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Friday May 22, 2020

"Politics as Usual Should Have Ended in March"

Abinanti Strikes Out-Williams on the Ballot



Assemblyman Tom Abinanti, left, and his democratic challenger Jen Williams, will face off June 23

By Dan Murphy

Do we want good people in government who do good work? Should Politics as usual have ended in March? Sometimes, our elected officials just don't get it, or don't understand that the time to challenge another candidates petitions, especially if that person is a fellow democrat who has been involved in her community

Last month, we wrote about Jen Williams, a democrat from Irvington, who is challenging longtime Westchester Democrat Tom Abinanti. Abinanti, served for many years on the County Board of Legislators before moving up to serve in the Assembly for the past 10 years.

According to Williams, Abinanti has never been opposed before, but that is not excuse enough to pull the election manuevers he is trying to get Williams off the ballot and out of the democratic primary on June 23.

Yes everything that Abinanti is doing is legal, but at this time in the middle of the Coronavirus, it just seems like the wrong thing to do. We wrote about this last month, when Abinanti initially challenged Williams' petition based on a technicality, she had mistakenly wrote Assembly member instead of Assemblyman on the top of all of her petitions. Williams safely collected 160 signatures of democrats in the district, in the middle of the virus. Abinanti and his wife went to Williams home and affixed the lawsuit to her door last month, in the middle of the virus and without any protective gear.

We will let Williams explain her side of this story to you. "Do we want good people in government who do good work? The incumbent for the Assembly in District 92 has never run opposed, and now he has taken to the courts to waste taxpayer money during a pandemic to keep his job.

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Richie Bell is Westchester Strong! 89 Yr-old COVID Cured at Wartburg



"Richie Bell" of Pelham with Wartburg President-CEO David Gentner

Wartburg, a leading provider of senior healthcare and residential services in Westchester County, releases twelfth (12th) COVID-19 rehabilitative patient to home. Westchester nursing home successfully treats 89-year-old Pelham man, May 8, 2020 - Health care workers from Wartburg applauded as the skilled nursing rehabilitative facility discharged its twelfth (12th) fully recovered COVID-19 rehabilitative patient back home.

Richard Altobelli, affectionately known in the community as "Richie Bell," 89, was admitted to Wartburg on April 17th, 2020 from White Plains Hospital where he was diagnosed with COVID-19. After beating the virus at Wartburg, doctors, nursing staff, and therapists gathered as Mr. Altobelli was discharged to his home with family.

"Wartburg restored me with the strength I needed to get back on my feet and home safely," Mr. Altobelli said. Mr. Altobelli spent 21 days in Wartburg's Covid-19 rehab unit as he recovered.

Mr. Altobelli is a legend in the community and has had a relationship with Wartburg for decades. A perennial Pelham businessman, Mr. Altobelli's history with Wartburg includes coaching basketball with the orphans who once lived on the campus, and in recent years, he donated pumpkins aneso

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Wear You Mask & Social Distance, But Let's Start to Re-Open



Visitors to Muscott Farmers Market last weekend, practicing social distancing and shopping with masks & gloves

By Dan Murphy

As beaches open across New York State and Westchester County, the message from the overwhelming majority of county residents is, "wear your mask and continue social distancing, but let's open up." How that opening up happens depends on how all of us behave this memorial day weekend in public parks and open spaces, not only in Westchester but across the tri-state region.

This reporter attended the "re-opening" of the Muscott Famer's Market last weekend. The event was controlled; only 30 people at a time were allowed to walk around the farm and shop among the 6 vendors, selling pickles, baked good, beer, cheese, and fruits and vegetables for 45 minutes.

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Do We Have a Bull, Bear or Beast Real Estate Market?



Ask the Appraiser 'by Anthony Sarro.

Question; (from multiple readers) How has the Coronavirus affected the real estate market?

Answer; For those of you who have, or have known of anyone who has grappled with the "Beast," then you know the Covid-19 virus is a deadly adversary to humans, but it has also waged a war on the current real estate market. As this is such an important and broad ranging topic, I've decided that not only my opinion, but the opinions and observations of my colleagues from a cross-section of real estate professionals would be necessary to support me in this battle.

R.E. Broker, Marc Gerber, Berkshire Hathaway Homes, Eastchester NY; "I put a rental on one night and the next day I had over a dozen inquiries. People want out of NYC, reminds me of 9/11."

Bankruptcy and Consumer Protection Attorney, David J. Babel, Esq. , Bronx NY. "Clients are not yet calling in droves. Many people are in shock and adjusting to being self-quarantined. Others are just sitting home and waiting out their combined NYS and Federal unemployment checks. But the surge is coming in another couple of months because the Federal money

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Local Girl Scout Raises Funds for Hospital Workers



See Brianna Meegan's story on pg 4-

Latimer Delivers Donated Masks to Mount Vernon



Following last week's donation to churches in Greenburgh, County Executive George Latimer delivered masks today in Mount Vernon to Grace Baptist Church, Greater Centennial A.M.E. Zion Church, Macedonia Baptist Church, Mt. Vernon Heights Congregational Church and Westchester Muslim Center.

Latimer said: "We are continuing this mask distribution process across Westchester County - particularly targeting communities with high numbers of positive cases. We are making sure we are reaching those most in need to help us stop the spread and continue the positive path we are on."

Latimer was joined by Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, County Legislator Lyndon Williams, Mount Vernon Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard, Mount Vernon City Council President Lisa Copeland and other Mount Vernon and County partners.

The County plans to hand out masks to religious communities in need with scheduled donations upcoming in Yonkers, New Rochelle, Peekskill and Port Chester and elsewhere.

These masks come from a donation of 50,000 protective masks for Westchester County from the Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association (GNYADA). The masks are part of a larger donation by the GNYADA to 12 different counties in New York State.

Latimer has also made numerous deliveries of masks to municipal governments all throughout Westchester.

OCA- WHV Makes \$10K Donation to fight the COVID-19 pandemic

OCA Westchester and Hudson Valley (OCA WHV) announced today that it has donated another \$10,000 to the following organizations in the Greater New York area to help fight the COVID-19 Pandemic:

- Association of Chinese American Physicians
- Flushing Hospital
- Elmhurst Hospital
- Charles B. Wang Community Health Center

This is the second round of donations from OCA WHV after the first \$10,000 donation in April 2020. As the pandemic continues, local hospitals, food banks, and community centers are in great need of our support. If you would like to join us for future donations, please go to our website, oca-whv.org, to make a tax-deductible donation to our COVID-19 program.

During this unprecedented time, OCA WHV is proud to serve the community. Our hope is that we will stay connected, even while social distancing.

For further information, contact OCA-WHV at info@oca-whv.org or OCA national website ocanational.org.

OCA Westchester and Hudson Valley - Asian Pacific American Advocates Advocating for Asian and Pacific Islander Americans for 40 years info@oca-whv.org | www.oca-whv.org | FB: OCAWHV

Major Drug Bust by County Police

Two Kilos of Coke Seized During Traffic Stop



Westchester County Police arrested a Massachusetts man on Monday evening after he was found in possession of large quantities of cocaine and marijuana as well as counterfeit prescription pills.

The incident began about 5:30 p.m. when an officer stopped a vehicle for a traffic violation on Central Park Avenue near the Cross County Parkway in Yonkers. The officer detected an odor of burnt marijuana in the vehicle and also observed a shopping bag on the rear seat containing what appeared to be marijuana in vacuum-sealed bags.

The driver was taken into custody. A satchel bag that he was wearing around his person was seized and found to contain a quantity of fraudulent Oxycodone pills.

The vehicle, a Nissan Maxima, was impounded and towed to Westchester County Police headquarters. A search warrant was obtained and more than four pounds of cocaine, or approximately two kilos, was recovered along with almost 22 pounds of marijuana. In addition, a loaded magazine for a 9 mm handgun was found in the car.

Victor Ramos, 32, of Holyoke, Mass., was charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 1st Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 3rd Degree, Criminal Possession of Marijuana and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree. All the charges are felonies.

Ramos was held overnight at County Police headquarters in Hawthorne. He was arraigned today in Yonkers City Court and released on his own recognizance.

Spring Comes to Westchester

By Joan Katen

In January, I feel the weight of winter's grey skies and leafless trees.

Its chill invades my soul, pulls me in upon myself, and makes my steps heavy.

Late February's breezes and stronger sun give a hint of warmer times to come.

March winds, bearing seeds, whirl around me, forcing me to awaken to the magic of the change of seasons.

April's luxurious warm rains, gently wake sleeping seeds to the good news that spring has surely arrived!

Yellow Forsythia and daffodils help us to become accustomed to colors again and anticipate the glorious range of hues waiting to appear.

And then there is May, when responding to the warm sun and rain, many buds open to reveal their colorful treasures.

There is a riot of color as pink and lavender Azaleas compete with red and yellow Tulips and purple Irises.

It's as if Mother Nature, pleased with her handiwork, joyfully waits for applause.

The Birds comply, making cheerful, appreciative sounds in the cool dawn of the morning, calling to all to wake up, don't waste a moment, come and see what has happened.

Boats lose their winter canvas coats and fill the harbors.

Suddenly, chairs stowed for winter, appear outside the restaurants on sidewalks and on terraces facing Long Island Sound.

And our neighbors walk with light and springy steps, wearing bright colors to fill the chairs.

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Guns & Ammo Seized From Yorktown Home

Westchester County District Attorney Anthony A. Scarpino, Jr. and Yorktown Police Chief Robert Noble announce Emeric Tyler of Yorktown has been arrested and charged with illegally possessing numerous high-capacity ammunition magazines which were stored in his family's Yorktown home along with numerous lawfully possessed weapons. Police were alerted under the New York State Red Flag Law.

Specifically, Tyler is charged with 33 counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree, a class D felony, pursuant to section 265.03 (8) of the NYS Penal Law which makes it illegal to possess large-capacity feeding devices/magazines in the State of New York. He was also charged with three Counts of Reckless Endangerment in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor.

Tyler was arraigned Friday night before Judge Salvatore Lagonia of the Town of Yorktown Court, and was released on his own recognizance in accordance with bail statutes. The defendant is due to appear in Yorktown Court on May 16, 2020. The investigation continues.

Yorktown Police were alerted by a concerned individual under the Red Flag Law and obtained an Extreme Risk Protection Order (ERPO) to remove weapons from the home of Emeric Tyler. The ERPO was authorized by Westchester County Court Judge Robert DiBella. Police executed the ERPO to remove the legally possessed weapons belonging to the 20-year-old. During the execution of the ERPO, police discovered and seized more than 30 lawfully possessed weapons. Based upon their observations while in the residence, a search warrant was obtained and 33 high-capacity magazines were recovered pursuant to the search warrant order along with highly flammable substances that posed a risk to the residents of the home. Westchester County Department of Public Safety assisted in securing the residence. No one was injured during the execution of the warrants or arrest.

DA Scarpino commended Yorktown PD for their swift action and said, "This is what the Red Flag Law was meant to do – give police, prosecutors, family members and concerned citizens the legal process to remove weapons from someone who may be a danger to themselves or others. In this case, removing the weapons quickly and without incident made everyone safer."

Chief Noble stated he is grateful no one was injured during or as a result of this incident. He thanked the following agencies for their professionalism and assistance: the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety Special Operations Division SRT, Bomb Squad and Hostage Negotiations team, the FBI and the FBI Safe Streets Task Force, the ATF, the Dutchess County Sheriff's Office, the Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corps and Paramedics, and my colleagues in the Yorktown Police Department."

Members of the Gang, Firearms and Narcotics Bureau of the Investigations Division, and Assistant District Attorney Stephen Ronco, Yorktown Branch Chief, are prosecuting the case.

How Can Absentee Ballots Get to Me If I Don't Have Reliable Mail Delivery?

Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner writes, On June 23rd many residents of NYS will be casting their votes by absentee ballot in THE primary for President, Congress, State Legislators, District Attorney. I support the Governor's initiative to encourage people to vote by absentee ballot.

A significant concern - many Greenburgh residents have not received ANY mail in days. Sampling of e mails I received. At the bottom of the page the Hartsdale Postmaster acknowledges that "the entire Postal Service is experiencing some complications." I continue to receive complaints from others that mail that should have been delivered to them went to someone else.

If people vote by absentee ballot they should expect that their absentee ballot will be delivered to the Board of Elections BEFORE VOTES ARE COUNTED so their ballot can be counted. I am reaching out to state officials suggesting that the Board of Elections notify voters by e mail that they received the ballot.

If you are experiencing similar problems please advise by e mailing me at pfeiner@greenburghny.com.

Some of the complaints received by Feiner in April included: "hi, I just went to the post office on central ave because i have had letters sitting in my mailbox to go out for at least 3 days. The post office is closed but I spoke to the mailman behind the door and he said that my carrier is quarantining herself and there has been no mail due to a backup at the plant with limited staff."

and "Don't know if you have a line in to the US Post Office Scarsdale Annex but Cotswold in Edgemont has now not had any mail delivered for three days straight. I understand they must be swamped but many seniors in the neighborhood rely on checks that are mailed to them, or have ordered important supplies on-line instead of going to a store."

and "Have mail deliveries stopped ...I haven't had mail since Monday. I understand that things are difficult for these guys ...I just wondered? Thx for all you're doing."

Is It or Isn't It Your Business?

This too is Yonkers, By Eric Schoen

Some days it feels like the world we live in during the age of Coronavirus is like a spinning top. Everything is constantly changing. From the way we order our coffee at Starbucks to the way we line up at the checkout at the grocery store, you never what changes will be made in the way we go about our lives on a daily basis.

We wake up in the morning, usually later than usual and our regimented lifestyle is, no pun intended out the door. How many times have you woken up in the morning and not known what day it is? For some people they keep track of time based on the sun setting and rising, and we are late for appointments we would never have been late for before. The urgency to be on time just doesn't exist.

On Monday we heard that our President is taking the anti-malaria drug hydroxychloroquine to lessen the symptoms should he get the new coronavirus. This even though the drug is unproven for fighting COVID-19. The scientific community has doubted its effectiveness, and the drug sits at the bottom of the pile of promising drugs.

The press is told that the President is taking the drug under the care of his physician. He asked his physician for the drug, and the physician gave Mr. Trump his imprimatur.

Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House, when asked about the President taking the drug, stated she would prefer he avoid it due to his "age group" and "weight group."

"He's our president and I would rather he not be taking something that has not been approved by the scientists," she said. "Especially in his age group and in his, shall we say, weight group, morbidly obese, they say."

Firstly, Trump is not 'morbidly obese' but he is obese according to the BMI performed during his last physical. But who is Nancy Pelosi to tell Donald Trump what he should put in his body or not put in his body. Did he get special permission that you or I couldn't get to receive the drug? Nope! So why doesn't Pelosi simply say he can do whatever he wants with his body? Or mind her business and say nothing.

By press time Trump did not comment on the plastic surgery Pelosi has had, much of which is very good. But if he did I would say who is he to comment on her plastic surgery? It was her choice to have it done, hopefully she paid for it (though members of Congress have great health plans) and there are so many plastic surgeons out there is doubt she had to compete with others going for the same doctor.

I have been 'recreating' at Tibbetts Brook Park since the Coronavirus outbreak began. Many people come there to walk their dogs. With the warmer weather many people are sitting on blankets or chairs or beach towels to catch some rays of sunshine. They are sitting on areas of the field where dogs may have done their business.

Is this right? Most people clean up after their dogs but many don't. Quite often there are remnants that remain on the ground. Should the county tell dog walkers they can't walk in areas where people will be sitting. Should the county designate a specific area for dog walking or a dog park that many communities in the country have so dogs can recreate?

The remnants from dogs doing their business affect the greater good specifically people wanting to use the park for recreation and regular park activities. You don't want dog doo on your blanket, chair, towel, or if you sit on the grass on your clothes. Does someone or the county itself have the right to say something or tell you to use a specific area for your animal. Everyone loves their dogs but when it comes to health and safety it certainly is your business to say or do something.

Hairstylists in Connecticut were scheduled to be open on Thursday as part of The state opening businesses when the Coronavirus indicators showed some improvement. Apparently, some stylists and beauticians and barbers told the Governor they weren't ready to open as they still had changes to make in their physical plants or the way they do business.

Did one of these hair folks come out publicly and state they were the one the governor relied on to keep the hair shops closed? What about those shops that were ready to open having taken the 2 months they were shut to plan for reopening. It's not like a million or a 1000 people come in everyday for a fair cut. This seems like one of the easiest businesses to safely distance one customer from another. The hairstylist and customer need to wear masks and gowns but they would need to wear gowns on a normal day.

How unfair Governor Lamont is being to the hair community, opening their shops one day and then closing them for an additional two weeks the next. Let the shops that are ready open and the rest can come online when the time is right!

In Williamsburg, Brooklyn the city of New York shut a school that was open sending 60 kids to school despite the governors orders. Mayor deBlasio, not a favorite of mine had to scatter individuals in the 1000's who came to attend a funeral. Those 60 kids could have left school and infected many more people, relative and non-relatives. The 1000 mourners could have infected countless hundreds of thousands of people they came in contact with.

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Letter to the Editor: County Board Should Take A Pay Cut

With New York State debt at 55 trillion dollars, Westchester County facing up to a 160 million dollar budget shortfall, and very tough times ahead for most Americans, it is disconcerting to me that Westchester County lawmakers, with the exception of County Executive George Latimer and a few Legislators, voted to kick off 2020 with 52% pay raises for themselves.

I strongly believe that these raises should be rescinded or, at the very least, largely reduced, and I have taken legal action against the Westchester County Board of Legislators for Constitutional violations.

Sincerely, Tony Futia , North White Plains

Editor's Note: A story about Futia's lawsuit can be found at YonkersTimes.com

Yonkers Girl Scout Raises Funds for Snacks for Hospital Staff

An eight-year-old girl is lending a helping hand to frontline health care workers during the pandemic by delivering treats and snacks. Brianna Meegan of Yonkers wanted to support frontline and health care workers who are treating Covid-19 patients.

With her mother Fidelma Bartley Meegan's help, they launched a Facebook page in March and so far they have raised almost \$3,400. They have used the donations to buy candy, chips and protein bars for staff at six local hospitals, including Saint Joseph's Medical Center, which received a delivery last month.

"They're just amazed. They're very happy and very appreciative," said Fidelma, who explained that the distribution of treats has helped Brianna cope with being separated from all her school friends. "It really puts a smile on her face. She stays in the car with a mask during the delivery, but she can see how happy the people are."

Brianna and Fidelma are still collecting funds and their hope is to do another round of snack delivery to the six hospitals they've supported. Fidelma said the deliveries have brought some medical workers to tears.

"Our staff was very touched by Brianna's efforts," said Lorraine Horgan, Vice President of External Affairs at Saint Joseph's. "Our dedicated and heroic staff have been working tirelessly providing high-quality care to the community we serve throughout this unprecedented pandemic and Brianna's loving gesture really moved them and served as a reminder of how grateful the community is for all they are doing to defeat Covid-19."

Brianna, who is still raising funds on Facebook, wrote, "My name is Brianna and I'm 8 years old. I want to raise funds for COVID-19 victims and families. I'm praying we all survive this and we get back to normal life soon. Pray for everyone and love everyone,

Originally, Brianna's plan was to partner with a non-profit to help the thousands of restaurant workers in NY State that are unemployed. But after not being able to find a partner, Brianna and her mom moved forward to raise funds for the people on the frontlines, the medics, police, doctors, nurses and all of the hospital staff in Yonkers, by delivering some food and snacks. "Thank you to all that have donated already, we will feed the front lines as much as we possibly can. Since we cannot provide PPE, we can at least provide something else," said the Meegan's.

A message to Brianna from all of our readers. Thanks for volunteering, and for showing that every little bit counts, and that everyone can make a difference.

THANK YOU, EASTCHESTER, FOR YOUR SUPPORT

These are difficult times. COVID-19 has affected people's physical health, mental health, finances, work, and family life. For direct care staff who work in WJCS group homes for developmentally disabled adults, the pandemic has demanded total dedication to ensure that residents stay well and entertained at a time when all their day programs are cancelled and families are prohibited from visiting. The staff in the group homes have demonstrated great creativity during these times of social isolation, leading the residents in activities, including Virtual Bingo, Disney Trivia, and High Tea.

Support from the Westchester community to WJCS during the pandemic is so vitally needed and appreciated. Staff at WJCS group homes are touched that the Eastchester Police Benevolent Association and Eastchester shops and residents donated gift certificates from Crestwood Pizzeria to the staff and residents of the group homes. They say, "it takes a village." Thank you, Eastchester, for your community spirit.

To learn more about services provided by WJCS during COVID-19, please go to wjcs.com.

First Winner Announced in 'Galleria of Good' Contest



Susan Fassett

The Galleria at White Plains has picked the first winner in its Galleria of Good contest, which celebrates local residents and workers who have selflessly persevered and helped others during the coronavirus pandemic.

The first winner, Susan Fassett of Yonkers, has contributed every day since the beginning of New York State on Pause by working at the Visiting Nurse Services of Westchester/Westchester Care at Home, where she supports visiting nurses and home health aides. Susan works face-to-face with the public, commutes on public transportation and risks exposure every day.

The Galleria of Good continues to accept nominations at the Galleria at White Plains' online portal. The nominees should be local community members 18 and older who are making a positive difference during the coronavirus crisis. The contest winners will be featured in the Galleria of Good Facebook gallery; they will receive a thank you gift from the Galleria at White Plains valued at \$100; and they will be celebrated at a Gala of Good charity reception that will be held when the Galleria at White Plains reopens. Galleria at White Plains will donate proceeds from the Gala of Good to a non-profit community partner to support efforts combatting the residual effects of COVID-19.

"We have received moving submissions about people who have performed inspiring and selfless acts," said Ty Peterson, marketing and business development manager of the Galleria at White Plains. "We encourage anyone who has been on the receiving end of extraordinary service to nominate a local hero so that their work can receive the recognition it deserves."

To nominate a local hero who is deserving of praise and recognition, simply visit the Galleria at White Plains' online portal and complete the brief Galleria of Good submission form. Please include:

Three to five sentences explaining the nominee's contributions to the city of White Plains or larger Westchester County area in response to COVID-19. The nominee must be a Westchester County resident.

A photo of the nominee in their work attire. The submitted images will be used on the official Galleria at White Plains Facebook page.

Submissions to the online portal will be accepted from 12:01 p.m. Sunday through 11:59 p.m. Saturday. The weekly winner will be announced by the Galleria at White Plains on Sunday at noon, and then a new week of nominations will be accepted.

The qualified nominees will be included in the #GalleriaOfGood photo album on Facebook. The public is asked to give virtual high fives to the pictures of the nominees who resonate with them the most.

The Galleria White Plains is located at 100 Main St. in White Plains..

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Arts Groups Embrace E-events Under Prolonged Social Distancing



Rather than cancel events and programming because of pandemic restrictions, arts groups throughout the Lower Hudson Valley are moving more of their programming online to stay engaged with audiences and donors.

In Westchester County, ArtsWestchester has led the migration to online e-events with programs catering to teens and adults. So far ArtsWestchester's efforts include:

The 2020 Lawrence Salley Photography Award Virtual Exhibition featuring the work of nine contemporary photographers.

A weekly roundup of 5 top Virtual Arts Happenings in Westchester is featured in ArtseNews and delivered to more than 13,000 in-boxes.

A May 15 Paraguayan Arts & Culture Festival hosted on YouTube. The festival will be a celebration made up of a compilation of short videos featuring immigrant artists demonstrating their art, along with an interpretation of that tradition for a general audience.

ArtsMobile virtual art workshops presented by teaching artists are offered on ArtsWestchester's website.

Teen Tuesdays & Thursdays has migrated to YouTube, where youth can follow free virtual art workshops with the goal of creating an original work of art by the end of the video.

The annual Arts Award Luncheon will go virtual this year on Tuesday, June 30th and will celebrate the seven Arts Award Winners simulcast on Facebook and YouTube.

ArtsWestchester also provides Virtual Arts Workshops created with professional artists for the Westchester County Department of Health.

Janet T. Langsam, CEO of ArtsWestchester explains, "The show must go on may be a cliché, but during our ongoing health crisis it's a call to arms. Now, more than ever, our neighbors who are socially isolated in their homes for safety need access to creative resources to alleviate cabin fever and all the stress wrought by the coronavirus. Our cultural partners throughout the region are providing a mental safety valve for many people who are craving the joy, connection and psychological release that the arts provide."

ArtsWestchester isn't alone in the migration to online platforms.

Bedford Playhouse's Virtual Playhouse offers interactive experiences, connectivity and conversations just like the ones that formerly happened at the Playhouse. Their e-events include the transformation of some of their most popular series, like Trivia Night, Classic Tuesdays and Author! Author! into virtual formats for all to enjoy. There's even a new series picking up steam called "A Day In The Life" – with an exciting group of upcoming guests.

"It was a tricky transition at first but we've really enjoyed seeing the online migration of our dedicated community. Turns out an exciting event is still an exciting event – even if it's on a screen right in front of you. Zoom has been a very useful platform for us to expand through – it's allowed us not only to connect guests to our entertainment – but also to each other, which feels really good for everyone." – Lindsay Hearon, Director of Marketing and Communications

Pelham Art Center has organized free and affordable online programs hosted on Zoom that provide financial support for the center and participating artists. Their virtual studio visits invite guests to tour artists' studios and learn about their work. Free online art lectures and multiple drawing workshops for adults (\$20 for 90 minutes) and youth workshops (\$10 for 60 minutes) are offered each week.

"Art is a powerful tool that can uplift, comfort, and give new perspectives, especially now," said Charlotte Mouquin, executive director of the Pelham Art Center. "During this time we need creativity to restore ourselves as individuals and communities. Pelham Art Center looks forward to re-opening in the future. In the meantime please keep creating, stay inspired, learn something new, and join us for a virtual program."

Arts groups and artists are using a variety of meeting, streaming and ticketing platforms to keep audiences and donors engaged. The platforms include Facebook, YouTube, Zoom, Twitch and Eventbrite, among others. Many of these platforms allow e-event organizers to receive payments through donations, tips or ticket sales.

Even after social distancing is no longer required, Langsam predicts that local arts groups' e-events will continue, even if an event has a live audience.

"We're going to see increased participation by people who prior to social distancing could not attend our events because they were home-bound, too far away or unable to find transportation," said Langsam.

People interested in the virtual events being presented by Westchester arts groups can receive weekly news of online happenings by signing up for ArtseNews here: artsw.org/subscribe

CULTURAL HERITAGE EVENTS STATUS UPDATE FOR 2020

As Westchester residents deal with the new normal we all face, several events in Westchester County Parks' annual Cultural Heritage Celebrations series have been cancelled due to the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

County Executive George Latimer said: "These are some of my favorite events to attend, but right now, we all must put safety first. The Cultural Heritage series is something many of us look forward to, both to celebrate our own personal heritage or to enjoy learning about the food, music, dance and heritage of other cultures that contribute to the great mosaic of Westchester's population – things that cannot be done while keeping a safe distance."

Each year, thousands of Westchester residents gather at these colorful and lively festivals at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla and Ridge Road Park in Hartsdale. These celebrations, of all heritages, attract far too many residents to abide by safety guidelines handed down the National Center for Disease Control and New York State.

Festivals cancelled so far are:

- Polish Heritage Festival – Kensico Dam Plaza, Sunday, May 17
- Asian Heritage Festival – Kensico Dam Plaza, Saturday, June 6
- Albanian Heritage Festival – Kensico Dam Plaza, Sunday, June 7
- Portuguese Heritage Festival – Ridge Road Park, Sunday, June 7
- Irish Heritage Festival - Ridge Road Park, Saturday, June 27
- African American Heritage Festival - Kensico Dam Plaza, June 28
- Hispanic Heritage Festival – Kensico Dam Plaza, Sunday, July 12

Festivals on hold are:

- Italian Heritage Festival – Kensico Dam Plaza, Sunday, July 19
- Heritage of India Festival – Kensico Dam Plaza, Sunday, Aug. 2
- Ecuadorian Festival – Croton Point Park, Sunday, Aug. 9
- Jewish Heritage Festival – Kensico Dam Plaza, Sunday, Aug. 16
- Muslim Heritage Festival – Kensico Dam Plaza, Sunday Aug. 23

"With thousands of people coming to a festival at a park, we simply don't have a way to assure proper social distancing, especially with the nature of these events that involve food and craft sales, gathering to enjoy performances and other actions that cause closer contact," County Executive Latimer said.

The Parks Department will evaluate the scheduling all community events throughout the summer and into the fall. Any additional cancellations, postponements or rescheduling will be posted at parks.westchester.gov.com.

Covid-19: A Page in Rye's History

Future generations will know what happened in Rye, New York, during the Coronavirus global pandemic in 2020. The Rye Free Reading Room and The Rye Historical Society have teamed up to create a public archive of stories documenting the lives of its residents, and their trials and triumphs during this uniquely challenging time in our Nation's history.

The website, www.covid19.ryelibrary.org, currently in beta version, will collect stories and personal experiences about how people navigated sheltered-in-place: working from home, conducting distance learning, caring for themselves and their children, entertaining one another, stimulating their minds, facing difficulties, and appreciating small joys.

"Sharing and saving these personal accounts is an important way to help citizens through this experience, and to keep a human record of what happened," says Chris Shoemaker, Director of the Rye Free Reading Room.

Sheri Jordan, Executive Director, Rye Historical Society says, "As the keepers of Rye's history, we're thrilled to co-sponsor this digital archive, which will document the life and times of Rye's residents during this unprecedented time to be shared for generations to come."

We are asking citizens to help make history by going to the website, creating an account, and sharing their stories. The site is targeted to launch summer 2020.

For more information, go to www.ryelibrary.org or call 914-231-3161

Notice of Formation of Creatorscapes Productions, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with NYS Dept. of State (SSNY) on 1/1/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served.

SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: 47 Rockland Ave, Yonkers, NY 10705.

Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.-06/26

Classifieds

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Legal Notices

RACHELE E. KHADJEHTURIAN, NP IN FAMILY HEALTH, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on May 14th, 2020. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 316 Bishop Pl., Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Purpose: to provide any medical services for which licensed family health nurse practitioners are authorized.-6/26

Notice of formation of Experiments in Wellness, LLC. Arts.of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/28/2020. 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, 300 Manville Rd, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.--05/29/20

Notice of Formation of Prime Snacks LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on (04/15/2020). Location: (Westchester County). SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: (1437 Nepperhan Avenue Yonkers, NY 10703). Purpose: Any lawful purpose.--05/29/20

Notice of Formation of Return on Capital Management LLC. Arts of Org. Filed with SSNY on 03/25/20. Office locaton: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Return on Capital Management, 65 Wilcox Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 5/15/20

Notice of App. of Authority of Smart D2 Playrooms LLC (LLC), filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 5/8/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as LLC's agent for service of process, and shall mail process to: LLC, C/O P.O. Box 67, Rye, NY 10580. Formed in Delaware (DE) on 10/2/2019. Cert. of Formation filed with, and copy can be obtained from: DE Secy of State, Corporations Div., 401 Federal St #4, Dover, DE 19901. DE registered agent/office: Agents for Delaware Corporations, Inc., 310 Alder Rd PO Box 841, Dover, DE 19904. Purpose: residential and commercial playrooms.-6/26

Notice of Formation of Taxing Times Accounting LLC Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 5/11/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC at: Keep Insurance 27 Cleveland Street Valhalla NY 10595. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.-6/19

Notice of Formation of The Party Nail, LLC. Articles of Org. filed with the SSNY on 2/25/20. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 90 State Street Suite 700, Office 40 Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful activity. -6/19

Notice of formation of SoSi Group LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/28/2020 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, 641 S. 7th Avenue, mount vernon, NY 1550 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.-6/19

Notice of formation of Life in Motion Photography L.L.C. Articles of Organization Filed: 4/28/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against is may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 35 Claremont Gardens, Ossining, NY 10562. Purpose: Any lawful activity. -6/19

Real Estate Market-Continued from pg 1-

Question; (from multiple readers) How has the Coronavirus affected the real estate market?

Answer; For those of you who have, or have known of anyone who has grappled with the "Beast," then you know the Covid-19 virus is a deadly adversary to humans, but it has also waged a war on the current real estate market. As this is such an important and broad ranging topic, I've decided that not only my opinion, but the opinions and observations of my colleagues from a cross-section of real estate professionals would be necessary to support me in this battle.

R.E. Broker, Marc Gerber, Berkshire Hathaway Homes, Eastchester NY; "I put a rental on one night and the next day I had over a dozen inquiries. People want out of NYC, reminds me of 9/11."

Bankruptcy and Consumer Protection Attorney, David J. Babel, Esq. , Bronx NY. "Clients are not yet calling in droves. Many people are in shock and adjusting to being self-quarantined. Others are just sitting home and waiting out their combined NYS and Federal unemployment checks. But the surge is coming in another couple of months because the Federal money of \$600 per week will be running out soon. There will be a rush of people seeking and needing a fresh start. This will be with us, unfortunately, for longer than we may realize."

Mortgage Broker, Husam F. (Sam) Hattar, Arlington Financial, Yonkers, NY. "Banks have tightened up guidelines to mitigate the risks involved. FHA has raised credit score requirements on some loan products. In the past, FHA lenders would accept a 500 credit score. Due to the economy, banks are looking for 640 and up. Delinquency rates are rising due to the pandemic, with 9% of all loans as of May being in forbearance. To mitigate the losses, banks are making it a little tougher to get a loan. On a positive note, as a broker I have the opportunity to shop around with different lenders and find a product for the borrower that works."

R.E. Broker/Owner, Eric Stein, ReMax Realty, Tuckahoe NY; "We had 5 buyers for every house prior to the virus. We still have 1-2 buyers per property which is still a good thing. Inventory remains low and we will see less bidding wars with prices leveling off. I don't think we will have a major downturn as we did in 08' unless we see an increase in unemployment. If the stay-at-home order is extended, then prices could start to decline. Interest rates are low, so now is a good time to buy."

Commercial Real Estate Appraiser, Kathleen Carroll, Queens, NY. "I am finding it very difficult to ascertain specific market trends during the coronavirus period. There is some activity, but these are for properties that were already in contract just prior to the pandemic lockdown and are not new transactions. In my recent experience, it seems that everything is "on hold" and that current market activity is basically nonexistent. I believe the true market effects of the pandemic will not be evident in closed sales/pending transactions for at least six months from now."

Anthony Sarro. My personal research indicates that pandemics tend to pause the housing market. Although there are few pandemics from which to gather data from, this trend is historically consistent.

Real estate website traffic has decreased 40%-70%, homeowners who were considering listing their houses have decided to wait until after the smoke clears, and the few houses which are still on the market have been relegated to virtual tours with no virtual buyers. If there are no consequent closed sales, there is no statistical data, and or for those readers in or outside of the industry, no "Comps" available to determine a home's current market value.

If and when the world and economy reopen, the typical cycle will begin again and housing prices may just pick up where they left off at pre-corona levels. Due to government intervention with mortgage holders and mortgage servicing companies as well as a relatively strong stock market, I don't believe that this will be the 2008 housing market all over again. However, the future remains unknown, as the "Beast" has a mind of its own.

For What it's Worth, Anthony

To be featured in our next installment, please Email your real estate appraisal questions to; PriorityAS@msn.com About the author; Anthony Sarro has 35 years of national appraisal, appraisal review and real estate tax reduction experience. More information can be found at www.NYCityAppraisals.com and www.RealEstateTaxReductions.com

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Wear Your Mask-Re-Open, con't from pg 1-

Everyone had masks on and most had gloves on, and all were practicing social distancing. Some were hiking along the farm and all of us were enjoying getting outdoors on a beautiful spring day. Most important, all of us were being safe, and practicing what Gov. Cuomo has told us is required for New York State to open up.

The Governor has opened up the beaches for Memorial Day Weekend. What does this mean for Westchester? The of the County beaches, at Playland and Croton Point Parks, will be open for Memorial Day Weekend.

But those beaches will be monitored to make sure that visitors maintain proper social distancing. If beachgoers do not act safely and responsibly, County Executive Latimer warned that the beaches will be closed.

"If they want to enjoy the outdoors, they have to do it at a distance from the next person," Latimer said. These words hold true not only for the beaches this weekend, but for every park and open space.

Act responsibly and slowly, we can re-open

Is it my business-continued from pg 3-

Is it my business or Mayor deBlasio's business to worry about what could happen if these events were not stopped. In deBlasio's case the Jewish Community got upset with him. Why? He is saving their lives and attempting to prevent families from taking ill. Doing his job in a responsible way because said to say the communities don't look after themselves.

Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) had been eradicated from our country many years ago. Some members of some Orthodox Jewish sects refused to vaccinate their children. The government closed the schools these kids went to and would not let them back in class until they had received the proper vaccinations. It sure is your business when one of these unvaccinated kids comes into contact with your child.

So again I ask you; Is it or isn't it our business. Let me know that you think!

Briefs: I'm tired of watching 20 year old sports games on television. Let's get sports rolling again, no fans in the seats for now!

State Beaches will be open Memorial Day. Is it true some New Jersey beaches won't allow chairs and blankets.. What do you do, keep walking around in circles?

On Saturday afternoon I am happy to report everyone at Tibbetts Brook Park was physically distanced properly!

Now that elective surgery is allowed in Westchester don't put off what you had to put off due to the Coronavirus shutdowns,. Particularly children's vaccinations, cardiac issues, cancer issues and pediatric issues. It's safe to go back into the hospital!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisonkers@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.

Richie Bell -Wartburg -continued from pg 1

nal flowers from his farm in upstate New York.

Wartburg treats COVID-19 patients following all Department Of Health infection control guidelines and much of the rehabilitative focus is on restoring respiratory function, increased endurance, and self-performance in eating. "Wartburg's dedicated employees have worked tirelessly to treat patients during the pandemic," said David Gentner, Wartburg's President and CEO. "Their dedication, especially in such trying circumstances as a pandemic, is worthy of a heroes praise."

Mr. Altobelli, who was asymptomatic throughout his illness, rebuilt his strength and endurance with the guidance of physical and occupational therapists. "Wartburg therapists and staff were great throughout my stay and kept my family informed of my progress," he said. Mr. Altobelli was also able to visit with his family virtually and by phone with his son and daughter throughout his rehab stay.

"They arranged for conversations by FaceTime," said Mr. Altobelli's daughter Lois Soccodato. "Thank you Wartburg, my father and entire family will always be grateful to the Wartburg nursing home."

Our newspapers have known Richie Bell for three decades. We hope to welcome him back to Fifth Avenue in Pelham, with a copy of this paper.

Abinanti-Williams-continued from pg 1--

"Should there not be more outrage that a woman who wants to serve her community is being denied that right? If you are looking for the "covid angle" it is this: Tom Abinanti, a documented anti-vaxxer, could return to Albany in a position to make decisions about the health care of our children. A woman is working hard to unseat him, but is facing an uphill battle because she is not a lawyer and is a political newcomer. The timeline:

"I submitted my petition, the Board of Election accepted it. I was placed on the ballot. Abinanti sued me, and the Board of Elections removed me from the ballot (They incorrectly cited a rule that does not apply to Assembly positions.)

"I sued to be put back on the ballot and won in Supreme Court. Abinanti appealed to the Appellate Division. The case was heard and I won again. Abinanti has now requested a hearing in New York's highest court (what is called a 'leave to appeal')

"I must again prepare materials for that court, the Court of Appeals, arguing why this is not a constitutional challenge worthy of their limited resources.

"In the words of the panel of 4 judges who had to hear my opponent's wasteful appeal, my petition "was sufficient to inform the signers, voters, and the Board of Elections that the petitioner sought the public office of Member of the New York State Assembly."

"The rule of law comes down to a comma. Whether the term I used "New York State Assembly, District 92" contains the two components required to identify the position I seek: an indicator of the position and an indicator of the geographical region.

"Five judges have all agreed on the same verdict and it's a very simple example of the oldest trick in the book – tie someone up, waste someone's time, bankrupt their campaign and win in the courts and deny people a choice," Williams said. "That to me, it's not correct,"

"My opponent has expended so much taxpayer money wasting court resources on this matter during a pandemic. I hope that he is finally ready to let the voters, not the courts, decide who is best suited to represent the Rivertowns in Albany as their Assemblywoman.

"Election rules must not be so rigid or technical that they have a chilling effect on encouraging citizens to become involved in the process. This is why the courts have consistently ruled in favor of cases like mine.

"Thanks to the Yonkers Times for breaking the story of my successful fight to stay on the ballot for a seat in the New York State Assembly. We also are grateful for the outpouring of support that we received in response to the verdict. As we started to field calls and text messages from voters, people were disappointed to learn that my opponent, the incumbent, would stoop to tying up the courts with a frivolous suit just to avoid any healthy competition. Let alone that he served legal papers to my son in person with no protective gear at a point when new Covid deaths in the New York area were hovering at about 1,000 per day.

"The global pandemic has brought new urgency to these themes - public health, community, and open government. If ever there was a time to rise up and tell the 'old boys' that we are ready for new leadership, new ideas, and new energy it is now.

"Small business interests have certainly been at the top of my list. With my father, who passed away last year, I ran a small energy consulting firm in Tarrytown for over 10 years. As my opponent spends his energy trying to win the election via the courts, I have worked with other community advocates to create #takeoutFridays, building support for struggling restaurants in the area.

"We can no longer forgive leaders who still believe that not all students in New York State must be vaccinated. Now that we have all seen what life is like without one vaccine, we must come together and agree that scientifically valid measures such as vaccines save lives. I say again: it is time for new leadership, new ideas, and new energy.

"My opponent is appealing, in an attempt to bankrupt my campaign and scare me off. He does this in desperation, and in vain. I tell you what I have told him: I'm not going anywhere. Albany politics, as represented ably by my opponent, is an insider's game that will do just about anything to maintain the status quo. And we cannot abide that status quo.

Please consider donating to our campaign JenforNY.org. Now more than ever, we appreciate your consideration to support our effort and get Jen to Albany," writes Williams

We find it interesting that one of Abinanti's few public comments on his petition challenge was that he indicated that he doesn't think the courts right now are willing to knock anyone off the ballot even though there are multiple precedents around the state to do so.

That's our point in writing about this race and what we find to be a foolish challenge to make in the middle of a pandemic. It is not the right time to be attempting to deny someone the right to be on the ballot.

Abinanti has commented that the courts are not willing to do knock anyone off the ballot. Why then does he continue to appeal and challenge? These efforts do not appear to be helping your re-election. It makes you appear tone deaf, and mean spirited.

Many have admired Abinanti's work as a public servant over 20 years, most notably his efforts to rid the garbage industry of organized crime while a member of the County Board, and his political courage to challenge former State Senator Nick Spano when nobody else would do it.

But his recent legal maneuvers have overshadowed his prior good work. Now your opponent has become a sympathetic candidate and public figure who is now in the public eye, and once the voters take a look at her candidacy, they may realize that Williams is an engaged member of her community, who brings business experience to the race, and who, in our view, is running for all the right reasons.

If not for Abinanti's petition challenge and multiple appeals, very few voters and democrats would have taken notice of this race. Overall, this was a bad political miscalculation and a bad gauge of what the people of Westchester want to see, and don't want to see, from their elected officials.

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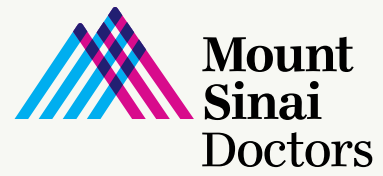
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