

Trump Kills Congestion Pricing, MTA & Gov Hochul Sue to Keep it



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By Dan Murphy

"CONGESTION PRICING IS DEAD. Manhattan, and all of New York, is SAVED. LONG LIVE THE KING!"
—President Donald J. Trump



On Feb. 19, US Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy informed NY Governor Kathy Hochul and the MTA that NYC's Congestion Pricing Plan Duffy is terminated because it was beyond the scope of the authority given by Congress, and that the \$9 Toll that drivers started paying one month ago, to enter Manhattan south of 60th Street is being used to raise revenue for the MTA instead of reducing congestion pricing.

After Duffy's letter, President Donald Trump posted on Truth Social "CONGESTION PRICING IS DEAD. Manhattan, and all of New York, is SAVED. LONG LIVE THE KING!"

An enraged Governor Kathy Hochul told reporters, "NY hasn't labored under a king for more than 250 years and we are sure

as hell are not going to start now. New Yorkers don't back down from a fight, not now not ever. We are fighting for our residents, commuters, drivers our riders. Life has gotten better. New York commuters are now the roadkill on Donald Trumps revenge tour against NY. I'm confident we will win our lawsuit and we are keeping the cameras on next time you are stuck in traffic and your train is

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Senator Shelley Mayer and over 100 Westchester Residents Rally Against High Con Edison Bills



Senator Shelley Mayer

State Senator Shelley B. Mayer was joined by over 100 Westchester residents on Friday, Feb. 14 for her 'No Love for Con Ed' press conference and rally to call out Con Edison (ConEd) and the New York Public Service Commission (PSC) for unaffordable delivery rates currently faced by New Yorkers and to urge rejection of ConEd's rate application for another major rate hike. Senator Mayer and the attendees demanded changes to the way rates are approved and for the PSC to put ratepayers first when setting rates.

Despite sky-high bills due to ConEd's last rate hike beginning in 2023 (\$457.5M electric rate increase over three years and \$187.2 million gas rate increase over three years for ConEd), on January 31st, ConEd filed another \$2 billion request to increase rates. If approved, the proposal would increase electric bills by an average of 11.4% and gas bills by 13.3% starting in 2026. According to Con Ed's filing, the typical gas heating customer would see an increase in their gas delivery averaging over \$550 more for heat per year. This amounts to a 25.1% increase on the delivery bill or a 19% increase on the total bill. Even without these additional increases, Westchester residents are seeing delivery charges that are often double or triple the cost of the actual usage.

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Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

County Executive Ken Jenkins: Westchester Is Not a Sanctuary County

ICE Pursuing Illegal Criminals in Several Westchester Communities



By Dan Murphy

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins proclaimed that "Westchester County is not a Sanctuary County" during his press conference on Feb.18.

"I want to remind people that we have an Immigrant Protection Act, but there are also false claims along the way. Westchester County is not a Sanctuary County. Any claims suggesting otherwise are false and politically motivated.

"Westchester County works with federal law enforcement and ICE and provides that judicial warrant that ICE is required to have to navigate our process. When this document is provided, Westchester County notifies ICE before releasing an individual into custody, and lets Federal law enforcement do its job. This has been in place since 2018 under President's Trump and Biden. Our Federal

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Don't Talk on Your Cell Phone While Driving... Especially With 125 Pounds of Marijuana in the Car!



From the Westchester County Police Department: In New York State, any person 21 or older is permitted to have up to three ounces of the leafy variety in their possession in public. Three men arrested the other night were a wee bit over that amount.

Following a traffic stop on the Cross County Parkway, the trio was found to be hauling 125 pounds of marijuana in their vehicle. The weed has an estimated street value in excess of \$100,000. In addition, more than \$43,000 in cash was found in the car.

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Remembering Alice Roker, Beloved Political Pioneer in Yorktown

By Dan Murphy



God Bless Alice Roker

When Alice Roker first moved into Yorktown in 1985, I was a Senior at Yorktown High School. The Roker family bought a home near our house on Ridge Street, and my mother soon formed a friendship with Alice, before she became a political pioneer in Yorktown. Her kindness, love of gardening and democratic principles were what formed their bond.

Her daughter, Courtney Roker Laga said, "She was my mother, my heart, and the most loving grandmother to Sky. I was with her for her last breath, and I will carry her love with me always."

Alice was best known in Yorktown

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Sound View Summit Discusses Emergency Preparedness

Strategies for Protecting Your Home and Family from Disaster



L-R-Gloria Golle (Local Summit board member and moderator), Chief Richard Valentine, and Commissioner Susan Spear.

By Linnet Tse

Catastrophes such as fires, floods and extreme cold can strike quickly and without warning. At the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Local Summit's timely program on February 11, Susan Spear, newly appointed Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Emergency Services ("Commissioner"), and Richard Valentine, Chief of the Village of Larchmont Fire Department ("Chief"), led a spirited discussion on emergency preparedness and provided valuable advice on how to protect our home and family from disaster. A recurring theme throughout the discussion was the importance of education and preparedness.

What's the County's Role?

While a municipality's fire, police and EMS units respond directly to a local emergency, the County plays a huge, often behind-the-scenes role to keep residents safe. Highlighting just a few of her department's many responsibilities, the Commissioner explained that the Emergency Services Department provides training and education, both to fire/EMS units across the county as well as to the public; it also provides dispatch services for the 52 fire departments and 32 EMS agencies in the County as well as hazmat and technical rescue services.

Importance of Collaborating at All Levels

Both the Commissioner and the Chief emphasized the need to work together. At the municipal level, systems are in place to bring in additional resources from neighboring municipalities as needed, referred to as a "mutual aid" plan or in the case of emergencies in "higher hazard" locations such as schools and houses of worship, an "automatic aid" plan that automatically dispatches additional resources from neighboring units.

The importance of collaborating at all levels of government – local, state and Federal – was reinforced in the aftermath of Ida, according to the Commissioner. She spoke of the critical role that FEMA plays in such situations, not only in terms of financial assistance, but also in terms of providing "boots on the ground."

What (New) Risks Should We Be Prepared For?

The Commissioner warned that although our ability to predict storms has gotten more sophisticated, the storms have become less predictable, and flooding remains a huge risk. While she feels that wildfires are a much lower risk here than in California, it is none-the-less part of the County's training. The Chief explained that the Fire Department is always looking ahead, playing the "what if" game to anticipate needs. He cited the lithium-ion battery hazard as an example of a new threat for which education and mitigation are both critical.

Practical Advice for Residents

The number one tip that both the Commissioner and Chief offered is to take the time to plan ahead and be prepared: "Don't make the plan while the emergency is unfolding." They both stressed that proper planning requires time. Some practical advice they offered:

- Have a "go bag" ready;

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Dr. David Lubarsky Begins Tenure as WMCHHealth President and CEO



**Dr David
Lubarsky**

David Lubarsky, MD, MBA, FASA, a nationally recognized healthcare leader, returns to his Westchester roots as he assumes the role of President and Chief Executive Officer of the Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHHealth). Dr. Lubarsky, who previously served as CEO of UC Davis Health, brings a track record of expanding access to care, advancing innovative technologies, and strengthening healthcare delivery systems driven by a patient-first mindset.

A graduate of Edgemont High School in Scarsdale, Dr. Lubarsky began his medical career as an internal medicine intern at Westchester Medical Center. His return is not only a professional milestone, but a personal one, reflecting a deep commitment to the communities that shaped his values.

"While I wasn't actively seeking a new role, I was open to considering an opportunity where I could make a real impact on patients' lives – especially in a place that holds personal significance," Dr. Lubarsky said. "I have always admired WMCHHealth's mission – delivering top-tier, specialized medical care while staying deeply connected to its communities. Returning to WMCHHealth is incredibly meaningful to me, this is where I began my career, and I'm honored to have the opportunity to give back to a community that was so formative."

With more than 12,000 employees, nearly 3,000 attending physicians, and 1,700 inpatient beds across its hospitals, WMCHHealth is the Hudson Valley's leading healthcare provider. The network offers a full spectrum of care, including Level I (adult and pediatric), Level II, and

Level III trauma centers, the region's only acute care children's hospital, multiple community hospitals, specialized institutes and centers, Comprehensive and Primary Stroke Centers, state-of-the-art outpatient care, including the Ambulatory Care Pavilion in Valhalla, skilled nursing facilities, and one of the largest mental health systems in New York State.

A Vision for Strategic Growth and Innovation

Dr. Lubarsky, who was recognized by Becker's Hospital Review as a 2024 CEO Influencer to Know, will guide WMCHHealth through a new era of strategic expansion and innovation, with key priorities including:

Strengthening the Network and expanding access to care – ensuring that patients recognize the world-class care and specialized treatment available right in their communities by strengthening WMCHHealth's entire Network of facilities, including its nine hospitals across seven campuses.

Enhancing integration at WMCHHealth's facilities – so that every patient, at every facility, experiences seamless, high-quality care, benefitting from the strength of the entire Network.

Advancing AI-driven healthcare – to enhance patient care and provider efficiency while keeping the human touch at the center.

Optimizing system operations – to support seamless care delivery and financial sustainability.

Dr. Lubarsky also joins WMCHHealth as it advances major capital initiatives, including the new state-of-the-art Critical Care Tower at Westchester Medical Center. This project will significantly enhance intensive care capabilities and reinforce WMCHHealth's role as a leader in advanced medicine. Construction began in July 2024 and is expected to be completed in 2026.

Dr. Lubarsky succeeds Michael D. Israel, who led WMCHHealth for nearly two decades and last year announced his retirement.

Dr. Lubarsky earned his Bachelor of Arts in history and medical degree at Washington University in St. Louis, where he was the first graduate of their Scholars Program in Medicine. He later earned his MBA from Duke University's Fuqua School of Business, graduating as valedictorian.

"Throughout his career, Dr. Lubarsky has demonstrated visionary leadership in managing complex healthcare organizations," said Zubeen Shroff, Chairman of the Westchester County Health Care Corporation (WCHCC) Board of Directors. "His track record of driving financial and operational excellence, while prioritizing patient experience and expanding community access to care, makes him exceptionally qualified for this role. With his dedication to innovation and patient care, Dr. Lubarsky will position WMCHHealth to continue growing and evolving to serve our diverse communities."

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State Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins Calls on NYC Mayor Adams to Resign



By Dan Murphy

One of the three most powerful Democrats in New York State has now said that New York City Mayor Eric Adams should resign his post.

Adams, who is up for reelection this year, was indicted last year by former US Attorney Damien Williams for conspiracy to commit wire fraud, wire fraud, two counts of solicitation of a contribution by a foreign national and bribery, related to accepting international flights, luxurious hotel stays and illegal campaign contributions.

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, from Yonkers, said last week that "It's probably time that he move aside....We really are spending more time on the mayor in his plight. It's distracting and we have a job to do. We're in the middle of a budget."

Stewart-Cousins joins Lt. Governor Antonio Delgado and State Senate Mike Ginaris in calling for Adams to step down. Adams has refused to step down and instead is planning his reelection campaign.

The Department of Justice under President Trump withdrew the charges against Adams, causing an outcry across the state.

New York State law allows Governor Kathy Hochul to fire Mayor Adams, but she has yet to reach that decision. Stewart-Cousins said "I would certainly support the governor looking at her options seriously."

When Hochul's Lt. Gov. Delgado became the first hi profile democrats to call for Adams to resign last week, it raised the pressure on Hochul to do something.

A removal of a NY public official by a Governor hasn't been done since 1974, when then Governor Malcolm Wilson, removed a sheriff. Removal proceedings for Adams would begin by Hochul presenting him with his accusations and Adams having the right to defend himself in public.

The calls for Adams to resign will certainly increase over the next several days and are reminiscent of the calls for former Governor Andrew Cuomo to resign in 2021. The irony today is that Cuomo is the most likely Democrat to succeed Adams as NYC Mayor.

While Adams may have his indictment from last year dropped by the DOJ, many believe that other criminal charges will be filed against him, either from the Feds, or from NYS Attorney General Letitia James or Manhattan DA Alvin Bragg.

Two of the mayor's associates have pleaded guilty to charges related to their political work for Adams.

4 Surgeries, Congestion Pricing Down and I'M BACK



By Eric Wolf Schoen

Nothing is ever easy in this world. I told you in December that I was going for major neck and back surgery, and asked for you to pray for me as I knew this surgery would be risky and filled with complications. And after 3 months, 4 surgeries and in and out of hospitals, there is some light at the end of the tunnel.

If I can give you 2 pieces of advice, I will have fulfilled my duty to you. First, DO NOT get admitted to a for profit hospital. All they care about is the bottom line! And if you are going to be hospitalized, check to see the percentage of nursing staff that are employees of the hospital vs. contracted employees. It is no fun dealing with a new nurse everyday who must be brought up to speed on your case.

BUT WAIT! STOP THE PRESSES! Did I hear it correctly? IS THE TRUMP ADMINISTRATION killing Congestion Pricing in NYC. Finally something Democrats, Republicans and people of all political faiths can agree on! Something that will benefit the little people, the guy who drives the dirty water hot dog truck in from Queens to secretaries making a fraction of what their bosses make.

Don't get me wrong, this is no endorsement of anything Donald has done during his short period in office. And he did promise us that he would end congestion pricing in his first week in office. A little bit late but we will take it.

Little children belong in school and not accompanying their father, a gentleman who was not elected to any office for press conferences in the Oval Office. Mr. Musk is so rich he can certainly afford a babysitter or have one of his wealthy relatives help out. I didn't find it cute or funny at all, simply stupid. I hope this type of event is not to say to the American people you all are babies and I am your elected father.

In terms of cutting departments like the Department of Education, these departments bring money to Democrat and Republican cities across the country. This is money school districts rely on. So Mr. Trump better think before he cuts needed monies from his supporters school districts.

I would have liked to see professional auditors with backgrounds in the respective fields they are going to audit come in and review spending with the idea of cutting waste and if found prosecuting those who commit fraud. When we hear of the \$100 toilet seat or the \$25 screw, it is upsetting to everyone of all political persuasions. It should not occur, and we all agree those that charge those exorbitant prices should be sent to jail for a long time.

There are a lot of good people who work in government, and the good folks should not be condemned with the bad apples. Asking for a whole department to submit their resignations without reviewing the contribution of those involved is just plain stupid.

Enough Trump. Birthday 65 occurs this Saturday. Does that make me an official Senior Citizen. With your prayers I am hoping to become a healthy Senior Citizen!

Reach Eric Wolf Schoen at ewschoen@icloud.com.

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The Sixtieth Anniversary of the Assassination of Malcolm X



Malcolm X

By Clifford Jackson

February 21, 2025 will be the sixtieth anniversary of the assassination of Malcolm X. He along with Martin Luther King Jr during the last year of their lives were the most hated men in America. His relationship with Elijah Muhammad and the Nation of Islam was officially severed in March of 1964 and then in June with his public indictment of Elijah Muhammad's infidelity's. The death threats were daily from members of the Nation of Islam. This was further complicated by the fact that J Edgar Hoover, the director of the FBI, sent a memo to the FBI's New York office in June of 1964 that said "do something about Malcolm X". J Edgar Hoover was a criminal with relentless attacks on the civil rights movement. He developed the "co intel program" that used all kinds of illegal wire taps, surveillance of the NAACP, SNCC, and the Black Panthers to disrupt, intimidate and undermine the effectiveness of these organizations. In the case of the black panthers Hoovers machinations led to the slaughter/assassination of Fred Hampton and Mark Clark in December 1969 by the Chicago police department. His racism was ubiquitous in terms of everything he did especially when it came to Malcolm X. There was an effort by Hoover along with others to charge Malcolm X with violation of the Logan Act, an archaic law from the latter part of the 18th century that prohibited any U.S. citizen from unauthorized correspondence with foreign governments.

Malcolm X had become a threat not only on the national stage but internationally. We have had a sanitized message about Malcolm X changing his views about whites after he went to Mecca on his hajj and saw whites that were Muslims. His pilgrimage to the Middle East was not just about practicing orthodox Islam. It also allowed him to connect on the international stage with the anti colonial struggles going on in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

He met with Kwame Nkrumah of Ghana and Gamal Nasser of Egypt and spoke to 33 heads of African nations at the organization of African unity's annual meeting in Cairo, Egypt, in July 1964. As Prince Faisal of Saudi Arabia, who was at the meeting, said, "No one, without exception, had the impact that Malcolm had." This was significant because the rapine, subjugation and exploitation of Africa, Asia and Latin America by the white western world for the past 500 hundreds years was now being challenged on a global scale by Malcolm X that had never been seen before.

Malcolm X in March of 1964 started two organizations: The Organization of Afro-American Unity (OAAU) and Muslim Mosque Inc. This allowed him to have members in his two organizations without them having to be Muslims. Malcolm X was in the process of bringing the United States to the world court for all of the racist and oppressive policies towards the 22 million African Americans that were living in the US at that time.

Ten years earlier Paul Robeson had tried to do the same thing with his condemnation of the brutally racist policies of the United States towards black and brown people. He paid a price for it as far as his career being destroyed and his passport being revoked.

President Eisenhower expanded the civil rights division of the justice department to try to reconcile this hypocrisy as far as America is the so-called beacon of freedom and the apartheid state that actually existed in this country that Robeson had promulgated to the world and that Nikita Khrushchev had said was America's blatant hypocrisy. The fact that America was touting itself as the leader of the "free world" and yet, as Malcolm X said, "we suffer the dehumanizing racist policies in this country daily" was too much for the powers that be to handle.

As Marlon Brando said about Malcolm X, "Once he became a unifying force for oppressed people against the white world, he had to go." Taking the United States to the UN and charging it with violating the HUMAN rights of 22 million African Americans, along with the hatred from members of the nation of Islam especially Joseph Shah, his former aide, was pushing Malcolm X to his inevitable day of destruction that he knew was coming soon.

That is why Malcolm X was and still is my hero. No one had the dedication and courage to fight against this racist system here in America under this kind of duress that had destroyed the identity of millions of black and brown people that we see to this day. In December of 1964, he spoke at the Oxford Union at Cambridge in England in a debate defending the concept of "Intelligent extremism defending liberty and justice". On February 12, 1965, he went to Smethwick in England on behalf of the Indians, Jamaicans, and other colored people who were facing ferocious racism at the hands of whites. His house was firebombed a week later when he returned.

The Monday before his assassination, he went to Detroit for a pre-planned speech and saw Rosa Parks for the second time, who said, as she had said before, "Malcolm X is my personal hero." You will never find this in history books because one of the principal evils of this country's history is to wipe out the truth and sanitize the true character of this country.

Barack Obama and Kamala Harris are not heroes; they are mendacious politicians who will say, as both of these individuals have said about America's patho-

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Police Find Ghost Guns & Cocaine in Lewisboro



Some of the Ghost Guns found by Westchester County & Lewisboro Police

From the WCPD / Narcotics Unit

Two Lewisboro residents were arrested and seven "ghost guns" were seized earlier this week following an investigation by the WCPD Narcotics Unit and supported by the Lewisboro Police Department.

Nicholas Pinnetti, 46, and Brooke Ahern, 42, of Hillside Avenue, Goldens Bridge, were charged with multiple felonies, including Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd, 3rd and 4th Degrees and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance 5th Degree.

Pinnetti, a previously convicted felon, and Ahern were found in possession of seven personally made firearms, a quantity of cocaine and unfinished firearm frames. Investigators determined they had been utilizing a 3D printer to manufacture un-serialized firearms and modifying flare guns into operable weapons.

A search warrant was executed at their residence about 8 a.m. on Tuesday morning and they were taken into custody at that time. They were arraigned and sent to the Westchester County Jail in lieu of \$3,500 bail.

The investigation, which is continuing, was conducted with additional assistance from the Westchester County Police Special Response Team, Emergency Service Unit, Forensic Investigations Unit, and Hazardous Devices Unit; and the New York State Police Special Investigations Unit, FBI Westchester Safe Streets Task Force, Queens County District Attorney's Office and the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

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Congressman Latimer, Local Elected Officials, Voting Rights Advocates Denounce SAVE Act



On Feb. 19, U.S. Representative George Latimer (NY-16) was joined by local elected officials and voting rights advocates in White Plains to denounce the Safeguard American Voting Eligibility (SAVE) Act. This legislation is expected to be brought up in the U.S. House of Representatives next week.

“This bill would be better named the Stop All Voter Engagement Act because that is what it will do. U.S. citizens have the right to vote in national elections, period. We should be making it easier for people to vote, not harder,” said Rep. Latimer. “It is already illegal

for noncitizens to vote, it happens incredibly rarely, and if it does, there is a legal penalty. Instead, this disastrous bill will make it harder for women and college students to vote.” The SAVE Act would require documentary proof of citizenship, like a birth certificate or a passport to register to vote and require states to remove an individual’s registration from a voter roll if there is not documentary proof or verified information that the person is a U.S. citizen. This legislation could disenfranchise many voters in our state and around the country, lead to citizens being taken off voter rolls, and undermine trust in our election system. It also increases the burden on state and county election officials to implement and ensure compliance, without any additional funding.

“With the SAVE Act, legislators are proposing changes to our elections that would severely limit access to the ballot for eligible Americans, especially voters of color, rural voters, military members, and women. The proposed SAVE Act’s requirement of providing documentation to prove American citizenship to vote in federal elections is voter suppression. Laws are already in place to thwart illegal voter registration by non-citizens,” said Kathy Meany, President, League of Women Voters of Westchester. “The SAVE Act would put up barriers to voting by requiring every single American citizen to provide very specific documents, by either presenting a passport or an original copy of their birth certificate in person when registering to vote, and anytime they update their voter registration. The SAVE Act is not about safeguarding elections - it is about silencing voters. We must join together to oppose this legislation and protect people’s freedom to vote. Every citizen should contact their Congress member to oppose the SAVE Act. Do not delay. Take action now!”

State Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, “It is unacceptable that Congress is considering a bill that, under the guise of election protection, will prevent tens of millions of Americans from voting and fulfilling their constitutional rights. There is no evidence to support that non-citizens are attempting to vote in the United States, as H.R. 22 claims. We must be clear that this bill will do real harm against tens of millions of American citizens who are entitled to vote. We should never create unnecessary, politically motivated barriers to voting, whether to those who changed their names, those whose names are different from others, or for any other made-up reason. New York has gone to great lengths to reduce barriers to participation, and this bill is a stain on our democracy and our right to vote. I urge every American and every New Yorker to call their Congress member and tell them to vote no on this bill.”

“I thank Congressman Latimer for taking on this important issue. The SAVE Act is not just unnecessary—it’s an outrageous attack on voting rights built in ignorance. This legislation is a solution in search of a problem, and the real threat to our democracy isn’t noncitizen voting—it’s the continued effort to suppress legitimate voters under the guise of ‘election integrity.’ The SAVE Act disproportionately impacts marginalized groups, including married couples who changed their last names, young voters without passports, low-income individuals, and elderly voters who lack original birth certificates. These people are all citizens, and they all have a right to vote,” said Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins.

Protests, TV Ads Against Congressman Lawler Continue



By Dan Murphy

A group called “Fight Lawler” has formed in Westchester, Rockland and Putnam Counties, with the goal of stopping Congressman Mike Lawler from reelection in 2026 and in his other political goal: To become the next Governor of NY.

As a voter in Rep. Lawler’s district, I have been inundated with political ads while watching YouTube, attacking Lawler and his record in Congress. These ads have been running months AFTER the recent election of 2024.

The other interesting fact about Lawler’s campaign that Fight Lawler has been highlighting is that his campaign received \$1.4 Million in donations from the Political Action Committee of Elon Musk last year.

Fight Lawler recently held two protests; one in White Plains and one in Mahopac. The Co-Founder of Fight Lawler, Ann Starer, spoke at both events.

“You could and should be writing letters to the editors at your local newspapers, exposing the MAGA Republicans like Mike Lawler and calling out any bias in the press. And that’s a good thing as well, but it is simply not enough. We cannot only play whac-a-mole, striking back at MAGA moles as they pop up all around us. We must start figuring out how to be proactive. We cannot remain quiet as MAGA Republicans rapidly dismantle our government and take a sledgehammer to our democracy. Our constant involvement is critical. Here, in Westchester, we are, on the one hand, fortunate to have our new Congressman George Latimer who has, in his short time in Congress, BUT here in Westchester, we are also extremely unfortunate to have MAGA Congressman Mike Lawler, a man who was elected in what should have been a reliably blue district, but who votes with Trump and Marjorie Taylor Greene and who has designs on becoming the next governor of New York,” said Starer.

Democrats are already searching for a candidate to challenge Lawler in 2026. In 2024, Lawler defeated former Congressman Mondaire Jones, 52%-46% with Anthony Frascone with 2%.

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Notice of formation of S2K REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/09/2024. 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 NCH REGISTERED AGENT, 42 BROADWAY, FL 12-200, NEW YORK, NY, 10004-3892. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of GCMA2 Real Estate Group LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/29/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 66 Hutchinson Blvd, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Break Bread Not Hearts, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/26/2024. 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: Break Bread Not Hearts, LLC PO Box 36 Valhalla, NY 10595 Purpose: any lawful activity.

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

Notice of formation of Hampton Estate Care LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/17/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 35 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Schmoose Pack Projects LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/20/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Bruce Wong 10 Station Square Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

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

Notice of Formation of OnPoint Home Designs LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 8/28/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 14 Crosby Court, Cortlandt Manor NY 10567. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of 1M Consulting LLC filed with the SSNY on 11/05/2024 with the existence date as 01/01/2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whole processes against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of processes to the LLC, 3 Ward Street, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Chic Nails Room LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/24/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 356 Riverdale Ave. #1, Yonkers, NY, 10705. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

484 SAW MILL LLC - Notice of formation of 484 SAW MILL LCC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/05/2025. Office: 7 Burkewood Road, Hartsdale NY 10530 Westchester County. SSNY designated Ciaran Rogers as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 7 Burkewood Road, Hartsdale NY 10530. Purpose: Real Estate

Notice of formation of Ambit Psychological Services, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY 12/17/24. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 933 Mamaroneck Ave Ste 202, Mamaroneck NY 10543. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Granola Girl, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/19/24. 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, 206 B Heritage Hills Drive, Somers, NY 10589. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of ME YOU & BIJOU, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the State of New York (SSNY) on 02/03/2025. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to ME YOU & BIJOU, LLC, 1585 Central Park Ave, Unit 157, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

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 Wednesday, March 5, 2025 at 5:15 PM, 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 SECTION 56-98, TITLED "SCAFFOLDING REQUIRED; PERMIT; FEE," OF ARTICLE X OF CHAPTER 56 PART VI OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS.

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: February 18, 2025

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. IFB-7372A – Opening date 03/21/2025: Rehabilitation of the Southern Westchester Executive Park (SE corner of Executive Blvd. & Enterprise Blvd.) and Concord Road (Concord Rd. near Roxbury Drive) water towers (KAS).

2. Bid No. RFB-7390 – Opening date 03/14/2025: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for two 12-month periods, to provide window repairs and maintenance as needed for the Yonkers Public Schools (KS).

3. Bid No. IFB-7398 – Opening date 03/21/2025: Lincoln Memorial Park improvements, Intersection of South Broadway and McLean Avenue, Yonkers, NY. (MM).

4. Bid No. RFB-7401 – Opening date 03/14/2025: Purchase of one Indeco model HP1500FS, or Yonkers approved equal, with installation on John Deere 710 backhoe, which includes pick-up and return (FB).

5. Bid No. RFB-7402 – Opening date: 03/14/2025: Twelve-month contract to purchase up to 20 AXIS V5925 2MP PTZ cameras w/CradlePoint modems, or Yonkers approved equals. The initial purchase will for 7 units (VB).

6. Bid No. RFB-7403 – Opening date: 03/21/2025: Cleaning and maintenance of the Coyne Park (771 McLean Avenue) rifle range filtration system (VB).

7. Bid No. RFB-7404 – Opening date: 03/14/2025: Summer 2025 bus and van transportation to various outings for clients and staff of Camp Rays and Camp Pride (KS).

8. Bid No. IFB-7405 – Opening date: 03/21/2025: Curran Court (Grinton I. Will Library at 1500 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710) pedestrian bridge repairs (AC).

Malcolm X, continued from pg 4-

logically racist and criminal history, "That is not who we are." Dr. King was a hero and leader who understood that the DNA of this country was racism and corruption when he said, "We are integrating into a burning house." Malcolm X was also a hero who said, "We stand here as black people as human beings, and we expect to be treated as human beings, and we will achieve those rights as human beings by any means necessary." Both of those men understood that this is America with all of its ugliness that we certainly see playing out today.

Malcolm X stood for the international brotherhood of all races, and not the canard and lie of the American QUILT that politicians like Obama and Harris try to convey. There was no greater leader and spirit in this world than EL Hajj Malik EL Shabazz(Malcolm X).

Clifford Jackson, Larchmont

Letters to the Editor:

Hi Dan. I'd like to call your attention to what I think is a worthwhile story. It seems that the Yonkers City Council has voted to make Yonkers one of the noisiest cities in the country. They voted to increase the day time noise limits by 8X and to double the night time noise limit. 85 dBA, the new day time limit, is on OSHA's threshold for causing hearing damage. It's unbelievable to me that no one on the city council knows about noise pollution or seems to care that for many people in the city, in many neighborhoods, it's a major issue. I know you've been covering the city council for a long time, so perhaps for you it's nothing new. As an average citizen who doesn't pay much attention, I'm shocked.

This ordinance change took place in late 2023. There were no public hearings, just the legal ads and postings on the council webpage. That may be the legal minimum, but it's just not enough disclosure to give people a chance to weigh in. I only found out about the ordinance a couple of months ago. I happen to care about the noise issue, so I got motivated and started organizing a campaign around the issue. We have more than 166 signers on our petition <https://www.change.org/quieteryonkers>. and have launched a new website, www.quieteryonkers.org. The site has considerable background information about noise and about how the city council came to pass the ordinance. There are many aspects of their process that are shoddy, invalidating and perhaps even corrupt.

**Thanks,
Peter Cohn, Yonkers**

To the Editor:

The Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act is coming up for a vote in both the House and Senate. This legislation would require everyone to prove citizenship by providing specific documents, either a passport or birth certificate, when registering to vote or updating voter information, and to do so in person.

The League of Women Voters vigorously opposes this voter suppression legislation. It is unnecessary, divisive, and would severely limit access to the ballot for eligible Americans, especially voters of color, rural voters, military members, and women whose surnames do not match their birth certificates.

Let's be clear: there is absolutely no evidence of widespread non-citizen voting in federal or state elections. It is already illegal for noncitizens to register and vote in federal and state elections. The SAVE Act is not about safeguarding elections - it's about silencing voters.

On a local note, Congressman Mike Lawler, representing NY-17 (most of northern Westchester, portions of Dutchess, all of Rockland and Putnam Counties), is a co-sponsor of the bill. Congressman George Latimer, NY-16 (southern Westchester, portion of northern Bronx), opposes the bill.

We urge everyone to contact their members of Congress NOW and tell them to vote NO on this dangerous legislation.

Susan Maggiotto
President, League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns, Yonkers

Letter to the Editor:

REFLECTIONS ON THE FEBRUARY 11th SPECIAL COUNTY ELECTION

I very much liked your articles appearing in the February 14th edition of Westchester Rising and Yonkers Times regarding the recently concluded special election for Westchester County Executive. I offer the following comments:

County Executive Jenkins' victory was well-deserved in view of his stewardship of the County's affairs as Deputy County Executive during George Latimer's term of office, and more recently as Interim C.E.

I was particularly impressed by the turnout -- over 90,000 votes cast -- in a mid-winter special election, which I believe was helped by the early vote option;

While I commend Christine Sculti's candidacy as offering voters a choice in this election, I wonder if she might have received more votes had she secured a second ballot line (i.e. Conservative or Independent) and taken advantage of additional voter forums and media interviews. In view of past county-wide elections, it seems to me that a MAGA Republican has a certain ceiling of support, which cannot win a county-wide race in Westchester County against a centrist Democrat. The GOP needs to seriously consider running more moderate candidates in future elections.

I also agree that special elections such as these cost a great deal of money (\$ 4 million by one estimate). In an era of ever increasing tight budgets, serious consideration should be given to amending the County Charter to permit the County Legislative Board to fill a C.E. vacancy this close to a general election, as is done elsewhere.

STEPHEN R. ROLANDI

Larchmont

(The writer is an adjunct professor of public administration and formerly served in the administrations of New York City Mayors Edward I. Koch, Michael Bloomberg and Governor David Paterson. A life-long Republican, he is active in the Ripon Society, Principles First, and Moderate Republican PAC)

"Were it left to me to decide if we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government

I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.

-Thomas Jefferson

I Just Turned 30, and Ken Jenkins is Westchester's First Black County Executive



By: Dennis Richmond, Jr.

In a historic and emotionally charged election, Democrat Kenneth "Ken" Jenkins has shattered a centuries-old barrier by becoming the first Black person elected as Westchester County Executive. Jenkins secured 61% of the vote, triumphing over Republican Christine Sculti, who garnered 39%, in the special election held on Tuesday, February 11, 2025.

This landmark victory not only signifies a personal achievement for Jenkins but also marks a transformative moment for Westchester County, which, since its establishment in 1937, has exclusively elected white men to its highest office. The election was unprecedented, featuring a Black man running against a woman—an electoral dynamic never before seen in the county's history.

Jenkins, the son of a New York City police officer and a nurse, is an alumnus of Fordham Preparatory School and Iona University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science and Information Systems. His professional journey includes significant roles in telecommunications and technology, having worked with industry leaders such as Apple, AT&T, Bell Atlantic, and Verizon.

His public service record is equally distinguished. Jenkins served as a Westchester County Legislator for over a decade, including a tenure as Chair of the Board of Legislators from 2010 to 2013. In 2018, he was appointed Deputy County Executive under George Latimer, a position he held until Latimer's resignation in January 2025 to assume a congressional seat. Following Latimer's departure, Jenkins was appointed as County Executive and has now been elected to serve the remainder of the term, which concludes on December 31, 2025.

The election was not without its challenges. In the days leading up to the vote, President Donald Trump endorsed Sculti, criticizing Westchester County's sanctuary policies and urging residents to support her candidacy. Despite this high-profile endorsement, Jenkins' deep-rooted connections to the community and his extensive public service resonated with voters, leading to his decisive victory.

Reflecting on his win, Jenkins stated, "This is a victory not just for me, but for every resident of Westchester County who believes in progress, inclusivity, and the power of community." His election represents a significant step forward in the county's journey toward greater diversity and representation in its leadership.

As Jenkins prepares to lead Westchester County, residents look forward to a future shaped by his commitment to service, equity, and innovation. His historic election serves as a poignant reminder of the strides communities can make when they come together to embrace change.

Dennis Richmond Jr. lives in Yonkers and is on Twitter @NewYorkStakz. He is a journalist focused on Black, Latinx, and LGBTQ+ Communities.


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Lincoln Remembrance Day in Peekskill Feb. 22

Westchester Collaborative Theater (WCT) Presents The Mala Waldron Quartet –in Concert

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- 11:00AM Wreath-Laying Ceremony at the LINCOLN EXEDRA on South Street (Initiated in 1925 to mark Abraham Lincoln's speaking stop in Peekskill in 1861.)
- 11:30AM Abraham Lincoln in Peekskill Re-Enactment - featuring the 18th President's speech to the citizens of Peekskill during a stop by Lincoln's inaugural train at the LINCOLN DEPOT MUSEUM located at 20 South Water Street.
- 12:00 Noon, Special showing of the new EMMY AWARD winning documentary: THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF SLAVERY IN NEW YORK featuring Executive Producer Larry Epstein, former executive producer @ MSNBC & senior producer @ the FOX News Channel. Mr. Epstein is now a contributing writer for THE RIVER JOURNAL. Q&A session will follow film presentation @ Lincoln Depot Museum.

LIGHT REFRESHMENTS WILL BE SERVED FOLLOWING THE FILM PRESENTATION. A DONATION OF \$10 FOR ADULTS IS SUGGESTED TO SUPPORT THE WORK OF THE LINCOLN SOCIETY AND THE LINCOLN DEPOT MUSEUM.

WWW.LINCOLNSOCIETYINPEEKSKILL.ORG

wct **MUSIC in the Box 2025**

MALA WALDRON QUARTET

Saturday March 1st 7:30pm
(doors open at 7:00pm)

23 Water St. Ossining, NY 10562 wctheater.org

ARTS Council on the Arts

Saturday, February 22, 2025 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
2025 Annual Lincoln Remembrance Day Event:
Lincoln Remembrance Event: Saturday, 22 February 2025: SCHEDULE

- 11:00 Wreath laying ceremony at the Lincoln Exedra on South Street
- 11:30 Recreation of Lincoln's 1861 visit to Peekskill at the Lincoln Depot Museum
- 12:00 Noon Special showing of the new EMMY AWARD winning documentary:
THE HIDDEN HISTORY OF SLAVERY IN NEW YORK
featuring Executive Producer Larry Epstein, former executive producer @ MSNBC & senior producer @ the FOX News Channel. Mr. Epstein is now a contributing writer for THE RIVER JOURNAL. Q&A session will follow film presentation @ Lincoln Depot Museum. The public is invited to attend.
- 5th New York Duryea Zouaves Reenactment Unit
Songs, Speeches, Refreshments.
- A donation of \$10. for adults is suggested to support the work of the Lincoln Society and the Lincoln Depot Museum.

On Saturday, March 1 the Mala Waldron Quartet, a group of internationally acclaimed jazz virtuosos headed by jazz vocalist/pianist/composer Waldron accompanied by her top-flight backup group, will make a rare local appearance in Westchester Collaborative Theater (WCT)'s Music in the Box Series. Waldron will perform a sophisticated blend of soulful jazz together with Steve Salerno on guitar, Michael T.A. Thompson on drums, and Marcus McLaurin on bass at WCT's black box performance space, 23 Water St. in Ossining.

The Mala Waldron Quartet will play sets starting at 7:30. Cash bar and refreshments available. Purchase seats online at the ticketing website: <https://wctpresents-mala-waldron-in-concert-on-march-1.eventbrite.com>

Called "the artist to watch" (Jazzdagama), Waldron has been cheered by numerous critics: she "interprets lyrics and scats with authority" (All About Jazz); "combines the best of the soul and jazz world" (Jazz-Not-Jazz.com); and "... traverses the jazz terrain, from straight ahead to more experimental fare, with ease, inspiration and inventiveness..." (Jazz Review). Soul Express (UK) labelled her brand "Sophisticated Soul-Jazz at its best!" Her Always There release was named one of the top 10 jazz CDs of 2006 by Jazz USA.

Following in the footsteps of her father, famed pianist Mal Waldron, Mala has performed worldwide including appearances in France, Italy, China, Russia and Japan. She's been featured at such prestigious U.S. venues as the Iridium Jazz Club, BAM Café, Jazz Standard, Birdland, 55 Bar, Minton's Playhouse, and Dizzy's Club Coca Cola for the Women in Jazz Festival. Waldron is praised equally for her impressive pianistic skills, her soulful smoky vocals as well as for her original compositions and unique arrangements of jazz standards and popular classics.

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FLIP Circus Returns to Cross County-Yonkers on February 21

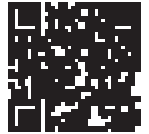


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Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

FL!PCircus Kicks Off 2025 National Tour In Yonkers February 21 With A Completely New Big Top Show That's Filled With Fun And Excitement For All Ages

Tickets On Sale Now For Initial Stops At Yonkers, Paramus and Long Island

FL!P Circus (www.FlipCircus.com), one of America's best family entertainment options, is hitting the road with a completely new production for their 2025 national tour and it all begins at the Cross County Center in Yonkers, NY from February 21 – March 18. Created by the Vazquez family, this intimate big top experience has consistently entertained audiences around the country with its high-energy, family-friendly, edge-of-your-seat production. The 2025 show brings together an entirely new cast of stellar international human talent who are guaranteed to wow. Following Yonkers, the year-long tour will make stops at Westfield Garden State Plaza in Paramus, NJ (March 21 – April 1) and Smith Haven Mall in Lake Grove, NY (April 4 – 15). Tickets are on sale now.

Taking place under its distinctive red and white striped climate-controlled tent, audiences enter a world where amazing things happen and lasting memories are made at every performance. With only 800 seats, and none more than 50 feet from the ring, it's an intimate experience where you feel as if you're part of the action, and some will literally get pulled into it! And what would a circus be without delicious treats? At FL!p Circus, there's a generous concession stand featuring an assortment of delectable items ready to satisfy every appetite. Leave your cares behind for two hours and enjoy this modern version of the great American circus tradition.

Show times are 7:00pm on weekdays and 1:00pm, 4:00pm and 7:00pm on Saturdays and Sundays. For tickets and additional information, please visit www.FlipCircus.com. Tickets start at \$15.00 (children) and \$50.00 (adults) with senior/military/handicap and family pack discounts available. Tickets will also be available in person at the box office during each engagement.



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Stepinac Teacher AnnMarie Galdau Collaborates with Khan Academy to Develop AI-Powered Writing Coach



AnnMarie Galdau

Archbishop Stepinac High School proudly announces that AnnMarie Galdau, one of its esteemed English teachers, has partnered with Khan Academy to contribute to the development of their innovative AI tool, Khanmingo Writing Coach. This groundbreaking platform utilizes artificial intelligence to transform essay writing into a dynamic and interactive experience, offering step-by-step guidance for students and actionable insights for teachers.

When initially approached by Khan Academy to assist with the project, Galdau candidly admitted she was skeptical about AI, expressing concerns that it “gives the kids all the answers.” However, Khan Academy saw her perspective as precisely what the project needed, encouraging her to provide critical feedback that would help align the tool with the real-world needs of educators.

Galdau worked closely with Khanmingo’s research team to offer insights into the types of feedback English teachers typically provide to students. During live sessions, she reviewed the AI’s comment generation process and shared suggestions to refine the platform’s language and functionality. Her expertise played a key role in ensuring that Khanmingo Writing Coach delivers constructive and relevant comments that foster student learning.

As part of her collaboration, Galdau earned the Khan Academy AI Certification, a distinguished achievement that qualifies her to train fellow education professionals on integrating Khanmingo’s resources into their classrooms. This certification recognizes Galdau as an expert in using AI-powered tools to enhance student writing and teacher efficiency.

“AnnMarie’s involvement with Khan Academy is a testament to her dedication to innovative teaching methods and her commitment to student success,” said Frank Portanova ’93, Vice Principal for Academics. “We are incredibly proud to have her expertise recognized on such a prestigious platform.”

Through her collaboration with Khan Academy, Galdau not only helped shape an essential educational tool but also elevated Stepinac’s presence in the evolving landscape of technology-driven learning.

Visit Stepinac.org for more information.

Remembering Alice Roker, continued from pg 1-

as the Town Clerk, where she served in Town government for 30 years as Town Clerk and later as a member of the Town Board. She was the first African-American woman elected in the Town of Yorktown’s history, and for that, she will be forever known as a pioneer.

But as Town Clerk, Alice Roker was the friendly face that was more than happy to answer any question and help you with any request. Town employees loved chatting with her and enjoyed the glow she gave out to all.

Calling her one of Yorktown’s “leading and most beloved citizens,” Town Supervisor Ed Lachterman said, “I first got to know Alice in her role as Town Clerk. Not only did she swear me in when I was first elected as a Councilman, but she signed my marriage license. I then had the pleasure of serving with her on the Town Board. And while we were in opposite parties, I found her to be sensible, reasonable and willing to compromise. With Alice, there was never a question as to her determination to put the best interests of the residents first. As a gesture of respect, flags in town are being flown at half-staff in her memory and in honor of her more than 30 years of public service. May Alice Roker rest in peace.”

Town Clerk Diana Quast said, “Alice lit up every room with her smile and always knew how to make people laugh and feel comfortable. She treated everyone with respect and compassion.”

Her Obituary reads:

Alice Elizabeth Roker, a trailblazing figure and cherished member of the Yorktown Heights community, passed away on February 10, 2025. Born on July 11, 1947, in New York, NY, Alice lived a life marked by professionalism, community service, and an unwavering dedication to her loved ones. She was 77 years old.

Alice, a graduate of UCLA with a Bachelor of Arts, paved her way as a journalist, where her excellence in reporting was recognized with an Emmy and a New York Broadcaster’s Association award during her time at WNBC. Her commitment to truth and public service led her to a distinguished career in local government. In 1989, she was elected as the town clerk of Yorktown Heights, a position she held with honor and diligence for many years. Alice’s role as town historian further showcased her love for the community and her desire to preserve its rich heritage. Most notably, she became the first African American in Yorktown’s history to sit on the town government, paving the way for future generations to follow in her footsteps.

Alice’s life was not solely defined by her professional achievements but also by her personal interests and the love she bestowed upon her family. She was an avid gardener, finding joy in the tranquility of nurturing growth and beauty within her surroundings. Above all, Alice cherished the time she spent with her friends, sharing in laughter and creating memories that would last a lifetime.

Those who knew Alice would describe her as loving, wise, and kind—words that only begin to touch on the incredible woman she was. Her guidance and wisdom were sought by many, and her kindness touched the lives of countless individuals in her community.

Alice leaves behind a legacy of love and leadership, survived by her son, Gregory Bell, her daughter, Courtney Roker Laga, her son in-law, Wesley Laga and her granddaughter Sky Clara, who will carry forward her spirit of compassion and fortitude. Her presence in their lives was a source of endless joy and inspiration, and her memory will continue to be a guiding light for them and all who knew her.

May Alice Elizabeth Roker rest in peace, knowing that her legacy will continue to inspire for generations to come. She was 77.

Quast said, “The residents of Yorktown were lucky to have her as their elected representative for over 30 years.”

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

— Pete Seeger

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County Executive Jenkins Appoints Joshua Gaccione as New Director of Veteran Services



County Executive Ken Jenkins with new Director of Veteran Services Joshua Gaccione, left

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins has appointed Joshua P. Gaccione the new Director of Veteran Services. With an extensive background in military service, higher education, leadership and veteran advocacy, Gaccione brings a wealth of experience and dedication to the role.

Gaccione served in the United States Army's 82nd Airborne Division from 2000 to 2004 as an Intelligence Analyst and Paratrooper. During his service, he was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom, where he played a critical role in intelligence processing, security operations and mission planning.

Jenkins said: "Josh's dedication to serving veterans is evident in everything he has accomplished. His military experience, combined with his passion for higher education and community service, makes him the ideal leader for our Veteran Services Department. We are confident that under his leadership, Westchester County will continue to provide the highest level of support to those who have served our nation. We also extend our deepest gratitude to retiring Veterans Director Ron Tocci for his service to our country, and his many years of dedicated public service."

Following his military service, Gaccione dedicated his career to supporting veterans and underserved communities. Since 2013, he has served at Westchester Community College, where he served as Director of Student Support Services & Student Conduct. In this role, he has led initiatives to combat resource insecurity, secured millions of dollars in funding for student support programs, and developed policies that have had a lasting impact on student success. Most notably, he established the Veterans Resource Office, increasing enrollment, retention and graduation rates for student veterans while ensuring compliance with state and federal policies.

Gaccione said: "I am honored to step into this role and continue serving my fellow veterans. Westchester County has a strong tradition of supporting those who have served, and I look forward to expanding our programs, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring that every veteran in our community has the resources and opportunities they deserve."

New York State Department of Veterans' Services Commissioner Viviana DeCohen said: "Congratulations to Josh Gaccione on his appointment as Westchester County's new Director of Veteran Services. Josh has been a good friend to me and so many in our Veterans community, and Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins made a fantastic choice with his appointment. I also want to recognize my mentor Ron Tocci for his work as Westchester County's Director of Veterans Services, a Member of the New York State Assembly, Westchester County Board of Legislators, and United States Army. I know everyone joins me in wishing Ron well in his next chapter. Under County Executive Jenkins' leadership and Director Gaccione's commitment, Veterans will continue receiving first-class service as Westchester County remains a dynamic, inclusive place where everyone, especially Veterans and their families, can thrive."

As the former Director of the Veterans Outreach and Support Program at Family Services of Westchester, Gaccione developed and managed a countywide initiative that provided vital resources and support for veterans and their families. His expertise in program development, strategic partnerships, and advocacy has made a significant impact on the veteran community in Westchester County.

In his new role, Gaccione will oversee programs and services that assist veterans in Westchester County, ensuring they have access to benefits, employment resources, mental health support and community-based initiatives.

Jenkins, Westchester is Not a Sanctuary County, continued from pg 1-

Law enforcement partners have been able to navigate and work with us though this process and haven't had any issues that we are aware of. Our Immigrant Protection Act was enacted to be able to have people protected and public safety of the upmost importance to all, so crimes against immigrant communities and housing issues, could be reported.

My father was a NYC Police Officer, we have long affirmed our commitment to public safety, and our commitment to public safety -we are dedicated to keep this county safe-the decline in crime is a testament to the strong partnership with law enforcement, community leaders and residents," said Jenkins.

Since the passage of the Immigrant Protection Act in 2018, there has been debate over whether that law makes Westchester a Sanctuary County.

Jenkins and his predecessor, George Latimer, claim that it does not, while other republicans, including Jenkins opponent in the special election, and his likely opponent in November, Christine Sculti, claim that Westchester is a Sanctuary County.

The IPA requires ICE to obtain a Federal warrant from a Judge in order to detain an illegal, or undocumented resident and take them into custody.

While there have been no public statements by ICE regarding their work in Westchester in 2025, there have been reports of ICE sightings in Sleepy Hollow, Ossining, Peekskill and Pleasantville.

Pleasantville Police Chief Erik Grutzner reiterated that "If there are situations where we're asked to hold people, or investigate them for anything that's out of the purview of what we've done in the past, then we are respectfully declining those requests."

And that is the policy for most police departments in Westchester County. In recent cases where ICE was spotted in some communities, their efforts were to detain undocumented residents with criminal histories.

Some school districts, including the Yonkers Public Schools, have clarified their policy.

"Aligned with the Yonkers Public Schools commitment to safeguarding the rights of all students, the District has shared New York State Education Department guidance with building leaders regarding the rights of immigrant students. Per this guidance, law enforcement will not be allowed on school property to remove students based on immigrant status without a judicial warrant. Our focus is creating safe spaces for all students." Said Akeem Jamal, YPS Communications Officer.

Yonkers City Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Isaac said, "In light of recent concerns about immigration enforcement and the presence of ICE in our community, I want to take this opportunity to share essential information to help protect you, your loved ones, and your neighbors. Yonkers is a community built on diversity and resilience, and together, we can ensure everyone feels informed and empowered. Please know that I recently had conversations with Mayor Mike Spano and Yonkers Police Department Commissioner Chris Sapienza, both of whom assured me that Yonkers will not assist ICE in their operations."

Peekskill Mayor Vivian McKenzie also commented on ICE in her city. On Jan 31, Peekskill Police were notified that ICE were in Peekskill in search of an undocumented resident with a criminal record.

"Residents should be aware that the Peekskill Police Department's own regulations, consistent with New York State and Westchester County law, prohibit members of the police department from engaging in law enforcement activities solely for the purpose of enforcing federal immigration law, unless required to do so by a judicial warrant or other federal law," said McKenzie.

ICE's website and social media have not included any story on apprehensions or detentions in Westchester County.

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Former Sing Sing Correction Officer Sentenced to 1-3 Years Over Cellphone Smuggling Scheme

Jose Estevez-Luciano pleaded guilty in November to conspiracy, bribery, contraband and misconduct charges.

On Feb. 14, Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that a former correction officer at the Sing Sing Correctional Facility, in Ossining, N.Y., was sentenced by Judge James McCarty Thursday to 1 to 3 years in state prison over a scheme to smuggle cellphones into the facility to incarcerated individuals.

The sentence comes after Jose Estevez-Luciano, 35, of Yorktown Heights, pleaded guilty in November to one count each of Conspiracy in the Fifth Degree, Bribe Receiving in the Second Degree, Promoting Prison Contraband in the First Degree and Official Misconduct.

DA Cacace said: "Correction officers are entrusted with maintaining facility safety and protecting incarcerated individuals, staff and visitors, in part by rooting out contraband. Scheming to undermine these safeguards, all for personal enrichment, makes our prisons less safe and erodes public trust in government.

"The vast majority of correction officers are law-abiding public servants who work a thankless, often dangerous, job, day in and day out. Correction staff who flout the law are the exception, not the rule. But we will not hesitate to pursue cases against officers who breach their oath of office."

Estevez-Luciano and a co-conspirator, Francis De La Cruz, 25, of Sleepy Hollow, were initially charged in a 40-count indictment with conspiring to smuggle cellphones to individuals incarcerated at Sing Sing, in exchange for payment from the individuals' associates, between October 2021 and August 2023.

Estevez-Luciano and De La Cruz exchanged messages with each other in furtherance of the conspiracy, planning their smuggling operation and discussing ways to avoid detection.

In one message, Estevez-Luciano told De La Cruz to avoid sending screenshots of his discussions with incarcerated individuals' associates about the smuggling operation.

"When they send you a photo, don't send it to me," Estevez-Luciano said. "Send me regular because they are investigating and checking all phones."

De La Cruz pleaded guilty in November to two counts of the indictment. He is scheduled to be sentenced on March 6.

Pot Bust on Cross County, continued from pg 1-

Our tale unfolds one night last week when PO Peluso made a traffic stop on the CCP in Mount Vernon for an observed cell phone violation. As he approached the driver, he also saw there were two passengers in the car and multiple bags of various sizes, shapes and colors throughout the passenger compartment. In speaking with the driver, and through training and experience, he quickly recognized possible signs of potential marijuana trafficking.

After further investigation, the three suspects (from Connecticut) were taken into custody and the car, a Toyota Camry with Illinois plates, was impounded. Back at headquarters, officers and detectives inventoried the contents of the bags and others like them found in the trunk. Assuming you already looked at the accompanying photo, you know what they found.

Our three suspects are not being identified at this time due to an ongoing investigation. They were charged with Criminal Possession of Cannabis 1st Degree, a felony.

Nice job by PO Peluso! He recognized signs of possible trafficking and investigated accordingly.

And we'd be remiss if we didn't add:

Never use a cell phone while driving without a hands-free device.

Note: This arrest and discovery of such a large amount of marijuana points to another fact. Despite the legalization of marijuana in New York, there is still a black market that exists and continues to sell pot. Some social media comments on this story say the reason is that the price for legal marijuana is too high because of the NYS taxation. This gripe comes years after marijuana users called for legalization.

Letter to the Editor:

END THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION-

This is a capsulation of an article by a national known educator, appearing in a major newspaper on February 14th 2025.

"The founders of our great nation, in 1867, established land grants to the states, especially for the building of schools.

They did not seek to control learning from a distant capital, but entrusted it to those nearest the student, they knew that education to be effective must be free".

"The modern Department of Education is a repudiation of this principle, who quickly demoted it to an office of the Department of the Interior after public resistance. "

"The modest bureau was to be a clearing house of information by which citizens and statesman could learn from one another.

Resurrected as a cabinet department in 1979, this department has grown into a sprawling bureaucracy that weakens, rather strengthens American learning.

It governs by detailed and impenetrable rules, by mandates that burden schools, diminishes teachers, and estrange education from the purpose it was meant to serve."

"The scale of this failure is plain, the department oversees \$1.6 trillion in student loans—92% of all student loan debt. Employing 4,400 bureaucrats to enforce ever-shifting social policies, it issues thousands of regulations that entangle every level of schooling.

"Among the 23 million civilian employees in America, 11 million work in public education—yet fewer than half of them, only 4.7 million, are teachers or their assistants. The rest are administrators and regulators, consuming more than half the system's resources while standing apart from the classroom."

Joe Pettit

Yorktown HTS, NY

(source: Restoring America, End the Department of Education—Published in the Washington Examiner By Larry P. Arnn, Ph.D. President of Hillsdale College)

Summit, continued from pg 2-

- Use your phone to take photos of pets, family members, medications, and key documents;
- Have a charger that is battery-operated;
- Have an evacuation plan with your family, which should include meeting points;
- Set up a text chain with your family;
- Listen to instructions from the first responders, e.g. evacuate when told to do so; and
- Remember that restoration takes time; perhaps consider getting a standby generator with an automatic transfer switch.

For older residents, the Chief mentioned that there are now adaptive technologies such as pillow and bed shakers that connect with an existing alarm system to provide additional ways of alerting the hard-of-hearing to an emergency. He anticipates more devices will soon be on the market.

For younger families, the Chief emphasized the importance of ensuring that children learn more than one way to exit their home and that they understand the importance of staying outside once safely out. He stressed the importance of reviewing safety instructions with family members routinely throughout the year, not just during Fire Safety Week in October.

For residents with disabilities or mobility issues, Chief Valentine advised that they register their needs ahead of time with their fire or police department. This information is put into the county database and linked with the specific property so that emergency service providers can be prepared for special requirements.

Other Concerns and Questions

Addressing the risk of an active shooter or hostile situation, Commissioner Spear reassured the audience that the County has a Threat Assessment Team, under the Department of Public Safety, that is a collaboration of several departments, police, fire, EMS, mental health, school districts, and BOCES. The team works closely together to assess an individual or a larger scale threat, trying their very best to prevent a tragedy from occurring.

In closing, both speakers urged the audience to use them, and their departments, as resources for emergency planning. For an online resource with information on emergency preparedness including suggestions for "go bags," the Chief suggested: <https://www.ready.gov/>.

The Larchmont-Mamaroneck Local Summit is an informal community council that seeks to make a better life for the community by helping to keep it informed of major issues of concern. The March program will address "Water Quality in Westchester County." Visit the Local Summit online: <https://www.localsummitlm.org/> LMC Media: <https://lmcmedia.org/>.

Heavy Equipment Dealership Parts Counter Salesperson

Job Description:
We are seeking a motivated and customer-oriented individual to join our team as a Heavy Equipment Parts Counter Salesperson. In this role, you will be responsible for assisting customers in identifying, locating, and purchasing parts and accessories for heavy equipment, such as bulldozers, excavators, and loaders.

- Responsibilities:**
- Assist customers and staff in identifying their parts and accessory needs.
 - Respond to service issues with parts needs for service repairs of our large model fleet.
 - Utilize parts catalogs, catalogs, and computer systems to locate and order parts.
 - Provide accurate price quotes and availability information to customers.
 - Process parts orders, invoices, and releases efficiently and accurately.
 - Maintain a clean and organized parts counter and showroom area.
 - Develop and maintain strong customer relationships through excellent service and product knowledge.
 - Collaborate with service and sales departments to ensure customer needs are met.

- Qualifications:**
- High school diploma or equivalent; technical or vocational training preferred.
 - Experience in heavy equipment parts sales or a related field is a plus.
 - Strong customer service and communication skills.
 - Proficiency in using computer systems and parts catalogs.
 - Ability to work in a fast-paced environment and handle multiple tasks.
 - Detail-oriented with great organizational skills.
 - Ability to lift heavy parts and accessories as needed.
 - Valid driver's license with a clean driving record.

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Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

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

Westchester Knicks, 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.

The Knicks take on the Raptor 905.

Get tickets <https://www.ticketmaster.com/westchester-knicks-vs-raptors-905-white-plains-new-york-02-21-2025/event/00006132FEBF8610>

SATURDAY, FEB. 22

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

Sugar House Chat, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Join us in our Sugar House to watch and learn how we boil our sap to make maple syrup. Also: March 1.

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

Native Plant Seed Dumplings Workshop, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Join Hilltop's Native Plant team to make seed dumplings. It's a great hands-on activity to sow native wildflowers that support our local pollinator and insect populations! All seeds are local-ecotype and grown here on the farm. \$5.

Preregistration is required <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/native-plant-seed-dumplings-workshop-tickets-1141048890949?aff=oddtcreator>

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

Predators and Prey, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Learn all about the differences between predators and prey, from their behaviors to their body structures, from Trailside's impressive collection of taxidermy and bones. They will be used to illustrate how animals adapt to survive in their unique ecosystems. This program is oriented to those in grades 3 through 8, but all ages are welcome.

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

Harvest + Craft: Face Masks, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

In this indoor class, we will focus on crafting skincare face masks using natural and gentle ingredients. Recommended for ages 10 and older. \$17.85 per person. Supplies are included in the program fee.

Get tickets <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/harvest-craft-face-masks-tickets-1124681866739?aff=oddtcreator>

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7282. Animal Interactions, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Ages 8 and up can enter one of our enclosures to see, touch and learn about an animal of the farmer's choice. \$27.77 for two (one adult and one child, as adult supervision is required; or two adults). Meet at the reception center and wear sturdy, closed-toe footwear. Also: March 22.

Pre-registration required <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/animal-interactions-tickets-1105856950909?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

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

Invasives "R" Us, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Learn how to identify and remove these problematic plants. All tools and hand gloves will be provided; great for service credit hours.

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466

History of Marshlands Hike, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Take a walk with us to learn about the Conservancy's fascinating history. Led by Clare Francis, president of the Friends of Marshlands.

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

Invasive Species Awareness Walk, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Kick off North American Invasive Species Awareness Week with a hike around the preserve to learn about and discuss native and invasive species. Moderate hike; hiking shoes recommended.

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851. Sugarhouse Chat, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

How does sap become syrup? Stop by during those three hours to see our Sugar Shack in action! We will be inside using the evaporator to boil down gallons of Lenoir's very own maple sap until we have sweet maple syrup! All ages. Also: March 1.

SUNDAY, FEB. 23

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

Community Science Series: FeederWatch, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

From the comfort of the Nature Center, join staff in practicing techniques for studying bird populations, how to identify common bird species and how to bring birds into your yard.

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

Spinning Bananas and Weaving Tails, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Ages 5 and up will spin banana and other plant fibers such as corn and mint to make yarn that they will use to weave a mini wall hanging. \$5 per child.

Pre-registration required <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/spinning-bananas-and-weaving-tails/>

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

Guided Farm Tours, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Join a guide who will take you on a free tour around the farm to visit and learn about our animals and some of our historic buildings. Also: March 23. Pre-registration required <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/guided-farm-tours-tickets-1138257190899?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720. Green in Winter, 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Observe different species of evergreen vegetation, from trees to shrubs and others.

Black Heritage Concert with the Yonkers Philharmonic**Sunday Feb. 23, Saunders High School Yonkers Free***Amadi Azikiwe, Viola*

NEW DATE: February 23, 2025

YPO will be joined by Ase-AmenRa Kariam, a skilled West African drum maker and gourd artist. He performs Afrikan Drumming, a west African tradition where stories are told and culture is celebrated through drums and dance.

Black Heritage Concert: Celebrating the Legacy of Black Composers —The Yonkers Philharmonic invites you to a Free concert celebrating the contributions of Black composers from classical music to modern, blues to soul. The concert is Sunday, February 23, 2025 at 3:00 pm at Saunders Trades and Technical High School and is FREE. Join Maestro Rudiakov at 2:00 pm for a pre-concert talk.

Joseph Bologne, Scott Joplin, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Florence Price and Ellington pieces tell the story of composers from the time of Mozart to the present. Their works have and continue to make indelible marks on the music world. Gospel music from the Antioch Baptist Church choir will get ears ringing and hearts rejoicing.

Whether you're a dedicated concert goer or just dipping your toes in to see what classical music has to offer, there's something for everyone. Bring your children and because the concert is free you can stay as long as you like (although we do ask that you not enter and exit while the orchestra is playing.)

This concert is made possible through a generous NYS Legislative Grant sponsored by Nadar Sayegh and Sen. Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins. YPO concerts are produced by the Fine Arts Orchestral Society of Yonkers - a 100% volunteer led and run organization.

FREE CONCERT INFORMATION

Yonkers Philharmonic Black Heritage Concert

Sunday February 23, 2025 at 3pm

Pre-Concert talk with the conductor: February 23, 2025 at 2:pm

Saunders Trades and Technical High School, 183 Palmer Road, Yonkers

Further information: www.yonkersphilharmonic.com**See Your Ad Here: Business Card Special****3 Months-\$299.00****6 Months--\$499.00****12 Months -\$899.00****email risingmediagroup@gmail.com***No Love for Con Ed, continued from pg 1-*

Also in attendance were Congressman George Latimer, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, County Executive Ken Jenkins, State Senator Robert Jackson, Assemblyman Steve Otis, Assembly Member Chris Burdick, Assembly Member Dana Levenberg, Assembly Member Mary Jane Shimsky, County Legislator Vedat Gashi, Legislator Erika Pierce, Legislator Catherine Parker, Legislator Ben Boykin, Legislator Judah Holstein, Legislator David Tubiolo, Legislator David Imamura, Legislator James Nolan, Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner, City of Rye Mayor Josh Cohn, City of Rye Manager Greg Ustry, Mamaroneck Town Supervisor Jaine Elkind Eney, Mamaroneck Town Council Member Anant Nambiar, Mount Vernon Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard, New Castle Town Supervisor Victoria Tipp, North Castle Town Board Member Barbara DiGiacinto, New Rochelle City Council Member Sara Kaye, Port Chester Deputy Mayor Philip Dorazio, Tarrytown Trustee Kenny Herzog, Tuckahoe Trustee Josh Gaccione, White Plains City Council Member Victoria Presser, White Plains City Council Member Richard Payne, Yonkers City Council Member Corazon Pineda- Issac, and Yonkers City Council Member Anthony Merante.

State Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, "I hear daily from constituents who, despite every effort to conserve energy, face outrageous utility bills with unaffordable delivery charges. The Public Service Commission is not fulfilling its responsibility to establish delivery rates for gas, electric, and other regulated utilities that are 'fair, just, and reasonable.' The PSC and ConEd must be held accountable.

"I am proud to sponsor legislation in the State Senate that will directly address the high utility costs, including my bill to prevent utility companies from recovering from ratepayers salaries greater than the Governor's salary (currently \$250,000) and legal fees and other costs incurred during their participation in the rate case in excess of \$100,000; and another bill (which has passed the Senate three times) that targets key elements of the rate-setting process – the rate of return on equity and common equity ratio – to reign in the profits utility companies earn at the expense of ratepayers.

"I am grateful to every constituent who has reached out to me about their outrageous ConEd bills and to every person who attended the event. The PSC has failed to adequately protect consumers and the utility companies have protected shareholder profits at the expense of New Yorkers. It is shameful, and I will keep fighting and advocating for every New Yorker and especially Westchester residents."

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, "New York State has some of the highest utility rates in the country, and many New Yorkers are currently struggling to pay their utility bills. Con Edison's proposed double-digit rate-hikes would exacerbate the significant financial strain and stress that residents in my district of Westchester and areas across New York are already experiencing. I'm proud that our Senate Democratic Conference has recently passed legislation that would empower the Public Service Commission (PSC) to evaluate the economic impact of any proposed utility rate changes on consumers. I stand with Senator Mayer, my colleagues, and our communities in demanding fairness, transparency, and accountability when it comes to utility pricing."

Assemblyman Steve Otis said, "We need to reform the process for the setting of rates and the allocation of costs. Utilities should not be allowed to use their monopoly status to pass all operation costs to consumers and shielding the company from responsibility for expenses owners of other businesses would share."

"Con Ed must be stopped from its relentless rate hikes. It's unconscionable and outrageous that they proposed yet another rate hike, this time a whopping increase of 11.4% for electricity and 13.3% for natural gas. Con Ed shareholders saw third-quarter earnings up 11.8%. Meanwhile, Social Security recipients saw only a 2.5% cost of living increase," said Assembly Member Chris Burdick. "I receive so many phone calls and emails from constituents who are now struggling to pay Con Ed bills that are double or triple what they used to be. I am calling on the Public Service Commission to reject in its entirety any increase in rates. It's time for shareholders to pony up."

Assembly Member Mary Jane Shimsky said, "Westchester residents already carry some of the highest gas and electric rates in the country. Con Ed's new filing for a double-digit increase is simply outrageous and unacceptable. It far outpaces the rate of inflation and what our residents can afford — all while Con Edison's business notches record profits. I strongly urge the Public Service Commission to reject their proposal."

"We are all suffering as a result of Con Ed's endless rate increases. Despite having solar panels on my home, I also find myself paying delivery charges that are all out of proportion to the amount of energy my household consumes. I am proud to stand with Senator Mayer and so many others to call on the Public Service Commission to reject this new request for a rate increase, and I will continue to work with my colleagues to pass legislation that will rein in our utility costs," said Assembly Member Dana Levenberg.

"Con Ed's recent proposal for another double-digit rate increase is unacceptable. Many Westchester residents are already struggling to pay exorbitantly high ConEd bills. This proposed rate increase will contribute to making Westchester unaffordable for residents— especially our elderly and others who are living on fixed incomes. Together with my Assembly colleagues we are going to fight this increase," said Assemblywoman Amy Paulin

Assemblyman Nader Sayegh said, "I am proud to join Senator Mayer and colleagues in government to urge the rejection of a rate hike by the New York Public Service Commission. It is clear that residents across our region are suffering under already very costly electric and gas bills from Con Ed. I find the recent proposal for an additional rate hike from Con Ed to be outrageous and not feasible. Affordability and cost of living remains an issue of extreme importance for our residents and the last thing our residents need is a rate hike from Con Ed."

Westchester Rising

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SUNY Westchester Community College Sees Significant Increase in Veteran Enrollment

SUNY Westchester Community College (SUNY WCC) is proud to announce a significant rise in the number of veterans choosing to further their education at the college. Since the Spring 2021 semester, veteran enrollment has doubled, increasing from 105 students to 210 in Spring 2025. This growth reflects the college's ongoing commitment to providing high-quality educational opportunities and comprehensive support for those who have served our country.

SUNY WCC offers a range of resources to assist veterans and their families, including financial aid guidance and academic counseling. Veterans and their eligible family members can take advantage of GI Bill®, Survivors' and Dependents' Educational Assistance (DEA), Military Career Advancement Account (MyCAA), Veteran Readiness and Employment (VR&E) programs and more to help fund their education. Additionally, thanks to new rules regarding the Montgomery GI Bill Active Duty (MGIB-AD) now is a good time for veterans to check to see if they are eligible for educational benefits through the VA. The college's Veterans Resource Office and financial aid counselors are well-versed in all aspects of Post 9/11 GI Bill assistance and are dedicated to helping veterans navigate the process. To learn more about the changes in the Montgomery GI Bill® please visit the VA website at <https://www.va.gov/education/about-gi-bill-benefits/montgomery-active-duty/>

"The remarkable increase in veteran enrollment at SUNY WCC is a testament to our commitment to supporting those who have served," said Travis Melby, Veterans Assistant Director. "We understand the unique challenges that veterans face when transitioning to higher education, and we are here to provide them with the resources, guidance, and community they need to succeed."

Veterans interested in learning more about the services available at SUNY WCC can visit the Veterans Services website at <https://www.sunywcc.edu/student-services/counseling/veterans>.

"GI Bill® is a registered trademark of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). More information about education benefits offered by VA is available at the official U.S. government Web site at <http://www.benefits.va.gov/gibill>."

Congestion Pricing, continued from pg 1-

delayed, blame him."

President Biden's administration had granted authority to New York on Nov. 21 to implement Congestion Pricing. Now the courts and Congress will determine the future of Congestion Pricing in NYC.

Congressman Mike Lawler released a statement which "Praised President Trump's decision.

"I want to extend my sincere thanks to President Trump and his Administration for taking swift and decisive action to suspend Kathy Hochul's disastrous congestion pricing scheme. This is a huge win for New York families, commuters, and small businesses ruthlessly targeted by this unjust tax."

"Make no mistake: this entire program is nothing more than a scam — a money grab — and is the symptom of a far deeper, systemic issue in our state - government overreach and rampant mismanagement at the hands of Kathy Hochul and her cronies in Albany," concluded Congressman Lawler.

"Instead of imposing new, crippling taxes on struggling families, we should be auditing the MTA, the worst-run authority in America, to find savings, address its outrageous waste, and make sure that commuters are kept safe and served as well as they deserve."

Supplemental Summons and Notice of Object of Action Supreme Court Of The State Of New York County Of Westchester Action To Foreclose A Mortgage Index #: 56421/2024 Keybank, NA Plaintiff, vs Unknown Heirs Of Helena Daniel AKA Helen Daniel If Living, And If He/She Be Dead, Any And All Persons Unknown To Plaintiff, Claiming, Or Who May Claim To Have An Interest In, Or General Or Specific Lien Upon The Real Property Described In This Action; Such Unknown Persons Being Herein Generally Described And Intended To Be Included In Wife, Widow, Husband, Widower, Heirs At Law, Next Of Kin, Descendants, Executors, Administrators, Devises, Legatees, Creditors, Trustees, Committees, Lienors, And Assignees Of Such Deceased, Any And All Persons Deriving Interest In Or Lien Upon, Or Title To Said Real Property By, Through Or Under Them, Or Either Of Them, And Their Respective Wives, Widows, Husbands, Widowers, Heirs At Law, Next Of Kin, Descendants, Executors, Administrators, Devises, Legatees, Creditors, Trustees, Committees, Lienors, And Assigns, All Of Whom And Whose Names, Except As Stated, Are Unknown To Plaintiff, Mary Ann Daniel As Heir To The Estate Of Helena Daniel A/K/A Helen Daniel, Donella Marie Daniel As Heir To The Estate Of Helena Daniel A/K/A Helen Daniel, James Daniel As Heir To The Estate Of Helena Daniel A/K/A Helen Daniel, Loretta H. Davis As Heir To The Estate Of Milo R. Davis, Milo R. Davis, JR. As Heir To The Estate Of Milo R. Davis, Unknown Heirs Of Milo R. Davis If Living, And If He/She Be Dead, Any And All Persons Unknown To Plaintiff, Claiming, Or Who May Claim To Have An Interest In, Or General Or Specific Lien Upon The Real Property Described In This Action; Such Unknown Persons Being Herein Generally Described And Intended To Be Included In Wife, Widow, Husband, Widower, Heirs At Law, Next Of Kin, Descendants, Executors, Administrators, Devises, Legatees, Creditors, Trustees, Committees, Lienors, And Assignees Of Such Deceased, Any And All Persons Deriving Interest In Or Lien Upon, Or Title To Said Real Property By, Through Or Under Them, Or Either Of Them, And Their Respective Wives, Widows, Husbands, Widowers, Heirs At Law, Next Of Kin, Descendants, Executors, Administrators, Devises, Legatees, Creditors, Trustees, Committees, Lienors, And Assigns, All Of Whom And Whose Names, Except As Stated, Are Unknown To Plaintiff, People Of The State Of New York, United States Of America On Behalf Of The IRS John Doe (Those unknown tenants, occupants, persons or corporations or their heirs, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, guardians, assignees, creditors or successors claiming an interest in the mortgaged premises.) Defendant(s). Mortgaged Premises: 80 Touissant Avenue Yonkers, NY 10710 To the Above named Defendant: You are hereby summoned to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Supplemental Summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff(s) attorney(s) within twenty days after the service of this Supplemental Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this Supplemental Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York). In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. The Attorney for Plaintiff has an office for business in the County of Erie. Trial to be held in the County of Westchester. The basis of the venue designated above is the location of the Mortgaged Premises. TO Unknown Heirs of Helena Daniel AKA Helen Daniel, Unknown Heirs Defendants In this Action. The foregoing Supplemental Summons is served upon you by publication, pursuant to an order of HON. Gretchen Walsh of the Supreme Court Of The State Of New York, dated the Tenth day of January, 2025 and filed with the Complaint in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Westchester, in the City of White Plains. The object of this action is to foreclosure upon the premises described below, dated December 30, 2011, executed by Helena Daniel AKA Helen Daniel (who died on January 20, 2019, a resident of the county of Westchester, State of New York) to secure the sum of \$150,000.00. The Mortgage was recorded at Instrument Number 520373408 in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk on April 11, 2012. The property in question is described as follows: 80 Touissant Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710 NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this Foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. DATED: January 15, 2025 Gross Polowy LLC Attorney(s) For Plaintiff(s) 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 The law firm of Gross Polowy LLC and the attorneys whom it employs are debt collectors who are attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained by them will be used for that purpose. 84237

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History of African Americans in the Yonkers Police Department

Tuesday, February 26
6 pm,
Community Room

Join Yonkers native and veteran Yonkers Police Detective Ken Davis and learn about the three Lone Rangers, the first African American patrolmen serving the City of Yonkers and the Yonkers Police Department. The lives and work of Thomas Brooks, James F. Martin, and Stewart Freeman will be discussed.



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Sunday, March 2
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This concert is free and open to the public

Done in cooperation with Mayor Mike Spano and the Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. Funding is received from Arts Westchester with support from Westchester County Government, The City of Yonkers, Andrea Stewart Cousins, Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, the Ira Goldman Memorial Fund, and our loyal arts patrons.

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Yonkers Neighborhood Naturally Occurring Retirement Community (NNORC) • Yonkers Public Library

