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Friday December 16, 2022

Let Westchester's Christmas Lights Get You in the Holiday Spirit!



Keeler family lights in Putnam Valley



Roy's lights in Harrison above: below Westchester Winter Wonderland



See Holiday Lights story on page 7

Westchester Residents Get Sticker Shock from Home Heating Bills

Editor's Note: As NY Governor Kathy Hochul releases a statewide energy plan on Dec. 19, New Yorkers are taking a look at their first heating bill for the winter, and regardless of whether you heat your home with Oil, Natural Gas or electric, prices are through the roof, with some bills doubled from last year.

Can anything be done? John Ravitz, from the Business Council of Westchester asks this question about the future of energy policy in New York State in the Op-Ed below.

New York requires a balanced and practical energy policy to preserve and protect our economy and quality of life

By John Ravitz

Is there anyone who is not in favor of improving the climate of our nation and the globe? Of course not. That's the easy part. The more vexing questions are how and how quickly can we reach this ambitious goal?

In New York State this challenge is about to be put to the test. On December 19, the state-appointed Climate Action Council will issue its final "scoping plan" outlining how New York will transform its energy supply systems. It is impossible to overstate the impact of the program's mandate that by 2040, just 17 years, 100 percent of our electricity will be required to come from renewable power

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Democrats Divided as Latimer Vetoes Flavored Tobacco Ban BOL Doesn't Have Votes for Override

"The cultural objections raised must be forthrightly addressed, and where possible remedied. The bill...has been vigorously opposed by a significant number of African-American groups and leaders...all who assert their communities would be negatively impacted,"

-County Executive George Latimer

"I can speak for a lot of colleagues in saying we are shocked, disappointed and astonished... that the County Executive would dismiss the judgement of such a clear majority of the Board of Legislators,"

-Legislator Damon Maher

"There were too many ways that this bill didn't make sense for communities of color. We made sure that our voice was heard and thank the County Executive for his veto. Now lets work to get a fully operational hospital in Mount Vernon."

-Damon Jones, Black Westchester Magazine

"Westchester County Executive George Latimer's veto of the comprehensive flavored tobacco law was an act of cowardice..Any elected official who puts the profits of businesses ahead of the health of their constituents should be ashamed."

-Michael Davoli, American Cancer Society Network NY

By Dan Murphy

Westchester County Executive George Latimer vetoed a law that would have banned the sale of flavored tobacco products in Westchester County. Latimer delivered the veto on Dec. 12 at 4:55 pm, just five minutes before the bill would have become law. The Westchester County Board of Legislators passed the bill by an 11-6 vote, with 11 democrats voting yes, and 4 democrats and 2 republicans voting no.

Democratic legislators who supported the bill, including the bills sponsor, Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson, were not informed that the veto was coming and were shocked when it landed.

Latimer held a press conference on Dec. 13 to announce a \$3 Million plan to educate the public on the dangers of smoking--and to enforce the law to prevent minors from smoking menthol tobacco products.

In an email to this reporter, Latimer explained his Veto, writing "Some proponents sought to frame this as a battle against "Big Tobacco"... well I don't know how Big Tobacco "wins" when we launch a marketing effort to reduce tobacco consumption or to better enforce the Tobacco 21 law. That's what we did today of substance and it should not be overlooked.

"Further: while worrying about Big Tobacco, some ignore the voices of prominent people in the African American and Middle Eastern American communities. Prominent local black ministers who opposed the ban; prominent elected officials including the mayor of Mt. Vernon, the City Council President of Yonkers, the publisher of a major black newspaper; Al Sharpton and the mother of Eric Garner. These aren't the voices of Big Tobacco... these are the voices of everyday people in Westchester. The cultural outcry from the Middle Eastern community was forceful; there were voices as well in the Hispanic community such as El Centro Hispano. If the issue was something else, some proponents would have taken the side of those minority voices as a matter of social justice.

"In this case, some proponents are invested in "making a statement", seeking to connect into a nationwide advocacy movement more than understanding the grassroots disagreements many had with a legal ban. Some think only legislative action matters. I know differently. We can use executive implementation of sound strategies

continued on pg 6-

"Who is Advising Slater, the Town Board and Police Chief Noble on the Illegal, Forcible Eviction of RC Recreation Development?"



Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater, leaving Par 3 after Police removed, RC Recreation Development

Editor's Note: According to Larry Nussbaum, President of RC Recreation Development, Supervisor Matt Slater and Yonkers Police Chief Robert Noble threatened his arrest when they arrived to remove him from the Par 3 golf course without a court order or eviction notice. Nussbaum writes,

Quotes directly from the Yorktown Police Department's Police Report (Entry/CC#: BL-22-39001) dated December 1, 2022 at 795 Route 6 (Shadow Creek)

"YPD Dispatch received a call from Supervisor, Matt Slater, requesting police presence at the location. Supervisor Slater advised there was a resolution passed by the Town of Yorktown for the property to be vacated before 12/1/22 and the former contractor had been notified but was still at the location"

"A Yorktown Employee used bolt cutters and cut the lock and opened the entrance to the location. At this time we all entered the property and were met by Larry Nussbaum, the owner of the corporation which had the previous agreement with the Town of Yorktown."

"Mr. Nussbaum continuously asked those present if we had a court order which order him off the property"

"Lt. Graham advised him that he possibly may be arrested".

"Nussbaum ultimately got into his vehicle and left the scene without incident."

End of Quotes from the Police Report
As I left the premises, I photographed Slater who was observing his orchestrated illegal forcible eviction from the Park and Ride walking away now that his forcible eviction was accomplished.

In reality, I should have been able to call the Yorktown Police to assist me in stopping this forcible eviction, but in this case the Yorktown Police actually participated and became perpetrators of this illegal action.

continued on pg 8, with Holiday Miracle Ad-

Virtual Music Program Offers A Way for People With Dementia to Connect With Loved Ones



Music Therapist Tim Doak leads a free virtual program offered by the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter for people with dementia and their loved ones called Something for Alz: Musical Moments.

"It's completely remote, and what the goal of the group is to provide music experiences with dementia and Alzheimer's and their loved ones — whether it's their spouse, their child or a caregiver," he said. "It's a space for them to create connection together and have experiences with music."

He said he generally starts the group off with songs that help him get to know the participants. "I use some songs that are from generic eras, really popular songs from various decades. I'm also asking, 'What are some of your favorite songs? What are some of your favorite things to do?' That develops into a conversation."

Participants may share their wedding songs or other tunes connected to special times in their lives. Doak said they also sometimes do themed sessions, such as in the summer focusing on songs by the Beach Boys, or songs with summer references, such as "Summer Loving," which then can lead to various activities ranging from singing to light exercise or conversation.

"I gather songs that are meaningful or are favorites or are significant to everybody, and I then intertwine those songs into various experiences. It can be that we're singing, we're moving around, or we're talking about the songs and why they are significant. I ask them, 'What does this song remind you about?'"

He said that often when he brings in songs, stories arise that can be shared with the group. The music and memories can also help caregivers have meaningful interactions with their loved ones that can be very difficult when someone has Alzheimer's or another dementia.

Another activity he does with the group is lyric substitution. "We come together; we do some songwriting. I do some modified lyric substitution. One of the songs that is kind of the go-to is from The King and I, 'Getting to Know You,' and I substitute various words and lyrics for them to put in their favorite things. They can tell their preferences from the song itself. It's creating uniqueness; it's creating a unique experience for them. It turns a song that's familiar to them into their own."

Doak said he first started doing his Something for Alz group at the beginning of the pandemic, and has always done it virtually. He thinks the virtual format is preferable to an in-person format because it makes it easier for people to participate. To register for Something for Alz: Musical Moments, call the Alzheimer's Association at 800.272.3900 or visit www.alz.org/hudsonvalley/helping_you/social-programs/something-for-alz-musical-moments.

Let's Not Forget Our Missing Westchester Teens This Time of Year



missing Westchester teens, (L-R) Neilyn DeJesus and Roselin Angeles Suarez. from Yonkers.

By Dennis Richmond Jr.

On Halloween Eve a teenager went missing and the day after Halloween another teenager went missing. I didn't see media coverage for either case.

Chaessy Rodriguez, 14, went missing in Mount Vernon on October 30th. The day after Halloween, Jenelle Hough, 13, went missing in Albany. As of November 24th, 2022, both teenagers are still listed as missing on the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's website.

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children's website, teenagers across New York State are missing. In October and November, teenagers went missing from everywhere from the Bronx to Warsaw, and Selden to Yonkers. Neilyn DeJesus, 16, is listed as missing from Yonkers since October 16th. Just one day later, Roselin Angeles Suarez, 17, is listed as missing from Yonkers too. Deyanira Andino, 14, is listed as missing from the Bronx. Deyanira went missing less than a week after Roselin.

In 2021, NPR said, "tens of thousands of Black girls and women go missing every year. Last year, that figure was nearly 100,000. Yet their cases hardly ever grab national headlines." A journalist in California is doing what she can to try to change that, by telling as many of their stories as she can — and hopefully helping them get the justice they deserve. Our Black Girls centers on the often untold stories of Black girls and women who have gone missing or, in some cases, were found dead under mysterious circumstances." The website was created by Erika Marie Rivers.

Why are Black and Hispanic teenagers specifically targeted? Dr. Umar Johnson and the late Dick Gregory talked about organ harvesting. People are stealing organs from Black and Hispanic people. Illegal activity, such as payment for this process, takes place on the dark web. Hopefully, none of the missing teenagers, some of whom are white, have a connection to the dark web.

Teenagers across the country are also going missing due to sex trafficking. Last year, a man was arrested for sex trafficking in Detroit on October 14th. A man in Milwaukee was arrested too. According to FOX6 Milwaukee, some of his charges include "interstate transportation for prostitution" and "interstate transportation of a minor for criminal sexual activity."

On October 24th of this year, Florida police broke up a sex trafficking ring. Not to mention, a story just broke on November 19th, 2022. According to WCBS News Radio 880, a New York man, 26, pleaded guilty to attempted sex trafficking of a 14 year old.

I don't know if any of the missing teenagers have been found. I haven't found any information stating that they have. I also don't know if any of the missing teens in New York are victims of organ harvesting or sex trafficking. The continued hope is that everyone's connected with their loved ones, especially during the holiday season. That can only happen when more people start talking about it and reporting on it. Visit <https://www.missingkids.org/HOME>, and <https://ourblackgirls.com/>, for more information.

Dennis Richmond, Jr., is an author and journalist focused on the Black, Latinx, and LGBTQIA+ Community. He lives in Yonkers. Follow him on Twitter @NewYorkStakz.

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Latimer Signs County Budget, Passed BOL 17-0

Westchester County Executive George Latimer signed his 2023 Westchester County Budget, cutting the County Property Tax Levy by \$6 million dollars, flanked by members of the Westchester County Departments of Emergency Services, Corrections, Probation and Public Safety. The Budget was passed by the County Board of Legislators earlier in the day, bipartisan 17-0.

Latimer said: "I am signing this budget today and thinking of all the families who are preparing for the holidays – this budget is for them. We have cut taxes again and have done so while also expanding the programs and services they have come to depend on. Our collaboration with the Board of Legislators; this is what honest and fair governing is, that is who we are as an administration and as a County."

The total budget is \$2.365 billion and includes Latimer's fourth County property tax cut in a row. Highlights include: Closing 2022 with projected \$65.9 million operating surplus. No borrowing for tax certs, No borrowing for pension, and No use of fund balance. The 2023 Budget contains no borrowing or one-shots. No borrowing for tax certs, No use of fund balance, and No borrowing for cash flow.

County Board of Legislators Chairwoman Catherine Borgia: "Westchester County is stronger and in a better state financially, and we are paying it forward to our residents. We've prioritized meaningful investments in areas that affect our constituents every day. Parents receiving subsidies can now pay less out of pocket to afford better quality childcare. We're closing the digital divide by expanding internet access throughout the County. We've increased funding for community-based organizations providing services directly to those who need them. I am excited for all that we will accomplish in 2023 through mutual commitment and collaboration with the County Executive's Office."

Majority Leader Christopher Johnson said: "The funding we've allocated in the \$2.4 billion budget will provide critical aid for Westchester County residents, and help us actualize the goal of creating the Office of Police Accountability. We are even more focused on addressing social justice equity now that an allocation has been made for the establishment of this much-needed public safety division."

Westchester County Legislator Margaret Cunzio said: "The 2023 budget not only cuts the County property tax levy, but it also invests in the areas of Public Safety, Emergency Services, Corrections and Probation – all of which have proven to be essential in the operation of our County. I am pleased to support this unanimous budget to help keep Westchester moving forward."

Vice Chair County Legislator Nancy Barr said: "I am pleased that today, the Board of Legislators unanimously passed the 2023 fiscal year budget. This tri-partisan support is a testament to the strength of this well-balanced, fiscally-responsible budget, which cuts the tax levy for the fourth straight year without borrowing for operating costs and with an increase to the fund balance. The 2023 budget continues to support our non-profit partners who provide services to Westchester residents, which is particularly important as many are still recovering from the impact of the COVID pandemic. This budget provides increased funding for mental health services, and a focus on digital equity, with designated American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to increase internet access to under-served residents."

Budget Director Larry Soule said: "For five consecutive budgets, the County Executive has prioritized getting this County back onto sound fiscal footing, while funding all essential programs, public safety and navigating a pandemic – all while cutting taxes."

The 2023 Budget funds the Departments of Corrections, Public Safety, Probation and Emergency Services at the highest levels in Westchester County history: Correction \$156.6 million, Public Safety \$59.1 million, Probation \$50.2 million, and Department of Emergency Services \$13 million.

The Budget has \$2 million in funding for Feeding Westchester and food pantries around the County. Additionally, for Child Care, the Budget reduces the parent share from 27% in 2018 to 5% in 2023. The Budget allots \$218.7 million for the County Health Department, that includes \$1 million for maternal mortality. Additionally, the budget is expanding funding to Federally Qualified Health Centers/Neighborhood Health Centers by \$1 million bringing the total to \$3 million.

The 2023 Budget has \$17.2 million for the Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH), specifically the Project Alliance Mobile Crisis Response Team, \$6.1 million for Crisis Network and 988 Suicide Crisis Lifeline, \$565,000 for Opioid Response and Overdose Prevention Initiative and \$737,892 Early Childhood Mental Health Services.

The Budget has \$1.3 million for the Human Rights Commission, including funding for an additional investigator, and Youth Bureau funding is \$4.7 million, including \$3.1 million for Invest in Kids and funding for new programs based on the youth needs assessment.

We Get Letters



By Eric Wolf Schoen

One of the fun parts of writing a column (and giving the folks your email address and living locally) is that people respond to what you write. Whether they like what you say or they every once in a while hate it, people have no problem coming up to you with their thoughts.

Every year certain issues stand it out and this year it was the City Council playing games with term limits at the very last minute and passing legislation within one week. I would say 90% of the people who spoke with me or wrote are solidly against increasing term limits. Even people who came out to the hearings supporting term limits are against it, but they were told by their bosses whether it be Union Leaders or the folks that run City Hall to show up. It's amazing how one day the unions are supportive of the Mayor, and the next day the cork pops and they are not.

The next topic people are upset about is the death of Sergeant Frank Gualdino at the hands of a 16 year old who just got his learner's permit. No matter whether I was in Yonkers, New York or New York City, everyone knew of the death of a police officer particularly in this situation and found it upsetting. People agreed with me when I asked, 'where were the parents' particularly when the kid was driving a fancy BMW. People are concerned because the driver was a minor and if he was older he would get the book thrown at him and maybe get some serious prison time. Let's hope they lock him up and throw away the key. Don't you just wonder what he could have been thinking when he did what he did?

Mention Red Light Cameras and everyone has a story. Yonkersites and those who visit our city hate them. This will be on the list of topics people are upset about until they are taken down. Very few people fight them, and given the timing schedule the lights are on or lack of one they are ripe to be fought. The problem is to fight them you have to take time off of work, pay for parking in the Government Center Garage and waste a half a day. Is it worth all that to fight the \$65 ticket? It's a hard decision to make.

The cost of things at the supermarket comes next. \$4.29 for a package of Philadelphia Cream Cheese? That price blew my mind earlier this week. Remember when they were 99 cents a package and sometimes on sale 2 for \$1. People are not buying that costs have gone up and that's the cause of the increase. The sale flyer is more and more important, and though the prices are high at least they are not crazy high and you feel like you are getting a bargain when you buy something in the sale flyer.

I got a big response to 'Toy Guru' Richard Gottlieb when he was on the radio show. Everyone wants to know where to get those hard to get toys, and Richard gave them some good ideas. With the Internet and Amazon they run around the stores for you looking for that hard to get toy. And Richard gave them the list of top toys children will ask for so parents and grandparents can be prepared and not show up with monopoly.

Cars speeding on our nation's roadways are on everyone's mind. And being 'honked' at is particularly annoying when you are going the speed limit. Many people are simply afraid to drive with the animals on side streets and big parkways. One reader came up to me and said she gave up her car and is using ride services as people are driving way above the limit.

The reusable grocery bags Are more of a joke than reality. Supermarkets have paper bags instead of plastic but occasionally your groceries will be packed in a plastic bag. Enforcement is non-existent, and supermarket realize not everyone is going to remember to schlep their recyclable bags and they need a vessel in which to carry their groceries. For a while stores did not give out bags but nowadays it's the rare store that doesn't have a bag for your goodies.

When I wrote about the celebration of the 60th Anniversary of the Will Library, I got questioned as to why they tore down the beautiful Carnegie Library on Broadway and Nepperhan. And everyone has their theories from a businessman making money to a deal involving a City Council person. Yes it was a beautiful library but I doubt they could make it handicap accessible in this day and age. And we did wind up getting a magnificent library on the Yonkers waterfront.

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Letters to the Editor:

Westchester should debate having free bus service year round

Westchester County Executive George Latimer deserves to be praised for offering residents free bus transportation during the upcoming holiday season and for providing Westchester commuters with free bus service during the summer months. This is an exciting and bold initiative that I hope will eventually lead to Westchester County joining more than 100 cities around the world that currently offer free public transit all year around. Perhaps, Albany and Washington might be willing to provide financial help to local and county governments that offer free public transportation.

Free bus service is catching on nationally. Olympia Washington embraced free bus service this year. The city passed a ballot measure to approve an additional sales tax for public transportation purposes going to fare free options. In other communities private businesses such as the merchants in a shopping mall contribute to the free transportation in the hope that doing so will increase sales. After just one month of the program Olympia saw a 20% increase in ridership compared to the previous year. A majority of the City Council in Washington DC plans to introduce free bus service to the Washington DC area shortly.

<https://www.route-fifty.com/infrastructure/2022/12/dc-would-be-biggest-city-yet-make-bus-rides-free/380386/>

In December, 2019 Kansas City MO became the first large US city to implement free buses. They did so to allow Kansas City residents improved access opportunities for employment and education. Luxembourg became the first country in the world to make all public transportation (including buses, trams and trains) free to use. Malta, Estonia have free service.

Free public transportation has benefits. Road traffic will see decreased congestion. It will be easier to get parking in business districts. There will be fewer accidents. Roads will see reduced wear and tear. And it's great for the environment.

Let's have a county dialogue on the benefits of free public transportation year round. And - a big thank you to our County Executive for starting the pilot program. What do you think?

PAUL FEINER, Greenburgh Town Supervisor

Dear Yonkers Times,

I'm a scientist who is terrified at the slow pace of corporate and government actions to address the accelerating climate crisis.

I am writing to ask you to cover the well-coordinated campaign by the gas industry and its allies to weaken, if not derail key elements of New York's landmark climate law, the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

The bulk of the disinformation concerns building electrification and phasing out fossil-fuel combustion in buildings, because this poses the biggest threat to the fossil fuel industry's profits.

The gas-industry players and their tactics are detailed at <https://bit.ly/Gas-lightV2> - along with a well-researched debunking of their disinformation and greenwashing.

The fossil-fuel industry spends billions of dollars on lobbying and public disinformation campaigns. Responsible media outlets like yours cannot let them get away with this.

Please thoroughly cover this important story; not doing so would be a disservice to your audience.

Sincerely, Anshul Gupta, Valhalla, New York

Yonkers Woman Arrested at Walmart Cortlant Manor for Using Child to Steal \$3,500 in Merch



On November 21, 2022, the New York State Police with the assistance of the Westchester County Police Department arrested Rosa J. Margolla, age 58, and Rosa M. Margolla Rivera, age 40, both of Yonkers, NY, for Grand Larceny in the 3rd degree, a class D felony, and Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a class A misdemeanor.

Troopers were dispatched to Walmart on East Main Street in Mohegan Lake for a report of larceny at approximately 10:40 p.m. Investigation determined Margolla and Margolla Rivera stole over \$3,590 worth of merchandise and utilized a child to commit the larceny.

Both suspects were arraigned before the Honorable Judge Ragazzo of the town of Cortlandt Court and released on their own recognizance to reappear before the court on December 12, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.

Energy Prices, con't from pg 1-

sources.

Over the last four years, the Business Council of Westchester has been laser-focused on the changing landscape of our renewable energy future. We have actively followed the push to impose a hard deadline on the cut-off of fossil fuel sources. We have carefully assessed the impacts both economic and personal it will have on every aspect of life in our state. No resident or business sector will not be affected. We remain deeply concerned about and the unintended but inevitable consequences of setting a self-imposed deadline.

In Westchester County we have witnessed firsthand the impacts of sudden, dramatic changes in energy policy and production. The BCW was at the center of the debate over state-imposed closing of the Indian Point Nuclear Power plant that provided 25 percent of the power for New York City and Westchester and called for relicensing of the plant. Governor Cuomo, however, refused. The financial and reliability ramifications of this decision continue to be felt not just in the local communities and school district, but in the scramble to find sufficient power to make up the difference, and the inflated costs that come with it.

Currently we are continuing to cope with Con Edison's moratorium on new natural gas hookups in southern Westchester. This is a direct result of the unwillingness of the state to allow additional natural gas pipelines or even expansions of existing lines. The reasoning is that new building construction should use electric versus power not natural gas. Another example of a goal that cannot be met in practical terms and timeframes.

And that takes us to the heart of the relentless push by green energy activists to impose a hard deadline on the ending the use of fossil fuels, often with the acquiescence of state officials. They simply ignore the fact that the capacity to replace fossil fuels doesn't currently exist and that developing alternative sources in the time frame New York has set forth is simply not possible.

In this environment, there is great reluctance to be seen as a naysayer. Unfortunately, unless common sense and reality prevail, we are going to find ourselves in an energy crisis of our own making. Wind and solar power are nowhere near being developed to a level that will come close to offsetting the loss of fossil fuel power in the time frame that's being established.

Hydropower from Canada, often talked about as a significant source of added clean energy, has become a less certain. Hydro Quebec has indicated that its surpluses have diminished in recent years, and it cannot guarantee consistent large-scale year-round supplies.

For the last 20 years the BCW has thoughtfully examined the issues surrounding the availability and cost of our electric power supplies, and for good reason. Without a reliable, consistent, abundant, and affordable supply of power we cannot have a successful and thriving economy, plentiful jobs and a quality of life that we enjoy. The energy supply uncertainties being seen in Germany and other European nations, and to a growing extent in California and other states are harbingers of how quickly the situation can deteriorate.

Richard Ellenbogen, a BCW member, is an engineer and business owner in New Rochelle who has operated both a factory and his own home "off the grid" for decades, long before most people had even heard the term. An expert on energy technologies, we are fortunate to have him serving with us as a consultant and a respected authority. His invaluable input, he has helped the BCW emerge as a leading voice for the business community on this challenging subject. Over the last four years he and I have met with state elected officials, regulators and policy makers to express our concerns about the strong potential of creating a debilitating energy shortage of our own making.

We join with those who aspire to see a cleaner energy future, and to address the complex issues posed by climate change. At the same time, we will remain a voice of reason and reality. Setting green energy goals and timeframes that cannot possibly be met, while effectively undermining our ability to assure the basic electricity supply needs of New York's residents and business can be met, is irresponsible and unacceptable.

The Business Council of Westchester strongly urges Governor Hochul and the State Legislature to take a deep breath and begin the process of having honest conversations with all stakeholders statewide on how we can achieve the goals to ensure New York has a strong and reliable energy plan in place. Those conversations must stress that the state has a long way to go to create the renewable energy infrastructure that is needed to support the state's power grid, and that natural gas will be **required to support the system until the renewable energy infrastructure is in place.**

It is imperative that New York continues to attract and retain businesses to keep our economy strong. This means demonstrating that we have a clear, smart and secure energy delivery plan in place now and in the future. Achieving this will require a tremendous amount of work, mutual understanding, and cooperation on everyone's part. It's not an option and the time to begin is now.

John Ravitz is Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the Business Council of Westchester and oversees energy issues, policies and planning.

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Save Mt. Vernon Wants Answers Over Library Not Filing Financial Reports to NYSED

At a press conference held on Thursday, December 15, 2022, at the Mount Vernon Public Library, the group Save Mount Vernon demanded an update on the investigation by the Westchester County District Attorney's office of The Mount Vernon Public Library's failure to report financial records since 2014.

"Save Mount Vernon stood at the Westchester County courthouse on October 5, 2021 to request a full investigation into the library's finances and it is a year later and no update to the progress of the investigation. We will continue to demand that a full investigation be completed by the Westchester County District Attorney's office. The citizens and taxpayers of Mount Vernon deserve transparency," Jesse Van Lew, organizer of Save Mount Vernon.

As a result of the Mount Vernon Public Library's failure to submit a 2020 annual report, the Westchester Library System may lose twenty-five percent (25%) of the 2022 State funding for Central Library Services Aid. This loss of 2022 State funds, estimated at \$89,000, would harm all the system's 38 member libraries and the patrons who benefit from Central Library services.

Save Mount Vernon is a group of community organizers and activists, led by Jesse Van Lew, Atif Coleman, Geoff Munroe and Naz Duncan. The Save Mount Vernon movement, identifies and exposes the total disregard to public safety, public trust, and lack of transparency by our city, county, state, and federal governments. Our mission is to bring awareness to the city residents of the FACTS VS FALSE PROPAGANDA spewed out by public officials. We demand that our elected officials proved transparency and accountability to the citizens they are elected to serve.

NYAG James Announces \$458 Million Settlement for New York with CVS and Walgreens for Failing to Regulate Opioid Prescriptions

On Dec. New York Attorney General Letitia James announced two multistate settlements totaling \$10.7 billion with CVS and Walgreens for the pharmacies' role in the opioid crisis in the United States. Attorney General James co-lead a coalition of attorneys general in negotiating the settlement, which will provide \$10.7 billion to communities nationwide and will require significant improvements in how CVS and Walgreens handle opioids prescriptions. CVS will pay \$5 billion, and Walgreens will pay \$5.7 billion. The state attorneys general on the executive committee, CVS, and Walgreens have agreed to this settlement, which will now be sent to other states for review and approval. New York will receive up to \$458,210,563.35 as part of the settlement, bringing the total amount secured by Attorney General James to combat the opioid crisis in New York to more than \$2.5 billion.

"In New York and across the nation, communities continue to mourn family, friends, and loved ones lost to the opioid crisis," said Attorney General James. "Though we cannot reverse the devastation, my fellow attorneys general and I are committed to holding those who allowed this epidemic to run rampant through our country to account. We have now recovered \$2.5 billion for New York from opioids manufacturers and distributors, and with those funds we will continue to support and expand abatement, treatment, and prevention efforts statewide."

In addition to securing \$10.7 billion to be divided among sign-on states, local governments, and tribes for opioid treatment, recovery, and abatement, the settlement announced today will include broad, court-ordered requirements CVS and Walgreens must comply with, including robust oversight to identify and prevent fraudulent or suspicious prescriptions.

The terms of the agreement will now be sent to the states for review. Each state will have until the end of 2022 to sign on, after which local governments nationwide will be able to join the deal in the first quarter of 2023. Further details regarding how the money will be distributed among localities is forthcoming.

Under the agreement, the payments are structured to ensure critical support in early years and sustained resources over time. Payments from CVS will be spread out over a period of 10 years, and payments from Walgreens will be spread out over a period of 15 years. Payments are expected to commence in the second half of 2023.

Joining Attorney General James in leading the executive committee that negotiated this agreement are the attorneys general of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kentucky, Louisiana, Massachusetts, Nebraska, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Tennessee, and Texas.

Westchester County Government Belives Clinic Access Law is Constitutional

Editor's Note: A story which ran in Westchester Rising on Dec. 9 titled, Thomas More Society Files Lawsuit Against Westchester Abortion Clinic Access Law resulted in the following email comment from Catherine Cioffi, Spokesperson for County Executive George Latimer.

"We believe the law is constitutional. The law allows for protestors to exercise their first amendment right, while also protecting the rights of women who seek reproductive healthcare without harassment or obstruction."

Arrest Made in Speed Race on Taconic that Included Shots Fired

On December 6, 2022, the New York State Police arrested Andres Rosales, age 49, of Ossining, for Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd degree, a class C felony, and Reckless Endangerment in the 1st degree, a class D felony.

Investigation determined that on December 4, 2022, Rosales participated in a contest of speed on the Taconic State Parkway near mile marker eight and fired multiple rounds from a handgun at the victim who was operating a competing vehicle.

Rosales was arraigned before the town of New Castle Court and remanded to the Westchester County Jail in lieu of \$1,500 cash bail or \$3,000 bond. Shots fired during speed contest

Man Sentenced to Nine Years for Sex Abuse of Minor in Ossining

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that a Walden man was sentenced on December 8, 2022, to nine years in state prison, with 20 years of post-release supervision, for forcing a 16-year-old to perform a sex act in an Ossining parking lot.

On September 10, 2021, at approximately 11:26 p.m., the defendant, Christopher Daqui, 32, brandished what appeared to be a handgun and forced the minor victim, who was a stranger, to perform oral sex on him in a secluded parking lot on South Highland Avenue in Ossining. The victim reported the incident to the police shortly thereafter.

The Montgomery Town Police Department arrested the defendant at his home on September 17, 2021, following an investigation by the Ossining Police Department, with assistance from the Westchester County Department of Laboratories and Research.

On September 8, 2022, the defendant pled guilty to Criminal Sexual Act in the First Degree, a violent felony. The defendant will also be required to register as a sex offender upon completing his prison sentence.

Westchester Community Foundation Awards \$1.45 Million in Grants

Grants address food insecurity, housing stability, refugee resettlement, and capacity-building for nonprofits

The Westchester Community Foundation has awarded grants totaling \$1,459,000 to 24 nonprofits. Included are grants to address food insecurity, support community sponsorship of refugees, expand access to mental health and substance abuse care, and provide digital skills training for young people.

- * Caritas/Meals on Main, Episcopal Charities of the Diocese of New York, and Glynwood Center for Regional Food and Farming will expand access to fresh, nutritious food to low-income households.

- * Hearts and Homes for Refugees will work with a growing constellation of local groups sponsoring refugee families in Westchester.

- * the harris project will reach more families and caregivers seeking treatment for young people with mental health and substance abuse needs.

- * The Knowledge House will provide digital skills training and job preparation for young people in Yonkers, Mount Vernon, and New Rochelle.

The Foundation's grants to Cause Effective, Nonprofit Westchester, and The Advocacy Institute will ensure that nonprofit executives receive professional development and advocacy training.

"We're pleased to continue to invest in high-performing nonprofits working together to address pressing needs in the county, forge new pathways for economic security, and welcome new neighbors," noted Executive Director Laura Rossi. "We're grateful to our donors who have made it possible for us to do so much more."

The Foundation's total grantmaking in 2022 was \$2,680,650. For a complete list of all grants awarded and information on the Foundation, please visit the Foundation's website at wcf-ny.org.

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER DYNASTY, LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST CGSRE ACQUISITION CORP, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered October 22, 2021, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Lobby of Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, NY on January 11, 2023 at 10:30AM, premises known as 68 Runyon Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester and State of New York, Section 3 Block 3112 Lot 59+60. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,792,943.78 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #50855/2019. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the WESTCHESTER County COVID-19 Protocols located on the Office of Court Administration (OCA) website (<https://ww2.nycourts.gov/Admin/oca.shtml>) and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. Anthony J. Centone, Esq., Referee CLAIR GJERTSEN & WEATHERS PLLC 4 New King Street, Suite 140 White Plains, NY 10604 50855-2019 74515.

Notice of formation of 808 Commerce LLC, a domestic LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/05/2022. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: LLC at 808 Commerce Stret, Thornwood, NY 10594. Purpose: Any lawful act.

Notice of formation of Beagal, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/11/2022. 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, 47 Washington Blvd Mt Vernon NY 10550. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Formation of ESAL REALTY LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/8/2022. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Ernest Salerno, 2395 E. Long Shadow Pl., Tucson, AZ 85718. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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Eric Schoen, continued from pg 5-

On the topic of bail reform, people can't understand how our representatives supported it whereas most Yonkersites and Westchesterites simply don't. Your neighbors don't want those who cause trouble out on the streets. In particular when the violence involves weapons.

Other topics people were talking about were Covid, respecting a Presidential visit, naming a Yonkers Public School after a Jewish man who lived in Yonkers, Sid Caesar or a Jewish woman, Ruth Bader Ginsburg just like the School Board has named many schools after prominent Hispanic men and woman.

Seasonal flavored items like pumpkin lasagna and harvest flavored sodas and sauces are something certainly talked about on the streets. And I am amazed how many people like their food with pumpkin spices or their water seasonally flavored. Ya' know ya' never know what will tickle peoples fancy.

I hope these topics were of interest to you. Based on my random conversations, they were to your neighbors and friends!

Briefs: I drove by the memorial for the Sergeant who was killed on Tuckahoe Road and the bridge. It would be nice if you put some flowers or candles at the sight of this tragedy,

Lite FM106.7 is all Christmas music through December 25, Christmas Day. My friends are always amazed at this Jewish boys knowledge of Christmas songs. I Learned these songs from Lillian Ruzow, music Teacher at School 13. May she Rest In Peace.

Can you believe Charlie Brown Christmas, a staple is not on network TV this year? Shoppers are you rushing home with your treasures?

Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

Latimer Vetoes Flavored Tobacco, continued from pg 1-

and reduce tobacco consumption further here - we are already the lowest county in NYS for tobacco usage.

I did not categorize the support by Legislators and advocates in a negative light; it is wholly unfair to do the same to my decision. They came to their decision for their own reasons and did not Telegraph that to me in advance. We are all disappointed sometimes in public policy disputes; I've learned to move forward, win or lose.

I've delivered a path to move forward for robust education and enforcement, to persuade people, much as we did during COVID. We had success with a strategy that kept mandates to a minimum. I understand in a free society we must convince people of the rightness of a cause - not simply to mandate them against their will," wrote Latimer.

Supporters of Latimer's decision point to his reluctance to mandate, but instead to educate the public, as was evidenced in his COVID policies for Westchester County.

Latimer's comments to us by email, and in his veto message, point to the fact that many members of the black community in Westchester did not support this legislation, including Damon Jones, Publisher of Black Westchester Magazine, and Black Law Enforcement.

After the vote, we called Jones to discuss what we see as a political victory for opponents to this law. Jones told us, "There were too many ways that this bill didn't make sense for communities of color," said Damon Jones, Publisher of Black Westchester and a member of Black Law Enforcement. "We made sure that our voice was heard and thank the County Executive for his veto. Now lets work to get a fully operational hospital in Mount Vernon."

Several Westchester democrats told us that others supported Latimer's decision. "I don't support the Nanny State of telling us what to do with our lives. And this law, if adopted, would have resulted in people going to the Bronx or Connecticut for their Menthol cigarettes, or buy them on the black market here. I support the County Executive's decision," said a Sound Shore Democratic leader.

Several democrats we spoke to said that Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins played a large role, behind the scenes, to support the veto but also to make sure that there were not enough votes on the County Board to override.

"Legislator Terry Clements was the vote that tipped the balance," said one Westchester Democrat. "Her decision to vote no was the 6th vote ensuring that it was Veto proof. And Terry is very close to the Deputy County Executive."

Supporters of the ban were, as Legislator Damon Maher said, "I can speak for a lot of colleagues in saying we are shocked, disappointed and astonished, after putting in so much work to try and help reduce the availability of this insidiously marketed, dangerous product in the community, that the County Executive would dismiss the judgement of such a clear majority of the Board of Legislators. Today, Big Tobacco claims another victory over the people."

The Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids said, "We are deeply disappointed by Westchester County Executive Latimer's decision to veto vital legislation to end the sale of flavored tobacco products in Westchester County. With this veto, County Executive Latimer missed a tremendous opportunity to take an important step towards protecting the health and safety of young people and communities of color in New York.

"For too long, the tobacco industry has relentlessly targeted Black communities - particularly Black youth - with flavored tobacco products. They've unleashed aggressive marketing campaigns and deceptive advertising, and made menthol cigarettes widely available and extremely cheap. They've pushed out kid-friendly flavors that mimic desserts or candies to get kids hooked on nicotine, enticing them to a lifelong struggle with addiction. This is a public health crisis that demands our attention now - and Big Tobacco will not stop targeting kids and communities of color unless we stop them.

"We are grateful for the continued leadership of Health Committee Chair Jewel Williams Johnson and her colleagues on the Board of Legislators, who passed this legislation last month with a vote of 11 to 6. We strongly urge the Board to override the veto and push back against the tobacco industry's decades-long campaign to get kids addicted to tobacco."

The American Cancer Society's NY Director of Government Relations Michael Davoli said, "Westchester County Executive George Latimer's veto of the comprehensive flavored tobacco law was an act of cowardice. By ignoring the deadly impact that flavored tobacco has on his constituents, the County Executive has cast his lot with those who have peddled their deadly product with lies for generations. The justification given in his veto message could have been written by a tobacco industry lobbyist. His willingness to accept the lies presented by opponents of the bill demonstrate the interests that matter to him most. Any elected official who puts the profits of businesses ahead of the health of their constituents should be ashamed."

The split in the democratic party over this issue is not only on race. Two black County Legislators, including the bills sponsor, Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson, and Majority Leader, Legislator Christopher Johnson, supported the ban.

In Yonkers, Majority Leader Johnson, and Legislator Jose Alvarado, supported the ban, while Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins and legislators David Tumbiolo and James Nolan opposed.

Others claim that a compromise was proposed and rejected, and that the ban goes too far, and that banning all tobacco was the next step.

One comment from County Executive Latimer that this reporter agrees with is the oddity found in trying to ban Menthol Cigarettes while at the same time, New York State and Westchester, are about to legalize Marijuana.

"This intersection between making certain tobacco products illegal to sell at the same time we are allowing Cannabis to be legally sold, creates a societal concern that must be more fully researched and addressed," said Latimer.

And the topic of legal marijuana in Westchester will be our focus in the weeks to come. Where will the Pot stores be allowed and when will they open in Westchester? More on this topic in 2023

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Great Westchester Holiday Light Locations



lights at 12 Jenkins Court in Ossining have a musical component

One of my favorite holiday activities is to travel around the county looking for some good Christmas lights to lift our spirits. I have been driving around the county for more than 40 years, and I've been writing this story for close to a decade.

But many of the locations are the same, until the owners retire or move away. Let me also highlight Mommy Poppins, MommyPoppins.com/Westchester, who does a great job and our lists are similar.

#1 -The Keeler Family Christmas Lights, 16 Luigi Road, Putnam Valley. While not technically in Westchester, this spot just over the border, five minutes from the Cortland Town Center, is a must and worth a trip up north. 1 Million Lights and figures await and are lit from 6pm-10pm. They have a Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/keelerchristmaslights>

#2-Roy's Christmas Lights-50 Parsons Street. Roy Aletti has warmed the hearts of families for 45 years with his display. "The expressions are absolutely priceless, especially the young ones who are in awe and become mesmerized by the bright lights. That radiates out to the adults who share in the big smiles and joy," said Aletti, who has become a Westchester holiday legend. Be sure to check his display out and say Merry Christmas if you see him outside. How he fits all of his items on his home is a miracle in and of itself.

#3-Westchester's Winter Wonderland-Kensico Dam Park, Valhalla. This is Westchester County's Holiday Happening and its a good one. You have to pay per car, and you stay in the car for the 15 minute drive through the park. But it is something different to do and a perfect end to a day of shopping and traveling around Westchester. Visit www.wwinterwonderland.com, for more information.

Honorable Mention: 12 Jenkins Court, Ossining. This has a musical component, which you can tune in on your car radio. Other stops include, New Rochelle, 155 Vaneck Drive, 50 Iriquois Road, Ossining, 6 Deans Bridge Road Somers. Also go to Somerset Road just down the road in Somers. 7 Andrew Road, Eastchester. Send us your suggestions to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Westchester County Holiday Gift Drive Extended to Dec. 19



Holiday Gift Drive Extended to Dec. 19; Hundreds of Kids in Foster Care, Homeless Shelters Still in Need

Westchester County urgently needs your help bringing holiday cheer to some of the County's children most in need this holiday season. Our annual Holiday Gift Drive -- which provides gifts to nearly 1,000 kids in foster care, homeless shelters, and protective and preventive services -- is being extended until next Monday, December 19 because we have so many kids who still need your help this year.

Although we've collected more than 100 toys and filled more than 100 specific wish lists since November 17, we still have hundreds of children in need, more than 60 specific wish lists still unfulfilled, and donations to our holiday fund are a fraction of those we've received in previous years. Now through Monday, December 19 you can make a monetary donation to the Westchester Child Welfare Holiday Fund. You can make a check, made payable to the Fund, to Barbara Sabater, 112 East Post Road, Room 637, White Plains, New York 10601. Donations can also be made electronically by Zelle to the Zelle ID email WCDSSHoliday-GiftDrive@gmail.com.

If you have any questions about donations or to help with a wish list contact Barbara Sabater at bms7@westchestergov.com or call (914) 995-1937.

Drop Off Locations: Westchester County Michaelian Office Building, 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains

Dept. of Social Services, Central Office, 112 East Post Road, White Plains

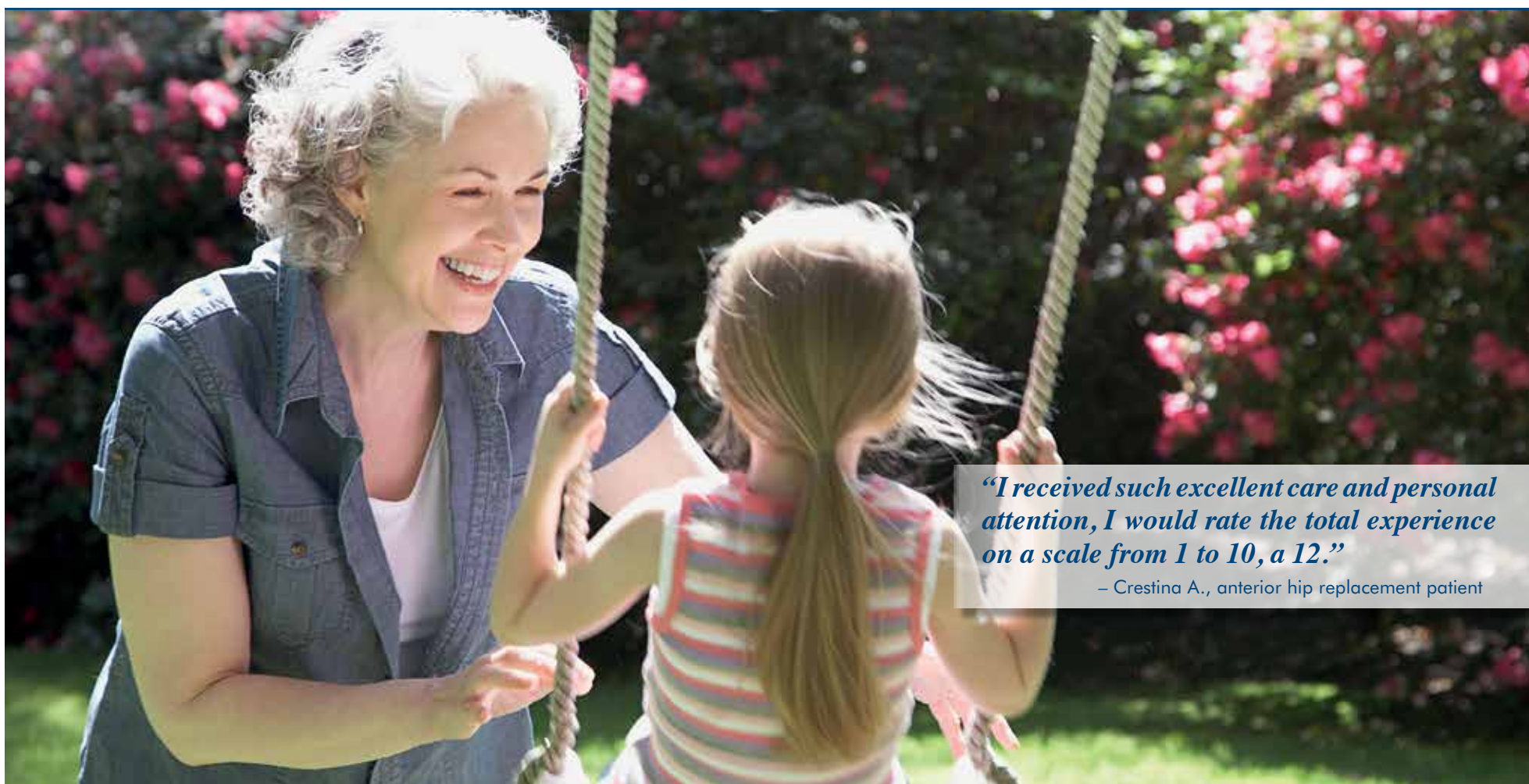
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Merry Christmas --Happy Chanukah--Happy Kwanzaa to all of our friends and readers of Westchester Rising



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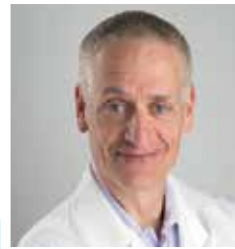
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Stepinac High School Basketball Program Inducts Five Alumni at Hardwood Club Dinner



Yonkers barber Slava Shushakova with Chabad of Yonkers Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz
Photo and story by Robert Kalfus

Yonkers barber Slava Shushakova's mezuzah had been on his shop's door for many years. Chabad of Yonkers Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz checked the old mezuzah, fixed any of the Hebrew letters which might have been damaged, checked that every single letter was properly formed and written, certified that it was kosher, and installed it on the barbershop's doorway at 797A Yonkers Avenue, across from Yonkers Raceway, bringing great delight and joy to him.

A mezuzah parchment scroll contains the Hebrew words of the Shema, handwritten by a scribe, and is attached to the doorpost of Jewish homes and businesses to fulfill the mitzvah, Biblical commandment, to "write the words of God on your home and upon your gates." A mezuzah must be affixed on the right side of the doorpost as you most usually enter a room, as can be seen in the photo of Rabbi Hurwitz and Slava Shushakova. Judaism is not confined to just the synagogue, and a mezuzah on the doorpost reminds everyone who passes through that a Godly life and Torah observance accompany them wherever they go.

Kings sit on their throne with their guards standing outside, protecting them. Jews believe that by affixing the mezuzah to the doorway, our King is outside, protecting us as we are inside.

It is customary to have a mezuzah checked twice within every seven years, as human error, or cracks can develop, and Rabbi Hurwitz was glad to fulfill this important mitvah.

Mr. Shushakova noticed that other barbers had raised their haircutting prices, and that customers were hurting from the higher prices. In response, Mr. Shushakova lowered his basic haircut price to \$15, which attracted a great many more custom-



At Stepinac High School's recent 11th Annual Harwood Club Dinner and Induction Ceremony, five alumni were honored who have significantly contributed to the renowned all-boys Catholic high school's basketball program—on and off the court. The honorees were (l to r): Brendan Potter ('82); Michael McCauley ('98); Laura Ansbro who represented Michael Ansbro '60); William Kolman ('72) and Jarrad Smith ('91).

Par 3, Illegal Eviction Claimed, continued from pg 1-

pated and became perpetrators of this illegal action. The Recover of Possession of Real Property Law (RPAPL) Section 853 states: If a person is put out of Real Property in a forcible or unlawful manner, or, after he has been put out, is held and kept out by force or by putting him in fear of personal violence or by unlawful means, he is entitled to recover triple damages in an action to the wrongdoer.

Yorktown's only legal process was to secure a court order delivered by a US Marshall to Recover Possession of this Property.

Concerning the Yorktown Police Department's participation is clearly problematic for Chief of Police Noble. I assume Chief Noble is aware that the police power originates primarily from State Law, Yorktown Local Laws and Ordinances. The police department participated based on a Yorktown Resolution. A resolution is a formal expression of opinion, will or intent voted on by the Yorktown Town Board. Municipal resolutions are adopted in written form to document the opinion, will or intent of the Yorktown Town Board.

Resolutions are not law or ordinances. Generally, Yorktown exercises police power by adopting laws and ordinances in order to: promote public welfare, provide for the safety and comfort of its inhabitants and declare and prevent nuisances.

The Yorktown Police Department's participation in the eviction by "resolution" specifically, does not refer the right on the Yorktown Police to act in the manner they did on Dec. 1, 2022. The expectation of a Municipal Police Department is to uphold their pledge to uphold the law and not be a PRIVATE POLICE FORCE FOR SLATER.

RC initiated an additional lawsuit based on Yorktown's egregious behavior and Slater's continuing efforts to replace RC with one of his cronies, without providing any compensation to RC for the magnificent Club House and the Superb Greens, Tee Boxes and Bunkers constructed with the best golf course material available.

As Slater moves to Albany, he leaves the citizens of Yorktown holding the bag and monies due to RC. Who is advising Slater, the Town Board and Police Chief Noble on conducting an illegal forcible eviction of RC RECREATION DEVELOPMENT LLC?" writes Nussbaum.

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A TRUE BIBLICAL DECEMBER MIRACLE IN YORKTOWN



THE PAR 3 UNSAFE CLUB HOUSE SELF CORRECTS ITSELF TO A SAFE BUILDING IN 8 DAYS WITHOUT ANY HUMAN REMEDIATION, JUST IN TIME FOR A TOUR OF THE BUILDING

What does Lord think when he personally witnesses a building collapse and leaves a Yorktown. Stay that looks on July 6, 2022 and without any remediation, the building self corrected itself to a safe building in 8 days. The building was built to code, the life cycle of the building was completed on Dec 3, 2022, while the building was still under construction.

The owner - the Club House was RECREATION DEVELOPMENT LLC. The building was built to code, the life cycle of the building was completed on Dec 3, 2022, and without any remediation, the building self corrected itself to a safe building in 8 days. The building was built to code, the life cycle of the building was completed on Dec 3, 2022, and without any remediation, the building self corrected itself to a safe building in 8 days.

Construction Agreement with RC on November 15, 2022 and contract on illegal forcible eviction on Dec 1, 2022 led by RICHARD SLATER as the Director of the Contract and Inspection SLATER.

The owner - Slater wants to replace RECREATION DEVELOPMENT LLC, without compensation, with his cronies.

There was no need for a legal and illegal way through the legal process. For the citizens of Yorktown, SLATER was not to blame, and the citizens of Yorktown, who hold the keys to their own destiny, should be able to make a decision on whether to replace RECREATION DEVELOPMENT LLC.

