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Friday November 19-26, 2021

Westchester Says No to Racism Heard at Yorktown GOP Celebration Councilman Vishnu Patel, Father of Two West Point Graduates, Is the Real American Patriot



Westchester is saying "Shame On You Tom Pomposello", right and "Thanks for Your Service, Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel", left

An Unfortunate Story about a racist comment caught on video and audio during a Yorktown Republican Party celebration on Election Night has resulted in a outpouring of support for Yorktown Councilman Vishnu Patel across Westchester County. The story, which was first reported in the Yorktown News, but has now reached The Daily News and the Empire Report, details how Councilman Patel, a democrat, lost his re-election bid this year after serving for 10 years on the Yorktown Town Board.

During the Yorktown GOP celebration, someone was caught on the video that night shouting "That mother****r. That fu****g sand n****r."

The video was posted on the Yorktown GOP's Facebook page before anyone realized the hatred that was said. Someone, after listening closely, uncovered the racist comments and the video was then quickly taken down.

A short investigation uncovered the person who said these words. His name is Tom Pomposello, who was a member of the Yorktown GOP until this incident, after which he resigned.

Pomposello was also involved in the Yorktown San Gennaro Festival until this incident, after which members of the Town Board and Supervisor Matt Slater wrote a letter to Pomposello. "The Yorktown Town Board has a zero tolerance approach to racism and hate in our community. You have publicly admitted to casting racist slurs at a member of the Town Board.

"Your conduct has become a stain on our community. Therefore, we are requesting that you divest yourself from the San Gennaro Feast as its organizer, promoter, and end any involvement you may have with this event. The San Gennaro Feast has become an important celebration of Italian-American culture and history, but given your recent remarks your involvement must end

"Further, it has been brought to our attention that your organization, CCM of Westchester, has apparently failed to file the required annual report for charitable organizations since 2017. Failure to comply with these important legal requirements could potentially place the town in legal jeopardy and risk."

"The Yorktown Town Board strongly believes individual accountability is a critical component to combating racism, hate and bigotry. Your actions do not reflect the values of our community and are counter to what we as the governing body of Yorktown strive to achieve, which is a community of acceptance for all. For these reasons Yorktown must end its partnership with

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Astorino Photobombed By Woman With Swastika Sign at Anti-Vax Event



By Dan Murphy

Former Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, during a campaign event in the Bronx on Nov. 14, was 'photobombed' by a woman who was holding a sign that included a swastika. The event was held to promote the right of parents and children not to be required to vaccinate for COVID; Astorino is a candidate for Governor of New York.

The event was held outside the office of Bronx Assemblymember Jeffrey Dinowitz. Once Assemblymember Dinowitz saw the photo with the sign, he tweeted, "The display of swastikas and yellow Stars of David outside my office today is repugnant and offensive. People are perfectly free to express their opinion on vaccines or any issue, but to openly display Nazi symbols outside the office of a Jewish legislator is despicable."

In another tweet, Sen. Dinowitz said, "Rob Astorino stood right next to these anti-Semitic symbols and said NOTHING. All Republican leaders should condemn this unacceptable use of anti-Semitic imagery. I am sorry to you constituents who passed by this repugnant display outside of my office today."

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Help United for the Troops Send A Care Package to Overseas Servicemembers For The Holidays



By Dan Murphy

Every Holiday Season, we like to highlight some of the great charitable organizations that use your donations to the fullest, and help those who need it. And this Thanksgiving, with many of us in Westchester dealing with the financial effects of COVID, we understand that you have many worthy causes to choose from.

But for this story we focus on a group called United for the Troops, run by Jim and Patty Rathschmidt. United for the Troops was founded by Jim and Patty, with the help of friends and families whose sons and daughters are serving overseas. Its sole purpose is to make life while away from home a little better for these brave men and women by collecting simple comforts of home, and mail them in a box full of love.

After listening to our service men and women, the group found out that while the military provides soldiers with the essentials for day- to-day life, many soldiers miss the extra amenities that they enjoy while at home.

"United for the Troops' goal is to show them that we are proud of them and appreciate all of their efforts around the world," said Jim, who was born and raised in Yonkers, and now lives with Patty in Mahopac.

In 2007 their son, Luke, went to Iraq to serve our country. During his stay, they would send him care packages, filled with little things that he couldn't get at the PX and would make him feel a little better.

"We started sending him things from home and he started sharing with his army friends. He told us that some of them didn't have anyone from home, or their family didn't have any money, to send them something. So we came up with the idea of raising money to send some of these items to our troops. We started standing outside of supermarkets and churches and we started getting donations. And then we realized that we had to start

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Did You Know Frosty the Snowman Came from Westchester? North Castle Parade Set for Nov. 28



By Dan Murphy

Every year in the Town of North Castle, a holiday tradition celebrating the birthplace of Frosty the Snowman is held. In the Westchester village of Armonk, a parade is held to commemorate the fact that the famous story, and movie that most of us over the age of 50 watched again and again during each holiday season on television, hails from Westchester.

The lyricist of the winter holiday classic, Steve Nelson, was a frequent visitor to Armonk after World War II from his home in nearby White Plains. In 1950, he wrote the song's lyrics, which he put to Jack Rollins' music; it was the same year that he was looking for land in Armonk on which to build his new home. Gene Autry recorded the song that year, making it an instant classic, following his earlier hit of "Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer."

Two years later, Nelson moved his young family to Armonk, where he lived until his death in 1981. In 1957, "Frosty the Snowman" was recorded again by Perry Como, solidifying it as a perennial song of the season. This success was followed by an animated version in 1969, now seen annually on TV.

Located in the Town of North Castle, Armonk's historic district is the "Village Square" mentioned in the song's lyrics where Frosty dared the children to "catch me if you can."

With the opening last spring of Armonk Square, "the town has another opportunity for Frosty to have even more fun with the kids," said Ed Woodyard, a longtime organizer of the townwide holiday event commemorating Frosty. Lifelong Armonk resident and town Councilwoman Barbara DiGiacinto said: "It was pretty much common knowledge that Mr. Nelson had Armonk in mind when he wrote the song. (As a matter of fact, the traffic cop in the song who hollered 'Stop!' to Frosty was said to be based on the town's former Chief of Police John Hergenhan, who just happened to be my uncle."

During the holidays, where several religions are symbolized in civic and educational settings, Frosty the Snowman remains a symbol of the fun and excitement of the winter season. Woodyard noted: "Frosty reminds people of the magic to be found during this time of year, for young and old

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Westchester Democrats Wondering How Voting Rights Ballot Propositions Got Voted Down



NYS Democratic Party Chair Jay Jacobs, left, is under fire for not organizing an effort to support voting rights referendum to combat opposition campaign from NY conservatives, with grass roots democrats calling it a “disastrous breakdown in leadership”

Grassroots Democrats collect signatures in letter asking Gov. Hochul who is to blame for “the absurdity of letting these proposals fail.”

By Dan Murphy

On election night in New York, three statewide proposals to amend the State constitution failed. All three proposals were supported by elected officials, and progressive groups and organizations across the state. Westchester and Putnam County residents may have seen road signs which read, ‘Vote No, Propositions 1,3 & 4’.

Published reports now tell us that wealthy New York conservatives help fund the effort to defeat Props 1,3 & 4.

Proposition #3-would have eliminated the requirement that a voter be registered to vote 10 days prior to the day of the election, in essence giving New Yorkers the right to same day registration, where a resident could register to vote, and cast a ballot on election day. The vote was 51% NO-38% YES, 11% blank (did not vote for this).

Proposition #4-would have permitted New Yorkers to vote by absentee ballot without an excuse. Currently, NYS Election law requires the voter to state a reason why they are applying for an absentee ballot, including an illness or that they will be away on election day. The vote was 50% NO, 37% YES, and 11% Blank.

The lack of an organized, well funded campaign in support of Voting Rights Propositions 3 and 4 have many New York Democrats wondering what happened, and who dropped the ball? New York State Democratic Party Chair Jay Jacobs is one person that grassroots democrats want answers from.

In a petition being circulated across the state, NY Democrats are being asked to sign a letter to Governor Kathy Hochul which reads,

Dear Governor Hochul,

The hard-working grassroots organizations and Democratic committees signing this letter were, like you, astonished at the loss of the voting rights propositions on November 2. You stated they were hijacked by the GOP, but New York’s Democratic Party left the door wide open with too little effort to explain and promote them. The NYS Democratic Committee provided no lawn signs, no robocalls, no social media, no handouts, no organized door-to-door campaign to educate voters, and crucially, no clear messaging to counter the phony “integrity” issue. While Republicans and Conservatives poured millions into their NO campaign, and the DSCC spent over \$300,000 on a YES campaign, the State Democratic party neither allocated nor spent funds effectively to ensure that these long fought for proposals were adopted to amend the New York State Constitution.

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Abinanti: It’s the Tappan Zee! Introducing Legislation to Rename Twin Bridges



“Tappan Zee symbolizes the history and heritage of the area,” said Assemblymember Tom Abinanti (D-Greenburgh/ Mt. Pleasant) as he announced that he has introduced legislation to rename the twin bridges connecting Westchester and Rockland counties.

Assemblymember Abinanti has introduced legislation that would restore “Tappan Zee” to the twin bridges and rename the bridges “The Governor Mario M. Cuomo Tappan Zee Bridge.” The bill would also name the welcome center at the Westchester landing of the bridge “The Governor Malcom Wilson Welcome Center.”

Since 2017, when Governor Andrew M. Cuomo prevailed upon the Legislature to name the bridges after Governor Mario Cuomo, many local residents have voiced opposition to eliminating the reference to Tappan Zee in the bridge’s name. Tappan is the name of a Native American sub-tribe of the Delaware/Lenni Lenape who occupied the area and Zee is Dutch for sea referring to the early Dutch settlers.

When former Governor Mario Cuomo dedicated the former bridge to the honor of former Governor Malcolm Wilson, he kept the important local reference and re-named the bridge the “Governor Malcolm Wilson Tappan Zee Bridge.”

“It’s time that we all came together and reached a compromise,” said Assemblymember Abinanti. “Let’s stop the war over the name, it’s time to heal.”

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Westchester Medical Professionals Offer Guidance on Navigating COVID Vaccines

Sound View Summit
By Larry Thaul

In the opinion of two experts presenting to The Larchmont-Mamaroneck Local Summit on Tuesday, November 9th, Westchester County residents rank among the most protected in the U.S. Our progress toward herd immunity has been outstanding over the past year given the wide administration of vaccines in our area. In contrast, the unvaccinated comprise 99% of current U.S. deaths. These figures, trends, and a host of useful recommendations and data summarized the status and effects of COVID in our community among related concerns. The meeting was a webinar co-hosted by LMC Media.

Robert W. Amler, MD, MBA, FAAP, FACPM, dean of the School of Health Sciences and Practice and VP for Government Affairs of the NY Medical College, laid the groundwork through a slide deck showing historically how far public health has progressed over the last century in controlling the spread of disease worldwide. He stressed that the first key COVID strategy remains avoidance, by blocking the virus (e.g. masking, social distancing.) Further, getting the flu vaccine (the flu can still be deadly) is important and if you get flu-like symptoms, be sure to get tested to ensure it is not COVID. Regarding the COVID vaccine's efficacy, he indicated that although symptom severity can vary, the vaccines have clearly worked extremely well as part of an overall strategy to control transmissibility. He clarified that the CDC follows many COVID variants but that the focus is on the Delta as a "variant of high consequence." Dr. Amler was clear that we won't know the exact percentage of population needed to reach group or 'herd' immunity until we see it. At the point of lasting protected immunity, the virus will have nowhere to go, and die. He indicated we're likely to see additional strains of COVID for the near future at minimum, and he made no forecasts about the upcoming winter, advising us to remain vigilant. On a positive note, Dr. Amler emphasized that our county has among the highest percentage of college educated residents which he correlated with the willingness to keep informed, follow the pandemic discourse, and take actions consistent with advisories from the public health experts and officials.

Sherlita Amler, MD, MS, the Westchester County Health Commissioner since 2011, provided a range of relevant statistics for the county beginning with COVID-tracking data since Mar. 2020. The vaccine accounted for a tremendous drop-off in deaths since its introduction in Dec. 2020-Jan. 2021, especially for those ages 65+ and 75+. The vaccine is 94% effective in preventing hospitalizations for those age 65+. Further, of the 29 hospitalizations in the county as of Nov. 8th, 21 were people who hadn't received a vaccine. She stated that when students age 12-17 are vaccinated, there will no longer be a requirement for those exposed to the COVID virus to quarantine. As of Nov. 2nd, Dr. Amler made clear that the trend toward a wider vaccinated public continues with the Emergency Use Authorization for those age 5-11. She stated that only the Pfizer vaccine for those 18+ has full FDA approval. She encouraged all age 65+ and at high risk medically or who perform a high risk job such as working in a nursing home, hospital, or other areas of severe exposure to complete getting their shots and booster. Dr. Amler cited a striking statistic: in the 11-month span from Nov. 2020 to Oct. 2021, new COVID cases dropped county-wide from 477 to only 49 with hospitalizations down from 23 to 2. The number of fully vaccinated age 65+ in Westchester now stands at over 86%. Indeed, over 99.9% of those age 65+ have had at least 1 shot. Countywide, among those age 12+, 92% have had at least 1 dose and 82% have had two doses. Her charge to all was confident and positive: stay calm, stay tuned, and use the knowledge at hand to improvise our way through this pandemic.

On the question of travel, Dr. Robert Amler advised the following: evaluate the importance of the trip (pleasure vs. necessity), find out the COVID transmissibility level in the country or location you will be visiting, determine the availability of medical care in the area, and know the length of the flight. He stressed that testing forms the basis of confidence. PCR tests are best but take a bit longer. He stated that home testing kits tend to give both false positives and false negatives and are not very reliable. Moreover, tests of the body's own antigen levels produce more false-positives, and the antibodies' strength and sustainability are unknown.

For the holidays, Dr. Sherlita Amler strongly recommends we all employ multiple layers of protection and that grandparents take as many precautions as possible to minimize exposures from grandchildren. These include masking, social distancing, and double vaccinations and boosters as well as first vaccine doses for children age 5-11 administered before Thanksgiving. Testing before visiting relatives helps, as well.

Both physicians, our health commissioner and the health sciences dean, advised everyone to get the booster. They pointed out that evidence supports the choice of having a different booster from your previous shots though there is no evidence as to an advantage to any specific combination of shots and booster. Though no single mask was recommended, surgical masks are preferred, if available, as they afford multiple layers. However, they agreed that any mask is better than none to prevent the spread.

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Will I See You in Times Square New Years Eve?



L-R-Eric Schoen, Adelmo 'Chubby' Costantini, Carrie Schoen

By Eric W. Schoen

*Things are looking up
I've been looking the landscape over
And it's covered with 4 leaf clover
Oh things are looking up!*

As we prepare for our Thanksgiving feasts, what better tune to reflect what's going on in our world than "Things Are Looking Up", a song composed by George Gershwin, with lyrics by Ira Gershwin. It was introduced by Fred Astaire in the 1937 film A Damsel in Distress. Many famous singers including Yonkers' own Ella Fitzgerald have recorded versions of the song.

Yes friends, after 19 months of disturbances in our lives caused by the pandemic things are starting to look up. As we go to press New York Mayor Bill deBlasio announced that the ball will drop in Times Square on New Year's Eve. As I have told you before, there is no better place to spend New Years Eve than in Times Square. It certainly is the safest place with all of the law enforcement in uniform and plain clothes.

Times Square will be particularly safe this year because you will need proof of full Covid vaccination, 2 shots of Pfizer or Moderna, one shot of Johnson and Johnson to get in. Hopefully by New Years Eve you will also get your booster dose which is now open to everyone 6 months after your last Pfizer or Moderna dose or 2 months after the Johnson and Johnson dose.

I got my booster at the very welcoming Value Plus Pharmacy on Tuckahoe Road in Yonkers administered by their pharmacist, and the whole experience was very pleasant. I wasn't nervous as I was when I had my first two shots. After the first 2 doses of Pfizer I was tired the next day but I felt fine and had no arm discomfort after the booster.

There are many people all over the world who are not as fortunate as we are to get the Covid vaccines. You can get yours or your booster by either signing up with a provider over the internet or going to the Yonkers Armory, Westchester Medical Center, one of the vaccination pop-ups that have been set up or to your physician or medical groups offices.

Frankly I'm tired of preaching that you should get vaccinated. And no one who has been vaccinated has turned green yet! You won't be welcome in Times Square, and make sure if you are celebrating the holidays with family (or friends) and you are not vaccinated that you have respect for your loved ones and tell them. This way they can make the decision as to whether or not they want you in their company.

The secret to the Times Square experience is to watch it from the mid 50's and not try to go closer where you will be stuck in cages. After the ball drops you turn around and you can see the fireworks in Central Park. This way you really get a bang for your buck.

But before New Years Eve comes Thanksgiving. It will be so nice to spend Thanksgiving with your vaccinated friends and family. And of course watch the Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade. The taped segments just didn't cut it last year. This year the parade will be back to normal.

It's nice to watch the parade on television but so much better to see it in person. Don't think you are going to get a seat opposite Macy's to watch the parade. Those seats which I am sure will require full vaccination are open to Macy's execs and big shots. Your best bet is to find a place along the parade route on one of the side streets. As the parade passes the street you are on you can see the balloons, the floats and hear the bands from across the country. And hop into one of the coffee shops that will be open for a hot chocolate to warm you up.

Whether it be New Year's Eve or Thanksgiving, pray for warm weather and no snow, rain or sleet. Unless you are like my friends from Florida or warm climates who so look forward to snow flakes. A touch of snow is nice but most New Yorkers I know pray for clear skies.

Many people go the movies Thanksgiving weekend. With most of the theaters in our area reopened (except for Bowtie Cinemas) it will be interesting to see if this tradition continues. We got word this week that Dine In Cinemas will be moving into the old iPic theater in Dobbs Ferry at Lawrence Street. They will open early December. \$5 first show movies everyday and \$5 all shows on Tuesday. Those are my kind of numbers.

The grocery stores seem pretty well stocked and I think the turkey shortage is just a publicity trick to get people to buy things early. And it's working! The economists say spending is up in part due to the stimulus checks and also because people want what they want so they are buying it early. Don't leave your grocery shopping to the last minute. Just like when the pandemic started people rushed out to get toilet paper, if you like whole cranberry sauce and not that funky looking jelly stuff, pick up the Ocean Spray cans when you see them. There will always be bread for stuffing, though who knows they may run out of packaged stuffing.

I'm also tired of hearing about the supply chain. There are people around the world who won't have a quarter of what you have on your Thanksgiving table. Remember that.

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Transgender Awareness Week 2021: Meet Ms. Cienna Rosalina



Cienna Rosalina, left

By Dennis Richmond, Jr.

"I never felt like a boy," said Cienna Rosalina. "I guess God wanted me to be a trans woman." Born on July 16th, 2000, Cienna Rosalina, 21, is a trans advocate who has dedicated her life to advancing trans conversations and improving the lives of others. "I'm a kind spirit who finds comfort in helping other people," she said. It's because of this that she agreed to do this interview. "I'm speaking for a community of people who society wants to be quiet."

For Transgender Awareness Week 2021, (Nov. 13-19) Yonkers Rising and YonkersTimes.Com celebrate Cienna Rosalina. Transgender Awareness Week is from Saturday, November 13th to Friday, November 19th. The week is a celebration that leads to the Transgender Day of Remembrance (TDoR). TDoR is a day that memorializes victims of transphobic brutality.

To be trans means "you were born in the wrong body," said Rosalina. It's when you want to "make your outer appearance match what you feel." Young Black and Latinx trans girls and trans women are all over New York City. Cienna is from Yonkers, though. This interview is a necessity. A former Yonkers Lincoln High School student, Cienna's unapologetically living her truth.

"Although society is becoming aware, trans deaths are at the highest they've been recorded this year," Rosalina told me. Dozens of trans girls and trans women were murdered across the country last year, and they are continuing to be. One homicide should cause an outrage. Ten, twenty-five, or forty murders should call for reform. "Men can't take their desire" to want to be with a trans woman. With that, they choose to kill them.

Cienna taught me the word demasculinized. The definition of the word is to remove the masculine qualities of something. Men think that if they fall in love with a woman who was ascribed male at birth, a trans woman, they're less than a man. Not only that, but they feel that other men and women will look at them differently. Many men want relationships with trans women. "They want it, but they don't want people to know that they want it," said Rosalina.

This is one of the reasons that trans women protect themselves at all costs. According to the Human Rights Campaign, over 50% of trans adults experienced sexual assault. With that, there are a lot of families who have turned a blind eye to their trans relatives. "Some trans youth don't get the love" they require, Rosalina said. Statistics back up her statement 100%. The HRC also states that 48% of Latinx and 39% of Black trans adults live in poverty.

Many families feel like they lose a child when their loved one shares their trans identity with the world. "You don't lose a child. You gain an authentic child," said Rosalina. One of the bravest things someone can do is let you know that they are trans. Don't throw your child away. "If you love somebody, you should want to understand them."

Ciswomen are women whose gender identity is the same as the gender identity assigned at birth. Many ciswomen, especially Black ciswomen, feel like trans women are trying to be them. They feel like trans women are nothing more than people trying to attain something they can never. To that, Cienna Rosalina says, "there is no type of woman. Mind your business. You have bigger fish to fry. If it doesn't concern you, don't let it concern you."

Cienna Rosalina is living happily as an activist. A young trans woman in a relationship, Cienna wants girls to know that "there is somebody out here for everyone. Don't let your trans identity let you feel like you're less than," she said. As she uses her social media platform to wave the banner for trans rights, her TikTok account, @ItsCeeRose, now boasts over 71,000 followers.

"You are only as small as people make you feel," she said. "Don't let them make you feel small." Her last words to me were that she's going to be famous. Or as she puts it, "I'm going to be 'famous as f***.'"

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.

Why Should Our Community Buy Bitcoin!

By Scott Dennis

There will come a time in the near future that those of us in our community with an alternative reserve of wealth will be able to weather the storm of inflation better than others. Alternative to what you may ask? I am speaking of the US dollar, even now you must be noticing how much less your dollar is buying at the gas pump, the grocery store and most importantly with your utility bills. Alternative wealth can come in the form of stocks, land and precious metals however the most important version today is Bitcoin and other cryptocurrencies.

No doubt you have heard of Bitcoin and perhaps you are dubious, it can be complicated and scary just the way fire, electricity, computers and every ground breaking invention were before this one. I encourage you to learn as much as you can about it because the more of us in our community that hold crypto the more solid and less susceptible to foolish money policy we will be.

Bitcoin is the first of many cryptocurrencies and as of this writing is the most valuable in the market. In many ways it is the same as any commodity, at some point when it was first created by a particularly clever bit of software someone said to another person "how much will you give me for one bitcoin?" In the last decade the answer to that question has gone from almost nothing to close to \$62,000.00 per bitcoin at this writing, so why is it so valuable?

There are many reasons including ease of use, transparency and security but I think the vital reason is that is decentralized, that is to say no governments can manipulate it, over print it or even outlaw it as this point. There is one interesting effect that researching crypto currency can have on a person however, it is not what one learns about the amazing uses of bitcoin, rather how little we actually know about the money we use now; the dollar also known as fiat currency and how money policy is making it worthless.

It is true that Bitcoin is simply information on something called the blockchain, but what is a dollar if not a piece of paper back up by nothing but a promise from our government, one that they cannot keep," writes Scott Dennis from Yonkers.

Progressive Westchester Democrats Support Rep. Bowman

Progressive Democrats are coming forward to back up Congressman Jamaal Bowman, who was one of six house democrats to vote NO on the \$1.2 Trillion Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

Two of our readers sent in their opinions, which supported Bowman's position to vote NO after an agreement to vote on the \$1.2 Trillion bill, and the \$1.7 Human Infrastructure bill, fell apart at the last minute.

Eugene Gaoghen writes, "As a progressive democrat, I feel betrayed by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who went back on her word to my Congressman, Jamaal Bowman, AOC, and others that both infrastructure bills would be voted together. And if the Speaker didn't have the votes to vote both bills together, then she should have waited, as Bowman mentioned in your recent story. We could have waited another day or another week, after waiting for five months. Instead Speaker Pelosi left Bowman, AOC and the six democrats out to dry, and they are taking a beating in the media.

"But here's another way to look at it. 13 House republicans voted YES on the \$1.2 Trillion Infrastructure bill. They are being lambasted by Trump democrats across the country. Some are getting death threats and others are being asked to leave their GOP caucus. And all for a vote in favor of roads, bridges, and the repairs that we need in this country and we need in Westchester. At least my Congressman, Jamaal Bowman had the guts to explain his NO vote, but to also say that the \$1.2 Trillion bill is good for the people in his district.

"A warning to my fellow democrats, don't be like the crazy republicans who want their 13 members who voted YES punished. Why not put the blame on Pelosi, who along with President Biden, 'renege on the deal.' to move both bills together." I think that Bowman and AOC showed us a profile in courage," writes Gaoghen, from Hastings.

Gaoghen brings up a topic that hasn't been highlighted as much in the media as we think should be, and one that Rep. Bowman has repeated in every interview he has given since the vote. What happened to the agreed upon deal to vote both bills together? The deal was to vote on both bills, not necessarily pass both bills. All that Bowman and AOC and Bernie Sanders wanted was a vote on both bills. They had a deal with the President and the Speaker, but they got politically screwed at the last minute, not Bowman's words but mine (Dan Murphy).

In another letter, Pamela Day, from Hartsdale writes, "I agree that the infrastructure in our country is crumbling. Also broken is how we pay for prescription drugs and how there is a dearth of affordable housing.

"Congressmember Bowan voted exactly right on the Hard Infrastructure bill and I wish my representative Mondaire Jones had done the same.

"Rep. Bowman deserves admiration for acting on his principles. He said it succinctly in Westchester Rising, "this time around we can't leave the most vulnerable behind.

"There are 95 members of the U.S. House of Representatives in the Congressional Progressive Caucus. From my view almost all have stated beliefs or aims that are Progressive however their actions have proved otherwise. They simply have not "walked the talk." Sincerely,Pamela Daly

Daly's letter brings up another good point. If there are 95 members of the Congressional Progressive Caucus, why did only 6 members of that caucus stand up to vote NO on the bill? And why didn't these same 95 members use their political clout, as 40% of Speaker Pelosi's slim democratic majority, to force a vote on both bills or vote NO on the one bill? If they had stayed together, and true to their principles, they would have forced the Speaker to agree to their terms, and not the few democratic moderates who won the day, and got their way.

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Latimer Rules Out A Run for Governor...But Never Say Never



Westchester County Executive George Latimer

By Dan Murphy

Westchester County Executive George Latimer, fresh of a 20 point re-election win on Nov. 2, ruled out a run for Governor of the Empire State next year...almost. Adding a caveat of “you never say never,” Latimer told WAMC radio that the current Governor, Kathy Hochul and NY Attorney General Letitia James, are “the major candidacies,” for NY Democrats.

“I think it’s pretty unlikely at this stage of the game,” said Latimer when asked directly if he was going to run for Governor. “From where I’m sitting now, it looks like a two candidate race. And I think, you know, it’s fair to say that women who have never had a governor before today, feel a certain sense of pride. They would like to see a woman governor after 56 male governors. They’re happy to see a female governor, whether it will continue to be Governor Hochul or Attorney General James.”

“You never say never, but I think it’s pretty unlikely that I’m going to be in the gubernatorial sweepstakes. I’m very happy to be county executive, I got a great county to run and I’m anxious to do a good job here.

When asked if he will endorse a candidate for Governor, Latimer said yes, but that he will wait for others, including State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, who Latimer called the most prominent democrat in the county, and others, Westchester County Chair Suzanne Berger, and Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, before making an endorsement. “I don’t expect it’s going to happen in the short term,” said Latimer, who reminded all of us that the convention in Westchester and in NY State will be held in February because of the June primaries now in New York State.

But Latimer added that because of redistricting of all political boundaries in New York State, and the delays in accomplishing that requirement, the primary for state offices might have to be pushed back to September.

To listen to the interview, visit <https://www.wamc.org/news/2021-11-11/westchester-county-exec-eyes-infrastructure-projects-unlikely-to-run-for-governor-in-2022>

Jay Jacobs, Propositions Fail continued from pg 2-

The absurdity of letting these proposals fail is not lost on those of us who worked hard for years for a legislative supermajority and an expansion of voting rights legislation, only to see this fundamental tenet of democracy drop off the radar of party leaders to be derailed by a more clever, well-organized opposition. We know this is as unacceptable to you as it is to us. We urge you, as New York’s highest elected Democrat, to conduct an immediate review of this disastrous breakdown in NYS Democratic Party leadership, especially of State Committee Chair Jay Jacobs.

Please bring together leaders of the State Committee and all statewide campaign committees to find a way forward that prevents a failure of this magnitude from ever happening again. The 2022 election looms large, and we want to fight for candidates and issues with the support of a smart, determined leadership organization that understands the opposition and gives us the tools to fight it. We cannot go into next year undermined by those who should be our proactive partners.” (end of letter)

Last month, several prominent New York Democrats called on Jacobs to resign before the election day proposition losses after he made a strange comparison about the democratic candidate for Mayor of Buffalo, India Walton.

“Let’s take a scenario, very different, where David Duke—you remember him, the grand wizard of the KKK—he moves to New York, he becomes a Democrat, he runs for mayor in the city of Rochester, which is a low primary turnout, and he wins the Democratic line. I have to endorse David Duke? I don’t think so.”

Westchester Congressman Mondaire Jones and Rep. Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez called for Jacobs resignation. Rep. Jones said that Jacobs comments, “are part of a pattern of offensive, exclusionary behavior, and it brings additional shame to the Party that he’s yet to resign or be removed.”

Another prominent Westchester democrat wondered why Jacobs, “was spending time lining up support for Governor Hochul last month, when he should have been building the ground game to get these voting rights propositions passed? How can the republican and conservative parties get it done but not us?”

Frosty the Snowman, continued from pg 1-

alike. The only thing that Frosty believes in is kids.”

Events and activities will be held for three hours around town before the parade, which will travel north on Main Street to Maple Avenue, and then to Wampus Brook Park. Everyone is part of the parade, joining at the end to help welcome Frosty home for the holidays. “Frosty Day is an event the town looks forward to every year,” said Robby Morris, a local businessman and board member of Friends of Frosty.

Almost every business, shop and merchant in Armonk is involved somehow in Frosty Day, which this year will be held Nov. 28. For more information, visit www.ArmonkFrosty.com.

Astorino photobomb, continued from pg 1-

Astorino said that he did not see the sign or the swastika, tweeting “I had no idea until I saw this photo. If I’d seen it I’d have told them to take sign down. No comparison to those atrocities & yes, I’ve always condemned anti-semitism. But my offer still stands, Jeff. Have the guts to meet w/ me & learn why so many parents oppose your mandate.”

Astorino also tweeted, “Not only didn’t I see the sign, woman holding it had a different sign when I met her prior to the event. Regardless of who the woman was or why she was there, if I saw the sign I would have stopped and had it removed. Absolutely inappropriate.”

One question that many in the media have is, if Astorino didn’t see the sign, then how come nobody from his campaign stepped forward to have it removed or halt the press conference. Larchmont Indivisible tweeted this thought, “All of our handlers stood there looking at the sign and didn’t stop you. We don’t believe you.”

Another member of the crowd had a Yellow Star of David on his jacket. Members of the anti-vax community have been wearing the yellow star, which was used by the Nazis to identify Jews in Germany and their occupied countries in the 1930’s and 40’s.

Astorino, while disavowing the connection to the Holocaust, remained anti-vax mandate. “Hey Jeff, it’s an anti-mandate event. Based on the science and data. Swing by your office during our event and I’ll explain it to you and why you should pull your bill and leave children alone,” tweeted Astorino.

Assemblyman Kevin Byrne Announces Run for Putnam County Executive



Kevin Byrne (R) with wife Briana and son Braeden

Westchester’s Sole Republican State Representative Immediately Becomes Front Runner in Putnam County Exec. Race

By Dan Murphy

On Nov. 12, Assemblyman Kevin Byrne announced his campaign as a candidate for Putnam County Executive. The initial announcement was made in a letter sent out earlier this week to Republican & Conservative Committee Members, as well as other Republican officials and long-time supporters of Byrne. A video announcing his campaign was later shared online and is included with this release for your convenience (Youtube & Facebook).

The incumbent, County Executive MaryEllen Odell, will reach her term limit next year making the position an open seat for candidates seeking to vie for the office in 2022. As Assemblyman, Byrne already represents four of the six towns in Putnam County.

“Putnam County is fortunate to have benefitted from some truly dedicated, hard-working leaders in county government over the years, including Putnam County Executive Mary Ellen Odell. I appreciate and thank Mary Ellen for her many years of service as she continues to lead our county.” Byrne continued, “As your Assemblyman, I’ve stood against the Albany establishment and its harmful policies, consistently fighting for a more affordable and accountable government that serves us all. Now, I’m ready to lead closer to home as your next Putnam County Executive” said Byrne. “At a time when many of us continue to suffer the negative effects from the disastrous inflation forced on us by bad policies in Washington, D.C., our county needs leaders who are unafraid to stand up and make government work better for taxpayers. As county executive, I’ll work to make Putnam our state’s most welcoming county for new business and job creation; to lift property-tax burdens and innovate to make services more efficient and cost effective. I’ll stand up for our brave active military, veterans, and first responders—including our police, and will continue to defend all our Constitutional freedoms.”

Throughout his time in elected office, Kevin Byrne has been recognized as one of the few conservative voices left serving Putnam County in the state Legislature. During his first term he was named a “rising star” by the New York Republican State Committee and received the highest conservative rating from the New York State Conservative Party. During his second term, he was similarly honored by the Westchester-Putnam Right to Life Committee with its ‘Defender of Life’ Award for his strong pro-life record. More recently he was named an Emerging Leader by GOPAC, a national organization founded by former Delaware Governor Pierre du Pont and championed by former U.S. House Speaker Newt Gingrich as the Republican Party’s premier center for educating and electing a new generation of leaders ready to run for higher office.

As Assemblyman, Kevin Byrne authored over 20 bills that passed to support various local needs, served in state-wide and national leadership posts, and stood firm against the tax and spend culture in Albany by voting against every state tax increase that came before him. Earlier this year, Kevin also gained national recognition for his work in exposing Governor Cuomo’s corrupt cover-up of thousands of COVID-19 nursing home resident deaths.

Assemblyman Byrne has served as the lone republican member of the State delegation to Albany representing Westchester County, with the 94th Assembly district including part of Northern Westchester and Putnam County.

Byrne’s announcement puts his name at the top of many everyday residents of Putnam County as their choice to be the next Putnam County Executive. Byrne also has the ability to attract independent and democratic voters in the election next year.

First, Byrne must make it through a republican party primary for Putnam County Executive, which is expected. No candidates have officially announced, but the rumor mill of possible republicans interesting include members of the putnam county legislature and local businessmen.

Byrne’s announcement also means that he cannot run for re-election to the Assembly if wins the GOP Primary for Putnam County Executive, setting up an open seat, which will also attract many interested candidates from both parties. The vast majority of office holders in Putnam County continue to be republicans, and former President Donald Trump got 60% of the vote in 2020.

Kevin Byrne is a lifelong resident of Putnam County and resides in Mahopac with his wife, Briana (Messina) Byrne and their young son Braeden.

Hudson River Audubon Events

FeederWatch, sponsored by the Hudson River Audubon Society. Help count birds for a Citizen Science project sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. No experience necessary. Saturday, November 20, 10:00-12:00 a.m. Lenoir Nature Center, 19 Dudley Rd., Yonkers. Vaccination card or Excelsior Pass and masking required. Non-members, please request reservation by emailing info@hras.org.

FeederWatch, sponsored by the Hudson River Audubon Society. Help count birds for a Citizen Science project sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. No experience necessary. Sunday, November 21, 1:00-3:00 p.m. Lenoir Nature Center, 19 Dudley Rd., Yonkers. Vaccination card or Excelsior Pass and masking required. Non-members, please request reservation by emailing info@hras.org.

Backyard Birding. Hudson River Audubon Society presents Gabriel Willow, environmental educator, ecologist, and urban naturalist, discussing what birds you can see in Westchester backyards and how to attract them. December 1, 7:30-8:30 p.m.. Free. Lenoir Nature Center, 19 Dudley Road, Yonkers. Vaccination card or Excelsior Pass and masking required.

Notice of formation of youRmore LLC LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/09/2020 . Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 10 Dassern Drive Apt I Dobbsferry NY 10522 . Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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Legal Notices

United for the Troops Continued from pg 1-

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Plaintiff AGAINST Rosetta Silvestro as heir at law and next of kin of Luigia Silvestro a/k/a Luisa Silvestro; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated July 8, 2021 I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at Courtroom 200 of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, NY 10601 on December 10, 2021 at 10:30 AM, premises known as 147 Florence Street, Yonkers, NY 10704. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester, State of NY, Section 5 Block 5235 Lot 34 & 35. Approximate amount of judgment \$101,787.83 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 69552/2016. The auction will be conducted pursuant to the COVID-19 Policies Concerning Public Auctions of Foreclosed Property established by the Ninth Judicial District. John Gifford Molloy, Esq., Referee LOGS Legal Group LLP f/k/a Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: October 5, 2021 For sale information, please visit www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832 70078

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

**TOWN OF EASTCHESTER
LEGAL NOTICE OF HEARING ON 2022 PRELIMINARY BUDGET**

Please take notice that the Town Board of the Town of Eastchester shall hold its annual budget hearing on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021 to consider the adoption of the Town of Eastchester's 2022 calendar year budget. Said hearing on this Preliminary Budget shall be held at the Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York at 7:00 p.m.

The salaries of Elected Officials incorporated in said preliminary budget are as follows:

	Each	Total
Supervisor	(1) \$98,093.00	\$98,093.00
Council Members	(4) \$15,831.00	\$63,324.00
Judges	(2) \$42,545.00	\$85,090.00
Receiver of Taxes	(1) \$55,000.00	\$55,000.00
Town Clerk	(1) \$87,605.00	\$87,605.00

All residents of the community may present written or oral comments at the above-described place, date and time.

BY THE ORDER OF THE SUPERVISOR AND THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER, NEW YORK
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raising money for the postage to send international," said Jim.

"In our first year, we sent our 200 boxes in 2007. Then, the people who made donations wanted us to continue so we decided to do it, and became a 501c3. Now we have 1,000 volunteers and 14 years later, we have delivered 26,000 boxes, -or 29,955 as of Nov. 15."

United for the Troops is still a local organization, with a donated office in Carmel, where they can pack and ship the thousands of items that come in every week, and prep them for the mail. Amazon donations come in, and checks come in, and donations boxes are spread out across Westchester and Putnam county where you can drop in an item.

How have Jim and Patty been able to keep doing what they are doing 14 years later, and long after their son Luke came home from his service in 2011? One reason is to make sure that the generous donations make it to the troops. "If you donate \$100, then \$100 goes to sending a package to the troops. We are all volunteer and our office is donated. Patty and I don't take a salary, so there is no money coming off the top," said Jim.

"The other reason that United for the Troops is so successful is the many volunteers who come forward and who want to play a role in doing something good for their country. Girl Scouts, students, seniors all volunteer is some way.

While United for the Troops is a yearlong charity, every Holiday Season the group has a big push to get as many packages out to the troops serving our country at locations across the globe. It's called Operation Defend the Holiday.

Jim says that before COVID hit two years ago, they would send out 1000 boxes in one day after thanksgiving. Now it takes a little longer, and they pack 350 boxes at a time.

There are two types of boxes for the troops. One is filled with toiletries and personal care supplies, and the other is filled with snacks and non perishable food. Some servicemen and women gets two boxes, one of each. Others get multiple boxes and share it with the members of their platoon.

If you want to go out and buy something for a donation, there is a long list of suggested items on the website, unitedforthetroops.org. A recent, Jam the Jeep event in Somers raised \$3000 and filled a van with donations.

Each box has a card, hand written by a young student, or a senior, wishing them well and hoping that they stay safe. "The cards are written by 5 year old kids to 95 year old seniors," said Jim.

Other special items that go in some boxes are stars from retired flags, that are placed in each box with a poem from girl scouts. "We want them to hold the star with them so that they are close to America," said Jim.

Another project with the Girl Scouts is called the Soil Project, where soil from your backyard is put into a small pouch with a note, giving the troops a little bit of the USA to hold with them. "We heard from a Marine Medic who carried the soil in his backpack, and when he came upon a serious casualty he would spread the soil out so that they could die on American soil," said Jim.

The kindness, and compassion, that Jim and Patty show in leading United for the Troops is another reason for its success and why so many people want to be a part of it. "There are times when we are at a fundraiser with 500 people, and we look at each other like -how did this happen?"

"We are doing something that people like to get involved with and be a part of. It's very simple, we have no political agenda, we just want to bring comfort to the troops. We aren't selling anything," said Jim.

What do the troops miss the most and want the most from the packages? "They like their coffee and cookies, but also could use some new toothbrushes and socks and shampoo. It's mostly simple stuff and the everyday staples that we take for granted here at home. Maybe some granola bars, or beef jerky or some mac and cheese is also nice. And peanut butter and jelly to make sandwiches is also a favorite," said Jim.

Over the years, United for the Troops has collected and raised \$2.7 million in donated items and funding, with \$700,000 of that going for postage. It takes about 2 weeks to get a package overseas to the troops, so if you want to make a donation, they need it by the end of November. But the good thing is, if you don't make the Holiday effort, the packages keep going out year round.

"This is an honor and a priviledge do so something you love. We have a lot of help and volunteers, and we couldn't do it without the donations, but we are honored to be doing something we love."

No Jim and Patty we thank you for doing something for our troops!

One volunteer wrote, "Thank you to all of you who serve and who Defend our Freedom! You are the true heroes. Freedom has never been Free! United For The Troops is one of the best Organizations I have ever been a part of. It truly is an Honor! Thank you to Jim and Patty Rathschmidt for ALL your hard work and dedication. I am there and see first hand all you do! " - a volunteer

For a \$15 donation, a care package will be sent to a soldier overseas on your behalf. If you would like to write a note or a card the volunteers that pack the boxes will be sure to include it in the comfort package.

Comfort Packages can be reserved by submitting the form found at <http://www.putnamcountyny.com/carepackage/>.

Payment for the Comfort Package must be mailed, or hand delivered to Terry Oliver, Confidential Secretary, 40 Gleneida Avenue, Carmel, NY 10512--

Terry can be reached at 845-808-1001 with any questions.

For drop off or pick up call Jim at 845 729 4239.

All of the information is at unitedforthetroops.org.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

In closing I must share with you a ceremony I went to last week at Gorton High School. A monument and garden was erected to honor Gorton High School graduates who served in the armed forces. My dad and my uncles Dave and Harry are Gorton graduates. Dad was in the Army, Uncle Harry was in the Navy and Uncle Dave was in the marines.

The Charles E. Gorton High School Alumni Association embarked on a project to honor all Gorton High School men and women who served in the military. Simultaneously, the Alumni Association committed to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier with its Never Forget Garden program <https://tombguard.org/centennial/projects#never-forget-garden>. Gorton is the only school in the United States to do so.

This garden is a living tribute to the past and the present and honors Gorton High School students serving in World War 2, Korea, Vietnam, Iraq, and Afghanistan. A stone marker honoring the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier will be permanently displayed in the garden, which was donated by the Azzaro family of Yonkers, whose son Richard served as a Tomb Guard during the 1960's.

The Never Forget Garden will be managed and cared for by Gorton High School's freshman class and the school's Center for Learning students.

On behalf of my family, I want to thank William Tolany, President of the Gorton High School Alumni Association and the Yonkers Public Schools for this wonderful project. Contact Marilyn Rabadi at Gorton High School if you would like to make a monetary donation for this project.

The photo at the beginning of my column this week is my sister Carrie joining me with our favorite veteran and my second father, Adelmo 'Chubby' Costantini having our traditional Veteran's Day Meal. We cherish this time together. Last year, because of Covid we could not gather together for Veteran's Day. This year we could.

Yes, things are looking up! Have a joyous, safe Thanksgiving celebrating with the ones you love!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisyonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen and Dan Murphy on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

Notice of formation of youRmore LLC LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/09/2020 . Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 10 Dassern Drive Apt I Dobbsferry NY 10522 . Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Westchester Rejects Hate, continued from pg 1-

you and CCM of Westchester,” signed by Supervisor Matt Slater, Councilmember Alice Roker, Tom Diana, Ed Lachterman.

After the incident, Councilman Patel said, “It is not surprising that one individual at a Republican gathering should shout out a vile obscene remark about my nationality. Donald Trump’s behavior as president gave permission for the worst elements in the Republican Party to say and do things openly that they would never have dared to in the past. I nonetheless remain hopeful that a new generation of Yorktown Republicans will appeal to the best instincts of people and not the worst.”

Support for Patel came from all parties and all people across Westchester, who quickly learned that Councilman Patel was a retired scientist from IBM, and whose two sons attended West Point and served their country with honor. “The more I find out about Councilman Vishnu Patel and his family, the more I think that he is the true American, and the true Patriot, and the person who shouted out that slur is not a real American, Shame on you-Tom Pomposello and God Bless You Vishnu Patel! We stand with you against Hate!” said Francesca Kenny.

County Legislator Vedat Gashi summed up the thoughts of many, saying, “It just goes to show, for some people, it won’t matter if you’re a renowned scientist, a selfless philanthropist, the father of TWO national heroes, a Yorktown public servant for three terms, and worked harder than anyone I’ve ever seen in that role. I’m disgusted. Sadly, that individual was entirely comfortable shouting that racist ignorance and hate in that room,” Gashi added. One Yorktown resident added to Gashi’s comments, saying “if he feels comfortable shouting that out in front of hundreds, what is going on behind the doors of his house, his family?”

Pomposello told Yorktown News, tapintoyorktown.net after the video was shared across social media, “I want to apologize. It was disgusting. It was something I don’t remember saying. I watched it and listened to it and said, ‘Oh, my God. It’s me. I’m embarrassed for my family. I am horrified by this, I plan on apologizing to Vishnu in person, to both the Republican and Democratic parties, and to the people of Yorktown.” He added that he had been drinking that night.

Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater said, “I applaud the swift action of the Yorktown Republican Town Committee in immediately accepting the resignation of Tom Pomposello as a Republican District Leader. Racism and hatred have no place in the Yorktown community or in the Republican Party. Upon receiving the video I spoke to Councilman Patel directly to express my disgust with what had transpired. Having grown up here in Yorktown I ran track with Councilman Patel’s daughter and graduated Yorktown High School with his son. I consider Councilman Patel a personal friend, valued colleague and an incredible public servant.

“While we cannot take back the words that were said, we can be sure to send a clear message that racism will not be tolerated and people will be held accountable for their actions. We need to combat racism and hatred together as a community and the Town should not partner with anyone who fails to uphold these values,” said Slater.

State Senator Peter Harekham commented, “We should all be totally disgusted by the hate language directed toward Yorktown Councilmember Vishnu Patel on an Election Night video made at the town’s Rep. HQ. We need more than pro forma apologies here. A serious soul-searching about racism in our communities is required.”

The Westchester Asian American Democrats also released a statement, “It is shameful that no one spoke out against Pomposello’s deplorable actions at the event, and apologies were issued only after the incident was publicly reported. For years, a sitting Republican president spewed racist, xenophobic and bigoted language about immigrants and anti-China rhetoric that unleashed an unprecedented wave of violence and hate incidents against our community during the pandemic. We will not tolerate this behavior in Westchester. We have reached out to Westchester County Republican Committee Chair Douglas Colety to discuss this incident and how GOP leaders must be accountable for combating hate in our county, starting with their District Leaders.”

Yorktown GOP Chair Kevin Byrnes stated, “I was horrified and embarrassed to hear such language on our Facebook page and immediately removed the video. The Yorktown Republican Town Committee condemns these comments in the strongest possible terms. I apologize that such an offensive video was on our Facebook page for five days, but I can assure that had I known about the comments, the video would never have been posted. When I first watched and listened to the video, I was focused on what the candidates were saying, not on the background conversations, and I simply did not hear the slurs. I can also assure that if I heard those comments being made on Election Night, I would have taken immediate steps to correct the situation.

“I informed Mr. Marschhauser that I would conduct an immediate investigation to see if we could determine the identity of the person making the comments, and if it turned out to be a member of the Yorktown Republican Town Committee, disciplinary action would commence.

“After listening closely and speaking to a few people who were present, it was quickly determined that the person who made the comments was YRTC District Leader Tom Pomposello. Mr. Pomposello was informed that these comments were unacceptable and inexcusable. Mr. Pomposello was asked for his resignation from the Yorktown Republican Town Committee, and he complied.

“On behalf of the Yorktown Republican Town Committee, I would again like to offer an apology to Councilman Patel and anyone else who was unfortunate enough to view this video and hear the despicable comments. Comments like these are unacceptable and do not reflect the values of the Yorktown Republican Town Committee,” said Byrnes.

Additional comments against Pomposello and in support of Councilman Patel have poured in from across Westchester.

The Westchester County Board of Legislators issued a joint statement, “That an accomplished and selfless public servant like Councilman Patel — a three-term councilman, a former IBM scientist, a father of two West Point graduates — can be the object of such hatred, sadly illuminates the pervasiveness and dehumanizing power of race hatred. For those who hate on the basis of race, or gender, or ethnicity, or sexual orientation, there’s nothing a person can be or do that humanizes them to the hater.

“This year, the Westchester County Human Rights Commission has launched a series of Bystander Intervention Training events to empower people with methods of responding to hate and harassment. We hope the Human Rights Commission will continue this important training so that everyone can learn how to confront racial hatred in the moment,” end of BOL statement.

Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner stated, “I do not reside in Yorktown. But, I join many others from around the county who are deeply offended by the racist remarks made on election night against Yorktown Town Councilman Vishnu Patel, who lost his re-election bid after serving for 10 years. I have known Vishnu for his entire tenure as a Councilman. We both have participated in meetings of the Westchester Municipal Officials Association. And I have attended numerous legislative meetings with Vishnu over the years. Vishnu is highly respected, hard working, has had great ideas, was one of the first (if not first) elected officials in the county of Indian heritage. He has inspired others from around the county to seek and win election to public office. And, he is an exceptional human being. It’s my hope that Vishnu will not get discouraged by his election loss and that either Westchester County or New York State will find an appointment for him to a prestigious Board so he can continue to stay involved. I am pleased that Democrats and Republicans condemned the GOP party leader who made the offensive comments and inappropriate remarks,” said Feiner.

Yorktown for Justice issued a statement condemning the comments. In their statement, Yorktown resident Maura Gregory says “As a parent of Black children who grew up in this town, I know this is not an isolated event. There is racism in Yorktown that needs to be addressed.”

Members of the Yorktown Democratic Committee reported that, “Tom Pomposello and the Yorktown Republican Committee Chair, Kevin Byrnes, both requested meetings with Marni Rabin-Marron and Mark Lieberman, Co-chairs of the Yorktown Democratic Committee, to apologize for the racist comments made against Councilman Vishnu Patel on November 2 at the Republican victory party. Rabin-Marron and Lieberman met with Pomposello on Thursday, November 11. He was apologetic and regretted his behavior and plans to reach out to Councilman Patel. Rabin-Marron and Lieberman maintained their position that this behavior was racist and inexcusable and recommended several anti-racism resources. Rabin-Marron and Lieberman expect to meet with Byrnes soon.”

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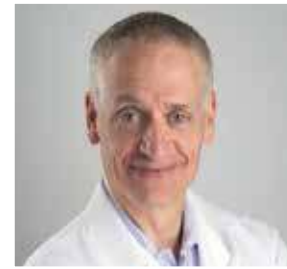
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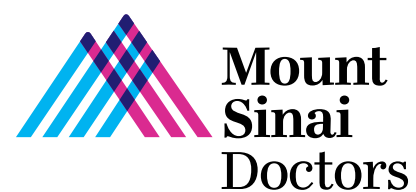
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