

Westchester Rising

PRESORT-STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
White Plains, NY
Permit #7164

Yonkerstimes.com

www.RisingMediaGroup.com

Friday December 17, 2021

Community Volunteers Help Resettle Afghans in Westchester



The YonkersTimes.com and Yonkers Rising has learned about a heartwarming story involving Afghan refugees that are already in Yonkers, as the City is about to welcome another 50. Governor Hochul announced last week that 1,790 Afghan refugees that have been temporarily staying on Army bases are being relocated across New York State.

We were able to speak with Kathie O'Callaghan, founder and President of Hearts & Homes for Refugees, a Westchester non for profit that has been working since 2016 to raise money and seek volunteers to help and welcome refugees. We learned a few things from our conversation with O'Callaghan and Hearts & Homes about the work that they do.

First, the money raised from donations goes to support refugee families get on their feet, with a home and other basics, from three months to one year, until they are acclimated and become active participants in their communities.

Recently, Hearts & Homes helped place an Afghani family in an apartment in Yonkers. Before they moved in, a volunteer crew arrived and cleaned and fixed up the apartment. The landlord was so impressed with the volunteers and the total effort of this organization that he offered to house another family from Afghanistan, and then a third family. So now there are three families from Afghanistan who are living in this small apartment building in Yonkers, and the landlord has welcomed them with open arms.

The landlord is happy because the rent is paid for one year, with donations and funds raised from groups like Hearts & Homes. The immigrant families are learning the language and the children are going to school and the adults are getting jobs. As a Community Sponsor, Hearts & Homes helps families with rent, groceries and other first-year needs.

Community Sponsors are privately funded volunteer-driven groups that offer community connections to resettle refugees in partnership with U.S. State Department agencies. CS volunteers find and furnish apartments, provide community and cultural orientation, enroll children in school, offer ESOL support for families, navigate social services and the healthcare system, employment and career assistance, and navigate a new culture and language.

The time and resources offered by community sponsors to arriving refugees offer better chances for successfully meeting their goals of integration and independence

Question to O'Callaghan,-Where will the 50 arriving Afghani immigrants move to? Answer: They will move to apartments in and around Westchester.

continued on pg 4-

22 Westchester Communities "Opt-Out" of Marijuana Dispensaries, Cafes for 2022



December 31 Deadline to Opt Out Loomng

By Dan Murphy

The Rockefeller Institute of government has created a marijuana opt out tracker, to easily find and identify which towns, villages and cities have opted out of permitting marijuana cafes and dispensaries to operate. The NY State legislature and then Gov. Andrew Cuomo approved legalizing marijuana in NY state in April of 2021, and local governments have until Dec. 31 to opt-out. However, if any local government does not opt-out by Dec. 31, then they are opting in by permitting pot cafes and dispensaries once licenses begin to be issued in New York.

According to the Rockefeller tracker, 22 Westchester local governments have opted out. They are: Ardsley, Bronxville, Eastchester, Elmsford, Irvington, Larchmont, Lewisboro, Mamaroneck Town, Mamaroneck Village, Mount Kisco, Mount Pleasant, New Castle, North Castle, North Salem, Pelham Manor, Pleasantville, Port Chester, Rye City, Rye Brook, Somers, Tuckahoe, Yorktown.

And according to the tracker, the Westchester cities of Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, White Plains, Yonkers and the Town of Pound Ridge and the Village of Sleepy Hollow will permit both cafes and dispensaries. The Town/Village of Harrison is expected to opt out in a vote to be taken on Dec. 16.

According to published reports, more than 400 towns and villages across New York State have opted out, or 31% of all NY towns and villages. The law that legalized recreational marijuana in New York gave municipalities until Dec. 31 to "opt out" of hosting dispensaries or on-site consumption lounges once retail sales start in a year or so.

Opinions on the issue of opting out are split. Pleasantville resident Michael Gold wrote the following Op-Ed for the Examiner News which we reprint with permission, because it echoes the sentiment expressed by many in Westchester.

continued on pg 5-

Gov. Hochul Issues Statewide Mask Mandate; Westchester to Enforce, Putnam Will Not:

By Dan Murphy



By Dan Murphy

On Dec. 10, NY Governor Kathy Hochul announced masks will be required to be worn in all indoor public places unless businesses or venues implement a vaccine requirement. A vaccine requirement would mean that local business place employees at their entrances and ask for proof of vaccination, or a mask be worn, before entry.

At Deciccos supermarket in Jefferson Valley in Northern Westchester an employee was standing at the entrance with a box of disposable masks, and customers were required to wear a mask or use one given to them.

Hochul's order is effective from Dec. 13 to Jan 15, 2022, after which the State will re-evaluate based on current conditions. "As Governor, my two top priorities are to protect the health of New Yorkers and to protect the health of our economy. The temporary measures I am taking today will help accomplish this through the holiday season. We shouldn't have reached the point where we are confronted with a winter surge, especially with the vaccine at our disposal, and I share many New Yorkers' frustration that we are not past this pandemic yet," Governor Hochul said. "I want to thank the more than 80 percent of adult New Yorkers who have done the right thing to get fully vaccinated. If others will follow suit, these measures will no longer be necessary."

Since Thanksgiving, the statewide seven-day average case rate has increased by 43% and hospitalizations have increased by 29%. While the percentage of New Yorkers fully vaccinated continues to increase—gaining 2% from Thanksgiving weekend to now—the uptick is not fast enough to completely curb the spread of the virus, particularly among communities with low vaccination coverage.

Local, County health departments are being asked to enforce these requirements, but several days after making the mask mandate, Gov. Hochul said that county governments will not be required to enforce the mask mandate. This resulted in neighboring counties taking different actions.

Westchester County will be enforcing the mask mandate, but "to the best of our ability and with great discretion and understanding. A mask mandate is a lot less than a shutdown or a vaccine mandate," said County Executive George Latimer, who tested positive for COVID on Dec. 13 and is feeling ok and is

continued on pg 4-

Toys for Tots & Salvation Army Kettles Offer a Reliable Place to Make a Holiday Donation



If you have come up to the end of this holiday season realizing that you haven't done enough for those less fortunate, two of the most respected organizations that could use your donation are Toys for Tots, Westchester and the Salvation Army's Red Kettle campaign.

Both organizations are easy to find this time of year. The red kettles are outside most supermarkets or stores, and the collection boxes for Toys for Tots are also all over Westchester. We spoke to Westchester coordinator for Toys for Tots, Steve Topilnycky who told us "While the area has opened up (although new restrictions are now upon us), we definitely had more drop off locations than last year. But overall, the donations seem to be down. We will be servicing over 25,000+ Children this year in the Westchester Area up from last year (24,096). This year we did spend a record breaking amount in purchasing toys to fill short falls, in addition to the toys provided by the Marine Toys for Tots Foundation. We can really use monetary donations to replenish our account in preparation for next year..

continued on pg 5-

29 Year Old Westchester Cold Case Solved with Help of Online DNA Website



photo of Meresa Hammonds in 1992, right, and a rendering of what she would look like today.

Cold crimes across the United States are being solved with the help of DNA evidence, but also with the help of genealogy database companies, which compile information for those looking for information on their family roots.

A 29-year old Yonkers cold case was solved recently, thanks for Yonkers Detective John Geiss and the FBI. On June 27, 1992, an unidentified female was found dead in a dumpster behind I Love NY Pizza, on Midland Avenue. The case remained unsolved until this year, when Detective Geiss traveled to the families of Meresa Hammonds to inform them that the national DNA database had identified Hammonds as the victim of murderer Robert Schulman.

Schulman was arrested in 1996 for several murders on Long Island, and for the Yonkers murder, but he couldn't identify the woman that he killed, explaining that he picked her up and brought her back to his apartment where they smoked crack cocaine. When he woke up she was dead, and his dismembered her body and left it in a Yonkers dumpster on Midland. Schulman was convicted of several murders and died in prison in 2006.

YPD Det. Geiss reopened the case in 2014 and used the advances in DNA technology to see if he could find a link to ID the victim. Eventually, the evidence went from the Westchester County forensics lab to the national DNA database. And this year, 2021, the FBI was able to link the DNA from the victim to members of her family who had used a genealogy website.

And, after the family was contacted in person by Det. Geiss, 'Yonkers Jane Doe' was identified as Meresa Hammonds, who was 31 when she was killed.

Carl Koppelman, a Volunteer Forensic Genealogist at DNA Doe Project made the announcement on Facebook on Dec. 8. "1992 Yonkers Jane Doe IDENTIFIED. On June 27, 1992, a construction worker searching for a lost lottery ticket discovered the body of a woman in a trash dumpster behind the I Luv New York Pizza parlor at 1288 Midland Ave in Yonkers, New York. She was unidentified for 29 years, known simply as "Yonkers Jane Doe". She is one of five victims of serial murderer Robert Shulman, a 42-year-old postal worker, who was active from 1991 to 1995. He was originally sentenced to death, but his sentence was later changed to life without parole. He died in prison in 2006. The woman has now been IDENTIFIED, and I have the OK from her family to let the followers of my page know that her name is Meresa Hammonds. She was born in Kentucky in April of 1961, and was one of seven siblings. She spent much of her early years living in California. When she was older, she moved to Michigan, and then to New Jersey, where she and her sister worked as fashion models," posted Koppelman.

Meresa Hammonds was one of seven children born in Kentucky. She eventually moved to New Jersey, and then fell on tough times. She was the

continued on pg 4-

Holiday Splendor at the Hudson River Museum, Ready for Your Visit



By Angelique Piwinski, HRM Board of Trustees Member and a Yonkers Historian

It's the holidays and great time to plan a visit to Yonkers' and Westchester's cultural and historic gem, the Hudson River Museum located on the shores of the majestic Hudson River at 511 Warburton Ave. in Yonkers and "Glenview", the John Bond Trevor mansion, an historic part of the museum complex.

This month until January 9th you can experience what life was like in 1877 when the mansion was completed and learn about Gilded Age holiday traditions on a 45-minute tour of the six fully restored period rooms. A stunning Rainbow Tree holds court in the Parlor surrounded by gifts, and decorated trees adorn the Sitting Room and Library. The beautiful woodwork on the mantels in the Library, Great Hall, and Sitting Room are bedecked in elegant wreaths, ribbons, and flowers. The Dining Room features a tablescape with gilded place settings and a chandelier adorned with fir greenery and ornaments.

Explore the cabinets around Glenview to find the favorite books and toys of Victorian era children, including a nineteenth-century doll, ivory chess set, beloved children's books, and a well-loved teddy bear. In addition, Nybelwyck Hall, Yonkers favorite 24-room dollhouse, is also beautifully decorated for the holidays.

The original museum was housed in the mansion for a number of years until the campus expanded and now is a major architectural and historic attraction drawing visitors from around the globe. The history of both the 144 year old mansion and the over 100 year old museum is long and complex. You can read about it and all of the goings-on at the museum that constantly change by visiting the museums website: hrm.org. There is a continuing array of arts, culture, science and history reflecting the diversity of our communities with over 350 separate programs a year. Everyone will see themselves somewhere in this incredible institution.

One can only imagine what life was like for the John Bond Trevor family back in 1877 when the mansion was completed and thereafter during Victorian times. Every square inch of the building is packed with history and it is so important to learn about it and understand it because in the beautifully crafted words of the Rev. Alison who wrote a book about the History of Yonkers in his book published in 1896, he said that "history honors the "elders" and teaches the youth to make the past intelligent to the present for the guidance of the future."

To that end the museum has a wonderful award winning multicultural junior docent program for high school students where they learn a tremendous amount about history, the arts, culture and life skills.

The museum is currently undergoing an expansion that will allow even more

continued on pg 6-

River

White Plains

Scarsdale

Yonkers

Mt Vernon

Bronx

NewYork-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital
55 Palmer Avenue, Bronxville

New York's #1 hospital is right here in Westchester.

NewYork-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital, located in Bronxville, is powered by top doctors from Columbia, bringing advanced levels of care and expertise close to you. We are here to serve your healthcare needs safely and conveniently with the quality care you expect from NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, New York's #1 hospital. With the nation's top doctors, latest medical technology and advanced treatments, you'll find amazing care – right here in Westchester.

Learn more at nyp.org/lawrence

NewYork-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital

With **Columbia** doctors right where you live

As ranked by U.S. News & World Report 2021-2022

NYS Police Chiefs ask for Changes to Bail Reform: Eliminate Cash Bail, But Let Judges Keep Repeat Offenders in Prison

On December 9, the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police sent to Governor Kathy Hochul, State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie a number of proposed amendments to the State's bail law, criminal discovery law, and other criminal justice laws that have an every-day impact on the public's safety. You can find a link to our legislative proposals on our website at www.nychiefs.org. Members of the Association joined the family members of victims of violent crime at the State Capitol to make a pledge to protect our communities.

These common sense changes will fix several issues with these laws which have undermined the justice system and threatened the safety of all New Yorkers. These amendments will achieve a balance between maintaining the spirit of necessary criminal justice reform and enhancing the safety of our communities through continued collaboration, as well as ensuring fairness to crime victims and the accused.

"We in NYS law enforcement fully recognize and acknowledge the need for the many criminal justice reforms that had been passed in 2020. Since that time, we now have had a considerable amount of time to evaluate the data as it relates to the legislative changes. We are now in a position to share what we think are common sense adjustments that address the small subset of our most prolific and violent offenders that drive crime in all offense categories. I am confident that our recommended changes strike the appropriate need for criminal justice reforms while at the same time, gives us the tools we need to keep our communities as safe as possible," said Commissioner John Mueller, Yonkers Police Department.

Key parts of the Proposed Amendments:

Bail: Eliminate cash bail altogether by eradicating the inequities that allow wealth to determine freedom; Allow judges to consider a defendant's public safety risk, so that the people who pose the biggest threat to our communities do not continue to endanger our communities.

Criminal Discovery: Stagger the discovery schedule to ease administrative burdens while at the same time providing enough information to defendants to make informed decisions; Limit discovery to relevant and material information and not to all information that is tangentially related to the case and provides no probative value; Allow the prosecution to answer ready for trial if they have substantially complied with discovery, preventing cases from being dismissed because duplicative and non-material information is provided later in the discovery process.

Juvenile Justice – "Raise the Age Law" Allow judges in Youth Part to see family court records so that defendants do not appear in front of the Youth Part judge as a perpetual first time offender; Amend the statute of limitations in family court so that individuals who commit crimes days before their 18th birthday can be prosecuted after their 18th birthday.

Appearance Tickets: Expand the list of crimes for which police are not required to issue appearance tickets to include additional serious offenses; Limit the ability for chronic offenders to continually receive appearance tickets so that they are not immediately released back into the community.

"No one here disagrees that reform was necessary. We have always said that. But these laws have had immediate unintended consequences on the safety of our cities. We believe these proposed changes can accomplish both goals: bringing important reforms to the criminal justice system while not making our streets more dangerous," said Commissioner Dermot Shea, New York City Police Department.

"I remember my son each and every day. We cannot forget him and others who have been lost to gun violence. We have to do everything we can to make sure that the violence stops and no one else loses their lives prematurely, and that starts with keeping dangerous people off of our streets. Judges in New York State need to have discretion to remand people who continue to plague our communities with violence and crime. These laws need to be fixed now," said Eve Hendricks, a Bronx mother who lost her seventeen year-old son, Brandon, in 2020 when he was struck by gunfire while attending a barbecue.

Mask 'Meshuggahness' in New York



By Eric W. Schoen

Let me start out by being clear. I am not a doctor. I speak to a lot of health care professionals and like to share their advice with my good readers. Why? Because frankly we are all going 'meshuggah' over Covid and it's variants and mask wearing.

I support the wearing of masks indoors and when you are around people with comorbidities. I support vaccinations and boosters with one caveat. Washing your hands, well that's something you should have been doing since you were 2 years old. Shame on you if you have not been rinsing your hands with water, applying soap, rubbing your hands for 20 seconds (sing 'Happy Birthday to You' twice), rinsing them off and drying them with a 'clean' paper towel.

No paper towels but those stupid hand dryers? Make sure your hands are cupped so that the air bouncing off your hands is not blowing on your face. That air could be spreading droplets of the virus in the air right onto your face. No good!

The mask policy announced by Governor Hochul last Friday though well intentioned was put into effect poorly. Businesses and the public need more than 4 days to fully understand the law and attempt to enforce it. The Governor should have given businesses and municipalities at least one full week if not ten days or two weeks to figure out what's going on. I'll get into the problems shortly. But let me tell you about my visit to the gym Tuesday morning.

I went to my gym's Yonkers location for my aqua exercise class. I recommend it highly as it is a low impact, high intensity full body exercise program. I take aqua exercise classes at my gym's Bronx location Thursdays when I am not on the radio where the class is offered Tuesday through Thursday mornings. I go to sign in and am told by the receptionist I need a mask per Governor Hochul's new policy.

I said wait, I had to provide proof of vaccination at your Bronx location so why do I need a mask? They said Westchester does not have a vaccination policy whereas the Bronx does. So to use the Yonkers facility one needs to mask up. I thought about that as I splashed through my exercise class. I apologized to the receptionist for questioning her.

A Vaccination Policy in Westchester? Something our poor County Executive George Latimer should think about as he recovers from Covid. At least a vaccination policy that covered those areas in New York City's initial Vaccination policy. This way we have some uniformity

People were wearing masks upon entrance to the gym. When I looked at the two gym floors chock full of people exercising on equipment, most folks either had their masks off, were wearing them below their chin or were not covering their nose and mouth as required. So much for mask policy! People were paying no attention to the announcements over the intercom that they were required to be masked in the gym. I told the manager that they have to assign a staff member to go around the gym telling people to mask up.

continued on pg 6-



Anti-Abortion Activists Arrested in White Plains After Two Hour "Intervention" in Clinic



Franciscan Friar Fidelis Moscinski, placed under arrest by White Plains Police

By Dan Murphy

Westchester District Attorney Mimi Rocah's office is investigating an incident that occurred on Nov. 27 at the All Women's Medical Clinic in White Plains. White Plains Police Officers were called to the scene after several members of the Anti-abortion group Red Rose Rescue entered the clinic and staged an 'intervention' for more than two hours.

Three men were arrested by the WPPD, but women protestors has also entered the clinic and more than a dozen members of Red Rose Rescue were outside. Franciscan Friar Fr. Fidelis Moscinski, (pictured above), Williams Goodman and Matthew Connolly were arrested and charged with criminal trespassing and will appear in White Plains City Court on Dec. 13.

The 'intervention' according to Red Rose Rescue on their Facebook page, was to prevent medical providers from performing abortions.

District Attorney Rocah said her office, "and law enforcement partners are investigating an incident that took place at a women's healthcare clinic in White Plains on Saturday, Nov. 27. Investigators are looking at whether individuals illegally interfered with patients receiving access to medical care. The New York State Clinic Access Act, Penal Law Section 240.70, gives patients and staff the right to be free from force, threats of force, or physical obstruction when trying to obtain or provide reproductive health care. In addition, criminal trespass or other criminal statutes may apply. Criminal conduct which interferes with the rights of Westchester County residents to freely access healthcare is serious, and will be, if appropriate, prosecuted to the fullest extent possible," said Rocah in a statement.

Red Rose Rescue said on its Facebook page "A few clarifications. 1. More women than men participated in this rescue. 2. More prolife women than men entered the killing facility to save lives. 3. Not one person going into the abortuary was ever threatened, insulted, intimidated, assaulted, blocked, harassed, or forced to leave the facility by anyone associated with Red Rose Rescue. The group claims that its actions are "nonviolent direct action intervention," and that during its White Plains incident, "at least one woman left the clinic in tears." This group has also been mentioned in other media reports about similar incidents across the United States. After the White Plains incident they posted, "Mission Accomplished-Thanks be to God."

State Senator Allesandra Biaggi commented on the incident, stating, "Such an act is absolutely reprehensible and will not be tolerated in New York State. By law, all New Yorkers have the right to access reproductive health care free from force, threats of force, and physical obstruction. No one should have to fear verbal or physical harassment when accessing such care, and I stand with the patients and staff of the All Women's Medical clinic. I commend District Attorney Mimi Rocah for launching this investigation, and hope the affected patients and staff receive the justice they deserve. As the future of reproductive health care in our country hangs in the balance, New York must continue to serve as a leader in reproductive justice and condemn such acts of intolerance."

Mask Mandate, continued from pg 3-

under quarantine at home.

Latimer received his two vaccinations earlier this year and had planned on getting a booster shot this week before he tested positive. "Earlier today, Westchester County Executive George Latimer tested positive for COVID-19. The County Executive sought out a test after hearing that he was exposed at a community event. The County Executive is home in isolation, and is continuing to carry out the work of the Government from his residence. He is grateful his symptoms are mild thanks to his COVID-19 vaccinations," said Catherine Cioffi, Westchester County Communications Director on Dec. 13.

The first Westchester case of the COVID variant Omicron was identified in a 13-year old county resident last week. After that announcement, County Executive Latimer declared a state of emergency in Westchester, which better prepares hospitals, medical facilities and county government with the ability to deal with more COVID patients and cases if they arise.

But in Putnam County, County Executive MaryEllen Odell said that Putnam County government, Health Department and Law Enforcement will not be enforcing the mask mandate. "Our Main Street businesses have followed all the rules, from recommendations and guidelines to shutdowns throughout this pandemic in order to keep the public and their customers safe and healthy," County Executive Odell said. "Now, in the midst of the holiday season, business owners are facing numerous operating issues including supply chain and hiring difficulties. We cannot expect them to implement this unrealistic order."

Here in Putnam County, the Health Department is working overtime to vaccinate our residents. Are we really supposed to stop them from running essential vaccine clinics and redirect them to checking whether the unvaccinated are entering buildings unmasked? The department is in the midst of arranging a private-public partnership to create a COVID testing site that will open at the Donald B. Smith campus in Carmel before Christmas and operate six days a week.

Yorktown Today Supervisor Matt Slater asked Gov. Kathy Hochul to reexamine the indoor mask mandate and asked the governor to allow municipalities the authority to decide what makes sense for them. "You have recently stated that counties can choose to enforce your indoor mask mandate. This is creating a disparity for municipalities like mine whose customers are going to neighboring counties that are choosing not to enforce it." Supervisor Slater has already received messages from local business owners who have been told by customers that they will shop in Putnam County, which sits on Yorktown's northern border. Putnam County officials have declared that they will not enforce the mask mandate.

"It is disappointing to learn that some of our residents would choose to avoid our local stores and restaurants because of a mask mandate," said Supervisor Slater. "I'm asking all our residents to support Yorktown and its local business owners, who do not deserve to be abandoned in the middle of the holiday shopping season."

Regardless of where you live or shop, the message of getting vaccinated, getting a booster shot and staying safe should be the same.

County Partners with Scenic Hudson to Advance Federal Funding Opportunities to Expand Westchester Riverwalk

Westchester County Executive George Latimer has included \$1.3 million in his proposed 2022 County budget to conduct an environmental review of the extension of the Westchester RiverWalk beneath the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge. In partnership with the environmental organization Scenic Hudson, Latimer is working to advance the project to shovel-ready status, so it may be eligible for funds from the recently passed \$1.2 trillion bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. The 0.9-mile stretch of the RiverWalk beneath the bridge has long been considered a critical "missing link" in efforts to complete the 51-mile trail spanning the length of Westchester's Hudson waterfront.

The Act invests \$11 billion in transportation safety, including safer paths and crossings for bicyclists and pedestrians. In addition to connecting current RiverWalk segments in Tarrytown and Irvington, the extension is envisioned to link to the bridge's shared-use path, making it a viable option for Rockland County commuters to access nearby jobs and Metro-North stations across the river.

Latimer said: "The RiverWalk project means an opportunity for recreation, the ability for a car-free commute to jobs and shops, less traffic congestion and pollution, and a boost to Westchester's tourism economy. All are benefits that County residents and visitors will receive from the RiverWalk extension. This game-changing investment in the project will move it one step closer to construction — and increase its potential for receiving funds from the recently enacted federal infrastructure bill to complete it."

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said: "I look forward to being partners with the federal government, the County, our local communities, and others to provide help for the Riverwalk project."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Planning Norma Drummond said: "RiverWalk began as a vision on a napkin 20 years ago by County Executive Spano and we have been working with the local partners on each piece to get a continuous trail as close to the river as possible. Studying this piece of the RiverWalk is extremely important to be sure we are as environmentally sensitive as possible."

Scenic Hudson President Ned Sullivan said: "We are grateful to County Executive Latimer for proposing this visionary funding that will knit together so many communities along Westchester's magnificent riverfront. We look forward to working with him to secure support for it in the county Legislature and, moving forward, seeking to secure additional funding from the federal infrastructure bill for this extraordinary collaborative project."

Scenic Hudson has been leading collaborative efforts to complete the extension. The project has drawn widespread endorsement from the business community, the four municipalities around the extension (Briarcliff Manor, Irvington, Sleepy Hollow and Tarrytown), and many of the region's bicycling organizations.

Afghan refugees, continued from pg 1-

mother of two sons, but had disappeared from her family at the time of her death. Two comments below Koppleman's post show us how Facebook can be used for the good of us all. "Carl koppelman I'm one of her sons . I'm truly thankful, and to detective John she will always be missed, was taken from all of us to young but like you said at least we know she was loved and can rest in peace. Best part is getting my mom's family in my life, because before all of this I had no clue who they were. Love every single one of the hammonds family truly grateful to have found you. Better late then never . Love all off you more then you could ever know. My mom was truly loved and blessed. Rip MOM 92," posted Jason Di Trapani.

Jason's new family posted back, "Jason Di Trapani The Hammonds family couldn't be happier to have you in it now. It's the biggest blessing in the whole tragic situation. Let's make up for lost time as much as possible," posted Marcia Hammonds.

Another post from Teena Hammonds reads, "This is our beautiful sister Meresa, Misa she went by, she is the "Yonkers Jane Doe" she has a name, she is loved, she was taken from us by a Monster!! On Monday November 1st Dectective John Geiss from Yonkers police department showed up in Plymouth, Mi. at my brother's door Kimmy, he gathered his siblings living in Michigan to speak with Detective Geiss, very professional humble man, can't ever thank him enough and all the people looking for our sisters name/family, We are so grateful after 29 years of Dedication, the Articles, channel 12 news and a face book page dedicated to our beloved sister, we thank you for your work and dedication.

Cold Case solved, continued from pg 2-

Some Yonkers residents complained how come Yonkers gets all of the immigrants and the homeless, and half of the affordable housing units in Westchester? Why can't these immigrants move to Scarsdale?

O'Callaghan's answer made sense to us, but may not appease those who are fearful of foreigners. Yonkers is the third largest city in NY and the rents for those apartments are among the most reasonable in Westchester.

"Yonkers is a wonderfully diverse community that offer so much for our new neighbors as they establish their new lives, said O'Callaghan, who did add that refugees have been resettled throughout Westchester County, including in Pelham, White Plains and elsewhere. Yonkers also has the ability for a new family to get around without a car, and the ability to get to the subway if they want to work in New York City.

The \$5 Million in State grants announced by Governor Hochul on Dec. 8 will go to support programs, but the money raised by Hearts & Homes goes to the 'Nuts & Bolts' that the families need; housing, food, clothing, furniture. O'Callaghan notes that "Hearts & Homes depends on private funders and donors and have never received government funds."

Another complaint was raised by some in Yonkers. We have homeless on the streets already, and homeless Veterans. What about them? Why can't we help them first?

O'Callaghan said, "One is not exclusive to the other, and many of our volunteers serve other populations in need. They have worked with the homeless, in food pantries, on community drives, and in other places that serve many, including our veterans. There is enough goodwill to help all those in need—including homeless vets and refugees."

Federal funds will also help these refugees get on their feet.

Here is what one Veteran told us. "We were in their country for 20 years, and then left abruptly. The least we can do for those who worked with us in Afghanistan is to give them a chance here in America. That is what this country is all about. They are good people who want nothing more than a chance. I'm from Yonkers and I'm willing to give them a chance," said Robert Mozian.

O'Callaghan pointed out that many of those Afghans who are arriving with Special Immigrant Visas (SIV) because they risked their lives to work with and protect our troops." We promised them and their families our protection."

In addition to Hearts & Homes, Catholic Charities, and other non-profits that have been approved by the U.S. Government and working to give these refugees the help and support they need in the first year in our country.

O'Callaghan requested volunteers, and the Yonkers community, to come forward to help these Afghans as they relocate into their City. Donations are also welcome to Hearts & Homes. For more information, visit <https://www.heartsandhomesforrefugees.org>.

I ♥ NY
Ilovesny.com

Holiday EVENTS IN THE CATSKILLS

- 12/18 The Scribner's Holiday Market | **Hunter**
- 12/18 Holiday Centerpiece Making | **Tannersville**
- 12/21 Cultivate Catskills Solstice Stroll | **Catskill**

GREAT NORTHERN CATSKILLS
GREENE COUNTY

See more at greatnortherncatskills.com/events

Wheels For Wishes
benefiting
Make-A-Wish®
Northeast New York
Your Car Donations Matter NOW More Than Ever!

- Free Vehicle Pick Up ANYWHERE
- 100% Tax Deductible
- We Accept Most Vehicles Running or Not
- Minimal To No Human-Contact

Call: (877) 798-9474 **WheelsForWishes.org**

*Car Donations For Wishes are subject to state laws and regulations. To see how about our programs or special donations, call (877) 798-9474 or visit www.wheelsforwishes.org

WE SPECIALIZE IN STAINLESS STEEL LINING SYSTEMS

Always Affordable Chimney Inc.
Much more than sweeping chimneys!
— 24 Hour Emergency Service —

- Stainless Steel Chimney Relining/Caps
- Expert Masonry Repairs
- Level I, II and III Chimney Inspections
- Chimney Caps Supplied and Installed
- Violations Corrected

10% OFF
ALL BRICK WORK ON CHIMNEY HOUSING
*MINIMUM \$200 DISCOUNT

BOILER FLUE CLEANING
Starting at \$99 for residential;
call for commercial quotes

FIREPLACE CLEANING
Starting at \$299

855-244-6880 • 516-830-0166
www.alwaysaffordablechimney.com

Fully Licensed & Insured

Gift Card Consumer Protection Bill Signed by Governor Hochul

On Dec. 10, State Senator Shelley B. Mayer and Assemblyman Nader Sayegh announced legislation they sponsored (S3467B/A4629) to limit unfair gift card practices and to protect consumers was signed into law by Governor Kathy Hochul. Gift cards and gift certificates are widely used financial products. They make great gifts for any number of occasions and are a significant component of consumer spending. Notwithstanding their popularity and affordability, consumers have long complained about the nuisance fees, small print limitations, difficulty in spending the last few dollars and cents, and impressions that the cards have expired, which means they stay unused or partially used, sometimes for years. This new law greatly enhances consumer protection to make it easier and less expensive to use these cards and gift certificates.

When it comes to expiration dates, unknown to many consumers, most gift card funds do not expire. Consumers often assume that once their physical gift card has expired that the underlying funds have expired as well, which is not the case. This legislation protects consumers by lengthening expiration dates on gift cards to at least 9 years – 4 years greater than required by the Federal Credit Card Act of 2009, thereby providing substantial additional time for consumers to continue using the same card. This reduces the likelihood that consumers will fail to redeem funds because of confusion over expiration of underlying funds, and helps them bypass the extra effort of requesting a new card for another four years.

Some gift cards also come with nuisance fees. For instance, dormancy fees penalize consumers for not using the card frequently. The law bans all fees on gift cards other than a one-time initial activation fee on “open loop” gift cards (gift cards that can be used anywhere rather than at specific merchants or service providers).

Senator Shelley Mayer said: “When consumers buy gift cards, they are trading their hard-earned money for the promise of a good or service in the future. I am pleased we are tightening the law to limit the loss of value that consumers experience with gift cards by improving consumers’ access to their entitled funds. Thank you to Assemblyman Nader Sayegh for sponsoring this bill in the Assembly and to Governor Kathy Hochul for signing it into law.”

Assemblyman Nader Sayegh said: “It’s just wrong to receive a gift card or gift certificate only to learn later that the value of the gift has automatically declined in value over time, or expired before it was used. That is why I introduced this legislation to prohibit all fees on gift cards and certificates purchased in New York and to greatly extend expiration dates. I thank Senator Shelley Mayer for winning passage of this bill in the Senate, and thank Governor Kathy Hochul for signing the bill right in the heart of the holiday shopping season.”

Holidays at Hudson River Museum, continued from pg 2-

programming and history to be displayed to engage, inspire, and connect diverse communities through the power of the arts, sciences, and history. With this expansion the Hudson River Museum will more than double the number of artworks on view from its compelling permanent collection that contains 20,000 separate items, with a dynamic reinstallation that will tell a more expansive and inclusive history of American art through a diversity of artists, perspectives, and narratives.

If you’ve never been to the museum, there is even a state of the art planetarium on the complex with ongoing programs for all ages.

More about the Hudson River Museum: The Museum offers engaging experiences for every age and interest, with an ever-growing collection of American art; dynamic exhibitions that range from notable nineteenth-century paintings to contemporary art installations; Glenview, an 1877 house on the National Register of Historic Places; a state-of-the-art Planetarium; an environmental teaching gallery; and an outdoor Amphitheater. Accredited by the American Association of Museums (AAM), the Museum is dedicated to collecting, preserving, exhibiting, and interpreting these multidisciplinary offerings, which are complemented by an array of public programs that encourage creative expression, collaboration, and artistic and scientific discovery.

Isn’t it time to find out why the museum was recognized by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation for “visionary leadership, distinctive collections, commitment to community and historically overlooked artists and histories” and why the museum was a winner of 2021 Best of Westchester Awards: Best Tourist Attraction, Best Historic Site, Best Art Gallery, and Best Nonprofit Event.

Hours and Admission: Hudson River Museum is open Thursday through Sunday, 12–5pm. During December 27–31 when school is not in session, additional tours are available Monday through Thursday at 1pm, and on Friday at 1 and 3pm. Vaccination required for entry: all visitors 12+ must show proof of full vaccination or a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours of visit; those 18+ must also show proof of identity. Visitors under 12 may enter only if accompanied by an adult with proof of vaccination or a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours of visit. Learn more and purchase tickets at hrm.org/visit or call (914) 963-4550.

Toys for Tots, Salvation Army, continued from pg 1-

Checks Made Payable to “Toys for Tots”, and mail to Toys for Tots, PO Box 1207, White Plains, NY 10602-1207

Or by Credit Card (we use short links) http://tiny.cc/_dnt which will take you to the Foundation Credit Card page for Westchester County.

Our Official Campaign end date is 15 December 2021. Myself and our volunteers will be conducting pickups throughout the county and our warehouse team is turning the items around to get them to the agencies, so that the Children can have the toys for Christmas,” said Steve Topilnycky.

As many American families are struggling to make ends meet, and many parents will be unable to provide even a single gift for their children this Christmas -- without help from Toys for Tots! Please find it in your heart to make a gift to make sure Santa visits every child this Christmas, no matter their circumstances.

The Salvation Army’s Red Kettle campaign is another easy way for you to make a quick contribution on the way out of a store. This one is easy for me to reach in my pocket and do something, because I know that the person who is ringing the bell has a job because of this fund raiser and because I know that I can trust the Salvation Army to do the right thing with my dollars and help those who need it most.

You also get the best bang for your buck from Toys for Tots and the Salvation Army because most of the money goes back out to those in our area who are suffering.

If you are reading this and have fallen on tough times, then don’t make a donation. But if you made it through the pandemic and are doing OK, then remember there is someone out there who needs your help. Try to help others on this Christmas season please.

Letter to the Editor:

Peterson Foundation statement on CBO letter on the budgetary effects of making specified policies in the Build Back Better Act permanent

Michael A. Peterson, CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, commented today on a letter released by the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) about the fiscal effects of making permanent specified policies in the Build Back Better Act. Peterson said:

“It is critical for national priorities proposed by either party to be fully paid for. Policies should not be artificially sunset just to make the fiscal projections rosier and legislative passage easier. This analysis from CBO shows that timing gimmicks used in the current bill mask this legislation’s potential fiscal impact, which could result in \$3 trillion of additional debt over the next decade.

“We should have transparent and open discussions about the intentions and priorities of legislation and policies. Congress and the President should decide now how to fund new programs over their truly intended timeframes through credible offsets.

“We have already placed a tremendous burden on future Congresses with \$29 trillion of national debt as well as a range of existing permanent programs that are not sufficiently funded by our tax code. There are a number of options to make the current bill more responsible, and there is still time for lawmakers to make it more sustainable for those who stand to benefit from these programs, and for future generations to come.”

About the Peter G. Peterson Foundation

The Peter G. Peterson Foundation is a non-profit, non-partisan organization that is dedicated to increasing public awareness of the nature and urgency of key fiscal challenges threatening America’s future, and to accelerating action on them. To address these challenges successfully, we work to bring Americans together to find and implement sensible, long-term solutions that transcend age, party lines and ideological divides in order to achieve real results. To learn more, please visit www.pgpf.org.

Opting Out of Marijuana Cafes, continued from pg 1-

Titled, Not Ready for a Cannabis Store for Billions of Years, Gold writes,

“Pleasantville isn’t ready for a cannabis café. It won’t be ready for about five billion years, when the sun will burn out and life on Earth will cease to exist. It doesn’t matter where the cannabis café would be located, what security measures are put in place to prevent minors from entering or how much tax revenue it might generate.

“Adults seeking cannabis can get into a car and drive to a cannabis shop in another town. Any store or warehouse a kid can walk to in town is a place a kid can hang around in front of. While that’s OK for a comic book store, it’s not for this.

“Pleasantville has certain Norman Rockwell-like qualities that could easily be degraded with the arrival of a cannabis shop. It’s the type of town where parents pull their little children in red wagons to the Saturday market. Kids peacefully walk to school. We say hello to other people walking on the streets and talk with our neighbors on the weekends. The tree-lined streets exude a sense of quiet and peacefulness. It feels like a little slice of heaven.

“I had a friend growing up who started smoking pot when he was about 13 years old. We met at summer camp in upstate New York when we were 11. His nickname was Bones, like the doctor on Star Trek.

“Bones smoked a lot of pot. I never asked to join him. When I was in the sixth grade, my father had put the fear of God in me about doing drugs and I actually listened to him. My friendship with Bones never got crossed up because he did drugs and I didn’t.

“His parents were divorced, but I don’t know how much that troubled him. We didn’t talk about it. He loved music, and he taught me about Eric Clapton, Cream and Lou Reed, artists I hadn’t heard of before. He lived in Forest Hills, Queens. I used to take the train from my town on Long Island to see him.

“He and I went to concerts and wandered around Manhattan sometimes. We saw Jethro Tull at Madison Square Garden and The Grateful Dead at Nassau Coliseum. We went to the movies and ate fast food.

“At the Grateful Dead concert, Bones smoked pot and hashish and swallowed some amphetamines and LSD. The concert was festival seating, so we could sit anywhere. Soon after the band came on stage, I lost him. Later, at the end of the concert, he found me, telling me he was so high he had run around the arena the entire time. Drugs made him happy.

“The next year his mother and stepfather placed him in a drug rehabilitation facility. I went to visit him in Queens one weekend when he was released from the facility. We played basketball with the other kids in the rehab center.

“When we were older, we got jobs at our old summer camp, as dishwashers. The next summer we worked as maintenance men at the place.

“After that, we lost touch. I went to college. I heard through Bones’ stepbrother that he moved to San Francisco and was working in a music store, selling stereo systems.

“A few years ago, I had lunch with his stepbrother on Long Island. I asked how Bones was doing. He told me that Bones had died of a drug overdose in San Francisco about 20 years before. I didn’t ask what kind of drug. He may not even have known. The family brought his body back East and buried him in New Jersey. There’s nothing left of him now.

“If there’s even the slightest chance that just one kid could figure out an illicit strategy to get into a cannabis café in this town or finagle a way to get an adult to buy them pot, that’s one too many.

“Every parent knows that they need to communicate the message to their kids that drugs are not OK. They provide an escape, yes, but you know what? When you come down from that high, you still face the same problems and issues. The solution is not to escape, but to work at the challenges in your life. If you need a temporary break from school or your house, take a walk around town. Play ball with your friends. Read a book.

“And whatever drug you take may get you addicted, until all you think about is getting high again and all you do is get another hit. It will ruin your life. Allowing a cannabis shop in this serene village is the wrong message to send to our children. A comic book store would be OK, though,” writes Michael Gold, who has written for Examiner News in Westchester, and op-ed articles for the New York Daily News, Albany Times-Union, The Virginian-Pilot and other newspapers.

Previously, we posted an Op-Ed encouraging communities to Opt-In to Marijuana dispensaries and cafes. Read that at <http://yonkerstimes.com/embrace-retail-cannabis-new-york-why-localities-should-opt-in/>

Finally, Westchester congressman Jamaal Bowman has sent a letter to President Joe Biden urging him to pardon all federal non-violent cannabis convictions. Bowman sent the letter together with Congressmembers Earl Blumenauer and Barbara Lee.

“We write to urgently request an update on the February 18, 2021 letter signed by 35 members of Congress and led by Reps. Blumenauer and Lee requesting you pardon all federal non-violent cannabis convictions,” wrote Reps. Bowman, Blumenauer, and Lee. “Many remain behind bars due to racially discriminatory cannabis policies and continue to accrue criminal fees. To begin rectifying the damage done by these discriminatorily implemented policies and reunite families before the holidays, we reiterate our ask that you use your executive authority to pardon all individuals convicted of nonviolent cannabis offenses, whether formerly or currently incarcerated. We further write to specify that all federal criminal fines and fees be cancelled for all nonviolent cannabis offenses.”

“Just as previous presidents have used executive authority to issue blanket pardons consistent with our values that benefit the American people, this is an opportunity for you to uphold commitments made during the campaign and revitalize communities across the country,” continued Reps. Bowman, Blumenauer, and Lee. “Mass incarceration has disproportionately harmed Black and brown communities and its impact can be felt everywhere. Every non-violent offender given the opportunity to return home can create a positive ripple effect by reuniting families, connecting people to work opportunities, and beginning the road to healing from the harm these policies continue to inflict.”

Upgrade Your Home with a
NEW METAL ROOF
Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!

LIMITED TIME OFFER
60% off
YOUR INSTALLATION

+
TAKE AN ADDITIONAL
10% off
Install for Military, Health
Workers and First Responders

ERIE
Metal Roofs

**STRONG AS STEEL WITH THE
ATTRACTIVE LOOK OF VARIOUS
ROOF STYLES**

From Dimensional Shingles to classic styles reminiscent of Cedar Shake and Spanish Tile, an architectural roofing system by Erie Metal Roofs can enhance the beauty of your home while protecting your family and property for a lifetime.

Call today to schedule your
FREE ESTIMATE 1-855-492-6084

ERIE
Metal Roofs

Made in the USA

New orders only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mid-West, Inc ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. Offer expires December 31st 2021. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, pre-recorded messages by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using automated technologies notwithstanding if you are on a DO NOT CALL list or register. Please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on homeseervices.com/compliance. All rights reserved.

Leaf Filter
GUTTER PROTECTION

**BACKED BY A YEAR-ROUND
CLOG-FREE GUARANTEE**

EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!

15% OFF & 10% OFF
YOUR ENTIRE PURCHASE

+ 5% OFF
TO THE FIRST OF
CALLEES ONLY!

FINANCING THAT FITS YOUR BUDGET!
Promo Code: ZSS
*Subject to credit approval. Call for details.

WE INSTALL & MAINTAIN!

**CALL US TODAY FOR
A FREE ESTIMATE** **1-855-478-9473**

Mon-Thurs 8am-11pm, Fri-Sat 8am-5pm, Sun 2pm-8pm EST

*For those who qualify. One coupon per household. No obligation estimate valid for 1 year. **Offer valid as time of estimate only. †The leading consumer reporting agency conducted a 12-month outdoor test of gutter guards in 2010 and recognized LeafFilter as the #1 rated professionally installed gutter guard system in America. CSLB# 1033795 DOB# #10783658-5501 License# 7636 License# 50145 License# 41354 License# 99338 License# 12884 License# 218234 WA License# 603 233 977 License# 21023 2986 License# 21023 2986 License# 21023 2986 License# 1247876229 License# WY656912 License# WC7994-H17 Kansas License# HD1063000 Registration# 179247 Registration# HC 064905 Registration# C127229 Registration# C127230 Registration# 36620918 Registration# PC6473 Registration# RT3124 Registration# 3249292300 Registration# PA069348 Suffolk HC License# 52229-H License# 212516944 License# 262000022 License# 262000409 License# 0086990 Registration# H-19114

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER DYNASTY, LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST CGSRE ACQUISITION CORP, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered 10-22-2021 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Courtroom 200, White Plains, NY on December 23, 2021 at 10:30AM, premises known as 68 Runyon Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester and State of New York, Section: 3 Block: 3112 Lot: 59+60. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,792,943.78 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #50855/2019. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the Westchester County COVID-19 Protocols located on the Office of Court Administration (OCA) website (<https://ww2.nycourts.gov/Admin/oca.shtml>) and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. Anthony J. Centone, Esq., Referee CLAIR GJERTSEN & WEATHERS PLLC 4 New King Street, Suite 140 White Plains, NY 10604 70260

Classifieds:

Sr. Software Engineer; nuTravel Technology Solutions, Inc; Purchase, NY: Resp for req's gathering, revw, dsgn, devel & support of apps; Anlyz & dsgn UI screens based on the req's gathered & collab on database dsgn; Define mapping entities using Hibernate & JPA annotations to persist data to database tables & devel Controller classes in Spring MVC. Reqs: Bachelor's in electrical engng, engng (any), or rel AND 5 yrs exp in maint & support of s/ware systems, Conversion of project specs into detailed instructions & logical steps for coding & Coding using Java, J2EE & components of a J2EE develop environ. Email resume: careers@nutravel.com.

Auto Donations: Drive Out Breast Cancer: Donate a car today! The benefits of donating your car or boat: Fast Free Pickup - 24hr Response Tax Deduction - Easy To Do! Call 24/7: 855-905-4755

Buying / Selling: Buying diamonds, gold, silver, all fine jewelry and watches, coins, paintings, better furs, complete estates. We simply pay more! Call Barry 914-260-8783 or e-mail Americabuying@aol.com

Education / Career Training: TRAIN AT HOME TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 855-543-6440. The Mission, Program Information and Tuition is located at CareerTechnical.edu/consumer-information. (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

Education / Career Training: COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM! Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer & Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain programs for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! (844) 947-0192 (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

Health: VIAGRA & CIALIS! 60 pills for \$99. 100 pills for \$150. FREE shipping. Money back guaranteed! 1-855-579-8907

Help Wanted: Monticello Central School District Openings Spanish Teacher (7-12) Music Teacher/Orchestra Director Speech Language Pathologist NYS Certification Required Please apply online by Dec 19th at <https://monticelloschools.tedk12.com/hire> EOE

Home Improvement: The Generac PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-888-871-0194

Home Improvement: Never Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Complete Care Home Warranty COVERS ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE. \$200.00 OFF + 2 FREE Months! 866-440-6501

Home Improvement: Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off and 0% financing for those who qualify. PLUS Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-763-2379

Miscellaneous: BEST SATELLITE TV with 2 Year Price Guarantee! \$59.99/mo with 190 channels and 3 months free premium movie channels! Free next day installation! Call 888-508-5313

TV Internet Phone: Get DIRECTV! ONLY \$69.99/month! 155 Channels & 1000s of Shows/Movies On Demand (w/SELECT All Included Package.) PLUS Stream on Up to FIVE Screens Simultaneously at No Additional Cost. Call DIRECTV 1-888-534-6918

TV Internet Phone: DISH TV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 1/21/22. 1-888-609-9405

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

On Monday I went to a major name convenience store in Yonkers open 24 hours a day and maybe 50% of the people were wearing masks. They had the same sign on the door saying unvaccinated people must mask up that was posted before Governor Hochul's mask policy went into effect. The poor clerk tried to tell people they had to mask up but frankly after some stupid idiots gave her a hard time she gave up. It's not worth \$13.50 an hour right now to deal with idiots that are going to fight you. Not even worth the \$15 minimum wage in New York City to deal with people over masks and Covid!

The minute the Governor announced the policy she should have communicated with every registered business in the state giving them full details as to what the policy is, signs that say NO MASK, NO SERVICE, PLEASE DO NOT ENTER signed by the Governor Herself making it crystal clear as to what is expected of them and who to call if they run into a problem.

Another major issue. This law come with fines up to \$1000 per violation. But who is going to enforce it? The County Health Department staff is busy inoculating people with first, second and booster doses, a public relations campaign to get vaccinations in people's arms and testing for Covid. The Governor provided them with bubkis, nothing. You want to enforce this policy. Provide counties with bodies to go store to store checking for enforcement. Call in the National Guard if need be to do the job. But don't give counties like Westchester 4 days to get properly staffed. It don't work that way!

Speaking of boosters, I know of 2 people who got their booster shots and died. I had no problem neither did my sister with our booster shots. But a friend of mine from South Africa who is a doctor offered the following advice. Talk to your doctor about it and don't rely on me or my friends. My friend the Doctor from South Africa thinks we are making too big a deal over the Omicron variant. In fact he feels that it has peaked and we need to concern ourselves with the Delta variant.

The South African doctor made a good point. He is in his late 30's, early 40's and did not get a booster. Instead he went to have his blood drawn to see if he had antibodies and if they were strong. They were so no booster shot for him. His father, also a doctor from South Africa is 68 years young and he made the decision to get the booster. The younger doctor explained his rationale as follows. Whenever he is admitted to practice in a new hospital he must provide proof of all of his childhood immunity. If he can't the hospital will require him to have his blood drawn to check that he has still has antibodies for things like MMR. If he doesn't he has to be vaccinated again. Why should the coronavirus be any different? Another doctor friend of mine did the same thing and was found to have antibodies and did not get the booster shot. Again before you follow this advice check with your health care professional because each and everyone of us has a different body composition.

Governor Hochul. I am not faulting this policy but businesses are going meshugah trying to enforce it with overburdened staff and mass confusion out there. We know you want to keep everyone safe this holiday season, but we have to put policies in place thoughtfully giving more than 4 days for enforcement!

Briefs: The Infrastructure Bill our Congressman Jamaal Bowman voted against could have provided funds for the reconstruction of the exit northbound on the New York State Thruway that takes you across three lanes to get to the Cross County, the Sprain, the Bronx River and the Hutchinson River Parkways. This exit is long overdue to be reengineered, repaired, redesigned, whatever word you want to use. Have you been receiving crazy amounts of emails from Bowman like I have. I think he finally woke up and realized he represents Yonkers and a good part of Westchester! His support for the Build Back Better bill does not makeup for his disgraceful vote against our nation's infrastructure.

My sister was waiting on the South East Corner of South Broadway and Caryl Ave in Yonkers when Bobby Kennedy's motorcade came by. He was campaigning. She asked for his autograph. He asked her to wait until he spoke to reporters and he would give it to her. She waited. He spoke to the press. Then he did what he said he would do and gave her an autograph. California Governor Gavin Newsome should ignore the members of the Kennedy family who want Sirhan Sirhan released and keep him in jail. Bobby Kennedy by the way was Governor Newsome's role model.

Every year at this time we pray for those poor souls who lost their lives in the Jewish Community Center fire on South Broadway in Yonkers December 20, 1965. The largest loss of life in a fire in the City of Yonkers. May their memory forever be a blessing. After all these years still so many residents and firefighters and their children remember it!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistoosyonkers@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.

**NOTICE:
NEW YORK RESIDENTS**

Homeowner Funding enables families to make necessary energy efficient home repairs who:

- ARE UNABLE TO PAY CASH FOR NECESSARY HOME REPAIRS.
- CANNOT AFFORD HIGH OR ADDITIONAL MONTHLY PAYMENTS.
- HAVE BEEN TURNED DOWN FOR FREE STATE OR GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS.

REPAIRS INCLUDE:

**ROOFING • SIDING • WINDOWS
DOORS & MORE...**

up to **\$25,000**

NO MONEY DOWN / NO Equity Required

**QUALIFY TODAY:
(800) 736-9629**

or visit **NYImprovementFund.com**

Approved applications will have the work completed by a quality repair crew provided by: HOMEOWNER FUNDING

The Delightful Gift

- 4 Butcher's Cut Top Sirloins (5 oz.)
- 4 Filet Mignon Burgers (5.3 oz.)
- 4 Boneless Chicken Breasts (1 lb. pkg.)
- 4 Gourmet Jumbo Franks (3 oz.)
- 4 Individual Scalloped Potatoes (3.8 oz.)
- 4 Caramel Apple Tartlets (4 oz.)
- 1 Jar Signature Seasoning (3.1 oz. jar)
- 8 FREE Filet Mignon Burgers (5.3 oz.)

65658PTN separately \$229.99
SPECIAL INTRODUCTORY PRICE \$99.99

GET 8 FREE FILET MIGNON BURGERS

Order Now! **1.844.615.2744** ask for 65658PTN
OmahaSteaks.com/TheGift1246

*Savings shown over aggregated single item base price. Standard S&H applies. ©2021 Omaha Steaks, Inc. Exp. 12/31/21

Prepare for Power Outages & Save Money

PWRcell, Generac's fully-integrated solar + battery storage system, stores solar energy that can power your whole home during utility power outages and save you money on your electric bill.

**GENERAC
PWRCELL**
SOLAR + BATTERY STORAGE SYSTEM

REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!

ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!*

| (888) 871-0194

\$0 DOWN FINANCING OPTIONS!*

*Offer value when purchased at retail.
**Financing available through authorized Generac partners. Solar panels sold separately.

Notice of formation of youRmore LLC LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/09/2020. 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, 10 Dassern Drive Apt I Dobbs Ferry NY 10522. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Thomas Family Taste LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as the agent of the LCC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 268 Van Cortlandt Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

‘Christmas With the Chosen’ A Box Office Success; 1 Million Tickets Sold, \$13M Gross



Mary and Joseph from Christmas With The Chosen

The box office success of “Christmas With The Chosen: The Messengers,” shows that there is “room at the Inn” for a religious movie that follows the events surrounding the birth of Jesus from the perspective of Mary and Joseph, and that americans will step out of their living rooms and return to the movie theater for a special event.

The Messengers debuted in movie theaters only on Dec. 1, and was released in theaters by Fathom, 1,700 theaters across the country, including in Port Chester and at the Cortland Town Center in Mohegan Lake.

After the first day, \$1.5 Million in tickets were sold. After the first week, more than \$10 Million in tickets were sold, and now after a 12 day run in theaters, more than 1 million tickets were sold with a gross of \$13 Million. Not bad for a movie that was shown in less than half of the theaters across the country (1,700). Other big name movies released this month like The House of Gucci, opened in 3,400 theaters. Guicci has grossed \$38 Million.

“When we decided to do a special Christmas episode, we knew it would be the ideal moment to get this on the big screen,” said Dallas Jenkins, the creator and executive producer of The Chosen series. “It’s the first chance ‘Chosen’ fans have had to gather all over the country, so we intend to make it worth it. And with all the incredible musicians assembled, this is a perfect event for inviting friends.”

The Chosen series, which portrays the life and times of Jesus Christ, has become a global sensation. It’s first season was released in 2019, and was funded and supported through crowdfunding and a “Pay it Forward” effort where viewers supported the production, and their contributions helped others to watch it for free.

Seasons one and two of The Chosen were paid for by \$40 Million in donations, and The Chosen series has been downloaded more than 200 million times. The Christmas Chosen is now available at home and on The Chosen App. Learn more about “The Chosen” Christmas special at Thechosen.tv/Christmas.

Three Departing County Legislators Honored with Distinguished Service Medals



L-R: Legislator Kitley Covill, Vice-Chair Alfreda Williams, Legislator Ruth Walter

On Dec. 6, the Westchester County Board of Legislators honored three outgoing legislators with the Distinguished Service Award, the highest recognition the Board can bestow on an individual who has significantly benefited the general welfare and common good of the County through dedicated public service. Recipients were retiring legislators Vice-Chair Alfreda Williams, Legislator Kitley Covill, and Legislator Ruth Walter. Legislator Williams is the elder stateswoman of the Board, following in the footsteps of her mentor, the late Honorable Lois Bronz, who chaired the Board from 2002-2004. During her 12-year tenure, Williams served as Chair of the Community Services committee for six years where she advocated for childcare funding and services, and for mental health clinic services. She was instrumental in passing the Source of Income Law and the Reproductive Health Law for Westchester residents.

BOL Chairman Ben Boykin said, “Alfreda has served with independence, dignity and determination in all of her roles, but clearly her passion has been for lifting people up, giving them access and the necessary tools to make their lives better for themselves and for their children.... It has been an honor and a privilege to serve with this trailblazer.”

Legislator Kitley Covill, elected in 2017, serves as Chair of the Legislation Committee. Her background as an Assistant District Attorney, Special Assistant U.S. Attorney and a Special Assistant Attorney General was invaluable in this capacity. Covill was instrumental in revamping and updating the County Ethics Code, which passed as a proposition on the ballot in November. In addition, Covill played a major role in protecting public safety through her service on the County Police Board & the Public Safety Committee.

Legislator Ruth Walter was elected in 2019. She served as Chair of the Appointments Committee, and of the Environment and Health Committee. As Chair of Environment and Health, she advocated for a cleaner and greener environment, COVID-19 vaccinations, and awareness of maternal health disparities. She authored legislation for noise detection cameras on County parkways, and worked to get the ‘red flag notification bill’ signed into law which reduces gun access for those with mental health issues.

Caring for someone with Alzheimer’s isn’t easy.

Reaching us is.

If you care for someone with Alzheimer’s disease, memory loss or dementia, you are not alone. We’re here day or night — whenever you need us — offering reliable information and support.

Free 24/7 Helpline: **800.272.3900**
Alzheimer’s and Dementia Caregiver Center: alz.org/care

alzheimer’s association

This advertisement is supported in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Health.



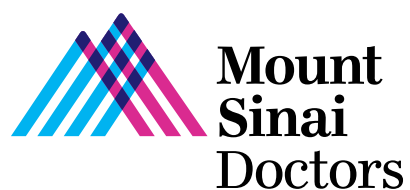
Mount Sinai expertise. Westchester convenience.

Visit Mount Sinai Doctors in Westchester County and get access to the same expertise and medical advancements available throughout the Mount Sinai Health System.

Our three locations in Westchester County offer primary care and multiple specialty services, including cardiology, gastroenterology, orthopedics, breast surgery, and more.

Book an appointment close to home today at mountsinai.org/westchester

WE FIND A WAY



Mount Sinai Doctors-Pelham
116 Fifth Avenue, Pelham, NY 10803
914-813-3133

Mount Sinai Doctors-Scarsdale
341 Central Park Avenue, Scarsdale, NY 10583
914-370-5000

Mount Sinai Doctors-Yonkers
1086 North Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701
914-968-3535