known as and by 12 RISLEY PLACE, NEW ROCHELLE, NY 10801, bearing tax map designation Section: 4 Block: 1320 Lot: 0038, which is more fully described in the Schedule "A" attached to the Verified Complaint. Aldridge Pite, LLP. Attorneys for the Plaintiff, 40 Marcus Drive, Suite 200, Melville, NY 11747 Our File 1395-241B

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 19th day of November, 2021 at 2:30 P.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.

FRANCIS APICELLA, ESQ., Referee.

SANDERS, GUTMAN & BRODIE, P.C.,

Attorneys for Plaintiff, 18 North Central Avenue, Suite 204

Hartsdale, New York 10530 (718) 522-0666

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Mathematics Teacher (7-12) • World Language Teacher
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NYS Certification Required

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Notice of formation of Erin Lyles, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 8/30/2021. 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, 23 Addison Street, Larchmont, NY 10538. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Mastering Every Available Network, LLC.Arts. of Org filed with SSNY on May 11,2021, office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to P.O. Box 22, Mount Vernon New York 10551, Purpose: any unlawful act or activity.

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Notice of Formation of Sol Hairstylist, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 06/25/2021. 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, 92 Halstead Avenue, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Marijuana Opt-Out, continued from pg 1-

On WVOX Radio's Dennis & Tonny in the Morning Radio Show, (1460 AM, WVOX.com) the hosts have been speaking with local Mayor's and Supervisor's about Opting-out or doing nothing. According to their interviews:

The Village of Pelham Manor will be Opting Out.

The City of New Rochelle will be Opting-In

The Town of Mamaroneck is still Deciding

The Town of Ossining is still deciding.

A recent report from the Scarsdale Forum recommends Opting Out.

Harrison has still not moved forward with an Opt-Out, leaving many residents formally requesting an answer from Mayor Ron Belmont and the Harrison Town Board. The other dynamic to this issue in Harrison, is that Belmont is retiring, while the two candidates to replace him are both members of the town board: republican Rich Dionisis and democrat Frank Gordon. And no comment from anyone.

We have already reported on the Westchester communities that have opted out. They are Yorktown, Eastchester, Larchmont, Ardsley, Somers, North Castle, Mt. Kisco, North Salem, Lewisboro and Bronxville.

Governor Kathy Hochul has appointed members of the state's Cannabis Control Board. Their first meeting was held on October 5. Eventually, this commission will set the rules for selling and growing marijuana in New York State.

Since the State Legislature and former Gov. Andrew Cuomo approved the legalization of marijuana, it is legal for anyone 21 years of age and older to possess up to three ounces of pot.

But, because there are no rules on how to grow it and sell it legally in NY, there is no legal way for any New Yorker to buy it. Most New Yorkers who want to use marijuana have to travel to Massachusetts or continue to buy it through the illegal market.

The five-member Cannabis Control Board consists of Chairman Tremaine S. Wright, Jessica Garcia, Reuben McDaniel III, Adam W. Perry, Jen Metzger, Chris Alexander. Alexander is the director of the Office of Cannabis Management.

For those communities that are opting in, eventually the Cannabis Control Board will license "consumption lounges," or cafes, where people can legally smoke marijuana. Food will also be allowed for sale, but no Alcohol.

Where can you smoke pot legally in New York State? You can't smoke anywhere where smoking a cigarette is banned. So that includes places that fall under the NY Clean Indoor Air Act, like workplaces, bars, restaurants, subways, buses, taxis, limos, and workplaces that service children, prisons, and all schools and hospitals. Many local governments have also banned smoking in their public parks.

And to make things even more confusing, marijuana is still an illegal drug under Federal law. Its sale is legal in neighboring Massachusetts, but you are not legally allowed to purchase in Mass. and bring it to NY.

Early Detection, Breast Cancer continued from pg 1-

was Stage 1A Breast Cancer, shows that for those patients who are found to have something abnormal on a screening mammogram and if it is caught early, like Klobuchar, it can save their life."

"The two most common presentations of findings of breast cancer are if a woman is feeling something in her breast, or through an abnormal screening mammogram. Those who are found to have something abnormal through a screening will find that when it is often caught very early treatments like chemotherapy may not be necessary," said Dr. Tsang.

Sen. Klobuchar continued, "I also want to call attention to the fact that many people have been delaying physicals and routine examinations because of the pandemic. I know that because I delayed mine. Studies have found that thousands of people who missed their mammogram due to the pandemic may be living with undetected breast cancer.

"It's easy to put off health screenings, just like I did. But I hope my experience is a reminder for every one of the values of routine health checkups, exams, and follow-through. I am so fortunate to have caught the cancer at an early enough stage and to not need chemotherapy or other extensive treatments. "

Dr. Tsang said, "Those who are at average risk should begin screening mammograms at age 40, according to the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. It is important to know if you are high risk for developing breast cancer, because a screening maybe required earlier, and it may also include an MRI of the breast.

"Women who are considered high risk or those with a family history of breast or ovarian cancer, and those who carry a genetic mutation associated with increased risk, including patients who have had a prior breast biopsy which showed purified disease such as atypical lobular hyperplasia, and lobular carcinoma in Stage 2. "- NEED TO VERIFY THESE MEDICAL TERMS

"High risk screening would include an annual MRI of the breast and an annual mammogram alternating every six months. Women who have dense breasts may also have increased risk for breast cancer as it is often difficult to evaluate for small masses within the dense breast tissue.

NYS law requires women are notified if they have dense breast tissue, and those women should consider supplemental ultrasound along with your screening mammogram every year," said Dr. Tsang.

Senator Klobuchar and Dr. Tsang also agree on the fact that some patients have put off their medical testing and screenings because of COVID, and now or but now is the time to catch up.

"Some women have been diagnosed at a later stage because the pandemic has delayed their annual screenings. It's important not to forget to continue your testing and screening routine at this time. Now is the time to catch up and get tested," said Dr. Tsang.

Florida First Lady Casey DeSantis also shared her breast cancer diagnosis during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in the hopes that it will inspire more women to get tested.

Ashley T. Tsang, MD is a board certified, fellowship-trained breast surgeon from Stanford School of Medicine, specializing in the treatment of benign and malignant diseases of the breast and management of patients at high risk for breast cancer. Dr. Tsang is Assistant Professor of Surgery at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, a Diplomate of the American Board of Surgery, and a member of the Society of Surgical Oncology and the American Society of Breast Surgeons.

Dr. Tsang has offices at Mount Sinai Doctors-Westchester in Scarsdale, 341 Central Park Avenue, (914)-370-5000. Visit <https://www.mountsinai.org/locations/westchester> for more information.

New Yorkers Come Together Again to Raise**Awareness On Organ Donor Enrollment Day****Hospitals, Elected Officials, Advocates and Others Embrace the Lifesaving Power of Organ Donation to Help the Nearly 10,000 New Yorkers Currently Waiting for a Transplant**

New Yorkers across the state will come together in-person and virtually on October 7 to register as many organ donors as possible in celebration of the seventh annual Organ Donor Enrollment Day. Powered by LiveOnNY, Organ Donor Enrollment Day brings individuals and organizations together to spend one day focused solely on educating and enrolling people to save the lives of the approximately 107,000 Americans – nearly 10,000 of whom live in New York – currently waiting for a lifesaving transplant.

This year, activations will be a mix of in-person, masked events and remote virtual celebrations. More than 80 hospitals, elected officials, government agencies, community organizations and educational institutions have committed to sending emails, posting to their social media accounts and sharing information, all in an effort to promote the lifesaving power of organ donation.

Mayor Michael Spano and the City of Yonkers will host a flag raising at Yonkers City Hall at 2pm on October 7. The event will be attended by the mayor and several local community members who have been affected by organ donation and transplantation. (Westchester

"Over the past year and a half, we have seen New Yorkers support each other in remarkable ways. Signing up to be a lifesaving organ donor is one more simple way to help your neighbors," said LiveOnNY President and CEO Helen Irving. "I hope this Organ Donor Enrollment Day, we are all able to come together in support of organ, eye and tissue donation to bring hope to those awaiting a lifesaving transplant."

On average, a New Yorker dies every day waiting for an organ transplant. A contributing factor to this statistic is that there are simply not enough residents registered as organ donors. Forty-two percent of New Yorkers are registered as organ donors compared to 62 percent nationally. Organ Donor Enrollment Day aims to change that.

For more information about Organ Donor Enrollment Day, please visit EnrollmentDay.org and follow LiveOnNY on Twitter, Facebook and Instagram using #DonorDay2021.

Westchester Election 2021 continued from pg 1-

If turnout is low in democrat heavy parts of the county like Yonkers and Mt. Vernon, then democrats are concerned that their overall numbers might be lower than the landslide that many predict for County Executive George Latimer in his re-election bid.

But in Yonkers, voters have a reason to come out, with a Citywide Council Presidents race, two City Council races, and one highly competitive County Board race, between Democrat Legislator Ruth Walter and Republican James Nolan.

Both democrats and republicans we spoke to still identify the Walter-Nolan BOL race as the #1 most competitive. #2 on both lists is the BOL contest in district #1 (Peekskill, Cortland, Yorktown) between democrat Legislator Colin Smith and republican challenger Joe Torres. Torres is a former Peekskill Councilman and is running an active campaign.

The County Board race between democratic legislator Ruth Walter and republican challenger James Nolan, in the 15th District, (Bronxville and East Yonkers) continues to take a wild ride. Nolan has been campaigning actively, with his signs and his campaign van seen all over the district. At a recent debate, Nolan said that he and his campaign team have knocked on 25,000 doors.

Last month Nolan told Yonkers Rising that he was not vaccinated, and since that conversation, and our article from Sept. 9, there has been no public statement from Nolan that he has since been vaccinated.

Legislator Ruth Walter, called Nolan's decision, "A failure of leadership. If you want to be a leader, part of your job is to remind people that the vaccine is safe and effective. You want to support the nurses and health care workers by reducing the number of sick patients. That is the role of the county, in making our vaccination rates high enough to open our schools. We want to people to know it's safe, and he chose the opposite. Being a public figure and being a candidate is not the same as what you chose to do."

Democrats told us, "Districts #1 and #15 could get away if turnout is low. But we could sweep all 17 seats if turnout is high." Torres, a former Peekskill City Councilman, has impressed with his challenge to Smith. Put him on your GOP list of good , experienced candidates.

A Sound Shore democrat told us the he believed that "The Trump factor is starting to wear off. Many democrats are not as enthusiastic about going out to vote against Trump in an off year election. They did it in 2017, but I'm not so sure about 2021." He also said sarcastically, "Plus republicans aren't running a candidate for County Executive," meaning that the republican candidate for County Executive, has rarely been seen south of Interstate 287.

We don't see it that way. One westchester elected official told us, "Sculti is campaigning in the communities where she stands a chance at beating Latimer. She is in Bedford with Gina Arena, in Yorktown with Matt Slater, in Mt. Pleasant with Rob Astorino, and in Eastchester with Tony Colavita. She may be clever in campaigning only in those communities in the hope that turnout everywhere else is low."

Many of the old prognosticators in Westchester politics recently chimed in for a LoHud story on the race. While interesting, those quoted are hoping that the county will return to a time when republican candidates stood a chance for county wide office.

Those days are gone, and the republican political ice cube has melted down to Harrison, Eastchester, Yorktown and East Yonkers.

And for whatever reason, Sculti decided not to debate, as did the republican candidate for County Clerk, Scooter Scott. Most disagree with the decision, and belief that if a challenger doesn't debate there is no real campaign.

One of Westchester Political Journalistic 'Deans' Phil Reisman, called Sculti a "stand in" type candidate for county executive. And we were critical at first of Sculti's decision. But upon further review, the chances of Sculti scoring a knock-out of Latimer, who has been through hundreds of debates, was astronomical. And, obviously, she just didn't feel comfortable doing it.

We see Sculti campaigning in northern Westchester, and she will also get support from the SOS crowd, (Save Our Schools) in N. Westchester, who support her view and the view of her mother concerning Diversity, Equity and Inclusion education in the schools.

For those complaining about having a more active race for County Executive, and a more active republican candidate for County Executive, we disagree. All of the several, prominent Westchester republicans all passed on challenging Latimer. Don't blame Sculti for that. In fact, congratulations to Sculti for picking up the flag of her party and running!

Another democrat told us that, "Independents will determine whether its a blowout or closer than you think." That same democrat thought that not a lot of voters in the 15th BOL District, (East Yonkers and Bronxville) knew that the republican candidate James Nolan was not vaccinated. "Ruth should make a big deal about that. It's a 70%-30% issue for her. People want their leaders vaccinated and lead by example."

Yonkers democrats have a great Council President candidate in Lakisha Collins-Bellamy. She has a great life story and her future is bright. Collins-Bellamy predicted that her opponennt, republian Ron Matten, wouldn't get 35% of the vote.

In 2017, just four years ago, Rob Astorino was County Executive and a bi-partisan coalition of republicans and democrats held a majority on the county board. But four years is a lifetime in politics!

AT&T, The STEM Alliance and 914United Partner to Create Digital Literacy Program for Formerly Incarcerated and Justice Involved



Participants in the Digital Literacy Program, with Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assemblymember Steve Otis, Amy Kramer, President, AT&T New, Margaret Käufer, President, The STEM Alliance and Jonathan Alvarez, Co-Founder and Executive Director, 914United

AT&T, The STEM Alliance and 914United have teamed up to provide an innovative technology and digital literacy education program for formerly incarcerated and justice involved Westchester County citizens. The program is part of The STEM Alliance's Digital Equity Now initiative and AT&T's commitment to working with organizations across the country to address the digital divide impacting Black, Brown and underserved communities that have faced long-standing social inequities and higher unemployment. In celebration of National Digital Inclusion Week that kicked off on October 4th and the graduation of the inaugural cohort of the innovative program, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assemblyman Steve Otis, both champions of social justice and advocates for digital equity, joined Amy Kramer, President, AT&T New, Margaret Käufer, President, The STEM Alliance and Jonathan Alvarez, Co-Founder and Executive Director, 914United on Thursday October 7th to tour the program, address the clients on the importance of digital literacy and digital inclusion issues and to discuss what they had learned and what they hope to achieve now the program is over.

AT&T's support of The STEM Alliance's Digital Equity Now initiative is a part of the company's recently announced \$2 billion nationwide commitment to help bridge the digital divide and homework gap. As part of this support, AT&T and The STEM Alliance based in Westchester are collaborating on other digital literacy programming for underserved students across the county. Digital Equity Now focuses on "digital rehabilitation and resilience" and providing vital tech skills that help to maximize the potential for underrepresented young adults to succeed as they reenter their communities.

"Equipping formerly incarcerated people with the skills to better navigate our increasingly digital world is but one way we can help them overcome barriers to employment and break the cycle of recidivism. Thank you to AT&T, The STEM Alliance and 914United for coming together to support these New Yorkers as they reintegrate into society and make positive change. Congratulations to those who have completed the inaugural training course, I wish them success going forward," said Sen. Stewart-Cousins.

Read more on this story at [YonkersTimes.com](https://www.yonkers.com)

Larchmont-Mamaroneck Lions Kick Off 2021-22 Peace Poster Contest



The Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions are once again partnering with all 4 local middle schools for the 2021-22 Lions Peace Poster Contest. The theme for this year's competition is "We Are All Connected".

The 2021-22 Peace Poster Contest was introduced at the Larchmont Arts Festival on Saturday, October 2nd. Children attending the fair were invited to do their own "on site" art.

The partner schools are The Hommocks Middle School, The French American School, Sts. John and Paul and Rye Neck Middle School.

The Lions International Peace Poster Contest is an annual worldwide competition for children 11-13, encouraging them to express their vision of world peace through art.

Local art professionals will determine winners from each school, along with 2 runners up in early November. The winning entries from each school will be entered into the International Lions competition, whose winner will be announced at the United Nations in March. Local winner & runners up art will also be displayed in their respective schools and at local libraries.

In addition to the Peace Poster Contest and Lions eye tests & eye-glass recycling in support of the Lions signature cause, vision health - the Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions support local community service groups, by bringing leaders together to determine needs, solutions and resources.

The LM Lions are part of Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service organization of about 1.4 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.

There's always something happening on WVOX!

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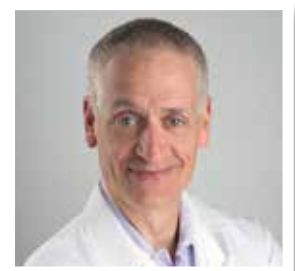
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