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Superintendents: Flexibility Essential With Uncertainty



Mamaroneck Superintendent of Schools Dr. Shaps and Rye Neck Superintendent of Schools Dr. Ferraro, photo taken last year

By Linnet Tse

Instead of the Local Summit's regular breakfast meeting at the Nautilus Diner, a live ZOOM forum was co-sponsored by the Local Summit and LMC Media on Tuesday, May 12, hosting Rye Neck Superintendent of Schools Dr. Barbara Ferraro and Mamaroneck Superintendent of Schools Dr. Robert Shaps. The superintendents discussed their district's transition to remote learning and how they are planning for the 2020-21 school year.

TRANSITION TO REMOTE LEARNING
Both districts' last day in class was Friday, March 13. Literally overnight, teachers and administrators had to figure out how to transition to 100% remote learning. Luckily both districts were well positioned due to their extensive use of technology and their experience using technology to guide learning. The transition has required a significant amount of professional development for staff to learn new online platforms such as Zoom, Screen-castify, and Padlet.

The transition to remote learning has been a huge learning process for students and their families, as well as staff. As Dr. Shaps noted, "it's been a community effort." The superintendents pointed out that "where we were on March 16, and where we are today on May 12 is totally different. And we will be different a month from now."

Calling it a "testament to their dedication, professionalism and commitment," both superintendents praised and credited their building administrators and teachers for their extraordinary efforts to provide meaningful instruction that reflects each district's values. Continuing to provide support services to English language learners and students with special learning needs was especially challenging.

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Westchester Wants to Know: Who is Mondaire Jones?

professional record & public comments scrutinized



Mondaire Jones

By Dan Murphy

With less than four weeks before the Democratic Primary, Westchester voters are starting to take a closer look at the eight democratic candidates seeking to replace Congresswoman Nita Lowey in the 17th Congressional District, which includes Mid-Northern Westchester and all of Rockland County.

Two of the democratic hopefuls come from Rockland County, which makes up 60 percent of the district. State Senator David Carlucci and progressive activist Mondaire Jones. Carlucci's State Senate district includes the Westchester City of Ossining, and most Westchester democrats know Carlucci, most of all for his record of joining the IDC, Independent Democratic Conference, which denied Andrea Stewart-Cousins and the State Senate democrats the majority for six years.

Mondaire Jones remains relatively unknown on this side of the Hudson River for Westchester Democrats, so we reviewed both his public stances on issues in the race and his professional record. Jones entered the race last year touting an impressive resumé and life story. The Ramapo native graduated from Stanford University, Harvard Law School, and then worked at the prestigious law firm Davis Polk in New York City.

In his campaign materials, public comments and media reports,

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Scarpino-Rocah Race for DA The Big Democratic Primary in West.



Mimi Rocah, left, and Westchester DA Anthony Scarpino

By Dan Murphy

The democratic primary for Westchester District Attorney has become the contest that all voters are talking about and on June 23, every registered democrat in Westchester will receive an application for an absentee ballot, and vote for DA.

Incumbent District Attorney Anthony Scarpino is running for re-election, and in most elections, Scarpino's record of achievement would have ensured him an easy re-election. And for most democrats in Westchester, there is no disputing the fact that Scarpino has served the people of Westchester well.

Crime is down overall in Westchester during Scarpino's four years. DA Scarpino has also eliminated the prosecution of possession of small amounts of marijuana, and has supported bail reform, which eliminates bail for many criminal offenses. As one Westchester democrat who supports Scarpino said, "DA Scarpino has done a good job. There is no reason to throw him out, other than he may not look and sound like what you want. He's not flashy."

Scarpino and his campaign admit to this fact, and highlight it in a TV ad: He is someone who doesn't seek the spotlight, but just goes to work and gets results. Scarpino has touched on that image of being nerdy, and someone who doesn't seek the spotlight, but just enjoys doing the work and getting results.

In a recent TV ad -Scarpino says as much-"while I may not be the flashiest person you've ever met, everyone agrees that my experience and leadership are what we need right now. I am devoted to keeping this county safe and continuing to enact my progressive vision for the DA's office. No DA in history has had to lead the office through a crisis like this. But I've ensured that justice continues, by fighting scams, hate crimes and domestic violence."

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Going Out to Dinner ... in Connecticut



Prime restaurant, on the Long Island Sound in Stamford, Ct, opened for Memorial Day Weekend with social distancing and outdoor seating only

By Dan Murphy

After the mandatory Memorial Day BBQ, and a moment of reflection for those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for our country, (including my great grandfather who died in World War I and is buried in France), I wondered if my wife and I could go out to dinner in Connecticut, which opened for business last Wednesday, sort of.

Most Connecticut restaurants were not yet ready to open up to the public for outdoor dining, but I did find a restaurant in Stamford on the Long Island Sound that was open.

What will going out to dinner, during and post -Coronavirus, look like? The hostess is wearing a facemask and brings you to a table that is 'socially distant' from diners nearby. Overall, the restaurant is 50% full, and for our meal, there was outdoor dining only, with each table on either side of us empty.

Some other thoughts about how dining out will be different in Westchester and the tri-state area. Large Dinner Parties may be a thing of the past. The celebratory lunch or dinner birthday party, or graduation dinner, or other event with a large family and friends, may not return.

The CDC has recommended that restaurant reduce the size of large tables, and some states have already done so: New Hampshire and Mississippi have reduced table size to six. New York and Connecticut has not yet done so, and at our dinner there was no table with more than four people.

Anotherway for restaurants to be careful would require only members of the same household to sit together at a table larger than 4 people.

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WMC Health Offers Antibody Testing for All at WP County Center



Yonkers Rising Columnist Eric Schoen went to the Westchester County Center To have his antibodies for COVID 19 Tested. Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMC HEALTH) has opened antibodies testing to all residents of Westchester County free of charge by appointment only. Call 914-326-2060 to schedule your appointment. You do not have to be a first responder or an essential worker to be tested. Testing involves the simple drawing of 1 Small test tube of blood. The whole process takes 15 minutes.

Editor's Note: From the www.wmchealth.org site

Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHealth) is expanding its antibody testing program. Beginning today, COVID-19 antibody testing for the public is available by appointment at the Westchester County Center in White Plains, NY.

Members of the public interested in COVID-19 antibody testing can call 914.326.2060, Monday through Saturday from 8:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., for screening and to make an appointment.

After testing samples are secured, they are brought to Westchester Medical Center's Valhalla laboratories for evaluation. In most cases, results will be shared with each tested individual within 48 hours.

Antibody testing can play an important role in the fight against COVID-19 by helping to identify individuals who have been infected and developed antibodies to the virus. Test results will be used to estimate the total number of people who have been exposed and/or infected nationally.

Additionally, while the presence of antibodies does not confirm current or future immunity, it allows an individual who tests positive for antibodies to donate convalescent plasma, a resource that can help others who are actively battling COVID-19

Zehy Jereis Returns to Politics



By Dan Murphy

With an upcoming June 23 primary in Yonkers, in the middle of the Coronavirus, two factors have changed the dynamics of the Democratic Primary for Yonkers City Court: Negative campaigning, and the return to Yonkers politics of Zehy Jereis. And many believe that both are linked, with most Yonkers democrats we spoke to saying that negative campaigning, or lies, should have no part in politics during a pandemic and in a Judicial race.

Five candidates are running for the Democratic nomination for Yonkers City Court Judge, three of which won the Democratic City Convention and have the nomination of the party. They are: Judge Tom Daly, Judge Brendan McGrath and attorney Verris Shako.

Two other Yonkers attorneys are also on the ballot. Dan Romano and Karen Best. Both are claiming that they were denied the right to fairly compete at the Yonkers Democratic convention, when the facts show that both did not get the votes from the party faithful: Romano got 28%, Best got 0% because she could not get a single Yonkers Democrat to nominate her.

Yonkers Democratic Chairman Tom Meier said, "To say that the convention was rigged and that our system is corrupt in an outright lie. These accusations against me are also against the 400 district leaders who attended the convention and voted their conscience. I twisted no arms and I can't help it if they didn't like the outcome. Democrats didn't vote for them."

Additional falsehoods and accusations have been thrown at the Democratic Party nominees by Romano and his campaign. These claims were then posted on the Yonkers Tribune website, which permits comments below the original post.

Several of those comments concerned the wife of one of the judicial candidates, who while not running for Judge, had to endure the negative attacks while she was recovering from COVID-19. Several public figures in Yonkers have sued the Yonkers Tribune for libel, based on these same types of harmful, hateful comments which are not deleted.

In prior campaigns for Yonkers City Court, candidates openly and honestly ran for Judge without regard to political party. Candidates also sought the endorsement from both the democratic and republican parties, in an attempt to take politics out of a judicial race.

But this year, all traditions of decency are being thrown out, as the Romano campaign has attacked Judge Daly, who is also on the republican party line, and Judge McGrath, who is also on the conservative party line and attempting to link both the President Donald Trump.

This move was the last straw for many democrats, who see hypocrisy in the move by both Romano and Jereis to claim democratic loyalty when both are longtime former republicans.

Several Yonkers Democrats have contacted us to also highlight the fact that Jereis is leading an effort to run democratic candidates for Yonkers District Leader in forty races in an attempt to wield power in the Yonkers Democratic Party.

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Lions Secure Grants for Local Coronavirus Needs



Fuller Center Exec Director & LM Lion Jim Killoran, left with LM Lion Phil Oldham. Right, STEM Virtual Mentoring program

The Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions Club has secured 2 grants from the Lions Multiple District to support local groups assisting Coronavirus affected residents. Each grant was for \$2500.

The first was provided by the NY State & Bermuda Lions Foundation to the LM Lions for the Fuller Center. The Fuller Center has been providing food and necessities to our community's most vulnerable. They have been buying, collecting and storing food and supplies - from masks to diapers, distributing at their center or delivering directly to those in need.

The second grant was from the Brandel-Murphy Lions Youth Foundation, given to the STEM Alliance of Larchmont-Mamaroneck's STEM Navigators Virtual Mentoring program. School closures and the subsequent move to distance learning has been particularly challenging for students from low income backgrounds. While the Mamaroneck School District has worked extensively to provide devices to those with need, the students and their families' ability to use those devices vary. Through the Virtual Mentoring program, students are paired one-to-one to a mentor who assists with digital fluency and provides home work support.

Our community, its people and its organizations have jumped in to help the many local needs that have arisen from the Coronavirus pandemic. The Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions look to work with and support these efforts.

LM Lions are part of the International Lions Clubs, the largest service organization in the world. Their signature cause is support for the blind & sight health. Lions other core services are the environment, hunger, diabetes, childhood cancer and youth - and are a signatory with the United Nations 50/50 by 30 equal rights for women and the UN's refugee rights.

To learn more about the LM Lions, visit: <https://www.larchmontmamaronecklionsclub.org/>

To learn more about the Fuller Center, visit: <https://www.fullercenter-erny.org/>

To learn more about the STEM Alliance and Virtual Mentoring, visit: <http://lmstemalliance.org/virtual-mentoring.html>



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Local Biker Plans 200-Mile Trip to Benefit Hillside Food Outreach



Mount Kisco resident Matt McAllister is no stranger to embarking on endurance races to raise funds and awareness for different causes, having donated more than \$6,000 to local community centers over the last few years. He has selected the highly regarded Hillside Food Outreach program as his next beneficiary of a grueling 200-mile trek where he hopes to equal or better his \$2,000 benchmark. "For more than 20 years Hillside Food Outreach has been delivering healthy and nutritious foods to elderly and low-income families—the demographic hit hardest by layoffs and closures due to the COVID-19 outbreak," he says. "The demand on supplies and resources has been staggering and I wanted to help them in their efforts."

McAllister, who has worked in Business Development at Statewide Abstract Corp. in White Plains since 2015, will set off on a solo 200-mile bike ride on June 12th. "My longest ride to date has been 140 miles, so 200 is going to be a nice test," he says, noting that it will take more than 12 hours to complete. "I'll be doing it alone, so I will have to bring everything with me: bike tools and spare tires for fixing flats and minor mechanical issues. Any major issues would mean a detour to the nearest local bike store. I'll have lights in case I have to ride into the dark. Whatever it takes, I'll finish the ride." For food, he will pack "all the standards: bananas, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, energy bars, as well as endurance specific gels and electrolyte drinks," and he intends to stop into a few delis along the way to replenish his supplies.

Leaving Mount Kisco he will head northwest through Peekskill, over the Bear Mountain Bridge, and around Harriman State Park before heading towards Manhattan. After crossing the George Washington Bridge, he will ride down the West Side Highway, through Manhattan and into Queens. Continuing along the North Shore of Long Island he will travel through Nassau and into Suffolk County before ending at his parent's house in Matituck, where his family will greet him with celebratory tacos and beer upon arrival.

"Matt is an exceptional member of the Statewide Abstract team. He is an inspiring and motivating example in the office and a genuine and unrelenting advocate for our clients' best interests," states Ken Meccia, President of Statewide Abstract, the oldest family-owned title agency in Westchester.

McAllister is planning to raise at least \$10 a mile towards a goal of \$2,000. Donations are immediately available to Hillside Food Outreach and are 100 percent deductible. For more information, or to donate, visit GoFundMe: Hillside Food Outreach

Looks Like We Made it!

By Eric W. schoen

“There you are
Looking just the same as you did last time I ‘saw’ you
And here I am
Close to getting tangled up inside the thought of you...
Looks like we made it
Left each other on the way
Looks like we made it
I truly think so today
Now Thank God You are there, everywhere
And all I could think was yes, we made it!”

We borrow a little touch of the great Barry Manilow this week as we get ready to open Westchester and the Hudson Valley. Will we act like the idiots who invaded the Lake of the Ozarks last weekend and played on top of each other like some weird kind of orgy?

Will we stand on line on top of each other on a cloudy day? When it's cold outside in the month of May on the Jersey Shore just to score a beach pass? What will make us feel this way?

Will we violate all the rules that got us to this point? Social Distancing, staying 6 feet away from others. Wearing those stupid annoying masks that help us and those around us stay safe. Washing our hands constantly with soap and water. Using that 'icky' hand sanitizer when we can't get to the sink. You can wear plastic gloves but remember touching numerous surfaces with the same gloves just spreads the virus to other surfaces.

Speaking of other surfaces, why is it taking the CDC so long to determine how long the Coronavirus can live on the surfaces we touch? Or how long the virus is in the air and lives with droplets coming from our mouths?

Eating foods that help keep our immunity system strong. Following the advice of our doctors to drink plenty of liquids with a particular interest in drinking hot and warm beverages that work to kill the virus in our throats as the virus hates heat. The list of vitamins and supplements to take is there: C, D, E, Zinc, Probiotics. I'm no doctor and you don't have to be one either.

Not falling to 'quackery' by consuming large quantities of sauerkraut, kimchi, medications our government tells us do not work or can cause serious medical reaction including death. And certainly not consuming Lysol or other disinfectants that can cause serious injuries to our bodies and death.

We eagerly wait for our elected officials to get together and Let the health authorities lead the way and tell us what to. Sadly it's all about politics when it should be about people. The camera ops with elected officials handing out food to those in need have become obnoxious. There are plenty of community based people that would do a better job distributing donations. The electeds should be trying to get us more food and money to help us.

The first phase of recovery is more symbolic than substantive and unless you are intimately involved you won't realize it. Startup of Construction, so critical to the economy; manufacturing to bring more product on the market and restart of the wholesale supply chain.

The last item in the first phase is select retail, mainly curbside pickup. What this means for you and me I don't know. Can we order beauty products from let's say Ulta and pick them up at the store? Slinky gowns from Victoria's Secret for store pickup? Order jeans from Macy's and pick them up at the store. We will wait for our great retailers to define this.

It doesn't mean hair cutting but with use of masks, gloves, capes and sanitized utensils I hope this is on the horizon. I still won't be able to enter Burlington Coat Factory or Marshall's to snag a bargain. But when we can, I hear from around the country sales are going to be big.

As I told you last week and the nose swabbed Governor showed you, there is plenty of testing for Covid 19 available. Westchesterites need to take advantage of it. That was the main request all along from our electeds, we need more testing! it's free of charge and in the case of antibodies simple to do. Though not Hollywood style, you get a 'swag' bag with protein bar, bottle of water and important information.

So friends, our local world as we knew it is finally getting back to normal. It will still take some time and whether we like it or not some work on our part. We don't want to screw it up and go back to square 1. Please, please don't be like the jackasses throughout the country who didn't follow some basic, simple rules, some like hand washing that we should have been doing since 1st. or 2nd grade.

Yes, we've got the whole world in our hands!

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



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Westchester Chef Builds Greenhouse to Help Prevent Food Shortages



Chef Rafael Palomino in his new greenhouse garden

Whether he's in the kitchen, penning his cookbooks—or working the stove in one of his eight-and-growing establishments, Chef Rafael Palomino is the consummate creator and astute businessman. Today his many restaurants—his menus and his success—represent the culmination of his artistry and business savvy; he knows food, and he knows how people relish their dining experiences.

Chef Palomino is living testament to his own motto, “If you dream it, you can live it!” Open any of his cookbooks, or enter any of his establishments, and you'll soon see—and taste—the successful combination of Palomino-style ingredients.

With the onset of COVID-19 vastly impacting the restaurant industry, many chefs and restaurateurs are challenged to think outside of the box when it comes to running their business. With food shortages around the corner, Chef Palomino built an 800-square-foot greenhouse—complete with its own sprinkler system—in the backyard of his Bedford home to ensure the quality and freshness of his ingredients.

Growing items like beets, eggplant, tomatoes, chives, cilantro, radicchio, carrots, and corn allow him to continue to source and stock his restaurants, including Sonora in Port Chester, with local produce. In a few short months, many items on his menu—from his Street Corn (roasted corn on the cob topped with light mayo or queso fresco) to his Eggplant Meatballs in Romesco sauce—will benefit from the Palomino greenhouse.

Westchester County to Host Virtual Graduation for HS Seniors



A High School Graduation ceremony is a rite of passage that occurs only once in a lifetime for students, as they close the chapter on their High School years and embark upon their college careers. It is a time of accomplishment, a time of reflection, a time of hope for a promising future – and a celebration for all who have worked so hard to earn their High School diploma. Although the COVID-19 pandemic may have altered High School graduations as we know them, Westchester County Government wants to make sure that all hopes are not dashed for a 2020 graduation ceremony for Westchester County's seniors.

We are asking all community leaders, teachers, parents, grandparents and siblings to record a short video on your smart phone to say congratulations and best of luck to the High School Senior in your life. The video does not have to be long, and it is an easy way to get the entire community involved in a “virtual” graduation ceremony. Our High School seniors deserve to hear your words of praise, and know you are proud of all they have achieved.

If you would like to participate, send your video to Communications@WestchesterGov.com. Eventually, we will have a string of congratulatory messages from citizens all over the County, in honor of Westchester County's graduating class of 2020. The deadline to submit a video is June 6.

Sales Tax Revenue and Real Estate Sales Show Steep Declines

Local sales tax collections dropped 24.4 percent in April compared to April 2019, leaving many of New York's local governments grappling with shortfalls, according to State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli. Sales tax collections totaled \$1.02 billion in April.

Plummeting sales tax collections were widespread, leaving counties, cities and some other local governments short by about \$327 million compared to last year. Although the first quarter of 2020 was relatively strong, March sales tax collections had already begun to show the impact of the COVID-19 shutdown—a decrease of 3.7 percent statewide with the largest declines downstate. The April figures show shrinking revenues for local governments throughout the state.

“The coronavirus has hurt household finances, and the April sales tax figures show how deep it is cutting into municipal finances,” DiNapoli said. “Sales tax revenues are vital for the counties and cities that are on the front lines of fighting the COVID-19 pandemic. They are the first responders and provide a safety net of services for New Yorkers. The federal government needs to provide assistance to those hit hard by this virus or the budget cuts could be severe in some communities.”

Social distancing protocols were established with the “New York State on PAUSE” initiative, which has shuttered non-essential businesses and offices since March 22. A halt to travel, the decline in retail activity and the large and growing numbers of New Yorkers who have lost their jobs have restricted business activity.

Every county in every region of the state saw a large drop in April collections. New York City experienced a 23.1 percent decline, amounting to \$141.8 million in lost revenues for a single month. Unknown at this time is how collections are impacted by consumers' growing reliance on e-commerce shopping for products that are now subject to State and local sales taxes.

The least severe, though still substantial decline in sales tax collections occurred in the Mid-Hudson Region (-21.5 percent). The Capital District had the most severe decline (-28.8 percent).

In addition, 17 cities (not including New York City) impose their own general sales tax. April collections were down \$5.7 million in April in aggregate compared to April 2019. Nearly every city saw large losses ranging from a decline of 20.1 percent in White Plains to a decrease of over 37 percent in Gloversville. A few cities tax only specific goods or services. Most cities, towns and villages and some school districts also rely on sales tax revenues to support their operations, through sharing agreements with their counties.

The New York State Housing Market was also hit hard by COVID-19 as new listings and pending sales both fell over 65 percent in the month of April, according to the housing report released today by the New York State Association of REALTORS®.

With guidance in place not allowing for in-person showings across the Empire State, new listings fell 68.4 percent in April from 20,600 to 6,507 in year-over-year comparisons. Pending sales also fell precipitously, down 66.6 percent from 12,825 sales in April of 2019 to 4,287 sales last month.

Closed sales fell as well, dropping 29.3 percent to 6,626 sales – down from 9,374 units in April 2019.

Median sales prices slipped slightly as well in April – falling 2.6 percent to \$262,000 from \$269,000 at this time last year. This is the first drop in the median sales price in year-over-year comparisons since January 2016, ending a streak of 50 consecutive months of escalating median sales prices.

What remained positive for home buyers were interest rates. The rate on a 30-year fixed rate mortgage in April fell to 3.31 percent, according to Freddie Mac. This is the lowest monthly average commitment rate on a 30-year fixed-rate mortgage since Freddie Mac began tracking in 1971.

Additional data is available at <http://www.nysar.com/industry-resources/market-data>.

Going Out to Dinner in COVID --continued from pg 1--

Other parts of your dining experience that may never come back include waiting at the bar for a drink-or waiting for your table in the restaurant lobby You may have to go back to your car after checking in with the hostess if you get there too early. And you will be notified now by text on your phone that your table is ready because those restaurant issued buzzers will not be used for sanitary concerns.

Buffets, and salad bars, will also be another restaurant NO-NO post -COVID. Even with a protective barrier, the dangers of spreading germs outweigh the benefits.

Reservations required. Anyone who used to enjoy walking up to a restaurant without calling first will have to get used to calling in advance. Making a reservation over the phone will allow your favorite restaurant to prepare for your visit, and ensure that only 50% of their tables are occupied and that your table is disinfected.

Our first dinner out in a while was an enjoyable one. The weather was great and we both had a good meal. We will try to return to this area, on the Long Island Sound in Stamford.

Next to our restaurant, Prime, was another restaurant and outdoor bar with food. Both were more crowded than our restaurant, and I might still be a bit nervous sitting to close to others who were drinking and havng a good time. I will return to Prime next week with my wife and daughter. We will also go to the Stamford Mall, which my wife and I went to after our meal.

It was good just to get out, even if it was a dinner and a walk around the mall. The manager at the restaurant said something to me that I was also thinking.

He said, “Governor Cuomo said that we would all open at the same time, but here we are in Connecticut but New York still is not open.” He added, “look at all the license plates in our parking lot. They are all New York.”

All of the waiters had masks on and required us to wear masks to our table, where we could then take them off. The nearest table was more than 10 feet away. I will look forward to when our local restaurants open again in Westchester, but that still seems three weeks away.

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Westchester County Airport Re-Opens



Standing on the newly rehabilitated runway at Westchester County Airport, County Executive George Latimer announced that Runway 16/34 will reopen full length and width for aircraft operations on Thursday, May 21 at 8 a.m. The main runway closed for rehabilitation on April 27 during an extreme downturn in aviation activity at the Airport, with the goal of completing the project with little to no impact on flight activity once Airport operations returned to normal. By completing the Runway 16/34 Rehabilitation Project during this time frame, paving operations were shortened from three months to three weeks, with as much as 6,000 tons of asphalt placed in one day.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: "We are here to announce the completion of a major capital project that we were able to do faster and for less cost than planned. We knew that we were going to have a major drop in air travel due to the coronavirus outbreak and the ability to move this project and get it done in a directed period of time has saved the County money and some distribution for those that live in the area."

Airport Manager Peter Scherrer said: "As a result of the extreme downturn in flight activities worldwide, we have taken the opportunity to advance the construction schedule of the Runway 16/34 Rehabilitation Project. This effort significantly reduces the overall construction schedule and improves the quality of the final pavement surface, which ultimately extends the service life of the runway."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Public Works & Transportation Hugh Greechan said: "The decision to move up the Runway 16/34 Rehabilitation Project enabled us to shorten paving operations from three months into a three week time frame. By completing the repaving during the Airport's closure, the need for the installation and removal of temporary runway pavement during normal airport operations has been eliminated."

Runway 16/34 and the intersection that connects the runways were both closed for construction and repaving. The construction had originally been scheduled for later this fall, but the decision to move up the project was made to reduce any impact on flight activity during normal Airport operations. Any remaining construction that needs to be completed will take place during overnight hours, and the final completion date of October 10 has been moved up to mid-August.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON APPEAL BEFORE THE ZONING BOARD OF THE VILLAGE OF TUCKAHOE, NEW YORK.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, of the Village of Tuckahoe, will hold a public hearing on WEDNESDAY EVENING, AT 7:30 PM on June 10, 2020.

At the Village Hall, 65 Main Street, Tuckahoe, New York to consider the application of Navin Jha and Margaret Donnelly, Residing at 216 Dante Avenue who appeals the decision of the Building Inspector, who denied the issuance of a building permit to construct a new one story, 75 square foot mud room addition.

The property is located at 216 Dante Avenue. And is also known as SECTION 38., BLOCK 5, LOT 67. The nature of the application is for the following relief: Section 4-2.4.2 Side Yard. A 9 foot side yard is required, a 5.1 foot side yard is proposed.

All interested parties are urged to attend this public hearing at which time they will be afforded the opportunity to express their views and/or submit written communications to the Village Clerk or The Zoning Board of Appeals, 65 Main Street, Tuckahoe, NY 10707.

Matt Lauer- Back in the News

"Sometimes People Deserved to be Cancelled"



Matt Lauer, right, recently penned an Op-Ed criticizing the work of Author Ronan Farrow, left

By Dan Murphy

Disgraced former Today Show host Matt Lauer briefly returned to the spotlight last week after he posted a story on the website Mediaite in which he criticized the journalistic integrity of author and reporter Ronan Farrow for not factchecking allegations made against him, including allegations of rape.

Lauer was fired from NBC News in 2017 for multiple allegations of sexual misconduct, including conducting multiple inappropriate relationships with female employees, sexual harassment, and a rape allegation made by former NBC employee Brooke Nevils.

Lauer doesn't deny most of the sexual encounters, and apologizes for some, but denies the claims of Nevils, who said Lauer raped her in a Sochi hotel room during the 2014 Winter Olympics. Lauer denies the rape charges, and claims that both he and Nevils had a subsequent consensual relationship.

Lauer, in his investigative story, claims that Farrow did not follow through with standard journalistic fact checking procedures before printing them in the book. "What I found when I read the book was frankly shocking, and it should concern anyone who cares about journalism," said Lauer, who claimed that Farrow, after leaving NBC news on less than friendly terms, "became a magnet and a willing ear for anyone with negative stories about the network and people who worked for it."

Farrow tweeted a brief response to Lauer's story. "All I'll say on this is that Matt Lauer is just wrong. Catch and Kill was thoroughly reported and fact-checked, including with Matt Lauer himself"

Mediaite founder Dan Abrams says while Matt Lauer's op-ed may have been controversial, the decision to run it was not a defense of Lauer, but rather "it's simply saying this was newsworthy, this was fact-checked...and we felt that is was certainly worthy of publication." He also asks that people read the piece first before critiquing it.

Days before Lauer's story went live, New York Times reporter Ben Smith wrote a story titled, "Is Ronan Farrow too Good to be True? Smith also delves into Farrow's journalistic journey, and finds "little of Mr. Farrow's story holds up," and "At times, he does not always follow the typical journalistic imperatives of corroboration and rigorous disclosure."

The response to Lauer's story, and its overall themes of both seeking redemption and trying to fix a mistake that will bring Lauer and other male sexual xx back to life on TV, the News, or the movies, has not been supportive of the former Today star. xx

The Daily Beast, and editor Molly Jong-Fast epitomized most of America's response to Lauer's attempts to re-enter the American media. "You'll be surprised to learn that Lauer isn't happy with the book about his sex life and alleged raping. He doesn't think it's fair. He would like to come back to his \$25-million-a-year paycheck now. Enough tanning in the Hamptons; Matt is ready to be famous again,"

"You have hundreds of millions of dollars and nearly as many allegations from many different women, who have spoken with many different reporters. This isn't about Ronan Farrow. This is about Matt Lauer.

"Lauer's contention that it was all a big misunderstanding, and sure, he's an adulterer and sure she was at least 25 years younger than he was, but he wants us to know that he's really not a bad guy reminds me of the failed comebacks of Mark Halperin and Charlie Rose and Louis C.K. I mean shut up, shut up, shut up. Go away.

Famous white men get away with so much, imagine how bad they have to be to get in trouble for it. Sometimes people deserve to be canceled, and this is one of those times," writes Jong-Fast.

In Catch and Kill, Farrow quotes Brooke Nevils and writes, "It was non-consensual in that I was too drunk to consent. It was non-consensual in that I said, multiple times, that I didn't want to have anal sex." That is enough for me.

The three stories referenced above can be found at <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/05/17/business/media/ronan-farrow.html>

<https://www.mediaite.com/opinion/matt-lauer-why-ronan-farrow-is-in-deed-too-good-to-be-true/>

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/matt-lauer-you-were-canceled-for-a-reason>

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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 Limited Liability Company
MIND UNDER BRIDGE PUBLISHING, LLC
FIRST: The name of the Limited Liability Company is MIND UNDER BRIDGE PUBLISHING, LLC. (hereinafter referred to as the "company").
SECOND: The Articles of Organization of the Company were filed with the Secretary of State of New York on April 23, 2020. THIRD: The county within New York in which the office of the Company is to be located is Westchester
FOURTH: The Secretary of State has been designated as agent upon whom process against the Company may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail process to is 722 Frost Avenue, Apt. 1, Peekskill, NY 10566. FIFTH: The purpose of the Company is to engage in any lawful activity under the laws of the State of New York. The Articles of Organization of MIND UNDER BRIDGE PUBLISHING, LLC were subscribed to by THE KLEISTER LAW GROUP, LLC, 85 East Main Street, Washingtonville NY 10992.

Jamaal Bowman for Congress

A Leader with Energy, Passion & Purpose

Letter to the Editor By: Bill Gaston

Representative Eliot Engel, who faces a primary challenge on June 23rd, has been in Congress for more than 30 years. I believe it is time for a change. In 2020, amidst a global pandemic whose epicenter is in our district, we need a Congressman who will bring energy and structural change to the challenges we face. I am supporting Jamaal Bowman as the best candidate to bring about that transformative change. I encourage you to support his candidacy.

The English poet Matthew Arnold once remarked "genius is mainly an affair of energy." As an educator of 20 years, and a middle school principal, Jamaal Bowman brings energy, passion and purpose. Whether he's talking about ending "forever wars," or reining in the overuse of standardized testing in the classroom, or ridding our democracy of special interest money, he exudes commitment. He also advocates a Green New Deal and Medicare for All.

Progressives have long endorsed these causes; however, when it comes to foreign policy, Congressman Engel's resume has been anything but progressive. A top recipient of defense industry contributions, Engel has, throughout his career, routinely supported the most bellicose foreign policy prescriptions. The most disastrous, of course, was his full-throated support of the Iraq War Resolution, which ushered in one of the worst, most costly foreign policy fiascos in American history. He has since apologized for that vote, but his hawkishness continued through the Obama administration when he was one of only a few Democrats to oppose the Iran anti-nuclear agreement. To make matters worse, as the bloody Saudi-led war in Yemen dragged on, Congressman Engel was one of only 16 House Democrats in 2016 to vote against an amendment that would have blocked the transfer of cluster bombs to Saudi Arabia, bombs which have killed thousands of civilians, and led millions of Yemenis to the brink of starvation.

Nowhere is Mr. Engel more out of step with the progressive base of the Democratic party than on Israel-Palestine. In public gatherings, he is quick to pay lip service to a 2-state solution. However, for years, he has been silent as the most extreme right wing forces in the state of Israel have perpetuated its harsh occupation and dispossession of Palestinian lands, thus rendering a two state solution impracticable if not impossible. Indeed, Mr. Engel takes pride in his annual ritual attendance at the right-wing AIPAC convention, a gathering which even many Democratic candidates for president in 2020 steered away from this year because of the group's support of Israel's illegal settlement policy.

Now serving as chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, a perch which permits him to act as the most prominent Democratic Party figure for US foreign policy, Mr. Engel has shown no signs of easing up on his neoconservative foreign policy views. As Professor Stephen Zunes has noted, "it was nothing short of a betrayal of the Democratic leadership to turn the [Committee] over to someone so far to the right." Indeed, his views resemble more closely those of Republicans than the majority of his fellow Democrats.

Jamaal Bowman, by contrast, believes we need a truly progressive foreign policy that is marked by humanitarian values, and diplomacy. He wants to put a stop to the trillions in dollars we waste on senseless overseas conflicts. Unlike Mr. Engel, Mr. Bowman advocates a lasting peace in the Middle East that not only recognizes Israel's right to exist but also the Palestinian people's right to self determination, free from land grabs, state-sponsored violence, home demolitions and myriad human rights abuses.

Congressman Engel accepts thousands of dollars in contributions from well connected defense manufacturers such as Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin and Raytheon. Bowman's grass-roots movement is fueled by small individual contributions and donors; he is not beholden to neoconservative --or neoliberal -- interest groups.

On June 23rd, I will vote for Jamaal Bowman for Congress (CD-16). If you believe our district deserves renewed energy, progressive purpose, and transformative change, I urge you to cast your vote for Mr. Bowman too.

Bill Gaston is a Democratic Party District Leader in Bronxville. Editors note "the views expressed are my own, and do not represent the views of the Bronxville Democratic Committee, which has not endorsed any candidate in the race."

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

Notice of Formation of Creatorsapes 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

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

WESTCHESTER RISING

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DA's Race-Scarpino Rocah continued from pg 1-

That will be the message that Scarpino hopes to get across to democratic voters: that experience matters, especially in the middle of a pandemic. Scarpino has kept the office running and working, and he is running on his record.

But many democrats are wondering if Scarpino's record, experience and incumbency will be enough to defeat Mimi Rocah. Rocah received 48% of the vote from Westchester democrats at the county convention earlier this year and pre-COVID.

Rocah, an MSNBC commentator, brings the star power and the wealthy donors to her campaign (some of it from outside of Westchester) that Scarpino does not. On a recent zoom-podcast with Rosie O'Donnell, Hillary Clinton made an appearance and told Westchester Democrats to "get out and vote for Mimi."

Rocah also received the endorsement from the Hudson Valley Stonewall Democrats, who work to elect pro-LGBTQ Democrats, aiming to address LGBTQ governmental issues. "As the June primaries rapidly approach we are excited to be able to endorse Mimi Rocah. Mimi represents the values of our organization and we are confident she will help protect the LGBTQ community," said organization President Anthony Nicodemo.

Scarpino recently released his list of "Women for Scarpino" which included, Yonkers City Councilmember Corazon Pineda, White Plains Common Councilmember Vicki Presser, White Plains Common Councilmember Jenn Puja, New York State Assemblymember Amy Paulin, New York State Senator Shelley Mayer, and several local democratic committee chairs.

"As a mother, a young Democrat and a tireless advocate for women and my community, I am pleased to endorse District Attorney Scarpino for reelection. DA Scarpino has been a true advocate for the people of Yonkers and all of Westchester. His strong progressive record has helped advance the causes of criminal justice reform, alternatives to incarceration and public safety among many others. I hope Westchester Democrats will join me in voting for him in the primary election on June 23rd," said Yonkers City Council Majority Leader Corazon Pineda.

Members of the group cite DA Scarpino's strong record of supporting issues important to the movement for equal rights for women throughout his career as reasons for their support.

District Attorney Tony Scarpino has been an ally in the movement for women's equality for his entire career. He is staunchly pro-choice and has been endorsed by the Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion five times, including in 2016.

As DA, Scarpino has been a strong advocate for reforms to protect victims of trafficking, particularly children. Among his accomplishments, he successfully fought for a State law which created a new crime called Sex Trafficking of a Child. The law makes it easier for prosecutors to prove a child is a trafficking victim. He also worked directly with Assemblymember Amy Paulin to pass a law that allows prostitution cases pending before local criminal courts to be transferred to courts that specialize in human trafficking cases, ensuring fairness and justice for victims.

On domestic violence, his office has adopted a "believe victims first" approach. In the coronavirus pandemic, the District Attorney has been outspoken about the dangers that victims of domestic violence face as a result of stay-at-home orders. He has made clear that his office is a safe haven for victims and has been proactive in his outreach in this regard.

The one thing that neither campaign can tell us for sure is how many of us will vote by absentee ballot, how many of us will go to the polls, and how Coronavirus will impact there chances of victory. And something else to be prepared for on June 23... not knowing who won, we might have to wait for all of the absentee votes to be counted.

Jereis, Romano, continued from pg 2--

For those who don't know, Zehy Jereis is the former Republican Party Chairman in Yonkers. In 2012, he was found guilty of bribery and extortion related to the "sale" of former Councilwoman Sandy Annabi's vote. He served four years in prison.

One democratic district leader wrote the following to Yonkers Rising. "Mr. Murphy, I did not want to have to send you this email letter, but as a loyal Yonkers Democrat I have no choice.

"I have to speak out against the attacks made against Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier, and every Yonkers democratic leader, (I am a district leader) as disgraceful.

"We have a democratic candidate for City Court, Dan Romano, who is using a disgraced, former republican, Zehy Jereis, to spread lies about three decent Yonkers people.

"Let me be clear: I do not want Jereis to take over MY DEMOCRATIC PARTY! If Mr. Jereis were to take over MY DEMOCRATIC PARTY, I will leave the party that I have loved for 25 years, and find another party.

"I know and respect Mr. Romano and his family. They have been a part of Yonkers for decades. I wanted to hear more about Romano and I actually considered voting for him for Judge.

"But that was before I saw the dirty tricks of his campaign, which are right out of the playbook of Zehy Jereis.

"I was also at the City Democratic Convention, and I voted as a district leader for Daly, McGrath and Shako. The fix was not in Mr. Romano and Mr. Jereis, you simply lost the vote, and it wasn't all that close.

"I wonder how many other Yonkers Democrats know about Zehy Jereis and his operation of Romano's campaign, and that Jereis is trying to take over OUR Yonkers Democratic Party. That is why I write you this letter Mr. Murphy," writes Mrs. J, whose name is withheld on her request.

Former Yonkers Democratic Chair Ann Muro, who is the Ward leader in the 5th Ward, is one of many Ward leaders whose district leaders are under challenge. "My district leaders have been honored at our democratic dinners as district leaders of the year. They are active and loyal democrats. My question to Zehy Jereis is why are you challenging these democrats?

"I called Dan Romano and asked him to talk to Zehy and find our why he is doing this? Now that Zehy is a democrat, he wants to take over the party?," said Muro who has 48 district leaders in her 5th Ward.

Meier also made the distinction between Yonkers democrats who have served for years, and helped and supported other Yonkers democrats on the ballot, and those who have just joined the party and now want to run for office.

"Dan Romano is a nice guy, but he hasn't been involved in the democratic party. Karen Best has also now run for judge twice but has not been involved in the democratic party.

"Verris Shako has been involved, as a district leader, and in helping other democratic candidates get elected, and she is one of our three endorsed democrats for City Judge.

"Zehy Jereis has also not been involved in the democratic party, he was involved in the republican party and now all of a sudden he is a democrat. I think we all should remember the golden rule of politics. Don't throw stone from glass houses. He (Jereis) had told me repeatedly that he is not going after me for leader, but he is slowly accumulating district leaders for the future.

"But whoever is crafting this negative message, if they are going to start throwing mud, I'll stand on my record as democratic chairman, and stand behind the choice of Yonkers democrats at our convention, for Judge Daly, Judge McGrath and Verris Shako," said Meier.

Romano has claimed at campaign events that Jereis is not his campaign manager, but regardless of title, many democrats wanted to set the record straight, and do not want to see this type of negative, and vindictive type of campaigning, during the pandemic and for a judicial race

Notice of Formation of A&A MOBILE RECONDITIONING LLC. Articles of Organization Filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/18/2020. Office Location: Westchester County, New York. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: Agustin Sierra 838 Nepperhan Avenue, Yonkers NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful act.

Craftdbyhand LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 5/14/20. Office: Westchester County. Eridania Morillo designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Eridania Morillo at 70 Virginia Road, white Plains, NY 10603. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Mondaire Jones, continued from pg 1-

Jones claims to be a "staffer" in the Obama administration. But public records and statements we found show that some of his claims and comments do not always comport with the facts.

We also found Jones' claims that he litigated "The Biggest Cases" for Westchester County, as a gross exaggeration. Jones appeared in federal court representing the county for a total of seven cases, six of which were against county jail inmates who could not afford an attorney and were representing themselves. In these six cases, Jones found himself arguing against inmates who were complaining of constitutional violations while incarcerated. The seventh case was against a minor who suffered a health condition while on the job at the New Rochelle Housing Authority.

The cases filed by the prisoners included complaints about the jail food, which was contracted to a private vendor named Aramark, and included accusations that the jail food was "undercooked, moldy, and contaminated with insects, human hair, and leftover food from prior meals." Jones argued that the County was indemnified based on its contract with Aramark, which has been scrutinized for fraud and abuse in jails and prisons.

Other inmate cases that Jones appeared in court against included accusations of mistreatment in jail by prison staff that led to assault and attacks by other inmates. Jones withdrew himself from two cases because he was leaving his position in the county attorney's office in Westchester.

We could not find a single "big case" in Westchester that Mondaire Jones worked on for Westchester County, and the fact that the cases he did appear in court for were against inmates who were trying to speak out against prison injustice does not coincide with his campaign rhetoric of running to serve the impoverished and underrepresented.

Jones has also frequently attempted to tie himself to President Obama and his administration with the claim that he served "as a staffer" in the Department of Justice (DOJ). But Jones' time at the DOJ was funded through fellowship from Stanford University. No records showed that Jones ever served as a federal employee in the Executive Branch. Jones chose to serve his fellowship at the DOJ, but he was likely not formally hired, vetted, and interviewed.

"A recipient of Stanford's prestigious John Gardner Public Service Fellowship, he will spend 10 months working for the Obama Administration in the Department of Justice Office of Legal Policy." (<https://www.ronbrown.org/class/2005/mondaire-jones>)

There are mixed opinions as to whether a Fellowship is a job. "Fellowships refer to short-term professional or work opportunities at your school or college. They can last from a few months to several years, and may be offered to students by certain organizations to help them: Complete their graduate program. Conduct research about a particular topic," writes the <https://mphprogramslist.com>.

Case law found that in United States (1985, 645 F. Supp. 1007) the court held that when services--in this case, teaching--were rendered by the fellowship recipient, the recipient was considered an employee and therefore subject to employment tax.

At the very least, Jones should have distinguished the fact that he served under Obama Attorney General Eric Holder in a fellowship role and not as a DOJ-approved employee.

Jones has made the claim on several occasions—including on News 12 Westchester, that "I've worked for the Department of Justice for the Obama administration and, most recently, after graduating Harvard Law School and going to work as a lawyer in Manhattan, I litigated the biggest cases for Westchester County." (<http://westchester.news12.com/story/41172694/bring-it-on-mondaire-jones-sees-window-open-for-ny17-%20win>)

This frequent refrain from the candidate, which has been repeated in the local media, is only partially true at best.

Another assertion by Jones about his fellowship at the DOJ, that, "In the Obama Administration, I vetted candidates for federal judgeships." (<https://twitter.com/MondaireJones/status/1247890428927422466?s=20>) also appears exaggerated.

Our website, YonkersTimes.com and other local media have used Jones' taglines without scrutiny:

Feb 2, 2020, The Examiner: "He also worked in the Justice Department in 2009 and 2010 in the Office of Legal Policy as a non-lawyer, helping to vet candidates for federal judgeships after earning his undergraduate degree from Stanford and before going to law school." (<https://www.theexaminernews.com/jones-enhances-progressive-credentials-with-warren-endorsement/>)

Feb 12, 2020, Yonkers Times: "Jones, 32, is a former litigator in the Westchester County Law Department and former Department of Justice staffer during the Obama Administration." (<https://yonkerstimes.com/the-race-to-replace-lowey/>)

May 13, 2020, Jewish Insider: "From Washington to Westchester: The Obama Justice Department Official Running for Lowey's Seat.

A Democratic political operative from Rockland County who is closely watching the competitive primary said: "Mondaire Jones is bright and extremely well-credentialed. However, once voters in Westchester tune in to this race, they will likely realize that his biggest enemy in this Primary is the truth."

Perhaps the time has come for all of us in the local media to closely examine the achievements boasted about by all the candidates for Congress before putting them in print and online.

Asha Castleberry-Hernandez, one of eight candidates running in the democratic primary for Congress in District 17 said that Jones "Was not a government employee, nor was he an appointee of the Obama administration. He was only a fellow, and there is a big difference. I served as a military officer, in the Obama administrations and my friends in Washington aren't pleased that he (Jones) is exaggerating his credentials."

Superintendents, continued from pg 1-

The superintendents also expressed appreciation to the students' families. Dr. Ferraro noted "we've also learned that home learning is really hard on families." For everyone, flexibility and creativity have been key.

Given the community's diversity, ensuring equity of opportunity to learn was critically important for both districts. Both provided technology to students needing it. Mamaroneck has also continued providing over 600 meals daily, seven days a week to families in need, and has partnered with the Community Counseling Center to address the social-emotional well-being of its students.

Unfortunately, the superintendents cannot give the community any answers in terms of what the 2020-21 school year will look like. Dr. Shaps shared that they are looking at three different scenarios for the fall: 1) physical school, but with health-imposed restrictions; 2) a hybrid model of learning which would combine physical presence in school with blended (remote) learning; and 3) full time remote learning. They are waiting for direction from Governor Cuomo and the NYS Department of Health and the NYS Department of Education. In the meantime, Mamaroneck will begin having community conversations about these models in the upcoming weeks.

One thing that weighs heavily on Dr. Shaps' mind is equity of opportunity to learn. He stresses that "providing students with technical devices and WIFI hotspots doesn't mean that students are engaged in learning across the system in equal ways." To address this, he is exploring partnerships and new models that will "provide students with a degree of independence around guided learning, and not have to rely on parents or caregivers full time."

The superintendents will build on what they have learned this spring and are looking to learn from what's happening in other countries around the world such as Denmark, Germany, and Israel, where public schools are beginning to open under certain restrictions.

Both the Mamaroneck and Rye Neck proposed budgets are tax-cap compliant. Both districts reduced their original budgets in light of the economic impact of the pandemic and threatened cuts in state aid. The budget vote, originally scheduled for May 19, has been postponed to June 9 by Governor Cuomo. The school board election and budget vote will be conducted by mail. Eligible voters in school districts will be mailed absentee ballots to cast their votes, which will include a postage-paid return envelope.

In closing, Dr. Ferraro and Dr. Shaps urged the audience to "invest in public education to give students in our community the best possibility of thriving in a complex world."

Questions for the Mamaroneck School District may be emailed to: Board@mamk-schools.org and for the Rye Neck School District to: Summit2020@ryeneck.org.

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