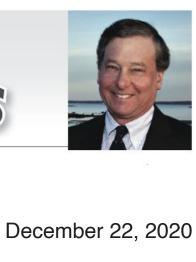
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Assemblyman Steve Otis 91st Assembly District Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye



Last week brought news on a number of fronts and this e-mail includes

The arrival of the Covid-19 vaccine begins what will be a long journey to

eradicate this virus. A Long Island nurse was the first person in the country to

receive the vaccine last week. Each state is adopting protocols for vaccine

distribution. As health care workers and nursing homes become the first recipients, more details on the rollout in New York are emerging and are included here. More specifics will be announced by the NYS Department of Health in the days ahead. I continue to help address Covid-19 issues throughout the Sound Shore,

This newsletter includes: Vaccination Rollout Begins in NYS Covid-19 Resource Links Westchester County Covid-19 Infection Map Good News for Port Chester Salons and Gyms Beware of Covid-19 Vaccine Scams

• School and College COVID-19 Dashboard Available Online • 'No Left Turn' Off Exit 30S/King St from Hutchinson Parkway North

Housing Assistance Programs

• Small Business Lease Assistance

- College Scholarships Available
- Protect Our Courts Act Signed Into Law Better public health practices work—wear a mask, socially distance, wash your

NY State of Health Deadline Extended

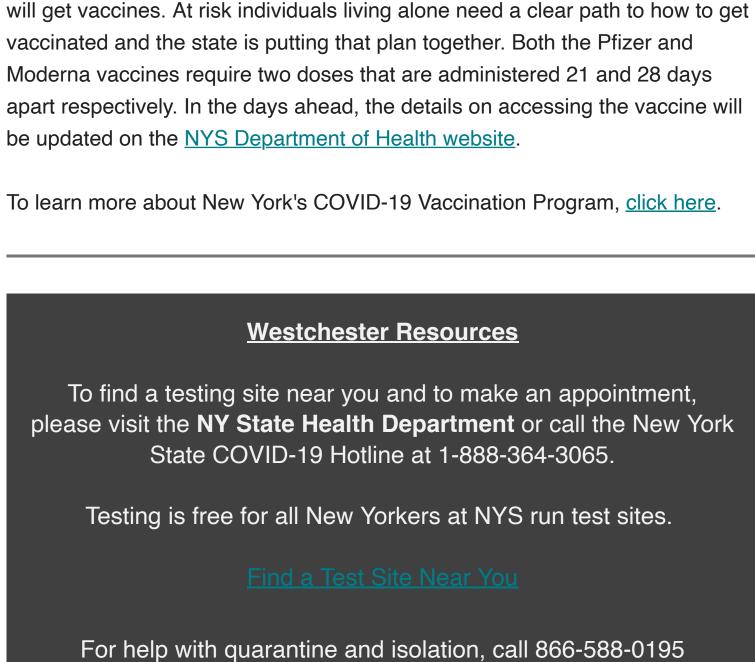
- hands, get tested and stop the spread. Please contact my office at 914-939-

ensure the vaccination will be

at no cost to the public.

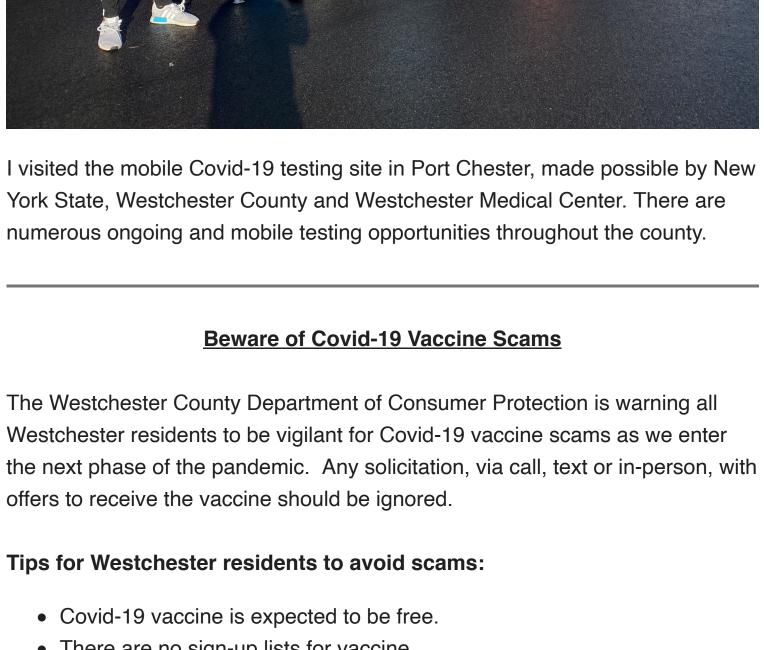
GET TESTED.

NewYorkTough **MOST IMPORTANT:** In New York State, we will



We are making the same case for restaurants in Port Chester, given improved

statistics and the small geographic size of the village.



able to get vaccine. Turn to trusted sources - such as your local health department or your doctor for questions and guidance. If you are contacted by someone looking to sell you early access to the

important for New Yorkers to have access to high-quality, affordable health

Housing Assistance Programs

Two housing programs are available with fast approaching deadlines. More

• You don't need to give out SSN, credit card or bank info before you are

insurance. Please visit their website or call 1-855-355-5777 to enroll.

vaccine, contact Westchester Consumer Protection at <u>914-995-2155</u> or

Department, can provide up to 75 percent of back rent for up to eight months of rental assistance for landlords who can demonstrate tenants were up to date for March, but have not been able to pay their rent due to COVID. This program can assist owners of buildings with between three and 50 units and would be

done by lottery to establish order for assistance. Applications will be reviewed

on a first come, first served basis. For more information, please contact Pam

This program can provide up to several months of mortgage/cooperative

arrears for those who can demonstrate Covid-19 caused mortgage payment

delays, and that they were up to date on their mortgages as of March 2020.

This program, which is available through the Westchester County Planning

Community Housing Innovations - (914) 683-1010 Human Development Services of Westchester - (914) 939-2878 • Westchester Residential Opportunities - (914) 428-4507

applications that were denied according to the new criteria and issue revised determination letters to applicants. Applications for the program and additional information is available here: www.hcr.ny.gov/RRP

ineligible. I was a co-sponsor of the legislation that established this program.

The application period will remain open through February 1, 2021. Previous

applicants do not need to reapply to be considered. HCR will re-evaluate all

Center for assistance at <u>1-833-499-0318</u> or covidrentrelief@hcr.ny.gov. Call Center representatives are available Monday-Friday 8:30 a.m. until 5 p.m.

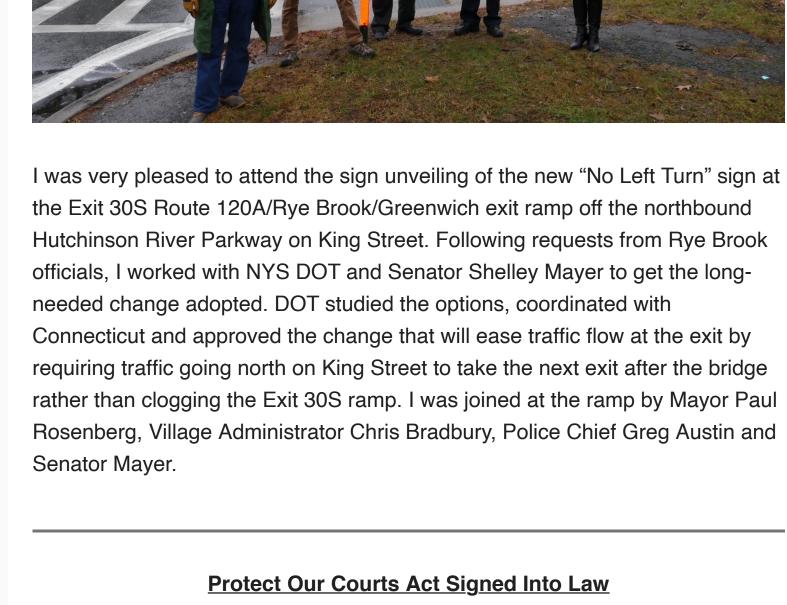
for assistance between April 1, 2020 to July 31, 2020.

College Scholarships Available The Jandon Foundation is partnering with the Westchester County Board of Legislators to provide scholarships to 15 high school seniors who will be

Governor Cuomo has required that all schools, including private schools and colleges, report COVID-19 cases to the NYS Department of Health on a daily basis.

School and University Covid-19 Statewide Tracker

'No Left Turn' Off Exit 30S/King St from Hutchinson Parkway North



concerns that federal immigration enforcement was deterring immigrants from appearing in New York State courts and impeding the fair administration of

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Dear Friends,

information on a variety of topics and available resources.

helping spread the public health message of safe behavior, testing and how to access resources. In Port Chester, Senator Shelley Mayer and I continue to work with state, county and local officials to fight for small businesses and work with the village to distribute public health information and lower the infection numbers. Port Chester is currently the only Covid-19 Orange Zone in Westchester, but we succeeded in having personal care salons, barber shops and gyms reopened based upon statistics showing they could operate safely under limited capacity rules. We are making the same case for Port Chester restaurants. As of this writing, Congress has just adopted a new Covid-19 stimulus package that will bring additional funding to New Yorkers. As the details become clear, my office is available to help individuals and organizations access funds that flow to our state.

7028 if I can be of assistance. Have a great holiday season. After a very challenging 2020, may we all treasure our time with family and remember to continue to be careful as we join together with hope for the new year. Warm regards,

As is the case around the country, New York is rolling out distribution of the Covid-19 vaccine with the first vaccines going to front-line health care workers, nursing home residents and vulnerable individuals.

The first New Yorkers to receive the vaccine will be high-risk hospital workers

I have asked that the state provide details as soon as possible for how senior

citizens and medically vulnerable individuals who do not live in a group setting

home residents and staff, followed by all long-term and congregate care

residents and staff, EMS workers, other health care workers and medical

examiners. Staff at every hospital will have access to the first vaccine

allocation.

(emergency room workers, ICU staff and Pulmonary Department staff), nursing

Vaccination Rollout Begins in NYS

Covid-19 testing information 888-364-3065

Westchester County General COVID-19 Information –

United Way 211

County Health Department COVID-19 Information page HERE

Free flu shots Saturday and Sunday at the County Center.

Register **HERE**

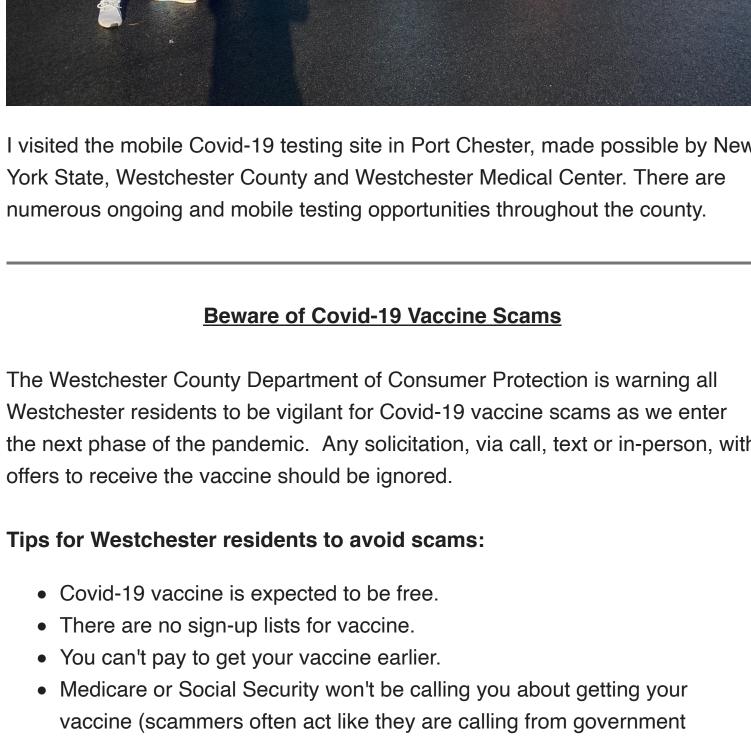
Good News for Port Chester Salons and Gyms

Last week, Governor Cuomo announced the Department of Health will allow

personal care businesses and gyms in orange zones to re-open at 25%

capacity. This was good news for Port Chester's salons and gyms that had

been shut down for approximately three weeks. The decision came based upon contact tracing data that showed that businesses and gyms can operate safely with protocols in place and at reduced capacity. As information becomes available about where and how Covid-19 spreads, the DOH has made adjustments to try and minimize disruptions while also safeguarding public health.



NY State of Health Deadline Extended New Yorkers have two more weeks (until December 31) to enroll in a health plan that begins on January 1. As the pandemic continues, it is especially

agencies).

at ConPro@westchestergov.com.

information is available **HERE**.

Eviction Prevention Program

Foreclosure Prevention Program:

COVID Rent Relief Extension

to July 31, 2020;

Tarlow at (914) 995-1920. Application in **Spanish** Application in **English**

The COVID Rent Relief Program has reopened for application with expanded eligibility criteria in an effort to serve New Yorkers who may have not had the opportunity to initially apply, and to serve those who may have been previously

Assistance is available through four nonprofits agencies:

• The Bridge Fund of Westchester - (914) 949-8146

To qualify for this one-time subsidy, low-income renters impacted by the pandemic must meet all of the following criteria: Must be a renter and have a primary residence in New York State; Applicants must have lost income during the period of April 1, 2020

• Before March 7, 2020, household income must have been at or below 80

Households must be "rent burdened" during the months they are applying

percent of the Area Median Income, adjusted for household size; and

Throughout the application period, residents who need help or have questions

about their application can contact HCR's COVID Rent Relief Program Call

New York Forward Small Business Lease Assistance Partnership Governor Cuomo announced the launch of the New York Forward Small Business Lease Assistance Partnership. Recognizing the economic impact of

COVID-19, this program will provide small businesses and their landlords with

informational resources and pro bono assistance to help both parties reach

The **Small Business Lease Assistance Partnership** website includes

additional information. Those interested are encouraged to complete the

partnership's intake form and can expect to receive an email detailing an

estimated timeline for placement with a volunteer attorney.

mutually-beneficial lease workout agreements. This service is available to all

New York State small businesses and landlords, and participation is voluntary.

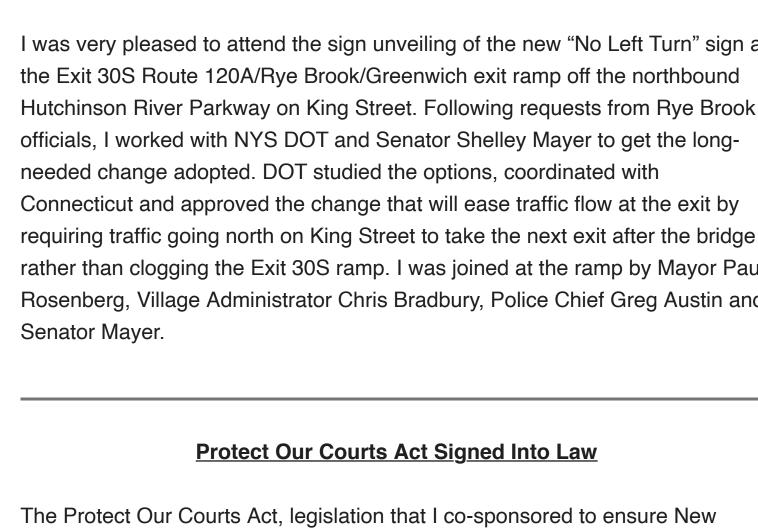
awarded \$12,000 each over their 4 year college careers. The scholarship program supports and encourages promising young students who can demonstrate a financial need and who possess strong academic records with extracurricular activities and community service to apply. The application

deadline for the 2021 Jandon Scholarship is February 12, 2021. The

For more information, visit www.jandonscholars.org or contact Program

application can be found here: jandonscholars.org/application

Coordinator Melanie Montalto at <u>Jandonscholars@gmail.com</u> School and College COVID-19 Dashboard Available Online



Yorkers can freely access the justice system without fear of being targeted by

federal immigration authorities, was signed into law by Governor Cuomo on

December 15th (A.2176A/S.425A). The legislation addresses longstanding

Domestic violence victims, crime victims of any kind, witnesses or those seeking civil remedies should not fear seeking legal remedies because of concern about entering a courthouse. Justice is not served if an immigrant is afraid to come and testify or seek relief. The new law places in state statute policies already in force in New York through a prior Executive Order by the Governor and a directive by the Chief Judge of the State of New York.

justice.