

Westchester Rising

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Friday December 8, 2023

Toys for Tots Needs Your Help!

Donations Need to fill 40,000 Gift Requests This Year
Leave a toy in the box or visit westchester-county-ny.toysfortots.org.



By Dan Murphy

One of the most successful non-for-profit charities that give kids who don't get a lot for Christmas a gift under their tree is the Westchester Toys for Tots program. For the past 8 years, Steve and Kelly Topilnycky have led the Toys for Tots Westchester program. And year after year, the demand for more gifts keeps growing.

Last year, Toys for Tots Westchester was able to provide over 28,000 toys for kids. This year, there are 40,000 requests for gifts, a more than 25% increase.

The basic mission of the Marine Toys for Tots Program is to collect new unwrapped toys and distribute those toys, and to help bring the joy of Christmas and send a message of hope, to America's less fortunate children.

97% of every donation goes directly to Toys for Tots Westchester. The traditional way to make a donation is to place a new unwrapped gift in the over 100 Toys for Tots boxes across Westchester. The other way to donate is by making an online contribution.

To search for a location, or to donate online, visit westchester-county-ny.toysfortots.org.

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Put The Untermyer Gardens Conservancy Grand Illumination-Yonkers on Your Holiday To Do List



Inaugurated in 2015, the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy's Grand Holiday Illumination has quickly become a Westchester tradition. The Walled Garden is lit with more than 100,000 lights, holiday music from many traditions is played. Located at 984 N. Broadway, Yonkers, visit www.untermyergardens.org for more information. This Holiday Treat is Free!

Con Edison Lifts Natural Gas Moratorium Increased Supply Ends 4 1/2 Year Ban

By Dan Murphy

In a letter to the NYS Public Service Commission, Con Edison announced that as of Dec. 1, their natural gas moratorium for new development connections in Westchester has ended. Con Ed began the moratorium more than four years ago, on March 15, 2019, to "address a supply-demand imbalance and support reliability of service to customers in the affected area," according to the letter, continued below.

"As of November 16, 2023, a combination of lower peak demand forecast and increased supply resulting from the Tennessee East 300 Project coming online resolves the Westchester supply-demand gap, eliminates the need for any delivered services in later years, including near-term elimination of the need for compressed natural gas to support the moratorium region's peak demand, and generally supports reliability of gas service throughout our service territory.

"Con Edison's support for the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act's clean energy goals remains steadfast, as outlined in our Company's Clean Energy Commitment. In alignment with our Commitment, the Company has been actively promoting non-fossil alternatives (i.e., electrification) through various marketing communications/channels and will continue to do so even though the moratorium is being lifted.

"We provide electrification education and solutions for customers in which we encourage them to consider full-electrification options. We also give them information about subsidies and incentives, rate options, contractors who perform relevant work, and other programs that will enable them to adopt electric heating technologies, like heat pumps, before they submit a gas service application.

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Latimer Visits Israel & Will Announce Run for Congress Against Bowman



Israeli President Isaac Herzog, left, with County Executive George Latimer

By Dan Murphy

Westchester County Executive George Latimer recently returned from a three-day trip to Israel with several other Westchester elected officials to view the aftermath of the October 7 attacks by Hamas. The trip was sponsored by the Westchester Jewish Council and UJA.

During the trip, Latimer met with Israeli President Isaac Herzog, and Israeli families waiting for their relatives held hostage to come home. Latimer and the delegation, which included Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, BOL Chair Vedat Gashi, County Legislator Margaret Cunzio, and New Rochelle Mayor-elect Yadira Ramos-Herbert, also visited a hospital and a kibbutz.

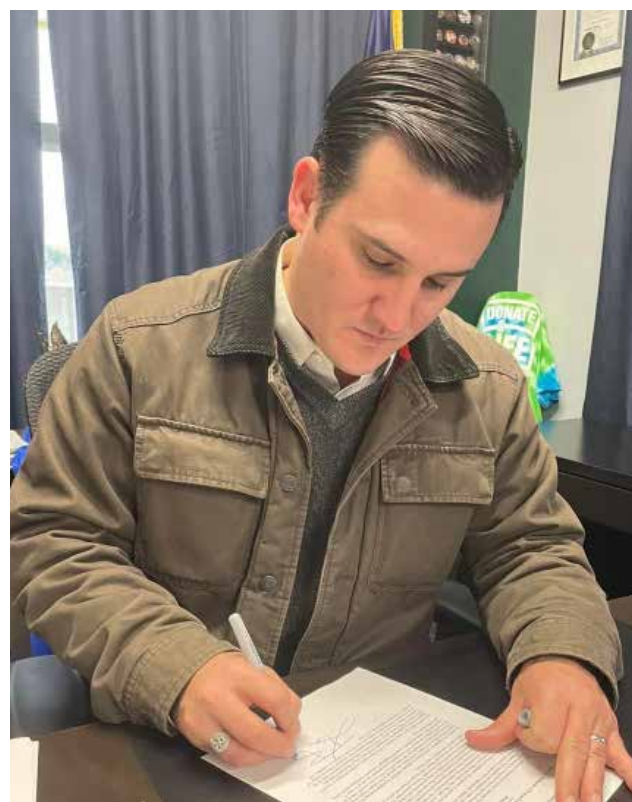
Latimer was clearly moved by the trip and the plight of the Israeli people. But he also pointed to the right of every American to protest their own country.

Latimer spoke about the crisis in the middle east and how lucky we are in the United States. His lengthy comments during his weekly address about the history of antisemitism and the Nazis only underscored the belief of many, that he is planning a run for Congress against Congressman Jamaal Bowman.

"President Biden has a policy towards Israel and I am well aware of the protests. I don't have a George Latimer plan for peace, but history will repeat itself if we do not understand the lessons that it teaches us," said Latimer who made no comments about a possible run against Bowman, except to say, "I've got a lot to think about."

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Putnam County Executive Byrne Puts Taxpayers Before Politics



Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne signing budget

Cuts Taxes in Budget for first time in 25 years; Property tax rate lowest in 15 years-with no borrowing

Also Vetoed County Board Pay Hike and Eliminates Sales Tax on Clothing Under \$110 for Two Years

By Dan Murphy

Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne has taken measures to reduce costs to the taxpayers of Putnam County by cutting the budget for 2024 which reduces property taxes, and without any borrowing.

Byrne has also vetoed a salary increase for Putnam County Legislators and eliminated the Sales tax on clothing and footwear under \$110 for two years.

"At a time when our residents are still struggling because of rampant inflation, county government must do its part to help out," said County Executive Byrne. "Sales tax on needed goods like these are inherently regressive, disproportionately harming those most economically vulnerable. To many residents, that 4% tax on a new pair of shoes doesn't seem like much, but to the single mom it could mean being able to afford an extra onesie for her child."

The two-year sales tax exemption will begin on March 1, 2024 and is expected to equate to a \$3 million per year tax cut. During that period, Putnam County will evaluate the exact fiscal impact to the county and will have the option to renew the tax cut in 2026.

Byrne continued, "New York State already doesn't charge sales tax on these items under \$110. So, with absolutely no sales tax being charged, this is

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“Random Wonder” Art Exhibit Dazzles at Bronxville Library

Mamaroneck HS Senior Daniella Maresca Named Con Edison’s Scholar-Athlete of the Week



Artist Brian Arditi, at his showcase in Yeager Room -Bronxville Library

Local artist Brian Arditi’s successful showcase in the Yeager Community Room in the Bronxville Library has been extended through December, showcasing his multi-disciplined works. Deemed ‘Random Wonder’, Arditi’s works includes thirty-one hung or sculpted pieces, intended to be “a showcase of inspirations,” and featured acrylic paintings as large as 3ft x 3ft, unique paper mache sculptures, and painted nature-inspired photography from around the United States.

This was Arditi’s first solo show in 15 years. Brian’s father, also an artist, passed away in 2022. At the time of his father’s death, he was confined to his bed due to COVID-19 and unable to grieve with his family.

Arditi transformed his grief into creativity, and the result is the Random Wonder exhibit. In addition to the actual pieces in this debut, Brian has also included written and displayed insight into the specific inspirations behind each work, which essentially serves as a poetic tour guide throughout the exhibit and, according to many, leaves them feeling inspired.

Arditi developed new techniques in animal sculptures and explored primary colors and their beautiful possibilities. This extended flurry of inspiration also led to a fascinating approach involving acrylic embellished nature photography, all taken on Brian’s many trips to our country’s National Parks.

Nature has always been a muse for Brian, and he loves finding new ways to be inspired by and represent it in an artistic arena. The response to Random Wonder has been impressive, with more than 20 pieces sold, to be replaced by new work. The artist hopes to parlay this massive show into “who knows what?”

For more information about this artist, check out BrianArditi.art.



Daniella Maresca

By Dan Murphy

Congratulations Daniella Maresca, a senior at Mamaroneck High School, for being named Con Edison’s Scholar-Athlete of the week. Daniella, the Captain of the MHS Field Hockey team, has had a remarkable season leading the team to the New York State Championship!

In the state semifinal game on Nov. 11, against Windsor Central, in goal Daniella made 7 of the most important saves of her career and helped her team by shutting down Windsor.

Mamaroneck won in overtime and went on to win the New York State Class A Championship, with the team ranked 9th in the Nation!

Daniella received The Sportsmanship Award at the State Championship Tournament for her play. Daniella also received The Mamaroneck Athletic Association Award this week as well as All Section.

With Daniella as Captain the MHS Field Hockey team went 22-0-1, with Maresca recording 20 shutouts, putting her name in The New York State Record Book for Individual Shutouts in a Season!

“Daniella was not only the backbone that saved us in the goal, she was the heart that kept the team together on the field as well. Many people watching this weekend said our game was one of the greatest comebacks they had ever seen, Daniella was a huge part of that,” said Coach Trish Miller.

Daniella also played Varsity Basketball in 2022-23. For two years, Daniella served as President of the Project Purple Club, which raises awareness about drugs and substance abuse, and has served as a volunteer at Village of Mamaroneck Police Department for five years.

She has volunteered with the The Fuller Center, building community housing after floods, for two years.

With a 93.18 unweighted GPA, “Daniella is the definition of a true

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Free Bee Line Bus Fares in Westchester for Holiday Season Through Jan. 1

Following two summers of free fares, Latimer announces the second

consecutive holiday season of suspended Bee-Line Bus fares

Westchester County Executive George Latimer once again taking action to ease the burden on Westchester residents' wallets this holiday season as Bee-Line Bus fares will be suspended from December 16 until January 1, 2024. The fare suspension will also apply to the County's ParaTransit system. This is the fourth time – and second consecutive holiday season – that Latimer has taken this action.

Latimer said: "In the spirit of the season, we are once again easing the financial strain on Westchester residents. Suspending Bee-Line Bus fares during the holidays is a testament to our commitment to enhancing the lives of those we serve, made possible through responsible fiscal management."

During the Summer 2023 fare free program, average weekday ridership increased by about 22% compared to the weeks before that, while average ridership on weekends was closer to a 40% increase.

Commissioner of Public Works and Transportation Hugh Greechan said: "County Executive Latimer's strategic fiscal management has paved the way for initiatives that directly benefit our community. Suspending Bee-Line Bus fares is not just a seasonal gesture but rather a testament to our commitment to improving accessibility for our riders."

The Bee-Line is Westchester County's bus system, with convenient service connecting residents to jobs, recreation, shopping and other regional transportation services. It is the second largest transit bus fleet in New York State, operated by the County's Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T).

Over 65% of all Westchester County residents are within walking distance of a Bee-Line bus route, making the bus both close and convenient. The system has over 3,300 bus stops and almost 60 routes. All Bee-Line buses are accessible, and designed with many accessibility features including "kneeling" buses, ramps and lifts.

Westchester County Health Department Offers Residents Free Flu Shots in December

Flu Vaccine Clinics Open to All Ages December 13 and 20

With flu season officially under way, the Westchester County Department of Health will offer free flu shots by appointment this month to encourage residents to stay healthy.

Flu shots will be given for ages three and up on Wednesday, December 13 and Wednesday, December 20 from 2:30 to 6:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Yonkers Riverfront Library, 1 Larkin Center. Appointments are highly encouraged and can be made at www.westchestergov.com/health. Walk-ins will be accepted while supplies last.

Flu shots also will be given to residents ages six months and older at Health Department clinics by appointment, on Thursdays in Yonkers and on Fridays in White Plains, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., while supplies last. For appointments, go to <https://health.westchestergov.com/>. You also can find a flu shot near you at <https://www.vaccines.gov>.

Flu and other vaccines are also available at no charge for uninsured and underinsured adults and children through the Vaccines for Adults and Vaccines for Children programs at Health Department clinics. Call 914-995-5800 weekdays before 4:30 p.m. to discuss eligibility. To reach residents who have difficulty accessing flu shots, the Health Department is giving flu vaccines at some soup kitchens and homeless shelters.

Health Commissioner Sherlita Amler, MD, said: "As the holidays rapidly approach, now is the best time for everyone six months and older to get an annual flu shot. Fully effective after two weeks, the vaccine will protect you and all your vulnerable family members and friends. With new variants circulating, it is prudent to schedule both flu vaccines and COVID-19 vaccines for your whole family. Vaccination protects those around you who are more vulnerable to complications, such as infants too young to be vaccinated, seniors and people with chronic health conditions."

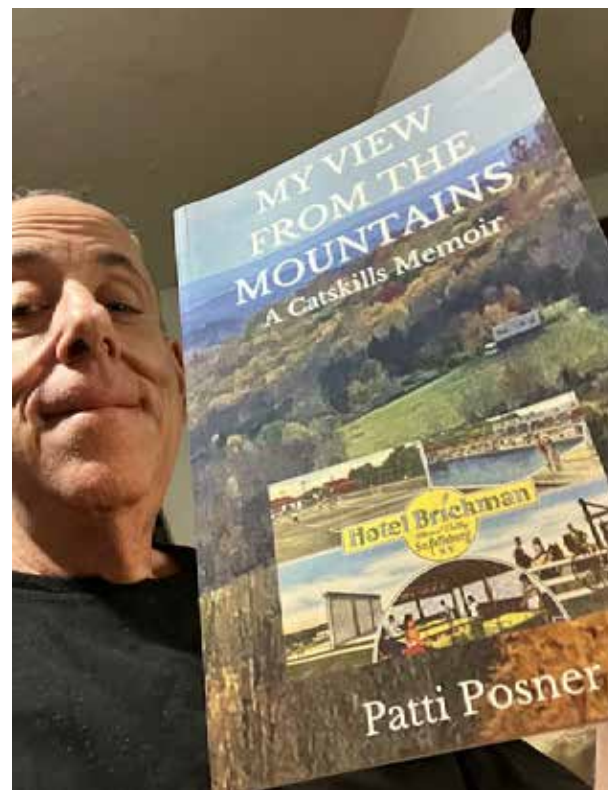
In the U.S., there are usually more flu cases between December and February, but flu can linger into May. One flu vaccine now provides protection all season long and can prevent illness or reduce the severity of flu symptoms.

Con Ed moratorium continued from pg 1

We continue to adjust our offerings to accelerate adoption of clean heating solutions. Currently, homeowners are eligible for rebates of \$10,000 for air-source heatpumps (a promotional increase from \$8,000 through the end of 2023) and up to \$35,000 for ground-source heat pumps. As of the date of this letter, most ground-source heat pump jobs, and a significant percentage of air-source heatpump jobs, occur in our Westchester service territory. We also are exploring new technology, such as a utility-owned thermal energy network pilot project in Mount Vernon designed to serve up to 76 buildings – a combination of homes, apartment buildings, businesses, and government and community buildings – via a district geothermal network in a disadvantaged community.

Con Edison is actively ushering in the clean energy future. However, the Company has an obligation to serve once sufficient capability to provide reliable gas service becomes available. The Company will communicate with stakeholders and will also contact customers on the gas service interest list."

Holiday Gift? It's More than Herring and Cream sauce



By Eric Wolf Schoen

Eric Schoen, with copy of My View From The Mountains, A Catskills Memoir by Patti Posner

I read a book last weekend that I started early Saturday morning and read straight through until Sunday at 1:30 a.m. The book is A VIEW FROM THE MOUNTAINS-A Catskills Memoir by Patti Posner published by Hotel Brickman Publishing in Weaverville, North Carolina 2023.

I wrote a review of the book and it was on Facebook Monday night. When I awoke Tuesday morning the response by people throughout the United States was phenomenal. One of those who wrote me suggested that as there is so much trash published today, the book is quite unique and a perfect gift for the holidays, a time of year when we are all running around looking for gifts for those we love and having a hard time finding something special.

Amazon has the book for \$14.65 with an E-book version for \$10. Perfect stocking stuffer or to put with gifts next to your menorah or Kinara. A quick but enticing read. And you don't have to be a 'Catskills Kid' to enjoy it.

So I thought I would share my review with our Rising Media Group WESTCHESTER readers. Many of you spent time enjoying the beauty of the Catskill Mountains and stayed at the myriad of hotels that ran the gamut from Resorts like Hotel Brickman to 'cook-a-lanes' (not sure of the spelling) which consisted of nothing more than a hut with rooms, no amenities of the big hotels where you would 'cook' your own meals for your family.

First I will share with you a brief description of the book and topic for those who don't know what a 'fa-La-ta' danish is (a danish taken from the resort breakfast table 'for later.' Then I will share my review and comments on the resort (think the movie Dirty Dancing and the hotel where it took place) that I shared with the author and on Facebook. I'll conclude with some memories I think you will enjoy.

THE BOOK: Much has been written about the Catskill Mountains resort experience as enjoyed by untold numbers of first- and second-generation Jews who, in the early part of the 20th century, had been shut out of many other resorts because of anti-Semitism. While the hotels were indeed as wonderful as many novels and histories describe them, this book is different. It tells a sometimes piercingly honest story of the family that ran the Brickman, one of the most successful Catskills resorts. It is a tale of blood ties as strained by a sometimes ruthless business, explosive secrets, sex and drugs. But this story also is about a deep familial love, hard work, commitment and a winding path to self-knowledge. Patti Posner, daughter of one of the two brothers who ran the hotel, reveals (and thus preserves) the day-to-day life and inner workings of this now vanished world of hospitality, along with the human story behind it all.

MY REVIEW AND COMMENTS: Patti Posner Daboosh it's rare that I wake up in the morning, start reading a book and finish it and look at my watch and it's 1:30 a.m. the next day! I truly enjoyed your book and it brought back beautiful memories and tears to my eyes.

My parents, my sister and I spent a wonderful week every summer at Brickman. We got to the hotel as one summer we thought we had reservations at one hotel but they had overbooked. Dad's friends who spent dawn to dusk on the golf course always raved about the Brickman. We pulled up, you had a room, we took it but my sister was not happy that we were not going to our original hotel and would not leave the room. Dad spoke to Larry Strickler (Director of Activities) who sent a teen counselor to talk with her. She came down for dinner, got immersed in activities and as they say the rest is history!

I spent the days with my parents even though they had heard of your wonderful day camp. I had just spent 8 weeks at home at day camp and wanted no part of more. We participated in the wonderful activities outlined on a sheet every day, but as for dad, mom and their little boy, me give us that fresh country air, sunshine, a chaise lounge and the big Brickman outdoor pool and we were content, even the last week in August when the pool at times could be chilly.

Dad told me One of the Posner brothers (the owners) told him it was cheaper to feed non-Jews than Jews as non Jews didn't realize you could have as much from the menu as you wanted. Was the linguini in perch sauce really perch sauce or was it clam sauce. Two things til this day I wonder about!

We truly had the time of our lives at Hotel Brickman. Thanks for the memories and again, great job on the book. I learned through it that there is much more to operating a hotel than herring and cream sauce!

continued on pg 6-



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Westchester Jews for Jamaal Letter Surfaces Asks Latimer Not to Run for Congress

By Dan Murphy

A letter from several Westchester Jewish residents in support of Congressman Jamaal Bowman asks County Executive George Latimer not to challenge Bowman in a democratic primary next year. Latimer has made no official announcement but a recent trip to Israel and a "premature" FEC filing indicate that Bowman-Latimer '24 is coming.

The two-month-old letter, which we first read in Black Westchester on Dec. 1, link – <https://blackwestchester.com/jews-for-jamaal-send-letter-to-george-latimer/> was in response to a letter from several Westchester Rabbis urging Latimer to run against Bowman.

The letter states- "Dear Mr. Latimer: We are Jewish residents of Westchester living in the towns and cities of New York's 16th Congressional district. While many of us are active in a variety of political and civic organizations, including the Democratic Party, the Working Families Party, Indivisible, and a range of Jewish groups and synagogues, we are writing to you today in our personal capacities, to urge that you NOT run for Congress.

For over three decades, our district (though in slightly different form) was represented by a Democrat (Rep. Eliot Engel) who grew out of touch with its changing demographics and who took increasingly right-wing positions on a range of topics—supporting the "war on crime," voting to deregulate the banks, and backing George Bush's mistaken invasion of Iraq.

As Israel's governments became more and more rightwing, he stood by them unquestioningly, failing again to notice the changing attitudes of many in his district, including among Jews. Three years ago, Jamaal Bowman defeated Eliot Engel in the Democratic primary by 55.4% to 40.6%, demonstrating that his progressive approach was more in tune with the values of the district's voters. In 2022, he again won the primary by a similar margin, showing that he is quite popular with our district.

We are aware that a group of rabbis in our district have called on you to run against Congressman Bowman in next year's primary. While we have great respect for the role that all our rabbis play as spiritual guides and community stewards, we question their political judgment.

As Jews active in the civic life of our district, we have been and remain tremendously supportive of Congressman Bowman. He is, as you are, a champion of the core Democratic values of prioritizing the needs of the weakest and most downtrodden, a fighter for public education, health care, labor and the environment, and a strong advocate for the communities of Westchester. He is a constant presence in the district and open to dialogue with all.

We also support Congressman Bowman for his honesty and consistency in supporting global human rights and for his clear support for Israel as a Jewish and democratic homeland. He is not "anti-Israel." and to refer to him that way is to deliberately distort his record, which includes many votes in favor of military and economic aid to Israel. He has also supported appropriate and fair efforts to oppose Israeli settlement expansion, annexation, and violations of Palestinian human rights, all in pursuit of peace and security for all Israelis and Palestinians.

The rabbis urging you to challenge him represent only one segment of the Westchester Jewish community which is not at all monolithic. Congressman Bowman's comments on the current conflict merely echo comments in Israel and the U.S. by many leading Jewish commentators and scholars as well as many American rabbis, none of whom are "anti-Israel."

We are dismayed to see these rabbis, who are usually so careful with their words, not only distort his past record but also twist his clear condemnation of the October 7 Hamas terrorist attack into a false assertion that he blames Israel for it.

Here's what he actually said on October 7 in the wake of Hamas's attack: "I strongly condemn the horrific attacks by Hamas and am saddened by the loss of precious lives, especially on the holy day of Simchat Torah. We need a way to end this deadly violence that is killing and traumatizing generations of Israelis and Palestinians alike including the blockade of Gaza. I have been to the Gaza border and know that Israelis and Palestinians are constantly living in fear. We must work harder to ensure peace in the region."

The brutal attack of October 7 has shocked and traumatized all of us in the Jewish community, and we appreciate the statements of support that have come from across the political spectrum, including from you. You have been a Democratic champion throughout your career and as our County executive. But we urge you to resist any temptation to primary Congressman Bowman, who is also a popular Democrat who is clearly aligned with the voters on so many issues, a great representative for all of us and particularly the Black and Brown communities that make up a majority of our district. A primary between the two of you would be needlessly wasteful and terribly divisive, especially at a time when all Democrats need to stand united against the rise of MAGA demagogues and authoritarianism. We look forward to hearing from you soon,"

Sincerely, Micah L. Sifry, Hastings-on-Hudson Peter Bernstein, Irvington, Iris Hiskey Arno, Hastings-on-Hudson, Peter Arno, Hastings-on-Hudson, Todd Brecher, New Rochelle, Mindy Chettih, Hastings-on-Hudson, Jay Gilbert, Hastings-on-Hudson, Paula Gilbert, Hasting-on-Hudson, Michael Goldstein, New Rochelle, Howard Horowitz, New Rochelle, Sarah Cox, Irvington, Lisa Genn, Irvington, Sara Gold, Hartsdale, Scott Rasmussen, Hartsdale.

Weekend Events at Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, DEC. 9

Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson: (914) 862-5290. Saturday Morning Hike, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Join the village historian and the park naturalist to stretch your legs and learn about the nature and history of Croton Point. Meet at the entrance to the RV Park. For ages 6 and up; moderate difficulty; wear sturdy shoes.

Alfred B. DeBello Muscote Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7282. Animal Interactions, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Enter one of Muscote's enclosures where you will see, touch and learn more about an animal. Get details and register <https://www.muscotefarm.org/programs-events/event-calendar.html/event/2023/10/14/1697295600/animal-interactions/449741>

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466. Winter Ecology Hike, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. How do plants trees, and animals survive the freezing winter months? Join us for a stroll as we discuss the ecology of nature in winter.

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005. All About Conifers, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Celebrate winter's greenery with a short hike and a discussion about our native evergreens.

Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River: (914) 864-7322 Hibernation Preparation, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Learn how the animals and plants of the park prepare for winter and adapt to the changing landscape.

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851. Beginner's Birdwatching, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Join us for beginners' birdwatching from our indoor observation room and learn to identify some of the common birds in our area. For all ages; indoor-outdoor program.

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720. Second Photography Exhibit for Read Sanctuary, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. View people's talents and love for wildlife photography. Refreshments will be provided. The exhibit will be on display through Jan. 27, 2024.

Former NRPD Cop Gets 1 Year Probation for Stealing \$24K from Autistic Non-Profit



On Dec. 1, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced today that the co-founder of Christopher's Voice, Inc., a New Rochelle-based charity for autistic children, was sentenced after pleading guilty to stealing approximately \$24,000 from the not-for-profit organization named after his son.

DA Rocah said: "After stealing money for more than five years from a charity he founded, this defendant has admitted his wrongdoing. Thanks to the hard work of our Public Integrity and Law Enforcement Integrity Bureau this defendant is being held accountable for his criminal conduct and betrayal of trust. We were able to secure the return of the stolen funds and insured that they will be used to support a reputable organization that helps children in need."

The defendant, Christopher Greco, 52 of New Rochelle, a 25-year veteran of the New Rochelle Police Department who retired in August 2021, pleaded guilty on Nov. 29 before Judge Eileen Songer McCarthy in New Rochelle City Court to Petit Larceny, a misdemeanor. The defendant was sentenced to a one-year conditional discharge.

As part of his plea agreement, the defendant paid full restitution to Christopher's Voice, Inc., and was required to transfer the charity's remaining funds of \$49,750, which includes the restitution, to Elizabeth Seton Children's Foundation, a Westchester-based nonprofit that provides long-term care for children with severe medical conditions.

The defendant is also required to file for the dissolution of Christopher's Voice, Inc., with the New York State Attorney General's Office, and is further prohibited from performing charitable activity and accepting any charitable donations while awaiting final dissolution of the organization.

The defendant admitted in court that he spent money intended for Christopher's Voice, Inc., on himself and his family for personal purchases made between Jan. 1, 2018 and May 31, 2023 in the form of debit transactions, cash withdrawals and checks written to himself.

The Westchester County District Attorney's Office arrested the defendant on Sept. 21, following its investigation.

Con Ed Student Athlete, continued from pg 2-

student-athlete. In the classroom, she challenges herself to take high level classes. She is curious, dedicated, and a leader in class discussions and group projects. At an early age, Daniella learned to manage her time, balancing her commitment to sports with her love of learning and classroom responsibilities."

"Her unwavering commitment to excellence on and off the field inspires not only her teammates but also everyone who has the privilege of knowing her. Beyond her athletic prowess, Daniella serves as an exemplary role model and leader both on and off the field. Her passion for making a positive impact on her community is evident. Her leadership, dedication, and passion for helping others are truly commendable, and I believe she is an ideal candidate for this prestigious award," writes Miller.

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US Attorney Charges Perry Freeman with 2021 Fentanyl Death of Brian Cobb in Yorktown



Lexington Avenue apartment where Freeman is accused of selling Fentanyl and Heroin

Perry Freeman Charged with fentanyl distribution resulting in death of Brian Cobb in Nov. 2021

On Dec. 4, US Attorney Damian Williams, Frank A. Tarentino III, the Special Agent in Charge of the New York Field Office of the Drug Enforcement Administration (“DEA”), and Robert Noble, Chief of the Yorktown Police Department, announced that PERRY FREEMAN was charged with distributing fentanyl that resulted in the death of a victim and illegally possessing ammunition. FREEMAN was arrested and presented today before U.S. Magistrate Judge Andrew E. Krause.

The arrest of Freeman dates back to Nov. 10, 2021, when Freeman sold Fentanyl to Brian Cobb in Mohegan Lake. Cobb was in his car when, after he took the Fentanyl, he passed out with his foot on the gas pedal. The car caught on fire and Cobb was pronounced dead.

The Westchester County Medical Examiner’s Office found the cause of Cobb’s death to be acute fentanyl intoxication and accident.

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said: “As alleged, Perry Freeman sold fentanyl to a victim who died a horrific death shortly after taking the drugs. Investigators concluded that the victim parked his car and, with his foot on the gas, passed out from ingesting lethal levels of the drugs allegedly provided by Freeman. The engine sparked a fire that engulfed the vehicle and burned the victim’s body. We also allege that Freeman regularly sold fentanyl to a confidential informant and warned the informant to be careful with the drugs, indicating he knew how unsafe his product was. This Office will not rest until those who peddle this poison have been brought to justice.”

DEA Special Agent in Charge Frank A. Tarentino III said: “Data doesn’t lie, and law enforcement continues to track fatal fentanyl poisonings to the person responsible. This arrest is an example of DEA and our law enforcement partners’ efforts to thwart more drug poisonings and bring to justice those responsible for causing the most harm to our communities. I commend the men and women of the Yorktown Police Department, the DEA’s Westchester Resident Office’s Tactical Diversion Squad, and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York for their tenacious work on this investigation.”

Yorktown Police Chief Robert Noble said: “It is good for our community to see their local police department request assistance from federal agencies like the DEA and the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York and have it culminate with the arrest of an alleged dangerous drug dealer. I commend the determination, intelligence, and teamwork demonstrated throughout this investigation. Yorktown is a law and order community. We’ll continue to work hard, share information, and work shoulder to shoulder on our streets with all of our partners in law enforcement to keep it that way.”

The unsealed criminal complaint states that Perry Freeman, aka Perry Darrell, sold Heroin both before and after the death of Cobb to an informant in 2021 and 2022. A search warrant of Darrell’s apartment, 3469 Lexington Avenue found drugs and shotgun shells.

Due to the fact that Freeman had previously been arrested 5 times for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance, attempted robbery, and possession of a weapon, he was not allowed to possess ammunition.

Freeman, 37, of Mohegan Lake, New York, is charged with one count of fentanyl distribution resulting in death, which carries a minimum sentence of 20 years in prison and a maximum sentence of life in prison, and one count of illegally possessing ammunition as a convicted felon, which carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison.

Mr. Williams praised the outstanding work of the DEA and the Yorktown Police Department.

The ‘ Migrant Crisis” another example of how evil and barbaric the United States and the white world has been for centuries

Opinion by Clifford Jackson

People come here to experience the “ America Dream”. We have been taught and conditioned with this MYTH from the moment you are born in this country. Like “Home of the brave and land of the free”, these statements are the apex of American Propaganda that contravenes the racist and criminal history of the United States. The Migrant crisis is a direct reflection of the rapacious and barbaric economic, militaristic policies of the last 500 years. Colonialism is a greater evil than Hitlerism and Stalinism combined. The white western world from the two papal bulls promulgated by the Catholic Church in the 15th century to the Portuguese and Spanish Empires said to Christianize and subjugate the pagan and unholy people living on the west coast of Africa”.

This led to a period of white western domination that has destroyed indigenous cultures of African , Asian and Latin American societies. Christopher Columbus on his murderous rapacious voyage to what is now called the “ Bahamas”, opened the doors to the transatlantic slave trade and a level of physical, cultural, psychological and worldwide violence by the white western world . This has been further solidified by centuries of a perverted Christianity from Constantine, the first Roman Catholic Emperor, that has dominated those continents This evil has been reflected also as far as the British Colonial control of Northern Ireland .The colonization and enslavement of Mozambique, and Angolo by the Portuguese. Morocco, Columbia, Panama by Spain, Liberia, Venezuela, El Salvador, Nicaragua by the United States, Algeria and Martinique by France, the Congo and Central Africa by Belgium, Italy in Ethiopia, Suriname and Indonesia by the Dutch has been normalized and justified as far as western so-called education. As Malcolm X said ‘ the criminal has been able to justify to the victim the destruction of the victim”. Another factor that , falls into place to what Malcolm X was referring to, is what Che Guevara saw when he travelled throughout Latin America in the 1950’s as a doctor said” the educational system of the indigenous populations has been replaced by force with the history of the colonizer”. The consequences of that cannot be overstated, what this has done is to make people in Africa, Asia, Latin America and people of color clones of the very people that have subjugated them . As I say daily black people in America are “ Black white people”. We have been through centuries of unspeakable crimes led to a pathological state and in essence we have become “ white people with dark skin” with the erasing of our identity by white America.

Organized religion has cemented this wiping out the identities and history of indigenous cultures . Why do you think so many African-Americans will banish you if you challenge their connection to Jesus of Nazareth? They are no different than millions of whites who claim to be Christian and catholic in this country and are some of the most racist, ignorant and hateful people in the world. These same people define the poor as “lazy” yet call themselves Catholic. I have seen this in Irish and Italian American communities around westchester and certainly for 40 years working on wall street. This disdain for the poor is mirrored to a lesser extent in communities of color. The reason why catholicism is the leading religion for people throughout Latin America today is the same missionary and colonial processes that go back to the Spanish and Portuguese empires.

In the 1880’s there was a conference in Berlin Germany that has led to not just the ‘ migrant crisis” but the creation of the so-called “ third world”. The leading colonial powers literally split up the continent of Africa into different territories that each country could take . Belgium’s King Leopold II took Central Africa and the congo where over the next 30 years Belgium enslaved and colonized them resulting in the deaths of more than 15 million black African Congolese. The British had already been raping South Asia, modern day India and Pakistan since the 18th century taking capital out of those countries where they were especially in the case of India had thriving mercantilist societies going back to the period of Alexander the Great . India was reduced to mainly Peasants that were living in poverty where there were 25 periods of starvation that the British Monarchy orchestrated in India and Pakistan when they were one nation from the 18th century to the period of WWII. Three million Indians in the province of Bengal starved to death under Winston Churchill. The British did the same thing in Ireland leading to the starvation of hundreds of thousands of Irish in the 1840’s through the early 1850’s. The British intentionally destroyed the crops , which Potato’s were one,

In order to kill many in Northern Ireland. This colonial evil has been perpetrated by the Israeli’s for 75 years destroying the fishing and olive growing industry of millions of Palestinians.

The ‘ Third world”, which millions of the migrants and refugees coming from Africa, Latin America, south east Asia and the caribbean have had their countries raped. To put this in perspective the 5 million people who die of starvation and malnutrition every year in the aforementioned continents are a direct result of the inhumane policies of the west.

This has been created and exacerbated by all of the colonial dictatorships and military junta’s that have been put in control through the overthrowing of governments that were not friendly to the West . These policies are enforced and facilitated through the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank and USAID. Where corporate America and corporations in Britian, France and Belgium profit from these relationships. Taking valuable resources such as copper, oil, tin, uranium, manganese, cocoa and many other resources. Baby Doc and Papa Doc Duvalier in Haiti are one example.

The Somoza family dictatorship is another example . The overthrow of the democratically elected socialist regime of Mossadegh in Iran by the CIA and British Petroleum in 1953 that led to the installation of the Shah and his dictatorship for 26 years . Batista in Cuba and the US raping of that country for 60 years led to Che Guevara and Fidel and Raul Castro Kicking them out.

The overthrow of the democratically elected socialist regime of Salvadore Allende in Chile orchestrated by Henry Kissinger on September 11th 1973 and the installation of General Pinochet. One of many reasons why Mayor Eric Adams is extremely ignorant and an absolute disgrace in praising Henry Kissinger because this man was a WAR criminal.

Five generations of dictatorships supported in Guatemala by the United States is one of the reasons why many of the migrants coming here are coming from Guatemala and why Latin America has been invaded more than 75 times just since the early part of the twentieth by the united states.

-Clifford Jackson, Larchmont

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NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER Mortgage Assets Management, LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST Dutchess County Commissioner of Finance, as Limited Administrator of the Estate of Rosalina Pacheco; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered October 4, 2023 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Lobby of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd, White Plains, NY, 10601 on January 10, 2024 at 11:30AM, premises known as 25 New Haven RR Street, Mount Vernon, NY 10550. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Mount Vernon, County of Westchester, State of New York, Section 164.76 Block 1067 Lot 11. Approximate amount of judgment \$499,680.01 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 51310/2017. The auction will be conducted pursuant to the COVID-19 Policies Concerning Public Auctions of Foreclosed Property established by the Ninth Judicial District. Joyce Brown, Esq., Referee LOGS Legal Group LLP f/k/a Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: October 12, 2023 78199

PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 66 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS KNOWN AS "NOISE" RELATING TO PROHIBITED NOISES

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Yonkers has adopted the abovementioned legislation that amends Chapter 66 of the Code of the City of Yonkers entitled "Noise" is hereby amended, in part, by amending Subsection A of 66-4 entitled "Enumeration of prohibited noises" to raise the decibel levels for certain noise violations.

The penalties for violation of this ordinance are as follows:

§ 66-24 Penalties for offenses.

Any violation of any provision of this chapter or violation of a lawful abatement order shall constitute a Class II offense.

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

Dated: December 4, 2023
Vincent Spano, City Clerk

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 12, 2023 at 5:00pm, Mayor's Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 109 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, ENTITLED 'VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC' IN REGARDS TO DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES FOR TOWING AND IMPOUNDED VEHICLES.

Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary. Further information, including access to a copy of said proposed local law, may be obtained at the City Clerk's office, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York and on the City's Website.

MIKE SPANO Mayor
Date: November 30, 2023

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Steve Topilinsky said "it's a tough time for many families in Westchester. We need your help and donations, especially for teens ages 12-18. We are working hard to get every request met with a toy but we need your help." A list of high needs toys can also be found at westchester-county-ny.toysfortots.org/.

Boxes will remain in place for your donation until Dec. 13, but donations can be made up until Dec. 22 online, or by dropping them off at St. Matthew's Church in Hastings on Hudson. Topilinsky said that while they have a small group of dedicated volunteers, more volunteers are needed. Former County Legislator and Marine Jim Maisano holds a annual event to collect Toys for Tots. This year it will be held on Saturday December 16, from 11am-2pm at Patsy's in New Rochelle.

"We can't continue without community support. This year we have 40,000 children that are on our list, without help we won't meet this goal! We are seeking reliable volunteers to help us pick up toys and process them to go out. We are working daily 9am to 5pm in Hastings on Hudson," said Steve T. God Bless Steve and Kelly for there work to help and serve others. Make a contribution today!

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

Eric Schoen , Long time guest with his family. President Friends of Yonkers Public Library. Retired Administrator Yonkers Public Schools. Columnist, WESTCHESTER Rising Newspapers (yonkerstimes.com)

SOME MEMORIES: We are still in touch with waiters from the hotel who saved their earnings so they could go to Medical School and receive medical degrees. And families from Yonkers and beyond who stayed at the hotel. The hotel offered nightly entertainment and we saw a young David Brenner and Anna Maria alberghetti perform. You might have seen him in one of the Catskills on Broadway shows or other television shows, but comedian Mal Z. Lawrence was known in the Catskills as a "blue " or racy comedian. No kids were allowed at the late show, 1 a.m. were he performed. The chocolate milk always tasted better at the hotel than at home as did the oatmeal. Dad's birthday most often would fall during our week at the Brickman and the hotel would prepare a delicious birthday cake for him. At the end of August the outdoor pool was quite chilly but that never stopped dad and I from taking a dip in the pool and people asking us at dinner, 'Wasn't the water cold?' As a kid I would get a massage in the Massage Room, nothing fancy but a massage table and a man usually in his late '70's or '80's who would give you a massage so soothing that it would, for lack of better words change your world. To this day I will only trust my back to the hands an 'old timer' like at Brickman.

Many Catskills hotels would have Singles Weekends, and my uncle Dr. Augustus Wolf (Yonkers doctor) who I am named after would participate and could always be found on the dance patio with someone much younger than he was. We would stop and say hello but that was it. Despite being close family, he did not want us interrupting his dancing and schmoozing with women who he was old enough to be their father!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistoisyonkers@aol.com, or friend him on Facebook Eric Schoen...just look for him in the picture with Joan Rivers!

Formation of 25 COUNTY ROUTE 62 LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/6/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The principal business loc. and address SSNY shall mail process to is Floann and Raymond Landeck, 79 Pembroke Dr., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of [THE NAVIE THERAPY GROUP L.L.C], LLC filed with SSNY on [08/29/23. Office: [WESTCHESTER] County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to LLC: [200 Bloomingdale Road, Suite 1A, White Plains, NY 10605]. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company TM Studio Ink LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 08/18/2023 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : 5 Palisade Avenue Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date.

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company 2023 Holdings LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 08/21/2023 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : 5 Palisade Avenue Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date.

Notice of formation of D & E Guest Reality Management, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/15/2023. 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, D & E Guest Reality Management LLC, 79-81 Main Street, P.O. Box 1100, Yonkers, NY 10702. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Jaylee's Beauty Lounge, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/29/23. 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, 55 Cole Street, Ste. 101, Yonkers, NY, 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of 326 PROSPECT AVE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 03/24/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Brian Caldwell at 130 Franklin Avenue, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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Croton Lions Christmas Tree Sale is Open!

Latimer Israel, continued from pg 1-



The Croton Lions Club Christmas Tree Sale is open across from the Shop-Rite-Croton. The sale is open Monday - Friday noon - 6 p.m. and Saturday & Sunday 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Your purchase will help them continue their community work.

Byrne, continued from pg 1-

significant because for the first time, it's going to be cheaper to shop here for clothes and shoes in Putnam County than it will be to go to neighboring Connecticut.

Byrne opposed pay raises for all politicians in first year, including himself. The Legislature submitted pay raises for themselves prior to budget meetings which shielded their salary adjustments from an executive veto. Byrne vetoed all other pay raises for politicians that had been added by the Legislature, but the Legislature overrode Byrne's veto with the minimum 6 votes required, but Byrne still honored his commitment and did not take a raise in pay in his first budget (2024 Budget).

"This is what happens in a healthy democracy supported by a system of checks and balances. I used my veto power as a check on the Legislature to fulfill a commitment I made to freeze pay raises for elected officials in my first year. The Legislature exercised their check to override my decision as County Executive," said Byrne.

"Residents are still facing real economic hardship whether it be from inflation, high interest rates, or unaffordable housing. Overall, the Legislature and I agreed on over 95% of what this budget should include. We worked together to reduce property and sales taxes, while still delivering services our residents have come to rely on and made record investments in infrastructure improvements and mental health services.

"This Administration's mission remains the same— with a detailed focus on delivering top notch services as we continuously work to make Putnam County Government more affordable, accountable and accessible for our residents. And, I realize we have more work to do.

"We're working to negotiate contracts with the four collective bargaining units that represent our public employees, and I simply find it unfair to grant pay raises to elected officials who negotiate or vote on these same contracts before an agreement is finalized. It's clear six legislators disagree.

"The people of Putnam County should know their County Executive stayed true to his word and did not take a raise," said Byrne.

The Putnam County Budget was reduced to the lowest level in 15 years. "The budget my administration presented is one that represents a concerted effort to better control and prioritize county spending, lower the property tax rate, and reduce the overall tax burden, all with no new borrowing. I thank Chairman Jonke and appreciate the Legislature's efforts toward demonstrating greater fiscal conservatism and discipline. As I've stated numerous times, no savings is too large or too small for our county to take advantage of."

Byrne and legislators were able to give taxpayers a reduced, overall tax burden for the first times in 25 years. "I promised residents that we'd take advantage of every opportunity presented to us. We will continue to seize opportunities that provide for a more affordable, accountable, and accessible county government that serves us all. This budget, as currently being presented, continues to deliver on that promise."

Before Latimer's weekly address, a document from the FEC (Federal Election Commission) circulated in the media in which Latimer signed a statement of candidacy for Congress in the 16th District of NY, currently held by Bowman.

Some called the FEC document premature, while others predicted a Friday Dec. 8 announcement. But the cat was out of the bag, and in a Politico story, Latimer touted his record as County Executive, calling Westchester County government under his leadership "the most progressive" in New York.

"We've cut taxes and reduced crime, but we've also made the buses environmentally friendly," Latimer said. "We've done Black maternal health; we've built recreational communities in the heart of poor communities. I've done a ton of things that represent progressive government"

Latimer, who just turned 70, said to Politico Bowman "has been in Congress for three years, and I've done a bunch of things over the past three decades." "Right now, in Congress, a lot of it is showtime down there. A lot of it is posturing and culture wars."

The Politico story can be found at-.https://www.politico.com/news/2023/11/30/bowman-latimer-primary-00129360.

Westchester appears to be heading towards two of its most interesting Congressional elections in some time, with Latimer challenging Bowman and Rep. Mike Lawler against former Rep. Mondaire Jones in the 17th NY-District.

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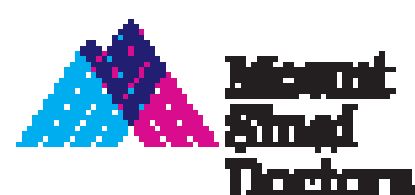
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