

Yonkers Rising

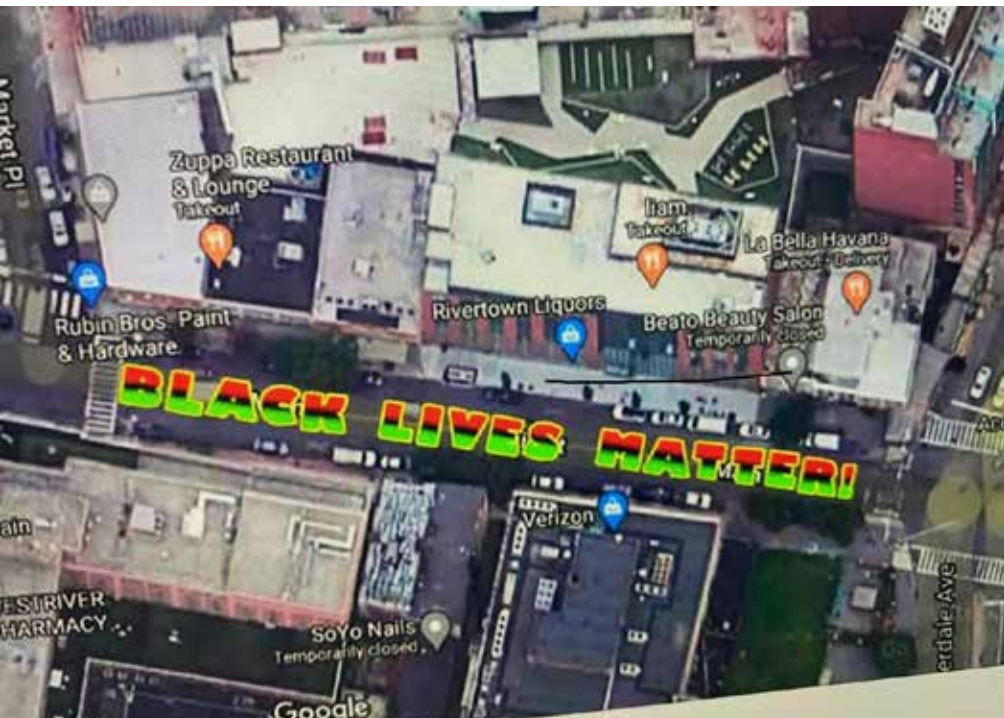
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Friday July 31, 2020

Is BLM Painting Coming to a Yonkers Street?



By Dan Murphy

A painting of "Black Lives Matter!" on a Yonkers street downtown is under consideration, with two questions being when and where it will happen. Similar paintings have already happened in New York City and across the country.

Mayor Mike Spano and City Councilmembers have begun the conversation. Possible locations include on South Broadway, facing City Hall, and on either roadway across from the daylighting at Van der Donck Park, formerly Larkin Plaza. One issue raised about having the BLM painting on S. Broadway is that it would be next to the City's Veterans Memorial.

One time to paint or unveil the work would be for the rescheduled Yonkers Arts Weekend, YAW, to be held on October 3. That date, is more than 2 months away, and some may want it up sooner. No word yet on whether the City Council will get involved, only by a resolution in support, or what City Agencies would be involved or need to approve it.

The photo above has BLM along Main Street in the downtown. While this is another possible option, it is considered a 'tight space' for any protest but as one supporter put it, "painting Black Lives Matter on Main Street is important because it is Main Street. And anyone who wanted to march or protest and walk down to the Pier and the River, or walk up to City Hall."

President Donald Trump and NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio have clashed over the BLM painting along 5th Avenue, near Trump Tower.

Garbage Update:

Mayor Mike Spano recently issued the following statement on his weekly email blast to residents. "I've noticed an uptick in the trash in the city's downtown area, especially in the past few days."

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Happy 100th Birthday Mary "Mae" Conti



Mae Conti

The family and friends of Mary Conti gathered on July 31, 2020 to celebrate her 100th birthday! Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the small celebration was held outdoors at a local park to maintain social distancing.

Born in the Bronx on July 31, 1920, Mary Conti, known as "Mae", has been a resident of Yonkers for over 60 years. She began her career at the former Met Life building on Palmer Road in Yonkers and worked her way up the ranks. She has also been an active member of St. Joseph's Church in Bronxville.

Mae has always been a loving, kind, caring, and giving person. She was always willing to lend a helping hand to anyone in need. She has always said helping others helps her sleep at night.

Having survived two minor heart attacks and a stroke, Mae is still going strong at 100 years old! Her smile and sense of humor continue to light up the room.

Happy Birthday Mae Conti, and God Bless. If you know of someone who is celebrating their 100th Birthday, email it to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com, us and we will celebrate it on the front page.

YPS Back to School Plans Out Friday In Home-at School Combo Expected



Students will have to wear masks in class in September

By Dan Murphy

On Friday July 31, school districts across New York State are required to submit 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.

The number of COVID cases in Westchester, and in Yonkers, have reduced to a level that now permits the Yonkers Public Schools to reopen. If the infection rate rises by more than 10% over a 7 day period, schools will be ordered closed.

YPS Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada explained in a recent interview with the Journal News that the challenges for his school district involve capacity and distancing.

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.

Quezada said 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

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Travolta in Yonkers: This Day in Yonkers History



Superstar John Travolta arriving at John Burroughs Junior High School on Palmer Road to appear in a performance of Bus Stop.

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

Monday, August 3rd

August 3, 1936: Three hundred people, representing fifty Westchester organizations, gathered in Larkin Plaza for a "Peace Rally and Parade."

August 3, 1944: Henry Hollopeter, a city worker in the Water Bureau, received a letter from his nephew, Corporal Al McNaul, US Army. The corporal, serving in France, was delighted to tell his uncle the men all were drinking coffee prepared by the American Dietetics Company at 276 South Broadway in Yonkers!

August 3, 1950: Yonkers Third Ward Supervisor Corydon Dunham announced his resolution to create a Westchester-Yonkers Civil Defense Area; it would provide underground "radio-active-proof" Air Raid Shelters that allow cars to park in Yonkers and other Westchester cities during an air raid. County Executive Herbert Gerlach rejected the idea a few days later.

Tuesday, August 4th

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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.

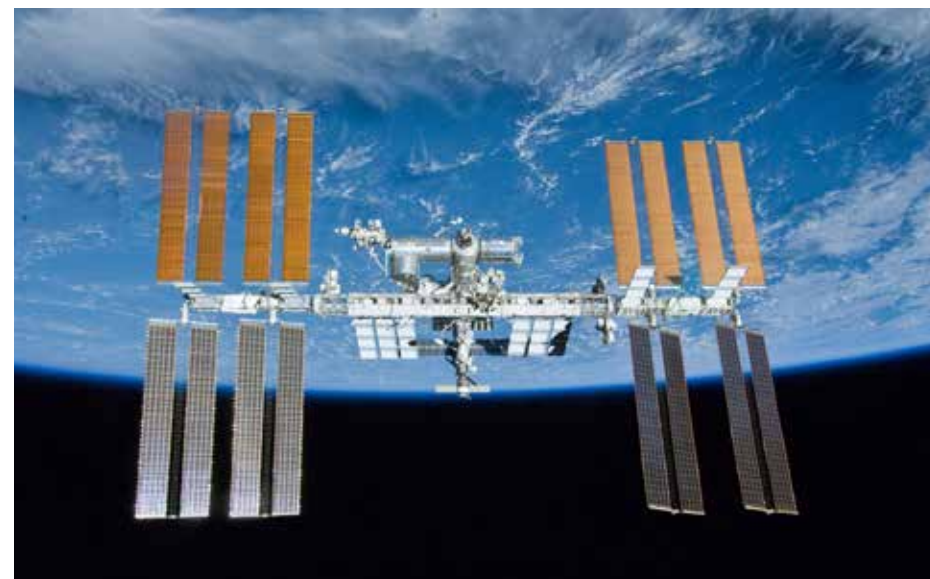
He said the services provided by USPS amount to lifelines for millions of Americans that cannot be replaced or easily replicated, especially in certain parts of the country. Schumer detailed how the coronavirus pandemic has crippled our post offices and their operations as he stressed their relevance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

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

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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.

Yonkers 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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Leslie

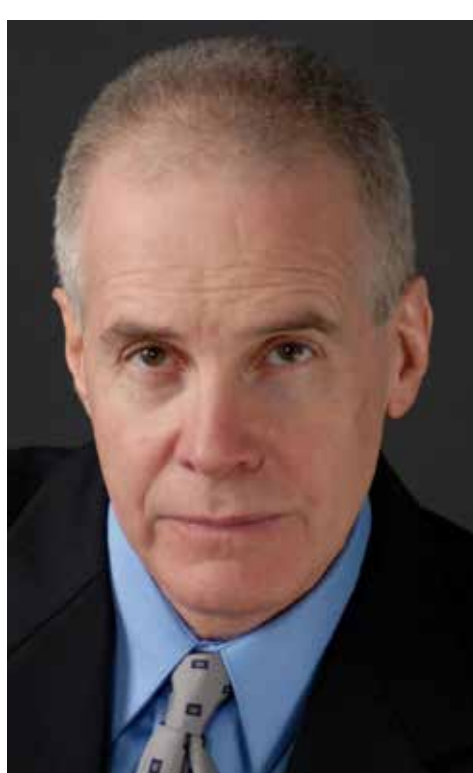
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Ezekiel

Born 5.4.20

Was DiFiore a Target of Anti-Feminist Shooter?



NY Chief Justice Janet DiFiore may have been a target of Roy Den Hollander, right.

"Now is the time for all good men to fight for their rights before they have no rights left," 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 xx 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—xxxx

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 discriminating against men and violated their human rights, and a suit filed against Columbia University and their women's studies program, claiming that it was a violation xxx"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 2006-2016. xx

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 venom x and hatred of Judge Salas who he called "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.

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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REDMOND FIELD AT COOK AVENUE TUESDAYS: Art in the Park THURSDAYS: Art in the Park Rise and Shine Exercise	Activities are by Reservation Only! Call 914.377.6143 for Reservations and Details.

Free and Open to Yonkers Residents 60 and over.
 Summer Senior Connect will include Exercise, Tai Chi,
 Painting, Crafts, Socialization and more.
 Classes are subject to change. Call in the event of inclement weather.

BEGINS JULY 7TH!

Attendees must practice social distancing and wear masks.
 Please follow the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)/State Department of Health (DOH) guidelines for preventing the spread of COVID-19. Stay home if you are sick, exhibiting or feeling any COVID-19 symptoms such as fever, coughing and/or trouble breathing.

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>.

Back to School, continued from pg 1-

three consecutive days per week.

Most in Yonkers are expecting a plan with similar characteristics as he gave in his interview. For more parents and students, Quezada's hope for the Yonkers Public Schools next month is the best case scenario.

Concerns raised about transportation issues, food service issues, and questions raised by the Yonkers Federation of Teachers, all make the worst case scenario for parents and students, another few months learning from home, still a possibility.

Until we are 100% certain that we can meet the health and safety needs of every individual walking into a school building, those doors should not open," said Samantha Rosado-Ciriello, president of the Yonkers Federation of Teachers.

"Our teachers want to work. Our students want to go back to school. Our parents want normalcy," Rosado-Ciriello said. "We've got to do it wisely, and I'm not sure that that can happen in the next few weeks."

Quezada's possibilities for a hybrid model for back to school in the fall are what almost all Superintendents in Westchester and New York State are suggesting. The Yorktown School District is hoping to move ahead with a plan to split the students into two groups and have them come in alternating school days. School districts with a fraction of the number of students compared to YPS say it is unfeasible to bring all students back at the same time in September.

We are hoping that Quezada and his team can come up with a plan that has some type of in school learning, while we acknowledge that the YPS are already over crowded by 4,000 students. Quezada suggested in the JN story that students rotate between three days a week and then two days a week in school.

Additional challenges for the school district and for families, include how families will secure child care for 2 or 3 days per week, or on days that both parents are working. Quezada said, "This cannot be the sole responsibility of the school district. Christina Gilmartin, director of communications for Mayor Mike Spano, said the City "will be assisting YPS as their plans evolve."

The district is planning to use cafeterias, gyms and outdoor spaces for instruction.

A Facebook group called Yonkers Parents Seeking Solutions has been discussing options with parents and the Yonkers Council of PTA's recently send out a brief questionnaire.

Another challenge which will have to be met by a generous donation from the Technology industry will be to make sure that every student has a tablet, or some form of computer at home to work on during remote learning. Proving Wi-Fi for some homes without it will also be a necessity. YPS handed out 2,000 computers and have approval to buy another 4,000 Chromebooks.

Other options being considered across the country for learning this fall. 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.

Mobile Shredder at EJ Murray's Skating Rink August 8

Yonkers Mayor Spano announced the City's Department of Public Works will provide a mobile paper shredder for Yonkers residents to use to help them fight back against fraud and protect them from identity theft by shredding sensitive personal documents. The mobile shredder will be stationed at E.J. Murray's Skating Rink, located at 348 Tuckahoe Road, on Saturday, August 8th from 8AM - 12PM.

"As always, we encourage our residents to take advantage of this free shredding service," said Mayor Spano. "Shredding personal documents serves as an opportunity to not only recycle paper but also serves to protect sensitive information against identity theft, which is the fastest growing crime in the nation."

Residents can bring only one file-size (10"x12"x15") box of confidential papers per household to the skating rink for shredding. All large binder clips and covers must be removed from the documents (no 3 ring binders/plastic). Papers from businesses, institutions or commercial enterprises are not acceptable and will be rejected, as well as junk mail or newspapers.

Due to COVID 19 regulations, all residents must maintain a distance of at least six feet apart from personnel, trucks and bins and must agree to the following rules. All shredding materials must be placed in the trunk of one's vehicle and remain in the car while in the service queue

For more information, residents can contact the Mayor's Help Line at 914-377-HELP (4357).

Trump Administration Overturning of Fair Housing Rule Called "Shameful"

The decision by U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Secretary Ben Carson to terminate the Obama Administration's Affirmatively Furthering Fair Housing (AFFH) regulation issued in 2015, has Westchester elected officials and fair housing advocates outraged.

"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.

Craig Gurian, Executive Director of the Anti-Discrimination Center said after the announcement, "It was the Anti-Discrimination Center's 2006 lawsuit against Westchester County that brought the concept of "affirmatively furthering fair housing" back from the dead; we have been looking at this issue closely since that time.

"The Trump administration's new rule represents a move to a regulatory regime that tells localities that their exclusionary zoning - zoning that precludes the construction of affordable housing - will go unchallenged. It will mean that the national scourge of residential segregation will continue unabated.

Affirmatively furthering fair housing is the path to open up to all Americans those communities (suburban or urban) that feature good schools, safe streets, quality medical care, and well-tended parks and recreational facilities. President Trump, like bigots who have come before him, sees that as a threat, as opposed to the opportunity it is."

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News in Yonkers and around Westchester

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.

BLM, continued from pg 1-

Working with the different homeowner groups, Department of Public Works, and Parks Department, we are creating a plan to address these issues. In the meantime, I've instructed the Department of Public Works to clean up our downtown area. Protecting the quality of life for our residents is and will continue to be my top concern," writes Spano.

Last week, we wrote about some residents complaints about the quality of life in the downtown, including the lack of garbage bins. That discussion included comments from City Council President Mike Khader, DPW Commissioner Tom Meier and the residents.

Visit YonkersTimes.com to read that story. No decision has been made on reviewing the decision on removing most all of the Garbage cans in Yonkers back in 2018. The reason for the removal was that residents and businesses were abusing the city trash cans by putting loads of their own waste in them.

However, some resident comments point out that as the City grows in population from new development, perhaps returning the public trash cans could be reviewed.

Crack Down on China, But do it Wisely

By Stacy Washington

The Chinese Communist Party poses a dire threat to America and the rest of the free world. Party leadership actively covered up the initial coronavirus outbreak -- and even persecuted doctors who tried to warn the public. China's leaders hoarded masks and other medical supplies, which resulted in shortages of personal protective equipment in the United States.

This communist malfeasance has cost hundreds of thousands of lives. To prevent it from happening again, the Trump administration is trying to economically decouple from China. White House officials are considering "Buy American" measures that seek to re-shore medical supply chains.

President Trump and his aides unquestionably have the right instincts. But countermeasures must be based on facts, not fearmongering. Otherwise, we risk overreacting. To paraphrase our commander in chief, we can't let the cure be worse than the disease.

Some China hawks claim the communist dictatorship has a "chokehold" on essential drugs, with 80 percent of the active pharmaceutical ingredients that make up Americans' medicines supposedly coming from China.

Those claims have been widely debunked. Only 13 percent of facilities making our active pharmaceutical ingredients come from China. Of the 370 drugs deemed "essential" by public health experts, only three rely on ingredients sourced entirely from China.

Simply put, America relies on China for some medicines -- but our supply chain isn't wholly dependent on the Middle Kingdom. There's no need to overreact with hasty, ill-planned measures.

In fact, America produces most of its own medical supplies at home. U.S. suppliers satisfy 70 percent of domestic demand for medical equipment.

That's especially true now that companies are churning out PPE, which has been in unprecedented demand worldwide. We've seen the success of the private-public partnerships set up by the Trump administration. Stalwarts of American industry, like GE and Ford, helped achieve the president's goal of 100,000 ventilators in 100 days -- the highest production in history.

Decoupling from China is still a worthy goal. But we can do so via well-planned industrial policies, rather than rushed mandates.

Congress and the administration could start by incentivizing companies to build manufacturing facilities in America. Getting a FDA-approved factory up and running is no small feat -- it often requires up to \$2 billion and 10 years to complete.

Tax credits or a lower corporate tax rate could sway firms to make investments here, rather than abroad. When it comes to tax support for R&D expenditures, America ranks near the back of the pack.

More investments in workforce training would also help. China produces over twice as many STEM graduates per capita as the United States. If we're serious about dominating hi-tech manufacturing, we'll need to pour resources into education and job training.

There's no question that China poses a threat to our public health and national security. And it's smart to decouple our economies.

But we can do that without disrupting medical supply chains. Poorly targeted "Buy American" orders, which force companies and government agencies to purchase domestically, would alienate friendly nations like Germany, Switzerland, and Canada. If those countries retaliated, it could lead to shortages and higher prices for American consumers.

The best way to beat China is a steady, well-planned push to "invest American" -- and build up an innovative manufacturing sector that puts the communists to shame.

Stacy Washington is a decorated Air Force Veteran, an Emmy nominated TV personality, and the host of the nationally syndicated radio program "Stacy on the Right."

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. 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

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Classifieds

Post office continued from pg 2

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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 Eva Phillips-Rogers LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 2/14/20. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Eva PhillipsRogers, 16 Lehman Terrace, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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?

AGENDA FOR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS July 27, 2020

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, AUGUST 18, 2020 AT 5:00 P.M. WILL BE CONDUCTED IN A MANNER PURSUANT TO GOVERNOR CUOMO'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 202.1; IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING WILL NOT BE PERMITTED. PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV, THE DAY OF THE MEETING FOR LOG-IN AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

CONTINUED HEARINGS
5715 – Area Variance – Tom F. Abillama, R.A., on behalf of 1969 Central Park Avenue LLC, owner, on premises known as 1969 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4385, Lot: 206, Zone: BR (B19994)

JOSEPH CIANCIULLI CHAIRMAN, ZBA
FOR FULL AGENDA, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
<https://www.yonkersny.gov/government/meetings-agendas/-selcat-97/-toggle-all>

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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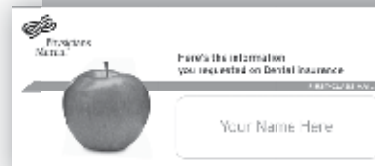
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STOP THE MOUNTAIN CHILDREN

Yonkers History continued from pg 1--

August 4, 1931: Patrolman Edward Kristan and Caretaker George Maudlin arrested two NYC youths for swimming in the Grassy Sprain Reservoir. It seems the two boys only had one suit between them!

August 4, 1944: Private First Class Sterling Wildey of Yonkers was doing his war duty right here in the US, serving as an Army military police officer at a Midwest prisoner of war camp. Like many of our servicemembers, he wrote the Herald Statesman about what he was doing, and said he had "just delivered 700 desuped supermen in good (?) condition." Although he did not state it, he hinted they were German prisoners captured in the Mediterranean and Normandy area.

Wednesday, August 5th

August 5, 1914: The Hollywood Inn inaugurated its new bowling alleys with a special tournament for duckpin bowlers. Duckpin balls are smaller without finger holes. Duckpins are shorter and lighter, and it is difficult to get a strike. Bowlers roll the ball three times each frame because it is difficult knocking down the duckpins.

August 5, 1921: To enable motormen operating trolley cars to operate a car without stopping, a new electric switch was installed in Getty Square. The operators no longer had to get off the car to "throw the switch" by hand bar.

August 5, 1976: Twenty-two year old John Travolta arrived at the Westchester State Theater on Palmer Road in Yonkers. He was to begin his run in the play Bus Stop, playing the role of Bo Decker. The Westchester State Theater rented the facilities at Burroughs Junior High School, now Saunders High School.

Thursday, August 6th

August 6, 1916: After the twentieth case of polio was reported in Yonkers, the Westchester County Board of Supervisors allocated \$30,000 to establish an emergency hospital in East View specifically for infantile paralysis.

August 6, 1926: Instead of meeting for luncheon in the Elks Club, the Yonkers Rotary Club met at Camp Collins, the new Boy Scout Camp in the Peekskill area. They inspected the camp, swam, and then ate a typical Boy Scout meal.

August 6, 1953: Mayor Kristen Kristensen appointed Frances Francis of Bushey Avenue to the Yonkers Board of Education, the first African American trustee. Mrs. Francis left school before graduation and returned after thirteen years of marriage to Roland Francis. She not only earned her academic diploma from Roosevelt High School, she studied at NYU and later became a licensed nurse.

Friday, August 7th

August 7, 1916: The longest trolley strike in Yonkers history ended when union and company officials reached an agreement after 17 days. The agreement required both sides to meet by August 20th to discuss wage and working conditions, and specified employees had the right to organize and bargain collectively.

August 7, 1926: A bond was cemented between boys at Leake & Watts and members of the Yonkers Chapter, Order of De Molay, when members of the Yonkers De Molay Chapter were guests at the Leake and Watts Camp at Tivoli. De Molay is an international fraternal organization for boys aged 12 through 21 whose goal is to develop young men into better leaders.

August 7, 1941: The Yonkers Branch of the Workmen's Sick and Death Benefit Fund of the United States announced their national organization purchased \$30,000 of United States Defense Bonds. Yonkers Branch 3, started in 1885 by German-American workers who emigrated because of Bismarck's anti-labor laws, was formed just one year after the national organization. Although nonpolitical, they were one of the first German-American organizations to voice opposition to Nazism, Fascism and all forms of dictatorship.

Saturday, August 8th

August 8, 1872: George Frazier came to the aid of the many thirsty souls of Yonkers by installing a temporary pump at the Main Street well.

August 8, 1922: YPD officers Harry Wilson and John Van Metter chased two deer that appeared at Warburton and Lamartine Avenues to the Greystone Estate. Although equipped with rope lariats, they were unable to catch them. The deer then headed to an apartment house on Woodworth Avenue, where the officers did manage to trap them. The officers thought the duo had come from the game reservation on Billie Burke's Hastings estate.

August 8, 1942: After coming from behind on the twelfth count, Democrat Thomas Sheridan was elected to fill the seat of former Councilman Al Richter after he joined the US Navy. City Clerk Francis Heafy swore him into office.

Sunday, August 9th

August 9, 1920: Lieutenant W. J. Maxwell, US Army, came to Yonkers to give out 500 Victory medals to Yonkers men whose World War service merited this honor.

August 9, 1940: Tommy Abbatiello, "Flying Barber of Lake Avenue," received his pilot's license from the US Department of Commerce, and announced he was ready to serve in the new US defense program. Sadly, Staff Sergeant Gaetano "Tommy" Abbatiello was listed as killed in action May 24th 1944 in Germany. A ball turret gunner on a B-17, he is buried in Ardennes American Cemetery and Memorial.

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

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

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. To register for the Walk to End Alzheimer's, visit HudsonValleyWalks.org

St. Vladimir's Seminary to hire events director

St. Vladimir's Orthodox Theological Seminary (SVOTS) has announced a job opening for a director of events and hospitality.

The Event & Hospitality Director manages and coordinates all Seminary events, including for Saint Vladimir's Seminary (SVS) Press and the Institute of Sacred Arts, as well as hospitality efforts for all Seminary guests, students, and community members.

Due to the cancellation of many events this fall, the start date for this position is now January 1, 2021. However, if a qualified candidate requests an earlier start date, the Seminary will take the request into consideration.

To read more about the job requirements and how to apply, visit the Seminary's Employment Opportunities page. <https://www.svots.edu/about/employment/event-hospitality-director>

Affordable Housing, continued from pg 4-

It is well to remember that the social engineering involved here was the deliberate, decades-long policy of excluding African Americans from suburban neighborhoods. Remedying that wrong is what basic justice requires.

"In truth, there has never been a sustained commitment to affirmatively furthering in any presidential administration - that needs to change.

"As for the Trump administration's denigrating of the Westchester case, it was, in fact, a case so strong that the presiding federal judge ruled as a matter of law that Westchester's representations that it had and would affirmatively further fair housing were "false or fraudulent." said Gurian, who was co-counsel in the False Claims Act case and is lead counsel in the current federal court challenge to NYC's discriminatory outsider-restriction policy in its affordable housing lotteries.

County Executive George Latimer denounced the decision, stating, "This weakened rule undermines a 52-year old law, which eliminated barriers to developing affordable housing opportunities. Affordable housing has long been one of the top priorities of my administration, and it is irresponsible to get rid of any tool that contributes to those opportunities, and ultimately better-rounded, more vibrant communities."

Under the new rule, the grantee's certification that it will affirmatively further fair housing simply means that the County will take "any action that is rationally related to promoting one or more attributes of fair housing." The law would also eliminate the County's requirement to complete an Assessment of Fair Housing. Ultimately, this combination fails to ensure compliance with the law and does little to advance fair housing.

Latimer continued: "We do not want to live in a segregated Westchester County. There is absolutely no evidence that supports that fair housing negatively affects property values, or the home rule. Without strong laws like AFFH in place, Westchester County will fail to be the diverse, multi-faceted County we all want to call home."

The issue of Affordable Housing and the lack of affordable housing being built in many small, Westchester towns and villages which resulted in a discrimination settlement between Westchester County and HUD in 2009 is a long and complicated, controversial matter for those who have lived in Westchester for decades.

We will now revisit this issue in the weeks to come.

Email us at Risingmediagroup@gmail.com if you would like a PDF of Westchester Rising or Yonkers sent to you every week.

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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.

Mary Calvi Joins Inside Edition



Mary Calvi has joined Inside Edition as weekend anchor and fill-in anchor for Deborah Norville. Calvi joins Inside Edition from WCBS New York, where she will continue to co-anchor CBS 2 News This Morning and CBS 2 News At Noon.

Calvi, a Yonkers native and the wife of Mayor Mike Spano, has 12 New York Emmy awards for her live breaking news coverage on a wide range of stories, including the Miracle on the Hudson, as well as in-depth series, one of which focused on protecting children from sex offenders. Calvi recently began to fill in for Norville during her summer break and Norville welcomed her to the program.

Both are pictured above for the discussion, where Norville praised Calvi for her recent book "Dear George, Dear Mary: A Novel of George Washington's First Love." The book is available wherever books are sold and is a good summer read.

Calvi, who got her broadcasting start on News 12 Westchester, will continue to co-anchor the NY CBS2's news in the morning and at noon.

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