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Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier to Challenge Bowman for Congress, 16th District



Congressmembers Jamaal Bowman, right, will face a challenge from Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier

By Dan Murphy

Sources in the Yonkers Democratic Party tell YonkersTimes.com that the Chair of the Yonkers Democratic Party, Tom Meier, will announce next month that he is challenging Congressman Jamaal Bowman in a democratic primary this June. Meier has shared the news with several democratic leaders and elected officials in Westchester County, and so while its not official, "it's going to happen. Tom is going to run," said one Westchester democratic leader.

Meier, who is the Commissioner of the Yonkers Department of Public Works, will run as the democratic moderate alternative to Bowman, a progressive democrat and member of "the squad" of six ultra-progressive house members, led by Rep. Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, (AOC).

A Westchester democrat close to Meier said, "Tom has been thinking this over for six months now, and has come to the conclusion that democrats in Westchester don't want a progressive representing them in Washington and that Bowman is too far left to get re-elected."

Meier has been a Yonkers democrat for 40 years. He is a retired, Army Lt. Colonel, who has served successfully as both the Yonkers Democratic Chair, and DPW commissioner during the 10 years of Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano's administration.

Other moderate democrats were considering challenging Bowman, including sources tell us, Mayor Spano in Yonkers. But one Yonkers democratic leader told us, "If Tom Meier is going to run against Bowman, then Mayor Spano won't run. They will not run against each other."

Another Westchester democrat told us, "This is a tough race to beat Bowman and Tom knows it. But he will be able to reach out to the other democratic chairs in Westchester and seek their support. He will also have a good chance at getting some support of the unions, and especially the police unions in the county. It's a longshot

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Nurses Call Out Westchester Medical Center for "Crisis" "ER in Shambles" "Inadequate ICU"

MOST HONEST AND MOST ETHICAL PROFESSION



TWENTY YEARS IN A ROW!

By Dan Murphy

Nurses at Westchester Medical Center (WMC) say a steep decline in hospital conditions is ongoing — causing experienced RNs to leave — and adversely affecting patient care overall. The RNs will speak out on Wednesday, February 2, 11:30 AM-1:00 PM, about serious deterioration at the public facility and to call for immediate implementation of effective infection controls and a fair contract. The nurses, members of the New York State Nurses Association, will be joined by elected officials to underscore the threat to the public's health at WMC.

"Families from four counties have come to Westchester Medical Center for patient care. But they can no longer place their trust in a hospital management that understaffs in critical care units and emergencies. Management's tactic now is to threaten to cutback nurse retiree health benefits, after all the nurses have been through," said Nancy Hagans, RN, President of the New York State Nurses Association.

"Nurses continue to struggle in delivering safe patient care at WMC," said David Long, RN, Local Bargaining Unit president. "The overwhelming disrespect by management is deplorable as we hemorrhage experienced nurses weekly. The greed of top managers, evidenced by their hefty salaries, is felt at the bedside through the absence of highly trained nurses and other care partners. To

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Westchester & New Rochelle Shocked, Saddened by Murder of 16 Year Olde by 17 Year Old



16 year old homicide victim Julian Oliveros, left

"Youth violence is an emergency just like COVID. This is an epidemic of youth violence."
--Mark McLean
President Inter-Religious Council of New Rochelle

By Dan Murphy

A Jan. 25th homicide in New Rochelle, in which 16-year old Julian Oliveros was shot and killed by a 17-year old, has many in Westchester County shocked at the overabundance of guns in the hands of young, teen age gang members.

The other alarming piece to this case is that it occurred in the middle of the day, with New Rochelle police responded to the call of a shooting at 338 pm, at the corner of 4th Street and Washington Ave. Upon arrival Officers located a 16-year-old male victim (Oliveros) with multiple gunshot wounds. Officers administered First Aid and the victim was transported to a hospital where he underwent emergency surgery and succumbed to his injuries.

New Rochelle police immediately developed a lead and were able to locate and arrest a 17-year-old male suspect near Glen Place and Beechwood Avenue, who was found to be in possession of a 9mm semi-automatic handgun. Anyone with further information on this incident is asked to call the New Rochelle Police Department at 914-

Due to Juvenile arrest laws in New York State, the name of the suspect is still being withheld. He was charged with Penal Law 125.25 Murder 2nd degree and Penal Law 265.03 Criminal Possession of a weapon 2nd degree. Weapon recovered off the suspect. The weapon has no serial number and is considered a 'ghost gun.'

Minister Mark McLean, President, Inter-Religious Coalition of New Rochelle, said this shooting was an example of "an epidemic of violence."

"It's not a black problem or a latino problem. This is a human problem and

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2022 Black History Month Series: A Fashion Conversation with Tykeem "Big Baanks" Hall



Tykeem Hall

By Dennis Richmond Jr.

"I want the world to know that the key to a perfect look is confidence," Tykeem "Big Baanks" Hall explained to me. Tykeem spent over \$500,000 on clothes, bags, and jewelry in the past ten years. The legendary Fashion House Founder loves to look good. He recently picked up a pair of pants in Yonkers.

Women, men, and members of the TGNCNB community wear whatever they want. In the 1990s, many young Black men wore braids in their hair, and young Black women wore hoop earrings. Jheri curls and leather were the fashion statement in the 1980s. In the 1970s, afros were the style of the day. Women in the 1960s and 1950s often wore sunglasses and cat eyeglasses. The 1940s saw Black men in uniforms because many were in the service and fought WWII. Clothes impact culture- and that's where Tykeem comes in.

Tykeem "Big Baanks" Hall, 26, continues a legacy passed down by his ancestors. Tykeem was born in White Plains, New York, to a Jamaican father from Mount Vernon. His mother is African American. She was also born in White Plains. Tykeem and his mother were both raised in Greenburgh, New York. As a child, Tykeem never took fashion seriously. Summers meant being with his cousins at his maternal grandmother's house.

"She would have a lot of magazines," he said. As a young boy, Tykeem found interest in these magazines. He would gaze at different fashions from page to page, admiring what he saw. His other cousins watched TV, and he would read magazines.

"My mom used to buy my clothes," he said. At 16-years-old, if Tykeem Hall wanted different clothes, Tykeem had to purchase them himself. And that's what he did. In 2013, Tykeem landed his first job at Kmart on Tarrytown Road in White Plains. He never shopped for clothes at Kmart. He used his paycheck and shopped elsewhere. "I only shopped at Kmart for hygienic things," he said.

Ann Lowe was the first Black person to become a noted fashion designer. She's perhaps best known for designing former first lady of the United States of America Jackie Kennedy's wedding dress in the 1950s. Tykeem follows in her footsteps today because he started his own fashion house.

Tykeem "Big Baanks" Hall took the natural step in his high-end fashion journey and created his own fashion house called Baanks Closet, styled Baanks-Closet LLC. The LLC became incorporated on March 8th, 2021. Hall plans on designing his products and sharing his gift of fashion with the world. Samples for his products came on January 28th, 2022. His items come from overseas. He's hesitant to share his brand with the world, though. He wants everything to be as close to perfect as possible.

"Clothes are like costumes," he said. "You can put them on and decide who you want to be." Over \$500,000 of designer pieces exist in Hall's room. The

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Westchester Power Community Energy Program What You Need to Know About Renewable Energy

Information can be found at
sustainablewestchester.org/wp/yonkers

Compare the electric rates between Con Ed and Westchester Renewable Power Program, You Might be Surprised

An Interview with Dan Welsh, Program Director, Westchester Power, Sustainable Westchester.

What is the Westchester Power program in Yonkers?

Westchester Power is a COMMUNITY ENERGY Program and it is New York State's first, largest program of its kind and is widely recognized as the State model. The program is a way to allow local governments to have a say in the energy choices available to their residents and the program is tightly regulated by the New York State Public Service Commission. Community Energy programs are designed to provide consumer protection and transparency with rates and program design. The Westchester Power program is managed and administered by Sustainable Westchester, a nonprofit organization, whose membership consists of Westchester County municipalities and the County itself. Our goal is to bring clean energy and sustainable solutions that are environmentally, fiscally and socially responsible – with the end-result of creating healthier, more resilient communities.

Yonkers is the latest of 29 municipalities in Westchester to join the Westchester Power Community Energy Program. For decades, Con Edison has passed through a variable market rate, predominantly non-renewable electricity supply to residents as the default when they establish their account. This traditional utility structure and the process of selecting the source of that default does not include community specific input. With the Westchester Power program, this has now changed.

Through the Westchester Power program, the City of Yonkers has now established a competitive, accountable process by which energy suppliers participate in an auction to provide Yonkers households with the lowest possible fixed-rates for both a renewable and a standard, non-renewable supply. The program provides choice and makes a vetted, proven renewable energy option accessible to residents.

Residents now have several vetted choices they can make about their energy supply:

- Keep the default Westchester Power renewable fixed-rate supply product priced at 8.709 cents/kWh.
- Choose the Westchester Power non-renewable (“Standard”) fixed-rate supply product priced at 7.287 cents/kWh.
- Choose to stay with Con Edison with the utility’s variable rate.
- Choose any other ESCO on your own.

Though we can't know what ConEd's variable supply rates will be, they are widely expected to be higher in 2022 than last year and spiked to 12 cents/kWh for the first half of January. In contrast to Con Edison, the Westchester Power rates are fixed until November 30, 2023 for both the renewable and standard products, protecting participants from any rate increases during this period. In fact, the program can help residents cap their utility rate as residents are always free to opt-out of the program and return to Con Edison supply if the utility's rates are lower (it takes X to X billing cycles to affect this change if requested after February 9th). The Westchester Power program does not guarantee savings.

How can residents exercise their choice?

The program begins with residents' first meter read after March 1st. Residents who would like to keep the new default renewable supply need not take any action. The pre-enrollment opt-out period ends February 9, but it is important to note that participants can opt out at any time after that with no fee or penalty.

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Black History Month continued from pg 1-

nickname “Baanks” came from a friend of his. When people think of a bank, often, they think of money. \$500,000+ on clothes is no easy feat.

Tykeem holds close to six dozen pairs of footwear in his home. His room consists of brands ranging from Gucci and Moschino to Versace and Fendi to Burberry and Zaddy to Off-White and True Religion. It's only a matter of time until Hall opens up BaanksCloset to the world. One of his dreams is to shop in Paris, France. He currently has eyes on a 2016 Re-Edition Dionysus GG Blooms bag. If you'd like to keep up with him as he continues his journey, check out his merchandise on Instagram here: <https://www.instagram.com/baankscloset>.

Dennis Richmond, Jr., is an author and journalist focused on the Black, Latinx, and LGBTQIA+ Community. His stories have appeared in Yonkers Rising for more than six years, and also in the NY Post. Richmond lives in Yonkers. Follow him on Twitter @NewYorkStakz.

Latimer Congratulates Regeneron Student Finalists From Ossining, Irvington High Schools



Westchester County Executive George Latimer met with two high school seniors as they prepare to compete in the Regeneron Science Talent Search next month. The two Westchester high school seniors are among the 40 finalists nationwide in the competition.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: “We are so proud and impressed by these students and we know they have so much potential in front of them. Westchester had 25 scholars in the competition, to see two move forward as finalists is a testament to the education they are receiving here in the County.”

Nyasha Nyoni, a senior at Ossining High School said: “I’m very grateful so many amazing projects were submitted this year. To be recognized by Regeneron and the Westchester County Executive is such a honor. I’m grateful for the opportunity.”

Nyoni analyzed food and drink endorsements by “relatable influencers” and celebrities on Instagram. Her findings may encourage regulation of social media marketing to underage consumers.

Brooke Dunefsky, senior at Irvington High School said: “It’s an honor to receive this recognition by Westchester County and to get the word out on topic I’ve been interested in for several years.”

Dunefsky invented a biomedical device to speed the recovery of stroke patients with upper limb impairment. Her patented device applies the principles of neuroplasticity by having the patient make specific, repetitive arm movements of variable intensity.

Nyoni and Dunefsky will participate in a week-long competition from March 9-16, 2022, where they will undergo a rigorous judging process and compete for more than \$1.8 million in awards.

Gov. Hochul Signs Sen. Biaggi Bill to Allow Absentee Ballot Voting for All in 2022

On Jan. 21, Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation to allow voting by absentee ballot due to the COVID-19 pandemic through 2022. This legislation continues to allow New Yorkers to request an absentee ballot during the pandemic where there is a risk of contracting or spreading disease that may cause illness to the voter or other members of the public. This legislation first became law in July of 2020, and expired December 31, 2021.

“No one should have to choose between exercising their right to vote and protecting their health and safety,” Governor Hochul said. “This legislation will ensure the pandemic does not create inaccessibility for voters during upcoming elections and help protect New Yorkers’ access to the ballot.”

Absentee ballot applications for the February 15th special elections in the 60th and 72nd assembly districts are open through January 31st by mail, until February 14th in-person and can be submitted by mail or in-person until February 15th. More information on absentee voting and how to apply for an absentee ballot is available here.

Westchester State Senator Alessandra Biaggi said, “The COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the way we work, learn, and live— teaching us to adapt to in ways that we had never imagined before. We cannot allow the ongoing pandemic to undermine our democracy and interfere with New Yorkers’ right to vote, and must similarly adapt to prioritize public health while protecting our democracy. This is why I introduced S7565, my bill alongside Assemblymember Dinowitz, to ensure that no New Yorker has to choose between their health and fulfilling their civic responsibility, allowing New Yorkers to continue to vote absentee in 2022. Thank you to Governor Hochul for recognizing the need for this legislation, and for prioritizing the wellbeing of New Yorkers, while committing to protect our democracy.”

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Westchester Law Enforcement Seize 100+ Guns During Ghost Gun Investigation, 11 Arrests Made



During the week of Jan. 28, more than 100 weapons were seized and 11 persons were arrested following a six-month multi-agency investigation into “ghost guns” and other illegal firearms in Westchester and Putnam Counties.

Search warrants were executed Tuesday at eight locations in Westchester and Putnam by investigators from County, local and federal law enforcement agencies. Rifles, handguns, “ghost guns” and high-capacity drum magazines were seized. Some of the weapons lacked a serial number – making them so-called ghost guns – and other weapons had defaced serial numbers.

Several silencers, ballistic vests, counterfeit police shields and quantities of ammunition were also seized in the probe, dubbed Operation Casper by investigators. The high-capacity drum magazines that were seized are of a similar type to the one used in the murders of two New York City police officers last week.

“As we prepare to pay our final respects to Officer Jason Rivera tomorrow and his partner Officer Wilbert Mora next week, we are reminded of the dangers of illegal guns, not just in New York City,” County Executive George Latimer said. “This proactive, collaborative effort brings together law enforcement and prosecutorial leaders beyond Westchester to combat the distribution and purchase of illegal guns. It is our moral responsibility to work together to reduce the availability of these weapons and keep our communities safe.”

Public Safety Commissioner Thomas A. Gleason thanked all the agencies with personnel assigned to the Real Time Crime center for their roles in the successful investigation. “Working collaboratively with our law enforcement partners is a critical way we keep Westchester safe,” Gleason said.

The investigation was launched in June 2021 when police departments in Westchester, along with the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office and the Federal Bureau of Investigation, created a task force to address an influx of ghost guns and other illegal firearms into the Westchester County region. Detectives in the multi-agency Real Time Crime Center (RTC) were tasked with finding innovative ways to reduce gun crimes and prevent violence.

These detectives were assisted by the FBI Safe Streets Task Force, New York City Police Department, Putnam County Sheriff’s Office and the Rockland County DA’s office. Prosecutors from Westchester County District Attorney’s Office and the Southern District of New York provided guidance and case support as specific targets and locations were identified.

The following is a list of the persons arrested and the agency lodging the charges, which are felonies:

North Castle PD

- Theodore Brois, 67, of 3 Tallwoods Road, North Castle.
- Criminal Possession of a Weapon 1st Degree (Ten or More Weapons)

Helene Brois, 61, of 3 Tallwoods Road, North Castle

- Criminal Possession of a Firearm
- Brandon Brois, 24, of 3 Tallwoods Road, North Castle

- Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd Degree
- Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree

New Rochelle PD

- Juan Sanchez, 28, of 81 Highland Avenue, New Rochelle
- 3 Counts Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd Degree- Loaded Firearm
- 3 Counts Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd Degree – Disguised Gun
- Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree
- 40 Counts Unlawful Possession Ammo Feed Device
- 4 Counts Criminal Possession Weapon 3rd Degree- Silencer

Harrison PD

- John Pittelli, 35, of 242 Freemont Street, Harrison.
- Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree- Ammo
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 4th Degree- Hallucinogen

Westchester County PD

- Christopher Canzone, 49, of 1700 Baptist Church Road, Yorktown
- Criminal Possession of a Weapon 1st Degree- 10 or more Firearms

Yorktown PD

- Rogers Singleton, 40, of 2191 Crompond Road, Yorktown.
- Criminal Possession of a Firearm
- Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 4th Degree

The Yonkers Electricity Gamble



By Eric Schoen

If you are like me when it comes to electricity there are a few things you care about. You don’t want your lights going out in a storm. You want the electricity to work when you are using your appliances (microwave in particular) and the lights to be on so you can read your Rising Media Group newspaper. You don’t want the electricity to go off when you are using too much in your house or apartment. And you want the electricity delivered to your abode to be delivered safely.

I didn’t forget about the cost of the electricity. You want it to be affordable. Most of us use Con Ed to provide electricity. You talk to your neighbors and friends throughout the country and they live in mansions or homes bigger than yours but pay less for electricity. Con Edison has been Conning Eric and you my dear readers for a long time with high electricity rates. When Johnny Carson was host of the Tonight Show (I miss him) he used that line many times.

Let me start out by giving you my electricity and light bulb background. Many years ago when Con Edison started selling, I think they were called compact fluorescent energy efficient light bulbs, I bought some. Con Ed was the only one selling them, they were discounted but not cheap, and because of their weird size they didn’t fit into every fixture.

They had two curved bulbs in the socket, and the light they put out was not as good as the regular old fashioned light bulbs that came 4 in a box at various wattages branded GE or the store brand which was often cheaper. Mom would only buy the GE bulbs in that weird 4 pack with bulbs exposed facing different directions. I could never understand that package. So she was weary of me making the switch to something that might not be bright enough for her to read The Herald Statesman (predecessor to the Journal News) or the many other newspapers she read.

I could only fit the big new bulbs in certain fixtures, quite often putting them in the bedroom ceiling fixtures or in sockets in out of the way places where I could install them and leave the cover off. They lasted longer than regular bulbs, but I remember one bulb going out and the glass pieces dangerously falling all over the floor. This made it difficult to get the bulb out without electrocuting myself. So I consider myself a pioneer when it comes to energy efficient light bulbs.

Then maybe 10 years the ESCO, Energy Service Company came along. They were going to provide cheaper electricity. Con Ed would still be responsible for taking the cheap ESCO supplied energy and bringing it to your apartment or house. The energy lines and everything else other than the actual energy, electricity whatever you want to call it was under Con Edison’s jurisdiction. Cheaper Con Ed Bill. Your thrifty writer was all for it!

Then the bills started coming. The cost of my My ESCO supplied electricity was higher than when Con Edison supplied the electricity. I was in shock. I called the ESCO, had a hard time reaching them on the phone and when I finally did the man who answered (he sounded like he was just walking by and picked up the phone) said something I will never forget. ‘Mr. Schoen, you are not the type of customer we are looking for. I apologize for what occurred and we will switch you back to Con Edison to provide your electricity.’

Ever since then I have been ever so careful with anything having to do with electricity. I never heard from Mr. ESCO again. I am single and live in an apartment. The most energy I use is probably like you, in summer time when I put on the air conditioner. I hate air conditioning and make use of a ceiling fan in the bedroom. I have wooden floors (got rid of the thick green wall to wall carpeting years ago) and unless it is really hot can count on my fingers and toes the number of days I put on the air conditioning.

So in December I got a letter that looked like a piece of junk mail from ‘Sustainable Westchester.’ I almost threw it away but I like County Executive George Latimer and when I saw ‘Westchester’ I thought he might have something to do with it and read it. I would venture to say most Yonkersites tossed it in the garbage like they do after they rip the 20% off coupon on the Bed Bath and Beyond mailer.

The letter came in an envelope from ‘Sustainable Westchester’ and the Yonkers city seal was on the bottom very small. Now we all know if Mayor Mike Spano, our Councilpersons, County Legislators, State Legislators or Federal Legislators send a mailing to take credit or offer something for free their names will be big and bold on the envelope. That was not the case. Concern #1!

I read the letter quickly (like you I get a lot of junk mail and contribution letters from charities many of which are shady) and thought another ESCO. Been there done that. Than I read the excellent article by my friend Ron Matten in this newspaper. This group, ‘Sustainable Westchester’ was going to provide more environmentally friendly electricity. No guarantee that the rate would be lower. But the Kicker: you had to opt out from this program. It was not an opt in program. Concern #2. So as of 3/1/2022 I was going to have my power coming from ‘Sustainable Westchester.’ An ESCO. Concern #3 given my previous experience.

Yonkers has done an incredibly poor job rolling this program out. They have zoom sessions. How many people zoom? There was a phone number to call for information. The operators switched callers from operator to operator with no one answering questions. Sustainable admits they have been unable to promptly handle all the calls. If I heard that from one person I heard it from a dozen. And thousands of Yonkersites I bet still do not know what is going on.

Then this past Sunday, I read a commentary from the Wall Street Journal on this new Yonkers program. ‘Ever get an offer in the mail you felt was too good to be true. Residents of Yonkers, New York’s third largest city know how you feel!’

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Tax Preparation Help Available in Westchester Libraries for Seniors

Yorktown library offers free tax-preparation help

The John C. Hart Memorial Library will offer free tax-form-preparation assistance with preference for senior citizens starting February 7.

Certified volunteers from AARP will provide tax-preparation services on Mondays from February 7 to April 11 between 9:30 a.m. and 2 p.m. The tax-preparation sessions are by appointment only and the volunteers will not accept walk-ins.

As in 2021, no visit is required if patrons are able to scan their documents at home and email them to the volunteers. However, this season volunteers can also prepare tax return onsite if patrons come into the library one time for scanning documents and returning a week or two later for completing the process and picking up a copy of the finished return.

Same-day service is also possible so long as patrons meet with the volunteers for an intake interview in the morning, leave their documents with the volunteers for a few hours, and then return later in the day to finish the process. Call 914-440-3086 to schedule an appointment.

The library also has federal tax forms and instruction booklets available. Library staff will print supplemental forms for anyone who wants to do their own taxes. Contact: Ellen Tannenbaum, (914) 245-5262 or etannenbaum@wlsmail.org

The Mount Vernon Library

AARP Tax-Aide for Seniors The Library will operate a No-contact, electronic service, which involves the transmittal of instructions, forms, permissions, and scans of tax documents through email. The Library AARP Tax-Aide program will not be able to offer the kind of in-person service taxpayers have become used to for so many years. The primary concerns remain the health and safety of taxpayers and preparers, and the protection of confidential taxpayer information.

We will operate a no-contact, electronic service, which involves the transmittal of instructions, forms, permissions, and scans of tax documents using email. After the initial contact, taxpayers will receive an email with instructions and documents to print, fill out and return for tax preparation. Documents will need to be scanned and attached to the return email. Taxpayers can use their own computer (or smart phone) to scan and email the documents. Some patrons may choose to use a commercial provider for scanning and printing (such as Staples or UPS) if they are unable to do this themselves, or perhaps ask a friend or relatives for assistance.

AARP anticipates the exchange between their staff and the taxpayer will require several days to prepare and finalize the return. AARP has forms and instructions in English and Spanish. However, there are a limited number of Spanish speaking volunteers, so all email exchanges and phone discussions may have to be done in English. If you prefer Spanish forms and instructions, be sure to alert them.

AARP will only accept a certain amount of appointments per day. AARP services are very limited, but they have the desire to serve the community. They will only work by the scheduled appointments. No walk-ins, and no one can just leave their paperwork with a library staff member. They must go through AARP.

REGISTER for an appointment by calling the REFERENCE DESK AT 668-1840 ext.219 or 220. Available Monday and Wednesday 10am to 3pm.

New Rochelle Library

AARP Tax Aide returns to the Library to provide free tax assistance to the New Rochelle community, February through mid-April. This program, one of the Library's most popular, has served thousands of NRPL patrons over the years.

This year, patrons must schedule an appointment by calling 914-222-3393. Once patrons have an appointment, they will come to the Library at the scheduled time to discuss their return, complete required forms and provide their taxpayer information. At a second appointment, scheduled during the first appointment, patrons will review their finished return, approve and sign it. This appointment may take place on the same day as the first appointment or at a later date. Due to the pandemic, walk-ins cannot be accommodated. Appointments will take place in the meeting room and theater at the Main Library, 1 Library Plaza, New Rochelle.

17 year old shoots, kills 16-year old , continued from pg 1-

we need to come together and respond to the emergency that it is. Youth violence is an emergency just like COVID, and just like racial and religious hatred. We need to put together an emergency plan to address this problem. No child is safe, it affects white kids as well. What are we going to do about it?"

New Rochelle Mayor Noam Bramson said, "The ages of both the shooter and the victim make this incident especially horrific and, for young people and their families throughout our community, deeply upsetting. My personal thoughts are with the families that have been broken by this tragedy, and with all in our community who have been shaken by such a senseless act of violence. This incident highlights yet again the destructive impact of our nation's lax gun regulations, which flood firearms into the wrong hands and can transform any dispute into a heartbreaking loss. The scourge of gun violence must stop. Why do teenagers have guns in our neighborhood? Where are they getting them? We must stand together as a united community and say no more! Not in our community."

A GoFundme Page has been set up by the Oliveros family at the following link-<https://www.gofundme.com/f/help-for-julian-oliveros-family>

The message reads, "Hello Everyone, We hope you find the time to read this, On 1/25/2022 around 3:30PM our 17 year old son was fatally shot and killed. We are asking for any help you can. Oliveros Family – Very humble family in shock / pain and distraught, Please help with whatever your heart desires for Medical, Transportation to his Native Mexico and funeral costs. We thank you all so much. May God bless you."

Letter to the Editor Hochul's contest blunder

Recently NYS Governor Kathy Hochul launched "Take your shot," a distasteful play on words offering free lifetime hunting licenses and 'deluxe hunting equipment,' to entice hunters to get Covid vaccinations. This questionable vaccine campaign bribery effort, paid for by the state, was accompanied by a photo of geese flying peacefully in the sunset.

This governor vowed to 'usher in a new era of civility and consensus in state govt' - but she has forgotten 'civility.' This is a convenient vote grab deflection at a time when NYS is facing burgeoning crime rates, unemployment, etc. In fact there is a bill in the NYS legislature that would ban such killing contests, S6643/A5746. There is no place for such barbaric 'contests' in modern society.

Worse, Hochul has conjoined herself with the NYSDEC, a problematic agency that just expanded the state-choreographed carnage to include a 'holiday hunt,' an extra week of animal slaughter that was even opposed by the NYS Snowmobile Assn and several counties. People aren't safe either: There were several recent human hunting fatalities, one right here in NYS on 11/29; all have been downplayed. While US Fish/Wildlife reports that hunting is losing popularity, NYS is rushing to increase it. The DEC is staffed by law with hunters and operates for hunters; it discriminates against non-hunters by denying them a position on their advisory board. Wildlife agencies all over the U.S. are facing demands by non-hunters to have 'a seat at the table.'

The DEC panders to hunters although our state parks are overwhelmingly used for 'non-consumptive' recreation - i.e. hiking, photography etc. This agency outrageously holds 'canned hunts' - the easy slaughter of tame animals in a no-escape enclosure; how are they able to receive state and federal funding? There is no 'growing interest in hunting' as DEC Comm. Basil Seggos states. The DEC caters to a small fraction of the public, only 3% of the public in NYS hunts; the DEC has now put guns into the hands of 12 yr olds in order to boost license sales, safety and compassion be damned. This is who Hochul aligns herself with. There are bills in congress addressing the egregious and unchecked activity of similar wildlife 'mgmt' agencies; even Westchester County Executive George Latimer, as a senator, introduced the 'Right to Know' bill that would require more transparency and accountability of the DEC.

According to Wildlife Watch, a New Paltz-based wild animal advocacy group, the Bureau of Wildlife Management - a division of the DEC - siphons from the General Fund yet contributes nothing to it. Consider this: the other two major industries that carry federal excise taxes are alcohol and tobacco, but unlike the firearms excise tax, which goes to wildlife management agencies at a federal and state level, the excise taxes on alcohol and tobacco go to the general fund where the money is used for the needs of the general public: education, housing, health, etc.

Especially since hunters are a tiny minority here, it's extraordinary that state government has a dedicated bureau entirely devoted to providing hunters with wild animal targets. Clearly, the purpose is to get firearms and ammunition purchased, as well as bows and arrows. 'There's an immediate need for taxpayer funds to be spent to battle coronavirus and a collapsing economy,' according to the League of Humane Voters of NY. Hochul should give that some attention instead of offering up our wildlife as bait for prizes.

In 2022 everyone is aware that animals are not blocks of wood or carnival targets - they are sentient and intelligent, have families they love, and experience pain and suffering; they are just like us. Yet the government's treatment of animals is appalling. The world is changing; to Gov Hochul and every elected official: Don't use their death as a contest incentive. In 2022 humane advocates expect to be acknowledged and have a decision-making seat at the table. Understand that we vote and do not accept animal slaughter to be 'humor,' or 'contests' - or their demise treated as a 'perk' for getting a vaccine while aligning with an agency urgently in need of investigation and oversight.

**Kiley Blackman, Founder
Animal Defenders of Westchester**

Mount Vernon Man Sentenced to Nine Years for Violent Sexual Assault

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced the sentencing of a Mount Vernon man who stabbed a woman in the face after he sexually assaulted her. Hasarn Myke, 40, was sentenced on January 25, 2022, to nine years in state prison, with 15 years of post-release supervision after his pleas of guilty to Attempted Assault in the First Degree as a Sexually Motivated Felony, Attempted Assault in the First Degree, Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, Assault in the Second Degree as a Sexually Motivated Felony, and two counts of Assault in the Second Degree, all violent felonies. He also pled guilty to Unlawful Imprisonment in the Second Degree, a misdemeanor.

Upon his release from prison, Myke will be required to register as a sex offender. "The victim in this case demonstrated great resilience and fortitude in the face of a terrifying ordeal," DA Rocah said. "We are grateful that she was able to escape and call for help and hope that this conviction and sentence helps in the healing process. We will continue to fight for victims of violent crime and sexual assault with every means at our disposal."

On November 20, 2020, at approximately 5 a.m. in a secluded area in Mount Vernon, Myke punched the victim in the face and body, and kicked her in the stomach. He used a knife to remove the victim's clothing, sexually assaulted her and stabbed her in the face. The defendant then stood the victim up, grabbed her by the back of the neck and forced her to walk naked at knifepoint toward his home. The victim was able to escape to a nearby house, called the Mount Vernon Police Department, and was transported to Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx.

Mount Vernon Police arrested Myke on November 27, 2020, following an investigation.

The case was before Judge Susan Cacace in Westchester County Court, and was prosecuted by Special Prosecutions Deputy Division Chief Michelle Lopez.

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Sarah Lawrence College Awarded \$1.5 M Grant From Mellon Foundation for Climate Crisis- Environmental Studies

Bronx Community College will partner with SLC to bridge the humanities and science for a diverse student population

Sarah Lawrence College, in partnership with Bronx Community College, has been awarded a three-year, \$1.5 million grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to rethink the humanities through the lens of climate and environmental justice and to develop creative, collaborative pedagogies to address the climate crisis. The award is the largest programmatic grant in Sarah Lawrence history, a mark previously held by a \$1.2 million Mellon Foundation grant to advance and support civic engagement, which the College received in 2019.

"We are incredibly grateful for this grant and for the continued support from the Mellon Foundation," said Sarah Lawrence president Cristle Collins Judd. "It recognizes not only the urgency and need for action around the climate crisis and environmental justice, but also the value of and need for the humanities in all areas of our lives. And it's a clear vote of confidence in the innovative work of our faculty and students."

Sarah Lawrence is one of 12 liberal arts colleges to be selected from 50 applicants to the Mellon Foundation's Humanities for All Times initiative, and the College's \$1.5 million award represents the highest amount an institution could receive. Humanities for All Times was created by the Mellon Foundation to "support newly developed curricula that both instruct students in methods of humanities practice and demonstrate those methods' relevance to broader social justice pursuits."

"The Humanities for All Times initiative underscores that it's not only critical to show students that the humanities improve the quality of their everyday lives, but also that they are a crucial tool in efforts to bring about meaningful progressive change in the world," said Phillip Brian Harper, Mellon Foundation Higher Learning Program Director. "We are thrilled to support this work at liberal arts colleges across the country – given their unequivocal commitment to humanities-based knowledge, and their close ties to the local communities in which such knowledge can be put to immediate productive use, we know that these schools are perfectly positioned to take on this important work."

Led by faculty members Heather Cleary (Spanish, Literature), Sarah Hamill (Art History), and Eric Leveau (French, Literature), this grant will support the Sarah Lawrence Interdisciplinary Collaborative on the Environment (SLICE) curricular program. From a nexus of interdisciplinary perspectives, SLICE poses the humanistic question of how to exist in ethical relation to each other and to the planet as we confront the human-induced climate crisis; it seeks to answer this question by developing the tools of interdisciplinarity, collaboration, permeable classrooms, and community engagement.

The SLICE program has its foundations in work that began during the 2020-21 academic year. A group of faculty in art history and literature joined colleagues in environmental science, biology, and economics in the Sarah Lawrence Interdisciplinary Collaborative on the Environment in response to a growing desire on campus for civic engagement around climate change and social justice. SLICE's faculty, many of whom are early-career, came together to rethink pedagogies in response to the entwined crises of a global pandemic, systemic racism and the violence of white supremacy, and ecological disaster. In courses on topics such as art and ecology, environmental literary criticism, environmental data, and ecology of symbiosis, students analyzed, debated, and organized around issues of environmental justice and activism.

Together through this funding, Sarah Lawrence and Bronx Community College will spend the three year grant period co-creating in several key areas: bringing students from both institutions together for new interdisciplinary curricula, project-based learning, and programming; building a SLICE event series and student symposium; launching an inter-institutional "Climate Justice and the Arts" exhibition, slated for Spring 2024; supporting students as they collaborate with local environmental organizations, including Sarah Lawrence's own Center for the Urban River at Beczak (CURB), Groundwork Hudson Valley, and Untermyer Gardens; and implementing a robust digital humanities plan that will equip students with the digital literacy skills needed to reach a broad audience with their research in climate justice.

Drawing students to the humanities is at the heart of the Mellon Foundation, the nation's largest funder of the arts, culture, and humanities. The work done by institutions supported by the Humanities for All Times initiative "will make clear the power of the humanities in solving societal challenges through distinctive analytical projects that ensure students are skilled in diagnosing the cultural conditions that hinder our achieving a fully just and equitable society, and identifying the steps necessary to changing them."

Peterson Foundation Statement on \$30 Trillion National Debt

Michael A. Peterson, CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, commented today as the United States surpasses \$30 trillion in outstanding debt. Peterson said: "The milestone of \$30 trillion in debt should be a giant red flag for all of us about America's future economic health, generational equity, and role in the world. Our high and rising debt makes us less prepared for the next pandemic, less secure against future adversaries, less resilient to the changing climate, and less able to build the strong and inclusive economy that we all want for the next generation."

"How we got here is a long story of repeated chapters of fiscal irresponsibility on both sides of the aisle. Leaders in Washington have made imprudent decisions over decades, time and again choosing a favorite new tax cut or spending program above our collective future. On our current trajectory, interest will soon become our fastest growing 'program,' and will rise to eat up nearly 50 cents of every tax dollar collected in 2050. It's not only unsustainable, it's a moral failure that will harm our children and grandchildren."

"As we hopefully and gratefully emerge from the pandemic, our leaders should work to end this cycle. We are already staring down the barrel at \$13 trillion additional debt over the next decade, and a staggering \$30 trillion more in the ten years after that. With this much rapidly growing red ink already on auto-pilot, we can't afford any new installments of fiscally irresponsible programs or tax cuts that are not paid for. Even more critically, we must finally begin to address the permanent, structural imbalances between spending and revenues that prior lawmakers have built into the foundation of our budget. Medicare and Social Security, critical programs that support our most vulnerable, will deplete their trust funds in just 4 and 12 years, respectively. Every year we procrastinate just adds more risk to those in need, and places a greater burden on the backs of our kids. The good news is that the budget is entirely within our control. America's success over hundreds of years is based on a forward-thinking ethos, with leaders showing a moral determination and commitment to leaving a future that is brighter than the past."

Hudson River Museum Planetarium to Reopen Saturday Feb 5



Good news for the effort in Westchester to get back to normal as we approach the end (hopefully) of COVID. The planetarium at the Hudson River Museum will reopen this Sat. Feb 5.

In-person planetarium shows resume on Saturday, February 5. Enjoy ticketed shows at 12:30, 2, and 3:30pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Visit our calendar for a complete schedule or to purchase tickets, visit HRM.org.

Capacity is limited to 50 attendees per show (40%); advance tickets are strongly encouraged.

From the mysteries of the moon and the search for life beyond Earth, to the stories that shape our stars, our Planetarium has shows for every level and interest. Planetarium shows are offered every Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 and 2pm, with each time slot geared towards a different age group.

12:30pm shows are recommended for young children; 2pm shows, during which visitors explore what the sky will look like later that night, are live, interactive, and open to all ages. Check individual show descriptions below for more information. Please note that planetarium shows begin promptly as scheduled, and there is no admittance after they start.

In addition to our weekend screenings, planetarium shows are also offered on select holidays and during school breaks, known as School's Out, Stars Are In (SOSI). Check back for more updates in our calendar.

The Planetarium is equipped with Radio Frequency Assisted Listening Systems (ALSS). Please ask a member of the Planetarium or visitor services staff for more information.

Attorney General James Sues Precious Metals Company for Defrauding Seniors Out of \$68 M

Safeguard Metals Charged Exorbitant and Deceptive Markup on Silver Coins

On Feb. 1, New York Attorney General Letitia James today filed a lawsuit against a precious metals company — Safeguard Metals LLC — and its owner and manager, Jeffrey Santulan, also known as Jeffrey Hill, for defrauding investors, including many seniors, across New York and the nation. The lawsuit, filed by the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and a bipartisan coalition of 27 states, alleges that Safeguard Metals deceived nearly 450 investors nationwide by fraudulently soliciting nearly \$68 million for precious metals and misrepresenting its exorbitant fees charged to investors.

"These investors may have been sold on the comfort of investing in precious metals, but Safeguard Metals tarnished their dreams," said Attorney General James. "Today, we are holding Safeguard Metals accountable for its shameful conduct that preyed on older New Yorkers and robbed them of a worry-free retirement. Companies' peddling in lies and deception for profit at the expense of hardworking New Yorkers will not be tolerated. New Yorkers can trust that my office is fully committed to protecting their wallets from fraudsters like Safeguard Metals."

The lawsuit — filed in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California — claims that the California-based firm and its owner and manager targeted elderly investors through online advertisements as well as on social media and lured them into transferring funds from their traditional individual retirement accounts (IRA) into self-directed IRAs. The company misrepresented the markups it charged investors on precious metals. These charges resulted in instant and substantial losses, with many investors losing a large portion of their investment funds immediately upon completing the transaction. The complaint alleges that Safeguard Metals and Jeffrey Santulan violated the Commodity Exchange Act.

The Office of the New York Attorney General (OAG) encourages any investors who suspect they have been targeted by precious metals investment schemes to come forward by contacting the office's Investor Protection Bureau by emailing Investor.Complaints@ag.ny.gov.

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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.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

It went on to say electricity rates would increase 19%. It talked about the sneaky packaging of the official notification. The price of energy would go up. Mr. Spano is doing this to burnish his credentials with with the green community and make residents pay for it. Yonkers poorest residents already pay electricity rates 30% above the state rate. Poverty rate in Yonkers is nearly twice that in Westchester County. And as we all know from our visits to the supermarket, the National economy is experiencing the worst inflation in 40 years! Concerns 4-12!

I immediately posted the Wall Street Journal article on Facebook and Twitter. I asked that the City, County, State even Federal elected officials, who ever was responsible put this program on hold until residents can get more information. There should have been several letters about the program. Meetings would be appropriate but in the middle of a cold winter and in the middle of a pandemic people are afraid of big gatherings. A letter from the Mayor who sits on the Sustainable Westchester Board of Directors. As does Yonkers Resident, Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins.

I did receive a response from 'City of Yonkers' to my Facebook post. And to her credit, comments from Terry Joshi who I believe is on the Yonkers Green Activist Committee. Check out my Facebook page. Eric W. Schoen. Look for me in the picture with our dear departed Joan Rivers. And keep your eyes glued to Westchester Rising Newspapers for important information.

You have until February 9 to officially opt out. But you can opt out at any time. I still haven't decided what I am going to do. But one thing is for sure. Due to the poor rollout, poor outreach, and poor timing in the middle of a pandemic when inflation is out of control, the poor people of Yonkers, white, black, brown are going to have a big surprise in March.

That is if the people or persons responsible for this mess don't put the brakes on it until things get better and people can live the lives they led pre-pandemic and we don't have crazy inflation. And we can get a better explanation of what the hell is going on here!

But sadly my dear readers, I must remind you as I have said oh so many times, 'This, Too is Yonkers!'

Reach Eric Schoen at thistoisonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m., on WVOX 1460 AM, and WVOX.com.

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.

White Plains Mom Who Tried to Drown Her Two Year Old Sentenced to 7.5 Years for Att. Murder

On Jan. 26, A White Plains woman who tried to drown her infant child at the Coachman Family Center in 2019 was sentence to 7 and a half years. In Oct. of 2021, Westchester DA Mimi Rocah announced that La'Quanaya Ward, 30, pled guilty to Attempted Murder in the Second Degree, a felony.

On December 3, 2019, Ward attempted to drown her two-year-old child in her bathtub at the Coachman Family Center in White Plains, where she was a resident, shortly after making verbal and online threats. Ward was stopped by another resident who forced her out of the bathroom, allowing the child to come up for air.

The Westchester County Department of Public Safety investigated the incident and arrested Ward on December 11, 2019. Ward was facing a sentence of anywhere between 5-25 years in state prison.

The case was before County Court Judge Barry Warhit and was being prosecuted by Child and Elder Abuse Bureau Senior Investigative Counsel Mary Clark-DiRusso.

Legal Notice Notice of Public Hearing Town of Eastchester

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Town Board of the Town of Eastchester, will hold a public hearing at Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York, 10709 on Tuesday, February 15, 2022 at 7:00 pm with regard to proposed amendments to Local Law No. 5-2000, the "**ZONING LAW OF THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER**", last amended by Local 1-2021, to Repeal the Residency Preferences included as Section 12H(27) (A) (E) and to amend Section 12H (27) (B) (a) to remove the reference to such preferences.

All interested parties are encouraged to attend this hearing, at which they will be given an opportunity to express their opinion for or against the proposed amendment. A copy of the amendment is available in the Office of the Town Clerk.

By Order of the Supervisor and the Town Board of the Town of Eastchester, New York, Linda Laird, Town Clerk

LEGAL NOTICE

The ordinance, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on January 25, 2022, and approved by the Mayor on January 31, 2022, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such ordinance may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the CITY OF YONKERS, in the County of Westchester, New York, is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this Notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the publication of this Notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

Vincent E. Spano, City Clerk
City of Yonkers, New York

SPECIAL ORDINANCE NO.2-2022

BOND ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, NEW YORK AUTHORIZING FUNDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE CITY'S 2021-2022 CAPITAL BUDGET, AS AMENDED; STATING THE TOTAL ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST THEREOF IS \$6,849,000; APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT THEREFOR; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OF SAID CITY IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$6,849,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

The bonds are authorized to finance various capital projects included in the City's 2021-2022 Capital Budget, as amended.

The amount of obligations to be issued is \$6,849,000.

The periods of usefulness are various periods between 5 and 15 years.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 17 of the Special Local Finance and Budget Act of the City of Yonkers, constituting Chapters 488 and 489 of the Laws of 1976 of the State of New York (herein called the "Act"), the City is authorized and directed to include the pledge and agreement of the State of New York (herein called the "State") contained in said Section 17 of the Act, in the ordinance, and the Act provides that upon payment for the bonds or notes by the original and all subsequent holders thereof the inclusion of such pledge and agreement shall be deemed conclusive evidence of valuable consideration received by the State and City for such pledge and agreement and of reliance upon such pledge and agreement by any holder and that any action by the State contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of such pledge and agreement shall be void.

A complete copy of the Bond Ordinance summarized above shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the office of the City Clerk, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York 10701.

Congressman Bowman Faces Dem. Challenge, continued from pg 1-

but not impossible."

One unknown in this race is what will the new, redrawn boundaries of the 16th Congressional District in NY be. A proposal from NY Democrats now in charge of the process after a bi-partisan compromise failed has Bowman's 16th District running north and including northern Westchester and Putnam County, with almost none of the Bronx portions of the current district.. Candidates will have to know what the boundaries are in order to collect signatures.

And most observers believe that change in the district, will benefit Meier. "If the district has less of the Bronx and more of Bedford, I would say that the democrats in Bedford are more moderate. But that doesn't mean that they would vote for Meier over an incumbent, sitting Congressman," said another Westcheter democrat.

Meier will also have to raise significant amounts of money in order to compete with Bowman, and if as expected Meier announced his campaign, it will be his first run for office. Bowman raised \$2.9 Million in his 2020 campaign.

"There are two ways to look at this race. If you think that Bowman's victory in 2020 was a lucky, flash in the pan, then maybe Meier stands a chance. But if you think that the overall trend of Westchester democratic politics is towards more progressive politicians like Jamaal Bowman and Mondaire Jones, then Bowman wins in a blowout," said a wise, Sound Shore Democrat.

Proposed congressional maps can be found at <https://newyork.redistrictingandyou.org/>

Rep. Bowman said on Social Media that he looks forward to the challenge in his 2022 re-election. "I'm fighting for the people in my district, not the special interests. In 2022, our movement will grapple with new redistricting maps and challengers in NY-16."

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YONKERS TIMES
News in Yonkers and around Westchester

Nurses Claim Crisis at Westchester Medical Center, con't from pg. 1-

this day, no efforts have been made by management to secure effective retention of our nursing heroes.”

A press conference was held outside of the wmc on feb 2 to call for a fair contract “Nurses have been working tirelessly under the most difficult of circumstances at risk to their health and safety and that of their families,” said State Senator Shelley Mayer. “I am proud to support them as they speak out for the health and safety of patients, staff, and the community; the compensation to which they are entitled; and ensuring the retention of nurses as the challenges of understaffing and the pandemic take their toll. I am committed to working with NYSNA and its members to ensure nurses and staff receive the compensation and respect they deserve, and patients and communities get the care they need and deserve.”

“I am proud to stand with the brave and dedicated nurses at Westchester Medical Center and the New York State Nurses Association as they ‘speak out’ for safe staffing,” said State Senator Peter Harchham. “These are frontline heroes, and a lack of support for them is counterproductive and adds unnecessary risks to patients. I implore WMC: Give our nurses the staffing support they deserve.”

“Our nurses are critical to the operation of our hospitals and nursing homes, and so very important to the quality of care and overall outcome for every patient and resident,” said Westchester County Legislator Erika L. Pierce. “When nurse staffing is cut, lives are lost and everyone suffers. Even more so during a pandemic. Thank you to our hard working and exhausted nurses who continue to care for us day in and day out. Let’s do the right thing and establish safe staffing levels so they can do their jobs as they are meant to be done.”

“Our nurses have been at the front line of the Covid-19 pandemic, and they are the ones that provide direct care to all of us when sick and hospitalized,” said Westchester County Legislator Jose Alvarado. “They deserve and have earned the right to have competitive salaries and benefits. I am proud to stand with our nurses and other medical professionals at this Speak Out Event at the Westchester Medical Center.”

“Nurses make our healthcare system work. Let’s make nurses’ workplace safe,” said Assembly Member Tom Abinanti. “Praise is good, but nurses need to be paid properly - their well-being impacts our wellness.”

“I am pleased to support our nurses at Westchester Medical Center. It is important for the health and safety of patients that there be appropriate nurse-to-patient ratios at all shifts and that nurses be compensated based on their education levels and skills,” said Westchester County Legislator Ben Boykin.

At NY Presbyterian Hospital in Cortlandt Manor, approximately 250 new members of the New York State Nurses Association at NYP-Hudson Valley Hospital voted overwhelmingly to approve a historic first union contract at the hospital, part of the New York-Presbyterian Hospital network.

“I am so proud of the caring, commitment and perseverance of my fellow nurses,” said Lorraine Fontana, RN. “This first contract lays a solid foundation for us to build a strong union that will improve our working conditions and patient care conditions at Hudson Valley Hospital for years to come.”

Highlights of the new contract include, staffing committee to establish unit-based staffing guidelines for safe patient care. float pool to improve staffing throughout the hospital, a new wage scale and hiring grid to eliminate inequal pay for equal work, annual 3% retention raises, including a 3% across the board retroactive increase and differential pay for specialty shifts and certification, additional vacation and holiday benefits, preservation of health, retirement, family leave and other benefits, with guarantee of no cost increases, job protections, including just cause, layoff, and grievance procedures. Labor Management Committee to discuss and resolve issues and conflicts.”

Renee Mauro, RN, said: “The nurses at Hudson Valley Hospital are dedicated to taking care of our community, and this union contract was a result of us uniting as a community. We are looking forward to having a stronger voice on the job to advocate for our patients

Westchester Renewable Energy Program, continued from pg 2-

Opting out before February 9th, simply means you will never have been enrolled.

Residents can choose to remain with the Con Edison supply, or switch to the Westchester Power Standard supply in the following ways:

- the best option is to go online to opt-out at www.sustainablewestchester.org/wp if the resident has the mailing that was sent to them about the program, which contains a pre-enrollment ID number,
- email info@sustainablewestchester.org with their request (they should include the name on the ConEd account and the account address).
- Residents can mail back the opt-out card found in the notification letter packet, which should be received by February 9th.
- Residents can also call Sustainable Westchester’s offices at 914-242-4725 during normal business hours and provide the name and the address on the account.
- Residents can also switch from renewable to standard supply by email at info@sustainablewestchester.org, through the Sustainable Westchester website portal or by phone to our offices.

What are the benefits of the program?

Communities all over New York representing millions of households are following Westchester’s lead in creating Community Energy Programs like Westchester Power because they know that the climate crisis requires an active approach and programs of this type provide residents with a vetted, proven choice to access renewable energy. While municipal involvement in utility services may seem unusual to some, in many contexts they are the norm. Utility supply is a traditional area of municipal involvement – we are all used to water and sewer services, and there are many places in rural New York and outside of the State that have municipal electric utilities. Addressing the environmental impact of our electricity supply is certainly within the scope of municipal governments and is recognized as a beneficial exercise of home rule authority.

Other energy program opportunities including Community Solar and GridRewards (both of which provide electricity bill savings), are available because we have the scale that CCA brings. Over 2,000 households in Westchester are saving up to 10% on their electricity bills because they signed up for our Community Solar program. Almost the same number of households participated last summer in Grid Rewards, New York’s first demand response program for residential customers. These households earned an average of \$67 for reducing their electricity usage during times of peak stress on our electricity grid.

Very importantly, we look to Westchester Power as a vehicle to help drive the benefits of the clean energy economy to low income residents who have had fewer opportunities to benefit to date. We have made a petition to the State to allow us to provide the Community Solar discount credits to low income customers on an opt-out basis.

There are additional direct benefits to the move to clean energy. Westchester has an F-grade from the American Lung Association for air quality, and we know health impacts of this problem fall hardest on the environmental justice areas that include Yonkers.

How can residents learn more?

Sustainable Westchester, the program administrator, is eager to provide information about the program to Yonkers residents and to answer all questions. They have scheduled the following upcoming information sessions.

Information can be found at sustainablewestchester.org/wp/yonkers.

All of the information sessions below can be attended on Zoom, visit the link above for the Zoom links -

Weekend Information Session/Office Hour is available on Saturday 2/5/2022 beginning at 12 noon use on Zoom

Monday 2/7 at 12 noon and 8PM.

Tuesday 2/8 at 12 noon and 8pm

Wednesday 2/9 at 12 noon

Wednesday Community Energy Information Sessions (presentations will take place, no registration needed): February 16, March 2, March 30 at 12:00 PM and 6:00 PM: Thursday Zoom Office Hours at 12:00 PM and 5:00: February 10, February 17, February 24th.

Sustainable Westchester will be scheduling more events soon! If you are interested in hosting an event for a community organization, please contact paul@sustainablewestchester.org.

It is important that the community has the facts about this program and your energy supply choices. Please share this information with other members of the community – bring friends, neighbors!

Why did some residents not receive a letter?

Residents who have already selected an electricity provider other than Con Ed, or have put a block on their Con Ed accounts, will remain with their current provider (and therefore did not receive a letter about Westchester Power).

Residents who receive HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) assistance are not eligible to participate in Westchester Power and therefore, also, did not receive a letter about the program.

Why is this an opt-out structure vs. opt-in?

It is important to consider the concept of opt-out supply. There is always a default supplier - that has been Con Edison for decades. When a resident moves into a new home and calls to turn on the power, they will receive power from Con Edison - unless they take action to switch. In municipalities that have established Community Energy programs, the default changes from the Con Ed (large regulated monopoly) to the community-chosen supply, but you still have the option to switch to another ESCO or back to Con Ed as you see fit. In this sense, Con Ed is really an opt-out program too.

In this instance, Westchester Power affords greater choice as it offers 100% renewable energy through a vetted, proven program without burdening the resident to become an energy expert or navigate through confusing, complicated ESCO offers.

Remember, there is always a choice with the Westchester Power program at no cost, fee or penalty. Opt-out can happen at any time beyond the February 9th date until the account is no longer active. It is a simple process and that can be done online or by phone.

What are the taxes outlined on the notification letter?

The city does not receive a fee, nor is it charged for participation in Westchester Power. Taxes and related items are standard and consistent with current utilities.

The GRT tax is consistent with all utilities and is a tax assessed by the Cities and Villages in Westchester County. This tax is part of the bill whether Con Ed, Westchester Power or an ESCO of your own choosing. Residents will see the GRT tax listed in their supply charges on their current Con Ed bill, this is not a new tax. This will remain consistent if a resident chooses to opt-out of the program or chooses to remain enrolled.

Are there going to be surprises with the program? Westchester Power is Not an ESCO – No surprises or strong arm tactics. The ESCO industry unfortunately has a history of bad practices. This includes enrolling people who have declined to enroll, offering low teaser rates and imposing high cancellation fees, among other abusive practices. These abuses are a longstanding concern and Sustainable Westchester has provided education and information to consumers since Westchester Power began in 2016 to educate residents about these practices and how to avoid them.

Westchester Power’s fixed rates, ability to cancel at any time with no fee, and public education processes provide protections against these practices.

There are no fees/penalties to opt-out, no bidding contracts, no surprise increasing rates or strong-arm tactics to keep anyone in the program. In this instance, Westchester Power affords greater choice as it offers 100% renewable and standard energy through a vetted, proven program

Will Con Ed continue to deliver and service accounts within the Westchester Power program? Con Ed provides the same delivery service to Westchester Power participants as it does to customers who purchase electricity supply from Con Ed. Maintenance of lines, response to emergencies, and help with billing issues remains consistent. In fact, Con Ed is required by law and regulated by the Public Service Commission to provide equal service to all accounts regardless of their energy supplier.

Westchester Power only affects a resident’s supply, not their delivery of electricity.

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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 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.

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.

Westchester Salutes an NYPD Hero



Above members of the Westchester County Police Department salute the body of fallen NYPD officer Jason Rivera. Below, a giant flag on the overpass of the thruway in memory of Officer Rivera.



On Jan. 28, members of the Yonkers Police Department and the Westchester County Police Department held a "Hero's Salute" for NYPD Detective Jason Rivera, who was killed in the line of duty on Jan. 21. Police officers stood along three overpasses on the NYS Thruway in Yonkers to salute Rivera. A funeral at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Manhattan was given for Rivera on Jan. 28, and then he was taken to Ferncliff Cemetery in Hartsdale for burial.

Westchester Chordsmen Offer Singing Valentines

Singing Valentines
Say "I Love You" with a song

Let a quartet deliver a song to your loved one on Valentines Day.

Deliveries on Mon, Feb 14

Digital Basic ♥ \$50 Email video delivery of two love songs sung in four-part harmony	Digital Premium ♥ \$65 Includes your own personalized message and photo	In-Person ♥ \$100 In-person delivery - outdoors only and appropriately spaced
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Order at: [Chordsmen.org](https://chordsmen.org) Or call: (914) 298-7464



The Westchester Chordsmen will e-mail a Virtual Video Singing Valentine to your loved one, with a personalized singing introduction and two love songs by a Chordsmen Quartet. If you wish, you can add a personal note and your photo. They will be safe and you'll be very pleased that your loved one is so happily surprised.

Or, as an extra-special offer: we'll send a LIVE quartet, in their tuxes, red vests and ties, to your loved one's location with a rose and sing to them LIVE, outside their door, fully masked. Our members are all vaxed and boosted! Order by February 5th to ensure delivery on February 14th. (prices start at \$50) Go to <https://chordsmen.org/singing-valentines> for details.

Congrats Yonkers: You've Been Awarded the POWER to Choose Your Energy Supply

In response to WSJ January 31, 2022 Commentary

Recently, the Empire Center wrote a weak and misinformed commentary on Yonkers' participation in Sustainable Westchester's Westchester Power Program without fact, reason or knowledge. The real fact is a proven and reliable program that provides eligible residents the power to choose the variable standard electric supply dictated to them by the utility, or a 100% renewable energy supply achieved by having energy suppliers compete to provide Yonkers residents with the lowest available fixed rate.

When residents move into their homes, what initial choice is given to them in regards to their energy supplier? NONE. In Yonkers, Con Ed provides a default energy supply, making us subject to its variable energy rates that often spike sky high without notice. Yonkers is now providing residents the choice that is right for them. Empire Center wrongfully states Yonkers is outsmarting residents by enrolling them into the program without consent or knowledge. The truth is that Yonkers began publically considering this initiative last winter, hosted numerous community information sessions, public hearings, sent emails, social media posts and direct mailers to residents along with garnering local press coverage with the purpose to inform constituents.

In terms of pricing, again, let's look at the facts: with Con Edison's rates spiking in the first half of January, at an average rate of 12 cents/kWh, the same customer would pay \$54 for their electricity if they opted out of Westchester Power's options. At Westchester Power's default 100% renewable rate of 8.710 cents, that customer would pay \$39.19 for the same amount of electricity in a month. Westchester Power also offers an even cheaper "standard" non-renewable supply option that residents may choose at 7.287 cents/kWh. Either way, residents have the choice and can opt out or back in at any time at no cost. The power to choose an electricity supply and pricing is now with residents, not a private utility. Plus, the selected energy supplier is fully vetted by the City, relieving residents of the burden of having to become an energy expert if they were to opt out of Con Edison's supply and choose an ESCO on their own.

Yonkers is proud of the enormous strides its made to provide for a greener, cleaner city through the enactment of multiple sustainability initiatives, pioneering many and receiving national recognition along the way. While Yonkers is the largest city in New York to enact this program, it certainly is not the first. The third largest city is joining 28 other municipalities in the county offering 100% renewable energy and follows Rochester in their pursuit in providing greater choice for their residents - all through the same enrollment methods. Does the propagandist want to attack them as well?

Some may debate the merits of the Westchester Power program, but misleading and purporting misinformation may be the greatest misstep here, specifically by politically motivated individuals who need to create a platform for themselves. In the world of fake news, it's too bad the real 'scam' here is not believing that residents can make a decision of their own, based on facts and choice, rather than fear and fiction.

Jason Baker Office of Sustainability, City of Yonkers

WANT TO MAKE A POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT?

RENEWABLE ENERGY IS DOABLE!

Hey Yonkers Neighbors!

Have a question about the new Community Energy Program, Westchester Power?

Drop in during our weekly office hours. Pass the word, tell your friends, community groups and others, too. The more you know the more informed your choice...

Westchester Power Office Hours every Thursday at 12PM & 5PM
Sessions include Spanish-speaking support
Scheduled Dates: 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24
Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/WestchesterPowerOfficeHours>

Westchester Power
COMMUNITY CHOICE
MEMBERSHIP
A PROGRAM OF SUSTAINABLE WESTCHESTER

HEY YONKERS NEIGHBORS!

Yonkers is joining the Westchester Power Community Energy Program. Come learn more at these convenient sessions....

Join us for a Community Energy Information Session to learn about the Westchester Power Program, the importance of community energy, and how your potential participation will help to reduce emissions and create a more vibrant, healthy community.

Where: On ZOOM, of course!
When: Biweekly Drop-Ins @ 12 + 6PM on
Wednesday January 19, February 16, March 2, March 30
All sessions include Spanish speaking support.
Join on Zoom: <https://tinyurl.com/YonkersCleanEnergyInfo>

Westchester Power
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