

Westchester Rising

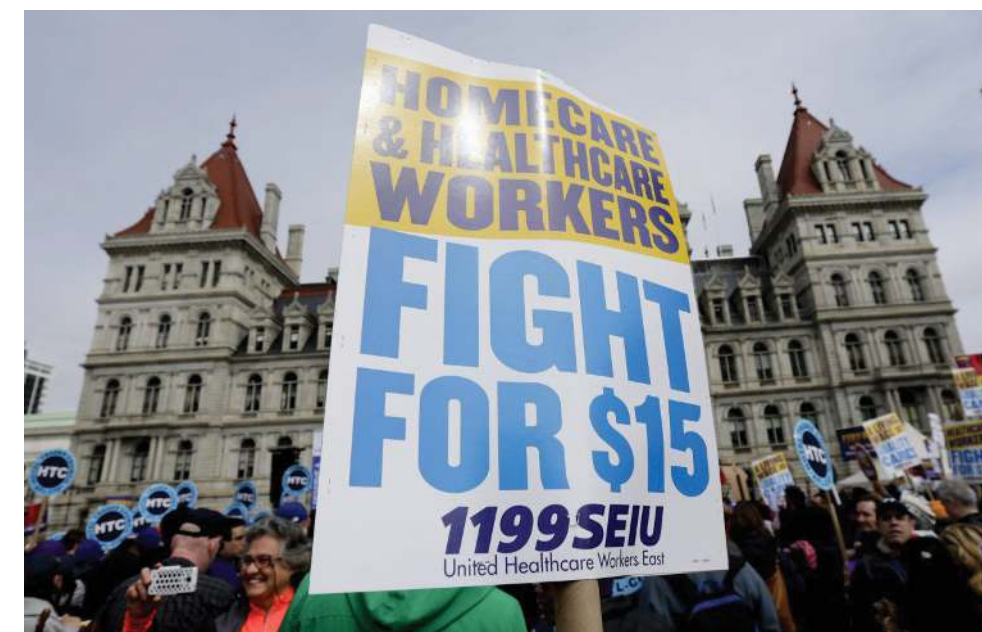
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Friday January 8, 2021

Minimum Wage Rises to \$14 Per Hour in Westchester



The debate over increasing the minimum wage, or The Fight for \$15 will end next year.

By Dan Murphy

The minimum wage in New York State has increased, but the increase depends on what industry you work in and what region of the state you live in. As New York State gets closer to a minimum, minimum wage of \$15 per hour across the board, in Westchester and Long Island, the minimum wage is now \$14 per hour, effective Jan. 1, 2021.

An analysis, required under NY state law that the Division of Budget review the economic impacts of minimum wage increases before any additional increase did not result in a temporary hold on any increases due to COVID. In Westchester, the unemployment rate reached a peak of 15.4% in April, but has decreased to 7.1% in October, according to data from the US Labor Department.

Some in the business community and local chambers of commerce had called on the increase to be delayed to help small businesses already suffering from the pandemic. Other studies have shown that the minimum wage increase has not had any detrimental affect on the local economy.

Minimum-wage workers, such as those employed in the retail, leisure and hospitality industries, have been severely affected by the pandemic, with thousands losing their jobs.

The minimum wage in New York City was increased to \$15 per hour in 2019, and was increased to \$12.50 in upstate NY.

For those workers in the restaurant or hospitality industry who receive tips, their minimum wage was increased to \$11.65 per hour in Westchester.

Workers in other industries that pay a minimum wage, like nail salons and car washes, must pay the regular minimum wage in their region.

Fast food workers in Westchester will now earn \$14.50 per hour and will increase to \$15 on July 1, 2021.

\$600 Pandemic Relief Not Enough for Those Who Need It in Westchester

"It isn't enough," said Mark Cuban, investor on ABC's "Shark Tank" and owner of the Dallas Mavericks NBA Basketball team. Cuban offered his own relief plan last year, suggesting that every American should receive a \$1,000 stimulus check four times, twice per month for two months. The one caveat was that Americans had to spend that money within 10 days of receipt or lose it.

'Empty Pockets Don't Ever Make the Grade'

By Frank Spotorno

The great Billie Holiday, in her song God Bless The Child, sang "Empty Pockets Don't Ever Make the Grade." Millions of Americans now have empty pockets because of COVID.

They have lost their jobs at no fault of their own. They need a helping hand to get through the winter. The last relief many received was back in April.

\$600 is not enough for any family struggling to put food on the table. Before our politicians in Washington start handing out our tax dollars to corporations and foreign governments, they need to help Americans first, and Americans who have lost their jobs first, like the waitresses, and hotel workers and airline workers.

Let's give them more. Luckily, I'm still working and my business is barely afloat. But I have had to lay off some of my workers. Why can't Washington get this right, and give \$2,000 to those with no income.

More important, why didn't they want to give more than \$600? Are they that out of touch? President Donald Trump said give \$2,000.

What if our Senators and Congressmembers lost their paychecks because of their own incompetence? If they can't fix our problems, they don't deserve to continue getting getting paid-period!

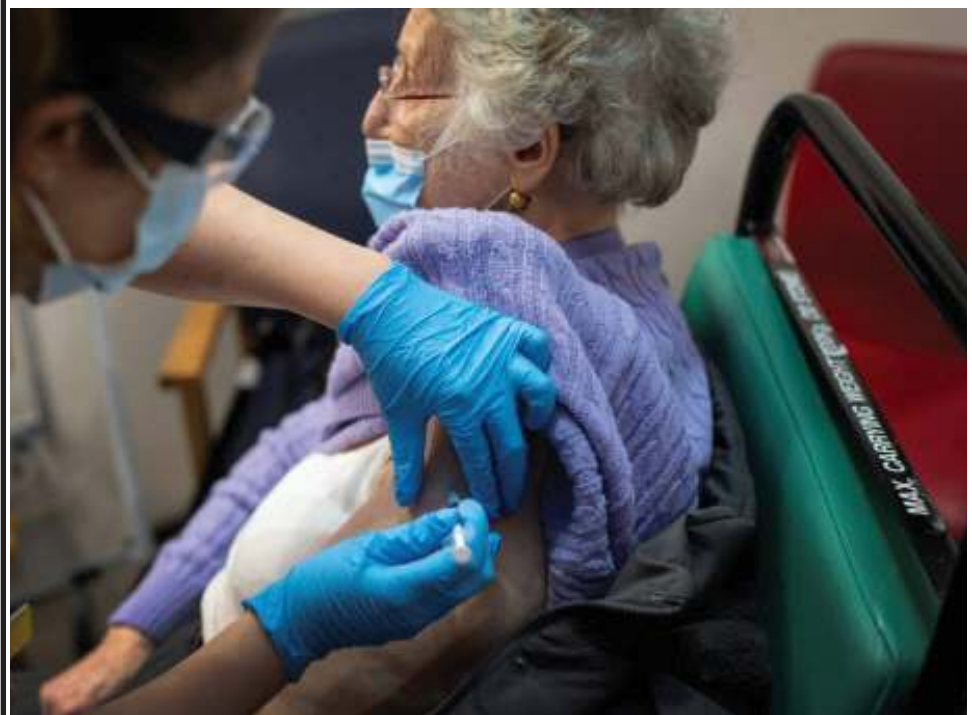
For those of you working from home, learning from home, and staying at home during this pandemic, consider yourself lucky. I'm still out working, taking the subway and trying to keep my business alive.

The reality is that businesses are closing. Americans are losing their jobs, their homes, their livelihoods, their well-being, families are breaking up, people are committing suicide, more and more Americans are going homeless and Congress' answer is take your \$600 and shut up! Shame on you!

Some member of Congress understand and agree with President Trump. Former South Carolina Governor Nikki Haley said it best, "The Covid relief bill is an example of how distracted and tone deaf Congress is. It was not targeted to the people and small businesses who actually need it. Pork spending and random foreign aid has to stop. Americans deserve better and we are not getting it. #TermLimits"

And remember, Empty Pockets Don't Make The Grade!
Frank Spotorno is the co-founder of YonkersTimes.com

Cuomo-We Want Those Vaccines in People's Arms! Use it or Lose it!



Westchester hospitals with highest number of vaccines delivered-

NY Presbyterian Healthcare System-
Lawrence Hospital-99%

Northwell Health-
Northern Westchester Hospital-62%

Westchester Hospitals with lowest number of doses delivered-

Montefiore Healthcare System -
Mount Vernon Hospital--30%.

Westchester Medical Center-32%

By Dan Murphy

Governor Andrew Cuomo called out hospitals in New York State who were not administering their COVID vaccines in a timely manner, and threatened to fine medical centers up to \$100,000 if they didn't get the doses out into the arms of front line healthcare workers and seniors in nursing homes.

According to data released by Cuomo during one of his COVID updates, about 46% of doses provided to NY hospitals have been given out after three weeks. The Governor called this slow release of the vaccines to the public unacceptable. "I understand that everyone has a job to do. We need them to administer the vaccines faster. We need to get those vaccines into people's arms," said Cuomo, who released a list of the top 10 hospitals doing a good job in getting their COVID vaccines out, and a top 10 of hospitals doing a sub-par job.

"New York Presbyterian hospital healthcare system administered 99% of their allocation. Great," said Cuomo, pointing to the medical provider that operates Lawrence Hospital in Westchester. Northwell Health, which operates Northern Westchester Hospital, had a rate of 62%, which was in the top 10 of NY hospitals doing a good job delivering the vaccine.

Westchester hospitals with the lowest percentage of vaccines given was Montifiore Health Care system (Mt. Vernon Hospital) at 30%, and Westchester Medical Center at 32%.

Cuomo said that Westchester Medical Center is a "public hospital," and that "I need those public officials to step in and manage those systems. You have the allocation, we want it in people's arms as soon as possible. New York State Department of Health sent out a letter yesterday to all hospitals that said if you don't use the allocation by the end of this week, the allocation you've received, by the end of this week, you can be fined and you won't receive further allocations, we'll use other hospitals who can administer it better. It also says from the day you receive the allocation you have seven days to use that allocation. This is a very serious public health issue and Department of Health Commissioner Zucker is very firm about making sure the hospitals step up and deliver here. So, any provider who does not use the vaccine could be fined up to \$100,000," said Cuomo.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer responded, saying "Up to this point, the county executives have had no control over the hospitals.



L-R: Seth Pasternak, Emergency Department nurse; Michael Fosina, President, New York-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital; Laurie Walsh, Vice President Patient Care Services & Chief Nursing Officer.

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Eagle Scout Projects Continue During COVID



Scoutmaster Jon Denfeld with James Rohr

James Rohr, a boy scout in Bronxville's Troop 5, completed his eagle scout project at Concordia College. Back in 1999, the first-ever Concordia Conservatory Holiday Community Musical took over a storage room in Schoenfeld Campus Center to house costumes, props and set pieces from the production. The Community Musical went on to become a beloved annual tradition, and after 21 fully-staged productions, the storage room was in need of a facelift.

James' eagle scout project was initially planned for spring 2020, and shelving units were delivered the weekend before the pandemic caused the shutdown of Concordia's campus. He was determined to complete the project before Christmas, and once Concordia's college students left for break, he and his team of fellow scouts and family members rolled up their sleeves and tackled the herculean job.

Emptying the room of items accumulated over the years took an entire weekend. Then the team cleaned, patched the walls and painted. Next came the construction of the new shelving units and storage for the set pieces and flats. With the wealth of props culled and organized, the mission was complete.

James appreciates the sense of community that the Conservatory fosters with its annual holiday musical productions. The musical is a family affair for the Rohrs. James has cheered on his brother Jeffrey's performances, and mom Michele has managed costume design for the past several years.

Please send us your volunteer projects for print to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Brenda & John Fareri Donate \$1 Million to WMCHHealth



Brenda and John Fareri (center) pledge \$1 million to endow a Chief of Pediatric Cardiology position at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, in recognition of Michael Gewitz, MD (right). WMCHHealth President and CEO Michael Israel (left) helps share the news.

Through the generosity and thoughtfulness of supporters, sponsors and the community at large, \$1.6 million was raised for Westchester Medical Center Health Network hospitals (WMCHHealth) during the WMCHHealth Stronger Together benefit. The streamed event, supporting the life-changing and lifesaving care and services of WMCHHealth hospitals, remains available for viewing at WMCHHealthStrongerTogether.org where donations to can be made through December 15.

WMCHHealth Stronger Together recognized the heroism of the Network's workforce, thanked the community for its unwavering support and celebrated the fortitude of its patients throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Benefit highlights included a \$1 million pledge from Maria Fareri Children's Hospital founding benefactors Brenda and John Fareri, as well as a \$100,000 donation from Greg Chiaramonte, MD, and Gail and Sam Simon, MD, in support of services at MidHudson Regional Hospital. Proceeds from the virtual benefit will support the life-changing and lifesaving care offered at WMCHHealth Network hospitals, skilled nursing facilities and medical practices around the Hudson Valley.

Hosted by Bruce Beck, a nine-time New York Sports Emmy Award Winner and Lead Sports Anchor for WNBC-TV, the WMCHHealth Stronger Together benefit featured special messages from local and national celebrities and inspiring stories shared by frontline care teams and patients.

During the WMCHHealth Stronger Together Benefit, Brenda and John Fareri pledged to contribute \$1 million to the Westchester Medical Center Foundation to endow the Michael H. Gewitz, MD, Chief of Pediatric Cardiology position at WMCHHealth's Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. The gift was pledged in honor of Dr. Gewitz, the Executive Director and William Russell McCurdy Physician-in-Chief of Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. Robert Vincent, MD, is the hospital's current Chief of Pediatric Cardiology.

Additionally, Greg Chiaramonte, MD, and Gail and Sam Simon, MD, pledged to contribute \$100,000 in support of a planned Total Joint Center at MidHudson Regional Hospital. The Total Joint Center will offer a continuum of care for patients suffering from muscle, bone, or joint problems due to injury or disease.

The Fareri family has issued a challenge to other donors in order to drive the value of the Chief of Pediatric Cardiology endowment to \$2 million and beyond. To contribute to the endowment, please contact Kevin Cook at 914.493.2504 or Kevin.Cook@WMCHHealth.org to learn more about the Fareri Family Challenge.

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Greenburgh Law Requiring Supermarkets to Give Away Unsold Food Becomes State Law



From the desk of Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner

One in seven New Yorkers do not have enough food. Yet supermarkets throw out good edible food daily . . . and send it to landfills for disposal. Based on a law developed in Greenburgh, Governor Cuomo has signed a law providing that large supermarkets statewide are required to make excess edible food available to religious or other non-profit organizations which provide food for free to the needy.

The law was developed by the Greenburgh Conservation Advisory Council and Greenburgh Councilman Ken Jones. The law is modeled after the French law adopted in 2016, which was passed unanimously by the French Parliament. Mike Sigal, Vice-Chair of our CAC, and his wife learned of the law while in France, and Mike then arranged to meet with the French legislator who authored the law. The CAC and Councilman Jones then adapted the French law to American legal terminology and practices.

The Town Board immediately passed a resolution urging adoption of the law. The Westchester County Board of Legislators, the Town of Bedford, the Town of Mamaroneck and the Village of Pleasantville also passed resolutions urging adoption.

Councilman Jones and Mike Sigal met several times with our State Assemblyman Tom Abinanti and our State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins. Assemblyman Abinanti introduced the bill and guided it through the legislative process. The Act was passed overwhelmingly on a bi-partisan basis by the Assembly 136 - 2 and the Senate 48 - 12.

Large supermarkets, on a daily basis, cull their shelves of food that don't meet their cosmetic standards or are reaching their "best by" date. This food is still edible and nutritious. The State estimates that 2.8 million children, seniors and other New Yorkers face hunger and food insecurity. At the same time, fossil fuels are being burnt to transport the food to solid waste landfills, where the waste decomposes and creates environmentally harmful gases. As Westchester County Legislator MaryJane Shinsky, who also contributed to developing the law, observes: This is a humanitarian disgrace, with adverse environmental impacts.

The law is simple. Excess edible foods are made available by a supermarket to religious and other not-for-profit organizations who have requested in writing to collect the food from the supermarket. This fits into their existing system of food collection. The law thus increases the availability of food supply for the purpose of feeding the needy. Collaterally, supermarkets may even save some money by not having to pay to have food carted away by commercial disposal companies.

The law becomes effective in June 2021. I plan to contact all the supermarkets within the town next week and will encourage each of them to implement the law sooner.

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Vaccinegate. Trumpgate. Georgiagate. JournalNewsgate.



By Eric W. Schoen

A new year has begun and yes, the bad boys and girls all the way to the top are misbehaving even before the last piece of confetti has hit the ground. We will examine them this week.

Speaking of confetti, New Years Eve in Times Square, a place I have been to so many times before was a tiny fraction of the celebration it normally is. So what in the world were they pouring confetti at in the crossroads of the world with no 1000's of people there to have it joyously tossed on?

I appreciate that they allowed some of our hard working first responders to take part in this hallowed tradition. I would much rather have seen the money spent for the confetti drop and clean-up of confetti used for computers for our school children learning at home and additional supplies for all of those out there on the front lines dealing with COVID-19.

With most of us stuck in our homes, I truly did not appreciate watching New York Mayor Bill deBlasio dancing with his wife on television. How all of us wished we could have been out dancing on New Years Eve. Someone please get the Mayor and his wife dancing lessons at the Arthur Murray studios! I still miss Guy Lombardo and his Royal Canadians serenading in the New Year!

Coronavirus Vaccine

What did I hear Governor Andrew Cuomo say. Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla has only used a third of the coronavirus vaccines allocated to it and the rest sit in the hospital refrigerator in Valhalla. This as the number of recent deaths in Westchester from COVID-19 equals the number of deaths from the previous 5 month period.

Who the hell is running the ship at Westchester Medical Center. We read of highly paid administrators in charge. A Board of Directors appointed by our elected officials. If they can't do the job then get rid of them all. People are losing their lives because of the inactivity of those running the medical center.

Everyone knows of the great doctors who perform miracles at Westchester Medical Center. And the hard working staff from nurses to custodial staff. But let's face it, the hospital though it has gone private is still run like a government hospital. High priced administrators, low, stretched out thin staff.

The Governor has put Westchester County Executive George Latimer in charge to see what is going on. Good move. My sleeve is rolled up to receive my vaccination. So are many other people I know.

It's your choice whether or not you want the vaccine. But if you are tired of masks, not seeing your loved ones, staying 6 feet away from the world and hibernating in your house, you better roll up your sleeve and get vaccinated. Lots of people want the vaccines. Look at the lines of people waiting outdoors overnight to get the vaccine in Florida.

Get the dam vaccine out of the freezer and into people's arms now! You knew it was coming, had months to prepare, now do the job before more lives are lost.

By the way, those of you who traveled during the holidays against government advice, please don't greet me when I am at the supermarket. In fact,

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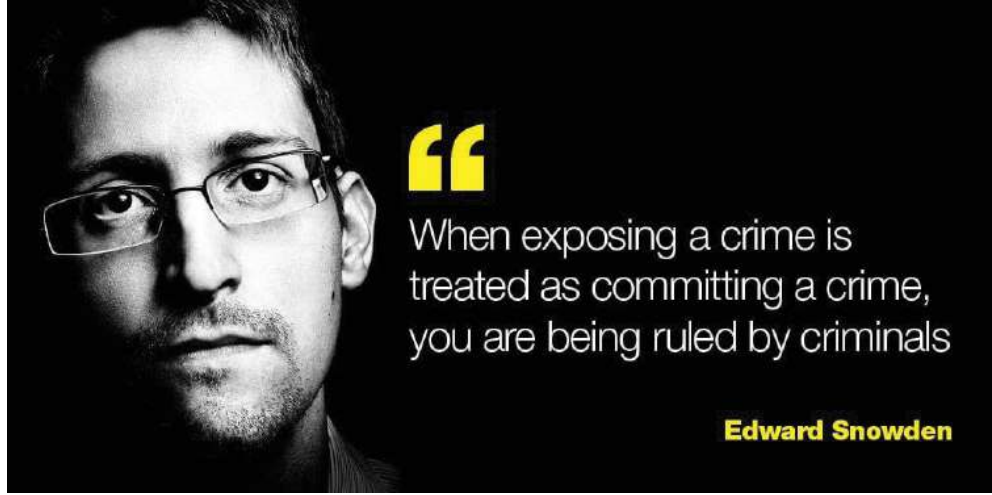
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Opinion: Pardon Snowden & Assange, President Trump



Bi-partisan support from Congress, and new information from Project Veritas, make the case

By Dan Murphy

As President Donald Trump issues pardons during the final days of his Presidency, calls from members of Congress, and others, are asking for Trump to add to his pardon list Julian Assange and Edward Snowden.

Assange, 49, launched the website WikiLeaks in 2006. He faces charges of receiving and publishing classified U.S. military and diplomatic material through WikiLeaks dating back to 2010. He spent years in the Ecuadorian embassy in London until he was forcibly removed and was arrested in 2019. He remains in a London jail awaiting extradition to the United States

Mr. Snowden, 37, admittedly leaked classified material about the U.S. National Security in 2013 while he was working as a contractor for the National Security Agency, (NSA). Snowden leaked the material to journalist Glenn Greenwald in an attempt to expose what he saw as an overreach by our government into the lives of Americans who had not committed, nor were accused of committing a crime, through the many global surveillance programs run by the CIA and NSA. Snowden was granted asylum in Russia in 2013 and has lives there today.

Congressmembers Tulsi Gabbard, a democrat, and Matt Gaetz, a republican, have both called for Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, and Snowden, who blew the whistle on illegal data collection by American intelligence agencies, to be pardoned.

“Since you’re giving pardons to people, please consider pardoning those who, at great personal sacrifice, exposed the deception and criminality of those in the deep state,” Tweeted Gabbard, who has co-sponsored a bill in Congress for charges against both Assange and Snowden to be dropped. “Brave whistleblowers exposing lies & illegal actions in our government must be protected. Join me and urge Congress: Pass my bipartisan legislation (HRes1162, HRes1175, HR8452) calling for charges against @snowden & Assange to be dropped & to reform the Espionage Act.”

“Edward Snowden has been unfairly villainized and persecuted for disclosing the true scope of illegal government surveillance. This is unjust,” Mr. Gaetz said in a statement. “Charges against Snowden should be dropped.”

Republican Congressman Thomas Massie, from Kentucky, said, “The ongoing attempts to prosecute Julian Assange threaten our First Amendment rights, and should be opposed by all who wish to safeguard our constitutional rights now and in the years to come. I join my colleague, Congresswoman Tulsi Gabbard, in calling for an immediate end to all charges against Mr. Assange.”

Senator Rand Paul has also called for Snowden to be pardoned. “It is important to remember that Snowden leaked information about unconstitutional spying and was motivated to do so after watching Obama Director of National Intelligence James Clapper lie about it under oath...He and others like him in the Deep State abused power and shredded the Constitution. And Snowden exposed them. Contrary to the media narrative, Snowden was attempting to expose this type of anti-American behavior from the Deep State, not damage our security...Joe Biden — an ally of the Deep State and self-proclaimed author of parts of the Patriot Act — would continue the wrongful prosecution,” said Sen. Paul.

The Westchester connection to this story is Project Veritas, with offices in Mamaroneck. On Dec. 16, Project Veritas, and its publisher James O’Keefe, released audio tapes of Julian Assange speaking to the US State Department back in 2011, which show Assange was attempting to warn the US Government about the upcoming release of classified information.

“A whistleblower provided this audio to Project Veritas, so that the American people have a more accurate account of Assange and his conduct,” said James O’Keefe, the founder and CEO of Project Veritas. “Political pressure is building for President Donald Trump to pardon Assange at the end of his first term and this tape goes a long way to rebooting how he has been portrayed.”

During the 75-minute conversation, Assange, who initiated the call, said to State Department attorney Cliff Johnson that he was concerned that classified information from the State Department is about to be released—outside of its control by a rogue former employee, who stole the information in order to establish his own rival media outlet.

“Yes, so the situation is that we have intelligence that the State Department Database Archive of 250,000 diplomatic cables including declassified cables is being spread around and is to the degree that we believe that within the next few days it will become public,” said Assange. “We’re not sure but the timing could be imminently or within the next few days to a week and there may be some possibility to stop it.”

Near the end of the conversation, which can be heard on projectveritas.com, Johnson said, “Right. I appreciate what you’ve told us Mr. Assange.”

O’Keefe said, “The thing that stands out throughout this tape is that over and over again, Assange expresses his concern for the people endangered by what he believes to be a reckless release. There is an integrity to Assange’s conduct that cannot be denied, whether you welcomed his releases or not,” he said. ([https://www.projectveritas.com/news/exclusive-project-veritas-releases-audio-of-as-](https://www.projectveritas.com/news/exclusive-project-veritas-releases-audio-of-as)

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From the Desk of Ruth Walter: Noise Pollution



County Legislator Ruth Walter, District 15

Have you been disturbed by loud motorcycles, illegal fireworks, or loud gas-powered leaf blowers this past summer? On October 20th, 2020, as the new Chair of the Westchester County Committee of Environment and Health, I brought together representatives of several law enforcement agencies, including NY State Police Lieutenant Chris Mulkins, Westchester Police Captain James Greer, and Yonkers Police Commissioner John Mueller to discuss their experience handling this issue, with a special focus on road noise. We also heard from Doctor Arline Bronzaft, an expert on the negative impacts of noise. You can watch a recording of this meeting at westchesterlegislators.com.

My office receives many complaints about noise pollution. According to Commissioner Mueller, noise was the number one complaint in a survey of the 200,000 residents of Yonkers. Captain Greer noted that many loud noises derive from modified mufflers and people turning “roads into NASCAR race tracks.” In response, New York State, Yonkers and Westchester police increased coordination to enforce anti-speeding and anti-modified muffler laws, leading to over 1500 recent court summonses.

Dr. Bronzaft spoke about the serious impacts of noise pollution. She discussed how loud noises can disrupt sleep, negatively affect performance in school, and exacerbate cardiovascular disorders. Growing scientific evidence suggests that constant noise pollution diminishes peoples’ standards of living. Furthermore, Dr. Bronzaft noted a lag between this body of scientific literature and concrete actions on the part of local, state, and especially the federal government.

We then moved to discuss potential solutions. Captain Greer pointed to an ordinance passed in Suffolk county, similar to one in Yonkers, where cars found involved in illegal races can be impounded by law enforcement officials. He suggested raising the cost of fines. Commissioner Mueller noted his office looks for modified mufflers not people driving older or outdated models of cars.

One technological solution we discussed is noise cameras, which was implemented in the United Kingdom. Noise cameras measure any sounds above a certain Decibel limit and work as an effective deterrent when combined with plate readers and traffic cameras. Did you know that the difference between 175 decibels and 185 decibels is double the noise level? Commissioner Mueller said that a combination of enforcement, education and outreach would be the most effective method to reduce noise pollution. Dr. Bronzaft also pointed out that legislation on this issue has been introduced by New York State Senator Andrew Gounardes of the 22nd district.

Residents should know there are complaint hotlines for both the City of Yonkers [(914)377-7900] and County of Westchester [(914)864-7700]. Followup steps include creating a particular day for cars to come into precincts to verify their mufflers have been fixed after they have been ticketed, and funding a pilot for noise cameras to collect data. Taking concrete steps to reduce noise pollution is important to improve Westchester residents’ quality of life.

WESTCHESTER RISING

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Clay Art Center's Winter Classes for Youth & Adults



Clay Art Center is happy to announce their in-person and virtual Adult & Youth Winter Term Classes running January 11 – April 25. Registration is open on their website at www.clayartcenter.org. Scholarships are available for students. Email mail@clayartcenter.org for more information.

Adult Classes

Clay Art Center will be offering a selection of multi-week classes for all skill levels from beginner to advanced. Whether you are new to clay or an experienced potter, they have handbuilding, wheel throwing and special topic classes designed for you. View their Winter Course Preview: <https://www.clayartcenter.org/winter-2021-preview>

Their 5 week introductory classes are designed for new students to explore all clay has to offer. Classes include Intro to Handbuilding, Intro to Wheel Throwing and Pottery for Beginners. These classes are offered nights and weekends. No experience necessary. Their intermediate and advanced classes will allow students to explore new techniques and forms.

For a fun Friday night out with friends or a date sign up for Maker Date. Get messy as they walk you through the basics of throwing on the potter's wheel. Create a unique piece of pottery, then choose a glaze from their studio selection. Pieces will be fired and available for pick up at a later date. Best of Westchester 2020 Winner "Best Artsy Night Out". First Maker Date is Friday, January 15th. Special Valentine's Day Maker Dates will take place on February 12th & 13th.

Youth Classes (Ages 10 – 16) & Family Classes (Ages 6+)

Have your kids unplug with mud at their award-winning multi-week youth classes starting January 17th. Their popular tween wheel (ages 10 – 12) and teen wheel (Ages 13 – 16) are fun and creative opportunities to explore a variety of functional pottery forms, wheel techniques and glazing. No experience necessary.

For a fun Saturday out with the whole family sign up for a one-time family class, Saturday Clay. Adults & children will explore their inner artists in this 2-hour introduction to clay. Professional ceramic artists will guide themed weekly hand-building projects including a special Easter Workshop on April 3rd. For ages 6 – 99. No experience necessary. First class is January 16th.

Family Wheel Night is a one-time class for parents, kids, tweens or teens (Ages 9+) interested in learning to use the potter's wheel. Have fun and bond with your family while receiving a lesson from experienced and dedicated ceramic artists. Beginners are welcome and no previous experience is necessary! First class is January 16th.

Private Lessons

In-person and virtual private lessons are a great way to learn new skills from their Studio or from your home. Their professional artists are ready to help you advance your handbuilding and wheelthrowing skills.

At Home Clay Virtual Programs

Virtual Adult Classes including Intermediate Wheel Throwing and Exploration in Handbuilding are designed for you to learn new clay skills and techniques from the comfort of your home.

Virtual Artist Talks & Demos featuring some of the top ceramic artists working today take place via Zoom. Upcoming artists include Kensuke Yamada, Vinnie Bagwell, Rich Brown and Syd Carpenter. Look for accompanying sales of artist work in our online shop.

Parties for Adults & Youth

Let Clay Art Center host your next in-person or virtual get together. For adults plan an upcoming birthday party, team building exercise or creative check-in with your friends. For kids ages 7 – teen - plan a fun and creative birthday party, scout meeting, school friends get together or weekly play-date. Clay kit curbside pickup available in Port Chester, NY.

Clay Curbside Services

Purchase clay and tools on their website and pick up at Clay Art Center. They also offer drop-off kiln firing services. The shop and gallery are closed for in-person visits but you can visit online or by appointment.

You can continue shopping online for handmade ceramics. The shop has a variety of items including mugs and bowls to make meal time into a celebration, sculptural items to decorate your home, and gifts for weddings, birthdays and other celebrations. Proceeds from your purchases support the artist and Clay Art Center.

Gallery & Exhibitions--Concepts in Clay: Artists of Color is their current online virtual exhibit featuring works by celebrated Black ceramic artists from across the US. It has been extended through February 28th. Stay tuned for announcements on upcoming virtual exhibitions. They look forward to hosting in-person exhibitions in 2021.

Cuomo, Vaccines, continued from pg 1-

at this point forward, we're going to be given authority to act with power and force, we will act with power and force. I take my responsibilities as County Executive very seriously and I welcome any additional responsibility if it helps us effectively distribute the vaccines to our residents.

"The County Government does not have 'authority' over the Westchester Medical Center (WMC); it is ably run by Michael Israel and the Board of Directors of WMC. It is a private hospital (WMC was once part of County government over 20 years ago), with its own leadership team and structure.

"However, if the State is giving us the task now, as of today, to work with the Medical Center to help get the best possible results, then I am confident our partnership will help. We have spoken with leadership at WMC and are prepared to move forward vigorously and make sure the supply of vaccines are administered," said Latimer, who added that COVID cases in Westchester have increased by more than 1,400 in the last week or December into early January, and the deathrate in Westchester has slowed from 41 in late December to 31 in early January.

As of Jan 4, almost 900,000 doses were received in New York State, with less than 300,000 New Yorkers getting their first dose. Many other states are having the same problem of either not getting enough doses or having troubles getting them out to the public.

Currently, CVS and Walgreens pharmacies are working to get nursing home staff and patients vaccinated.

If the Democrats Didn't Control the House the 2020 Election Would Be Reversed



U.S. Senator Josh Hawley, R, Missouri, wants to run for President in 2024 if President Trump doesn't run again

By Peter Feinman, The Institute of History, Archaeology, and Education, Inc. (ihare.org).

Editor's Note: I am on the email list of Mr. Feinman, a Westchester resident, and his nonprofit organization, The Institute of History, Archaeology, and Education, Inc.. I especially enjoyed this column, and have reprinted it with permission.

These are times that try men's souls. And women, too. We are watching in slow motion the United States of America being brought to the brink of ceasing to exist as a single country governed by the Constitution and becoming a divided country with two presidents ... once again.

The first effort failed but at a tremendous cost. It took years of fighting, the death of hundreds of thousands, and untold destruction throughout the land to preserve the Union. Ultimately the effort failed to create a single country despite the veneer of having done so. There remain huge swaths of the country where Abraham Lincoln remains persona non grata. Tens of millions of Confederates still prefer Robert E. Lee to him. They now have a president who does as well. The Woke assault on Lincoln expands his rejection creating an even third "country" or division in America. I have repeatedly invoked the possibility that the United States as a single country we know today may not legally exist on July 4, 2026 when it otherwise would be celebrating its 250th birthday. Now we are moving even closer to that fate.

At this point, all that separates the United States from dissolving after January 6, 2021, is the Democratic control of the House. Imagine what would happen on January 6 if the Democrats were not in control of the House. Is there any doubt that if the Democrats did not control the House that the Trumpican House and Senate would vote to reverse the election results and hand the election to their Lord and Savior, the Chosen One, Blessed Be his Name? That is how close we are to becoming a country where regardless of how the people vote, the House and the Senate will determine the winner if one party has the majority in both. Our checks and balances would fail us save for the fact that Democrats did so well in 2018 they could barely hold on in 2020. A few more losses by the Democrats and the Presidential election results would be reversed.

Mitch McConnell's advice to Trumpican Senators not to support the effort to reverse the election is not based on principle. He did not offer the advice out of his commitment to the democratic process or because no fraud occurred. He did so out of the practical reality that the Democratic-controlled House would not approve anything the Trumpican Senate passed. Therefore the vote was futile.

He also knew it was possible the Trumpicans would not have a Senate majority after the Georgia elections. He knew that Romney and perhaps a very small number of Republicans might oppose the coup attempt. His concern is for 2022, too: Trumpican Senators running for re-election in a Biden presidency will have the label traitor affixed to them. Trumpican Representatives don't care. The way House districts are configured, these people have little to worry about in terms of backlash as 126 already demonstrated. The situation is different in statewide elections. Being a traitor will help Ron Johnson stave off a challenge or win the Wisconsin primary unopposed but will it help him win the election where the Democrats won in 2020? So the Trumpican Senator votes are for show and to prevent the wrath of the Sore Loser being unleashed upon them.

Consider the prospects for 2024. As repeatedly stated here in these blogs since 2016, there is no Republican Party as the party of Lincoln. It's dead. Even the Lincoln Project knows there is no hope for taking the party back. They have become Independents or Democrats. If Chris Christie or Larry Hogan want to run as Republicans in 2024, they will have the same chance Bill Weld did in 2020. It's the Trumpican Party.

Assuming for the moment that THE DONALD does not run in 2024 and only designates his daughter as the Vice Presidential candidate, who will be the Trumpican nominee?

Mike "sold his soul" Pence?
Mike "sold his soul" Pompeo?
Nikki "sold her soul" Haley?
Ted "sold his soul" Cruz based on the presumption he has one?
Josh "sold his soul" Hawley?

How will Trumpican voters be able to differentiate among the candidates? They all will boast of having sold their soul. The real question is not how will the Trumpican voters decide among this cast of soul-sellers, but who THE DONALD will pick as his heir to run with his daughter. The issue for all the soul-sellers is not to get on the wrong list, the one where the disloyal people go if they fail to be loyal and support the coup. Pence and Pompeo already may be on that list. Pence still has a chance to redeem himself in the eyes of THE DONALD even if the Senate vote fails.

Continued on pg 7-

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Classifieds

Single woman looking to build her family by adoption. Any ethnicity welcome, expenses paid. Please call (347) 470-5228 or my attorney: (800) 582-3678 for information

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Notice of formation of Poy Energy Solutions, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/30/2020. 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 Roanoke St. 1st Floor, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Formation of 11 Lincoln Avenue LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/22/2020. 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 EVERYDIMECOUNTLLC. filed with the SSNY on 10/23/2020. 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. 442 North Avenue New Rochelle Ny 10801. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of HOMEMADE BY FK LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 9/15/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Homemade By FK, 35 Pamela Rd, Cortlandt Manor, New York 10567. Purpose: any lawful act or activity

Notice of Formation of SHLP 140 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 10/19/20. 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 Studio 160, LLC. filed with the SSNY on 10/13/2020. 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, 160 West 3rd Street, Mount Vernon, NY, 10550. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Pardon Assange, Snowden, continued from pg 4-

sange-warning-u-s-government/)

Assange's work with US Army intelligence specialist Pvt. Chelsea Manning made him a fugitive from American justice. Manning downloaded documents and videos from U.S. Army computers and gave them to Assange. Manning pleaded guilty to violating the Espionage Act and received a 35-year sentence. President Barack Obama commuted Manning's sentence to time served, roughly seven years, Jan. 17, 2017—three days before the end of his term.

The U.S. Justice Department indicted Assange in 2019 of conspiracy to commit computer intrusion, accusing him of aiding Manning in getting into the Army database.

Rising Newspapers and YonkersTimes.com join with thousands of journalists across the world in calling for the pardon, or the dropping of charges against both Mr. Snowden and Mr. Assange, based on the First Amendment and on the belief that we need transparency in government, and both Assange and Snowden have exposed what they see as wrongdoing. They are true whistleblowers and the charges against them send an unfortunate message to others who know about improper activity not to come forward.

Snowden came forward after former Director of National Intelligence, (DNI), James Clapper lied when he testified to Congress if the NSA collected data from the American people he said "No," and Snowden's release proved otherwise.

"Edward Snowden performed an immense act of public service to the American people by blowing the whistle on the National Security Agency's vast, clandestine surveillance programs. President Donald Trump should pardon him," wrote Chip Gibbons in the Jacobin Magazine, (<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2020/12/pardon-edward-snowden-nsa-trump>)

We couldn't agree more. It is interesting to note that none of our Westchester members of Congress, nor our two U.S. Senators have called for the release or pardon of Assange or Snowden.

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION OF COLLATERAL BY PUBLIC SALE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT Capital Stack Fund 2 LLC ("Lender") will conduct, through its agent, Ofeck & Heinze, LLP (the "Agent"), a disposition of the below described collateral by public sale in accordance with the provisions of N.Y. UCC Section 9-601, et seq., as follows:

Date, Hour and Place of Sale:
January 21, 2021 at 12:00 p.m. ET at:
WESTCHESTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE
At the base of the MLK statue by the front entrance
111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. White Plains, NY 10601

Debtor: Aron Schwartz, as pledgor and guarantor ("Debtor")
Agreements Pursuant to Which the Sale is Held: Promissory Note dated February 11, 2020, made by 78 Oak Street Yonkers LLC and 667 Nepperhan Ave LLC to Capital Stack Fund 2, LLC, as Lender, in the original principal amount of \$1,450,000.00 (the "Note").

Guaranty (payment) of the Note dated February 11, 2020, made by Aron Schwartz, as pledgor and guarantor. Pledge Agreement dated February 11, 2020, made by Aron Schwartz, as pledgor and guarantor, pledging the Membership Interests as described below to the Lender.

UCC-1 Financing Statement.

Description of Property to be Sold: 100% of the membership interests ("Membership Interests") in 78 Oak Street Yonkers LLC, a New York limited liability company (the "LLC"). The LLC is the owner of the real property known as 78 Oak Street, Yonkers, NY New York 10701 (Block 455 Lot 52 Section 1). The 78 Oak Street Property is encumbered by a first mortgage lien recorded in favor of the Lender in the original principal amount of \$1.45 million, interest and other amounts due. Such mortgage loan is in default due to the LLC's non-payment of interest and other amounts due, as of November 1, 2020. The property may be encumbered by such liens and other interests as may be shown in the public records, and by the rights and interest of any tenants occupying such property.

Summary of Terms of Sale:

The Membership Interests will be sold as one (1) lot, for cash, at a public auction to the highest bidder. Bidders may participate in person, telephonically, or by sealed bid submitted in advance to Ofeck & Heinze, LLP. Lender shall be permitted to bid at the sale and may credit its bid against all or a portion of its secured claim and become the purchaser of the Membership Interests.

Lender reserves the right to any or reject all bids, or terminate the sale, or adjourn the sale to such other time or times as it may deem proper only by announcement on the date of sale or any subsequent adjournment thereof without further publication and impose any other commercially reasonable conditions upon the sale as it may deem proper.

Payment of the winning shall be made by wire transfer or bank check. The winning bidder shall provide a non-refundable deposit by bank check in the amount of at least 10% of their winning bid, immediately following the sale. The balance shall be due by wire transfer or bank check, delivered to Lender's attorneys by 5:00 p.m. on the second (2nd) business day after the date of the Sale.

The winning bidder is responsible for all sales, transfer and other taxes. The sale of the Membership Interests shall be effectuated by delivery of a Bill of Sale and a certificate representing the Membership Interests. The Debtor is entitled to an accounting of the amount due, and shall have the right to redeem the Membership Interests at any time before the completion of the Sale as provided by this Notice.

The Membership Interests will be sold "AS IS, WHERE IS," "WITH ALL FAULTS," and "WITHOUT ANY WARRANTIES WHATSOEVER, EXPRESSED OR IMPLIED, INCLUDING, WITHOUT LIMITATION, A WARRANTY OF MERCHANTABILITY OR FITNESS FOR ANY PARTICULAR OR OTHER PURPOSE."

For a complete copy of the Terms of Sale, please contact Ofeck & Heinze, LLP via telephone or email, as indicated below. Other and further terms of sale may be announced at the time of the Sale.

December 30, 2020
OFECK & HEINZE, L.L.P., Attn: Ron Z. Ofeck, Esq.
85 Main Street, Suite 204, Hackensack, New Jersey 07601
Tel No. (201) 488-9900 Fax No. (201) 488-4475
rzoatty@yahoo.com

Notice of formation of Modern Day Luxe LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 9/3/20. Office: Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents Inc. designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to United States Corporation Agents Inc. at 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of LE TRIBOULET, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/24/2020. Location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 76 Morningside, Apt 2S, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of One Step At A Time Organizing, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/19/2020. 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, 1116 Warburton Ave., Apt. 2Q, Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Everglow Consulting LLC. Arts of Org. Filed with the SSNY on 12/8/2020. 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 Avenue Apt G81 Mount Vernon, N.Y 10552. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of SAN PROPERTY HOLDING, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/28/2020. 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, 28 HIGHLAND AVE, EASTCHESTER, NY 10709. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Brazilian Bistro LLC . Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 7/22/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 491 Ellendale Ave Port Chester, NY 10573. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of Rella Electric, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 12/1/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Christian Farella at 186 Stone Ave., Yonkers, NY, 10701 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Ayo Holistic Care, LLC. Filed with SSNY 7/22/2020. 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, P.O. Box 1201, New Rochelle, NY 10802. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

You Can Still Volunteer for MLK Day of Service During COVID

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; only light can do that. Hate cannot drive out hate; only love can do that.

— Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



WHAT IS MLK DAY?

Legislation signed in 1983 marked the birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. as a federal holiday. In 1994, Congress designated the Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Holiday as a national day of service and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service (now AmeriCorps), the federal agency that leads service and volunteering, with leading this effort. Each year, on the third Monday in January, the MLK Day of Service is observed as a “day on, not a day off” that is intended to empower individuals, strengthen communities, bridge barriers, create solutions to social problems, and move us closer to Dr. King’s vision of a “Beloved Community.”

Join us in breaking bread and breaking barriers during our upcoming 2021 #MLKDAY by signing up today at volunteernewyork.org/MLK

Saturday, January 16 - Webinar
Volunteering with Equity in Mind

Sunday, January 17 - Community Event
Virtual Sunday Supper

#EVERYONECAN SERVE

Visit Volunteernewyork.org/MLK

Schoen, continued from pg 3-

for the safety of all order your groceries online and have the company drop them at your door and leave before you open the door!

Trumpgate

Donald Trump needs to leave the building! White House that is. Look at the disturbing list of people he has pardoned in the weeks before he leaves office. A crooked Congressman who sold stock based on a tip he received while at a reception on the White House lawn.

His son in laws father. Money crimes again. I have always wondered how the little guy who has a felony on his record for something he did as a stupid kid years ago can get a pardon from the President. If you think Donald Trump has a team of experts advising him on who to pardon, I have a bridge in Brooklyn to sell you.

Now Trump is not the first person to pardon his friends. He has just pardoned people like the crooked upstate Congressman who have not received the punishment they deserved for the crimes they did. In the case of the crooked upstate Congressman Trump pardoned him because he was among the first Congressman to endorse his Presidency.

Take it from me friends, the best is yet to come!

I can't believe when I hear that former individuals who served at high levels of government including people who served in the Trump Cabinet before resigning or leaving penned a letter to the President warning him not to use the military to stay in office.

What Country does Donald J. think this is. Even officials like ‘Mad Dog Mattis’ who Trump told us before he was elected would protect the American people signed the letter. Any President of these great United States who would use the military to stay in office needs to be committed to a psychiatric ward!

Georgiagate

Folks, this is an easy one. Any President who calls a Secretary of State like Donald J. did in Georgia and asked him to ‘find’ over 30,000 votes, this after the people have had their say and the Electoral College has met and cast their votes should be thrown in jail and never be allowed to run for President or any other office again.

Thank goodness we have an honorable Secretary of State in Georgia (I wouldn't know him if he passed me on the street) who together with his lawyer (now you see the need for lawyers!) recorded the conversation and released it publicly so we could all hear the desperation Donald J. has come to stay in office.

JournalNewsGate

A fire in Yonkers. Apartment building across the street from the one I grew up in. 4 Alarms. 1 person died. Not a mention of it in the local, official hard copy paper of the city of Yonkers the Journal News.

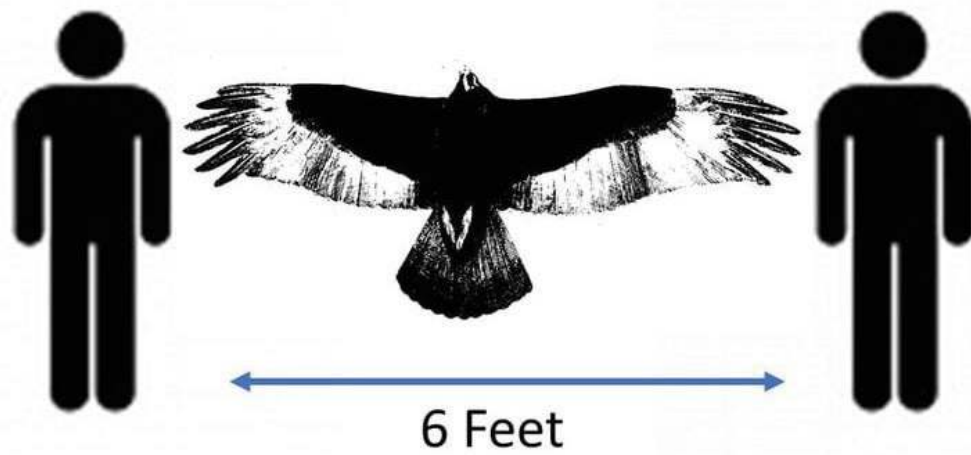
I wrote to the Editor of the Journal News, your ‘local newspaper’ to ask her why. I was shocked with her response on behalf of the paper. With her permission I will share that response with you next week. Stay tuned.

On a Positive Note: I went Sunday Night to the Grand Illumination of Untermeyer Park on its’ final day. What a wonderful way to end the holiday season that almost wasn't. The lights were spectacular. Make sure you put it on your calendar to see next year. In fact, send an email to sbyrns@untermyergardens.org to request your name be put on their email list so you will be the first to know when reservations open. Congratulations Steve Byrns and the Untermeyer Conservancy for giving Yonkers and people from around the area this special treat! Happy New Year to all!

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

Hudson River Audubon Society Upcoming Events

Keep one Turkey Vulture of space between you and others



Maps tell the story. Hudson River Audubon Society presents John Butler, Ecological Project Manager of the Van Cortlandt Park Alliance, discussing spatial analyses of populations of species such as thrushes, whales, and fish, and how they can guide policies to protect and restore habitat. Wednesday, January 27, 7:30-8:30 p.m. By zoom: email hrrasbird@gmail.com for invitation. <https://www.hrras.org>

Letter to the Editor--WESTCHESTER RISING

We'd like to take this time to thank Westchester Rising and wish its' readers best wishes for the New Year. Westchester Rising's editor Dan Murphy has graciously given us the space and support to be a voice for animals who can't speak for themselves, which was invaluable in finally passing a ban against cruel, antiquated traveling animal acts in this county - a years-long struggle of education and persistence, finally joining thousands of enlightened venues the world over.

Rising and its readership have been willing to learn about such issues as the grim reality for animals in pet shops, puppy mills and shelters; the law-based bias of the pro-hunting NYS Dept of Environmental Conservation; the blatant inhumanity of hunting animals in enclosures, called ‘canned hunting;’ the barbaric, vicious practice of force-feeding birds to make ‘foie gras;’ frightened, sentient animals tortured for bizarre tests with no oversight; farm animals jammed into squalid, tiny cages, never seeing their parents or the light of day and worse. Please visit our website to learn more.

We wish Rising readers a Blessed and Happy New Year. Amid our new challenges, as people struggle and yearn for quality of life and decency, we ask Rising readers to please also consider these voiceless beings who feel pain and joy as we do, suffer like we do, love their babies as we do and have done nothing wrong except being born into appalling, unimaginable exploitation. We believe the human heart is big enough to include them in the circle of kindness, compassion and a bright future.

Kiley Blackman, Animal Defenders of Westchester Tuckahoe, www.ADOW.org

LEGAL NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT OF COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

BOARD OF MANAGERS OF PONDSIDE VILLAGE III CONDOMINIUM AND THE PONDSIDE HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., on behalf of the unit owners, Plaintiff

against

ROLANDO CHUMACEIRO and CECELIA CHUMACEIRO, Defendants.

On the 5th day of February, 2021 at 9:30 a.m., pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered November 25, 2020, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction in Courtroom 200 of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. White Plains NY the premises in the Town of Greenburgh, County of Westchester and State of New York, in the Condominium known as “Pondside Village III Condominium” also designated as Unit 1506, together with the undivided 1.73 percent interest in the common elements.

Said premises is also known as 1506 PONDCREST LANE, WHITE PLAINS, NY 10607

Approximate amount of the lien is \$32,288.75 plus interest and costs.

Premises will be sold subject to the provisions of the filed judgment and terms of sale under Index Number 53887/2019. This sale is subject to a first mortgage presently encumbering premises. Ten percent of prevailing bid must be paid at sale by bank check.

Leticia Arzu, Esq., Referee, Goldenberg & Selker, LLP Attorneys for Plaintiff, 399 Knollwood Road, Suite 112, White Plains, NY 10603



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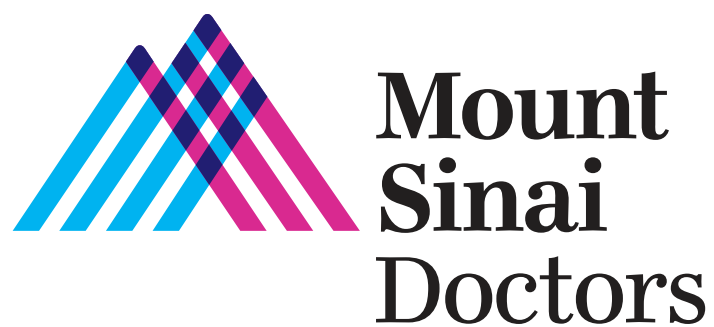
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