

# Westchester Rising

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Friday July 31, 2020

## Trump Administration Overturns Affordable Housing Requirements

By Dan Murphy



**A 2-BDR Yorktown Home is for sale at \$121,000 under the Town's affordable housing program**

It has been more than 20 years since the Town of Yorktown has offered a private home up for sale as : A two-bedroom single family home in Yorktown for \$121,000. No, not wishful thinking. A reality.

Applications are being accepted for a lottery for the purchase of a two-bedroom, 1,100 square foot single family house in Yorktown Heights. Built in 1995 as part of Yorktown's pioneering Affordable Housing Program, the house includes a living room with dining area, kitchen, one bathroom, deck, and an attached one car garage.

Amenities include membership in a homeowner's association that maintains a swimming pool and tennis courts.

Under the Program's 2020 guidelines, to be eligible for a two bedroom house, the maximum household income cannot exceed \$80,560 for a two person household, \$90,640 for a three-person household, and \$100,640 for a four-person household. The maximum household size for a two-bedroom house is four persons.

For 2019, the combined town, county, and Lakeland School District taxes were \$5,590. Homeowner's association fees are currently \$125/mo.

The house is located about seven (7) minutes from the Taconic Parkway and is approximately a 10 minute drive to local shopping and other services in the Yorktown Heights business hamlet.

Qualifying applicants will need to be able to make a down payment and obtain a mortgage. The house must be purchased as a primary residence and lease and resale restrictions apply.

According to Ken Belfer, Chair of the Yorktown Community Housing Board, "It has been almost 20 years since Yorktown sold a home through its small affordable housing program. This represents a wonderful opportunity for someone to own a very affordable home in an attractive neighborhood. Applications not selected for this home will remain on Yorktown's affordable housing waiting list for the next opportunity."

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## The Post Office Needs Our Help

Will Our Absentee Ballots be Delivered in November?

By Dan Murphy



As Westchester residents and voters discuss the difficulties of voting in person for the June 23 primary, many are considering voting by absentee ballot on November 5, as a way to avoid long lines at the polling places.

One concern was recently expressed by a caller to a WVOX 1460 AM radio show. "I won't vote by absentee ballot because how do I know that my ballot will get to the Board of Elections? The Post Office has been horrible lately."

New York's US Senator Charles Schumer recently announced that the US Postal Service could be forced to shut their doors unless they get an immediate infusion of funds and the personal protective equipment (PPE) and supplies needed to keep workers and the mail-receiving public safe. Schumer, citing the worry, made a vow, today, to fight for a critically-needed \$25 billion for the USPS so they can keep the doors open and the mail moving for all Americans.

"Whether it is New York City, the suburbs of Long Island, Staten Island or beyond, the USPS performs a lifeline service for countless Americans and the people of New York that must continue amid and beyond this pandemic," said U.S. Senator Charles Schumer.

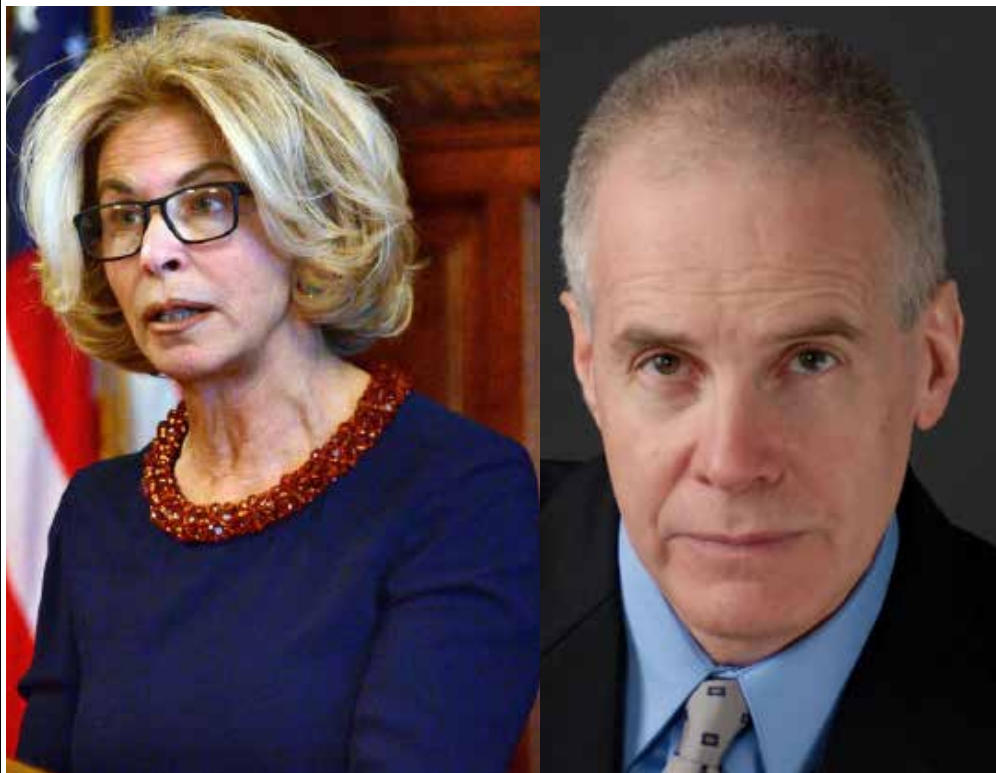
"The fact is, the coronavirus has severely crippled USPS operations and their funds. Despite that, they have kept the doors open, the mail --and really the economy-- moving, and now they need the help to sustain their pace. The fight to keep our post offices open by injecting the dollars needed to do the job and purchase the personal protective equipment and cleaning supplies required to keep everyone safe will begin tomorrow, and I am here to say: I vow to lead it," he added.

He said the services provided by USPS amount to lifelines for millions of Americans that cannot be replaced or easily replicated, especially in certain parts of the country. Schumer detailed how the coronavirus pandemic has crippled our post offices and their operations as he stressed their relevance and importance to our larger economic recovery.

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## Was DiFiore a Target of Anti-Feminist Shooter?

"Now is the time for all good men to fight for their rights before they have no rights left," Roy Den Hollander.



**NYS Chief Court Janet DiFiore, was a possible target of shooter and anti-feminist Roy Den Hollander**

By Dan Murphy

The Westchester community said a prayer for one of their most popular and effective public servants after the news broke last week that among the possible targets of lunatic, men's rights advocate Roy Den Hollander was New York State Chief Judge and longtime Westchester resident Janet DiFiore.

Last week, Den Hollander killed the son of New Jersey Federal Judge Esther Salas and wounding her husband before killing himself in upstate New York. Among the items found on Den Hollander by the FBI was information on DiFiore, including her name, photograph and address of the NYS Court of Appeals that she presides over in Albany. The DiFiore's live in Bronxville.

DiFiore was notified shortly after the information was discovered in Den Hollander's car after his suicide. The reason for the attack on Judge Salas and possible future attack on DiFiore is not known. Den Hollander dressed up as a FedEx deliveryman on July 19 and went to the North Brunswick, New Jersey home of US District Court Judge Esther Salas, her husband Mark Anderl, and 20-year old son Daniel Anderl.

Den Hollander fatally shot Daniel Anderl, and then shot Mark Anderl multiple times before fleeing the area before taking a shot at Judge Salas, who was in the basement at the time of the attack. The shooter had criticized Judge Salas on social media and appeared before her in Federal Court in 2015, in a case where he challenged the military's all male draft registration.

Den Hollander prided himself on being known as an "anti-Feminist" lawyer and for challenging in court, "ladies nights" events in bars, which were designed to attract women to local drinking establishments but Del Hollander argued were discriminatory against men.

Among Del Hollander's other strange lawsuits was a filing against the concept of 'bottle service' at high priced night clubs, claiming that they discriminated against men.

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## Parents & Teachers Expect Hybrid Back to School Plans



**All Westchester students will be wearing masks and maintaining social distancing this fall.**

By Dan Murphy

With a July 31 deadline for school districts in Westchester and across New York State to present a re-opening plan to the New York Department of Education, parents, teachers and students are waiting to see what back to school in September will look like. A combination of in school education in school and remote, online learning from home, is what most believe the outcome will be.

Earlier this month, Governor Andrew Cuomo provided an outline for reopening schools in New York, including a requirement of wearing masks, daily temperature tests and social distancing. "Everybody wants to reopen schools, but you only reopen if it's safe to reopen, and that's determined by the data," said Cuomo.

"You don't hold your finger up and feel the wind, you don't have an inspiration, you don't have a dream, you don't have an emotion — look at the data... Common sense and intelligence can still determine what we do, even in this crazy environment."

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## Harrison Library Presents: Women Raising Their Voices, August 6



Women Raising Their Voices Panel Discussion

Thursday, August 6 @ 7 pm

Need some inspiration to push yourself forward and to have your voice heard? Join us for a panel discussion on "Women Raising their Voices" featuring Juliet Grames, author of *The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna*, Randi Gray, Senior IT Manager at an EdTech company, Laura Katen, President of Katen Consulting and author of *The Communication Habit: Strategies that Set You Apart and Leave a Lasting Impression*, and Lori Soderlind, Director of the MFA Program in Creative Writing, Manhattanville College and author of *The Change: My Great American, Postindustrial, Midlife Crisis Tour*. A Q&A session will follow the discussion.

Register at <https://www.harrisonpl.org/events/harrison/16525>

Juliet Grames first novel, *The Seven or Eight Deaths of Stella Fortuna*, was published last year and has been translated into over a dozen languages. It was released in paperback this May.

Randi Gray is a Senior IT Manager at an EdTech company and has over 20 years of experience in various facets of the IT industry including Retail, FinTech, and Health Care. She also serves as a member of the Junior Board for Family Services of Westchester.

Laura Katen – keynote speaker, author, consultant, communications coach, and founder/president of New York-based professional development training company Katen Consulting. Katen’s latest book *The Communication Habit: Strategies That Set You Apart and Leave a Lasting Impression* (©2020 MCGRAW HILL).

Lori Soderlind is the Director of the MFA Creative Writing Program at Manhattanville College in Purchase, NY. Her most recent memoir, *The Change: My Great American, Postindustrial, Midlife Crisis Tour*, was released in June.

*Editor’s Note: To all of our Westchester readers, the Coronavirus has made available all offerings by local county libraries. You do not have to live in a certain community to enjoy their programs. All of us can enjoy on Zoom and other platforms.*

## County Police Seize Two Kilos of Fentanyl During Traffic Stop



Westchester County Police arrested a Connecticut man on a felony drug charge and seized more than two kilos of fentanyl during a traffic stop earlier this week.

Orlando Garcia, 42, of Wolcott Street, Waterbury, Conn, was charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 1st Degree following a traffic stop Wednesday on the Saw Mill River Parkway in Mount Pleasant. He was also charged with Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Vehicle 3rd Degree, a misdemeanor.

The incident began shortly after 5 p.m. when Garcia was stopped for traffic violations as he drove southbound on the Saw Mill near County Police headquarters in Hawthorne. Garcia was taken into custody when a computer check revealed that his license was suspended and that he had an outstanding warrant for failing to appear in court to answer a charge of Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs, a misdemeanor.

During subsequent investigation, including the use of narcotics detection canine Philly, officers located a sealed cardboard box in the vehicle containing 4.3 pounds of a substance believed to be fentanyl. Garcia was arraigned in Mount Pleasant Town Court and remanded to the Westchester County Jail in Valhalla.

Fentanyl is a legal prescription drug used for pain control during surgery and for chronic or breakthrough cancer pain. It’s also being manufactured illegally and sold for its euphoric effects. Street drugs like heroin, cocaine and methamphetamine are being laced with this opioid, as are counterfeit drugs made to look like the real ones, like Vicodin or Xanax. It’s an extremely potent and rapidly fatal substitute for heroin.

Just 2 to 3 milligrams of this drug can kill a person. It blocks opioid receptors and its most dangerous side effect -- like other opioids -- is respiratory depression, which can quickly lead to coma and death.

According to the DEA, illegally manufactured fentanyl it is being produced in China and Mexico and crossing over the U.S. border or coming in via the mail. Online pharmacies from China are also selling this illegal substance. Fentanyl is easy to make, less bulky, and easier to ship than heroin. According to the DEA, one kilogram can be bought in China for \$3,000 to \$5,000 and yields over \$1.5 million in illicit sales in the U.S. Based on those figures, the Fentanyl seized by County Police had a street value of \$3 Million.

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# Astorino vs. Harckham, Round One

## "Mascot-Gate"

By Dan Murphy



**Former County Executive Rob Astorino, left, is challenging and State Senator Peter Harckham, this fall.**

It didn't take long for Westchester democrats and republicans to take a look at the upcoming election of 2020 in November and realize that the most competitive contest in the county will be for State Senate, between Senator Peter Harckham, a democrat, and former County Executive, republican Rob Astorino.

Astorino, the former two term Westchester County Executive who ran for Governor in 2014, has become target #1 for all of the usual interest groups in Westchester, who would like to end his political career once and for all, by re-electing Harckham on November 5.

But the 40th State Senate District runs from northern Westchester into Putnam and Dutchess Counties, and President Donald Trump won this district in 2016. Harckham was able to narrowly defeat former State Senator Terrence Murphy in 2018, and will have the help of every democrat in the state.

The hyper-partisan nature of politics in 2020 can be found in the first back and forth between Astorino and Harckham over high school mascots. Harckham sponsored a bill to try and remove racially offensive mascots, including those with Native American symbols and other "race-based mascots."

Harckham's initial idea, which is being attempted to names of sports across the country, is a good one. If your local high school has a team name, or mascot, that is offensive to any part of your community, or any taxpayer, should be removed.

But Harckham took the idea of eliminating offensive mascots to an unacceptable level, and form of punishment for local school districts who could not comply with the order. Either remove your mascot or lose State Education funding.

Westchester High School's that are affected include the Valhalla High School Vikings and Horace Greely High School Quakers. Just over the Westchester border in Putnam County, the Mahopac High School Indians are also on the clock to change their name. According to the Astorino campaign, the schools in questions would lose \$5.6 Million for Valhalla, \$9.5 Million for Horace Greely, and \$32 Million for Mahopac.

Shortly after Harckham's bill became public, taxpayers in those communities questioned why Harckham would support the loss of state education aid in their school district. "Defunding schools over a mascot will hurt more poor children than a silly mascot ever will," was one of many comments.

Astorino jumped on what seemed like too extreme a penalty in Harckham's bill, calling it "assinine". Harckham responded first by claiming that the bill was not his. "Last week, the Senate website errantly ascribed my name to a bill that would strip funding from schools that had mascots named after Native Americans. That is not my bill," said Harckham.

Actually, Harckham's bill went further and included any race- or ethnicity-based school mascots. A Zoom meeting recording shows Harckham admitting that the bill is his and that he amended it under fire from constituents.

"It's disturbing to watch a state senator be blatantly untruthful with his constituents, especially over critical school funding. With everything going on in the world right now, this is his priority?"

"Mr. Harckham's bill has rightly outraged tens of thousands of his constituents desperate to get their children safely back into schools and resume some form of normalcy in their lives. Thousands of parents have lost their jobs because of Covid, and the loss of school funds would result in dramatic local tax increases that would literally break them economically," said Astorino who called on Harckham to withdraw the legislation.

The next political spat between Harckham and Astorino came when Astorino sent out a mailing that included kind words from democrats from when he was Astorino. That story next week.

# John Lewis, Regis and Hot Topics

By Eric Schoen



So much going on in the United States this week as little by little we get out of quarantine and get a breath of fresh air, hot and steamy as it may be. But hey it's summertime. A summer we will never forget. As a friend of my mom said, she lived through the Great Depression but has never seen anything like this!

### GOOD TROUBLE

Born on an Alabama cotton farm, John Lewis became one of the most visible activists in the Civil Rights era. He led peaceful protests in Nashville, marched in Selma with Dr. Martin Luther King, and was beaten in Selma during Bloody Sunday. In 1986 he won a Congressional Seat in Georgia representing one of the most diverse Congressional districts until his death.

When we see the rioting and chaos going on in the world today, we have only to look and see the accomplishments of John Lewis whose slogan was 'Good Trouble.' Oh, if only those causing destruction in our states today, things like the boarding up of the windows of the shops on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan or toppling statues the history of which they don't fully understand would heed his advice.

So much can be accomplished by Good Trouble versus burning, breaking, shattering, cursing, disrespecting, beating that we see all around us upsetting our lives and the lives of others. When will we ever learn, When will we ever learn?

### REGIS

There are so few people who can make us laugh, help us stop our tears turning them into (no pun intended) Joy and were admired as much as Regis Philbin. When he would enter a room the attention was focused on him, and everybody loved him.

Whether you know him from Regis and Kathie Lee or Regis and Kelly or the game show he worked so hard to become the host of when it crossed the pond, 'Who Wants to be a Millionaire' just mention the name Regis Philbin and it brings a smile to your face. On television or in a show with Kathie Lee that I saw in Atlantic City, what you see was what you get. No sugar coating, just a great man there to help you 'forget your troubles, c'mon get happy!'

There's no good way to die but he died of natural causes in his sleep. And that's the final answer!

### COVID 19, MASKS AND HAND WASHING

What don't people understand? Two things we have readily at our (no pun intended) hands to stop the spread of Covid 19 are masks and washing our hands. Does wearing a mask pose that much imposition on your life? If you don't want to look like you are contagious you don't have to wear the KN95 or N95 masks or the Darth Vader face shields. Simply wear a scarf or mask (DAISO, the Japanese Store in Scarsdale with some prices in Japanese and some in US dollars has adorable cat masks for \$2.50.) Save your life and the lives of others for \$2.50? I think it's worth it!

Someone dropped a set of keys near my sisters home the other day. A car or cars had run over them, but there were still salvageable keys. I picked them up, put them on the planter in front of the house, scrubbed my hands with soap and water and wiped my hands with an alcohol wipe. No, I'm not crazy obsessive. This is what you have to do in the times we are living in. Again I remind you you should have been washing your hands with soap and water since you turned age 2.

Harmon Face Value has this gigantic container of Dial Antibacterial Soap for \$5. Use a 20 percent off coupon and you have enough bacterial soap to last for a while for \$4. Just refill those dispensers it's that simple.

Parties in Long Island and New Jersey with 200 to 2000 people, no face masks or social distancing. Life Guards, yes those we rely on for safety in the water partying on Long Island and two dozen getting Coronavirus in the middle of the summer? What's wrong with these people?

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## WESTCHESTER RISING


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## High School Sophomores Step Up for Westchester Walk to End Alzheimer's



Emily Stangel and Remi Matza, both sophomores at Byram Hills High School in Armonk and pictured above, recently became team captains for Team GAGA in the Westchester Walk to End Alzheimer's.

This will be their first year as team captains after former captain Hallie Remnitz stepped down after holding the position for two years.

This will be Matza's first time participating in the walk. Stangel has previously participated in the walk with Team GAGA.

Team GAGA is the official team for Byram Hills High School. The name is an acronym that stands for "Growth and Awareness Group for Alzheimer's." Traditionally, the team has been among the top fundraising teams for the Westchester walk. The team was created by former Byram Hills High School student Max Levy in 2011 after the passing of his grandmother.

Stangel has a personal connection to the Alzheimer's disease through her grandfather, who is now in the late stages of the disease.

Stangel and Matza recently created a Team GAHA Instagram page @bhhs.gaga2020 to raise awareness of Alzheimer's disease and their team fundraising efforts. On the page, they have created the #Making\_Memz\_Challenge, where they encourage others to make funny videos that will create a lasting memory and to challenge their friends to do the same. They started the hashtag chain with a video of themselves throwing pies at each other.

"The idea behind the hashtag is to make memories for those that no longer have the ability to do so. We hope to create a chain with this hashtag and get users to donate just a small amount," said Matza. They hope to get other students from Byram Hills High School to join Team GAGA.

This year's Westchester Walk to End Alzheimer's, to be held Sunday, Oct. 4, will be different than previous years. While the event normally draws large crowds to SUNY Purchase, steps are being taken to protect the health and safety of participants and volunteers. There will be no large gatherings involved. Instead, participants will be walking at various locations in their communities with their teams or family members. To register, visit [WestchesterWalk.org](http://WestchesterWalk.org)

Stangel and Matza said they are excited to participate in the walk. "We are happy it can still occur despite the pandemic," said Stangel.

To join Team Gaga or make a donation, [www.TeamGaga.com](http://www.TeamGaga.com). To register for the Walk to End Alzheimer's, visit [HudsonValleyWalks.org](http://HudsonValleyWalks.org)

## Mt. Vernon Resident Confirmed by NYS Senate as Court of Claims Judge



**Judge Adrian Armstrong**

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins announced that Adrian Armstrong of the City of Mt. Vernon has been confirmed by the State Senate as a Judge for the NYS Court of Claims.

"I am proud that Westchester resident Adrian Armstrong was confirmed by the full NYS Senate, under my leadership. I congratulate Mr. Armstrong and I wish him well as a Judge for the Court of Claims," Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said.

Armstrong has been a Judge for Mt. Vernon City Court since 2015, where he arraigned felonies and handled misdemeanors and lesser offenses as well as civil lawsuits of up to \$15,000. Judge Armstrong runs an adolescent diversion part "problem solving court" for 16 and 17 year olds with certain offenses, incorporating cross-agency off-the-record conferencing, rescue coordination and supportive services, and progress monitoring. The court has made an immeasurable difference in the lives of the young people who have appeared before it.

Prior to that, he served as Principal Law Clerk to NYS Supreme Court Judge Donna Mills and as Senior Court Attorney to Judge Mills in New York City Civil Court. He also served as a Mt. Vernon City School District trustee from 2007-2010.

Armstrong has taken a vested interest in the lives of the young people in the communities he serves. In addition to his involvement in Mt. Vernon, while a Bronx resident, he founded an organization called Varsity Sports that he funded himself. It gave any child who wanted an opportunity to play basketball a chance to play the game they loved.

Armstrong received his Juris Doctorate from Pace University Law School and his Bachelor of Science from Longwood University. He is a member of the Metropolitan Bar Association, the Association of Black Lawyers of Westchester County, the Mount Vernon Bar Association, and the Criminal Justice Educators Association of New York State. Armstrong is currently an Adjunct Professor at both Pace University and Monroe College where he teaches courses on business law, political science, and criminal justice.

Send us your letters, opinions, photos and announcements to [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com)

### Schoen continued from pg 3-

#### OPENING SCHOOLS WITH AN EXTRA 4000 STUDENTS

If Yonkers Public Schools Superintendent Edwin Quezada pulls off opening of the Yonkers Public Schools this September which are already 4000 students over building capacity( without social distancing) he will truly be 'The Miracle Worker.' Let's not forget an additional several hundred students expected to arrive from the 2 Catholic School closures.

My only advice to you parents out there is to keep in touch with your child's school, Teacher and Principal this summer. Join Facebook groups like Yonkers Parents Seeking Solutions as another source of information. Get active in the PTSA. Lobby the Mayor and City Council and State Legislators for funds to bring about those scheduled to be laid off as the new school year begins.

It's your child. Get Involved!

#### BABY YOU'RE A FIREWORK!

My idea to divide the city into 18 and have one of our 18 fire rigs patrol a section of the city on the 4th of July? Many readers liked the idea, and there were some who did not.

Barry McGoey, head of the Firefighters Union pointed out that this is the work of the Police Department enforcing the laws and not the job of firefighters. The police complain they don't have enough manpower to enforce the law.

Some who listen to my radio show or read the paper don't see fireworks on the 4th of July as a problem. Maybe their house was not one of the two homes burned down on Independence Day, I just don't know. All I know is that it was pretty loud in the neighborhood I live in on our nation's birthday this year.

Is my solution to a problem that has plagued us for many years to quote Regis, 'The Final Answer?' No, but at least it gets us talking about how to deal with a nuisance bothering us for a long time. City Hall certainly has not come up with anything to solve the problem.

Removing 12 cases of fireworks from the streets. People who I have mentioned that number to think it's laughable. Maybe we can send a police car out with a fire rig to enforce and extinguish. Just a thought. Keep them coming!

Reach Eric Schoen at [thistooisyonkers@aol.com](mailto: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](http://WVOX.com) and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

## Veterans: Don't Miss Out to File Military Records for Free

Veterans, did you know you the Office of the Westchester County Clerk has been sanctioned to serve as a safe and local depository for your military records?

The Clerk's office encourages all U. S. Military Veterans living in Westchester to file a copy of their discharge papers with our office. If you file a copy here and ever have the unfortunate scenario of losing or damaging your discharge papers, the Clerk's office will provide a copy free of charge.

"Anyone who has served in the military knows how important their discharge papers are." Said Westchester County Clerk Timothy C. Idoni. "From receiving benefits to being given a proper military funeral, having a backup copy for safekeeping is invaluable."

"You served your country, now let us serve you." Said Idoni.

Please note that only the veteran, parent, spouse, dependent or child of the veteran, a representative of the estate of a deceased veteran, or a public official acting within the scope of their employment may obtain a copy of any filed DD-214. All military records are kept sealed for privacy protection purposes.

For more information, please visit <https://www.westchesterclerk.com/services/veterans>.

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## Employees to Be Notified About Mass Layoffs or Closings from Mayer & Otis Bill

Last week, State Senator Shelley Mayer and Assemblyman Steve Otis celebrated the passage of their bill, S.8748/A.10674, to reform the state's Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act. The WARN Act protects employees, families, and communities during mass layoffs, such as what occurred at the Doral Arrowwood Resort in late December 2019. The newly-passed bill, S.8748/A.10674, closes a serious loophole in the current law and would require employers subject to the WARN Act to notify the top elected leaders of the communities and school districts affected of their plans to shut down, as well as the communities that provide emergency services to the site. Municipalities and school districts that will lose needed tax revenue in the event of shutdowns, as well as emergency service providers, should have notice and an opportunity to make plans to address such significant changes in their communities.

Senator Mayer said, "The closure of the Doral Arrowwood Resort in the Village of Rye Brook earlier this year exposed numerous flaws in the existing WARN Act statute. Nearly \$2 million in combined annual tax revenue was at risk for the village, town, school district and county when Doral Arrowwood announced its closure, yet none of these entities were notified of the shut-down or given adequate time to adjust to the sudden economic blow to their budgets. Due to the property tax cap law, a significant reduction in tax revenue cannot be recouped easily, if at all, making adequate notice to affected municipalities and school districts that much more important. I am pleased that this bill passed both the Senate and Assembly, and that it will protect communities in the future from sudden surprise changes to their annual revenues."

Assemblyman Otis said, "This legislation provides vitally important notice to local governments and school districts before major layoffs and closings occur. Early information will alert communities of actions they may have to take if layoffs occur and may even provide an opportunity for them to help prevent the layoffs. With early knowledge of a possible layoff or closure local governments may now be able to play a role in finding solutions."

When news of the Doral Arrowwood closing was announced Senator Mayer and Assemblyman Otis were in contact with the affected local governments and school district on how the closure would affect their work and budgets. S.8784/A.10674 will enable communities to react sooner and more effectively to manage situations such as the closing of the Doral Arrowwood that have a significant impact on the well-being of their residents, essential service obligations, and revenue.

Senator Mayer celebrated another bill to reform the WARN Act that passed the Senate this week, S.8692, which increases the maximum amount of back pay receivable by employees when there is a WARN Act violation from 60 days to 90 days to match the 90-day notice requirement.

### Back to School, continued from pg 1--

The first obstacle for Westchester schools to reopen around Labor Day appears to have been met. The Hudson Valley region has continued to see a lower percentage of COVID infections. With phase four already here in Westchester, the data is showing that the number of new cases, hospitalizations and deaths continue to decline. If the infection rate rises by more than 10% over a 7 day period, schools will be ordered closed.

Masks must be worn in school if social distancing cannot be maintained. "Face coverings are strongly recommended at all times, except for meals and instruction with appropriate social distancing," it reads. "However, responsible parties can require face coverings at all times, even during instruction, Masks must be worn by all staff on school grounds if social distancing cannot take place.

School districts must submit a plan to the state by July 31 outlining how they will address not only capacity and distancing, the use of face coverings, and hygiene and sanitation, but also operational activity, such as how shared spaces and activities may be adapted, including alternative schedules.

When it comes to transportation, districts need to create protocols that address distancing when riding school buses, such as keeping members of the same household seated together; and whether schedules will be adapted to accommodate reduced capacity, and whether health screenings will be conducted before students board buses.

Protocols and procedures for onsite and remote food services also need to be outlined, including whether meals will be provided in classrooms or cafeterias, or both; possibly staggering meal periods; and how students will be encouraged to perform hand hygiene before and after meals. Districts also need to outline how they will handle containment if someone in the district tests positive for the virus, or is assumed positive.

Teachers say many of their questions about how schools will operate safely remain unanswered. They point out that some classrooms have windows that do not reliably open to promote air circulation, while school buildings can have aging heating and cooling systems that lack the filtration features that reduce virus transmission.

Although many districts are spending millions this summer procuring masks, sanitizers and additional custodial staff, many teachers say they have little faith that limited resources will stretch to fill the need. They also worry about access to tests and contact tracing to confirm Covid-19 diagnoses and clarify who in a school might need to isolate at home in the event of a symptomatic student or staff member.

Among the different ways that schools will open this fall are:

- Phased - Schools only bring back certain students.
- Multitrack - Groups of students in school buildings on different days.
- Staggered - Half of the students in the morning. Half in the afternoon.
- Bubble Strategy - Groups of students stay together. Teachers switch.
- Cyclical - School buildings alternate between being open and closed, which will result in remote learning.
- Year-Round - Students divided into groups; there are cohorts and specific times they will be in school and certain times they will be involved in remote learning.

In Yonkers, School Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada told the Journal News that due to overcrowding and other challenges, the district will only be able to accommodate half of its 27,000 students at any time. That means that most students will be attending school in person for three days a week, and then two days a week the following week, and remote learning when they are not in school.

Quezada is also trying to find a way to have high needs students in school for four days a week, including students with disabilities, foster care students being raised by grandparents and children of first responders. He would also prefer that the youngest students in grades Pre-K-2 in school for three consecutive days per week.

The Yorktown School District is hoping to move ahead with a plan to split the students into an A group and a B group, with both sets of students coming in every other school day.

## Open Letter to Westchester County's "Swell" Class

"The way things are going, are you ready to lose our county, state and country?"

By Stephen Mayo

Dear residents of the tonier precincts of lower Westchester County;

Are you aware of the violence that Antifadist terrorists have inflicted across the nation, from New York City's Washington Square Park to environs of Seattle and Portland in America's northwest? Have you heard reported the pusillanimously timid, if not criminally "irresponsible" inaction of the Portland, Oregon mayor and the Oregon governor in failing to restore order after bloodshed, intimidation and the firebombing of a police station?

Thanks to plainly one-sided national media coverage, you have no doubt learned of President Trump's dispatch of federal forces, both uniformed and civilian, to the conflicted areas. The intimidation and violence by seditious bands of largely Caucasian young people leading to the forceable response is barely reported, or given a most benign context. Inexplicable.

What intellectual blinders would cause seasoned journalists to "miss" the background of the story; the political motivation, the tactical and organizational method behind the street-madness, the identities of operatives and financiers believed to have authored the terror that has coursed through densely populated major urban areas, for at least 55 consecutive days?

Such blinkered coverage might lead an onlooker to guess that violent anarchy is a natural phenomenon, not subject to the ordinary rules of human action; more akin to a tornado or tropical storm. In this environment casual, carelessly modulated news reporting, production and editing may cause more misunderstanding than downright partiality and spin.

Inaccurate, biased reporting; an underinformed broadcast, cable and streaming news audience, and; political leaders unwilling to uphold the rule of law, bar interpersonal violence and robbery and arrest perpetrators – an unholy mix indeed. An unprecedented intersection of media knavery, popular folly and official dereliction of duty in America; today's most technologically/developmentally refined political economy!

Apologies to President Reagan, but: Morning in America? Hell; more like mourning in America.

The stubbornness of the coronavirus has undoubtedly contributed to the tableaux. Beyond deaths and disablement, it has exacted a toll on public mental health as well. Along with fear and panic, and a general loathing of still-unconfirmed overseas agents, there is frustration with local and federal governmental action. Financial misery from the dislocation of work sites and schedules has struck nearly every American community also. Other nations have felt these effects in different measure but the discord and lawlessness appear to be unique to the US.

Reaction to the homicide of George Floyd by a depraved Minneapolis police officer certainly contributed to widespread urban unrest, but still the universality of the American violence is confounding.

Regions with different ethnic, economic and geographic configuration have fared diversely. Residents of suburban, exurban and rural areas in Westchester and the hinterlands have seen limited outbreaks. Understanding is limited and indirect - read, seen and heard from official and media sources. Biased/sensationalized reportage by ideologized reporters and the confusion and mystery over cause however, have harmed Americans in even greater measure.

Citizens of the United States, the richest and most intellectually advanced continental nation-state in history seem to have passively accepted the disregard for public order, private property and respect for the individual that our media have tendered us.

For economic and social elites residing in our choicest Zip Codes in the nation, the significance of these structural failings of our democratic-republic must be pressed home for good reason. Their material wealth and social "favor," have long amplified their influence over the financial, media, legal and health professions in New York and around the nation. Professionals and business executives in our midst enjoy maybe the best vantage point for resolving the parade of issues facing themselves, neighbors, employees, customers, family and friends.

So I would ask our local elites: Is this what you have labored so hard for, studying in the nation's best public and private primary schools and universities and colleges; working in businesses and professions; striving to create and maintain model households for your families; retaining sufficient "profit" to absorb the highest sales, real property and state income taxes in the nation facilitating the nation's most expensive public and private educations?

The loss of basic standards of fairness in news reporting; the wholesale abandonment of notions of civic duty and public service by officials, (exemplified by calls by officials to de-fund police departments following local law enforcement's excessive use of force, failure to follow the law and rules and standards and; the end of civic engagement by whole segments of the American public (demonstrated by vacant city council/school board chambers year-round) must give pause to even the least engaged and most casual taxpayer - who after all, pays for the grand Westchester standard of living that has boosted real estate values and attracted new residents for more than a century.

Have you not yet been sufficiently agitated by the societal mayhem, loss of standards in business and the professions and functional failure of universities, private and public institutions to inspire you to greater civic involvement? How much offense to your personal standards and moral upbringing do you require in order to compel your participation in the near-est meeting of a mainstream American political party/club at the soonest possible time?

Stephen I. Mayo; Bronx/New Rochelle attorney/capitalist; host "The Steve Mayo Show" on WVOX. website [www.thestevemayoshow.com](http://www.thestevemayoshow.com)

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## DiFiore a Target, continued from pg 1-

Among Del Hollander's other strange lawsuits was a filing against the concept of 'bottle service' at high priced night clubs, claiming that they discriminating against men and violated their human rights, and a suit filed against Columbia University and their women's studies program, claiming that the program was "a bastion of bigotry against men."

Unlike the connection between Den Hollander and Judge Salas, nobody has yet been able to find a legal connection between the shooter and DiFiore, who is best known in Westchester for serving ten years as District Attorney from 2009-2016.

Governor Andrew Cuomo said that DiFiore has been placed under the protection of the State Police. "In the car that the body was found [in], they also saw a picture of our Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, her name and her address, so I have directed the state police to provide security for our chief judge," said Cuomo. "We're in the midst of an investigation on it right now, but the circumstances are very troubling, obviously."

Den Hollander, 72 and dying of cancer, posted an online manifesto of anti-women hatred and called Judge Salas "a lazy and incompetent Latina judge appointed by Obama." Progressive minded women were called by Den Hollander "feminazis," and called on men to use their last remaining source of power, guns.

Recently, Chief Judge DiFiore had called for a return to in person court appearances. Calling it a "constitutional obligation" to transition back to in-person court cases and arguments, DiFiore said that measures are now in place to keep the courthouses clean and stop the spread of the coronavirus.

# Yorktown Grange Fair Canceled for 2020

It is with deepest regret that the Grange Fair Board of Directors announces the cancellation of this year's Yorktown Grange Fair. This decision was not made lightly. For 96 years, the Fair has been a fall staple in Westchester County and the board is cognizant of the importance of bringing the community together every year to celebrate local artisans, farmers and livestock raisers. Following guidance from state and local authorities regarding public safety, the Board determined that holding an in-person fair this year could be detrimental to public health. Therefore, the situation necessitates a little creative thinking. As with many other events this year, The Grange Fair is going virtual!

The Virtual Grange Fair is currently taking submissions. Send in videos and photos of your art, livestock, legos, veggies and cakes. Judges will peruse the entries and choose the winners. Galleries are available on the Grange Fair website for everyone to enjoy. Competitions include: Baking, Entertainment, Legos, Gardening, Livestock, Needlework, Photography, Pet Costume Contest, Rabbit Costume Contest and Woodworking. Keep in mind that there are multiple age groups within many of the contests. This is an opportunity to dive into a project and achieve some level of normalcy and community spirit.

While the Grange Board realizes that a Virtual Fair isn't quite the same as holding an in-person fair, they hope that the community will embrace the possibilities and participate in any way they can. This is just one step in honoring the resilience of the local community, and other options are being considered, including a Drive-Thru Fair. The details are still being worked out, but a display of livestock and exhibits pulled together from Virtual Fair participants is a possibility. Keep in mind, that while the Fair is canceled, community spirit is still very much up and running. The Grange Fair is going to continue to find ways to bolster that spirit in any way possible. For more information on the Virtual Grange Fair, please visit [www.yorktowngrangefair.org](http://www.yorktowngrangefair.org).

Notice of formation of Enticing Entities, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on July 22, 2020. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 300 Gramatan Ave, Ste G81, Mt. Vernon, NY 10552. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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 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

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.

Formation of 1935 Central Park, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/9/2020. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 1354 Seneca Ave., Bronx, NY 10474. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of BROAD HOWARD LLC Art. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 6/22/2020. 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, C/O CHUCK LESNICK, 15 Albemarle Place, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of LESNICK OZ FUND LLC Art. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/27/2019. 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, 15 Albemarle Place, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice is hereby given that a license, number PENDING, for beer, liquor and wine, has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, liquor and wine at retail in a restaurant under Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 645 Bronx River Road, Yonkers NY 10704 for on premises consumption.

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Applications for the two bedroom house can be downloaded from the Town of Yorktown's web site, [www.yorktownny.org](http://www.yorktownny.org), or by contacting the Town Clerk's office, Yorktown Town Hall, 363 Underhill Avenue, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598, (914) 962-5722, ext. 209, email [townclerk@yorktownny.org](mailto:townclerk@yorktownny.org).

Completed applications must be returned no later than August 14, 2020. One of the earliest efforts by a northern Westchester town to address the growing need for more affordably priced housing, between 1988 and 1995 the Yorktown Affordable Housing Program created 13 affordably priced single family homes.

In a related story on affordable housing, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson recently announced the Department will ultimately terminate the Obama Administration's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) regulation issued in 2015, which proved to be complicated, costly, and ineffective— so much so that Secretary Carson essentially removed its burden on communities by suspending the regulation's 92 question grading tool in January 2018.

"After reviewing thousands of comments on the proposed changes to the Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) regulation, we found it to be unworkable and ultimately a waste of time for localities to comply with, too often resulting in funds being steered away from communities that need them most," said Secretary Carson. "Instead, the Trump Administration has established programs like Opportunity Zones that are driving billions of dollars of capital into underserved communities where affordable housing exists, but opportunity does not. Programs like this shift the burden away from communities so they are not forced to comply with complicated regulations that require hundreds of pages of reporting and instead allow communities to focus more of their time working with Opportunity Zone partners to revitalize their communities so upward mobility, improved housing, and homeownership is within reach for more people. Washington has no business dictating what is best to meet your local community's unique needs."

This brand-new rule, called Preserving Community and Neighborhood Choice, defines fair housing broadly to mean housing that, among other attributes, is affordable, safe, decent, free of unlawful discrimination, and accessible under civil rights laws. It then defines "affirmatively furthering fair housing" to mean any action rationally related to promoting any of the above attributes of fair housing.

Now, a grantee's certification that it has affirmatively furthered fair housing would be deemed sufficient if it proposes to take any action above what is required by statute related to promoting any of the attributes of fair housing. HUD remains able to terminate funding if it discovers, after investigation made pursuant to complaint or by its own volition, that a jurisdiction has not adhered to its commitment to AFFH.

Persons who believe they have experienced housing discrimination may file a complaint of discrimination by contacting HUD's Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity at (800) 669-9777 or visiting How to File a Complaint on HUD's website. Materials and assistance are available for persons with limited English proficiency. Individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing may contact the Department using the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

### Post Office, continued from pg 1-

According to the Associated Press, mail volume is down by more than 30% from last year because of the coronavirus, and the Postal Service says losses will increase by more than \$22 billion over the next 18 months. Schumer added that the monumental costs of personal protective equipment (PPE) are also driving huge costs for the USPS. Those supplies are needed to keep workers and the mail-receiving public safe. Schumer said the USPS will need dollars to purchase the PPE it needs, in addition to funding to offset the aforementioned operational shortfall delivered by the coronavirus.

"We are unable to predict the duration of COVID-19 business closures and the duration of the recession we are currently experiencing; however, this situation will materially damage our financial condition," said USPS Chief Financial Officer Joseph Corbett. "While we continue to conserve capital and reduce expenses in areas where volumes are declining, our ability to continue to serve the nation will require substantial finding from the federal government or other sources."

"The bottom-line here is that without the U.S. Postal Service in operation, we might as well stamp 'Return to Sender' on any economic recovery plan that is presented," said Schumer.

The U.S. Postal Service is the only delivery service that reaches every address in the nation: 160 million residences, businesses and Post Office Boxes. The Postal Service receives no tax dollars for operating expenses and relies on the sale of postage, products and services to fund its operations. While previous estimates put a June expiration date on the USPS if it didn't get the necessary financial help, the post office now expects to be able to survive through September.

The September estimate comes from the National Association of Letter Carriers, which is the national labor union of city carriers employed by the USPS. "As letter carriers know, the conversation about Postal Service finances is nothing new," NALC President Fredric V. Rolando said in the statement. "Unfortunately, this pandemic continues to cripple the economy, resulting in sharp declines in letter mail volume for the Postal Service. It currently projects that it will exhaust its cash on hand by the end of September if Congress and the White House fail to intervene."

Pension costs for USPS employees are also a huge funding problem. And USPS employees have also been on the front lines delivering our mail and contracting the coronavirus, with about 17,000 having contracted COVID-19 and most recovered.

Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner has been a frequent critic of the Post Office service in his Town. "I continue to receive frequent complaints about the US Postal Service from residents who complain about late mail delivery, mail being delivered to wrong addresses, checks, bills not arriving, not receiving prescription drugs," writes Feiner.

"Although I think the Governor's initiatives to make it easier to vote is an excellent idea I am worried. The US Postal Service is a mess- not reliable. The President of the United States has not provided the Postal Service with the resources they need to do their job of providing reliable service. In the NY Times (May 27,2020) there is a report which indicated that in Green County, outside Dayton, 12.1% of ballots arrived too late to be counted." In large counties 1.7% of mail ballots were not received in time to meet the deadline. Every vote cast in a democracy needs to be counted."

County Legislator Lyndon Williams wrote on Facebook, "I'm concerned about the delay of mail delivery from the U.S. Postal Service and its impact on the deadlines for voters mailing absentee ballots. For example, a constituent informed me yesterday that it took 25 days for a postcard to be delivered from an address in zip code 10552 to another address in the same 10552 zip code."

Douglas Kellner, Co-Chair, New York State Board of Elections, wrote "We insisted that there must still be an option to vote in person, both in early voting and on election day, to assure that everyone has an option to vote regardless of the adequacy of mail delivery--all the while we are encouraging most to vote by mail in view of the pandemic. We still need to address security issues relating to mailed ballots, and to assure that the Postal Service makes timely delivery of voted ballots to the county boards of elections."

Residents in Yonkers have also been complaining about USPS service for years. Another problem with absentee ballots is the post office date stamp, which is required by the Board of Elections, in order to count as an ballot mailed on time. Many ballots that were mailed in for the June 23 primary did not have that stamp on it, and as a result tens of thousands of ballots in New York State were not counted.

But without the Post Office, how would we get out ballots delivered to the Board of Elections? By UPS or FedEx? At a cost of \$10 per ballot instead of 55 cents?

# I now pronounce you....



## County Executive George Latimer officiates the wedding of Rebecca Soloman to Eitan Ahimor

Wedding bells were supposed to ring for hundreds of Westchester County couples during what would have been 2020's wedding season, but then came the COVID-19 pandemic and hopes were dashed for those who dreamed of the day they'd say 'I do.' PIX 11 News Reporter and Westchester County resident Rebecca Soloman had planned a wedding reception for this year, but made the difficult decision to postpone her big day until 2021 for the health and safety of her guests. On Friday, July 24, standing on the front steps of the Michaelian Office Building, Westchester County Executive George Latimer stepped in to officiate the wedding of Soloman to her husband-to-be Eitan Ahimor.

Latimer said: "Getting married is a rite of passage for so many young couples, a special day filled with love and laughter that you remember fondly for the rest of your life. I feel badly for so many Westchester County couples who were forced to put their weddings on hold as we all struggle through the aftermath of COVID-19. And, while it may not be the grand ceremony she had envisioned, I am honored to play a small part in Rebecca's vows to her husband Eitan. I wish them many more long years of happiness together, and a fantastic celebration in 2021."

While they officially tied the knot in White Plains with Latimer on July 24, Rebecca Soloman and Eitan Ahimor plan to have a larger celebration surrounded by family and friends one year later on July 24, 2021.

Soloman said: "The week our formal wedding invitations went out was around the same time we made the difficult, yet safe, decision to postpone our highly anticipated wedding with 250+ guests. Like so many 2020 brides and grooms-to-be, we weren't going to let COVID-19 stand in the way of our love story. Instead, we'd officially tie the knot where our relationship flourished, in our beloved Westchester County. As proud residents who hope to continue to live and raise a family here, we're honored the leader of the County, County Executive George Latimer, said 'yes' to making our marriage official."

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## A Safe, Fun, Easy Getaway Day at The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk



**A 9-foot sand tiger shark awaits guests in the Maritime Aquarium**

Westchester County families forced to scrub a long-distance vacation this summer can book a day full of safe, fun encounters with sharks, seals, sea turtles and more – and even a boat ride out onto Long Island Sound – just an hour or less away at The Maritime Aquarium at Norwalk.

One of Connecticut's top family attractions, The Maritime Aquarium is conveniently located just minutes off I-95 in Fairfield County. "In this time when people especially are feeling separated and detached, a visit to The Maritime Aquarium and in our historic waterfront neighborhood can be a safe destination for New Yorkers to get out and celebrate marine animals and reconnect with the marine environment right here in our backyard. More importantly, we've increased our coronavirus precautions without sacrificing the fun," said Marketing Director Tina Tison.

Unlike most public aquariums, The Maritime Aquarium's focus is primarily on one body of water; the Long Island Sound. Aquarium guests learn how the Sound pulses with marine life, as they get close to 9-foot sharks, playful harbor seals, pulsing jellyfish, massive sea turtles and more. In all, more than 6,000 creatures are on exhibit.

Young guests especially enjoy bellying up to three supervised touch tanks: a Shark & Ray Touch Pool featuring several docile species; the Jiggle A Jelly exhibit, offering a sting-free way to safely touch live moon jellies; and an Intertidal Touch Tank full of sea stars, whelks, horseshoe crabs and other shoreline creatures. Special this summer is an exhibit called "Living Lights" that features animals that glow in the dark. Species displayed include crystal jellyfish, pinecone fish, flashlight fish, a scorpion and more.

Dr. Dave Hudson, the Aquarium's research scientist, said "How we recycle, fertilize our lawns, wash our cars and clean up after our dogs are just some of the ways we individually and collectively impact the Sound and the animals that live in it."

In response to the coronavirus, the Aquarium is selling tickets only online in advance for timed-ticket entries, to allow for social distancing through reduced capacity. Additionally, masks are required for all guests over age 2, and there's a one-way flow through the galleries. The Aquarium also offers public cruises aboard RV Spirit of the Sound, a 64-foot two-level catamaran that was the country's first research vessel to run on quiet hybrid-electric power.

Learn more – and purchase tickets for Aquarium admission or for a cruise on its research vessel – at [www.maritimeaquarium.org](http://www.maritimeaquarium.org).

## Look Up One Night and See the International Space Station



Look up as the International Space Station cruises by every night through Aug 6

If you want to find something interesting to do one night without leaving your home, check out the International Space Station, ISS, which, for the next few days (through Aug 6) will be visible every night from Westchester County, NY.

The space station is Earth's only microgravity laboratory. This football field-sized platform hosts a plethora of science and technology experiments that are continuously being conducted by crew members, or are automated. Research aboard the orbiting laboratory holds benefits for life back on Earth, as well as for future space exploration. The space station serves as a testbed for technologies and allows us to study the impacts of long-term spaceflight to humans, supporting NASA's mission to push human presence farther into space.

The ISS circles the Earth every 90 minutes. It travels at about 17,500 miles (28,000 km) per hour, which gives the crew 16 sunrises and sunsets every day. In the more than 15 years that people have been living onboard, the Station has circumnavigated the Earth tens of thousands of times.

All sightings will occur within a few hours before or after sunrise or sunset. This is the optimum viewing period as the sun reflects off the space station and contrasts against the darker sky.

The space station looks like an airplane or a very bright star moving across the sky, except it doesn't have flashing lights or change direction. It will also be moving considerably faster than a typical airplane, which generally fly at about 600 miles.

You can see the space station with your bare eyes, no equipment is required. NASA had made it easy to look up viewing times online at [Spotthestation.nasa.gov](http://Spotthestation.nasa.gov).

Westchester native, and NASA astronaut Ron Garan made two trips to the ISS, in 2008 and 2011. In 2008, Garan Ron flew his first mission to space as a crew member on Space Shuttle Discovery to carry up and install the Japanese laboratory on the International Space Station. In 2011, Garan was a fully integrated member of a Russian spacecraft crew for a six month mission aboard the ISS.



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