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Friday Aug 28-Sept. 4, 2020

YPD Looking into 1,000 Person Midnight Parties at O'Boyle Park



By Dan Murphy

Several Yonkers residents have complained to City Hall, the Yonkers Police Department, and Yonkers Rising about re-occurring midnight parties at O'Boyle Park on Buena Vista Avenue.

According to one resident who lives near the park, "I am writing to you today about the issue at O'Boyle Park on Buena Vista Ave. If you have not been made aware, the past few Saturday nights, O'Boyle has been used as a party area starting around Midnight. There seem to be about 1000 people in attendance. Tickets are being sold to enter the park. Food and Liquor are being illegally sold. And the DJ Booth set up is disturbing neighbors and violating city noise ordinances. The poor park is being left in complete disarray.

"Almost worst is the number of cars lined up on Buena Vista waiting for entrance into the party. We have almost 100 cars waiting on the street. They are blocking our driveways, throwing their pre-party food/drinks in our gardens and our sidewalks. We even had random partygoers parking in our driveways overnight. Not only was my husband unable to get home due to the line of cars, but when he finally negotiated his way through, he couldn't even park in his own driveway because other cars decided that our private property was for their use.

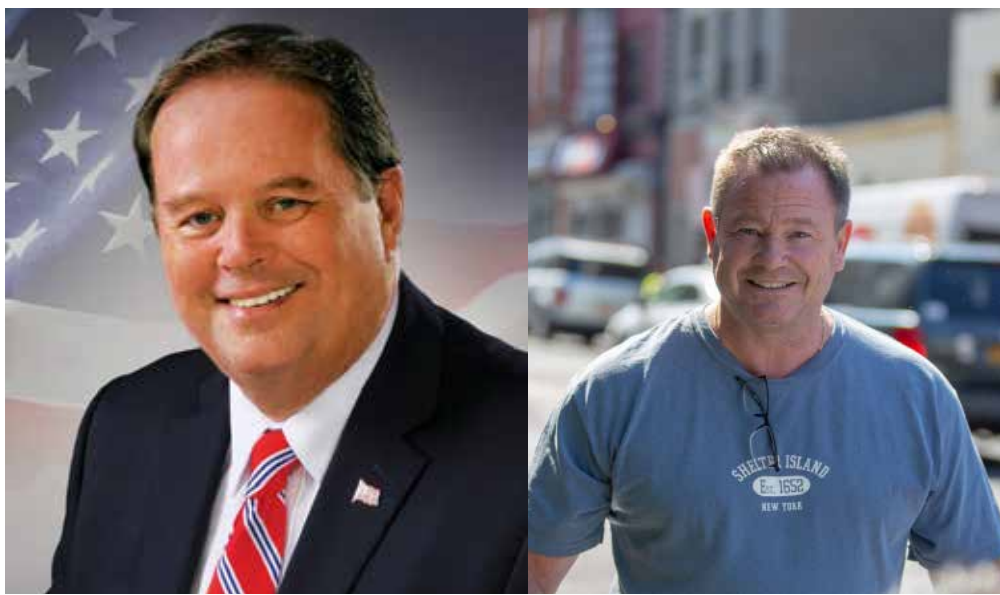
"This behavior cannot continue. It is violating many health codes between the large amount of people gathering without masks to then eat food cooked with no safety measures followed, only to be washed down with liquor--which no one can be sure of without a liquor license in place. There is glass from the illegal drinks being sold all over the children's playground. Not only am I not allowed in the park myself without paying, but I cannot even use my own private property due to the party-goers.

Many of us have called the police the past two weekends but this behavior will continue if it is not stopped at the start. The cars start lining up around 10pm to be the first to pay their entrance fee. The bar and the DJ Booth are being set up shortly after. What can we do to ensure these problems do not persist?"

Another resident of the downtown and a member of the Mayor's Quality of Life Task Force that we spoke to said, "Even in a pandemic, how is this happening? Especially in a pandemic. Becky Nova is a responsible property owner in our neighborhood and very interested and involved in making the area better. How is it that she and her immediate neighbors

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Political Rumblings This Summer in Yonkers



former City Councilman John Larkin, left and former YPD Dep. Chief Tim Hodges are two names in the Yonkers political rumor mill in this summer

By Dan Murphy

Here's a few political rumblings in Yonkers this summer. Yonkers Rising has learned that former City Councilman John Larkin will be named the next Yonkers Republican Chair. Also, former YPD Deputy Chief Tim Hodges is exploring a run for City Council in the 6th District as a democrat, and the race for Yonkers City Court isn't over yet.

Several years ago, a Citywide poll found that former City Councilman and Majority Leader John Larkin was the most popular politician in Yonkers, with Larkin polled ahead of Mayor Mike Spano at the time. Larkin served two terms on the council, and then stepped down, declining to run for other offices including City Council President. One Councilman said that Larkin is a popular figure in Yonkers, "because he works with everyone and work well on fixing problems and making sure they get done."

Now, Larkin is set to take over as Chairman of the Yonkers Republican Party next month. Larkin will replace the current GOP Chair Justin Tubiolo. Tubiolo, who has served for several years, and did try to keep the republican brand in Yonkers viable, has lost a few recent elections, most notably in 2017 when republican Liam McLaughlin lost his re-election for Council President.

Tubiolo has also watched as prominent republicans including Councilman John Rubbo and his son County Legislator David Tubiolo, switched parties to become democrats. The fact that David Tubiolo switched parties, last year, appeared to be the last straw for his father to continue to serve as City GOP Chair, with republican councilman Anthony Merante and others, calling for Tubiolo to step down.

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Nation Shortage of Tablets a Challenge for YPS and All Schools



By Dan Murphy

City Councilman John Rubbo recently sent out an email blast to parents who are looking for an online learning device, laptop, tablet or Chrome-book for their children as the Yonkers Public Schools, and all school districts across Westchester County are preparing for remote-online learning, on September 8.

Rubbo highlighted the fact that the YPS has a limited number of available. "If your child is in need of a laptop, please complete the online request form at the link below. If you have more than one child in your home that is in need of technology then you will need to complete the form for each child.

From the YPS: "There are a limited number of laptops and tablets available. Priority for available devices will be given to high needs students, which includes Special Education and Multilingual learners.

"If you already borrowed a laptop/iPad and did not return it to the District, you will not be provided with another device. Also, if you received a laptop from your school, the District will not provide you with additional equipment.

Visit this link to connect to the Laptop Loan Program-
<http://bit.ly/YPSLaptopRequest>

The Yonkers Public Schools has 4,000 laptops coming in and expected before the first day of class. That would give the district more than 7,000 total laptops to loan to students.

But with the recent news that there is now a national shortage of laptops, tablets and chromebooks, school districts are scrambling to make sure all students have a way to connect next month.

The largest computer companies, Lenovo, HP and Dell, are unable to fill all of the orders, with 5 million devices requested than they have. The computer companies explain that the US Government is to blame because it has banned a computer part made in China from being sent to the USA.

Also, the US Department of Commerce recently imposed sanctions on

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Yonkers Public Schools to Continue Online Learning Through October

By Dan Murphy

The Yonkers Public Schools held an emergency meeting on August 20, and unanimously agreed to delay in person learning for all students until October 5. For the month of September, students will be learning from home but teachers will be required to come to school every school day.

Just two days earlier, at a Town Board meeting, YPS Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada, and School Board President Rev. Steve Lopez said that students would be welcomed back to school on September 8. The resolution reads:

WHEREAS, on March 7, 2020 the Governor of the State of New York issued an Executive Order declaring a state disaster emergency for the entire state due to travel related cases and community contact transmission of the Novel Coronavirus ("COVID-19") occurring in New York State; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020 the Mayor of the City of Yonkers declared a state of emergency in the City due to emergency conditions produced by COVID-19 that threaten or imperil the public safety of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, on March 16, 2020 the Westchester County Executive declared a state of emergency in the County due to the emergency conditions produced by COVID-19 that threaten or imperil the safety of its citizens; and

WHEREAS, the State of New York continues to be impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, on July 31, 2020 Yonkers Public Schools submitted a School Reopening Plan to the State Education Department outlining the following three models for instruction during the 2020-2021 school year: 1) In-Person Instruction; 2) Hybrid Instruction; and 3) Online Remote Instruction; and

WHEREAS, on August 7, the Governor of the State of New York announced that Schools may reopen provided that the average rate of positive coronavirus tests is and remains below 5% over a two-week period in the region where the schools are located; and

WHEREAS, due to the exceptional circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Board of Education of the City of Yonkers ("Board") has determined that it is in the best interest of the District's students to delay the opening of school buildings to students only and to begin the school year with

Online Remote Instruction for all students with a transition to Hybrid Instruction in accordance with the models outlined in the Yonkers Public Schools ("YPS") School Reopening Plan; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that on September 8, 2020 Kindergarten through grade 12 students will begin Online Remote Instruction in accordance with the YPS School Reopening Plan. During this time students will remain at home and teachers will provide online remote instruction

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Save the Post Office Rally In Yonkers



Save Our Post Office rally in Yonkers

By Dan Murphy

On Saturday August 22, Americans at over 1,000 post offices across the nation held Save Our Post Office Day rallies. Here in Westchester, several rallies took place in Yonkers, Hastings, White Plains, Ardsley and Peekskill. "At 11:00 today at over 1,000 post offices across the nation including a half dozen in Westchester and one in Yonkers where I was, citizens stepped forward to demand that this fundamental institution be protected - so important that on July 26, 1775, the U.S. postal system was established by the Second Continental Congress, with Benjamin Franklin as its first postmaster general," said former Yonkers City Council President Chuck Lesnick.

The rallies, organized by MoveOn, Indivisible and other progressive organizations, called on Postmaster General Louis DeJoy to resign in the wake of mail slowdowns and on Congress to "protect and save the post office from Donald Trump."

In White Plains, congressional candidate Mondaire Jones said that he had joined a lawsuit to sue President Donald Trump for the recent cuts and changes to the Post Office. "In the midst of a global pandemic requiring more Americans to vote by mail than ever before, the USPS provides a public service that is essential to free and fair elections this November. The actions of the President and Postmaster General to undermine the USPS are a deliberate assault on our democracy," said Jones. "I will not stand idly by while Trump makes his latest interference in our electoral process. This isn't just an attack against the fabric of our democracy — it's a personal attack against each and every American citizen."

In addition to concerns about the Post Office handling the millions of absentee ballots in November, other concerns about recent changes to slower service and Post Office cuts include Veterans receiving their medication on time, and seniors receiving their Social Security checks in a timely manner.

The financial troubles at the Post Office were exasperated during the Coronavirus, when Americans mailed fewer and fewer pieces of mail. The result from those who want to save the USPS was to have every American buy a book (or more) of stamps. Whether or not that will help bail out the Post Office is unclear, but it can't hurt.



Mayor Mike Spano, right, with former Council President Chuck Lesnick at Save the Post Office Rally downtown on Main Street

TheMothers2016 Hold Butterfly Release Ceremony



members of TheMothers2016 release butterflies to remember their loved ones

TheMothers2016, recently held an annual "Butterfly Release" ceremony at Yonkers City Hall. TheMothers2016 is a group founded by Hope Hollinsworth Coaxum and Lisa Clark Norman.

The Mothers 2016 is comprised of a group of mothers that have lost a child due to various circumstances, mothers who are living with the impact, effect and aftermath of one of life's most unnatural and devastating events. We want to continually support, embrace and encourage one another and others who have endured this life changing experience, to create collaborative partnerships with like-minded organizations, groups and families who have been affected by the loss of a child. We are diverse, as we come from various backgrounds and communities.

The Butterfly Release Ceremony "Light the Sky" has been organized for the last three years by TheMothers2016 Hope Hollinsworth Coaxum and co-founder Lisa Clark Norman. This year however, things were done a bit different due to the pandemic. We organized a live streamed ceremony. In doing so, we were able to honor other angels. We asked mothers from various cities/states/communities to submit a picture of their beloved angel in order for us to honor them during our Butterfly Release Ceremony.

Mothers released live butterflies, and it was great to see this event continue. The event as every year we've held it was in collaboration with Mayor Mike Spano, The City of Yonkers and sponsored by The Matthew Wallace Foundation and Patrick Murphy from New Logical LLC who took the group photo and did the live streamed/virtual ceremony.

County Police Crack Down on Boating While Intoxicated



An intoxicated speedboat driver crashed into this sailboat on the Hudson River

The Westchester County Police Marine Unit charged an Ossining man with Boating While Intoxicated last month after the speedboat he was operating slammed into an anchored sailboat in the Hudson River.

Mark See, 38, of Highland Avenue was charged with BWI, a misdemeanor, following the incident, which occurred off the town of Ossining about a mile south of Teller's Point. He was booked at County Police headquarters in Hawthorne and released pending a future appearance in Ossining Town Court. Two people aboard the sailboat, residents of Delaware and upstate New York, were not injured.

The crash occurred about 9:45 p.m. when a Crown Line speedboat traveling south on the Hudson struck the sailboat, which was anchored and had its anchor light on and visible. A man on the sailboat jumped into the river as the speedboat approached; the woman ducked down on the deck. The powerboat slammed into the rear of the sailboat and traveled upward, narrowly missing the woman who had ducked for cover.

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One Step Closer to Eagle Scout



Boy Scout Samuel Sola, with a sanitizing station he made for his Eagle Scout project

Life Rank Boy Scout, Samuel A. Sola, with the assistance of 15 volunteers, built hand sanitizing stations for Sacred Heart High and Grade Schools for his Eagle Project. Sanitizing stations are a vital part of the schools' re-opening plan for September and Sola's project fulfilled their need. The project involved constructing 16 stands out of plywood and painting them. This is the final step for Sola to complete to receive the highly coveted rank of Eagle Scout.

Samuel Sola, a resident of Yonkers, is the son of Samuel and Ssive Sola. He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 12 Yonkers and a rising senior at Fordham Preparatory School, Bronx, New York. Sola expects to receive his new rank of Eagle in the Fall.

The fact that a scout earns the rank of Eagle has always carried with it a special significance, not only in Scouting but also for the young man as he enters higher education, business, and community service. Only about four percent of all Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

Boy Scout Troop 12 is an active, scout led troop that meets on Tuesday nights September to June in the Sacred Heart Church Hall. The troop camps and hikes monthly.

To learn more about scouting and Troop 12 email Troop12Yonkers@gmail.com or call 914-374-3320.

Planning Board OK's UPS Expansion on Tuckahoe Road

Statement from Councilman Anthony Merante: The nearly 1,000 residents of the Grassy Sprain neighborhood will soon learn that the Yonkers Planning board just approved that 24,000 gallons above ground fuel tanks be erected yards from residential homes. The Planning Board whose mission should have been to weigh what's in the best interest of the Yonkers Community gave residents the middle finger. They totally disregarded the community's safety and environmental concerns thereby jeopardizing the lives of over 500 families.

Councilman Anthony Merante stated, "To say I'm livid is an understatement. I've never seen such a total disregard for what should have been a fair and thoughtful process. They gave UPS 100% of what they wanted. In addition, to the tanks, the 130-space parking lot and approval of trucks and trailers operating 24/7 in a residential neighborhood and no requirements for an environmental study. This is outrageous". Merante noted, "I find it extremely curious that construction had started well in advance of planning board consideration. It almost seems like UPS knew the fix was in and it was a done deal before the vote was taken. This merits further investigation by the appropriate legal authorities. This fight is far from over. The community effort is led by the StopUPS.org retained attorney Joel H. Sachs of the firm Keane & Beane, P.C. I plan to take up, at the City Council that Alfred Weissman Real Estate has violated their agreement and begin the process of revoking that Special Use Permit which will ultimately require the demolition and removal of the Hampton Inn."

No More Blowing Out Candles on the Birthday Cake



By Eric W. Schoen

So what's the 'New Norm?' This is a question many are asking as we wait for a vaccine for Covid-19 to be available not only in this country but in the world. Is it safe to blow out the candles on a birthday cake anymore? How can we perform this function safely?

Buying one of those little battery operated beach fans and using the device to extinguish the candles? Taking a piece of heavy paper and waving it back and forth until the candles are out. Will we have to use candles that do not burn. Or will a person's age simply be written in frosting on the cake as everyone sings the Happy Birthday song?

Buying a bathing suit. That's a challenge for many women out there. I went with a friend to Lord and Taylor's recently as they we're having their big 40% off swimsuit sale. Only problem was the fitting rooms were closed. So how is one to try on a swimming suit (unless one has a perfect body) with a closed fitting room.

With men trying on a shirt you can kind of sneak in a corner, take your shirt off and try on the shirt. If you are smart and shopping for anything other than a t-shirt you will wear a light cotton t-shirt on your shopping trip so you can throw the shirt you are considering over it and make your decision.

Not so easy with a woman's bathing suit. It is a garment that needs to be tried on and compared for proper sizing. My friend wanted several suits and ended up taking home 9 garments, \$1000 retail, \$600 at 40% off to try on simply because the fitting room was closed.

Now let's take a look at this scenario. If the garments were tried on in a fitting room after selection they would be packed up and brought home. Years ago, bathing suits for men and women were not allowed to be returned after purchase.

The 'New Norm?' My friend knew approximately what size she was, each brand fitting differently. At that price and with Lord and Taylor quality, she brought home 9 pieces to try on. \$1000 worth of suits, \$600 at 40% off. It ended up that 2 suits fit so she had to return 7 pieces, approximately \$850 retail to the store. Those 7 pieces sat 'quarantined' for 3 days until they were returned to the selling floor, unable to be purchased by another shopper.

Is this nuts? No, the lady in the bathing suit department said this was common, with woman buying dressy gowns taking even more home to try on. Does it make any sense. Those garments are wrapped up, put in a bag, leave the store, may sit in someone's home for several days (possibly 2 weeks as is their return policy on bathing suits) and who knows what they are exposed to. They are returned, hung on a rack marked, quarantined with a date before they are put back on the floor for sale.

Grandma had it right. She would never allow us to wear our shoes in the house, keeping them outside the apartment door on a tray. Who knows what was picked up outside during our walk. When we went to leave it was the old slip your foot back into the shoe routine fixing the socks and laces when we got back to the car.

The Governor made some announcements what we can and can't do during the pandemic. I love karaoke and watching others step up to the mic some singing perfectly and some, well they weren't in Luciano Pavarotti's class. Just the fun of listening to our friend's sing, a couple of drinks under the belt quite often bought smiles to everyone's faces. No more karaoke!

You don't see it around these parts a lot but the game of darts is out. This one for the life of me I don't get. How can the game of darts spread coronavirus? Now I must admit I haven't played darts that many times in my life, but you throw the dart, it hits the bullseye or the area around it or drops to the group with points being scored where ever the darts land.

Dancing in a bar and comedy shows are all illegal. Dancing cheek to cheek I can understand, but comedy shows? Why can't we put up a piece of plexiglass in front of the comedian with a microphone, sterilized between each use like the cleaning of a microphone, headset and table are in the radio studio at WVOX 1460 A.M. where I broadcast from.

Corn hole can not be played. What prey tell is corn hole.? Corn hole is a lawn game in which players take turns throwing 16 ounce bags of corn kernels at a raised platform with a hole in the far end. A bag in the hole scores 3 points, while one on the board scores 1 point. Guess it must be popular somewhere in New York State.

Halloween is a holiday no more. Children will be lucky if they can gather with small groups of friends to celebrate. Big family gatherings. You have to check to see what state every one is coming from to see if quarantining is necessary. Can the older folks mingle with the young ones. Better keep the mask on just to be sure!

So what will the 'NEW NORMAL' be like? Basically it's a game of common sense. Stay tuned. In the interim be careful. One day this will all be over and we will be back to normal, we pray.

HOT TOPICS: ABSENTEE VOTING: Governor Cuomo is letting all voters vote by absentee Ballot. He is directing all Boards of Elections to notify voters of the dates to apply for absentee ballots, registration and post-

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Yonkers to Partner with US Soccer To Create the City's First Mini-Soccer Field



Stefanik Park, on Nepperhan Ave., will be getting a mini-soccer field like the one pictured above

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced the City of Yonkers' partnership with the U.S. Soccer Foundation and Target to create the City's first mini-pitch (soccer field). The project is part of the U.S. Soccer Foundation's Safe Places To Play program, which seeks to transform underutilized areas, like vacant lots and empty schoolyards, into state-of-the-art pitches to play the game. Through its national partnership, Target and the U.S. Soccer Foundation will create 100 mini-pitches by the end of 2020. Yonkers' new mini-pitch will be located at Stefanik Park (Nepperhan Ave.) and will transform an empty pavement area into a mini-pitch to be used for recreational play.

"Working with the U.S. Soccer Foundation and Target is an excellent example of the positive changes that can come from public-private partnerships," said Mayor Mike Spano. "I couldn't be more excited to partner with these organizations in transforming an underutilized area into a recreational space for our community to enjoy."

"Through our partnership with Target, we've been able to create safe places across the country so that more community members can play the beautiful game," said U.S. Soccer Foundation President & CEO Ed Foster-Simeon. "Even in these difficult times and under uncertain circumstances, that work has not stopped. We continue to create these spaces with Target and we're excited that one is coming to the Yonkers community in partnership with the City of Yonkers."

The mini-pitch installation at Stefanik Park is underway and is expected to be completed mid-September with an official unveiling to be announced.

Scope of Work:

- Surface Area: 84' x 50' (4,200 sq. ft.)
- 2" asphalt cap applied to full current soccer space (approximately 6,300 square feet)
- Musco Lighting to install its lighted "Mini-Pitch System"
- Laykold Masters acrylic sports coating applied to new asphalt surface, with above-referenced logos and soccer game lines

The U.S. Soccer Foundation's programs are the national model for sports-based youth development in underserved communities. Since its founding in 1994, the Foundation has established programs proven to help children embrace an active and healthy lifestyle while nurturing their personal growth beyond sports. Its cost-effective, high-impact initiatives offer safe environments where kids and communities thrive. Headquartered in Washington, D.C., the U.S. Soccer Foundation is a 501(c)(3) organization. For more information visit www.usoccerfoundation.org or follow us on Twitter at @ussoccerfndn and Facebook at www.facebook.com/ussoccerfoundation.

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mark dates for the absentee ballots. Why not do what he did in the primary? Include an absentee ballot application in the mailing With postage on it. This makes it easier for the voters to do due their civic duty in the middle of a pandemic. You are not getting an absentee ballot automatically you must who must apply for one and it is sent to you.

I don't think Donald Trump would have a problem with that process. We want to keep our Board of Elections Staffers and voters safe and sound!

WHERE IS YPIE? Yonkers will not have enough computers for all students to distance learn come September. The district claims it will have xeroxed materials for those without computers. New York City got a half million iPads to students in a month. Where is YPIE, an organization set up to provide the district with things it cannot afford above and beyond what government can provide in this crisis? Yes, they do good work in college preparation. The president of the Yonkers Board of Education told me YPIE changed their organizational mission from when they were created. They should be using the thousands of dollars they raise for more computers for needy Yonkers Public School Students, and their leadership, some of the top leaders in the corporate world should be breaking down corporate doors to get computers so our kids can learn. How can you go to college if you can't finish your studies cause you don't have a computer?

Reach Eric Schoen at thistoosyonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen and Dan Murphy on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

No Excuses Not to Vote –Order Absentee Ballot Now or Vote Early



By Dan Murphy

Last week, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed laws which will make it easier for New Yorkers to vote this fall. Voters will now be able to request an absentee ballot due to risk or fear of COVID-19. Absentee ballots that are postmarked on or before Election Day or received by the Board of Elections without a postmark on the day after the Election will be counted. Ballots with a postmark demonstrating that they were mailed on or before Election Day will be counted if received by November 10.

"The federal administration has ordered an unprecedented attack on the U.S. Postal Service and with COVID-19 threatening our ability to have safe, in-person voting, these measures are critical to ensuring a successful and fair election at one of the most important moments in our nation's history," Governor Cuomo said. "These actions will further break down barriers to democracy and will make it easier for all New Yorkers to exercise their right to vote this November."

If you were a voter concerned about having to wait too long to request and receive an absentee ballot, you can now request your ballot immediately. NY voters will no longer have to wait until Oct 3, or 30 Days prior to the election, to request their absentee ballot.

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, "Voting access is one of the core foundations of our democracy. With the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we must ensure that no New Yorkers feel pressured to put their health and well-being at risk to exercise their Constitutional right to vote. I thank the bill sponsors for advancing this legislation, and my Senate Democratic Majority colleagues for their ongoing commitment to empower New York voters and Governor Cuomo for signing these bills."

In an attempt to reduce the number of absentee ballots that are disquali

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BCW Survey's County Small Biz

Westchester businesses from across all sectors of the county's economy said they are slowly recovering from the pandemic but expect to struggle for some time, according to a survey released today by the Business Council of Westchester's Economic Recovery Task Force.

The survey asked BCW members to answer 20 questions assessing their status and ongoing needs.

Some findings of the survey included:

Forty-four percent of businesses predicted that they would remain open but would continue to struggle over the next three months, with 17 percent saying they would thrive and 25 percent saying they would break even. Only 1 percent anticipated closing.

About 53 percent of those surveyed said that business was down or significantly down compared with last year at this time, with 6 percent saying it was the same and 6 percent saying it was up. Thirty-five percent said it was not applicable or they didn't respond.

Forty-three percent of those surveyed said they were essential businesses and had never closed; 36 percent said they had reopened in phases 1-4. Only 3 businesses said they had not yet reopened.

When asked what type of support would be most important, most businesses said obtaining grants and personal protective equipment, followed by marketing support.

When asked if they needed PPE, a majority said they did with the most needed items being sanitizer and masks.

Those businesses sectors responding to the survey included Education, Energy, Health and Wellness (fitness, beauty salons etc.), Manufacturing, Not-for-Profit, Professional Services (PR/media, accounting, legal, finance), Real Estate/Construction, Retail, Technology, Transportation, Hospitality and Restaurants and Bars.

The survey is the latest communication from the Economic Recovery Task Force, a 47-member group of business leaders from across all sectors of Westchester's economy. The Task Force recently released its second report to Governor Andrew Cuomo and County Executive George Latimer. The group's findings are designed to provide guidance to state and county officials as they work to reopen New York's economy from the pandemic.

The reports and the latest survey results are available online at thebcw.org.



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Is 42 Years is Prison Enough Time for Any Crime?



Bonnie Minter, with her son Jason Minter, in the 1970's

By Dan Murphy

The recent parole granted to Samuel Ayala, for the rape and murder of two women in South Salem has reignited the public debate over how many years served for the most severe crimes is enough, and are some crimes so severe and brutal, that there should never be parole.

The 1977 murder of Bonnie Minter and Sheila Watson in South Salem was a shock to everyone who lived in Westchester. Ayala and Profit entered the home of Watson, and raped and murdered the two mothers, shooting them 11 times as they attempted to crawl for their children, who were in a room down the hall.

We lived in Yorktown at the time, as a ten year old, I remember I my mother talking about the crime. As a young mother herself from the Bronx, my mom could not understand how a crime of this severity could have occurred in any of the quiet towns of Northern Westchester, where there were many more farms, and fewer homes, than there are in the county today. Perhaps that is why these men so brazenly decided to commit their crimes.

Samuel Ayala, age 26, Willie Profit, 25, and James Walls, Jr., 26, all from South Norwalk, CT, were captured three days later while trying to return the blue cargo van they had rented. All three men had previous records of criminal behavior of varying degrees of severity, including armed robbery and drug dealing.

In the 1978 trial Judge Richard Daronco went on the record at sentencing to explain that his 25-years to life sentence was the maximum he could give, making it clear to future parole boards that the vicious murderers belong behind bars for life. Samuel Ayala and Willie Profit received two concurrent 25-to-life sentences; James Walls, who was reportedly outside in the getaway vehicle at the time, received one.

All three became eligible for parole in 2002. Profit died — still in prison — in 2016. Walls was paroled earlier this year, and his release was supported by the families, believing more than four decades behind bars was sufficient time served for his role in the crimes.

But for the children of Bonnie Minter, Ayala should serve his entire life in prison. One of the children of Bonnie Minter, Jason Minter, has written about his tragedy in the past and is now standing up to rally support to get Governor Andrew Cuomo to overturn the recent decision of the NY Parole Board in granting a release to Ayala, who has served 42 years in prison. He is set to be released in September.

“It was mid-March 2020. COVID 19 panic was sweeping the country. There was talk of releasing those at high risk from prison early. Meetings became remote-access only. My sister, Maggie, and I grew anxious regarding our regular 18-month task of keeping the man who brutalized us as young children, and raped and murdered our mother and her friend Sheila Watson, locked up until the end of his life.

“In the past, we had been able to meet with a parole board member to give an emotional, and sometimes harrowing statement, as victims. But now, we were told by New York State that our impact statements were to be made over the phone only. We reasoned that with our statements and overwhelming public support, that Samuel Ayala, given the sheer viciousness and barbarity of his crime, would never be considered for release. Ayala was the ring leader in the beating, rape, and murder of our mother and her friend, which we and Sheila’s two children witnessed in a brutal home invasion in 1977 as three and six-year-olds.

“We knew Ayala lied to the parole board during his interviews and figured he would be disqualified for release. He said he was frightened for his own life on the day of the crimes because his companions were pressuring him. Still, we knew from our personal experience on that day as well as testimony from others, that He was the mastermind of the crime.

“We attended the many, many years of repeated parole board hearings. We know the board was aware that Ayala joked and laughed at his prowess during the rapes. They also knew that we very vividly remember his cackling laughter as he raced down the stairs and through the house that day after personally firing the multiple bullets that killed both my mom and her friend as they crawled away. Children saw this. Children heard this. Children do not forget these kinds of details.

“Six years ago, when the board asked Ayala if he hadn’t run out of bullets, would he have killed the four young children present so that there were indeed no witnesses, he did not answer. His silence said it all.

“We pleaded with the board members, letting them know how we would live in fear if Ayala were ever released—he is a remorseless sociopath. It occurred to us that our statements might have less power without being able to meet face to face. Yet, we continued to hope for the best. We can only speculate that COVID and the lack of in-person accessibility might have impacted our ability to resonate with the board as it had in previous years.

“We are unable to get the transcripts of Ayala’s board meeting for many months now, as the bureaucracy is slow, so we can only speculate the reasons for the board’s release. We’re not sure where he will go. It is possible Connecticut or Westchester, though he has family in Texas. If Ayala was fair game to be released despite everything that we have mentioned above, who wouldn’t be considered for parole?”

continued on pg 6-

On This Day in Yonkers History...



Dr. Charles A. Leale

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

Monday, August 31st

August 31, 1914: Isadora Duncan’s sister Elizabeth and nine charges from the European War Zone finally arrived in Yonkers; the children had been detained at Ellis Island by Immigration Authorities. When finally released, the group headed directly to Park Avenue in Yonkers, where they spent their first days in America. Duncan’s plan to establish a school to teach esthetic dancing was fulfilled by 1916, with the school located at 360 North Broadway.

August 31, 1929: More than 2,000 fans cheered as the new aquatic champions of Westchester County were crowned! Held in Tibbetts Brook Park, two teams from Yonkers, the Yonkers Swimming Association and the Yonkers Aquatic Club, shared the major honors. Yonkers YMCA swimming star Parnell Callahan smashed two County records.

Tuesday, September 1st:

September 1, 1918: Concerned about accidents and danger from large crowds gathering at railroad stations, the Adjutant General’s office requested no more parades and patriotic demonstrations be held.

September 1, 1928: Postmaster Albert Bogart announced, with our beautiful new post office open, Yonkers would kick off a campaign to encourage Yonkers residents to buy their stamps and money orders in Yonkers.

Wednesday, September 2nd:

September 2, 1927: City Judge Charles Boote was not pleased with the New York State Crime Commission report stating the Yonkers City Court had given out far too many suspended sentences; he strongly stated Yonkers was “ahead of most of the cities in the state in freedom from crime,” and strongly “upheld the value of the probation system used here.”

September 2, 1946: Daily News Broadway columnist Danton Walker devoted his column to Yonkers and our Tercentennial. Beside telling the history of our city and adding some of the usual jokes, he included the news of our mile-long Central Avenue sign, and featured photographs of screen star Marie MacDonald and tennis champion Vincent Richards. One of his comments about MacDonald? “If she had been born a few decades sooner, she could have made her movies right in her backyard at the old Whitman-Bennett studios.”

Thursday, September 3rd:

September 3, 1867: Dr. Charles A. Leale married John Copcutt’s daughter Rebecca Medwin Copcutt at the Nepperhan Avenue Copcutt home. Dr. Leale was the first doctor to reach the presidential box at Ford’s Theater after John Wilkes Booth shot President Lincoln. His quick thinking temporarily saved the president’s life. He stayed with Lincoln, holding his hand through the night until the president passed away. Leale is buried in Oakland Cemetery, here in Yonkers.

September 3, 1918: Former Yonkers resident William G. McAdoo, US Director General of Railroads, announced \$25 a month raises for almost a million railroad employees; this included everyone from clerks to maintenance men to track workers. This was the second largest salary boost in American industrial history.

September 3, 1935: Two hundred-seventy-five children celebrated Frank Tobin Day at the Polo Grounds! Besides watching a double-header, the kids munched on peanuts, popcorn and traditional ballpark goodies. The little ones wore white ribbons with Tobin and Winn written in blue. Tobin, of course, was for Frank Tobin, originator of Tobin Day; Winn was Supervisor William Winn who joined the festivities. After the games, a bus brought the children back to the First Ward Democratic Club for ice cream and cake. By the way, Frank Tobin was the Democratic candidate for First Ward Alderman, and later long time Yonkers Postmaster.

Friday, September 4th:

September 4, 1931: Mrs. Jules Hart of Landscape Avenue urged Health Commissioner Clarence Buckmaster to put unemployed men to work clearing vacant lots of weeds and garbage; this, she believed, would relieve hay fever sufferers and remove eye sores around our city. She also complained sewer gases escaping from a manhole near her home, preventing her from using her porch.

September 4, 1944: The Westchester County War Council reported Yonkers led Westchester County in paper salvage for the month of July. Our patriotic citizens contributed 1,249,361 pounds!

Saturday, September 5th:

September 5, 1926: After Right Reverend John Chidwick, former President of St. Joseph’s Seminary in Dunwoodie, accused veterans in the United Spanish War groups of being “dominated” by the Klan in New York State, former Yonkers Police Chief strongly stated the Ku Klux Klan has no association with the Yonkers units of the United Spanish War veterans, and never would.

September 5, 1950: City Clerk Francis Heafy received official notice from the County Board of Elections of the pending litigation over the Brogan-Cooney contest in the August Primary Election. The notice came with instructions that

continued on pg 6-

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Is 42 years enough, continued from pg

State Senate candidate Rob Astorino called on the NYS Parole Board to resign for their Parole and upcoming release of Ayala. "Westchester hasn't forgotten Bonnie Minter and Sheila Watson, or their children," Mr. Astorino said, "These loving families were visited by true evil that day, suffering the worst imaginable nightmare. But New York State Parole Board members clearly have forgotten the innocent victims here, and for that they should resign in disgrace. Samuel Ayala is a stone-cold killer and rapist, and this decision is as alarming as it is nauseating. Mr. Ayala will also have his voting rights restored under New York's new "progressive" criminal justice policies the former county executive noted.

"Under one-party rule, New York has become a state that takes the side of criminals over the rights of victims and law-abiding citizens and that cannot continue," Mr. Astorino said. "Cashless bail and other so-called criminal justice reforms are erasing years of public safety progress right before our eyes. Parole decisions like this one are an abomination. Westchester weeps for Sheila Watson, Bonnie Minter, and their surviving family members today. We will never forget what they suffered at Mr. Ayala's hand."

In 2007, Jason Minter wrote about the murder of his mom for Westchester Magazine. In that story he explains the emotional and painful results of his mother's murder. Clearly, 13 years later, Jason Minter has not forgiven Samuel Ayala, and decision may be the most important of all.

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

the ballot boxes of the Second Assembly District be closely guarded so they would be "intact in every respect" when they were delivered to the Board of Elections. Heafy had read of the litigation in the Herald Statesman before receiving the official notice, and had gone to the Tuckahoe Road city building where the ballot boxes were stored. He checked the boxes to determine all was satisfactory, and then relocked the storeroom.

Sunday, September 6th

September 6, 1941: Former Mayor Joe Loehr felt compelled to defend his administration of the city, especially his financial administration. He pointed when his term ended, he left no municipal deficit; instead the city had \$2.41 in assets for each dollar of current liabilities.

September 6, 1946: Writer described Yonkers as a "city of umpires" in his article in the New York Sunday Mirror magazine section. Parker, writing about various US towns, wrote, "Yonkers is noted for umpires. Bill Klem, daddy of them all, claimed it as his hometown until he moved to Florida. Bill Grieve, an American League arbiter, is another Yonkerite."

For more information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and our upcoming events, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/YonkersHistoricalSociety. We also are on LinkedIn and Twitter @YonkersHistoric. For information on membership in the Yonkers Historical Society, please call 914-961-8940 or email yhsociety@aol.com.

Notice of formation of OztheBarber LLC filed with the SSNY on 6/17/2020. 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, 15 Verona Ave., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Bess Boys Apparel, LLC filed with the SSNY on 08/04/2020. 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, 448 South 7th Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10550. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Legal Notices

Notice of Formation of FINE EVENTS, LLC. Arts of Org. Filed with SSNY on 6/29/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 4 Martine Avenue, Suite 919, White Plains, New York. 10606. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

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 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.

Notice of formation of Floss, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/29/2020. 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, 520 Pelhamdale Avenue, Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

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.09/04

Notice of formation of Brianna Rohlehr Visuals LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/05/2020. 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, PO Box 463, Hastings on Hudson, NY 10706. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of JMINS, LLC, filed with SSNY on June 23, 2020. Location: Westchester County.. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy process to 65 Homecrest Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY NAME: THE RENEWAL ROOM NP FAMILY HEALTH PLLC Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 8/4/2020. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 145 PALISADE STREET, SUITE 200, DOBBS FERRY, NY 10522. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Floss, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/29/2020. 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, 520 Pelhamdale Avenue, Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

Kome Find Me LLC, date of filing Articles of Organization with Sec. of State on 7/27/20. LLC located in Westchester Cty. Sec. of State designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against may be served. The Sec. of State shall mail copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her to: 100 Fisher Avenue, White Plains, NY 10602. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Pete's Brush & Hammer, LLC filed with the SSNY on 06/15/2020. 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 Pete's Brush & Hammer, 3 Hillside Avenue, Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Joyce Tutors Math, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 6/29/20. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 20 7th Street, Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

One HealthIT LLC. Filed with the SSNY on 8/20/2020. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent for process & shall mail copy to 62 Congress St. New Rochelle, NY 10801. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of The Koch Lab LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/17/2020. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC at 74 Croton Dam Rd. Ossining, NY 10562. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of SHLP 165 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 7/22/20. Office location: Westchester County. NY Sec. of State designated agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served, and shall mail process to the LLC, c/o Westrock Development LLC, 440 Mamaroneck Ave, Ste N-503, Harrison, NY 10528, the principal business location. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of RIVERTON WARBURDALE LLC Footwear & Apparel. Filed with the SSNY on 07/31/2020 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, 353 Warburton Ave, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.-09/11

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. 09/11

Absentee ballots, continued from pg 4-

ballots that are postmarked on the day of the election, November 3 will be counted. Also ballots delivered to the Board of Elections without a postmark, but stamped as received by the Board of Elections will be counted.

State Senator Alessandra Biaggi said, "COVID has upended every aspect of our lives -- but we cannot allow it to undermine our democracy and New Yorkers' sacred right to vote. I introduced S8015D to ensure that no New Yorker will have to choose between their health and fulfilling their civic responsibility. Unfortunately, during the June election too many New Yorkers had to make that very choice because they did not receive their ballots on time. I want to thank Governor Cuomo for signing my bill to provide every New Yorker with the assurance that they can vote via absentee ballot come November and to give the Board of Elections the time they need to prepare. I also want to extend my gratitude to Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and my colleagues in the Legislature for their partnership and commitment to protecting our democracy."

New Yorkers will still be required to request an absentee ballot in order to receive one in the mail. After filling out a request for an absentee ballot, the Board of Elections will mail your ballot to your home. Voters will then have to fill out the ballot, sign and seal it, and get your ballot to the Board of Elections in a few different ways.

You can, of course, mail your ballot through the Post Office. For those who have had substandard postal delivery in their communities, you can mail in your ballot up to 30 days before Election Day.

Or, you can deliver your ballot to the Board of Elections in White Plains at any time before Election Day, November 3. Or, if you can't get to the BOE, you can have a friend or family member deliver your sealed ballot to the BOE.

Several elected officials in Westchester have called for "Ballot Boxes" to be installed at locations throughout the county, making it easier for voters to drop off their sealed ballots.

Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner wrote, "Many of my constituents have asked why New York State or the Board of Elections still has not authorized the placement of secure voting boxes to be placed at municipal buildings so people don't have to rely on the postal service for delivery. I have been pushing for this for about a month and am disappointed that so far NYS has not taken any action. Voters are very worried that the postal service won't deliver their ballots in time.

New York State allows voters to drop off their ballots at early voting locations but some voters (during COVID-19)--especially those with compromised immune systems- don't want to go inside a polling place and risk getting sick. Having voting boxes outside municipal buildings will enable concerned voters to avoid contact with others," wrote Feiner, who received a response from the NYS BOE which explained that voters will be able to drop off their absentee ballots at Early Voting locations in Westchester County.

Early voting will start on October 24 to November 1. We will highlight those locations in this paper.

The Westchester County Board of Legislators have asked State lawmakers to pass a law allowing drop-boxes for voters to use in casting absentee ballots this fall. This would give the Westchester Board of Elections the power to set up boxes across the county where voters can return absentee ballots until the close of voting on Election Day.

Establishing drop-boxes was one of the recommendations for improving voting this fall included in a report from the Board of Legislators' Election Information Gathering Task Force issued earlier this month.

Board Chairman Ben Boykin said, "In the face of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must do everything we can to make sure voters can safely and securely cast ballots. Recent State legislation to give everyone concerned about COVID-19 the option of voting absentee is a hugely important step. Also allowing voters the option of dropping off their ballots in conveniently located boxes would be an enormous benefit to those concerned about whether their absentee ballots will be delivered and counted. I'm pleased that all the County Legislators feel the same way and we urge our colleagues in Albany to act swiftly on this measure."

Midnight Parties in the Park, coninued from pg 1

have no recourse in having to endure this? Does this all fall in the lap of the Mayor and City Hall? Please let us know your thoughts and let's work together to stop this very real aggravation and before this coming weekend. This type of blatant disregard for law and order spreads as a virus does," writes John Davis, a member of the Mayor's Quality of Life Committee.

Yonkers Police Commissioner John Mueller responded in an email instructing his Deputy Chief to "Please have this addressed by reaching out to Ms. Nova to get any additional specifics such as who the "promoter" is as well as the DJ. Might be something on Facebook the Gang Unit can locate. Let's work to head this off for this coming Saturday. Identify a responsible patrol lieutenant to oversee any plans and have them send us an email about what action was taken as well as the identities of any organizers." Mueller's quick response was appreciated.

Lt. Dean Politopoulos added, "we are looking into this and will take appropriate enforcement actions." If a third weekly party takes place, it will be on Saturday August 29.

BWI, continued from pg 2-

"This incident could have been extremely tragic for the two people on board the sailboat," Commissioner Thomas A. Gleason said. "It is also provides a stark reminder of the danger of operating a boat while under the influence of alcohol or drugs." The County Police were assisted at the scene by the Ossining Police Department Marine Unit and Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

Since that incident, the Westchester County Police Marine Unit recently conducted increased enforcement on the Hudson River adjacent to Croton Point Park in response to unsafe activity by operators of Jet-Skis and other personal watercraft.

Multiple summonses were issued for violations of navigation law, including operating recklessly near swimmers or boats; operating in excess of 5 mph within 100 feet of the shore or anchored vessels; and operating a personal watercraft (PWC) after dusk. The increased enforcement will continue through Labor Day weekend and beyond.

"We want to ensure a safe and enjoyable environment for people on the river whether they are boating, operating PWCs, swimming or fishing," Commissioner Thomas A. Gleason said. "Our enforcement on the Hudson was in response to community complaints as well as an observed increase in unsafe activity by our Marine Unit officers."

The Marine Unit reminds PWC operators that navigation law also prohibits weaving through congested marine traffic, jumping the wake of another vessel and "playing chicken." County Police will also continue to encourage social distancing on and along the river, including on boats that have tied up together in a group.

"We have received complaints that some people aboard these boats are moving back and forth among vessels without wearing masks or maintaining social distancing," the commissioner said. "We remind everyone that the governor's executive order remains in effect and it requires people to maintain social distancing or wear a mask if they cannot."

Navigation law requires that all persons operating personal watercraft must have completed a boater safety course and carry legally required equipment, and adhere to operating restrictions.

Send us your opinions, letters, announcements and photos to

dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

YPS Remote Learning, continued from pg 1-

will remain at home and teachers will provide online remote instruction from the school buildings;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on September 9, 2020 Prekindergarten students will participate in a half-day orientation remotely and on September 10, 2020 will begin Online Remote Instruction in accordance with the YPS School Reopening Plan. Students will remain at home and teachers will provide online remote instruction from the school buildings;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that on October 5, 2020 all students will transition to Hybrid Instruction in accordance with the YPS School Reopening Plan;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that parents/guardians will have the option to continue their child's education by Online Remote Instruction only;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all dates are subject to adjustment based on COVID 19 pandemic changes, Department of Health and State Education Department Guidelines and federal, state and local laws.

Vote: 8-0 Yes.

Yonkers summer political rumors, continued from pg 1-

Larkin will have his hands full as he tries to rebuild the party and the republican brand in Yonkers. But if anyone can do it, he can, and maybe Larkin might want to return to the ballot in Yonkers someday?

Larkin served as a councilman from the 6th District, in Northwest Yonkers, currently held by republican councilman Anthony Merante. Merante who is currently in the middle of a debate over an expansion at a UPS facility of Tuckahoe Road, will be challenged next year when he is up for re-election. Whether that challenge comes from a democrat or a republican, or both, is unknown.

But one name tossed out as a possible opponent to Merante is Tim Hodges, recently retired from the Yonkers Police Department. Hodges, who served for 30 years in the YPD, most recently as First Deputy Chief, would run as a democrat. Three years ago, Matt Orifice ran against Merante and lost by a handful of votes to Merante, with Tony Pagano also running. All three candidates received more than 2000 votes.

And the race for Yonkers City Court is not over, even though the three winners of the democratic primary for three seats on the Yonkers bench, Verris Shako, Karen Best, and Dan Romano, are all leading the field to win election November 3.

But Judge Tom Daly, who narrowly lost his bid for re-election in the democratic primary, is on the republican line November 3. Supporters of Daly hope that he can keep some of his democratic votes from the primary, along with republicans and independents, to win on November 3.

To add to the political intrigue, Karen Best, who will appear on the democratic line for City Judge in November, released a letter she wrote to Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier.

"I am requesting information regarding your plans for the General Election. Will you continue to support Judge Daly, since he will be running on the republican and conservative lines? Will you continue to support Judge McGrath, since he will be also running on the conservative line.

"Even though the Yonkers Democratic Party did not endorse me, I still placed second in the primary. My victory, and the victory of other insurgent candidates, should be taken as a message that the democratic voters of our city would like the democratic party to evolve into an entity that provides transparency, encourages diversity, and promotes inclusion," wrote Best.

Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier stated, "I have included all of the democratic candidates running in Yonkers in my emails. including Karen Best."

Democrats in Yonkers will have the advantage of a Presidential year, which will increase the numbers of voters, even in a pandemic and vote by mail, many of who will come out and vote for Joe Biden for President and vote for democrats down the ticket.

This gives an advantage to the three democrats running for City judge. Dan Romano, one of the three, will also receive republican support on November 3, making him difficult to beat. Verris Shako, received the most votes in the democratic primary and we look forward to her service on the Yonkers bench.

And Karen Best proved that she has the support of many Yonkers democrats. She has done it once on her own, in the primary, and can do it again. That was the message in her letter.

This scenario makes it tough for Judge Daly, but not impossible, based on his years of service in the Yonkers Courts and his service to the community over 5 decades. We've got four candidates for three seats. And there are reports of a write-in candidate for City Judge coming.

Laptop shortage, continued from pg 1-

Also, the US Department of Commerce recently imposed sanctions on 11 Chinese companies including Lenovo, and school districts are now asking that those sanctions be lifted, but it may already be too late for the first day of school.

But the backlog in computer orders come from the spring, when the disruption of the supply chain from China began. Then with the Coronavirus pandemic intensifying in the US, high demand began with school districts and homes ordering more Chromebooks and other low-cost tablets and laptops.

In July, the Trump administration targeted Chinese companies that it claims were using forced labor and other human rights abuses to make products that are sold in the US. The slave labor camps involved the Uighurs, a minority Muslim population of 1 million in China.

One of the companies accused of using forced labor was the manufacturer of Lenovo laptops. This has resulted in Lenovo telling all of its customers that have already purchased laptops that it will take an additional several weeks to complete existing orders.

In February and March computer factories shut down for COVID-19 precautions. After that, new orders came in huge numbers from companies and governments looking to order computers for their employees, and from employees working at home. School districts were the next to begin to order large quantities of tablets and Chromebooks.

But some school districts did not anticipate in May that they would require thousands of new devices in the fall, resulting in orders not being placed until June and July, and supply not keeping up with demand.

One estimate has the total cost at \$8 Million to provide a laptop for everyone of the 27,000 YPS students. Some students have a laptop or tablet already in their home, and do not require one.

If the 4,000 computers come in next week, the YPS will be as far along as any other school district in dealing with a new educational reality. Making sure that every student has a device to learn from at home.

UPAC Presents SAGE, Free Outdoor Concerts at Historic Untermyer Park



Sage

The Untermyer Performing Arts Council will present Sage at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, August 29th, at Untermyer Park.

An all-women's jazz, blues, R&B, and contemporary ensemble, Sage is part contemporary, part sassy, and part nostalgia. These talented ladies deliver what every music audience is looking for, the best in music! Style, musicianship, and beauty are trademarks of this unique group, women with no limits on their vision and repertoire, women who create a sound that transcends time and generation.

Sage has opened for and appeared with Ray Charles, Denzel Washington, Regina Carter, the Duke Ellington Show Choir and performed at jazz festivals around the country. This unique group headlined at both major Inaugural Balls honoring President Obama, Major League Baseball All Stars Games and the World Classic in San Diego.

This definitely is another "don't miss" Untermyer Performing Arts Council World Fest 2020 event in the park!

Although our events are admission free, our audience is limited to fifty people and reservations are mandatory. All audience members must wear masks at all times in the park and bring chairs. Seating is only in designated seating areas. To reserve your spot, call 914-375-3435 after 11 am on Tuesday, August 25th. Please leave your name, phone number and the number of reservations you need to a maximum of four people on the answering machine. Reservations will be allocated in the order received. Only those with a confirmed reservation will be admitted to the park; all attendees will be temperature scanned at check in.

In case of rain, we have no rain site. Please call the Untermyer Performing Arts Council's Arts Line, 914-375-3435, after 1 p.m. the day of the performance to confirm the program will go on.

For further information, please call the Untermyer Performing Arts Council's Arts Line at 914-375-3435. Visit our website www.untermyer-performingarts.org, our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/upac1976/>, follow us on Twitter @UntermyerPAC, Instagram, LinkedIn and Pinterest.

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