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Friday July 24, 2020

Regeneron Co-Founders Yorktown HS Graduation Speech Criticized



Dr. George Yancopoulos

By Dan Murphy

A speech for the 2020 graduates of Yorktown High School turned into national news when its commencement speaker, Regeneron co-founder Dr. George Yancopoulos called police “Scacegoats” in the national discussion over racial injustice and added, “I believe Black Lives matter, though I do not think it should be a crime to say, ‘All lives matter.’”

Yancopoulos’s comments were immediately rejected by many at the graduation, which was held as a Drive-In event at Yorktown High School, with many cars honking their horns during the speech in opposition, and with students and parents expressing their displeasure at a speech which instead of motivating graduates, created controversy.

After one car was kept their horn on for 30 second during his speech, Yancopoulos stopped and calling the action “another act of cowardness,” said “Whoever is honking their horn, you want to come up to the stage for a second if you have something to say?”

One parent then got out of their car and began walking to the stage, only to be stopped by Yorktown Police. Two YHS 2020 graduates spoke to Forbes magazine. Meredith Brown said, “All the students are saying that this is bringing up division. It felt like he was trying to derail from the problem at hand, and that was what really hurt me as well.”

YHS 2020 graduate Tamara Bashjawish, said, she was “horrified” by the speech. “I really hope that Mr. Yancopoulos would apologize to the seniors for making our graduation political and everyone divided.”

Yancopoulos is the co-founder and chief scientific officer of Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, a Tarrytown based bio-tech company that is working to create a vaccine for COVID-19.

During his speech, Dr. Yancopoulos, who lives in Yorktown, said, “Here in America, we have systematically, over centuries, denied the path to success for so many Black children by denying them the very keys to the kingdom that I was so lucky to have. We have to admit that we have destroyed that belief for so many and we have to restore that belief and that dream.”

He also called on the graduates not to “keep bias and prejudice from tearing us apart and scorching earth between us. Instead we should be fighting to unite in our common humanity, realizing that we are not each other’s enemies, and that we are all in this together.”

Many in attendance thought that Yancopoulos’ comments about BLM and the Police were not appropriate for the event, including these words, “So, if Black lives matter, what about all of these Black lives? And what about the systemic inequity represented by these unjustifiable deaths? Why aren’t these numbers in the headlines or in the videos? Does anybody really believe the police are behind these unjustified deaths? Widespread hate and prejudice

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Latimer Signs Term Limits Law

Two Terms, 8 year limit for County Exec.



County Executive George Latimer signs term limits law

Westchester County Executive George Latimer’s proposal for Executive Term Limits – imposing a restriction on himself as the chief executive of one of the State’s largest Counties – was approved by the Board of Legislators by a vote of 12-4 on Monday, July 13. The law was then signed by Latimer, which would reduce the existing three term limit (12 years) for County Executives enacted in 2011 in Westchester, down to two terms (eight years).

“This move not only limits my own power but sends the message that no executive should deem themselves infallible. If eight years is enough for the Chief Elected of our Country – it very well is for our County. While many in power seek to hold on and never let go, this move – at a time when our Country is shifting toward progress – flies in the face of that notion, said Latimer, who is now mid-way through the third year of his four-year term as County Executive. A committee report on the law outlines the

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‘Handcuffing the Police’

Westchester Law Enforcement Won’t Go Into NYC Because of New Chokehold-Knee Law



Yonkers Police, and other Westchester law enforcement agencies that border NYC have been ordered not to pursue criminals into ‘The City’

By Dan Murphy

A New York City law that calls for the jailing and fining of any police officer that puts a knee on a person’s back or chest during the course of an arrest has resulted in several Westchester law enforcement agencies from ordering their officers not to pursue suspects into New York City.

Yonkers Police Commissioner John Mueller made the announcement last week, prohibiting officers under his command from taking enforcement actions in the City of New York effective immediately.

Mueller explained that while he supports banning any chokeholds of persons under arrest, in certain situations placing a knee on a suspect who is resisting or is mentally ill, may be necessary. “The New York City law is calling for perfection. I am in 100% agreement that chokeholds should be banned. But police officers need some tools to place persons who are resisting under arrest.”

Yonkers has long banned the use of chokeholds by its Police Department except in life or death struggles, and has engaged in a variety of practices to minimize the use of force during arrests. As a result, complaints of excessive force by Yonkers Police have dropped dramatically in recent years. Only six such complaints were made last year.

“Despite our best efforts to minimize the use of force, it remains well possible that a police officer’s knee may end up on the chest or back of a violent suspect during a scuffle or arrest, especially during a one-on-one situation,” said Mueller, “We will not subject our officers to the threat of a year in jail every time they have to deal with a violent or mentally ill subject resisting arrest. New York City’s new law goes beyond effective policing. It jeopardizes the safety of both police officers and the public.”

Mueller added that it was important to note that this was in no way a reflection on the NYPD: “The Yonkers Police Department has and will continue to have the utmost respect and admiration for the men and women of the NYPD. The NYPD has been placed in a nearly impossible position by its

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23 Days Later, the Primary Results are in



Chris Burdick, left, won his Assembly primary, while and Meg Cameron, narrowly lost her Assembly race to Steve Otis.

By Dan Murphy

Twenty three days after a number of Democratic Primaries in Westchester on June 23, the Board of Elections was able to certify the results of several important contests for county, state and federal offices. Many Westchester residents have complained about waiting on long lines to vote on primary day, and the long delay in receiving the official vote totals.

In one of the three biggest Democratic primaries in Westchester on June 23, Mondaire Jones won his race for Congress in the 17th District. Jones received 45% of the vote in a seven person contest and is now the heavy favorite to replace Nita Lowey in November. “One year after launching my historic bid for United States Congress, I am honored to announce that I have secured the Democratic nomination to represent New York’s 17th Congressional District,” said Jones. “I received nearly three times as many votes as

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A Three Way Race for Congress? Mr. Smith Wants to go to Washington



SAM NY Congressional candidate Scott Smith

By Dan Murphy

A recent Gallop poll found 40% of Americans identifying themselves as Independents, with 31% as Democrats and 25% as Republicans. Usually, these independent voters are forced to make a choice, as they will in November, between President Donald Trump and former Vice-President Joe Biden.

What if there were a third option when voters go to the polls in November? A new political party in NY, the SAM Party, is seeking to give moderate, independent minded voters another choice, instead of the hyper-partisanship we now see in Washington.

But how can any third party candidate get any traction, or notice, in the middle of an election cycle where the President sucks up most of the oxygen and attention, with the remaining attention span of Americans consumed by progressive opposition to Trump? And throw into the mix a pandemic and an important discussion on racism and law enforcement?

That is the challenge facing Scott Smith, the SAM-NY Party candidate for Congress in the 18th District, which includes several Northern Westchester Towns and the Hudson Valley. Smith is running against incumbent Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney, and republican candidate Chele Farley.

Smith recently polled 340 likely voters in the 18th District, taken between March 12 and April 5. 38% of voters supported Rep. Maloney, with 32% for Farley, and 13% for Smith.

Nearly 1 in 3 voters (31%) believe that we need less Republicans and Democrats in government, and 41% of voters polled identified special interest groups as the leading factor contributing to their dissatisfaction with government, followed by the influence of the major parties at 30%.

Smith was hopeful with the results of the poll, which he conducted himself, in an honest and non partisan manner. The polling data was filed with the FEC and is available upon request.

"I'm starting this race at 13%, with no name recognition and in the middle of a pandemic. I'm confident that I can get 1 out of 4 voters who are supporting both Maloney and Farley to vote for me and then we have a real competitive, three way race. I think voters are open to voting for a different type of candidate, and another party instead of the same, democrat and republican failed choices."

Smith is a school teacher who has lived in Orange County NY for all of his life. He likes to point out that Congressman Maloney moved into the district so that he could run for Congress several years ago and that Chele Farley also recently moved into the district to establish a residence.

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Resistance to 5G Cell Antennas Grows In White Plains



Many Westchester apartments and co-ops have permitted cell phone towers on their roofs for additional income

A large and growing group of residents in White Plains is demanding changes be made to the city's zoning code to better protect residents as 5G wireless technology is rolled out across the city. A petition signed by more than 650 residents is being presented today to Mayor Roach and members of the Common Council, calling on them to adopt strict new guidelines that will limit the deployment of powerful wireless antennas in close proximity to homes and schools.

"The current code of White Plains contains virtually no protections for residents," says Ruth F. Moss of 5G Alert Westchester, one of the organizers of the petition. "It basically says to the wireless companies, 'Do whatever you want.' Other towns are adopting codes that protect their residents – why not White Plains?"

Supporters of the petition claim that the placement of 5G cell antennas near houses and apartments will result in the involuntary exposure of citizens to constant radiofrequency (RF) microwave radiation – exactly the kind of exposures that scientists are proving increases the risks of cancer and other health effects. The most recent study by the National Toxicology Program of the U. S. National Institutes of Health found "clear evidence" of carcinogenicity from chronic, whole-body exposure to RF microwave radiation – the same type of radiation emitted by 4G/5G cell antennas.

"The question of whether non-ionizing radiation from wireless devices like 5G cell antennas can produce biological damage has now been conclusively answered," says Nada Khader, a White Plains resident. "We just don't know which child, which pregnant woman, which person with a compromised immune system will have their lives forever changed by this exposure."

"I've had numerous clients who were not interested in properties that had any kind of electrical poles close to the home," says Paola Cortona, a licensed Associate Real Estate Broker for 15 years. "With the dense deployment of 4G/5G cell antennas next to houses and apartments, I imagine this will negatively impact desirability and property values. Personally, I wouldn't want to be anywhere near them."

"Due diligence is an important component to decision making," says David Siegel, a White Plains resident. "It would be prudent for community and government officials to take adequate time to understand independent research on health effects and explore effective codes that other municipalities have implemented."

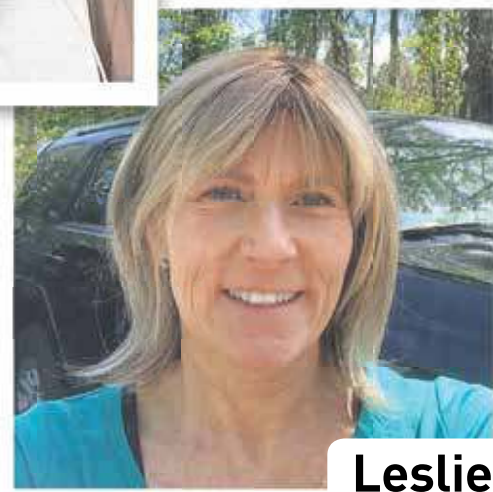
The petition includes specific recommendations for improvements to the code, which proponents say would go a long way to protecting property, privacy and public health and safety. More information at Americans For Responsible Technology <https://www.americansforresponsibletech.org/>

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League of Women Voters Sues Board of Elections Over Absentee Ballots

On July 8, the League of Women Voters of the United States and the League of Women Voters of New York State joined an individual plaintiff in a federal lawsuit to ensure absentee voters have the opportunity to cure their ballots for the remaining 2020 election cycle.

"For the past two election cycles, New York's ballot rejection rate has been among the highest in the country," said Laura Bierman, executive director for the League of Women Voters of New York State. "Voters need the opportunity to ensure their vote is counted and their voice is heard. We want to make sure that when a ballot is challenged, the voter is notified and has sufficient time to correct the error."

The complaint asks the state of New York to create a cure method for voters whose ballots are rejected for a signature-related issue, including forgotten signatures or a mismatch signature. Ms. Palmer, the individual plaintiff, is unable to execute a consistent signature due to progressive neurological condition and fears her signature will be rejected since she is unable to vote in person.

"More voters across the country are taking advantage of vote-by-mail this year, and it is incumbent on us to ensure those votes are not rejected for small errors," said Dr. Deborah Turner, president of the board of directors of the League of Women Voters of the United States. "A missing signature or the use of the wrong envelope should not disenfranchise voters. Other states have taken steps to ensure that the voters are contacted when issues come up with ballots and give voters the opportunity to correct their ballot, submit a new ballot, or cast a vote in-person."

"I signed on to this lawsuit to right the wrongs of past disenfranchisement and to vote confidently in the General Election this November," said Carmelina Palmer, plaintiff in the case. "Providing all absentee voters the opportunity to fix signature verification issues before their ballots are thrown away would give me confidence that when I participate in an election, my vote will be counted. With this lawsuit, my hope is to have that confidence restored."

The League is represented by Campaign Legal Center and Selendy & Gay LLP. "All eligible voters should be able to have confidence that when they participate in an election, their vote will be counted," said Danielle Lang, co-director, voting rights and redistricting at CLC. "As more New Yorkers rely on the state's vote by mail system to exercise their right to vote during the pandemic, more face the risk of disenfranchisement due to their signature or other benign errors. New York's rejection rate for absentee ballots is alarmingly high. The lack of notice to voters and an opportunity to fix errors must be resolved with urgency with less than 120 days until the General Election."

"Decisions around the validity of absentee ballots cannot be left to the whims of each individual county. This is a time when every vote counts more than ever, and New York must take the proper steps to ensure that absentee ballots are properly and uniformly counted," said Selendy & Gay partner Joshua Margolin. "It is also our hope to ensure that New Yorkers, who are still suffering from the pandemic, are not unintentionally foregoing their right to vote by voting absentee."

This case is expected to move forward under an expedited schedule, and plaintiffs hope for resolution before the upcoming municipal elections that were rescheduled for September.

Mr. Smith goes to Washington, continued from pg 2--

Smith, whose website, mrsmithforcongress.com, alludes to the iconic Frank Capra movie Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, wants to bring common sense solutions, and an independent voice to the House of Representatives, much like Jimmy Stewart's character in the movie.

Smith, a middle school teacher, soccer and basketball coach, is running against the two-party monopoly in Washington that he believes no longer solves the problems of the people. "The political establishment has worked very hard to convince us that we have to choose between Republican or Democrat. The time has come to move away from both parties and begin a new day" said Smith.

"My philosophy of governing is simple. I believe in public service above self-interest. I believe that honesty, openness, and trust are essential to good governance. For me, the good of our country will always come first," said Smith, who served two terms on the Middletown City Council, representing the Second Ward.

Michael Volpe is the SAM-NY Chairman, Westchester resident and the former Mayor of Pelham. In 2018, Volpe ran for Lt. Governor on a bi-partisan ticket with Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner.

"Scott Smith understands what more and more New Yorkers are coming to realize: that there is a need for a third party, and for representatives who support transparent and accountable government, and solving problems with facts and data. SAM believes in endorsing candidates who will make decisions based on the needs of citizens and not the needs of party bosses. We encourage all residents in the 18-NY Congressional district to vote for Scott Smith on the SAM Party line on November 3," said Volpe.

To learn more about the SAM Party of NY visit joinsammy.org.

Welcome Jamaal, Goodbye Eliot

By Eric Schoen

On a return trip from Ireland with Congressman Eliot Engel, my friend Bob Stauff said to me, "When they make a movie about Eliot Engel, Woody Allen is going to play Engel. And so my friends in film production, get those cameras ready!"

Big doings in Yonkers and the North Bronx on Primary Day. Despite the inability for the Westchester County Board of Elections to run a Primary that had people waiting on long lines in the heat, sometimes 300 at a time to vote, the 16th Congressional District in New York State has a new Congressman after 30 years, Jamaal Bowman. All of the residents of his district, the state and this country wish him well.

I knew change was on the horizon. I drove around a little on Primary Day and as I have told you before, was appalled when I saw 300 people in line in the heat of summer waiting to vote at Yonkers Middle High School. We don't allow that crap to happen in Westchester County, or at least in the rest of the county other than Yonkers. Good old Yonkers always gets treated like a third world country, even though it is the 4th largest city in New York State, 3rd or 4th depending on who you ask.

Some people were upset about having to wait in the heat but people were taking it in stride. They were there for a purpose. That purpose was to retire Eliot Engel from Congress and elect Jamaal Bowman. I guess the voters knew what to expect, and some waited until 11 p.m. at night after the polls closed at 9 p.m. to exercise their civic duty. The comedian Red Buttons would have called the wait a 'dirty rotten shame.'

I took it upon myself to call the Democratic Elections Commissioner, Reginald Lafayette to see if he was aware of the long line in the hot heat. He sent members of his crew down, they told me they never saw this many people waiting at a polling place anywhere in the county that day, and did absolutely nothing.

But now I think I understand what happened. They must have been privy to polls showing Eliot was going down, and as partisan workers did nothing to solve a relatively easy problem other than give lip service. They did this on their own because knowing Eliot for 30 years like I do he is a fighter, a smart guy but would go ballistic if he heard senior Citizens were waiting in the heat 2-3 hour to vote.

Now the Lafayette Board of Elections (he gets paid \$190,000 plus benefits, a car and pension) would probably say, 'Eric. The People were not complaining so why should you be upset?' I was upset because people in 2020 should not be treated the way they were on Primary Day.

As previously reported to you this writer and others called for a hearing on the Primary Day fiasco. The County Board had it. In record time County Executive Latimer put together a plan that he presented to the Board of Elections so that this disaster will not occur on Election Day. A sound plan. Assistance with additional polling place inspectors, replacement polling sites, additional temporary staff for absentee ballot counting and early voting. Thank you George for responding to the community!

So why did Eliot lose? In 30 years the district has changed. Even though people saw him on television discussing foreign affairs every day managing a House Committee, the people in the 16th district hit so hard by Covid 19 and the Coronavirus are worried about their pocketbooks and wallets. Support for Israel is very important to 16th district residents, but having a job, food on the table, a place to live and money in their pocket takes precedence. Without all these things you can't unfortunately expect people to forget everything and March and support Israel. In fact support any foreign country who supports us..

A Congressperson should live in his district, not the outskirts of Washington, D.C. I can see your family living out of district if you were in Washington 7 days a week without a break, but most Congressman arrive in Washington Monday night and leave Thursday morning. You want to be a Congressman you have to expect to be away from your family with 2 homes. A law should be passed that Congressman have to reside with their family in the district they represent with the exception of the time they are on official legislative duties.

Eliot's comments about being in a primary and if he wasn't he would not have wanted to talk at a rally were wrong. Cost him a lot of votes. But he is no youngster. The CDC says that people like Eliot should be quarantined at home, not in the middle of the confusion of a rally. He is healthy but he should not have been running around the district at rallies. It's not his fault that we are in the midst of a pandemic.

Though I am sure he will miss Congress, Eliot will do very well in Congressional retirement with a pension, health benefits, and use of a swimming pool, pandemic or no pandemic. Unlike my gym and pool which are closed because of the pandemic! He will sit on corporate boards, get lobbying contracts, and let's just say keep very busy.

As for Mr. Bowman. I was shocked that he didn't list membership in any community organizations. We've solved that problem. A generous anonymous donor of Friends of the Yonkers Public Library (of which I am President) will be paying the membership fee for Mr. Bowman to be a member of our organization. Eliot attended many of our events. I hope I will be able to say the same about Jamaal. Congressional library budgets are always so small. Maybe he can convince his colleagues to increase expenditures to our nations libraries. They serve people with no computer or access to the internet which is the case with so many people in the 16th

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ATLAS SHRUGGED!



Ken Hesselbacher in front of Atlas on Fifth Avenue

By Ken Hesselbacher

On June 26, 2020, on the 60th Anniversary of the Cardinal Hayes High School Graduation Ceremony, I was back on the stairs in front of Saint Patrick's Cathedral. Looking across the street I saw my old friend Atlas, with the weight of the world still on his shoulders! Sadly, Marty was not there. I would like to think that he was staying at home out of an abundance of caution. Had he been there, I am certain that a large crowd would have quickly gathered.

As I crossed the street to Atlas, he said to me, "Kenny Kenny you haven't changed in 60 years!" "Atlas," I responded, "I was thinking the same exact thing about you! But, if you don't think that I have changed, your eyes might not be as strong as once they were!" "Yes, Kenny," Atlas said, "but I do not like to wear my glasses when I am wearing my face mask and I always wear my face mask." As I looked closer, Atlas was indeed wearing a large face mask.

So here we were, Atlas and myself, sixty years later, both wearing face masks and both maintaining proper social distance of six feet. This would make a perfect public service announcement promoting the importance of face masks and social distancing. Maybe Scorsese could direct the production to make certain the message stood out.

And then, as often happens, an idea popped into my head. I said to Atlas, "I know that you have always wanted to graduate from Cardinal Hayes High School. We now have Distance Learning, available to students to learn from home. If Cardinal Hayes provided offered this program you could be a Cardinal Hayes Graduate! What do you think?"

He thought about it for a moment and then with a wink and a smile, ATLAS SHRUGGED!

St. John's Riverside Hospital & St. Joseph's Medical Center Explore Integrations

The Boards of Trustees and Administration of St. John's Riverside Hospital and Saint Joseph's Medical Center announced today that they have decided to enter into discussions to explore opportunities for integration between the two facilities.

The goal in this exploration is to determine how best to improve the delivery of health care services, potentially achieve economic efficiencies, and expand services resulting in the improved health of Yonkers and southern Westchester communities.

As we begin this process of exploration, we will be meeting with, and welcome the opportunity to work with members of the community, as well as State and local regulatory agencies and other interested parties. Information regarding the process will be made available as we learn more.

"In the 150 years of St. John's Riverside Hospital's service to the community, high quality patient care has always been our top priority. In keeping with that mission, we have identified this unique opportunity to innovate and expand healthcare," said Ronald J. Corti, President & CEO of St. John's Riverside Hospital. "We believe that the residents of the City of Yonkers and southern Westchester will potentially benefit from a streamlined health care delivery system and we are looking forward to learning about the possibilities."

"Since 1888 Saint Joseph's Medical Center has provided Yonkers and the surrounding communities with high quality, compassionate, patient-centered care. As the care of our patients and the communities we serve has always been our top priority, we are excited to explore the opportunity and potential benefits of streamlining to enhance the delivery of healthcare in a collaborative effort," said Saint Joseph's Medical Center President and CEO, Michael J. Spicer.

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Taconic Opera's Virtual Don Giovanni



Taconic Opera's Virtual Don Giovanni is a comedy

Similar to other performing arts organizations, Taconic Opera and its summer singer training program, the NY Opera Conservatory, had to re-think their entire operations in light of all the restrictions imposed by the covid epidemic. In lieu of the Conservatory doing live performances of Mozart's Don Giovanni in area libraries this summer, they created a virtual version of the opera as a comedy (instead of a tragedy) that takes place in the era of covid and are offering it to the public free of charge on Youtube.

As a summer opera program for emerging singers, the New York Opera Conservatory had to re-think a way not to disappoint its students in light of the covid epidemic. But how do you maintain social distancing in opera rehearsals and performances? How do you lift moods during such an intense period of uncertainty?

The Conservatory's answer was to make the pandemic the backdrop of an opera, and some of its strange and unanticipated consequences a part of the production! Since Mozart's Don Giovanni (a dark tragedy) had already been chosen by the Conservatory for its summer program, it was totally reimagined as a hilarious comedy taking place during a pandemic, and created entirely by relying on internet connections and cell phones. The entire production was staged, filmed, and edited without any of the cast and technical crew leaving home. You have to see it to believe it!

This production is offered FREE OF CHARGE to the public, however, any donation large or small will help to make up for some of the essential revenues lost as a result of the pandemic. Visit the Taconic Opera website to make a donation: www.TaconicOpera.org

How to watch:
Don Giovanni is available on YouTube to watch at your leisure and as often as you like:

https://youtu.be/Mwa428_ZJpl

For information about becoming a student in the NY Opera Conservatory, visit the Conservatory website: www.NewYorkOperaConservatory.com. For general information about Taconic Opera and NY Opera Conservatory events, visit the website: www.TaconicOpera.org

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WCA Survey: Disparity in Learning at Home

The Westchester Children's Association (WCA) has released the findings from two online surveys the group conducted this past May to determine how parents and their children and school districts were faring with learning at home. The Superintendents Survey received responses from 28 school districts (there are 40 districts in the county). The response to the Parents Survey, which was released in English and Spanish, was overwhelming with a total of 969 responses submitted by the time the survey closed.

Together these two surveys revealed that, although school administrators are doing their best to address the issues that have arisen due to the sudden switch to remote learning, there are challenges that still need to be addressed. Additionally, the Parent Survey was conducted online for efficiency and safety reasons, but it most likely reduced participation from families who do not have internet access at all.

Key findings:

Families in City Districts were almost 3 times as likely to request a computer for their families (31%) as opposed to families in non-city districts (11%).

Families in City districts (43%) were more likely to wait for a requested computer for their child as compared to families from non-City districts (10%).

In the Superintendent Survey, school districts were asked what else families needed at this time. Four (4) of the eight (8) school districts that responded focused on the need to provide mental health services for the parents and the children.

Westchester Children's Association has had its finger on the pulse of children's issues that are heightened due to the Coronavirus pandemic such as disparities in education and homelessness. In late summer of 2019, WCA released their report, "Making the Invisible Visible: Westchester's Hidden Homeless Children and Youth."

In this report, WCA was able to determine the disparity that exists in defining what homelessness is at local, state, and federal agencies. During the lockdown, WCA demanded that Westchester County use the broadest definition of homelessness possible to provide safe housing for families who live in overcrowded homes where families are double and tripled-up because children will be more vulnerable to contracting COVID-19 and cannot safely quarantine from infectious people in the home. The issue of overcrowded households also creates a barrier to learning due to lack of space, computer hardware, and internet access.

You can read about the survey results and the homelessness report by visiting www.wca4kids.org/blog.

Westchester Children's Association is a multi-issue child advocacy non-profit that seeks to ensure that every child is healthy, safe, and prepared for life's challenges regardless of race, gender or zip code. (WCA4kids.org)

Don't Boycott Goya but Ivanka Went too Far..Again

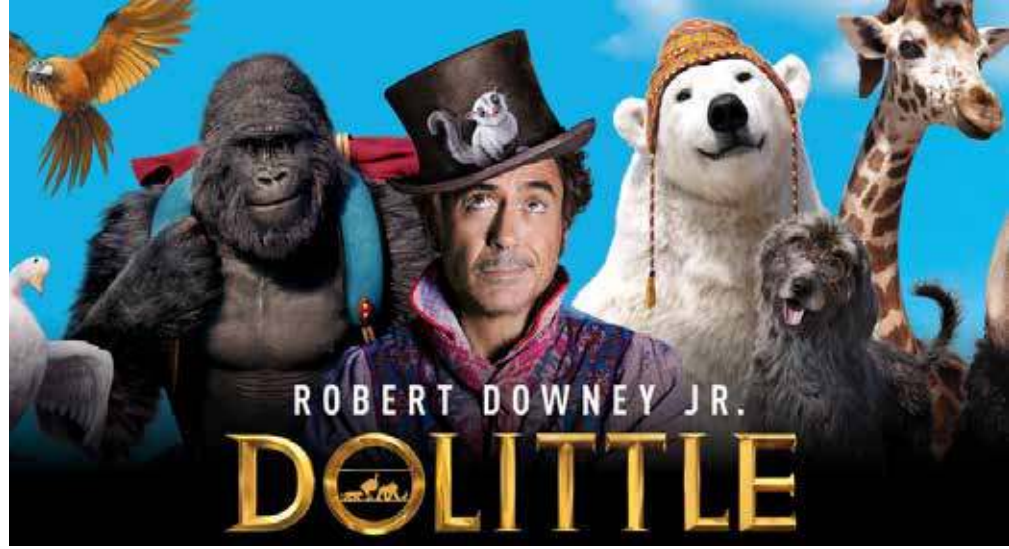


Editor's Note: Got this from a democratic friend in Westchester.

What the heck do I do now. My wife made a Costco run last week. I have enough Goya to feed Trump for a month.

The company should not be boycotted because the CEO said a few nice words about Trump during a meeting. But Ivanka hawking it on Twitter and then Trump hawking it from the resolute desk in the Oval Office does make it difficult to continue to buy the product.

Aladdin & Doolittle Drivein Movies Come to Playland



For the first time, the Playland parking lot will be transformed into a drive-in theater, presenting Aladdin (PG, 2019) on Friday, July 31 and Dolittle (PG, 2020) on Friday, August 7, allowing movie-goers to enjoy classic live-action, family-friendly films in a socially-distanced way. The movies are part of Westchester County Parks' Screenings under the Stars series.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: "We have established these drive in movies so folks can have another family entertainment opportunity. These are family and children oriented movies so you can get out of the house on Friday night and enjoy Playland. We are aiming to make lemonade out of the lemon that is Playland Park being closed in the age of COVID. Remember, the tickets to these shows go fast."

Aladdin tells the story of a kind-hearted street urchin and a power-hungry Grand Vizier vie for a magic lamp that has the power to make their deepest wishes come true. Dolittle follows a physician who can talk to animals and embarks on an adventure to find a legendary island with a young apprentice and a crew of strange pets.

Both movies will be ticketed-admission events, with purchase available by online pre-sale only. Tickets go on sale for Aladdin on Wednesday, July 22, 2 p.m. online at <https://wcparksplayland.ticketleap.com/DriveIn/>. Dolittle tickets will go on sale at the same link on Wednesday, July 29, also starting at 2 p.m.

Tickets are \$20 per car and there will be limited capacity following social distancing protocols. Moviegoers will be asked to maintain a six-foot distance from others when exiting their vehicles, and to wear a mask at all times when outside their vehicles. No gatherings will be permitted. Exiting your vehicle will be permitted when using the restrooms. Restrooms at Lake Boating will be available and will be serviced routinely. Hand sanitizer will be available.

The ticket link will be listed at playlandpark.org and parks.westchestergov.com.

Renewables Alone Can't Save the Planet

By Drew Johnson

Coalville wants to ditch fossil fuels. The Utah city has pledged to draw its electricity from 100 percent renewable sources by 2030. From California to New Hampshire, dozens of cities have set similar goals.

But these cities can't produce and store enough wind and solar power to run solely on renewables. As a result, their ambitious environmental policies could soon leave them powerless. Fortunately, these cities can rely on natural gas to supplement renewables while still reducing emissions.

Renewable energy sources are frequently unreliable. Solar and wind-powered grids can't generate electricity on still, cloudy days. A city, state, or country that relies on renewables alone needs to store enough energy to power its grid when wind turbines and solar panels fail. Most cities can't manage that. The country would need 900 times its current energy storage capacity to rely entirely on renewables, according to energy consultancy Wood Mackenzie.

Several states have already struggled with the shift to renewables. For instance, wind farms account for nearly a quarter of Texas' electricity generation capacity. But during a recent heat wave, slow breezes caused the state's wind power generation to plummet. As temperatures in Dallas rose to over 100 degrees, fear of a power shortage sent energy prices through the roof. The average wholesale price for electricity hit over \$6,500 per megawatt-hour, an increase of 36,000 percent.

California has had similar problems with wind power. One scorching day in July 2018, electricity demand peaked at 5:00 PM and remained high through the night, but wind and solar production had peaked hours earlier, as Robert Bryce explained in the Orange Country Register. More than 30,000 Angelinos went several hours without electricity as temperatures reached 108 degrees.

Cities can avoid nightmare scenarios like these by employing natural gas alongside renewables. Compared to wind and solar power, natural gas has a much more reliable supply and can more easily be produced in a pinch. As a result, natural gas would help cities avoid an energy crisis when their renewable energy sources failed.

Contrary to what environmentalists claim, relying on natural gas helps the environment. The advent of "fracking" has made cheap natural gas more widely available. This abundance of affordable gas has enabled the American energy sector to move away from coal, a relatively dirty energy source. Compared to natural gas, coal generates twice as much carbon dioxide. In 2018, natural gas accounted for 35 percent of all U.S. electricity generation -- up from 17 percent in 2001. Meanwhile, in 2018 U.S. coal consumption hit a nearly 40-year low.

Natural gas helped bring U.S. energy-related emissions to their lowest level in 30 years. The United States emits 14 percent less carbon dioxide than it did in 2000, according to the International Energy Agency. U.S. emissions would have been 15 percent higher last year if natural gas hadn't displaced coal, according to the IEA.

Shifting to renewable energy sources may help people feel more environmentally conscious. But if city officials want to help reduce emissions without depriving their residents of electricity, they can't abandon natural gas.

Drew Johnson is a columnist and energy policy expert who serves as a senior fellow at the National Center for Public Policy Research.

NY Working Families Party: "Jamaal Bowman's Victory Shows New York's Multiracial Progressive Movement is Ascending"

New York Working Families Party State Director Sochie Nnaemeka today issued the following statement: "Congratulations to Working Families Party champion Jamaal Bowman for building a powerful grassroots movement that spoke directly to Black and brown communities and working people about the transformational change our country needs."

"Jamaal won decisively up and down the district — from predominantly white suburbs to the heart of the Black and brown working class Bronx — with a clear and consistent message. He said we must build a New York that works for all of us and center those who have been shut out. We know he will lead the same way he ran — with a transformative, movement rooted vision."

"We were proud to endorse and support Jamaal early and help build a national movement behind this Bronx educator, Westchester dad and community leader. Jamaal showed the country that the Bronx and Westchester are hungry for new progressive leaders who are rooted in their community and willing to confront the district's deep racial and economic inequality. Jamaal Bowman's victory is proof that New York's multiracial progressive movement is ascending — and here to stay."

Jamaal Bowman said, "WFP thank you so much — I'm proud to be a WFP candidate."

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Legal Notices

Notice of formation of DiSySv, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 5/14/20. 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, 153 E Devonia Ave, Mt Vernon, NY 10552. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.08/07

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 Core Cleaning Solutions, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/08/2020. 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, 7 Odell Plz Ste 130 #562 Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 08/21

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

District.
Jaamal's district contains Yonkers. He proposes a new deal for .education. Welcome to the Yonkers Public Schools. Shortchanged every year from Albany and Washington. Green New Deal? Mr. Bowman will be proud of me. I have been using compact fluorescents since they came out and just put a new powerful one in the light fixture in my bedroom. So much better light than the ones from years ago!

A New Deal for Housing. The rent in Westchester is simply ' Too Damn High!' In communities like Yonkers the housing stock is old and as we saw during 4th of July season we lost 2 Yonkers homes to fireworks.

The health system in this country is in shambles. Yes Obamacare helped many but folks are still suffering. Addressing Anti Semitism and supporting the state of Israel? Given for the district he represents.

So many issues i could go on and on. Right now Congressman Bowman's phone is probably wringing off the hook with people who want to meet with him for their pet cause. People will say, 'Oh, I knew you would win as Engel was out of touch, (god forbid) old, and I represent the hypothetical Bagels for America Organization that will help you win a second term. We've seen this game all before.

But one thing Congressman Bowman or Jamaal if I can call you that as you introduced yourself to me at an event at a hotel in White Plains, never forget those 300 people who waited in the hot sun Primary Day to vote for you. Their support is why you will receive the oath of office in January and how you will win a second term in Washington. Good Luck Congressman. God Bless America! BTW I hear you are my neighbor in Park HILL!

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.

Feeding Westchester Purchases Nearly 700,000 Lbs. of Surplus Food

State Agriculture Commissioner Richard Ball announced Feeding Westchester has purchased 694,412 pounds of surplus food from New York farmers since the launch of Governor Cuomo's Nourish New York initiative in early May. This includes 232,750 pounds of nutritious dairy products, such as fluid milk, cheese, butter, and cottage cheese, as well as 414,992 pounds of produce, such as apples, carrots, onions, potatoes, lettuce and sweet potatoes, as of the end of last week, that have been provided to thousands of households in need in Westchester County.

Commissioner Ball said, "Nourish New York is successfully combating the difficulties farmers and families are facing during the COVID-19 pandemic by connecting them through food banks such as Feeding Westchester. Our partnership with Feeding Westchester is a link that is helping to keep our state's food businesses going and bring food to families in need. I want to thank Feeding Westchester for involving so many farmers and dairy processors from across the State in the Nourish New York initiative."

Matt Honeycutt, Vice President of Feeding Westchester said, "For many families in Westchester, the crisis has left them food insecure. New York may be on the road to recovery and reopening, but the need is still there and will be for quite some time. Thanks to the Nourish NY program, Feeding Westchester is distributing more fresh produce than ever in underserved communities disproportionately impacted by the COVID-19 virus."

The Nourish New York initiative aims to quickly reroute New York's surplus agricultural products to the populations who need them through the state's food banks. The state is providing \$25 million to food banks and other emergency food providers so they can buy surplus milk, yogurt, cheese, vegetables, fruit and more from New York farmers who have lost markets as a result of school and restaurant closures.

Purchases have been made directly from produce farms and dairy manufacturers from across New York State. Thanks to Nourish New York, Feeding Westchester has purchased: Produce from Fowler Farms (Wolcott), Torrey Farms (Elba), Northern Orchard (Peru); Dairy products from Great Lakes Cheese (Adams), O-AT-KA (Batavia), Chobani (Norwich), King Brother's Dairy (Schuylerville), and Lactalis American Group (Buffalo); Eggs from Hudson Egg Farms (Elbridge); and More than 5,000 pounds of Monkfish from Haskell's Seafood (Quogue).

Feeding Westchester has held more than 90 distributions while also continuing to supply food pantries and distributions from other organizations throughout this time. Visit Feeding Westchester's website for information on distributions, to locate food pantries and soup kitchens, and to learn more.

As of this week, Nourish New York, statewide, has provided more than 5.4 million pounds of surplus dairy, produce and other products to families in need. Food banks across the state have purchased more than \$5.5 million in Nourish New York product from New York's processors and farmers who have temporarily lost markets as a result of COVID-19. This includes more than 2.1 million pounds of dairy products, including fluid milk, yogurt, cheese, cottage cheese, and sour cream, and nearly 2.6 million pounds of produce, such as fruits and vegetables, that have been provided to nearly 182,000 New York households.

The Nourish New York program is administered by the State Department of Agriculture and Markets and the New York State Department of Health. The State is asking any philanthropies that would like to help the State's food banks to contact Fran Barrett, Director of Non-Profits at COVIDPhilanthropies@exec.ny.gov. As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, New York food banks have seen a dramatic increase in demand, in some regions up to 200 percent, as many New Yorkers struggle to put food on the table. At the same time, New York's farmers and producers have been faced with their own unprecedented extreme financial difficulties. Many have lost up to 50 percent of their markets through the closure of schools and restaurants, leaving them without a place to sell their perishable products.

Notice of formation of R. BURGESS CONTRACTING, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/16/2020. 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 Rohan Burgess, 12 South 15th Avenue, Apt. 4, Mount Vernon, NY 10550. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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Daniel J. Murphy,
Publisher & Editor in Chief
dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Bayan Baker, Assistant to Editor-in-Chief
risingmediagroup@gmail.com

Paul Gerken, Advertising Sales
pgerken@risingmediagroup.com

legal notice inquiries to
risinglegalnotice@gmail.com



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Handcuffing the Police, continued from pg 1--

legislative body to deliver measured, thoughtful, and appropriate policing strategies for residents who need them most. Our brothers and sisters of the NYPD have contributed countless innovative and transformational policing strategies that have greatly benefited citizens and policing alike, throughout the entire world.”

The opposition from law enforcement in Westchester to the actions of Mayor Bill de Blasio and the New York City Council, “The New York City law was obviously not written by anyone who has ever had to put handcuffs on a violent individual resisting arrest. The Yonkers Police does not use chokeholds or engage in other actions that endanger a subject’s life, but nor can we endanger an officer’s own life; and we’re certainly not going to ask them to risk going to jail just for doing their job,” said Commissioner Mueller, who explained that Yonkers Police, even when engaged in an active pursuit, will halt at the New York City line in the future absent extreme circumstances, or an emergency.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said he supported Commissioner Mueller’s order. “Here in Yonkers our Police Department works closely with the community, and the low number of complaints is the result of that. We don’t use chokeholds, and we don’t use more force than absolutely necessary, even when dealing with individuals who are extremely violent or suffering mental distress.”

The New York State Sheriff’s Association has also begun to push back against “the atmosphere of disrespect for law enforcement being promoted or tolerated in so many quarters today,” by proposing state laws which would discourage harassment and physical attacks against the police and encourage compliance with the lawful orders of the police engaged in enforcing the criminal laws of New York.

“Unfortunately, many politicians and community activists, and some in the media, have fostered an attitude toward the police which excuses, or even glamorizes, resistance to lawful authority. It should be readily apparent to everyone that, with some notable exceptions, most of the recent tragic incidents which resulted in the injury or death of an individual at the hands of the police have begun with refusal by that individual to comply with a lawful order. When an individual refuses to comply with a lawful order, the police officer is faced with a choice between walking away from the wrongdoer or taking some action.

Action often leads to reaction, and escalation begins. Officers are trained in deescalation, but that requires some cooperation on both sides. When escalation begets escalation, tragedy can result. An officer’s split-second reaction to a perceived threat may perhaps later be thought to be all wrong by those sitting in their arm chairs, under no pressure or stress, but police officers do not often have the luxury of cool reflection before taking action. We call upon the Legislature and the Governor to enact the following two proposals in order to reemphasize the importance of citizen compliance with directives of law enforcement officers.

There is a time and place to question an officer’s actions but not in the middle of the street when the officer is under the pressure of trying to bring a situation under control for the safety of the public.

1. Resisting Arrest. Make Resisting Arrest a Class E felony which cannot be reduced by plea bargaining, and make it an offense for which a judge could require the posting of bail.
2. Failure to Retreat. Make it a Class D Felony for any person to approach or remain within 25 feet of a police officer engaged in the performance of his or her duties when such person is ordered by a police officer to halt or retreat and such person fails to immediately do so.

Police officers have a difficult job. Most want to do the job right, and then go home safely to their families at the end of their shift. Unfortunately, in the current climate of disrespect for the police, again fostered by the words and actions of some politicians and community activists, some bad actors think they have been given license to harass and assault police officers with impunity,” writes the NYS Sheriffs Association, who also suggested other legislative items, including: Increasing the penalty for the crimes of Assault on a Police Officer, Aggravated Harassment of a Police Officer, Hate Crimes Against a Police Officer, making a false accusation against a Police Officer, and increasing the crimes of Doxing a Police Officer, (revealing an officers home address and other information on the Internet), and stalking a police officer.

Commissioner Mueller appeared on Fox News last weekend. “It’s a very sad day. I never thought we’d see this in my time in policing.” You’re seeing a lot of different agencies that surround the five boroughs following suit.” When asked about the City Council’s decision to pass this law, Mueller said,, “I would characterize it as nothing short of reckless and irresponsible.”

NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea said on CNN that the six police reform bills signed by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio Wednesday are “handcuffing the police.”

Graduation speech, continued from pg 1-

against all cops is just as wrong as hate and prejudice against any ethnic group.”

In the days after the speech, Yancopoulos said, “I apologize if my remarks about these difficult and complex issues deteriorated from the Yorktown High School graduate’s experience.”

Yorktown School Superintendent Ron Hattar released a statement which stated, “After speaking to (Yancopoulos) moments ago, I understood that he intended to promote a message of unity, but his message did not do so, and unexpected comments were made in that address that do not align with the principles of the Yorktown Central School District,”

“I apologize for any hurt caused by the keynote speaker’s remarks. Graduation is intended to recognize the wonderful accomplishments of the Class of 2020 during their journey through the Yorktown Central School District, and anything that takes away from that recognition is not acceptable.”

Comments about the speech by parents and students on Social Media were mostly aghast at Yancopoulos’ speech, with a few supporters. The biggest takeaway was that a graduation speech is supposed to be about “uplifting the graduates and congratulating them on this achievement,” and “Why would this even be a graduation speech??? Why not talk about the students accomplishments and giving support and encouragement for their future!!!! So inappropriate” were some of the comments.

Yorktown for Racial Justice Alumni and Students Coalition, said the speech was “exclusive, dismissive and tone deaf. Using graduation as a platform to spread misinformation was tasteless and disrespectful and contrary to the message of unity the school system wanted to promote.”

Mondaire Jones, the democratic nominee for Congress-District 17, said, “my heart goes out to the Yorktown High School community members who witnessed the ignorant, racially insensitive remarks made by a cofounder of the pharmaceutical company Regeneron. I am disappointed the company did not make a strong statement condemning his comments.”

Yancopoulos was also criticized after the speech for not understanding what the phrase-Black Lives Matter truly means. “He doesn’t get the fundamental idea behind BLM. Which is: Black lives are treated as if they do NOT matter. So it is not saying that other lives don’t matter, but that everyone needs to remember that Black lives matter as much as all other lives,”

Latimer, term limits continued from pg 1-

reasons for its passage. “[...] term limits prevent government officials from serving for more than a specified number of terms to bring fresh perspectives to government and ensure responsiveness to voter demands. [...] Longtime office holders can often become more interested in serving their own reelection interests than serving the interests of the people they represent and challengers with new ideas are at an unfair advantage when running against incumbents with higher name recognition. Your Committee believes that restricting the service of lawmakers through term limits prevents politicians from amassing too much power and removes the intense focus on politics and places it back on policy. Term limits encourage younger, minority and other aspirants to run for office as the hurdle to defeat a well-entrenched and senior incumbent is lowered. In addition, term limits result in greater voter turnout particularly in local elections if people feel there is a real race going on and their votes can count. Your Committee believes that implementation of term limits keeps a steady, fresh supply of leaders to serve in elected offices. Many talented potential leaders will simply not run for a particular office because of the challenges and battles of running against an incumbent.”

When Latimer first proposed the law, he said,, “All of our local governments follow that Revolutionary Era philosophy; restricting the reach of government. I have been a student of government as well as a practitioner these many years, serving on three different levels: city, county and state. Now, as I complete my second year as County Executive, I see the authority granted this position - and I strongly believe it should be further limited to ensure a balance of interests are better served.”

The new law only affects the office of County Executive, and not members of the County Board of Legislators, who are limited to 12 years and six terms in office. Latimer will finish his first, four-year term next year, in 2021. He is then permitted to run for re-election, as he is expected to do.

Again, at the time of introduction, Latimer said: “I have included my tenure as covered within the law. Oftentimes, incumbents are “grandfathered” in, meaning the restrictions apply to the next occupant of the seat. But, they will apply to me as well. Eight years is a period of time most common where Executive term limits apply, and I think it is a defensible change. The length of my tenure is up to the voters, but to limit the total years to eight makes good sense, and ensures the proper check and balance.”

Right now, its anybody’s guess who the republican candidate to run for County Executive will be in 2021.

Primary results, continued from pg 1-

the second-place finisher in a crowded, 8-person primary, despite being outspent by the second-place finisher (the son of a billionaire) more than 3-to-1.

“Indeed, in the 244-year history of the United States, there has never been an openly gay, black member of Congress. That changes this year, thanks to the great people of New York’s 17th Congressional District. On June 23rd, Democrats nominated a champion for working people, and that I had the best team a billion dollars could not buy,” said Jones

Jamaal Bowman defeated 30 year Congressman Eliot Engel in the 16th District, with 56% of the vote. Engel conceded after waiting for all of the absentee ballots to be counted.

“We have made so much progress together, and faced so many challenges. Throughout those years, I have always worked as hard as humanly possible to represent my constituents as a progressive Democrat in Washington and as an involved, informed and present public servant in New York. I never for a minute thought of this as my seat,” he said. “It’s the people’s seat, and it is a true honor that you put your trust in me to represent you in the greatest legislative body in the world,” said Rep. Engel.

Westchester District Attorney Anthony Scarpino also conceded last week to Mimi Rocah after counting absentee ballots. “I called Mimi Rocah to congratulate her on winning the Democratic nomination for Westchester County District Attorney. I look forward to supporting her and Democrats up and down the ballot in November. It has been my distinct honor to serve as District Attorney and I am grateful to the people of Westchester for affording me the opportunity to do so since 2017. I am extraordinarily proud of the public servants in the District Attorney’s Office who dedicate every day to create a safer, more just County for all. I look forward to completing my term as District Attorney, a role which has been an integral part of my four decade-long career in service to the community that I love.”

Westchester democrats also had three competitive Assembly primaries to vote on June 23. Bedford Supervisor Chris Burdick won the democratic primary for the 93rd Assembly District. Burdick, with 34% of the vote, defeated four other democrats. “I want to thank each and every one of you for your amazing support... this victory would not have been possible without my amazing team of staff, volunteers and donors. This was a close race between five strong Democrats, all of whom want the best for our district. I promise I will not let you down.

“Today we celebrate, but we have a lot of hard work ahead of us, not only in the 93rd AD but also in the 40th Senate District, where Senator Pete Harckham will be facing Rob Astorino. We look forward to closely coordinating with Pete -- as well as Senator Shelley Mayer in the 37th SD -- to ensure their victories, as well as ours. Let’s make sure November isn’t just a Blue Wave, but a Blue Tsunami. I am honored to be your Democratic nominee,” said Burdick, who is the heavy favorite to replace Assemblyman David Buchwald.

The closest democratic primary came in the race for Assembly in the 91st District, where Meg Cameron was leading Assemblyman Steve Otis, but after all absentee ballots were counted, Otis had won by 84 votes out of more than 11,000 votes cast.

Assemblyman Tom Abinanti also pulled victory from the jaws of defeat as he defeated Jen Williams in the democratic primary in the 92Assembly District. Abinanti ended up with a 55%-45% victory. Congratulations to Williams for running a great campaign, and we are sure we will hear from her again.

Despite recent efforts by the County Board of Legislators and County Executive George Latimer to improve the Board of Elections, Westchester residents may have to get used to waiting for the outcome of close elections this November, if tens of thousands of absentee ballots will have to be counted again.



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Free Sunset Yoga in the Westchester Parks Expands



Westchester Parks Foundation (WPF) and Tovami Yoga kick off the 2020 Sunset Yoga in the Parks series on Wednesday, July 22 at 6:45 p.m. at the Playland Park. The FREE classes are open to any level of flexibility and take place throughout the summer at Playland Park and a new northern Westchester location this year at Croton Point Park along with Flowers City Park in New Rochelle.

Christine La Porta, Deputy Director of Westchester Parks Foundation said: “Yoga in the Parks is one of our most popular events. With this year being very stressful for parents, we decided to expand the series to Croton Point Park and Flowers City Park to give more residents throughout Westchester County a way to relax and energize.”

Participants MUST register in advance and bring their own individual mats or towels. No walk-ups will be allowed as in previous years. Mats must be spaced 6 feet apart, and participants must have masks and follow all mandated social distancing protocols. Sunset Yoga in the Park is hosted by the WPF, Tovami Yoga of Mamaroneck, and Westchester County Parks, and sponsored by NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital and NewYork-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital.

The series will take place on the following dates and locations:
 Dates at Playland Beach: Wednesday August 12th 6:45pm-8:00pm
 Dates at Croton Point Park: Wednesday July 29th 6:45pm-8:00pm,
 Wednesday August 26th 6:45pm-8:00pm, Wednesday September 16th 6:45pm-8:00pm

Dates at Flowers City Park: Wednesday September 9th 6:45pm-8:00pm
 For more information visit <https://www.thewpf.org/event/5th-annual-sunset-yoga-in-the-park-playland-beach/>

Tovami Yoga is a classic yoga studio located at 112 W Boston Post Rd in Mamaroneck, across from Harbor Island Park and is also a founding sponsor of Sunset Yoga in the Parks. Owner/director, Tobi Kundid said, “Tovami means community. The focus of the studio is to build a yoga community of like-minded people who can practice together, create friendships, and honor yoga as an ancient mindfulness art.” Call 914-618-4887 or go to tovamiyoga.com.

Hudson River Museum Reopens



Tango Night, with Latin Grammy Award winner bassist and composer Pedro Giraudo, Aug 1, in the HRM Amphitheater

The Hudson River Museum is excited to announce that we will reopen to the public on Saturday, July 25, with special Member Preview Days on July 23 and 24. Visitors will be able to experience the special exhibitions currently on view, and the Museum Courtyard will be open, and visitors are invited to enjoy the lawn by bringing their own mat or blanket.

The reopened Museum will allow guests to experience the HRM while taking measures to ensure the safety of our staff and visitors. Museum hours this summer will be Thursday–Sunday, 12–5pm; on Saturday evenings from August 1 through September 19 the HRM will be open until 7pm. Visitors will be able to choose from various slots per day. Capacity is strictly limited, and visitors must arrive and depart from the Museum within their reserved time slot. The Museum has reduced capacity to 40 visitors per time slot, until further notice. Timed tickets will go on sale on July 15 at hrm.org/visit and at (914) 963-4550.

Face masks will be required for visitors older than two years old, and for all staff members. All visitors and staff will also be asked to adhere to social-distancing guidelines and use hand sanitizer upon entry to the Museum. Our virtual programming will continue; the summer offerings can be found at hrm.org/calendar.

We are thrilled to be welcoming back audiences for our popular Summer Amphitheater Series. The performances will take place in our outdoor theater adjacent to the Museum and overlooking the Hudson River, and have a limited capacity of 50 guests at each performance.

All performances are free and begin at 8pm, with doors opening at 7:30pm. Reservations are required through hrm.org/amphitheater. The Museum will also offer free admission to its galleries and courtyard on Saturdays, 5–7pm, August 1–September 19, made possible by Entergy.

Saturday, August 1st--Tango Night! Latin Grammy Award winner bassist and composer Pedro Giraudo is among the most compelling tango artists today, and has become an active cultural ambassador of this beautiful and passionate music of his native Argentina.

Saturday, August 8--Forever Ray: Honoring the Music of Ray Charles Forever Ray has been playing to sold-out audiences throughout the New York Metropolitan area. They perform the exciting and uplifting music of Ray Charles, Visit HRM.org for more information.



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