

## The ICE Compromise that Can Save Lawler & Trump

By Dan Murphy



We all understand that there are very few truly independent voters left in today's political discourse. The nature of our hyper-partisan news, and the way in which social media exacerbates both sides, combined with the inflammatory nature of President Trump, usually forces voters over to one side of the fence or the other.

But that small sliver of the American electorate that is independent, which in my view means that over the last three Presidential elections, you have voted both for and against Trump, that determined the winner of the 2024 election and will determine which party controls Congress in 2026.

In Westchester, Congressman Mike Lawler is the face of our deeply divided American politics. He is hated by Progressive democrats and respected by conservative republicans. A small sliver of the electorate in the 17th Congressional District of NY has twice elected Lawler by narrow margins.

*continued on pg 10-*

*left-ICE deported Amy Lituma and her 5-year old son in Peekskill last year*

## Four Westchester USA Olympians to Root for in Milan



Team USA Women's Hockey Goalie Aerin Frankel from Chappaqua  
See Story on Page 4

## Anand Singh Pleads Guilty to Intent to Engage in Illicit Sexual Contact, & Possession of Child Porn

Former Yonkers City Council and Westchester BOL Staffer has Bail Revoked, Faces 10 Year Minimum Jail Sentence in May

By Dan Murphy



Anand Singh, a former aide to Yonkers City Council President Mike Khader and a former aide at the Westchester County Board of Legislators, pled guilty on Feb. 5 to sex crimes in White Plains Federal Court.

Singh, 35, from Tarrytown, pled guilty before Judge Vincent Bricetti of traveling with intent to engage in illicit sexual contact, and possession of child pornography. He now faces a mandatory minimum 10 year prison term when he is sentenced in May.

The charges against Singh date back to an incident in December 2022, and he has been free on a \$700,000 cash bond put up by his

*continued on pg 8-*

## 19 Year Old Points Loaded Gun at School Bus with Students on Taconic



On February 4, 2026, New York State Police at Hawthorne received a walk-in complaint regarding a menacing incident involving a firearm that occurred on the Taconic State Parkway southbound near Exit 3 in the Town of Mount Pleasant. The complainant reported that while operating a school bus occupied by a bus monitor and three special-needs children, he was the victim of a road rage incident involving the operator of another vehicle. During the incident, the operator of the vehicle pointed a handgun at the bus driver.

*continued on pg 11--*

## Pioneer Tom Brooks: Yonkers and Westchester's First Black Policeman

By Dan Murphy

*This story first ran in Yonkers Rising on March 6th, 2015*

The first black police officer in Westchester County was from Yonkers. Back in 1925, Officer Tom Brooks was appointed and, upon his hiring, became the first black man recruited by the Yonkers Police Department and the first black police officer in Westchester County.

Yonkers Police Department Historian, Retired Captain George Rutledge, wrote this biography of Brooks, a true pioneer in Yonkers' history.

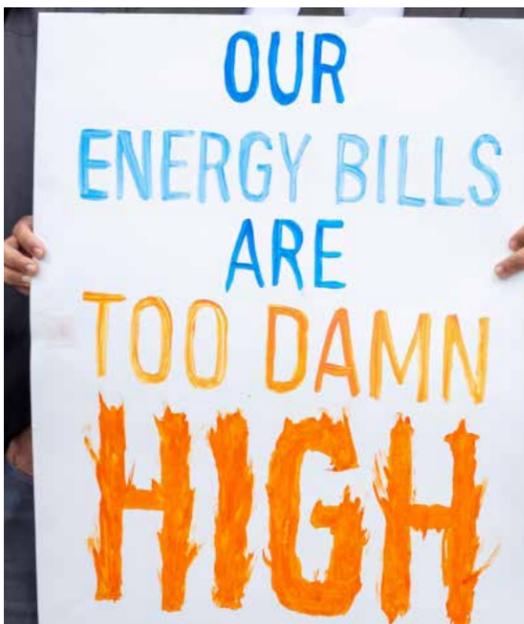
"Tom Brooks was born March 10th, 1900, on North

*continued on pg 10-*



Police Officer Tom Brooks

## Two Views on How to Fix Our Outrageous Energy Costs



Read two different views on how to fix Westchester residents sky high energy costs.

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins has proposed legislation to hold utility companies accountable. See pg 4.

Congressman Mike Lawler has proposed using more nuclear energy and tapping into natural gas reserves update.

Read his story on pg 8/ Who is right? We don't know but we do know that our energy bills are too damn high this winter.

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



## How to Care For Your Aging Eye

Dr. Nicholas Donas Talks Aging Eye Disorders and the Latest Treatment Options to Improve Vision



**Dr. Nicholas Donas**

**By Dan Murphy**

Dr. Nicholas Donas, an ophthalmologist at St. John's Rivertown Ophthalmology, performs the latest procedures and treatments for age-related vision problems, including glaucoma, macular degeneration, and cataracts. He says these conditions can have a genetic component, but in many cases, they are simply due to the typical aging process.

"It's a natural process," Dr. Donas explains. "The main cause of cataracts is aging. So just the way that our skin develops wrinkles and our hair turns white, the lens in the eye gets a little cloudy and yellow as we grow older."

As the lens becomes cloudy and less transparent, a patient may begin having difficulty seeing.

"Cataracts eventually get to a point where they start to affect activities of daily living like driving, reading, or in some cases, even recognizing faces from across the room," says Dr. Donas. "For instance, some patients will say they can't read the scroll on the bottom of the TV screen. That's a big complaint people have. And of course, you know, driving at night, that's probably one of the most common complaints, especially when cataracts first start to develop. It doesn't mean necessarily that you have to have your cataracts removed, but if it gets to a point where either your doctor strongly recommends it, or you feel your vision should be better, that is an option."

The surgery is typically done while the patient is awake. Many patients have concerns about cataract surgery, but Dr. Donas explains that it's a fast, safe, and very common procedure.

"It's probably the most commonly performed surgery in the United States, and also one of the safest procedures," he says. "It's about a 10- to 15-minute procedure where tiny incisions are made on the front part of the eye, the cornea. We gain access, and the lens or the cataract is removed, and an artificial lens is placed where the cataract used to be."

Understandably, patients may also worry about pain or discomfort during the procedure.

"It's painless in the sense that we do use topical anesthesia," Dr. Donas notes. "And patients often get some sedation, so they're comfortable and relaxed. One of the biggest concerns is that the patient will see what I'm doing. So they'll ask me, 'Will I see what you're doing?' You can imagine that it wouldn't be very comfortable to see instruments coming at your eye, but that's not what happens. You don't see that, because you can't focus on what the doctor's doing. Most patients will say that they don't really experience pain, and for the most part, are very comfortable with the sedation they get."

Another common condition associated with aging is macular degeneration.

"The macula is the central part of the retina that is responsible for sharp vision," explains Dr. Donas. "What happens with macular degeneration is that the cells of the macula lose their ability to clear themselves of metabolic waste. So it accumulates, forming what we call drusen or deposits in the retina."

These deposits trigger changes in the retina that can lead to two types of macular degeneration: dry and wet. The dry type is the early phase of the disease, and the wet type is more advanced. Dr. Donas notes that there are different treatment options for these phases.

Slowing progression is key with early or dry-type macular degeneration.

"In all cases, we recommend that patients with macular degeneration protect their eyes from the sun," says Dr. Donas. "We know that UV damage can cause progression of the disease, so we do recommend sunglasses always. We also recommend anything good for your health, like quitting smoking. If you have diabetes, make sure your diabetes and blood pressure are under control. In addition, some vitamins have been shown to really slow the progression of macular degeneration. The AREDS2 vitamin formula is available over the counter. It's based on an extensive study that has found a specific combination of vitamins to help slow down the progression of the disease."

When the disease progresses, it can lead to bleeding and swelling under the retina.

"When you develop bleeding, it's called wet because you develop hemorrhages in the back of the eye," Dr. Donas explains. "And those hemorrhages can eventually lead to scarring and even cause patients to lose their vision. Fortunately, there are injection treatments for that type of macular degeneration as well. Of course, it's not something you take lightly, but these injections are very helpful. They've really been a game changer, and we've seen patients maintain their vision much longer."

Dr. Donas also discussed glaucoma, a third aging-related eye condition that can cause vision difficulties.

"Glaucoma is caused by elevated pressure inside the eye," he says. "So if you can imagine, the eye is a closed compartment. It's like a basketball, right? If you could overinflate the basketball, it would feel firm. So we measure the pressure in

*continued on pg 11-*

## Yonkers Woman Arraigned for Animal Cruelty After Dog Found Abandoned- Throat Slashed



**The 1-year-old dog, named Frankie, was found tied to a gate at Saint John's Cemetery, in Yonkers**

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced today that a Yonkers woman was arraigned on multiple animal cruelty charges Monday morning after a dog was found abandoned and severely injured at a Yonkers cemetery in November.

Anita Martin, 60, was charged with Aggravated Cruelty to Animals, an unclassified felony, Overdriving, Torturing and Injuring Animals, a class A misdemeanor, and Abandonment of Animals, an unclassified misdemeanor.

Martin pleaded not guilty to the charges. She was released on her own recognizance as none of the charges are bail eligible. Judge Evan Inlaw adjourned the case to Feb. 23 for further proceedings.

DA Cacace said: "Like many in Westchester, I was deeply disturbed to see the photos of Frankie on the news in his mangled condition. Our pets are completely dependent upon us for their well-being, and in this case, poor Frankie was failed many times over."

"The charges in this case are serious and reflect the gravity of the harms committed against an innocent and defenseless creature. The only silver lining here is that Frankie can now begin his healing journey and will undoubtedly spend the rest of his life in loving arms, much unlike his life as a puppy."

SPCA Westchester CEO Shannon Laukhuf said: "We are grateful to the Westchester County District Attorney's Office for moving swiftly to help ensure justice for Frankie. We are their voice and will continue to advocate tirelessly on behalf of animals who cannot speak for themselves."

According to charging documents and a veterinarian's deposition filed with the court, on Nov. 21, Martin left a 1-year-old dog named Frankie tied to a gate at Saint John's Cemetery, in Yonkers. For over three hours, Frankie was abandoned without food or water.

Eventually, Frankie was discovered by a good Samaritan, who phoned the police. During a subsequent medical examination, a veterinarian determined that Frankie was a 1-year-old, male mastiff-mix. Frankie was found to have a very large and severe wound on his neck, measuring 22 centimeters long and 4 centimeters deep, according to the veterinarian's deposition. This gash exposed all of Frankie's underlying tissue; it produced a foul odor, was badly infected and had pus and drainage present, the veterinarian found.

Frankie was also found to have been extremely underweight and emaciated, with his ribs clearly visible, indicating he had not been receiving proper nutrition for an extended period of time. A complex surgery was performed lasting two hours.

Amid these challenges, Frankie has retained a "remarkably sweet and loving" demeanor, according to the veterinarian. "He becomes excited as soon as he sees anyone approaching," the veterinarian notes. "He enjoys affection, seeks out attention and happily gives kisses to me and the staff. Despite the severity of his injuries and the neglect he suffered, he remains extremely gentle, trusting and affectionate."

The investigation was conducted by SPCA Westchester and the Yonkers Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Alexander Shapiro, recently named by DA Cacace to serve as the office's Animal Cruelty Coordinator.

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Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins Advances Legislation to Hold Utility Companies Accountable & Provide Relief for New Yorkers

Olympians from Westchester



State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins

As families across Westchester and New York continue to feel the impact of rising utility bills, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins led the New York State Senate in advancing legislation to strengthen oversight of utility companies and protect ratepayers from unfair costs and practices.

“I have heard from too many Westchester residents and small businesses who are struggling to manage their sky-high utility bills month after month,” said Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. “This legislative package is about putting people first by strengthening oversight, increasing transparency, and giving the Public Service Commission real tools to rein in unjustified rate hikes. Keeping the lights on and the heat running should not come at the expense of a family’s financial stability.”

Senator Stewart-Cousins has long advocated for stronger consumer protections and utility affordability. This package builds on that work by ensuring that ratepayers have a stronger voice and that utility companies are held to clear standards of accountability.

The package includes measures that would prohibit utilities from charging customers for non-operational expenses such as lobbying and entertainment, require advance notice of proposed rate hikes through text, email, and monthly bills, and mandate that excess profits be returned to ratepayers. Additional legislation strengthens consumer protections by requiring the PSC to consider the economic and non-economic impacts of rate increases, including hardships caused by power outages.

Together, these reforms are designed to provide meaningful relief for residents, particularly seniors on fixed incomes and households enrolled in assistance programs, while ensuring utilities operate with greater transparency and fairness.

The legislation advanced under the leadership of Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins includes measures that would:

Stop utilities from charging customers for lobbying and political activities by prohibiting ratepayer funds from being used for expenses like lobbying, public relations, advertising, travel, and entertainment.

Require advance notice of proposed rate hikes by mandating that utilities notify customers of pending increases through text messages, emails, and notices on monthly utility bills.

Ensure the Public Service Commission considers the real economic impact of rate increases on households when reviewing proposed utility rate changes.

Strengthen independence and accountability at the Public Service Commission (PSC) by expanding the number of commissioners, clarifying the PSC’s mission to prioritize affordability and reliability, and preventing utility employees from serving as commissioners immediately after leaving the industry.

Authorize the PSC to consider non-economic harm to customers when penalizing utilities, including hardship, stress, and suffering caused by unplanned power outages.

Reform the utility ratemaking process to increase transparency and ensure that utility profits are reasonable and clearly justified.

Give the PSC more time to review proposed rate increases by extending the suspension period for rate cases and limiting utilities’ ability to retroactively collect higher rates.

Require utilities to return excess profits to customers when revenues exceed the rate of return approved by regulators.

Mandate minimum standards for utility payment plans to better protect eligible residential customers already enrolled in assistance programs.

Limit fixed monthly electric charges so customers are only billed for actual fixed costs related to service, not inflated or unrelated expenses.



Team USA Olympic Curler Danny Casper

By Dan Murphy

While scrolling through the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan, you can look to see how these Westchester residents and natives are doing:

Aerin Frankel, Women’s Ice Hockey;

26-year-old Aerin Frankel hails from the Chappaqua/Briarcliff Manor area of Westchester County. She’s serving as goalie for the U.S. Women’s Ice Hockey team at the Winter Olympics in Milan-Cortina. Her love for the ice reportedly began as a child skating at Westchester Skating Academy. She briefly attended high school at Horace Greely in Chappaqua before transferring to an academy in Minnesota where she played ice hockey. Frankel also plays professionally for the Boston Fleet in the Professional Women’s Hockey League.

The Quarterfinals are Feb. 13. Semifinals are Feb. 16. Medal games are Feb. 19. Aerin and the USA have a chance at the Gold, with Canada their major competitor.

Danny Casper, Curling;

Casper, who grew up in Briarcliff Manor and graduated from The Hackley School in Tarrytown in 2019, comes from a family of Olympic Curlers. Both his great aunt and uncle participated in the 1988 Nagano Olympics.

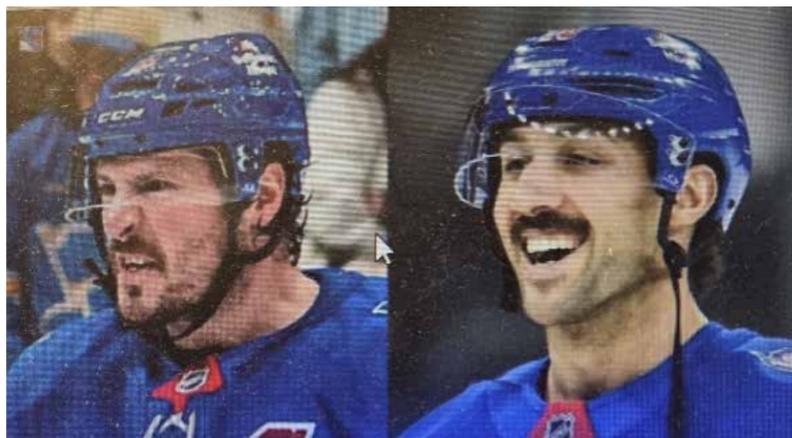
In 2024, Casper was diagnosed with Guillian-Barre Syndrome in 2024, an autoimmune, nerve-attacking illness that causes muscle weakness, numbness, fatigue and in some cases, paralysis. He was unable to train for seven months but started again last summer and is now back to full strength.

Two members of the New York Rangers NHL Hockey are on team USA. forwards J.T. Miller and Vincent Trocheck were officially named to the United States men’s hockey team for the 2026 Winter Olympics in Milan-Cortina.

J.T. Miller (USA): Selected for his versatile forward capabilities and expected to be a key part of the penalty kill.

Vincent Trocheck (USA): Recognized for his strong two-way game, joining his Rangers teammate for their Olympic debuts.

Both live in Harrison.



New York Rangers, JT Miller, left, and Vincent Trocheck, right are on Men’s Olypic Hockey Team . Both live in Harrison

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## Your Ticket to the Oscars Film Club Series Kicks Off Feb. 16

**YOUR TICKET TO THE OSCARS!**

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**Monday Nights in Bronxville at 7pm**

**February 16**  
*Sentimental Value*

**February 23**  
*The Voice of Hind Rajab*

**March 2**  
*It Was Just An Accident*

**March 9**  
*Sirat*

**THE PICTURE HOUSE BRONXVILLE FILM CLUB**

Individual Screenings for \$25; save with a \$75 pass for series

The Picture House Regional Film Center is thrilled to announce the return of Your Ticket to the Oscars, a special four-week Film Club series spotlighting 2026 Academy Award-nominated International Feature films. Now in its second year, the series kicks off Monday, February 16, at 7:00 PM at The Picture House Bronxville and continues weekly through March 9, leading up to the 98th Academy Awards on Sunday, March 14.

Hosted by veteran film critic Joe Neumaier, the series offers audiences exclusive behind-the-scenes insights, Oscar predictions, and lively post-screening discussions. Neumaier, host of The Movie Minute on 710 AM-WOR, returns to guide moviegoers through some of the most celebrated international films of the year.

“This series has quickly become a favorite for film lovers who want to go deeper before Oscar night,” said Clay Bushong, Executive Director of The Picture House. “It’s exciting to bring Your Ticket to the Oscars back for a second year – creating a space where our community can discover extraordinary international films and share the experience together.”

Your Ticket to the Oscars lineup:

Feb 16: Sentimental Value (Norway)

Feb 23: The Voice of Hind Rajab (Tunisia)

March 2: It Was Just an Accident (France)

March 9: Sirat (Spain)

About Joe Neumaier: Joe Neumaier, on-air film critic for New York’s 710AM-WOR, has been an entertainment journalist, movie critic, onstage moderator, and radio/TV commentator

for over 30 years. His writing on cinema and culture has appeared in The New York Times, Variety, Time, The Washington Post, Entertainment Weekly, The New York Daily News, The New York Post, USA Today, Hamptons, and The London Observer, and his broadcast appearances include MSNBC, CNN, CBS Sunday Morning, and KTLA – Los Angeles. He is a former long-time member of the New York Film Critics Circle and a current member of the Critics’ Choice Association. Some of his ‘A’ list interviews in the film industry include Steven Spielberg, Martin Scorsese, Meryl Streep, Jack Nicholson, Bill Murray, Oprah Winfrey, Denzel Washington, Leonardo DiCaprio, Margot Robbie, and Greta Gerwig.

Tickets are \$25 per screening or save with a \$75 pass for the full four-film series.

For more information and to reserve seats, visit [thepicturehouse.org](http://thepicturehouse.org).

## 26 Arrests Made by Westchester, Rockland and Putnam County Police for Organized Retail Theft



Crimes in progress thwarted, some suspects linked to prior thefts

On February 5 and 6, law enforcement agencies from Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland Counties, along with state and federal partners, came together for a two-day Organized Retail Theft Enforcement Detail aimed at addressing this growing regional issue.

The operation was coordinated and managed by the Real Time Crime (RTC) Center, which supported 27 participating agencies through intelligence sharing and real-time communication across jurisdictions.

Twenty-six suspects were arrested recently during a tri-county crackdown on organized retail theft crews operating in Westchester and the southern Hudson Valley.

Multiple departments in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam participated in the initiative, which targeted retail theft crews that were committing larcenies across municipal and county lines in the region. The enforcement initiative was coordinated by the Real Time Crime (RTC) intelligence center based at Westchester County Police headquarters.

The operation leveraged intelligence information and inter-agency coordination to identify and apprehend subjects involved in organized theft activity at major retail stores, including Kohls, Marshalls, Nordstrom and Target.

The detail resulted in 26 total arrests across multiple jurisdictions and led to the identification of additional suspects connected to prior incidents.

Public Safety Commissioner Terrance Raynor said, “This operation demonstrated the effectiveness of regional collaboration, intelligence-led enforcement, and coordinated deployment in addressing organized retail theft networks that operate across municipal and county lines. I congratulate all the agencies involved for their great work in this initiative.”

A total of 27 law enforcement agencies from Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland Counties, as well as state and federal partners, participated in this enforcement detail.

Westchester: Bedford Police Department, Croton-on-Hudson Police Department, Dobbs Ferry Police Department, Eastchester Police Department, Greenburgh Police Department and Greenburgh Task Force, Irvington Police Department, Mamaroneck Village Police Department, Mount Pleasant Police Department, New Rochelle Police Department, North Castle Police Department, Peekskill Police Department, Pelham Manor Police Department, Port Chester Police Department, Rye Police Department, Rye Brook Police Department, Westchester County Police Department, White Plains Police Department, Yonkers Police Department and Yorktown Police Department.

Rockland: Clarkstown Police Department, Haverstraw Police Department, Orangetown Police Department and Rockland County Intelligence Center.

Also: FBI Westchester Safe Streets Task Force, New York State Police and Putnam County Sheriff’s Office.

“Beyond the immediate arrests, follow-up investigation and consultation with regional loss prevention specialists revealed that many of the individuals apprehended were responsible for open cases involving similar theft patterns. As a result, these subjects are being charged with prior crimes, leading to the closure of numerous pattern cases across the region,” Raynor said.

The results included:

- 26 arrests made over two days
- Recovery of stolen merchandise
- Multiple suspects linked to additional thefts across the region
- Numerous open retail theft cases closed following follow-up investigations.

Following the operation, continued investigation and collaboration with regional loss prevention partners confirmed that many of those arrested were responsible for other similar thefts. These individuals are now being charged by the appropriate departments, helping bring closure to cases impacting multiple communities.

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## 10 Scholar-Athletes Participate in Signing Day at Iona Prep



Bottom Row (L-R):

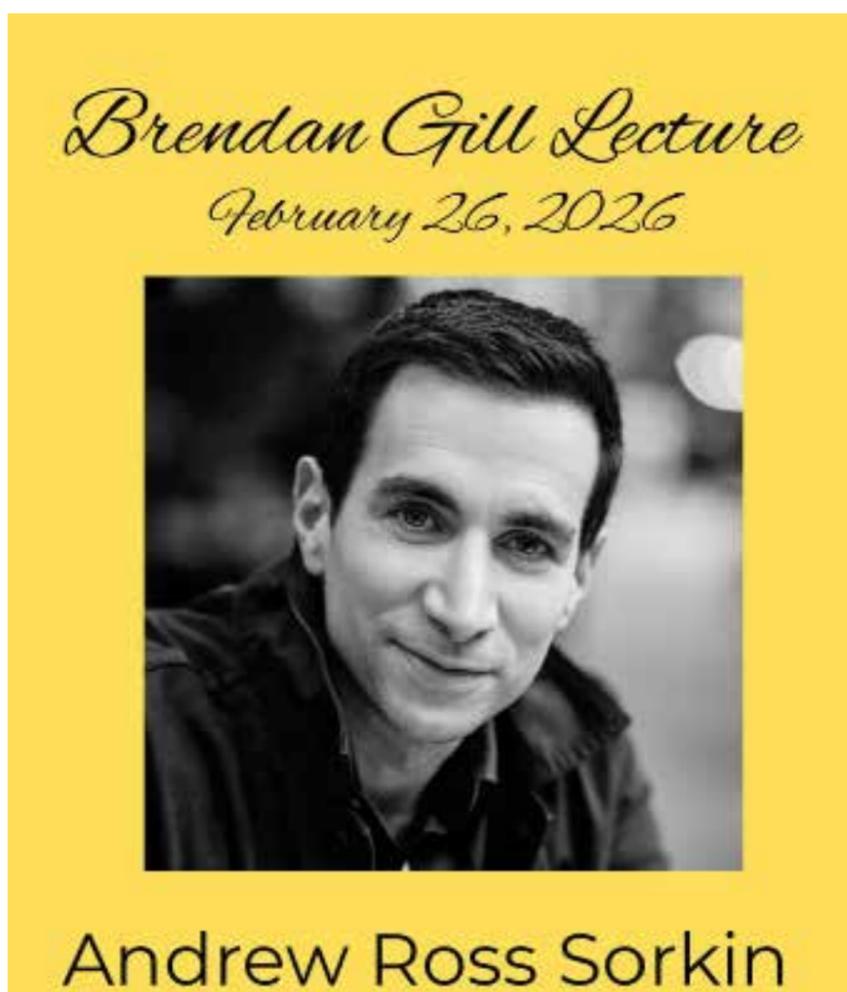
- Jon Gallino – Franklin & Marshall College, Division III Track & Field
- Kayden Ceballos – Post University, Division II Baseball
- CJ Malespin – Union College, Division III Football
- Joe Wolf – Bucknell University, Division I Football
- Eric Pirrello – Fordham University, Division I Football

Top Row (L-R):

- Marko Matesic – Manhattan University, Division I Soccer
- Abraham Guerrero – Carnegie Mellon University, Division III Football
- Brennen Pressley – Gannon University, Division II Football
- Jeff Maldari – Anderson University, Division II Baseball
- Elliot Cornejo – Mount Saint Mary’s University, Division I Soccer

Iona Preparatory School in New Rochelle celebrated ten standout scholar-athletes on Signing Day, recognizing a major milestone in their academic and athletic journeys. Athletic Director Ryan Mahoney, along with school leaders and coaches, praised the students for their dedication, sportsmanship, and commitment both in the classroom and on the field. The celebration marked a proud moment for the Iona Prep community as these student-athletes officially mark the start of their collegiate careers.

## Award-Winning Journalist & Author Andrew Ross Sorkin Free Lecture at SLC Feb. 26



Award-winning New York Times journalist, co-anchor of CNBC’s Squawk Box, and best-selling author Andrew Ross Sorkin will be the featured speaker at the annual Brendan Gill Lecture on Thursday, February 26, at 7:30 pm at Sarah Lawrence College’s Reisinger Auditorium. This free lecture is open to the public and presented each year by The Bronxville Historical Conservancy as a gift to the community. Registration will be open to the public beginning in early February on the BHC website: [BronxvilleHistoricalConservancy.org](http://BronxvilleHistoricalConservancy.org)

## Black History and Heritage Come Alive in Roots



Local artists, David Dixon and Khuumba Ama, curate Roots, Black History and Heritage at Blue Door Art Center. Photo by M. Trommer

By David Dixon

Blue Door Art Center kicks off Black History Month with Roots Black History and Heritage, which runs February 7 – March 7, 2026. Local artists from Yonkers and surrounding areas draw upon their “Roots” as inspiration. Upon entering Roots, one is immediately greeted by a large portrait of a joyful Senegalese woman in striking native garb welcoming you. To your left see Winnie Mandela and of the African American fight for freedom in collages. Across the gallery, are bold African textile reliefs bordered by smaller mysterious paintings that draw the viewer in to contemplate their message.

Then you’re invited to a wedding! The a life size bride and groom stand in the center of the room dressed to the nines in royal gold and purple African fashions, as they are serenaded by a soulful diva in blue. Invited guests include a trio of strikingly beautiful portraits. Across the room again is a fanciful tea party reminiscent of Alice in Wonderland and a tribute to African Colombians.

Be sure to seek out the many small treasures displayed throughout the exhibit, like the photo of the iconic red stage door of the Apollo Theater through which many of America’s entertainment greats have passed. Also take a moment to consider the assemblages representing the shacks of the deep south from which so many African Americans ascended.

Strolling through this exhibit one is struck by the wide diversity of art that works together to present a cohesive, compelling story of the African diaspora. The exhibition curated by Khuumba Ama and David K. Dixon opens February 7 with a reception from 1 to 6 pm and runs through March 7, 2026, at the Blue Door Art Center, 13 Riverdale Ave, Yonkers NY. Gallery Hours are Thursdays and Fridays 3 – 6pm, and Saturdays, 1 – 6pm. Admission is free.

## Free Movie-The Color Purple Will Library -Feb. 17-2pm-4pm



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

# A Night of Firsts at Westchester BOL African American Heritage Celebration



*L-R-Legislator Colin Smith, Lieutenant Khalia M. Carter, BOL Chair Vedat Gashi*



*L-R-Legislator Jenn Puja, Legislator Terry Clements, WP Public Safety Commissioner Wade Hardy, BOL Chair Vedat Gashi, Legislator Jewel Williams-Johnson*

The Westchester County Board of Legislators celebrated African American Heritage Month on Monday night with a ceremony honoring two exceptional individuals: Wade Hardy, Public Safety Commissioner for the City of White Plains, the first African American to be appointed to that role, and Lieutenant Khalia M. Carter, Commanding Officer of the Community Policing Unit in the City of Peekskill, who was promoted to her current rank in a ceremony on the same night. Lieutenant Carter is the first African American to reach the rank of lieutenant in the 177-year history of the Peekskill police force.

Together, the honorees exemplify the highest standards of public service. Their careers reflect a shared commitment to leadership, integrity, and fostering trust between public safety institutions and the communities they serve.

Chairman Vedat Gashi (D–New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown), who convened the ceremony and welcomed guests, said, “African American Heritage Month is a time to honor leaders whose work has a lasting impact on our communities. Commissioner Hardy and Lieutenant Carter exemplify dedication, professionalism, and leadership. Through their commitment, they have strengthened trust, built meaningful partnerships, and created opportunities that benefit all residents.”

Vice Chair Terry Clements (D–New Rochelle, Pelham, Pelham Manor) said, “Wade Hardy has performed his duties as a Public Safety Commissioner to the highest standard. He believes that to be a great public servant you must embody humility. He believes public safety professionals must have the integrity and courage to do what is right, not what is simply convenient. This is reflected in his exceptional service to the community.”

Legislator Colin D. Smith (D–Cortlandt, Peekskill, Yorktown) said, “During Black History Month, we honor leaders whose service reflects courage, excellence, and progress. Lieutenant Carter’s distinguished career is a powerful example of Black excellence in law enforcement—marked by visionary leadership, integrity, and a deep commitment to community trust. Through her dedication to inclusive, community-centered policing, she has strengthened partnerships, inspired future generations, and created lasting change. It is with great pride that we honor Lieutenant Khalia Carter and her enduring impact in public service.”

## Free Movie -Till-at Warner Library Feb. 19

Feb 19th @ 6pm — SHC & Warner Library Present TILL (PG-13, 2022).

In recognition of Black History Month, join us for a community screening of Chinonye Chukwu’s Oscar-nominated film honoring the life and work of Mamie Till-Mobley.

Warner Library

121 N Broadway, Tarrytown, NY

Free admission. RSVP at [sleepyhollowcinema.org/events](https://sleepyhollowcinema.org/events)

## Ice Skating at the Harvey School

Feb 16-Only \$5

Join the Town of Bedford Recreation and Parks Department for public ice skating at The Harvey School Ice Rink on Presidents’ Day; Monday, February 16 from 12:45 PM to 2:45 PM. Enjoy skating with a professional DJ, hot chocolate, and plenty of winter fun for just \$5 per person at the door! We can only accept cash payments and every Ice Skater must bring their own skates.

SLEEPY HOLLOW CINEMA & WARNER LIBRARY PRESENT

# TILL

PG-13

<b>THURS</b> 2/19/26	<b>WARNER LIBRARY</b>	<b>TIME</b> 6:00P
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PROUDLY PRESENTS

# Ice Skating at The Harvey School

Monday, February 16<sup>th</sup>  
Presidents’ Day

12:45 PM - 2:45 PM

\$5 Per Skater  
Cash Only!

Professional DJ

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

## Nicodemo and Jereis Pick up Endorsements

Yonkers Democrats Anthony Nicodemo and Frank Jereis recently pick up endorsements in their campaigns for Westchester Legislator and NYS Assembly.

The New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) has officially endorsed Anthony Nicodemo for Westchester County Legislature in the 15th Legislative District, citing his lifelong advocacy for public education, working families, and community service. NYSUT President Melinda Person said the endorsement reflects the organization's long-term commitment to supporting educators who step up to serve in public office.

"We started the NYSUT Pipeline ten years ago to empower NYSUT members to serve in every level of government in which decisions that impact public education are made," Person said. "We are proud of the success of the program, and thrilled to be supporting NYSUT Pipeline candidate Anthony Nicodemo for County Legislative District 15."

Frank Jereis was endorsed by Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins to replace Assemblyman Nader Sayegh in the 90th Assembly representing Yonkers. Jenkins, former head of the Yonkers NAACP and longtime Yonkers resident and civil leader, praised Jereis for his experience, commitment, and knowledge of the needs of Yonkers families. Jereis currently serves as Chief of Staff to the incumbent Assemblymember Nader Sayegh, who has announced he is not seeking re-election.

"As someone who lives in and loves Yonkers, I'm proud to endorse Frank Jereis for State Assembly," said County Executive Jenkins. "Frank is committed to lowering costs and making our city more affordable, bringing in good jobs, and keeping our streets safe. I know we can count on him to stand strong for our Democratic values, and I know he'll make an excellent Assemblymember."

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*Anand Singh, continued from pg 1-*

family. Some believe that Singh has avoided justice for three years, but on Feb. 5, Judge Bricetti revoked his bail and sent him to prison until his sentencing.

Yonkerstimes.com was one of the first media outlets to report on Singh's crimes in an April 2023 story titled, Underage Sex Sting in NJ Nabs Anand Singh, Westchester BOL Staffer .

A YouTube channel named OBL Global caught a former democratic staffer at the Westchester County Board of Legislators, Anand Singh, in an undercover, underage, sex sting in New Jersey.

The video can be found at this link- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kUNpG5HP4s&t=262s>

The incident was posted on YouTube April 11, but the incident occurred in Mid-December of 2022.

The video is graphic in content, and in the comments and messages by Anand Singh, who thought that he was chatting with a 14-year old girl.

Singh asks for the two to meet on Snapchat, to exchange photos and videos. "I want to share something with you. I'm doing something and I want you to watch."

Shortly after this message exchange, Singh backs off, messaging, "Save my number and in a few years hit me up," and "I am into it but I have to be the adult in this situation."

But shortly after Singh returns to graphic messages, including questions about the 14-year olds sexual history, and the type of sex he hopes to have with her. "are you on birth control-I could def hold you down lol."

Some of the chat messages have the name Hidley Anand, perhaps his Giglio name.

Then the conversation turns to inviting another underage girl to join them. "Do any of your friends like older guys too? Maybe we can all get together and party."

Anand then makes the decision to meet this young girl at 1am that evening. He traveled 2.5 hours, and during the drive made 5 phone calls to the young girl decoy. The audio of these calls is in the YouTube video and graphic.

Arriving at 1am at the designated location in Newark, Anand is confronted by Ramy and OBL. He then gets back into his car and leaves.

Two police officers show up and are filmed speaking with Ramy, the creator of OBL Global. The incident occurred in Newark and the New Police Department responded to the 911 call, but arrived after Singh had left.

We spoke to Ramy to verify this story and he was shocked at the depravity of Singh's messages and graphic sexual comments. "-I've caught over 300 of these guys, before millions of viewers, and this was one of the worst chat logs I have ever seen. There are more stuff and posts that I couldn't post. And the fact that he was a government official is hearbreaking. He violated our trust, and even the decoy, who is in her 20's was traumatized at what he was saying.

Singh worked for former Yonkers City Council President Mike Khader, from 2019-2021. And until his termination, Singh worked for the Westchester County Board of Legislators, on the staff of both the Legislation and Economic Development committees.

Ramy said that Singh was wise to leave and not stick around and confess what he did. "He committed felonies and by showing up he can be charged with child endangerment. He crossed state lines to have sex with a minor. And the duffle bag he showed up with was filled with sex toys. But he didn't stay around and incriminate himself."

According to Ramy, he posted the video of Singh sometime in mid-december, but then took it down after the livestream. Many people watching the livestream recognized Singh and started notifying officials in Westchester four months ago.

Ramy said that County Legislator Colin Smith reached out to OBL for more information, and explained that after the livestream in December, their YouTube channel was taken down and he had to create another channel. OBL was also involved in two other high profile cases, and the Singh incident got pushed back. End of our 2023 story.

Singh's boss, County Legislator Chair Catherine Borgia, was made aware of the allegations in December and referred them to the County Public Safety Department, but took no further action. Borgia political career was derailed when she was forced to resign as board chair the next month because she failed to consult with county legislators and did not protect board members and staff.

Federal authorities in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York intervened and in May 2023 arrested Singh.

## Congressman Lawler: Where is Albany, as Utility Prices Crush New Yorkers?

In an OP-ED in LoHud.com on Feb. 5, Congressman Mike Lawler asked "Where is Albany, when energy costs are crushing New Yorkers?"

Parts of Lawler's Op-Ed include, "are "green" policies mandated by Albany Democrats — almost exclusively driven by extreme ideology rather than basic economics and science — really the best way forward? One look at your most recent electric or home heating bill and it's pretty clear that the answer is no.

"utility ratepayers throughout the Hudson Valley are bearing the ever-rising cost of Albany's recklessness and insistence to place ideology ahead of common sense.

"The Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act, (passed in NY in 2019) required a 40% reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030 and an 85% reduction by 2050. In addition, it required 70% of the state's electric grid to be powered by renewables in 2030 rising to 100% by 2040. Ambitious? Yes. Realistic? Not even close.

"Now, with NYSEG seeking another 24% increase in electric rates and a 34% increase for natural gas, the impacts of this disastrous policy are starting to hit ratepayers where it hurts — their pocketbooks. And it's only going to get worse.

"When coupled with Cuomo's politically-driven decision to close Indian Point, which wiped out roughly 25% of downstate New York's electricity supply overnight, the financial consequences for Hudson Valley families will only continue to get worse.

"While New York irresponsibly banned the extraction of clean natural gas from the state's economically-struggling Southern Tier, it is important to remember that natural gas represents up to 70% of New York's energy mix and has accounted for 60% more carbon emissions reductions than renewable sources by expediting the state's transition from coal.

"With America's continued transition to a technology-based economy and the exponential growth of artificial intelligence, energy now impacts virtually every aspect of our economic and national security policy.

"Until Gov. Kathy Hochul and the Democratic majorities in the state legislature start prioritizing the needs of those they are supposed to represent, Hudson Valley families will continue to pay the price," writes Lawler, [https://www.lohud.com/story/opinion/2026/02/05/mike-lawler-hudson-valley-ny-energy-prices-opinion/88508540007/?utm\\_campaign=trueanthem&utm\\_medium=social&utm\\_source=facebook](https://www.lohud.com/story/opinion/2026/02/05/mike-lawler-hudson-valley-ny-energy-prices-opinion/88508540007/?utm_campaign=trueanthem&utm_medium=social&utm_source=facebook)

## The Data Are (Real) Clear: Americans Support Open Primaries Unite New York

We hear the same refrain again and again: "America is divided." "Our political system is broken." "Everything is partisan and polarized." Americans are fed up—and, thankfully, many are eager for solutions, and one of those solutions is open primaries, one of Unite NY's five pillars of reform.

According to a recent poll from RealClear Opinion Research, nearly three in four respondents (73%) said they believe open primaries would lead to better candidates who appeal to a majority of voters, as reported by Forbes.

Our own Voter Empowerment Index (VEI) shows similar sentiment across New York state. In Unite NY's September 2025 VEI, 58% of respondents said they support open primaries. Open primaries would give all registered voters—not just those affiliated with a political party—the opportunity to vote, ensuring every voter has a voice. This helps government be more effective.

Closed party primaries stifle good governance, as elected officials often hesitate to work across the aisle for fear of being primaried by a more ideologically extreme challenger.

Allowing all voters to participate in primaries creates better incentives for elected leaders to represent everyone in their district—not just the most partisan voters.

In 2026, Unite NY is working to expand open primaries across New York state.

Interested in getting involved? Contact Unite NY's organizing director, David Green, at [dgreen@uniteny.org](mailto:dgreen@uniteny.org).

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## NYWFP on Lt. Gov. Delgado's Ending Run for Governor: It's Still Time to Tax the Rich

Jasmine Gripper & Ana María Archila, Co-Directors of the New York Working Families Party, released the following statement:

"Yesterday's news that Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado is ending his campaign for Governor marked an important moment in New York politics — and underscores the impact of a real debate about affordability, democracy, and leadership in our state.

Lieutenant Governor Antonio Delgado did what he set out to do: he offered New Yorkers an alternative vision and added his voice to the chorus of more than a million New Yorkers who voted to demand bold solutions to the rising cost of living. We are grateful for his leadership and proud of the Working Families Party affiliates who supported his campaign early and helped create a moment of genuine deliberation inside our Party and across New York.

That debate mattered. In response, Governor Kathy Hochul moved to strengthen her commitments on childcare and to push back against Donald Trump's cruel and dangerous immigration agenda. This is what happens when working people organize and demand more from their leaders.

Over the weekend, the Working Families Party held its state convention — a real debate about the Party's direction and responsibility in this moment of rising costs and rising authoritarianism. Nearly 200 members from across the state engaged in serious debate and made a principled decision about how to best use the Party's power. A majority of members ultimately chose to nominate a placeholder candidate, recognizing meaningful progress by Governor Hochul on childcare and immigration, and Delgado's important contribution to the debate."

The bottom line remains unchanged: New York's billionaires and big corporations must pay their fair share to fund universal childcare, build truly affordable housing, protect immigrant communities and uphold working families. The Working Families Party will continue fighting to make that future real."



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Digital Infrastructure Services LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 10/22/25. Office: Westchester County. NY DOS designated as agent for service of process; DOS shall mail copy of process to 7 Ridgeway Cir White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

#### CORPORATION NOTICE

#### CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

#### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers, New York will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 24th, 2026, at 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following Local Law, to wit:

#### PROPOSED LOCAL LAW

A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 43 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS TITLED "ZONING" BY AMENDING ARTICLE XV IN RELATION TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary. Further information, including access to a copy of said Local Law, may be obtained at the Yonkers City Clerk's Office located at City Hall — Room 102, 40 S. Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701

VINCENT SPANO  
City Clerk  
February 10, 2026

## Seven Reasons Not To Raise Taxes in New York

By Bill Hammond, EmpireCenter.org (<https://www.empirecenter.org/publications/seven-reasons-not-to-raise-taxes-in-new-york/>)

Despite the robust growth of state revenues in recent years, many of New York's elected officials are pushing to further increase the tax burden on the state's residents and businesses.

New York City's newly elected mayor, Zohran Mamdani, included two major tax hikes in his campaign platform: a 52 percent increase in the city's income tax rate on the top 1 percent of earners, and a 59 percent increase in the state corporate tax rate on roughly 1,000 of the largest companies. He estimated these levies would raise \$9 billion per year, which would be an 11 percent increase in city revenues.

The Democratic majorities in the state Assembly and Senate have supported similar proposals at the statewide level in recent years, and might well advance them again during negotiations over the budget for the 2026-27 fiscal year, which begins April 1.

Governor Hochul is rejecting tax hikes as unnecessary, but her opposition has not been absolute: As part of last year's budget, she successfully pushed to extend a pandemic-related income tax surcharge by five years, from 2027 to 2032. This year, she is proposing a similar delay in rolling back a surcharge on the corporate tax.

Strikingly, there is no economy-rattling crisis — such as the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001, or the Great Recession of 2008 and 2009, or the coronavirus pandemic — that tax-hike proponents as justifying an urgent need for revenue.

Instead, they portray higher taxes as a way to finance the expansion of social programs — such as subsidized childcare — or simply to redistribute income from the state's wealthier residents to the middle and working classes.

Too often, the arguments in support of these proposals disregard or distort the existing realities of New York State finances, which already rely heavily on taxes collected from the top 1 percent and support some of the highest spending levels of any state.

Supporters also ignore the damage that these tax policies are doing to the state's economy — and the dangers of making its tax code even more of an outlier than it already is.

What follows are the top seven reasons why New York should not raise taxes.

Reason #1: New Yorkers already pay some of the highest overall taxes in the U.S.

Reason #2: New York's wealthiest residents already pay some of the highest tax rates in the U.S.

Reason #3: Changes in federal law have sharpened the penalty for living in high-tax states

Reason #4: New York's top 1% already pay nearly half of the income tax

Reason #5: New York's high-end tax base shows signs of eroding

Reason #6: New York already "taxed the rich" five years ago

Reason #7: New York's state and city governments already have a lot of money

Although New York's tax collections have fully recovered from the pandemic, its people and its economy have not.

The state lost 2 percent of its population during the first two years of the pandemic and had not gained that back as of 2025 — making it the fifth-slowest growing state through the first half of the decade.

Read more on this Op-Ed at [Yonkerstimes.com](https://www.yonkerstimes.com)

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Notice of formation of Hardcore In The 914 LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/5/2026. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Hardcore In The 914 8 Arden Drive, Hartsdale New York 10530. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of Israelov Law, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 01/27/2026. Office Location: Westchester. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the PLLC is: 51 Nethermont Ave, White Plains, NY 10603. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Senara & Co, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/29/2026. NY office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served is 455 Tarrytown Road, Suite 1307, White Plains, NY 10607. Purpose/character of LLC: Any lawful purpose.

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 S.I.T. Staying In Touch LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the New York Secretary of State on December 25, 2025. Office location: Westchester County. New York Secretary of State designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served. New York Secretary of State shall mail process to: Donald George McIntosh III, 137 Morningside Pl, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

**ICE Compromise, continued from pg 1-**

But over the past few weeks, there has been a defection of some of those Trump-Lawler voters in Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam, due to the shootings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti. Americans do not want to see fellow Americans killed for protesting, even if their protests are over the top and endanger the lives of ICE officers.

But the underlying issue with ICE is a question raised by one of the few middle-of-the-road, independent-minded media figures in the US- Michael Smerconish. On both his CNN and Sirius shows, Smerconish has asked the question, why is ICE apprehending so many illegal, or undocumented residents who have committed no other crime than entering our country illegally, while pursuing, arresting, and deporting criminal illegal aliens?

Last year, an incident in Peekskill drew national interest involving 24-year-old Amy Lituma. On July 29, ICE agents followed Lituma and her four-year-old son from her home in Peekskill to BJ's Wholesale Club in Yorktown. Lituma, an Ecuadorian immigrant, claims the armed men forced her out of the vehicle.

ICE agents showed her a photo of her partner, Wilmer Delgado, whom they were seeking to detain. Lituma said she did not know where Delgado was. ICE allowed Lituma to return home and had her call Delgado, who told her, "Don't say anything."

When given the option of being separated from her son or self-deporting, Lituma decided to return to Ecuador with her son. A video shows her son scared at ICE outside of their home. A rally was held in Peekskill in support of Lituma.

Lituma said she crossed the border into the U.S. in July 2021, when her son was eight months old, and has been working as a house cleaner while living in Peekskill. She hadn't applied for U.S. asylum, and said she hoped to return to the U.S. with legal status someday. "I'm not the only one," Lituma said. "Many people are in the same situation. My request is not to break families apart."

This is the concern that a majority of Americans now have with ICE. That same majority is OK with ICE detaining, arresting, and deporting criminal illegals, like those who have committed rapes, child sex offenses, and drug crimes.

But they do not want to see ICE pursuing a criminal illegal, and when they make that arrest, they also deport all of the family members in that home.

White House Border Czar Tom Homan recently held a press conference in Minnesota and reiterated the ICE policy. "For those who are not a national security threat or public safety threat, you are not exempt from immigration enforcement actions. If you are in the country illegally, you are not off the table. Let me be clear, President Trump intends to continue mass deportations, and these actions will continue every day throughout this country. And we have not directed otherwise."

While Homan's comments follow the Federal laws concerning deportations of undocumented illegal residents, those laws no longer have the support of the majority of Americans. And the number of illegal or undocumented residents in our country being deported has now far exceeded the number of criminal illegals deported.

Dr Austin Kocher compiled apprehension totals from ICE, which show 70% of those apprehended have not committed a crime, other than that they are here illegally, some for 20 or 30 years. An example that Smerconish gave is a cook in a diner in New Jersey who has raised a family, paid taxes, and not committed a crime. Should he be arrested and deported? Most Americans say no.

So can ICE apprehend a criminal illegal in a household and not arrest the other undocumented residents in the residence that they raid? Can Homan change his policy to do just that? Most believe that Homan and the President must do so, or else they will lose republican control of Congress in 2026, including the seat held by Congressman Lawler. Lawler, at a recent town hall, said, "I fundamentally believe that if you have been in this country 5, 10, 15, 20 years, and you have not committed a crime, and you are participating in the workforce, and your children or your grandchildren may be American citizens, we should create a legal pathway forward. That does not mean citizenship. But it does mean they come out of the shadows and can participate in our economy and community without fear of deportation. That is something that I believe we can get bipartisan support for."

Back to that small sliver of voters who have voted for and against Trump in 16', 20', and 24'. Those who voted for Trump that I have spoken to have had enough of ICE's tactics, and they want it to change, or they will make a change when they vote in November. Those same voters still support ICE apprehending and deporting those criminal illegals who have committed serious crimes. If President Trump doesn't move forward on fixing ICE, he will become a lame duck after November, and will be unable to pass any legislation, and will likely have Congress investigating and, yes, voting on impeachment.

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Notice of Formation of Infinity Strategies Group LLC. Arts of Org. Filed with SSNY on September 1, 2025. Office location: Westchester County, New York. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 255 Huguenot Street, Apt 913, New Rochelle, NY 10801. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of MPMX, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/06/2025 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, 8 Lane Street Fl. 1 Yonkers, NY 10601 Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of DoubleStripe Associates LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 2/7/2026. 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, 23 Mt. Joy Ave., Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity

**Brooks, YPD, continued from pg 1-**

Broadway to Toler and Amanda Brooks. He attended PS #2 Elementary School and studied business courses at Yonkers High School. For six years, he worked as a chauffeur for former mayor Doctor Nathan Warren.

"When Tom was appointed a policeman along with 23 other men, the newspaper reported he would likely be assigned to a beat or post in that section of the city where the negro population predominates. Some of these areas would be School St., Waverly St., Brook Street, New Main St., and Morgan St., along with Chicken Island."

"A big man, broad-shouldered and of sturdy build, he once was asked what led him to seek a job as a police officer. He answered. 'My size. Also, I wanted to do something permanent for my life's work.' Brooks also thought the salary was fairly decent.

"Possessing A cheerful personality, smile, and snappy wit, he would often politely say, ' Don't call me Mr. Brooks, call me Tom. His witty cordiality made him a popular figure on his old beat in the First Precinct.

"Patrolman Brooks was a very popular and respected officer. He was very active in our PAL and was always available to council youths who seemed headed for trouble. During his career, he received several department commendations and awards for excellent police work.

"One award for heroism was received for an incident which occurred on December 1st, 1947, when 3-armed men entered 254 New Main Street, the Calcano Association clubhouse. The three men were armed, desperate, and, while holding the occupants at gunpoint, demanded money. During the attempted holdup, the gunman shot and killed off-duty fireman Anthony Polito and also shot and seriously wounded Polito's brother-in-law, off-duty Patrolman Ray Carosa.

Patrolman Tom Brooks, while on foot patrol, was calling the precinct from a police call box on Park Hill Ave. when he heard the sound of gunshots and, with gun in hand, entered the club. In attempting to arrest the robbers of violent struggle began. One escaped, but Brooks was able to subdue and arrest two of the gunmen.

"In the mid-1950s, your scribe was only a teenager, and I lived at 55 Ravine Ave. Mr. Brooks lived at 80 Ravine. In those years, my friends and I would hang out on the corner. That is until we saw Mr. Brooks. Even though he did not work in the area where we lived, his reputation for being a no-nonsense cop was enough to make us all leave the area and quickly. Along with his job as a policeman, Tom Brooks supplemented his income with a second job as a guard at Patricia Murphy's. Candlelight Restaurant on Central Park Ave. His brother Frank was the funeral director of Brooks Funeral Home at Warburton Ave. and Gold St. Unfortunately, Officer Brooks developed a heart condition and on May 24th, 1959, he passed away at the age of 59 at the Professional Hospital on Ludlow St. At the time, he was assigned to the Traffic Division. Officer Brooks was a member of the. BA and was a member and trustee of the Institutional AME Zion Church. I never knew him personally when I was a boy, but now, with nearly 32 years in our Police Department, I hear Brooks's name mentioned every now and again by those who knew him. I can honestly say his name and memory always received well-earned respect.

"Just prior to writing this article, I met with Tom Brooks's grandson, Yonkers firefighter Gregory Brooks. He asked if I might convey his feelings. At a time when black men had very few rights in this country, there stood a strong black man in the 1920s with a badge and a gun. Under undoubtedly close scrutiny, he was able to preserve and assimilate into the ranks of the Yonkers Police Department. He was truly a pioneer for the black men and women who, in the years to come, would proudly follow in his footsteps. My grandfather, standing over 6 feet and weighing close to 300 pounds, and carrying a gun, was easy to notice and very popular. People who knew him 40 to 60 years ago still ask if I am related to "Brooksie the cop". And that always brings a proud smile to my face and a feeling beyond words." End of story.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Detective Ken Davis, who, along with Rutledge, gave us the information about 20 Black police officers in Yonkers. We found this story on Brooks and will look for more.

Detective Davis has an event at the Yonkers Will Library, titled "The History of African Americans in the Yonkers Police Department," on Feb. 26 at 6pm.

Notice of Formation of Sets n Sweats LLC, filed with SSNY on August 24, 2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to LLC: 515 Boston Post Rd, #1034 Portchester, NY, 10573, USA Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of YureeshStyle LLC, a domestic LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/10/26. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to the LLC at 35 S Broadway, K6, Irvington, NY 10533. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of JB HUDSON LINE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/20/2026. Office location: Westchester County, NY. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 59 Alta Vista Dr, Yonkers, NY, 10710. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Lifestyle Rehabilitation, LLC filed with SSNY on 10/27/2025. 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, 56 Martha Place, Chappaqua, NY, 10514. Purpose: Physical Therapy.

Notice of formation of JJ VILL, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/29/2025. 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, 64 Mountindale Road, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity

**Road Rage Gun Pointed at Bus with Students, continued from pg 1-**

Following an investigation, the suspect vehicle was located later that evening traveling northbound on the Taconic State Parkway. Members of State Police Hawthorne and the Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI), assisted by the Troop K Community Stabilization Unit while assigned to the District Attorney's Safer Highway (DASH) initiative, conducted a traffic stop of the vehicle.

The operator was identified as Michael L. Alarcon, 19, of Mahopac, New York, who was found to be operating with a suspended New York State driver's license. A subsequent inventory of the vehicle resulted in the recovery of a loaded handgun.

Alarcon was taken into custody and transported to State Police Hawthorne for processing and charged with the following:

Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd (loaded firearm), a class C felony  
Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd (ammunition feeding device), a class D felony

Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd (defaced for concealment), a class D felony

Menacing 2nd (weapon), a class A misdemeanor

Three counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, class A misdemeanors  
Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle 3rd, an unclassified misdemeanor

Alarcon is currently awaiting arraignment before the Town of Mount Pleasant Court.

New York State Police would like to recognize the Westchester County Real Time Crime (RTC) Center, whose critical assistance played a key role in the successful location of the suspect vehicle.

**Send us your letters, announcements,  
opinions, photos & story ideas to  
dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com**

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-7582 – Opening Date: 03/20/2026: Purchase of Desktops and Monitors for Department of Information Technology Inventory (TN).

2) Bid No. RFB-7583 – Opening Date: 03/20/2026: Purchase of Sixty (60) Dell Mobile Data Terminals and One Hundred (100) Dell Desktop Computers (TARU) (TN).

3) Bid No. IFB-7578 – Opening Date: 03/13/2026: Phase 1 of 2 – Building and Site Upgrades at School 30 (AC).

4) Bid No. RFB-7579 – Opening Date: 02/27/2026: 12-Month contract with option to renew for 12-Months, to purchase as needed, approximately 2,400 forty-quart bags of Oil-Dri granular absorbent item #105040G50 (or Yonkers approved equal) (FB).

5) Bid No. RFB-7580 – Opening Date: 02/27/2026: City-Wide Generator Maintenance and Repair (FB).

6) Bid No. RFB-7585 – Opening Date: 02/27/2026: Twenty-four-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide parts and repair services as needed for Smeal fire apparatus (AC).

7) Bid No. RFB-7586 – Opening Date: 02/27/2026: Purchase of between 1 to 7 Snow EX VSS-3000 Three Hundred (300) Gallon Brine Sprayers (or Yonkers Approved Equal) (FB).

8) Bid No. RFB-7587 – Opening Date: 03/06/2026: 24-month contract, with an option to renew for an additional 12-months for the maintenance repair inspection services for Mohawk vehicle lifts (KAS).

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

## New Clean Energy Workforce Program Opens Pathways to Paid Training and Careers for Residents of Disadvantaged Communities



**Brad Barton, Healthy Homes Academy; Cat Sayles, Yasmin Najjar, Jan Brennan, Sustainable Westchester; Kevin Brenner, Healthy Homes Academy**

A new, multi-year clean energy workforce initiative led by The Healthy Home Academy, in partnership with Sustainable Westchester, and supported by the New York Power Authority (NYPA), is launching to connect residents of state-designated Disadvantaged Communities (DACs) with paid training and long-term careers in heat pump installation and home performance.

“The Healthy Home Academy Heat Pump and Home Performance Training Program” will recruit, train, and place 123 participants over the next two years, supporting individuals as they move from training into full-time jobs, apprenticeships, or internships in New York’s growing clean energy and building-performance sectors. Training will begin in March 2026, with recruitment and information sessions starting this month.

“This program is about opening doors for people who have too often been left out of the clean energy economy,” says Noam Bramson, Executive Director, Sustainable Westchester. “Recruiting and placing more than 100 people into clean energy careers is ambitious by design—building on our experience connecting residents to opportunities and real career pathways. By integrating paid training, robust industry partnerships, and practical support for participants, we are helping to create stable, in-demand career pathways that prepare workers for the future.”

Two Training Pathways Aligned with In-Demand Careers

The Healthy Home Academy will conduct all training at their Brewster, NY facilities. The intensive 5-week program combines classroom instruction, lab work, and field experience, led by Kevin Brenner and in-house Academy staff, plus visiting industry experts. Participants will choose one of two industry-aligned training pathways:

**Heat Pump Installation:** Focused on sizing, installing, servicing, and maintaining high-efficiency heat pump systems, preparing graduates to step directly into in-demand HVAC roles. Industry certifications including BPI Building Science Principles, Mitsubishi M&P Installation Essentials, EPA 608 Universal, Department of Labor OSHA 10, and ESCO Employment Ready Heat Pump Certification

**Home Performance/Building Performance:** Focused on building science, energy efficiency, and healthy homes practices, equipping participants to improve comfort, energy use, and indoor air quality in existing homes. Industry certifications including BPI Building Science Principles, BPI Healthy Housing Principles, BPI Air Leakage Control Installer, and Department of Labor OSHA 10

“High-performance HVAC and efficiency is where the trades are headed—and it’s a phenomenal place to build a career,” says Kevin Brenner, the Head of The Healthy Home Academy. “Heat pump technology is advancing, homeowner expectations are rising, and the industry needs people who understand how buildings actually work. This partnership gives young people hands-on skills, real job pathways, and the chance to do work that genuinely improves people’s lives.”

Learn more at [Healthyhomeacademy.org](http://Healthyhomeacademy.org) and at [sustainablewestchester.org](http://sustainablewestchester.org).

### **Aging Eye, continued from pg 3-**

the eye. Elevated pressure can damage various parts of the eye. When it causes damage to the optic nerve, that’s glaucoma.”

This nerve damage is irreversible, but the progression of glaucoma can be slowed with treatments like eye drops, laser treatments, and occasionally surgery. However, glaucoma can cause damage and loss of vision very quickly, before the patient is aware of a problem.

“It’s something you don’t feel, and that’s why glaucoma is often referred to as a silent thief of sight,” Dr. Donas explains. “You could walk around with glaucoma for a long time, have sharp vision, and eventually lose some of your field of vision and not be aware of it. This is one reason why it’s essential to have your eyes examined regularly, because most people with glaucoma are diagnosed at a routine eye exam.”

Dr. Donas’ father struggled with glaucoma, which inspired him to choose ophthalmology as a specialty. “I knew I could make a difference in the lives of patients like my father.”

Today, Dr. Donas sees patients at Rivertown Ophthalmology in Ardsley. For more information or to book an appointment, please visit their website.

Dr. Donas appeared on an episode of Riverside Talk, from St. John’s Riverside Hospital. Watch the interview at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yU89oJiA5TA>.



# YONKERS CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

40 South Broadway, City Hall Room 102, Yonkers, NY 10701

## Did you know?

### Passports

- You can apply for a new Passport in our office.
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- We even take Passport Photos

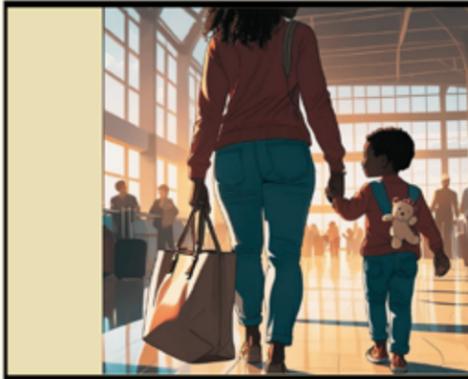
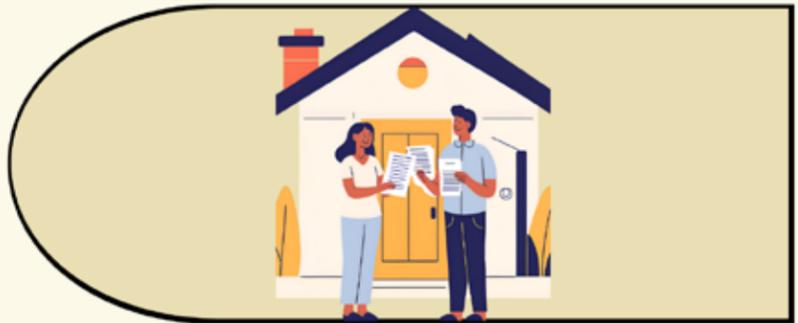


### One - Day Marriage Officiant License

- You can now apply to officiate the wedding of any couple with a valid Marriage License from the City of Yonkers

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**Vincent Spano**  
City Clerk

Email [cityclerk@yonkersny.gov](mailto:cityclerk@yonkersny.gov) or  
Call 914-377-6020 for our latest schedule.