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Yonkers Mayor 'Taking a Look' at Challenging Bowman; Criticized for Comments About Congressman on WVOX



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, left, discussed Congressmembers Jamaal Bowman, right, in a recent radio interview on WVOX

by Dan Murphy

On Feb. 3, in a wide-ranging interview on WVOX Radio 1460 AM, with Phil Reisman and Matt Richter, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said that Congressman Jamaal Bowman's "political philosophy is not in line with the people that live here" and said that he was "looking at" a possible challenge to Bowman in a democratic primary this June.

"He's tough for Westchester and tough for Yonkers," said Spano, explaining that Bowman's far left, progressive philosophy is difficult for most Westchester democrats to accept and agree with.

"They should have arrested him (Bowman) for his no vote on infrastructure. I'm a hardcore moderate in the middle, and that is where most of us are and end up. But the democratic party over the past two year has been pushed to the left, and the reforms, like bail reform, have gone too far."

"We all agreed to do something about bail reform and the affect that it has in the minority community, but the left took control and were tone deaf to anything else, and did what they wanted without the input from Mayor's, District Attorneys, or Judges. The democratic party is much more moderate that what we are seeing."

Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier is also said to be interested in running against Bowman. Meier and Spano are friends and Meier also serves as the DPW Commissioner in Yonkers in the Spano administration, so to have both running against Bowman isn't likely.

"I'm looking at it but I really like being Mayor of Yonkers. But don't let anyone think that means a 4th term. I want to finish my last two years."

continued on pg 7-

For Cancer Prevention Month, Dr. Ashley Tsang, Mount Sinai Doctors-Westchester, Discusses Types of Breast Cancer & Treatments



Dr. Ashley Tsang,
Mount Sinai Doctors-
Westchester

By Dan Murphy

World Cancer Day is marked on 4 February to raise awareness of cancer and to encourage its prevention, detection, and treatment. Dr. Ashley Tsang, from Mount Sinai Doctors-Westchester, spoke with us to explain the different types of breast cancer and to encourage women to stay on top of their yearly screenings and mammograms.

"A common misconception is that all breast cancer is the same. Many of my patients come in with preconceptions of what their treatment will be based on what they may have read or what a friend or relative has personally experienced. I often explain that there are different types of breast cancer, and depending on their type and stage, we will determine the treatment algorithm" said Dr. Tsang.

Different breast cancer types are identified based on evaluating three tumor markers: 1) Estrogen receptor 2) Progesterone receptor and 3) HER2-neu. The simplest way to approach treatment is by separating into these three types:

1- Estrogen receptor and progesterone receptor-positive, HER2 negative. "This is the most common type of breast cancer that we see, and can often be treated by surgery first, as long as we find it in the early stages," said Dr. Tsang. "Eventually after surgery, this type of breast cancer is controlled with a hormone blocking pill."

2. HER2 – positive. About 1 out of every 5 breast cancers tests positive for HER2 (human epidermal growth factor receptor 2.) "This type of breast cancer is more aggressive, and patients often need chemotherapy and HER2 targeted therapy before surgery. The good news for this breast cancer type is that up to

continued on pg 7-

Unreported Smash & Grabs at Louis Vuitton & Burberry at The Westchester, White Plains



Shoplifters running out of Louis Vuitton at The Westchester, photo created from video posted by Rob Astorino on Twitter

By Dan Murphy

Former Westchester County Executive and Gubernatorial candidate Rob Astorino posted a video of Twitter last week of two 'smash and grab' shoplifters violently taking goods from Louis Vuitton and Burberry stores in The Westchester mall in White Plains. store.

What interested us most in the videos, and the report of the thefts was that we had not heard any reports of either of these incidents. Astorino has not identified the day that these incidents took place, but after he posted the videos, the White Plains Police Department posted on Facebook on Fri. Feb 4 "It is come to our attention that a video is being circulated on social media depicting a crime committed yesterday at the Westchester Mall. The incident actually occurred in early January 2022 and has since been an ac-

continued on pg 6-

Immigrant Flights Into Westchester Airport: The Search for the Truth



By Dan Murphy

Washington Post reporter Glenn Kessler writes a column titled Fact Checker, in which he takes a deeper dive into the issues of the day. His most recent story, titled, Claims of 'ghost flights' of 'illegal immigrants' don't add up, (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/02/04/claims-ghost-flights-illegal-immigrants-dont-add-up/>) addresses the claims by Republicans, most notably here in Westchester of former County Executive and republican Gubernatorial hopeful Rob Astorino, that an influx of flights coming into Westchester County have begun under the Biden administration, and the flights contain not only minor refugees who traveled across the border without an adult, but also male adults, all who are being released across our region.

Kessler, as his headline indicates, disputes those claims.

Point 1: The same flights occurred under Trump. "As far as we can tell, little new or different is going on under Biden than under the Trump administration, though the pace of such flights may have increased because of the surge of migrants at the border," writes Kessler

Point 2: ICE and HHS flying into Westchester Airport: Two different Federal agencies, Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), and the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), "fly undocumented immigrants to different locations in the United States. ICE handles adults and HHS is responsible for children....In other words, the same aircraft and crew could one day be ferrying adults to an ICE detention center and the next day carrying unaccompanied minors for HHS," writes Kessler, explaining the reason that some video footage from Westchester Airport show adults over the age of 21 getting off planes at the airport located in north White Plains.

To this reporter, this is the most important new fact, that ICE and HHS are transporting both refugees and immigrants to Westchester Airport, and that is the reason we see older passengers getting off the planes.

Kessler continues, "ICE itself transports thousands of detainees to different detention facilities, in part to maintain a 75 percent bed capacity because of pandemic protocols..." "It's important to highlight that these are individuals in our custody," the official said. "We do not transport individuals on ICE flights that have been released from our custody or paroled into the U.S. to await immigration proceedings."

continued on pg 7-

2022 Black History Month Series:
Westchester's Black LGBTQ+Community



Cienna Rosalina, left, and Sammie Ried

by Dennis Richmond Jr.

The acronym LGBTQ+ stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer/Questioning+. Members of the LGBTQ+ community live everywhere in the country. New York is one of the states that has many LGBTQ+ neighborhoods. Many folks in the community struggle, though.

I don't feel discriminated against for my sexuality. One reason is that I'm somewhat masculine presenting. That isn't the same for everybody. Many trans girls and trans women face cruelty. Amariye Lei, also known as Myara, a young trans woman, was murdered in January of 2022. Myara was only 20 years old. I spoke to social media influencer Cienna Rosalina, 21, a trans woman about this. She was heartbroken.

"Stop trying to teach trans women when to disclose and maneuver," said Cienna Rosalina. "Teach men how to treat us. As they do any other walking human being." When Cienna came out of the closet in Yonkers, it was scary for her. My "main concern was not getting accepted." She soon realized something. "Coming out and transitioning was more about me." She couldn't be the only one in Westchester with a coming-out story.

Westchester County, New York, is home to over 1,000,000 people. Yonkers takes the cake in the county with over 211,000 residents. From Yonkers to New Rochelle and from Greenburgh to Mount Vernon, there are young Black folks in the LGBTQ+ community. These young folks are all from different parts of the county and hold different experiences.

Yonkers produced Cienna Rosalina, and Mount Vernon created Sammie "Secret" Reid. Secret's story is a bit different than Cienna's. "My coming out experience was pretty smooth. It wasn't too hard." Sammie, 25, came out when it wasn't too popular for Black boys to be gay in high school. "It's more accepted now," he said. Many teenage Black LGBTQ+ folks can move a little freer today because of folks like Sammie.

Sammie and people like him were not strangers to adversity in high school. Teenagers who didn't accept homosexuality would say negative things to Sammie and others. Sometimes, this would lead to a fight. "We wanted people to respect us," he said. Nowadays, in Westchester, the LGBTQ+ community is massively different. Young gay boys don't have to worry as much about being bullied today as they did before. Trans girls have more resources today than ever before. Not to mention, there are peer support groups for many LGBTQ+ folks.

Westchester County is not New York City, and as such, might be a bit conservative. Regardless, there are many young Black LGBTQ+ folks across the community. It's important to acknowledge those around us, no matter how old. Life is about giving people roses while they can still smell them. At Yonkers Rising and YonkersTimes.Com, we want to ensure that Cienna Rosalina and Sammie "Secret" Reid get their roses.

Dennis Richmond, Jr., is an author and journalist focused on the Black, Latinx, and LGBTQIA+ Community. He has covered HBCUs periodically for six years at Yonkers Rising. Richmond lives in Yonkers. Follow him on Twitter @NewYorkStakz.

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Mother, Two Daughters, Charged With Providing Fraudulent COVID Vax Cards at Nursing Home



Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that a mother and her two daughters were charged for providing fraudulent COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards to maintain and obtain employment at a Croton-on-Hudson nursing home.

Poughkeepsie residents Antoinette Clarke, 48, Dzjara Clarke, 27, and Jajvia Clarke, 22, were each arraigned on January 31, 2022, in Cortlandt Town Court with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a felony. The Westchester County District Attorney's Office and members of the New York State Department of Health's Vaccination Complaint Investigations Team made the arrests following a collaborative investigation.

As alleged in the felony complaint, Antoinette Clarke, a nurse employed at the nursing home, and Dzjara Clarke and Jajvia Clarke, applicants for nursing assistant positions, each submitted a copy of a forged COVID-19 Vaccination Record Card to the facility. In New York State, healthcare workers must be vaccinated as a condition of employment.

"People who create fraudulent vaccination cards and pretend to be vaccinated to enter workplaces, businesses or facilities, particularly ones with vulnerable populations, are putting others at increased risk of the serious effects of COVID-19," DA Rocah said. "Making, possessing, purchasing or selling fraudulent COVID-19 Vaccination Record Cards is a crime and those with knowledge of anyone breaking the law are encouraged to contact my office at (914) 995-TIPS."

"Vaccination fraud is a serious crime. It creates a threat to public health and undermines the safety of our healthcare professionals who are working around the clock to get us through the pandemic," said New York State Health Commissioner Dr. Mary T. Bassett. "For those who choose to flout the law and endanger their patients and others around them, you will be held accountable. I thank our partners at the Westchester County District Attorney's Office for their work and the strong message we are sending together."

The defendants are scheduled to appear again in Cortlandt Town Court on March 14, 2022.

The case is being prosecuted by the Trials and Investigations Division's Economic Crimes Bureau. If anyone has information regarding the purchase, possession, or sale of fake or forged vaccination cards, please call the District Attorney's Office at (914) 995-TIPS.

New Yorkers can also report vaccine-related fraud to the New York State Department of Health by calling 833-VAX-SCAM (833-829-7226) or emailing STOPVAXFRAUD@health.ny.gov.

Latimer Named to City & State's Most 50 Powerful New Yorkers Over 50

Westchester County Executive George Latimer was named one of City & State's Top 50 Most Powerful New Yorkers over the age of 50. The story, which can be found at

<https://www.cityandstateny.com/power-lists/2022/01/2022-50-over-50/361314/> includes the following about Latimer.

"George Latimer developed his first policy position at age 9. The Latimers lived in Mount Vernon, but his father had been born in Brooklyn. Once he asked his father why he moved. "He scowled and said, 'It's near New York City. It's not New York City,'" Latimer says. "In those two sentences, my father gave me my economic development plan."

"After a detour to Fordham and NYU for graduate school, Latimer embarked on a career in sales and marketing. He utilized his corporate training to win over moderate suburban voters and was elected to the Rye City Council in 1987.

"Four years later, he flipped a Republican seat in the Republican-controlled Westchester County Legislature. Soon, he found himself in the majority as Democrats moved up from the city while conservatives relocated to Florida. "When Democrats come along and show we're responsible, concerned about taxes and can deliver services properly, we get support on both aisles and in the middle," Latimer says.

"After serving in the Assembly, Latimer ousted Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino in 2017. He retained most of Astorino's commissioners, which surprised some observers. "I don't consider myself a great leader – success in leadership is a function of hiring good people around you," he says. "I didn't treat it as politics first."

"Containing COVID-19 is now Latimer's top priority. He has avoided issuing mandates, but reduced spectators for school sports and opened testing sites. "We

continued on pg 6-

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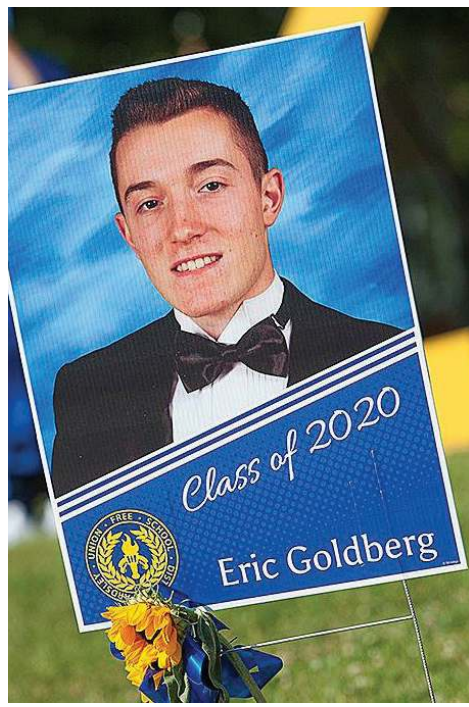
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Somers Resident Found Guilty in Drunk Driving Crash That Killed Ardsley Man & HS Teen



both Eric Goldberg, left and Jordan Wachtell were killed by Paucar

On Feb. 8, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that after a four-week long bench trial, Somers resident Jaime Paucar was found guilty for a wrong-way, head-on collision he caused while intoxicated, which resulted in the death of two Ardsley residents.

Paucar, 52, was found guilty on February 7, 2022, of two counts of Aggravated Vehicular Homicide, two counts of Manslaughter in the Second Degree, and Assault in the Second Degree, all felonies. He was also found guilty of Assault in the Third Degree, Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated, Driving While Intoxicated, Reckless Driving, Leaving the Scene of an Incident Without Reporting Property Damage, and

Leaving the Scene of an Incident Without Reporting Personal Injury, all misdemeanors. Paucar was acquitted of two counts of Second-Degree Murder.

Paucar faces a sentence range from a minimum of one to three years to a maximum of 8 1/3 to 25 years in state prison.

"Jaime Paucar's behavior blazed a path of devastation and destruction that caused two families to suffer immeasurable heartache," DA Rocah said. "For the first time in Westchester, my Office determined that the facts of this case warranted murder charges for the deaths caused by a drunk driver. While we are disappointed that the Court did not render a guilty verdict for those charges, we respect the Court's decision. Our thoughts are with the victims and their families, and we hope that the multiple guilty verdicts will provide them with some degree of justice."

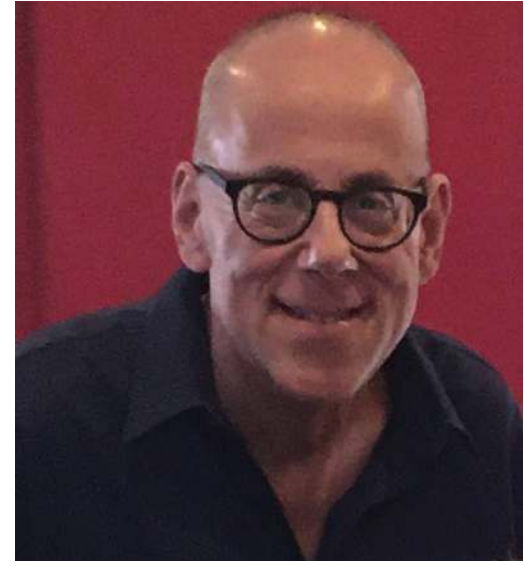
On January 30, 2020, at approximately 8:30 p.m., Paucar drove westbound in the eastbound lanes of I-287 in Harrison when he crashed head-on into the car driven by 57-year-old Jordan Wachtell, whose 17-year-old son and two teenage friends were passengers. A Westchester County toxicologist determined Paucar had a blood alcohol content of .24 at the time of the collision.

Wachtell died at the scene. One of the passengers, Eric Goldberg, 17, was transported to Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, where he died that night. Wachtell's son and the other surviving passenger were also transported to Westchester Medical Center, where they were treated for their injuries.

As detailed during the trial, prior to the fatal collision, Paucar was driving in the correct direction on I-287 when he crashed into a vehicle, fled the scene, exited the highway and retreated to a parking lot in Port Chester. Thereafter, while attempting to drive home, Paucar missed the entrance for I-287 and drove on several side streets before using an exit ramp to enter I-287, ignoring signage and at least three motorists warning him he was driving the wrong way. The defendant then drove westbound in the eastbound lanes for more than two miles, sideswiping three additional vehicles before the final fatal crash.

New York State Police arrested Paucar in March 2020 following a thorough investigation. The case is before Judge George Fufidio in Westchester County Court, and is being prosecuted by Division Chief Christine O'Connor and Deputy Bureau Chief Jonathan Strongin. Paucar is scheduled to be sentenced on March 28, 2022.

Spano's No Racist! Bowman Has to Got to Go!



by Eric W. Schoen

I have known the Spano family for over 50 years. Recent reports that try to label Mike Spano a racist are like calling Swiss Cheese American Cheese. In a month Mike Spano has done more for black, brown and the people in Yonkers as Mayor and New York State as an Assemblyman than Congressman Jamaal Bowman has done in his lifetime. Comparing Mayor Mike to Donald Trump? How silly. We will get back to Spano shortly.

Have you looked at the new Congressional District lines for New York State District 16 which Bowman currently represents. With Control of the New York State Assembly and Senate as well as the Governor's office, Democrats increased their party enrollment in all of the districts to protect incumbents with the exception of one district. That is the 16th District represented by Jamaal Bowman. The new district includes all of Yonkers and cuts his Bronx base in half. The seat now goes all way up to Putnam Valley and Carmel. That's a long way from Yonkers. It makes it more difficult for Jamaal as the new areas are much more moderate.

What does this move by the State Legislature and Governor prove? They are unhappy with the way Jamaal has voted, represented his district and in particular his no vote on the Infrastructure Bill. Jamaal's vote against the bill hurt this Country including the residents of his district. He took away jobs from the American people, hurt our country's crumbling infrastructure, and took food off the table of families crippled by a pandemic and a troubled economy and clothes off their backs. Shameful.

Jamaal got elected because unfortunately his opponent who (sorry this is not kosher) 'brought home the bacon' for his district did not take his challenge as seriously as he should have. The Bronx and Yonkers Democratic parties failed miserably in turning out the vote for Eliot Engel.

I think I was one of the few people who actually knew of Bowman because even though he is my neighbor in Yonkers' Park Hill section, as Mayor Spano has pointed out repeatedly nobody had ever heard of him in Yonkers. His sole community involvement prior to his election was as a Principal of a Bronx School. The financial issues at the school he headed are public. No community involvement in the city where he lived. I have never seen a public official in Yonkers get elected with a blank slate of service to his city.

I met Bowman at a fundraiser I went to in White Plains. He was standing by himself and I always like to meet new people. He was gracious, I told him about my writing for this paper and radio show and asked him what brought him to the event. He said he was running for Congress against my friend Eliot Engel. I was shocked at this and if I remember correctly, I said, 'Are you kidding? Do you know how popular Engel is in his District?' That was my first and only encounter with him, and as they say the rest is history.

Somehow I got on Jamaal's political campaign list. Everyday he or one of his minions asks me for \$3. Don't know how but it's not unheard of candidates intermingling their official government lists with political lists. So I read almost daily about what is going on in his campaign. His association with 'The Squad' a group of elected officials including Ilhan Omar that have been known to be anti-Israel. A January 31 email from his Campaign Manager Luke Hayes asking for \$3 donations from 3 people in the 10701 zip code to meet financial goals. Constant referrals to anyone who disagrees with him as racist.

Jamaal in an official taxpayer paid mailing took credit for items in the Infrastructure Bill that he voted against. One of those was, as a caller to my radio show pointed out attempts to deal with flooding problems in Mamaroneck. He claims to have 'provided tax relief for the homeowner by lifting the SALT deduction cap. Reduced prescription drug prices. Expanded job opportunities. He's rarely seen in Yonkers, and while advocating for cuts in the in the police work force had the audacity to request Yonkers Police 'patrol his home in Yonkers.' These 'patrols' take police officers off the streets and prevent them from keeping you and I safe.

When he was arrested on the Voting Rights issue by Capitol Police he stood as the only person without a Mask in picture after picture endangering the lives

continued on pg 6-

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Notice of Formation of Jovanna Realty LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 5/14/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Jovanna Realty LLC, 100 Riverdale Ave., Apt. 8C., Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

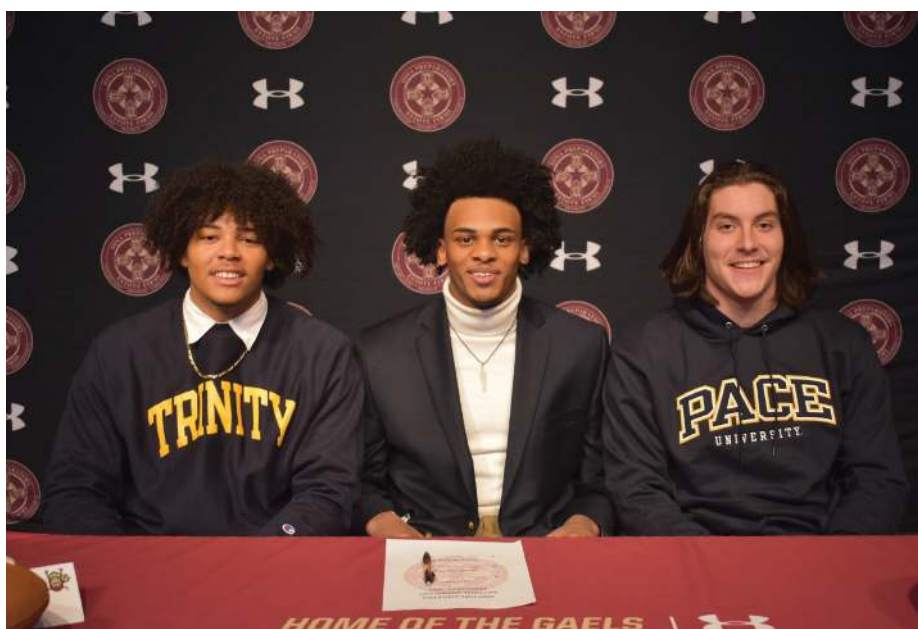
Notice of formation of Aiyana's Creations LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY, 11228 designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. US Corporation Agents Inc shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 127 Ramsey Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of J's Admin, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/12/22. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Julia Rea 69 Dale Ave Apt 6 Ossining, NY 10562. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company Love Jones 360 Experience LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 9/23/21 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O Love Jones 360 Experience LLC , 41 Ridgeview Terrace Elmsford, NY 10523 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Iona Prep Star From Yonkers Signs With Pace; 16 Student Athlete's Successes from Class of '22



Iona Prep Student Athletes L-R: Jose Ruiz, Kaloni McIntyre, Jayson Vavrica

Three more Iona Preparatory School scholar-athletes committed to playing collegiate football as part of the school year's third National Signing Day ceremony on Feb. 2, the opening day of the regular period for football. This brings the total to 8 DI signings 3 DII, 5 DIII, with 16 overall commitments from the Class of 2022.

Nationally, about one in 13 high school athletes go on to play a collegiate sport; only 2 percent for Division I schools. With its latest round of commitments, Iona Preparatory's Athletic Department continues a now seven-year trend of besting the national average and doubling up the average number of Division I signings.

Moreover, the most recent commits had an average GPA over 90, with two topping the mark individually. That's right in line with the varsity football team as a whole under alumnus and coach Joseph Spagnolo '98, which proved itself to be championship-caliber in the classroom, as well, being one of five fall teams (out of nine) with an average GPA over 90. In fact, those nine fall teams—some 267 scholar-athletes—posted a collective average of 90.11, and none lower than an 85.

The ESPN-style event included remarks by Athletic Director Ryan Mahoney, Coach Spagnolo, and other school dignitaries, with proud parents, teachers, and fellow students watching remotely on LocalLive. The following Gaels committed on February 2, 2022:

JAYSON VAVRICA, 17, Yonkers, Football-Pace University

Jayson is a four-year member of the football program and a two-year Varsity starter as a defensive end. He also played one season of varsity basketball. Jayson was a member of the undefeated 2021 Spring 2 football team and a key member of the 2021 CHSFL and NYS Catholic Championship football teams. Jayson had other offers and interests from Ithaca, Union, Culber Stockton and AIC. He is a member of the Film Club, Latinos Unidos, and participates in our Backyard Sport after-school service program. Jayson currently has a 3.7 overall GPA, and will continue his academic and football career at Pace University.

KALONI MCINTYRE, 18, Bronx, Football SUNY Stony Brook

Kaloni is a four-year member of the football program, two-year varsity starter as an outside linebacker. He was also a member of the track and field program for three years during the indoor and outdoor seasons. He was a key member of the undefeated 2021 Spring 2 football team and the 2021 New York Catholic High School Football League (NYCHSFL) and New York State (NYS) Catholic Championship football team.

JOSE RUIZ, 17, BRONX, Football-Trinity College

Jose is a four-year member of the football program and a two-year varsity starter. He was named to the Second-Team LoHud All-Stars after the 2021 Spring 2 season. Jose was a team captain in 2022 and was the starting middle linebacker on opening day against Don Bosco Prep. Unfortunately, Jose was injured during that first game and missed the remainder of the season but was a true captain and helped mentor and coach his teammates, for which he received the 2022 CHSFL Injured Player award. Jose currently has a 93.72 overall GPA will continue his academic and football career at Trinity College.

To learn more about Iona Preparatory, please visit www.IonaPrep.org.

Muscoot Farm's Cluxatawney Henrietta Predicts an Early Spring in Westchester Version



The Groundhog Day prognosticators are split between whether we will have six more weeks of winter, or perhaps, an early spring. Of the two groundhogs that come out every Feb. 2, Punxatawney Phil is the most famous and predicted six more weeks of winter. But on Staten Island, Staten Island Chuck predicted an early spring.

So with the predictions tied at one each, we travel to northern Westchester to the Muscoot Farm, where a tradition has begun of having the farm's chicken, Henrietta, make her own prediction.

And Cluxatawney Henrietta, has a different and unique way of predicting the future weather. She does it by either laying an or not laying an egg. And Henrietta laid an egg, signaling an early spring coming soon.

For the fourth year in a row, Muscoot Farm curator, Jonathon Benjamin, reacquainted us to Muscoot's Groundhog Day celebration, which mirrors the more traditional Groundhog Day celebration featuring Pennsylvania's Punxsutawney Phil.

Benjamin said, "We love traditions here at Muscoot Farm and since we don't have a resident groundhog to observe Groundhog Day on the farm, our Cluxatawney Henrietta has helped us celebrate in our own special way."

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathy O'Connor said, "Muscoot Farm has found such a special way to observe Groundhog Day, which is unique to the farm, and I am proud that Westchester County Parks has its own weather-predicting chicken!"

Say hi to Henrietta this summer when the park is open every day for visitors. Watch here: <https://youtu.be/rqSf4hqq-gQ>

The Generation Foundation Awards \$1.2 Million Grant to Greyston Employment Opportunity Center

Greyston Foundation has received a Generation Foundation grant of \$1.2 million to support the Greyston Employment Opportunity Center (GEOC). Funding will support GEOC's employee research, academic and NGO (Non-Government Organization) engagements, and regional expansion. This is the second major grant the Generation Foundation has awarded Greyston in the past four years.

"With our continued partnership we can now delve deeper into how Open Hiring® is actually the catalyst for taking a more holistic approach to a human capital and talent management strategy," Greyston President and Chief Executive Officer Joe Kenner said. "From here we can better understand the broader needs of an organization (employer and employee alike) and other stakeholders."

Founded in 1982, Greyston for nearly four decades has worked to help individuals facing barriers to employment secure a job, improve their lives, and become self-sufficient. Greyston offers innovative training, development, and wraparound social services, and the opportunity for individuals to unlock their full potential. Greyston makes an even greater impact by helping to educate individuals through its Workforce Development and Training programs.

Director of the Generation Foundation, Grace Eddy, commented: "Over the past three years, Greyston has demonstrated that open and inclusive hiring models are beneficial to businesses, individuals and society. We are delighted to continue to renew our support for Greyston in tackling the next challenge: helping businesses to adopt these practices at scale and making inclusive hiring the norm."

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Notice of formation of JGS Notary Services LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/28/21 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O JGS Notary Services LLC , 588 Warburton Apt 2 Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of LOREDANA VICARI PHOTOGRAPHY LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/6/21 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O LOREDANA VICARI PHOTOGRAPHY LLC , 125 Dunwoodie Street Yonkers, NY 10704 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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MoneyGeek Names Yorktown One of the Safest Small Towns in the US



Yorktown Police Chief Robert Noble

A new crime survey found that Yorktown is the ninth safest small town in the United States. The website MoneyGeek analyzed crime statistics by quantifying the cost of crime and ranking small cities and towns nationwide and in every state. The data included violent crimes — such as murder, rape, and aggravated assault — and property crimes — such as burglaries and car theft.

“Yorktown takes great pride in its consistent recognition of being one of the safest places to live, work and raise a family,” said Supervisor Matt Slater. “This latest survey is another validation of our community focus on the safety and well-being of all who call Yorktown home led by our local police department which continues to meet and exceed New York’s highest law-enforcement standards.”

To rank the safest small cities and towns in the United States, MoneyGeek started with standardized crime statistics reported to the FBI. To determine crime rates per 100,000 people, population data accessed from the FBI was added to the analysis. MoneyGeek describes a small city or town as those with a population between 30,000 and 100,000 residents.

“Yorktown Police officers strive to deliver the best service and they rely on residents’ tips and feedback to enhance public safety,” said Yorktown Police Chief Robert Noble. “It’s that partnership between the police and the public that has allowed Yorktown to receive its ranking.”

Among the survey’s findings were:

The cost of crime for small towns increased by 12% from 2019 to 2020, the latest data available.

Most of the top safest small towns are found in the Northeast. Small cities and towns are twice as safe as big cities. MoneyGeek’s analysis found that the median cost of crime in cities and towns with populations between 30,000 and 100,000 was \$640, compared to cities with populations over 100,000, where the median cost of crime was \$1,320

State Senator Biaggi Announces Run for Congress 3rd District



State Senator and Congressional candidate Alessandra Biaggi

On Feb. 7, New York State Senator Alessandra Biaggi officially announced her candidacy for U.S. Congress in New York’s third congressional district (NY-3). Senator Biaggi is an unrelenting leader in the fight to make government work for the people, and she is running to ensure hard working families along the Sound shore have their voices, needs, and vision heard in Washington.

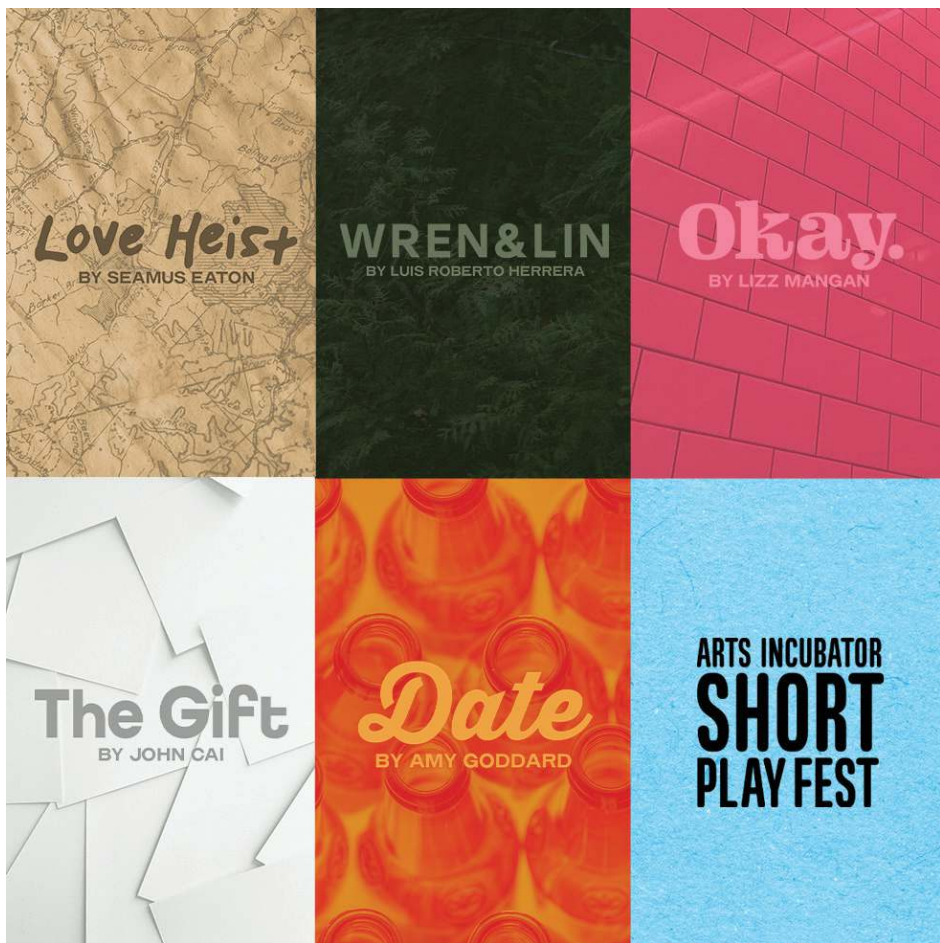
“Our country doesn’t just need more Democrats in Washington, we need bolder ones. I am running for Congress in NY-3 to bring progressive and honest leadership to the frontlines of our country’s most important fights. Hard working families of Westchester, Long Island, the Bronx, and Queens deserve an experienced, strong, and fearless leader in Washington. And that’s exactly what they can expect from me. As the Representative of the Sound, I will work to combat climate change and protect our shorelines, expand voting rights, enact universal pre-K to support working parents, provide opportunity and relief for the middle class, protect abortion rights, ensure public safety and a fair criminal legal system, and deliver affordable healthcare for all. Together, we delivered progressive change on these issues in Albany, and it is time to bring our energy and resolve to Washington,” said Senator Alessandra Biaggi.

Senator Biaggi is a two-term Democratic State Senator. In 2018, she defeated the powerful head of the IDC to put Democrats back in control of New York’s State Senate. Since taking office, Senator Biaggi has been working to create a more equitable New York, delivering wins for working families and paving the way for progressive Democrats to run for office and win. And she’s ready to bring her fighting spirit to Washington on behalf of the people of NY-3.

The newly drawn NY-3 district encompasses parts of Senator Biaggi’s current state senate district in the Bronx and southern Westchester, and spans along the Sound from northern Westchester to Suffolk County. She is a fourth-generation resident of the district.

The current Congressman in NY-3, Rep. Tom Suozzi, is not running for reelection and is running for Governor.

Stream Five Plays for Free as Part of Irvington Theater’s Virtual Arts Incubator Short Play Fest



After a tremendous inaugural festival in 2021, Irvington Theater is thrilled to once again present the Arts Incubator Short Play Fest, a celebration of short, new works of theater and the playwrights behind them. The festival will stream for free online from February 25 to March 5. This year’s plays run the gamut of genres and formats, but they all speak to ways we, as humans, connect.

Seamus Eaton is a Mt. Kisco-based playwright and actor. Love Heist is his homage to Abbott and Costello – a high-octane comedy about human greed, pirate treasure, and the ways we communicate. The cast features Andrew Laden, John Palacio, and Claude Tusk. Luz Montez directs.

Luis Roberto Herrera is currently in his third and final year of the M.F.A. Playwriting program at The New School. In his play WREN & LIN, one man longs to be there for his friend. How do you distill a lifetime of memories and meaning into one digestible soundbite? Timothy Mark Davis directs and stars in this solo show with cinematography by Ryan Arnst and video and sound editing by Jose Daniel Ordoñez Jr.

Lizz Mangan is a playwright and dramaturg with a devotion to promoting and supporting queer, female, and underrepresented voices. Okay. is their exploration of how we behave when we’re at our most vulnerable – and how we get by, even just for one night. Sam Kamelhar and Sage Newman star, and Emily Hausmann directs.

John Cai is a junior college international student from Shenzhen, China studying Playwriting & German Studies at Emory University in Atlanta. In his one-man play, The Gift, a student returns to China after his first year abroad in America. As moral and cultural boundaries blur, his little brother starts to feel like a stranger. Mateo Tewari directs Cai in this autobiographical piece.

Amy Goddard is a Los Angeles-based actress, award-winning writer, and producer. Her play Date unravels one woman’s unapologetic quest for authenticity while finding humor in social anxieties old and new. She costars with Barry O’Rourke under John Zinman’s direction.

All five short plays will be available to stream on demand and for free as part of the Arts Incubator Short Play Fest from Friday, February 25 at 12:00am EST through Saturday, March 5 at 11:59pm EST. Stream the festival at www.irvingtontheater.com/shortplayfest.

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Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF
NEW YORK – COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER
INDEX # 67098/2018 FILED: 1/7/2022
SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Plaintiff designates Westchester County as the Place of Trial. Designation of Venue is based upon the situs of the Subject Property. Subject property: 15 S Kensico Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601. U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR J.P. MORGAN MORTGAGE ACQUISITION CORP. 2005-OPT2, ASSET BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-OPT2, Plaintiff, against ARIANA ALVARADO AS ADMINISTRATRIX AND HEIR OF THE ESTATE OF JORGE E ALVARADO A/K/A JOSE ALVARADO, DIANA ALVARADO AS HEIR OF THE ESTATE OF JORGE E ALVARADO A/K/A JOSE ALVARADO, if they be living and if they be dead, the respective heirs-at-law, next-of-kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said defendant(s) who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lien or inheritance, any right, title or interest in or to the real property described in the Complaint, SARA ZARI, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE and “JOHN DOE” and “JANE DOE” the last two names being fictitious, said parties intended being tenants or occupants, if any, having or claiming an interest in, or lien upon the premises described in the complaint, Defendant(s). TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff’s Attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York) in the event the United States of America is made a party defendant, the time to answer for the said United States of America shall not expire until sixty (60) days after service of the Summons; and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME. If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Honorable Janet C Malone, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Westchester County, granted on the 6th day of January, 2022, and filed with the Complaint and other papers in the office of the County Clerk of Westchester County. The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage upon the premises described below, executed by JORGE ALVARADO to OPTION ONE MORTGAGE CORPORATION, bearing date September 14, 2005 and recorded in Control No. 452910566 in the County of Westchester on October 27, 2005, which was modified by Loan Modification Agreement on September 1, 2010 creating a new principle amount of \$646,397.52, which was assigned to U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR J.P. MORGAN MORTGAGE ACQUISITION CORP. 2005-OPT2, ASSET BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-OPT2 by assignment executed August 1, 2018 and recorded on August 6, 2018, in Control No. 582153544. Said premises being known as and by 15 S Kensico Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601, bearing tax map designation Section: 126.53, Block: 4, Lot: 6, which is more fully described in the Schedule “A” attached to the Complaint. Aldridge Pite, LLP. Attorneys for the Plaintiff, 40 Marcus Drive, Suite 200, Melville, NY 11747 Our File 1221-2159B

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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.

Notice of formation of Gelpdawg Media LLC..Articles of Organization filed with the New York Department of State on 12/01/2021. Office location: Westchester County. The New York Secretary of State is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served upon him or her to the company c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Principal business address: 428 Marlborough Rd., Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful acts.

of the Police and his fellow protestors. The Daily Mail caught him maskless in a visit to New Rochelle High School in pictures with students who were masked per Governor Hochul’s order on January 31. Is he above the law? Does he do this so his face is not covered when the cameras are around?

Recently, Jamaal sent out a government sponsored mailer with a Community Survey. The question he asked? What issues should your Congressman focus on in 2022. Continued Covid 19 response, support for Schools, Workforce Development, Healthcare Issues and Climate Issues. No where does he mention the economy. No where does he mention inflation. No where does he mention prices for food that are sky high. No where does he mention providing help at our ports to bring in the goods and services we need. No where does he mention cleaning up the bail reform that has made the justice system a revolving door. No where does he mention gun control. Serious issues facing our country and his district.

And no where does he mention crime, the most serious issue facing all of us right now. You are supposed to add these issues on if you feel he should focus on them in 2022. I don’t know friends, maybe he lives in a different world then we live in and doesn’t understand what’s going on in Yonkers, the Bronx, Putnam Valley and yes Carmel.

Let’s get back to Yonkers and Mayor Spano. Readers of this column know that I have taken on the Mayor and his administration many times in the past including last week on the Rollout of the Sustainable Westchester electricity issue. He’s been a friend for many years but when in the middle of the night he went against the two time wishes of the voters in Yonkers and gave himself a third term despite telling me at a public event that he wasn’t interested in a third term, I was furious. I called it like it was. My friend had lied to me.

But for people, some new to Yonkers and without any Yonkers credibility to call him racist? The political discourse has reached a new low. Spano has appointed the most black and brown judges to the Yonkers Court Bench than any Mayor. He has appointed black and brown individuals to Boards and Commissions, far more than his predecessors. He has worked to build and renovate public schools for the large black and brown population in Yonkers. He has cleaned up areas of Yonkers long neglected. And his door is always open ready for suggestions from the public.

Try to get a meeting or a response to an email from Mr. Bowman. Maybe he doesn’t respond because he knows he has no power to do anything. No knowledge of the needs of Yonkers. Officials at all levels of government are disgusted with him. Simply take a look at the redistricting plan.

Spano’s comments may have offended some people and his goal was certainly not to do so. But this whole situation has been blown out or proportion by a politician who is desperate for attention and votes. Jamaal has been silent. In situations like this politicians go around and get others to do their work.

Given Jamaal’s history, he probably will send out an email decrying this column and this columnist racist.

As Former First Lady Michelle Obama said, ‘When they go low, we go high!’
Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisyonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericnyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen 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.

Smash & Grab at The Westchester, continued from pg 1-

tive criminal investigation. There have been no recent incidents since then.”

And then, after many comments asking about why the public was not informed about these cases, and if any arrests have been made, the WPPD posted again on Sat. Feb. 5, “The White Plains Police Department is aware of recent social media posts and videos regarding thefts at the Westchester Mall and is actively investigating both incidents. We take these incidents and the greater public safety concerns seriously. We continuously work and collaborate with the property management and security as well as individual stores to assist in crime prevention and security inside and outside the Mall. We can assure the public that all the entities at the Westchester Mall strive to provide a safe environment to visit and that these incidents are not indicative of the overall safety provided by site security and law enforcement. We encourage anyone with information regarding these incidents to contact us. Additional background: One of the incidents happened over a month ago – contrary to the post indicating the incident just happened. There were no weapons used and no one was injured in either incident.”

Public comments on both incidents including questions about why the public was not informed about them, why the videos weren’t circulated as a way to try and find the culprits, and, the same question we have asked—why were there no news reports of these brazen thefts at Westchester’s elite shopping destination? Shortly after Astorino’s videos were posted, The NY Post, Fox News, and then News 12 reported on the incidents, more than one month after they occurred.

The other exception that this reporter takes to this not being reported, is, what if these two incidents occurred in the City of Yonkers? News12, or LoHud.com, certainly would have reported it immediately, but featured it.

A debate has ensued over who, if anyone, is to blame for these two incidents not being reported in the media shortly after the occurred. Some believe that it is because of the shortage of journalists, and that those of us left dropped the ball and didn’t monitor the crimes occurring across the county.

Others believe that there was some type of concerted effort not to have these incidents reported on. That was part of Astorino’s message, that “crime doesn’t just happen “in the city” or “somewhere else.” It’s getting worse everywhere in NY and everyone is affected when criminals are emboldened by soft-on-crime laws.”

It’s clear that the residents of White Plains and the surrounding Westchester communities wanted to know about these incidents sooner than 30 days after a candidate for Governor posted them on Twitter.

More legitimate questions from the public include, where are the videos of the thieves running out of the mall, into the parking lot and driving off? Were any license plates taken of the getaway car? As we print this story, there has been no update from the WPPD on either case. Another note, for all those who were critical of the security guard who watched the shoplifters and did nothing, that is what they are trained to do, don’t intervene because a violent confrontation may ensue. The videos can be found at YonkersTimes.com.

Latimer 50 Most Powerful, continued from pg 2-

made it very easy to get vaccinated and tested,” he says, “but that’s being stretched right now since no jurisdiction is keeping up with the demand of testing,” writes City and State.

Latimer said, “I’m deeply honored by this. This lifetime achievement feels a little like Tom Brady, it’s time to retire, but I’m honored to be included with all of the other honorees. 34 years ago this month, I completed my first month in public office.”

“The continuing existence of small d democracy and will it survive? We are in a constant battle to solve the battles before us and convince all that democracy is the best way to move forward. We have faced vietnam, watergate, 9/11, and now COVID. Everytime we found a way to come together,” said Latimer

“It feels different today then when I started out in public life. It seems that people only believe the information that they want to believe and support their predetermined views. The people that we disagree with we seem to see as our enemies. We came close in the 1930’s to embrace that lure of tyranny. But we stepped back from the abyss. Will we do so again?” said Latimer.

Latimer’s acceptance video can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fV-YN0RPQs>

Eastchester High School Going Green Club Recognized For WPF Clean River Project



The Westchester Parks Foundation joined Westchester County Legislator Damon Maher at the Eastchester Board of Education Meeting on January 11, 2022, to present a proclamation to the Going Green Club of Eastchester High School and their faculty leader Jean-Marie Woods-Ray. The Going Green Club was recognized for their work they have done within the community, including the removal of 12,298 items of trash from the Bronx River, pictured above, through the Westchester Parks Foundation Clean River Project program.

Dr. Tsang, Mt. Sinai Doctors, continued from pg. 1-

80% of patients have positive clinical outcomes-or good response to treatment,” said Dr. Tsang.

3. Triple negative (or estrogen receptor negative, progesterone receptor negative, HER2 neu negative). Around 15% of breast cancers are this type. “Triple negative breast cancer is harder to treat and is the most aggressive form. Patients often need chemotherapy before surgery. Those who respond completely to treatment have very good prognosis and survival.”

Dr. Tsang said the first question most patients ask is whether they will require chemotherapy. “I cannot stress enough the importance of screening because if caught early, at Stage 0, patients will not need any chemotherapy at all. Early detection with annual mammography is key in being able to identify stage 0 cancer, which is where the cancer cells remain within the wall of the milk ducts. Once the cancer cells invade through the wall of the milk ducts, it can spread to other parts of the body. When cancer has already spread to other parts of the body, surgery is often not part of the treatment algorithm.”

After two years of COVID-19 and with some patients falling behind on their routine checkups and care, Dr. Tsang said now is the time to catch up and keep up on your healthcare. “Some women have been diagnosed at a later stage because the pandemic has delayed their annual screenings. Early diagnosis of breast cancer greatly increases the chance of cure and survival from the disease, and accurate early diagnosis of breast cancer is critical in the management of the disease. While the number of women (1 in 8) who get breast cancer hasn’t changed over the years, the survival rates have improved because of early detection, and improved treatments. My message during February, which is Cancer Prevention Month, on World Cancer Day, is that breast cancer is a treatable and curable disease, and if it is caught early, can save your life.” said Dr. Tsang.

Ashley T. Tsang, MD is a board certified, fellowship-trained breast surgeon from Stanford School of Medicine, specializing in the treatment of benign and malignant diseases of the breast and management of patients at high risk for breast cancer. Dr. Tsang is Assistant Professor of Surgery at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, a Diplomate of the American Board of Surgery, and a member of the Society of Surgical Oncology and the American Society of Breast Surgeons.

Dr. Tsang has offices at Mount Sinai Doctors-Westchester in Scarsdale, 341 Central Park Avenue, (914)-370-5000. Visit <https://www.mountsinai.org/locations/westchester> for more information.

Immigrant Flights into Westchester Airport, continued from pg 1-

Another new, important fact. The adults passengers getting off the planes at Westchester are in ICE custody, and are being transported to another ICE location. They are NOT being released into the general public in our area.

Point 3: Minors Deplaning at Westchester Airport: Now that Kessler has explained why adults are getting off the planes, he addresses the issue of minor, unaccompanied refugees deplaning at Westchester Airport. According to case law from the US Supreme Court case *Reno vs. Flores*. Kessler writes, “In essence, unaccompanied children should not be held by Customs and Border Protection for longer than 72 hours. Instead, the federal government must release rather than detain undocumented immigrant children, first to their parents, if possible, to other adult relatives if not, and to licensed programs willing to accept custody if no relatives are available.

“Our legal responsibility is to care for unaccompanied children while they are on our watch, and that includes connecting them to vetted sponsors.” said HHS spokesman Jorge Silva.

The Office of Refugee Resettlement, ORR, is responsible for delivering the minor to a “suitable vetted sponsor as they await their immigration proceedings,” an HHS official told The Fact Checker. “ORR makes every effort to unify a child with an appropriate sponsor or family member. As a result, 90 percent of the children referred to ORR are able to be unified with a sponsor or family member.” ORR cares for children only under the age of 17.

Point 4: Flights coming in the middle of the night. This claim comes not only from Astorino, but from residents who live nearby who don’t want flights coming in after the midnight curfew.

“Administration officials said flights take place at all times of the day. Given flight routes from the border, flights in the Northeast might be at the end of a series of hops. Sometimes the federal government seeks to save money by arranging for a flight to land later in the evening. “Administration officials said flights take place at all times of the day. Given flight routes from the border, flights in the Northeast might be at the end of a series of hops. Sometimes the federal government seeks to save money by arranging for a flight to land later in the evening,” writes Kessler, who also refers to data from the Migration Policy Institute <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/>, which we looked into and found the following facts.

During an 8-year period, 2014-2022, 56,013 unaccompanied children were released to their sponsors in New York State. 2,529 of those children were released to sponsors in Westchester County, while 16,000 were released to sponsors in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

The ebb and flow in the numbers of minors released over the past eight years shows the highest number was in 2021, 8,532 in NY State. Next was in 2019 under former President Trump, with 6,367 into NY, and third was in 2014 under former President Obama, with 5,955.

“This clears up some of the conspiracy theories we have heard from Rob Astorino to get elected governor,” said a Westchester democrat. “The GOP is losing its sanity seeking out the far out crowd on the right extreme of their party.”

Spano -Bowman, continued from pg. 1-

Tom Meier would be a great candidate to run against the congressman in a new district. Nobody knew him (Bowman) before he won, and he lived in Yonkers.”

Rep. Bowman’s 16th District has been redrawn and changed significantly, removing much of the Bronx portion of the district, and running north, through northern Westchester and into Putnam County. These changes make the district more moderate and suitable to a challenge from someone like Spano..

Spano was on the Reisman-Richter Radio Show on WVOX to discuss the Westchester renewable energy program in Yonkers, which has become a political hot potato in recent days. Spano explained the issue well, with the bottom line that the renewable rate of energy offered by Westchester Power is currently cheaper than Con Ed, who has asked for a 17% increase in rates.

After Spano’s interview and our story posted on YonkersTimes.com, several democratic and progressive groups called for Spano to apologize for his comment that Bowman “should have been arrested.”

“The Black Democrats of Westchester County respects Mayor Spano’s choice to run for Congress but strongly denounces the mayor’s insinuation that Representative Bowman should be placed in jail for how he voted. We are only four days into celebrating Black History Month, a time where we are supposed to be uplifting black voices and contributions. Mayor Spano had the gall and audacity to say he would put a sitting Congressman in jail for the way he voted. That is not only disgusting but unacceptable, especially coming from a Democratic mayor running a city where residents are overwhelmingly people of color. Many of us did not agree with Congressman Bowman’s decision to vote no on the infrastructure bill, but never would anyone left or right of the political spectrum dare arrest him for it.” said County Legislator Terry Clements, the Chair of the Black Democrats of Westchester.

The Working Families Party of NY wrote, “We strongly condemn the statements made by Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano calling for Rep. Jamaal Bowman’s arrest. This is sadly a threat that too many Black New Yorkers have heard before. Rep. Bowman has fought tooth-and-nail for our communities in Congress, and it’s entirely unacceptable for Mayor Spano to threaten his safety and livelihood. We expect Mayor Spano to issue Rep. Bowman a full apology immediately,” said Sochie Nnaemeka, Director of the New York Working Families Party.

From the Yonkers NAACP. “The Yonkers NAACP Unit #2188 is outraged by the racist remarks and attacks made by Yonkers Mayor Mike Span against Representative Jamal Bowman. A mere three days after the start of Black History Month, the mayor of the 3’d largest city in the state and largest in Westchester County comments that the first black person to represent the City of Yonkers in the 16* Congressional District should have been arrested, not for a crime that he committed but for a vote that he’d taken. The Yonkers NAACP condemns the statement made by Mayor Span. We are calling for others to stand with us and Representative Bowman to demand a public apology from the mayor. From our elected officials, civic and community-based organizations, and stakeholders in and around our city, it’s time to take a stand.”

Reverend Frank E. Coleman, Jr., President of the Yonkers NAACP added: “Historically, black men have been stereotyped as inferior and nothing more than chattel. From slavery to Jim Crow and beyond, black men have always been at the brunt of white resentment and anger. The statement from the Mayor of Yonkers, Mike Spano, spews out the divisive *dog whistles” that have too often been seen as mis-spoken rhetoric. Mayor Spano, at the onset of Black History Month, finds himself at ease to call for the arrest of Congressman Bowman because of his vote on infrastructure without recognizing that his arrest was in direct opposition for the voting rights bill not being passed that impacts Black and Brown people. It is not okay to call for a black man to be arrested for any crime he has not committed.”

Congressman Mondaire Jones stated, “Mayor Spano’s comments about Congressman Bowman are irresponsible, unproductive, and dangerous. Political debate is a hallmark of our democracy, but calling for a Member of Congress to be arrested because of a vote he took is completely unacceptable, especially in light of Republicans’ continued attacks on our democracy. As elected officials, what we say matters. Mayor Spano owes Congressman Bowman, and the people of Yonkers, an apology.”

The NAACP New Rochelle stated, “The NAACP New Rochelle Branch joins the Yonkers Branch in expressing our disgust and outrage at the comments made by Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. Mayor Spano called for the arrest of Congressman Jamal Bowman the first African American Congressman, from the 16th Congressional District, for simply doing his job. These comments are rhetoric that conjures up the racial stereo type that all Black men are criminals and should be incarcerated. We stand with the NAACP Yonkers Branch in demanding Mayor Spano issue an apology, not only to Congressman Bowman, but to the entire African American Community.” Respectfully Submitted, Minister Mark McLean, President NAACP New Rochelle Branch.

Phil Reisman, the co-host of the radio show that Mayor Spano was on, posted on Facebook, “Spano wasn’t seriously calling for Bowman’s arrest. This is a deliberate over reaction from a vulnerable and seemingly desperate incumbent.”

Matt Richter, the other one of the hosts of the Reisman-Richter report, posted the following on Facebook about the Spano interview. “Congressman Bowman is taking issue with some of Mayor Spano’s statements. Particularly, they are upset with the mayor’s statement that Bowman should have been arrested for his vote against the bipartisan infrastructure bill. To be clear and provide context, I mentioned that Bowman had recently been arrested at a protest at the capitol and said he’d be arrested again. That’s when Mayor Spano made the quip about the Infrastructure bill. It was a joke and not the least bit incendiary although I hear the Working Families Party and some other progressive groups are trying to spin it another way.”

The Westchester Black Women’s Political Caucus stated, “The statement reflects a fundamental level of disrespect for an African-American elected official and in these racially and politically polarizing times. It is extremely disappointing for the Mayor of Yonkers, a diverse community that includes a sizable and historical African-American community, to allow his political ambition to engage in hateful rhetoric.”

State Senator Alessandra Biaggi tweeted, “.@MayorMikeSpano some of us (not you) feel urgency around the threats to our democracy. Some of us (not you) actually have principles that we stand for. What exactly do you stand for? Thinly veiled racism?”

Spano replied with the same statement to several media requests for comment, saying, “To clarify, while being interviewed by a reporter who mentioned Jamaal Bowman’s recent arrest during a protest, I expressed my disappointment with his no vote on the infrastructure bill, which ultimately hurts working families across the state — an issue that can’t be ignored.”

Spano added, in a statement to the Journal News, Congressman Bowman started the conversation about being arrested based on political beliefs. He is on record suggesting he will continue to get arrested until the voting rights bill is passed. I simply suggested if he wants to get arrested, it should be for his vote against the infrastructure bill, which ultimately hurts working families across Yonkers.”

Additional statements from Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, County Legislator Christopher Johnson, Yonkers Councilwoman Tasha Diaz and others can be found at YonkersTimes.com

Indivisible NYCD-16 also gave a lengthy statement about Spano’s comments, and about bail reform, which we will highlight next week. Their letter, and an interview they held with Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins is also posted at YonkersTimes.com and we will highlight in this paper next week.

As we go to press, rumors are flying that Spano will not challenge Bowman for Congress. Someone close to the Mayor told us, “The Mayor is not likely to run for Congress, but it is not 100%. But he was unlikely to run before all of this nonsense began.”

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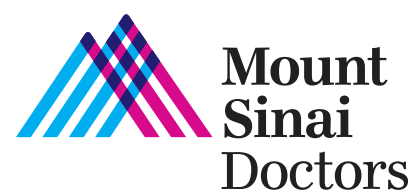
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