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## Westchester County, Greenburgh and Yorktown Present 2022 Budgets with 0% Prop. Tax Increase



Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater, left, Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner

By Dan Murphy

Westchester homeowners and taxpayer struggling to make ends meet during the pandemic have been given tax relief in the submission of a 2022 budget from Westchester County Executive George Latimer, and in the Town's of Greenburgh and Yorktown, from Supervisor's Paul Feiner and Matt Slater.

In Greenburgh, Supervisor Paul Feiner has proposed a 2022 budget with a zero dollar increase in the property tax levy. Total spending in Feiner's budget plan is \$28.7 Million, down \$4.1 Million from 2021.

"Let me begin by informing you that after an exhaustive review of the 2021 budget, I am pleased to announce that I will be submitting to the Town Board for their approval, 2022 Annual Town Budgets, both for the Town Entire and the Unincorporated Town, with ZERO DOLLAR increases in Property Tax Levy. This will be the third consecutive year of ZERO DOLLAR Property Tax increases, which the Board and I strongly believe is an absolute necessity in this most trying fiscal time, for our constituents.

"It has been evident for quite some time that Federal, State and Local governments across every region of our Country are struggling with increased cost and decreased revenue, due to the continuing economic impact of the COVID 19 Pandemic. These extraordinary fiscal factors require municipal leadership to identify and employ every conceivable budgetary option available, to ensure the current life safety and financial viability of our constituency, without increases in Property Taxes, which would add to the already significant burden caused by the Pandemic.

"The budget I will be proposing for 2022 projects no increase in Property Tax. Thus, we project that the 2022 Tax Levy will remain the same as in 2021. Once again, these actions will place the Town under the NYS "Tax Cap," providing taxpayers with eligibility for a refund which would be provided by NYS.

"PANDEMIC FEDERAL AID: The Town has been able to secure a one-time grant equal to approximately \$9.5 million from NYS. These funds will be distributed based upon a population-based formula; therefore approximately 50% of these funds have or will be disbursed directly to each of the Villages and 50% to the Unincorporated Town.

"SALES TAX REVENUE: The inability of local business to generate sales in a Pandemic is obvious. Not so obvious is the reality that the Sales Tax Revenue generated by purchases within our Town may also be affected. Sales Tax revenue was decreased in 2021, from Pre-Pandemic levels, as expected. The projection for 2022 will assume slightly increased revenues over 2021, but not to Pre-Pandemic levels.

continued on pg 7-

## Should Any Public Servant Make \$700,000 per year?



Harrison Schools Superintendent Dr. Louis Wool

One thing that Westchester homeowners and taxpayers have gotten used to is some of their public servants earning \$250,000 per more per year. These civil servants can be police officers or firefighters, who work there butts off the last three years of their careers so that there pensions are larger than there salary was at the beginning of their service. This is entirely permissible but some believe unethical.

The other way that public servants take advantage of the taxpayers is through what is known as 'double-dipping,' where a public employee retires and starts to take a pension, but is then hired back at an additional salary.

Several Westchester employees have, or are, double-dipping. But the one that is now making news across the county is Harrison Schools Superintendent Dr. Louis Wool.

Let us point out that The New York State Teachers Retirement System allows educators over age 65 to collect their pensions and work full time, with no limit on their compensation. And also, it is up to the local community, be it town, city or county government, or school district, to offer to re-hire a retired employee. The obvious reason is that they are comfortable with the job performance of that employee and they want it to continue.

And that is the case with Superintendent Wool. The members of the Harrison School Board could have wished Wool well and sent him off to retirement. But they wanted him to stay.

continued on pg 7-

## Westchester Election 2021: Latimer Wins Easily, Republicans Win in Harrison, Eastchester, Yorktown; Nolan Beats Walter in Hot BOL Seat



By Dan Murphy

The 2021 elections in Westchester County are being described as a mixed bag, or a split decision, with something for democrats and republicans to be happy about. The big race in Westchester was for County Executive, and the incumbent and heavy favorite, democrat George Latimer, easily won re-election by defeating republican Christine Sculti by a 62%-38% margin.

Latimer met the expectation, by winning by more than 20 points, but Sculti, to her credit, did not get "blown out," and kept the damage to a minimum for republicans in other communities.

"We have established a solid record in office and the voters knew it. It is an honor to once again have the trust of Westchester residents placed in me," said Latimer, pictured above on election night. County Clerk Tim Idoni also easily won re-election over his republican opponent Scooter Scott by the same 62%-38% margin.

But democrats down the ballot did not fare as well. Three republican Westchester Towns all elected and re-elected republicans. In Eastchester, Supervisor Tony Colavita easily won re-election to a 10th term, defeating democrat John Eickemeyer, 62%-38%, and two republican councilmembers, Luigi Maroccia and Theresa Nicholson, were also re-elected.

In Harrison, republican councilman Richard Dionisio handily beat democrat Frank Gordon for Supervisor by a 62%-38% margin. Two republicans council candidates, Elizabeth Brown and Linda Evangelista, were also victorious, leaving one democrat on the Town Board.

And in Yorktown, Supervisor Matt Slater was re-elected, running unopposed, and the two republican candidates for Town Board, Sergio Esposito and Luciana Haughwout, riding Slater's coattails. Republicans now have a supermajority, or total control of the Town governments in Harrison, Eastchester and Yorktown.

In the 17 races for Westchester County BOL, republican James Nolan was the big winner

continued on pg 7-

## National Issues Impact Westchester Election; CRT and Immigration at County Airport



young migrants landing at Westchester County Airport

By Dan Murphy

Hot button issues have frequently been used here in Westchester, and across the country, to engage or inflame a candidates base into coming out to vote on Election Day. The Westchester election of 2021 was an prime example of how republicans used two issues, flights coming into Westchester Airport carrying young migrants, and the educational issue of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion education.

The flights into the county airport drew national attention last month when the NY Post and Fox News started covering the issue. Most of the migrants were teen agers, who were placed onto buses and then transported out of Westchester to Connecticut, New Jersey or Long Island to meet with family members or guardians.

The flights are believed to have begun in August, and the fact that their arrivals came late in the night and early morning, handed the headline of 'Secret Flights' into the story.

Former Westchester County Executive and Gubernatorial candidate Rob Astorino has been highlighting the issue on social media since the summer. "We were told this wasn't happening but of course that was just another lie. As of this week there are 15 new undocumented kids in our local high school since September, not counting our middle & elementary schools. Are we even in control of our own country anymore?" said Astorino.

Republican candidate for County Executive Christine Sculti, also used the issue to attack her opponent, democratic county executive George Latimer.

continued on pg 7-

## Westchester Angels Hit Wall Street Gold \$1 Million Initial Investment Now Worth Over \$500 Million



Flood victims receive free computer replacements at The STEM Alliance's distribution site in Mamaroneck, NY. Photo by Philippa Wharton,

The investment group Westchester Angels is announcing its first exit opportunity, providing significant returns to a group of local investors and highlighting their intuition for spotting growth opportunities.

Westchester Angels first invested in the start-up Ocrulus in 2017, helping raise \$1M in a seed round for the new fintech company. Ocrulus is a New York City-based financial technology company specializing in automated document analysis, with marquee-name clients like PayPal and SoFi. Now, four years later, Ocrulus is valued at over \$500M — more than half-a-billion dollars. The valuation comes this month from FinVC, a San Francisco-based venture capital firm specializing in fintech. To date, Ocrulus has raised more than \$100M, and it has increased its revenue 20-fold in the past three years, from \$1M to \$20M.

Some of the initial Westchester Angels investors have now sold their shares, making for a wildly successful investment. Other investors have retained their shares as Ocrulus continues to expand into new markets, like the mortgage lending sector.

Says Sandy Wollman, Co-Founder and Managing Director of Westchester Angels: "It was an absolute pleasure to help Sam, Vik and the Ocrulus Team raise their first round. And it's incredibly rewarding to see where they are today. The more time I spent with them over the years, the more confident I was in their ability to scale and execute."

Says Sam Bobley, CEO and Co-Founder of Ocrulus: "The Westchester Angels, from day one, had strong convictions about Ocrulus. Sandy Wollman rallied different angel investors to us, unlocking the opportunity for growth."

Ocrulus has won major accolades in recent years. It is one of the fastest-growing fintech companies in the U.S. and the fastest-growing software company in New York State. It was named "The 30th fastest growing private company in America" by Inc. Magazine, and CEO Bobley was named to Forbes 30 under 30 in 2020.

The company has no plans to slow down. "Now, as COVID-19 has forced financial institutions to evolve, every lender and bank has no choice but to offer online options to customers," Ocrulus co-founder and CEO Sam Bobley recently told TechCrunch.

To learn more about Ocrulus and the Westchester Angels' backstory, please visit: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rhLYtDHYkx0>.

## NY AG James & Senator Mayer Deliver \$2.7 Million to 250 Hotel Workers Unlawfully Fired



State Senator Shelley Mayer, 2nd right, with fired Doral Arrowood Employees

On Oct. 27, New York Attorney General Letitia James and State Senator Shelley Mayer delivered \$2.7 million to workers who were unlawfully terminated without sufficient legal notice and denied their rights and wages from the Doral Arrowood Hotel and Conference Center when it abruptly shut down. Attorney General James joined a lawsuit and successfully argued that the hotel's lenders — U.S. Bank National Association and Anderson Hill Road Capital, LLC — violated the New York Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) Act by failing to give workers 90-days termination notices and failing to pay up to 60 days of lost wages for failure to provide such notice. As a result of this lawsuit, Attorney General James recovered the lost wages for the 250 affected workers, who have started receiving payments.

"Protecting hardworking New Yorkers will always be a top priority for my office," said Attorney General James. "More than 250 workers at the Doral Arrowood Hotel were left to fend for themselves when the hotel shut down without sufficient notice, leaving them jobless right before the start of the pandemic. Today, we deliver big for these impacted workers — finally providing the wages they were unfairly denied and holding these greedy companies accountable for violating their rights. Thank you to State Senator Mayer for her tireless advocacy on this issue and for her partnership in putting our workers first."

"This is wonderful news for the Doral Arrowood workers who have finally gotten the money they deserve and are entitled to after being terminated without warning on Christmas Eve nearly two years ago," said State Senator Shelley B. Mayer. "Upon hearing that they were let go, I immediately reached out to ensure their rights would be protected under the WARN Act. We continued to advocate for the workers with the New York state Department of Labor and the Office of the Attorney General. For the past year and a half, we remained in contact with the workers to ensure they were informed and their voices were heard throughout the case, including attending court appearances with them. Thank you to Jane Lauer Barker, Esq., Attorney General Letitia James, and Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon, who worked tirelessly on behalf of the employees."

Doral Arrowood is a hotel conference center in Rye Brook, New York that employed hundreds of workers. In December 2019, Doral Arrowood management informed its workers that the hotel would be shutting down in about three weeks and employees would be terminated at the beginning of January 2020. Under the New York WARN Act, businesses with 50 or more employees are required to give workers a 90-day notice of termination if the business is closing. If an employer fails to give workers the adequate 90-day legal notice, employers are required by the WARN Act to pay workers up to 60 days of lost wages. The hotel failed to comply with the WARN Act, leaving workers to fend for themselves without pay just weeks before the start of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic.

The Office of the Attorney General (OAG) immediately took action to enforce the WARN Act and recover lost wages, joining a lawsuit on behalf of the state Department of Labor and the People of the State of New York in an existing foreclosure proceeding in Westchester County State Supreme Court brought by U.S. Bank against Doral Arrowood. The OAG argued that U.S. Bank — which held a mortgage secured by the hotel's property — and Anderson Hill Road Capital — which acquired the mortgage note from U.S. Bank — were responsible for payment of WARN Act damages to the affected employees because they caused the hotel's abrupt shut down when they refused to fund the hotel's operations deficiency which would have allowed it to continue to operate and provide proper WARN Act notice to its employees. Justice Gretchen Walsh agreed with the OAG's argument and ordered U.S. Bank and Anderson Hill to pay \$2.7 million in lost wages to the workers — a major relief for the 250 hospitality workers whose job prospects were further ravaged by the pandemic.

"I am happy with this result," said former Doral Arrowood worker Avelino Barco. "Many of us struggled with unemployment and have been looking for jobs since we were let go. Workers have suffered while the owners of Doral didn't take responsibility. I'm thankful for all the help we received from Attorney General James, State Senator Mayer, and our lawyer, Jane Lauer Barker, in getting this outcome."

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## Westchester DA Rocah Indicts Robert Durst for the 1982 Murder of Wife Kathleen



**Kathleen Durst**

On Nov. 1, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that Robert Durst was indicted for the murder of his first wife, Kathleen Durst, in South Salem on or about January 31, 1982.

Durst, 78, was charged by a Westchester County Grand Jury in an indictment on November 1, 2021, with Murder in the Second Degree. Durst previously was charged in a complaint filed on October 19, 2021, with Murder in the Second Degree.

“When Kathleen Durst disappeared on January 31, 1982, her family and friends were left with pain, anguish and questions that have contributed to their unflinching pursuit of justice for the last 39 years,” DA Rocah said. “The District Attorney’s Office reinvigorated its investigation into Robert Durst just 10 months ago when I took Office, launched the Cold Case Bureau, and dedicated the resources and skill that I thought this case deserved. Thanks to the incredible hard work of our Assistant District Attorneys, the District Attorney’s Criminal Investigators and the New York State Police, we have taken a huge step forward in the pursuit of justice for Kathie Durst, her family and victims of domestic violence everywhere.”

The investigation was handled by the Cold Case Bureau, which was established in January to help work towards solving cases and giving closure to families of homicide victims. Cold Case Bureau Chief Laura Murphy, who is assisted by Chief Investigator Daniel McKenna, leads the Bureau. They work collaboratively with other Criminal Investigators in the District Attorney’s Office, the FBI, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, and law enforcement agencies from across the country.

The investigation into the disappearance and alleged murder of 29-year-old Kathleen Durst was a collaborative effort by the Cold Case Bureau, the District Attorney’s Criminal Investigators, Bureau Chiefs Nadine Nagler and Maria Wager, New York State Police Investigator Joseph Becerra, and other members of the New York State Police and the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office. The Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Office also assisted in the investigation.

“For nearly four decades there has been a great deal of speculation about this case, much of it fueled by Robert Durst’s own highly publicized statements,” DA Rocah said. “An indictment is a crucial step in the process of holding wrongdoers accountable for their actions.”

A warrant has been issued for Robert Durst’s arrest for the murder of Kathleen Durst. On Oct. 22, NY State Police Investigator Joseph Becerra filed a felony complaint against Durst charging him with murder at the Lewisboro Town Court. That complaint was made apparently to charge Durst before his death, in case DA Rocah was not able to secure an indictment in time.

Durst is in a California prison hospital and is gravely ill. The family of Kathleen Durst were pleased that the complaint was filed last month, and the progress that DA Rocah made in securing an indictment.

## Turkey Day in 3 Weeks? Must Be Bargain Time



**By Eric W. Schoen**

Can you believe that Thanksgiving is less than 3 weeks away. Seems like we went from Summer to Winter in one week. What happened to the Autumn leaves? What happened to Fall? Finally we are seeing some fall foliage in these parts close to a month after the usual color change in the leaves before they hit the ground.

Did you buy your turkey yet. Rumors of a turkey shortage have people running to the supermarket. There should be big birds and small birds but there may be a shortage those middle of the range birds most of us buy. Turkeys freeze well so if you see the size you need and have space in the freezer, no pun intended but I would gobble it up!

Everything we want seems to be stuck in some container somewhere waiting to be unloaded. Or it is somehow affected by Covid. Or there is a worker shortage for production. Or a worker shortage on the sales floor. The Target in Pelham was recruiting for workers for their Mount Kisco location. Target would even pay the Metro North train fare to get workers from Pelham and the Bronx to Mount Kisco. And the pay is close to \$20 an hour.

The more I hear of shortages, the more I think this is some big hoax to take advantage of consumers and raise prices. Shortages of Halloween costumes? Yes, the pickings were bare if you were looking the day before Halloween last Saturday. But why would you wait until the day before Halloween to find a scary ghost or goblin outfit. The best costumes are homemade anyway!

Before we get into the bargains let’s sip a cup of coffee and relax a little bit. Holidays can be stressful, even in the best of times. If you live or work near a Panera Bread Store (Pelham, Cross County, Scarsdale and other locations) you are crazy if you are not taking advantage of the \$8.99 a month all the Hot or Iced Coffee you can drink promotion.

Time for some calculations. If you spend \$3 a day on coffee multiply that times 30 days in a month which equals \$90. \$90 minus \$9 plus tax puts you \$80 ahead of the game. And unlike Starbucks, Panera let’s you put in your own milk and sweeteners. To me coffee is like a chemistry project. I like it perfect, and I like to fix it myself!

Many Black Friday sales have gone live already. Target has been running deals during the month of October. myblackfriday.com posts Black Friday sales from the major retailers as they go live. You can also simply Google your favorite retailer and put ‘Black Friday’ after the retailers name and chances are the retailers Black Friday sales flyer will pop up. Many sales are online as well as in store, as retailers are still not sure if due to Covid fears consumers are going to shop in person.

Rakuten and Ibotta allow you to link your credit cards and earn cash back on your purchases at many major retailers. They run specials where you can get up to 10% back (and in a few cases more) on top of the sale price you hopefully took advantage of. Retailers like those in the GAP family of brands (GAP, Old Navy, Athleta and Banana Republic) are often featured. BUMPED is the new guy on the block that lets you earn fractional shares of stocks of the stores you shop at when

*continued on pg 4-*

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## Free Piano Concerto No. 2 By Chopin Nov. 14 at Sacred Heart Church Dobbs Ferry



On Sunday, November 14, at 3:00pm, The Sacred Heart Dobbs Ferry, 417 Broadway Dobbs Ferry NY will present an exciting concert with Sacred Heart Church Choir joined by guest choristers from surrounding communities and, under the inspirational leadership of Music Director, Dr. Sándor Szabó, pictured left, will perform Fauré's Requiem, his largest master-work. This amazing Requiem depicts the timelessness of human existence, the procession of generations, human longings, profound sorrow, fear of the unknown, as well as light, hope, the ultimate joys of heaven, and, above all, peace. The program will also include the passionate and poetic Second Piano Concerto by Chopin with Dr. Szabó, at the piano. Scholars have likened Chopin's melodies in the F Minor Concerto to the soaring lyricism of Vincenzo Bellini's opera arias. Dr. Szabó has performed and conducted extensively in major concert halls and cathedrals in Europe, North America and Asia.

The concert is free and all are welcome. The Sacred Heart Church is located at 417 Broadway in Dobbs Ferry. For more information please call 914-693-0119.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

you make your purchases.

Speaking of stocks, what better gift in this booming stock market than the gift of a share or partial share of stock. Particularly fun for the kids to own stock in a company they are familiar with (Disney, Apple, McDonalds) so they see how their purchases can affect stock prices. The Stockpile app allows you to purchase fractional shares at discounted fees, and many companies allow consumers to purchase stocks directly from them saving brokerage fees. investor.gov is a good website that lists stocks you can purchase directly from companies on the various stock markets.

Make sure you are signed up in the frequent reward programs at stores you shop at. Spend with your head, not over it but if you know you are going to make a major purchase at a store that offers a credit card, it might pay for you to open a charge account with that retailer so you can get the discount for opening a card on top of normal discounts. If an employee goes out of their way to help you and you are making a big purchase, open the account with him or her. The employee gets credit for the opening of the account helping to make their holidays brighter.

Most Broadway theaters that closed during the pandemic have reopened. The Radio City Christmas Show is back. If you meet the requirements to join the Theater Development Fund (TDF) and are a teacher, retiree, civil service worker or fit in one of their categories, it's a good place to get theater tickets both in the city and the tristate region at a major discount. Stubhub.com, SeatGeek app, Broadwaybox.com, Todaytix everyday a new discount website selling theater tickets opens up. Stay with the established ones or ones you know your friends have used. There are very few shows except the blockbusters like Lion King, Wicked, Hamilton and a few others where discount tickets cannot be found. If you want one of the hot shows over the Thanksgiving-New Year period, check for added performances other than the regularly scheduled one for good seats.

Have you been to TJMaxx or Marshall's lately and noticed the lines? It is because manufacturers are selling current merchandise, not last season's leftovers anymore to these discounters. An example. I bought a Columbia puffer vest, current season available at Macy's marked retail price \$150, sale priced at your Macy's probably \$100 for \$40. Bottom line: It pays to shop around.

If you haven't booked your flight yet, unless you are willing to fly on the actual day of the holiday expect to pay a pretty penny. The airline business is outta control with lack of staff and cancellations for weather caused by a raindrop. And who really wants to fly with the craziness in the sky. People act like animals but a lot of this goes back to crowded seats, idiots not wearing masks, and the whole experience from when you arrive at the airport to the time you board your plane right through to when you reach your destination. Remember when it was fun to fly?

Hotels? Many are still shuttered like in New York City due to Covid. Many are not fully operational at capacity due to staff shortages. priceline.com and hotwire.com can sometimes bring great savings if you know where you want to stay, the level of accommodation you want (2, 3, 4 or 5 stars) but don't care what particular hotel you are staying in. Kayak.com, booking.com there are new hotel booking services everyday. Stick with ones you or friends have used successfully in the past.

There are very few days when street parking meters are not operational except for Sunday's and major holidays. The biggest day for municipalities to tow cars and make money from meters people have not put money in is Black Friday, the Day after Thanksgiving. Remember: for most municipalities the only days meters are NOT in effect are News Years Day, Christmas Day, Thanksgiving Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day and Labor Day. Always check the meters and posted signs which should have notification when meters are not in effect. In Yonkers, don't forget to take advantage of the '10 minute' button on many meters giving you 10 minutes to run in and do what you have to do.

Some additional websites you should be on: Krazy Coupon Lady, freeshipping.com, wish.com, and don't be so quick to throw away the streamer of coupons you get when you shop at CVS. You never know what you will find! We will have more holiday bargain columns, and feel free to email me (see below) discounts you find! Happy Shopping, and of course Happy Holidays!

Reach Eric Schoen at [thistooisonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistooisonkers@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.

## Meet Westchester's Youngest Hemp Farmer, Kayvon Philip-Reid



Kayvon Philip-Reid, and his dog Champ

By Dennis Richmond, Jr.

"Hemp and marijuana are like first cousins," Kayvon Philip-Reid explained to me. "Marijuana is used for recreational use, while hemp is for recreational use and industrial use." Kayvon Philip-Reid, 26, is a native of the village of a Tuckahoe. Tuckahoe is less than two miles long. A first-generation West-Indian American, Philip-Reid is a cannabis CEO and educator. He is the founder of the health and wellness business, RePhil. RePhil is a small eco-friendly business that provides hemp-based products. His business's goal is to examine the advantages of using hemp products.

Philip-Reid found himself in Yonkers during the Black Lives Matter protest that occurred in June of 2020. During the event, he networked with other young people. After building new friendships, Kayvon found himself making frequent trips to the city. He volunteered to hand out food to those in need and recruited people to assist him with RePhil. All the while, Kayvon fostered relationships with politicians in the community.

Philip-Reid is just as much a part of Yonkers as he is Tuckahoe. A graduate of SUNY Purchase, Kayvon earned a degree in economics and psychology. Before entering in business for himself, he worked in construction. It wasn't until taking a trip to the Caribbean country of Grenada, where his mother's from, that he had an awakening. "I had a resurgence of my roots," he said. He began his official journey of getting back to a natural and holistic lifestyle. In no time at all, RePhil was born.


RePhil grew legs in Mount Vernon, New York. Diligently piecing things together, Philips-Reid did his homework and learned everything there was to know about hemp. He wanted to be as self-sufficient as possible, so he tried to do most of the work alone. After facing manufacturing issues in New York, he felt as if he only had one choice. To chase his dream, he picked up his things and moved to Georgia. Westchester County, New York, is almost 880 miles away from Washington County, Georgia, but Kayvon made the journey. It was just him and his dog, Champ.

Upon arrival in May 2021, Philip-Reid lived on acres of land that he leased. All that was left to do was farm it. The only issue was that there was nowhere to stay. There was no home to return to, no hotel to stay in for free, and there were no relatives to call. Kayvon decided to set up a tent. "I slept in a tent for 100 days," he said. It was "me, my hands, my willpower, and Champ." After days of hard work, his profit turned into him breaking even with everything that he did.


Now that harvesting is over, Kayvon is back in Westchester, and he's awaiting his newborn child. He told me that "there's a tight-knit community of hemp farmers." Kayvon is one of the only Black hemp farmers in New York, and he's looking to teach students across the county about nature. "I enjoy seeing the process of things grow," he said. "Reconnecting with nature is the purest form of therapy. In the world we live in today, our children need as much comfort as can be. Many of them can find it in nature."

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

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## Iona Prep's Human Rights Club Supports Students at South African School



**St. Mary's School Principal Victor Sekakatlela, with students and teacher, giving out school uniforms.**

### Club Raises \$8,000 for Tuition Assistance and Technology Support

As part of its ongoing awareness and advocacy efforts, Iona Prep's Human Rights Club at the Upper School has raised more than \$8,000 over the past few years while working to support the poor and marginalized in our world. Through various fundraisers, including an annual Beyond Borders Bake Sale, the club has been able to support 20 students' tuition and uniform fees at St. Mary's Primary School in Bloemfontein, South Africa. Iona Prep has also underwritten 20 iPads, helped purchase desks and supported the renovation of a classroom, along with some exterior painting. The most recent round of donations was able to provide material for a robotics class and a laptop, as well as food for a lunch program.

The club has been assisting the school since 2017, the year after Human Rights Club co-moderator and English teacher Mrs. Patricia Gray attended the inaugural Edmund Rice Education Beyond Borders conference, the goal of which was for Edmund Rice Schools to go "Beyond the Borders" and connect with one another. Though not in the Edmund Rice network, St. Mary's is guided by similar principals, which is why Principal Victor Sekakatlela was present and met Mrs. Gray on the first day in New Delhi.

"This is what it means to be part of our Edmund Rice family," said Mrs. Gray, who recalls discussing the needs of St. Mary's with Mr. Sekakatlela on a crowded, commuter ferry on a very hot and humid day in Kolkata, India. "This is what our students and their families have done. Iona Prep has had a profound impact on the lives of many St. Mary's students."

## Yonkers Film Festival, YoFiFest, Teams Up With Feeding Westchester



Last year, as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, the Yonkers Film Festival, (YoFi Fest) was forced to become virtual. However, this year things are different and the ninth annual film festival is back as a hybrid event, with many movie screenings happening in person, and all the films and filmmaker Q&A's being offered online.

Nine years ago YoFiFest started with a mission to showcase the work of independent filmmakers and to provide educational and cultural opportunities that otherwise would not exist in the area. This year, it is more committed than ever to continuing that mission, so from November 5th through November 21st, YoFiFest will present 183 films from 25 countries and right here in our own backyard. The films include features, documentaries, shorts, animation, music videos, web series, and student work.

Visit [YoFiFest.com](http://YoFiFest.com) for more info and use code "newsletter21" to receive 20% off your tickets and passes, while supplies last.

On Sunday November 21st at 2pm, YoFiFest will be hosting a fundraiser for Feeding Westchester. The one hour reception will include a delicious tasting menu from some great local Westchester establishments, including The Good Witch Coffee Bar (Hastings) Mariachi Mexico (Armonk), Penny Lick Ice Cream Co. (Hastings), North End Tavern (New Rochelle), as well as Yonkers favorites Yonkers Brewing Company, Nahmias et Fils and Dolphin Restaurant.

All proceeds from the reception will be donated to Feeding Westchester. Tickets for this event are \$25 and include a ticket to our closing night film, 86'd: How A Global Pandemic Rocked The World's Culinary Capital, which features several of the restaurants participating in the reception.

### Section 3 Work Opportunity

MDG Design + Construction is currently seeking construction Section 3 eligible applicants for a moderate rehabilitation project, Calcagno Homes Located in Yonkers, NY. Section 3 eligible applicants are invited to submit a resume for the work in the following trades:

- Duct Installer & Refrigeration Piper
- Plumber
- Roof Laborer
- Masonry Laborer
- General Laborer

Work is to be performed in Westchester County under Davis Bacon Act (prevailing wage) requirements.

Section 3 residents are:

- Public housing residents or
- Persons who live in the area where a HUD-assisted project is located and who have a household income that falls below HUD's income limits.

For more Section 3 information: <https://www.hud.gov/section3>

Eligible applicants must have an active Osha 30 card. If interested in applying, please send a resume with the position desired to:

Jeffrey Goritz; [jgoritz@mdgny.com](mailto:jgoritz@mdgny.com)

## Sedona Supports Alzheimer's Association & Lions in November



Every month Mamaroneck's Sedona Taphouse supports local charities and community groups, through its Monday Dine Out for Charity. For the month of November, Sedona will raise funds for two groups - the Alzheimer's Association and the Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions Foundation. For the five Mondays in November 2021, for every dine-in order of the special 50% off steak meal, Sedona will donate \$2 for Alzheimer's Association and the LM Lions.

Sedona's support will help raise awareness of Alzheimer's and dementia during November, which is National Family Caregiver Month and National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month. To learn more, visit [alz.org/nadam](http://alz.org/nadam)

The Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions focus on supporting existing non-profit and community service groups, by bringing leaders together to determine needs, solutions and resources. The LM Lions Foundation is their 501c3 service fund, to encourage community partnerships and matching donations in support of local needs and Lions' causes. The LM Lions are pleased to be the recipient of Sedona's support and to be partnered with the Alzheimer's Association

Sedona's November donation kicks off the "Friends of the Lions" campaign, allowing individuals & businesses who support the service efforts of the Lions, to make donations to the LM Lions foundation or volunteer for Lions service projects.

The LM Lions are part of Lions Clubs International, the world's largest service organization of over 1.4 million members. The Lions have 6 core causes. It's signature cause Vision/Blindness, along with Hunger, the Environment, Diabetes, Childhood Cancer and the future of our Youth. They are signatories of the United Nations resolutions on women's and refugee rights.

To learn more about the LM Lions, visit: <http://www.lmlionsclub.org>  
To learn more about the Alzheimer's Association-Hudson Valley and the programs and services offered locally, visit [alz.org/hudsonvalley](http://alz.org/hudsonvalley).



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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK –  
 COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER  
 INDEX # 65171/2020 FILED: 8/11/2021  
 SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Plaintiff designates WESTCHESTER County as the place of trial. The basis of venue is: The location of the real property being foreclosed. BANK OF AMERICA, NA, Plaintiff, against UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF MARY A. DAVIS A/K/A MARY DAVIS A/K/A MARY A PICKNEY A/K/A MARY PICKNEY A/K/A MARY PICKNEY DAVIS A/K/A MARY TEMPLE DAVIS, if they be living and if they be dead, the respective heirs-at-law, next-of-kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said defendant(s) who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lien or inheritance, any right, title or interest in or to the real property described in the Complaint, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, Defendant(s). To the above named Defendant(s): YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to Answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's attorney(s) within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Honorable David F. Everett, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Westchester County, granted on the 3rd day of August, 2021, and filed with the Verified Complaint and other papers in the office of the County Clerk of Westchester County. The object of this action is to bar and forever foreclose of and from all right, title, interest, claim, lien and equity of redemption in and to real property situated in the County of Westchester being known as and by 12 RISLEY PLACE, NEW ROCHELLE, NY 10801, bearing tax map designation Section: 4 Block: 1320 Lot: 0038, which is more fully described in the Schedule "A" attached to the Verified Complaint. Aldridge Pite, LLP. Attorneys for the Plaintiff, 40 Marcus Drive, Suite 200, Melville, NY 11747 Our File 1395-241B

**Legal Notice-Name Change**

Notice is hereby given that an order entered by the Supreme Court, Westchester County, on the 16th day of September, 2021 bearing Index No. 2027-21, a copy of which may be examined at the Office of the Clerk, located at 110 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd, White Plains, New York grants me the right to assume the name of Ray Alphonso Vance  
 My present address is 169th East 3rd Street, Mount Vernon, New York 10550. I was born in Charlotte Amalie, St. Thomas, US Virgin Islands on December 14, 1945. My present name is Renaldo Vance

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) # 2021 - 09  
 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR VIDEO SURVEILLANCE  
 SYSTEM SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE AT VARIOUS PROPERTIES  
 OWNED OR MANAGED BY THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY  
 FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS**

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers ("MHACY") is soliciting proposals from qualified firms for a Full-Service Video Surveillance System Service and Maintenance for MHACY at various sites as specified in this Request for Proposals ("RFP").

This RFP package contains submission requirements and terms and conditions and other pertinent information for submitting a proper and responsive proposal. This RFP is the only information provided to prospective bidders (hereinafter "Responders" or "Respondents") and is available online starting November 10, 2021 at [www.mhacy.org/about/procurement/](http://www.mhacy.org/about/procurement/). There will be a site tour for interested parties on November 23, 2021, time to be determined, starting at 1157 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY. The RFP questions deadline is December 3, 2021 at 11:00 AM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions must be emailed to Michael A. Cassino at [security@mhacy.org](mailto:security@mhacy.org) by the deadline. No telephone calls and/or written communication sent via mail will be accepted.

Proposals must reach MHACY no later than 3:00 PM (EST) on December 17, 2021. Late submissions will be handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B.

Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria stated in the RFP. Negotiations may be conducted with contractors who have a reasonable chance of being selected for the award. After evaluation of the proposal revision, if any, the contract will be awarded to the responsible firm(s) whose qualifications, price and other factors are considered to be the most advantageous to MHACY.

MHACY reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any irregularities or informalities if it is in MHACY's best interest to do so. MHACY reserves the right to cancel this RFP or to reject, in whole or in part, any and all proposals received in response to this RFP, upon its determination that such cancellation or rejection is in the best interest of MHACY.

MHACY is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or family status. MHACY solicits and encourages the participation of minorities and small businesses in procurement. Contact, related to this procurement, with members of MHACY's Board of Commissioners, or MHACY's officers and/or employees other than the contact person show above, during the procurement process could result in disqualification of a proposal.

Wilson Kimball  
 President & CEO  
 Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers  
 1511 Central Park Avenue  
 Yonkers, New York 10710  
 Project No. 2021-09

NOTICE OF SALE  
 SUPREME COURT, WESTCHESTER COUNTY  
 INDEX NO.: 58848/2019  
 BONITA WEST LLC v. 164 ELM REALTY CORP., et al., Defendants.

Pursuant to Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, dated January 22, 2020 and entered on January 24, 2020, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction, in the Courtroom 200 of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, New York on the 19th day of November, 2021 at 2:30 P.M., the premises directed by said Judgment to be sold, being in Section 1, Block 455, Lot 6 on the Tax Map of the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester, and known by the street number 164 Elm Street, Yonkers, New York.

Approximate amount of Judgment is \$23,431.15 plus interest, costs, attorneys' fees and advances. Said premises will be sold subject to the provisions of the filed Judgment and the Terms of Sale.

FRANCIS APICELLA, ESQ., Referee.  
 SANDERS, GUTMAN & BRODIE, P.C.,  
 Attorneys for Plaintiff, 18 North Central Avenue, Suite 204  
 Hartsdale, New York 10530 (718) 522-0666

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.

**Classifieds**

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**YONKERS TIMES**  
 News in Yonkers and around Westchester

*Westchester 2022 budgets, continued from pg 1-*

“Hiring will be limited to essential positions, contracts for the purchase of operational items will be more intensely scrutinized and deferred where possible and some programs could also be reduced, deferred, or cancelled until we feel it is physically safe and appropriate to go fully forward. There have been requests by some departments for additional positions.

These requests have not been included in the budget. The Town Board has asked that they collectively decide whether the positions are absolutely needed during difficult times,” wrote Feiner, who added that all union contracts have been settled and funded in his budget plan.

In the Town of Yorktown, Supervisor Matt Slater, proposed a 2022 budget that will not increase taxes for homeowners, and protects a tax cut that Slater and the Town Board were able to implement last year.

Under the proposed \$63 million budget, the average home assessed at \$10,000 would see an increase in special district taxes from \$9 to \$15, depending on where the home is located. Taxpayers in districts with existing sewer bonds will pay more due to the obligated debt.

Town taxes, which fund the general operating budget including the library and highway department, make up 12% of the total property tax bill. Other portions of the tax bill include refuse and recycling service, fire and EMS and water.

“We were able to protect taxpayers, make important investments to grow the economy, protect the environment, and improve our quality of life, all while dealing with the extraordinary adversity of the past year,” said Supervisor Slater. “My proposed budget will hold the line on taxes by not increasing the general operating budget of our Town. It allows us to maintain services, increase our paving budget and makes new investments in our youth and environment.”

Supervisor Slater also described the many accomplishments that Yorktown logged in 2021. Completed work included three bridge replacement projects, five playground renovations, the conversion of 260 streetlights to LEDs, and a record 16.5 miles of local roads paved.

On the economic development front, Supervisor Slater noted that the Jefferson Valley Mall is almost 90% full. Earlier this month, the nation’s leading residential developer, Toll Brothers, introduced a potential project to the Town while many other properties are getting facelifts.

This year’s environmental accomplishments include a new foods scraps recycling center at Downing Park and approved solar projects IBM and Hemlock Hill Farm. The Town’s partnership with Sustainable Westchester has been so successful, Yorktown has the most participants in its community solar program than any other municipality in Westchester County, he said.

On Oct. 28, Latimer submitted a proposed 2022 budget for Westchester County that keeps county property taxes flat. This is the third budget in a row that Latimer has no increased property taxes. County property taxes have actually been cut slightly, by \$7 Million in a budget of \$2.2 Billion, a decrease of less than 1/2%, but it is a decrease, and the county tax levy has decreased overall in 2020, 2021 and now proposed in 2022.

Latimer said: “This is the largest tax cut in recent memory. I am proud of this budget and proud that through smart and innovative budgeting we have been able to cut taxes responsibly again, find new revenue sources, save and provide needed services to County residents. This is not rhetoric or lip service – this is results – this is good governing. We are committed to doing right by the people of Westchester County – and that is exactly what we have done.”

Latimer’s budget maintains all county services and includes increased funding for childcare subsidies, mental distress centers, healthcare clinics and small landlord assistance, which will provide funding for improvements in exchange for landlords agreeing to keep rents affordable.

*National Issues , continued from pg 1-*

But Latimer, nor anyone in county government, or in Town, Village or City government, or in State government, have any control over the flights coming into Westchester Airport.

Immigration is a national issue, and under the pervue of President Joe Biden and his administration. And the Biden administration is taking a great deal of pressure from the American people for the number of migrants crossing the border. And what the people of Westchester have found out is that some of the thousands of migrants crossing the border will end up in Westchester.

Republican candidate for County Legislator, Anthony Giacobbe, almost used the issue to win. Giacobbe, who narrowly lost to democrat legislator Damon Maher on Nov. 2, 51%-49%, highlighted the issue at the county airport.

“Westchester made national headlines highlighting our weak leadership. They should have at least tried to stand up for us, but instead stood with their friends in the state and federal government hiding an operation bringing thousands of people into our county airport illegally. Mr. Latimer and all 17 legislators should be ashamed of themselves. Stop doing election year photo ops pretending to give out free masks to our school children then allow this to happen in the middle of the night for months,” said Giacobbe, who was interviewed on Newsmax.

One democrat we spoke to said “how many people in Westchester are watching Fox or the NY Post or Newsmax?” The answer to that may be more than you think.”

The next ‘wedge’ issue used by republicans was the Diversity, Equity and Inclusion, DEI, education curriculum, created by the NYS Education Department for school districts across the county and state. Republicans have used another term for the program, CRT, Critical Race Theory, and a group called Save Our Schools, SOS, Westchester has been attending school board meetings in opposition to the curriculum.

SOS Westchester was founded by Angela Sculti, mother of Christine Sculti. Despite the fact that two superintendents in northern Westchester have flatly stated the CRT is not being taught in their schools, one of those superintendents, Lakeland Superintendent Brendan Lyons, was forced to resign, apparently because of DEI education.

But the Westchester County Executive, nor any of the 17 County Legislators, can dictate the education curriculum and policy of any one of the more than 40 school districts in Westchester.

So was the use of two two, national hot-button issues helpful or hurtful to the candidates that used them? That depends on who you ask, with democrats and republicans split. Most members of both parties are satisfied with the results.

**Pre-Registration for 2022 Golf Westchester E-Z Reserve Now Available**

Westchester golfers can pre-register for the next season’s Golf Westchester E-Z Reserve program available at all six 18-hole County golf courses. During the pre-registration period, through Tuesday, November 30, E-Z Reserve holders from 2021 can reserve the same tee time/day for the 2022 season. If the holder is not interested in keeping the specific time and day, the time will be made available to all golfers in December.

From Wednesday, December 1 through Friday, March 4, all remaining E-Z Reserve tee times will be available to new golfers or past golfers who may want a new time or day. These E-Z Reserve times will be available on a first-come, first-served basis and are limited to one tee time per weekend day.

The E-Z Reserve program enables golfers with a valid Westchester County Park Pass to book a starting tee time for a series of weeks. A non-refundable fee of \$350 per player is due at pre-registration and payable by cash, check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. As a bonus for pre-registering, the 2022 E-Z Reserve season is increased from 25 to 30 weeks. After the pre-registration period ends on Friday, March 4, remaining E-Z Reserve tee times will only be available at golf courses beginning the first day of play in 2022. These tee times will be sold for a \$300 per player fee for 25 weeks. E-Z Reserve applications will be available at all courses. Applications are also available on the web with complete rules and regulations at [golf.westchester.com](http://golf.westchester.com).

*\$700,000 Salary, continued from pg 1-*

But at what point does the combined pension and salary and perks of a taxpayer paid employee become obscene? Wool, who has served 19 years leading the Harrison School District, ‘retired’ at the beginning of the current 2021-22 school year at a salary of \$412,413. He was also paid \$343,678 in unused sick days over his 19 years.

According to the Journal News, Wool said, “I told them I was very committed to staying here and I said it was in your best interest and mine to structure it in a way that I could stay. My senior leadership brings value to Harrison.”

As part of the agreement, Wool will be paid \$50,000 less than his top salary of \$412,413, and members of the school board and the Harrison community are using that as a reason why they can call his rehiring “a bargain.”

Wool will earn a pension of \$279,000 per year from the NYS Pension Fund. He will earn a salary of \$362,000 per year, ranking him #2 in New York State for Superintendents salaries. His new contract runs through 2026-27. When you add the additional compensation for unused sick days, Wohl is at \$700,000+ yearly.

Wool and three other Westchester Superintendents earn more than \$300k. Scarsdale Superintendent Thomas Hagerman, at \$369,684, has the state’s highest salary. Chappaqua Superintendent Christine Ackerman, at \$301,275; and Bronxville Superintendent Roy Montesano, \$302,202, are the other two.

While members of the Harrison School Board completely support the decision, some in Harrison don’t agree. “No person is worth this kind of a salary. If you want to make that much, you should be forced to go into the private sector. As a Harrison taxpayer I’m outraged. And I don’t see the Harrison Scholls on any top 10 lists of highest performing schools in the state.”

The policy of double dipping, and of allowing civil servants to max out the last three years of their salary to increase their pension, has always been permitted by the State Legislature and the Governor, and they have the same right to ban both practices.

But that would anger the very same unions whose political muscle is used to elect our state legislators and our governor. It would also annoy communities like Harrison, who want Superintendent Wool to continue and appear willing to pay to get what they want.

Another Harrison resident told us outside of Trotta’s Pharmacy, “how dare anyone call this a bargain. That is an insult to any resident of Harrison and I’ve lived here 40 years.”

The other argument against double dipping is that it prevents someone else from moving into Wool position and from others moving up the ladder of employment in the Harrison School District, but in other positions as well.

“Are you telling me that nobody else could do this job as good as Lou Wool? I find that hard to believe,” said Ms. Bricetti from Harrison.

*Election Wrap Up , continued from pg 1-*

in the most closely watched BOL race in the 15th District, by defeating democrat Ruth Walter, 53%-47%. Nolan will join republican-conservative Legislator Margaret Cunzio, who won re-election by defeating democrat David Vinjamuri , 58%-42%, giving republicans two seats on the BOL, and democrats at 15-2 supermajority.

Two other close calls in other county board races almost gave republicans two more victories. In the First District, democrat Colin Smith narrowly held onto his seat by defeatinbg republican Joe Torres, 51%-49%, and in the 10th District, democrat Damon Maher also squeaked out his re-election by defeating republican Anthony Giacobbe, 51%-49%. One sound view democrat said that Latimer and Idoni, who remains very popular in his home city of New Rochelle, helped pull Maher to victory.

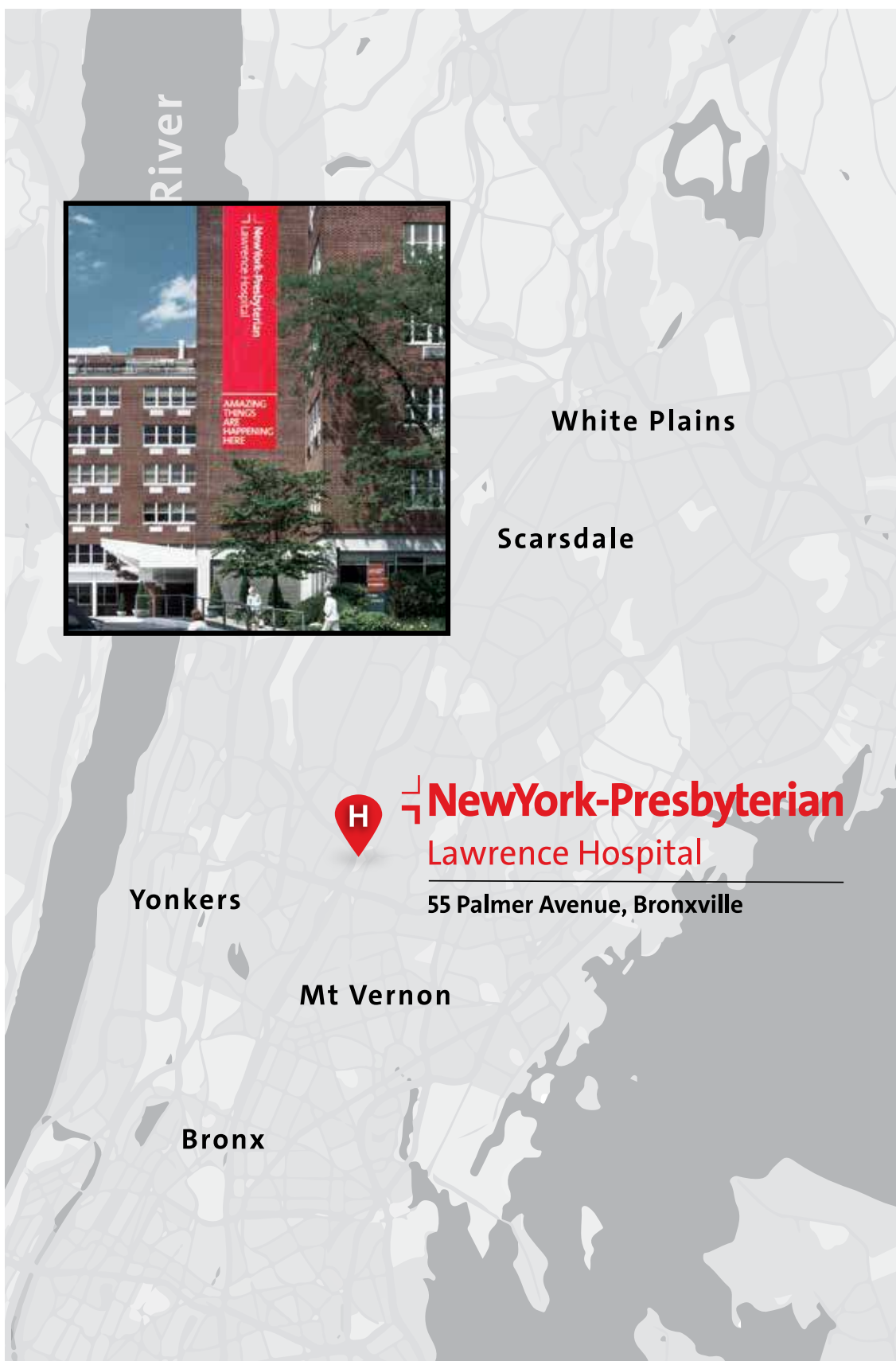
Another political observer credited Colavita with the strong showing by both Nolan and Giacobbe, because both districts include part of the Town of Eastchester. “Colavita brought out the vote again, to his credit, he remains very popular.”

Turnout in this election was very low, both in early voting and on Nov. 2, which appears to have helped republicans.

One moderate Westchester democrat said that “the problems with the democratic party in Washington did not help us here in Westchester.

Another westchester party leader said that “clearly the republican party is not dead in Westchester, and the democratic party needs some better messaging, starting in Washington DC. We also might think about moving to the center a bit.”

There was a also a split decision in Yonkers, Westchester’s largest city. Democrat Lakisha Collins-Bellamy was elected City Council President, but her unknown republican opponent, Ron Matten, got 46% of the vote and almost scored an unheard of upset. But in the one competitive race for city council, republican councilman Anthony Merante narrowly lost to democrat Tim Hodges, by 300 votes.



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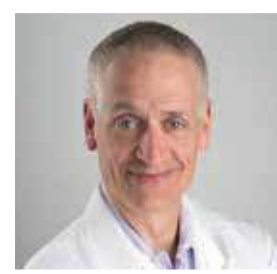
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