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Friday January 29, 2021

## Trump Pardons Pirro



Jeanine Pirro, with former President Trump at The White House

By Dan Murphy

As we all waited to see who was on President Donald Trump's pardon list in the final hours of his presidency, I hadn't heard of, or thought of, a possible pardon for Al Pirro.

But the last minute decision by Trump to pardon the ex-husband of former Westchester DA and current Fox News host Jeanine Pirro was issued on the morning of January 20, just 45 minutes before Trump left the White House and President Joe Biden took the oath of office.

The headlines referred to Mr. Pirro as 'Tax Cheat' Al Pirro, who received a full pardon for his crimes of conspiracy and tax evasion back in 2000. A. Pirro illegally claimed \$1.2 Million in business deductions that were personal expenses instead.

At his sentencing, Al confessed, saying "I clearly did not fulfill my responsibilities to make a diligent enough effort to disclose my tax returns." He was sentenced to 29 months in federal prison, and served 17 months at a 'Club Fed.'

Pirro's pass was a part of 74 total pardons handed out by Trump, who also commuted the sentences of 70 other criminals. Rapper Lil Wayne and former Trump campaign chairman Stephen Bannon, were among the notable pardons with Pirro. Jared Kushner father, Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort and friend-advisor Roger Stone had their sentences commuted.

The Pirro's divorced in 2013, but during the 1990's were Westchester's power couple. Jeanine was elected District Attorney three times, in 1993, 1997 and 2001. Her victory in 2001 happened while Al was in jail.

Al was the top lobbyist and attorney for developers who wanted their projects built in the county. His clients included the Cappelli's and yes, then New York City developer Donald Trump.

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## Two Yonkers County Board Races in Play



Dwanita Crosby, left, and James Nolan, right, are two new candidates for the County Board of Legislators

By Dan Murphy

Two of Yonkers four seats on the Westchester Board of Legislators will have contested elections in 2021. Dwanita Crosby made her announcement for County Legislator in the 16th District on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

"Following in the footsteps of Vice -President Kamala Harris, who announced her candidacy in 2019 on MLK Jr. Day, longtime democrat and community activist Dwanita Crosby announced today that she is running for Westchester County Legislator for District 16," said Crosby, who introduced herself to Yonkers Democrats during a candidates night with Ward and District leaders. Crosby will also attend the Yonkers Democratic Party's virtual convention on January 27.

"Giving back to my community was instilled in me at an early age. After years of working behind the scenes in government, now is the time for me to have a seat at the table and advocate for the people of my city, community, and county.

Crosby, a single mother of a son, has 15 years of experience working in government and in Yonkers City Hall. She also has more than 20 years of

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## Former Byram Hills High School Student Arrested for Capitol Raid



Brian Gundersen, charged by the FBI with attacking the Capitol Jan. 6

By Dan Murphy

In the days following the attack on the Capitol in Washington DC on Jan. 6, several Westchester residents identified a Byram Hills High School jacket among those attacking Capitol Police and forcing their way into the halls of Congress.

Calls were made to the FBI, who had been seeking information. Brian Gundersen, 26, a 2012 graduate of BHHS, was identified as a person of interest based on the #70 that was on the jacket in Washington was the same number that he played football with.

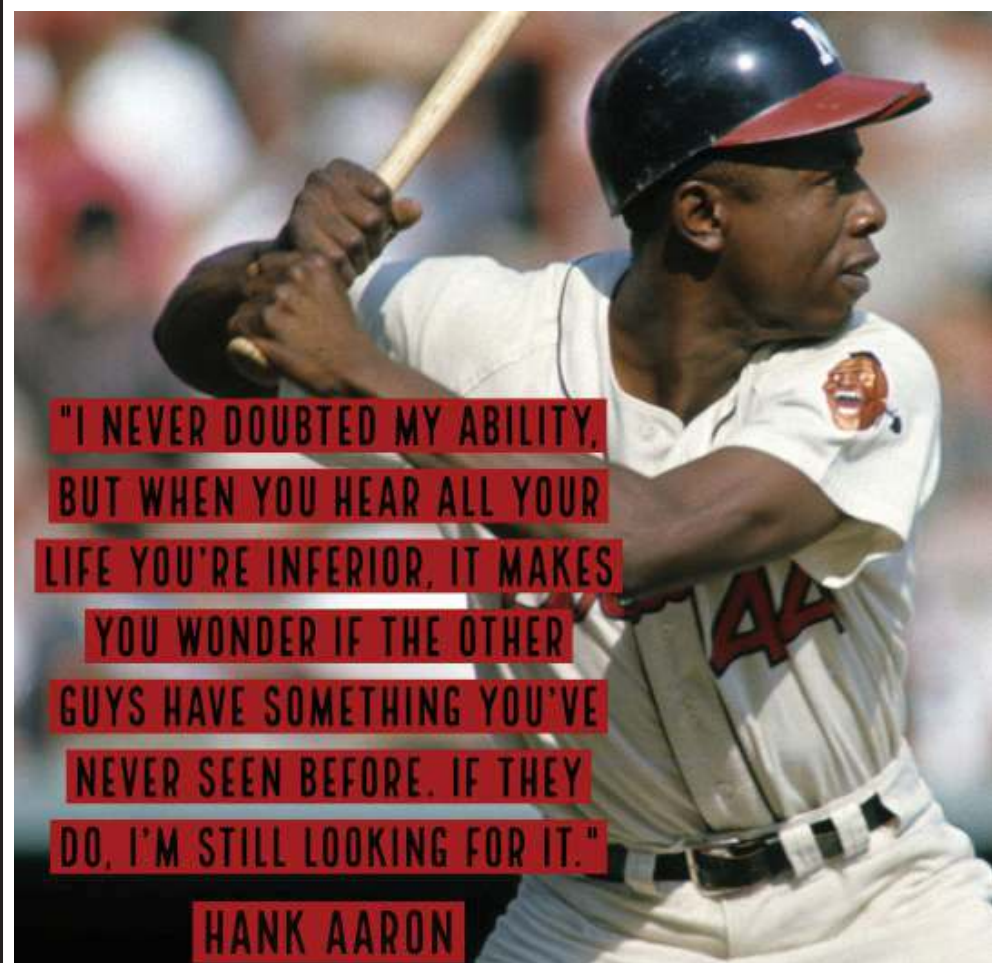
According to an FBI report, "On or about January 12, 2021, a police chief in North Castle, called the New York Operations Center (NYOC) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) stating that he had information related to the Capitol Building breach and riot. The police chief informed the FBI that the Superintendent of Byram Hills High School in Armonk, and multiple individuals of the community near Byram Hills High School, had determined that an individual at the riot was wearing a Byram Hills jacket. This determination was based upon photographs and videos of an individual appearing at the entrance to the Capitol Building.

Later that day, the police chief called the FBI again and stated the individual was believed to be Brian Gundersen. On January 18, 2021, FBI personnel requested a Digital Media review on Brian Gundersen. That review includes a search through the database that the FBI maintains on the many tips that the FBI has received from the public about the riots at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. That search returned a number of tips related to Gundersen.

On or about January 19, 2021, FBI Special Agents interviewed a witness with a close personal relationship with Gundersen, who advised that Gundersen was an avid supporter of former President Trump and a follower of commentator Nick Fuentes.

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## When Hank Aaron Came to Yorktown



By Dan Murphy

I loved baseball growing up as a kid in Northern Westchester, and I was a Yankee fan, but I enjoyed watching and learning about all the great players and their statistics that made up a Baseball Encyclopedia.

The biggest and most important baseball statistic and number was 714, which was the number of Home Runs hit by Babe Ruth. That was until April 8, 1974 at Fulton County Stadium in Atlanta, when Hank Aaron hit #715.

That video has been played repeatedly this past week after Aaron died at the age of 86 on Jan. 22. That clip I watched live with my family as a 7-year-old. The game was on national TV and although I loved the Yanks and the Babe, I admired Hank Aaron for hitting 715 home runs.

He is the Home Run king fair and square, I thought. Little did I know how much racism and hatred Aaron had to go through to hit that home run.

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## Food Drive Supports Hope Pantry



Club members at Hope Community Services. (l to r) Sarah Anna Jonas, Ann Sheridan, Zsuzsanna Baan-Jonas with Sister Mary (second from right) of Hope Community Services. Photo by Lorraine Stratis

Hope Community Services received a boost to their pantry thanks to the January 18, 2021, food drive sponsored by The Woman's Club of Larchmont, Inc. Members and non-members, (who had read about it on social media) donated generously, contributing over 600 items along with additional monetary donations.

Upon delivery to Hope in New Rochelle, Sister Mary and her assistant expressed their gratitude and mentioned how the number of families needing food has continued to increase over the past few months. The Club's continued support of donated items were very much appreciated once again.

Thanks to members of The Woman's Club of Larchmont who participated including Camille M. Odierna, Ann Sheridan, Sarah Anna Jonas, Anne-Mieke Smeets, Sheelah Mohan, Lorraine Stratis, Dorothy Krauss Rainier, Zsuzsanna Baan-Jonas.



Members of The Woman's Club of Larchmont, Inc. (l to r) Camille M. Odierna, Ann Sheridan, Sarah Anna Jonas, Anne-Mieke Smeets, Sheelah Mohan, Lorraine Stratis. Photo by Zsuzsanna Baan-Jonas

## Good Grief ! My Christmas Gift

### Mailed Dec. 18 Arrived Jan. 22!

Your gift will be arriving late or never

-Santa Clause

By Dan Murphy A

Note to the Post Office from Santa—ALL GIFTS ARE IMPORTANT

It's official: I will never be mailing another important package through the United States Post Office. Basic letters and such I will still drop in the box, but for the rest of my important packages its UPS or Fed Ex.

That is because a Christmas package that I mailed by Second Day US Mail on December 18 was received on January 22. The small box was sent from Northern Westchester NY, to upstate Massena NY, not across the country or overseas.

I had heard the warnings about getting your gifts out in the mail early for the Holidays 2020, and I thought that one week would be sufficient. I asked the Postal worker when she thought it would arrive if I sent it 2nd day. Her response should have told me that I was in trouble. "I can't guarantee a delivery before Christmas," she said.

I thought about sending next day but declined. Now I wonder if the package would have been received by Dec. 25 if I did spend \$25 on next day, or when would it have arrived?

The gift was for a dear friend of my brother in law. I mailed it to him to give to her from my wife and I. And guess what, I wanted it there before late January.

I don't have the energy or the time to find my receipt and track the package and find out what the heck happened. But I learned my lesson and will be going UPS or Fed Ex the next time around.

I know that I am not alone in my frustrating experience. The Philadelphia Inquirer wrote on Jan 16, "In U.S. Postal Service facilities in Pennsylvania and across the country, hundreds of thousands of items sent in late November and early December are sitting at the bottom of massive piles of delayed mail that continue to grow with new packages daily... as the agency continues to experience record package volumes amid the pandemic, the pile keeps growing. "Honestly, it's going to be at least six to eight weeks," to catch up, according to a postal clerk.

This is also an insane way of delivering packages. "The Pile" of mail is being delivered from the top of the pile to the bottom, but the bottom of the pile is where my Christmas gifts, (and maybe yours?) awaits delivery. The oldest piece of mail or package should be delivered first. Why is this such a difficult or impossible task?

The Inquirer story goes onto explain that UPS and Fed Ex began rejecting packages on a certain date before Christmas because they knew they could not deliver it on time. That is more responsible., and businesslike way to handle it.

My other thought about critical pieces of mail that may or may not have been delivered-Absentee ballots. If you mailed in your absentee ballot, how do you know that your ballot made it to the Board of Elections and was counted?

We can all see that absentee ballots are the way of the future. State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins has submitted a package of election reforms that strengthen the ability for New Yorkers to cast their ballot by absentee. And I'm ok with that, my wife and daughter and I all voted absentee in Nov. 2020, but I delivered the ballots to the BOE to make sure they were counted.

If 100 million Americans are going to vote by Absentee every four years, we need to ensure that the US Postal Service can deliver our ballots. And Santa also wants to make sure that all gifts are delivered on time.

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## Hastings Native in The Super Bowl as Tom Brady's Security "Guard"



Ali Marpet, left with 10 Super Bowl Quarterback Tom Brady

By Dan Murphy

Here's another reason for Westchester to root for Tom Brady and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in Super Bowl 55 next Sunday February 7. Hastings native Ali Marpet is the left guard for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

After playing high school football for Hasting High School, not known for its football program, he attended Hobart College in upstate New York.

He gained 70 pounds and became a standout player and NFL prospect. In 2015 he was invited to the Senior bow, where he drew the attention of several NFL teams. In the NFL draft Tampa Bay traded up to pick him in the 2nd round.

He was the first Division III player selected in the second round. Marpet immediately became a starter and played right guard, center, and left guard.

In 2018, before Brady joined the team, Marpet signed a 5 year contract extension for \$54.125 million, making him one of the highest-paid left guards in the league.

The team said Marpet has a combination of physicality, versatility, consistency, intelligence and communication skills. "It feels really good knowing that I've proven myself in the NFL," said Marpet, who now stands at 6-foot-4 and weighs 307 pounds. "It's a difficult thing to do, especially coming from a Division III school. I'm always happy to represent Division III players everywhere. It's possible for them to succeed at the next level."

Marpet was excited when Tom Brady agreed to sign with the Bucs, but protecting the GOAT Quarterback isn't really different from protecting Tampa Bay's other Quarterbacks. "I'm blocking my dude for as long as I possibly can. Hopefully, the quarterback gets it out on time, and hopefully my guy's not making a play."

This is Marpet's first trip to the playoffs and the Super Bowl. "The excitement is there," Marpet said. "I'm fired up to be playing with someone who has had so much success in the NFL. I think we all are, and to learn an approach to the game that we all hope can change the way we really take on each team."

Marpet has been rated as one of the top offensive guards in the NFL over the past six seasons, and is an offensive team captain. "For me, it's always been how can I hold up the longest and how can I win my block for as long as I can?"

Earlier this season, Marpet was out for two games with a concussion.

## Where's The Vaccinations? Empty Store Fronts!



By Eric Schoen

You are bombarded on the radio and television with commercials encouraging you to get the Covid-19 Vaccination as soon as you can. The President, former President, Dr. Fauci, celebrities, elected officials and other folks getting the vaccination at press conferences in the hope that it will encourage you to get vaccinated.

It's your turn, you are computer savvy and you go on the website to schedule an appointment. The closest appointment is in Potsdam, New York. Potsdam, where people put toilets on their lawns and fill them with plastic flowers. Six hours away from Yonkers. Close to the border of New York and Canada.

You better dress warm. Maybe Senator Bernie Sanders will lend you his warm coat and beautiful, toasty mittens he wore at the Inauguration so that you can keep warm. Or maybe put some lotion on your fingers and hands that have been busy typing away on the computer trying to get an appointment for a vaccine to loosen them up and cover them with the mittens so the lotion soaks in and they feel better.

Operation Warp Speed? It's warped. At the highest levels of government people haven't a clue as to how many vials of vaccine are out there or how many vials of vaccine states, counties, vaccine centers and pharmacies will receive on a weekly basis. Companies put dosages of vaccines in bottles and those administering the vaccines say they are getting an extra dose out of the vial. I have no problem with the extra dose, but vaccine makers don't how much vaccine they are putting in a uniform size vial?

Who do you have to know to get a COVID-19 vaccine. I have a relative whose doctor told her because of her health condition as soon as she can she must get the vaccine. A friend with cancer whose doctor told her to get the vaccine ASAP. And the Governor of New Jersey prioritizes people who smoke to get the vaccine over these people. That was the straw that broke the camels back.

When the vaccine first came out they published a list of pharmacies that were distributing it. I called at least a half a dozen of the pharmacies and they had no vaccines. I finally got through to a pharmacy on Allerton Avenue in the Bronx that was keeping 2 lists, one for group A and one for group B. I put my relatives name on the group B list (she is over 65) and haven't heard a peep. My guess is that pharmacies that got the vaccines are vaccinating their customers before they vaccinate the general public. Makes sense!

New York City Mayor on television saying that Yankee Stadium and Citi Field (Shea Stadium) will open up mass vaccination centers that to date haven't materialized due to shortage of doses. Why make these announcements making people hopeful only to have their dreams of a shot in their arm to protect them dashed!

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News in Yonkers and around Westchester

## Vaccine Hesitancy Among Communities of Color

Submitted by Open Door Medical Center

According to a December survey by the Pew Research Center, nearly 40 percent of Americans say they will definitely not or probably not get the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to them.

This is a significant finding, yet it is the overwhelming number of people of color living in underserved communities that most concerns health care providers like Open Door Family Medical Center.

"Communities of color have been hit hardest by the pandemic and are the same communities where vaccine hesitancy is most prevalent," said Dr. Daren Wu, chief medical officer at Open Door, a Federally Qualified Health Center with sites throughout the Lower Hudson Valley Region. "We tell our patients that the COVID-19 vaccines are safe – and critical for building the herd immunity necessary to end the pandemic."

According to Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Director of the Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the nation's leading infectious disease specialist, as many as 80 percent of Americans need to be vaccinated so the virus can't find enough new hosts.

### Mistrust in Communities of Color

According to research conducted this fall by Langer Research Associates, Unidos U.S., the NAACP and the COVID Collaborative, only 14 percent of Black respondents and 34 percent of Latino participants believe in the safety of a COVID-19 vaccine. A more recent poll released by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that Black Americans continue to remain skeptical about the vaccine with only 35 percent saying they definitely or probably would not get vaccinated, citing concerns about side effects and the newness of the vaccine.

"These findings are not surprising, said Dr. Wu. "They are due to a history of racial bias, mistrust of the American health care system, and access inequities. This skepticism certainly seems justified given the exploitation of communities of color by the medical establishment over the years."

History plays a role in this. Examples include such incidents as the Tuskegee experiment, where black men with syphilis were invited to gain free medical care, but were not treated so medical professionals could study them; and the sterilization of women in Puerto Rico, where as many as one-third of the female population was sterilized by the government with the goal to reduce poverty and unemployment.

In hopes of alleviating this gap, President Joe Biden has made vaccine access for communities of color a key feature of his \$1.9 trillion plan to confront the pandemic. The plan calls for creating more vaccination sites, such as mobile clinics, to get vaccine to hard-to-reach, marginalized communities in underserved areas.

Even prior to the pandemic, Open Door has worked closely with local clergy, elected officials and business leaders to improve public health outcomes with safety as a priority.

"We want the community to feel secure knowing that producers of these vaccines have strictly adhered to the necessary research, protocols and testing," said Dr. Wu. "The vaccines have been brought to market in record time because of massive funding and collaboration across the globe between private and government funders. They have not been rushed to the detriment of their safety or efficacy."

Decades of work, first years ago on the corresponding HIV spike protein and more recently on its counterparts from other viruses, including SARS, MERS, and seasonal coronaviruses, showed how best to design and produce the SARS-CoV-2 (i.e. Covid-19 version). Sophisticated methods to image the spike proteins via recent advances in electron microscopy allowed researchers and vaccine makers rapidly to study what they were making and gain assurances they were on the right track.

Dr. Wu stressed the importance of overcoming vaccine hesitancy at a time when a record number of Americans are being hospitalized and dying daily (an average of over 4,000). Westchester County has been hit hard, reporting the third highest rate of coronavirus infections in New York State.

Open Door has seen the surge in infections among its own patients. The positivity rate jumped to 29% in the final weeks of December, and Open Door is currently providing more than 1,000 tests per week.

"The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have gone through all phases of clinical trials," said Dr. Wu. "This means that they first had to be given to tens of thousands of volunteers during these trials to make sure they were safe. Since receiving the FDA's EUA (emergency use authorization) a little over a month ago, they have already been given to more than ten million Americans, with excellent safety reported to date."

Bottom line, he added, "The vaccines are super safe, super effective and the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones."

## Letters to the Editor:

Now is the time to dismantle systems of criminalization and incarceration which target Black and brown community members, criminalize poverty, and separate people from their families. Almost two dozen groups throughout the Hudson Valley have joined together to form the Decarcerate the Hudson Valley Coalition. This coalition will build power with community-based organizations, formerly incarcerated and directly impacted people, faith leaders and advocates across the Hudson Valley to demand lawmakers pass legislation that will create alternatives that advance justice and liberation for all and build a world where all of our communities have what they need to thrive.

We stand united in the belief that this is a critical moment in our country's history, one that requires moral clarity and bold action by our state's leaders. New York must act to ensure the basic human dignity for all and to create a world without cages.

Decarcerate the Hudson Valley is working on passing legislation focused on ending oppressive policing, decriminalizing drugs, reforming sentencing laws, connecting families, fixing the broken prison system, and protecting incarcerated peoples. The Coalition recognizes that these broad issues have manifested themselves in many reprehensible and harmful ways. We have a collection of bills that when implemented will tackle our racist and unjust criminal legal system and immigration system.

Join us as we follow the lead of those impacted and call for bold action!  
**Vanessa Agudelo, Hudson Valley Manager of Member Engagement  
 New York Immigration Coalition, Peekskill, NY**

Dear Yonkers Rising,

I feel lucky but have some questions. Under the NY 1b covid allocation my wife and I received our first moderna vaccine and in a few days we will receive our second shot. From what I have read within a week or two the vaccine will form antibodies against the covid-19 virus and in theory we can leave this horrible year behind us. The question I pose that nobody in government seems to have an answer to is, can we now go back to normal?

As a family we have done everything asked of us, testing regularly, limiting contact with our friends and family, keeping our daughter home with remote learning and of course masking up everywhere we go. I have heard "experts" say that even after the vaccination that we can still spread the corona virus,

I don't understand the science on this assertion however, If covid is transmitted via respiratory droplets from an infected person, then how can a fully vaccinated individual transmit when they won't be infected?

Perhaps someone with a science background in Yonkers can explain it to us because we would like to get back into the world without a mask.

Scott Dennis, Yonkers, NY

### Former BHHS arrested continued from pg 1-

The witness told agents that on the evening of January 5, 2021, he and Gundersen departed Pennsylvania for Washington D.C. to attend a January 6, 2021 rally for President Trump. The two became separated on the morning of January 6, 2021, due to logistical issues. Later that day, a second witness said that he was contacted by Gundersen who told him that he was in the Capitol building.

That night, the first witness met with Gundersen to return to PA, and was told by Gundersen that he had been in a large group by the Capitol Building steps. That group was disarming police officers of their riot shields, and Gundersen told the witness that when everyone else stormed into the Capitol Building, he followed everyone inside. Gundersen said that he walked around the halls but was never violent while inside the Capitol.

Gundersen sat down with FBI agents the day before President Biden was inaugurated. He initially claimed that he had never been to the US Capitol but later admitted he was there, claiming that he was pushed into the building by the mob. He agreed to the discovery of his phone, which gave a message in which he mentioned a photo covering members of Congress during the attack on the Capitol, which is "petrified."

In a message sent two days after the attack, Gundersen acknowledged his role in the attack. He wrote, (incoherent message with cursing that included "We tried to take over the government, and "They may have found me.)

Gundersen, according to court documents, told the FBI that he was pushed into the Capitol building by the crowd and that he was inside the building for about 10 minutes.

Gundersen faces charges of:

- 1- Knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted grounds without lawful authority;
- 2-Knowingly, with intent to impede government business or official functions,
- 3-Engaging in disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds;
- 4-Engaging in disorderly or disruptive conduct on the Capitol buildings or grounds;
- 5- Parading, demonstrating or picketing in the Capitol buildings.

Gundersen's father, and many in Armonk and the Town of North Castle, were both disappointed and embarrassed by Brian's behavior. The father told News 12 that, "politics is his religion. He is too into it."

Brian Gundersen is not in prison, he is in his mother's custody in Pennsylvania.

# WESTCHESTER RISING

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## New Rochelle HS Teacher Gets Six Months Jail for Rape of Student



**John Fraioli**

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that former New Rochelle High School teacher John Fraioli was sentenced today to six months of shock incarceration with 10 years of sex offender probation for engaging in sexual acts with a student. Fraioli also had to surrender his New York State teaching license, and will be required to register as a sex offender.

Fraioli pleaded guilty on October 13, 2020 to committing a criminal sex act in the third degree and rape in the third degree, relating to sexual acts with a teenage female student that took place in the school building and at his home in White Plains, respectively. Fraioli was initially arrested by New Rochelle Police in May, 2019.

The case was before the Honorable Susan Cacace, AJSC. In a victim impact statement read at the sentencing, the victim stated: "Even though I logically know I'm not to blame I still spent most days wondering if I could have done something different. I've had so many days, months, almost two years now wasted on unnecessary feelings of guilt, shame and embarrassment over something that wasn't my fault."

The victim's mother also read a victim impact statement. She noted the positive impact of teachers in her own life and said that teachers are meant to support, encourage and empower students. However, she stated, Fraioli did the opposite: "You stripped her of hope. You took full advantage of her vulnerability. You manipulated her. You used her. You preyed upon her.... My only hope is that in time she will be able to overcome the abuse you inflicted. My biggest fear is that she may not."

"It is truly disturbing that someone we trusted to protect and care for our children instead did such terrible harm, and the statements from the victim and her mother make clear the extreme and long-lasting impact of this abuse," DA Rocah said. "Our office will continue to aggressively pursue cases such as this one and to make the well-being of the victim our highest

The case was handled by Assistant District Attorney Mary Clark-DiRusso. Sex offender probation involves a rigorous term of 10 years of supervision by the County Department of Probation sex offense unit, with a strict set of guidelines that include among other things, mandatory participation in treatment, restrictions on daily living, travel, use of computers, employment and living conditions, regular submission to polygraph tests to monitor compliance and historical offending behavior, and regular supervision by the court to ensure compliance. It is also revocable at any indication of non-compliance. An individual on sex offender probation is not permitted to congregate with children under the age of 18 or to be present in places where they congregate.

Fraioli is due back in court on May 11 for a hearing to determine his sex offender risk level.

## Remote Learning Sites Announced

Westchester County Executive George Latimer is finding solutions for the new challenges faced each day due to the Covid-19 pandemic. To that end, Latimer is announcing the opening of "Remote Learning Centers" – sites where children of essential workers can safely and effectively attend a remote learning school day.

Latimer said: "The County government is working hard each day to overcome the many obstacles this pandemic has thrown the way of Westchester residents. Essential workers have no choice but to go to work so they can provide the services we all rely on, and this is another way for us to support them."

As of today, 17 Centers are operational with another 3 opening shortly. The centers provide remote learning assistance to the children of essential workers, aged 5 – 12, with some centers providing lunch and snacks.

While these centers have been operational since late last year, additional funding was provided so that they can run until the end of the 2020/2021 school year.

All centers have been provided with additional connectivity to allow for the children to connect to their virtual classrooms. Each center is screening the children as they arrive each day to monitor any potential Covid-19 spread. All staff and students are required to be masked.

Centers, which have a 1:5 staff to student ratio, are following the school calendars, in conjunction with the district that particular center is in.

For more information please contact Director of Policy and Programs, Childcare/Education Rosie Finizio at 914-995-2501 or rfinizio@westchestergov.com.

Finizio said: "Westchester County stands ready to assist first responders who are juggling keeping us safe and the educational needs of their child. Our staff is here to ensure your child has a safe, comfortable and nurturing place to navigate the new remote-learning world they have been forced into due to the Covid-19 pandemic."

## New Watchdog Group Formed to Protect Taxpayer \$\$\$\$



*By Dan Murphy*

A real estate friend of mine told me last year about a property in Mamaroneck, on the Sound Shore waterfront, that had a property tax bill or more than \$200,000 PER YEAR that was seeking a reduction or Tax Certiorari. I hope they got their reduction.

Several residents of the Village of Mamaroneck have joined in January 2021 to form an ad hoc taxpayer watchdog group, aiming to address growing concerns over perceived wasteful spending in the Village.

Calling themselves the "Mamaroneck Taxpayer Watchdogs," the group is ramping up challenges to decisions made by the Village that have resulted in a number of costly lawsuits in recent years. Litigation fees and settlements paid by the Village of Mamaroneck to fight development is in the millions, while a recent lawsuit launched by Planning Board Member Cynthia Goldstein has so far cost the Village nearly a quarter-million dollars in legal fees.

This rampant legal spending comes at a time when residents in the Village have been particularly hard hit by the pandemic which, according to Mayor Tom Murphy, has "affected the people with the least resources the most."

Murphy stated back in August that the Village's budget had been cut by approximately \$2.5 million, with the Village deferring capital projects and delaying hiring as a result.

"The spending by the Village board has proved to be both wasteful and costly to taxpayers," said Guisela Marroquin, a village resident and member of Mamaroneck Taxpayer Watchdogs. "We felt compelled to bring this fiscal negligence to light, so that more of the residents affected by these actions are made aware of just how big a problem it has become."

She notes that the group has created a website ([www.mamaronecktax-watch.com](http://www.mamaronecktax-watch.com)) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/mamaronecktaxpayer.watchdogs>) to keep the community informed about taxpayer spending in the Village. She invites others to join the cause.

Marroquin is particularly incensed by the irony of the Goldstein lawsuit. "As a result of the conflicts of having a member of a Village Committee/Board pursuing action stemming from an ethics complaint, the Village has paid nearly \$100,000 so far to the law firm of Leventhal, Mullaney & Blinkoff. A portion of those fees went towards research and drafting of documents for Ms. Goldstein to file an Article 78 petition against the Village. Essentially, the Village is paying attorneys to sue itself. All the while, there are Village residents who cannot meet their basic needs due to the turn in the economy and other effects of the current public health crisis and yet these legal matters come at a cost to all residents of the Village."

Mamaroneck Taxpayer Watchdogs argues that the Village continues to waste taxpayer dollars and opportunities for revenue by preventing reasonable development. For example, litigation expenses incurred to fight Westchester Day School, Mamaroneck Beach and Yacht Club, Ralph's Ices, Hampshire Country Club and Sheldrake Estates is now at nearly \$2 million. The settlement with Westchester Day School back in 2008 was \$4.75 million.

Daria Locher, a Mamaroneck School District resident and member of the new Watchdog group, believes that this behavior on the part of Village officials is to the detriment of the majority of village residents, who would benefit from the additional tax revenue generated by such development.

"I think if residents knew that the village has spent \$7 million dollars on failed lawsuits and lawyers over the past ten years, they would be appalled," notes Locher. "Well, I am here to tell you that they have in fact spent that kind of money. That money should have been spent on infrastructure, vital services, wellness and going back to taxpayers."

Echoing this sentiment is group member Kevin Duarte, a Village resident, who says he cannot understand how Mamaroneck officials can justify allocating so much money on legal fees, while at the same time cutting millions of dollars from its budget and services.

"With a pandemic in full swing, and thousands of Village residents hurting, how is it possible for Village officials to cut our budget, yet pay lawyers hundreds of dollars an hour to defend the Village's denial of development projects and other matters? This is highly irresponsible management of taxpayers' money," stated Duarte.

At the Village of Mamaroneck's January 11 Board of Trustees virtual meeting, Locher raised the questions concerning an ongoing lawsuit involving AVC Properties, for which the village has already spent more than \$100,000 on legal fees, addressing a project involving only three houses.

"Why can't you tell us exactly what this lawsuit is, and have you tried to negotiate with the other side?" Locher asked.

"I am not going to discuss litigation like that," was Murphy's response.

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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.

Notice of formation of Simple Wishes LLC. Filed with the SSNY on 01/05/2021. 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: 300 Gramatan Avenue Apt G81 Mount Vernon, N.Y 10552. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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.

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 Everglow Consulting LLC. Arts of Org. Filed with the SSNY on 12/8/2020. 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 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 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 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.

## Latimer Announces Completion of Upgrades to Noise

### Monitors, Storm Water Treatment at County Airport

When Westchester County Executive George Latimer took office in 2018, he pledged to find solutions to some of the most pressing challenges at the Westchester County Airport.

To that end, Latimer will be announcing that the upgrading of all the permanent airport noise monitors have been completed and integrated with the complaint handling system. These fixed noise monitors are in addition to the portable noise monitors that had previously been added based on where the majority of the noise complaints had been originated from. Latimer will also be announcing the Board of Legislators authorization of his request for a \$3.75M bond act to complete remediation measures at Outfall No. 7 as part of the County's Storm Drain Replacement project at the airport. This project is in accordance with the consent order issued by the State's Department of Environmental Conservation.

Latimer said: "The Westchester County Airport is a major economic driver for our region and it is imperative that we as the County make efforts to ensure its surrounding neighbors are protected from its environmental

### Hank Aaron, continued from pg 1-

Henry Louis Aaron was born in Alabama in 1934 and was raised in the segregated South. He joined the Milwaukee Braves in 1954 and played there until the Braves moved to Atlanta in 1966. Aaron wasn't thrilled about returning to the south during the Civil Rights movement. "I have lived in the South, and I don't want to live there again. We can go anywhere in Milwaukee. I don't know what would happen in Atlanta."

Hank Aaron admired Jackie Robinson and often said that "I was carrying on where Jackie Robinson left off. I believed, and still do, that there was a reason why I was chosen to break the record," he wrote in "I Had a Hammer."

I listened to WFAN sports radio the day after Hank Aaron died, and former Yankee Rick Cerone recalled an event from 1980 held in Yorktown Heights at Huckleberry's restaurant, to promote a magazine that Cerone had helped create called "Baseball Magazine."

A lunch was held for the baseball team of the decade. Aaron was named the right fielder of the 1970's and attended the lunch. Later on, Aaron's 715th Home Run was named the biggest baseball event of the 1970's by Baseball Magazine, and a press conference was held in New York City to help promote it. The Commissioner of Baseball, Bowie Kuhn, was going to attend and hand out the awards to several baseball starts including Aaron.

On the day of the press conference, Aaron sent a telegram explaining why he couldn't attend. "I understand that Mr. Kuhn requested that he present me with the award for the outstanding moment of the 1970's, in honor and recognition of the new all-time home run record set on the eighth of April 1974. However, looking back on that time, I remember the commissioner did not see the need to attend," wrote Aaron in his telegram.

Kuhn had a prior engagement that day, to speak before the Cleveland sports club. Kuhn was in attendance when Aaron tied Babe Ruth with homer #714, but in a bad decision, didn't cancel to get to Atlanta to see #715. And Hank never forgot it and never let Kuhn forget it.

"I do think that for me to be there in 1980 to accept an award from someone who in 1974 didn't feel he had to be present would have been a direct slap in the face," said Aaron to the New York Times. "It was a slap in my face and a slap in the face of the fans in Atlanta in 1974 when the Commissioner didn't attend the game in which I broke the record. I hope the Commissioner didn't think I was going to forget about it."

Aaron also said in the telegram in 1980 that he was disappointed in the lack of former black baseball players being hired in the front offices of baseball teams and major league baseball.

The headline from the Chicago Tribune after Hank hit #715 in 1974 was "Hank Hammers it home!" Reporter John Husar also noted, "commissioner Bowie Kuhn sullied the office by declining to attend the game, sending Monte Irvin as his representative. The mere mention of Kuhn's name during the commemoration ceremonies elicited over a minute of booing."

In the days and months before hitting #715, Aaron received numerous death threats that if he broke the Babe's record, he would be killed. The Post Office noted at the time that Aaron had received more mail than anyone who was not a political figure, most with letters warning him "I have a contract out on you, and "My gun is watching your every black move."

"The Ruth chase should have been the greatest period of my life, and it was the worst," Mr. Aaron wrote in his 1991 autobiography, "I Had a Hammer." Aaron's friend and baseball great Billy Williams said, "He was breaking an icon's record, a man who was white who was idolized for so many years. How was Aaron able to continue with threats to himself and his family? "He dealt with it, and maybe it made him more focused, and more determined," said teammate Dusty Baker.

Dodgers broadcaster Vin Scully spoke for most of America when he said on the night he hit 715, "What a marvelous moment for baseball. What a marvelous moment for Atlanta and the state of Georgia. What a marvelous moment for the country and the world. A Black man is getting a standing ovation in the Deep South for breaking a record of an all-time baseball idol."

The accolades for Hank Aaron poured in from across the country in memory of his passing. "We have lost one of America's greatest athletes, Hank Aaron who broke Babe Ruth's home run record in 1974. Some white citizens hated him because they didn't want black Aaron to beat the white Babe's record. Bless Hank, he inspired so many of use but let us remember that this kind of racial hatred still exists," said Colin Powell.

Dr. Bernice King, daughter of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said, "I am deeply saddened by the passing of baseball legend #HankAaron. Like my father, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., he stood strong against hate and racism and was able to persevere, becoming one of the greatest baseball players that has ever lived. My father was a big fan of baseball and of Mr. Aaron. He and my father shared a mutual respect and admiration. After the assassination of my father, Mr. Aaron was very supportive of my mother, Mrs. Coretta Scott King, and The King Center."

Magic Johnson tweeted, "Put Aaron on the Mount Rushmore of Baseball GOATS!" I would agree but that is tough Mount Rushmore to come up with for baseball players, but the Babe and Hank Aaron is a good place to start.

Quarterback Drew Brees said, "Hank was a true legend who can never truly leave us. Legends teach us how to live and be great like them."

When he joined the Milwaukee Braves in 1954, Aaron became active in the Civil Rights movement. He helped John F. Kennedy win the Wisconsin primary in 1960 and Bill Clinton win the democratic nomination in 1992.

In 2001, Clinton presented him with the Presidential Citizens Medal for "exemplary service to the nation." In 2002 he received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President George W. Bush.

Aaron remains first in the major league history in runs batted in (2,297) and total bases (6,856) while ranking third in hits (3,771). But he is no longer the "official" home run king.

That is because Barry Bonds surpassed Aaron in 2007, but he did so with the help of steroids. We agree with Reggie Jackson, who called Hank Aaron, still, "the people's home run king."

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.

**County Board races , continued from pg 1-**

experience working with non-profit organizations. She touted her work forming community partnerships between the City of Yonkers and Westchester County, and her supporters have applauded her work with the homeless community in Yonkers and the City's youth population.

Crosby has two Masters Degrees, in Public Management and Leadership, and a Dual Degree in Human Resource Management/ Management and Operation and Bachelors of Science in Psychology. She is continuing her Doctoral degree in Public Management and will officially launch her campaign this weekend. If elected, Crosby would be the youngest African-American woman to serve on the County Board.

Crosby is seeking to defeat County Legislator Christopher Johnson, who has served for four years on the county board and six years prior to that on the Yonkers City Council. This will make an interesting democratic primary in Yonkers on June 22, where City Councilwoman Shanae Williams is already challenging Tim Itoni for County Clerk.

Another contested County Legislative race in Yonkers this year will be in the 15th District, which includes East Yonkers and Bronxville. Incumbent Democratic Legislator Ruth Walter will face a republican opponent this fall.

Who that opponent will be is unclear. Community activist James Nolan, is one republican who will also shortly announce that he will run for this seat. Nolan, a republican, has served Yonkers and Westchester in many different volunteer-service capacities through the Michael Nolan foundation, named after his brother, who was shot and killed in Yonkers in 2015. This would be his first run for office.

Yonkers Council Minority Leader Mike Breen will not be running against Walter. Breen told Yonkers Rising that "after serious consideration, I have decided to stay on the city council and serve the people of Yonkers. Now more than ever, bi-partisanship is needed and I want to continue the work we have accomplished."

Breen, in our view, would have given Walter her toughest challenge, but the campaign has just started, and there are other republicans interested in, and considering to run against Walter, who defeated republican Gordon Burrows in 2019 and is completing her first term on the county board.

Democrats currently hold a 16-1 Super, Duper Majority on the County Board, with legislator Margaret Cunzio a conservative. There are few if any other County Board contests where republican stand a chance. "The district 15 race is the republican's Alamo this year," said one political analyst.

The other problem for republican candidates this year is that Democrats have George Latimer on the top of their ticket in November running for County Executive, while republicans currently don't have a candidate at this point.

Contact us at [risingmediagroup@gmail.com](mailto:risingmediagroup@gmail.com) with other candidates running for office this year.

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**TOWN OF EASTCHESTER****LEGAL NOTICE**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that sealed bids will be received online through the Empire State Purchasing Group e-Procurement Platform at [www.bidnetdirect.com/townofeastchester](http://www.bidnetdirect.com/townofeastchester)

VENDORS may also mail responses to the Office of the Town Clerk, Town of Eastchester, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester NY 10709 and must be received no later than 11:00 a.m., WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2021 for the UNIFORM CLOTHING AND SUPPLIES within the Town of Eastchester, NY for year 2021, in accordance with specifications on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, and attached on line. Due to the current COVIDC-19 virus, please do NOT come to our office in person. Said bids openings in public are currently suspended. Bid results will be published on-line.

SAID bid package may be obtained AT NO CHARGE as of FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 2021 after 11:00 a.m. on-line at [www.bidnetdirect.com/townofeastchester](http://www.bidnetdirect.com/townofeastchester)

THE Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

BY THE ORDER OF THE SUPERVISOR AND THE  
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF  
EASTCHESTER, NEW YORK  
LINDA LAIRD, TOWN CLERK

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**LEGAL NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Todd Huttunen, duly appointed Assessor of the Village of Tuckahoe, N.Y. has filed with the Village Clerk the Tentative Assessment Roll of the Village of Tuckahoe upon which taxes for fiscal year June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022 will be levied. Also, the Board of Assessment Review and the Assessor will meet for the purpose of completing said Roll and hearing determining complaints in relation thereto at Village Hall Meeting Room (65 Main Street) on the 16th day of February 2021 between the hours of 5 P.M. and 9 P.M.

A copy of the Tentative Assessment Roll may be seen at the Office of the Village Clerk, Room, 206, Village Hall, and 65 Main Street during the business hours of 8:30 A.M. and 4:30 P.M. Monday to Friday from the date of February 1, 2021 until February 16, 2021. Grievance Forms may be obtained at the office of the Village Clerk.

BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Camille DiSalvo  
Village Clerk

Dated Tuckahoe, N.Y.  
January 29, 2021

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**LEGAL NOTICE****NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING TOWN OF EASTCHESTER**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing will be held by the Town Board of the Town of Eastchester at the Town Hall located at 40 Mill Road in said Town, on TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2021 at 7:00pm, to consider a local law providing for the amendment of certain sections of Local Law No. 5-2000 last amended by No. 1-2019, "THE ZONING LAW OF THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER." Amendment of certain sections is as follows:

The said amendment shall be to modify the definitions of "Formula Fast Casual/Quick Casual Restaurant" and "Food Service Establishments" included in Section 2.D, and Section 4.C.6, Schedule of Non-Residential District Regulations to permit both "Formula Fast Casual/Quick Casual Restaurant" and "Studio Uses" in the DSC, Designed Shopping Center District, subject to certain limitations.

AND PLEASE ALSO TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that said amendment is available for review in the Town Clerk's Office located at 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York between the hours of 8:30am-3:30pm, Monday thru Friday between the date of this notice and the date of the public hearing.

BY THE ORDER OF THE SUPERVISOR AND THE TOWN BOARD OF  
THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER, NEW YORK  
LINDA LAIRD, TOWN CLERK

**Trump Pardons Pirro , continued from pg 1-**

Trump and the Pirro's became friends, with Trump attending parties at the Pirro's Harrison home, and Trump allowing Jeanine to hold a masquerade ball at his Seven Springs estate in North Castle as a fund raiser for her failed bid for NY Attorney General.

One Trump development plan that failed in Westchester under Al's stewardship was the plan to develop Davids Island in New Rochelle into a luxury home enclave. Opposition grew against the plan and Trump had to forfeit a \$500,000 deposit.

The Seven Spring development plan was another Trump-Pirro bust. Trump wanted to build an exclusive country club on the vast property but the fact that it sits in three different towns, New Castle, Bedford and North Castle, and a shrinking real estate market, meant that the plan was never approved.

Trump National golf course in Briarcliff Manor was a success of both Pirro and Trump

Republicans ruled Westchester during they heyday of the Pirro's in the 1990's. Many who live in Westchester now know nothing about the Pirro's except that they see Jeanine ranting on Fox News once week.

Pirro has been one of Trump's biggest supporters and has sold the Trump brand on Fox during the past four years. She was also able to secure a couple of interviews with the President, and in September of 2020, J. Pirro appeared at a Back the Blue Rally in Eastchester where she urged support for Trump's re-election.

Either J. Pirro, or A. Pirro, or both, must have requested the pardon. Jeanine claimed that she did not review the fraudulent tax returns that she signed with her husband at the time.

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**Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-**

Yes the Trump Administration is largely to blame for this mess. Somehow they feel that if you put the duties of running these programs in some Generals hands all will go well. But don't put all the blame on this mess on Washington. The State of New York puts out these websites with names of small pharmacies all over the state that have haven't received the vaccines nor the super cold refrigerators to store them in.

Let's cut the crap with all these commercials encouraging us to take the vaccine when there aren't sufficient doses available. There are enough people out there who want the vaccine but can't register on the computer to get it. If the goal of these commercials is to make people crazy they are certainly doing a good job.

I would love to know how many elected officials and their family members have gotten the vaccines and are not sitting at the computer all day looking for an open slot. Can someone please tell me how my family member and my friend with cancer can get vaccinated?

**Empty Store Fronts!**

The Galleria Mall in White Plains. Opened in 1980 together with Galleria Malls in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Sherman Oaks, California. On Sunday, Sears which had been J.C. Penney when the mall opened marked down all remaining items in the store 90% going out of business. Macy's, the other flagship store which was Abraham and Strauss (A&S) and then Sterns before taking on the Macy's name is currently conducting going out of business sales. When Macy's closes The Galleria will have no flagship store!

Vernon Hill Shopping Center in Scarsdale. Lord and Taylor flagship store particularly after the closing of their New York City location. "Going Out Of Business" sale chock full of merchandise from categories (rugs, housewares) they never featured prominently before. Still clothing, their signature item left for all members of the family. Even a box of \$1 single women and men's shoes for the dog to play with.

Same mall Brooks Brothers, the oldest clothing retailer in the United States, seller of luxury clothing, accessories and furnishings shuttered. Papyrus quality cards and gift items no more. Talbots, ladies clothing for all figures which was spread out among two stores now consolidated into one. Fig and Olive Restaurant with signs in the window that they are closed.

Godiva luxury chocolates in crisp gold packaging will close its doors after Valentine's Day at the Westchester Mall. I guess people aren't indulging in the freshly chocolate dipped strawberries in the window anymore. Want Godiva? You'll find it in CVS or Walgreens.

Head south to Ridge Hill in Yonkers. Lord and Taylor which was supposed to be the flagship store in the outdoor mall closed at the beginning of the year. I was truly surprised it stayed open as long as it did with few people shopping in the store whenever I was there. REI sporting goods, camping equipment and clothing scheduled to close this year. Papyrus closed. Sur La Table items for the kitchen, door shuttered. Rumors that Ridge Hill will become an outlet mall, so desperately needed in the coming years.

Alamo Movie Theater looks sad all boarded up on Central Avenue in Yonkers. Design Within Reach factory outlet closed within a year. Wrong place for a store where clearance prices were insanely high. Bowtie Movie Theater in Bronxville with a phone recording that lists the movies that were playing there on March 14 of last year. Very few cars in the Showcase DeLuxe Movie Theater at Cross County. I haven't been upstairs at Ridge Hill.

What's the reason. Changing tastes. People order everything on line on Amazon. First run movies on your Home Screen. The Pandemic? People are afraid to go out shopping because of COVID-19?

We need to get Covid shots in people's arms. But sadly it's going to take a lot to fill these many empty store fronts. If we collectively think together, maybe we can come up with a solution. It's so sad looking at all these empty storefronts! Maybe the folks at Target coming into the old Sears/Wanamaker's at Cross County Mall have the answer. Let's hope so!

**Reach Eric Schoen at [thistooisyonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistooisyonkers@aol.com). Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen and Dan Murphy on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com 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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**County Airport, continued from pg 6-**

impact. In 2018, I made promises on key areas of this balance. I am proud to say my Administration has kept those promises while also ensuring all stakeholders have a seat at the table."

County Legislator Nancy Barr said: "Many Westchester residents enjoy the convenience of having a local airport but the health, safety and quality of life of our residents must be protected. Effective monitoring of air, water and noise pollution allows us to identify problems before they become more difficult and expensive to resolve."

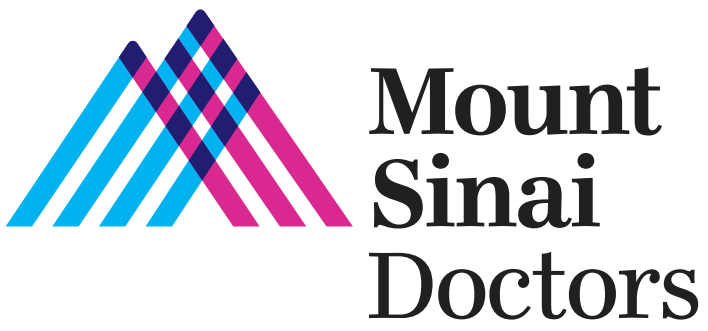
Westchester County Airport Advisory Board (AAB) Chairman Nicholas Hartman said: "I am pleased to see the County making these investments in the airport's environmental programs. The AAB provides a consistent and open mechanism for residents and other airport stakeholders to provide valuable community input on all matters related to the airport."

Coalition to Prevent Westchester Airport Expansion Chairman George Klein said: "The Coalition to Prevent Westchester Airport Expansion strongly supports the Latimer administration's initiative on construction of Outfall No. 7 at our airport with associated soil remediation, which will protect drinking water in the Kensico Reservoir from PFAS contamination at the airport."

On air quality, the County has completed its air emissions inventory and - compared with 2007 base numbers - found significant reduction in air emissions due to reduction in total number of flights combined with airport improvements.

On water quality, the County has reinstated - through a Latimer Executive Order - its ongoing water testing and monitoring program and PFAS site characterization and remediation is underway in compliance with NYS DEC sent decree.

In 2018 following extensive dialogue with key stakeholders, Latimer voluntarily reinstated groundwater testing at the Westchester County Airport for pollutants after the testing program was discontinued in 2011. The program was discontinued without approval of the Board of Legislators or notification to the public.



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