

Westchester Rising

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Friday September 17, 2021

Yonkers City Hall Hacked, Ransom Demanded, City Refuses to Pay; Could Your Town Be Next?



By Dan Murphy

The City of Yonkers government was the victim of a Yonkers Rising ransomware attack and for several days, Yonkers City Hall and its employees have been without their computers. We have also been told by city officials with knowledge of the situation, that Yonkers will NOT pay a requested ransom to unlock their computer servers, and instead has spent the past week trying to upload as much data as possible from their backups.

Ransom-hacking is nothing new to small governments and school districts across the country. Last year, the Yorktown and Croton-Harmon school districts in Westchester County had their computer systems hacked by a cyber security attack coming from someone seeking to get a payment to remove the ransomware that froze both systems.

The Yorktown schools were forced to temporarily shifted from a hybrid learning model to all-remote lessons after its district shared news of a cyberattack on Oct. 12.

The ransomware attack encrypted data on the Yorktown Central School District's networks, forcing officials to restore servers from backups and go room-to-room to reimage devices. The Croton-Harmon school district also faced a similar attack in 2020. Both school districts did not pay the ransom, and instead were able to restore their system from data backups.

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Laura Li Industries, W. Harrison Construction Company, Awarded \$6M in County MWBE Contracts



Laura Entre (L), managing member of Laura Li Industries, LLC with Marc Entre

Westchester County accepted bids from Laura Li Industries, LLC totaling \$5.91 million dollars, awarding the West Harrison based company three County projects. Designated as a Minority/Women-owned Business Enterprise (MWBE), the construction company is spearheaded by Laura Entre, and the designation allows for eligibility for developmental benefits. More than 300 MWBE's registered with Westchester County in 2020.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: "We want to empower women entrepreneurs to participate in County projects. We've laid out a goals for registered MWBE's in order for them to be successful, including purchasing plans in construction, professional and non-professional services and goods. We hope a large contract like this will hopefully encourage other businesses like Laura Li Industries, LLC to aspire to work with Westchester County and know the goals we set up for these businesses to succeed can be accomplished."

Laura Li Industries, LLC formed in 2015 and will be responsible for resurfacing and improving Theodore Fremd Avenue, from 300 feet east of North Avenue to Purchase Street in the City of Rye. Work begins September 15, with a target date of completion on May 15, 2022.

Resurfacing work will also be done along Willets Avenue from King Street to Putnam Avenue in the Village of Port Chester. Work is scheduled to begin October 1, with a target date of completion in May 2022.

The company will also work to improve Westchester County parkland at the Blue Mountain Reservation addressing utilities for the trail lodge including sewer, water and electrical work. Construction crews will also replace a wood bridge and pave pathways that extend into the Town of Cortlandt and the City of Peekskill. Work is scheduled to begin November 21, with a scheduled date of completion in December 2022.

Managing Member of Laura Li Industries Laura Etre said: "Women are underrepresented in the construction industry. With my background in public administration and attention to detail coupled with my familiarity of Westchester, I know our company can make these projects shine. We love working to improve the County in which we live."

Department of Public Works and Transportation Commissioner Hugh Greechan said: "Laura Li Industries, LLC has proven itself to be a valuable

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Walter Ready for Challenge from Nolan in Westchester's Most Competitive BOL Race



County Legislator Ruth Walter, left, and her opponent, republican James Nolan

Can the GOP Pick up any Seats? Will Dems Sweep All 17?

By Dan Murphy

All 17 seats on the Westchester County Board of Legislators are up for re-election on Nov. 2, but only a handful have any opposition, and even fewer are competitive. Many Westchester residents and voters may not realize that democrats currently hold a 16-1 supermajority on the county board.

The 17 elections to the county BOL can go three different ways. Democrats can hold on to their massive 16-1 supermajority, or republicans can pick up a seat or two, or the "Blue Wave" of progressive-indivisible democratic support in Westchester will continue, and democrats will win every county-wide office and every seat on the County Board in 2021.

Westchester republicans are running candidates in 7 of 17 BOL seats across the county. They are: District 1 (Parts of Cortlandt, Yorktown & Peekskill). Democratic Legislator Colin Smith is running against republican Joe Torres. Smith is completing his first, two-year term on the county board. Prior to Smith, republican John Testa held the seat for more than a decade. But since Testa's departure, the

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Mt. Vernon Honors Olympic Hero With Key to the City



Mount Vernon Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard gives the key to the city to hometown Olympic hero Rai Benjamin

By Dan Murphy

On September 10, the City of Mount Vernon honored Olympian Rai Benjamin with a parade through the City and a ceremony at City Hall where Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard gave him a Key to the City. Benjamin won the Silver Medal in the 400 Meter Hurdles at the Tokyo Olympics in July 2021.

Benjamin broke the world record in the race, but fell one second short to Norway's Karsten Warholm, who also broke the record and won gold. It was one of the greatest track events in Olympic history, and a "race for the ages." Benjamin correctly called his Olympic race, "the best race in Olympic history. I was happy to be a part of history." He also won a Gold Medal as part of the USA's 4 X 400 relay team.

Benjamin attends USC and trains out in California, but he returned to his home city of Mt. Vernon to spend time with his family and accept the honor. One day, King Ben as he is being called by many, "Walked into the deli I used to go most mornings in HS wearing my Olympic team shirt. Two guys asked if I watched the guy from Mt. Vernon who was at the Olympics. Their reaction was priceless when I told them I was that guy," tweeted Benjamin.

Rai thanked his mom, Jeanette Mason, for always being supportive of him and for always pushing him to be his best. At first during high school, Rai thought that Football would be his sport, but after one year his coaches, Marcus Green and Ric Wright, recommended he focus on Track and Field.

Many believe that if Benjamin had chosen football he would be in the NFL today. "He was so good he never came back to football, and it became pretty obvious he was a special kid," Wright said.

More than 200 friends, family and supporters gathered at City Hall to pay tribute to Benjamin and his hard work. He is a 2015 graduate of Mt. Vernon High School. Benjamin's motorcade drove by all of the schools in the Mt. Vernon school district, giving young students a chance to see him and realize what he has done, and perhaps the successes that they can achieve in their lives.

Mt. Vernon Recreation Commissioner Sylvia Gadsen, called Benjamin an "old soul," for his work ethic and his decision to stay at MV High School instead of transferring to a private school. "There's a beauty and purity to him. It really touches my heart. He represents hope. He triumphed over circumstances. And this is only the beginning for him."

At 24 years old, Benjamin has a bright future ahead of him, and he is expected to train for and attend the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris.

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Governor Kathy Hochul Announces #VAXTOSCHOOL Campaign

Q. The FDA announced full approval for the Pfizer #COVID19 vaccine. Am I eligible?

A. The Pfizer vaccine has received full approval for use in individuals 16 and older. The vaccine also continues to be available for adolescents age 12 through 15 for emergency use authorization, and for an additional dose in certain immunocompromised individuals.

For most people, getting the first available COVID vaccine is the best thing you can do to safeguard your health. The Pfizer vaccine is widely available in NYS, visit vaccines.gov to #GetVaccinated today.



Westchester County Marks 20th Anniversary of September 11 With Tribute & First Responders Memorial



Overlooking both The Rising memorial and the newly unveiled Westchester County 9/11 First Responders Memorial, Westchester County Executive George Latimer joined the County in mourning those lost due to the terrorist attack that day twenty years ago.

Latimer said: "Each year, this day is day of reflection for those who lived through it and a day to provide comfort to those who lost so much. Now, twenty years later, this day must also serve as a lesson to those too young to remember. I hope this ceremony can both provide comfort and a reminder to all what occurred on that seemingly normal September morning on which the world was changed forever."

The County's ceremony, emceed by ABC7 Journalist Marcus Solis, marking the 20th anniversary of 9/11, once again hosted at the breathtaking Kensico Dam Plaza was a service filled with powerful remarks, moving prayers by Reverend Erwin Lee Trollinger, Imam Shaffieq Chace, & Rabbi Howard Goldsmith, comforting music provided by SUNY Purchase, sadness, but also, hope.

Solis said: "As a reporter who covered the attacks on 9/11, the 20th anniversary has special meaning. I am truly honored to be taking part in the ceremony in Westchester where I live, and where so many families were impacted."

The ceremony opened with a procession Westchester County Department of Public Safety Ceremonial Unit Color Guard, the Pipes and Drums of the Police Emerald Society of Westchester County and representatives from the NYPD and FDNY. This moving tribute was followed by a rendition the Star Spangled Banner performed by New York Presbyterian Lawrence ICU nurse and Mount Vernon resident Carlo Jose "CJ" Zenarosa.

The solemn occasion was then marked by the laying of a wreath by Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, Department of Emergency Services Commissioner Richard Wishnie, Lisabeta Vukaj – sister Of Simon Marash Dedvukaj who was killed in the north tower – and a member of the Westchester County Department of Safety Police Honor Guard.

The day prior to the ceremony, September 10, Latimer was joined by family members of those fallen for a private unveiling of the newly furnished Westchester County 9/11 First Responders Memorial. This new monument, placed next The Rising at Kensico Dam Plaza, was designed by a committee made up of loved ones of those lost.

Committee Co- Chair and New York City Police Officer Matthew J. McCauley said: "Twenty years after our first responders rushed to the disaster areas that were created in the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, these selfless, courageous, brave and humble men and women continue to make the ultimate sacrifice from 9/11 related illnesses. First responders from eleven different agencies, including six from the City of Yonkers Fire & Police Departments and four from the City of White Plains Fire Department are among the initial 41 names engraved on the memorial being unveiled today adjacent to "The Rising." We applaud Westchester County Executive George Latimer for recognizing that a memorial in the honor of those 9/11 first responders that resided and/or worked or volunteered for Westchester County Agencies and who lost their lives to 9/11 related illnesses was long overdue. The collaboration between County Executive Latimer, his team and this Memorial Committee has had one goal from the beginning, to "Never Forget." Unfortunately, we expect the number of names here to at least double in size by next year once we capture all that have been lost who are associated with Westchester County. Again, we thank County Executive Latimer for understanding the sobering truth and reality that this memorial will continue to grow in size for decades to come. By supporting this Memorial Committee's vision, he, along with the rest of the County, has ensured that 9/11 First Responders from Westchester County will never be forgotten."

The committee, and Westchester County, tragically lost co-chair Peter Woods to a 9/11 related illness earlier this year.

Following the public unveiling of the new memorial, an Eternal Light was lit. A light that will shine 24/7 over the memorial as a testament to the light shone over this County by the heroes this monument is dedicated to.

The ceremony continued on with the reading of the names of those Westchester residents killed on 9/11 and those Westchester residents who have died from 9/11 related illnesses by Westchester County Legislators, District Attorney Miriam Rocah, County Clerk Tim Itoni and family members of those lost.

The tribute concluded with a moment of silence, flyover by County Police and a performance of Taps by Mount Pleasant Police Officer Peter Blume.

New Website at ny.gov/vaxtoschool for Parents and Guardians with Ready-Made Resources for Schools and Localities Hosting #VaxtoSchool Events

#VaxtoSchool Pop-Up Sites to Open in Areas with Low COVID-19 Vaccination Rates Among 12 to 17-Year-Olds and #VaxtoSchool Buses to Provide Mobile Vaccinations

SUNY and CUNY Announce the Integration of the State's Excelsior Pass for Back-To-Campus, Proof of Vaccine Efforts

Governor Kathy Hochul recently announced the launch of the multi-faceted statewide #VaxtoSchool campaign to support increasing COVID-19 vaccination rates among school-aged New Yorkers, furthering the administration's commitment to making the health and well-being of students, teachers and families a top priority.

As part of this campaign, the Governor announced a new, dedicated website at ny.gov/vaxtoschool with critical resources and materials for parents and guardians of school-aged New Yorkers and school communities. The new site includes information, and an FAQ for parents and guardians, as well as a multitude of ready-made signage for school leaders to support #VaxtoSchool education and operations in their local communities on the ground.

Additionally, the State has launched a new Instagram channel, @VaccinateNY, to educate school-aged New Yorkers and their families about the COVID-19 vaccine directly. The new social media page will provide approachable, interactive content through easy-to-understand vaccine information, prospective content partnerships, #VaxtoSchool social media design contests, and quick video explainers, ensuring that no stone is left unturned in our effort to provide all New Yorkers with the facts about the COVID-19 vaccine. DOH will also amplify these digital education efforts across all of their channels including Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

"We've dedicated enormous state resources to getting New Yorkers of all eligible age groups vaccinated, but initially the state focused on the most vulnerable citizens, and now we need to focus on our youth," Governor Hochul said. "New York's young people are less likely to get seriously ill from COVID-19 but they can still spread the virus, and we need them to take it seriously. The new, innovative #VaxtoSchool social media campaign will help us get the word out to New York's young people about the vital importance of getting vaccinated to keep friends, families and communities safe."

As part of this effort, the Governor also announced that new #VaxtoSchool pop-up COVID-19 vaccination sites will be open in areas where zip code data shows the vaccination rate for 12 to 17-year-olds is lower than the statewide average. A community-based medical professional will be available at each site to answer any questions parents and guardians of school-aged New Yorkers may have. Alongside the new sites, #VaxtoSchool buses—mobile vaccination efforts—are being launched in convenient, school-centric areas statewide, such as public recreational spaces like basketball courts and parks. This will help to make the vaccine available and accessible to school-aged New Yorkers and their families.

The State is also working with New York colleges and universities to support their back-to-campus efforts, including the integration of the State's Excelsior Pass at SUNY and CUNY campuses statewide so they have a secure, verifiable means of accepting and tracking proof of vaccination and/or negative test results, as applicable, for students, teachers and campus staff. Interested New Yorkers can retrieve their Excelsior Pass or Excelsior Pass Plus today by visiting epass.ny.gov.

Children ages 12 to 17 are able to get the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine, which is available under Emergency Use Authorization for children ages 12 to 15 and is fully approved for those age 16 and older. The other COVID-19 vaccines are not yet authorized or approved for this age group. If you are a parent or guardian of a school-aged New Yorker, you can also visit vaccines.gov, text your ZIP code to 438829, or call 1-800-232-0233 to find a vaccine location closest to you. Make sure that the provider offers the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine.

Parents are encouraged to make sure their child is up to date on all recommended and required vaccinations. Please visit the Department of Health website for more information on recommended childhood and adolescent immunizations.

WHERE THERE'S A WALK, THERE'S A WAY



The Alzheimer's Association Walk to End Alzheimer's is full of flowers, each carried by someone committed to ending this disease. Because like flowers, our participants don't stop when something is in their way. They keep raising funds and awareness for a breakthrough in the fight against Alzheimer's and all other dementia. Add your flower to the fight. Visit HudsonValleyWalks.org today!



Westchester Walk to End Alzheimer's Sunday, Oct. 3 at Westchester Community College Registration at 1 p.m. Walk starts at 2 p.m.

Register at WestchesterWalk.org

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Eastchester Attorney, Androsky Lugo, Arraigned on Child Pornography Charges

Bear With Us, Pardon Us, ForgiveUs!



By Eric Schoen



Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that Eastchester resident Androsky Lugo has been arraigned for promoting and possessing child pornography and unlawful surveillance of a minor.

Lugo, 51, was charged on August 27, 2021, in Eastchester Town Court with Promoting an Obscene Sexual Performance by a Child, Possessing an Obscene Sexual Performance by a Child, and Unlawful Surveillance in the Second Degree, all felonies. The Westchester County District Attorney's Office's High Technology Crime Squad made the arrest, with assistance from the Eastchester Police Department.

On dates in 2019 and 2020, Lugo, an attorney, obtained images of nude children who were approximately three to 10 years old on Microsoft Bing. He also possessed an image of a nude child who was approximately eight to 10 years old and took lewd photographs of an approximately 12-year-old child that captured the child's genital area underneath the child's clothing. Certain images possessed by Lugo included those of non-relative children taken at the defendant's Eastchester home.

"The conduct alleged against Mr. Lugo is very disturbing and we will continue to do everything we can to protect minors from adults who seek to manipulate or exploit them or put them in harm's way," DA Rocah said. "Our investigation is ongoing and any individuals who may have relevant information concerning Androsky Lugo or any potential victims are ask to contact our office."

Lugo is scheduled to appear again in Eastchester Town Court on September 15, 2021.

The case is being prosecuted by the Trials and Investigations Division Cybercrime Bureau. If anyone has been a victim or has further information on this case, please contact the District Attorney's Office at 914-955-TIPS.

The charges against the defendant are merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

As we prepare for Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement for Jews around the world, we ask for forgiveness for our sins. Now I promise I'm not going to go all Bible on you this week. But the prayers we recite remind us of sins we may have committed during the previous year and ask for God's forgiveness.

This led me to think about sins I may have committed and sins other people I know have committed over the last year. Covid certainly has changed our lives and made everyone nervous and scared, rightly so. As we go to press there is great controversy over whether there will be a need for a third 'booster' shot. So many people have refused the vaccine for fear of putting a newly created foreign substance in their bodies. Children going back to school in New York City driven in MTA buses and trains driven by drivers who have not been vaccinated. The chance of spread of the virus from these individuals to children many too young to get the vaccine is great according to the transportation and health officials.

Let's focus on some sins we and others may have committed over the course of the last year and ask forgiveness.

For the sin of getting on the 10 item limit line at the supermarket with 11 items in our shopping cart.

For the sin of overeating grapes or cherries at the supermarket to see if they meet our standards and not paying for them when we buy the items for consumption of our family.

For the sin of passing a homeless person by, or worse giving him or her money that could be used to purchase alcohol or illegal substances instead of taking the time to buy the person something nutritional to eat or bringing back a piece of clothing to help the individual stay warm or keep covered.

For the sin of passing a Salvation Army bell ringer during the holidays and not dropping a dollar or some coins into their red kettle supporting an organization that helps so many in need.

For the sin of not thanking someone who held the door open for us or holding the door open for someone behind us who may need assistance.

For the sin of parents doing their children's homework or projects instead of merely assisting or guiding the child so they have a true learning experience.

For the sin of parking in a Handicapped Parking Space without proper credentials. Or having the credentials and using them falsely just for convenience.

For the sin of drivers for Lyft or Uber or other similar services picking up food to eat and blocking cars, traffic or parking illegally just to get the food to those that want it quickly while others are inconvenienced and many others with no food on the table.

For the sin of using the self scanner in the grocery store and putting an item in your bag that you have not scanned or would not scan and not bringing it to the clerks attention.

For the sin of passing an accident and not getting out of your car to offer help or at the very least calling 911 on your cell phone requesting assistance from the authorities. Or calling the radio station you listen to and reporting the accident to them so they can tell others affected.

Senior Law Day Returns to Westchester County September 30



see story on pg 4-

Please Join Us



Gold Star Mothers & Families Memorial Tribute Ceremony

Kensico Dam, Valhalla NY
September 24 • 1 p.m.

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First Human Case of West Nile Virus Reported in Westchester

SOURCE: CDC

WEST NILE VIRUS
SYMPTOMS

1/5

FEVER
HEADACHE
BODY ACHES
JOINT PAINS
VOMITING
DIARRHEA
RASH

On Sept. 13, Westchester County learned of its first human case of West Nile Virus this year, which was confirmed in a 58-year-old resident with multiple underlying medical conditions, who is hospitalized.

Health Commissioner Sherlita Amler, MD, said: "This first case of West Nile Virus should remind us all to take precautions against mosquito bites by removing standing water from our property, especially after recent heavy rain and flooding, and using repellents when we spend time outdoors, especially from dusk to dawn, when mosquitoes are most active."

West Nile Virus infection most often causes a mild or moderate flu-like illness, but can be more serious particularly for people 60 and older, and those with other health complications. Last year, three people were diagnosed with West Nile Virus, and in 2019, one Westchester County resident had the virus.

The Westchester County Department of Health removed standing water around the resident's home; evaluated nearby catch basins in the area and treated those with larvicide as needed.

Due to the recent weather conditions, residents should inspect their property and remove any standing water to prevent mosquitoes from breeding. Residents who notice large areas of standing water on public property should report them to the Westchester County Department of Health at (914) 813-5000.

Throughout the season, the Westchester County Health Department traps and tests mosquitoes to track the presence of mosquito-borne viruses. For more ideas on how to reduce the mosquito population near your home, go to <https://health.westchestergov.com/west-nile-virus>.

Senior Law Day Returns to Westchester September 30

Free Consultations and Workshops on Legal, Financial and Care Issues for Older Adults

Westchester County Executive George Latimer is pleased to announce that the 21st Annual Senior Law Day will take place on Thursday, September 30 from 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at Ridge Road Park, 287 Ridge Road in Hartsdale. The free event will be held outside at the park to ensure everyone's safety.

The Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services (DSPS) will provide six educational talks on topics of interest to seniors and their families, one-on-one consultations with experienced elder law attorneys, certified financial planners, and geriatric care managers. County agencies and nonprofit organizations will also be available in a separate exhibitor tent during the event.

Latimer said: "We are offering Senior Law Day during one of the most challenging of times for our seniors, their families, and all Westchester residents. I want our older adults to remember that they are not alone during this time – we are here to help them. I encourage all of our seniors to take advantage of programs like Senior Law Day and many others, to help stay informed and active members of our County."

The program is hosted by Westchester County DSPS and the Senior Law Day Collaborative (SLDC). It is open to all County senior citizens and their families. Registration is encouraged, but walk-ins are welcome. Sign-up for the free, 15-minute, one-on-one consultations will be available when you arrive. To register in advance, call (914) 813-6300. Free parking and restrooms are available, with level areas for walking.

The talks will focus on:

- Elder Law 101
- Resilience for Ourselves and our Community
- Advocacy for Older Adults
- Wills vs. Trusts

To register for this event or if you have questions, call (914) 813-6300. This is the 22nd year that Westchester County has offered the Senior Law Day program. For more information on the Senior Law Day Collaborative and resources available to support older adults in Westchester, please visit www.seniorlawday.info. Visitors can direct any inquiries via a convenient "Ask Us" button.

With Boyfriend Hanging on Hood, Girlfriend Crashes Car, Killing Him in Yonkers



The Yonkers Police Department released a video of a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed which crashes into a gate outside of the Hostos School in Yonkers. The link to the video is below

<https://www.facebook.com/YonkersPD/videos/890124204937724>

On Saturday, September 4th, 2021, at approximately 1:24 AM, members of the Yonkers Police Department responded to the north side of the Eugenia Maria De Hostos Microsociety School off Stanley Place on a report of a motor vehicle accident with injuries. Upon arrival First Responders discovered that a 2012 Subaru Forrester had crashed through the Stanley Place access gate to the school property and struck a concrete barrier before impacting the north wall of the school building. A male accident victim was located on the ground adjacent to the barrier; a female accident victim was in the operator's seat of the Forrester. First Responders rendered medical aid to both parties, including CPR to the male accident victim, but he was pronounced deceased at scene. The female accident victim was taken to a local area hospital. There were no other injured parties at scene. Police cordoned off the area and initiated accident and criminal investigations.

Detectives from the Major Case Squad, Crime Scene Unit, and Digital Forensics Unit, along with Accident Investigators, responded to the scene and interviewed subjects and witnesses, recovered surveillance video, processed forensic evidence, and reconstructed the accident events.

Investigation yielded that the male victim and female operator were in a domestic relationship, and allegedly prior to the accident were drinking at a residence on Stanley Avenue. An argument ensued between the couple, and the female operator attempted to leave in the Forrester. The male victim, either through his actions or hers, or a combination of both, ended up on the hood the Forrester; investigators believe that the male victim may have been trying to prevent the female operator from driving in her inebriated condition. The female operator then drove south on Stanley Avenue at high rate of speed – with her partner still on the hood – crossed Ludlow Street onto Stanley Place and crashed through the access gate before striking the barrier and school wall – a total distance of approximately 260 yards. As a result, the male victim suffered fatal traumatic injuries to his head and body, and the female operator suffered injuries consistent with a vehicle collision; she is expected to recover. Responding police officers further detected evidence and indicators of alcohol consumption by the female operator; she did possess a valid NYS driver's license. Investigators continue to actively develop information and enhance the case.

The female operator was placed under arrest and charged with one count of Vehicular Manslaughter 2 – DWI, a Class D Felony in the New York State Penal Law. She is identified as Mercedes VARGAS, a 43-year-old resident of Stanley Avenue this City. VARGAS was arraigned in Yonkers Criminal Court yesterday and remanded into the custody of the Westchester County Department of Corrections; her next court date is scheduled for September 10th. The case is being prosecuted by the Westchester County District Attorney's Office. Additional information may be released as it becomes available.

The male victim is identified as Martires SUSANA-PENA, a 42-year-old resident of Stanley Avenues this City. The City of Yonkers and Yonkers Police Department offers its sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Miguel Pena's family in the Dominican Republic "want justice" for his death. They have also created a GoFundMe page to raise funds to have his body flown home for a proper burial. That link is

https://www.gofundme.com/f/ayuda-para-enviar-cuerpo-de-miguel-a-rd?utm_source=facebook&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=p_cp%20share-sheet&fbclid=IwAR28yP7tyeL7RuOw9HVhBwyvADgSIFJKTBTjC15eT8VmwPSZ7D8ismnZiSI

"Greetings everyone, today my heart is filled with sadness for the news we received about our friend / brother Miguel. Miguel lost his life in an unfortunate event which is being investigated by detectives and police where Miguel lives in Yonkers, NY. Many people who knew Miguel know that he was a former player from Sabana Del Puerto. Known by many people who know that he was not a man of evil, Miguel was a person well loved by all those who knew him. He came to the United States some time ago leaving his whole family in the Dominican Republic, so here he only had friends from the DR and what he was getting to know in NY, And that is why today I dare to open this fundraising page to be able to send Miguel's body to Bonao where his family can give him the grave that he deserves. Porvafor I need each of you to achieve this goal, your help will be immensely appreciated, and no matter the amount, you can even help us by sharing the gofund link. Later we will put here documents and invoice of said funeral home that will be in charge of sending his body to Bonao RD. A thousand blessings and the most important to keep Miguel's soul in prayer and to his relatives peace and conformity," writes Jose Luis Rosario Vargas.

Westchester Rising

PO Box 705, Yonkers NY 10702-914-833-1588. Proudly serving all of Westchester County with hyperlocal news. Member NY Press Association. Legal notice inquiries to: risinglegal-notice@gmail.com. Daniel Murphy, Publisher & Editor in Chief, dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com. Bayan Baker, Assistant to the Editor in Chief risingmediagroup@gmail.com. Advertising requests to the Editor: dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

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Yorktown for Justice, Two County Legislators Support DEI in Westchester Schools



A letter supporting the efforts to teach Diversity, Equity and Inclusion,(DEI), in many Westchester school districts, was signed by two Westchester County Legislators and many members of Yorktown for Justice, Race Amity of Northern Westchester, and Indivisible YorktownNY

The letter reads:

We, the undersigned, fully support Diversity, Equity and Inclusion (DEI) efforts in our Northern Westchester schools. Many DEI measures are implementations of the New York State Education Department's Culturally Responsive-Sustaining Education framework coming down from state leadership in Albany, and for good reason. The introduction to this framework states:

"The CR-S framework helps educators create student-centered learning environments that: affirm racial, linguistic and cultural identities; prepare students for rigor and independent learning, develop students' abilities to connect across lines of difference; elevate historically marginalized voices; and empower students as agents of social change."

In other words, this framework encourages and guides schools to create a welcoming environment for all students; to teach children age-appropriate, accurate history; to connect students across cultural differences and through similarities; and to promote critical thinking skills so students can be informed and compassionate American and global citizens who respect and explore a diversity of ideas from a variety of vantage points. DEI measures are simply good 21st century pedagogy.

Still, in recent months, a campaign to halt DEI efforts has surfaced in our communities. These efforts are grounded in mistruths and a coordinated, national propaganda campaign. The erroneous foundations of the arguments against DEI measures have gone unchallenged by some of our schools boards- or even endorsed and supported.

Diversity, equity and inclusion efforts and the NYSED CR-S framework are not an embodiment of critical race theory. Critical race theory is a body of scholarly work that examines the racial dimensions of American law and other institutions in society. This conceptual framework was developed after a substantial amount of highly scrutinized academic work was presented in peer reviewed journals.

Critical race theory does not appear in K-12 curriculums and is not being proposed. Creating welcoming classrooms and critical thinkers is not "indoctrinating" students with "critical race theory"— it is teaching our children well.

Many children already understand systemic racism— and systemic sexism, classism and heterosexism— because they experience it, and because they have emergent critical thinking skills. Many of these students in our districts have spoken in front of their school boards about their experiences

of discrimination in their schools and communities, which encouraged administrators to begin or accelerate DEI efforts. School staff need support as they lead classroom efforts to include all students— not cameras and McCarthy-esque witch hunts- and students need factual information and opportunities to discuss historical and contemporary systemic issues as they arise.

America is a work in progress, a country dedicated to democracy, to doing better, to being better. Here, we make space for everyone to create and experience the promise of liberty and justice for all. And all means ALL. As patriotic Americans, we are compelled to denounce the attack on DEI. We denounce the vilification of inclusivity. We denounce the attacks on truth, democracy, and civility. And we denounce unfounded attacks on CRT. We will not move our communities backwards and allow misinformed community members to silence these attempts to address bigotry and exclusionary practices in our public schools.

The letter was signed by
Colin Smith, District 1, Westchester Board of Legislators
Catherine Borgia, District 9, Westchester Board of Legislators
and members of the Lakeland School District and Yorktown School District community, Yorktown for Justice, Race Amity of Northern Westchester, and Indivisible YorktownNY. For a complete list, visit YonkersTimes.com

If you would like to sign on in support of this statement, e-mail yorktownforjustice@gmail.com.

Op-Ed: Why We Fight-Protecting Local Public Education Tradi-

By Stephen Mayo

No controversy in the nation's occasional conversation about primary education – not Common Core, not No Child Left Behind, not Race-to-the-Top (remember that one?) nor any other meditation of an aspirant for the presidency comes even close to the intellectual debauchery of CRT/DEI evangelism. Most significant, this hijacking has been attempted and continues with little discussion, debate, or pushback from any component of the public-school universe; not parents, teachers, administrators, public employee-bargaining unit to any significant degree; at least, that is, until the present.

There is no New York State "mandate" requiring adoption of diversity and critical race agendas in local schools. The Board of Regents, the state's day-to-day educational governing body in its "Call to Action," April, 2021 refers to diversity goals as a "framework," nothing more.

How to explain this previously unheard-of outlier (now, a political and media chattering- class obsession)? This raft of inexplicable and unexamined racial profiling and scare-mongering seems nothing more than an attempt to "change the subject" from the failure of the nation's largest educational bureaucracies to deal with the Covid pandemic; Apart from the perfectly-timed technological perfection of remote-learning (called "Zoom" after the largest purveyor of the software), the inconsistent institution of substitute teaching measure and practices (masking/ social distancing included) including so-called hybrid policies (remote alternated with in-person) the record of most public schools in the crisis was a cavalcade of inconsistency, incompetence and sad satire.

This is no screed against the honest exertions of most educators, administrators, and aides against this toxic enemy. What is most troubling is the failure of our public educational bureaucracies to cope with the tragedy at any scale of success beyond the unique and singular; in particular, the failure to devise extraordinary tactics on-the-spot, on-the-run to deliver a minimum of substantive content. For instance, re-purposing of gymnasiums, other assembly and athletic facilities with the most sophisticated engineering and architectural software available; the extension of hours of school operations into a full-second or even third "shift" of classes. If further ideation is needed, imagine how a woodworking factory or automobile plant might have been re-engineered if faced with the challenge of a health crisis (as of course, many were), with calls by management for greater output in the same footprint. Even a layperson could conceive of mechanical and technological measures; redeployment of customary "tools of the trade," addition of more and new machinery and tools, utilization of existing "air space" by erecting mezzanines and shelving, leasing more facilities space and hiring additional employees.

If there were examples of educational excellence amidst the chaos, where did they occur? Were there any innovations in the administration of primary instruction worthy of repeating in a future emergency? I have not heard of it.

Any data from America's 16,000 public-school districts? Bureaucrats of national teachers' unions (National Education Association, American Federation of Teachers) or from prominent schools have not been quoted. Are powerful institutional or private interests protecting themselves at the expense of public schools?

Towards the goal of restoring educational common sense, Westchester parents in several area districts have been combatting imposition of hard-left DEI and CRT instruction and teacher preparation. Petitions are being circulated seeking the protection of dissent: exemption of students from classroom racial-profiling and agitation and conjectural gender discussions. Parents are also seeking regular teacher recording, facilitation of student phone contact with parents and student "safe spaces."

We insist: if most America's kids are to be prepared for their futures in public schools that state laws compel them to attend, fundamental instruction in reading, writing, math and reasoning must how to rigorously neutral, unbiased, and non-ideological "tried, true, and time-tested" intellectual standards. We must never allow ideologues of the left or right to wrest control of a historically successful system of academic and civic education that has functioned reliably for two centuries! (New York City's P.S. 1 began teaching poor children in a small apartment on Henry Street in Lower Manhattan in 1806).

No special-interests like university departments, foundations funded by technologist-oligarchs, or political factions can be permitted a free "pulpit" at the altar of America's state-Constitutionally-pluralist public educational tradition. Apolitical, non-partisan, non-sectarian, and secular teaching content and teacher prep are the necessary partners of the compulsory public education laws of the nation's 50 states.

The introduction of radical political/social indoctrination of students in America's public instruction systems required an earthquake. Covid supplied it. Corona Virus 2019 laid the groundwork for Critical Race Theory 2021. It is up to resident citizens, taxpayers, and parents to defeat this existential threat to our republican-democratic educational legacies.

Stephen I. Mayo, Esq. is managing director and counsel of Mayo Linoleum Works LLC, Port Morris, NY. With Lou Felicione he hosts a radio show at commercial station WVOX 1460 AM Mondays 5:30 pm.

Mt. Vernon Olympic Hero, continued from pg 1

Mount Vernon Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard called Benjamin "an incredible role model, and his "distinguished, dignified, dedicated and determined work ethic make him an incredible ambassador for our city."

Like most Olympians, Benjamin said that "Without my mom, I don't know how I'd do it." After his 400 Meter Hurdle race, Benjamin thought that he had let Mt. Vernon down by only getting the Silver Medal. But after seeing hundreds of his fellow residents cheering him on, Benjamin now knows that he has the entire city behind him as he begins his quest for Gold.

And if you haven't watched Benjamin's Olympic 400 Hurdle race, check it out on YouTube at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-qFJuTpqBLM>

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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

INDEX NO. 62314/2019

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

YVONNE TEDESCO AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF CARRIE CICORIA; JOHN CICORIA AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF CARRIE CICORIA; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTEES OF THE ESTATE OF CARRIE CICORIA, any and all persons unknown to plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or general or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them, or either of them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to plaintiff; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS LLC,

"JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #12," the last twelve names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises, described in the complaint,

Defendants.

To the above named Defendants

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 within 20 days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York) in the event the United States of America is made a party defendant, the time to answer for the said United States of America shall not expire until (60) days after service of the Summons; 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.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT

THE OBJECT of the above caption action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure the sum of \$645,000.00 and interest, recorded on May 13, 2010, at Instrument number 501303147, of the Public Records of WESTCHESTER County, New York, covering premises known as 28 GARIBALDI PLACE PORT CHESTER, NY 10573.

The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above.

WESTCHESTER County is designated as the place of trial because the real property affected by this action is located in said county.

NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.

Sending a payment to the mortgage company will not stop the foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

Dated: August 17th, 2021

ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PATNERS, PLLC
Attorney for Plaintiff ANKIT MEHTA, ESQ.
900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310
Westbury, NY 11590 516-280-7675

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

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

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

Notice of Formation of MultiUniverse, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/21/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 28 Jean Lane, Hartsdale, NY 10530. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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 uawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of 8th Street LLC filed with United States Corporation Agents, INC 7014 13th Avenue Brooklyn, NY, 11228 ,USA on 6-29-2021. Office Westchester County. The United States Corporation Agents, INC .Designated as agent off LLC upon whom process against it may be served. United States Corporation Agents, INC shall mail copy of process to the LLC 300 Mamaroneck Ave unit 522 White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose : Any lawful purpose.

Laura Li Industries, continued from pg 1

partner in addressing the County’s infrastructure needs. We look forward to continuing that partnership and creating new partnerships with other MWBE’s on these critical projects.”

Director of Minority and Women-owned Business Development Martha Lopez said: “It is the goal of Westchester County to use its best efforts to encourage, promote and increase participation of business enterprises owned and controlled by persons of color or women in contracts and projects funded by all departments of the County and to develop a policy to efficiently monitor such participation.”

Laura Li Industries, LLC has worked with Westchester County before on various school fields, rehabbing the Elm Street Bridge in the Village of Tuckahoe and site work on the south concourse of the Westchester County Airport.

Entre says she’s currently working on obtaining her commercial driver’s license so she can help haul some of the supplies and equipment for these upcoming projects.

Classifieds

Attorney

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Notice of Formation of We R.I.S.E. New York, LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 7/3/21. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 309 North Broadway, #3C, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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.

Sprain Ridge Garage Sale Seeks Sellers

The Westchester County Parks popular Garage Sale returns to a new location, Sprain Ridge Park in Yonkers, Saturday, Oct. 2, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. and is seeking families who are looking to sell their items that no longer spark joy.

This sale is for individuals and families who want to sell their unwanted items, such as clothing, household items, electronics, furniture, toys, books and sporting goods. No professional antiques or collectible dealers are allowed. Spaces are limited and are available on a first come, first served basis.

Price is \$75 for a 160-square foot space and is nonrefundable. Sellers must provide their own tables, chairs, canopies and anything else necessary for display; no electrical hook-ups are available. Gates open and set-up begins at 6:30 a.m.; booths must remain open until 3 p.m. A \$20 cash refundable deposit will be required at check-in that day; it will be returned at the end of the day, pending inspection of the site by park staff. At the end of the sale, a charitable organization will be available to accept donations of any goods that do not sell, and unwanted items can be discarded in a trash hauler.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "The Westchester County Parks Garage Sale is a beloved tradition that residents look forward to every year. As last year did not allow for it to happen, I'm thrilled for it to reopen safely and in its new location at Sprain Ridge Park in Yonkers."

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathy O'Connor said, "I'm excited to welcome back residents to our Garage Sale, at Sprain Ridge Park this year, and see what unique household items are for sale."

Admission and parking for shoppers at the Sprain Ridge Garage Sale are free. Rain date is Sunday, Oct. 3. Sprain Ridge Park is located at 149 Jackson Avenue in Yonkers. For more information and a registration form, go to parks.westchestergov.com or call (914) 231-3450.

Ransomware Hack of Yonkerx City Hall, continued from pg 1-

That is what the City of Yonkers is doing, but it is a tedious process. The City of Baltimore, Maryland has fallen victim to cyber-ransom attacks more than once. In 2019 Baltimore refused to pay a \$100,000 Bitcoin ransom, resulting in city employees locked out of their accounts and for two weeks. Homeowners were unable to pay their property tax bills and parking tickets. A 2018 attack on Baltimore froze the City's 911 emergency call center.

Ransomware attacks on US corporations have occurred over the past few years, the biggest one coming in 2017 called Wannycry, which the US Government blamed on North Korea, who according to published reports, has a government sponsored ransomware operation that gets payments in Bitcoin.

There is no standard playbook for local governments and school districts on how to handle ransomware attacks and demands. Some pay and some don't pay. Daniel Tobok, CEO of Cytelligence, said that in his experience helping 500 municipalities, sometime the ransom is paid off, sometimes it is not. But after a certain number of days, "you don't have a choice and you have to make a business decision."

Sometimes that business decision is to hire a cybersecurity expert to negotiate with the cyber criminals. The other option, which the City of Yonkers and the Croton and Yorktown school districts, is not to pay and to try and recapture as much data as possible.

We have been told by the City of Yonkers that no sensitive information has been taken.

County BOL election preview, continued from pg 1-

district has become more democrat, and many consider this district now a solid D. But Torres is campaigning.

District 2- (Bedford, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, North Salem, Pound Ridge, part of Somers). Democratic Legislator Kitley Covill is running against republican Gina Arena. Covill was elected in 2017, the year of the first democratic Blue Wave in Westchester, when George Latimer defeated Rob Astorino for County Executive by 18 points, and a backlash to then President Donald Trump pushed many democrats to victory. Kovill defeated republican legislator Francis Corcoran by 10 points in 2017. Arena is running an active campaign.

District 3 (Mount Pleasant, North Castle and parts of Greenburgh and Ossining) Legislator Margaret Cunzio is the only non-democrat on the County Board. She won election in 2017 as a registered conservative and has served with her democratic colleague in a bi-partisan and productive manner. David Vinjamuri is the Democratic candidate, who is actively campaigning and has the support of Indivisible Westchester.

This is one race that all political eyes will be on election night. If Cunzio loses, then it will likely be a democratic sweep across the board in Westchester.

District 4 (New Castle, parts of Somers & Yorktown). Democratic Legislator Vedat Gashi is running against republican Robert Brower. Gashi was elected in 2019 after the retirement of long serving Legislator Michael Kaplowitz. Kaplowitz was a moderate democrat who joined with republicans on the County Board and then County Executive Rob Astorino to form a coalition government. That is why some republicans are hopeful, and some democrats concerned, about this race. Strong republican turnout in the local Yorktown race for town board could also impact this race. Perhaps this is one to watch.

District 9 (Parts of Cortlandt, Ossining and Peekskill). Democratic Legislator Catherine Borgia is running against republican Charles Braue. Borgia has served on the BOL since 2012, and she has easily defeated each of her republican opponents every two years.

District 10- (Parts of Eastchester and New Rochelle). Democratic Legislator Damon Maher is running against republican Anthony Giacobbe. Maher won election in 2017, defeating republican legislator Sheila Marcotte, and he easily won re-election in 2019. Maher, one of the more outspoken, progressive members of the county board, is also well-known and active in his district. This district has appeared to shifted democrat quickly over the past four years, providing Giacobbe, who is also active and speaking out on the issues of the day, a steep climb to victory.

District 15 (Parts of Yonkers and Bronxville). Democratic Legislator Ruth Walter is running against democrat James Nolan. This race is identified by both parties as the most competitive in 2021. Walter narrowly defeated republican legislator Gordon Burrows in 2019, after narrowly losing to Burrows in 2017.

Walter, a small businesswoman from Bronxville, has worked over the past 2 years to reach her constituents in the East Yonkers portion of the district. But with COVID keeping most of us at home since the spring of 2020, Walter continues to get out her message of what she has done for the residents and voters in all the district. James Nolan is from Yonkers and making his first run for office. His call to public service, has originated from his activism following the death of his brother, Oakland A's baseball star Michael Nolan, who was shot and killed in Yonkers in 2015.

James Nolan has worked on issues related to gun violence and drag racing through the Michael Nolan foundation. He has also volunteered in many community outreach programs in Yonkers during the pandemic. And most of all, he is actively campaigning in Yonkers.

Walter is ready for the challenge and is proud to run on her record. "I have a record of accomplishment that I'm proud to run on and look forward to sharing with the voters. Yonkers, and all of my district has been well served for the past 18 months," said Walter.

The problem that Nolan and all republican candidates face is that County Executive George Latimer is on top of the ticket. Latimer, a popular democrat, is running against republican Christine Sculti for re-election, and could help democratic county board candidates also on the ballot.

The unknown in the BOL races and the election of 2021 is turnout. With Westchester residents having issues like COVID, back to school and flooding on their minds, and with no race for Governor or President to increase turnout, nobody knows what the vote totals will look like.

More on the 2021 Westchester elections in the weeks to come. Send us your letters to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com.

These are distance presentations, through shared platforms, unless otherwise indicated. Please register through the Calendar section of the St. Paul's website.

Oct. 2, 1 PM. Dr. Eugene Boesch, author and archeologist, explores the history, culture and legacy of the Lenape, native peoples of the St. Paul's area

Oct. 9, 1 PM. Author & historian Dr. Laura Chmielewski explores the impact and significance of the Great Awakening of the 1730s, a pivotal development in the religious history of colonial America. Author of several books on early American History, Dr. Chmielewski is a Professor of American History at SUNY Purchase.

Sat., Oct. 16, 10 AM to 4 PM. Our annual Battle of Pell's Point encampment, commemorating the battle of October 18, 1776, fought about a mile from St. Paul's, when a small American brigade throttled a much larger British force, helping to cover the retreat of General Washington's main army from northern Manhattan to White Plains. The event includes militia drill, musket demonstrations, period music and crafts, and talk about the battle and the era of the American Revolution. Special features include the Hearts of Oak re-enactor unit and a discussion forum based on videos produced by Revolutionary Westchester 250.

Oct. 23, 1 PM. – Emily Yankowitz, a Ph.D. student in American History at Yale University, explores the re-integration of the Loyalists into American society after the American Revolution and how that process helped to redefine citizenship in early America.

Oct. 30, 1 PM. – In recognition of Halloween, Professor Erik R. Seeman of the University at Buffalo explores topics from his recent, award winning book, "Speaking With the Dead in Early America." Decision has not yet been made on whether this will be a live, in person presentation at St. Paul's, or a distance presentation through shared platform.

Nov. 6, 1 PM. Acclaimed author and historian Woody Holton explores the ever-fascinating odyssey of Abigail Adams, wife of President John Adams, based on his recent book, "Abigail Adams: A Life," which was awarded the prestigious Bancroft Prize. A Professor of History at the University of South Carolina, Dr. Holton has written many highly regarded books on early American history.

Thursday, Nov. 11, 1 PM. Commemorating Veterans Day, Park Ranger Michael Callahan explores the life and service of Harmon Bloodgood, who served in a regular Army cavalry regiment during the Civil War, including combat in the often-overlooked theater of the West. He worked on several projects as a stone mason in metropolitan New York in the late 19th century, including the erection of a new steeple at St. Paul's, and died in 1912, followed by burial at St. Paul's near his wife and daughters. As part of our commemoration of Veterans Day, we also offer self-guided tours recalling the lives and service of many veterans buried in the historic cemetery at St. Paul's. The self-guided tours are available from 10 AM to 4 PM.

Nov. 13, 1 PM. Eric Thomas, a Mt. Vernon musician, performs jazz and blues selections for flute, in a program that features presentations by other Mt. Vernon community musicians.

Sat. Nov. 20, 1 PM. A performance of "Words into Music," original compositions based on community interviews with Mt. Vernon residents, featuring Pamela Sklar on flute, along with oboe, English horn and clarinet.

Nov. 27, 1 PM, Peter Walker, classic baritone voice and early American instruments, performs songs that would have been heard in early American taverns, with a nod toward the harvest and Thanksgiving.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

For the sin of not greeting a Pastor or Sister wearing a collar or habit even if they are not of your faith. As my mom use to say, 'Cover all your bases!'

For the sin of knocking something over in the grocery store, making a mess and not bringing it to the attention of those responsible for remedying the situation. Or breaking something in a store and at least offering to pay for it or at the very least cleaning it up.

For the sin of in the middle of a pandemic not washing ones hands as we were taught as a child rinsing with soap and water for 20 seconds and possibly spreading germs to others because we are in a hurry to go someplace.

For the sin of double parking, parking in front of a fire hydrant even if it is for 30 seconds or blocking a crosswalk where people must cross causing a dangerous situation for all those involved.

For taking an over abundance of food at a buffet that we will not possibly be able to consume hogging the line before others have had the opportunity to be served. Wasting food while others are hungry.

For the sin of not wearing a mask where the proprietor requires or suggests one be worn in the midst of the crisis before us.

For the sin of leaving shopping carts at the grocery store in handicapped parking spaces, blocking cars whose drivers are shopping, in parking spaces blocking other people from parking and not bringing them to the cart corral or to the front entrance of the store.

For the sin of driving like a maniac, 60 mph in a 30 mph zone endangering our lives and the lives of others. For not making sure everyone in our car is 'Buckled Up' properly as required by law and for safety purposes.

For the sin of not voting in elections where many people in the world would do anything in their power for such a precious right. For not picking up the phone to bring to the attention of our elected officials a problem that could affect many people just because we don't have the time. And for elected officials not responding to problems brought to their attention allowing the homeless to roam the streets, those that commit crimes to go free without bail, and for doing favors for friends that are not always for the common good.

For the sin of crossing over yellow lines on the street that are not made to be crossed over. Going through red lights. Speeding through yellow lights to beat the red light.

For all these sins which we have committed we ask our God, whoever he or she may be to Bear With Us, Pardon us and Forgive us. And from my home to yours, to Jew and non-Jew alike greetings for a Happy, Healthy New Year in a World of Shalom, Peace.

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



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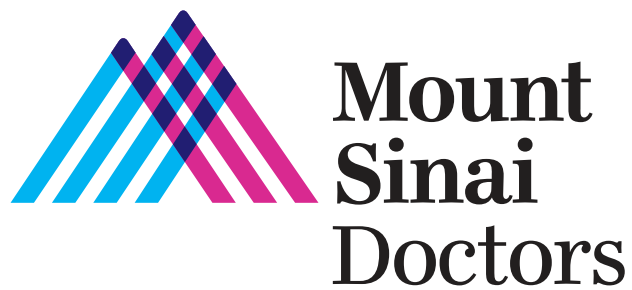
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