

The Creche in Scarsdale Erected Again, to Wish You A Merry Christmas



By Dan Murphy

Here's a holiday story that you may not have heard about. After watching Nativity scenes across the county, and the country, removed from public property, I wondered how I continued to see a Creche in Scarsdale ever December before Christmas. And next to the Nativity is a sign, "This Creche has been erected and maintained by the Scarsdale Creche Committee a private organization."

The Village of Scarsdale permitted the Nativity scene for many years to be erected by the Scarsdale Creche Committee in Boniface Circle for around two weeks during the Christmas season, from 1957 to 1981.

However, in 1981, after complaints from several residents who characterized the Creche as being insensitive, the Village Board barred the Nativity scene.

Several Scarsdale residents and the Creche Committee sued the Scarsdale Board in Federal Court, claiming that their First Amendment rights of free religion and free speech were violated. US District Court Judge Charles Stewart ruled in 1983 that the nativity scene improperly constituted an "impermissible

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Major Push to Pass HEAT-NY Act, to help New Yorkers Pay for their Utilities this Winter



Above: Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky with families in Tarrytown

Left: Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg at Peekskill rally. Photo by Acacia Mauriello

By Dan Murphy

On Thursday, December 12, Assemblymember Dana Levenberg and Westchester electeds including Peekskill City Councilwoman Kathleen Talbot and Croton Village Trustee Len Simon joined with Food & Water Watch, and Mothers Out Front to rally against continued heating bill rate hikes and demand Gov. Hochul put the NY HEAT Act in her state budget, expected next month. The rally is part of a statewide week of action,

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There's No Place Like DRONES for the Holidays



By Dan Murphy

Westchester County Executive George Latimer used part of his weekly press conference on Dec. 17 to discuss the recent, numerous citations of drones across the tri-state region.

preplexed all of us --the presence of unmanned drones -this is particularly vexing because there is no understanding of who is behind these drones and how they can be regulated.

County Executive Latimer, who is also Congressman-elect Latimer, wrote a letter to President Biden which includes, "I have spoke to many in Westchester County who have expressed fear and concern about the recent drone citations.

"Residents are worried that there government is unable to identify these drones. They express trepidation over holiday travel, particularly at the Westchester County Airport. That was after Stewart Airport in Newburgh was recently shut down for more than one hour due to concerns over these drones.

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Happy Chanukah Westchester

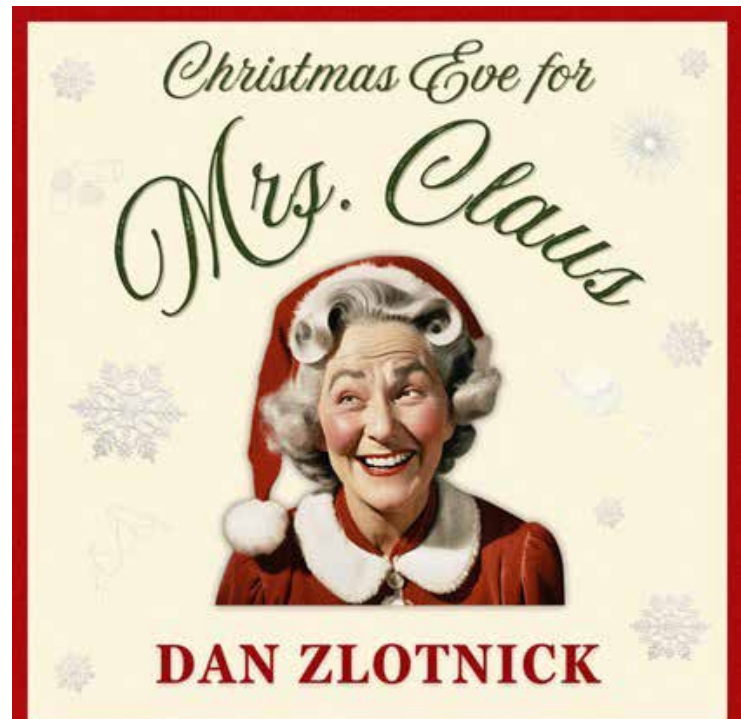


Dr. Jonathan Dzik, leading Chanukah songs, Copyright © Robert Kalfus

Wishing all of our readers a very Happy Chanukah. Chanukah's eight days starts on December 25 and concludes on January 2, 2025.

In Yonkers, upcoming Chanukah events include: *continued on pg 2-*

Westchester Singer-Songwriter Dan Zlotnick Releases "Christmas Eve for Mrs. Claus"



Dan Zlotnick local born and raised Westchester Americana/Folk-Rock singer-songwriter and performer, recently released his newest single: "Christmas Eve for Mrs. Claus."

The song is an upbeat, light-hearted tale that answers the question: "What does Mrs. Claus do on

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US DOJ Report on Mt. Vernon Police Department

Finds “highly intrusive” strip searches were a “gross violation of the Fourth Amendment on an enormous scale.”

US Attorney Damian Williams announced that the Department of Justice, following a comprehensive investigation, has concluded that the Mount Vernon Police Department (“MVPD”) engages in a pattern or practice of conduct that deprives people of rights secured by the U.S. Constitution and federal law.

Specifically, the Department of Justice finds that MVPD:

Uses excessive force in numerous ways, including by unnecessarily escalating minor encounters, and by excessive use of tasers and closed-fist strikes, particularly against individuals who have already been taken to the ground, are controlled by many officers, or are already fully or partially restrained;

Conducted unlawful strip searches and body cavity searches of individuals until at least 2023; and

Makes arrests without probable cause.

The Department also identified serious concerns with MVPD’s vehicle stop and evidence collection practices, as well as serious concerns about discriminatory policing in predominantly Black neighborhoods. Deficiencies in policies, training, supervision, and accountability systems contribute to MVPD’s unlawful practices.

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said: “Our investigation has found reasonable cause to believe that MVPD engages in a pattern or practice of conduct that violates the constitutional rights of the citizens it has sworn to protect. The systemic deficiencies we identified have resulted in a pattern of MVPD officers using excessive force; making illegal arrests; and, for many years, regularly conducting unlawful strip searches and body cavity searches. We are encouraged by the recent steps the City of Mount Vernon and the MVPD have taken that evince a commitment to constitutional policing, and we look forward to continued cooperation to ensure that MVPD keeps its community safe from crime while respecting its citizens’ constitutional rights.”

The Department of Justice opened this investigation on December 3, 2021. The investigation was conducted by career attorneys and staff in the Civil Division of the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York and the Civil Rights Division’s Special Litigation Section. The Department interviewed MVPD command staff and supervisors, patrol officers, police union representatives, Mount Vernon residents, prosecutors from the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office, defense attorneys, and local civic associations. The Department also reviewed MVPD’s arrest reports, use-of-force reports, stops, search, and arrest data, policies, training materials, and internal affairs files.

The Department met regularly throughout the investigation with City of Mount Vernon and MVPD officials to provide feedback on the observations of the Department and the Department’s policing experts.

The Department conducted this investigation pursuant to 34 U.S.C. § 12601 (Section 12601), which prohibits law enforcement officers from engaging in a pattern or practice of conduct that deprives people of rights protected by the Constitution or federal law.

The Department will be conducting outreach to members of the Mount Vernon community for input on remedies to address the investigation’s findings. Individuals may also submit recommendations by email at community.mvdp@usdoj.gov or by phone at 1-866-985-1378.

Patrick Jean-Jerome, President, Mount Vernon Police Benevolent Association, stated, “The members of the Mount Vernon Police Department put their lives on the line every day to protect and serve the people of Mount Vernon. They are among the finest, and this report does not reflect the full story.

“While the report highlights issues within the department, it fails to acknowledge the broader systemic challenges, including the millions of dollars missing from the city of Mount Vernon’s accounts. These missing funds, which belong to the people of Mount Vernon, could and should have been used to train our officers and provide the resources necessary to prevent isolated incidents of misconduct. City officials, along with state and federal leaders, must be held accountable for returning these funds and ensuring they are used for their intended purposes.

“City Hall is cutting back on police supervision, eliminating 22 police posi-

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Family Creates GoFundMe Page After Parents Killed in Accident in Pelham Manor



Savannah Ledeatte is organizing this fundraiser on behalf of Sharon Strainrod.

After the deaths of Jahmale Ledeatte, 46, and Tracey Ledeatte, 44, who died in an automobile accident when their Tesla crashed into a wall in Pelham Manor and burst into flames, their children have set up a GoFundMePage.

“In a heart-wrenching turn of events, my life and my brother’s life were changed forever when our parents tragically passed away in a car crash. This unexpected loss has not only left us devastated emotionally, but it has also created financial hardship for us as we try to navigate life without them.

“We are just two siblings trying to keep going. While we are still in mourning, the reality of daily life is quickly catching up to us. We are struggling to afford basic needs, as well as the expenses that come with being active and engaged in school and life. Sports have always been a way for us to stay connected to our parents’ values and passions, but right now, the cost of maintaining these activities feels impossible.

“We are reaching out for support, not just to cover the essentials, but to also keep our spirits up through sports and community involvement. Any help, no matter how small, will make a difference in our lives. We are trying to stay strong, and with a little support, we know we can begin to rebuild.

Thank you for taking the time to read our story,” writes daughter Savannah, (<https://www.gofundme.com/f/support-siblings-after-tragic-loss-of-parents>) So far the fundraiser has raised more than \$46,000.

Happy Chanukah, continued from pg 1-

Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz will light a giant menorah for the first night of Chanukah on Wednesday, December 25 at 4:30 pm at Untermyer Park, hosting a menorah lighting in honor of Marty Rochelle “Mr. Parks” at 945 North Broadway, with free dreidels, donuts, chocolate gelt and singing Chanukah songs.

A Chanukah celebration party follows at the Chabad of Yonkers/Greystone Jewish Center at 600 North Broadway starting at 5:15 p.m. The party will offer a hot kosher Chinese buffet, donuts, hot latkes, music, and dancing. Please reserve at Rabbi@JewishYonkers.com and at (914) 963-8888.

Chabad of Yonkers Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz will celebrate Chanukah at Cross County Center on Thursday, December 26th, with the special Chanukah Menorah Lighting festivities. Music and dancing will start at 6 p.m. Rabbi Hurwitz will light the menorah at 6:30 p.m., followed by free sufganiyot (jelly donuts) and hot lakes, and the celebration will continue until 8 p.m.

The Chanukah celebration continues on Sunday afternoon, December 29, at 4 p.m. at Ridge Hill. There will be a menorah lighting from 4:00 to 6:00 p.m., with music, free donuts, hot latkes, crafts, and a gelt drop from a fire truck.

On Monday, December 30th, Mayor Spano will preside at a 4 p.m. menorah lighting at Yonkers City Hall. This will be followed by a car parade through Yonkers, stopping at the Department of Public Works for a 6 p.m. menorah lighting and finishing at a pizza party at Namiaset Fils Distillery in Yonkers.

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Senator Shelley Mayer Delivers 2,485 Donated Diapers to Westchester County Diaper Bank



L to R: Deborah Blatt, Executive Director of Sharing Shelf; Senator Shelley Mayer; Karen Brown, Director of the Westchester County Diaper Bank

State Senator Shelley B. Mayer hosted a diaper donation drive to benefit the Westchester County Diaper Bank as part of her annual holiday party. Guests to the party were encouraged to bring a donation of diapers to support neighbors in need. Senator Mayer dropped off a total of 2,485 diapers to support families in need throughout Westchester County.

On average, a family spends roughly \$1,000 per year on diapers for a single child.

According to the National Diaper Bank Network, in 2023, 47% of families reported they struggled to afford diapers and 46% reported they had to make financial sacrifices in other areas in order to afford diapers.

Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, "I am so grateful to live in a community that comes together to ensure all our neighbors have everything they need for the well-being of their families. This year, I asked guests to my holiday party to bring a donation of diapers, which my staff and I delivered directly to the Westchester County Diaper Bank. I am overwhelmed by the outpouring of support for our neighbors. Thank you to everyone who donated, and thank you to the Westchester Diaper Bank for providing this important necessity to Westchester families."

Deborah Blatt, Executive Director of the Sharing Shelf, said, "We were thrilled that Senator Mayer organized this drive to support The Diaper Bank for Westchester! Diaper needs are on the rise across Westchester and this donation will help us ease the burden faced by many Westchester parents."

When Cops and Firefighters Played Santa Claus

By Robert Abate

Every year at this time, I remember Christmas, 1974. It was mid-December, we had just moved from the Bronx to our first house and were watching Johnny Carson one evening. He and his sidekick, Ed McMahon, were jokingly reading a few children's letters to Santa Claus and mentioned that similar letters were available from most post offices.

The next day, my wife, two year-old daughter and I made a brief stop at the Bronx Central Post Office at 149th Street and the Grand Concourse to pick up a letter. I walked into the superintendent's office, asking for a Santa letter, and he pointed to a pile on a table saying, "I haven't had time to sort them yet, just take them, pick out the one you want and bring back the rest." So I did and left.

I asked my wife to read them and pick one out. It was the only time there was total silence in our car. When we parked, I asked her which one she would select and she said that I would have to make that choice. Once I read the letters, I understood why. Not one single child asked Santa anything for himself or herself alone. They asked for their family — a doll for a little sister, a puzzle for an older brother, a sweater for a mother, gloves for a father — and only lastly, if Santa could, maybe a baseball or a scarf for him or her.

I was stunned and humbled by their selflessness and consideration for others. I could not choose one so I chose all. Every letter was copied and with the help of a friend of mine — Phil O'Brien, also from the Bronx — a number of businesses and organizations were contacted for whatever contributions or items they could donate.

We contacted virtually every FDNY firehouse and NYPD precinct in the Bronx where we were able to post the "Letters to Santa" along with our phone number and address. Soon thereafter, firemen and policemen began stopping by my house with "gently-used" toys, games, clothing and other assorted items for the families. My entire dining and living room were soon filled with these gifts, carefully wrapped and tagged for each family member — almost three hundred gifts for seventy-three children.

Bob Abate is a resident of Yonkers.

We Wish Eric Schoen a healthy and speedy recovery, and a Happy Chanukah!

DOJ, MtVDP, continued from pg 2-

tions, and slashing the training budget—putting a large number of inexperienced officers on the street with little support. These decisions compromise public safety and set officers up to fail. It is irresponsible and unjust to highlight issues without addressing the root causes and the role of inadequate funding and leadership.

"The Mount Vernon Police Union fully supports accountability for bad actions, and we are committed to restoring trust with the community. However, we reject any implication that these isolated incidents define our department. The overwhelming majority of Mount Vernon police officers are honorable, dedicated public servants who represent the very best of law enforcement.

Mt. Vernon Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard stated, Over the past three years, the City of Mount Vernon Police Department has provided the DOJ with extensive documentation (over 100,000 pages), statistics, and access to its police database, records, and reporting systems. The DOJ also engaged with members of the police department and community to gain a comprehensive understanding of the concerns, complaints and challenges faced.

"Today, we received the findings of the DOJ's investigation, and we are committed to digesting the report thoroughly in the coming weeks" stated Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard. "We will work collaboratively with the DOJ to address findings, areas of concern, build upon our reform efforts, and work diligently to ensure a world-class police department that is responsive to and trusted by our community. We have never run from this issue. We wholeheartedly support our good officers and at the same time will not tolerate and will punish unconstitutional policing. Upon entering office in 2020, our administration identified over 50 unprocessed complaints and inherited a whistleblower case. After review, we sent over a dozen cases to the Westchester County District Attorney's Office in 2020 and 2021 for further investigation. Additionally, in February 2021, we contracted Special Council for Police Discipline which has resulted in the termination of (3) three police officers, (2) civilian employees (3) stipulations of retirement as well as discipline for multiple officers and civilian employees. There were an additional three officers who were relieved of duty for reasons other than unconstitutional policing."

"I stand firm on the belief that our police officers and leadership work hard every day to keep our community safe and build public trust. We have driven and embraced reforms, expanded law enforcement and community partnerships, cooperated with the DOJ and will continue to do so. While we may have limited resources; we are committed to securing the funding needed to enhance technology, tools, training and salaries that ensure constitutional policing, retention of good officers and build a world class police department," said Mayor Patterson-Howard.

Among the most troubling parts of the investigation included strip searches of two women, ages 65 and 75 for a traffic stop. No arrests were ever made

Read the 34-page report at <https://www.justice.gov/crt/media/1379866/dl>

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Deputy County Executive Delivers Key Updates at Local Summit

Amy Paulin's Parkinson's Disease Registry Bill Signed Into Law



Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins

By Rina Beder

Two longstanding traditions were featured at the December 10, 2024 meeting of the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Local Summit: the hosting of the Westchester County Executive to discuss County affairs and the return to the Nautilus Diner as the program venue. This year, due to Congressman-elect George Latimer's obligations, Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins addressed the community. Jenkins, a seasoned leader with over a decade of legislative experience and six years as Deputy County Executive, provided a comprehensive update on County priorities, challenges, and successes.

County Budget and Taxes

Jenkins emphasized fiscal responsibility and strategic investments in his remarks on the recently adopted 2024 County budget. Notably, the operating budget reflects a 0% increase in the property tax levy for the sixth consecutive year. Despite maintaining this flat tax levy, the County continues to make critical investments in public safety, infrastructure, and community services.

Jenkins also addressed the increase in special district taxes, which were reportedly raised by an average of 9%, as indicated by The Journal News. Jenkins stressed that funds are needed to support critical infrastructure investments, such as wastewater recovery facilities and that any increases vary by municipality. In addition, stated Jenkins, bond rating agencies have looked favorably on the County's funding strategy and its move away from an overreliance on reserves.

Addressing Affordable Housing

Affordable housing was one of the focal points at the meeting. Over the past 7.5 years, Jenkins explained, Westchester has developed 6,000 units of affordable housing to meet growing demand. However, challenges and need persist.

"We're working closely with municipalities to address housing needs," Jenkins explained. He highlighted the County's Housing Needs Assessment, which serves as a roadmap for identifying housing gaps and setting priorities. "We are working closely with municipalities to determine how they can meet the specific needs outlined in the assessment," he said. To support these efforts, the County established a \$100 million flex fund, aimed at addressing cost increases caused by supply chain issues and rising interest rates on approved projects.

Additionally, Jenkins emphasized the importance of creating opportunities for residents to age in place and ensuring that they can remain in the same community where they have lived for years.

Tackling Flooding and Climate Change

The impact of climate change and flooding remains a pressing issue for Westchester. "Westchester is one big hill, and water flows downhill," Jenkins explained, noting that flooding disproportionately affects certain communities.

Jenkins outlined ongoing studies and initiatives, and expressed optimism regarding the funding of flood mitigation projects through the Environmental Bond Act. Regarding development in surrounding communities that could contribute to increased flooding, Jenkins pointed out that County law requires that flooding must be evaluated prior to project approval.

Jenkins also highlighted efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through food scrap recycling programs, investments in alternative fuel vehicles and the

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Bill will benefit the 65,000+ NYers currently living with Parkinson's Disease

Assemblywoman Amy Paulin announces the passage of her legislation to establish a state Parkinson's Disease Registry (A.5803/S.4674) which would provide for the collection of data on the incidence and prevalence of Parkinson's disease (PD). The registry will help expand understanding of PD and advance research towards prevention, treatment and an eventual cure.

A registry of people with Parkinson's will help researchers identify high-risk groups, detect prevalence patterns among the New York population, and uncover disparities in treatment in marginalized communities. Currently, ten other states, including California, already have such a registry.

"There are many researchers, doctors and advocates who are working to win the battle against Parkinson's Disease," said Assembly Member and Health Committee Chair Amy Paulin. "I'm proud to have authored the Parkinson's Disease Registry bill to help in their fight against this disease, and am thrilled that it has now been signed into law. The more data we can give to researchers, the better they can direct their efforts to find a cure and more advanced therapies. I thank State Senator Hoylman-Sigal for his partnership on the bill, I thank The Michael J. Fox Foundation for their staunch advocacy, and I thank Governor Hochul for taking this important step forward in the fight against Parkinson's Disease."

State Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal said, "Parkinson's disease is the second most common and fastest-growing neurological disorder in the world. It currently impacts approximately 65,000 New Yorkers and those numbers are expected to increase. I'm thrilled that Governor Hochul signed our bill (S.4674A) with Assembly Member Paulin, which unanimously passed both legislative houses, to establish the New York State Parkinson's Disease Registry. This new database will help facilitate the collection and utilization of Parkinson's Disease data so public health officials can better measure the incidence and prevalence of the disease and use that information to provide vital contributions towards Parkinson's research. I'm extremely grateful to the Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research for helping us craft, and advocate for, this important legislation which will advance research and innovation to better prevent, diagnose, treat and ultimately cure Parkinson's Disease."

"The signing of New York's Parkinson's research registry bill into law is a monumental step forward for the Parkinson's community," said Julia Pitcher, director of state government relations at The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research. "After two years of dedicated advocacy, we are thrilled to see this moment come to fruition and applaud Assembly Member Paulin and State Senator Hoylman-Sigal for their leadership on the bill. We're grateful to Governor Hochul for her commitment to improving the lives of more than 65,000 people living with Parkinson's across this diverse state."

Parkinson's disease is a progressive neurological disorder that causes unintended and uncontrollable movements and affects the lives of nearly 1 million Americans. The U.S. spends \$52 billion annually on Parkinson's treatment, and in New York alone, the direct and indirect costs to care total \$3.3 billion each year. Research shows that the prevalence of Parkinson's disease has doubled over the past 25 years, yet much remains a mystery about this currently incurable disease.

"Creating a Parkinson's registry in New York will help expand researchers' understanding of the disease in order to ultimately improve the lives of those impacted," said Paulin. "California, Maryland, Missouri, Nebraska, Nevada, Ohio, South Carolina, Utah, Washington, and West Virginia already have statewide Parkinson's registries. I'm so pleased that New York will now also be able to contribute to the development of therapies, treatments and eventually a cure of Parkinson's Disease."

A.5803/S.4674 was sponsored in the New York State Senate by Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal.

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Who Brought a Rabid Cat to the Yonkers Animal Shelter?



Photos of two persons who brought the cat to the shelter



The Westchester County Department of Health is issuing an urgent public notification after a sick and injured black cat brought to the Yonkers Animal Hospital, located at 526 Saw Mill River Road, on Thursday, December 12, tested positive for rabies.

The Health Department is seeking to identify and speak with the man and woman who dropped off the cat but did not leave their names or contact information. Health officials need to determine whether these individuals were exposed to the rabies virus, which is fatal if untreated.

If you are one of these individuals or had any contact with the cat, which appeared to be less than a year old and had likely been struck by a vehicle, please call the Westchester County Department of Health immediately at (914) 813-5000. This line is available 24/7.

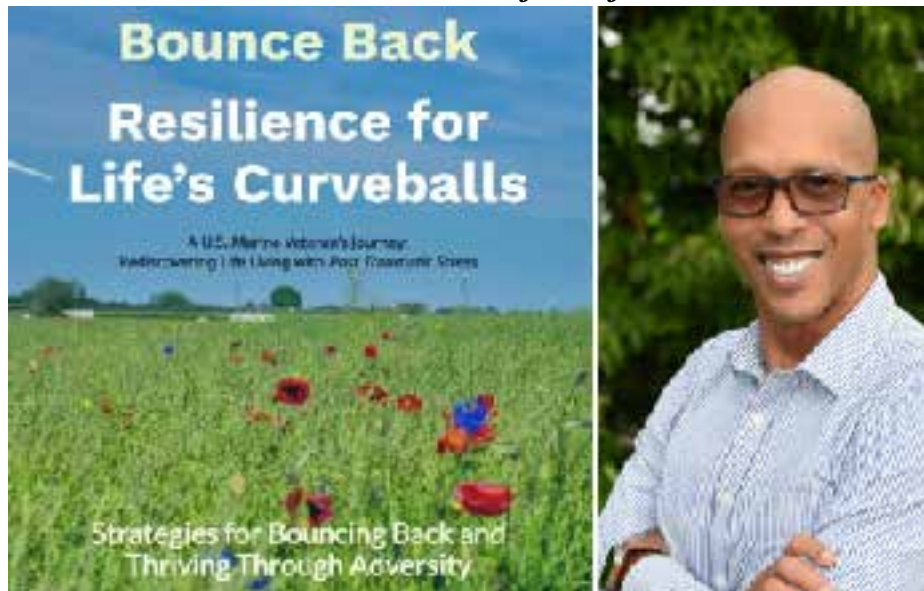
As can be seen in the photos attached, when the cat was dropped off, the man was wearing an orange camouflage jacket and the woman carried the cat in a beige tote bag and wore a black jacket and a black hat with a pom-pom.

Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler said: "Rabies is fatal, but it is also 100 percent preventable with post-exposure treatment. To avoid rabies, steer clear of wild animals and strays. If you see an injured or sick animal, call police. Teach your children to not to approach or handle animals they don't know, even if they appear young injured or friendly, and to tell you right away if they are bitten or scratched by any animal. It is also important to bat proof your home and keep your pets' rabies vaccinations up to date. Discourage wild animals from visiting your yard by securely covering trash cans and keeping pet food and water indoors."

Unusual behavior may be the first sign of rabies in an animal. A rabid animal may become either abnormally aggressive or unusually tame. It may lose fear of people and become excited and irritable, or appear particularly passive and lethargic. Staggering and frothing at the mouth are sometimes noted. Any physical contact with a wild or unfamiliar animal should be reported to a health care provider. All animal bites or contacts with animals suspected of having rabies must be reported to the County Health Department.

For more information, go to www.westchestergov.com/health or call the RABIES INFOLINE at (914) 813-5010.

New Rochelle Native & USMC Veteran Aaron Kershaw Releases Book- *Bounce Back: Resilience for Life's Curveballs*



An Empowering Guide to Building Resilience and Navigating Life's Challenges

U.S. Marine Corps veteran Aaron B. Kershaw recently released *Bounce Back: Resilience for Life's Curveballs*, the third installment in his series of practical guides focused on helping readers build resilience and navigate life's challenges.

Initially, Kershaw was encouraged to write a memoir about his experiences, but he soon realized that the lessons and knowledge he gained were more valuable to share than focusing solely on his personal journey. This insight led him to create a series that imparts practical strategies for resilience and growth, making his story a vehicle for universal life lessons.

At age 45, Kershaw faced a significant career shift when physical injuries stemming from his medical discharge in 1992 became overwhelming, compounded by the challenges of managing undiagnosed PTSD. Drawing from his own journey, *Bounce Back* reveals the practices and techniques that Kershaw used to overcome these obstacles, including mindfulness practices, emotional growth strategies, and methods for navigating adversity.

A Legacy of Community Engagement

A New Rochelle High School Graduate recently relocating to Dutchess County, Kershaw has been an integral part of the Westchester community. He is an active member of The Business Council of Westchester and has worked as a media producer for over 20 years, including serving as a videographer/photographer for Habitat for Humanity and the Village of Elmsford for more than a decade. Kershaw is also known for producing and hosting *On The Inside* on WVOX for eight years, where he connected with the community and provided a platform for open dialogue.

Part of a Comprehensive Series

Bounce Back complements a series of books designed to offer readers practical advice for personal growth and resilience:

Supporting Veterans and Communities through BuildingBlocs

Proceeds from *Bounce Back* will support BuildingBlocs, Kershaw's nonprofit initiative that provides resources to veterans and fosters resilience and community connections.

About the Author: Aaron B. Kershaw is a U.S. Marine Corps veteran and a graduate of Manhattanville College through the VA's Veteran Readiness & Employment (VR&E) program, where he earned his Bachelor's degree in Business Management. His diverse professional background includes media production, business management, and financial services, supported by multiple licenses and certifications such as Series 7, Series 66, New York Life & Health, and Property and Casualty Insurance.

His journey in media began in 2001 as a photographer and layout designer for The Autoguide of Westchester. Kershaw's experience in publishing includes being the publisher of "On The Inside" an entertainment paper within Hometown Media Newspapers 20 years ago. He has also contributed to the community as a Member of Post 347 in Larchmont, 1080 in Mahopac and in New Rochelle; Post 8, serving as Post Adjutant.

For media inquiries, to request an advance copy of *Bounce Back*, or to arrange an interview with Aaron B. Kershaw, visit BuildingBlocs.org or contact Aaron at aaron@buildingblocs.org.

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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.

Name of Limited Liability Company (LLC): THEOAK LLC. Date of filing Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State (SSNY) 6/14/24. The LLC is located in Westchester County. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against it served is to the principal business location at c/o 669 Main Street, Unit 605, New Rochelle NY 10801. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Mamaroneck, NY – Private Membership Club seeks Dir. of Racquets to w/ mngmnt & mmbms on new prgrms. Pln & drct prgrms to for broad-based prtcpat'n. Provide lssns & clncs on tnchnqs & strtgies & asst w/ fndng oppnents & prtms. Orgnze, admnstr & ofctc at trnmtts, exhibit'ns, evnts, lgue prtces, etc. Sprvse & schdule stff. Intract & c'mnctc w/ Rcqts C'ttees on pddle oprat'ns. Rprstnt clb in lcal prfss'nl & natn'l rcqts actvities. Mntr prgrm rcrds. Mntr & prpre chrgc lstng for Blng Dept. Mnge pro shp ee's & biz actvities. O'see prep, mntrnce, sprvs'n & rprs of crts. Oprate & mntr strngng, rprs hndng, strge, sales & srvcfs for tnnis & pddle eqpmnt & accssries. FT. \$111,738/yr. Min Req: Bachelor's Business Admin + 5 yrs' exp as a Tennis & Paddle Prof. Send Resumes to: Sarah Scott – Clubhouse Manager, Orienta Beach Club - 1054 Walton Ave, Mamaroneck, NY, 10543

Summit, continued from pg 4-

recycling of methane gas at wastewater treatment facilities. Immigration

Jenkins addressed the County's ongoing efforts to support immigrant populations while adhering to legal obligations. While the County is not a sanctuary county and is not taking a position on the proposed NYS bill known as "NY For All", Westchester's 2018 Immigrant Protection Act (IPA), safeguards residents' rights, enforces the law and "ensures we do not do the federal government's job or use any of our resources to do what the federal government is supposed to do" said Jenkins.

Jenkins also recognized that some community partners and residents are scared and indicated that the County is working closely with the County Attorney and the NYS Attorney General's office to ensure enforcement of the IPA. Jenkins also highlighted the County's collaboration with nonprofits like Feeding Westchester and the Community Resource Center to address increased demand for assistance.

Building Partnerships and Moving Forward

Throughout his address, Jenkins emphasized the importance of collaboration with municipalities, nonprofits, as well as with community stakeholders and coming up with creative solutions.

"We are committed to working together to find creative solutions and be there for everyone," Jenkins said. "Westchester," he continued, "has a track record of past successes in meeting challenges."

The Larchmont-Mamaroneck Local Summit is an informal community council that seeks to make a better life for the community by keeping it informed of major issues of concern. The next meeting on January 14th will address the state of the local economy. Visit the Local Summit online: <https://www.local-summitlm.org/> LMC Media: <https://lmcmedia.org/>.

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.

SURROGATE'S COURT - DELAWARE COUNTY

File No. 92-097/A

SUPPLEMENTAL 17-A GUARDIANSHIP CITATION [SCPA 1757]

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
By the Grace of God Free and Independent

To: **Edward T. Magenheimer**, and if he be deceased, to the heirs and distributees of Edward T. Magenheimer, purported brother of EUGENE F. MAGENHEIMER, and I said distributees be dead, their legal representatives, disitrbutees and successors in interest, and all of whom are unknown and whose names and addresses are unknown and whose names and addresses cannot be found with reasonable diligence.

A petition having been duly filed by **Donnamarie C. Giannone** who is domiciled at 37 Baldwin Dr, Berkeley Heights, New Jersey 07922

YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Delaware County, at 3 Court Street, Delhi, New York, on January 22, 2025 at 9:30 o'clock in the fore/afternoon of that day, why letter of guardianship of the

- person
- property
- person and property
- limited guardianship of the property

of **Eugene F. Magenheimer** should not be granted to **Donnamarie C. Giannone**;

Why the appointment of _____ as Alternate Standby Guardian of the

- person
- property
- person and property
- limited guardianship of the property

of **Eugene F. Magenheimer** should not be granted;

Why the appointment of _____ as Second Alternate Standby Guardian of the

- person
- property
- person and property
- limited guardianship of the property

of **Eugene F. Magenheimer** should not be granted;

Why the appointment of _____ as Third Alternate Standby Guardian of the

- person
- property
- person and property
- limited guardianship of the property

of **Eugene F. Magenheimer** should not be granted;

and why a hearing should be held should not be held;

and why the appearance of Respondent should be should not be required at the hearing; and why the guardian of the person should not be authorized and empowered to make all decisions with respect to the

medical and dental needs of the Respondent and to render consent to any medical procedures which are necessary to the health and welfare of the Respondent, unless the court directs otherwise. A health care decision may include a decision to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment as defined in subdivision (j) of §1.03 of the Mental Hygiene Law.

Further relief requested:

Dated, Attested, and Sealed,
December 16, 2024
(Seal)



HON. **JOHN L. HUBBARD**

Surrogate

Rebecca G. Yoman
Chief Clerk

Andrea L. Gellen

Name of Attorney for Petitioner(s)

Gellen Law PLLC

Firm Name

271 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603
Address

(845) 204-8673

Telephone

andrea@gellenslaw.com
Email (optional)

NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. However, if you fail to appear it will be assumed by the court that you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you.

*Christmas Eve for Mrs. Claus
continued from pg 1-*

Christmas Eve when she's all by herself after Santa leaves to deliver presents?" From making prank calls to ordering Chinese food and lighting off firecrackers, Mrs. Claus isn't afraid to find a little bit of trouble!

<https://tunelink.to/ChristmasEveforMrsClaus>

On his eleventh birthday in Somers, New York, Dan Zlotnick picked up his first guitar, a Squire Mini, and taught himself to play. His connection to the guitar and to the music he could make was instant, and it wasn't long before he traded the Squire for a full-size Gibson SG. Obsessing over concert footage of Led Zeppelin, Stevie Ray Vaughan, and Bruce Springsteen, he honed his skills and looked for opportunities to share what he was learning. As the pony-tailed lead guitarist for his alternative high school rock band, Hot Soup, he performed covers whenever he could and leapt into his career as a songwriter, crafting his first original pieces.

Away at college on a baseball scholarship, Dan, now strumming a used Ovation, continued to play and write, developing and cultivating his upbeat, acoustic rock style. Between practices and games, he performed at coffee houses and fundraising events. After graduation, with his shiny new Taylor slung over his shoulder, Dan traveled around the United States and Canada for three years as a professional baseball player, gigging in dive bars in Colorado, New Mexico, and Toronto, writing ballads from seats on bleachers and buses.

His baseball career behind him, in 2016, Dan recorded his self-titled debut EP with engineer/bassist Al Hemburger and drummer James Marchionno at The Loft Recording Studios in Bronxville, NY. In 2017, he went back to Al's studio and recorded most of his second album, Bumpers, with help from musician friends James Marchionno (drums), Patricia Santos (cello), Simon O'Keefe (piano), Ron Stenz (organ). He also recorded some tracks for Bumpers at PREP Sound Studios in Queens, NY with Lefteri Koutsoulidakis.

Dan performs tirelessly around New York's Hudson Valley and beyond, taking the stage at the 2018 Pleasantville Music Festival, the Paramount Hudson Valley (opening for Grammy winner Marc Cohn twice), the Towne Crier (opening for Patty Larkin), Garcia's at The Capitol Theatre, and more. With a contemporary Americana flair, Dan's music reflects his love of classic rock and blues. His evocative lyrics, captivating melodies, and energetic performances exude Dan's passion for creating and sharing his music with everyone around him.

Look for Dan to be performing at a Westchester location near you by at

<https://www.danzlotnick.com/shows>

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For more information, call me at 914-793-5654 or email me at thasnyder1@verizon.net.

Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins' Youth Advisory Council Participates in "Day of Service" at Feeding Westchester



Students selected the project as a way to give back and address food insecurity in the community.

Members of New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins' Youth Advisory Council (YAC) participated in a "Day of Service" Saturday. The project began with a weeklong clothing and food drive. YAC members placed donation boxes at schools, community centers, churches and other locations. The youth then delivered the food donations to Feeding Westchester, where they helped sort and pack fresh produce for families in need, while clothing donations will go to the Sharing Shelf Westchester's clothing bank for children.

This "Day of Service" is part of Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins' broader initiative to inspire civic engagement and empower young people to make meaningful contributions to their communities. The YAC members chose to dedicate their yearly service project to collecting and donating food and clothing to local organizations.

"I am so proud of the young people on my Youth Advisory Council for stepping up and taking an active role in addressing food insecurity in our community," said Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins. "Their energy, commitment, and willingness to roll up their sleeves and get to work demonstrate how much they care about their neighbors. It's meaningful to see the next generation embrace civic engagement and community service."

continued on pg

Hospice of Westchester Hosts 23rd Annual "Tree of Life" Reception



The Manhattan University Singers, directed by Andrew Bauer, performed at Hospice of Westchester's 23rd Annual "Tree of Life" Reception.

Westchester Hills Golf Club in White Plains was filled with family and community members, and business leaders, celebrating life and the holiday season during Hospice of Westchester's 23rd annual "Tree of Life" Reception on December 3. Guests were invited to purchase a gold star in memory or in honor of a loved one and came together during the event to place the

continued on pg 12-

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H2168_MKT25-32_M

*Home on New Wilmot Road in Scarsdale across from Saks Off Fifth Avenue
Tells us the Reason for the Season*



Photo by Robert Kalfus

IT'S MERRY CHRISTMAS-NOT HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

WHY?--BECAUSE IN THE YEAR 1870, President Ulysses S. Grant designated Christmas as a Federal Holiday, although he also established Thanksgiving and New Years as Federal Holidays, Christmas remains the only Federal Holiday with any religious affiliation! Therefore on December 25th, of every year its' MERRY CHRISTMAS-not happy holidays (which has come into use in the past few years by those who are trying to erase Christ out of Christmas.)

"Our society strives to avoid any possibility of offending anyone—except God." (Reverend Billy Graham)

The word "Christmas" is from the old English term,"Cristes Maesse, meaning Christmas.

-Joe Pettit Yorktown Hts



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



County Legislator Colin Smith Welcomes New Pastor, Michael Davis, to First Baptist Church, Peekskill



County Legislator Colin Smith, pictured above left, visited First Baptist Church of Peekskill on Dec. 1 to welcome Pastor Michael Davis. The proclamation reads, "Throughout its history, Westchester County has been fortunate to have special individuals and organizations which give of their time and talent for the betterment of the community, and

"We are gathered today, Sunday, December 1, to honor and celebrate Pastor Michael Davis on behalf of First Baptist Church of Peekskill, and

"Whereas Pastor Michael Davis brings 15 years of ministry experience to First Baptist Church of Peekskill. Growing up in Texas, Pastor Davis committed his life to Christ at a young age. He has faced and overcame great adversity, including surviving a church shooting in 1999. These challenges gave him a heart for counseling and caring for people in times of crisis, and

"Whereas Pastor Michael Davis is passionate about leading people to faith in Jesus. He has helped grow youth groups of 15 to over 150 students through programs focused on outreach and discipleship. He is gifted at creating vision, preaching God's word, long-range planning and leading strategic initiatives, and

"Whereas Pastor Michael Davis recently completed his doctoral work in Pastoral Counseling and looks forward to planting roots and committing long-term to ministering in Peekskill alongside his wife Christie and their three daughters.

The Board of Legislators proclaims December 2, 2024, as "Pastor Michael Davis Day" in Westchester County

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.

"Breaking Barriers: The Fight for Equity in Education for Black Students in Westchester"

By: Dennis Richmond, Jr.

In Westchester County, New York—a region known for its affluent suburbs and top-ranking schools—many might assume that every child enjoys equal access to quality education. However, for Black students in this area, the reality often tells a different story. A deeper look into education for young Black children in Westchester County reveals disparities that reflect a national trend, raising urgent questions about equity, opportunity, and the future of America's youth.

Across the United States, Black students are nearly four times more likely than their white peers to attend schools with concentrated poverty, according to the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES). Even in wealthier counties like Westchester, the divide persists. For example, Black students often attend schools with fewer resources, less experienced teachers, and limited access to advanced coursework compared to their white counterparts in neighboring districts. A 2020 report from EdTrust highlighted that Black students are disproportionately underrepresented in gifted and talented programs nationwide, a pattern mirrored in many Westchester school districts.

The implications of these inequities are stark. Research by the Brookings Institution shows that Black students who attend under-resourced schools are less likely to graduate from high school and pursue higher education. In Westchester, while graduation rates for Black students have improved, they still lag behind those of white students. Data from the New York State Education Department in 2023 showed that the graduation rate for Black students in Westchester County was 78%, compared to 91% for white students.

For young Black children in Westchester, the challenges begin early. Preschool enrollment is a critical predictor of future academic success, yet Black children are less likely to attend high-quality early childhood programs. The Urban Institute found that Black children in high-cost areas like Westchester often face barriers to accessing such programs, including high tuition fees and limited availability in predominantly Black communities.

Despite these challenges, Black students in Westchester are achieving remarkable success when given the proper support. Local organizations and programs aimed at fostering equity are making a difference. Different initiatives are focused on mentoring, academic support, and leadership development for Black boys, while nonprofit organizations like the Westchester Children's Association advocate for policy changes to bridge the resource gap.

For the 18 to 30-year-olds reading this, the fight for educational equity is your fight too. You hold the power to challenge systems of inequality and demand better for the next generation. Volunteer as mentors, support organizations that champion equity, and vote for policies that prioritize fair funding for schools. Education is not just a tool; it is the foundation of opportunity. The future of Westchester County—and the nation—depends on ensuring that every child, regardless of race, has an equal chance to succeed.

The road to equity is long, but it begins with us.

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-Statz on social media.

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Maryly Whip
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District

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New Report Finds Nursing Shortages in New York State

Report Finds Widespread Understaffing in Hospitals and Lack of Compliance with Safe Staffing Laws

New York's Staffing Law at a Critical Point with Commission Missing Report Deadline and Legislature to Evaluate Law in 2025

The New York State Nurses Association (NYSNA) released a report examining the impact of New York's safe staffing laws that passed in 2021. The report is the first attempt to measure the impact the law has had on staffing levels in New York's hospitals. Unsafe staffing levels in New York's hospitals undermine the quality of care patients receive.

The state staffing law created an independent advisory commission tasked with releasing a report in October 2024 to assess the law's effectiveness and make recommendations to the New York Legislature. The Commission has yet to release a report due to the lack of data available to evaluate staffing law progress.

The NYSNA report attempts to fill this gap by analyzing data gathered through polls, direct member reporting, and case studies from the experience of frontline registered nurses. It also examines the roots of the nurse staffing crisis, implementation of the law, and offers recommendations to improve staffing conditions in all hospitals around the state.

Read the report at www.nysna.org/resources/2024-nysna-staffing-report

New data analysis from the report finds that a majority of hospitals fail to publicly post all staffing plans and actual daily staffing levels in all units of the hospital, as the law requires. It also finds that surveyed hospitals failed to staff ICU and critical care patients at the 1:2 nurse-to-patient ratio mandated by the staffing law more than 50% of the time.

NYSNA President Nancy Hagans, RN, BSN, CCRN, said: "Safe staffing continues to be New York nurses' top priority, because we know that upholding these safety standards will keep our patients safe and improve hospital care everywhere. New York needs a strong staffing law that works for nurses and patients and holds hospitals accountable. We will continue advocating to increase implementation and enforcement of the staffing law, as well as other policies that help recruit, retain and train enough nurses for quality patient care."

The report includes detailed case studies of how the law is working—or not working—to increase transparency, improve staffing levels and hold hospitals accountable at Albany Medical Center, Vassar Brothers Medical Center and NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital. Albany Medical Center is a prime example of how the clinical staffing law is failing patients, nurses and communities.

NYSNA nurse leader and staffing committee member at Albany Med, Jaimie Alaxanian, RN, said: "I take care of patients after they've had surgery, and my floor is staffed to the bare minimum. I'm on the hospital clinical staffing committee, and we've worked with administrators and submitted a plan to the DOH that outlines that the nurse-to-patient ratio on my unit shouldn't exceed one nurse to five patients. The CEO keeps talking about this plan being such an accomplishment, but it's not being implemented."

Where the DOH has investigated staffing complaints, cited the hospital for deficiencies, and ordered a corrective action plan, nurses have seen improvements in staffing. Unfortunately, since the law became enforceable in January 2023, there have been very few success stories.

NYSNA Treasurer and Vassar Brothers Medical Center nurse Margaret Franks, RN, BSN, was instrumental in tracking staffing levels for one year. She said: "When the DOH finally met with the staffing committee after their investigation, the nurses and techs were so happy that someone was finally acknowledging what we were going through. Instantly, we started seeing change. But it required speaking up and having the DOH hold the hospital accountable."

NYSNA Executive Director Pat Kane, RN, who was instrumental in advocating for the staffing laws that passed in 2021, said: "Nurses are the patient advocates, but we cannot do it alone. Nurses and patients deserve to see more success stories and more hospitals meet safe staffing standards. This report shines a light on the ongoing staffing crisis and gives policymakers a roadmap to improving staffing in New York's hospitals."

NYSNA urges regulators and policymakers to strengthen the current law and follow our other recommendations for addressing the nurse staffing crisis. NYSNA recommends:

The DOH must increase transparency so that the public can see actual staffing levels in New York's hospitals.

The DOH must enforce safe staffing standards as the law requires.

Expand nurse recruitment and retention.

Restore quality training and orientation programs.

Respect nurses by improving working conditions, including health and safety protections, pay and benefits.

Visit nysna.org for more information.

Letter to the Editor:

What is it About Christmas and Nader Sayegh?

Nearly every election season brings speculation about the proverbial "October Surprise". It seems Assemblyman Nader Sayegh has introduced the "Christmas Curveball".

In a move that has left many questioning his true motives, Assemblyman Nader Sayegh recently announced that he will be running for Westchester County Clerk, despite having just won re-election to his Assembly seat only a few months ago. This decision is not only disingenuous but raises serious concerns about his character and the priorities he places on his constituents.

When Sayegh campaigned for re-election this past November, voters entrusted him with their support for another term in the New York State Assembly. They believed that he would dedicate the next two years to serving them in the state capital, advocating for policies that benefit his district, and focusing on the issues that matter most to the people of Westchester. Instead, just weeks after the election, Sayegh has announced his intention to run for a completely different office.

This sudden shift in priorities is not just a betrayal of his voters' trust; it is a glaring sign of a politician more interested in furthering his personal ambitions than in serving the community that elected him. By seeking a new position before even finishing his current term, Sayegh has shown a lack of commitment to the very people who gave him another chance to represent them in Albany.

Furthermore, his announcement raises several troubling questions: who will benefit from this move, and who will be appointed to fill his Assembly seat? Will his decision to run for County Clerk pave the way for someone with a personal connection to Sayegh, potentially opening the door for nepotism within our local government? NOT in Yonkers! These questions demand transparency and clarity, especially in an environment where trust in public officials is already fragile.

This is not the first time Sayegh has faced criticism for his self-serving behavior. His decision to vote for a pay raise for himself just before Christmas during the COVID pandemic remains a low point in his political career. While many were struggling to make ends meet during those uncertain times, Sayegh saw fit to line his own pockets. This move, like his latest political ambition, was a clear signal that he places his own interests above the needs of his constituents.

Sayegh's decision to seek the position of County Clerk is just another example of his blatant disregard for the people who elected him. His track record suggests that he is not in public service for the right reasons. If he truly cared about his community, he would finish his current term with dedication and integrity before setting his sights on another office. Instead, he seems more interested in climbing the political ladder, regardless of the cost to those he was elected to serve. Westchester deserves better.

-John Isaac, Yonkers

Mr. Isaac challenged Assemblyman Sayegh in the recent 2024 election cycle

Dear Editor:

With just one month left before Donald Trump returns to the White House, we are running out of time to lock in protections for our climate and communities. One critical action President Biden can take right now is to permanently shut down the Dakota Access Pipeline (DAPL).

The pipeline is currently operating illegally, even as the ongoing legal battles surrounding it are reaching a critical point. The Standing Rock Sioux Tribe continues to fight against corporate and state interference to protect their sacred land and the safety of surrounding communities.

In 2020, concerned citizens urged President Biden to cancel the Keystone XL pipeline, and he listened. Now, we must continue to press him to take immediate action on DAPL before Trump takes office. The risk of further environmental harm and disruption to Indigenous land is too great to ignore.

President Biden must prioritize the permanent shutdown of DAPL in his final days in office. The fight for a cleaner, safer future is in our hands, and we cannot afford to miss this opportunity.

Sincerely,

Nichole Allinson

Yonkers

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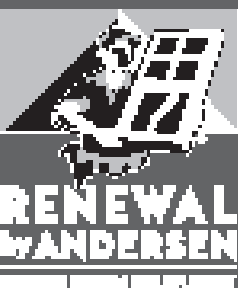
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Tree of Life, continued from pg 8-

personalized stars on the “Tree of Life.” The evening’s festivities featured holiday entertainment provided by pianist Hiroshi Yamazaki, representing Music Conservatory of Westchester, as well as members of The Manhattan University Singers, directed by Andrew Bauer.

“For more than 20 years, our ‘Tree of Life’ reception has served as a bright light during a time of year that can be difficult for those who have lost a loved one or who have a family member receiving hospice services,” said Mary K. Spengler, RN, MS, LNHA, chief executive officer of HOW. “We look forward to this evening every year, and we are grateful for the continued support we receive from the community.”

The Grand Sponsors of the event were Beecher Flocks Funeral Home, Inc.; Co-Communications, Inc.; Michele Fraser Geller; Grassy Sprain Pharmacy; Next Level Private, LLC; PKF O’Connor Davies, LLP; Polchinski Memorials, Inc.; The Hildegard D. Becher Foundation, Inc.; and Valley Bank. Sponsors included Cuddy & Feder LLP; Graphic Management Partners; Ross Mailing Services, Inc.; The Kensico Cemetery; and Westchester Hills Golf Club.

All proceeds from the event will benefit HOW’s mission of striving to provide extraordinary and dignified comfort, care and compassion to individuals and families facing a serious or life-limiting illness.

For additional information, visit www.hospiceofwestchester.org

Youth Advisory Council, continued from pg 8-

The Youth Advisory Council group collected 266 pounds (equivalent to 222 meals) of donated food that will go directly to neighbors in need, according to Feeding Westchester. On Saturday, the group toured the Feeding Westchester facility in Elmsford, and packed nearly 500 bags of apples and potatoes sourced using Nourish NY, a \$54.3 million state-funding initiative to reroute surplus produce to organizations which combat food insecurity. This local produce will be distributed through Feeding Westchester’s FUHD program (Feeding United Home Deliveries).

This year, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins allocated \$100,000 to Feeding Westchester as part of \$120 million in state funding for food and nutrition programs across New York, a statewide increase of \$29.6 million which reinforces her commitment to tackling hunger and ensuring all New Yorkers have access to nutritious meals.

At Saturday’s event, the youth engaged in a discussion with Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Feeding Westchester staff, talking about the real-world impact of legislation and funding and gaining valuable insights into the ongoing fight against food insecurity.

“I had a wonderful time at Feeding Westchester as a member of Senator Stewart-Cousins’ Youth Advisory Council,” said YAC member Jillian Maher. “It was inspiring to learn about the vital role food banks play in supporting communities across Westchester and to actively contribute by helping package fresh produce for those in need.”

Feeding Westchester partners with nearly 300 programs and organizations to distribute food and resources to more than 229,000 individuals each month, based out of their facility at 200 Clearbrook Road in Elmsford.

Business Owners Say New Year Minimum Wage Hikes Will Boost Consumer Spending, Strengthen Businesses and Local Economies

Twenty-one states will raise their minimum wage on New Year’s Day as the calendar turns to 2025. Business owners across the country are welcoming the increases, saying they will boost consumer spending, increase productivity, improve hiring, employee retention and customer service, and strengthen local economies.

“It’s great news that 23 states are raising their minimum wage in 2025,” said Holly Sklar, CEO of Business for a Fair Minimum Wage. “Workers are also customers and minimum wage increases boost consumer buying power. They go right back into the economy as increased spending at local businesses. Fairer pay also reduces costly employee turnover, increases productivity and improves customer service. Employees often make the difference between a repeat customer and a lost customer. State raises are vital for workers, businesses and communities as the federal minimum wage remains stuck at just \$7.25, falling further and further behind the cost of living.”

Annie Adams, owner of Second Chic and Second Chic Outlet, three clothing stores in Buffalo, New York, said, “New York’s minimum wage increase will be good for business. When people have more money in their pockets, they can spend more at local stores like mine. I already pay my staff above the minimum wage because they have the knowledge and positive attitude that keeps my customers happy. Our business grew in 2024 with the opening of Second Chic Outlet, offering even more affordable deals to our customers.”

Aaron Seyedian, owner of Well-Paid Maids in D.C., Maryland, Virginia, New York City and Chicago, said, “We welcome the minimum wage increases starting off the year in Illinois, New York and Virginia as well as D.C.’s annual increase in July. We’re as committed as ever to good pay for our employees who deliver the great service our customers appreciate. Our low employee turnover saves us a lot of money and time on hiring and training. And we’re happy to report another year of record revenue for our business. Plus we expanded to Chicago in 2024.”

Jessica Galen, owner of Bloomy Cheese & Provisions in Dobbs Ferry, New York, said, “The walkable downtowns and vibrant communities New Yorkers want are made up of small, independent businesses like mine. Our businesses are stronger when our employees and folks who work locally are making enough to make ends meet. The minimum wage increase will recirculate back into the economy through spending at the main street shops that make up the fabric of our communities. It’s a virtuous cycle. When we take care of our employees, they take care of us.”

Scheduled increases for Jan. 1, 2025 include:

New York increases on Jan. 1, 2025 to \$16.50 in New York City, Westchester County and Long Island and \$15.50 in the rest of the state, followed by 50-cent increases in 2026 to \$17 and \$16 respectively. Indexing begins in 2027.

Creche, continued from pg 1-

“Our residents are in need of more information regarding these drones. With an absence of answers, our residents are vulnerable to insidious conspiracy theories. It is our government’s responsibility to inform our people. I ask that your administration identify the source of these drones and work to publicize these facts,” wrote Latimer.

Congressman Mike Lawler said, “In recent weeks there have been numerous drone sightings in NY and NJ, raising significant concerns from residents. The @FBI and the @FAANew failure to provide answers is creating widespread panic — they have a responsibility to explain and take all necessary actions to end it.”

Editor’s Note: This reporter saw a large drone flying low, on the Cross County Parkway in Yonkers, during the day.

One New Jersey couple who live in the farmlands of New Jersey claims to have seen 25 drones in one night.

While we applaud the effort of Congressman-elect Latimer and others, it seems clear that there is a reluctance from the US Government to explain what is a large scale increase in both the size and number of drones flying in our area.

“The key to the future of the world, is finding the optimistic stories and letting them be known.” — Pete Seeger

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Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

FRIDAY, DEC. 20

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. 21.

Registration required https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-lights-on-the-farm-tickets-1073461896429?aff=efbevent&fbclid=IwY2xjawGZ-15leH-RuA2F1bQIxMAABHRaoH7FkwzNWLvUSPqIpYKkhk0v1bhdIJnviPaGbC-qWIZpbZ6CdZH-KHOA_aem_JCE3IKgmVkmCyg-zOh5k1Q

SATURDAY, DEC. 21

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

Book Buddies, 9 a.m. - 12 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!

Get details and register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/book-buddies-program-at-muscote-farm-tickets-1009763037427?aff=odcleoeventsincollection>

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851

Winter Scavenger Hunt, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Enjoy beautiful Lenoir through a self-guided nature scavenger hunt provided by Preserve staff. Bundle up, then check in at the nature center anytime between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. for the instructions!

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

Second Photography and Art Exhibit, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. View people's talents and love for wildlife and nature through photography and artwork. Saturdays and Sundays through Jan. 25.

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

Dip Candle Workshop, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Dip into the nature center to learn how to make tapered candles by hand.

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050

Yuletide at Hilltop Hanover Farm, 12 p.m. - 1 p.m. Learn about the history and celebration of Yule and the importance that the winter solstice and agriculture play in this celebration of light and the symbolic rebirth of the sun. Enjoy some snacks and activities, and craft a Yule log to take home. \$5 per person suggested donation. Pre-registration required <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/yuletide-at-hilltop-hanover-farm-tickets-1078204672199?aff=oddtcreator>

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466

Naturalist's Choice Hike, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Join us for a walk through Marshlands' trails as we interpret the wonders of nature.

Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River: (914) 864-7322

Nature Movie, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Join us for a nature film and popcorn. Pre-registration is required by Dec. 19 at (914) 864-7322.

SUNDAY, DEC. 22

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

Gardening Sundays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/gardening-sundays/2024-12-22/>

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

Winter Crafts, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Drop in the nature center to make crafts to celebrate winter.

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

Trail of Honor Luminaria and Candlelight Vigil, 5 p.m. - 6:30 p.m. Hundreds of luminaria will be lit at dusk (about 5 p.m.) for the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 49's candlelight vigil at the Vietnam Memorial. This moving and beautiful event is a tribute to the veterans as they remember their fallen comrades. Free. Get details <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/trail-of-honor-luminaria-and-candlelight-vigil/>.

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TAX SALE NOTICE
CITY OF YONKERS

with additional rallies happening today in Kingston, Albany, and the Adirondacks.

“My constituents need relief in their energy bills, plain and simple,” said Assemblymember Dana Levenberg (D-95th District). “Utility rate hikes are one of the top issues I receive phone calls about in the office. We also need to slow the rate of climate change, which is making disasters like floods and wildfires more frequent. It is long past time to turn the goal of a 6% cap on residential energy costs and an affordable transition away from fossil fuel energy into reality. That starts by passing New York HEAT during next year’s budget. There is no more time to waste. Let’s get this done in 2025!”

Food & Water Watch Hudson Valley Organizer Emily Skydel said: “Westchester is facing an affordability crisis, with costs of housing, food and energy on the rise. Governor Hochul must stand up for struggling New Yorkers by putting the NY HEAT Act in her budget to cap utility bills and stop wasting taxpayer money on dirty gas system buildout.”

As winter begins, gas utilities across the state are yet again looking to raise rates and charge everyday New Yorkers 18% more for heat. 1 in 4 New Yorkers already can’t afford energy prices — and a clear majority are desperate for policies to make life more affordable for them.

The NY HEAT Act, which would help control future gas rate hikes, save the families who need it most \$136/month on average, and move New York to a 21st-century energy system, is popular across party lines. The bill has broad support across the legislature and almost passed last year before dying in the Assembly in the last days of the legislative session. As bills rise, New Yorkers are demanding Governor Hochul and Assembly lawmakers deliver for their constituents and prioritize the NY HEAT Act when they return to Albany.

Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky (92nd District) said: “The NY HEAT Act will make New York both more green and more affordable by promoting the transition to renewables, cutting State subsidies for the fossil fuel industry, and capping energy costs at six percent of household income. It is legislation that makes sense for New York and for New Yorkers, and it will have my full support as the Legislature returns to Albany in January.”

Peekskill City Councilmember Kathleen Talbot said: “Clean heat, lower energy bills and green jobs make a perfect trifecta of benefits for our residents. Kudos to our hard-working Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg for pushing this important legislation.”

Village of Croton-on-Hudson Deputy Mayor Len Simon said: “Croton-on-Hudson is grateful to Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg and her colleagues for renewing their fight for passage of the HEAT Act in 2025. This much needed measure would help all of Croton, but will have the greatest impact on those who are severely cost burdened in our community. They are the ones who mostly strongly feel the simultaneous impact of rising energy costs, increased housing prices, and the inflation at the pump, grocery store, and so many other places that erodes their monthly budgets. I look forward to helping Assemblywoman Levenberg in any way we can to ensure the timely passage of the HEAT Act.”

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: “Every Westchester County resident deserves to have a home heating system that is safe, reliable and affordable to them. The NY HEAT Act clears a path for utility companies to invest in modern and efficient technologies rather than expanding the existing gas network, as well as ensuring affordability by capping costs for vulnerable customers. We are dealing with an energy crisis that will only get worse unless we act immediately, and I am proud to stand with my colleagues in government in support of this bill.”

Westchester Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins said: “The goal of the NY HEAT Act is to accelerate a shift away from dangerous, expensive fossil fuels to safer, cleaner heating technologies – a change that is necessary to protect our residents, and our future. Westchester County’s homeowners cannot withstand another rate hike, and we all deserve to have heating and cooling systems that are affordable, and reliable. I want to thank my colleagues in government for their initiative in moving the NY HEAT Act forward, and I look forward to the passage of this bill.”

Westchester County Legislator Colin Smith (1st District) said: “All Westchester County residents deserve safe, reliable, affordable home heating and cooling and a livable future for our families. Every New Yorker deserves to stay warm and keep the lights on. Unfortunately, millions of New Yorkers are paying excessive amounts for energy and are behind on their utility bills, which is why I am proud to support the NY HEAT Act. This act will provide much relief by lowering bills up to \$75 a month for the New Yorkers who need it most and limiting utility bills to 6% of income, ensuring no one is left behind during the transition to clean energy. The NY HEAT Act phases out fossil fuels that poison the air we breathe and creates tens of thousands of good green jobs by supporting investment in thermal energy networks, facilitating a just transition for gas utility industry workers, creating clean energy jobs that use existing skills like pipefitting, and eliminating sources of pollution that disproportionately impact lower income residents and communities of color. Thank you to Assemblywoman Levenberg for her leadership and tireless advocacy on our behalf in Albany.”

“Our utility bills are too damn high and majority Black and Brown communities like Peekskill are paying more for climate-heating pollution because of state inaction against the Oil & Gas industry”, said New York Communities for Change Senior Climate Campaigner Santosh Nandabalan. “NY Heat is long overdue and must be at the top of Governor Hochul’s to-do list to get done this budget season.”

Department of Finance and Management Services, Office of the Commissioner, City Hall, Yonkers, New York.

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 452, Laws of 1908, known as the Supplemental Charter of the City of Yonkers, as amended by Chapter 725, of the Laws of 1917, adding thereto a new article numbered Article V-a, as further amended by Chapter 487, Laws of 1922, and as further amended by Chapter 667, Laws of 1933, as amended by Article IX Section 1 of Local Law No. 20-1961, as amended by Section 57 of Local Law 11 of 1995, and any subsequent amendments thereto, known as the Charter of the City of Yonkers, I, the undersigned Commissioner of Finance and Management Services of the City of Yonkers, do hereby give public notice

That the respective owners of the lands and tenements in the City of Yonkers on which any taxes or assessments have been imposed and became a lien and have remained unpaid for one year since the same were due and payable are required to pay the amount of said taxes and assessments, together with all unpaid taxes and assessments affecting such lands and tenements, which became a lien and were due and payable prior to December 24, 2024 with all penalties thereon remaining unpaid, together with the interest thereon at the rate provided by law from the time the same became due and payable to the time of payment, and the charges of this notice and all other costs and charges accrued thereon to the time of payment, to the Commissioner of Finance and Management Services of the City of Yonkers, at his office in the City Hall, Yonkers, New York.

And Notice is hereby given that if default be made in such payment, the lien of the City of Yonkers, upon said lands and tenements for any tax or assessment, which became a lien so as to be due and payable before December 24, 2024; will be sold at public auction in the Ceremonial Court Room, 4th Floor, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, in the City of Yonkers, on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. of that date, for the lowest rate of interest, not exceeding 12 per centum per annum, at which time any person or persons shall offer to take the same in consideration of advancing the said taxes and assessments and penalties, as the case may be, the interest thereon as aforesaid to the time of sale, the charges of notice and all other costs and charges accrued thereon; and that such sale will be continued from time to time until all said liens of taxes and assessments shall be sold.

The transfer of tax liens to be executed and delivered to the purchaser thereof pursuant to the terms of said sale shall be subject to the lien for and the right of the City of Yonkers to collect and receive all taxes and assessments and penalties and interest thereon which became due and payable, of which became a lien upon said lands and tenements on and after the date mentioned in the advertisement for sale as stated herein, namely, the 24 day of December.

Each of the tax liens referred to in this advertisement will be sold subject to the provisions of the Federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act and amendments thereto and Section 314 of the New York State Military Law.

Notice is hereby further given that a particular and detailed statement of the property affected by this sale, together with the total amount of the tax lien thereon, which are to be sold will hereafter be published in the official newspaper(s) of the City of Yonkers.

FURTHER OR ADDITIONAL TAX SALE NOTICE

In addition to the foregoing Tax Sale Notice and Statutes therein described, the further or additional notice is given setting forth the lots and parcels of land, including the street address thereof, on which the tax lien is to be sold together with the aggregate amount of tax lien thereon, and the assessed valuation of every said lot and parcel as described in the 2023 Tax Rolls as approved by the Department of Assessment and Taxation and confirmed by the City Council.

The name set forth is that of the person, corporation or legal entity appearing on the tax rolls as the owner or occupant of the lot or parcel of land upon which the tax lien is to be sold.

The first item is the Comptroller’s Tax Lien Number; the second is that of the person appearing on the tax rolls as the owner or occupant of the property; the third is the location of the property as described on the tax rolls which includes the Section, Block and Lot Numbers as shown on the Official City Map; the fourth is the assessed valuation unimproved as shown on the tax rolls; the fifth is the total assessed valuation as shown on the tax rolls; the last group of figures is the total amount of the lien which is to be sold.

John Liszewski, Commissioner of Finance and Management Services



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Creche, continued from pg 1-

United Way of Westchester-Putnam Elects Ale Frederico Board Chair

establishment of religion on public land," making the Village square in Scarsdale "the message-bearer" for one religious belief.

The Creche Committee and one resident Scarsdale attorney Kathleen McCreary, who the case is named for (McCreary v. Stone) appealed to the US Court of Appeals, which ruled in 1984 that while the Village Board's denial of the nativity scene was correctly based, another case, Lynch v Donnelly, which found that "an equal access policy would not contravene" having religious symbols on public property, reversed the lower court's decision.

The Scarsdale Board then voted to appeal to the highest court in the land. The issue was, and still is, whether a religious symbol like a nativity scene, or a Menorah, placed on public property, was a violation of the Establishment clause of the First Amendment, which calls for the separation of church and state.

The case was heard in 1985 by only eight USSC Justices: Justice Lewis Powell was absent due to illness. With a 4-4 split, the Justices affirmed the court of appeals decision.

Since then, this simple and traditional Nativity Scene has been placed for two weeks in the middle of Scarsdale. And every year, the Scarsdale Board votes on whether to allow the request by the Scarsdale Creche Committee to do so, including this year, Nov. 2021, and the Creche will go up starting Dec. 15.

I recently drove by to make sure it was up and took the photo above. This shows the importance of highlighting all religious celebrations. So Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and Happy Kwanzaa Westchester!

Note: This year "The Creche Committee of IHM will place a Creche in Boniface Circle from December 16 to December 20, 2024."



*Aleida "Ale"
M. Frederico*

United Way of Westchester and Putnam (UWWP) announced that Aleida "Ale" M. Frederico was elected chairperson of its board of directors. Frederico, who has served on the board since 2017, brings over three decades of banking and community development experience to this leadership role. She began her new role last month.

"Aleida's proven leadership abilities and deep commitment to community service make her the ideal person to guide our organization forward," said Tom Gabriel, President and CEO of United Way of Westchester and Putnam. "Her extensive experience in both the corporate and nonprofit sectors, combined with her passionate dedication to strengthening our communities, will be invaluable as we continue to serve Westchester and Putnam counties."

Frederico previously served as board secretary and vice chair of the diversity, equity & inclusion committee for UWWP. Her appointment follows a distinguished career in banking, including her role as senior relationship manager and vice president at

TD Bank, where she focused on serving public sector customers, not-for-profits, and community development initiatives.

"Since joining United Way of Westchester and Putnam's board in 2017, I've witnessed our organization's remarkable evolution into an indispensable community resource," said Frederico. "Building upon the strong foundation established by my predecessors, William M. Mooney III, Esq. and Bud Hammer, I'm honored to lead our dedicated board and staff as we advance our mission of strengthening the communities we serve. We are stronger together!"

A respected community leader, Frederico currently serves as chair of the Westchester Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and holds appointments on the Mid-Hudson Regional Economic Development Council and the Westchester County Industrial Development Agency. She has been recognized with numerous awards, including being named one of Crain's New York Business 2019 Notable Women in Banking and Finance, and a 2022 Woman of Distinction Honoree for United Way of Westchester and Putnam's Women's Leadership Council.

Frederico was born in Placetas, Las Villas, Cuba. She and her husband are residents of White Plains. She is a proud mom to her son and blessed with a granddaughter and grandson.

UWWP is located at 336 Central Park Ave., White Plains, NY 10606. Phone: 914-997-6700 Website: www.uwwp.org,

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

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

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

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

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

1. Bid No. RFB-7361 – Opening date 1/10/2025: Purchase of Peerless Snow Chains, tighteners and hardware or Yonkers approved equal (FB).
2. Bid No. RFB-7362 – Opening date 1/10/2025: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide repair services for International Trucks. (FB)
3. Bid No. IFB-7363 – Opening date 1/10/2025: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide cleaning & televising sewers& drains. (KS)
4. Bid No. RFB-7368 – Opening date 1/10/2025: Purchase ESU Tac Kit, or Yonkers approved equal, moveable shooting range target system (VB).
5. Bid No. RFB-7369 – Opening date 1/10/2025: Purchase various DeWalt Tools or Yonkers approved equal, cordless nail guns, cordless reciprocation saws, cordless circular saws, cordless angle grinders, cordless work lights, cordless rod cutters, cordless drills, cordless impact drivers, cordless impact drivers, cordless wrenches, cordless leaf blower, cordless hammers, and chargers (KAS).
6. Bid No. RFB-7370 – Opening date 1/8/2025: Purchase (54) Texas Instruments TI-84 Plus CE EZ-Spot Graphing Calculator - Teacher Pack and (35) Texas Instruments TI-34 MultiView EZ-Spot Scientific Calculator - Teacher Pack Yonkers approved equal (VB)
7. Bid No. RFB-7364 – Opening date 1/8/2025: Purchase Technology Material or Yonkers approved equal, Promethean ActivPanel 9 premium 65" LED-backlit LCD display, Promethean Height-Adjustable Mobile Stand for ActivPanel, HP Chromebook 11 G9 Education Edition, and Tripp lite 32-Port AC Charging Cart Storage Station – Obama School (KS)
8. Bid No. RFB-7365 – Opening date 1/8/2025: Purchase Technology Material or Yonkers approved equal, HP ProBook 440 G9, Tripp lite 32-Port AC Charging Cart Storage Station, Texas Instruments TI-84 Plus CE Graphing Calculator, Texas Instruments – Charging Cradle – Gorton High School (AC).
9. Bid No. IFB-7366 – Opening date 1/8/2025: Purchase Technology Materials Smart Scholars or Yonkers approved equal, HP ProBook 440 G9 and Tripp lite 32-Port AC Charging Cart Storage Station– Gorton High School (AC).

"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



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