

Westchester Rising

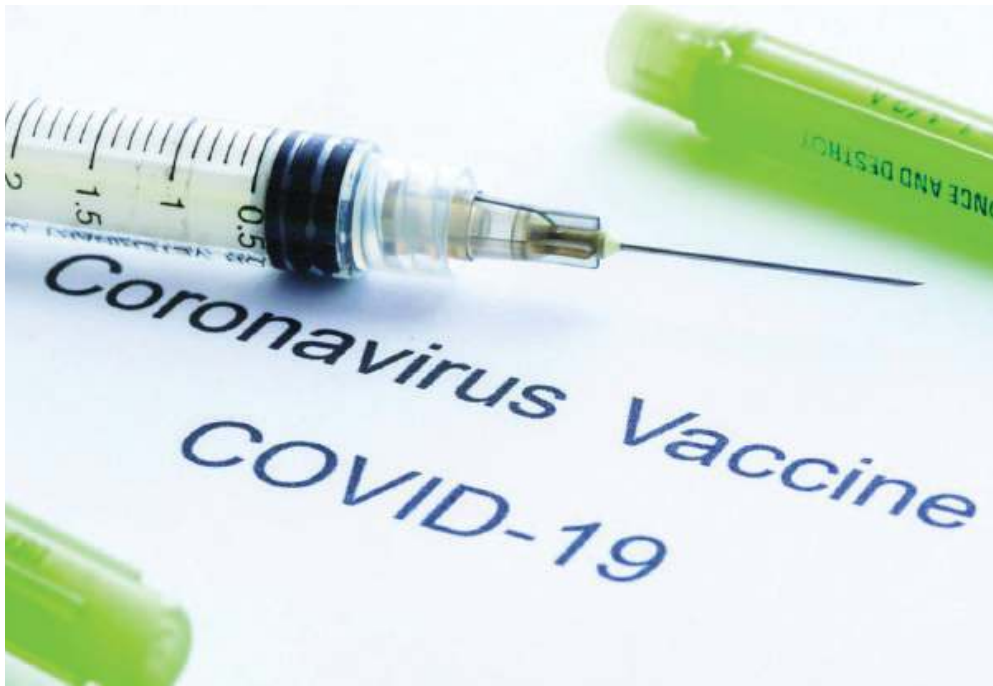
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Friday February 12, 2021

Westchester is Making Progress with COVID Vaccinations



By Dan Murphy

There is good news in the fight against COVID-19, and the efforts of both our health care officials and local elected officials to set up and deliver the vaccine to county residents.

WMCHHealth has taken the lead for Westchester, and the Hudson Valley to ensure the safe, equitable and efficient distribution of the COVID-19. Working with a broad group of nearly 320 hospitals, healthcare organizations and agencies, community organizations and many other stakeholders, WMCHHealth is supporting the historical allocation of more than 169,000 COVID-19 vaccination doses across the region to date, including directly administering more than 55,000 vaccinations at WMCHHealth campuses and the Westchester County Center Mass Vaccination Center.

“WMCHHealth has managed vaccine redistribution across the Hudson Valley, in collaboration with Governor Cuomo’s Vaccine Distribution and Implementation Task Force, the State Department of Health and local governments, and our healthcare and community partners,” said Josh Ratner, WMCHHealth Executive Vice President, and Hub Lead.

Ratner said that now more than 160 pharmacies have joined the Hub’s Provider Task Force, which now totals more than 210 members. Several Walgreens Pharmacies in Westchester are starting to receive and distribute the vaccine.

Earlier this month, WMCHHealth joined New York State and Westchester County in spearheading the operation of the Westchester County Center in White Plains as one of the first of 20 Mass Vaccine Distribution sites in New York, and is currently administering more than 2,000 vaccinations per day.

This week, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced 35 community-based pop-up vaccination sites coming online this week at churches, community

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Good News for Westchester Homeowners: Rep. Jones Sponsors SALT Cap Repeal



Rep. Mondaire Jones

Westchester Congressman Mondaire Jones, who represents northern Westchester and Rockland County in the 17th District, is an original co-sponsor of the SALT Deductibility Act, which would remove cap on State and Local Tax Deduction instituted by Donald Trump and the republican congress in 2017 as part of a larger tax cut plan.

The State and Local Tax Deduction limits the amount of property taxes and state income taxes that Westchester residents and homeowners can deduct on their federal income taxes to \$10,000 total. Congressman Jones introduced the bill with Long Island Congressman Tom Suozzi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.

Residents of New York’s 17th Congressional District pay the highest property taxes of any Congressional District in the country. The average property tax bill in NY-17 is \$11,389. 45% of individuals (roughly 330,000 people) in NY-17 use the SALT deduction. The average deduction taken in NY-17 prior to the cap was \$26,243.

“Donald Trump cut taxes for billionaires and big corporations and paid for it on the backs of hardworking families in Westchester and Rockland Counties, where we pay the highest property taxes in the entire nation,” said Rep. Jones. “That must change. Restoring the SALT deduction is a necessary first step to creating an equitable tax system – one where we put money back in the pockets of working people.”

The SALT Deductibility Act would remove the cap on the SALT deduction instituted in 2017 as part of Donald Trump’s Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. It would allow New Yorkers to fully deduct their state and local taxes from their federal taxes.

Westchester County homeowners pay the highest propert taxes in the

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2021 Black History Month Series: The Black Renaissance of Yonkers



Clockwise: Mariah Cameron, Shanequa Benitez, Hector Santiago, Jonathan Alvarez

Black History Month Series, By: Dennis Richmond, Jr. (@NewYorkStakz)

During the 1920s, a Black cultural phenomenon filled with art, music, activism, literature, and self-awareness took place in New York. This beautiful event in history has come to be known as the Harlem Renaissance. Augusta Savage, A. Philip Randolph, Dorothy Dandridge, and Arturo Schomburg represented Black Brilliance during the 1920s. A century later, activists Mariah Cameron, Shanequa Benitez, Hector Santiago, and Jonathan Alvarez define a new renaissance. One that I call, The BROY: The Black Renaissance of Yonkers.

The Singer: She’s a triple threat. She sings, dances, and she acts. Mariah Cameron (@M.E_Cameron) is Afro-Latinx, Queer, and Non-Binary. When she’s not singing or filming, she passionately works around equity, specifically through environmentalism. She’s a business owner who runs Trash Treasure Chest, a thrift and repair jewelry shop. Through her business, she’s “actively seeking not to throw people away.” She told me, “just like I’m not trying to throw the jewelry away; I’m not trying to throw the people away.” She’s also currently co-leading Yonkers Assembled.

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Yorktown Dems Nominate Gilbert, Patel for Town Board-Supervisor Slater Unopposed



former Supervisor Lanny Gilbert, left, will run for Town Board, leaving current Supervisor Matt Slater, right, running unopposed this fall

By Dan Murphy

The decision by the Yorktown Democratic Party not to run a candidate for Town Supervisor shows that the GOP in the northern Westchester community remains strong, and the current Supervisor, republican Matt Slater, is doing a good job.

Former democratic Supervisor Lanny Gilbert, who narrowly lost his re-election to Slater in 2009, will be running for Town Board in 2021. “A loving father of 5 and a 29-year resident of Yorktown, Lanny Gilbert currently serves as Administrative Law Judge for the Health Department of Westchester County and is on the NYS Board of Commissioners for the New York State Bridge Authority. He brings a long history of public service and professional experience to the Town Board, having served for two years as Yorktown Town Supervisor and five years as Yorktown Town Justice and serving 36 years as a Principal Court Attorney for the NYS Unified Court System. Lanny was recognized and commended for his long service by both the Westchester County Board of Legislators and the Bronx Supreme Court. He was instrumental in creating the Youth Court in Yorktown with the Alliance for Safe Kids. Lanny has demonstrated thoughtful leadership, commitment

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Former Mt. Vernon Mayor Richard Thomas Attempts a Comeback



Richard Thomas

By Dan Murphy

Americans love a comeback, but every great comeback starts with a setback. Tiger Woods, Bill Clinton and Apple Computers all have had successful comebacks of sorts. And we love it even more when an underdog succeeds in their comeback.

For former Mt. Vernon Mayor Richard Thomas, that setback happened in 2019, when he was forced to resign his position for campaign finance violations and spending on personal items. Now two years later, the former Mayor hopes to make a political comeback by running for Mt. Vernon Comptroller in a democratic primary.

The current Comptroller, Deborah Reynolds, is involved in a scandal for a lack of cooperation with the Mayor and City Council for a laundry list of allegations, violations and withholding of financial data that has resulted in Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard asking for both the Westchester DA and the State Attorney General to intervene and investigate.

Thomas, 38, faces several obstacles to make his comeback.

I-First, most comebacks start with a Mea culpa. Bill Clinton appeared with Hillary on 60 Minutes and confessed (sort of) his marital infidelities. Tiger Woods did the same.

While Thomas admits to clerical errors in how he spent campaign funds, he also asserts that the criminal charges against him were part of a large political conspiracy, and claims that his democratic primary election loss, also in 2019, was based on voter suppression and voting irregularities, similar to those alleged by former President Trump.

Thomas was arrested in 2018 and charged by then NY Attorney General Eric Schneiderman with felony grand larceny. He pled guilty to misdemeanor charges of misappropriating \$13,000 from his campaign committee and for taking \$2,500 in campaign funds improperly as a reimbursement. A \$2,000 Channel purse for his wife was one expense that shocked the community. He was also accused of using his inauguration committee as a slush fund or sorts, to the tune of \$83,000 in unreported donations.

We agree with Thomas on one thing: politicians are rarely, if ever, charged or convicted for campaign finance violations and he was never given the chance to make amendments or corrections before his arrest.

Part of his guilty plea was the agreement that he would not run for office for one year. That one year has expired and Thomas is running for Mt. Vernon Comptroller.

II-Thomas will receive little support from the Mt. Vernon Democratic Party, but that hasn't stopped him before. Chief Westchester Democrat Reginald LaFayette has put the kibash of Thomas receiving the endorsement of the party to run for Comptroller. But in 2015, Thomas won the democratic primary for Mayor against the same party establishment, and even today, he enjoys support from democrats outside of the party leadership.

Some members of the Mt. Vernon Democratic party have considered expelling Thomas from the party and from running in a democratic primary for any office in the City.

III-Thomas doesn't have the usual experience, (CPA or accounting degree), that comptrollers usually have, similar to Comptroller Reynolds, who also had neither. And while Thomas likes to write, "here we go again," in regard to the City's fiscal troubles, he was part of the here we go again when he

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Rent a Movie Theater for Your Valentine or Family



Here's a great idea for a couple on Valentine's Day weekend, or for a family looking to get out of the house. If you are looking for a unique way to spend some time with family and friends while being safe you can now rent out a whole movie theater.

Showcase Cinema de Lux in Ridge Hill, Yonkers and in White Plains, is renting out a movie theater for groups from 1-20 persons. "Love is in the air and on the big screen at Showcase Cinemas! Make a new movie memory starting at just \$99 this Valentine's Day, on your next girls' night out, or any time you want to celebrate love. And don't forget the snacks – add a concession value package for the perfect romantic treat. Big romance was made for the big screen. Movies for a date night and GNO include titles such as Star is Born (2018), The Great Gatsby (2013), The Notebook, Crazy Rich Asians, Sex and the City, and Magic Mike," states the Movie Theater in a press release.

While Hollywood has been unable to keep up with the demand of Americans wanting more, quality, new movies, classic movies are available to watch for your movie rental. If you prefer a new release, the cost will be more but at \$199, you can combine your rental with 10 family members to make it cost effective.

Concessions are also available, and for most of us, movie theater popcorn is required to get us back into a theater. Going back to the movies is another way to help your local economy, and keep the movie theater open.

Finally, a movie theater rental is a way to have the "movie experience" safely. The success of local, "Drive-in Movie Theaters" helped over the summer to get us out of the house, but now that winter is here, there is still a need for many of us to get out of the house.

Other movie theater chains are allowing renters to bring in their own movie on DVD or Blu Ray to show, or even to use the big screen to play video games for 2 hours.

Masks and social distancing is still required, but the theaters are big enough to accommodate groups up to 20 and still have social distancing measures intact, and cleanings are completed after every showing.

Movie theaters across the region closed on March 16, 2020. Some have tried to re-open, while others have closed. For some movie operators the private rentals are getting them by in the hopes of a true re-opening this summer.

Even during COVID, there will always be movies that you want to see on a huge screen. It's part of the American culture, and a good date night out.

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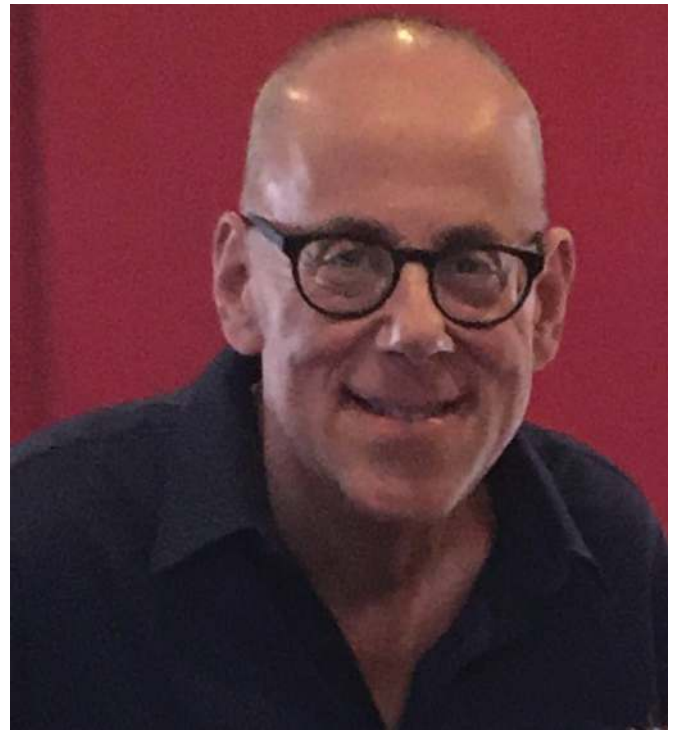
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The Hudson Oven: A Cabinet of Sourdough Loaves Coming to You

Stop in the Name of Love!



A visit to Hastings from The Hudson Oven



By Eric W. Schoen

By Dan Murphy

We are grateful to local businesses that are surviving through the pandemic. A friend of ours on Facebook shared this great feel good story about a mysterious cabinet that travels around Westchester with great Sourdough bread.

The company is the Hudson Oven, (thehudsonoven.com). "Each batch is unique. The Hudson Oven is here to offer you the sourdough bread that your hometown was meant to have. Currently we are trying to develop a steady client base that is willing to pick up their fresh sourdough once a week. The pickup location is always changing, so Subscribe to stay up to date on when and where to pick up your bread! The flour we use is grown and milled organically by Farmer Ground Flour near Ithaca New York," writes the company on their website.

Recently, the cabinet has been found in Hastings, Peekskill and Ossining in Westchester. For some, finding out where the cabinet is this week makes it a scavenger hunt of sorts. "Awesome bread hunting experience for the whole family! One never knows where The Hudson Oven will take you to explore and seek out the "bread shed". It's like geo-caching for amazing fresh baked sourdough bread!" wrote one family in a Facebook review.

Here's how it works. The Hudson Oven is looking for weekly subscribers who want to know where the Sourdough express will be next. Every Sunday an email comes out from Hudson Oven owner Chase Harnett of Ossining around 10am. Sign up is free.

"No loaves are spoken for. It's first come first serve. Currently we have just one roaming cabinet. I am prepping to launch a subscription model with multiple cabinets in towns all over the Hudson valley. But there will always be one roaming unit," Harnett told us.

And the payment system is based on the honor code, with the sign reading "Leave what you think its worth to support the next bake," and a box to drop in on average \$6, although Chase said he would like to see \$8-\$10 per but doesn't set a price. Most pay cash but Venmo is also accepted. "Dough for Dough," as he likes to call it.

One problem, The Hudson Oven Sunday fun-great bread event has gotten so popular, (more than 2,000 email subscribers and 3,000 instagram followers) that once the email goes out from Harnett on Sunday morning, you usually have about three hours max. to get to the location before all of the 80 loaves are gone.

"Made my Sunday when we came across this gem at Peekskill waterfront. Please think of something fun for Xmas we all need a little Hudson oven in our lives right this very minute Love the bread!" said another reviewer.

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Is it me or is something wrong with this picture? As of Sunday, ten million New Yorkers will be fighting to obtain one of the 300,000 Covid-19 vaccinations that are available every week state wide. The number was 7 million before the Governor announced 3 million additional people with serious health issues would be eligible for signing up for the vaccine as of Sunday.

People are on pins and needles to begin with. And now we add 3 million people to the mix. Have you tried going on the New York State website to get a vaccine. Either its broken as I file this column or someone is playing a game.

Sites from Westchester County Center up to Potsdam were listed with appointments available if you met eligibility criteria. This was at 9:30 p.m. Monday night and 8:30 a.m. Tuesday the morning I file my column. But when you attempted to book an appointment at Westchester County Center, Jones Beach, Aqueduct Racetrack, the Javits Center, Stony Brook Albany even our old friend Potsdam where people have toilet bowl planters on their front yards growing plants you got bubkis. That's the Yiddish word for nothing.

Popup sites like the one at the Nodine Hill Community Center in Yonkers are being run by organizations we never heard of, don't know how to contact and their appointments are filled up. I went to visit the site at Nodine Hill at 7 p.m. last Friday night to see what was going on. There was one of these big recreational vehicles with its lights on and a security guard in a pickup up truck in the parking lot. There was a man in the pickup truck who told me the site was busy all morning and a few people there in the late afternoon.

I was trying to arrange a shot for a relative and learned the next day that all the slots were filled up at the Nodine Hill pop-up. So much for that. But the mystery still lingers as to how the people scheduled for the Covid shot got on the list. Where were these people coming from? I thought the purpose of the popup locations was to serve the community were they are located?

We have Dr. Anthony Fauci all over television and radio saying that the way to stop the virus and the spread is to get vaccinated which we should do as quickly as possible. The same message coming from President Biden and Governor Cuomo. Have they tried to log on to the states website to schedule an appointment?

Friends, I really think we need to take a pause in this vaccine debacle. The President of the United States has got to muster every available company and resource in this country to produce Covid-19 vaccinations. Forget

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News in Yonkers and around Westchester

Food Delivery Fees-Charges Under



In Yonkers, Council President Mike Khader has proposed a local law creating a new chapter of City Code concerning third party delivery services.

A draft of the law states, "The City Council seeks to protect and promote the small businesses and restaurants in the City of Yonkers. Delivery service providers have been charging very large fees to the small business and restaurants.

§ 32-2 Cap on Delivery Third Party Services. It shall be unlawful for a third-party delivery service to charge a food establishment or its customer a delivery fee or any other surcharge of more than 10%.

Many restaurants and take out establishments have been complaining for some time about the large delivery fee forced upon them.

"Did you know that when you order from Grubhub or Uber Eats they take 30% from the restaurant you are ordering from? Yes, 30%!

So many of the local restaurants in Westchester & NYC work on 30% margins and less in many cases.

"These companies also tie the hands of your favorite restaurant. If a restaurant works with Grubhub or UberEats they MUST (according to a contract) offer all specials to both the in-house customer and the app customer. This means that technically, a restaurant can't provide a FREE appetizer to a frequent customer or a discounted price to someone who dines with them several times per week unless that SAME offer is made on Grubhub and UberEats to everyone.

"These two companies are spending millions of dollars in advertising to make you think they are helping local restaurants during the COVID-19 shutdown, all while they are just taking advantage of an unprecedented time in our history," wrote one unhappy restaurant owner.

Take a look at your food delivery bill the next time to see how much you are being charged.

Holocaust Remembrance Day Never Forgotten in Westchester



Betty Migdol, with a photo of Holocaust survivors

January 27 was Holocaust Remembrance Day, and 76 years after the liberation of Auschwitz, #WeRemember the millions of lives lost in the Holocaust and recommit to fighting hate and intolerance everywhere.

We remember, with respect, the victims of the Holocaust and take the time to reflect on the depths that humanity can sink to, but also the ways that individuals and communities resisted that darkness, before, during, and after this tragedy.

Yonkers' resident and Holocaust survivor Betty Migdol, who was recognized by City Council President Mike Khader and the entire City Council in 2018, shared her story once again, with the Council President and his staff.

"After the Holocaust, I was left without parents, a home, or any money. I didn't know what I was going to do. Then my cousins, who also survived, said to me that the Americans were setting up Displaced Persons Camps in Germany and they are going to it. I asked if they would take me too and they did. They supported me both emotionally and financially until we got to the Americans. Here I am in the picture of us in the DP camp. Today I have 2 daughters, 5 grandchildren, and 6 great-grandchildren. I went through an unthinkable period in my life and came out stronger than anyone should have to be. Now I'm blessed to have a beautiful family and a great life here in Yonkers."

Betty Migdol has been a Yonkers resident since 1970. Migdol was born Dec. 19, 1927, the third of six children, to a religious and poor family in Ruscova, Romania, a small town in the Carpathian Mountains. In 1944, when she was 16, the Hungarians who had moved into her town rounded up all the Jews and sent them first to a ghetto and then on transport trains to the Auschwitz death camp. After six months at Auschwitz, she was sent to a slave labor camp.

When the war ended in 1945, Migdol fled from the Russian soldiers who were cruel to young girls, and was able to make her way home, where in Ruscova, she found out that any other family members who were sent to concentration camps died.

In 1947, she was able to cross the Atlantic Ocean to come to New York, where her new life began. A few weeks later she met Harry Migdol and they married in 1949, had two daughters, and owned a business. Incredibly, she put the horrors of her teenage years behind her, and kept her love for the Jewish religion. Migdol has long been a member and supporter of Chabad of Yonkers.

"We have learned so much from Betty and continue to learn from her strong and deep respect that she has for Judaism," said Rabbi Mendy Huwitz of the Greyston Jewish Center Chabad of Yonkers. "As Betty continues to be a proud, strong Jew, we want to give this opportunity to every Jew – no matter of their level of observance – that they, too, can be victorious over the Holocaust."

If you know of a Holocaust Survivor who lives in Westchester who would like to tell their story, we would love to feature it. Email us at dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

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Sustainable Westchester Appoints Nina Orville Executive Director



Nina Orville

Sustainable Westchester is pleased to announce the appointment of Nina Orville as the organization's new Executive Director effective February 25, 2021. Nina Orville brings decades of experience in sustainable solutions and policy. Her fiscal and management experience makes her uniquely qualified to lead the organization.

"We are thrilled to have her on board," said Nancy Seligson, Sustainable Westchester Board Co-chair. "Nina's knowledge and leadership and her well-deserved reputation earned her the appointment among a nationwide search," noted Sustainable Westchester Board Co-chair Laura Rossi.

Nina Orville said, "I am honored to have the opportunity to lead Sustainable Westchester. It has a bold vision of clean energy and sustainability to continue to serve as a model in New York State, and beyond. The partnership with local governments delivers clear results to Westchester residents at scale I am particularly motivated to ensure that the organization has a sharp focus readdressing environmental inequities across our diverse county."

As a member of the Sustainable Westchester team, for the last several years, Nina has successfully led the organization's solar programs. She previously directed the celebrated Solarize Westchester program with rooftop solar campaigns in partnership with 22 municipalities. Nina was also instrumental in the launch of the HeatSmart Westchester program, which brings clean heating solutions to Westchester communities.

As founding Executive Director of the Southern Westchester Energy Action Consortium, Nina contributed to the formation of Sustainable Westchester. Earlier in her career, she worked in the venture capital arena as part of a management team.

Nina's commitment to sustainability and environmental issues is evident across the County. She is a 17-year resident of Westchester and a member of the Dobbs Ferry Sustainability Task Force, where she served as chair for 10 years. She is on the Board of the Westchester Chapter of the New York League of Conservation Voters and is a member of the Advisory Board of Groundwork Hudson Valley. Nina has also served as a Co-Chair of the Energy Committee of the Mid-Hudson Regional Sustainability Coalition and has been a key partner in successful clean energy initiatives throughout the region.

Section 3 Work Opportunity

MDG Design + Construction is currently seeking construction Section 3 eligible applicants for a moderate rehabilitation project, Kingsley House Located in White Plains, NY.

Section 3 eligible applicants are invited to submit a resume for the work in the following trades:

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- Carpenter
- Construction Laborer

Work is to be performed in White Plains under Davis Bacon Act (prevailing wage) requirements.

Section 3 residents are:

- Public housing residents or
- Persons who live in the area where a HUD-assisted project is located and who have a household income that falls below HUD's income limits.

For more Section 3 information: <https://www.hud.gov/section3>

Eligible applicants must have an active Osha 30 card. If interested in applying, please send a resume with the position desired to:

Jennifer Monaghan at JMonaghan@mdgny.com

LM Lions & Sedona Team to Support CRC Eviction Protection



LM Lion Diane Oldham, Sedona's Bill Jablonski and CRC's (and LM Lion) Jirandy Martinez

The Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions joined with Mamaroneck's Sedona Tap House Monday's Dine Out for Charity to raise funds for the Community Resource Center's (CRC) eviction relief program

During the current Coronavirus Rent Moratorium, the CRC has been working with our communities at risk households to keep them in their homes. They identify those in need, and through partnerships provide legal counseling, negotiations with the landlords and funding direct negotiated payments to the landlords.

Every month on every Monday, Sedona donates \$2 per steak meal to a local service group or project. To encourage support at both lunch and dinner, they offer their \$18 steak meal for only \$10. The LM Lions & Sedona teamed up in January to support the CRC's eviction protection effort. The Lions agreed to match Sedona's donation, which was \$610 (305 meals served). Individual Lions have made separate donations to increase the Lions total to \$1000. Checks totaling \$1610 were presented to CRC director Jirandy Martinez.

Monday's in February, Sedona is supporting the STEM alliance Robotics program. In March Sedona & the Lions will again team in support of the Fuller Center, which builds & remodels homes to be owned by those in need. They also respond to local emergencies with food, clothing, and supplies appropriate to the need.

These partnerships are an extension of the LM Lions effort to bring our community's service organizations and resources together to address local needs.

The LM Lions are part of the Lions Clubs of the Sound Shore, and Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service organization.

SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE

THEATRE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT

Our Yonkers, Our Youth, Our Stories

A Sunday Series with Annie Lanzillotto

Special Guests:

2/14 - Kwame Johnson Founder, YTI (Youth Theatre Interactions)

3/14 - Marcus C. John and Tyreek Kidd Spoken Word, Music and Youth

4/11 - Lisa Scott Director, WJCS Center Lane, LGBTQ+ Youth Programs

Allen Lang - SLC Faculty, SLC Theatre and Civic Engagement Director

William Catanzaro - SLC Faculty, Series Musician/Composer

All events at 6pm ET • Run time 50 minutes

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• Registration through Eventbrite •

The Sarah Lawrence College Theatre & Civic Engagement program, in partnership with the Yonkers Public Library, is pleased to present "Our Yonkers, Our Youth, Our Stories" - a virtual event series that explores essential youth programs in Yonkers, along with the amazing people who develop, create, and run them. The first production is scheduled for Sunday, February 14, 2021 at 6 p.m. and will highlight Sarah Lawrence alumnus Paul Kwame Johnson '74, co-founder of Youth Theater Interactions, a youth performing arts studio and education center in Yonkers. Alumna and Yonkers resident Annie Lanzillotto MFA '90 - a poet and storyteller - will host the virtual event series.

"Our Yonkers, Our Youth, Our Stories explores the role of the seer, the doer, the visionary who makes a difference in our community by creating, leading, developing essential and innovative programming that involves youth," said Allen Lang, director of the Sarah Lawrence College Theatre Civic Engagement program. "Our Yonkers Our Youth Our Stories is an opportunity to hear, to make connections, and to share our own stories."

"Our Yonkers, Our Youth, Our Stories" is supported by the Mellon Foundation, which awarded Sarah Lawrence College a \$1.2 million five-year grant in 2019 to advance and support civic engagement through the arts and humanities in Westchester County. The award is the largest programmatic grant in Sarah Lawrence history and seeks to cultivate collaboration across the many cultural hubs of Yonkers and Westchester County, like the Yonkers Public Library, the Hudson River Museum, Warburton, and Yonkers Public Schools. Registration is available for Feb 14 through Eventbrite-----

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Richard Thomas, continued from pg 2-

clashed with Comptrollers Maureen Walker and Deborah Reynolds.

“The only nightmare is the one we are living now with the incompetence in City Hall. The people in charge there and the Political Mob that protects them are dangerous. Mount Vernon needs safety and structure. I re-submit my fighting spirit and proven results to serve and save Mount Vernon as its next Comptroller,” wrote Thomas in his recent campaign comments on Facebook.

Two other candidates have announced for Mt. Vernon Comptroller: City Council President Marcus Griffith and former auditor and congressional candidate Derickson Lawrence. Comptroller Reynolds has yet to announce if she will seek re-election.

Griffith has wanted to serve as Comptroller since 2009 when he ran and lost against then Comptroller Maureen Walker and will give up another run for Council to do so this year. Derickson Lawrence has been an independent democratic voice in Mt. Vernon for decades. He ran for Congress in 2018 and is a former auditor with KPMG and currently serves as a financial consultant.

Mayor Patterson-Howard has not said who she supports but questioned whether Thomas and Reynolds can serve without oversight from the State.

One Sound Shore Democrat said, “If Thomas does the right thing, and works to fix the City’s problems, then his political future could be bright again, and he could seek office outside of Mt. Vernon.”

While we are all hoping that America makes a comeback after we all get vaccinated, the voters in Mt. Vernon will decide if Thomas can be trusted with their tax dollars, and if they will validate his comeback.

Editor’s Note: The Mt. Vernon Democratic Committee met last week and nominated Rev. Darren Morton for Comptroller with 52% of the district leaders, Derickson Lawrence received 43% of the vote, and Richard Thomas with 5%.

Notice of formation of Panza NY 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, 640 Van Cortlandt Pk Ave Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Byrd Enterprises, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/21/20. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 249 Hoover Road, Yonkers NY. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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 ROTTINGPUMPKINLLC. filed with the SSNY on 11/30/2020. 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, PO Box 186 Armonk, NY 10504. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of HAPPINESSJONESLLC. filed with the SSNY on 11/30/2020. 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, PO Box 186 Armonk, NY 10504. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

JAMES HARDEE ENTERPRISES LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/01/2021. 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, 20 Bonnefoy Place Apt.3 New Rochelle, NY 10805. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Miss DQ, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/19/21. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 154 Buena Vista Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Simple Wishes LLC. Filed with the SSNY on 01/05/2021. Office Westchester County. SSNY designed 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 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 MASSIVE ATM LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/30/2018. 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, 1 Glenwood Ave, apt 6D, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Empowered Wealth, LLC. Art. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 10/1/2020. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Empowered Wealth, LLC. 41 Dellwood Road, Bronxville, NY 10708. Purpose: to provide financial planning purposes.

Notice of formation of ThirdByrd, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/23/2020. 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, 249 Hoover Road, Yonkers NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

about repealing all the lunacy from the Trump administration for 100 days. Get the scientists, laboratories and logistics people together and come up with a plan for the prompt, efficient and effective programming for combating this virus and getting everyone inoculated as quickly as possible.

Otherwise it won’t be until maybe the end of the year before we get everyone inoculated and finally get this virus under control. How many more lives are we going to have to lose before this happens. Why aren’t the powers that be using all the resources at their disposal to solve this problem?

Let’s not second guess whether the United States procured enough vaccinations when they were available on the market. Or if the dam virus came from Wuhan, China via person to person contact or animal to animal to person contact. We’ve got to expend all of our varied resources to stop the spread of this virus and get people back to work and back to school and the economy back on track.

Mary Wilson, a member of the Supremes died earlier this week. One of the groups signature songs was, ‘Stop in the Name of Love.’ Let’s stop what we are doing in the name of love and work collectively to eradicate this virus that has caused so much death, tragedy and destruction in our country.

Now for the rest of the story:

What was your favorite Super Bowl commercial? Did you even watch the Super Bowl? It’s really no fun without a party and hopefully to stop a super spread of coronavirus you didn’t have or attend one this year. I can’t wait until next year when my friend Renee puts out her lavish spread.

It’s time for candidates for office in New York State to go door to door seeking your signature to get on the ballot. Last year, a Statewide election year the Governor cut the number of signatures needed to get on the ballot. This year a local election year as of date he has not. Talk about a super spreader Governor. The time is now to deal with it before more people get sick or die.

Travel companies are offering \$99 trips to China including hotels and sightseeing (air fare not included) starting a year from now. Are you willing, even if it is refundable to take the gamble?

Loony Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene has been stripped by Congress of all her Committee assignments. Isn’t it nice to see Congress do something right and promptly!

Oy, another Trump impeachment trial begins this week. Should he be impeached? After stirring up the crowd of course. But I wish Congress would put this trial off to another time and focus on dealing with the coronavirus and relief for the American People.

I’m tired of politicians and other so called ‘leaders’ saying that there is not enough information about the coronavirus in minority communities for individuals to make decisions to get vaccinated. They are putting down a segment of the population who is educated and fully understands the pandemic we are going through. I know some of you out there are not going to be happy with what I said. But when I talk to my African American and Hispanic friends about the virus they are very well aware of what is going on. The fear is in all communities, made even worse by a vaccination distribution system that is broke. Stop putting down members of minority communities and improve the infrastructure from signing up for the vaccine to getting it in people’s arms.

How terrible were the pictures from last Sunday of people black, white, Hispanic, Asian and I’m sure I missed other groups waiting in the snow at the Westchester County Center in long lines for vaccinations. There was no better way to handle it then to have people freezing out in the cold?

I outdoor dined in New York City Saturday night. It wasn’t that cold, and the \$1000’s of dollars in protection the restaurant owner put up with heaters kept us, dressed in winter jackets comfortably warm for the 45 minutes we spent enjoying each other’s company!

Tuesday, February 9th was National Pizza Day. Did you know pizza started in the United States, not Italy. Everyone knows Yonkers has the best pizza!

A friend walked into a deli in NJ and the 7 guys behind the counter were maskless. This is probably the case in 1% of 1% of delis in America. Say something to management. Or leave!

Happy Valentine’s Day to all the lovers and all you special people out there! Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisyonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericnyonkers. 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.

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Editorial: George Washington, Truth and Lies

When I was a kid growing up in Far Rockaway, I was inquisitive, or so I'm told. Even in my stroller days I would ask each person who stopped to chat: "Who you?" One gentleman had the audacity to say he was George Washington, to which I replied: "Aren't you dead?" I remember that story as a beacon because we were taught to revere our first president not for all his bravery, but for always telling the truth. We were told that he chopped down a cherry tree, as ridiculous as that sounds, and when asked about it he owned up to it, saying: "I cannot tell a lie." You might say that was the gold standard for behavior. This story was so ingrained in us kids that in art class we all drew hatchets and cherry trees to celebrate him. Well, George Washington really is dead and so are many of the principles he embodied, including the strict adherence to truth. There were no alternative facts. In today's world, we have allowed the normalization of lies, and it has been to our peril. How we go forward now to restore truth and dignity in our civic dialogue is in question. And, while it is the sworn oath of all of our presidents, it is really up to all of us to elevate truth-telling to its rightful honor. If George could do it, we can too.

Janet Langsam, CEO, ArtsWestchester

Yorktown democrats, continued from pg 1

ment, and caring for all the residents of Yorktown," states the Yorktown democrats in their release.

One Yorktown democrat told us that "Lanny has other obligations now that he didn't have two years ago. He can serve on the Town Board but decided against running for Supervisor again."

Democrat Town Councilperson Vishnu Patel is running for re-election. "A resident of the Town for 48 years, Vishnu Patel was a scientist at IBM for 36 years. He is currently serving his fifth term as Town Councilperson. Patel has a wife and is a proud grandfather of four. He advises local science students with their projects, is an active volunteer with local Scout groups, and was named by the Patch as Citizen of the Year for his dedication to the students of Yorktown, and to various groups including the Boy Scouts of America. Vishnu was honored in 2011 as Inventor of the Year by the Eastern New York Intellectual Property Law Association. Both Gilbert and Patel are compassionate, thoughtful, and driven. They both believe that residents need to be provided with as much information as possible, and that everyone deserves to have their voices heard," stated the democrats release.

The Democrats' choice for Town Justice is Aviah Cohen Pierson. A lifelong resident of Yorktown, Ms. Cohen Pierson is an attorney with 15 years of experience. She has served as a court attorney, as a member of the Yorktown Board of Ethics, and as a litigator in state and federal courts. She is currently the Chief Legal Officer at ENT and Allergy Associates. Ms. Cohen Pierson is a mother and was active as an officer of the PTA of the Yorktown School District. Ms. Cohen Pierson will be the first woman to serve as Town Justice in our town's long history," wrote the Yorktown democrats (yorktowndemocrats.org)

Some Westchester republicans see Slater as a rising star in the party. "Matt beat Lanny two years ago in a close race, but not close enough where Lanny wanted to change his new jobs to run again. But the fact that Lanny didn't run again points to the popularity of Supervisor Slater. Matt is young and energetic. He is well spoken and for the first time in a long time, a Supervisor in Yorktown is running unopposed," said Westchester Republican David Tilsdale.

Black History Month column, continued from pg 1-

Advice: "You are here for a purpose... no matter who tries to tell you otherwise."

The Artist: You've probably seen her artwork somewhere across the country. Inspired by her father and many other artists, Shanequa Benitez (@SocialIcon) has had her artwork displayed everywhere from Yonkers to Harlem. A person of color who wears her city on her back, Shanequa proudly told me, "I am Yonkers." She represents Yonkers, and the town represents her. Her Yonkers representation was evident during her Art Exhibition Never Conform, a smash hit in the city. Despite her successes through art and her self-made clothing brand, Shanequa told me that she's "only scratched the surface" with her work.

Advice: "Be confident and be proud of who you are."

The Connector: Founder of the Stop & Shake Initiative, Hector Santiago (@PeoplesMayor), is one of the leading activists in Yonkers. Yonkers Voice described the initiative as one that "encourages members of the police department to avoid miscommunication with [the] community by reaching out and introducing themselves through a common greeting." When asked who he is, without hesitation, Hector says, "before anything, I'm a dad. I'm a dad who became active for my kids." Santiago is "a mediator and a consultant for the Yonkers community."

Advice: "Save money and learn as much as possible."

The Mentor: He's a youth advocate and a motivational speaker. Founder and Director of 914United, Jonathan Alvarez (@Visionaire), is making a name for himself by mentoring young adults across Yonkers. Jonathan changed his life, so he could help change the lives of others. In an interview with me, he said that he wants to "help steer our youth into a promising future." Jonathan's thriving to create a full-on youth mentorship organization that supports those returning home from incarceration, amongst other things.

Advice: "Learn financial literacy to secure financial freedom."

Hudson Oven, continued from pg 3-

Locations are along the Hudson River from Hastings to Beacon.

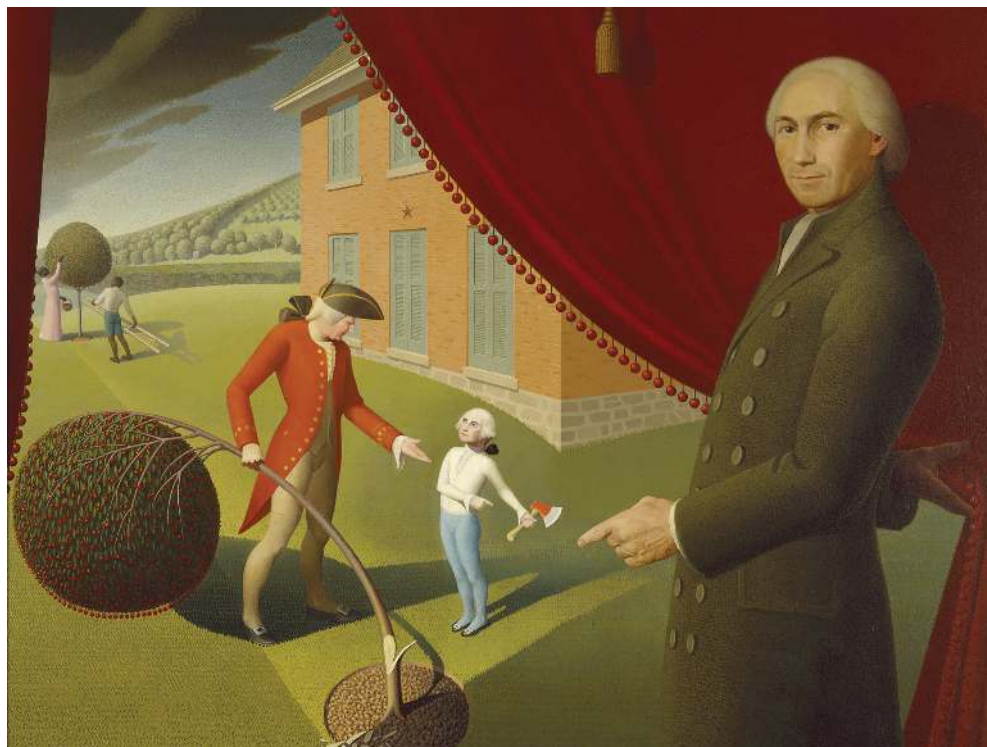
Harnett got the idea talking about "big ideas" with his dad growing up in Rockland County. He enjoys providing an experience both in the quality of the bread and the enjoyment of finding it. While he claims that all ideas come from somewhere else, this combined experience, the email, the cabinet, the hunt, is unique and add to it the fact that all of us are trapped at home during COVID, and you have something special.

There is also a Wood Fired Pizza dynamic to Harnett and Hudson Oven. Pre-Pandemic, Chase used to drive up and down the Hudson River Valley to festivals, breweries and other events in his truck and oven.

Now he is available for private parties and any other happening. "Our standard Pizza party offering is designed to offer the most value at the most efficient price while maintaining crowd pleasing standards. 40 Margherita pizzas will be made over the course of three hours. Setup requires 1.5 hours and pack up takes 30 mins for a total of 5 hours on site," writes Barnett.

We leave you in the hopes that you have become interested, as I have, in this journey for a great loaf of bread. In New York City, pre-pandemic we lovers of great food, be it a dumpling, or crepes or bread, would criss cross the city searching for that great treat.

That journey is now here in Westchester and along the Hudson. I await my first email from Chase, which will end with "Have a Sour Sunday."



Vaccination progress in Westchester, continued from pg 1

centers, public housing complexes and cultural centers. These sites are expected to vaccinate over 25,000 people throughout the week, with more sites coming online every week. Since January 15, the deployment of these kits have enabled nearly 9,000 New Yorkers to receive their first COVID-19 vaccine dose that these community-based pop up sites. As has been the case with previous pop-up sites, these sites will be re-established in three weeks to administer second doses.

The Westchester Pop-up locations are:

Grace Baptist Church

52 S. 6th Avenue

Mt. Vernon, NY

Open Thursday, February 4 and Friday, February 5 – By Appointment Only

Provider Partnership: Mount Vernon Neighborhood Health Center

Nodine Hill Community Center

140 Fillmore Street

Yonkers, NY

Open Thursday, February 4 – Saturday, February 6 – By Appointment Only

Provider Partnership: Sun River Health

Kiley Youth Center

709 Main Street

Peekskill, NY

Open Saturday, February 6 – By Appointment Only

Provider Partnership: New York Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital

Johnson & Johnson's COVID Vaccine is expected to receive FDA emergency approval at the end of February and immediately start to deliver doses across the country, and the US Government has ordered 100 million doses of the J&J Vaccine, which the company expects to be able to deliver by June.

The J&J vaccine, created with Janssen Pharmaceutical, requires only one shot per person. The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines require two doses per person. The J&J vaccine can also stay potent for up to three months at regular refrigerated temperatures.

By the time that J&J's 100 Million doses are delivered across the US in June, there should be a fourth vaccine available as Novavax continues its work on a vaccine and could have 100 million doses available in June.

Pfizer will have delivered 200 million doses, or 100 million, two -shot vaccines by July, and Moderna's vaccine will have 100 million doses of vaccine by the end of March and an additional 100 million by June.

There is progress, and hope, that this summer, all residents of Westchester will have been able to get a vaccine. And as more Americans get the vaccine, hopefully fewer Americans will get COVID.

That is good news—read it and share it.

SALT Repeal, continued from pg 1-

country, and Rockland homeowners pay the 2nd highest. "When it comes to SALT, if you think Westchester and Rockland families needed and deserved this money before the coronavirus took hold, the stakes are even higher now because the cap is costing this community tens-of-thousands of dollars they could be using amid the crisis," said U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer.

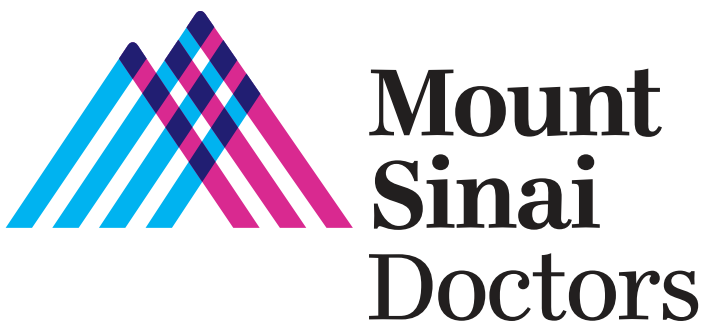
"That is why I am proud to work with Congressman Jones to restore our full SALT deduction in this Congress. Double taxing hardworking homeowners is plainly unfair; We need to bring our federal dollars back home to the to cushion the blow this virus—and this harmful SALT cap—has dealt so many homeowners and families locally."

"I am proud to join my colleagues to introduce legislation to repeal the cap on the State and Local Tax deduction, a cynical policy passed by Republicans as a way to repay wealthy donors and lobbyists with big corporate tax cuts," said U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.

"New York needs the full SALT deduction restored to offer hard working middle class families tax relief," said NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. "Savings from deductions could mean the difference between having enough for food or medicine during this pandemic. I have called on Congressional partners and supported restoring the full SALT Deduction, and I applaud Congressman Mondaire Jones and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer for taking up the bill."

"I want to thank US Congressman Mondaire Jones for his work, in conjunction with US Senator Chuck Schumer, to restore the State and Local Tax or 'SALT' deduction," said Westchester County Executive George Latimer. "This federal tax law is not only double taxation, but it also unfairly targets communities like Westchester County – and every homeowner in this County is a victim. In Westchester, where the average home is valued at \$691,392.00, our homes are our greatest asset and this cap is a hit to our wallet."

"I urge the federal administration to reinstate the SALT deduction in full," said State Senator Shelley Mayer. "The move to cap the SALT deduction, a longstanding principle of tax law, was politically motivated and unconscionable. Since the SALT deduction was capped in 2017, families and homeowners in my district have been suffering under an added financial burden of double taxation, penalizing them for crucial state and local investments in essential services and public schools."



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