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Tuckahoe Mayor Accused of 'Facebook Trolling' of Local Deli Owner



Is It Still OK to Watch Fox News?
"Nobody is going to cancel me!"
-Pasquale Santelli, left

A Tuckahoe Deli owner and Tuckahoe Mayor Omayra Andino squared off at a Village Board meeting on September 13 that is worth 20 minutes of your time on YouTube, after you read this story.

Pasquale Santelli, the owner of Pasquale's on 26 Columbus Avenue, complained that Mayor Andino had shared posts from his personal Facebook account. The mayor explained that she had been getting numerous complaints about Pasquale's personal posts and that she wanted to make sure that no Village employees were involved, and no employees were involved.

But Pasquale wanted to know why the democratic Mayor of Tuckahoe was looking at the private Facebook posts of a local businessman.

Here's our best guess why Pasquale got on the radar of some. At his deli, Pasquale like to have Fox News on the TV in the background. A few customers have complained about Fox News and asked him to change the channel. Pasquale's response was, "this is my tv and my store, I will watch what I want to. If you don't like it, you can go somewhere else."

Last month, Facebook posts were shared and forwarded regarding Pasquale's personal Facebook page and some of the posts that he shared. At this point, it appears that an effort was made to try and 'cancel' Pasquale's and boycott his establishment.

Westchester Rising has received copies of Facebook posts that were forwarded by Tuckahoe Mayor Andino about Pasquale's personal page postings. And that is why Pasquale was at the Village Board meeting, and a lively debate ensued.

continued on pg 7-

NY AG James Buyback Takes 57 Guns Off Westchester Streets



Westchester elected officials join with NYAG Letitia James and members of Mom's Demand Action, at successful gun buyback event

New York Attorney General Letitia James today announced that 57 firearms were turned in to law enforcement at a gun buyback event hosted by her office, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, Westchester District Attorney Miriam Rocah, and the New Rochelle Police Department. The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) accepts — with no questions asked — working and non-working, unloaded firearms in exchange for compensation on site. To date, Attorney General James has taken more than 2,100 firearms out of communities through gun buyback events and other efforts since taking office in 2019.

"The threat of gun violence continues to loom over our neighborhoods and endanger our families and children," said Attorney General James. "From taking down violent groups responsible for causing harm to hosting gun buybacks and working with organizations addressing this crisis — we are doing everything we can to eradicate gun violence and protect our communities in Westchester and throughout the state. My office is fully committed to preserving public safety, and we thank our partners for their invaluable support and shared commitment in this effort."

Thank you to Attorney General Letitia James for once again showing her commitment to keeping our streets safe," said Westchester County Executive George Latimer. "Since 2017 in Westchester County, we have seen a decrease in index crimes by 11 percent and an increase in weapons secured by our county police by 370 percent. Programs like this gun buyback, coupled with the hard work of our men and women in law enforcement, result in fewer lives lost due to senseless gun violence. I look forward to future collaborations, like this one, to further ensure the safety of all Westchester residents."

"Every gun that was brought in today will make our communities safer," said Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah. "Allowing people to safely remove unwanted guns from their homes can help reduce many of the risks associated with having a firearm, including suicide, domestic violence, and unintentional deaths of children. It will also help prevent these guns from falling into the wrong hands and making our streets less safe. We thank New York Attorney General James, the County

continued on pg 7-

Proud Boys Photo Symbolizes Heated Debate Over DEI, SOS & County Executives Race



Below: Social Media Posting about Proud Boys in Briarcliff on August 5. Above: Zoomed in photo of mystery man in Grey Suit next to Proud Boys



By Dan Murphy

Who is this unmasked man? The above photo has been circulating on Social Media since an August 5 protest held in Briarcliff Manor for a NYS GOP fundraiser attended by former President Donald Trump included members of The Proud Boys.

Also in attendance were progressive democrats and members of Westchester Indivisible, some of who posted the photo online, asking if this person in the grey suit who found himself next to The Proud Boys was also a member of the NY GOP.

Many democrats, progressives and Indivisible members claim that the man was Stephen Mayo, a New Rochelle resident and activist, who has been spending some time in Yorktown and with tables outside of Yorktown High School and near Town Hall with literature for SOS, Save Our Schools.

We spoke to Mayo and he denies that he is in the photo or at the rally, and we take him at his word. If anyone knows who is in that photo, let us know.

continued on pg 6-

Mount Sinai's Prostate Cancer Expert Urges Men Over 55 to Get Tested



Dr. Vannita Simma-Chiang

By Dan Murphy

September is National Prostate Health Month (NPHM), and a time to highlight the importance of prostate health and early detection of prostate cancer. Prostate cancer is the most diagnosed cancer in men in the United States. About 1 in 7 men will be diagnosed with prostate cancer, and 30,000 men in the US will die every year from prostate cancer.

We spoke with Dr. Vannita Simma-Chiang, of Mount Sinai Doctors-Westchester, and Assistant Professor of Urology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, to discuss options for middle aged and high-risk men of getting tested for Prostate Cancer and treatment options.

"Prostate cancer, as with all cancers, is an abnormal growth of cells in the body, which originate in the prostate. While there are different types of prostate cancer, the one that we know about most is adenocarcinoma, which is the most common and prevalent type of prostate cancer," said Dr. Simma-Chiang.

"Most Urologist based studies have found that the risk of prostate cancer is more likely in men over the age of 55. African American men have a higher rate of prostate cancer, with studies finding 1 in 6 African American males will be diagnosed at some point in their lives. Non-Hispanic, white men also have the 2nd highest rate of Prostate cancer. And while Asian-American and Latino men have a lower rate of prostate cancer, it doesn't mean its zero.

"We have also noticed in studies a link to being overweight in your 50's with a greater risk of prostate cancer. These are all findings that we should be aware of."

What are the signs and symptoms that men can look out for to prevent prostate cancer? "Most Prostate Cancer is asymptomatic. Most men don't experience any symptoms at all. That's why it is so important to have a screening before reaching the later stages of prostate cancer, where lots of

continued on pg 7-

The State of Our Local Economies, Moving Past Impacts of Pandemic and Ida



Nancy White, left, and Richard Leimgruber

By Janet Bear

The two Presidents of the local Chambers of Commerce (Larchmont and Mamaroneck) addressed the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Local Summit webinar on Tuesday, September 14th. They provided an update of the impact of the pandemic and recent floods on the local business communities and a snapshot of what services the local Chambers of Commerce provide.

Richard Leimgruber, President of the Mamaroneck Chamber of Commerce and owner of Avenue Financial Group, spoke about the double hit on Mamaroneck businesses with the recent monumental flooding from Hurricane Ida on top of the pandemic. Because many businesses experienced major destruction, the Mamaroneck Chamber of Commerce has established a GoFundMe page (which can be found on Facebook or at mamaroneck-chamberofcommerce.org), hoping to raise \$100,000 to help local businesses recover from the floods.

In Richard's words the Chambers' role is "to provide value for our businesses", to promote and market local businesses and to be their advocate. In addition to a robust website, the Mamaroneck Chamber has introduced two new programs since the start of the pandemic – Business Networking Meetings, held in local restaurants and Mamaroneck Deals, weekly text messages to individuals' phones offering local business deals. Residents can sign up for Mamaroneck Deals on the Chambers' website. In its role as business advocate, the Mamaroneck Chamber successfully obtained a fee reduction from the Village of Mamaroneck for outdoor dining spaces this year.

Nancy White, President of the Larchmont Chamber of Commerce and owner of the Flower Bar, spoke about the incredible local support from residents and businesses during the pandemic. Many businesses pivoted to online sales and the Chamber introduced a local delivery service for businesses using taxis. She indicated that restaurants with outdoor seating have fared much better than those without.

The Larchmont Chamber recently launched a new website to promote local businesses and they have a robust social media presence. In addition to cutting their dues (from \$120 to \$60), they expanded their Holiday Program during the pandemic, introduced Arts on the Avenues and continued the Annual Sidewalk Sales. Nancy spoke of three problems facing many local merchants – staffing, supply chain delays and increasing shipping costs. While business in Larchmont is "sound", merchants are struggling and we should remember to Shop Local.

During the Q&A session Nancy and Richard were asked about parking, the new meter system in Larchmont and the use of parking spaces for outdoor dining in both Villages. Both speakers indicated that the increased outdoor dining was a "lifesaver" for the restaurants, but retail merchants complained about the decrease in parking. Nancy said that in Larchmont, customers are getting used to the new meter system, but the role-out has been bumpy. The Village has made discounted employee parking available to businesses.

Richard and Nancy emphasized the importance of websites and social media to promote local businesses, and they appreciate the help that local residents, and the Mayors, Tom Murphy of Mamaroneck and Lorraine Walsh of Larchmont, have provided to the Chamber and local businesses. Nancy thanked the organization One Larchmont which, through generous donations from residents, has been aiding local businesses with small grants, helping them survive the pandemic.

There is always room for additional support for our local economy, so all are encouraged to shop local, eat local, and contribute to the GoFundMe effort to aid Mamaroneck businesses impacted by the recent floods.

The Local Summit thanks LMC Media for hosting this webinar. To learn more about The Local Summit visit: localsummitlm.org. To learn more about LMC Media visit: lmcmedia.org. The next Local Summit program will be Tuesday, October 12th, 8:00 am.

Dr. Carol Allen Honored With NYS Senate Woman of Distinction Award



Dr. Allen, right, with State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, spearheaded efforts to get more than 5,000 people vaccinated in Greenburgh.

New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins honored Dr. Carol B. Allen, Chairwoman of the Greenburgh COVID Vaccine Angels Initiative, as her inductee for the NYS Senate Woman of Distinction Award. The event took place in front of Greenburgh Town Hall.

Dr. Allen spearheaded COVID-19 vaccination efforts in her community, including organizing vaccination pop-ups and coordinating with over 300 volunteers to vaccinate more than 5,000 residents in Greenburgh and the surrounding communities.

Joining Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins at the event were Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner, who helped provide resources for the Greenburgh COVID Angels Initiative, and COVID Angels volunteers Anne Hoehn and Mary Kathryn "MK" Blazek.

Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins said: "Dr. Allen has been working for the betterment of her community for decades and is a strong advocate for the disadvantaged and a powerful voice in the fight against systemic racism. During the pandemic, Dr. Allen and her many volunteers put their own fears aside and reached out to the people who needed most to be informed, who needed to be comforted, who needed to be told where a testing site was, or where a vaccination site was. We had people out in the community who were caring for the community. There were a lot of great volunteer efforts during the pandemic, but the efforts of Dr. Allen and her volunteers stood out."

Upon being honored by Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, Dr. Allen said: "Thank you, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, for this tribute. The pandemic has shown a spotlight on social factors that contributed to the severity of the pandemic, including health care disparities, income inequality, and inadequate education."

Dr. Allen practiced at the Bronx Veterans Administration Medical Center for over 30 years, and most recently served at Sun River Health, which was formerly Hudson River Healthcare, in Peekskill. She is a lead member of the Greenburgh Against Systemic Racism Law Enforcement Committee, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, and of the NAACP.

Each year, the New York State Senate honors a select group of outstanding women whose achievements set an extraordinary example for future generations. The honorees depict the ideals of leadership and service in all fields, including social justice, science, business, athletics, education, and the arts. During the COVID-19 pandemic, they overcame a great number of challenges and provided outstanding service to their communities with their unique talents.

Westchester County Car Show Returns to Glen Island Park,

Hosted by Westchester Street Rod Association

Wash, shine and detail your car to get it in tip-top shape for the Westchester County Car Show, Sunday, Sept. 26, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Glen Island Park in New Rochelle. Registration is from 9 a.m. to noon.

The show will feature displays of a wide variety of classic and collectible cars, street rods and motorcycles, all carefully restored to mint condition or modified for performance. Westchester Street Rod Association will present more than 100 trophies to the best vehicles. Registration is \$20 per entry.

Admission is free for spectators. There is a parking fee of \$5 per car. In case of rain, the event will be cancelled. For additional information, please visit parks.westchestergov.com or call: (914) 231-4645. The Car Show is hosted by Westchester Street Rod Association and sponsored by Hasselman Racing and Hyatt's Garage and Towing.T

Garage Sale:

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. Gates open and set-up begins at 6:30 a.m.; booths must remain open until 3 p.m.

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Two Alzheimer's Awareness Events Westchester Sept. 25

Prelude for Westchester Walk to End Alzheimer's Oct. 3,



The Cuomo-TZ Bridge will be lit in Purple for Alzheimer's Awareness

Two Alzheimer's Awareness events are planned on Saturday, Sept. 25, ahead of the Walk to End Alzheimer's in Westchester and Rockland counties in October.

From 6-8 p.m. at Horan's Landing in Sleepy Hollow, there will be a Bridge Lighting Watch Party featuring food trucks and a DJ — ultimately culminating in the lighting of the Mario Cuomo Bridge in purple for Alzheimer's Awareness.

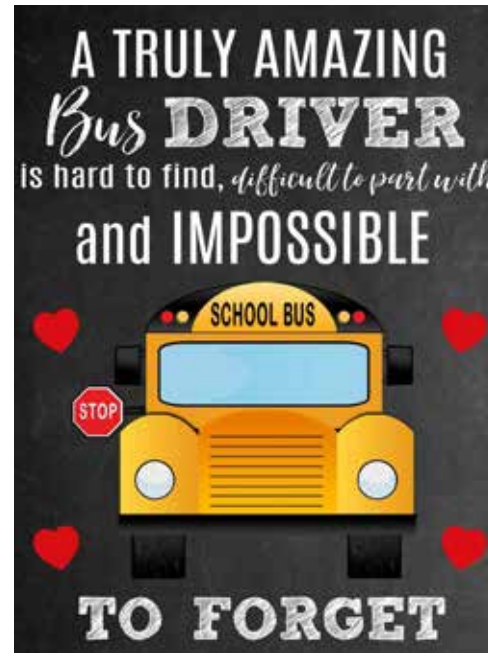
At 8 p.m. that night, the Paramount Hudson Valley Theater in Peekskill will also host an Alzheimer's Awareness Evening during its "Gypsy" concert celebrating the music of Stevie Nicks and Fleetwood Mac. The Alzheimer's Association will have a table at the event with staff on hand to talk about the organization's programs, services and fundraisers.

The Paramount's manager said the theater was happy to help raise awareness of Alzheimer's disease. "Paramount Hudson Valley Arts is proud to partner with organizations that make a difference in the welfare of our community," said George De Feis, General Manager at Paramount Hudson Valley Arts. "The Alzheimer's Association brings awareness and resources to those impacted by this horrible disease. We are happy to shine a spotlight on them during one of our live music performances."

"The Alzheimer's Association is thrilled to partner with the Paramount Hudson Valley Theater to spread awareness of the disease," said David Sobel, executive director of the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter. "We want families affected by dementia to know we're there for them as research continues to find a cure. We are looking forward to a fun and informative night at Paramount Hudson Valley Theater."

The Westchester Walk to End Alzheimer's will be held on Sunday, Oct. 3, at Westchester Community College, with check-in starting at 1 p.m. and the opening ceremony at 2 p.m. followed by the walk. The Rockland Walk to End Alzheimer's will be held on Sunday, Oct 10, at Boulder Stadium in Pomona with check-in starting at 9 a.m. and the opening ceremony at 10 a.m. followed by the walk. The walks will be held in person, observing safety protocols, but participants can also choose to participate remotely at the locations of their choice. More information about all five Hudson Valley walks is available at HudsonValleyWalks.org.

It Isn't Easy Being A School Bus Driver



By Eric W. Schoen

School is back in session. Fortunately, most students are learning in classrooms and not remotely. There is nothing like students being live in class receiving instruction from a teacher who cares about them. Unfortunately, across the country there is a shortage of school bus drivers. Sadly, this shortage was to be expected.

After you read this article I want you to think seriously if you would want to be a school bus driver. Particularly with Covid still very much a presence. Many school bus drivers are retirees who enjoy the interaction with students. Do you really think these retirees, many in their late 60's, 70's and older want to be driving students and interacting with parents in the midst of a pandemic?

For most school bus drivers driving a school bus is a part time job. The pay is not great, the hours force you to wake up early, have a long break mid-day and come back to take students home dropping off your bus just in time for dinner. If you drive a bus on country roads it's not that bad and you don't hit traffic.

But in a city like Yonkers with all of the hills where cars are allowed to park on both sides of the street particularly in hilly areas where there is little room to maneuver, driving a small 15 passenger bus let alone a 45 passenger bus is no easy task. Dealing with cars that are double parked or parked illegally makes the job of a bus driver that much more difficult, and need I tell you that in our fast paced environment interactions with those parked where they shouldn't be is no fun.

Let's for a minute step back and see how the child gets assigned to a school bus. He or she must be enrolled in school. For some strange reason, parents who have moved, who have kids turning school age or decided to take their children out of private schools think about enrolling their kids in Public Schools on Labor Day and the week before it. This is just not a Yonkers thing. It happens in New York City, most big cities in America and many smaller districts.

continued on pg 7-



VISIT THE NEW WESTCHESTER COUNTY 9/11 FIRST RESPONDERS MEMORIAL AT KENSICO DAM PLAZA

The Westchester County 9/11 First Responders Memorial is made up of granite stones set on a stone veneer wall.

Each stone is etched with the names of the Westchester County 9/11 First Responders who passed from 9/11 related illnesses.

“There’s No Vaccine for Hunger” Help Feeding Westchester During Hunger Action Month

Hunger Action Month Campaign Aims to Inspire the Westchester Community to Get Involved and Ensure that Food Isn’t an Impossible Choice for Our Neighbors Facing Hunger

For Hunger Action Month® this September, Feeding Westchester joins Feeding America and other network member food banks to inspire people to take action and raise awareness of people facing the impossible choice of hunger. Food banks around the country are working to make a real and lasting impact on food insecurity in their communities, and they are asking for the public’s support.

September marks the 14th year Feeding America, the nation’s largest domestic hunger-relief organization with a nationwide network of 200 food banks, including Feeding Westchester and its nearly 300 community partners and meal programs, has organized the annual call to action. This year’s campaign presents the impossible choices that millions of Americans – including hundreds of thousands right here in Westchester – must make between food and other basic needs.

“This Hunger Action Month, we continue to see an incredibly increased need – one that has not diminished – for food across Westchester County,” said Karen C. Erren, President and CEO of Feeding Westchester. “The support of our community – donors, volunteers, advocates, corporate partners, community groups, retail recovery partners – is critical as we strive to educate and inspire others to get involved in hunger relief, and join us in our shared mission to nourish our neighbors in the fight against hunger.”

During the month of September, the Westchester community can get involved in the movement by learning, committing, and speaking up about ways to ending hunger, including:

Take the challenge to help us Fill 30 Bins in 30 Days by donating food to our Hunger Action Month Food Drive

Throughout the month, or on Hunger Action Day, Friday, September 17, wear orange to show your support for hunger relief – take a photo, share it on social, and hashtag #FeedingWestchester #HungerActionMonth

Use your voice to advocate for local, state, and federal policies that support your neighbors in need, like ending child hunger

Join us at local events, including Paws Crossed Animal Rescue’s 6th Annual Paws Crossed Day on Sunday, September 19 at 12 p.m. in Elmsford, and Westchester Magazine’s Wine & Food Festival Grand Tasting Village on Saturday, September 25 at 12 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla

“For many, a daily meal is a simple choice of what to eat,” said Claire Babineaux-Fontenot, CEO of Feeding America. “For people facing hunger, a daily meal poses a very different type of choice. It’s often an impossible decision between food or other crucial needs, such as electricity, childcare, or medicine. Nobody should be forced to make a choice to go hungry. With the public’s support, we can come together to help people achieve long-term food security, so they no longer have to make such tough decisions.”

Hunger Action Month is a time to mobilize to alleviate and end hunger. You can choose to donate or advocate. You can choose to volunteer or raise awareness. You can choose to help end hunger. Learn more about how you can take action today by visiting feedingwestchester.org/hungeractionmonth.

Every \$1 donated to Feeding Westchester provides up to three meals for local children, seniors, and families struggling with hunger. To find help, or to give help, visit feedingwestchester.org or call (914) 923-1100. For the latest news and updates, follow @FeedingWestchester on Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and @FeedWestchester on Twitter.

Hunger will persist in Westchester County, which this year had eight communities ranked on Bloomberg News’ 200 richest places in the U.S., the most of any county in the country. Westchester is home to Fortune 500 executives, to Regeneron Pharmaceuticals and MasterCard, IBM and Pepsico. But it, too, is also a place where the coronavirus took food off the tables of families who had never known that feeling before.

By one estimate, at the height of the crisis, one in five Westchester residents did not have enough to eat. And if it can happen in Westchester, it can happen anywhere. As one food banker puts it: “There’s no vaccine for hunger.”

SBA Opens Business Recovery Center in Westchester for Businesses Affected by Ida

The U.S. Small Business Administration announced today the opening of a Business Recovery Center (BRC) at the New York Power Authority building in White Plains, New York on Tuesday, Sept. 21 at 9 a.m. to provide one-on-one assistance to businesses and residents in submitting a disaster loan application for the remnants of Hurricane Ida on Sept. 1-3, 2021.

Businesses, homeowners, renters and private nonprofit organizations in the New York counties of Bronx, Kings, Nassau, Queens, Richmond, Suffolk and Westchester are eligible to apply for physical disaster loans and for Economic Injury Disaster Loans from the SBA. Small businesses and most private nonprofit organizations in the following adjacent counties are eligible to apply only for SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans: New York, Orange, Putnam and Rockland in New York; Fairfield in Connecticut; and Bergen in New Jersey.

The SBA Business Recovery Center-Westchester County is located in the New York Power Authority Building, 123 Main Street, White Plains, NY 10601. They opened on September 21, with hours of Monday – Friday, 9 a.m. – 5 p.m., closed Saturday and Sunday

Customer Service Representatives will be available at the BRC to answer questions about the disaster loan program and assist business owners, homeowners and renters in completing their applications. Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the SBA has established protocols to help protect the health and safety of the public. All visitors to the BRC are encouraged to wear a face mask.

Businesses of all sizes and private nonprofit organizations may borrow up to \$2 million to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate, machinery and equipment, inventory, and other business assets.

For small businesses, small agricultural cooperatives, small businesses engaged in aquaculture and most private nonprofit organizations, the SBA offers Economic Injury Disaster Loans to help meet working capital needs caused by the disaster. Economic Injury Disaster Loan assistance is available regardless of whether the business suffered any physical property damage.

Disaster loans up to \$200,000 are available to homeowners to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed real estate. Homeowners and renters are eligible for up to \$40,000 to repair or replace disaster-damaged or destroyed personal property.

Applicants may be eligible for a loan amount increase up to 20 percent of their physical damages, as verified by the SBA, for mitigation purposes. Eligible mitigation improvements may include a sump pump, elevation, French drain or retaining wall to help protect property and occupants from future damage caused by a similar disaster.

Interest rates are as low as 2.855 percent for businesses, 2 percent for nonprofit organizations and 1.563 percent for homeowners and renters, with terms up to 30 years. Applicants may apply online using the Electronic Loan Application (ELA) via SBA’s secure website at <https://disasterloanassistance.sba.gov/ela/s/>, and should apply under SBA declaration # 17147, not for the COVID-19 incident.

To be considered for all forms of disaster assistance, applicants should register online at DisasterAssistance.gov or download the FEMA mobile app. If online or mobile access is unavailable, applicants should call the FEMA toll-free helpline at 800-621-3362. Those who use 711-Relay or Video Relay Services should call 800-621-3362.

Businesses and individuals may also obtain information and loan applications by calling the SBA’s Customer Service Center at 1-800-659-2955 (1-800-877-8339 for the deaf and hard-of-hearing) or emailing DisasterCustomerService@sba.gov. Loan applications can also be downloaded at sba.gov/disaster. Completed applications should be mailed to: U.S. Small Business Administration, Processing and Disbursement Center, 14925 Kingsport Road, Fort Worth, TX 76155.

The filing deadline to return applications for physical property damage is Nov. 4, 2021. The deadline to return economic injury applications is June 6, 2022.

Westchester Mom, with Newborn, Needs Kidney Transplant Donor

New Rochelle mom Paola Riso, and her husband, New Rochelle Fire-fighter Louis Riso, have put out a call to all Good Samaritans in Westchester to help her find a kidney donor. The two have a newborn baby, just three months old.

We spoke with Louis Riso who told us, “My wife was diagnosed with focal segmental glomerulosclerosis (FSG) when she was 15. It was relatively under control for around 10 years but became progressively worse in her mid 20s. Paola’s kidney function took a nose dive when she became pregnant last year. She was immediately categorized as high risk and ultimately had to have an emergency c-section on June 27th due to having an extreme preeclampsia and high risk for stroke.

“Our child was born a month and a half early and spent that time in the NICU. Post pregnancy doctor visits revealed how bad her kidney has become and Paola is a few weeks out from dialysis. With medicine and a strict diet we are doing our best to keep her off but it is inevitable. We are working with Colombia Presbyterian and are in great hands hoping that we can find a live donor. Paola and I are very great full for the help!”

According to the National Foundation for Transplants, living kidney donors have a 97% success rate one year after a transplant. Visit transplants.org for more information if you are interested.

You can also donate your organs after your death. Unfortunately only 3 in 1,000 people actually become donors even though 165 million are registered. Matching possible donors with patients can also be examined in the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN). The OPTN is a national computer system. It puts patients in order on the waiting list and matches them to donors.

Also visit <https://columbiasurgery.org/kidney-transplant/becoming-kidney-donor> to find out more.

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Westchester County Opens 74 Units of Affordable Senior Rental Housing



County Executive George Latimer, middle, joined by State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, 3rd left, Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner, 2nd right, County Legislator Margaret Cunzio, 4th left, County Legislator Alfreda Williams, and Developer Mark Soja of Marathon Development Group, cut the ribbon on senior housing

Delivering on his promise to make Westchester County a fair and affordable place to live for all residents and families, Westchester County Executive George Latimer cut the ribbon on the Mayfair Apartments in Greenburgh. The property, formerly known as the WestHELP Greenburgh Homeless Shelter on the Westchester Community College Campus built in the 1980's, has been repurposed into 74 units of affordable rental housing for seniors aged 62 and older. The project transformed long-vacant buildings once used as transitional housing for homeless families, into 60 one-bedroom, eight two-bedroom, and six studio apartments for residents with low and moderate incomes.

Latimer said: "The Mayfair Apartments are one more instance of the County seeing the potential in an underdeveloped, underused property, and transforming it into something that will pay dividends in the community that it serves. Creating fair and affordable housing opportunities has been a keystone of my administration – it is something we strongly believe in. We know that our residents are not fleeing Westchester, and we want to see them living happily and comfortably in the place they have always called home. After years of discussions within the County, the developers, the town of Greenburgh, the Valhalla School District and the Board of Legislators, we can finally see this long-awaited project come to fruition."

The six-acre site includes nine buildings; six of the residential buildings have been connected with community rooms and elevators to make the second floor more accessible for the seniors. The development is on Westchester Community College's campus, where residents have access to programs devoted to adult learning, enrichment and growth. State financing for the \$17 million development includes \$11.3 million in subsidy from New York State Homes and Community Renewal. Supportive services for 20 supportive units set aside for homeless single adults over the age of 62 are funded through the Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative and administered by the New York State Office of Mental Health.

Legislator Alfreda Williams said: "This has been a long time coming. I am delighted that we found a way to provide so much needed additional affordable housing for seniors. The transformation of this once deteriorated space will serve a critical need, helping seniors remain in their community. But it also will stand as a testament to work we can do when government, community leadership and the private sector are committed to working cooperatively to address real human needs."

Ossining Man Pleads Guilty to Attempted Murder-Hate Crime for Stabbing Teen



Robert McCallion

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that Ossining resident Robert McCallion pled guilty to 14 felony charges, including attempted murder as a hate crime, after he stabbed a Black teenager multiple times in 2020 and subsequently attacked a medical professional at Westchester County Jail.

McCallion, 36, pled guilty on September 9, 2021, to Attempted Murder in the Second Degree, Attempted Murder in the Second Degree as a Hate Crime, Two Counts of Assault in the First Degree, Two Counts of Assault in the First Degree as a Hate Crime, Two Counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, Four Counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree, and Two Counts of Assault in the Second Degree, all felonies.

McCallion faces a sentence range from a minimum of eight years to a maximum of 25 years in state prison. He is scheduled to be sentenced on November 16, 2021.

On March 13, 2020, McCallion used racial slurs as he stabbed a 17-year-old Black woman multiple times at a North Highland Avenue apartment complex in Ossining where he lived. The victim, who was at the apartment building visiting family, was a stranger to the defendant.

Ossining Police arrested McCallion after he was found in the parking lot of the apartment complex with blood on his hands and clothes. The knife McCallion used to stab the victim was also found at the scene. Police located the victim, who was bleeding profusely with stab wounds to the face and back, inside the apartment building with her family, and she was taken to the hospital where she underwent surgery.

During a search of McCallion's apartment, where he lived with his father, police recovered multiple weapons, including two loaded assault weapons in his bedroom. The FBI assisted the Ossining Police Department with the investigation.

Following his arrest on the Ossining incident, on March 15, 2020, McCallion attacked a medical professional at Westchester County Jail in Valhalla, where he was being held.

"This was a brutal, despicable and cowardly attack by Robert McCallion on an innocent young woman because of the color of her skin," DA Rocah said. "Hate crimes such as this not only traumatize the victim, but the community as well, and will be prosecuted aggressively by this Office."

The case is before Judge Barry Warhit in Westchester County Court and is being prosecuted by Homicide Bureau Chief Lana Hochheiser and Cold Case Bureau Chief Laura Murphy.

City of Mount Vernon Government Stops Attempted Cyber Attack



The City of Mount Vernon has apparently dodged a bullet, when a cyber attack was quickly confined. Here is the statement from Mayor Shawyn Patterson.

"Last Friday, (Sept. 10), the City of Mount Vernon was subject to an attempted cyber-attack which targeted the City's internal email and cloud storage systems. The isolated breach was quickly confined thanks to the City's new cyber security measures and updated servers put into place last year. No information was stolen from staff or residents and over the past few days, the City has added increased protections to cyber-attacks."

"The City is working with the Department of Homeland Security and New York State Emergency Services Cyber Incident Response Team to further investigate the origin of the attack. The City has continued to educate users about potential phishing scams and how to protect their personal information from being compromised."

The City of Yonkers government was a victim of a cyber attack and ransomware request on the same day as Mt. Vernon, Friday, September 10. The hacker was able to infiltrate Yonkers City Hall and most of its computers, but the City was able to retrieve most of its data and did not pay the ransom.

The Yorktown and Croton Harmon School Districts were also hacked in 2020, did not pay the ransom, and were able to recover their data.

Former Forever 21 Employee Gets No Jail Time for Secretly Recording Women in Dressing Room

Heriberto Polanco



Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that Bronx resident Heriberto Polanco pled guilty to unlawful surveillance on Tuesday after he secretly recorded women in dressing rooms while he worked at Forever 21 at the Cross County Center in Yonkers.

Polanco, 27, pled guilty on September 14, 2021, to three counts of Unlawful Surveillance in the Second Degree, a felony. According to his plea agreement, Polanco will receive probationary supervision with sex offender specific conditions and will be required to register as a sex offender.

On August 28, 2019, at approximately 7:15 p.m., a customer at Forever 21 at the Cross County Center in Yonkers was trying on clothes in a unisex dressing room when she noticed a cell phone sitting on top of a sneaker outside her room with the camera lens aimed directly at her. The victim screamed and immediately called Yonkers Police, who identified Polanco, an employee, as a suspect after the victim's sister reported seeing Polanco running out of the dressing rooms.

On September 10, 2019, Polanco admitted to Yonkers Police that he placed his phone under the victim's dressing room in an attempt to record her changing. He also admitted to recording other female customers in the Forever 21 dressing rooms without their permission during August 2019.

"The predatory behavior Heriberto Polanco displayed is incredibly disturbing and unacceptable," DA Rocah said. "Everyone should have the expectation of privacy when they enter a changing room in a store, and Mr. Polanco violated that on numerous occasions."

The case is before Judge Susan Cacace in Westchester County Court and is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Marissa Morra-Wynn. Polanco is scheduled to be sentenced on December 7, 2021.

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Tuckahoe Mayor and Deli Owner, continued from pg 1-

Pasquale: “I was informed that some people want to boycott me for posting things on my private Facebook page, not my business page. This is a free country -nobody every told me what to do and the way to live.”

Pasquale then raised a sheet of paper, apparently a Facebook share from Andino, of one of Pasquale’s posts. “Who did this to me -your name is on my Facebook page.”

Mayor: “When residents call and inform me that they are going to boycott you, I make sure its not a village employee and I have all of the information. Everyone has a right to do that and I have a right to do that. That doesn’t mean that I’m saying that you should be boycotted—I was getting information

Pasquale: Your name is on my Facebook. You’re supposed to take care of the town and not people’s Facebook

Mayor: I can look into anyone’s Facebook page.

Pasquale: This should be brought to attention of law enforcement. They invaded my privacy.

Mayor: Sir if you have an open Facebook page, there is no invasion of privacy. I have gotten people’s concerns about your posts. They have a right to respond.

Pasquale: You are supposed to defend me. I’m a business in Tuckahoe. Why did you do this to me? My ideas are my ideas. Nobody is going to cancel me! If you don’t want me to be in business, tough, I’m going to be here for a long time.

Some of the other speakers questioned whether Pasquale’s First Amendment rights were violated. Others wondered how the mayor forwarded the Facebooks posts and harm a local business. And if the Facebook posts were offensive, then why share it with others?

An email to Mayor Andino that we have received said, “I found your treatment towards Mr. Santelli arrogant and pretentious.” Others say that the mayor was trolling

This story will likely fuel a greater discussion, perhaps on Fox News, and will also likely increase customers to Pasquale’s deli, which is exactly the opposite of what his opponents wanted to do.

Perhaps a future story could include the other people involved in sharing Pasquale’s personal Facebook posts, and those who called for a boycott. You can look at Pasquale’s personal Facebook posts and determine for yourself what response, if any, there should be.

The YouTube link of the is https://m.youtube.com/watch?fbclid=IwAR29t8K4VWvEfQkB0Y5plvr2UUZjGos7TOKgMNdXM5pFf_JQzSPejNbc-E&v=VWgIn7YSKGg&feature=youtu.be 1 Hour and 32 minutes into the meeting is when Pasquale speaks.

Letter to the Editor:

The human race is used to dominating the earth, often conquering or vanishing any creature or object that gets in it’s way. However, something new has dominated the earth, something inanimate, and that is plastic.

According to an article published by The Nature Conservancy in July of 2021, if current trends continue, about 12 billion metric tons of plastic waste will be in our landfills or polluting the environment by 2050. That amount is 4 billion more than the human population which is about 8 billion. This issue needs to be confronted and we must find ways to not only reduce the amount of plastic production but also plastic consumption.

Ideally plastic production should be terminated completely but corporations aren’t ready to lose the billions of dollars they make polluting our planet. However this is not meant to discourage others yet show others how we can make significant changes locally and globally. For starters we have to stop consuming single use plastics, these are the most harmful since they are discarded almost immediately. We can convert to buying glass items which can later be repurposed. We can also bring our own utensils to eateries when dining out.

Most importantly, we must refrain absolutely from using plastic bags. Re-usable bags, especially cloth ones, are the best to use when grocery shopping. When shopping, always look for an alternative to plastic and if there aren’t any available or they are too expensive, second hand stores are an amazing option. The prices at secondhand stores are very affordable and one can truly find unique and durable pieces that won’t be harmful and pollute our planet. I urge you all to take direct action and replace plastic in your lives. Plastic isn’t a necessity and it definitely should not occupy more space on our planet than we do.

Thank you for your acknowledgement.
Natalie Maldonado Smith, former Yonkers resident and college student

Proud Boys Photo, DEI, CRT, SOS, continued from pg 1-

The disagreement over who is in the photo is symbolic of the passionate disagreements on both sides of the issue of the teaching of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, (DEI) teaching in Westchester schools.

Mayo serves on the Board of SOS, Save our Schools for Westchester Children Mayo and other members of SOS have attended school board meetings in the Yorktown and Lakeland School District, speaking out against what they call, (CRT), Critical Race Theory. During these board meetings the Superintendents of both the Yorktown and Lakeland School stated that CRT is not being taught in their schools, but a version of the DEI education coming from the NYS Department of Education.

We received the following letter from a Yorktown resident about Mr. Mayo and his presence in Yorktown and his recent OP-ED in our Sept. 10 issue, which can be found at YonkersTimes.com

Mr. Murphy, “I have been receiving phone messages and emails about Stephen Mayo. Some are wondering who he is. They see him at a lot of school board meetings in northern Westchester, especially in the Yorktown and Lakeland school districts. Some have asked if he is the same person that was photographed with the Proud Boys in Briarcliff Manor last month, because it looks like the same person to them. Others are more concerned about his rhetoric and support of SOS, and the fact that he is a member of SOS. Angela Sculti, the Mother of the Republican candidate for County Executive, Christine Sculti, is one of the leaders and founder of SOS. Thank you in advance, Sincerely, Karen RS Yorktown.”

900 members of Yorktown for Justice have come out in support of DEI education in the Yorktown Schools. We also printed that letter in our Sept. 10 issue and online at YonkersTimes.com.

Marisa Ragonese, from Yorktown for Justice said, “it’s important that we have a group advocating for inclusion and the celebration of diversity. Lately, with all of the controversy, there is so much disinformation, we wanted to make it clear we at Yorktown for Justice -we support these initiatives, and we don’t want these negative messages about DEI out there without a positive affirming message in response.”

“The DEI framework is from the NYS Board of Regents. Opponents like SOS don’t like the starting point that racism is systematic. But racism is embedded in our institutions and how our country developed. Racism is systematic.”

“We have 900 members of Yorktown for Justice and a lot more are supportive of making our schools safe. Some in our community want more information, but most want to see a productive, learning environment. And lets talk about the horrible racism in our society, to get a better sense of truth to build a better society.”

Christine Sculti is not connected to SOS other than through her mother, but she does support the goals of SOS and recently attended an SOS rally, which she posted on her Facebook page. “On Sunday in Yorktown, I was honored to rally with Save of Schools (SOS) for Westchester Children—a parent-led grassroots movement. In my remarks I said, “The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. told us we must be judged by the content of our character and not the color of our skin. CRT wants to turn that on its head. They want to sow division and fear to separate children, families and neighbors. This simply cannot be allowed to stand...Instead, let’s put kids first to ensure our public schools teach kids historical facts as they occurred. To love our country, despite the difficult past, as they gain the knowledge and understanding of why America is a beacon of hope around the world, because of our cherished ideals; born of great struggle and great sacrifice.”

“Now is the time! Please join other SOS parents, grandparents and kid first advocates who are standing up for transparency in our public schools, as CRT/CR-S—in all its forms— must not be implemented. We must stop any attempt to separate (or worse segregate!) our kids and our community by petitioning schools and speaking up at school board meetings. This common sense approach is to be commended as it give voice to kids, who are the most vulnerable among us,” posted Christine Sculti on her Facebook page for County Executive.

Marisa Ragonese said that Sculti’s support of SOS, “is a disgrace and she needs not to get into office. All well meaning people need to show up and vote and show there is no room for hate and fearmongering.”

But Sculti also has a large number of SOS supporters who will vote for her for County Executive on Nov. 2, and in the Town of Yorktown, SOS has among its largest number of supporters in Westchester. That is why Mayo can be seen outside of Yorktown High School with SOS information.

Mayo told us public education is worth fighting for. And its time to have the discussion, and that is where its taking place in Yorktown and the Lakeland School Districts, not in New Rochelle, where he lives.

Mayo offered to participate in a forum about the differing views on DEI, and we would welcome that opportunity to host such a forum, in an attempt to hear both sides of this very controversial issue.

Many political observers in Westcheter believe that the debate of DEI and SOS falls along political party lines. “As was the case with Astorino-Latimer, and Biden-Trump, and now with Latimer-Sculti, the two sides are locked in and deeply apart, with very few undecided, independents left. Most people know about Sculti and her support of SOS, its on her website so it shouldn’t be a surprise.

Many who know Mayo from New Rochelle politics and school board meetings, despite his claims to the contrary, still believe that its him in the photo with The Proud Boys. To that, Mayo told us, “I can’t prove a negative. It is not me in the photo.”

And in an email to us, Mayo wrote, “Funny; friend showed me shot week ago. Handsome Devil looks like me but isn’t. I’m taller and wear neck press pass at Trump events, (helps keep me out of trouble).”

Another Sound Shore Democrat who has known Mayo for a long time says that Mayo is to blame for “making a mountain out of a molehill. When I saw the picture with The Proud Boys, it doesn’t even look like he is with them. Now that he has denied its him, it makes the story bigger. How far will someone take it to prove, or disprove, that’s its Steve Mayo in the photo. Are we going to have to use facial recognition to get people to admit where they were? “

And that is the point of this story, and the displaying of the photo on the front page. We are deeply divided in our society, to the point of not being able to confirm the identity of persons in protests, and also not being able to have an intelligent discussion about diversity education in our public schools.

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Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

Late registration keeps bus assignment staff and computers working to the last minute days if not hours before school begins. A parent who had registered their child for PreK the week before school begins called to complain to a friend of mine that the district didn't have a PreK seat for the child. I was far from surprised. Many PreK seats are in private schools, and just like it's hard to find a teacher in the public schools at the last minute private schools cannot plan for PreK and find a classroom and staff the day before school begins. Registration in most districts starts in November or December, sometimes earlier. So unless a last minute family move occurs there is plenty of time to get your child registered for school without waiting until the last minute.

Yonkers has a system of choice. Parents can select the schools they want their child to go to. This came about due to the Integration of schools. Basically for those that don't know, when I attended Yonkers Public Schools in the 60's and 70's living on the West side of town there were fewer opportunities for my peers than students who lived on the east side of town. Years and millions of dollars later Yonkers was forced to adopt an Integration plan to provide the same opportunities to students on the west side of town that those east of the Hudson River Received.

Families with school age children in the 60's and 70's were moving from south west Yonkers to north East Yonkers. So the Board of Education closed numerous south side schools and turned them into housing or community centers. So when the school aged population shifted back to the West side of town, there were not enough seats to accommodate all the children. That's why until Yonkers builds more schools on the West side of town you will always have busing in our fair city. This costs a lot of money and inconveniences a lot of people. Basically don't drive in Yonkers between 2:30 p.m. and 4:00 p.m.

Getting back to school bus drivers, last year with kids learning there were not many kids on school buses. Now with most students back, big buses are filled with 40-45 students. Many do not have monitors, not for a lack of budgeted positions but because the monitors often in their 60's and 70's and many younger don't want to be in a school bus in the middle of a pandemic. Lack of a monitor makes the driver the only adult on the bus.

The driver has to keep track of students coming in and leaving the bus. Younger students require someone to meet them at the bus for drop off. With Covid students should have assigned seats, be masked at all times facing forward, and not be getting up and down to greet their friends. If you as a child rode a school bus did you sit like a lamb and not misbehave? I doubt it. So its not easy, particularly with no monitors for the school bus drivers to keep all the students on good behavior following Covid rules.

Parents are told where they and their children should meet the school bus. Drivers try their best to be on time. If it's raining that's not an excuse to stay in the house or under covered shelter until the bus comes. We have umbrellas. Raincoats. When kids are being picked up and dropped off they and their parents need to be on the correct side of the street. How many times have I seen parents running out of their homes across the street from the bus stop to bring their children to the bus or pick them up. These precious minutes delay the bus from making scheduled stops upsetting other parents and students along the route.

Children should be at bus stops in the morning 10 minutes before the bus is due. Late kids delay things for everyone. Parents should have a buddy system with another parent so they can tell the driver if little Joey is not going to be riding the bus that day due to illness or other reason. Those minutes while a bus driver out of the goodness of his/her heart waits for a child to show up delays the bus for everyone. Make sure your child knows what bus he or she should be on and if need be put a string around the child's neck with his/her name and bus written on a piece of paper. With the pandemic craziness there is more need to do this now than ever.

As a parent you want the bus driver to focus on the road and on the safety of your child. Simply nothing is more important. Bringing the driver a bottle of water on a hot day or a cup of hot coffee on a cold day with a piece of the fresh Bundt cake you made is always a nice gesture.

Bus companies are short on mechanics specially trained to repair vehicles that often get extra mileage as drivers are called upon to do extra routes. Schools are short on staff to answer calls from parents, so if the bus is running 5 minutes late chill and let those with true emergencies get through. Usually after a few weeks things start to run smoothly. If they by chance don't say something to the bus driver, monitor, School Administrator and/or Transportation Department.

With the pandemic we are going through everyone needs to take it easy and a few weeks after school begins the kinks will be worked out. This is by far not the first year a school bus is late. By the way, be on time to pick your kids up from the bus stop. Nothing worse or scarier from the child's point of view to be taken to an unfamiliar place at Central Office to wait for a parent or guardian to be picked up. And please, don't tell the person who calls you to tell you the child is at Central Office to send your kid home in a bus or cab. Parents who brought the kids into the world need to take some responsibility for their well being!

Bus transportation in a city like Yonkers is a privilege. When I went to Elementary school through Junior High through High School you either walked, took a public bus or if fortunate had a parent that took you maybe one way.

It isn't easy being a School Bus Driver. Want the job? If you meet the qualifications there are plenty of openings!

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

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 unlawful 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.

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.

Gun Buyback, continued from pg 1-

Executive, and the New Rochelle Police Department for partnering with us on this essential public safety initiative.”

“We are hopeful that the gun buyback program will have an impact on violent crime in New Rochelle,” said New Rochelle Police Commissioner Robert Gazzola. “We know that collecting unwanted guns will be beneficial to our community.”

This community gun buyback resulted in 57 guns being collected, including 25 handguns, 29 shotguns and rifles, two assault rifles, and a non-working gun. Since 2013, OAG has hosted gun buyback events throughout New York state and has successfully collected nearly 4,100 firearms.

In exchange for the firearms, OAG also offered monetary compensation, in the form of prepaid gift cards, and Apple iPads when an unloaded gun was received and secured by an officer on site.

“The pain that gun violence inflicts on a community is devastating and has a ripple effect. I am proud to stand with Attorney General Letitia James, my colleagues in government, and our partners in law enforcement at today's gun buyback event as we remove so many guns from our streets,” said Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. “As Senate Majority Leader, I was proud to pass the municipal gun buyback program that helped make events like this possible, and so glad that we have passed many gun safety bills including the bump stock ban, the red flag law, and improving background checks for gun purchases. We will continue our fight to ensure a future where our children, families, and communities can live safely from this threat of senseless violence.”

“Too many families have experienced the grief of losing a loved one due to gun violence,” said State Senator Shelley B. Mayer. “New York state has enacted some of the strongest gun violence prevention measures, and one important piece of that is providing people who have guns in their homes a safe way to dispose of them. I applaud Attorney General Letitia James, District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah, County Executive George Latimer, and the New Rochelle Police Department for organizing this gun buyback. We must continue to do everything we can to stop gun violence in our community, in our state, and in our country.”

“Gun violence is a public health crisis, and we must treat it as such,” said State Senator Alessandra Biaggi. “To effectively address this epidemic, we must utilize restorative and innovative approaches, because criminalization and mass incarceration are not the solution — they are part of the problem. I am grateful to Attorney General James for spearheading this gun buyback event, ensuring that we get dangerous weapons off the streets and protect our communities from harm.”

“Smart and innovative approaches in the safe disposal of unwanted firearms, like gun buyback events, help prevent guns from ending up in the wrong hands,” said State Senator Pete Harckham. “I applaud Attorney General James for organizing these events around the state — she is serious about decreasing gun violence and working hard each day to make our communities safer.”

“Thank you, Attorney General James, Westchester County District Attorney Rocah, and the city of New Rochelle Police Department for providing a safe, no-questions-asked method to reduce the number of guns in our communities,” said State Assemblymember Amy Paulin. “We need to do everything we can to stem our nation's gun violence epidemic. This program is a proactive way to get guns off of our streets and in turn protect the health and safety of our residents.”

“Attorney General James and District Attorney Rocah have been dedicated champions of the gun safety movement in New York, including in Westchester County where gun violence continues to threaten our communities,” said Barry Graubart, Moms Demand Action. “We are pleased to continue supporting their commendable work to provide proactive support and resources to deeply affected communities in our state.”

Mt. Sinai Doctors Westchester, Prostate Cancer Awareness, continued below from pg 1-

symptoms can be exhibited. They include patients noticing slower stream and difficulty urinating, or a greater urgency in frequency. Blood in some patient's urine, painful ejaculation, pain in your pelvis, bone pain, weight loss, back pain, and an inability to urinate are all symptoms that men can experience,” said Dr. Simma-Chiang.

How can men prevent prostate cancer? “I tell all of my patients that the healthier you are the better chance you have at preventing Prostate Cancer. That means, exercising regularly, and eating healthy, with fruits and vegetables in your diet.”

“Men that are overweight have a greater risk of prostate cancer. Physical activity and weight loss improves energy and self-esteem and increases your muscle strength and bone health. By eating lower fat content, limiting your sugars and processed fats, and increasing your consumption of vegetables. That's the best way to do what you can to prevent Prostate Cancer,” said Dr. Simma-Chiang.

All men over the age of 55 should be tested for prostate cancer. And the way to get tested is through a PSA test and a Digital Rectal Exam, DRE. “A PSA test is a blood test to look at the PSA level proteins produced by glandular tissue. It is a test that can be done with your annual physical, depending on your health. The standard of care to detect for prostate cancer is through a PSA and a digital rectal exam.”

Dr. Simma-Chiang also recommends that men with a family history of cancer should also get tested before the age of 55. “We recommend screening earlier, with men that have a family history of cancer and in high-risk populations. If you are age 40 or older and have a history of prostate cancer in your family, you should consider a PSA screening and exam. Studies show that patients with a family history have twice the risk.”

Some patients are apprehensive about taking a prostate cancer screening and exam. But Dr. Simma-Chiang explains “it is worth it and for your own health, to go through a diagnosis and a physical exam. It's what we do and it's for your own health. “

“After a man's first PSA test, we can check your PSA annually. We want to spare our patients from the anxiety and discomfort, but we also want to diagnose you earlier, instead of waiting until we are unable to offer a curative treatment,” said Dr. Simma-Chiang, who wants males over the age of 55 to get tested to avoid a missed diagnosis, or not catching prostate cancer early enough. Most prostate cancers are slow growing and do not spread to other parts of the body, as long as we can diagnose it early enough.”

The types of treatment for prostate cancer depend on the stage of cancer, and whether the cancer is local, within the prostate, or advanced, outside the prostate. If the prostate cancer is local, surgery and radiation are the two most common treatment options. Hormone therapy is an additional option for an advanced prostate cancer diagnosis.

The good news is that Prostate Cancer is a curable disease. “Most definitely, if caught early, surgery and radiation can be curative. And while we are getting better at detection, COVID has impacted all of us in the medical community from treating our patients. Now that we are vaccinated, it's important to come in and get tested. It's time to come in and have peace of mind. Most patients want to know because knowledge is power. I'm here to help patients navigate what are the best options for them.”

While technology and medical research continues to look for alternative methods to test for Prostate Cancer, including an option where patients can provide a urination sample to detect for Prostate Cancer, Dr. Simma-Chiang says “we are not there yet. And until we get there, the only reliable testing options are a PSA and a DRE.”

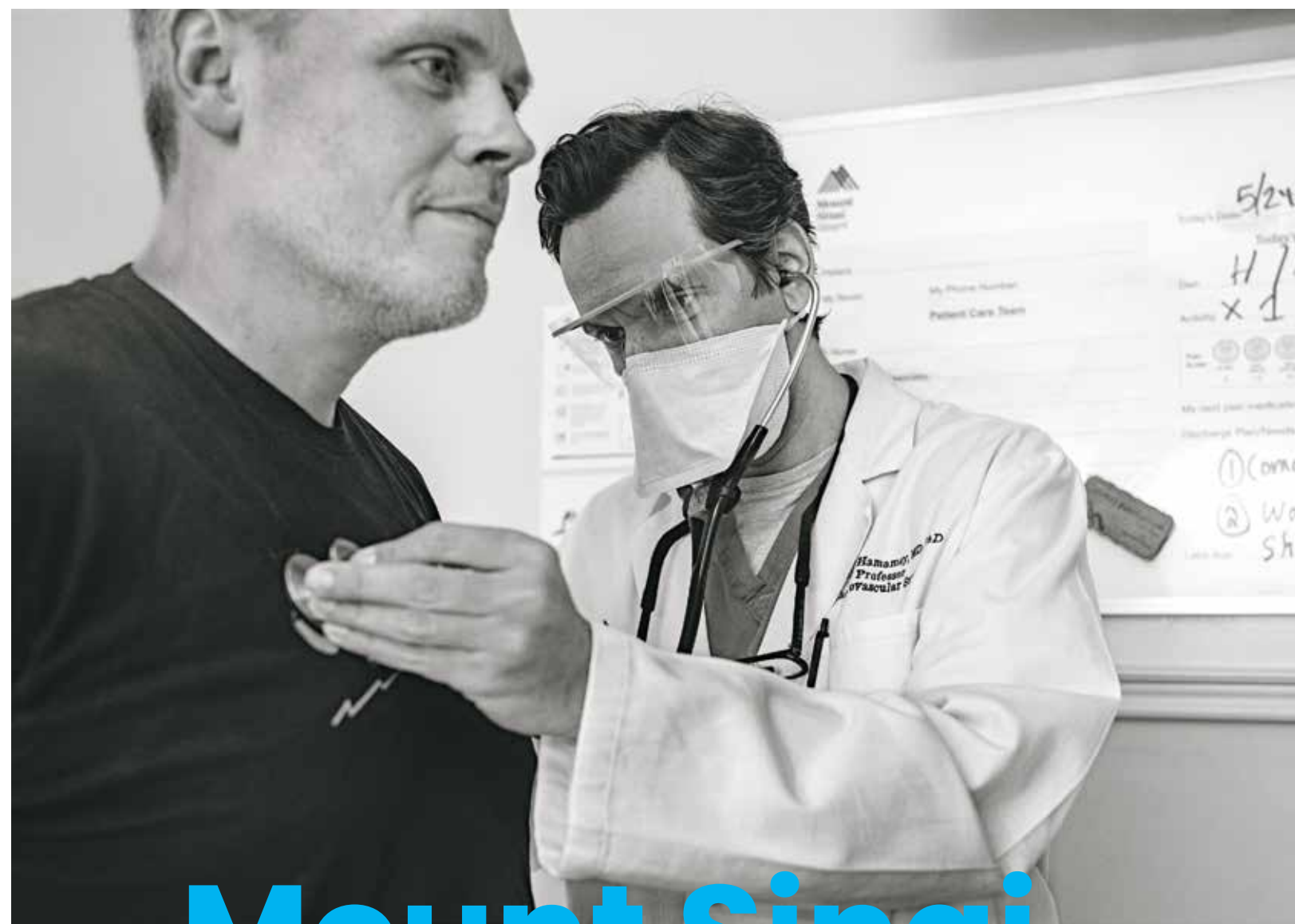
“We like to have a conversation with our male patients ages 55-69 and en “We like to have a conversation with our male patients ages 55-69 and engage in shared decision making. It's important to have this conversation with each patient and decide whether to do screening. We are here to help educate patients and explain that it is beneficial to start screening. Most patients say yes and agree, after their conversation with their doctor.

The message from Dr. Simma-Chiang during Prostate Cancer Awareness Month is “If you are a man, age 55-69, talk to your primary care doctor about getting a PSA and a DRE. If you have a man in your life age 55-69, encourage them to get tested.”

Vannita Simma-Chiang, M.D., is a Board-Certified Urologist, Assistant Professor, and Associate Residency Program Director in the Department of Urology at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. She graduated with Honors Distinction from Brown University with a Bachelor of Arts in Human Biology. She then received her medical doctorate (M.D.) from the Keck School of Medicine and continued on to complete her Urology Residency with the USC Institute of Urology in Los Angeles, CA. She completed a Voiding Dysfunction/Female Urology Fellowship at NYP-Weill Cornell. She then joined the faculty at Mount Sinai West/Morningside in 2017.

She is also a member of the AUA (American Urological Association), the Society of Women in Urology (SWIU), Society of Urodynamics, Female Urology, and Urogenital Reconstruction (SUFU), and the Society of Asian Academic Surgeons (SAAS). She is also a member of the Brown University President's Advisory Council on Biology and Medicine..

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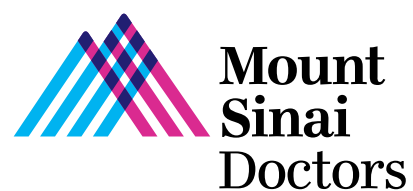
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