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# Westchester Rising

YonkersTimes.com

Friday August 16, 2024

## Mount Vernon's Rai Benjamin Wins Two Olympic Gold Medals in Paris Olympics!



See story on pg 11

## Educators, Elected Officials, Voters, But Not Senator Harckham Call for Jim Wise to Resign from School Board for Anti-Semitic Comments



Calls continue for Jim Wise, right, with State Senator Pete Harckham, to resign

By Dan Murphy

Last week, our story titled Harckham Honors School Board Members Who Loves to Say "From the River to the Sea" received many responses. Most of those responses were to condemn Carmel School Board member Jim Wise for his repeated use of the phrase "From the River to the Sea," and his refusal to acknowledge the overwhelming belief that the phrase is anti-Semitic. "Usage of this phrase has the effect of making members of the Jewish and pro-Israel com-

continued on pg 12-

## Harris Leads Trump 53%-39% in New York

Harris Also Leads by 12 points with 3rd Party Candidates Included in Siena Poll

Vice President Kamala Harris leads former President Donald Trump 53-39% among likely New York State voters, the first time the Siena College poll has included Harris in a horserace against Trump. In late June Trump trailed President Joe Biden by a narrower 47-39%. In a six-way election horserace, Harris leads Trump 49-37%, with seven percent for Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. and four percent for the other three minor party candidates, according to a Siena College poll of New York State likely voters released on August 6.

Harris has a 53-43% favorability rating, up from 42-47% in October 2023.

Voters strongly support the proposed constitutional amendment on Novem-

See story on pg 11

## Gov. Hochul Visits Westchester to Discuss Banning Cell Phones for Students in School



L-R-Mayor Mike Spano, State Senator Shelley Mayer, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Governor Kathy Hochul, Assemblyman Gary Pretlow, County Executive George Latimer

"We can help our young people succeed in the classroom by ensuring they're learning and growing – not clicking and scrolling."

-Governor Kathy Hochul



By Dan Murphy

On Aug. 5, Governor Kathy Hochul held a roundtable with local educators and stakeholders in Westchester as part of her statewide listening tour focused on addressing smartphone use in schools. Gov. Hochul's "listening tour" across the state will help her develop a proposed statewide policy on smartphones in schools to be announced later this year. Any policy will not be in effect until 2025.

"Our young people can be successful in the classroom when they are learning and growing, not clicking and scrolling on the screen," said Governor Hochul. "I have already learned a lot on this listening tour from educators and parents who want to deliver the best outcomes for our children. I am excited to continue working with all stakeholders to develop effective solutions to address the issue of smartphones and other devices in New York schools."

continued on pg 15-

## New Rochelle Police Lieutenant Suspended, DA Rocah Investigating Drug-Evidence Tampering

By Dan Murphy



Sean Michael

NRPD Lt. Sean Michael, facebook photo above, has denied the allegations made against him

New Rochelle Police Department Lieutenant Sean Kane has been suspended from his position, pending a review by Westchester DA Mimi Rocah. The following statement was released by the NRPD concerning Lt. Kane, who was the head of the NRPD's Special Investigations Unit.

"On July 16, 2024, the New Rochelle Police Department received information alleging that a New Rochelle police lieutenant may have deliberately mishandled evidence during a drug investigation that led to an arrest. The information was brought to the department's attention when the defendant in that case filed a civilian complaint with the department. After a preliminary investigation, the New Rochelle Police Department suspended the lieutenant and, on July 29, made an official request to the Westchester County

continued on pg 14-

Read it all  
Online at  
[Yonkerstimes.com](http://Yonkerstimes.com)

## Guns to Gardens Coming to Westchester to Help Turn Unwanted Guns into Garden Tools



some of the garden tools made from guns

By Dan Murphy

Are you tired of hearing of gun tragedies? A group called “Guns to Gardens” is coming to Westchester this fall to try and get unwanted guns off the streets and turn them into Garden tools.

“Guns to Gardens” is a national movement, which works to reduce gun violence by reducing the number of guns in homes and communities. Guns to Gardens Safe Surrender events are offered regularly across the nation, but none yet in New York. At these events, unwanted guns are dismantled, and the leftover parts are later forged into garden tools by trained blacksmiths.

Locally, a Safe Surrender event will be held on Saturday, November 16, at the Scarsdale Friends Meetinghouse, 133 Popham Road, Scarsdale. While the Safe Surrender event is not a traditional gun “Buy Back,” the church will distribute grocery gift cards to thank gun owners for disposing of unwanted guns.

On August 3, an introduction event was held in Mt. Vernon at the First Presbyterian Church in Mount Vernon, to show the public about the group and how the process works. Mount Vernon Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard and County Legislator Shanae Williams were in attendance, along with Liz Schutt from Guns to Gardens, and including Dr. Nancy Dodson of Scarsdale Friends Meetinghouse, and Mark and Cameron from Raw Tools Buffalo, who dismantle firearms and turn them into useful tools. Members from SNUG and Moms Demand Action also attended.

First Presbyterian Church in Mount Vernon, in partnership with South Presbyterian Church in Dobbs Ferry, Scarsdale Friends Meeting, and RAWTools Buffalo, are promoting the event and working together for this new and interesting group.

Mark Stradley, a high school counselor in the Buffalo City Schools, learned how to be a blacksmith in 2019 to show his students that it is possible to heal from gun violence and to choose the way of peacemaking. "I've been in the Buffalo Public Schools [system] for about 15 years, and I've lost probably about a half a dozen students to gun violence," he said. "And even more students that have lost a parent or a loved one to gun violence." Recently, Stradley applied for and received funding from Governor Hochul's Project RISE to take his tools on the road to bring his message of hope and healing to cities that have experienced high levels of gun violence throughout New York State, including Mount Vernon and Yonkers.

Local volunteers heard about Stradley's plan to travel the state and demonstrate turning guns into garden tools and invited him to the First Presbyterian Church in Mount Vernon.

continued on pg 6-

## Night Nurse Sentenced to 30 Days Jail for Endangering Mamaroneck Infant in Her Care

*Defendant was captured on video slapping and shaking the five-week-old baby*

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced today that a Brooklyn woman was sentenced Monday to 30 days of incarceration for endangering a 5-week-old infant who was in her care while employed as a night nurse.

DA Rocah said: “This defendant violated her professional and moral responsibilities when she repeatedly struck a defenseless newborn in her care. We hope that today’s sentence ensures the defendant will not be able to harm any other children in the future.”

In addition to 30 days in jail, the defendant, Gwendolyn Blake, 40, was also sentenced to three years of probation by Judge Ronald Meister in the Town of Mamaroneck Justice Court after pleading guilty in May to two misdemeanor counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child. As a condition of her probation, the defendant is prohibited from working with the elderly, the young or any other vulnerable population. The court also issued a permanent order of protection. The DA’s Office recommended 60 days of incarceration.

On Aug. 30, 2023, at approximately 6 a.m., the defendant, who was employed as a night nurse to care for a family’s newborn in their home in the Town of Mamaroneck, struck the baby while he was crying. The defendant, on the following day, repeatedly slapped the infant’s face, grabbed his head and shook him. Both incidents were captured on surveillance video.

Following an investigation, the Town of Mamaroneck Police Department arrested the defendant on Sept. 5, 2023.

In a statement to the court, the victim’s parents said: “This is a preemie who is colicky because of his low birth weight and instead of being treated with love and compassion, he was abused for being in pain.... This has been a nightmare for our sons, our family, and our community. We will never be able to trust anyone with our children and are overly skeptical of anyone they interact with.... Gwen Blake knew what she was doing behind closed doors, lied to our faces, and went about her business every single day seemingly without a care in the world. She is violent and poses a significant risk to innocent families.”

Anyone who may have information about other possible victims can contact the DA’s Office Child Abuse Bureau at (914) 995-3000.

The case prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Mollie O’Rourke of the Special Prosecutions Division.

## In Trouble with the IRS or the NYS Tax Department?

**In trouble with the IRS or the New York State Tax Department? I can help. My name is Gerald Snyder, and I am an enrolled agent and a former IRS Group Manager. I have successfully represented clients before the IRA and the NYS Tax Department for over 25 years. I resolve liens, levies, seizures, income tax and sales audits, and penalties and trust fund recovery issues. I also handle unfiled tax returns.**

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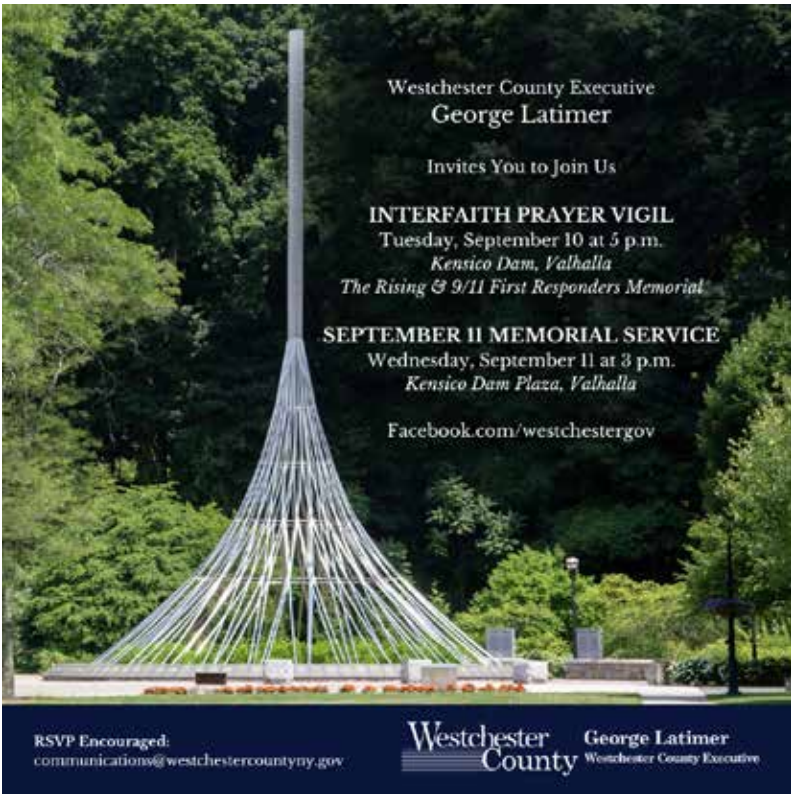
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Westchester County to Host Interfaith Prayer Vigil Sept. 10 and 9/11 Memorial Service Sept. 11

You Just Wanna Have Fun! Bargain Time Edition



By Eric Wolf Schoen



Westchester County is set to hold a two-day event to honor the memory of residents who perished in the tragic events of September 11, 2001, as well as those who have succumbed to 9/11-related illnesses. The event will feature an Interfaith Prayer Vigil on September 10, and a September 11th Memorial Service on September 11, fostering unity and remembrance.

This year, eight additional names will be added to the 9/11 First Responders Memorial to remember those who died of 9/11-related illnesses, bringing the total 81. Everyone honored on the Memorial either resided in Westchester County, worked in the County, or volunteered within Westchester.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: "This year marks the 23rd anniversary of the September 11th attacks. It is our duty to gather to remember and honor the brave souls from Westchester County whose lives were tragically cut short, as well as those who have since suffered from 9/11-related illnesses. This interfaith vigil and memorial service serve not only as a tribute to their memory, but also as a testament to our community's resilience and unity. Together, we reaffirm our commitment to supporting the families affected and ensuring that the legacy of their loved ones lives on."

Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "As we come together to commemorate the lives lost on September 11th and those who have passed due to 9/11-related illnesses, we are reminded of the strength and solidarity that define Westchester County. This vigil and memorial service provide a moment for reflection, unity and collective healing."

**Interfaith Prayer Vigil- September 10, 2024- 5 p.m.**

Kensico Dam Plaza- The Rising & 9/11 First Responders Memorial

The vigil will honor the memory of Westchester County residents who were killed on 9/11 and those who have died from 9/11-related illnesses. The vigil will bring together representatives from the Christian, Jewish, Hindu and Muslim communities for prayer and include candle lighting and a ceremonial wreath-laying at the 9/11 steel beam from the Twin Towers.

**September 11th Memorial Service**

September 11, 2024- 3 p.m.-Kensico Dam Plaza

The memorial service will honor the memory of Westchester County residents who were killed on 9/11 and those who have died from 9/11-related illnesses. The event will include remarks and music. The names of those who perished on 9/11 will be read aloud, as well as those who have since died of 9/11 related illness.

If you are a family member of someone who died on 9/11 or of a 9/11 related illness and would like to be involved in these two memorial events, please contact [Communications@westchestercountyNY.gov](mailto:Communications@westchestercountyNY.gov)

These events are open to the public, and all are encouraged to attend and participate in honoring the lives lost and those affected by 9/11.

Middle of August. Labor Day is in two weeks. Can you believe summer is almost over. What better time to bring for my You (Girls and Guys and the Family) Just Wanna Have Fun! Bargain Time edition chock full of Happy Hours, fun activities, places to go and relax before the summer sun sadly sets.

My newest favorite Happy Hour? Nathan's on Central Avenue in Yonkers Fridays 4-7 p.m. \$3 a beer ( Coors Lite, Angry Orchard, Corona, Heineken and others) served ice cold. \$2.99 Nathan's Famous Hot Dogs! Cheese Steak and Loaded Cheese Fries, Mac and Cheese Bites, Chicken Tenders, Corn Dog Nuggets, Buffalo and Boneless Wings, Onion Rings and more. The games arcade is gone, I would get there early for a table and make sure you don't forget the Alka Seltzer!

Cheesecake Factory at Ridge Hill or in White Plains for a bit more upscale Happy Hour Monday through Friday 4-6 p.m. at the bar and tables in the bar area. Roadside Sliders, Tex Mex and Avocado Egg Rolls, Happy Hour Double Cheese Burger, Fried Mac and Cheese Balls, Nachos and Buffalo Blasts will please all members of the family. Wells, Wines and Beers specially priced. Remember, the key friends is moderation!

Take out your cell phones it's APP time! CLIPP ( formerly Local Flavor) App has a deal on Dave and Busters in Pelham at 50% off for game chips that allow children of all ages to adults to play over 100 state of the art games. Experience top-tier golf simulation at Golf Lounge 18- Westchester in White Plains with a one-hour session for up to six players, regularly \$70, yours for only \$35! Day trip? \$39 For 60-Min Axe Throwing For 2 People (Reg. \$78) In Huntington Or Farmingdale on Long Island.

In terms of food CLIPP has new restaurant Via Virole in Yonkers at \$50 worth of dining at \$25.

Sals Market and Pizzeria in Scarsdale at 50% off, and \$10 For \$20 Worth Of Bakery Items at Duck Donuts in White plains. Add any of the deals to the George Latimer free WESTCHESTER County BEE LINE BUSES and you have a great deal. Add a studio deal at Studio Esthetique White Plains so you look great!

GROUPON is always a good source for local deals. PLAYLAND has a good deal reducing the cost of admission and rides. Lazy and don't want to clean the apartment? COZYMAID comes to the rescue with half price house cleaning. DAVE AND BUSTERS is having a FLASH SALE AT all locations saving close to 50% on game tokens. Legoland NY AND Bowlero are both offering good deals, and stock up on all the back to schools needs with a discount BJ

WHOLESALE CLUB MEMBERSHIP Card! Take me out to the Ballgame with discount Yankee tickets, and if BJ's doesn't have everything you need a discounted Sam's Club membership will help you complete your last minute summer shopping and holiday shopping!

GROUPON cuts the costs for a day trip to Dorney Park in Allentown putting you on all their rides and allowing you to enjoy the entertainment the park is known for. Groupon has a trampoline park they are featuring not too far from WESTCHESTER.

I had a delicious dinner at Halal Guys on Central Park Avenue in Yonkers a week ago. Download their app and you get a free side and Drink. In the Highridge Shopping center a PARIS BAGUETTE will soon be coming. A great place for

*continued on pg 6-*

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## Will RFK Jr. Be On the Ballot for President in NY?



Presidential candidate Robert F. Kennedy Jr.'s campaign received an unfavorable decision from NY state Supreme Court Justice Christina Ryba this week after she found that a lawsuit filed against RFK Jr.'s nominating petitions in NY were fraudulent because it listed a Katonah address as Kennedy's home. Judge Ryba said that RFK Jr.'s stays at the Katonah home of his friends was "virtually nonexistent" and used for the purpose of maintaining his voter registration in NY.

The multi-million dollar legal effort to remove RFK Jr. from the ballot was funded by Clear Choice PAC, a democratic group intent on throwing Kennedy off the ballot not only in NY but across the country.

Kennedy is appealing the decision and explained the reasons why the Judge was wrong and why he listed his friends Katonah address as his domicile.

"As many of you saw, yesterday a NY judge disqualified me from New York ballot access, despite the nearly 150,000 signatures my campaign obtained from New Yorkers wanting to see me as a choice this November. The ruling came after the plaintiffs argued I am not in fact a resident of New York, which I am.

"I'll still be on the ballot, don't worry about that. We will appeal this decision, and we will win. The worry here isn't about my campaign for president. The worry is about the state of our country and the DNC's all-out, anti-democratic lawfare campaign.

"You have to put the same domicile on petitions in every state in the country. Some of those states say your domicile HAS to be the place where you vote. I've never voted anyplace else than New York. We have the best ballot access attorney in the country and he said this is the only way to do it.

I'm being accused of deceiving people about my domicile, but I took legal advice and I was told: You're gonna be sued whether you claim Massachusetts where you have a house, California where you have a house, or New York where you have a house. The only place you legally can claim is New York.'

"My driver's license is here. I vote in this state. My car is registered here. My law license is in this state. My law office is in this state. I pay income taxes in this state, and I vote here. New York has been my domicile my whole life. I've lived in New York for 60 years."

Kennedy's primary residence is in California, where he lives with his wife, Cheryl Hines, an actress, and their children. The couple also have a home on Cape Cod.

"Your domicile is the place you intend to return, and when Cheryl's acting career is over, we will return to New York and live in the Town of Bedford, where I have lived for 40 years, and this is the Town where I intend to retire to. If you acted in good faith on the advice of counsel, you cannot be convicted of fraud.

The Kennedy campaign has filed an appeal in NY State court, and also a Federal action. "Under the 12th Amendment there's only three requirements to run for President of the United States. That you are 35, that you are born in this country, and that you are a citizen of this country. I meet all three of those. The states are not allowed to impose additional burdens on candidates appearing on ballots in all 50 states. That is what the truth is and we will prevail." said RFK Jr.

The Kennedy campaign has collected enough signatures to be on the ballot in all 50 states, something the media has failed to report on.

## A New Generic Diabetes Drug Shows How Medical Innovation Works



By Howard Dean

The drugmaker Teva Pharmaceuticals made history in June by launching the first-ever generic version of a GLP-1 diabetes drug. This revolutionary class of medications, which are also growing increasingly popular as treatments for obesity, has proven astoundingly effective in helping diabetes patients manage their condition.

The launch is good for millions of Americans living with type 2 diabetes. It's also a textbook case of how the life sciences industry is supposed to work. Leaps in innovation soon lead to mass-scale availability.

The list of people and organizations who deserve credit for the GLP-1 success story is long. What's undeniable, though, is that none of it would have been possible were it not for our country's system of intellectual property protections.

When the first GLP-1 drugs came on the scene two decades ago, they were greeted by the medical community as a major step forward in the treatment of diabetes. In the years since, GLP-1 drugs have established themselves as among the most powerful tools available for improving glycemic efficacy, promoting weight loss, and lowering blood pressure.

Now that the first generic GLP-1 therapy has launched, these drugs will be available at a lower cost.

Patent protection plays an indispensable role in that process. Inventing a new treatment is a high-risk, high-reward endeavor. Bringing a new drug to FDA approval costs an average of \$2.6 billion, counting the investment dollars lost on the nearly 90% of drugs entering clinical trials that fail along the way.

Patents make it worthwhile for scientists and investors to take that risk. Patents give their holders a sole right to sell the products they have developed for a limited period. If a drug succeeds, drugmakers can use that window of protection to earn back their initial investments and make a return — before low-cost generics enter the market.

In the case of GLP-1 drugs, this process worked perfectly. What began as early-stage laboratory research undertaken with patent protection led to approval of a real-world drug — and now a low-cost generic. Now, patients at all income levels can reap the health benefits of this remarkable therapy.

Stories such as these are common. To date, the FDA has approved more than 32,000 generic drugs — including more than 900 last year alone. Over 90% percent of prescriptions filled in the United States are generics. But there would be no generics if patent protection didn't give drug developers the incentive to start the process.

This state of affairs is rarely reflected in the public debate over drug prices. The conventional wisdom suggests that drug prices have gotten out of control. But while this is true in specific cases, high-priced brand-name drugs represent a small minority of prescriptions filled. And the brand-name prices will come down as generics enter the market — which they will.

This is exactly as it should be. When America's life sciences ecosystem works as intended, it can simultaneously drive medical science forward, while also promoting affordability through a vibrant generic market.

*Howard Dean is the former chair of the Democratic National Committee and former governor of Vermont. This piece originally ran in the International Business Times.*

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# Letters to the Editor:

Cameras at Stop Signs in Yonkers?

I've lived in Yonkers, NY most of my life and briefly in Nassau County. I can not get over in North Yonkers and throughout the city how many people blow the stop signs. It's not being enforced and it's disgraceful. Therefore, since no one wants to do anything cameras at the stop signs should be considered. This practice is starting to occur and violators will have to pay a fine to the municipality. The practice of doing nothing by the city cannot continue for eventually someone will be maimed or killed.

From,  
**Al Higgins, Yonkers**

Dear Editor,

As the country and the rest of the world experience another year of scorching heat waves, private for-profit utility companies — who we rely upon for our basic necessities like heating, cooling and electricity — are keeping us reliant on climate-wrecking fossil fuels while reporting record profits.

When they work well, utilities exist in the background of our lives: they power our homes, cool us down when it's hot, and give us heat when it's cold. But too often, they are sources of aggravation: The power goes off when it's dangerously hot or cold out, our bills skyrocket, and these for-profit companies threaten to shut off services when we're unable to pay.

We know that climate change raises those stakes even higher, and utility companies themselves play a massive role in exacerbating the climate crisis: 80% of electric utilities in the U.S. run on fossil fuels.

Shifting utilities to clean energy is integral to working toward a safer climate, but these private, for-profit companies would rather maintain the status quo and keep the public in the dark. Utility companies are charging us more while they get paid off by the fossil fuel industry to block the transition to renewable energy.

Utility companies have gotten away with profiting at the expense of people and our planet for too long. It's time we hold them accountable and demand they stop using our money to burn our future while individuals and families struggle. We deserve an energy system that allows everyone to have access to clean and affordable energy.

Sincerely,  
**Gregory Spock, Pelham**

Dear The Yonkers Times,

I'm a Writer who cares about the environment. I'm writing to urge your editorial board to endorse Kamala Harris for president - and specifically, to make the case for her as a climate champion.

President Biden did more than any other president in history to combat the climate crisis, from securing the passage of the historic Inflation Reduction Act to launching the American Climate Corps to pausing exports of super-warming LNG. But the work is not done. We still have a long way to go to halve our emissions by 2030 and eliminate them by 2050 - the hard-and-fast targets science demands in order to stabilize our climate.

This is perhaps the single biggest reason we must elect Kamala Harris this November: so that she can FINISH THE JOB on climate.

Kamala Harris has a proven track record on climate. She will build on Biden's climate legacy and fight for a livable future for our children and grandchildren. Trump, on the other hand, is a proven Planet-Destroyer-In-Chief who will reverse all that Biden accomplished and "Drill, Baby, Drill".

Your readers need to understand that this is the stark choice we face. Please use your editorial power to make the case for Kamala Harris as the climate president we desperately need.

Sincerely,  
**Judith Zingher, Elmsford**

# Yorktown Town Board Awards Garbage Contract to AAA

The Town Board awarded a new garbage contract to AAA Carting & Rubbish Removal.

The Board voted on Thursday to give a two-year contract to AAA in Buchanan. The Town will pay AAA \$7,072,500 over two years, with options to extend the contract for three years. The contract begins on September 1.

"We received three bids for our new garbage contract, and AAA was the lowest responsible bidder," said Supervisor Ed Lachterman. "We look forward to working with AAA to modify some of their previous collection times to minimize noise on collection days."

AAA last collected garbage in Yorktown in 2022. The garbage and recycling service is paid for by the Town's Refuse District.

The Town Board also recently adopted a new five-year plan for Yorktown's housing voucher program.

The Board voted on Thursday to adopt the Section 8 Housing Choice Voucher Program's five-year plan for the fiscal years 2025 through 2029. The program helps eligible low-income families, the elderly and disabled people pay their rent with funds provided by the federal Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

"We are proud to approve this five-year plan for Yorktown's Section 8 housing voucher program, reinforcing our commitment to ensuring that our most vulnerable residents can continue to call Yorktown home. This plan reflects the Town Board's dedication to providing safe, affordable housing options that strengthen our community and support those who need it most," said Supervisor Ed Lachterman.

Eligibility for a housing voucher is based on a household's total annual gross income and family size. Generally, a family's income may not exceed 50% of the median income for the county or metropolitan area and by law; the Program must provide 75% of its vouchers to applicants whose income does not exceed 30% of the area median income. According to HUD, 50% of the area median income for a family of three is \$70,300.

Dear The Yonkers Times,

I'm a mother who is angry about the lack of action on climate.

I am writing to encourage you to report on the significant climate policy differences between the Biden-Harris and Trump-Pence administrations. An informed electorate is crucial for a healthy democracy, and as a leading news source, you have the power to share this essential information.

The Biden-Harris administration has promoted unprecedented federal spending and tax subsidies for clean energy through the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. It has also heavily invested in American-made clean energy, aiming to increase solar generation eightfold and triple wind generation by 2030. The administration is also working to provide affordable solar energy to nearly 1 million low-income homes.

In contrast, the Trump-Pence administration attempted to roll back nearly 100 environmental rules, including limits on greenhouse gases from power plants and cars. With a conservative supermajority in the Supreme Court, Trump would be in a stronger position to dismantle environmental and climate regulations if re-elected.

Reporting on these stark differences will help voters make informed decisions about the future of our nation's climate policy.

Thank you for considering this important topic.

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## NOTICE OF NAMES OF PERSONS APPEARING AS OWNERS OF CERTAIN UNCLAIMED

PROPERTY HELD BY M.Y. Safra Bank, FSB. The following person appears from our records to be entitled to unclaimed property consisting of cash amounts of fifty dollars or more: Yuewei Wu 126 Texas Ave Bronxville, NY 10708-6205. A report of Unclaimed Property will be made to the Comptroller of the State of New York, pursuant to Article III of the Abandoned Property Law. A list of the names contained in such notice is on file and open to public inspection at the principal office of the bank, located at 499 Park Avenue New York, NY 10022, where such abandoned property is payable. Such abandoned property will be paid on or before October 31, 2024 to persons establishing to its satisfaction their right to receive the same. In the succeeding November, and on or before the tenth day thereof, such unclaimed property will be paid to the Comptroller of the State of New York, and shall thereupon cease to be liable therefor.

Ferrara, John  
7 Balint Drive Apt 220, Yonkers, NY 10710

A report of unclaimed amounts of money or other property will be made to the State Comptroller, and that a listing of names of persons appearing to be entitled is on file and open to public inspection at Connecticut Community Bank, N.A. Such held amounts of money or other property will be paid or delivered to proven entitled parties by Connecticut Community Bank, N.A. through October 31. On or before November 10, any remaining unclaimed monies or other properties will be paid or delivered to the State Comptroller.

Notice of Formation of NERVE Media LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 5/11/2024. 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, 224 W 35TH St Ste 500, #825 New York, NY, 10001. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

A GENERAL ORDINANCE INSTITUTING AN EIGHT-MONTH MORATORIUM ON SELF-STORAGE FACILITIES WITHIN THE CITY OF YONKERS IN ORDER TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH REVIEW OF HOW TO BETTER SERVE THE CITY'S ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Yonkers has adopted the abovementioned legislation that amends the City Code to enact a temporary moratorium on self-storage units whereby no approval for the permitting of new units may be granted by the City with the exception of those projects that have obtained zoning board or site plan approval or where amended site plan approval is sought. This moratorium is specifically determined to be necessary to provide adequate time for the City to delve into its zoning laws and land-use strategies to assess whether the City's economic goals would be better served by utilizing the space currently occupied by self-storage facilities for other purposes, including but not limited to affordable- and market-rate housing.

A person or entity with standing may appeal to the City Council for relief from the provisions of this general ordinance (the "Moratorium"). The City Council shall have the power to grant such relief or so much relief as determined by the City Council to be necessary and appropriate.

This ordinance shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect for a period of eight months, and may be extended for an additional eight months if deemed necessary.

The complete text of the ordinance is on file and may be examined at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 40 S. Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701.

Dated: August 5, 2024 Vincent Spano, City Clerk

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF KD CONSULTANTS GROUP LLC AS AN AUTHORIZED FOREIGN LLC. APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY FILED WITH THE SSNY 07/16/24. OFFICE LOCATION - WESTCHESTER COUNTY. PRINCIPAL BUSINESS LOCATION: 208 BENNET RD, FREEHOLD, NJ 07728. THE SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS TO DOROTHY G. VASTOLA, 208 BENNET RD., FREEHOLD, NJ 07728. THE ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION WERE FILED ON 07/13/2021 WITH THE NJ SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPT OF TREASURY, PO BOX 002, TRENTON, NJ 08625 FOR ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

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Margery Rossi, pastor of South Presbyterian Church in Dobbs Ferry and acting Coordinator of the Gun Violence Prevention Ministry of the Presbyterian Peace Fellowship, described the combined spiritual and practical sides of the blacksmithing demonstration: "In scripture we find that the prophet Isaiah envisioned a time of peace and prosperity for his community with the iconic words 'they shall turn their swords into plowshares and spears into pruning hooks.' Today, people in our nation mostly use guns instead of swords and spears to commit violence, and so, in order to bring this vision of peace and prosperity to life for our communities, we are turning guns into garden tools as a witness to our faith, and to help people understand that we can take steps to end gun violence, and we can bring peace and healing to our communities. This demonstration is an opportunity to bring healing to survivors and to educate our communities about the Guns to Gardens movement."

According to the CDC, over 43,000 Americans die every year from gun violence. More than half of the gun deaths are from suicide, followed by homicide, family violence and unintentional shootings. A difficult moment can turn into a tragedy simply because a gun is nearby. According to the U.S. Surgeon General, gun violence is now the number one killer of American children and youth.

"They shall beat their swords into plowshares and their spears into pruning hooks." Isaiah 2:4

On November 16, people with unwanted guns can safely surrender them at the Scarsdale Friends Meeting (133 Popham Road, Scarsdale), see them similarly dismantled (the parts later to be turned into garden tools), and receive life-affirming grocery gift cards as a thank you.

Tax-deductible donations can be made here or by Zelle (treasurer@scarsdalefriendsmeeting.org) to support the November 16th Safe Surrender event.

For more information on Guns to Gardens, this demonstration, or the November 16th Safe Surrender event, please contact Gunstogardens@gmail.com

## Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

sandwiches, artisanal breads and luscious desserts and salads.

The Chick-Fil-A crush is still on. They just opened another one on Central Avenue North of the one in Yonkers. Not my favorite, haven't had in years, but it's in Yonkers so will try it again.

I notice Starbucks has been offering numerous summer BOGO and half off drink deals. Gotta have a registered card or the app to get them. The price of Starbucks drinks is so high you should take advantage of several of the specials they offer.

Make sure you have loyalty club cards for everywhere you eat and shop, and that you Google what you want to buy to see what discounts come up. Fast Food is no longer cheap, and the loyalty cards can save you money! Email me if you any other ideas or bargain deals so that I can share them with our readers.

I wish you a rest of the summer filled with beautiful weather and good times for you and your family. Remember All offers subject to change at any time! Enjoy!

A SAD NOTE: WCBS 880 AM RADIO, a New York institution for close to 60 years will soon go off the air. That day, November 26 will be a sad day for radio and communication in New York. Make sure you support through advertising and supporting our advertisers newspapers like Yonkers Rising. The costs are very reasonable, and the benefits can be substantial and immediate. Feel free to email me and will get your advertising in the paper so you can see just how important this newspaper can be for your and your company. The question is what radio station now that WVOX and WCBS AM will be gone with your editor and this columnist listen to in the morning and during the day?

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## County Legislator Erika Pierce Delivers \$27,500 to Friends of Karen to Aid Families in Crisis



County Legislator Erika Pierce

Westchester County Legislator Erika L. Pierce (D - Bedford, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, North Salem, Pound Ridge, Somers) is announcing \$27,500 in funds to Friends of Karen (North Salem, New York) to support Westchester County families dealing with a child with a life-threatening illness.

Founded in 1978 and based in North Salem, Friends of Karen (FOK) serves families with a child who has been diagnosed with and is actively in treatment for cancer or another life-threatening illness. FOK provides emotional, financial, and advocacy support for these families to help keep them stable, functioning, and able to cope, all at no cost. Since 1978, FOK has served the families of over 18,000 children. Friends of Karen is a 501(c)(3) charity.

For 2024, Friends of Karen received twenty-seven thousand five hundred dollars in Community Based Organization (CBO) funding through Legislator Pierce. By partnering with Friends of Karen, Legislator Pierce and the Board of Legislators reaffirm their commitment to nurturing the well-being and resilience of our community's most vulnerable members.

Legislator Erika Pierce said, "With decades of experience, Friends of Karen offers essential support to families as they navigate the medical system during their most challenging times. But their commitment goes far beyond that. They provide comprehensive assistance, including mental health support, camp scholarships, school supplies, and essential daily needs, including rent and transportation. Their support extends to the entire family, and sometimes for years, ensuring families receive ongoing help. We are deeply grateful for Friends of Karen and delighted to partner with them in these critical efforts."

Judith Factor, Executive Director of Friends of Karen, emphasized the profound impact of the funding, stating, "The contract from The Westchester County Board of Legislators will make a significant impact on the quality of life for Westchester County families whose child is undergoing treatment for a life-threatening illness like cancer. It will ensure an experienced social worker will be by the family's side throughout the child's illness and that the child's illness-related expenses and the family's basic living expenses are paid. This comprehensive support will ensure they remain stable, functioning, and able to cope during a health crisis that upends their lives."

To apply for help from Friends of Karen, a parent or guardian of the ill child must call Friends of Karen and speak to a member of their Family Support team at (914) 617-4057. Their office is open Monday-Friday, 9 am-5 pm. For more information, please visit <https://www.friendsofkaren.org/>

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## Reliable Oil Company in Yorktown Heights Named a Historic Business



Assemblyman Matt Slater, with staff at Reliable Oil Co., Inc and Supervisor Ed Lachterman and Councilman Sergio Esposito

Assemblyman Matt Slater recently recognized Reliable Oil Co., Inc. as a historic business, celebrating its rich legacy in Yorktown Heights. The company was originally founded in 1939 by Louis Mastro as Reliable Ice Company. While initially focused on selling ice, the business quickly expanded to include coal sales. By 1943, the company had further diversified its offerings by selling kerosene, and in 1949, it began providing home heating oil to both homeowners and small commercial businesses.

The Mastro family business continued to grow with the involvement of Louis's brother Frank in 1951. Frank's sons, Roy Sr. and Joe Sr., played a pivotal role in transitioning the company from coal to oil after returning from World War II. The advancements in technology during that era made home heating more accessible, offering a new level of comfort previously only affordable to the wealthy.

"Reliable Oil Co., Inc. remains a staple in Yorktown Heights, carrying on a legacy of quality and reliability," said Slater. "I commend the Mastro family for their dedication to the community and their continued commitment to providing essential services, and it was an honor to nominate them as a historic business; the first in the town of Yorktown."

After 85 years of business and under the stewardship of the third generation, including grandson Louis, Reliable Oil Co., Inc. not only supplies fuel oil but also services boilers and oil tanks and addresses a variety of fuel oil-associated needs. Their services are particularly crucial during New York's cold winter months.

"It is wonderful to see Assemblyman Matt Slater recognize reliable oil for all of their years servicing the Yorktown community. My family has been using Reliable for over 50 years and they are a true Yorktown business. They are one of the success stories of a family business that helps build not only their community but our great country." Ed Lachterman, Supervisor of the Town of Yorktown.

"Reliable Oil has been a cornerstone of our community for 85 years. Their commitment to excellence and their recent historic recognition truly highlights their enduring legacy and unwavering dedication to serving Yorktown. Congratulations on this remarkable milestone!" said Karen Trendell, President YCOC.

"My father started this in 1939, and we're still in business today. Soon my son will be taking over keeping it in the family for generations to come. I thank the Assemblyman for recognizing our family and the years we've put into this," said Lou Mastro.

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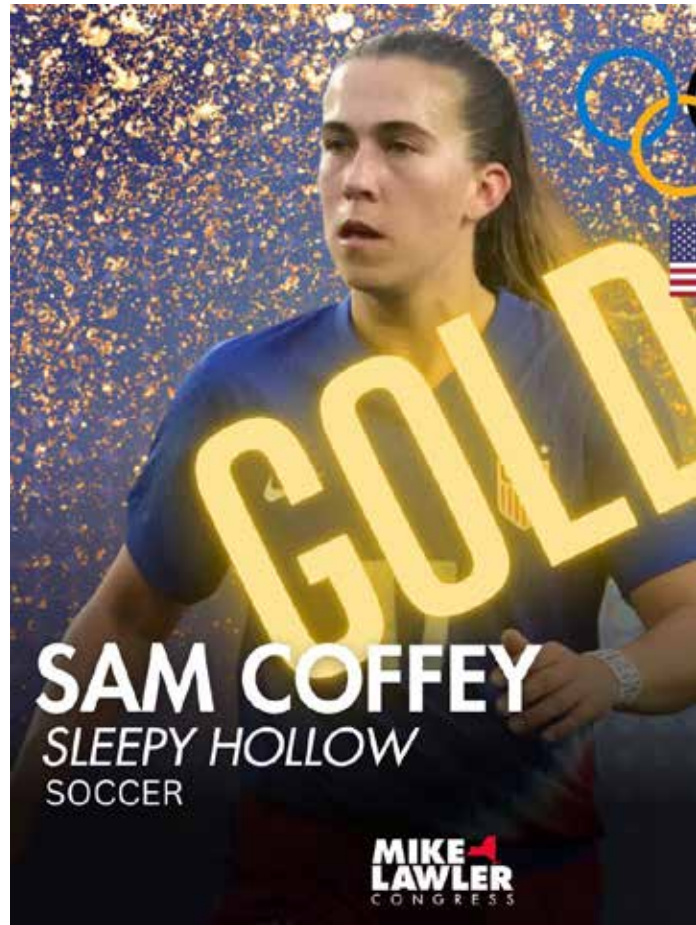
**Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com)**

NY Met Jose Iglesias Sings OMG at Playland

One More Westchester Olympian, Sleepy Hollow Native Sam Coffey, Gold Medal Women's Soccer



One of the most popular NY Mets this season is shortstop Jose Iglesias, who on August 12th, went to Playland to meet fans and to sing his hit song 'OMG'. Iglesias showed up a few hours early to meet and greet Met fans. The lyrics for OMG inspire a positive message about overcoming tough times. The song, and the fact that Jose is on a hitting tear on the ballfield, is a perfect combination for Mets fans. Iglesias, whose recording name is Candelita had his song debut at No. 1 on Billboard's Latin songs. Iglesias, 34, is a Cuban-American, who has also been signing the songs at Citi Field in Queens, for Mets home games.



Congratulations to Sam Coffey a native of Sleepy Hollow, for winning a Gold medal in Paris as a member of the USA Women's Soccer Team, who defeated Brazil, 1-0 in the finals to win Gold.

Coffey attended the Masters School in Dobbs Ferry, and now plays for the Portland Thorns of the National Women's Soccer League.

A watch party was held at JP Doyle's restaurant in Sleepy Hollow to watch her Gold Medal Win.

"I love Sleepy Hollow and their support means a lot to me," said Coffey.

Congressman Mike Lawler's office created this congratulations for Sam Coffey

the Y THE YONKERS FAMILY YMCA IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE ROTARY CLUB OF YONKERS - EAST YONKERS

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Jack*

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County Executive George Latimer said, "The warm evening air at our summertime concerts is relaxing and comforting. The pleasant temperatures make dancing to and enjoying the music even more enjoyable. Residents can revel in the combination of live music and the serene night ambiance while creating lasting memories with family and friends."

Parks Commissioner Kathleen O'Connor said, "Billy Joel's music is a rich tapestry of storytelling that blends elements of rock, pop, jazz and classical. His songs resonate across generations and offer something for everyone."

Gates open at 6 p.m., and the concerts begin at 7 p.m. Admission and parking are free. Please bring blankets and lawn chairs for general seating. Coolers are permitted.

The remaining concerts in the series are:

Wednesday, Aug. 28: Jimmy Kenny and the Pirate Beach Band: A Tribute to Jimmy Buffett and Zac Brown (rescheduled from Aug. 9)

Thursday, Aug. 29, The M'80s: New York's Premier 80s Rock Experience – Just added!

Friday, Aug. 30: The Dave Matthews Tribute Band

Sunday, Sept. 15: Shot Thru the Heart: A Tribute to Bon Jovi. Gates open at 2 p.m., and the concert begins at 3 p.m. (rescheduled from July 12)



It's always a bit sad to feel summer slipping away, but we of the Hudson Chorale can look forward to our first rehearsal of the season. Would you like to join us? We welcome new voices in all ranges. The lively direction of our conductor David Baranowski and long-time friendships among our members create a warm atmosphere at Hudson Chorale rehearsals, while we all remain keenly focused on making excellent music together. Singers come from all over Westchester and even adjoining counties to participate.

We rehearse every Monday from 7:15-9:30 (with a break mid-way for snacks and conversation) at Christ Church San Marcos, 43 South Broadway in Tarrytown. First rehearsal will be September 9. Our winter concert, January 25 & 26 at the Chapel at Maryknoll in Ossining will include two contemporary pieces: Malhaar: A Requiem for Water, and Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest. If you are interested in singing with us, please contact Jeanne Wygant to arrange an audition: [jeannewygant@optonline.net](mailto:jeannewygant@optonline.net), 914-671-1012. Singer-friendly auditions are held before rehearsals during the first several weeks of the semester. For additional information, check out our website at [hudsonchorale.org](http://hudsonchorale.org) or contact Wendy Kahn at [wpk315@gmail.com](mailto:wpk315@gmail.com).



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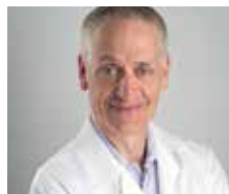
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## Mount Vernon's Rai Benjamin Wins Two Olympic Gold Medals in Paris Olympics!

*Wins 400 Meter Hurdles, defeating Rival Who Beat Him in Tokyo Olympics*

*By Dan Murphy*

One of the most difficult feats in all of athletics is for an olympian to win a medal in one olympics, and then come back four years later to win another. Mount Vernon's Rai Benjamin is now one of those special athletes after winning the 400-meter hurdles at the 2024 Paris Summer Olympics on Aug.9.

Three years ago, Benjamin won the Silver Medal at the Tokyo Olympics, losing the Karsent Warholm from Norway, who ran the race of his life with a new world record. Almost immediately after his second place finish, Benjamin committed himself to returning to the Olympics in Paris and capture gold.

Last month, Benjamin defeated Warholm and posted the fastest time in the 400-Meter Hurdles this year. But Warholm still owned the world record, so many were predicting that he would win another gold.

But anyone paying attention to Benjamin's passion, work ethic, and growing confidence knew that he was going to win Gold. And as the race began, it was Benjamin leading Warholm, and as Benjamin ran to victory, Warholm seemed to falter on one of the last hurdles.

"I just focused on running my own race, and i knew that if I did that I would win today," said Benjamin after the race to Bruce Beck.

"What does this say about the great Mt. Vernon athletes?" asked Beck.

"It says alot of great athletes have come through Mt Vernon, Ben Gordon and a slew of basketball players.

"Denzel Washington if you are watching we did it. I know all of Westchester was watching. Thank you for your support going through the whole process to get back here," said Benjamin, 27, who now has two gold medals and one silver. He won a Gold in Tokyo as a member of the mens' 4 x 400m Relay.

"This color of medal has eluded me for so long – to get it done in this fashion at the Olympic Games in front of friends and family, in front of everybody means so much to me. I don't think I ever doubted it – it was more just stay patient and keep showing up every day. I told myself this has to go my way one day – and it went my way today and that's all I can ask for."

Rai Benjamin is now one of those special olympians, winning a Gold and Silver in Tokyo and a Gold in Paris. Congratulations!

Benjamin was also a member of the Men's 4x400 meter relay team that won the Gold Medal, with Rai running the anchor leg up against Gold Medalist Letsile Tebogo on the final night of the games.

Congressman Jamaal Bowman said, "Congratulations young man and to all the coaches who prepared him for this historic moment."

Magic Johnson said, "Cookie and I went crazy when Rai Benjamin won the 400 meter hurdles! Congratulations to him on earning his first gold medal in the event."

Mt. Vernon Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard said, "@kingben your outstanding victory in the 400m hurdles is a monumental achievement that has filled the entire city of Mount Vernon with immense pride and joy. Rai Benjamin, you have shown the world the true meaning of dedication, excellence, and heart. We are so proud of you!!

Thank you for representing Mount Vernon with such grace and determination. Keep shining on the world stage, and know that your hometown is cheering you on every step of the way!

The Celebration is already being planned!!!!"

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**Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com)**

### Westchester Rising

PO Box 705, Yonkers NY 10702-914-815-1388. Proudly serving the the people of Westchester with hyperlocal news. Member NY Press Association. Legal notice inquiries to: risinglegalnotice@gmail.com. Daniel Murphy, Publisher & Editor in Chief, dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com. Bayan Baker, Assistant to the Editor in Chief risingmediagroup@gmail.com.

## Weekend Events at Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, AUGUST 17

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Tastings in the Field, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Get details and register <https://hilltophanoverfarm.org/events/event/2024/08/17/1723906800/tastings-in-the-field/488833>

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. Lasdon Green Squad, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Every Saturday through November. Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/lasdon-green-squad/2024-08-17/>

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. Patterns in Nature Exhibition, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Explore the mesmerizing tapestry of patterns that can be found everywhere in this interactive exhibit and flower show. Saturdays and Sundays until August 31. Get details and tickets <https://www.lasdonpark.org/patterns-in-nature/>

Croton Point Park Beach, Croton-on-Hudson: (914) 862-5290 DJ Day, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Come for a swim and enjoy music at the beach! Participation is free; admission and parking fees apply; weather permitting. Get details <https://parks.westchestergov.com/family-fun-days>

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050 Harvest + Craft: Nail Polish, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. The farm's fields and forests provide so much more than something to eat. Learn how to craft nail polish using natural pigmentation and non-harsh materials for the skin and nails. This session will be held in the classroom and is for ages 7 and older; \$15 per person. Supplies are included in the program fee. Pre-register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/harvest-craft-nail-polish-tickets-935735438887>

SUNDAY, AUGUST 18

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7282 Farmers Market, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Our market, which supports farmers and sustainable efforts in our area, features more than 25 local vendors every Sunday until Nov. 17. Get details <https://www.muscotefarm.org/programs-events/event/2024/08/18/1723991400/farmers-market/479750>

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. Gardening Sundays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/gardening-sundays/2024-08-18/>

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. Summer Garden Highlights, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Tour the Lasdon's with one of the gardeners to see what's flowering this time of year. Meet at the kiosk entrance. Free. No registration is necessary. Rain or shine. Get details <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/summer-garden-highlights/>

Willson's Woods Park, Mount Vernon: (914) 813-6990. DJ Day, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Go for a swim and enjoy music at the pool! Participation is free; admission and parking fees apply. Westchester County residency is required; weather permitting. Get details <https://parks.westchestergov.com/family-fun-days>

Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla: (914) 231-4033. Jewish Heritage Festival, 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Admission and parking are free. Get details <https://parks.westchestergov.com/heritage-festivals>

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. Sip, Nibble and Craft: Artisan Woven Pierced Earrings and Pendant, 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Experience the ancient craft of weaving with a 21st-century twist. Weave a pair of artisan pierced earrings with a matching woven pendant. Must be 21 or older. \$35 per person. Also: Aug. 25. Pre-register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/sip-nibble-craft-woven-earrings-with-pendant/>

Harris Leads Trump by 14, continued from pg 1-

ber's ballot, called the Equal Rights Amendment, 68-23%.

"The landscape has changed since the last Siena College poll. The change at the top of the Democratic ticket has had a noticeable, while not dramatic, effect on the horse race. Harris has the support of 86% of Democrats, up from the 75% support Biden had in June. And while independent voters support Trump over Harris 47-40%, they supported Trump over Biden 45-28%," Siena College pollster Steven Greenberg said. "Harris leads with Black voters 81-11%, up from Biden's 59-29% lead in June.

"The gender gap has widened with Harris replacing Biden. Currently Harris leads with women by 34 points, 64-30%, up from Biden's 51-33%, or 18-point lead. The race moved far less with men, who favor Trump over Harris 49-43%, compared to the 46-42% lead men gave Trump in June," Greenberg said. "Interestingly, it wasn't young voters that moved the needle. Among voters under 35, Harris leads 49-34%, down a little from the 51-32% lead Biden had in June. Harris' big pickup was among voters 35-54, who favor her 54-40%, after backing Trump 44-41% over Biden in June.

"Among all the presidential candidates that are likely to be on New York's ballot, Harris is the only one with a positive favorability rating," Greenberg said. "And looking at the race if it is a six-way election, Harris' lead falls slightly from 14 points to 12 points. At the moment, 11% of voters - and 19% of independents - say they will vote for a minor party candidate.

"Voters think that Harris is prepared to be President for four years, 58-42%, and more narrowly, 51-48%, they say Trump is prepared. Not surprisingly, 88% of Democrats say Harris is prepared and 88% of Republicans say she is not. However, while 94% of Republicans say Trump is prepared, even one-quarter of Democrats concede he is prepared," Greenberg said. "Independents say Trump is prepared, 61-38%, but Harris is not prepared, 52-46%."

Voters Support Proposed Constitutional Amendment Called ERA on November's Ballot 3-to-1 "Democrats support New York's so-called ERA amendment - which adds anti-discrimination provisions to the State Constitution and protects abortion rights - by an overwhelming 89-7%. Independents support it 64-23%. Republicans oppose the amendment, 55 32%," Greenberg said. "While men support the amendment 56-31%, it is supported by women 79-15%. It is strongly supported in every region, and with white, Black and Latino voters."

This Siena College Poll was conducted July 28-August 1, 2024, among 1,199 likely voters in New York. For survey crosstabs: [www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY](http://www.Siena.edu/SCRI/SNY).

Harris' growing lead in NY will help several democratic congressional candidates who are looking to defeat incumbent republican members of Congress. In Westchester, former Congressman Mondaire Jones is looking to defeat Congressman Mike Lawler, and three congressional races on Long Island and two in the Hudson Valley north of Westchester could decide which party has the majority in the House of Representatives in 2025.

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munity feel unsafe and ostracized,” stated ADL.

The Carmel School Board voted to condemn Wise’s statements. School Board President Melissa Orser read most of the resolution to the public. “The Carmel School District must be at the forefront of teaching tolerance, understanding and the accurate history that dispels misinformation” ...Mr. Wise’s use of ‘from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,’ has resulted in a rallying cry for the destruction of Israel and the Jewish people. This is not acceptable. It is crucial to distinguish between political discourse and anti-Semitism. As leaders we have the profound responsibility to understand between free speech and speech that targets groups of people.

3,000 local residents have signed a petition calling for Wise’s removal, and that petition has been submitted to NYS Education Commissioner Betty Rosa.

Our story also focused on the fact that State Senator Pete Harckham honored Wise and Abi Lyons for their work in the LGBTQ community.

Many residents in Harckham’s 40th District have questioned his decision to honor Wise and wondered if the Senator should withdraw the recognition for Wise, or at the least, condemn his antisemitic comments.

Harckham has done neither, only issuing a statement that reads. “Pete Harckham, the three-term New York State Senator running for re-election in the 40th Senate District, issued the following statement today in response to a news article in the Yonkers Times in which his opponent, Gina Arena, criticized him for having presented awards to two individuals for their contributions to LGBTQ+ youth, who were later involved in a pro-Palestine demonstration:

“I have always condemned any form or expression of anti-Semitism—and I always will. If someone I have recognized publicly for a positive contribution to the community later makes wrongful comments, it is both unacceptable and unforeseen.

“My supporters in the Jewish community know that I stood with them after the October 7 terrorist attacks—and still stand with them today. My opponent’s baseless insinuation that I am anti-Israel is just hollow rhetoric, especially considering her noteworthy absence at all the events with the Jewish community that I attended following the Oct. 7 attacks.

“Meanwhile, I am proud to have led four community forums on hate speech during my time in office, knowing that our communities are stronger when we face this issue together.” Stated Harckham.

One sentence in Harckham’s statement vaguely addresses the Wise controversy. “If someone I have recognized publicly for a positive contribution to the community later makes wrongful comments, it is both unacceptable and unforeseen.”

We do not know from this sentence if Harckham believes that Wise has made wrongful comments and does not address the one phrase that has Jewish residents in the district, and supporters of Israel, outraged- From the River to the Sea.

Nor does Harckham rescind his award to Wise or call for him to resign from the school board.

Assemblyman Anil Beephan (Dutchess County) was the first elected official to call for Wise to resign. “Your remarks at school board meetings and rallies have been widely perceived as anti-Semitic, conflicting with the views and values of many residents you represent. Bringing up the actions taken in Israel and ongoing conflicts at school board meetings is both intentionally divisive and irrelevant to the duties of your elected office... Moreover, the slogan ‘From the river to the sea, Palestine shall be free,’ which you have repeatedly used, is inflammatory and discriminatory. Such rhetoric is incompatible with the principles our community upholds and falls short of the standards we expect from our elected officials... Given these circumstances, I urge you to resign from your position on the Carmel Central School District Board,” wrote Beephan to Wise.

Next came a statement from the Carmel Teachers Association, “We wholeheartedly stand with the Superintendent and the Board. The CTA condemns the acts of antisemitism by Jim Wise at the July Board of Education meeting. These acts of hate go against everything we stand for as a community, so at this time we rescind our endorsement of Jim Wise. We will continue to offer a welcoming environment for all students.

Next came a statement from Congressman Mike Lawler, Assemblyman Matt Slater and State Senator Rob Rolison, urging NYS Dept. of Education Commissioner Rosa to remove Wise. “There must be zero tolerance for antisemitism,” said Congressman Lawler. “Carmel Trustee Jim Wise has broken the public trust by repeating the disgusting antisemitic lies of Hamas apologists. Conduct such as his is unbecoming of an elected official anywhere, especially here in the Hudson Valley, home to one of the largest Jewish populations in our country. Jim Wise should resign in disgrace and be removed from office if he refuses to do so. That is why I have joined Senator Rolison and Assemblymen Slater and Beephan in asking Commissioner Rosa to remove him from office at once.”

The Letter to Commissioner Rosa from the three states, “For any elected official, let alone a sitting School Board member who is tasked with helping create a welcoming educational environment for students, to use and defend this blatant antisemitic slogan is appalling,” continue the lawmakers. “It must be condemned in the strongest possible terms, and those who engage in this antisemitic behavior must be held accountable.”

“In Congress, the House passed a resolution condemning ‘From the River to the Sea,’ but now it is your turn, Commissioner Rosa, to show that this antisemitic phrase has no place in New York,” the lawmakers wrote.

Slater said, “It is unacceptable for someone in a leadership position to create a hurtful and divisive environment. I stand as a representative of this community and join my fellow colleagues and the rest of the residents in Carmel, in requesting that not only antisemitism be addressed but to remove Trustee Wise from office.”

John Isaac, the republican candidate for Assembly in the 90th district, Yonkers, said, “I don’t know what Senator Harckham was thinking when he chose to award the leaders of an anti-Israel organization. The fact that one honoree is a school board trustee who chants antisemitic slogans makes this even more egregious and offensive to the thousands of our Jewish sisters and brothers in Yonkers and beyond. Assemblyman Nader Sayegh must immediately call upon his colleague Senator Harckham to apologize for his awful lapse in judgment,” said Isaac.

At this point no democratic elected official has condemned Wise’s comments, but there are certainly members of the Carmel School Board and the Carmel Teachers Association who are democrats.

Wise and Lyons were front and center for a stop “genocide in the Middle East” rally organized by Putnam for Palestine, which resulted in the Carmel Police intervening. Putnam Pride, the organization that Wise’s and Lyons’ work were honored by Harckham for, sent a letter to our publication, which we print below.

Dear Editor: Your recent article about Senator Pete Harckham’s honoring of Jim Wise was factually inaccurate and very unprofessionally written, and seemingly picked up from social media without so much as a call for opposing perspectives. The underlying social media posts on which the article is based are a purely political strategy meant to silence marginalized communities in Putnam County.

Senator Harckham awarded Jim Wise and Abi Jasmin with commendations for their LGBTQ+ advocacy at Putnam Pride 2024, which was held on June 1. Jim introduced and worked to pass the CCSD’s first Gender Identity Policy, among other pro-LGBTQ+ actions over the years, and Abi has fiercely defended LGBTQ students and denounced homophobic and transphobic rhetoric in the district and broader community as founder of CAFE and has been a partner and supporter of Putnam Pride. Thanks to their efforts, DEI policies and discussions have been implemented and the concerns of parents who previously felt deeply unheard have been vocalized. Putnam Pride was thrilled to provide a platform for these two advocates to be awarded for their work in the community, and fiercely defends their right to participate in the peaceful protest at the root of the present complaints nearly one month later, on June 22.

I attended the protest in question and saw firsthand that the only people exhibiting bigoted or discriminatory behavior that day were the “pro-Israel” counter-protesters who repeatedly attempted to incite a physical fight and obnoxiously invaded the protesters’ space. Those pushing this fake news story - with the support of Carmel BOE president Melissa Orser - are the same bigots who have called Abi, Jim, myself and others “groomers” and pedophiles for years. They have decided now that pretending they care about the Jewish community is useful for their political narrative despite the fact these same individuals have for years parroted numerous antisemitic, homophobic and transphobic talking points.

Abi and Jim have worked exhaustively over the last few years to represent communities in the Carmel Central School District and beyond who previously have not had support at the community or BOE level. Your article is badly written and teeming with lies pulled from social media and accepted as truth, such as that the Carmel police stopped the confrontation at the protest; neither the Carmel police nor the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department did anything to stop counter protesters from bullying the protesters. They in fact sanctioned aggression by standing on the sidelines watching as pro-Israel protesters infiltrated the space and became belligerent without separating the two groups or taking any kind of action to avoid conflict until the final minutes.

We in Putnam will not allow the biggest bigots in this county - the same people who have terrorized pro-DEI teachers and staff with false and defamatory accusations over the last several years - to spread these kinds of lies about two of the \*very few\* people actively and vocally advocating for change in our community. Jim is the only Board member who keeps the concerns of Black and Brown and LGBTQ+ groups front and center. He is also Jewish, which makes the accusations against him even more ridiculous.

Again, this is merely a blatant attempt to silence some of the only advocates marginalized people here have, and politicians, school administrators, the Carmel Teachers Association and the BOE have fallen for it hook, line and sinker,” Eileen McDermott (she/her) Putnam Pride.

Other residents in Harckham’s 40th District agree with the School Board and the Teachers Association in condemning Wise and calling for his removal.

“I am writing to express my concerns regarding your recent press release about honoring Jim Wise and Abi Lyons. I must ask: why do you continue to stand by their reward when their behavior has been questionable and disruptive? It is disheartening to witness leaders, whom we expect to unite our community, endorsing individuals who have consistently exhibited vile hatred.

Were you aware, as all of us in Carmel were, of the actions and comments of Wise and Lyons? Their past actions and behaviors are not hidden; they have been a source of division and conflict within our community.

Your inaction regarding Jim Wise’s position as a trustee on the Carmel School Board raises further questions. It appears that you are sanctioning behavior that contradicts the very principles of respect and unity we strive for in our community. This situation is not only disappointing, but it is also a stark reminder that words without actions mean little,” writes Kim Zamparelli, a Carmel resident.

“Jewish voters in the 40th Senate District are outraged that Senator Harckham would even be standing with these anti-Israel radicals, much less giving them awards,” said Westchester County resident Stacy Halper. “Israel is under existential threat, and our own state senator is promoting individuals who want the State of Israel extinguished. It’s a real wake up call for us.”

Harckham’s opponent in November, Gina Arena, has called for Wise to be removed. “Senator Harckham can’t have it both ways: He can either condone or condemn Mr. Wise’s anti-Israel activism. By giving Mr. Wise a state award, he has effectively condoned it, but there’s still time for Mr. Harckham to make things right. He must condemn Mr. Wise and distance himself from the Putnam for Palestine organization,” said Arena.

## Light the Night Executive Challenge Kickoff

September 10



The Leukemia & Lymphoma Society (LLS) is excited to invite the community to the Light The Night Executive Challenge Kickoff. Guests are welcome to come together to launch an impactful year in support of Light The Night, LLS's signature event.

Tuesday, September 10, 6:30 to 8:00 pm  
American Prime Steakhouse, 275 S Ridge St, Rye Brook, NY

2024 Light The Night Executive Leadership Committee Chair Fred Robustelli said: "This event marks the beginning of this year's efforts to fund lifesaving research and provide support for those affected by blood cancers. At the Executive Launch Kickoff, we will share how you can get involved with LLS while networking with a dynamic group of individuals committed to making a positive impact in our community."

RSVP encouraged: <https://forms.gle/Yky5cy73Gk5PdfET7>

This year, the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's annual Light The Night event returns to Playland Park on Saturday, October 19, 2024, uniting our community in a powerful display of support for those affected by blood cancers. This inspiring evening, hosted by the Westchester and Fairfield Chapter of LLS, gathers friends, families, schools, corporate teams, and sponsors to celebrate, honor, and remember loved ones touched by these cancers.

To register for the walk please go to: <https://www.lightthenight.org/events/westchester-lower-hudson-valley>

Highlighting this year's event is the Executive Challenge, featuring executives from Westchester and Fairfield Counties in a friendly competition to raise funds in support of LLS. The Light The Night Executive Challenge is a 6-week fundraising competition among corporate executives and emerging leaders in the Westchester-Fairfield area. In 2023, Executive Challengers raised a combined \$12 million nationally, with the top Westchester-Fairfield Executive Challenger raising \$32,600. The goal for the 2024 Westchester-Fairfield Challenge is to have 47 challengers raising a total of \$275,000.

Event Details:

- Date: Saturday, October 19, 2024
- Location: Playland Park, 1 Playland Parkway, Rye, NY 10580
- o Festivities Begin: 5 PM
- o Opening Ceremony: 6:30 PM
- o Walk Start Time: 7:15 PM
- o Post Event Festivities: 7:45 PM Fireworks
- o Event Ends: 8 PM
- Walk Length: Approximately 1 mile

For more information, to register, to donate, or to join the Executive Challenge, please contact Mackenzie Page [Mackenzie.Page@lls.org](mailto:Mackenzie.Page@lls.org) (203) 947-1320.

## Ratepayers Mobilize for Utility Justice

Activists from 17 states across the nation are launching a week of action to demand utility justice, holding for-profit utility companies accountable for hiking prices and fueling the climate crisis. Climate activists and ratepayers are holding 25 coordinated actions in a nation-wide escalation to address local utility issues and raise awareness around an industry that has monopoly power and is central to the climate crisis.

Led by People's Action Institute and 350 Network Council, coordinated actions are part of a national trend to hold utility companies accountable for price hikes and greenwashing. According to consumer price index data provided by the Bureau of Labor Statistics, average electricity prices for families in the United States have been raised nearly 31 percent since 2021. With longer and hotter summers, many people are at a breaking point.

"Instead of prioritizing clean and affordable energy, for-profit utility corporations hike rates on families, making it more expensive to heat and cool our homes while they are burning the planet," said Sophia Cheng, Climate Justice Campaign Director at People's Action Institute. "Across the country, people are speaking out because we are at a crossroads. We can keep paying utility corporations more each year to enrich CEOs profiting off of dirty power, or we can demand a transition to affordable, clean energy with public oversight and authority."

Years of organizing has yielded a massive federal investment in clean, reliable energy, but instead of seizing this opportunity, many utility corporations are doubling down on fossil gas and other harmful fuels while they hike rates across the country.

In Nevada, members of Progressive Leadership Alliance Nevada are protesting to stop NVEnergy from nearly tripling proposed service charges of \$16.50 to \$44.40. In Buffalo, New York, People United for Sustainable Housing are calling for corporate accountability and pushing back against National Fuel's proposal to hike rates nearly 13.7%. Rights and Democracy New Hampshire and 350 New Hampshire are rallying in Manchester, NH to protest Eversource's call for a 42% rate hike.

A recent study found that 27% of Americans struggled to pay utility bills or kept their homes at an unsafe temperature due to cost concerns. In addition to fighting back against rate hikes, activists across the country are organizing to stop expansions of dirty power and pressuring lawmakers to stop taking political contributions from for-profit utility corporations they are responsible for regulating.

"It is time to question not only where our energy is coming from, but how decisions are made by utility companies and who benefits from those decisions," said Chantelle Rioux, 350NH, of 350 Network Council. "For too long, for-profit utility companies have used their deep pockets and monopoly power to hike up energy prices, while buying political influence and dragging their feet on the urgent change that is needed."

Activists point out that there is not only momentum for change: there is money. The two-year-old Inflation Reduction Act unlocked \$369 billion in federal investments to support the transition to 100% clean, renewable energy.

"It does not take an expert to know that for-profit utility companies cannot keep taking more money from families only to double down on fossil fuels that are making our planet too hot to live on," said Rioux. "There is public will and unprecedented funding on the table to enact change and we are ready to fight for it."

Read it all Online at [Yonkerstimes.com](http://Yonkerstimes.com)

Dear Editor,

As the country and the rest of the world experience another year of scorching heat waves, private for-profit utility companies — who we rely upon for our basic necessities like heating, cooling and electricity — are keeping us reliant on climate-wrecking fossil fuels while reporting record profits. When they work well, utilities exist in the background of our lives: they power our homes, cool us down when it's hot, and give us heat when it's cold. But too often, they are sources of aggravation: The power goes off when it's dangerously hot or cold out, our bills skyrocket, and these for-profit companies threaten to shut off services when we're unable to pay. We know that climate change raises those stakes even higher, and utility companies themselves play a massive role in exacerbating the climate crisis: 80% of electric utilities in the U.S. run on fossil fuels.

Shifting utilities to clean energy is integral to working toward a safer climate, but these private, for-profit companies would rather maintain the status quo and keep the public in the dark. Utility companies are charging us more while they get paid off by the fossil fuel industry to block the transition to renewable energy.

Utility companies have gotten away with profiting at the expense of people and our planet for too long. It's time we hold them accountable and demand they stop using our money to burn our future while individuals and families struggle. We deserve an energy system that allows everyone to have access to clean and affordable energy.

Sincerely,  
Laura Ford, Yonkers

***Police officer suspended, continued from pg 1-***

District Attorney's Office to review footage from the body camera worn by the lieutenant. The lieutenant will remain suspended pending the outcome of the District Attorney's investigation, and a departmental internal investigation. The New Rochelle Police Department has requested that the District Attorney dismiss the charges against the individual related to the incident.

"Any questions related to the investigation of this matter should be directed to the Westchester County District Attorney's Office."

Westchester DA Mimi Rocah's office stated, "The Westchester County District Attorney's Office received a referral from the New Rochelle Police Department's Internal Affairs regarding the alleged conduct of a NRPD lieutenant in connection with a narcotics arrest. The DA's Office Public Integrity and Law Enforcement Integrity Bureau is currently conducting an investigation. Our Office also received a request from NRPD to dismiss the charges resulting from the narcotics arrest. We agree that dismissal is appropriate, and we are coordinating with all parties to withdraw the charges."

Talkofthesound.com has been at the forefront of this story. They report that Lt. Kane has a lengthy disciplinary record that includes 7 reprimands, the last of which was in 2019.

On Aug. 4, Kane declared his innocence on Facebook, writing "I'm the senior LT in this article. And I'm not running or hiding from anything. This allegation is NOT TRUE and I look forward to proving that it's false. I would NEVER let my family, friends, fellow cops or this community down like that. EVER. Stick with me until I'm given the opportunity to clear my name. God will reveal truth on my behalf. I have 0 doubts about it. Thank you!"

Kane joined the NRPD in 2007 and in 2011 was named Police Officer of the Year by New Rochelle Police Department. The recognition included, "Police Officer Sean Kane was appointed to the Department in August 2007, and is currently assigned to the Police Services Division's Third Tour. He is the recipient of the Police Commissioners' Award, four Class C Citations, one Commendation Award and the Municipal Housing Award. During his tenure with the Department, Officer Kane has developed a keen ability to detect criminal activity. He was temporarily reassigned to the Special Investigations Unit in 2011 and made an immediate impact. His street contacts and knowledge of the illegal drug community contributed to the success of Operation City Sweeper. His personal contributions led to sealed indictments in four cases. In 2011, he made 72 arrests, issued 37 city code summonses and filed 110 field interview reports. In acknowledgement of his noted achievements and performance, Police Officer Sean Kane is designated the Police Officer of the Year for 2011."

Kane was promoted to Sergeant in 2018-and Lt. in Feb 2024. He was suspended on July 31.

"The New Rochelle PBA is raising funds for Kane's defense. They write, "The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate action of its members." A member indeed is who Sean Kane exemplifies and represents. A highly decorated Lieutenant with 18 years of noble and dedicated police work. A personnel file that not only displays a long list of accolades but demonstrates his insurmountable impact within New Rochelle. This is evidenced by the relationships he has built within the community, especially during challenging times.

"His conduct has modeled that of a leader and his consistency and work ethic are set forth every time he puts on the badge. LT. Kane has organized a unit that other agencies can readily rely on for assistance without hesitation. From the onset of his career, LT. Kane has upheld a heroic image and stance to prioritize the safety of the city.

"To know this man is to know a selfless person, a perseverant investigator, a righteous leader and a true companion. In his time of need, we ask for your support and assistance by donating to this cause. LT. Kane has proven his loyalty to law enforcement and it's now his village's turn to reciprocate our support and gratitude for his tireless and unwavering commitment.

"In order to assist with the uncovered cost of a potential legal defense, you may contribute by scanning the below QR code to donate electronically or please see Det. Sgt. Jones, or Det. Velasco. Thank you!" end of PBA statement."

While the charges of the one defendant involved in the case with Lt. Kane that resulted in his suspension were dropped, the larger fear in the legal and law enforcement community is that any other arrests made by Kane, or his involvement in any other criminal cases, might also have to be dismissed.

***UPDATE: BEACH CLOSURES***

As of Aug. 13 After retesting, the following beaches associated with the pre-emptive closure due to rainfall must remain closed to bathers:

MAMARONECK:  
Mamaroneck Beach & Yacht Club  
Harbor Island Beach

NEW ROCHELLE: Hudson Park West Beach

The following beaches must remain closed due to a Harmful Algae Bloom observed in the bathing areas:

MOHEGAN LAKE:  
Mohegan Beach Park District Beach  
Mohegan Colony Association Beach

The following beaches are allowed to reopen to bathers:

CROTON ON HUDSON: Croton Point Park Beach

RYE: Rye Town Park Beach & Rye Playland Beach

LARCHMONT: Larchmont Manor Park & Larchmont Shore Club

MAMARONECK: Beach Point Club & Orienta Beach Club

RYE: Coveleigh Club

NEW ROCHELLE: Hudson Park East Beach, Davenport Club, Greentree Club, Surf Club

Residents and visitors are being advised to avoid contact with the water in the immediate area until further notice, and visit the Westchester County website for the latest updates on beach closures and reopening schedules. The County remains committed to maintaining high standards of environmental health and safety across its recreational facilities.

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THE CITY OF YONKERS/YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BUREAU OF PURCHASING, One Larkin Center, 3RD Floor, Yonkers, New York 10701 (Located in the Yonkers Riverfront Library Building across from the Metro-North train station) will receive sealed Bids and Proposals for the following projects until 2:00 PM, on the dates below.

Sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read at the address above in the 3rd Floor Finance Conference Room.

The building is open from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM for receiving packages via courier services and in person. If delivering bids in person, individuals must see the Public Safety Officer in the library atrium, who will contact Purchasing to meet the individual at the 3rd floor elevator.

Those interested in listening to the Sealed Bids opening and the reading of bids can dial Conference Call number 1-701-802-5221 and enter Access Code 1354203 when prompted.

Solicitation documents are available for downloading from the Empire State Purchasing Group website at <http://www.empirestatebidsystem.com/>. The City welcomes and encourages participation by local and minority and women owned business enterprises.

1. Bid No. RFB-7211 – Opening date: 09/06/2024: 2024 – Twelve-month contract, with two options to renew for 12-months, to provide maintenance and landscaping of the Larkin Plaza, Mill Street, and New Main Street Daylighting Parks (KS).

2. Bid No. IFB-7217 – Opening date: 09/06/2024: Twelve-month contract, with two options to renew for 12-months, to provide on-call maintenance, service, and repairs to roof and masonry systems for 41 school facilities throughout the Yonkers School District (MM).

3. Bid No. RFB-7222 – Opening date: 09/13/2024: Twenty-four month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide on-call water main leak detection services throughout the City of Yonkers (MM).

4. Bid No. RFB-7223 – Opening date: 08/23/2024: Furnish and install two City provided compressors at the E. J. Murray Memorial Skating Center at 348 Tuckahoe Road (AC).

5. Bid No. RFB-7224 – Opening date: 09/06/2024: Purchase of Stanley Hydraulic Tools, or Yonkers approved equal Hydrant Savers and accessories, 7 items (AC).

6. Bid No. RFB-7225 – Opening date: 09/13/2024: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide maintenance and repairs of gym equipment throughout the Yonkers School District (FB).

7. Bid No. RFB-7226 – Opening date: 09/06/2024: Purchase of Armstrong Safety Zone and 995 Safety Glue, or Yonkers approved equal, and Johnsonite, or Yonkers approved equal, black reducer, and cove base and cover base glue (VB).

8. Request for Qualifications No. RFQ-497 – Closing date: 09/13/2024: The City of Yonkers, NY, seeks "Qualification Submissions" or "Proposals" from New York State licensed engineering consultants to complete a storm water management study for the Roberts Lane watershed, located in the north-west quadrant of the city, to reduce localized flooding during severe weather (TC).

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## Lafayette Day in Westchester-August 18, 2024



The country was bitterly divided. A contentious presidential election loomed. The greatest generation from America's last good war was dying off. Would the experiment succeed? Would the journey continue? Would we even make it to the 50th anniversary of our birth?

Congress and President James Monroe invited American Revolution war hero the Marquis de Lafayette here in 1824. He ended up touring the entire country. Everywhere he went, muskets were fired, music was played, and stories were told. His visit was bigger than a Taylor Swift tour.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer has designated Sunday, August 18, 2024, as Lafayette Day in the county. He whizzed through us on the Boston Post Road on his way to Boston. He wasn't even here a day. He stopped at the stagecoach stops on route before reaching the Byram River and being handed over to the people from Greenwich.

The American Friends of Lafayette is celebrating that visit to Westchester. There will be three buses on 150 people traveling along Route 1 including a Lafayette interpreter and Virginie Lafayette, a direct descendant.

The communities along the way will be sponsoring free Lafayette Day activities in recognition of this event. Bring your family. Bring your friends. Spread the word. Connect to this bicentennial event in American history.

#### 1:00-3:00 Ruby Dee Library Park, New Rochelle

The Huguenot & New Rochelle Historical Association and the Thomas Paine Cottage will have a family programming day that will depict life in New Rochelle at the time of Lafayette's visit. It will be similar to a Colonial Fair. It will have reenactors, music, petting zoo and interactive activities for the children. The library will also be opened to view a children's art exhibit with Lafayette's visit as the theme as well. The American Friends of Lafayette panels will be on exhibit in the library. Storyteller Jonathan Kruk will perform. The park is approximately one block from the stagecoach stop where Lafayette actually did stop.

#### 1:00-4:00 The Old School House, Mamaroneck

The exact spot where Lafayette stopped on the Boston Post Road in Mamaroneck is not known. We are using the Old School House located by the harbor as the site for the program. The Mamaroneck History Society, the Lions Club, and the DAR will have a program with various re-enactors, musicians and crafts people of the era. Storyteller Jonathan Kruk will perform. The American Legion Post 90, will fire a 19-gun salute.

#### 2:30- 5:45 The Rye Historical Society, Rye

The Rye Historical Society, in partnership with the Rye Free Reading Room and American Friends of Lafayette, proudly presents "Lafayette Returns to Rye," a patriotic celebration commemorating Major General Lafayette's return tour to America. This event commemorates Lafayette's historic visit to Penfield's Square House Inn and Tavern, now part of the Rye Historical Society, where he dined with his son George Washington Lafayette during his 1824 tour of New York. The day will be filled with revelry, with a highlight being a reenactment skit led by Doug Carey of Tomorrow Leaders. This reenactment will vividly bring Lafayette's visit to life, making history tangible and engaging for all attendees.

#### 6:00-6:30 Byram River

There will be a ceremony at William James Memorial Gateway Park in Port Chester where Lafayette left Westchester, New York for Greenwich, Connecticut. New York will be represented by Village of Port Chester Deputy Mayor Phil Dorazio and Town of Rye Supervisor Gary Zuckerman. Greenwich will be represented by First Selectman Fred Camillo. There will be a short procession from the Park to the Gateway to Greenwich sign.

The handoff concludes Lafayette's brief visit to the County. The American Friends of Lafayette will then have dinner from the Barley Beach House and enjoy a magnificent sunset overlooking Long Island after a long day of traveling.

#### 6:30-8:00 Town of Rye Park

During the dinner, there will be free to the general public cannon fire from the Living History Guild and performances by the X Factor Drumline.

Contact:

Dr. Peter Feinman

American Friends of Lafayette

Institute of History, Archaeology, and Education

feinmanp@ihare.org

#### Cell Phone Ban in Schools, continued from pg 1-

According to a Pew Research survey released in June, 72 percent of high school teachers nationwide say student distraction with cell phones is a major problem in their classrooms. As part of her commitment to address this issue and create more positive outcomes for students, families, and educators, Gov. Hochul stated this spring that she plans to propose a statewide policy to address excessive smartphone use in schools.

Hochul added that many schools across the state currently have individual policies that seek to address cell phone use in their classrooms. We were not able to find a list of NY school districts that have banned student cell phones, but we found four upstate; the Hoosick Falls SD, the Schoharie school district, the Newburgh School district high school and the Middletown School district.

The roundtable was held at the Yonkers Public Schools Board of Education and included State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, State Senator Shelley Mayer, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, and County Executive George Latimer.

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, "We are here today with a shared goal of discussing how to best move forward to foster an educational environment that maximizes student learning and supports student mental well-being. I want to thank Governor Kathy Hochul for bringing together stakeholders to discuss how smartphone use in our schools impacts the learning environment and student mental health, and to explore potential ways to address this issue. Our work demands that we confront the challenges that arise in modern life, including the new opportunities brought by advances in technology."

State Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, "I deeply applaud Governor Hochul for organizing this important roundtable and drawing attention to the challenges of cell phone use in schools. We had a productive conversation about how to combat children's cell phone addiction to improve social interaction, mental health, and academic opportunities. Thank you to Governor Hochul and her team for convening this roundtable and to the City of Yonkers for hosting it."

Mayor Mike Spano said, "The City of Yonkers and Yonkers Public Schools were proud to serve as the host City and District for this important roundtable. It's critically important to gain perspective from all over the state about how this will impact the academic day, our students, our teachers, and our administrators. Technology has no doubt evolved and can be used to enhance learning, but it should not restrict our children from socializing and staying on task academically."

Additional participants in the roundtable include:

Assemblyman Gary Pretlow

Assemblyman Nader Sayegh

Assemblyman Chris Burdick

White Plains Mayor Thomas Roach

White Plains Superintendent Joseph Ricca

Yonkers Associate Superintendent, Dr. Michelle Yazurlo

Yonkers Board of Education President Dr. Rosalba Corrado DeVecchio

Yonkers Federation of Teachers President and NYSUT General Board Member Samantha Rosado-Ciriello

Yonkers Council of State PTA President Dr. Robin Brumfield

While Hochul has yet to reveal any draft proposal or details of her plan, concerns have already been raised about who will pay for the cell phone pouches that students would be required to place their phones in when they come to school. State legislators want the state to pay the cost, while Hochul so far, has been non-committal on who would have to pay. The states of Pennsylvania and Delaware have allocated funds for school districts to use to pay for cell phone pouches.

Other education groups have called for the decision to ban cell phones in schools to remain in local control and come from local schools or school boards.

The States of Florida, Virginia, South Carolina, Indiana and Louisiana, and the Los Angeles school district, the second largest school district in the US, have already banned cell phone use by students in schools, and have either implemented the plan or will do so this school year.

The NY State United Teachers Union, and the NYS Parents Association, have both indicated support for Hochul's plan. But some parents are already asking for their children to be allowed to use their cell phones during lunch recess. Other concerns about a ban are if some students use their cell phones for art classes, or for after school jobs.

Hochul is opposed to letting each school district decide whether to ban or not to ban cell phones. "It seems to me that a district-by-district approach does not work, and I don't anticipate that a piecemeal approach will be my approach," said Hochul.

Other concerns some parents have raised involve reaching their student-child during an emergency, including gun violence in school.

It is unclear if the ban would extend to SUNY college students.

Who will be responsible to enforce the ban is another unresolved issue, with teachers indicating that they don't want to be the cell-phone police.

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