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Superintendent Quezada: We are Taking Care of Our Children



YPS Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada, right, with staff, preparing food donated by Feeding Westchester for families at Hostos School -photo by Maurice Mercado

By Dan Murphy

Many of our readers who do not have school age children may be wondering how the Yonkers Public Schools are teaching the 30,000 students in the district amidst the COVID-19 pandemic and stay at home orders. We decided to speak with YPS Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada to find out.

We found Quezada at the Eugenio Maria de Hostos School, collecting
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Council President Khader Joins with Mussa Family to Hand out Masks



City Council President Mike Khader, left, with Ray Mussa, owner of Sunoco on Yonkers Ave., hand out masks to the public, below



Shortly after Governor Cuomo ordered all New Yorkers to wear masks or protective face covering while traveling outside, City Council President Mike Khader joined with Ray and Hanan Mussa, and their family, owners of RMC Corp. and Sunoco station on Yonkers Avenue, to hand out masks to residents.

Khader said that the Mussa family donated 1,200 protective masks and hand sanitizer, which first went to healthcare workers at St. Joseph's Hospital, and then to students and staff at the ANDRUS school, and then to the people of Yonkers.

Stressing the importance of getting masks to all residents of Yonkers, Khader said that while this supply of masks had run out, residents can email his office councilpresident@yonkersny.gov to make a donation or to find out where more masks will be given out at a future date.

City Council Wants COVID Contingency Budget Plan

“All Options are On the Table”

By Dan Murphy

The Yonkers City Council held a budget committee meeting on Tuesday April 28, and received an update from Yonkers Finance Commissioner John Liszewski on the City's budgetary status based on the impact of the Coronavirus. Liszewski and his staff provided information on how COVID-19 has left a hole in current budget (2019-20) and how it will impact the upcoming budget (2020-21).

The major takeaway from this meeting, which was held remotely, is the unknown parts of the Yonkers budget. What will happen with the New York State budget, currently with a \$13 Billion budget shortfall? Will the Federal government bail out NY State government, despite the fact that Republican US Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell has said NO to any blue state bailout?

Both of these questions must be answered before Yonkers truly knows its financial status, and then, at that point Mayor Mike Spano and the City Council will be forced to make difficult decisions on how to close a lack of revenues that have stopped coming in.

In the current budget, 2019-20, which ends on June 30, the City is estimating that it has a \$16.5 Million budget hole, caused entirely from lower sales tax revenues and lower fees collected from City Hall due to COVID-19. The City will be able to cover that deficit by using some of its surplus (fund balance) and there will be no immediate layoffs in the current Yonkers budget.

For the upcoming 2020-21 Yonkers Budget, on April 15, Mayor Spano proposed a \$1.24 billion spending plan that increases property taxes by 2.08% and had no layoffs. Liszewski explained that the Mayor's budget includes using almost all of the City's fund balance of \$33 Million.

The Finance Department estimated that Sales Tax revenue and other fees have declined by 40% in April, and will decline by 30% in May and 20% in the months of June-September. The latest set of Sales Tax data will come

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Yonkers Accepts 30,000 PPE from American Chinese Care Alliance



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, and the City of Yonkers, accepted 30,000 PPE's from the ACUC Alliance --photo by Maurice Mercado

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano joined St. Joseph's Medical Center's President/CEO Michael Spicer and Richmond Children's Center's President/CEO Paca Lipovac to accept a donation of personal protective equipment (PPE) provided by the American Chinese United Care (ACUC) Alliance and its membership donors. The donations will be distributed to city organizations, hospitals and healthcare facilities in need of PPE to combat the COVID-19 outbreak.

“Yonkers is blessed to receive these essential PPE donations from our friends at the American Chinese United Care Alliance,” said Mayor Spano. “Times like these remind us that kindness and generosity exists amongst us as we try to navigate through uncertainty. Our local healthcare facilities need these items now more than ever and we are fortunate for ACUC's ability to lift up those who are working tirelessly on the frontlines for us.” ACUC today delivered 30,000 masks, bottles of hand sanitizers, gloves, face shields, goggles and protective gowns to the Yonkers Office of Emergency Management. St. Joseph's Medical Center, located in southwest Yonkers where many COVID-19 cases reside, received 350 protective gowns, 1200 masks, 30 face shields and 30 goggles.

“On behalf of the many dedicated and hard-working health care professionals at Saint Joseph's Medical Center, I would like to sincerely thank the City of Yonkers and the American Chinese United Care Alliance for their very generous donation of PPE. Our staff is working around the clock on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic. These thousands of masks, surgical gowns and hand sanitizers will help protect our staff as they continue to fight this pandemic from the frontline,” said Michael Spicer, President and CEO of Saint Joseph's Medical Center.

Yonkers' Richmond Children's Center, which provides services for developmentally disabled children, also received donated PPE. President/CEO of Richmond Children's Center Paca Lipovac commented, “We are grateful to the City of Yonkers and Mayor Spano for their continued support of Richmond Community Services. In these difficult times, it is comforting to know that we have supporters who will assist us in getting necessary supplies. People with developmental disabilities are often over-

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Hector Santiago Donates PPR to St. Joseph's Medical Center



Well-known community activist Hector "The Connector" Santiago has donated 100 mask straps to Saint Joseph's Medical Center for their staff battling COVID-19. The staff also received food from various vendors for this week in partnership with community members and local businesses.

Both the emergency room staff as well as the nurses have developed irritations due to wearing masks in upwards durations of 12+ hours at times. The mask straps will lift the elastic straps that go behind the ears alleviating the discomfort.

When Mr. Santiago was made aware of this situation, he immediately began contacting his resources and developed an instant plan of action. Through the office of City Council President Mike Khader, the Yonkers Riverfront library granted Mr. Santiago permission to borrow their 3D printer in order to create as many straps necessary to complete the donation.

Upon the completion of the mask straps, an overwhelming number of community members felt compelled to also give back after witnessing M. Santiago's prompt response on the relief efforts. Individuals came together with some of the local business owners to create a diverse food menu. The restaurants and food markets in Yonkers included Caridad & Louie's Restaurant, Giovanni's Pizza and Nature's Market

Hector "The Connector" Santiago is the Founder & Creator of StopAndShake which is a program developed to help bridge the communication gap between the community and law enforcement. He is known amongst the community for an array of activities including his walk to Albany from Yonkers promote and further bring awareness on mental health which took 5 days totaling 162 miles. Most recently, he partnered and volunteered with leaders as well as organizations throughout the city on COVID19 relief efforts supplying first responders and community members with meals.

Gov. Cuomo: Everyone to Receive Absentee Ballot Application

By Dan Murphy

Amid the ongoing COVID-19 Pandemic, Governor Andrew Cuomo has issued an Executive Order to make sure every New Yorker automatically receives a postage-paid absentee ballot application.

This order adds to Cuomo's previous Executive Order allowing all New Yorkers to vote absentee in the June 23 Primaries. "I am issuing an Executive Order to ensure every New York voter automatically receives a postage-paid application for an absentee ballot." "We're making great progress to flatten the curve and decrease the spread of infection, but we don't know when this pandemic will end and we can't put democracy on hold," Governor Cuomo said. "I am issuing an Executive Order to ensure every New York voter automatically receives a postage-paid application for an absentee ballot because no New Yorker should have to choose between their health and their right to vote."

Now, instead of having to request an absentee ballot, voters will receive an absentee ballot application, but voters will still have to fill out the absentee ballot and mail it back to the Board of Elections.

In Westchester, all registered democrats will now receive an absentee ballot application. Westchester Democrats will be voting in the June 23 primary for District Attorney, between DA Anthony Scarpino and Mimi Rocah, and for Congress in the 16th district between Rep. Eliot Engel, Chris Fink, Sammy Rafaello, Andom Ghebregiorgis, and Jamaal Bowman.

Additional democratic primaries in Westchester include the race to replace Congresswoman Nita Lowey, 17th district, between David Buchwald, David Carlucci, Asha Castleberry-Hernandez, Evelyn Farkas, Allison Fine, Delter Guin, John Jabbour, Duane Jackson, George John-Bosco Mondaire Jones, David Katz, Lola Osoria, Catherine Parker, Jo-Anna Rodriguez-Wheeler and Adam Schleifer.

Another democratic primary will be in the Assembly District 92 in Greenburgh, where Tom Abinanti will be challenged by Jen Williams. In a story we reported on two weeks ago, Williams' petition were challenged by Abianti, who sued Williams and taped a copy of the lawsuit personally to her home during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Westchester democrats will not be voting in a presidential primary because the New York State Democratic Party cancelled the primary, after Senator Bernie Sanders withdrew. Joe Biden is now the presumptive democratic candidate nominee for President. There will also be no Republican presidential primary, no candidate is challenging President Donald Trump.

Yonkers Pride Celebrated with Merch Store



In honor of Lesbian Visibility Day last week, and the upcoming Pride Month in June, the Yonkers Pride Merch Store with 100% of the proceeds of all items are going towards the 3rd Annual Yonkers Pride Festival. was officially launched.

Sadly, the Yonkers Pride Festival has been postponed in order to protect the health and safety of the community and festival-goers during this COVID-19 crisis. The organizers of the annual festival – The City of Yonkers' Mayor Mike Spano's LGBTQ Advisory Board, the Yonkers Pride Planning Board, and the Downtown Yonkers Business Improvement District – have decided that it is best to wait to have the event until it has been determined by health and government officials that it is safe to have a large celebratory gathering.

Keeping up hope and positivity for the event to still happen sometime later this year, the organizers decided to launch a merchandise store so that everyone can rock their pride gear during Pride Month in June. With 100% of the proceeds going towards the festival hopefully everyone can experience the largest Pride Festival in Westchester County later in 2020. Merchandise includes Muscle Tees, T-Shirts, Crop Tees, Tanks, Sweatshirts, Hoodies, Fanny Packs, Tote Bags, Mugs, Travelers Mug, Sticks, Magnets, and Buttons. There will also be a limited edition LoveYourPride 2020 collection to choose from as well.

Visit the store at yonkers-pride.myshopify.com

Enrico Fermi Scholarship Fund Breakfast Postponed

Originally scheduled for May 3, 2020, The Enrico Fermi Educational Fund of Yonkers announced today that it would postpone the 57th Annual Enrico Fermi Scholarship Breakfast. The breakfast has been held on the first Sunday in May since its first breakfast held in 1964.

"Although we will forego a Breakfast celebration, we are committed to providing the scholarships consistent with the previous years. Namely, we will be awarding seven scholarships across Westchester County and Yonkers and will do so by mid-June", said co-President, Richard J Poccia. Dr. MarieElena Liotta, Scholarship chair, said, "We have a history of receiving applicants from Yonkers and across the County of very qualified students. We do not want the current pandemic crisis impacting the application process, which is why we extended our application deadline. As such, students were able to continue to submit applications beyond our original date".

Walter Rodriguez, co- President said, "In light of the Breakfast postponement, which is one of our primary sources of fundraising, we will be seeking additional contributions elsewhere". If you would like to learn more, or contribute, please check out our website at www.enricofermi.org. Contributions, of any amount, can be sent to Mr. Anthony Maddalena, 13 Anne Marie Place, Yonkers New York 10703. For additional information, please call 914-968-5644.

The Enrico Fermi Educational Fund was founded by a small group of caring and concerned individuals who saw a need in their community. They dedicated themselves to fulfilling this need by supporting the continued education of deserving high school seniors through scholarships. This achievement was accomplished through the generous and determined support of individuals and businesses.

The Enrico Fermi Educational Fund was founded in the 1960's by a small group of caring and concerned individuals who saw a need in their community. They dedicated themselves to fulfilling this need by supporting the continued education of deserving high school seniors through scholarships. This achievement was accomplished through the generous and determined support of individuals and businesses and has provided scholarships to over 400 recipients and more than one million dollars. Check us out on Facebook, LinkedIn.

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Yonkers Native Signs with NFL's Seattle Seahawks

By Dan Murphy



Here's some good news for the Yonkers community. Gavin Heslop, Yonkers native who went to Stepinac High School and SUNY Stony Brook, was signed last week by the NFL's Seattle Seahawks. Heslop had to wait through the NFL draft, in which he was not picked. After the 5th round, Heslop received a call from Seahawks coach Pete Carroll, the former coach of the NY Jets, who told Heslop he was interested in having him on the team. After quickly agreeing to a contract, Heslop became an undrafted free agent signed by the Seattle Seahawks. "I'm thankful for the opportunity. I'm so grateful for the opportunity, that Pete Carroll and the staff was interested and liked what I was doing on the field and like what type of person I am to give me a chance," said Heslop, who was a member of Stepinac High School State Catholic school championship season of 2014. Heslop played defensive back and running back for Stepinac, and continued his learning at Stony Brook at defense back, which is where the Seahawks hope he can play, defedning some of the NFL's great wide receivers like Odell Bechham Jr, (OBJ). Heslop said that hard work and effort helped get him to this point. "I put the work in every day, together with my teammates. We did everything we could to be the best we could be. So, I feel like I took all of the necessary steps to get here. It feels great that it all worked out but I'm not done yet. I still have a lot of work to do to have sucess in the NFL." The 6'1" DB had 51 tackles and 2 blocked kicks for Stony Brook. Heslop might start out on special teams for Seattle before earning his way into the defensive starting lineup. But his work ethic and commitment to putting in the time necessary to succeed, is an indication that we might be hearing more about Yonkers native Gavin Heslop during our TV's Football Sunday's ... whenever they come back.

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Democratic Party to New Yorkers: Drop Dead!

By Eric W. Schoen

There's a lot going on this week. But first, a reminder and request. If you drive stop speeding! Stop honking your horns. Stop giving dirty looks to your fellow drivers. Walkers, look for crosswalks and take your damn headsets off so you can hear and see what's going when you are crossing the street. We don't need to fill hospital beds with injured driver or pedestrians!

DEMOCRATIC CONTROLLED STATE BOARD OF ELECTIONS CANCELS PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY

4 years ago it was the nasty shenanigans of Hillary Clinton that hurt the Bernie Sanders presidential bid. Sanders made it explicitly clear he was suspending his candidacy for President this year but wanted to accumulate delegates to have a say in the Democratic Party Platform of ideas. Governor Cuomo made it easy for people to apply for an absentee ballot so that they could get the Election Day Ballot mailed to them. All was good in America. Then on Monday, the State Board of Elections consisting of 2 Democrats and 1 Republican voted to cancel the New York Primary for President. They didn't cancel primaries for Congress, the State Legislature or other local elections. Just the Primary for President. Former Westchester County Executive Andy Spano was one of the 2 Democrats to kill Democracy voting to cancel the Democratic Primary.

Many people haven't a clue what the Democratic Platform is. For the Bernie Sanders (who by the way is supporting Biden) folks it is their way to shape Democratic values in a political system where there are few values. Like in Westchester and Yonkers where it's the good old boys and now girls network. Wait til budget negotiations in Yonkers start and the trading of jobs for votes by council members on the budget starts so it can be a unanimous positive consensus.

This year is the year of the insider in New York politics. No write-ins if you are unhappy with the candidates, no Opportunity to Ballots and now no Democratic Primary for President.

My hope is that this will be overturned by the National Democratic Party Leadership or through the courts. Democrats need to be united if they want to defeat Trump in November. This is no way to do it!

PUT CORONAVIRUS PATIENTS IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY CENTER NOT NURSING HOMES

There is a blame game going on in New York State. On March 24 the New York Health Department under the leadership of Dr. Howard Zucker appointed by Governor Andrew Cuomo ordered Nursing Homes and Assisted Living Administrators to admit or readmit patients with the Coronavirus. These facilities are not properly equipped to handle these patients. They don't have ventilators or proper equipment or training, and limited space to segregate the Coronavirus patients from the general population. So what do we have? The coronavirus spreading like wildfire in the nursing homes and assisted living facilities. The elderly dying. Staff getting sick. A mess.

Attorney General Letitia James is looking into this. Her investigation doesn't have too far to look. In the meantime, why not put these people in the empty Westchester County Center Hospital set up ready, willing and able to accept patients until they are ready to return home or passed the incubation period or healthy?

CLOSED CEMETERIES?

My mother's yahrzeit (anniversary of her death) was last Thursday. I would normally go to visit her grave. She is buried at Mount Hope Cemetery. The day before I would normally visit her grave there was an article in the Journal News by Peter Kramer that said Mount Hope was closed to visitors. I would not believe it until I saw it, so I visited the Cemetery. I get there, the gates are closed with a big sign CEMETERY CLOSED.

Through my radio show and listeners I learned that the closure was not a problem for just Jewish families but also Christian families with relatives buried there. Again using the radio show, our listeners, elected officials, social media (Facebook and Twitter) and public outcry we were able to get the cemetery gates open to visitors on Sundays from 9:00 am-4:00 pm. Hopefully if people stay 6 feet apart, don't come to the Cemetery if they are ill and limit their time and the number of visitors Mount Hope will remain open through Mother's Day and Fathers Day in June.

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Hilltop Hanover Farm Helping to Meet the Demand for Food

Spring harvest is underway for County farmers at Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, who are taking extra precautions to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

This season, the farm has introduced an online ordering and curbside pick-up service. Customers can place orders Tuesdays through Thursdays while supplies last, and pick-up during regular farm stand hours on Fridays and Saturdays. Customers will see designated curbside pick-up parking spots and stay in their cars while an employee retrieves their packed produce.

On Tuesday, April 21, Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center sold out of produce within 2 hours of launching the service, receiving 90 orders for early season favorites – salad mix, spinach, radishes, baby kale and baby chard. Quantity and variety of produce will increase as the season progresses.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: “Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center’s new online ordering service is an innovative way we are moving Westchester Forward. Many of our neighbors are facing economic hardships and we are seeing an increased demand for fresh produce, eggs and dairy products. The farm is helping us meet that need in addition to being an excellent educational resource.”

Additionally, employees are practicing social distancing, proper and frequent hand washing, and increasing their effort to sanitize facilities and shared tools with an EPA approved, food safe disinfecting product.

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center Director Shanyng Siegel said: “Despite uncertainty, we are working hard to grow fresh, nutritious produce for you, your families and over 20 community partners. Last year, Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center donated over 15,000 pounds of fresh produce to food pantries and soup kitchens throughout Westchester County. During this challenging time, we are proud to continue working with our community partners.

The farm stand is open Fridays between 1 p.m. and 6 p.m., and Saturdays between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. The amount of customers in the farm stand will be limited to eliminate congregating. Once inside the farm stand, customers will order from a display and a farmer will pull the produce to limit the amount of people touching the product. There will be no cooking demonstrations or sampling.

Building access is restricted at Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, however trails remain open for recreational use. For more information, please visit <https://hilltophanoverfarm.org/>.

“The Aircraft Carrier & The 2020 Senior Prom”

By Ken Hesselbacher

As high school seniors across Westchester County will be unable to attend their Senior Prom, we are reminded by Bronxville resident Ken Hesselbacher that there were other times in our history when some high school seniors didn't have a senior prom.

In 1918, Hesselbacher wrote a story titled “Willam Foss and the 2018 Bronxville High School Senior Prom,” in which he watched as Bronxville High School seniors hopped in a Limo and headed off to their Senior Prom at the Surf Club on the Long Island Sound in New Rochelle.

“I would like to tell you about another senior prom that I hope you will enjoy. Although Bill Foss was 18 year older than me, our friendship was forged on the handball courts, which results in strong and lasting relationships. Bill Foss was a high school senior at the Theodore Roosevelt High School in the Bronx scheduled to attend his prom and graduate in June 1942. Shortly after the tragedy of December 7, 1941, Bill and many members of the Class of '42 were offered a special option: anyone who enlisted in the armed forces by April 1942 would not have to take final exams and would be awarded their diplomas.

Bill took the option and went to fight for his country. He joined the Navy and spent four eventful years in the Pacific theater. After the war, Bill came home to the Bronx, joined the NYC Fire Department, married, raised a family, and went on with his life.

Fast forward to 1992 which was the 50th anniversary for the class of 1942. Theodore Roosevelt High School decided that since so many were deprived of their senior prom, there would also be a senior prom included in the 50th Anniversary celebration. Bill Foss attended that reunion and prom.

I want to congratulate Bronxville High School class of 2018 and wish them well. And as we get close to Memorial Day, I want to thank and remember who gave and who continue to give so much for our country,” wrote Hesselbacher. (Note: Bill Foss passed away in 2014 at the age of 90)

Recently, Hesselbacher added, “Now it is April 2020, and how the world has changed in two short years. I doubt that any of the class of 2020 will be going to their senior proms any time soon. Perhaps they will have the prom as part of their 50th Anniversary -Reunion in 2070.

“And of course, a major news story concerns the Aircraft carrier, USS Theodore Roosevelt, which is under attack from the insidious COVID-19 Virus and other political problems. There could be high school graduates from the class of 2018 who are now serving on the USS Roosevelt.

“In such difficult times that we are navigating, I suggest that we look back to the example of Bill Foss, a member of the greatest generation, for support. As a member of the Navy, Bill was a patriot, as a member of the NYC Fire Department he was the first to run into a burning building, and for me, he was a great handball partner and a wonderful story teller. I am sure that he would want to tell everyone today “You will rise to the occasion and will get through this together.” I also hope that he would say “That was a nice story Kenny.”

Spring Virtual Run/Walk



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for further information

The Yonkers Parks Department has come up with a great idea to keep us all in shape during COVID-19. A spring virtual run or walk, it can be 1 mile or up to 5K. The Spring Virtual Run/Walk continues until May 16th. There are no registration fees! This is about staying active and for community awareness. You chose the distance and indoors or outdoors. All ages welcome to participate. If you are running or walking outside - social distancing rules are to be in effect at all times. For more information and to sign up visit <https://bit.ly/2VAi3B7>.

Bicycle Sundays Returns May 3 Is It Too Early?

The Westchester Parks Foundation and Westchester County Parks has announced the dates for its 46th Annual Bicycle Sundays 2020 season. The program kicks off on May 3 and continues Sundays in May, June and September – except Memorial Day and Labor Day weekends. During this annual event, bicyclists, skaters, joggers and walkers take over several miles of the Bronx River Parkway. The course will be slightly modified this year, beginning at Main Street in White Plains (instead of Westchester County Center) and continue south to Scarsdale Road in Yonkers. The program is supported fully through generous donations from Con Edison.

It is recommended that participants wear a mask or a face covering in situations like this where social distancing may not always be able to be maintained. Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: “We understand the need to strike the correct balance between maintaining important social distance guidelines, and providing people with an escape from the pandemic. We are excited to be able to continue this Westchester County tradition that many look forward to all year long.”

Joe Stout, Executive Director of Westchester Parks Foundation, stated: “Now more than ever we need to #StandUpForParks and the essential service they provide for all Westchester residents. We are thrilled to continue this iconic event that provides a healthy lifestyle and promotes importance of environmental preservation for generations to come. We are grateful to Con Edison for their generous support and commitment to parks and open space.”

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathy O'Connor said: “Seeing Bicycle Sundays return is extremely gratifying. We thank County Executive Latimer for believing in the power of parks to help people get through this challenging time, and we also thank the Parks Foundation and our great sponsors for the funding they provide.”

Bicycle Sundays runs between White Plains and Yonkers. There are numerous points of entry along the route. Although parking will be available in the Westchester County Center east parking lot, participants will follow signs and directions to enter the route at Main Street once they exit their cars. Bicycle Sundays are free and open to the public.

Residents and visitors can enjoy Bicycle Sundays this year on the following dates between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.: May 3, 10, 17, 31, June 7, 14, 21, 28, Sept 13, 20, 27.

For more information visit: <https://www.thewpf.org/programs/bicycle-sundays/>

Editor's Note: Some Westchester residents questioned whether Bicycle Sundays should be allowed to start up this weekend. The Greenburgh Medical Advisory Committee wrote the following Memorandum to Town Supervisor Paul Feiner Re Bicycle Sundays: Staying healthy is important during this crisis. Exercise and being outside is part of a healthy regime. However, the benefits must not outweigh the negatives, particularly the risk of contracting COVID-19.

The medical advisory committee is concerned that, at this point in time, the risks associated with Bicycle Sundays outweigh the benefits. Public health literature advises that those exercising outdoors maintain at least a 6-foot distance to reduce risk. But it is impractical for bicyclists on the Bronx River Parkway to maintain a 6-foot minimum physical distance.

Wearing masks is of course useful. But wearing masks doesn't mean that physical distancing should not be maintained, as different masks have different degrees of efficiency. Additionally, wearing a mask, particularly when one is exercising, can cause glasses to fog up, increasing the risk of accidents. The Medical Advisory Committee suggests that Bicycle Sundays be deferred for the time being.

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Applications Sought for Ruth Taylor Scholarships

Awards will go to graduate students in social work or public health

Westchester County graduate students pursuing careers in social work or public health are invited to apply for scholarship assistance through the Ruth Taylor Scholarship Fund. The fund was established in tribute to Ruth Taylor upon her retirement as the county's Commissioner of Public Welfare and in recognition of her nearly four decades of outstanding service. The annual awards are sponsored by United Way of Westchester and Putnam, Westchester County government and the Urban League of Westchester County.

Applicants must be residents of Westchester County and enrolled in graduate studies in Social Work or Public Health on a full-time basis. The submission deadline is Friday, June 14, 2019, by which time the application and all supporting documents must be received. Financial need, public service and scholastic capacity are part of the evaluation criteria. Recipients must maintain the minimum cumulative university GPA for the duration of the award. Awards are issued annually, and students are eligible to apply if they have not previously received the scholarship. A change in major or enrollment status (to part-time) will result in loss of the scholarship award.

Since 2008, United Way through the Ruth Taylor Scholarship Fund has awarded a collective total of \$160,000 to 60 graduate students. The average award has been \$2,655 and can be used for tuition or maintenance, or both.

Inquiries can be directed to: United Way of Westchester and Putnam, Doris Perez, program coordinator, via e-mail at dperez@uwwp.org or download application and cover letter at www.uwwp.org/ruthtaylorscholarships.

ACUC Donated Masks continued from pg 1---

looked and forgotten, but not in Yonkers. Having appropriate PPEs is essential to protect our staff and residents. People who Richmond supports have significant disabilities and medical fragility. They are a high risk group and protecting them is our highest priority. With this generous donation of PPEs we will be able to continue to provide services to people with disabilities and to keep them safe. Thank you Mayor Spano and ACUC, we greatly appreciate it."

The ACUC Alliance is a recently-launched grassroots coalition of more than 150 Chinese American and overseas Chinese organizations throughout the Tri-State Area. Members include charitable entities, businesses, alumni associations, other Chinese cultural, religious, and professional groups and individuals, all committed to helping local communities in the fight against this once-in-a-lifetime pandemic. The ACUC has raised more than \$5 million in cash or in-hand PPE donations since March.

ACUC Board Member Victoria Alberto said, "We all understand that only by working together, pooling our resources and knowledge can we hope stop and cure this terrible disease. ACUC is committed to you today and in the future as you work to respond and recover from this pandemic."

Organizations and businesses that contributed to ACUC's donation include: New York Chinese Coffee Club; Empires Scholars Consulting; Topseat International Inc.; Crag Du Jor Corp; Xiamen University Alumni Association of New York; The Chinese Community of Eastchester, Tuckahoe & Bronxville; Scarsdale residents Hongwei Zhou and Joanna Wang; Phoenix Textile USA Inc.; and Dress Up for the Day.

Other recipients of ACUC's donation include St. John's Riverside Hospital and Open Door Medical Center. For more information on COVID-19 and the City of Yonkers, visit www.yonkersny.gov/coronavirus.com

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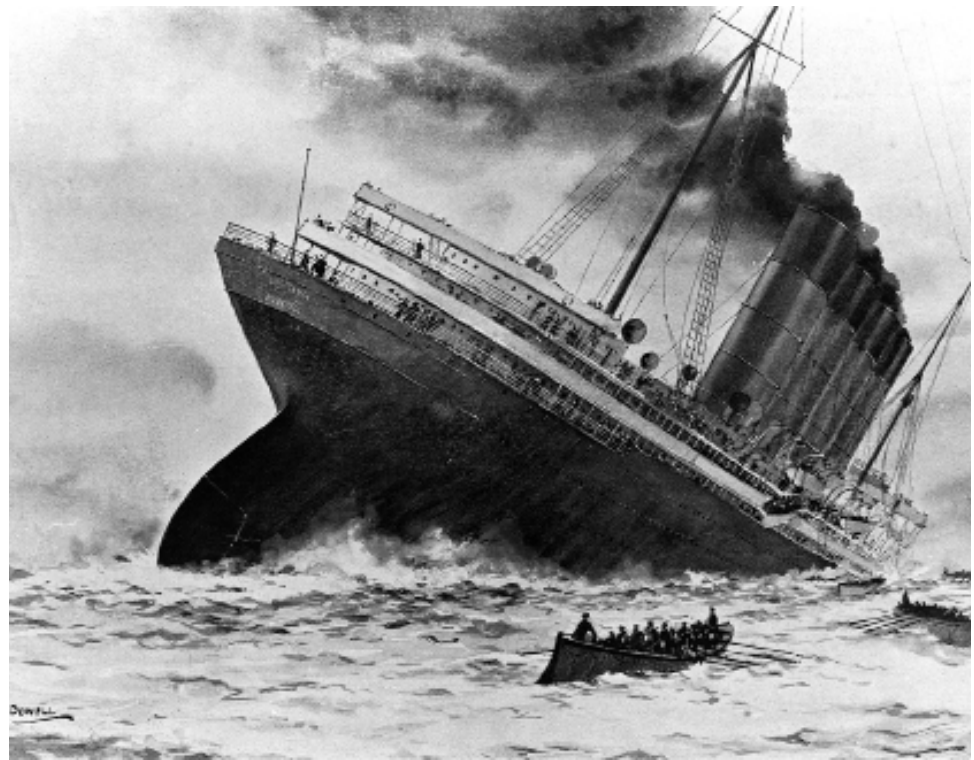


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On This Day In Yonkers History...



five Yonkers residents were rescued from a sinking ship Lusitania more than 100 years ago

By Mary Hoar, President of the Untermyer Performing Arts Council, Yonkers Historical Society President Emerita

Monday, May 4th

May 4, 1922: Yonkers lost a case in New York State Supreme Court; Justice Arthur Tompkins, in an action initiated by Leake and Watts Orphan Home, decided land used by the Home as a playground and garden should not be taxed by the City of Yonkers.

May 4, 1932: After legislation passed by the Common Counsel gave him the authority, Mayor Joseph Loehr announced he would no longer issue permits to peddlers who did not live in Yonkers.

May 4, 1932: The Honor Board of Yonkers awarded the Medal of Honor to Sergeant Michael Gilmartin and Patrolman Robert Philp, both of whom had engaged in gun battles with armed criminals. The Medal of Honor is the highest award the city could bestow on a police officer or firefighter.

Tuesday, May 5th

May 5, 1926: Yonkers DPW Commissioner Goldsmith ordered Dockmaster Harry Miller to investigate all suspicious looking boats on the Hudson by Yonkers. The Commissioner had received a number of reports that rum runners were unloading their wares on our Yonkers piers.

May 5, 1950: Thirty-five-year-old Cesare Saranga, an engineer born in Italy, invented what was called the TV owner's dream; he developed a small, inexpensive indoor antenna that was as effective as an outdoor roof aerial.

According to Saranga, his antenna was flexible enough to be incorporated into almost any decoration or lamp, and only needed to be adjusted for the weakest station once and never touched again. Saranga arrived in the US with only three cents in his pocket, but was immediately hired to be a pick-and-shovel man for Petrillo Contracting. After a short time, he went to work for Empire Radio and Television Company after proving his ability by repairing two receivers that the owners were unable to fix.

Wednesday, May 6th

May 6, 1933: Yonkers Police and Fire Department members volunteered to use \$100,000 of their funds to purchase tax anticipation notes to allow Yonkers to continue operating. They also pledged to pay their own taxes as early as possible.

May 6, 1953: Bookman Associates of New York released "Monarchism in the Weimar Republic," written by Dr. Walter Kaufman of Locust Hill Avenue. Believed to be the first comprehensive study of the rise and decline of the Weimar Republic, it discussed the parallels between the Republic and the resurrection of clandestine organizations in Western Germany. Born in Mayden, Germany, Kaufman served as an intelligence officer in the US Army Reserves and taught German at Roosevelt High School.

Thursday, May 7th

May 7, 1926: After being in the job for less than five months, public safety Commissioner William Van Keuren resigned. A former NYC Police Inspector, he left at the request of Mayor William Walsh.

May 7, 1945: Appropriately enough, Yonkers learned about 21-year-old Corporal Alan Schoen's part in the European victory! Son of Alfred Schoen, the Post Street resident was in a Bombardment Group in France that took part in a heavy bombing attack on a railroad yard in Bernberg, Germany. According to Schoen, "the bomb is really covered that yard. Several trains were broken up... The rest of the area really got hit hard." Schoen had flown more than 40 aerial combat missions against Germany, and wore the Air Medal with seven Oak Leaf Clusters.

May 7, 1950: Our Yonkers Americans Soccer Team won the National Soccer League Cup by beating the Paterson-Dover AC 3-2 at Tibbetts!

Friday, May 8th

May 8, 1915: It was learned five Yonkers people were rescued when the steamship Lusitania was torpedoed by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland. Oscar Garb, Professor Holborne, Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Faulds and Margaret McClintock were saved. Unofficial reports stated the lives of four unidentified Yonkers people were lost.

May 8, 1932: Supreme Court Justice Morschauer ordered Yonkers to reinstate 3 Yonkers police hostlers, George D'Amato, Albert Hayden and Joseph Hickman. Public Safety Commissioner Denis Morrissey had released them from employment the previous January.

May 8, 1952: Yonkers residents learned about Dextran, a promising new substance developed by Refined Syrups and Sugars at our Yonkers riverfront. Dextran could be used as a "volume extender" for blood plasma; the company was quick to point out this was not a substitute for blood, but would supplement a short blood supply. It could be bottled and stored indefinitely, ready to be used whenever needed.

Saturday, May 9th

May 9, 1914: The American Poetry Society gave a spring festival at the home of Mrs. Samuel Untermyer at Greystone-on-Hudson. Musician Harriet Scholder-Edwin entertained the gathered guests.

May 9, 1945: Steve Shiani, columnist in the Honolulu Advisor, featured Yonkers own Captain Sol Friedman in his article. Friedman, who served as Claims Officer, Special Service Officer, Public Relations Officer, and Legal Advisor, was serving at the Jungle Training Center, where our men got their final training for Pacific warfare. On top of this, Friedman organized top entertainment, such as Bob Hope and Carol Landis, for the more than 250,000 men serving in the area. Shiani felt, with all that Friedman did, he needed to be triplets!

continued on pg 6--

Classifieds

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Electrical Engineer (Yonkers, NY). Analysis of potential engineering strategies for installation of HVAC systems. Production of AutoCad shop drawings. Assist in the construction and installation of electrical equipment. Calculate electrical power usage. Estimate electrical project labor, vendor, material, and construction costs for budget preparation purposes. Req's Bachelor's Degree in Mechanical, Energy or Electrical Engineering/Foreign Equivalent. Send resume to HR Dept. M.C. Electrical NY Inc, 157 Walsh Road, Yonkers, NY 10701.

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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: City of Yonkers Lien Sale Postponed

For public health and safety concerns related to COVID-19 and as per C19-3 of the Yonkers City Charter, the City of Yonkers annual lien sale, scheduled for May 6, 2020, has been postponed to September 16, 2020 at 10 AM.

Council Budget, continued from pg 1--

in on May 12.

The Mayor's proposed budget relies on State Aid based on the budget passed by the Governor and State legislature last month. But Governor Cuomo and NYS have warned local governments and school districts that their State Education Aid may have to be cut by as much as 20% if NY doesn't get a bailout from Washington DC. NY State government, and Yonkers, will know more by May 1, and will provide a final budget number to Yonkers and other local governments and school districts on May 15.

So Yonkers will not know until May 15 what their final numbers will be for two critical revenues that they receive from NY State. One is AIM, Aid to Municipal Governments. Yonkers receives \$108 Million per year in AIM funding, and a payment is due in the last week of June for \$86 Million. If the Governor is forced to make budget cuts of 20%, then Yonkers could lose \$22 Million in AIM funding, which is used to fund City operations, (Police, Fire, DPW)

More troubling could be a 20% cut to State Education Aid for Yonkers, which could result in a \$70 Million cut to the Yonkers Public Schools. "Everything is fluid, and these numbers will continue to fluctuate. We are hoping for a federal stimulus package. This is not an expense issues, this is a revenue shortfall and we need some type of stimulus. The state has a \$13.5 Billion shortfall, and some of our choices will be difficult," said Liszewski.

During the council's budget committee meeting, Chaired by Councilman Anthony Merante, all councilmembers indicated that they did not want to wait for the bad news from Washington or from Albany, and that they wanted the administration and finance department to come up with contingency plans in the event that the City would have to make severe budget cuts resulting in layoffs.

"What is the plan B, the plan C, and the plan D? If the train is coming down the track, what is the contingency plan?" asked Council President Mike Khader, who suggested offering early retirement and incentives for employees not to opt into the City's health care program as cost saving measures.

Councilman John Rubbo said, "I do have a problem with this budget. The economy is closed, and this budget that we have before us doesn't reflect that. What if the money doesn't come from Albany? Without making the difficult decisions now, we may run out of money and next year it will be worse."

Liszewski added, "I'm not sure how we can educate our kids with a 20% cut. That is \$70 Million and would result in 1700 positions cut. That is what keeps me up at night."

"We have made cuts and difficult decisions but we are not ready to lay people off yet. We are going to be hit by this for many years to come. We need our unions to help us during this difficult time."

Council Minority Leader Mike Breen questioned why the council will begin their budget hearings next week with all of the unknowns. "We have a budget before us that we don't know if its real. Are we then going to go back and make adjustments?"

Liszewski said that the city needs to have a budget passed by June 30 so that it can send out tax bills, or borrow money short term.

Councilman and Budget Chairman Merante said, "I think we should have a contingent budget for us to consider and that we start preparing for. I don't see how we won't have to make tough decisions."

Majority Leader Corazon Pineda-Isaac said, "Our revenues are down and our expenses are outpacing our revenues. 74% of our budget goes to our unions. What I don't see is a plan, where do we go from here? How do we address these questions? I don't see any answers, plans for contingency budgets."

Councilwoman Shanae Williams said, "We haven't laid anyone off but we have to start preparing for it. This budget makes no sense, the numbers aren't real. Are the overtime numbers for the Police really down?"

Councilwoman Tasha Diaz ended the meeting on a positive note. "I have hope that we can pass a budget that can accommodate the city and the people. I have faith that we can get through this."

Water Rates will rise by 5% and sewer rates by 6%, according to the Finance Department.

This date in Yonkers history-continued from pg 5---

Sunday, May 10th

May 10, 1904: The American Real Estate Company began remodeling the old Getty Homestead on South Broadway into a hotel. The building, to be called the Park Hill Inn, would have two three-story extensions, and was expected to open in six months.

May 10, 1944: The D'Avanzos of Yonkers cheered when their cousin Dr. Teodor Picado was elected President of Costa Rica! The family, Joseph, Aurello, Alfonso, Vincent, and Carmela D'Avanzo and Yolanda Vetrano lived on Poplar and Waverley Streets and Buena Vista and Riverdale Avenues. The family had come to Yonkers in 1924.

May 10, 1945: Hospital Apprentice George Barker, Jr., of Riverdale Avenue was awakened from a sound sleep in his bunk somewhere in the Marianas, by a man standing by his bed. Thanking the fellow look familiar, he groggily look closer. "Hiya, Georgie," he heard; it was his Uncle Frank Krylowski of Jackson Street! They had not seen each other in over a year, and spent the day talking Yonkers and other good things. Before Uncle Frank went back to his ship, George promised to visit his uncle.

For more information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and our upcoming events, please visit our Facebook pages. For information on membership in the Yonkers Historical Society, please call 914-961-8940 or email yhsociety@aol.com.

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 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

Quezada YPS continued from pg 1--

a donation from Feeding Westchester of 6 pallets of food, which was placed into more than 500 bags, each with food for a family for one week. Quezada, was unpacking the food and loading up the bags for families, with the help of CSEA staff at the school and members of Central Administration. Chocolate bunnies that were donated topped off each family food bag.

The challenge for Quezada and the Yonkers Public Schools comes in both making sure that students are learning at home, but also making sure that they are eating a nutritious meal every day. "We are establishing relationship with great organizations like Feeding Westchester to make sure that our children and their family's lives are less stressful. We are working with others to help and give back."

Hostos is also the site of a grab and go meal location every weekday, where students and parents pick up a meal from the cafeteria waiting for them in the front door lobby. Quezada said that 350 meals per day are given out at the school, located on Morris Street in Southwest Yonkers.

YPS students are learning through a combination of educational packets sent in the mail, and online coursework and materials. Quezada said that more than 1,000 laptops have been given out, one per family, to help students with their online learning. And with many families having more than one YPS students, the HP laptops are assisting YPS staff connect to more than 4,000 students, giving them the ability to upload and review learning materials waiting for them.

"We started to plan for stay at home learning in February and designed a distance learning channel. Our teachers have done a great job reaching out to make sure our students feel comfortable," said Quezada, who added that another 700 more laptops are on the way. Anyone who can help with a donation of computers can contact the YPS at jfierstein@yonkerspublicschools.org. The district has also written a grant to obtain iPads for K-2 students.

While students are being fed, and being taught, and childcare is also provided by the district, Quezada awaits an answer that he gets most every day. When will the Yonkers schools open again? "That is not up to me, it is up to the Governor, who I think has done a tremendous job. We are working on a re-entry plan, and we have invited our bargaining units to the table to join in this conversation."

Currently, New York State is on stay at home until May 15, so the earliest the YPS school could open would be Monday May 18. Quezada said that if that is the open date, "we need to know so that we can prepare."

While Quezada and the YPS are not unaccustomed to budgetary challenges, this year, with the Coronavirus as a backdrop, the needs for students will be even greater when they return, but the district will have to deal with a \$22.5 Million gap in funding.

"We are very concerned about what will happen. It is impossible to close a gap of that magnitude without cuts to services and programs. The Federal government needs to intervene and help us. This is not a Red or Blue state issue, the future of students and their family's lives are at stake."

"How will our students come back after 10 weeks at home and not at school? Or how will out students come back if we don't have school again until the fall? Will they have deficiencies that we will have to address? Will they have social and emotional challenges? We will need more funding to address these challenges, not less funding," said Quezada.

Recently, Quezada gave a budget presentation to the Board of Education which outlines a cut of 189 positions to address the budget shortfall. With so many funding questions, from the State and City, we will wait to report on the budget details after May 15.

"We are providing instruction through technology, we are feeding our students, and giving our families in need help and support, through compassion and care. There are many champions in our school district, employees, volunteers and donations from companies that are making this happen," said Quezada, who is leading the YPS through a difficult time not seen before with a focus on making sure his students are ok, even if he can't see them in school for now.

For more information, visit Yonkerspublicschools.org.

Eric Schoen continued from pg 3--

MAYOR SPANO WONT STOP THE ENFORCEMENT OF PARKING METERS

ASSEMBLYMAN Nader Sayegh asked him to do it. So did some members of the City Council. But **Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano refuses to stop enforcement of parking meters on city streets in the middle of the pandemic.**

The meters are meant to keep cars turning over in commercial areas. But credit Mayor Spano. He said the truth! It's all about the \$13 million in collections and overtime fines the city collects from people using the meters!

JUDGES AND JUDICIAL CANDIDATES USING A PANDEMIC TO GET VOTES

Yonkers has hit a new low in politics. 2 sitting judges and a candidate for the Judiciary donating Personal Protection Equipment, in this case masks to the staff at a local hospital. Picture sadly on the front of this newspaper last week.

Let's be clear. I support those on the front lines whether they be doctors and nurses, EMT's, police fire and sanitation workers, grocery store employees and all of those helping to keep people alive. We have a shortage of PPE equipment for all of our first responders and health care workers. How did these judicial candidates obtain masks that medical facilities are having a hard time getting for a photo op? Let's take the politics out of the pandemic!

IN CLOSING: how the hell are they going to do contact tracing of people who have been in contact with those affected by the coronavirus?

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisyonkers@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.

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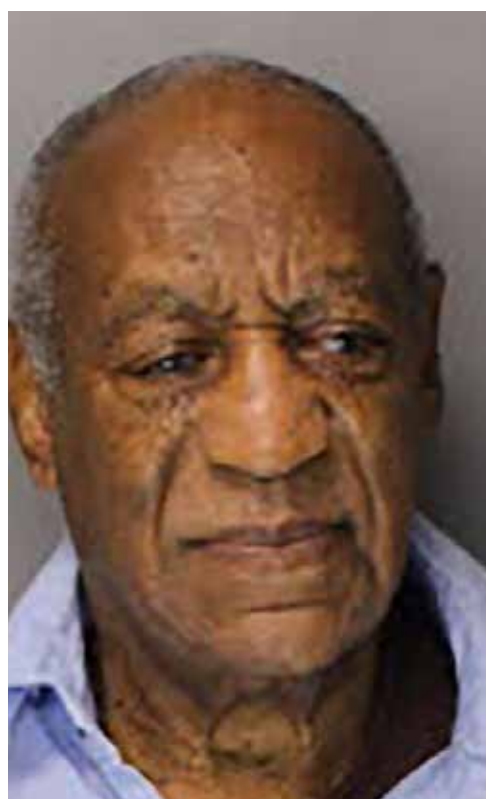
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Bail Reform & Early

Release for COVID-19

Bill Cosby & Michael Cohen Want Out



Bill Cosby, left and Michael Cohen, right are seeking early release due to COVID-19

By Dan Murphy

Several months before the Coronavirus landed in New York and Westchester, the debate over bail reform, and the reduction in the number of persons held in jail for crimes, had already begun. New York State had enacted bail reform, on Jan 1, which reduced the number of crimes that persons convicted of a crime could be held in jail for.

There were supporters and opponents of the new bail reform in New York state, and then the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and a different call went out. To release as many prisoners as possible from jail who had been convicted of non-violent offenses, for the health and safety of the prisoners, but also the corrections officers.

That call for prisoner release for COVID has resulted in several high profile celebrities and prisoners, trying to get out of jail. They include, former Trump attorney Michael Cohen, actor-comedian Bill Cosby and Paul Manafort, who worked on the Trump Presidential campaign.

Michael Cohen has been approved for release from Federal prison by US Attorney General Bill Barr, who has ordered all Federal prisons to "immediately maximize" the release of prisoners to home confinement to prevent the spread of the virus, and to focus on the most medically vulnerable members of the prison population. Cosby and Manafort are waiting on a decision.

The argument for the release of Cosby and others is that their health and age is a factor that will lead to their possible death in jail if they test positive for Coronavirus. But the release of Federal inmates due to COVID has been slow, with less than 1,000 prisoners released out of the total federal prison population of 174,000.

Many news reports have also highlighted the bad hygiene in our prisons. In most jails, hand sanitizer is illegal because it can be used to make alcoholic drinks. Inmates also have to pay for soap in most jails.

Advocates for Bail Reform and early release claim that the same argument can be used for both circumstances. "Release is the only effective means to protect the people with the greatest vulnerability to COVID-19 from transmission of the virus, and allows for greater risk mitigation for all people who remain held or working in New York state prisons," said Tina Luongo, attorney-in-charge of the Legal Aid Society's criminal defense practice.

"Governor Cuomo and DOCCS still have a chance to protect people incarcerated in state prisons by releasing the most vulnerable – anything less would demonstrate an utter lack of compassion and would be inconsistent with the State's goals of reducing the spread of this disease." Anyone 55 years or older in state prison is now being reviewed for early release, according to the Gov. Cuomo's office.

Many are hoping that the current discussion on early release of older prisoners to protect them from COVID-19 will lead to a larger discussion about releasing more non-violent offenders from jail overall. Do we lock up too many prisoners in this country? Is there an alternative means of justice? And has the pandemic made us re-examine who to put in prison?

The debate over bail reform in Westchester has focused on whether persons who are repeat offenders, or are committing similar crimes again and again should be automatically released after their arrest. The law enforcement community has said this is not a good practice.

But in the recent State budget that was passed, some changes to bail reform were made. State Senator Shelley Mayer provided an update in her summary on the budget last month.

"The Senate Majority responded to community concerns about criminal justice and bail reforms by including additional felonies and some serious misdemeanors that are charged repeatedly in the list of offenses eligible for bail. This means that the judge has the discretion to determine if bail is appropriate to be set in some limited circumstances, and records will be kept regarding the judge's application of bail to ensure accountability. The 2020-2021 State Budget includes:

"Improvements to New York's bail law such as making several high level offenses now bail eligible including **certain sex crimes, high level drug offenses, domestic violence felonies, crimes resulting in a death,** and offenses directly related to an individual's flight risk. The reform proposal also:

"Creates a mechanism to address individuals who repeatedly commit crimes involving damage to property or persons; Expands reporting requirements so that the Department of Criminal Justice Services and the Office of Court Administration can better track outcomes of the state's new bail law; and Maintains the existing bail structure where almost misdemeanors and non-violent felonies are not bail eligible.

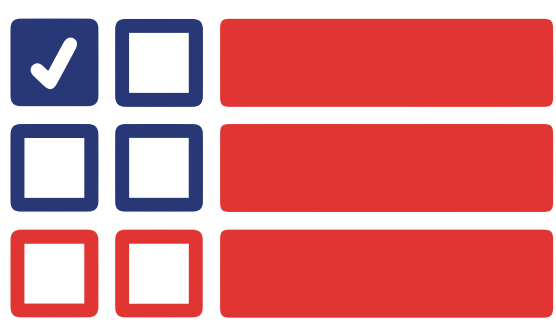
"Also Providing \$40 million to support the implementation of discovery reforms; Barring gun ownership for individuals who commit serious offenses in other states.

"Empowering law enforcement to seize weapons for at least 48 hours when responding to domestic violence incidents. Law enforcement will be authorized to seize firearms that are in plain view when conducting a lawful search in responding to a domestic violence incident.

"Keeping guns out of the hands of domestic abusers by ensuring District Attorneys follow current practices and Court Clerks promptly provide information on misdemeanor domestic violence convictions to the State Department of Criminal Justice Services to ensure these offenses are easier to identify on a criminal record for gun background checks," writes Sen. Mayer.

In Westchester, discussions have begun quietly and behind closed doors about how the prison population has dropped dramatically since the 1990's but the number of County Corrections officers has remained the same.

While nobody wants to come out publicly and call for fewer corrections officer, others are wondering if the time for such a conversation is now, based on the Coronavirus, the discussions about bail reform, and the economic troubles facing the county in the upcoming budget.



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