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Friday April 1, 2022

## Will Dan Scavino, Trump's Media Guy from Yorktown, be Held in Contempt by Congress?



Dan Scavino, left, with President Trump in the Oval Office

By Dan Murphy

On March 28, the House Committee investigating the January 6, 2021 attack on the Capitol voted to hold Dan Scavino in criminal contempt for not complying with a subpoena issued for his appearance in Sept. 2021.

Scavino, a graduate of Yorktown High School, served as former President Donald Trump's Deputy Media Chief up to and after Trump's term ended in 2020.

The unanimous decision by the House Committee means that the House of Representatives will vote on whether to refer Scavino to the Justice Department for prosecution.

After receiving the subpoena last year, Scavino Tweeted. "The dangerous and false narrative of me trying to avoid or evade a subpoena is a disgrace. I can only wonder where it came from, and what their goal was. Not ONE attempt was made to contact/serve me when I was at Mar a Lago for 6 days, or home in NY for 8 days thereafter!"

At the House Committee vote on March 28, vice-chair Rep. Liz Cheney said that the committee wanted to ask Scavino about his work for Trump and an on-line forum called "The Donald." "President Trump, working with Mr. Scavino, successfully spread distrust for our courts — which had repeatedly found no basis to overturn the election," said Cheney.

The Chair of the House Jan 6 Committee Rep Bennie Thompson called Scavino out for waiting to reply to a subpoena before declining to appear. "They're not fooling anybody. They are obligated to comply with our investigation. They have refused to do so, and that's a crime."

Congressman Adam Schiff said, "The Justice Department has a duty to act on these referrals and others this committee has sent."

Scavino, along with Navarro, Bannon, Meadows and other members of the Trump administration, are holding out hope that the United States Supreme Court will take their case, and argument, that they are shielded from testifying to the Jan. 6th committee because of Executive Privilege given to President Trump.

Scavino has always taken a low profile, even when he served in The White House for President Trump, with his primary role to "assist President Trump in operating the @realDonaldTrump account, including by drafting and posting tweets to the account."

continued on pg 7-

## Latimer: County Center Will Stop COVID Testing & Vaccinations on April 1



*"The demand for vaccination has dropped dramatically because our vaccination rates are so high... We think our measured policies have worked and got us to this point."*

-Westchester County Executive George Latimer, left

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said that COVID vaccinations and testing currently offered at the County Center in White Plains will end effective Friday April 1. Latimer made the announcement at his weekly briefing on March 28.

"The demand for vaccinations has dropped dramatically because our vaccination rates are so high. We have reached the point where we are going to suspend our testing and vaccinations at the County Center on Friday. We reserve the right to take any action necessary if conditions change," said Latimer.

"We did not require vaccinations in Westchester, but using persuasive powers, more of our workforce was vaccinated and we did not have an outbreak. We think our measured policies have worked and got us to this point."

Westchester County Government is now in dialogue with New York State to deconstruct the medical facilities that were built inside the county center so that the concerts, graduations, and basketball games can return.

Watch full briefing here: <https://youtu.be/oVSNmW4Nyhg>

With the declining number of vaccinations at the County Center, Westchester County is undertaking the following steps:

Friday, April 1 will be the last COVID vaccination clinic at the County Center. Anyone who received a first dose this week or through April 1 will be contacted by the Westchester County Department of Health to receive a second dose at 134 Court Street.

Starting April 8, COVID vaccines will be offered at 134 Court Street on Fridays from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.

This is the routine immunization day for the County's Health Department. The Health Department will continue to offer satellite clinics in high need communities, including the "Thank You" program, senior centers, and booster clinics.

## Is the Tuckahoe Democrats Victory an Indicator of November Westchester Elections?



*Can You Win Without Debating?*

*Is it a Civic Duty to Debate or just dumb politics*

*Cara Kronen, and Nicole Engelbert, won two seats on the Tuckahoe Village Board on March 15*

By Dan Murphy

One of the few communities left in Westchester that has had republican leadership in recent years is the Village of Tuckahoe. Tuckahoe is part of the Town of Eastchester, that still has a dominant republican presence, thanks to the leadership of Supervisor Anthony Colavita.

But two weeks ago, Tuckahoe republicans lost a local election for trustee for the second consecutive time. get the results--and after decades of Republican control, Tuckahoe now has a mayor and village board made up of four democrats and one independent.

Westchester political watchers are wondering if the results in Tuckahoe mean anything. The Board of Elections recently updated their enrollment numbers, which show an almost 3 to 1 democratic advantage.

306,000 registered Democrats in Westchester and 1,434 WFP  
119,000 registered Republicans-7,200 Conservative  
173,000 registered to another party or no party registration, independent

The model for Westchester republicans has always been get moderate independent voters to make up the enrollment difference. One of those independent residents is Mike Dardano from Tuckahoe. For the recent election in Tuckahoe, Dardano tried to get both parties to agree to participate in a debate.

Apparently, many republicans believe that the League of Women Voters, LWV, is biased towards democratic candidates, so some republicans have declined to participate in LWV debates. Other republican candidates have been reluctant to debate in any forum, either for a lack of debating experience or nerves.

Dardano was disappointed that republicans decided not to debate. "The Republicans didn't want to debate. They are not comfortable with public speaking but that is part of the job as a politician. I moderated the forum where the Dems showed up and the Reps did not. It looked bad on the social media posts with two empty Rep seats. Tuckahoe Democrats even offered to have former Tuckahoe Mayor Greg Luisi, a republican, to moderate the debate, but they still declined," said Dardano.

"The Republicans ran a bad campaign to reach independents (again) by using fear and false accusations against the Dems. The two Dem candidates that were running are not AOC Democratic Socialists but actual moderate Dems (some still

continued on pg 7-

## Watch Out for Catalytic Converter Theft

### CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS

A catalytic converter is an emissions control device that's in the exhaust system, found underneath a vehicle.

Inside a catalytic converter are three valuable metals: platinum, rhodium and palladium. Those who steal catalytic converters try to sell them once they remove the part from the car.

**Prevent Catalytic Converter Theft**

- Consider having your repair shop engrave your vehicle's VIN (vehicle identification number) on the CAT.
- Park in a garage or other secured area when possible.
- Park in a well lit area or near motion lights.
- Park in view of security or other cameras.
- Have a screen or cage installed covering your CAT, making it more difficult to quickly remove.

By Dan Murphy

Most of you may not know what a catalytic converter is, or didn't know until a recent rash of thefts of the devices on your car has made news across the country, and more importantly, here in Westchester.

Catalytic converters are a piece of your exhaust system that controls emissions. They are made with valuable metals which makes it desirable for thieves to steal them and sell them.

While some thieves can cut out your catalytic converter in less than 30 seconds, it is a loud process that involves cutting it from your car exhaust.

Replacing your catalytic converter will cost you around \$1,000.

On March 22, Yonkers Police arrested four men, charged with stealing Catalytic Converters from cars in Yonkers. "2nd Precinct plain clothes units were surveilling the area of Delano Avenue at Agawam and observed a catalytic converter theft in progress. As officers approached, the suspect vehicle took off and officers followed. The suspect vehicle attempted to evade officers on the New York State Thruway, however a blown tire forced them back onto Central Park Avenue; at Tuckahoe Road, they struck a marked police car before finally coming to a stop in the area of Underhill Street at Standish Avenue; the driver then attempted to flee on foot but was apprehended by officers. A search of the vehicle yielded three catalytic converters and a battery-operated metal sawing tool. The four suspects were placed under arrest and face charges including felony grand larceny, felony auto stripping, obstruction, criminal mischief, and resisting arrest. Two of the suspects were residents of Pennsylvania and one was a resident of the Bronx.

Here are some tips from the YPD: What is a Catalytic Converter? A catalytic converter (CAT) is an emissions control device that's in the exhaust system, found underneath a vehicle.

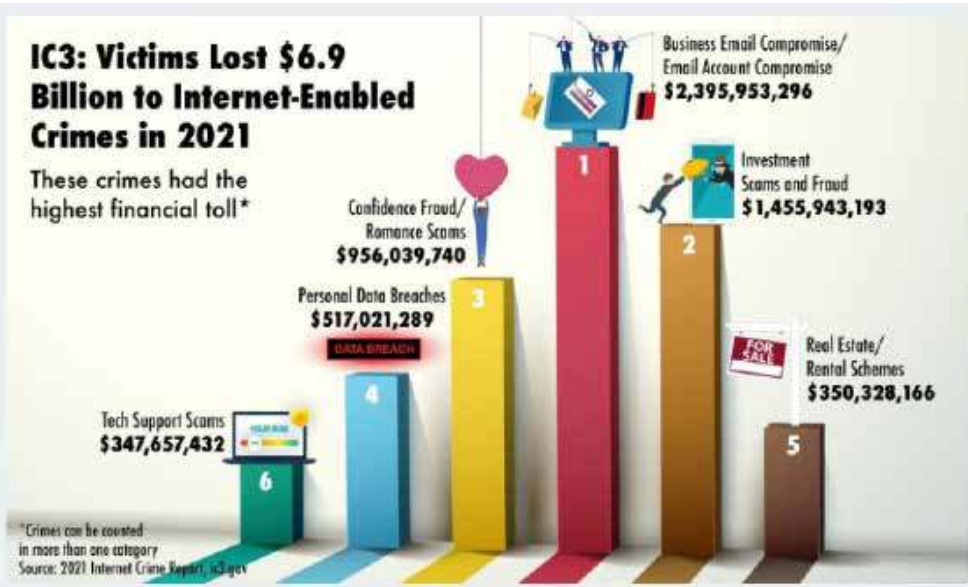
Why are they targets for theft? Inside a CAT are three precious earth metals: platinum, rhodium, and palladium. Criminals who steal CAT's sell them for profit.

What can I do to protect myself and my vehicle? - Report suspicious behavior by calling the Yonkers Police at (914) 377-7900; emergencies dial 9-1-1 or 377-

continued on pg 7-

## FBI Report: Internet Crimes up 7%; Victims Lost \$6.9 Billion

## Letter to the Editor:



On March 22, The FBI's Internet Crime Complaint Center released its annual report, which found that Americans lost \$6.9 Billion to Internet crimes in 2021, a year to year increase of 7% to 2020.

The top three cyber crimes reported by victims in 2021 were phishing scams, non-payment/non-delivery scams, and personal data breach. Victims lost the most money to business email compromise scams, investment fraud, and romance and confidence schemes.

The 2021 Internet Crime Report (pdf) includes information from 847,376 complaints of suspected internet crime—a 7% increase from 2020—and reported losses exceeding \$6.9 billion. State-specific statistics have also been released and can be found within the 2021 Internet Crime Report and in the accompanying 2021 State Reports.

New York State's 2021 Internet Crime report shows a similar pattern to the national numbers, with non-payment-non-delivery, personal data breach, and Identity Theft, the three most common internet crimes committed. New Yorkers lost more than \$559 Million to internet theft in 2021.

Business Email Compromise accounted for \$2.4 Billion of the total US losses from Internet crime.

Investment Fraud is next at \$1.4 Billion; and then Confidence Fraud-Romance at \$956 Million.

Many victims of Romance scams also report being pressured into investment opportunities, especially using cryptocurrency. In 2021, the IC3 received more than 4,325 complaints, with losses over \$429 million, from Confidence Fraud/Romance scam victims who also reported the use of investments and cryptocurrencies, or "pig butchering." The scammer's initial contact is typically made via dating apps and other social media sites. The scammer gains the confidence and trust of the victim, and then claims to have knowledge of cryptocurrency investment or trading opportunities that will result in substantial profits.

### Dont Use a Crypto ATM:

Cryptocurrency ATMs: Automated Teller Machines (ATMs) used to purchase cryptocurrency are popping up everywhere. Regulations on the machines are lax and purchases are almost instantaneous and irreversible, making this payment method lucrative to criminals. In 2021, the IC3 received more than 1,500 reports of scams using crypto ATMs, with losses of approximately \$28 million.

Cryptocurrency Scams are fast becoming a costly internet crime to those who fall victim to it. Cryptocurrency support impersonators: Increasingly, crypto owners are falling victim to scammers impersonating support or security from cryptocurrency exchanges. Owners are alerted of an issue with their crypto wallet and are convinced to either give access to their crypto wallet or transfer the contents of their wallet to another wallet to "safeguard" the contents. Crypto owners are also searching online for support with their cryptocurrencies. Owners contact fake support numbers located online and are convinced to give up login information or control of their crypto accounts.

### Tech Support Fraud resulted in \$347 Million in US loss in 2021.

Tech Support Fraud involves a criminal claiming to provide customer, security, or technical support or service to defraud unwitting individuals. Criminals may pose as support or service representatives offering to resolve such issues as a compromised email or bank account, a virus on a computer, or a software license renewal.

Many victims report being directed to make wire transfers to overseas accounts or purchase large amounts of prepaid cards. In 2021, the IC3 received 23,903 complaints related to Tech Support Fraud from victims in 70 countries. The losses amounted to more than \$347 million, which represents a 137 percent increase in losses from 2020. Most victims, almost 60 percent, report to be over 60 years of age, and experience at least 68 percent of the losses (almost \$238 million).

Tech support scammers continue to impersonate well-known tech companies, offering to fix non-existent technology issues or renew fraudulent software or security subscriptions. However, in 2021, the IC3 observed an increase in complaints reporting the impersonation of customer support, which has taken on a variety of forms, such as financial and banking institutions, utility companies, or virtual currency exchange.

While all age groups have millions of victims, 60 and over is the largest age group that falls victim to fraud, with losses in 2021 of \$1.68 Billion

The United States, with 466,000 victims, and the United Kingdom, with 303,000 victims in 2021, are by far the two countries with the largest number of internet crimes. Only Texas and California have more victims than New York State.

With the release of the 2021 Internet Crime Report, the FBI wants to remind the public to immediately report suspected criminal internet activity to the IC3 at ic3.gov. By reporting internet crime, victims are not only alerting law enforcement to the activity but aiding in the overall fight against cybercrime.

To report an online crime or view IC3's annual reports and public service announcements, visit ic3.gov.

I read with great interest your story about a possible "comeback" candidacy of former Governor Andrew Cuomo this fall (March 25, 2022 edition of Westchester Rising).

Mr. Murphy's article hit several nails on the head about a potential Cuomo candidacy. Despite Andrew Cuomo's recent barrage of television ads, I agree that it is too late for him to gather petitions to run in the June 28th Democratic Party Primary.

However, there is certainly enough time for him to get a sufficient number of signatures to appear as the nominee of a yet-to-be formed and unnamed third party. I do not believe that he would have any difficulty finding someone of stature to serve as the Lt. Governor nominee, nor funding a third-party effort.

It should be noted that Andrew Cuomo has \$16 million available for a campaign; moreover, approximately 3.5 million registered New York voters, or 27%, are not registered in a political party. Registered Democrats account for only 49% of all registered voters; the GOP has 2.8 million registered voters, or 22% of total enrollment. Thus, potentially there are many New Yorkers who might be open to an independent candidacy.

In addition to Libertarian Party candidate Larry Sharpe, the Working Families Party (WFP) recently nominated New York City Public Advocate Jumaane Williams as its candidate; the Green Party could also be expected to field a candidate as well (GP received 104,000 votes on its line in 2018).

There is a strong likelihood of a five- or even 6 candidate race for Governor, where a successful candidate could win with 35 or 40 percent of the vote. Former U.S. Senator (now retired senior federal judge) James Buckley was elected on the

Conservative Party line to the U.S. Senate with 37% of the vote in 1970. Independent candidates for governor and U.S. Senator have been successful in third party bids in states such as Maine, Vermont, Minnesota and Connecticut; U.S. Senator Bernie Sanders being the most recent and prominent example.

The probable effect of a Cuomo candidacy would be to siphon enough votes away from Governor Hochul to elect the GOP nominee. What should also be kept in mind that if Andrew Cuomo were to come in second, his new party would not only have official ballot status, but also be entitled to equal representation on all county and local election boards as well as the patronage that comes with it such as election commissioners, etc.

Under this scenario, Andrew Cuomo could conceivably hold the balance of power in New York politics for the near future. As in most things in life, time will tell.

**Stephen R. Rolandi, Larchmont**

(The writer is an adjunct professor of public administration and formerly served in the administrations of New York City Mayors Rudy Giuliani and Michael Bloomberg. An Independent Republican, he was National Vice President and Treasurer of the Ripon Society and was a delegate to the 2022 Principles First Summit last month in Washington, DC.)

## Congressional Candidate Melaine D'Arrigo:

### Justice Thomas Should Resign



**Democratic Congressional candidate Melaine D'Arrigo, District 3-NY**

As several democrats from Westchester and Long Island battle it out to see who will replace Tom Suozzi in Congress, one of those candidates, Melaine D'Arrigo, called for US Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas to resign.

Justice Thomas is embroiled in a scandal involving his wife, Ginny Thomas, whose texts made to the Trump White House in and around Jan. 6, 2021, have now been exposed by Bob Woodward and Bob Costa. Justice Thomas was the lone dissenting justice to vote against allowing the National Archives to release document to the January 6th House committee investigating the riots at the Capitol.

"Recuse, Resign and Step Aside: I'm calling for the removal of Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas from his seat. "Clarence Thomas must recuse, resign, and step aside. The reports that his wife repeatedly used her influence to try and overturn the 2020 Presidential election are deeply disturbing, but not surprising. For years, Ginni Thomas has used her husband's position to further herself and her radical, right-wing agenda—and for years, he has tipped the scales in her favor. All the while, the dark money groups fueling their priorities continue to reap the benefits and build power. "Now that the extent of their corruption has begun to be revealed, we know that they are a clear and present danger to our democracy. But so far, few if any Democrats have been willing to take the requisite actions. It should be obvious that Clarence Thomas should resign or be impeached, and it is unconscionable that only one member of Congress, Representative Ilhan Omar, has called for such. "When I am elected to Congress, voters can count on me to speak truth to power, no matter what. I am not afraid to say that this kind of corruption has no place in our government—and Democrats cannot be afraid either," said D'Arrigo.

Still unknown is whether Justice Thomas knew the extent that his wife was texting Trump Chief of Staff Mark Meadows, which included, "Help This Great President (Trump) stand firm, Mark!!!... You are the leader, with him, who is standing for America's constitutional governance at the precipice. The majority knows Biden and the Left is attempting the greatest Heist of our History. I will try to keep holding on. America is worth it!"

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**Family of Filipina Woman, Victim of Anti-Asian Attack, Sets Up GoFundMe Page**



**A FEW WORDS FROM PAM YANG, WHO ORGANIZED THIS FUNDRAISER** Note: This is the official fundraiser for the woman of the Yonkers anti-Asian attack. We won't be sharing names as we are concerned for her and her family's safety and want to respect their privacy as they deal with this horrific event.

They are represented pro bono by the law firm of Paul, Weiss. Any press inquiries can be directed to Jennifer Wu (jwu at paulweiss.com). The letter below is from the children of the Yonkers survivor:

On March 11, our mom, a hardworking 67-year-old Filipina woman, was assaulted in front of her own home. In this despicable, unprovoked attack, she suffered serious head trauma and internal injuries. She is currently stable and out of the hospital, but has extensive injuries that requires constant outpatient care. It's a miracle that she'll be able to make a full recovery, but it will be a long journey and we don't know when she'll be able to go back to work. Her attacker was our neighbor and lived in her building. She will have to move to ensure her safety as she cannot continue living in her home, apartment building, or neighborhood. We want to protect our mother any way we can, so we ask to stay anonymous so that she can focus on her recovery without being bombarded by the media or having more fears for her safety. We are grateful for the outpouring of love for our mom and any support you're willing to contribute to her medical bills, rehabilitation and mental health services, and move to a new home. Thank you so much.

What Happened To Our Mom Our mom was returning home and saw Tam-mel Esco in front of her building. As she walked past him, he called her an "Asian bitch." Ignoring him, she walked into the lobby of her building and while trying to open the second door, Esco approached her from behind, slugged her, and knocked her to the ground. This was entirely unprovoked. He then stood over our mom and punched her in the head and face more than 125 times before stomping on her seven times then spitting on her. Our mom suffered multiple contusions and lacerations to her head and face, facial bone fractures, and bleeding in the brain. She is stable and still recovering from her injuries.

If you can make a contribution, go to the GoFundMe, at <https://gf.me/v/c/m6nj/help-filipina-woman-of-yonkers-antiasian-attack>

**Send in the Clowns...The Oscar Edition**



By Eric W. Schoen

Don't slap me on the face but with what happened Sunday night and what's been happening this week so far, the clowns are still with us! So, I decided not to change the title of the column. Let us start with, sadly the most important thing: The Academy Awards Presentation better known as the Oscars.

The producers of the show and ABC agreed to a three hour show. It ended up being over three and a half hours, with most of America not having the opportunity unless you have streaming services of seeing the winning film. We will get to that in a minute.

There are certain jokes, particularly when they pertain to health that are not meant for an Oscar show or any comedic venue. Chris Rock's joke regarding Will Smith's wife's hair loss condition is one of them. It was totally inappropriate and he should never host another awards show.

But for Will Smith to go on the stage and 'bitch slap' Chris Rock? We look to these actors as role models for our children and ourselves. As a person deeply involved for years in public relations, any good P.R. Person would have advised Smith to sit down, get the award everyone knew he was getting, and when he went into the Press Room to greet the media after his win to go after Rock.

If Smith did that he would be a hero today and Chris Rock would be out of a job. And Smith could have taken victory laps for his exceptional performance and victory. Instead, ticket sales skyrocketed at the venue Rock would have probably been playing to many empty seats this week.

Many thought it was an act. But it's not an act when ABC starts bleeping Will Smith's words. You want to be in the public eye you need to learn to control your emotions and let a good Public Relations guy or gal help you do what you need to do. Come to think of it, we really haven't seen anybody 'bitch slap' someone in ages. No offense but it is very 'girlie' thing to do, not something you expect from a guy.

CODA (Child of Deaf Adults) won for best picture. I doubt many of you saw it. I didn't. That's because on top of the \$329 cable television, internet and telephone bill I get I would have to pay for streaming services. It is only available on the Apple streaming service, so my friends with Apple stock saw their shares soar after the best picture win.

I like to see new movies on the large screen at the Multiplex. I saw Sandra Bullock's new movie over the weekend at the comfortable, reclining seat Cross County movie theater that was packed. Skip the Bullock movie (no Gone with the Wind). The theaters are sanitized and you are supposed to leave your mask on except when eating or drinking. Covid safe. Bring a little bottle of water from home in to get around that. Particularly if it's a slow, boring 2 1/2 hour movie where many people fall asleep with their masks on. The theaters have installed air filtration systems to keep you healthy.

The Power of the Dog is another movie you can't catch at the multiplex. The next big controversy will be between the streaming services and the multiplexes. There's room for both if the don't get greedy, but watch for clowns on both sides to defend their defenseless causes.

So we still don't know who the unvaccinated sports figures and performers are but we know the many front line city workers and corporate employees who lost their jobs because they were unvaccinated. And Mayor Eric Adams says as we go to press he's 'tired of hearing from the terminated!' Who does this man think he is. King Richard, no King Eric. Basically it's a case of 'Money Makes the World Go Around' as we see lobbyists got paid big bucks to lobby Eric Adams on this and many other issues. As we are talking Broadway, 'Money Makes the World Go Around' is from Cabaret.

So the clowns at City Hall in New York make the little unvaccinated guys suffer when the baseball and basketball players and those from other sports and performers take the field. Don't get me wrong. I believe everyone should get the vaccinations they qualify for. And I know lawsuits are in the works. Where's the man who supposedly cares for the poor black, white, and Hispanic people, our Congressman Jamaal Bowman. And his comrade, AOC. Silence of the Lambs.

A man living in a tree in Riverbank State Park has finally received a notice evicting him from the tree giving him shelter options. Problem is the operators of these shelters give big bucks to politicians who let them make mega money operating dangerous facilities. Do you realize some of these shelters, not only in New York City but in Westchester too get over \$100 a night to 'house' the homeless who are allowed in at 9 p.m. and must leave by 6 a.m. the next day. You multiply \$100 a day (most shelters get much more) times 30 days a month and we are

*continued on pg 6-*

**Letter to the Editor:**

I truly believe that only by seeing the vicious and cowardly attack upon this defenseless woman can moral outrage be ignited. This unfortunate woman was bothering no one. She was just trying to live her life when this piss poor excuse for a human being, a feral subhuman, viciously attacks her. Even though he is obviously bigger and stronger than his frail, petite victim this vile parasite attacks her from the back, giving her no chance whatsoever to defend herself as she is repeatedly and brutally beaten. Let there be no apologists for this appalling barbarism, this brutal assault upon public safety, the bedrock foundation of civilization. To defeat hatred you must see it and look into its eyes to realize its insatiable evil. By watching this video, in the words of Tennessee Williams, "Mankind has its fingertips pressed to the fiery braille of reality." Taking the video down deprives society of a crucial learning experience, the lessons learned when our focused awareness is pressed onto the fiery braille of reality.

Jerry Longarzo, Yonkers

**Opinion about YouTube video**

I just read the article on YouTube taking down a recent beating in Yonkers, because it "violates our violent or graphic content policy." I agree with the YPD and view it as censorship which is so prevalent in our society today. I think something like this video, although shocking and upsetting, educates the public as to what people are capable of doing to each other, and that in our country people who commit such crimes deserve punishment in our courts of law.

Thank you!

Catherine Smith (life time Yonkers resident)

Email your letters and opinions to [Risingmediagroup@gmail.com](mailto:Risingmediagroup@gmail.com)

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## Westchester County Youth Board Recognizes Three “Sheros of Positive Youth Development



As part of Women’s History Month, the Westchester County Youth Board hosted the 4th Annual Shero Awards virtually on Tuesday, March 22, 2022. This year’s “Sheros” were Executive Director of the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau Debbie Burrell-Butler, Executive Director of the Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, Inc. Joanne Dunn and Coalition Coordinator of the Ossining Communities that Care for Open Door Family Medical Center Alice Joselow.

County Executive George Latimer said: “Westchester County is fortunate to have no shortage of women who are seen as every day sheros in their communities. This year’s honorees are noted for their tireless work in the areas of positive youth development, juvenile justice, and alcohol and substance abuse prevention. We thank them for serving as excellent resources and role models to the children, youth, and families that they serve.”

Westchester County Youth Bureau Executive Director Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden said: “When the ‘Shero’ Awards were conceptualized in 2018, we knew there would be an extensive list of dynamic women who immerse themselves in remedying quality of life issues for children and youth. We also recognized that there would be many who were born with the superpower to of creating change day after day, even when they think no one notices. Therefore, this occasion is our way of acknowledging the contributions within County funded programs and beyond.”

Youth Board President Dr. Alexandria Connelly said: “the 2022 Sheros are recognized as true collaborators and key influencers in their respective agencies and have ensured effectiveness within the programs that they oversee. The Board and Bureau appreciates their dedication particularly for their partnership with the Westchester County Youth Bureau, Board, and community at large.”

### About the 2022 Sheros:

Debbie Burrell-Butler is the Executive Director of the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau. Debbie attended the Mount Vernon City Schools and graduated from Mount Vernon High School in 2001. For the past 21 years, Debbie has worked various roles within the City of Mount Vernon government until her appointment to her current role in August 2018. Today, she continues to drive changes within the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau and her community by providing youth and young adults ages 6-24 with a voice to advocate for themselves and others. She also continues to write and apply for grants that provide paid internships and work experiences for youth, which have led to careers within high-demanding fields. She remains dedicated to her mission and provides resources to families in need, increase positive youth development like job readiness and educational programs to youth and building meaningful relationships within the community which aids in young people overcoming barriers and provide them with life-changing opportunities.

Joanne Dunn is a human service professional who has over 15 years of experience creating and executing programs throughout the Westchester County, NY. She is the first woman to lead the Youth Shelter Program of Westchester, an alternative to incarceration program that serves young men between the ages of 16-21, awaiting disposition or who have been sentenced for various criminal convictions. She has served as a troop leader for the Westchester Putnam Girl Scouts, a member of the Peekskill City School Districts Parental/Community Involvement Committee, a Parent Coordinator for the Peekskill Pop Warner Football League and as an Executive Board Member for the Peekskill NAACP. Joanne’s leadership philosophy is to lead by example. Her mission in life is to empower and employ others to channel their pain into their purpose; particularly those who are troubled with life’s obstacles and helping them use these adversities as a vehicle for good/change. She continues to push her own boundaries personally and professionally. In her spare time, she is a champion for children in need of a home and works with the United Way of Westchester Putnam to promote and locate foster families.

Alice Joselow is a community advocate. She has lived in Ossining for 24 years and currently works for the Open Door Family Medical Center where she coordinates and chairs a federally funded (SAMHSA Drug Free Communities grant) coalition called Ossining Communities That Care which is focused on reducing teen substance abuse and the promotion of positive youth development in Ossining.

Alice was elected to the Ossining Board of Education (BOE) in 1999 and served for 12 years on the board. In the course of her BOE service she worked to keep kids first, to narrow the achievement gap and ensure equitable and high academic outcomes for all students, she worked to build up many new community collaborations, and helped to plan and pass several bond issues. Alice also helped to start “A Kid’s Place” day care center, and was the managing vice president of the Ossining Food Pantry for many years as well. Alice is a founding member of both the Ossining Communities That Care (OCTC) community coalition and Ossining MATTERS, the local educational foundation.

Send us your letters, opinions, photographs, story ideas and guest columns to: [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com)

## Owner of Recycled Paws Rescue Pleads Guilty to Stealing \$18k From Non-Profit Dog Rescue



On March 25, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that Lisa Marie Birdsall, the owner of Recycled Paws Rescue in Mohegan Lake, pled guilty to stealing nearly \$18,000 from the not-for-profit dog rescue organization.

Birdsall, 56, of Yorktown, pled guilty on March 23, 2022, to Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, a felony, and Petit Larceny, a misdemeanor. As part of her plea agreement, Birdsall will be required to pay full restitution for the monies stolen to another organization that cares for animals.

Between January 2020 and December 2020, Birdsall stole \$17,956 from money that was donated to Recycled Paws Rescue for the care of animals and used the money for her own personal purposes.

The SPCA of Westchester’s Humane Law Enforcement Unit arrested Birdsall on July 13, 2021, following a joint investigation with District Attorney’s Economic Crimes Bureau.

The case is before Judge Alexandra Murphy in Westchester County Court, and is being prosecuted by Economic Crimes Bureau Chief Gwen Galef. The District Attorney’s Office thanks the SPCA of Westchester’s Humane Law Enforcement Unit for their collaboration on this case.

Birdsall is scheduled to be sentenced on March 22, 2023. Recycled Paws Rescue, Inc., opened in 2017 with the goal “to provide every rescued pup with a loving forever home.”

Birdsall, 55, was arrested in July of 2021, by Ernest Lungaro of SPCA Westchester. SPCA Westchester is a no-kill animal welfare organization located in Briarcliff Manor. The SPCA is not affiliated with the ASPCA. Visit us at [spcawestchester.org](http://spcawestchester.org).

## WESTCHESTER COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU SEEKS APPLICANTS FOR NYS GOVERNOR’S YOUTH COUNCIL



The Westchester County Youth Bureau is seeking young people ages 13 to 21 to represent Westchester County on the New York State Governor’s Youth Council. Governor Kathy Hochul has announced applications are open for this Youth Council which will be comprised of one representative from each county in the state – totaling 62 members.

Interested youth should submit an application by April 4, 2022 through the online portal available at <https://nysylc.secure-platform.com/a>. Candidates will be selected on their character, leadership skills, academic achievement, civic engagement, and service to their community. Members of the NYS Governor’s Youth Council will meet virtually and will provide recommendations to the Governor and other policymakers on many different issues, including: Mental Health Challenges on Youth Substance Use and Prevention, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Gender-based Violence Prevention & Response, Creating Positive Interactions between Youth & Law Enforcement, Youth Programming in a Virtual World, Youth Voice & Engagement: Creating Opportunities Addressing Identity and Community Needs. The Youth Bureau will search far and wide for applicants.

Three applicants will be selected to advance to the final selection process in Albany, where one youth will be selected. Please contact the Westchester County Youth Bureau at [wcyb@westchestergov.com](mailto:wcyb@westchestergov.com) or (914) 995-2745 with questions.

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## NY Young Republicans Name Mt. Pleasant Clerk Constanza, Yonkers Techie Murphy Rising Stars



Emily Constanza, left, Patrick Murphy, right

On Saturday, March 12th, Westchester Young Republicans Emily Costanza and Patrick Murphy were recognized as Rising Stars by New York State Young Republicans during their annual Rising Star ceremony in Albany. Westchester Young Republican Chairman Devin O'Rourke said "I'm very proud of Patrick and Emily and I'm happy to see that their hard work was recognized by NYSYR. Emily worked very hard during her election last year for both herself and the rest of the Republican Slate. Patrick has been a member of WCYR for nearly a decade and does whatever he can to help the Republican Party. I couldn't think of any better choices!"

Patrick Murphy was born in The Bronx, raised in Yonkers. He earned his BBA from Baruch College in Manhattan Patrick has been involved in politics for almost 19 years, going on his first canvassing deployment for Republican candidates with his dad when he was 10 years old. Murphy has volunteered or provided tech & media consulting & services for all levels of government, city council, county legislature, assembly, county clerk, state senate, and congress, in Westchester, Putnam, and Suffolk counties.

Patrick joined the Westchester Young Republicans 10 years ago, serving as PR Director & Treasurer from 2015-2020. Being a proud 1st generation Guyanese-American, Murphy is also involved in the Asian-American Republicans, serving on their board from 2016-2018. Patrick is the President of New Logical Tech & Media Consulting, where aside from political work, he consults and maintains the IT & digital media presence for small businesses, government agencies, and sports organizations.

Emily Costanza is a lifelong resident of Mount Pleasant and was elected as its Town Clerk last year. Since graduating from Rutgers University, where she studied Political Science and Communications, Emily has served as a District Leader with the Westchester Republican County Committee. She has been involved in local, state, and national political campaigns in various capacities for over seven years, helping Republicans win throughout the state and country.

## Gagliardi Appointed Superintendent of Lakeland Schools

On March 24, the Lakeland Board of Education appointed Dr. Karen Gagliardi as Superintendent of Schools. For the past six months, Dr. Gagliardi has been the interim Superintendent.

In a letter to students, families and staff, Gagliardi writes, "As you may know, yesterday evening, I was appointed as Superintendent of Schools at the Board of Education Business Meeting. I was able to share my sentiments with those in attendance, and I wanted to extend my gratitude to the entire Lakeland community today.

"My experience serving the district over the last six months has greatly reaffirmed my commitment to serving in this role. Thank you for your confidence in me as I move forward in this role.

"I am proud of the strides our community has made in just six months. The future is bright for Lakeland, and I am humbled and honored to lead and serve our district. With the restrictions and mandates of the pandemic behind us, we will sharpen our focus on instruction and work to enhance our educational spaces to best engage students. There will always be challenges to overcome, but I am confident that we will continue to grow together to support the needs of all students through collaboration and learning from one another.

To close, I would also like to note that the timing and location of my appointment are especially meaningful, with March being Women's History Month and the fact that both of my daughters' graduated from Lakeland High School. The District has been my professional home for many many years. I share this appointment with everyone who has influenced and supported my journey," wrote Gagliardi.

Gagliardi has served in the Lakeland school since 2003, including Principal at Thomas Jefferson Elementary School. Lakeland School Board President Adam Kaufman said, "In addition to her leadership skills, Dr. Gagliardi has a keen understanding of the needs of our district and has assembled a strong leadership team that is equally dedicated to the students of Lakeland."

Gagliardi was the subject of outrageous abuses from members of the Lakeland community at a school board meeting on Feb. 10, when she was called a "n\*\*\*\* lover" by someone in the crowd while walking out at the end of the meeting.

## Free Rabies Vaccines for Westchester Pets April 24 in New Rochelle

Westchester County residents can bring their dogs, cats and ferrets for free rabies vaccinations on Sunday, April 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Stamen Animal Hospital, 61 Quaker Ridge Road in New Rochelle. Appointments are required. Call 914-632-1269 for more information. An adult must supervise all pets. Cats and ferrets must be in carriers and dogs must be on a leash. Under New York State law, dogs and cats must receive their first rabies vaccine no later than four months after birth. A second rabies shot must be given within one year of the first vaccine. All animal bites or contacts with animals suspected of having rabies must be reported to the Westchester County Health Department at (914) 813-5000.

## Letter: Judge Ragazzo on the Hot Seat for Decision, National Media Alerted



**Editor's Note:** Last week, we wrote about Cortlandt Town Justice Kimberly Ragazzo, left, and a decision she rendered concerning Bryan Illescas, who was arrested for DUI and held until his mother picked him up. But before he left with mom, Illescas punched a state trooper in the head.

Illescas was charged with felony assault and DUI. DA Mimi Rocah's office recommended bail at \$15,000 cash or a \$30,000 bond.

Judge Ragazzo released Illescas without bail because he had to return to college for an exam.

James Vespe of Mamaroneck writes, "Judge" Ragazzo probably never expected to become even better known than President Biden's Supreme Court appointee, Judge Jackson. But hopefully, she's on her way.

Upon reading your story, and after picking myself off the floor, I shared the story about "Judge" Ragazzo with Rick Burgess, host of "Rick and Bubba" the most popular morning talk show in Alabama. I also shared it with Geraldo Rivera, who now hosts a morning radio show in Cleveland (yes, Geraldo in Cleveland).

Here's my e-mail to Rick Burgess. You might want to call him some morning at 866-WE-BE-BIG. You could even say Jim from New York suggested you call. A student who punched a trooper after being arrested for multiple driving violations was released without bail so he would not miss an exam the next day. The subject of the exam? Criminal justice!

## Alzheimer's Association Virtual and In Person Events for April

The following events are scheduled for April 2022. Unless otherwise noted, they will be held virtually and registration can be made online, by visiting or by calling the Alzheimer's Association at 800.272.3900.

Something for Alz: Musical Moments: 11 a.m. to noon Fridays, April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29: A free virtual interactive music program with therapist Tim Doak.

Something for Alz: Creative Expression: 11 a.m. to noon Saturdays, April 2, 9 and 16: A free virtual creative arts program with therapist Jayne Henderson. Tune into this program with drawing materials at hand.

Healthy Living for your Brain and Body: 7-7:30 p.m. Monday, April 4: A free virtual program in partnership with Irvington Public Library with information on diet, nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement. Get hands-on tools to develop a plan for healthy aging. To register, click here.

Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia: 7:30-8 p.m. Monday April 4: A free virtual program in partnership with Irvington Public Library. Learn about the impact of Alzheimer's, the difference between dementia and Alzheimer's, risk factors, disease stages, research, treatments and Alzheimer's Association resources.

Dementia Conversations: 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 5. A free virtual program in partnership with Bronxville Public Library with helpful tips to assist families with difficult dementia-related conversations, such as going to the doctor, deciding when to stop driving and making legal and financial plans.

Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behavior: 9:30-10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 6. Behavior is one of the primary ways people with dementia communicate their needs and feelings once the ability to use language is lost. Learn to decode common behaviors so you can connect at every stage of the disease.

10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's: 1:30-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 6. A free in-person program in partnership with Pine Bush Area Public Library at 223-227 Maple Ave., Pine Bush. Learn about 10 common warning signs and what to watch for in yourself and others, typical age-related changes, how to approach someone about memory concerns, early detection, the benefits of a diagnosis, the diagnostic process and Alzheimer's Association resources.

Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behavior: 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, April 6. A free hybrid program in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County via Zoom or in person at 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road, Liberty. To register, click here. Behavior is one of the primary ways people with dementia communicate their needs and feelings once the ability to use language is lost. Learn to decode common behaviors so you can connect at every stage of the disease.

Sunday Social: 12:30-3 p.m. Sunday, April 10. Join us for a fun in-person social program for people with dementia and their family caregivers featuring lunch and music at The Club at Briarcliff Manor, 25 Scarborough Road, Briarcliff Manor.

Healthy Living for your Brain and Body: 2 p.m. Monday, April 11. A free virtual program in partnership with New City Library with information on diet, nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement. Get hands-on tools to develop a plan for healthy aging.

Legal and Financial Planning for Alzheimer's Disease: 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 12. A free virtual program in partnership with Bronxville Public Library with information on legal and financial issues to consider before an Alzheimer's diagnosis and how to put plans in place for the future.

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RECEIVED THE WARRANT TO COLLECT THE

2022  
TOWN OF EASTCHESTER  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER  
EASTCHESTER FIRE DISTRICT  
TAXES

EASTCHESTER TOWN HALL-40 MILL ROAD, Eastchester  
OFFICE HOURS 8:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M –MONDAY THROUGH FRI-  
DAY

TAXES DUE  
APRIL 1, 2022  
Payable by April 30th without penalty

DEADLINES MATTER--TO AVOID PENALTY: tax payment must be  
received by April 30, 2022.

IMPORTANT: Official U.S. Postal Service postmarks are accepted to  
secure a penalty-free payment if postmarked on or before the due date.  
FedEx, UPS, and DHL mailed to 40 Mill Road, Eastchester can also be ac-  
cepted as timely if showing a mailing on or before the due date. However,  
metered mail postmarks (such as Pitney-Bowes or Quadiant/Neopost, for  
example) are NOT acceptable for this purpose under the NYS Real Property  
Tax Law (RPTL), and neither are foreign postmarks. An envelope without  
any postmark-- or an illegible postmark-- is deemed under the law to have  
been made on the date of delivery to the collecting officer. If the due date is  
not met, the following Penalties prescribed by tax law for deferred payment  
apply:

RATES OF PENALTIES:

Month	Penalty
May 2022	2%
June – July 2022	5%
August—September 2022	7%
October—December 2022	10%
January—April 2023	12%
May 2023	13%
June 2023	14%

On July 1, 2023--any unpaid 2022 taxes becomes a Lien: additional 1% per  
month thereafter.

List of delinquent taxes will be filed with the Westchester County  
Clerk's Office on July 1st

ROCCO N. CACCIOLA, RECEIVER OF TAXES  
(914) 771-3346 March 22, 2022

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

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

Notice of formation of Will On Wheels Transport Services LLC Articles of Organization  
filed with the SSNY Office on 02/18/2022 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has  
been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY  
shall mail a copy of process to : C/O Will on Wheels Transport Services LLC, 519 Locust  
Street 1B Mount Vernon, NY 10552 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Molcan Management LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the  
SSNY on 11/9/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the  
LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of pro-  
cess to the LLC, 34 Wickes Ave Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**Eric Schoen continued from pg 3-**

talking about over \$3000 a month. For the shelter operators which include some  
religious organizations it's 'Nice Work if You Can Get It!'

Governor Hochul wants to give \$850 million to build a stadium in Buffalo.  
Is she kidding. She says it's, 'Good for the Buffalo Economy.' I think she should  
worry about the investigations going on regarding her Lt. Governor, Brian Benja-  
min before she starts building stadiums in Buffalo. She was at Andrew Cuomo's  
side for over 6 1/2 years. You tell me she knew 'nothing' about what was going on  
with Mr. Cuomo. By the way, don't buy the line Mr. Cuomo is running for Govern-  
or in a primary against Hochul. He would have had to pay professional signature  
collectors a lot of money to get the required signatures on time to get on the bal-  
lot.

So many people who left New York City during Covid miss the smells of hot  
dogs, shish kebabs, roasting nuts including chestnuts roasting on an open fire that  
a company has produced a candle that smells like the New York smells they miss!

President Joe Biden is honest and says Putin has to go and my colleagues on  
the left and right go nuts after his statement. Why? Honesty is the best Policy!

The last row in the movie theater is reserved for handicapped. A mother buys  
every seat in that row for her kids and refuses to move to the many empty seats  
when some handicapped individuals come in to the theater. I saw it a a movie  
theater in Yonkers.

Speed bumps on Rumsey Road in Yonkers and big signs listing the speed  
limit of 20 miles per hour. A car beeps me expecting me to fly over the speed  
bumps. I stop cold. You should too, and stay in the middle of the road so the idiots  
can't pass you.

The MTA several years ago bans those with criminal histories from riding  
the subways. The New York Post asks for a list of names. Not one name on the  
'criminals banned from subways' list!

Why does the New York Pension System have \$300 Million invested in the  
Russian Stock Market? No good companies to invest in in our country? Now they  
can't get the money out!

Duane Reade closes in Manhattan on 8th Avenue because people are walk-  
ing in with their recyclable bags wiping the store shelves clean. I go to a CVS on  
8th and 47th streets and the security guard is busy texting and talking on her cell  
phone while I'm in the store. A man comes into the 7-11 in Yonkers, walks to the  
back of the store, shoplifts while a police car is taking information on a car ac-  
cident in the parking lot.

A kangaroo is on the loose after making his way out of a Hudson Valley animal  
retreat. 'Rocko' has been reported missing for days in Orange County out of  
the Noah's Ark Animal Retreat in Goshen. Who know's maybe next week our title  
will be 'Send in the Kangaroos!'

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

**Print your legal notice with us: Email  
dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com for more information.**

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER DY-  
NASTY, LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST CGSRE ACQUISITION CORP, ET AL.,  
Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered October  
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 April 29, 2022 at 2:30PM, 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 Yon-  
kers, 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 WEST-  
CHESTER County COVID-19 Protocols located on the Office of Court Adminis-  
tration (OCA) website (<https://ww2.nycourts.gov/Admin/oca.shtml>) and as such all  
persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening prac-  
tices 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 50855-2019

**DA Rocah Promotes Latheia Smith as First Black Woman  
to Serve as Senior Criminal Investigator**

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced the promo-  
tion of Latheia Smith, the first woman, and also the first Black woman, to hold the  
position of Senior Criminal Investigator in the history of the Westchester County  
District Attorney's Office.

"Latheia Smith is an extraordinarily talented investigator who has dedicated  
her life to making her community safer through a career in law enforcement. She  
shares my vision of a criminal justice system that balances justice for victims with  
fairness for all involved," DA Rocah said. "I am proud to promote Investigator  
Smith in recognition of her many exceptional talents, skills and achievements.  
Making this Office truly representative of the diversity of the communities we  
serve by having women and women of color in leadership positions in law en-  
forcement is critically important."

"Working at the Westchester County District Attorney's Office has provided  
me with the opportunity to serve the County that I live in by working cases and  
assisting agencies with their investigations," Investigator Smith said. "As a law  
enforcement officer, my ability to help victims and their families while they are  
going through a criminal matter is incredibly rewarding. I'm thrilled to be promot-  
ed to Senior Criminal Investigator, and am proud to not only be the first woman in  
that role, but also the first Black woman."

Investigator Smith began her career in 2003 with the Mount Vernon Police  
Department, where she worked on and investigated a wide range of cases in the  
General Investigations Division, Narcotics Division and Street Crime. Her dedica-  
tion and experience resulted in her being promoted to Detective.

In 2009, Investigator Smith joined the District Attorney's Office Criminal  
Investigators Squad, where she has investigated and assisted in the prosecution of  
homicides, sexual assaults, child abuse, elder abuse, narcotics cases, and domestic  
violence. Investigator Smith, who is currently assigned to the Criminal Investiga-  
tors Special Prosecutions Unit, oversees investigations into matters including  
human trafficking, sex crimes, domestic violence, elder abuse and child  
abuse. She was promoted by DA Rocah on February 21, 2022,

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9474. Car Donation Foundation d/b/a Wheels For Wishes. [www.wheelsforwishes.org](http://www.wheelsforwishes.org).

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anteed! 1-855-579-8907

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able. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-888-  
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**Scavino, contempt of Congress, continued from pg. 1-**

After the departure of many members of the Trump administration during 2020, Scavino became one of Trump's longest serving loyalists in The White House.

During his years at Yorktown High School, where he played on the football and lacrosse teams, Scavino caddied at nearby Briar Hall Country Club in Briarcliff Manor. A 16-year-old Scavino carried the golf bag for Trump in 1990 and got a generous \$200 tip from Trump, who told him, "You are going to work for me one day."

Scavino went off to college and Trump purchased the club in Briarcliff and renamed it Trump National Golf Club. Scavino got a job at the club in 2004 as assistant manager and became general manager in 2008. When Trump ran for president, Scavino became an early, and eager volunteer on the campaign.

On the Trump campaign, Scavino served as a jack-of-all-trades and serving as an assistant to the president, fetching food at McDonald's and KFC, but also typing out the many Trump tweets as dictated by the candidate.

After Trump's election, Scavino was rewarded for his loyalty when he was given the job and title of assistant to the president and director of social media, a position that had never existed before, with a salary of \$179,700.

During the Trump administration, former Fox News host Chris Wallace named Scavino a "Power Player of the Week." "He's been called the Hemingway of Twitter many times," Scavino told Wallace about Trump. "I've always believed in being with the man from day one. Let Trump be Trump." Scavino said working with Trump means the world to him and said he is like family. "He's loyal to his family and is loyal to me."

House Democrats hold a narrow, 9 seat majority, which means that if 5 democrats decide not to refer Scavino to the DOJ, there will be no criminal charges coming.

Scavino's lawyers wrote in March of this year, "The determination of whether such records are protected from disclosure by executive privilege is not for Mr. Scavino to make," Scavino's lawyers, Stan M. Brand and Stanley E. Woodward Jr., wrote, arguing that the request for those records "is more properly directed to the National Archives."

The committee wrote, in their report released on March 27, that Scavino, separately promoted activities designed to advance Mr. Trump's success as a presidential candidate. He continued to do so after the 2020 election, promoting activities designed to reverse the outcome of a lost election. Mr. Scavino reportedly attended several meetings with the President in which challenges to the election were discussed," the committee wrote in its report. "Mr. Scavino also tracked social media on behalf of President (Donald) Trump, and he did so at a time when sites reportedly frequented by Mr. Scavino suggested the possibility of violence on January 6th."

**Tuckahoe Democrats and debates continued from pg. 1-**

exist). The Republicans lost because they were using national/state issues and talking points (which are legit when talking about Albany and Washington) but do not relate Tuckahoe.

"There wasn't any mention of defunding the police, no crazy taxes raising plans and woke nonsense from the Democratic candidates. Now we have to see how the Dems will govern with one party rule in Tuckahoe. Will it go to their head or will they govern with a steady hand? We shall see. Running a campaign focused on positive change, with a focus on local issues with minimal denigration of their opponents is the playbook to win in Tuckahoe, and in Westchester County.

One of the mailings from Tuckahoe republicans highlighted the high price of gasoline. While this issue affects all of our pocketbooks, there is little if anything that the Village of Tuckahoe can do to influence the price of a gallon of gas, in Tuckahoe, Eastchester or anywhere," said Dardano, who has voted for democrats and republicans in past elections, and who is exactly the type of moderate, independent Westchester voter that republicans need to attract in order to be competitive in Westchester County politics.

The questions that many are asking is, will a nationalized debate, focusing on bail reform, inflation and the price of gas, work in elections for Assembly, State Senate and Congress, here in Westchester?

That's the question, and the answer depends on who you speak with. Westchester Democrats say that most residents and voters are content with life in our county. Crime is down, real estate prices are up (way up) and ills affecting New York City and other parts of the country aren't happening here. Vote Democrat and keep the progress going is the narrative of Westchester County Democrats and their elected leaders.

Westchester Republicans tell a different tale. The GOP believes that bail reform is a danger to everyone, including Westchester residents, and inflation is eating away at your paychecks and the price of gas is hitting your pocketbook with a right hook.

A "Red Wave" of republican support is needed across the country, to show your dissatisfaction with President Joe Biden, and with NY Governor Kathy Hochul. The way to do that is vote republican, and, to his credit, Westchester Republican Chair Doug Colety has filled the election ballot for 2022 in Westchester with candidates for Assembly, State Senate and Congress. So if there is a Red Wave, Colety and the GOP have provided you with a way to make a your voice heard.

Which model works? We will have to wait for election day, November 8, to see. But in the mean time, we agree with Dardano that ALL candidates have to debate, and exchange ideas and stand toe to toe next to their opponents.

We disagreed with the decision last year by the republican candidate for County Executive Christine Sculti, not to debate her opponent, democrat George Latimer. Sculti has been involved in politics from the outside for many years. She is well versed on the issues of the day, and while Latimer has hundreds of debates under his belt, you never know what will happen.

You have to sit in the chair, look into the camera, and ask the people of your community for their vote, and explain why you want it.

In Tuckahoe, the final results were close. Democrats Cara Kronen, 841 votes, and Nicole Engelbert 810, Republicans Danny Lang 791, Gina Lee 747.

Danny Lang lost the 2nd seat on the Village Board by 19 votes. If both he and Gina Lee would have participated in the debate, would it have mattered?

**Hunger Strike, and Pushback, on Any Bail Reform Changes, as State Budget to Pass Soon**

**Editor's Note:** As we go to press on March 30, a State Budget has yet to be agreed to by Governor Kathy Hochul, State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie.

Still undecided is whether any changes to the Bail Reforms and Criminal Justice Reforms passed in 2019 will be amended, as proposed by Governor Hochul.

Hochul and Lt. Gov. Brian Benjamin penned an OP-ED in the Daily News on March 24, explaining their 10 point plan to amend Bail and Criminal Justice Reforms. "We need to address the problem of repeat offenders. If someone is committing a second or third offense while out on pretrial release, officers should be able to make an arrest and not be limited, as they are in many cases, to issuing a "desk appearance ticket." Similarly, hate crimes should be subject to arrest, not desk appearance tickets. And for repeat offenders, judges should be allowed to set bail — even if the crime would not currently be bail-eligible.

"Second, we should make it possible for judges to set bail in all felony cases involving illegal guns, including when illegal guns are sold or given to minors — a crime that is, astonishingly, not currently bail-eligible.

"Finally, for violent crimes and crimes involving guns, we should make it possible for judges to set more restrictive pretrial conditions, based on concrete criteria. Right now, all decisions about bail and pretrial detention must be based solely on the "least restrictive" conditions necessary to ensure the defendant returns to court," writes Hochul and Benjamin.

Many democratic progressives in the NY Senate and Assembly are against making any changes to Bail and Criminal justice reforms, including Brooklyn Democratic Assemblymember Latrice Walker, who helped create the bail reform laws that were passed three years ago.

Walker has gone on a hunger strike to protest Hochul's proposed changes. "Gov. Hochul still hasn't provided any data to support the need for changes to criminal justice reforms, including bail reform. Math doesn't lie, but people do. I will fight until the bitter end. Still strong on the seventh day of my hunger strike," Tweeted Walker.

Progressive criminal justice reform groups, also oppose any changes to Bail and Criminal Justice reforms. Marvin Mayfield, with the Center for Community Alternatives, said that advocates felt "Blindsided, bamboozled, betrayed" when Hochul proposed her changes. "We want to let the public know that bail reform is working. There is no data that says that it has contributed to any uptick in crime."

Any changes to Bail and Criminal Justice reform will be put into the State Budget, which is due on April 1. We await the outcome of the state budget and will report on it next week.

**VIRTUAL DISCUSSION FOR MEN LIVING WITH LOSS**

Support Connection, Inc. announces a free program: It's Okay to Grieve, Let's Talk: An Open Discussion for Men Living With Loss. It will held via ZOOM video conference on Tues., April 12, from 7 - 8 pm NY time.

Open to men nationwide who have lost a spouse or partner to breast, ovarian or gynecological cancer, regardless of how much time has gone by. To learn more or to register, call Support Connection at 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290 by 5 pm (NY time) on Monday, April 11.

It is never possible to prepare yourself for the loss of a spouse or partner. Learning how to cope with the grief and the impact on your life is hard to do alone. Speaking with others who've also been through it is an excellent way to learn and feel less alone.

A facilitator who has also lost his spouse to breast cancer will lead the discussion, including following topics: There is no one way to grieve - no right way, and no wrong way; Understanding the challenges and uncertainties that accompany loss; Dealing with unexpected "trigger points" and reminders; Coping with loneliness, holidays; Giving yourself permission to move forward.

To learn more, visit [www.supportconnection.org](http://www.supportconnection.org)

**Catalytic Converter Theft, continued from pg. 1-**

7777. Often times CAT thieves will prowl in the middle of the night; tools used may include a reciprocating saw – the entire event can happen in under a minute. If you hear metal sawing noises at night, it could be a CAT thief at work.

- Park in a garage or other secured area when possible.
- Park in a well lit area or near motion lights.
- Park in view of surveillance cameras, or have them installed to watch your driveway.
- Consider having your repair shop engrave your vehicle's VIN number on the CAT, or even weld a cage over the CAT.

Yonkers City Councilman John Rubbo is trying to make life more difficult for Catalytic Converter thieves. "I started reaching out to auto body shops to talk about having them etch the VIN numbers (vehicle identification number) on the catalytic converters. Some are willing to do it but they have to get the tools."

"This is a call to action in my district, and in Yonkers right now, but it can happen anywhere. This is a call to action to keep our quality of life," said Rubbo, who has looked at what other cities in the US have been doing to combat catalytic converter thefts in their communities.

"In Grover Beach California, they have a VIN etching program and they have the same problem. This is one way to combat it. We are going to come up with a list of auto body stores who agree to participate. You will be able to go to that shop and for a small fee they will etch the VIN numbers.

"This will help the police find your catalytic converter and the small fee is worth it compared to the cost of replacing a catalytic converter," said Rubbo who encouraged residents and auto body shops to call his office at 914-377-6314 and participate.

But Rubbo is right, this could start happening in other parts of Westchester County soon. So if you hear someone sawing in your driveway in the middle of the night, beware, and call 911.

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**March Madness Comes to Westchester:  
Two Stepinac Alum in the Final Four**



*RJ Davis, left and AJ Griffin, right*

For all Westchester sports fans, or for those who are watching the NCAA basketball tournament known as “March Madness,” to see how they do with their brackets, this year’s tournament and Final Four have a Westchester flavor and two players and teams to root for.

Those two teams will play each other in the Final Four for the first time. North Carolina and Duke, two of the most successful college hoops programs ever, will play against each other in the Final Four for the first time on Saturday April 2, at 8:49 PM on CBS (why so late?).

And playing for Carolina is point guard RJ Davis, from White Plains. And for Duke, AJ Griffin from Ossining. Both are Alumnis of Stepinac High School in White Plains. Davis, a sophomore at NC who is also the all time leading scorer in Westchester County history, has had a breakout sophomore year at Carolina, including a 30 point game earlier in the tournament in UNC’s upset over Baylor.

AJ Griffin, a freshman guard-forward, has had a great first year for Duke, including a 20-point game against Louisville earlier this year. In the tournament, Griffin made two free throws with 13 seconds left to send Duke to the Final Four.

Only one of the two Stepinac alums will move on to the finals, but both are major contributors to their teams success and both have had big games for their teams this season. Both may be moving on to the NBA after March Madness. Enjoy the game.

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