

At Neighbors Link Event, Hillary Clinton Talks Immigration & Impact Under Trump Act II



Secretary **Hillary Rodham Clinton** with Neighbors Link Executive Director **Carola Otero Bracco**

On Tuesday, December 3rd, Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton joined Neighbors Link Executive Director Carola Otero Bracco before an audience of more than 400 attendees at the VIP Country Club for a candid conversation about the anticipated consequences for thousands of Westchester immigrants under a new Trump administration. With approximately one-quarter of Westchester County's population comprised of foreign-born residents who help power the economy, contribute to the tax base and enrich the social fabric of our communities, Secretary Clinton's advice was especially prescient.

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Westchester County Board of Legislators Passes 2025 County Budget by a 15-2 Vote

The Westchester County Board of Legislators has passed by overwhelming majority its \$2.8 billion budget outlining the county's priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.

The 2025 County Budget maintains the same County property tax rate as 2024, marking the sixth consecutive year without a tax levy increase. The plan prioritizes funding for childcare, affordable housing and public safety. The Board weighed community recommendations through a series of public engagement sessions.

Chairman Vedat Gashi (D - New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said: "We've listened to County residents and responded with a budget that prioritizes vital services for those most in need. This budget supports our most vulnerable residents while protecting taxpayers and our fiscal future."

Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson (D - Elmsford, Greenburgh, Tarrytown, White Plains) said: "As Chair of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, I'm proud to present a sound and balanced 2025 County Budget. Despite the challenges of a tight fiscal environment, we've succeeded in keeping a property tax increase for the general operating budget at bay for the sixth consecutive

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United Way & Westchester Library System Collect 680 Coats in Winter Coat Drive



The United Way of Westchester and Putnam (UWWP) and Westchester Library System (WLS) announced that their inaugural Winter Coat and Accessories Drive collected an impressive 680 coats and 537 accessories, totaling

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NY State Teachers Union: Its Time to Ban Cellphone Use During the School Day

By Dan Murphy



Now that NYSUT President Melinda Person and the thousands of teachers that make up her membership have called on Governor Kathy Hochul and the State legislator "to provide consistent, statewide restrictions on cellphone use during the school day," the question now becomes how quickly can Albany pass such a ban?

On Dec. 9 at the state Capitol, NYSUT gathered a coalition of partners in education, healthcare, child and family advocacy, and law enforcement who support safeguarding students' authentic learning and mental health through distraction-free schools.

"Research has shown that adopting a phone-free school policy is one of the most impactful steps you can take to enhance student educational outcomes, behavior and well-being," said NYSUT President Melinda Person. "We have an opportunity to provide children with an average of seven hours each school day to be fully present and free from the pressures and harms of phones and social media. Now is the time to act on it."

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A Holiday Message from Departing Congressman Bowman- To All White People

All we are trying to say y'all is we should not be cool with white supremacy. Whether you're Black, Latino, White, Asian, Arab or other, we should not be cool with white supremacy. That's who Trump is and that is what Trump represents. Sure there are many factors, but at its core, a vote for him is a vote for white supremacy. White supremacy is patriarchy. White supremacy is wealth inequality. White supremacy is war and genocide. It is colonialism and imperialism It is fear. It is hate. And it is the belief in the supremacy of the white so-called race.

from Rep. **Jamaal Bowman**

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Sister Helps Jailed Brother Extort Victim of Sex Crimes for \$\$\$-You Can't Make This UP!



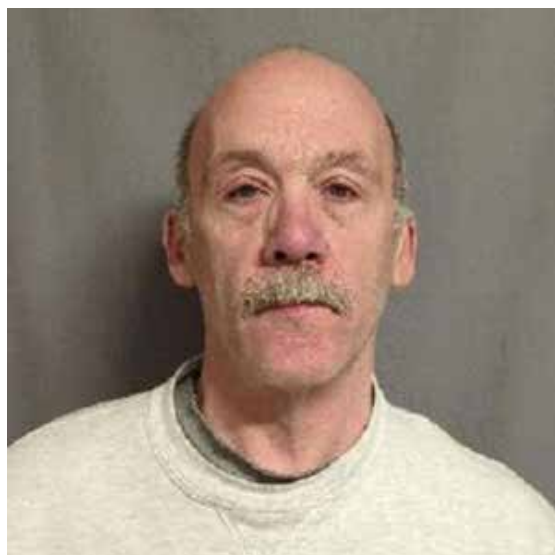
Fred and Doreen Mastroianni

Damian Williams, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York; and James E. Dennehy, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), announced the unsealing of a Complaint charging FRED MASTROIANNI and DOREEN MASTROIANNI with cyberstalking, extortion, and conspiracy to commit extortion. DOREEN MASTROIANNI and FRED MASTROIANNI will be presented in White Plains federal court before U.S. Magistrate Judge Victoria Reznik on December 11, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said: "As alleged, Fred and Doreen Mastroianni have cyberstalked and conspired to extort victims by threatening to release compromising images of them to the public, allegedly engaging in this conduct even though Fred is already serving a 35-year prison sentence for receiving, distributing, and producing child pornography. This Office will continue to protect

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Victims of Jimmy Collins Settle Cases with N. Westchester Boys & Girls Club, Village of Mt Kisco & Chappaqua SD



James Collins

Sixteen men have settled their sexual abuse civil lawsuits against James Collins, a former employee of the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester in the Village of Mount Kisco and the Chappaqua School District.

Collins, now in prison, is accused of sexually abusing 16 boys over a period of 40 years, starting in the 1970's in his role as a coach, counselor and janitor for the Village of Mt. Kisco, the Boys Club of Northern Westchester and Chappaqua School District.

The civil lawsuits alleged widespread and serial acts of sexual abuse by James Collins, a former employee of the Village of Mt. Kisco, the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester, and Chappaqua Central School District when the victims were minors. They were filed under the New York Child Victims Act which opened a window in the statute of limitations allowing victims of past child sexual abuse to bring claims.

The lawsuits also allege that adult employees of the Village of Mt. Kisco, the Chappaqua Central School District and the Boys and Girls Club of Northern Westchester County witnessed Collins' inappropriate and abusive behavior with young boys including the victims and took no action to stop him or report him to law enforcement.

50 years after he began his sex abuse against young boys, Collins was arrested in November of 2023. One of the charges was for paying for sex with an underage boy in the bathroom of the Chappaqua Library. Collins later admitted to New Castle Police to the illegal act with the 15-year old.

After being released on bail, Collins attempted to meet up with the boy again, communicating on Snapchat. But this time, undercover agents arrested him and he is now behind bars, likely for the rest of his life.

The question that many with knowledge of Collins acts has is how was he able to stay out of the hands of law enforcement for decades? And how did he stay out of jail once the sex abuse lawsuits were filed, starting in 2020?

Collins was the owner of "Jimmy's" Bar in Katonah. The bar was recently sold and demolished. He is charged with one count of attempting to entice a minor to engage in unlawful sexual activity, which carries a maximum sentence of life in prison, as well as one count of sexual exploitation of a minor, which carries a maximum sentence of 30 years in prison. Collins is currently incarcerated in a federal facility.

"More specifically, upon information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that several employees of BGC witnessed and/or knew of Collins' grooming and/or sexual misconduct towards children, including BGC employees who oversaw the swimming facilities, the secretary for BGC, and the BGC director of athletics.

"More specifically, upon information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that Collins had been arrested and/or charged for sexual misconduct; however, certain individuals within the Bedford Hills Police Department ("BHPD") assisted Collins in avoiding public scrutiny for these charges." This part of the Civil suit has never been answered or who was it in the Bedford Police Department that aided Collins from facing justice for decades?

One of Collins's co-workers, Ms. Carey, testified that she observed Collins and his behavior dating back to when she was 15-16 years old working as a camp counselor. Carey also testified she observed Collins place his hands on multiple children when she was both a camp counselor and a lifeguard [Carey Tr. pp.72-7a). Carey also witnessed Collins holding the bodies of various children close to him [Carey Tr. p. 75]. On one specific occasion in 1980, she observed Collins put his hands inside and down the bathing suit of one boy in the pool.

Carey further testified that she told a supervisor about what she saw in detail and was told to mind her own business.

Read our prior story on this case at <https://yonkerstimes.com/after-50-years-of-sexually-abusing-young-boys-james-collins-of-westchester-finally-behind-bars/>

Congressman Lawler: He Takes Interviews from Everyone



Congressman Mike Lawler

By Dan Murphy

Westchester Congressman Mike Lawler does something most politicians won't do. He takes interviews from all channels and all political ideologies.

Rep. Lawler has shown himself in these interviews to be articulate, and depending on the interview, he will challenge the host and defend his viewpoint.

One recent interview that we heard Lawler on was on a new platform called 2Way. Lawler appeared with host Mark Halperin to discuss the Hunter Biden pardon given by his father, President Joe Biden.

Halperin is one of the best journalists, but also one of the most bi-partisan members of the media. Which is why we like to listen to his Morning Meetings on 2Way.

"I think Joe Biden's legacy has been left in tatters by his decision to run for reelection and now this (pardon), and democrats losing the senate and the White House. This (pardon) is the icing on the cake.

"He (President Biden) lied repeatedly to the American people that he would not give his son a pardon. And his staff repeatedly lied to the public.

"What is jarring is he's pardoning him (Hunter) over an 11 year period, which is the period of time that the House investigation committee was investigating the foreign dollars that flowed, \$24 Million to the Biden family through 20 shell companies. It blows a hole to his claims in 2020 that his son never received any money from China.

"That was a lie and he knew it to be a lie, and said it repeatedly.

"The American people should determine who are next president is. In this election they spoke and elected Donald Trump.

Lawler pointed out that now that Hunter has been pardoned, he is not subject to any crimes, and thus, can be called to testify before Congress. "At some point, Hunter Biden is going to have to answer questions as a witness," said Lawler.

Lawler then reviewed the key details of the Congressional investigation into Hunter Biden with an encyclopedic memory and no notes.

"The investigation did show that at a minimum were disturbing and warranted an investigation by the press. The bank records show that over \$24 Million flowed from Russia, China, Romania and Ukraine to the Biden.

The money was transferred to a shell company owned by Hunter and James Biden. then to a shell company owned by James and Sarah Biden. Then to the personal account of James and Sarah Biden. And then a check was written to Joe Biden."

"I go on ever single network and speak to every reporter. I think the media has to be sincere in questioning every single elected official. Don't push one agenda over another. The credibility of the media is completely shot. From the Russia investigation to this investigation. The media needs to be skeptical and ask the tough questions."

"Given the totality, it will leave a lasting negative impression on Joe Biden," said Lawler.

Watch the interview at <https://youtu.be/2a7C-QbnJYs>

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Westchester NYS Supreme Court Judge Lewis Lubell Admonished by Judicial Commission



NYS Supreme Court Judge Lewis Lubell

Westchester State Supreme Court Justice Lewis Lubell agreed to a decision from the NYS Commission on Judicial Misconduct to be admonished for actions he took that benefited his friend and partner Mitchell Lieberman, in the law firm of Lieberman & Lieberman.

In a unanimous, 10-0 decision, the Commission found that Lubell tried to influence Supreme Court Justice Thomas Quinones in 2022 in a matrimonial case.

The Commission report reads, "Charge I of the Complaint alleged on August 19, 2022, after having spoken with his friend Mitchell P. Lieberman about a pending matrimonial case that Mr. Lieberman, an attorney, had before Supreme Court Justice Thomas Quinones (Westchester County), respondent initiated an ex parte conversation about that case with Judge Quinones and gave him advice on an issue Mr. Lieberman had raised. The Complaint further alleged that on September 16, 2022, respondent had another ex parte conversation with Judge Quinones about Mr. Lieberman's case, inter alia asking if Judge Quinones had considered firing his court attorney over the matter raised by Mr. Lieberman.

"Respondent and Judge Quinones socialized together and with mutual acquaintances, their Supreme Court chambers were near to each other in 2022, and from time to time, respondent gave Judge Quinones professional advice.

"On August 17, 2022, Edit Shkreli, who at the time was Judge Quinones' court attorney, conducted a case conference in Allison Cooper Cohen v Jacques Cohen ("Cohen"), a contested matrimonial matter.

"Respondent has been contrite and cooperative throughout the Commission's inquiry, and forthrightly acknowledged the impropriety of his conversations with Judge Quinones.

"Respondent violated Sections 100.1, 100.2(A), 100.2(B), 100.2(C), and 100.3(B)(6) of the Rules Governing Judicial Conduct ("Rules") and should be disciplined for cause, pursuant to Article VI, Section 22, subdivision a, of the New York State Constitution and Section 44, subdivision 1, of the Judiciary Law.

"Charge I of the Formal Written Complaint is sustained. Respondent's conduct was inconsistent with his obligations to maintain high standards of conduct and to "act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary."

"The Rules, with limited exceptions not applicable here, prohibit a judge from initiating, permitting or considering ex parte communications about a Judge Quinones's Court Attorney Edit Shkreli,

"Respondent violated his ethical obligations when he engaged in improper, undisclosed communications regarding the Cohen matter with attorney Lieberman and with his co-judge.

The entire determination can be found at <https://cjc.ny.gov/Determinations/L/Lubell.Lewis.J.2024.11.07.DET.pdf>

Lubell accepted the commission's public sanction after admitting to an agreed-on statement of facts.

Judge Lubell has been a Justice of the Supreme Court since 2006. He previously served as an Acting Justice of the Ardsley Village Court from 2003 to 2005. His current term expires on December 31, 2033.

Busy Side Walks, City Sidewalks

By Eric Wolf Schoen



As we start to bring 2024 to a close, everyone is busy, everyone is tired, we just want to relax and be left alone. So I thought I would share some good year ending information with you. And I'll conclude by telling you why I may be missing inaction as Santa's sled comes to Westchester and we start to light the candles of the Menorah or the Kinara.

We are all tired of those 9:00 a.m. calls everyday including Sunday from medical supply companies trying to send, not even sell some device to make our lives better, or ask a personal question such as do we have high blood pressure or diabetes. By 9:30 in the morning a week or so ago I had received call #3, and said to myself there has to be a way to stop these calls. Call #3 came in, I answered it, and after the women asked me about my conditions, I said to her I was wondering if her company had a machine, device or product that would make my private part grow larger.

The caller said sir, I am going to make a note that the next time we make these calls we should not call you. I said that's a really good idea. Thank you very much. And you have a wonderful day! Try that next time when you receive calls from these people, some legit and many not. Hopefully they will get the message.

By the way any materials a company sends you and you did not order or request become your Property. You are under no obligation to return them.

At the end of the year companies want to close out their books and as happened to me send 2 or 3 bills which you have already paid for either because they did not book the payment you made or their computer system is screwed up. It happened to me, the call coming from one of our hospitals in Yonkers. Bottom line, keep track of every bill you pay and make sure the bill is legit.

If you get a bill such as a medical bill with a copay make sure the copay is legit by calling your insurance company. With one medical appointment generating numerous bills, make sure you are paying the ones you have to at the correct amount.

Pay with credit cards so someone will back you up if there is a problem with your purchase. Even if you have cash on hand. But never spend cash you don't have. Interest rates on credit cards are high, there are so many available, do your homework so if you have to pay on credit you are paying the lowest interest rate you qualify for.

End of the year means end of your insurance benefit year. Make sure you have taken advantage of all your policy offers. So many people don't go to the doctor when they are not feeling well even though the appointment is covered and their copay is small. If you have insurance benefits use them! You pay a lot of money for insurance so use it.

Many people don't have the benefits you have!

Let's hop over the grocery store fence for a few minutes. At this time of year many types of fruit are on their last leg. Strawberries, blueberries plums, many types of grapes are almost done. My sister taught me a trick when selecting fruit. Find the produce manager, become friends with him Or her and ask them if the fruit is worth the price. \$8.99 is a lot for strawberries, but the fruit manager said they were worth it and she was very Happy with them. If you are unhappy with fruit you buy, bring it back with your receipt within a reasonable time and they should give you your money back. You are paying a lot for fruit so make sure you get your monies worth. Thank you Simroy from Stop and Shop.

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NYS Education Commissioner Betty Rosa Declines to Remove Jim Wise from Carmel BOE



Carmel Board of Education Trustee Jim Wise

By Dan Murphy

Carmel School Board member Jim Wise can remain in his duties, according to a recent decision ordered by NYS Education Commissioner Betty Rosa.

Carmel resident and parent Kim Zamparelli filed the request to have Wise removed for alleged antisemitic comments he made at a July 2024 board meeting.

The Carmel School Board passed a resolution disavowing Wise's comments.

Only the Education Commissioner can remove School Board member if they have engaged in a willful violation or neglect of duty.

"Petitioner has failed to demonstrate that removal is warranted based on the respondent's statements in public and at the July 2024 Board meeting," writes Rosa.

After the decision, Zamparelli wrote, "As some of you may know, I have been working tirelessly to combat the rise of antisemitism in our community, particularly concerning Trustee Jim Wise at the Carmel Central School District. His behavior, both within and beyond our school buildings, has been nothing short of despicable."

Several months ago, I submitted a formal petition to Education Commissioner Betty Rosa, urging for the removal of Trustee Wise due to his actions that contradict the values we stand for as a community. Thank you to those who stood alongside me: Mike Lawler, Matt Slater, Aj Bephan, and many others who joined in the effort to call for his removal. Your support and commitment to making our district a better place for all children have been invaluable.

This weekend, I received the response I had been anxiously awaiting. However, it was disheartening to discover that the Commissioner herself seems to condone Trustee Wise's behavior. It is deeply troubling to see such a high-ranking official appear to endorse actions fundamentally rooted in antisemitism. Shame on her for not standing against this unacceptable behavior!

While I briefly felt a sense of defeat upon reading the response, I want to assure you that I will not back down. There is no room for hate or discrimination in our schools or community, and I am more determined than ever to fight against this intolerable behavior.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has been fighting alongside me. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and together we can make a difference. This fight is far from over, and I invite each of you to continue standing up for what is right.

Let us remain united in our mission to foster an inclusive environment for all our children, free from hatred and prejudices. Thank you for your continued support."

During one school board meeting, Wise said six times, the phrase "From the River to the Sea," which he claims is not antisemitic.

But most residents and voters in the 40th District, and throughout Westchester, understand that "From the River to the Sea," is antisemitic.

School Board President Melissa Orser read most of the resolution to the public. "This issue is not only divisive, but it is damaging to the fabric of our community. Over the past school year, we have witnessed an unsettling uptick of anti-Semitic incidents in our own school community. The presence of swastika

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Con Edison customers who receive qualifying government assistance benefits can receive a discount of up to \$173 per month on their energy bills, through the Energy Affordability Program (EAP).

Customers receiving Medicaid, Veterans Disability or Survivors Pension, Federal Public Housing Assistance, or Lifeline Telephone Service Program benefits among others can enroll online or apply via email, fax, mail, or in person at one of Con Edison's walk-in centers.

Most customers receiving certain benefits, like Supplemental Security Income, Home Energy Assistance Program, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, are automatically enrolled in the EAP.

The company encourages customers to visit coned.com/billhelp for more information on eligibility and how to apply, and to learn more about additional assistance programs, like HEAP and EnergyShare.

This year, Con Edison has applied more than \$201 million in discounts for electric and \$40 million in gas discounts to low-income customers' bills.

"Keeping energy affordable is a focus of our work," said Kelsey Berger, section manager in Customer Operations. "We want customers to reach out to us if they have trouble paying their energy bill. We're here to help. In addition to tips and tools for lowering energy bills, Con Edison offers a one-stop-shop for information and links to programs on its website designed to help our most economically vulnerable customers. We're also working together with other organizations and agencies to connect our customers to the resources they need."

The company continues to reach out to vulnerable customers via emails, newsletters, bill messaging, social media posts, and print, radio and digital advertising to encourage participation.

Con Edison also refers customers to NYSEERDA's EmPower+ program. This program provides no-cost energy efficiency services up to \$10,000 for home energy upgrades for low-income customers. It also provides incentives of up to \$5,000 with a 50 percent customer match required for moderate-income customers.

Con Edison continues to work to make sure that the move away from fossil fuels to a clean energy future does not disproportionately burden low-income customers.

The company also offers special protections and payment programs for seniors, people with disabilities, customers experiencing medical emergencies, and domestic violence.

Visit www.coned.com/en/accounts-billing/payment-plans-assistance/help-paying-your-bill, to enroll.

Third Precinct Police Community Council

The Third Precinct Police Community Council will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, December 18 - 7:30 PM at the Chema Community Center, 435 Riverdale Avenue. Usual quality of life issues and concerns will be addressed. Residents and merchants of the southwest Yonkers area are strongly encouraged to attend this important community meeting. For further information contact either Bob Stauf, President at 914 476-2284 or Captain Mike Mulvey at 914 377-7247.

Westchester Rising

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Brother Sister Charged in Sex-Extortion crime, continued from pg 1-

the community from those who repeatedly try to harm and exploit vulnerable citizens.”

FBI Assistant Director in Charge James E. Dennehy said: “The Mastroianni siblings allegedly preyed on individuals who were victimized by Fred Mastroianni; stalking and conspiring to extort them for the siblings’ financial benefit. Victimization by sexual exploitation is beyond appalling and will not be tolerated. FBI New York will work tirelessly to hold accountable anyone attempting to utilize stalking and extortion for financial gain.”

As alleged in the Complaint unsealed today:[1]

FRED MASTROIANNI (“FRED”) is currently serving a 35-year sentence imposed by the Honorable Philip M. Halpern, U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York, on August 15, 2024, for receiving and distributing child pornography and for the sexual exploitation of a minor. DOREEN MASTROIANNI (“DOREEN”) is FRED’s sister.

Since at least October 2024, FRED and DOREEN have engaged in a plot to extort victims by threatening to release sexually explicit images and videos of the victims that FRED has saved. The extortion attempts are designed to compel victims to contribute money to FRED’s commissary account in prison and to fund the purchase of an insurance policy against DOREEN’s life for the benefit of FRED. FRED has used another inmate’s email account to send DOREEN draft extortion threats in furtherance of this scheme. At FRED’s direction, DOREEN has forwarded those extortion threats to victims on FRED’s behalf.

There may be more victims of this alleged conduct. If you have information to report, contact the FBI through its toll-free Tip Line at 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324) or <https://tips.fbi.gov>.

FRED, 54, formerly of White Plains, New York, and DOREEN, 69, of Yorktown Heights, New York, are each charged with one count of cyberstalking, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison; one count of interstate extortion, which carries a maximum sentence of two years in prison; and one count of conspiracy to commit interstate extortion, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

The maximum potential sentences in this case are prescribed by Congress and are provided here for informational purposes only, as any sentencing of the defendants will be determined by a judge.

Mr. Williams praised the work of the FBI’s Westchester Safe Streets Task Force.

This case is being handled by the Office’s White Plains Division. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Ryan W. Allison, Margaret N. Vasu, and Courtney Heavey are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

According to the complaint, “Fred directed Doreen to set up an account that would allow him to send text messages from prison. Fred explained that he wanted to use this text message application to get victim 1 to pay this F*&%@ life insurance.”

The two had planned to extort another victim of Fred’s sex crimes, Vic-2.

The conversations described in the complaint come from recorded phone calls made by Fred from prison to his sister Doreen on the same phone number listed on her Realtor.com page.

Doreen also maintained Fred’s cache of pornography according to the complaint. Her son “saw things he never wanted to see.”

Reminding our readers that Fred was convicted of possessing thousands of images and videos, sharing those images with others over the internet, and for years extorting another person (“Individual-1”) to force Individual-1 repeatedly to capture and send to FRED sexually explicit images and videos of Individual-1’s prepubescent son.

After that history with Individual 1-Fred attempts to extort Ind 1 to participate in this life insurance policy idea. After Ind 1 refuses the first request, Fred

emails Vic 1 through Doreen, “I would never do anything to embarrass you or cause you discomfort on purpose unless I was pushed to the breaking point (which is where I currently am). I have friends in the adult entertainment business. One is the owner of a company which is the largest male porn management company in the country and the other is the owner of a lounge in NYC. Both had a lot of connections and are helping shop my library of 3000 videos and 200,000++ photos. I can sell then my ENTIRE library or I can have certain files left out. Or I don’t have to sell anything.”

Doreen responds to Fred’s emails with “I find it hard to believe you put it in writing,” and “I find its content repugnant.”

Fred also owed victim 1 -\$25,000 which was never repaid.

Fred’s videos of victim-1 occurred when Fred was 30 and Vic-1 was 15-years old. Fred took photos of Vic-1 while he masturbated.

Eventually, Vic-1 called Doreen to say he was not interested. and that he was “sorry that things were so bad that you (“Fred”) had to sink that low to write that.”

Doreen should have gone to the FBI when Fred asked her to copy his folder of illegal porn and to extort Vic-1. Now she is facing 12 years in prison.

Former NYPD Detective Convicted of Child Sexual Abuse Sentenced to 5 Years



Police Dog Helps Victim to Testify

Tuckahoe Police Chief Larry Rotta and court-certified support animal Eddie, a 2-year-old Labrador Retriever, who accompanied the young victim for testimony in the People v. Wilson Frias trial in October 2024.

Jury found the defendant guilty of sexually abusing a young child in his Briarcliff Manor home in March 2023

On Dec. 6, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that an 18-year New York Police Department detective, who was convicted of sexually abusing a young child in his Briarcliff Manor home in March 2023, was sentenced to five years in prison.

DA Rocah said: “Today’s sentence won’t erase the nightmare endured by a very young child and her family who had to relive the trauma during trial. The just outcome of this case is testament to their extraordinary bravery, and the commitment of prosecutors and police working together to bring this defendant to justice.”

The defendant, Wilson Frias, 52, was also sentenced to 10 years of post-release supervision by Westchester County Court Justice Maurice Williams, and after his release will be required to register as a sex offender.

A jury in October found the defendant guilty of sexual abuse in the first degree, a felony, and endangering the welfare of a child, a misdemeanor. Upon the jury’s verdict, the defendant was remanded to Westchester County Jail.

Following his conviction, the defendant was terminated from the NYPD.

As detailed during the trial, at approximately 2 p.m. on March 11, 2023, the defendant subjected the victim to sexual contact in the defendant’s Briarcliff Manor home, where the victim was for a playdate. When the victim informed a parent, the incident was reported to Briarcliff Manor police.

During the trial, the young victim testified in court, with the support of Eddie, a 2-year-old Labrador Retriever that works as a court-certified support animal. The trial marked the first time in Westchester County where the court granted the use of a support animal to accompany a victim to court on a criminal case; only the second time statewide.

The District Attorney thanked the Briarcliff Manor Police Department and Detective J.P. Chavez for their investigation and bringing this case to the DA’s Office. The DA also thanked Tuckahoe Police Department Chief Larry Rotta, handler of Eddie, who has been working as a court-certified support animal since July and supported the young victim at trial.

In a victim impact statement read in court, the mother of the victim said: “Wilson’s guilty verdict confirms my belief in the justice system and that karma does exist. In my opinion, there is no punishment harsh enough to justify what Wil did to my (child) and my family. He does not deserve to be free.”

The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Charlotte Gudis and Assistant District Attorney Morgan Helfman of the Child Abuse Bureau in the Special Prosecutions Division.

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Notice of formation of GCMA2 Real Estate Group LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/29/2024. 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, 66 Hutchinson Blvd, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

OnPoint Home Designs LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 8/28/2024. 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, 14 Crosby Court, Cortlandt Manor NY 10567. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Hampton Estate Care LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/17/2024. 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, 35 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Schmoose Pack Projects LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/20/2024. 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 Bruce Wong 10 Station Square Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of 130 FRANKLIN AVE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 10/15/2024. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Brian Caldwell at 68 North Steet, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of David A. Langner, Esq., PLLC filed Arts. of Org. with NY Sec. of State (NYSS) on 11/18/2024. Office: Westchester County. NYSS was designated PLLC's agent for service of process, and shall mail process to 87 Hawkes Ave., #2104, Ossining, NY 10562. Purpose: Practice of Law.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

new products. I tried a SOLA BRAND of bagels and bread at Stop and Shop. 100 calories a bagel, but a whopping 24 grams of fiber. As they say it wasn't a bagel shop bagel, but it was fairly good. And the fiber always helps digestion.

So here you have some 20 or so things to live a better and help you close the year in positive fashion!

Speaking of leading a better life, I will be missing in action. Next Tuesday, I'll be having neck surgery to relieve some of the pain I have in my shoulders, back, legs basically all my body. Caused by my scoliosis and aggravated by my Parkinson's.

Say a prayer for me and for peace in world! See you soon!

Reach ERIC WOLF Schoen at thistooisyonkers@aol.com.

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SUPREME COURT, STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER,
Index No. 61446/2024,
SUMMONS:

US Bank as custodian for Actlien Holding Inc.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

The Unknown Heirs, Legatees, Devisees and/or Representative of Right W. Howley, And All Persons That May Claim An Interest In The Property Referred To In The Complaint By, Through Or Under Any Of The Foregoing (The Aforesaid Unknown Heirs, Legatees, Devisees and/or Representatives Being All Such Heirs, Legatees, Devisees and/or Representatives Of Their Than Those Specifically Named As A Defendant Herein – The Identity And Addresses Of All The Foregoing Not Being Known To Plaintiff), Judy Howley Galligan, Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Thomas Fitzgerald, Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Sharon Tufo Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Kathy Howley Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Richard Howley Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Mary Jane Brown Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Ruth Morrison Dee Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Robert Howley Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Joan Howley Jackowiak Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, T11 Funding Point 62, LLC, Credit Solutions Of America, New York State Department of Taxation And Finance, CSA Corp, “John Does” And “Jane Does”, Same being fictitious and unknown to the Plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the fee Owners, occupants, tenants, persons or entities, if any, having Or claiming an interest in or lien upon the liened premises if the aforesaid individual defendants if living, or if said individual defendants are dead, their respective heirs-at-law, next-of-kin, distributes, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by, through, or against the said defendants named as a class, of any right, title, or interest in or lien upon the premises described in the verified complaint,

Defendants.

Location of property to be foreclosed: 92 Vineyard Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10703.
SBL# 2- 2174-10.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in the above action and to serve a copy of your Answer on the Plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner than by personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a Defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service hereof. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Westchester County is designated as the place of trial. The basis of venue is the location of the mortgaged/liened premises.

NOTICE: YOU MAY BE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME.

If you do not respond to this Summons and Complaint by serving a copy of the Answer on the attorney for the tax lien company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you for non-payment of City of Yonkers, New York taxes for the tax year 2016, and filing the Answer with the Court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your property. Speak to an attorney or go to the Court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the Summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to the City of Yonkers may not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (TAX LIEN COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

DATED: November 20, 2024, JASON BERTUNA, ESQ.

Bee Ready Law Group, LLC,

Attorneys for Plaintiff

Office and Post Office Address

170 Old Country Road, Suite 200

Mineola, NY 11501

Telephone: (516) 746-5599

NATURE AND OBJECT OF ACTION: The object of the above action is to foreclose on a tax lien(s) held by Plaintiff bearing the date(s) the 10th day of May, 2017, executed by the City of Yonkers at auction on the 10th day of May, 2017, to Plaintiff to secure the sum of \$4,235.47, plus any applicable interest and fees, and recorded by the City of Yonkers on the 10th day of May, 2017 as Tax Lien Certificate No. 190168.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. Paul I. Marx, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, dated October 28, 2024, and filed along with the supporting papers in the Westchester County Clerk's Office. This is an action to foreclose the property for an unpaid tax lien.

The premises are described as follows: All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester, State of New York, and designated and shown upon the tax map of the City of Yonkers as follows: Section: 2 Block: 2174 Lot: 10. Upon information and belief premises known and designated by the records of the City of Yonkers Tax Assessor as 92 Vineyard Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10703.

Audubon Christmas Bird Count



Tufted Titmouse. Photo: Michele Black/Great Backyard Bird Count

The nation's longest-running community science bird project fuels Audubon's work throughout the year. The Christmas Bird Count occurs December 14 to January 5 every season. Sign up to receive information and results about all of Audubon's community science programs through American Birds, our email newsletter.

It's the 125th year for Christmas Bird Counts! Wow! You can find out all the details at link below.

Here's the website with everything about Christmas Bird Counts: <https://www.audubon.org/community-science/christmas-bird-count>
New York State CBC Calendar-<https://nybirds.org/ProjCBC.htm>

Map of CBC circles <https://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/circles>

Visit [-sawmillriveraudubon.org](https://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org), for more information.

Former Mt. Vernon Mayor Andre Wallace Honored With President's Lifetime Achievement



Former Mount Vernon Mayor André Wallace was honored with the President's Lifetime Achievement Award on December 9th in Mount Vernon. This prestigious award, bestowed by President Joe Biden, recognizes Wallace's outstanding contributions to community service and his unwavering dedication to improving the lives of others. The President's Lifetime Achievement Award, also known as the President's Call to Service Award, is a highly distinguished honor reserved for Americans who have demonstrated exceptional commitment to volunteerism and civic engagement. Wallace's tireless efforts throughout his career have made a lasting impact on Mount Vernon and beyond. "This is an honor to receive such a prestigious award for the years of community service. As I humbly accept this award, I realize my beloved city still has a way to go and I will always continue to do all I can to make a difference" said Wallace, pictured above with Sir Shefik Macauley who presented Wallace with the award on behalf of President Biden



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Patrick Murray, MD; Paul S. Ragusa, MD; Thomas Schmicker, MD
Eric Spencer, MD; Mario Voloshin, DPM, FACFAS



Hudson Gateway REALTOR® Foundation Presents \$3,500 Donation to 914 Cares



The Hudson Gateway REALTOR® Foundation, the charitable arm of the Hudson Gateway Association of REALTORS®, recently presented a check for \$3,500 to 914 Cares, a non-profit organization serving all of Westchester County.

Based in Armonk, 914 Cares is dedicated to helping families in need to reduce financial stress, meet practical needs, and foster respect by providing clothing for infants through adults, diapers and supplies for babies, hygiene products, and children's books.

In May, the nonprofit opened an expansive 12,000-square-foot Armonk warehouse and office space with a loading dock for deliveries, ample storage space, and easy access. This new space has enabled it to increase its output significantly to 125 local organizations that work directly in their communities.

914 Cares donates basic essentials to over 6,000 Westchester families each year. Despite Westchester being known as one of the wealthiest places in the nation, almost 40 percent of babies there are born to families on Medicaid, and 28 percent of children in grades K through 6 receive free and reduced cost lunches. Nearly 3,000 children have experienced homelessness, and 40 percent of Westchester children under age 6 live in families where working parents cannot meet basic needs.

"914 Cares is reliant on the support of our compassionate neighbors to continue to meet the need that exists here in Westchester," said the organization's CEO and Founder, Jessica Reinmann. "Organizations like HGAR, who put their trust in our mission, are such an integral part of our success."

The 914 Cares Literacy Library also offers books to families and school districts in under-resourced communities. The organization has distributed over 50,000 books each year.

Since 2014, the Hudson Gateway Realtor Foundation has donated thousands of dollars to charities and non-profits throughout Hudson Valley. As concerned members of the communities we work in, the Hudson Gateway REALTOR® Foundation participates in qualified community-based charities who serve the housing, hunger, health, happiness, and humane needs of citizens everywhere.

For more information or to apply for funding from the Hudson Gateway REALTOR® Foundation, please visit www.hgrealtorfoundation.com. For more information about 914 Cares, and how to donate or volunteer, please visit 914cares.org.

**Read it all Online
at Yonkerstimes.com**

Yonkers 13-Year-Old Caleb Sangster Named Honorary Knicks Coach Through Make-A-Wish and Garden of Dreams



Left-Caleb Sangster in the Knicks Media Room



Left: Caleb with NY Knicks Captain Jalen Brunson

On Dec. 5, the NY Knicks named 13-year old Yonkers native Caleb Sangster as an Honorary Coach for the night as a part of the Garden of Dreams Week initiative. At the game he was able to meet Knicks captain Jalen Brunson and the coaching staff, sit courtside during the pre-game shootaround, stand with the team during the Anthem, as well as be announced to the crowd along with the starting lineup.

Caleb, affiliated with Make-A-Wish Hudson Valley, has chronic granulomatous, disease primary immune deficiency disorder and had a stem cell transplant. While he was in recovery, watching the Knicks play helped him get through the recovery process.

Also featured at the game were an honorary PA Announcer, Musician, DJ, and game elements such as the halftime performance by young people of Garden of Dreams partner organizations.

Throughout Garden of Dreams Week, the Foundation continues to host various programming and events daily, raise awareness and raise funds in support of Garden of Dreams mission to provide life-changing opportunities to young people facing obstacles. For more information on the Garden of Dreams Foundation please visit www.GardenofDreamsFoundation.org.

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Pet Advocacy Network Files Lawsuit Against New Puppy Pet Store Ban

On Monday (Dec. 9), the Pet Advocacy Network, which advocates for the responsible pet care community at all levels of government, announced the filing of a lawsuit seeking an injunction against an upcoming New York law that will put local pet stores across the state out of business during the holiday season.

The law, slated to take effect Dec. 15, prohibits pet stores from selling dogs and cats sourced from professional, licensed and inspected breeders, despite pet stores already providing warranties to protect consumers. The law will make it harder for New Yorkers to get a puppy from a good breeder and put local pet stores out of business—a boon to unlicensed “puppy mills” that sell on the black market. In the years since California enacted a similar pet sale ban, reported puppy scams have surged by 350%, consumer protections have been lost, and veterinarians have seen an increase in sick puppies acquired from unregulated sources.

Mike Bober, CEO of the Pet Advocacy Network, said: “Pet sale bans hurt pets, families and small businesses. The so-called ‘Puppy Mill Pipeline Law’ takes away longstanding protections for pet owners and leaves New Yorkers more vulnerable to fraudulent sellers on the unregulated black market, while doing nothing to stop bad breeders. The effects are already being seen, as beloved small businesses that have served New York communities for decades are closing across the state.

Despite our best efforts to warn legislators of the consequences of this law, they refused to work with local businesses. Now we’re forced to ask the court to put a stop to this before more consumers, animals, and local businesses are seriously harmed.”

Pet Advocacy Network joins six New York businesses as plaintiffs. The lawsuit was filed in the Supreme Court of Suffolk County.

Since 1971, Pet Advocacy Network has worked to promote animal well-being and responsible pet ownership, foster environmental stewardship, and ensure access to healthy pets, including small animals, cats, dogs, fish, reptiles, and birds. Pet Advocacy Network members include retailers, companion animal suppliers, manufacturers, wholesale distributors, manufacturers’ representatives, pet hobbyists, and other trade organizations. To learn more, visit www.PetAdvocacy.org.

Westchester Hanukkah Events

Dec. 26: Cross County Center menorah lighting at the Cross County Center, 8000 Mall Walk in Yonkers, from 6-8 p.m.

Dec. 29: Ridge Hill menorah lighting at the Ridge Hill Shopping Center, One Ridge Hill Boulevard in Yonkers, from 4-6 p.m.

Dec. 25: Build a giant LEGO menorah at the Chabad of the Rivertowns, 303 Broadway in Dobbs Ferry, at 3 p.m.

Dec. 26: Town of Mamaroneck menorah lighting at the Hommocks Park Ice Rink, 140 Hommocks Rd. in Larchmont, from 4-6 p.m.

Dec. 26: Light Up Westchester Bronxville menorah lighting at Leonard Morange Square between Bronxville train station and Palmer Avenue in Bronxville at 5 p.m.

Dec. 26: Light Up Westchester Tuckahoe menorah lighting at Depot Square, Main Street in Tuckahoe at 7 p.m.

Dec. 26: Gateway Port Chester menorah lighting at the Gateway Shopping Center, 421 Boston Post Rd. in Port Chester, at 5:30 p.m.

Dec. 29: Chabad of Yorktown menorah lighting at the Jack DeVito Veterans Memorial Track & Field, 208 Veterans Road in Yorktown, at 4 p.m.

Jan. 1: Full Blaze Hanukkah menorah lighting at the Bedford Village Green, 14 Pound Ridge Road in Bedford, at 4 p.m.

Jan. 1: Full Blaze Hanukkah menorah lighting at the Pound Ridge Village Green, 77 Westchester Avenue in Pound Ridge, at 5 p.m.

Congressman Bowman, To All White People, By Dan Murphy

Westchester Congressman Jamaal Bowman has been largely silent for the past few months after losing his Congressional seat to George Latimer in a Democratic Primary in June.

But Rep. Bowman, with less than a month left in office, took to Twitter after a jury exonerated Daniel Penny in the choking death of Jordan Neely on Dec. 9.

Titled :”A Message to all White People” Bowman in a series of Tweets writes, Dear White People,

I don’t know why I feel the need to keep talking to you. I don’t know why part of me still has hope for you and for us. Some of you are too far gone. But maybe enough of you aren’t and will join us in fighting to end white supremacy.

“I just wanna call out the hypocrisy and evil of it all and just continue to hope. I won’t rely completely on you because I know what’s most important is to work with my community and other like minded allies in the fight for justice. But I guess I’ll just offer this:

“I am 48 years old and I have seen countless incidents of brutal police violence and killings in my lifetime. The first Black man I saw violently attacked on camera was Rodney King. Those officers were acquitted.

“Next was Eric Garner’s murder and his cries of “I can’t breathe.” All he was doing was trying to sell a few cigarettes to survive an economy that failed him, and he was jumped and killed by police.

“The next video burned into my memory is the murder of Philando Castile, shot and bled to death by police on live stream, with his child in the backseat and his girlfriend next to him. How will that child heal from the trauma that will live in his body for the rest of his life?

“I didn’t see videos of Trayvon Martin or Breonna Taylor, but their murders and the trauma from their murders lives in my bones. I felt it then and I feel it now. And it is compounded with every new video I see.

“The world saw George Floyd murdered. His murderer knelt on his neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. I cried. And couldn’t stop crying. I saw five Black Memphis police officers beating a Black man to death on camera. White supremacy is not skin color. It’s a state of mind.

“Jordan Neely is the latest. He was sick. He was not a threat. He was subdued. Still not a threat. Daniel Penny choked him for 6 minutes. And killed him. We all watched it on camera, and he was still acquitted.

“I’ve left out probably another hundred instances of this trauma in my life. For comparison, I ask white people, how many times have you seen a white man killed in cold blood on camera on your newsfeed? How many times have you even heard about this?

“The answer is never. You never have. And whenever you feel discomfort from your whiteness, Black people are harmed or killed. And there is never accountability or justice. This is the evil of white supremacy. It spans across geography and political parties and sickens us all.

“I wish I didn’t have to live with all of this trauma deep in my bones. I wish I could just be free to be me. I marvel at the beauty and greatness of my people in spite of white supremacy. It’s extraordinary. That is what I will continue to lean on.

“RIP Jordan Neely. The justice system failed you. Kyle Rittenhouse and Daniel Penny are free. You’re gone. We must still fight,” writes Bowman.

Editor’s Notes: In the case of Rodney King, 2 of 4 officers were convicted. Officer Powell was acquitted for excess force & false report, but hung jury for assault. CA dropped charge when federal case filed. Convicted on federal charges, went to prison. Officer Koon was acquitted on CA charges; convicted on fed charges, went to prison.

Jordan Neely was arrested 43 times in New York City, mostly on the subway. As part of a plea agreement after punching a 67-year old woman, Neely was given free access to housing and healthcare. Neely abandoned the center after two weeks.

The NY Working Families Party stated after Penny’s acquittal, In response to breaking news that Daniel Penny was acquitted of criminally negligent homicide NYWFP Co-Directors, Jasmine Gripper and Ana María Archila released the following statement: “Eric Adams and his administration failed to call Neely’s death what it was: a modern-day lynching. Today’s news that Daniel Penny was found not guilty of murdering Jordan Neely underscores that our criminal justice system is still beyond broken. This ruling fails to recognize that Jordan Neely’s life mattered. New Yorkers deserve leaders who will protect and support people experiencing mental illness and invest in resources that create stability and safety for all.”

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WCT Celebrates the Holidays with Urban Folk Jazz Legend KJ Denhart & the Evening News



On Friday, December 20, Westchester Collaborative Theater (WCT), located at 23 Water St. Ossining, NY, will host a special holiday performance with KJ Denhart and her band, The Evening News. The show will highlight selections from Denhart's new album "The Evening News," which features songs from the Great American Songbook, tunes that KJ knew from childhood, as well as some KJ originals.

Internationally-acclaimed singer-songwriter Denhart, named one of Jazz.com's top female vocalists and four-time Independent Music Award nominee, will be accompanied by Adam Armstrong on acoustic bass, Nicki Denner on keys, Eric Halvorson on drums and guitarist Mark McIntyre.

WCT Executive Director Alan Lutwin says, "KJ is a magical talent who never fails to deliver a heartfelt performance. To have her perform at our venue again for the holidays is a total delight." Denhart's return engagement follows multiple sold-out appearances at WCT.

Reviewers have said that Denhart's performance "will move you to laugh, to dance and even to cry." They have praised her pathos, originality, and impeccable musicianship, calling her "one-of-a-kind and not to be missed."

Denhart has appeared at scores of festivals, has had residencies at the 55 Bar in NYC, the Baz Bar in St. Barts, and recently completed several consecutive residencies at the prestigious Umbria Jazz Festival in Italy. She performs solo, duo and with her full band.

Tickets, \$30 per set, can be purchased online at:

<https://kj-denhart-at-wct-home-for-the-holidays.eventbrite.com>

(Limited seating available; advance purchase is strongly recommended.) Refreshments will be available. For upcoming theater and music events visit <http://www.wctheater.org>.

Westchester County Students Need To Attend An HBCU

By Dennis Richmond, Jr.

As someone who has spent nearly a decade advocating for historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), I'm sounding the alarm: Black students in Westchester County, NY, are barely considering these transformative institutions. This bothers me, and I am compelled to address it directly.

When I founded the New York-New Jersey HBCU Initiative, my goal was simple yet critical: educate students across New York about the unparalleled opportunities HBCUs provide. Having graduated from Claflin University—a place that nurtured me, challenged me, and equipped me with tools for success—I know firsthand the power of these schools. Yet, year after year, I see too many students from Westchester County take the well-trodden paths to New York's public universities and community colleges, overlooking the vibrant, history-rich HBCUs that could elevate their lives and careers in unique ways.

The Numbers Don't Lie

Despite New York having a robust Black student population, data shows that only a fraction of these students choose HBCUs. Instead, they overwhelmingly attend institutions like SUNY, CUNY, or local community colleges. While these schools serve their purpose, they cannot replicate the cultural affirmation, deep mentorship, and network of Black excellence that HBCUs offer. The tri-state area's lack of HBCUs compounds the issue; students here often don't learn about these institutions unless someone deliberately introduces them.

The Problem Isn't Awareness Alone

Some people argue that students avoid HBCUs because of geography or costs, but this doesn't hold up under scrutiny. Many HBCUs are just a short flight or drive away and often provide scholarships, grants, and competitive tuition rates. The real issue is systemic: Black students here often don't see HBCUs as viable options because they haven't been told about their benefits. There's a persistent narrative—one I work tirelessly to dismantle—that HBCUs are less prestigious or relevant. This couldn't be further from the truth.

As I've said before, "my HBCU changed my life." These institutions have been shaping leaders, artists, educators, and entrepreneurs for over 150 years. From the Harlem Renaissance to the Civil Rights Movement, HBCUs have consistently been at the forefront of Black progress in America. They remain just as relevant today, especially in a post-affirmative action world where predominantly white institutions might become even less welcoming to Black students.

A Call to Action

It's time for change. Parents, educators, and community leaders in Westchester County must actively promote HBCUs as real options for their students. Guidance counselors should not treat HBCUs as an afterthought but as a premier choice for those seeking an empowering, culturally enriching education. Black students deserve to know they can thrive at institutions specifically designed with their success in mind.

HBCUs need support, too. Just as funding increased during the Civil Rights Movement, we must push for greater investment in these schools today. I believe this moment could spark a resurgence in HBCU enrollment if we do our part.

To the students reading this: Look beyond your immediate surroundings. HBCUs are waiting for you, ready to welcome you into a legacy of excellence.

Roughly a decade later— I'm still beating the drum for HBCUs.

Dennis Richmond, Jr., an educator, historian, and writer, illuminates the experiences of Black, Latinx, and LGBTQ+ communities in Yonkers and NYC through his journalism. Stay connected with him by following @NewYork-Stakz on social media.

Coat drive, continued from pg 1-

over 1,200 items to help keep community members warm this winter.

The donation drive, which ran for three weeks in October, engaged libraries across Westchester County as collection points, making it convenient for community members to participate. Donors contributed both new and gently used coats for all ages, along with new winter accessories including hats, gloves, and socks. Volunteers from Regeneron, through a partnership with Volunteer New York, lent their time and effort to sort the collected coats as part of their eighth annual Day for Doing Good.

"United Way's inaugural Winter Coat and Accessory Drive with our member libraries highlights the incredible impact of our library network and patrons coming together. Thanks to their generosity, we're able to make a real difference in our communities this winter," added Terry Kirchner, Executive Director at Westchester Library System.

The collected items will be distributed to individuals and families in need throughout Westchester County through UWWP's network of nonprofit partners, ensuring these essential winter items reach those who need them most.

"The overwhelming response to our first winter coat drive demonstrates the incredible generosity of our community," said Avery Zuvic, Director of Community Impact at UWWP. Through our partnership with the Westchester Library System and our nonprofit partners, we can ensure these 1,217 items will help keep our neighbors warm this winter season." For more information about United Way of Westchester and Putnam's community initiatives, visit www.uwwp.org.

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Bronx Man Sentenced to 6½ years for Domestic Assault in Pelham Manor

BOL Passes County Budget, continued from pg 1-

Jury convicted defendant of biting his girlfriend's lip and cheek before choking her in her parked car

On Dec. 4, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that a Bronx man was sentenced to 6½ years in state prison for physically attacking his girlfriend in a Pelham Manor parking lot in August 2023.

DA Rocah said: "Thanks to the victim's quick instincts during the attack and her extraordinary courage in testifying against her abuser, this defendant has now been held accountable for his violent actions and will not be able to cause harm to this victim or anyone else."

After a three-week trial, a jury on May 21 found the defendant, Christian Rosado, 27, guilty of Assault in the Second Degree, Unlawful Imprisonment in the First Degree, and Resisting Arrest.

The defendant was also sentenced to 2 to 4 years on the unlawful imprisonment charge, which will run concurrently to his 6½ -year sentence, and will be subject to 5 years of post-release supervision.

At approximately 9:16 p.m. on Aug. 14, 2023, the defendant, while sitting in the passenger seat of the victim's parked vehicle on Pelham Parkway in Pelham Manor, repeatedly bit the victim's lip and cheek before choking her. The defendant then threatened the victim as he continued to bite her face.

As detailed during the trial, the victim revved the engine of her parked car during the attack, which alerted nearby Pelham Manor police officers. When approached by police, the defendant fled from the vehicle. Following a foot pursuit, additional officers were called to help apprehend and handcuff the defendant who was resisting arrest.

The defendant was transported to the Village of Pelham Police Department headquarters and carried inside the building after he refused to allow officers to walk him in.

The case was before New York State Supreme Court Justice Larry Schwartz in Westchester County Court and prosecuted by Domestic Violence Bureau Chief Joyce Miller and Assistant District Attorney Arlene Ramezanzadeh, both of the Special Prosecutions Division, with assistance from Appeals and Special Litigation Deputy Division Chief William Milaccio and Domestic Violence Aide Christina Viera.

Board weighed community recommendations through a series of public engagement sessions.

Chairman Vedat Gashi (D - New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said: "We've listened to County residents and responded with a budget that prioritizes vital services for those most in need. This budget supports our most vulnerable residents while protecting taxpayers and our fiscal future."

Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson (D - Elmsford, Greenburgh, Tarrytown, White Plains) said: "As Chair of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, I'm proud to present a sound and balanced 2025 County Budget. Despite the challenges of a tight fiscal environment, we've succeeded in keeping a property tax increase for the general operating budget at bay for the sixth consecutive year. This budget sustains critical funding for the childcare scholarship program at the same level as last year while prioritizing new affordable housing projects and flood mitigation projects. It reflects our unwavering commitment to quality of life issues and to making Westchester a safe, more affordable, and more livable county for all residents."

Majority Leader Tyrae Woodson-Samuels (D - Mount Vernon) said: "This budget reflects our focus on protecting taxpayers, supporting our most vulnerable residents and maintaining fiscal responsibility to ensure all Westchester residents are being served fairly, sustainably and equitably. I'm proud that, at a time of economic challenges, we crafted a balanced budget and preserved a zero percent increase to the County property tax levy."

Highlights of the 2025 Westchester County Budget

The Capital Budget reflects \$453 million in new appropriations, including \$373 million for general County purposes: Improvements in Housing, Enhancements to Environmental Facilities that provide clean air and water and Upgrades to Roads and Bridges, with \$80 million for Refuse, Sewer and Water Districts.

The Operating Budget allocates \$9 million to non-profits that provide essential services for Westchester County residents: over \$75 million for childcare subsidies including to \$3.3 million for childcare scholarships for working families and over \$7.4 million for domestic violence survivors.

The budget will be delivered to County Executive George Latimer for his signature.

Home Depot Dreidel Making Workshop

By Robert Kalfus

On Dec. 8, the Home Depot on Sprain Road in Yonkers hosted an enjoyable dreidel making workshop for children – and their parents – with Chabad of Yonkers Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz with children from Yonkers and other Westchester communities. Home Depot provided free "workers' aprons", hammers, nails, glue, paint, and instructions. From 2 to 4 pm, children assembled a pre-made Dreidl frame, which included two wooden side pieces and two end pieces; a bottom base, 12 nails, fine sandpaper, wood glue, paint to decorate, and a sticker to place inside on which the dreidel can be spun.

Instructions included an explanation for the four letters: Nun, Gimel, Hey, and Shin, their value, and how to play the game. These four Hebrew letters form an acronym for the phrase Nes Gadol Haya Sham, "A great Miracle happened there", referring to the miracle of the cruse of unspoiled sacred oil on which the holiday of Hanukkah is centered burning for eight days longer than expected in the holy Temple in Jerusalem.

The Dreidel Game is made exclusively in the USA for Home Depot by Houseworks Ltd in Atlanta, Georgia, with all its parts, including a handsome wooden dreidel, were provided free.

Chanukah this year begins at sundown on Wednesday evening, December 25, nearly coinciding with Christmas, and ends eight days later on January 2, 2025.



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Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

FRIDAY, DEC. 13

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7282

Holiday Lights on the Farm, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.. Get into the holiday spirit and see the farm in a new light! Visit our animals inside of the decorated barns, participate in holiday-themed activities, listen to music and enjoy delicious eats from food trucks! \$7.77 for ages 3 and older. Rain or shine; no refunds. Also: Dec. 14, 20, 21.

Registration required https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-lights-on-the-farm-tickets-1073461896429?aff=efbevent&fbclid=IwY2xjawGZ-15leHRuA2FbQIx-MAABHRaoH7FkwzNWLvUSPqIpYKkhk0v1bhd1JnviPaGbCqWIZpbZ6CdZH-KHOA_aem_JCE3IKgmVkmCyg-zOh5k1Q

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Stargazing Picnic, 8 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.. Bring a blanket and pack a picnic as we gaze up at the winter sky and look for the Geminid meteor shower. \$5 suggested donation per group. Register your group <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stargazing-picnic-hilltop-hanover-farm-tickets-1078159547229?aff=oddtcreator>

SATURDAY, DEC. 14

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005. Winter Wildlife Survival, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Learn all about Westchester's wildlife in winter through hands-on activities!

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Quilltop: A Literary Club, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Bring your own book or writing while enjoying the picturesque hills of the farm. For all ages and abilities. Rain or shine. Get details <https://hilltophanoverfarm.org/events/event/2024/12/14/1734188400/quilltop-a-literary-club/499884>

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7282

Book Buddies, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. Come into one of our animal enclosures and encourage your child to read in a unique atmosphere. Bring your favorite books or pick from our collection! \$11.98 fee for a 30-minute time slot; rain or shine. Also: Dec. 28. Pre-register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/book-buddies-program-at-muscote-farm-tickets-1010582548607?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851 Beginner's Birdwatching, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Join us for this indoor/outdoor program for all ages. Learn to identify some of the common birds in our area.

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Harvesting Hot Cocoa, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Learn about the farming and making of hot chocolate while sipping on homemade cocoa and taking part in the process! \$23.18 per person. Pre-registration is required <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/harvesting-hot-cocoa-tickets-1078178473839?aff=oddtcreator>

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466. Winter Wildflower Arrangements, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Make a festive centerpiece for the holidays. Bring your own vase, and we'll help you make a beautiful winter bouquet using dried plants and natural objects from the field and forest. Donation: \$5.

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720

Second Photography and Art Exhibit Opening Reception, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

View people's talents and love for wildlife and nature through photography and artwork. Refreshments will be provided. The exhibit will be on display Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Jan. 25.

Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River: (914) 864-7322. All About Animal Survival, 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Do you ever wonder how certain animals survive the winter? Learn about how common species beat the cold, and join us for some hibernation-themed arts and crafts.

Westchester County Center, White Plains: (914) 995-4050

The Lox and Friends Experience II, 8 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. See The Lox, Cam'ron, Rakim, Rhapsody, Benny the Butcher and many more special friends. Get tickets <https://www.ticketmaster.com/event/0000615FCC823C62>

SUNDAY, DEC. 15

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268

Gardening Sundays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Get details and register <https://www.lasdon-park.org/event/gardening-sundays/2024-12-15/>

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005

Winter Feeders, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Come into the nature center to make feeders for winter birds.

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LI Man Sentenced up to 29 Years for Robberies Burglaries & Anti-Asian Hate Crime in Westchester



Video screenshot of Michael Bagley

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah, New Rochelle Police Commissioner Robert Gazzola and White Plains Public Safety Commissioner David Chong announced today that a Suffolk County man was sentenced to an indeterminate term of 14½ to 29 years in state prison for two robberies and a burglary involving multiple victims in New Rochelle and White Plains including a hate-fueled violent assault of an Asian store owner.

DA Rocah said: "This case demonstrates our commitment to combatting violence and hate crimes on the streets of our communities. I am grateful to our police partners in New Rochelle and White Plains for their assistance in bringing this defendant to justice."

The defendant, Michael Bagley, 34, of Coram, New York, was sentenced before New York State Supreme Court Justice James McCarty in Westchester County Court following his July 17 guilty plea to felony charges of Robbery in the Third Degree as a Hate Crime, two counts of Robbery in the Third Degree, and Burglary in the Third Degree.

Commissioner Gazzola said: "The individual responsible for this violent crime spree faces significant consequences for their actions. We remain dedicated to holding offenders accountable and ensuring that our streets remain secure."

Commissioner Chong said: "White Plains Public Safety, working in conjunction with our law enforcement partners in New Rochelle and the District Attorney's Office, was successful in tracking down a dangerous career criminal preying on the residents and businesses of Westchester County. This joint effort should be a message to all who think they can commit violent crimes in Westchester that all law enforcement agencies will work together and bring dangerous criminals to face the justice they deserve."

At approximately 3:45 p.m. on March 16, 2023, the defendant entered a business on Main Street in New Rochelle and stole money, an iPhone and an iPad while wielding a knife and yelling anti-Asian and gender-based slurs at the store owner. During the robbery, the defendant pushed the store owner to the ground and against merchandise, dragged her across the floor, and hit her in the head with a door, causing her a concussion, broken ribs, a spinal injury and multiple lacerations.

The victim, who was treated at a nearby hospital, continues to rehabilitate from her injuries. The defendant fled on foot toward the nearby vicinity of Woodland Avenue and Elm Street in New Rochelle where he stole \$1,800 in cash from an elderly couple on the street before entering an occupied home on Laurel Place where he refused to leave after confronting the homeowner.

The homeowner, while stalling the defendant, texted a neighbor who called the police. The New Rochelle Police Department responded to the scene and arrested the defendant. Following an investigation by New Rochelle and White Plains police, the defendant was linked to a robbery in White Plains that occurred just before the New Rochelle incidents.

At approximately 12:28 p.m. that day, the defendant followed a White Plains victim into a stairwell of a commercial building on Maple Avenue and stole the victim's wallet, phone and headphones at knifepoint and fled.

cellphones in schools ban , continued from pg 1-

"If students are distracted in the classroom, they're not learning," said Assemblymember Patricia Fahy, Chair of the Assembly's Higher Education Committee. "As we strive to help every New York student reach their full potential, seriously reducing the use of and access to cell phones in classrooms is a critical and overdue step. Firm and sensible cellphone restrictions are essential to creating learning environments where students can focus and ultimately, thrive. A powerful coalition of parents, teachers, school staff, doctors, law enforcement and so many more all agree; we need a plan now to address this growing problem in our schools."

"Parents, teachers, doctors and students themselves are all on the same page about this: smartphones in school are an addictive distraction that makes kids more anxious, isolated and depressed," said state Senator Andrew Gounardes. "If Big Tech companies refuse to prioritize children's mental health above their profits, then we need to heed the call and take action ourselves. Restrictions on smartphones during the school day helps ensure young people have the school experience they deserve, where their health, safety and well-being come first."

"It's going to make your school safer," said Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple. "This is legislation that should be a no-brainer. We want our kids to go to school and thrive."

"Students are attached to devices and using them in place of human connection," said Lysa Mullady, President of the New York State School Counselor Association. "There's a false sense of belonging coupled with a craving to view, post, repost, like and comment as part of a number of 'followers.' The constant fluctuation of inclusion and exclusion creates tremendous anxiety. In order to reverse this trend, it is imperative to limit cellphone use in schools."

"The mental health impacts of cellphone use on students can be disastrous," said Blanca Gonzalez-Parker, Guilderland School Board President. "Cellphones have increased bullying and a new level of despair and anxiety among bullying victims who are without respite, due to the fact that photos and videos taken by their peers can live on social media indefinitely"

"It's urgent that we address the problem of cell phones in schools," said David Monahan, campaign director for Fairplay. "Schools that have adopted robust cell phone restrictions are success stories — students are fully engaged again, with their teachers and with one another, when they're not distracted by the lure of TikTok and Snapchat at their fingertips. Governor Hochul and the Legislature can make New York schools the thriving places of education and inspiration that young people deserve if they take action in 2025 to ban phones from schools."

"Kids' personal devices have no place in the classroom. We should have never allowed that to happen," said Julie Scelfo, Founder and Executive Director of MAMA – Mothers Against Media Addiction. "They're being deprived of the real-life experiences and interactions they need with their classmates, with teachers, and with other trusted adults in the school that are critical for their wellbeing and development both as learners and as human beings."

"We'd like to see that this is a uniform policy throughout the state of New York and that it's applied fairly, particularly to communities of colors," Anthony Harmon, NAACP New York Branch President. "We want to create safe, nurturing environments where our students can learn and grow and become all that they can be."

Educators and administrators in districts where phone restrictions have been put in place shared the incredible transformation they've seen in their classrooms, halls and cafeterias where students are reconnecting with their peers and teachers.

"I've been teaching for 30 years and one of my favorite things was to stand in the hallway and just talk to kids as they walk by—until cellphones became popular. Then all I saw was the top of their heads," David Rounds, Bethlehem Central Teachers Association President. "But that's not the case anymore. Our halls are lively again, conversation has come back, and it's like the old days where I see their smiles, I see their eyes, and I have witnessed firsthand their engagement improve almost immediately."

"Cell phones in schools can be a major distraction, pulling students away from learning and real-life connections," said Natalie McKay, Schoharie Teachers Association President. "Without phones, we see students engaging more in social activities, building friendships, and fully participating in their school community."

"Three years ago, Schoharie banned cellphones ... and it made a much more positive school environment for students," said Dave Blanchard, Schoharie Central School District Superintendent. "On day one, our teachers noticed students engaged with each other, talking through problems, going into our school counseling office, working out issues rather than trying to solve issues on a cellphone."

"I transferred to Schoharie from a school that allowed virtually unrestricted access to cellphones," said Schoharie High School senior Jax. "I had been scared out of my mind to be in a new school where I didn't know anyone. But when we don't have phones, we connect with each other, and I was able to connect with teachers and with peers and make friends unbelievably fast and I attribute that to the phone ban. When we disconnect from phones, we connect with each other. It's just that first step of disconnecting that can be tough to do on our own."

Clinton, Immigration, continued from pg 1-

Secretary Clinton emphasized the importance of secure borders and immigration reform, including finalizing DACA (Deferred Action for Child Arrivals) and providing legal pathways to citizenship. “There is no master list of undocumented immigrants,” she pointed out, “which means the in-coming administration could implement massive dragnets, including unannounced raids on businesses, farms, construction sites, and restaurants to round up undocumented workers — an act that would have catastrophic effects on families, businesses, and the community.”

As a result, she warned, people need to be prepared. “Figure out who your allies are. Collect all your paperwork – pay stubs, green cards, rental agreements, tax records; renew DACA documents. And realize that you have due process rights. If you’ve been in this country for more than two years, you can appear before a judge.”

Clinton reminded the audience that immigration reform was close to being enacted several times since 2000 on a bi-partisan basis and stressed the need for law that is humane and effective. She advised that we need to be reminded that we are a nation of immigrants but acknowledged that getting the message through can sometimes be difficult.

“Today’s environment is volatile with people being whipped up into a frenzy. We are living in an era of entertainment politics...” She cited the issues in Springfield, Ohio, brought up during the recent presidential campaign. “What happened in Springfield, Ohio was terrible – baseless claims about people eating cats and dogs. In fact, those Haitian immigrants were solicited by businesses. But speaking in reasonable tones is [considered] totally boring. Yet, immigrants pay tax – sales tax, social security, but the message doesn’t get through; reality is not in fashion.”

Ms. Bracco raised concerns about the lack of options for vulnerable immigrants. “These measures will tear families apart. Immigrants need allies. We are advising our clients to seek legal assistance through us or other viable means. Be sure to renew your DACA status and have your documents ready.” She also reminded the audience of the role they have to play in the coming days. “I am hopeful that all of the people who came to listen to this and the people that work at Neighbors Link and the organizations that we partner with are dedicated to making a difference.”

Monies raised at the event will go to support vital Neighbors Link programs, including immigration legal services. Neighbors Link provides free legal immigration services to thousands of immigrants across the lower Hudson Valley annually.

For help and more information, visit Neighbors Link at neighborslink.org.

About Neighbors Link

The Neighbors Link mission is to strengthen the whole community through the healthy integration of immigrants. Our mission is achieved by filling a service gap for new immigrant families, offering education and empowerment programs, involving longer-term residents in volunteer opportunities, and creating substantive partnerships with other local organizations. Our strategies to educate, empower and employ families include a Worker Center, English language education, digital inclusion programming, legal services and advocacy, workforce development, parent education, early childhood programs and academic support for school-age children of immigrants.

Neighbors Link is headquartered in Mount Kisco, has three locations in Westchester County and offers services throughout the Mid-Hudson Valley. For more information on locations or programs, please call us at 914-666-3410.

Newsweek Names The Osborn One of America’s Best Continuing Care Retirement Communities



The Osborn in Rye is the only community in Westchester County to receive this honor

The Osborn in Rye has once again been named as one of the nation’s “Best Continuing Care Retirement Communities” (CCRCs) by Newsweek. It is the only CCRC in Westchester County and one of just ten communities in New York State to be awarded this honor.

“It is exciting to receive such prestigious recognition as one of the finest Continuing Care Retirement Communities in the nation based on Newsweek’s comprehensive rating process,” said Matthew G. Anderson, President and CEO of The Osborn. “The outstanding dedication of our staff, the wonderful programs, the nurturing sense of community, the elegance of our residences, and the natural beauty of our campus all contribute to our ability to provide an optimal lifestyle for older adults.”

According to Newsweek, today’s older Americans lead more active lifestyles than the previous generation and CCRCs are an increasingly attractive option for engagement. As the country’s population ages, the number of CCRCs has doubled in the past decade to well over 2,000. For the second consecutive year, Newsweek and global data research firm Statista have partnered to rank America’s Best Continuing Care Retirement Communities in 2025.

The Osborn has been honored for excellence with many other accolades. The Osborn Pavilion skilled nursing center was named as a “Best Nursing Home” for 2025 by U.S. News & World Report. Westchester magazine readers selected The Osborn as “Best of Westchester” in the Senior Residence category in 2024. The Osborn was also awarded its fifth consecutive five-year accreditation by CARF International, which is widely regarded as the highest standard in senior living excellence.

The Osborn is a private, non-profit, continuum of care community, founded in 1908 and based in Rye, New York. It offers Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care, and Skilled Nursing, as well as Inpatient and Outpatient Rehabilitation. In addition to residential and health care services on its 56-acre campus, the organization provides home care and companion services in Westchester and Fairfield Counties through Osborn Home Care. For more information call 888-9-OSBORN or visit www.theosborn.org.

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“Were it left to me to decide if we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.

-Thomas Jefferson

Historic Hudson Valley Presents
Dickens's 'Christmas Carol'

Home Depot Hosts Dreidel Making Party,
In Preparation for Chanukah



"There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humor." – Charles Dickens, A Christmas Carol

Experience the tale of Ebenezer Scrooge like you never have before. Nestle into the historic Old Dutch Church and let master storyteller Jonathan Kruk, complete with musical accompaniment by Jim Keyes, regale you with his adaptation of Charles Dickens's "A Christmas Carol."

This limited run is from December 7–22, weekends only at the Old Dutch Church, Sleepy Hollow. Don't miss this magical experience that captures the heart of the season. historic hudson valley

Using a treasure trove of voices and gestures he creates over thirty characters, to inhabit Dickens' classic. The result is a singular show, intimate, and imaginative. Performing in Dickensian garb, the storyteller creates gripping vignettes with dynamic dialogue. Kruk employs his legendary eloquence, and wit, quickly transforming into Scrooge, Cratchit, Marley, Tiny Tim, and all the spirits. This singular show takes you from Humbug to hope for redemption and joy."

Mr. Kruk's theatrical storytelling has been featured on CBS Sunday Morning, The Today Show, The Travel Channel, and at countless schools, libraries festivals, and historic sites. He was selected "Best Storyteller in the Hudson Valley."

Tickets are on sale now—secure your spot today! <https://tickets.hudsonvalley.org/events?view=calendar...>

Visit [Hudsonvalley.org](https://www.hudsonvalley.org) for more information.



Left: Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz with dad David Moster and his son Jonah, 6 and daughter Hannah Beth, 8. Photo © 2024 Robert Kalfus.

Below: Levy Fox, 8, hands a paintbrush to his sister, Willow, 3, Photo © 2024 Robert Kalfus.



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