

Congressman and rival to clash at Wagner College

**McMahon and Grimm will
debate on Oct. 26;
Advance makes tickets
available**

By TOM WROBLESKI
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Rep. Michael McMahon and Republican challenger Michael Grimm will go head-to-head in a live, 90-minute debate this month sponsored by the Advance, NY1 and the Staten Island Chamber of Commerce.

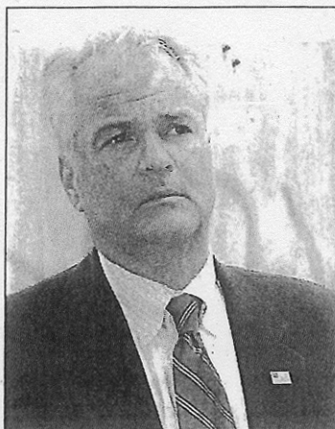
The two will clash on Tuesday, Oct. 26, at 7:30 p.m. in the 350-seat Main Hall Theatre at Wagner College on Grymes Hill.

The congressional campaign has been a contentious one, taking place against the backdrop of a persistent national recession, coast-to-coast voter discontent and predictions that the GOP could take back the House.

With domestic issues topping the agenda, McMahon (D-Staten Island/Brooklyn) and Grimm have sparred over health-care reform, the stimulus package and campaign tactics.

McMahon, a former North Shore city councilman, first won the seat in 2008, and is the first Democrat to hold the congressional slot here in 30 years.

As he runs in his first House re-election bid, McMahon has touted how he



Re. Michael McMahon, above, and GOP challenger Michael Grimm will debate on Oct. 26 at Wagner College.



brought hundreds of millions of dollars to the district for highway and ferry improvements.

He has also highlighted his vote against the health-care law.

McMahon received a high-profile endorsement from President Bill Clinton, who

came to Wagner last month to stump for him. Former Mayor Ed Koch also has backed McMahon.

Grimm is a Gulf War Marine veteran and former FBI agent. He won a party primary last month, beating GOP designee Michael Allegritti.

He has called the stimulus a waste of money and has challenged McMahon to support repealing the health-care law.

Grimm, who is backed locally by former Borough President Guy Molinari, has gotten endorsements from former President George H.W. Bush, Sarah Palin, Sen. John McCain and former Mayor Rudolph Giuliani.

The Advance will distribute a total of 150 debate tickets to the public.

Those interested must make their request by e-mail only to newsroom@siadvance.com. Please include your name, mailing address with ZIP code, and phone number. There is a limit of two tickets per request. Phone orders will not be honored.

All e-mail requests must be received by 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Oct. 20, to allow time for mailing.

Parking for the debate will be available at the Spiro Lot on Campus Road and in the Wagner stadium lot off Howard Avenue.

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