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Friday July 10, 2020

State & Local Budgets Waiting and Hoping for President Joe Biden



Gov. Andrew Cuomo, left, and former VP, and Presidential candidate Joe Biden.

Governor Andrew Cuomo and State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli have been sounding the alarm about the State's finances, budget holes, and the lack of assistance coming from Washington DC. That warning has now turned into a temporary cut in State Aid to local governments who rely on funding from Albany to operate their local governments.

In Westchester County, White Plains and Yonkers are two city's that receive a large amount of AIM funding. (Aid to Municipal Governments). Last week, the State budget office cut AIM funding by 20% from a planned payment last month.

For White Plains that means a \$1 Million loss in State Aid. For Yonkers, it's a \$19 Million loss. According to the State Budget Division, the reduction, or temporary cut, is just that for the time being.

"We are not reducing support for AIM at this time and instead are holding back 20% of the funding as the State contends with a cash crunch caused by a 14% drop in revenue due entirely to the pandemic, the federal decision to delay income tax filings to July, and awaits clarity on federal assistance to offset this revenue loss," said Freeman Klopott, spokesman, NY State Budget Division.

NY Comptroller Tom DiNapoli reported that state revenues for the month of May were down by \$767 Million, or 19.7% from the previous year. "With an economy still suffocated by a global pandemic, the state's finances took another serious hit in the month of May," DiNapoli said.

"We are now clearly seeing the recession's impact on tax receipts. As we continue to slowly re-open the economy, it's critical that Washington act on our call for more federal aid."

Other items of note in the report: Personal income tax withholding revenues were \$291.8 million below May 2019, a decline of more than 9 percent reflecting both depressed economic activity and timing factors. The Department of Education made \$4 billion in general aid payments to school districts.

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Voting Troubles Abound in Westchester on Primary Day

County Board to Take a Look



A voter waits to vote in Yonkers on Primary Day. Photo by Robert Kalfus

By Dan Murphy

After getting an earful from thousands of Westchester residents who voted, or tried to vote in person on Primary Day June 23 and faced long lines and aggravation, the County Board of Legislators will meet with election commissioners to try and find ways to avoid what some have called last month's primary-a disaster and one candidate for Congress, Allison Fine, called for Westchester's two Commissioners to resign.

BOL Chairman Ben Boykin said, "The Board of Legislators has no authority over how the Board of Elections conducts elections. The BOE is an independent body that reports to the State Board of Elections. But it is imperative that voters in Westchester have confidence in the way elections are held in our County, and as representatives of the people of Westchester, we must do what we can to ensure that.

"The June 23 primaries were conducted under a perfect storm of difficult conditions because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The unprecedented process for and volume of absentee voting, the difficulty in recruiting and training poll workers in the face of the pandemic, and the challenges of locating a sufficient number of suitable voting places presented challenging circumstances.

"Unfortunately, as a result, confusion about absentee voting was widespread and Election Day lines were unacceptably long. It is imperative that

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Latimer and ICE Go Head to Head...Again



ICE agents remain active in Westchester County

By Dan Murphy

A long simmering feud between Westchester County Government and the Federal Department of Immigration and Customs Enforcement, (ICE), heated up again after ICE's NY Director accused Westchester politicians of "passing laws that protect the criminal alien over their safety and forces their police department to release this violent criminal," while County Executive George Latimer accused ICE of not doing their job and seeking a court order and federal warrant to hold the individual in the middle of the debate.

The facts of the case are that on June 25, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) deportation officers arrested a Brazilian national illegally present in the U.S. in the City of Port Chester.

While conducting a targeted enforcement action in Port Chester, New York, ERO deportation officers assigned to ERO-New York's Newburgh Sub-Office arrested 36-year-old Cherle Francisco Das Neves, a convicted criminal alien who has pending criminal charges.

Das Neves, who illegally entered the U.S. at an undetermined time and location, was arrested last December by the Village of Port Chester Police Department and charged with third-degree assault with intent to cause serious physical injury; acts in a manner injurious to a child less than 17 years old; and criminal mischief with intent to damage property.

ICE- ERO deportation officers then lodged a detainer with the Westchester County Department of Corrections (WCDC) requesting that Das Neves be held for a pending deportation. But because of Westchester County's Immigrant Protection Act, passed in 2018, ICE was required to obtain a federal warrant to have Westchester law enforcement hold Das Neves.

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Will Students Go Back to School in the Fall?

WCC Plans to Continue Remote Learning



Westchester Community College announced today that it will offer most of its Fall 2020 classes remotely. WCC's re-emergence plans were developed by the college's Pandemic Response Team with recommendations from federal, state and county health professionals and government to keep the community safe and prevent the spread of COVID-19.

A majority of classes will be conducted entirely through remote/online environments synchronously with instructor and students present at established times. Some classes will be asynchronous, which means there are no scheduled meeting times; rather, learning takes place online and course materials will be accessed by students at times convenient to them. A limited number of classes will be offered on-site because they require access to specialized labs and equipment.

In addition to most courses, student services will continue to be provided remotely. These services include: academic counselors to help students find the right classes; academic support and tutoring for students in need of additional instruction and assistance; mental health counselors for any student suffering through these stressful times; and, our library that offers remote research assistance as well as access to books, videos and more. Furthermore, the Westchester Community College Foundation supports student access with financial support through scholarships as well as supporting our student laptop loaner program. Additionally, the college will offer a vibrant array of online Student Involvement programming ranging from discipline specific clubs and forums on contemporary issues to mindfulness meditation and Zumba© classes. Students can find more information and register for courses at www.sunywcc.edu/fall-session.

Westchester Real Estate Market Remains Strong

Movement from NYC Continues



A luxury home for sale in West Harrison

The second quarter was tumultuous time for the housing market in Westchester, Dutchess and Putnam Counties as real estate, along with most every other business came to a grinding halt due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Although pending sales were down in the second quarter, demand remains strong, according to the Houlihan Lawrence Westchester Putnam & Dutchess Market Report released today. Lower supply and increased demand helped elevate the median sale prices in Q2 in both Westchester (+3.6%) and Dutchess Counties (+8.2%) with Putnam County showing a slight decline of 1%.

“Buyers continue to flock to our listings and showings are robust. Multiple bid situations are not uncommon for properly priced homes and the previously softer high end of the market has renewed vigor,” said Elizabeth Nunan, President and CEO, Houlihan Lawrence.

The second quarter was a period of adjustment as all parties involved in a real estate transaction scrambled to meet the demand, all while working virtually, within the guidelines issued by the State. Shortly thereafter came a huge wave of

inquiries for short-term furnished rentals to start, soon morphing into single-family home inquiries with an emphasis on home offices and outdoor amenities. As the shutdown wore on, more and more of the workforce embraced working from home as a sustainable model, even if only for part of the time.

“In contrast, many homeowners who chose not to sell at this time opted to sit tight, not wanting to expose themselves to any possible health risks. Residents in our area did not have the same urgency to flee that the residents of NYC did, in fact, quite the opposite. Thus, throughout Westchester, Putnam and Dutchess Counties, inventory was down,” said Nunan.

The report notes that the second quarter data for 2020 is partly the result of an atypical event, a paradigm shift in the wants and needs of the buyers. But the market at the end of the quarter remains strong, and interest rates continue to drive the market forward. It remains to be seen if these trends continue long into the year

More detailed Real Estate Data

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Homes Sold: Down 24.3%

Median Sale Price: Up 1.4%

NYC Gateway--(Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Pelham and Yonkers)

Homes Sold: Down 19%

Median Sale Price: Up 6%

Lower Westchester--(Bronxville, Eastchester, Edgemont, Scarsdale and Tuckahoe)

Homes Sold: Down 28%

Median Sale Price: Down 5%

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Playland Closed for the Summer, County Pools Open



The Dragoncoaster at Playland will not roar this year

With the health of Westchester residents and regional visitors on the top of everyone’s mind amid the COVID-19 pandemic, coupled with the difficulties of social distancing and sanitizing in a crowded park, Westchester County Executive George Latimer has announced that the amusement park at Playland Park in Rye will remain closed for the 2020 season.

Playland’s beach is open to Westchester residents, Tuesdays through Sundays. The pool is closed.

Latimer said: “As we’ve gone through the spread of the contagion and we started going through phase 1, and phase 2, and phase 3 – which is what we’re in now, there was not enough significant improvement to justify what happens when 8,000 people go to one place at one time. It’s analogous to what we face at the Kensico Dam Plaza with the ethnic festivals. So with that thought in mind, we delayed this decision. We lost Memorial Day Weekend as a revenue, we announced originally that it would stay closed to mid-July hoping that things would get better and knowing that the Governor’s Executive Order still kept in closed, but you know if things got better we’d reach out and make a case for why it should open, but realistically we’re at a point right now where we couldn’t make that case any further.”

The park’s regular season opening would have been May 9 this year. Aside from the public-health concerns, the park faced other factors that impeded preparations for the season, including restrictions on in-person hiring and training due to NYS on PAUSE guidelines and supply-chain interruptions early on.

While the amusement park, pool and other attractions will be closed to the public this year, this pause in operations during the warm weather also gives park management and staff an opportunity to advance some maintenance projects. These projects are addition to staff’s regular duties of maintaining each ride as the attractions cannot sit idle for long periods. Maintenance will also include the usual seasonal breakdown and winterization of rides and grounds.

The park will host two drive-in movies this year on Friday nights, July 24 and August 7. Details to be announced soon. For information about Playland go to playlandpark.org.

This summer, Westchester County will be opening four public pools. On Friday, July 3 the County will open Willson’s Woods Pool in Mount Vernon, and Tibbetts Brook Pool in Yonkers. Last Friday, June 26 the County opened Saxon Woods Pool in White Plains and Sprain Ridge Pool in Yonkers. All will be open to Westchester County residents with some slight modifications to help ensure safety in the wake of COVID-19.

Modifications include:

- No Aqua Playground at Saxon Woods Pool
- No Aqua Splash Pad at Sprain Ridge Pool
- No Waves in the Wave Pool or Aqua Playground/Splash Pad at Willson’s Woods Pool
- No Lazy River Tubes, Aqua Playground, Water Slides or Basketball Court at Tibbetts Brook Park Pool.

To further ensure safety, the pools will follow New York State and Westchester County Department of Health regulations of 50% maximum occupancy. The pools will be first come first serve entry with two public pool sessions throughout the day.

- Open Session 1: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Clean/Disinfect: 2 p.m.-3 p.m.
- Open Session 2: 3 p.m.-6 p.m.
- Clean/Disinfect: 6 p.m.-7 p.m.

When Session 1 tickets are sold out, Session 2 tickets will go on sale to remaining patrons. When session 2 ticket are sold out no more tickets will be sold for that day. No rainchecks, re-entry or refunds. Westchester

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Popular Maria Regina HS Principal Fired and Parents Want Answers



Rosemarie Decker

By Dan Murphy

Parents of students at Maria Regina High School, in Hartsdale, are confused and upset over the recent termination of popular Principal Rosemarie Decker. Decker, who worked at the school for 18 years, working her way up the ladder to Principal, was terminated June 30.

Parents found out through an email from the high school which reads, "The Board of Trustees writes to advise you that Rosemarie Decker will not be returning as Principal of Maria Regina for the 2020-2021 academic year and that her active service as Principal ends today. The Board thanks Mrs. Decker for her 18 years of service at our school, and wishes her the very best of everything in the future."

"The Board is committed to excellence in all things at Maria Regina. Our first priority has and always will be the academic success, as well as the spiritual and physical well being of your daughters. We strive every day to make Maria Regina a stronghold in the educational community, and we constantly keep in mind our school's motto of scholarship, service and spirit. With these goals in mind, we will immediately begin the search for a new Principal. Our President Anna Parra will communicate with you this summer to discuss plans for the next academic year, including the enhancement of our distance learning program and safely re-opening our school," wrote the Board of Trustees at MRHS.

Parents were not satisfied with the letter for several reasons. First and foremost, Principal Decker was a well respected educator, and through her years at the school, became one of the reasons that parents sent their daughters to the all girls High School.

"I completely trusted my daughter's education and time at the school, in the hands of Rosemarie Decker. When the Coronavirus hit Westchester in March, we all began remote learning, and Principal Decker was part of that. There was no indication from her, or the school that she was going to leave," said one parent, who wanted to remain anonymous because her daughter is preparing to return in the fall.

Students and parents held a rally outside the school for Decker, with signs that read, "Doing This for Decker." The emotion and support at the rally for Decker is just one indication that students and parents will not accept the non-explanation of the administration for her departure, and some are calling for and demanding her return.

A petition, on Change.org, has received more than 2,000 signatures, in support of Decker. It reads, "As of Tuesday, June 30th, Mrs. Rosemarie Decker was fired from her position as Principal of Maria Regina High School. I, as a parent of an alumni and current student, do not agree with this decision. Mrs. Decker has been with the school for 18 years and has held just about every position at Maria. The role that she was most successful at was Principal. The definition of a Principal is as follows. The person

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Board of Elections? Or Rejections?

By Eric W. Schoen

I have voted in elections since I turned 18 in 1978. Dad died three days before Election Day. We were still sitting shiva but I knew that no matter the circumstances dad would have wanted me to vote.

I supported Richard Ottinger for re-election to Congress. That's a name not too many of you are familiar with. Richard was a powerful Congressperson, and I'll never forget the beautiful note Richard wrote to me when my dad died. The letter was handwritten, and it was so meaningful to me that a giant in Congress would send a handwritten letter to an 18 year old voting in his first election who had suddenly lost his father.

So let's just say I have voted in 42 elections and countless primaries over the years. I have never observed a disgraceful election as I observed on Primary Day this year at Yonkers Middle High School.

Don't blame it on social distancing. Don't blame it on the pandemic. Don't blame it on making sure voting sites were handicapped accessible. And for once, this was not a case of just the the poor people in South Yonkers getting mistreated. As I would learn the day after the Primary from County Executive George Latimer, the people at a polling location in Mamaroneck also got shafted.

This was a case of incompetent people being led by incompetent supervisors. Simple.

300 people waiting in the hot sun for 2-3 hours to vote on Primary Day. I got to the school just by chance going through from South Yonkers to my apartment. Folks sitting in beach chairs. Parents with kids in tow wanting out. Senior citizens leaning on the hot school walls with no place to sit. No Water. No food.

And all they had to do was let the people wait inside the comfortably air conditioned school. This is not rocket science.

I tried to find out who was in charge of this mess and fortunately an old high school classmate pointed her out to me. I asked her if she had alerted the Board of Elections a to what was going on. Senator Shelly Mayor graciously provided the election workers with pizza. I got no answer from the Supervisor.

I called Reginald Lafayette, Democratic Board of Elections Commissioner. He told me he would send someone down to the site to see what could be done. Some man in a county car showed up. He told me he had never seen anything like this all day in Westchester. He called another man who I later learned was the Democratic Official in charge of Voting Site selection.

He seemed reasonable. We thought the gym was air conditioned and the 300+ people could wait there. There was construction going on so that was out of the question. Next we looked at the auditorium. I played Officer Krupke in the 1978 Yonkers High School production of West Side Story in that auditorium, so let's just say I know the facility. The Board of Elections Site guy was afraid that people would cut the line and not socially distance. When I heard that I knew the games were beginning. He said it wasn't fully handicapped accessible.

Third solution: line the people in the hallways. 300 people could have been in air conditioned comfort. The Site guy was on the phone with Lafayette and a host of others. Lafayette and the Site guy killed a simple plan to make people comfortable during their 2-3 hour wait. It was close to 11 p.m. when voting finished at the polling site.

Lafayette blamed the mess on the County Board of Legislators refusal to buy more machines for the Voting. Oh my, I forgot to tell you the County Legislator Jose Alvarado was waiting on the line. He told me Lafayette was incorrect.

300 people waiting in the hot sun to vote? To vote on two machines. This should Not occur in 2020. This should never occur in a civilized society. Reginald Lafayette and his assistants couldn't give a dam for the public, the people who pay their salaries.

Are we to expect this nonsense for the General Election in November. I sent a letter to the County Executive the day after the Primary calling for a committee to review the Primary debacle and plan for November. Lafayette yelled at me that neither the County Executive nor the County Legislature could set up such committee.

As we went to press they did. Granted I would like to have seen members of the public on the Commission but I'll take County Legislators. We can't have this chaos in November.

After Lafayette killed the plan to make people comfortable, I went up and down the voter line telling those waiting the whole miserable saga. And who was responsible. Give them credit, the people on line were patient and simply wanted their right to vote.

Some of the other stories that the powers that be brought up are people could vote in advance or by mail. This is true, but if you are going to allow people to vote by machine either you better be prepared or change the laws to allow mail voting and early voting only.

This country is going through difficult times. When we have a simple situation like this those in charge have to go the extra mile to make think not about themselves but of others. If they can't do the job resign.

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SUMMER SERVICE CHANGES FOR BEE-LINE BUS SYSTEM

Westchester County Executive George Latimer announced that the following service changes are now in effect on the Bee-Line Bus System. In order to improve operating efficiencies and accommodate the needs of riders, there will be schedule changes on the following routes. Most of these adjustments involve changes to scheduled running time to reflect actual travel times. Riders should consult timetables for specific details about each route.

Route 4 – There will be schedule adjustments on trips departing Bedford Park Boulevard on weekdays and weekends

Route 5 – There will be weekday and Saturday schedule adjustments on trips arriving and departing Yonkers.

Routes 6 and 61 – There will be Saturday schedule adjustments throughout the day.

Route 20 – There will be Sunday schedule adjustments.

Routes 30, 32, 40 and 42 – There will be weekday schedule adjustments.

Route 55 – A 6:25 a.m. weekday southbound trip will be added at Petrillo Plaza in Mt. Vernon.

Route 60 – There will be weekend schedule adjustments.

For more information, visit www.westchestergov.com/beelinebus or call (914)-813-7777,

Primary voting troubles continued from pg 1--

we examine what happened and understand quickly what steps need to be taken to make sure that things will be better in November.”

The Board of Legislators is planning a COW for the week of July 20 (specific date to be determined) with County Board of Elections Commissioners and staff. In future meetings, the BOL is also planning to speak with voters, advocates, State Board of Elections representatives and others to help ensure that clear and pro-active steps are taken before November.

In particular, Legislators are interested in hearing about improvements in the following areas: Early voting, Communications, Poll worker recruitment and training, Poll sites, PPE and safety supplies, Physical and absentee voting logistics.

Majority Leader MaryJane Shimsky, said, “Our voting system had to deal with numerous shocks during the June primary, the result of the coronavirus pandemic and the largest primary voting turnout in decades. Westchester County’s election system cannot be caught by surprise again. We need to make sure we are ready for what will likely be record-setting turnout for the general election in November. We look forward to working together with the Board of Elections, advocates, State officials and others to make sure our County is prepared for November.”

The Board of Legislators would like to hear first-hand experiences from those who voted this June as well. We are asking voters to share their experiences, as specifically as possible, by email at BOLPublicComments@westchesterlegislators.com.

Rising newspapers has also received several letters from our readers across Westchester about voting in the primary last month. Robert Kalfus from Yonkers, wrote the following letter to the BOE Commissioners.

“I applied for an Absentee Ballot to vote in the June 23 Primary election and received same. Numerous websites, newspapers, radio and TV broadcast the information that in order for the Absentee Ballot to be valid and counted, regulations required that it be postmarked “before or on the day of the Primary Election”, June 23, 2020.

On Tuesday morning, June 23, after finishing researching the latest information on the candidates, I prepared to properly mark my Absentee Ballot and mail it at the Yonkers Avenue Post Office branch.

But then I saw, written on the Absentee Ballot envelope: “The Board of Elections must receive the ballot not later than the close of polls on election day or have a Postal cancellation mark not later than the day before the election and received by such board of elections not later than seven days following the day of election...”

Requiring a cancellation date to be postmarked the day before the election is contrary to ALL information broadcast and disseminated by the Westchester Board of Elections, and reported by numerous media. The information printed on the envelope, contrary to all other information, caused me, a high-risk 68 year old individual, to stand on line for more than TWO HOURS in pain from my arthritic knee, and from my four hip replacement surgeries, unable to sit, and unable to leave to use a bathroom.

A link is provided below to NY Daily News articles, which reported the same information as did ALL other media that the envelope needed only to be postmarked by the Primary Election date, June 23 - not the day before. Please tell me which version was correct. And which info was NOT correct,” wrote Kalfus, who added what happened to him on primary evening. “When I guided my pieces of paper into the sole ballot scanner, I saw the number 750 appear. The Election worker explained that because each person voted using two pieces of paper, I was the 325th person to vote at 9:16 PM. When I exited the building, the line of people waiting to vote was as long as when I started, going from from the single HS entrance north on Kneeland Avenue, at 9:22 pm.

“A campaign worker gave free 4 oz bottles of water to people waiting on line, outside on the Kneeland Avenue sidewalk, labelled “Dan Romano for City Court Judge”. The election workers, who worked past the 9 pm cutoff time and admitted all those on line at 9 pm, deserve huge kudos for their extra-long day into night of service devoted to preserving democracy and people’s rights to a secure vote.”

MVPD Arrest City Employee Accused of Sexual Assault



Anthony Deans

Mount Vernon resident and city employee Anthony Tyfan Deans, 38, was arrested for Sexual Misconduct and was immediately terminated from his position in the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau. Deans was a city employee working in the Youth Bureau since 2013.

He was arraigned in Mount Vernon City Court, and the case is an active and ongoing investigation. The Mount Vernon Police Department is asking the public for any information that may assist in this ongoing investigation to please call the Mount Vernon Police Department Detective Division at 914-665-2510.

Mayor Shawyn Patterson Howard said “We are taking this matter very seriously. I am grateful to the Mt. Vernon Police Department who upon information and complaint took swift and decisive action to arrest this individual. We find this accusation to be reprehensible and is not a reflection of the incredible work and service being delivered by the Youth Bureau. I trust the Mount Vernon Police to continue their investigation of this matter.”

Published reports state that Deans had previously been arrested for second-degree assault for the 2019 stabbing of two men.

Letters to the Editor:

To the Editor:

COVID-19 is wreaking havoc on our families, our economy, and our elections. But Congress has the power to intervene right now.

In response to safety concerns and pressure from constituents like me, Congress has already passed limited funds to expand absentee voting, on-line registration, and in-person early voting, but it’s simply not enough.

Without \$4 billion in total funding for election assistance, voters may not be able to make their voices heard during one of the most important elections of our lifetime. We need our leaders to prevent a situation where any voter is forced to choose between protecting their health and casting their ballot.

While these policies are critical as we recover from this national crisis, voting reforms like expanding no-excuse absentee voting and online voter registration are common-sense changes that will help voters participate in the political process. Multiple states have already adopted vote-by-mail, and their models could be implemented across the country.

I expect Congress to provide more economic relief, but the next bill also needs to include expanded funding for mail-in voting, more early voting at safe polling places, and other options to make voting as safe as possible this November.

If voting by mail is good enough for Donald Trump, it should be good enough for all of us. Congress needs to make it possible for every eligible American to vote by mail if they choose to do so.

Regards, Victoria Dolan, Yonkers

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Volpe: Election Reform Requires Leadership Not Partisanship



SAM-NY Chair Michael Volpe

The SAM Party of New York has been advocating and fighting for, among other things, real reform to elections in our state. In the state committee elections conducted on Tuesday, poll workers may have mistakenly permitted non-SAM voters to vote in some primary elections for seats on the SAM State Committee. These issues will be addressed in the coming days.

While this pandemic has presented unprecedented events and chaos for many, the recent problems highlight why real reform of our systems of electing officials is necessary. Our democracy must do better. We need to debate and address open primaries, ranked choice voting and other reforms and allow independent, democracy minded voices to be heard. The voices of individual voters cannot be silenced any longer.

More immediately, specific administrative reforms to improve our elections could be implemented easily. In New York State, each Board of Election has a Democrat and a Republican commissioner. They are appointed by political power brokers. The commissioners control the boards, and, in turn, the manner and way information is or is not shared with the public, the decisions regarding hiring of full-time staffers, the training of part-time poll workers, and, importantly, the administration of elections. This system needs to change. Problems with transparency at BOEs, the enforcement of the election law, the abilities and knowledge of poll workers as to processes and procedures and the conduct of elections, etc. have been presenting problems for years.

Real change in New York can happen. Democrats and Republicans could make all BOEs non-partisan; they could take away patronage jobs; provide funding for voter reforms such as poll worker training, easy access to early voting, and continued voting by mail. Importantly, easy reform could include one form of ballot for the entire state instead of the current jumbled mess.

To have real reform SAM NY recognizes that our state needs leadership and not partisanship. Election reform seems to be an easy area to start.

Michael J. Volpe
SAM Party of New York, Chair
Volpe is a resident of Pelham and the former Mayor of the Pelham. For more informatoin on the SAM Party of NY, visit joinsamny.org.

Playland closed, county pools open continued from pg 2-

County Department of Public Safety and Parks staff will posted at entrances informing guests if session is sold out prior to parking. Also, Parks staff will make announcement every half hour reminding guests to use all proper social distancing guidelines and guests must wear a mask or face covering anytime they are closer than 6' from any other guest. Masks will be required to enter restrooms.

This summer the County will not be opening Playland Pool. Based on NYS guidelines, swimming pools must be closed if they are near a beach front. During this time, the County will be exploring how quickly renovations to the pool can be completed with the hope that it will be able to open in June 2021. This exact timeline is not yet known.

The Westchester County Health Department advises residents to keep the following sun safety tips in mind over the holiday weekend, and throughout the summer:

- Studies have shown that it only takes a few serious sunburns to increase your risk of skin cancer later in life. Use sunscreen and use it correctly when spending time outdoors.
- Always use a sunscreen with a SPF of 15 or higher that provides both UVA and UVB protection.
- Apply sunscreen to all exposed skin, 20 minutes before you are in the sun. Remember to apply to ears, top of feet and back of your hands.
- If using an insect repellent, apply the sunscreen first.
- You can be exposed to UV rays even on cloudy days, so continue to apply sunscreen.
- Reapply sunscreen at least every two hours and after swimming, sweating or toweling off.
- During COVID-19 – enjoy the pool and other outdoor summer activities, but remember to social distance and wear a mask whenever you are unable to stay at least six feet away from other people.
- Bring extra masks to the pool in case masks get wet.

Hamilton and Washington on a Hudson Valley Mobile Audio Tour



Learn about George Washington, left and Alexander Hamilton, and their travels in the Hudson Valley

Nowhere in the colonies did General George Washington spend more time during the American Revolution than in New York's Hudson Valley. For much of that time he was accompanied by his trusted aide-to-camp, Alexander Hamilton.

In celebration of Independence Day, on July 3rd, Disney+ will launch live streaming of the film of the original smash hit Broadway production of "Hamilton," created by and starring Lin-Manuel Miranda. Just in time for this event and the 4th of July, Historic Hudson River Towns, an association of sixteen towns just north of New York City, has launched a geo-located audio tour, featuring many Revolutionary War sites and stories, which can be enjoyed while driving through the region or remotely at home.

Developed by Historic Hudson River Towns and TravelStorysGPS, the new tour will entertain travelers and virtual travelers with stories from early days, through the Revolutionary War to today. The tour can be used safely hands-free, as travelers explore this beautiful and famous region while driving. The tour can also be enjoyed remotely from home or from almost anywhere in the world.

Alexander Hamilton frequently traveled through the Hudson Valley during the Revolutionary War and afterwards as congressman and US Secretary of Treasury. Many significant Revolutionary War sites that he visited are presented on the audio tour. On the east side of the river, Washington and Hamilton encamped at Dobb's Ferry with the American and French armies. From there, they began their famous march south to Virginia, where their victory at the Battle of Yorktown secured the surrender of British forces and the end of the Revolutionary War.

On the west side of the river just north of Haverstraw, another quaint historic Hudson River town, American troops, under the command of Brigadier General Anthony Wayne, made a midnight raid on a British encampment at Stony Point. Washington helped plan the attack, arrived after the battle had been won and encamped there with the victorious troops. It is thought that Hamilton joined him there, as official documents from those dates are written in Hamilton's hand.

In Irvington, another Historic Hudson River Town, visitors can see the stately mansion that Hamilton's son James owned and named "Nevis" in honor of his father's birthplace in the British West Indies.

Other Revolutionary War sites found on the new tour include Philipse Manor Hall in Yonkers, the oldest building in Westchester County. The Manor Hall, along with its 52,000 acre estate, was forfeited by Frederick Philipse II, a wealthy landholder who backed the Crown and had to flee to England.

Tarrytown saw action when a small group of American soldiers beat back British naval vessels out in the Tappan Zee. This village is also where British Major John Andre, who plotted with traitorous American General Benedict Arnold, was captured and later hanged as a spy across the river at Tappan. Hastings-on-Hudson memorialized the "Battle of Edgar's Lane," a skirmish between British and American troops.

In 1782, while waiting for the Treaty of Paris to be signed, General Washington hosted a last encampment with the French army at Verplanck's Point to celebrate the end of the war.

These and many other stories highlight significant historic, cultural, and recreational sites through the towns on both sides of the Hudson River from Yonkers north to the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge and the Bear Mountain Bridge. Historic Hudson River Towns' new audio tour guides travelers and virtual travelers through these places, as well as to downtowns, parks and recreational sites for peaceful walks and hikes, all just minutes north of New York City.

The new free audio tours of Historic Hudson River Towns can be enjoyed remotely at home at www.hudsonriver.com or from any APP store.

Editor's Note: The Broadway Play "Hamilton" is now available on the Disney APP to watch from home. I loved the play on Broadway and also on film.

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Legal Notices

Notice of formation of C Squared Consulting, LLC. on 03/16/2020 with the SSNY. Westchester County office. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 15 Hudson Street, Ossining, NY 10562. Purpose: To provide consulting services to new and existing specialty cafes. 07/24

Notice of Formation of Sweet Pea Hospitality LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/06/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her to: 315 East Grand Street, Mount Vernon, NY 10552. Purpose: any lawful act or activity--07/10

Notice of Formation of BIZYist LLC. Art. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/10/2020. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: P.O. Box 472, Bronxville, NY 10708. Purpose: any lawful act or activity./ 08/14

Notice of formation of The Westchester Dent Company LLC. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/27/2020 . 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, 1153 Clay Ave Pelham NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Craftbyhand 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.

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.

Notice of Formation of Generation Liberte, LLC which is managed by one or more members. Liberte means Liberty in French. LegalZoom filed with NYS Department of State on 3/16/2020. Office location: Westchester County. Secretary of State-NY (SSNY) designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Generation Liberte, LLC at 3 Sadore Lane Apt 2M, Yonkers, NY 10710. The LLC designates the following registered agent whom process may be served: United States Corporation Agents, Inc. at 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful act or activity."

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.

Jamaal Bowman's Historic Win: A Vote for Progressive Change



Democratic Primary winner Jamaal Bowman

By Bill Gaston

No one saw it coming. Except for a few of us, that is. Those of us who had met Jamaal Bowman and had heard his life story knew it was coming. Those of us who had canvassed for him on Mount Vernon street corners knew it was coming.

Bowman's historic upset primary victory over 30-year Congressional incumbent, Eliot Engel was no fluke. Across the country, a wave of younger, multiracial, progressive candidates won races against establishment Democrats on a platform of transformative and generational change.

It was a David beats Goliath moment: Jamaal Bowman, a former middle school principal from Yonkers, and a political unknown in the 16th Congressional district, had never run for office. His opponent had the backing of nearly the entire Democratic Party establishment, including Hillary Clinton, as well as scores of Westchester County elected officials.

Bowman was outspent 2-1 in the campaign, overcoming a \$5 million blitz by several super PACs in the final week that failed to salvage Engel's seat. Bowman won handily with 60% of the "in person" votes (absentee ballots have not yet been counted). Early tallies showed he carried all major demographic groups across the district.

How could Congressman Engel lose this election -- and so decisively -- after 16 terms in office? The simple answer: he lost touch with his voters.

The demographic face of his district had also shifted. While Engel had risen to the top ranks of House leadership, becoming chair of the powerful House Foreign Affairs Committee, his district had become majority-minority. He had grown aloof from many of his own constituents, particularly in underserved neighborhoods in the Bronx and Westchester who hungered for new representation.

Jamaal Bowman, an educator and community activist, had cultivated grass roots networks with communities of color as well as multi-racial social justice coalitions. Bowman's success mirrored that of Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, whose own stunning primary upset in 2018 over a 10-term incumbent in a neighboring district tapped into the same progressive energies. In a major boost to his campaign, AOC would endorse Bowman, as would Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren.

A second reason for Engel's defeat: he was caught flat-footed by twin catastrophes. The first was the coronavirus, whose deadly epicenter has ravaged the district, disproportionately affecting African Americans. The second was the police killing of George Floyd, which sparked nationwide protests against police brutality and a surging Black Lives Matter movement. Bowman was a fixture at many of these gatherings in the Bronx and Westchester, including one in Bronxville where he spoke eloquently about his mistreatment at the hands of the police, as well as the evils of militarism and systemic racism.

Meanwhile, during this unprecedented turmoil, a reporter discovered Engel holed up in his home in suburban Maryland, far from his district. Adding insult to injury, on a trip back to speak in the Bronx, Engel was captured on a hot mic uttering words that ultimately sealed his defeat: "If I didn't have a primary, I wouldn't care."

Congressman Engel might have escaped the damage of these unforced errors had not the political earth beneath his feet undergone a seismic shift. Progressives, after years of frustration and defeats to play-it-safe establishment Democrats, successfully flipped the script, and chalked up a big win.

In delivering an early retirement to Congressman Engel, primary voters demanded change. In doing so, the voters punched Jamaal Bowman's ticket to the general election in November where he will be the clear favorite to be our next Representative. Our party and nation are headed in the right direction as a result of Bowman's historic win.

Bill Gaston is a District Leader for the Bronxville Democratic Party

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Budget troubles, President Biden, continued from pg 1--

“New York is facing an unprecedented public health and fiscal crisis that could dramatically change our landscape for years to come. Now we need help from Washington that comes without strings to protect New Yorkers from seeing essential services decimated,” said DiNapoli.

Westchester County government has also seen a large revenue hole blown in their budget from COVID-19. County Executive George Latimer has estimated a deficit in the current budget of more than \$100 Million. Latimer offered an early retirement incentive to county employees to help close the expected budget gaps for 2021.

The Voluntary Separation Program will allow Westchester County employees to voluntarily leave County service in exchange of a \$1,000 payment for every year of service to the County. The move will amount to one to two million dollars in savings in 2020, and will save the County six to ten million dollars in 2021.

Due to the societal shutdown caused by the COVID-19 outbreak, the County estimates revenue loss as great as \$250 million from sales tax, hotel occupancy tax and other revenues for Fiscal Year 2020 Latimer said: “In light of the impact of COVID-19 on the County’s budget, and the impact it is likely to continue to have, creating a voluntary separation incentive is a fiscally prudent step the County can take to mitigate the revenue shortfalls created by the virus. This is one more thing we can do to assist with getting, and keeping, the County’s finances on track.”

The County is also exploring the following avenues to close the budget gap: the CARES Act resulted in the County receiving an additional \$30 million in federal transit aid, the federal government will contribute 50% of the cost of the Medicaid program, the US Marshal service is anticipated to increase its contributions by \$3.8 million, and the Department of Correction is expected to accrue \$2.8 million in salary savings resulting from a significantly reduced inmate population.

Westchester County employees who wish to participate in the program must notify the County by July 24, 2020. Payments will be made to participating employees within 75 days of their voluntary separation from County service, which must occur on or before August 1, 2020.

What Governor Cuomo, County Executive Latimer, and Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, are waiting and hoping for is a 4th stimulus-bailout from Washington DC, which includes a bailout of State governments and most important to our readers, a bailout of New York State government. What that requires is the approval of US Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who has previously said NO to any Blue State Bailouts. President Donald Trump could also intervene and agree to a bailout package for NY, which is also unlikely.

If neither McConnell or Trump agree to help the Empire State, a final alternative to avoid serious cuts would be to wait until the November elections to see if Joe Biden is elected President. A Biden presidency would be more agreeable to helping states like New York through their financial troubles for a year or more.

That is why the Governor is slow to move on any significant cuts, calling them for now a temporary cut, or holding back of revenues the state usually provides Yonkers and White Plains. With short term borrowing, New York State and Yonkers, could delay their doomsday cuts until after November and possibly into 2021.

But even with a President Biden in the oval office, Democrats would also have to take control of the US Senate, so that Senator Charles Schumer from NY becomes Senate Majority Leader Schumer. If McConnell retains his post, and republicans still hold onto the senate, don’t look for any NY bailouts coming from DC.

Democrats will have to pick up at least four seats in November, in Arizona, Colorado, North Carolina and Maine in order to have a 51-vote majority in the US Senate. If Democrats have control over both houses of Congress and the Presidency, then not only will bailout funds become available for New York, but the federal cap of State and Local deduction, (SALT), could also be repealed. This would give Westchester residents the ability to deduct all of their property taxes instead of just the first \$10,000.

Real Estate, continued from pg 2-

Rivertowns--(Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, Mount Pleasant, Pleasantville, Tarrytown, Briarcliff Manor, Elmsford, Irvington Ossining, Pocantico Hills)

Homes Sold: Down 24%
Median Sale Price: Up 3%

Greater White Plains--(Greenburgh, Valhalla and White Plains)

Homes Sold: Down 22%
Median Sale Price: Down 1%

Sound Shore--(Blind Brook, Harrison, Mamaroneck, Port Chester, Rye City and Rye Neck)

Homes Sold: Down 24%
Median Sale Price: Up 5%

Northern Westchester--(Bedford, Byram Hills, Chappaqua, Katonah-Lewisboro, North Salem, and Somers)

Homes Sold: Down 8%
Median Sale Price: Down 2%

Northwest Westchester--(Croton-on-Hudson, Hendrick Hudson, Lakeland, Peekskill and Yorktown)

Homes Sold: Down 49%
Median Sale Price: Down 1%

Public Notice

Village of Tuckahoe

Please take notice that the Village of Tuckahoe Board of Trustees at the public meeting of July 13, 2020 at 7pm will consider the resolutions authorizing the submission of applications for Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) funding for the ensuing year.

Projects under consideration:

- Playground Upgrades at the Main Street Park
- ADA Ramp and Sidewalk Improvements

Public comment is encouraged on projects to be considered.

David Burke, Village Administrator

Friday, July 10, 2020

Schoen, continued from pg 3-

In this situation Black, Brown, White and Yellow lives, in fact all lives matter. Make sure to vote on Election Day. If anyone gives you a hard time don’t let them turn you away. Just pull out articles 14 and 15 of the constitution! And request a paper. No one can take your right to vote away from you!

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.

Decker MRHS, continued from pg 3-

person with the highest authority or most important position in an organization, institution or group. Mrs. Decker is and was that person. She was always readily available for a call or a meeting. She was always seen in and out of the hallways. Engaged in everyone of her students emotionally, spiritually and educationally. Sporting events, she was front and center in the Tiger Zone. Mrs. Decker was always there to support her girls. She was not only our biggest cheerleader, she was our leader. Academically, spiritually and educationally, she was our leader.”

“Now, in the middle of a pandemic, our leader is no more. Our girls have had a rough couple of months and the uncertainty of the upcoming school year already has our girls nervous. The Board has decided with all that is going on now is the time to remove the most stable structure of our beloved Maria Regina. We need our leader now more than ever, we need our leader to navigate these troubled times, our girls need their Principal, Mrs. Rosemarie Decker. Please join me in signing this petition to have her reinstated as our leader and our Principal. Maria Regina pray for us!”

One thing we heard from parents again and again was that they would need an answer, or an explanation, as to why Decker was let go. “You can’t get rid of a principal who is this trusted and this beloved, without telling us what happened. Many of us will not accept this, either they tell us what happened, or bring her back, or else a lot of us will be looking for another school for our daughters to attend,” said another MRHS parent.

Maria Regina High School opened in 1959, and for the past 60 years, has been Westchester oldest Girls Catholic High School.

ICE, continued from pg 1--

ICE never got the warrant and Das Neves was released and returned to Port Chester without incident until his apprehension by ICE last month.

The rest of this story is an exchange of press releases, between ICE and Westchester County. “Westchester County government operated legally, within its responsibilities under New York State Law and it was the Federal Government that failed to properly follow the law and obtain a federal judicial warrant. The Port Chester Village Court remanded this individual for incarceration at the County Jail until tried in Port Chester. The County then held that individual as required by State Law,” reads a release from County Executive George Latimer.

“ICE compounded their behavior by asserting that Westchester County released the individual into the “public”, when in fact the County’s Department of Correction returned the individual, under police guard, to the local Court which remanded him to us for their action.

County Executive George Latimer said: “ICE is well aware that the County will turn over any individual to their custody if they deliver a Federal Judicial Warrant that supersedes a State or Local Court. ICE failed to do their job, failing to request over a month’s time, a warrant from the Federal Court, which is located two blocks away from the County Office Building. In so doing, they place their authority as a non-judicial Administrative entity above those sworn to judicial authority.”

ICE -ERO NY Field Director Thomas Decker said, “I’m sure the concerned citizens of Westchester County have questions about why their local government passed a law that protects the criminal alien over their safety and forces their police department to release this violent criminal – with pending criminal charges – back into their community. What local politicians should realize is that failing to honor detainers may create additional challenges for ICE to arrest and remove criminals like Das Neves. But more importantly, failing to honor the detainers ultimately makes our communities less safe because these criminals are released back into the same streets to continue to commit violent crimes against the public. Thankfully, NYC ERO Officers are protecting the community and Das Neves will remain in ICE custody pending a hearing before an immigration judge.”

Latimer fired back, stating, “This ideology-centered enforcement of ICE, whereby they feel empaneled to override local Courts and laws should be concerning to all citizens. Once society allows unelected, appointed agents to feel they can override due process for some, it is a short walk to override due process for others. Tyranny starts in small ways before it becomes oppressive in its control; a fake news press release cannot cover the continual actions of an agency that refuses to follow the laws of New York in administering their brand of politicized policing.”

The debate over the Immigrant Protection Act in Westchester is over. It was passed three years ago, and there are clearly not even close to enough votes to override it. The County Executive is in complete support of the IPA and has made a rational explanation about the way that ICE could resolve their trouble over the release of undocumented, or illegal residents in Westchester County that they wish to deport.

ICE can obtain a Federal warrant, and, as Latimer has explained, ICE could go into Federal Court in White Plains with warrant requests for a number of persons of interest, and a judge, if so inclined, could sign those warrants. Only then will Westchester law enforcement hold that person for ICE. ICE has refused to go into court to obtain these warrants.

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