



# NEWS FROM THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE **SUMMER 2020**



**SOME WESTCHESTER VOTERS WAITED IN LONG LINES TO VOTE IN  
PRIMARY ELECTIONS ON JUNE 23, 2020; SEE ARTICLES**

**LOCAL ELECTION  
RESULTS**

**SUPPORT THE VOTING  
RIGHTS ACT**

**THE BALLOT BOX**

**BECOME A  
FORUM  
MODERATOR**

**JOIN THE  
LEAGUE**

**LEAGUE  
ADVOCACY**

**REBOUND NEW  
ROCHELLE**

**NEW ROCHELLE  
AND  
COMMUNITY**

## **FROM LWV of NY: STATE ELECTION DAY RECAP**

On June 23, New York State experienced its first election during COVID-19. Although many voters requested to vote by absentee ballot, a significant number of voters never received their absentee ballot. Social distancing rules, consolidation of poll sites, and less poll workers willing to work on election day led to long lines in some parts of the state.

The League assisted voters who contacted the election protection hotline on the weekend leading up to the election and election day. Many voters in New York City who requested to vote by absentee ballot never received their absentee ballot. Unfortunately, because of the strict deadline to submit absentee ballots, we were unable to help these voters. Some voters were willing to visit their poll site in person, but most of these voters did not feel comfortable voting in person during the ongoing pandemic.

Other issues centered around the sudden relocation of poll sites, longer than average lines because of the limited capacity of sites, poll sites not opening at the appropriate time, and some poll workers not abiding by the health and safety policies recommended by the CDC.

We are frustrated with the lack of accountability and transparency in the absentee ballot process and are working with our voting rights partners to determine next steps. Our coalition is considering a number of potential legislative and legal actions that could be taken to ensure these issues do not persist and impact the November election. We will keep members updated of forthcoming actions on these issues.

## **SOME PRIMARY RESULTS COULD TAKE UNTIL JULY**

A deluge of yet-to-be-counted absentee ballots in New York this year means voters will have to wait until July to find out who won many primary elections Tuesday for the state legislature, Congress and other offices.

The mostly unsatisfying end to primary day came after a pandemic-era campaign season in which in-person politicking was curtailed, polling places consolidated, and all voters were encouraged to cast their ballots by mail, rather than risk getting exposed to the coronavirus at a polling location.

Nearly 1.8 million people requested absentee ballots. They had until Tuesday to mail them. Counting of those votes won't begin until at least July 1, and could last several days or even weeks. --US NEWS, 6/24/20

**[READ THE REST AT RESULTS](#)**

# VOTER SERVICE

## LOCAL ELECTIONS

All of the Westchester school and library budgets passed in June, most (including New Rochelle, Eastchester and Tuckahoe) by wide margins. Voters turned out to support schools and libraries despite the short-term economic uncertainties of COVID-19.

Congratulations to Adina Brooks and Katie Minaya on their election to the New Rochelle Board of Education and to Chuck Burke and Corey Galloway on their reelection to the Board of the New Rochelle Public Library. The LWVNR looks forward to working with them on issues pertaining to our city.

## LOBBY DAY (FROM LWVUS)

June 25, 2020 was the League's Virtual Lobby Day for the Voting Rights Advancement Act, S.561. The VRAA restores and modernizes the original protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 (VRA).



The Supreme Court, in *Shelby County v. Holder*, invalidated the section of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 that required certain states and local governments to obtain federal approval before implementing any changes to their voting laws or practices, if the states had a history of voting discrimination against racial, ethnic, and language minorities.

The Court said the formula that determined which jurisdictions fall under federal oversight was out of date and instructed that it was on Congress to come up with a modern-day formula that protects voting rights.



The Voting Rights Advancement Act accomplishes this by enacting voter protections for states with a record of suppressive voting practices over the last 25 years.



## DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO BE A MODERATOR?

The spring forum season is over. We never sat on a stage, shook a hand, or shushed an unruly audience. But we did moderate seventeen forums, including a village election, eleven school board forums and five Democratic primary contests, all done virtually, and all done well. Bravo! Kudos to all of you who stepped up to this new challenge and entered a new corner of the digital world, when just a few weeks previously we weren't sure if we'd be doing any, or how they might occur.



I don't think any of us was totally sure that this would work. I wasn't. But I was sure of this: that if we didn't step up to the task we would lose the position as the go-to organization for holding candidate forums. And so we did - with flying colors.

Join us. It's not so hard! By now you have probably gone to a lot of other events online. And don't be surprised if the fall season is virtual as well. And the future may hold a hybrid model, where citizens at home are able to attend a live event through a virtual format.

If you are interested in attending a meeting about moderating a Zoom forum in the fall, please contact me, Paul Schwarz, at [PKSchwarz1@gmail.com](mailto:PKSchwarz1@gmail.com).

## GENERAL ELECTION DAY NOVEMBER 3, 2020

### EARLY VOTING OCTOBER 24 – NOVEMBER 1

- October 9 is the last day to postmark your voter registration form
- October 10 is the last day to register to vote in person at your county Board of Elections office
- October 27 is the last day to postmark application for absentee ballot by mail.
- November 2 is the last day to apply in person for absentee ballot
- November 2 is last day to postmark absentee ballot.
- November 3 is the last day to deliver absentee ballot in person

**Stay Tuned for a Fall Campaign in local schools to Get Out The Vote virtually! If you're interested in volunteering, email Joan at [royjoanalex@yahoo.com](mailto:royjoanalex@yahoo.com).**

# Georgia's Voting Fiasco is a Warning. The November Election Could be Chaos

It was impossible to watch June 9th's [election fiasco](#) in Georgia – the equipment failures, the dramatic reduction in the number of polling precincts, the voting centers that failed to open on time, the insufficient number of paper ballots, the nearly seven-hour lines in many minority communities contrasted with the breeze in whiter, wealthier suburbs – without thinking, ruefully, of US supreme court chief justice John Roberts' 2013 decision in *Shelby County v Holder* that ripped the heart from the Voting Rights Act.



Those interminable lines wrapped across Atlanta and many other minority counties? The waits almost as long as a workday, making a mockery of any notion of a free and fair election? Well, more than 200 precincts across Georgia, disproportionately in minority counties, have been ordered closed since Roberts and the US supreme court cast aside protections that had prevented states and localities with a history of racial prejudice in voting laws from remaking their electoral rules without federal oversight.

But it wasn't just in-person voting that malfunctioned. It was also impossible to watch Georgia's expanded vote-by-mail system meltdown – forcing tens of thousands of voters who requested, but never received, absentee ballots to either join these long lines at the remaining, understaffed precincts, during an ongoing pandemic, or forfeit their civic voice entirely – without envisioning a train wreck this fall. Not just in Georgia, but in Wisconsin, Michigan, Pennsylvania and many other crucial states where any repeat of the chaos we have already seen this spring could precipitate a constitutional crisis unlike any other in our history. --Guardian, 6/2020 [READ THE REST AT FIASCO](#)

## CITY PEOPLE AND ISSUES ON PAUSE

"City People and Issues," the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle cable TV program has suspended production of new interviews while we are all social distancing and while City Hall and its NRTV studio is not available. Previously produced programs can be seen on demand at [www.vimeo.com/24211396](http://www.vimeo.com/24211396) or by going to [www.vimeo.com/visitor](http://www.vimeo.com/visitor) and searching for League of Women Voters of New Rochelle.

## OPINION: Absentee ballots will be critical this fall. But in-person voting is even more essential.

As the [long lines](#) in recent primary elections show, the desire to vote in person - even during the [coronavirus pandemic](#) - remains high. While election officials prepare for unprecedented levels of absentee voting in November, they must also avoid mistakes that undermine the capacity for in-person voting. Indeed, as long as in-person voting can be made reasonably safe and efficient, we should



take every step to assure voters they have an in-person voting option — and to encourage them to use it. Failing to do so could lead to major problems.

Tasking election officials with preparing for high levels of absentee voting, while also ensuring capacity for strong in-person voting, is a tall order. They will be tempted to push people into the absentee process and to underinvest in in-person voting, [as has happened in several primaries](#) over the last few weeks. Yet, four reasons make in-person voting even more essential this fall.

First, precisely because levels of absentee voting will be so high, that process will face tremendous logistical pressure. Moreover, all states — as well as the U.S. Postal Service — will be experiencing these [surges](#) imultaneously. Even with recent, lower-turnout primary elections in individual states, we have witnessed the strains this puts on a system struggling to convert, virtually overnight, into voting by mail. Requested absentee ballots do not arrive; others are not returned until too late to be counted. In a close election, such logistical and administrative failings could become explosive. Voting in person, whether early or on Election Day, will relieve pressure on the absentee process — and be a critical fallback option as problems arise.

Second, absentee ballots are more complex to process and are rejected at much higher rates than ballots cast in person ([3 to 10 percent](#) in recent elections.) Voters must remember to sign their name on the ballot envelope; in some states, that signature must be witnessed or notarized. Processing these ballots is also more difficult. Officials must determine whether the signature on the ballot envelope matches the voter's registration file and whether the ballot complies with other procedural requirements. -Washington Post, 6/23/20 [READ THE REST AT VOTING](#)

## LWVNR "Ballot Box" Featured Daniel Bonnet, Director of WESTCOP

**The Ballot Box** is the monthly WVOX 1460 AM radio show of the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle. Co-hosted by LWVNR members Tamar Tait and Nina Luban, the show features local, state, and national electoral issues and relevant civic matters. It airs live on the third Wednesday of the month from 9 am - 10 am and is live streamed on the radio website, [www.wvox.com](http://www.wvox.com).

Daniel Bonnet, Director of New Rochelle's Westchester Community Opportunity Program (WESTCOP), New Rochelle native and long-time activist, was the featured guest on The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle's radio show, the Ballot Box, on Wednesday, June 17 at 9 a.m.

Mr. Bonnet discussed his community organizing experiences, his observations regarding Covid's impact on New Rochelle families and his thoughts on the efforts that New Rochelle's citizenry and leadership need to make going forward during these challenging times.



DANIEL BONNET

A podcast of this broadcast, and previous Ballot Box shows, can be heard on demand at <http://lwvnewro.org/TheBallotBox.html>.

**Catherine White**, Executive Director of the Chamber of Commerce of New Rochelle, will be The Ballot Box's guest on its next show on **Wednesday, July 15th at 9:00 am**. Ms. White, a 30-year resident of New Rochelle, will discuss the work that the New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce has been doing during the Covid pandemic keeping its members informed about government relief programs, creating small business resources and mentors and collaborating with city and county leaders on new programs to ensure that New Rochelle continues to present an environment that supports growth and prosperity.



## LEAGUE NATIONAL CONVENTION HELD VIRTUALLY

At our League of Women Voters 54th National Convention this past weekend, over 1200 League delegates, including LWV New Rochelle's Monica Grey, observers, board members, and staff joined together virtually for the first time in our 100-year history.

The days leading up to the convention were filled with virtual caucuses, informative webinars on new and enhanced, existing resources. As finale to the pre-Convention kickoff, LWV CEO Virginia Kase moderated a panel of voting rights experts to discussing how we can expand the vote and make our democracy representative of all. The conversation, which was also streamed on Facebook live, included D.C Mayor Muriel Bowser, Valerie Jarrett of When We All Vote, Allison Riggs of the Southern Coalition for Social Justice, and Alejandra Castillo of YWCA USA. This panel recording is available on the LWVUS webpage and its FaceBook page.

Friday and Saturday's zoom sessions allowed for focused discussion and animated debate. Delegates were asked to consider and approve the National League's budget, officers and program that will set the priorities for its focus, advocacy and activity. Delegates approved the motion to retain all current LWVUS positions in the areas of representative government, international relations, natural resources and social policy. They then adopted the LWVUS program for 2020-2022 Campaign for Making Democracy Work®: ensuring a free, fair and accessible electoral system for all eligible voters by focusing on Voting Rights, Improving Elections and advocacy for the National Popular Vote Compact, Campaign Finance/Money in Politics and Redistricting and to continue to work on urgent issues: Climate Change, the Equal Rights Amendment, Health Care, Gun Safety, and Immigration.

Additional approved motions, submitted by local and or state leagues, reaffirmed the League's commitment to reform of immigration law and an ecologically sustainable environment and climate. A resolution to endorse and work for the abolition of the Electoral College met with significant opposition but passed on the final vote. Submitted by LWV Missouri and 27 other local and State Leagues including LWVNY, a resolution directing the League on matters of anti-racism was firmly endorsed. It states:

*First, that the League advocates against systemic racism in the justice system and, at a minimum, for preventing excessive force and brutality by law enforcement. We also call for prompt actions by all League members to advocate within every level of government to eradicate systemic racism, and the*

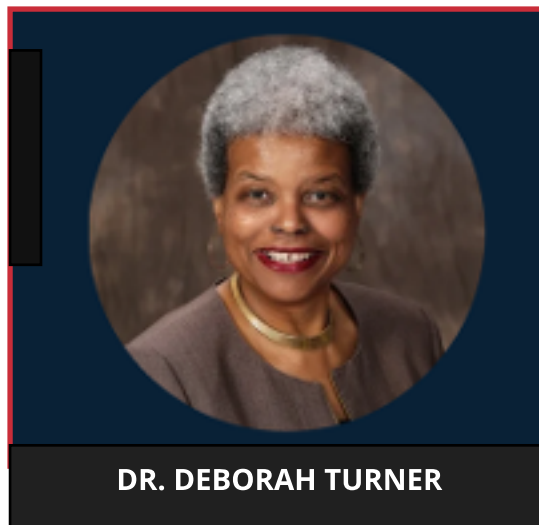


*harm that it causes;*

*Second, that the League help our elected officials and all Americans recognize these truths to be self-evident; that Black, Indigenous and all people of color (BIPOC) deserve equal protection under the law; and that we demand solutions for the terrible wrongs done, so that regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, disability, and gender identity or sexual orientation we may truly become a nation "indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."*

New York was well represented when the winners of the four National awards were announced. LWVNY won the "Strengthening Democracy" award for its – and our – work in educating the public on Early Voting for the first time last year! LWVNYC won in the "Storytelling" category for a series of multilingual educational videos.

In a speech following her installation, newly elected LWVUS President Dr. Deborah Turner, a doctor, attorney, and long-time League member, laid out her vision for the League for the next two years: making Vote411.org a household name, advancing our Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) work, and embracing intergenerational relationships. The delegates' uniform response was beyond enthusiastic! Attendees left the virtual convention clearly invigorated (despite the hours in front of their computers) and charged with renewed purpose. We are all looking forward to the next couple of years!



Please check the [www.LWV.org](http://www.LWV.org) website for complete convention coverage including the recording of CBS Evening News Anchor Nora O'Donnell's Keynote Address on the intersection of journalism and activism.

## **Singer Kim Petras Works with MTV, Logo, and Trans Lifeline to Help Trans Youth Update IDs**

Kim Petras is partnering with MTV, LogoTV, and Trans Lifeline to bolster a new program serving transgender youth. The program will provide grant money that will allow transgender people to update their IDs to reflect their identities, just in time for the 2020 election. The campaign also raises awareness about voting access within the LGBTQ+ community, specifically for those transgender voters whose legal documents do not reflect their true identities.

"What if you couldn't vote as the person you truly are?" the singer says in a promo video.-- Bazaar, 6/26/2020 [READ THE REST AT TRANS VOTERS](#)

## 2020 LWNYS Council Meeting

LWNYS held its 2020 Council Meeting on June 11 on Zoom. At the Council meeting, the LWNYS 2020-2021 Budget was approved. Board officers and members also presented their ideas as to League activities for the upcoming year.



See the video of the Council Meeting here:

We hope everyone is feeling well and doing well.

The Board of Directors of The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle has voted to postpone our June Annual meeting until September 2020.

This summer, you will receive a membership renewal notice via email or mail. Please send in your check by mail, or renew via Paypal on our website,

## NITA LOWEY INTRODUCES COVID-19 CHILD CARE BILL

Congresswoman Nita Lowey recently introduced the Child Care for Economic Recovery Act to provide relief for working parents needing child care . This bill would:

- allocate \$10 billion in grants for states to adapt, reconfigure, and expand child care facilities;
- increase the Child Care Entitlement to states for the first time in more than a decade by \$7.1 billion to \$10 billion;
- recognize all child care workers as essential workers;
- support family care for essential workers during the COVID-19 crisis with \$850 million for child and dependent care;
- establish a new tax credit for employers who pay for employees' dependent care; and
- expand tax credit provisions like making the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit (CDCTC) fully refundable.

This summer edition of News from the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle is published by the Executive Board of the League of Women Voters of New Rochelle. We are Joan Alexander, Ina Aronow, Marilyn Brown (Associate Editor,) Leona Newman, Susan Fleming, Monica Grey, Sydelle Herzberg, John Hessel, Peter Korn, Leslie Mignault (Editor,) Tamar Tait, and Pearl Quarles.

Contact us at [LWNNewRochelle@gmail.com](mailto:LWNNewRochelle@gmail.com).

## THE 172nd ANNIVERSARY OF THE SENECA FALLS CONVENTION

On July 19 and July 20 in 1848, the very first woman's rights convention in the world met in Seneca Falls, N.Y. Feminist and freethinker [Elizabeth Cady Stanton](#), with four friends, instigated and convened the Seneca Falls Convention on July 19-20, 1848. Stanton was among the first women to call for "woman suffrage" as part of the "Declaration of Rights and Sentiments" adopted at the convention.

Stanton, initially warned that the suffrage plank was almost too shocking to utter and would alienate supporters, prevailed. The plank won endorsement and galvanized U.S. women for the next 72 years. The 19th Amendment, guaranteeing women's right to vote, was finally passed in 1920, after nearly a century of struggle to overcome religion-rooted objections toward civil equality.



### LWVNYS: Supports Repeal of Police Secrecy Law

The League joined our good government partners in supporting the repeal of [Section 50-a](#) of the New York State Civil Rights Law which permits law enforcement officers to refuse disclosure of personnel records used to evaluate performance toward continued employment or promotion.

In the wake of the brutal murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, many reform groups are calling for the repeal of this law. The League recognizes that this law is not only dangerous for citizens who may be facing an officer with a history of violence record, but is also an obvious lack of transparency and accountability to the public.

You can read more about our work on this important issue [here](#).

### LWVNYS: More Diversity on Redistricting Commission

The League of Women Voters has called on legislative leaders and appointed members of New York's first Independent Redistricting Commission to prioritize gender and racial diversity when selecting the remaining two Commission members.

In addition to gender diversity, the League is supporting NALEO Educational Fund and the LatinoJustice PRLDEF in their call for greater Latinx representation on the Commission. LatinoJustice PRLDEF has cited that more than 20% of the state's population are Latinx yet no Latinx members have been appointed.

Although counts have been delayed, the New York State Independent Redistricting Commission is required by the state constitution to release its proposed maps in April of 2021. In order to fulfill this mandate, the remaining two commissioners must be appointed in a timely manner.



## JOIN THE LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS OF NEW ROCHELLE

The League depends on the work and financial support of all of its members to carry out its programs. Membership is open to women and men of voting age. Joining our local league confers membership in the State and National Leagues, enables you to receive publications from all three levels, and provides the opportunity to be involved in local, state and national issues.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY, STATE, ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_ NEW MEMBERSHIP

\_\_\_ RENEWAL

\_\_\_ INDIVIDUAL \$60/YEAR

\_\_\_ HOUSEHOLD\* \$85/YEAR

\* ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD MEMBER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE MAKE YOUR MEMBERSHIP CHECK PAYABLE TO LWV NR

( ) I WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT THE LEAGUE WITH A **TAX DEDUCTIBLE** CONTRIBUTION

MADE PAYABLE TO **LWV EDUCATION FOUNDATION**

\_\_\_ \$100

\_\_\_ \$50

\_\_\_ OTHER \_\_\_\_\_

( ) Please provide me with information about making a **charitable bequest**

### RETURN THIS APPLICATION WITH YOUR CHECK TO

The League of Women Voters of New Rochelle

46 Long Vue

New Rochelle, NY 10804

or

Join and/or Donate via **PAYPAL** on our website: [www.lwvnewro.org](http://www.lwvnewro.org)



## NEW ROCHELLE INFO



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THE BID  
NEWSLETTER  
**HERE**

SUPPORT THESE  
BLACK- OWNED  
RESTAURANTS IN  
WESTCHESTER,  
INCLUDING SOME  
IN NEW  
ROCHELLE  
**HERE**

### NEW ROCHELLE COVID-19 RESOURCES

- [Coronavirus Updates](#)
- [Guide for Businesses](#)
- [Online Municipal Services](#)
- [New Rochelle Downtown BID](#)

### New Rochelle Launches Program To Help Local Businesses, Residents

The portal will assist local small businesses and New Rochelle residents recover and rebound in a post-pandemic economy.

As the City continues to reopen, New Rochelle announced Thursday its new program **Rebound New Rochelle**, a partnership with the New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce, New Rochelle Business Improvement District, the Business Council of Westchester and the private sector, to help local businesses and residents impacted by the pandemic succeed in the new economic climate.

Funding for the program was made possible with support of the private sector, including the city's master developer for Downtown New Rochelle RXR Realty. The city is also leveraging federal grant dollars received through the U.S. Dept. of Housing and Urban Development to bring the program total to more than \$1.8 million.

"By providing meaningful assistance to businesses and individuals, we can accelerate our local recovery and position our entire City for success in a post-COVID environment. The Rebound program reflects New Rochelle's strong commitment to inclusive, equitable prosperity from which all of us can benefit," said New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson. --Patch, 6/25/2020 [READ THE REST AT PORTAL](#)



## **New Rochelle: A City in a Fragile State Over Kamal Flowers Shooting Awaits Next Move by AG**

The City of New Rochelle seems to be in a fragile state of peace in the weeks after police shot and killed Kamal Flowers on June 5.

Passionate arguments erupt almost daily on social media. Some defend Flowers and want justice for the 24-year-old Black father of young children. Others side with the officer's actions because police say Flowers was shot after he pointed a gun at officers.

Elected officials at all three levels of government say they're trying to keep the peace by sending letters to Gov. Andrew Cuomo's office asking him to direct Attorney General Letitia James' office to investigate Flowers' death.

The police say they are being marginalized and their previous efforts of community outreach have been forgotten.--lohud, 6/26/2020 [READ THE REST AT FLOWERS](#)

### **NEW ROCHELLE SUPERINTENDENT ANNOUNCES NEW HIRES**

In a letter to the community on 6/24, Dr. Laura Fejioo announced the appointment of two new assistant principals and a new human resources executive director.

Christopher Francaviglia, who has served as the CSDNR middle school social studies chairperson for this school year, will become an Assistant Principal at Isaac E. Young Middle School.

Rachel Cornelius will continue in the role of Interim Assistant Principal at New Rochelle High School. She will work alongside Camille Edwards-Thomas, who was also recently named Assistant Principal, and Steve Goldberg, who will take over as Interim Principal in July. The re-appointment creates a second assistant principal position at the high school for the first time.

Mr. Francaviglia and Ms. Cornelius were appointed to their positions by the Board on 6/23. Their new posts begin July 1.

Traci Jackson, a White Plains teacher who built a career in corporate management and hiring before answering a passion for education, has been named Executive Director for Human Resources, a new position in the City School District of New Rochelle. Ms. Jackson was appointed previously and will begin July 13.

**COMMUNITY BULLETIN BOARD**  
**UPCOMING EVENTS**



HOPE COMMUNITY SERVICES SOUP KITCHEN AND FOOD PANTRY NEED HELP TO REACH THE INCREASED NUMBER OF LOCAL CHILDREN AND FAMILIES WITH FOOD INSECURITY.

PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN VOLUNTEER.

PLEASE CLICK [HERE](#) TO FIND OUT HOW YOU CAN DONATE FOOD AND MONEY.

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Through July 5

**Arts Award  
Boutique  
& Celebration**

Use code **AW2020** and 20% of the proceeds will be donated to ArtsWestchester's education programs.

**To shop for the arts visit:**  
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**THE ULTIMATE GUIDE TO  
OUTDOOR ACTIVITIES IN  
WESTCHESTER FOR THE  
PENT-UP AND STIR-CRAZY  
[HERE](#)**



**FRIDAY FARMERS MARKET  
NEW: See below for  
Pre-Ordering Info:**

**Now You Can  
Pre-Order  
And Pick Up Friday**

- 1) Download the WhatsGood Marketplace app
- 2) Order from our vendors by 1PM Thursday
- 3) Come to the farmers market to pick up from our vendors

**[CLICK HERE FOR MORE INFORMATION](#)**