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YonkersTimes.com

Friday February 23, 2024

Jenkins Gets Consensus: 9-1 Vote on Independent Redistricting Commission for Congressional Maps



Westchester Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, who served as the Chair of the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission, IRC

By Dan Murphy

Westchester Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, who served as the Chair of the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission, IRC, has completed what is almost an impossible task in today's hyper-partisan climate, when members of the IRC voted 9-1 to agree upon a set of congressional lines for New York's 26 districts.

The IRC was formed after New York voters passed a referendum in 2014 which called for the creation of the IRC, in the hopes that both parties could work together to come up with an acceptable, and fair set of congressional lines.

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Will Westchester Homeowners Ever Get Their State & Local Tax Deductions Back?



Are you in favor of preserving state and local tax deductions?

Thanks for Trying Congressman Lawler

By Dan Murphy

Westchester Congressman Mike Lawler's attempt to lift the Federal Tax deduction for State and Local Taxes, (SALT), failed without getting a vote on the House floor. Many New York Democrats did not support Lawler's attempt to lift the \$10,000 cap on SALT as a deduction on your Federal Income Taxes.

But a handful of Lawler's fellow republicans also did not support his effort. And while the issue is complicated, we applaud Lawler for his efforts to highlight the issue.

Prior to 2016, Americans could deduct 100% of their SALT from their Fed-

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Westchester County Police K-9 Helps Arrest Teens Fleeing in Stolen Cars



WCPD Officer Hearle with K-9 Wren

From the Westchester County Police Department-Facebook:

Three suspects traveling in two stolen cars were arrested yesterday despite their efforts to flee from the long arm of the law and the great nose of tracking canine Wren.

On the down side in this incident, an officer was injured after one of the suspects – a 19-year-old woman – deliberately rammed his Patrol car in her effort to get away. The incident began at 2:18 p.m. when the Real Time Crime center broadcast an alert that two

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SPCA Westchester Needs Your Help After Rescue of 40 Cats from WP Apartment



The Westchester SPCA has put out an urgent call to its supporters to help fund an effort to rescue at least 40 cats and kittens found in a White Plains apartment.

"The SPCA's cat team is currently boots on the ground in White Plains in the midst of a horrific hoarding rescue. Our Humane Law Enforcement Unit received an urgent call from a landlord after neighbors began complaining of a deathly smell coming from an apartment in their building. Our officers quickly responded and so far have discovered nearly 40 terrified cats living in filth and garbage. All of the cats are dehydrated and most are sick and suffering with severe upper respiratory and eye infections. One of the cats just gave birth to a single tiny kitten who is clinging to life and was found on the cold floor, living in mounds of feces.

"Food and water stations have been set up and we anticipate it will take days to capture everyone. While it's hard to assess how many more cats could be living in the ceiling and furniture, our team will not stop until every single one is rescued. All of these poor felines have been neglected for far too long and desperately need medical care, as well as time, to recover both physically and emotionally.

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Yorktown Man Arrested for Possession/Sale of Drugs that Led to OD Death in Shrub Oak



Albert Tapia, left, in a 2011 photo, after his arrest for sex abuse of a 13-year old. He has a long list of crimes committed before he was arrested for the overdose death from drugs sold by Tapia

By Dan Murphy

Yorktown Police announced an arrest of a Yorktown resident for the criminal possession and sale of a controlled substance that led to the death of a man in Shrub Oak in October 2023. Albert Tapia was arrested on Feb. 15 and is in the Westchester County jail awaiting his next court appearance before Yorktown Justice Aviah Cohen-Pierson.

On October 26, 2023, at approximately 3:00 PM, Yorktown Police responded to a residence on East Main St. for an apparent fatal overdose. Yorktown Police Detective Hannigan was assigned to investigate the incident. Upon conclusion of the investigation, it is alleged that the defendant possessed and then sold a quantity of a controlled substances to the victim, which allegedly resulted in the victim's death.

Tapia, 30, was charged with Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance 3rd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Sell 3rd Degree, both of which are Class "B" Felonies, as well as Criminal Contempt in the 2nd Degree, a Class "A" Misdemeanor.

According to the YPD, Tapia was arrested by Det. Hannigan and PO Montero during a vehicle and traffic stop last week. Furthermore, it is alleged that the defendant violated a duly served and active "Stay Away" Temporary Order

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Lakeland Schools-Blame Undercover Mom for Sexualized Personality Test for Middle Schoolers-pg 15

Supporters and Opponents Greet Mexican Presidential candidate in Yonkers page -15

Assemblyman Slater Calls for Full Funding of Student School Meals



Assemblyman Matt Slater (R,C-Yorktown) speaking at SNAP Rally on Feb. 14, 2024

On Feb. 13, Assemblyman Matt Slater (R,C-Yorktown), along with fellow lawmakers and advocacy groups like Hunger Solutions New York and Feeding New York State, rallied at the New York State Capitol. Their primary requests include fully funding the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program and Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP).

Additionally, they advocated for fully funded school meals, citing the progress made in several Capital Region districts already offering free school meals. Despite last year's allocation of \$135 million, Slater and his colleagues emphasized the persistent need for further action, given that one in ten New Yorkers and one in six children face food insecurity. As discussions for the 2025 budget approach, advocates urge the governor to prioritize addressing these alarming statistics.

"Ensuring all students have access to healthy school meals is crucial in combating child hunger in New York state," stated Slater. "Many families struggling to meet basic needs find themselves exceeding current income eligibility requirements for free school breakfast and lunch programs. By guaranteeing equitable access to school meals, we not only address food insecurity but also provide children with the nutritional support necessary for academic success."

"This week's anti-hunger advocacy day brought together legislators from across the state, united in their support for our neighbors in need. Their collective voice sends a powerful message: Every neighbor deserves access to healthy food" said Karen C. Erren, President and CEO of Feeding Westchester. "We will continue to advocate for fully funded hunger relief programs; Nourish New York & the Hunger Prevention and Nutrition Assistance Program (HPNAP); an adequate minimum Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefit for all New Yorkers; restoration of funding for the Nutrition Outreach and Education Program (NOEP); and funding for Universal School Meals to make certain that no child in New York goes hungry. We look forward to continuing work with Assemblyman Slater and our Westchester representatives to ensure these critical hunger relief programs are fully funded."

Slater also continues to collaborate with organizations in the 94th Assembly District such as Feeding Westchester, Putnam CAP, St. Mary's Food Pantry and local school districts, to advocate for much-needed funding. Despite bipartisan support, numerous press conferences and letters calling on the governor, we have yet to see this critical issue resolved.

Dr. John A. Morgan-Yonkers First Black Doctor



Dr. John A. Morgan

By City of Yonkers Historian Mary Hoar

Born and raised in Nevis, John Alexander Morgan came to New York in 1892 to attend Union Theological Seminary. After completing his studies, he enrolled at New York's Flower Hospital and Homeopathic College and earned his medical degree in 1900, one of four Black doctors licensed in NYS. He practiced first in Harlem, the neighborhood's second black doctor. He moved to Yonkers in 1904; not only was he the Terrace City's first Black doctor, he became one of Yonkers' most respected physicians, a leader in Homeopathic Medicine.

Shortly after the Morgan family moved here, fifty prominent residents surprised them, both welcoming them and pledging support to anyone needing Dr. Morgan's services. After several speeches of appreciation, caterer extraordinaire Francis Moultrie served his signature ice cream and delicious cake! The Morgans appreciated the sincere welcome and kindness their new community showed.

Dr. Morgan quickly became involved in Yonkers, regularly speaking at events, conferences, churches, athletic clubs, women's clubs and youth groups. Although his main concern was improvement of Black citizens' lives, he also spoke of the value of church membership and community service. He lectured on health issues, especially tuberculosis; he wanted Yonkers to know how to recognize it, treat it, and avoid it.

He addressed organized labor about helping the unemployed or needy. If an eloquent, passionate speaker was needed... he was there for Yonkers.

His son Adolphus tragically died in 1915, drowning in the Hudson near Habirshaw Wire's Glenwood plant. As the steamer Washington Irving sailed down the Hudson, Adolphus was swimming with two friends. A huge swell from the ship washed over the young man, submerging him. Yonkers Yacht Club members dove in to search for Adolphus, as did his dad. Yonkers Police and Life Saving Corps combed the area for hours. His body was found that evening by volunteers using grappling hooks. Fourteen-year-old Adolphus was a School Six Class of 1915 graduate.

After this family tragedy, Dr. Morgan lobbied Yonkers government to purchase patrol boats and build bathhouses at swimming spots on the river.

Concerned about lynchings and riots in St. Louis, New York City, Ossining, and elsewhere in 1917, Messiah Baptist and the AME Zion churches formed a Civic League to assist new Black Yonkers residents; they elected Dr. Morgan president. His meetings focused on the causes and remedies for the unrest, and how to improve their lives.

Dr. Morgan advocated to prevent the movie "Birth of a Nation," from being rerun in Yonkers. The movie promulgated erroneous history told Director DW Griffith by his Confederate soldier father, and Griffith wanted his movie accepted as truth. Morgan led a 1918 delegation asking Mayor Wallin to prohibit showing this movie in Yonkers; a few weeks later it ran three days at Proctor's and one day at The Orpheum.

He joined several local organizations, rising to prominence in the Knights of Pythias, and served as its NY State Grand Medical Registrar; he was an active member of the James Farrell Lodge, Prince Hall Masons. He was official advisor to the Alpha Physical Culture Club, the first independent athletic club organized by Blacks in New York State.

An active Socialist, he was their party candidate for Coroner several times; he

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Westchester Elected Officials & Environmental Groups Support Passage of NY HEAT Act.



Westchester legislators and advocates in Peekskill

On Feb. 16, Westchester legislators and advocates held a press conference calling on Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie to champion passage of the NY HEAT Act in the Assembly One House Budget expected next month. Governor Hochul included key provisions of the bill in her budget proposal in January; advocates are calling for passage of the full bill, which includes provisions to save low- and middle-income New Yorkers money on their energy bills.

Food & Water Watch Senior New York Organizer Santosh Nandabalan said, "New Yorkers are paying through the nose to finance climate chaos. It's time to stop the consumer-subsidized expansion of our dirty, dangerous, fracked gas system. Speaker Heastie must stand with Westchester families struggling to keep the lights on and pass the NY HEAT Act in the Assembly One House budget."

The NY HEAT Act would ensure an affordable transition off climate-killing fossil fuels by 1) stopping the expansion of the dirty, toxic gas system and 2) reducing utility bills by eliminating gas subsidies and directing the PSC to implement the goal of capping energy bills at 6% of income. Low- and middle-income households are the most impacted by volatile gas prices and high energy bills, paying three times more of their income on energy bills than other families.

A new analysis by Win Climate finds that nearly 1 in 5 Westchester County residents pay more than 6% of their annual income on electricity, gas, and delivered fossil fuels. Using data from the Census, the analysis finds that the NY HEAT could save these Westchester families as much as \$183/month on energy bills. The push for cost savings comes as Con Edison begins phasing in rate hikes that will total an additional \$60/month by January 2025 for customers who pay for gas heat.

"It is exciting that elements of the NY HEAT Act have made it into the Governor's Executive Budget proposal, but we need the whole thing," said Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg. "I have constituents calling and writing to my office about unaffordable energy bills constantly. New Yorkers need relief in their energy bills now – we need the 6% cap on household energy costs that is written into NY HEAT. This is a critically important goal."

State Senator Pete Harckham, chair of the Senate Environmental Conservation committee, said, "The New York HEAT Act notably removes the 100-foot subsidy that incentivizes gas line expansion and will protect ratepayers with low incomes from shouldering too much of the transition costs to sustainable energy sources. The record-breaking heat from our recent summers and the climate-change fueled storms we are experiencing are telling us to enact this legislation in a hurry."

State Senator Shelley Mayer said, "For many years, I have heard from my constituents about the unacceptably steep increases in their gas and electric bills. Residents are keeping their home temperatures low and limiting their consumption, yet they are not seeing any relief from the high bills. I share the frustration that so many others have expressed. I thank Senator Liz. Krueger for carrying this bill in the Senate, and am determined to pass the New York Heat Act with my colleagues in the Senate and Assembly to protect New Yorkers from rising energy bills."

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Stealing Ice Cream?



By Eric Wolf Schoen

In the 'I thought I heard everything' column today, can you believe that thieves were caught stealing an Ice Cream Truck in West Haven, Ct. Monday night. The truck had about \$30,000 worth of the luscious dessert and was making a delivery in West Haven, parked in a parking lot when a 35 year old man stole the truck.

Was he after the truck? Nope. He was after the ice cream in the truck. We learned that more and more stores are locking up the ice cream that they sell to prevent thieves from stealing it. I guess if you have refrigeration capacities, the theft of ice cream is, no pun intended a hot commodity. Thieves sell the ice cream to dealers, stores and the general public in cash deals. Everyone loves ice cream, so if you can get a half gallon of Breyer's for \$2, it's a great deal if you own a grocery store and want to sell it for \$5 to customers. As long as you keep it frozen during movement from freezer to freezer, you are in good shape. You don't the product will drip out and make a bloody mess.

What is going on in this world? Do people feel they can steal whatever they want. You go into a grocery store or pretty much any type of store from Target to Stop and Shop to the neighborhood Bodega and so many products are locked up. It's so bad you can't purchase a bar of soap until someone in the store takes it out of a locked cabinet.

The thing that makes no sense is after the store clerk takes the product out of the case, they give it to you to hold on until you hit the register. If the item is small enough you put it in your pocket or pocketbook and can easily walk out of the store without paying for it. Chances are you can just walk out of the store with the item in hand and no one will notice. What should occur as that the item is brought by store staff to the register and you pick it up and pay for it when it's turn to pay for your order.

Let me give you another scenario of what I observed occurring at a local supermarket 2 weeks ago. Many people use hand held scanners when they are buying their groceries. Many people put groceries in their carts without scanning them. But this situation is a bit different. A man went to the grocery store and used the portable scanner. However, he didn't scan several packs of beer which he put in the underbelly of his shopping cart.

When you buy beer you are supposed to be carded for age by the sales clerk. The gentleman didn't scan the beer so the alert for the salesclerk to check his identification including date of birth never came up. He goes to walk passed the very effective sales clerk and she asked him if he forgot to scan the beer. He shows her his receipt on which she cannot find the beer. She. Tells him if he scanned the beer an alert would have come up for her to check his I.D. The receipt was very long, and he grabbed it from her hands and said I don't have time for this and walked out, free beer in tow.

Several issues here. The clerks at the various stores are told not to intervene in possible theft situations. Many of these stores have security guards and they too are not supposed to interfere. What then is the need for security guards? Why not let people run wild and free with the merchandise from the stores. The top management even penalizes clerks who interfere because they are told not to. Stores need to put active plans in place to prevent stealing.

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WESTHAB Awarded \$240,000 From KeyBank Foundation to Bring Tutoring, College and Career Advising to Dayspring Teens



KeyBank Market President for Hudson Valley/Metro New York John Manginelli (center) presented the KeyBank Foundation grant to Westhab President and CEO Rich Nightingale (left) and JC Soto, Dayspring Community Center Director, Westhab.

KeyBank Foundation awarded Westhab a \$240,000 multi-year grant to create a pipeline to college and careers for low-income students at Dayspring Community Center in Yonkers, NY. Starting September 2024, the program will support 30 9th- to 12th-grade students from Dayspring’s youth program in proactively exploring and choosing the post-secondary path that suits them best.

“I grew up in Yonkers; this is the kind of investment our neighborhood needs.” shared Dayspring Director JC Soto. “Nodine Hill of Southwest Yonkers (where Dayspring is located) has a poverty rate that is double that of all of Westchester County. Increasing college readiness and providing resources to advance their skills in careers with livable wages will allow teens to earn higher incomes, translating into better life outcomes, including health, wealth, and happiness.”

To develop the program, Westhab will work with the Yonkers Partners In Education (YPIE), a Westchester-based nonprofit with expertise in ensuring students are ready for, enroll, and complete college. Staff will help students academically prepare for college and navigate and complete the college application process. For students not interested in college, staff will assess teens’ skills and interests and, through partnerships with programmers and guest speakers, help inspire potential career pathways. Participants will be connected to additional supports, such as Dayspring’s Employment Services, to help actualize their plans.

YPIE Executive Director Samuel Wallis shared his excitement about the project, “We are thrilled to partner with Westhab to ensure teens at Dayspring Community Center are prepared for success in college and careers. We know how important it is to meet students where they are, and we look forward to working with students in a trusted community center like Dayspring. We are grateful to KeyBank for its generous support to make this partnership – and critical service for students – possible.”

Over three years, the program hopes to make more significant shifts in the trajectory of the community. “This generous investment by KeyBank Foundation will help individual students but also aims to create a more lasting change in the community by nurturing an ongoing college-ready culture for high school students. “We hope to broaden futures and disrupt cycles of inequality that we see in Nodine Hill,” said Mr. Soto.

“Supporting the communities in which we work is a core value of KeyBank. We are proud to be a part of paving the path to increased college access and fulfilling careers with livable wages for these teens,” said John Manginelli, KeyBank Hudson Valley/Metro New York Market President.

Senate Passes Senator Mayer Bill to Establish Statewide Office of Flood Prevention/Mitigation



From L to R – Senator Brad Hoylman-Sigal, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senator Shelley B. Mayer (speaking), Senator Monica Martinez. Photo Courtesy of New York State Senate Photography.

On February 13, the New York State Senate unanimously passed a bill sponsored by Senator Shelley B. Mayer to establish a cabinet level Office of Flood Prevention and Mitigation. The bill heads to the New York State Assembly for a vote and then, hopefully, to the Governor’s desk for signature.

Through Mayer’s legislation (S.3335), the Office of Flooding Prevention and Mitigation will be tasked with coordinating existing state work on flooding, supporting municipalities in their efforts to prevent and mitigate flooding, and researching flooding impacts and mitigation in New York.

New York State is facing intensifying climate change related hazards and storms, causing long term devastation. Westchester and the surrounding Hudson Valley, Long Island, and New York City in particular face challenges recovering from destructive storms and are often unable to fully recover from one storm before another one strikes. It remains critical to the future of the state that proactive measures are taken to abate flooding.

This legislation will assess the areas of the state and populations at greatest risk, identify the best current emerging practices in flood management, preparedness, and resiliency and make recommendations to the Governor and Legislature to help develop a high-level strategy for addressing flooding in our state.

From December to January, Senator Mayer conducted a survey of her constituents regarding their concerns and priorities. Twenty-five percent of the respondents marked Flooding and Climate Change as one of their top priorities.

Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, “I am very pleased that my bill, S.3335, to establish an Office of Flooding Prevention and Mitigation has passed the Senate. During severe storms like Hurricane Ida, we lost community members and countless people endured severe damage to their homes and more faced financial burden. Since Ida, residents and businesses in my district and in neighboring communities have been impacted by increasingly intense and frequent storms brought on by climate change, and are often hit with another downpour before they can rebuild. The Office of Flooding Prevention and Mitigation will provide New Yorkers with a strong, coordinated and strategic approach to tackling the effects of climate change, requiring all levels of government and agencies within government to work together to identify and execute mitigation and resiliency plans. It will help provide municipalities, counties, and individuals with the tools we need to tackle the scale of the work ahead.”

Senator Pete Harckham, Chair of the Senate Committee on Environment Conservation, said, “People want meaningful action on the climate crisis, environmental protections and stormwater mitigation. To do so, we need to put as much effort as possible into passing climate and stormwater legislation this year to safeguard our communities statewide. The time for action is now, and I am grateful to my colleagues in the Senate for passing Senator Mayer’s Office of Flood Mitigation and Prevention bill.”

Assemblyman Steve Otis said, “Flood events and damage have become a frequent and repeated challenge throughout the state. Our state agencies have responded by offering more resources, expertise and guidance to local governments to address flood recovery, mitigation, and preparedness projects. A new State Office of Flood Prevention will be an added benefit. The unit will coordinate state agency assistance and provide a central office for local governments to access expertise from state government.”

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, “Westchester County is no stranger to the devastating impacts of flooding exacerbated by climate change. Senator Shelley Mayer’s bill, establishing the Office of Flooding Prevention and Mitigation, marks a crucial step towards coordinated action. By pooling resources and fostering collaboration among municipalities, this initiative promises to empower our communities with effective strategies to combat flooding and safeguard our residents’ well-being.”

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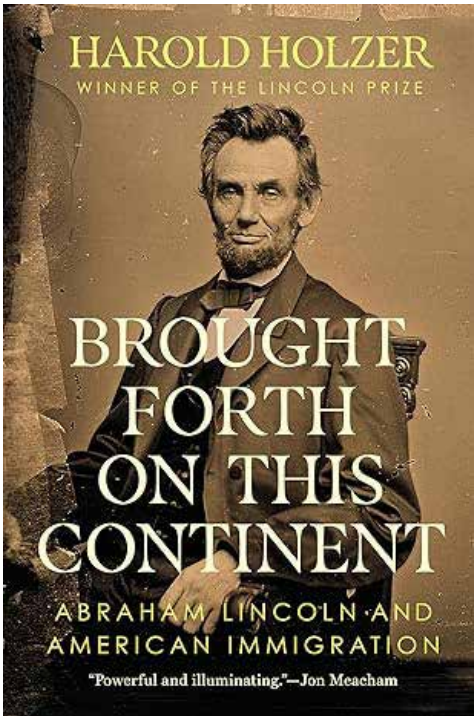
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Rye Reading Room's Mayor's Award Winner: Lincoln Author Howard Holzer



Harold Holzer, right, with Rye Library Director Chris Shoemaker.

At the Rye Free Reading Room's annual meeting on the evening of Thursday, February 15, 2024, author Harold Holzer was presented with the Library's 2023 Mayor's Award, acknowledging an individual with strong connections to Rye who has made significant contributions to the advancement of literary arts.

The award was presented to Harold Holzer by Jan Kelsey, Library Trustee and Chair of the Rye Heritage Committee. In an ideal celebration of Presidents' Day, a full-house audience listened to a leading authority and renowned Lincoln scholar talk enthusiastically about his newest book, "Brought Forth on This Continent: Abraham Lincoln and American Immigration". Holzer was interviewed by Library Director Chris Shoemaker.

Holzer's literary legacy includes 56 authored, co-authored, or edited books. A dedicated scholar, Holzer has written more than 600 articles and reviews for both popular magazines and scholarly journals, including Smithsonian, American Heritage, The Wall Street Journal, and The Washington Post.

After 23 years of service, Holzer retired from his post as Senior Vice President for Public Affairs at The Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York in 2015. Holzer and his wife Edith lived in Rye for 42 years.

Free 9th Beethoven Festival with the Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra-March 10



The Yonkers Philharmonic's 9th Beethoven Festival has a little something for everyone. In honor of Woman's History month, Music Director, Ari Rudiakov, starts with Overture No. 3 from 19th century Romantic German composer Emelie Mayer. Of course there's Beethoven, his Fidelio Overture and his Triple Concerto for Violin, Cello and Piano with soloists Carmit Zori, Gjlberta Lucaj-Cohen and Robert Feritta. In between you'll be dancing in your seats along with Brahms' Hungarian Dances No. 1 and 5. These lively dance tunes based mostly on Hungarian themes, are among Brahms's most popular works. Tucked in the middle is the WORLD PREMIERE of LvB: Variations, Extensions and Collisions written by living composer Thomas Caprino at the request of our music director. All are welcome to this free celebration. Come for the first half to experience the past and future of classical music and stay for the second half to hear Beethoven's only concerto ever completed for more than one solo instrument.

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Yonkers Philharmonic "9th Beethoven Festival"

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

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Phone: (571) 310-7060

This concert was made possible by the Westchester Community Foundation, a division of The New York Community Trust.

AARP to Offer Free Tax Assistance at New Rochelle Public Library

Assistance offered Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning February 1

Free, in-person tax assistance through AARP Tax Aide will again be offered at the New Rochelle Public Library this tax season.

This year, assistance will be provided on a first come, first served basis; no appointments will be available. Assistance will be provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning Tuesday, February 1 through Thursday, April 11, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm at the Main Library, 1 Library Plaza, New Rochelle. Trained AARP volunteer counselors will meet with patrons in the library's Meeting Room and on the stage of the Theater, in the order in which they arrive.

Participants are reminded to bring with them last year's federal and state returns and supporting documentation, as well as an official photo identification and a social security card, or other comparable documentation.

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Eric Schoen, continued from pg 2-

Many stores in and around Yonkers employ Yonkers cops who are off duty to provide security. As one officer who was patrolling the store where the beer was stolen told me, they are told not to confront potential thieves by both the store management and those that assign them from the Police Department.

Bottom line is that the more things, whether it be ice cream, beer, or Gucci bags in Los Angeles get stolen, the higher prices will be for you and me. Bottom line. You must shop in a store that has active procedures in place to prevent shoplifting.

Supermarket Prices

My sister's beautiful cat, Sidney named after my father May he rest in peace eats 9 lives with Morris on the Bag dry cat food with flavors of chicken and salmon. Prior to the pandemic each bag was \$4 or slightly under. Last week, a local store had the \$4 product for \$10 a bag. Someone needs to investigate these companies which are price gouging the consumers.

Congestion Pricing is a Hoax

I had the occasion to go to New York City on a Thursday, midday to an appointment at Union Square West around 14th Street smack in the middle of town. I came from Yonkers by car, and it took approximately 35 minutes for the trip. No traffic at any point of the trip, and 35 minutes is the usual timing without traffic. I was able to flow free through New York City. Thursdays are supposed to be when folks go to their offices on a 3 day in office week. Should be busy.

I had the occasion to go to the theater district on a busy Sunday for a 2:00 p.m. matinee that ended at 5:00 p.m. Peak times. Not a bit of traffic either to nor from New York City or around the town. From Yonkers it was 30 mins to and from the theater, and the same for the return trip.

Moral of the story? 'Where's the Congestion' our Albany politicians and New York City officials say exists. This is simply a money grab of your pockets and pocketbooks for the New York subways which have misspent billions of dollars over the years.

\$15 when you cross 60th Street in New York City. Not to fix the roads but fix the subways and trains. I don't think so!

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

Formation of TARRYTOWN 44 LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/17/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Benjamin Sinanaj, 4 Farm Way Dr., Ardsley, NY 10502. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Palisades Property Management LLC filed with the SSNY on 1/18/2024. 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 Mulford Corporation, 1511 Central Park Ave, Yonkers NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

"Notice is hereby given that an order entered by the Supreme Court, Westchester County, on the 22nd day of January, 2024, bearing Index Number 50614/2023, grants the right to assume the name of Matthew Luigj Koleci. Present address: Yonkers, NY; Birth: November 2004, White Plains, NY; Present name: Matthew Louis Jankovic. An affidavit of publication shall be filed with the Westchester County Clerk's Office."

Notice of Formation of 66 Meserole, LLC., Articles of organization filed with the NY Secretary of State (NYSS) on 11/28/2023. Office location: Westchester County. NYSS is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail a copy of process to: 11 Bon Air Ave, New Rochelle, NY 10804. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Calimero II, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/4/2023. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Marie H. Durif-O'Dowd, 1632 First Avenue, Apartment 326, New York, NY 10028. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

Ana Lucia Nail Lounge LLC, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 1/8/24.. Office: New York 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, 115 Chelsea Street Hawthorne, NY 10532. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of ALPHONSE, JULIE & GLENN CONSULTING LLC. filed with the SSNY on 01/30/2024. 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, 142 Garth Rd. Ste. 3N Scarsdale NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

Formation of TRUIH LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/15/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Lawrence Rebbecchi, 550 Green Dolphin Dr., Placida, FL 33946. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

Notice of formation of Jaylee's Beauty Lounge, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/29/23. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 55 Cole Street, Ste. 101, Yonkers, NY, 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Yugen Creationz LLC. Arts. Of. Org. filed with the SSNY on 1/28/024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 10 Commerce Dr, 102. New Rochelle, NY 10801. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

Notice of formation of SurgeExpand, LLC. filed with the SSNY on 10/16/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 324 Palisade Ave -1F, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of A Soft Delicate Flower LLC. Arts of Org. filed with the SSNY on 1/3/24. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1840 Crompond Road Peekskill NY 10566. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of FEVER PITCH SPORTS CARDS & COLLECTIBLES LLC. Articles of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/01/24. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of the process to John Amelio, 2138 Saw Mill River Road, Yorktown Hts. NY 10598. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of D & E Guest Reality Management, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/15/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, D & E Guest Reality Management LLC, 79-81 Main Street, P.O. Box 1100, Yonkers, NY 10702. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Pachamama Vibes, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/20/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her to the company c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc. 7014 13th Ave., Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Principal business address: 762 Hoover Avenue, Peekskill NY 10566. Purpose: Any lawful acts.

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company ETAMNI LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 01/29/2024 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : 2 Hudson Street Apt 4G Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date.

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company ETAMNI FAMILY CLEANING LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 01/29/2024 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : 2 Hudson Street Apt 4G Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date.

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company DAVIS AND DAVIS MEDICAL TRANSPORTATION LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 01/29/2024 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : 2 Hudson Street Apt 4G Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date.

Notice of Formation of Safety First Shooting LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 2/13/2024. 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, 465 Tuckahoe Road suite #1168 Yonkers NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Yonkers City Council Approves \$8.5 Million Settlement from 2015 YPD Car Chase-Crash

The Yonkers City Council approved a settlement of \$8.5 Million stemming from a tragic high speed police chase and crash in 2015 at their meeting on Feb. 13. And combined with an earlier settlement of \$1.5 Million for this same accident, the matter is finally closed for the city and the victims.

The incident occurred on Nov. 23, 2015, when Yonkers Police received a 911 call about two persons in a van breaking into parking meters. The same van was linked to a robbery earlier that day.

When YPD officers attempted to pull over the vehicle a high speed chase ensued, with estimated speeds of 90 MPH. When the van reached Warburton Ave. near the Greystone train station, it crossed over the yellow line and crashed into another vehicle traveling south.

The driver of the other vehicle, 46-year old Sharlene Stinson, died at the scene. The two persons in the van were teens. 16 year old Jerry Crawford died at a Westchester Medical Center. The 14 year old, now 22 years old, identified as Sha'de Lane, suffered severe injuries that required 24 hour care.

The \$8.5 Million settlement is broken down as follows:

\$500,000.00 to pay an existing Medicaid lien.

\$500,000.00 to cover a loss of services claim to caretaker, Christine Vargas.

\$2,801,379.99 for attorney's fees.

\$1,448,620.01 for a trust for the victim, Sha'de Lane.

\$3,250,000.00 to three structured settlement annuities for Sha'de Lane.

Last year, the City Council approved a \$1.5 Million settlement for the family of Sharlene Stinson.

Both lawsuits claimed that Yonkers police conducted the high speed chase with a reckless disregard for public safety. But in approving the settlement, Council Anthony Merante said that Yonkers police did nothing wrong. "Corporation Counsel has recommended that we accept this settlement, but that night there were bad decisions made by kids, and parents, make sure you know who your kids are with. The police didn't do anything wrong that night. Today, the police might have backed off from the chase, but tonight the taxpayers have to pay for Police officers doing their job. I'm disappointed in the system."

The Council approved the settlement by a 6-0 vote, with Council President Collins-Bellamy absent.

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Mastercard Executive Leads 2024 Westchester Fairfield Go Red for Women Movement



Cara Pensabene, MD

Cara Pensabene, MD, Vice President, Global Medical Director at Mastercard, has been named Centennial Chair of the American Heart Association's Westchester Fairfield Go Red for Women movement, a world-wide initiative of the American Heart Association designed to increase women's heart health awareness and serve as a catalyst for change to improve the lives of women locally, national and globally.

This year, Go Red also celebrates 20 years of making an impact as the movement continues to make bold moves to save lives and pioneer scientific discoveries.

"I'm honored to serve as the Centennial Chair for the Westchester Fairfield Go Red for Women movement," said Dr. Pensabene. "Since 2004, Go Red for Women has addressed the awareness and clinical care gaps of women's greatest health threat, cardiovascular disease. We need to continue focusing on cardiovascular health in women because it remains the leading cause of death. The simple truth is that most cardiovascular diseases can still be prevented with education and healthy lifestyle changes."

For two decades Go Red for Women has been saving and improving women's lives by advancing equitable research and care, advocating for inclusive health policies, and raising awareness. As women grow and change so does their risk for cardiovascular disease. Go Red for Women is here for their health and well-being at every age, stage, and season of their lives.

"The American Heart Association believes everyone deserves the opportunity for a longer, healthier life and it's been the mission to fulfill that vision and I hope we can help provide that through this campaign," said Dr. Pensabene.

The American Heart Association's centennial is a celebration of the life-saving achievements and shared vision for a bold second century that will exponentially advance heart and brain health. The Association will continue to lead breakthroughs in science and technology, improve healthcare and advocate for federal, state, and local policies that drive healthier lifestyles.

The 2024 Go Red for Women movement in Westchester and Fairfield Counties is national sponsored by CVS Health and locally by Mastercard, White Plains Hospital, Fujifilm and Northwell Health.

This year's Go Red for Women movement and its local achievements will be celebrated on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at The Whitby Castle in Rye, NY. For more information, please visit www.heart.org/goredwestchester.

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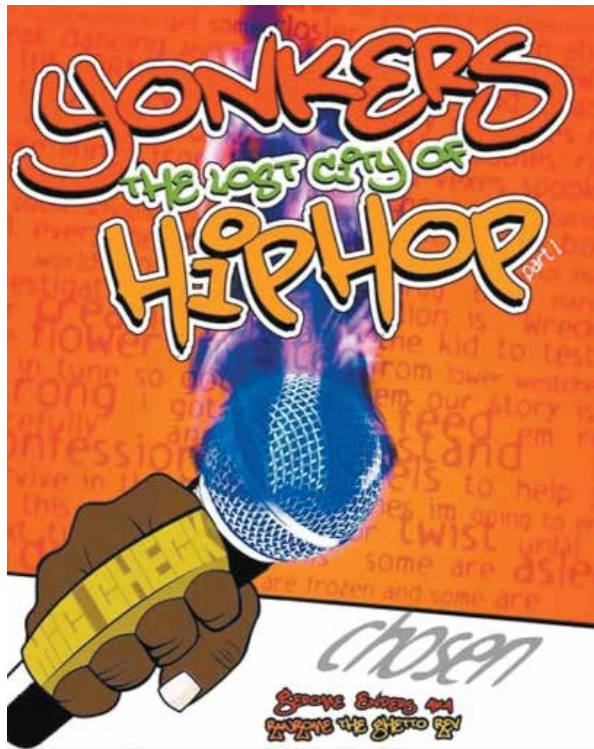
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Notice of formation of Ashlee B. Media, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 1/6/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 520 Pelhamdale Avenue, Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of NORTHERN WESTCHESTER KITCHEN & BATH LLC. Arts. Of Org filed with SSNY on 11/28/2023. Office location: Westchester County. Registered Agent to mail process and may be served: ZENBUSINESS INC, 41 STATE STREET SUITE 112, ALBANY, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Hudson River Museum Presents: Yonkers:
The Lost City of Hip Hop Feb. 25



Join us for an immersive program celebrating the rich and vibrant history of Hip Hop in Yonkers. This special event will feature a reading and discussion of Yonkers: The Lost City of Hip-Hop with author Jerome Enders, graffiti specialist Ken Davis, and DJ Beat Master Gene.

Support provided by Sarah Lawrence College through a generous grant from the Mellon Foundation.

Sunday, February 25, 2024, 2-4pm
Greene Education Center
This event is free with general admission
Visit HRM.org for more information

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Andy Cooney's Irish Celebration at Paramount Peekskill March 7



The sights and sounds of Ireland come alive in Andy Cooney's Irish Celebration! Join Andy Cooney, Ciara Fox, George Casey, The Guinness Irish Band, and the captivating Irish Emerald Fire dancers for a truly memorable night filled with joy, laughter, and the unmistakable spirit of Ireland at The Paramount Hudson Valley Theater (Peekskill, NY) on March 7 at 7:30 pm

Andy Cooney, renowned as one of the greatest singing sensations in the Irish music scene, has rightfully earned the title of Irish America's Favorite Son. With continually sold-out shows at prestigious venues from National Concert Hall in Dublin to Carnegie Hall in New York, Andy has captivated audiences with his extraordinary voice and commanding stage presence for over 30 years.

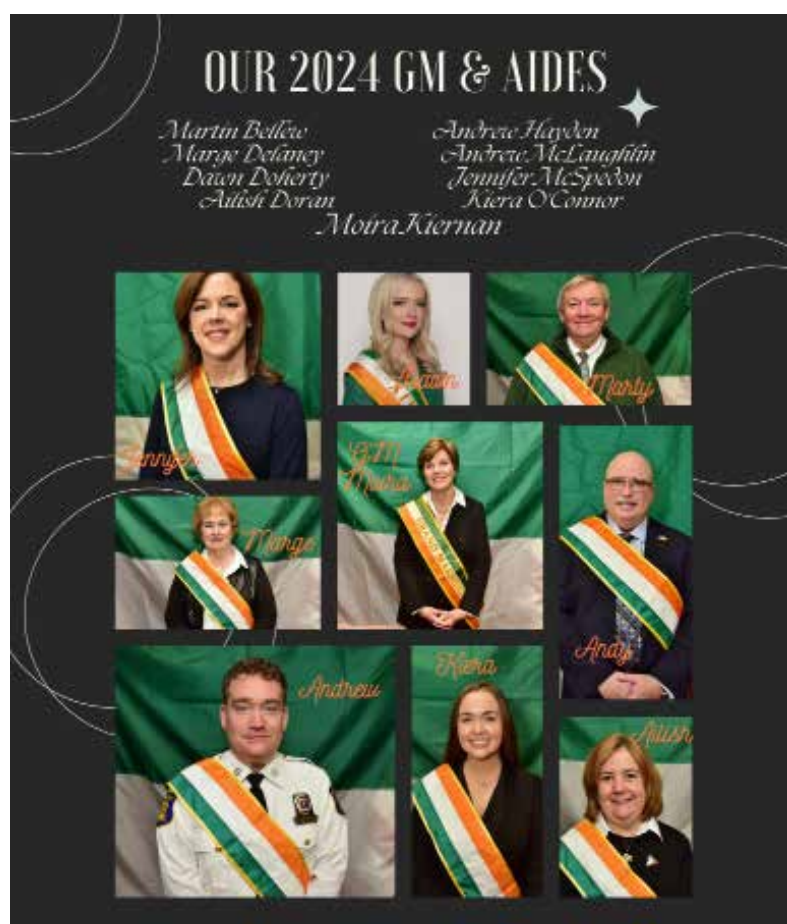
Celtic Folk Singer from County Tyrone, Ireland, Ciara Fox, enchants audiences with the ethereal lilt of her voice. Fox has performed with the award-winning 'Blackwater Ceili Band' and Conor McGinty on stage in the Millennium Forum, Derry. You can expect to laugh aloud as the hilarious Irish comedian, George Casey, takes the stage. For over 30 years now, George has been entertaining audiences all over the US with his self-deprecating sense of humor and clever clean jokes and stories.

Of course, no Irish Cabaret would be complete without the electrifying music from The Guinness Irish Band. Comprised of the finest Irish and Irish American musicians in the scene today, this lively band features Jimmy Kelly (drums) Mitch Reilly (sax, flute, and Irish whistles), and Colm Graham (guitar), guided by the esteemed Musical Director, PJ Cardinal.

And let's not forget the mesmerizing The Emerald Fire Irish Dancers, whose skill, precision, and passion captivate audiences as they showcase the grace and athleticism inherent in traditional Irish dances. It's going to be a truly memorable night filled with joy, laughter, and the Spirit of the Irish as we warm up for St. Patrick's Day!

Tickets are available at paramounthudsonvalley.com or call 914-739-0039.

Yonkers Saint Patrick's Day on McLean Avenue Set for March 23



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Yonkerstimes.com

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New Law Requires Merchants to Provide Credit Card Surcharges to Consumers



L-R-Deputy County Exec. Ken Jenkins, Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, County Exec. George Latimer, Director of Consumer Protection Jim Maisano

Westchester County Executive George Latimer, New York State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin and County Director of Consumer Protection Jim Maisano are working together to ensure that residents are well-informed about a new law aimed at promoting transparency in credit card transactions. Effective February 11, 2024, this new state law mandates that merchants in New York State must provide clear and conspicuous disclosure of credit card surcharges to consumers.

Latimer said "Transparent pricing is essential for consumers to make informed decisions. This new law will empower Westchester residents by ensuring they have clear visibility into any credit card surcharges they may incur and I thank my colleague in government Assemblywoman Paulin for her efforts on its passage and Governor Hochul for signing it into law."

Paulin added: "This new law protects New Yorkers from hidden surcharges by requiring sellers to clearly post the price of a credit card surcharge. Credit card surcharges now have to be disclosed clearly so that customers are fully aware of them upfront and not just when they go to pay. The new law also prevents businesses from charging a higher fee than what they are charged by the credit card companies. This legislation is ultimately about transparency, fairness and preventing consumers from being misled when making purchases using credits cards. I thank Jim Maisano, Director of the Westchester County Department of Consumer Protection, for bringing this important issue to my attention. His idea is now a law which will protect New Yorker consumers."

The new law limits credit card surcharges to the amount charged to the business by the credit card company and requires businesses to clearly display the total price inclusive of any surcharges before checkout. It aims to prevent consumers from being surprised by hidden fees and ensures that they have a clear understanding of the costs associated with credit card transactions.

Maisano said: "This law reinforces the principles of fairness and transparency in commercial transactions. We are committed to ensuring that consumers are protected from deceptive practices, and this legislation is a significant step forward in achieving that goal."

For more information on the implementation of this law and consumer rights, residents are encouraged to contact the Westchester County Department of Consumer Protection.

Harckham's Food Donation and Recycling Bill Delivers for NY Residents



Left: State Senator Pete Harckham at a Bedford food drive. Photo from Office of State Sen. Pete Harckham / James persons

Five-Million Pound Milestone Reached, Food Distributed to State's 10 Regional Food Banks

New York State Senator Pete Harckham announced today that his 2021 law requiring supermarkets to make excess, unsold food available to organizations involved with helping residents with food insecurity, like food pantries, has led to the distribution of over five million pounds to the state's

"So many of our neighbors are still facing food insecurity, which is why we cannot let up our fight against hunger in our communities," said Harckham. "The success of the food donation law in stocking food pantries statewide while continuing to raise awareness of how neighbors can help each other is truly remarkable. As always, I am thankful to all those who have donated and also for the many volunteers who are fighting hunger in New York."

In his testimony recently during the New York State Legislature hearings on the Executive's Proposed FY2024-2025 State Budget, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Commissioner Basil Seggos noted that his agency, in partnership with Feeding New York State (Feeding NYS), had diverted more than five million pounds of nutritious food headed toward landfills that was donated instead to food banks serving food insecure New Yorkers.

Harckham's law, which was amended to extend its functioning period through 2026, has received \$4.8 million in support from the DEC through the Environmental Protection Fund to help Feeding NYS and the 10 regional food banks to dramatically increase donations beginning in October 2021. The funds were used by Feeding NYS to deploy staff to grocery stores, restaurants, colleges, and other food industry facilities to increase participation in the program and encourage food donations. The fund also supported several equipment purchases for the 10 regional food banks to increase food pickup capabilities at food pantries, meal centers and other partner agencies.

The partnership between New York State and Feeding NYS is a nation-leading model for food diversion programs. The implementation of Harckham's law and investments by New York to put the program into action have been tremendously effective: as of October 2023, Feeding NYS reported receiving more than 300,000 pounds of monthly food donations over the last six months, with an increasing number almost every month. This is a significant increase from 50-60,000 pounds per month when the program launched in October 2021. The program previously reached the one-million-pound food donation milestone in August 2022.

News investigations have highlighted how food production and food waste are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. Each step of food production, from growing, harvesting, processing and packaging to transportation and storage, releases harmful gases such as carbon dioxide and methane into the atmosphere.

On average, Americans waste about 35-40% of the food that is produced nationwide. This results in food production being to blame for almost 25-33% of greenhouse gas emissions worldwide—and when that food is wasted, the emissions that brought it forth are too. Food scraps that are often perfectly safe to eat unfortunately end up being thrown out, where they sit in landfills to decompose and release even more methane.

Cynthia Knox, chief executive officer of Caring for the Hungry and Homeless in Peekskill (CHHOP), said, "Commercial food waste has a huge negative impact on the environment and is a missed opportunity to ensure that the two million New Yorkers who are food insecure have the opportunity to access fresh, edible food that remains unsold. We applaud Senator Harckham for his work championing this food recycling legislation that will create a better environment and feed hungry people."

Marisa O'Leary, Putnam Community Action Partnership director at Westchester Community Opportunity Program, said, "The Excess Food Act legislation brings vital support to emergency food providers such as Putnam CAP. As food insecurity continues to increase in our local community, the donations from local supermarkets will strengthen our ability to provide low-income families with access to nutritious food. We are grateful for Senator Harckham's support on this important issue, as access to healthy food is a basic human right."

Carol Durst-Wertheim, board president of the Federated Conservationists of Westchester County (FCWC), said, "We support this bill and all the sustenance it provides to our neighbors who are food insecure. Every pound of food makes a difference. Thank you, Senator Harckham!"

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WCPD K-9-continued from pg 1-

stolen cars were traveling together on southbound I-684. A WCPD officer was waiting when the two vehicles entered the Hutchinson River Parkway and he followed them south. In the New Rochelle area, where other WCPD officers had staged, a traffic stop was attempted but neither driver would comply.

The first stolen vehicle – a 2019 Audi A6 stolen in Milford, Conn. -- exited at Wilmot Road in New Rochelle and crashed a short distance away. The driver, age 17, and passenger, age 15, bailed out and fled through nearby streets and yards. WCPD and New Rochelle Police Department officers established a perimeter, and PO Hearle and his Bloodhound partner Wren arrived on scene. Accompanied by two Emergency Service Unit officers, PO Hearle and Wren began to track the two fleeing felons and soon found them hiding in a backyard on Northwoods Circle.

At the same time, the second stolen vehicle – a 2019 BMW sedan stolen in South Kingstown, R.I., – continued south on the Hutch and attempted to evade WCPD and Eastchester Police Department officers near Mill Road. The 19-year-old driver rammed a WCPD Patrol car when the officer boxed her in. She was taken into custody and the officer was taken to a local hospital. The bad news: he had suffered a significant leg injury.

The trio of teens were hauled back to HQ and booked on multiple charges. The 15-year-old was charged as a juvenile and released to his parents. The 17-year-old was arraigned and remanded to Woodfield Cottage. He faces charges here that include Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 4th Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 3rd Degree (a high-capacity ammo magazine was found in the car.) He is also wanted on a warrant by Waterbury PD.

As for the 19-year-old, she was charged with Assault 2nd Degree, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 3rd Degree, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 4th Degree Criminal Mischief 3rd Degree, Fleeing an Officer in a Motor Vehicle and Reckless Driving. Stolen credit cards were found in her vehicle.

All around, this was a terrific job by multiple officers from Patrol, the Conditions Unit and ESU. Our thanks to the NRPD and Eastchester PD for their teamwork and assistance.

Arrest Made in OD Death in Yorktown, continued from pg 1-

of Protection issued by Westchester Family Court which stipulated that the defendant stay away from the listed victim, the operator of the vehicle.

The defendant, unable to post bail at this time, was remanded to Westchester County Jail. The defendant is due to appear in the Yorktown Justice Court on February 20, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

The investigation was assisted by the Westchester County Department of Public Safety Forensic Investigation Unit as well as the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

In 2011, NYS Police arrested an Albert M. Tapia of Cortlandt Manor for sex abuse with a 13-year old. His mug shot appears at the top of this story.

In 2012, Tapia was arrested in Croton for stabbing two friends during an altercation regarding an xbox controller.

And in 2023, Tapia was arrested for kicking in a glass door at Sunoco-7 Eleven in Jefferson Valley. He was charged with third-degree felony criminal mischief.

Read our stories from
Yonkers Rising at
Yonkerstimes.com

Notice of Formation of Buffsicle, LLC. Articles of Org filed with SSNY on 12/15/2023. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 41 Old Post Road, Rye, NY, 10580. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT FOR
MONTGOMERY COUNTY, MARYLAND

VILMA VICTORIA SOTO-CABRERA, *

Plaintiff, *

v. *

Case No. C-15-FM-23-007196

NELSON ANTONIO ABARCA-AREVALO, *

and *

MARTA LORENA RAMIREZ-ZAVALA, *

Defendants. *

* * * * *

NOTICE BY PUBLICATION

A Verified Complaint for Third-Party Custody of a Minor and Motion for Factual Findings to Establish Eligibility to File Petition for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status was filed against Nelson Antonio Abarca-Arevalo and Marta Lorena Ramirez-Zavala in the Circuit Court of Montgomery County Maryland, on November 10, 2023. The Complaint alleges, in substance, that Katherin Lorena Abaraca-Ramirez (the Minor), the daughter of Nelson Antonio Abarca-Arevalo and Marta Lorena Ramirez-Zavala, was born on May 6, 2003 in Sensuntepeque, El Salvador; that Defendants abandoned and neglected the Minor; that the Claimant is the friend of the Minor and is an appropriate and adequate person to obtain custody of the Minor; and that the best interest of the Minor is to stay in the United States with her friend, and not to be returned to El Salvador. Plaintiff seeks sole physical and legal custody of the Minor and a determination that the Minor is eligible to petition for Special Immigrant Juvenile Status.

It is this 23rd day of January, 2024, ORDERED that the plaintiff cause a copy of this Notice to published at least once a week for three consecutive weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in Westchester, NY; publication to be completed by March 2, 2024; Defendant Marta Lorena Ramirez-Zavala must file a response on or before April 11, 2024; and Defendant Marta Lorena Ramirez-Zavala is warned that failure to file a response

FILED

FFR 07 2024

within the time allowed may result in a default judgment or the granting of the relief sought.

Karen A. Bushell

Karen A. Bushell, Clerk
Montgomery County Circuit Court

Clerk of the Circuit Court for^{JB}
Montgomery County, Maryland

Jenkins, NYS IRC, continued from pg 1-

In recent years, that has not happened, with IRC members voting with their republican or democratic colleagues, and unable to come to an agreement. That resulted in NY Democrats in the Assembly and Senate drawing their own congressional lines. And those lines were challenged by republicans in court, resulting in a special master named to draw the congressional lines in 2022.

Jenkins has avoided that fiasco by getting democrats and republicans on the IRC to agree, and compromise, and come up with a set of congressional lines that were acceptable to 9 of the 10 members.

"I am proud to say that we have worked collaboratively and cooperatively and will be voting on a single consensus plan, for the first time. Every member made a good faith effort to bring to fruition the 2014 Amendment to the (NY) Constitution. We had the goal of seeking compromise, and this is a victory for the commission process and for small d democracy in the state of New York," said Jenkins.

The one set of agree upon congressional lines now go to the State Legislature and Governor Hochul, where they can be approved or rejected. If the NYIRC's lines are rejected, the democratic controlled Assembly and Senate must come up with new lines within the next week; petitioning will begin for congress on Feb. 27 in NY. But the democratic drawn lines could be challenged in court, resulting in confusion again as the country will be watching the outcome of the five competitive NY congressional races that could determine which party has control of the House in 2025.

Westchester's two congressional districts, NY-16 and NY-17, will basically remain the same, with only minor changes. In District 17, Congressman Mike Lawler, a republican, and his democratic challenger, former Congressman Mondaire Jones, both agreed and called on the state legislature to accept and adopt the lines drawn by the NYS IRC.

"I urge Albany to follow the procedures and rules spelled out in our constitution this time around, and adopt a map issued by the Independent Redistricting Commission," said Jones.

"It is imperative that the New York State Legislature acts swiftly to adopt and pass these bipartisan maps to prevent complications with the petitioning process and the upcoming primary season," said Lawler, who won election to the House in 2022 by defeating Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney by 2,100 votes.

In District 16, Westchester County Executive George Laitmer is challenging Congressman Jamaal Bowman in a democratic primary. Latimer said, "This is only the next step in a long process; it is now in the hands of the legislature, and we are confident in the ability of Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Heastie to complete this process fully and fairly. Regardless of the timing or the ultimate disposition of the lines, we look forward to continuing to bring our message of progressive results that benefit the people of our area, in whatever neighborhood they live and in whatever jurisdictions are ultimately assigned to CD-16."

Some NY Democrats were unhappy with the outcome from the NYS IRC, including Congressman Hakeem Jeffries, who serves as the Democratic Minority Leader and will become Speaker of the House if democrats retake control this November.

"Instead of remedying several of the substantive issues raised by good government groups related to communities of interest, the IRC map ignores or exacerbates them in parts of New York State, including the upper Hudson Valley," said Jeffries in a statement.

Two democratic state senators called the new maps "a disgrace," State Senator James Skoufis, and "I thought we would be getting different maps; it appears we didn't really get different maps," State Senator Liz Kruger. If NY Democrats decide to reject the proposed lines and draw their own, they need a 2/3 majority in both the Assembly and Senate to do so.

NYS IRC Republican Commissioner, Charles Nesbitt, estimates the map to be more than 90% similar to the Congressional map already in place.

Westchester State Senator and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, "The Senate Majority is eager to review the proposed map submitted by the IRC. We plan to discuss and decide our subsequent actions soon, taking into account the election cycle calendar. This process is critically important and we are committed to concluding it in a manner that upholds fairness and democracy."

We agree with the NY Daily News, who wrote, "They should end this nonsense and approve the IRC's map."

Most Westchester democrats we spoke to thought that the best course of action would be to accept the lines and win the congressional races needed to retake the House majority. "I would be shocked if they don't accept the IRC lines. It was a 9-1 vote, that is a mandate to accept the lines and move on. Plus Suozzi's win in NY-3 shows us that democrats can do it with the lines in place," said a sound shore democrat.

YoFi Fest Presents Black Voices Showcase- Feb. 25-Mama Gloria -Free



To honor Black History Month we have our BLACK VOICES SHOWCASE on February 25th at 3pm. The program features MAMA GLORIA by filmmaker Luchina Fisher. The film is a 2022 GLAAD Award nominee and has screened on PBS. It has also been spotlighted by NBC News, People Magazine, Now This, BBC News, The Chicago Tribune and Essence. Ms. Fisher's work is at the intersection of race, gender and identity. Her work has been supported by Black Public Media, the Field Foundation, Sisters in Cinema, Brown Girl Doc Mafia, the Queen Collective, Women Make Movies, the Athena Film Festival's Works in Progress Program, Firelight Media and the National Endowment for the Humanities. Luchina also teaches documentary filmmaking at Yale University. For more information and to make free reservations, go to <https://bvs2024.eventive.org/schedule/mama-gloria-65c67adc04ff9b004fbb7c49>

We are recognizing Women's History Month with our SHE FEST program on March 24th at 3pm. SheFest is a selection of short narratives and documentaries celebrating the voices of women and non-binary filmmakers in New York. These films represent the perspectives of women, encompassing all the complexities of identity and context. The program is curated by Gabrielle Fox, Founder of Theatre Revolution & Glass Ceiling Breakers and the Winner of the 914Inc. Women in Business Award. A talkback with the curator and filmmakers will follow the program. For more information and to make free reservations, go to <https://she-fest-2024.eventive.org/schedule/65d29215bd625c0039a1422f>

Admission to both events is free, but seats are going fast, so please encourage people to make their reservations ASAP if they're interested in attending. Visit

SPCA Cats continued from pg 1-

Please consider a donation to our social media fundraiser to help these poor cats and thank you to our Humane Law Enforcement Unit for acting swiftly in this urgent case. To donate to their care: <https://app.etapestry.com/.../SPCAof-Westchester/cats24.html>," writes Executive Director Shannon Laukhuf.

If financial aid isn't possible, people can send food, treats or toys to the Westchester SPCA, 300 North State Road, Briarcliff Manor, NY 10510, phone number 914-941-2896.

Your donation will also support the SPCA's Humane Law Enforcement Unit, who receives no government funding and depends solely on the generosity of individuals like you to protect Westchester's animals. Thank you in advance for helping these deserving cats receive a second chance.

After the cats and kittens are restored to health in the next few weeks, rescuers are going to be seeking families to adopt the animals. "Hopefully in the next few weeks as they get healthy, yeah we will be looking for homes for all of them, and you know a lot of them are going to be used to living with a lot of other cats," SPCA Westchester Director of Development Lisa Bonanno, who added that the resident of the White Plains apartment will not be charged with a crime, "she needs help."



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Supporters and Opponents Greet Mexican**Presidential Candidate's Visit to Yonkers***By Dan Murphy*

The upcoming Presidential election in Mexico came to Yonkers on Feb. 2 when one of the candidates visited the City at the invitation of the Yonkers Mexican Chamber of Commerce. Xochitl Galvez Ruiz attended a lunch at the Dos Maria Restaurant, 200 New Main Street.

County Legislator Jose Alvarado welcomed Galvez Ruiz to Yonkers and presented her with a proclamation from the Westchester Board of Legislators. About 50 Mexican-Americans were in attendance for the lunch.

Outside more than 100 protestors rallied against Galvez Ruiz, who is the nominee from the Broad Front for Mexico party. Galvez Ruiz is the opposition candidate. Incumbent President Andrés Manuel López Obrador is not running for reelection. Claudia Sheinbaum is running on the ruling party MORENA (the National Regeneration Movement) line.

Polls have Sheinbaum ahead of Galvez Ruiz by at least 10 points. A third candidate, is well behind both women.

Yonkers police formed a perimeter outside the restaurant to protect Galvez Ruiz when she left the lunch. What was most notable was the number of protestors who showed up for an event that very few in the media were made aware of, and the anger and intense opposition they had to Galvez Ruiz.

Signs and chants of disgrace, rat and corrupt met Galvez Ruiz as she left the event and got into a van and quickly departed.

Read more about this story online at [Yonkerstimes.com](https://www.yonkerstimes.com). The Yonkers Voice has video from the event, and The Yonkers Ledger wrote a story on the visit. We can find no other media coverage of this event.

SALT, continued from pg 1-

Prior to 2016, Americans could deduct 100% of their SALT from their Federal income taxes. That changed after former President Donald Trump passed a large tax cut with the help of republicans in congress in 2017.

In exchange for a lower tax rate across the board for all Americans, the rules on deducting your SALT from your Federal return were also changed, to a \$10,000 maximum deduction. For many Westchester homeowners who pay \$25,000+ in property taxes every year, the capping of SALT was difficult.

But on the other hand, the same Westchester homeowner who lost some of their SALT deduction should also have paid less in Federal Income taxes because of the Trump tax cut.

House Democratic Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries and US Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer both opposed Lawler's plan.

"When I came to Congress, the very first bill I introduced was the SALT Marriage Penalty Elimination Act to provide immediate tax relief to hard working middle class families throughout the Hudson Valley. Over the last 13 months, I fought tirelessly, including with members of my own party, to get a bill to the floor to receive fair consideration and an up or down vote," said Congressman Lawler.

"Rather than join me in bipartisan cooperation to deliver for all New Yorkers Hakeem Jeffries, and House Democrats from across New York chose to play politics and stop SALT relief dead in its tracks, while Governor Hochul and Senators Schumer and Gillibrand remained silent. They put partisan politics ahead of what is best for the people they represent and it's shameful."

"While I am disappointed in the result, I remain undeterred. Along with my New York Republican colleagues, I will continue to fight for SALT tax relief and work towards a bipartisan legislative fix," concluded Congressman Lawler.

Lawler's opponent in November, former Congressman Mondaire Jones, said, "Mike Lawler worked hard to put Donald Trump in the White House in 2016. Then Trump's 2017 tax scam bill capped the SALT deduction at \$10,000 and forced households in the Lower Hudson Valley to pay thousands more dollars in annual taxes. Now Rep. Lawler wants credit for trying to make minor improvements to a problem he helped cause. In fact, there's not a crisis Lawler claims to be trying to solve that Republicans aren't responsible for creating in the first place. This fall, voters can fire Lawler and finally end the least productive Congress since the Great Depression," Mondaire Jones said.

"When Mondaire represented the Lower Hudson Valley in Congress, he was instrumental in convincing a majority of his House colleagues to support SALT relief, which would have raised the cap on the State and Local Tax deduction from \$10,000 to \$80,000 for both individuals and families for 10 years. In comparison, the legislation Mike Lawler is pushing – and which just failed to even be considered for a vote today by a large margin – would just raise the cap for one year and would apply only to some taxpayers," said Shannon Geison, Campaign Manager for Mondaire for Congress stated.

But Jones was also unable to get SALT relief legislation through Congress and signed by the President.

Westchester County Executive and Congressional candidate George Latimer called the SALT cap "a disaster." "The SALT deduction cap continues to be a thorn in the side of Westchester residents. It's a disaster for our community, limiting our ability to fully deduct our state and local taxes, unfairly burdening homeowners and hindering economic growth," said Latimer. In the face of this challenge, Latimer has taken action to alleviate the strain on taxpayers by working to mitigate the impact of this policy through five consecutive years of either freezing or actually reducing the County portion of homeowner's property tax bill.

Latimer added: "Here in Westchester, our Administration has provided some respite for County property owners by reducing the tax burden while still maintaining – and even expanding – top level services for our community."

Latimer is challenging Congressman Jamaal Bowman in the 16th District-NY. Rep. Bowman voted against Lawler's plan to lift the SALT cap.

Lawler and Jones are running in New York's 17th Congressional District, parts of Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, and Westchester Counties.

Undercover Mom Blamed by Lakeland School District for Exposing Sex-Personality Test for Middle School Students*By Dan Murphy*

The story about an undercover mom in the Lakeland School District who exposed a Personality Test given to her child, a student at the Copper Beach Middle School that included inappropriate sexual questions and content, continues.

At a recent meeting of the Lakeland School Board, Board President Adam Kaufman said, "I want to address a recent incident involving the unauthorized release of an edited video. The edited video, released on a special interest social media site, distorted a meeting between a school administrator, teacher and a parent. It is reprehensible to think that a parent would do this solely for the purposes of embarrassing the teacher, the administrator and the district, a year and a half after the incident was dealt with appropriately.... We will be working with our legal advisors to address any legal issues related to this incident."

As a taxpayer and former parent in the Lakeland School District, I do not agree with the attempts by the school board to blame the parent-undercover mom for their improper oversight of the teacher involved, Copper Beach Middle School Teacher Tinkle, and the personality test that he was giving his middle school students.

I agree with the school board in questioning the undercover mom for why she took a year and a half to expose her video and the sexualized personality test. But regardless of the time lapse, I thank her for bringing this to the light of parents and taxpayers in the Lakeland School District. Her actions were certainly NOT reprehensible, but the personality test given by Mr. Tinkle was reprehensible, in my view.

The fact that the school district immediately removed the video and the website link that was available to anyone proves what a mistake was made. And while the district is pursuing their legal options, I am sure that parents are doing the same for the negligence shown to their students.

In my view, the reason why the undercover mom exposed her videos to @Sage Ops and Libs of TikTok (which has 3.7 Million views) is because she wanted the district to notify all parents and students that may have been involved or who may have seen the borderline pornography associated with this personality test. The district has refused to notify all parents, instead deciding to wait for parents and students to come forward, and then take appropriate action. And so, the Mom went to the new, online media.

And this story is not over. Another two videos were posted by @Sage Ops. One with LSD Assistant Superintendent Tracy Norman, and another video of the Lakeland School Board meeting.

We agree with a Twitter-X post from Gays Against Groomers NY, who wrote "We are living through very challenging times when it comes to parenting and having children in school. Not only do parents have to worry about schools hiding their child's transition from them, but parents also have to be concerned about their child's school giving their child links to websites with sex toys and assignments that talk about groping to middle schoolers. Schools, like this one located in the Lakeland Central School District in New York, will not be honest with parents when confronted. These schools will likely instruct teachers, as we see in this example, to hide what's happening from parents. Anything to indoctrinate and sexualize children. This reality is truly heartbreaking and sickening."

Weekend Events at Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, FEB. 24

Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River: (914) 864-7322. Sugar House Chat, 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. As long as the sap is running, we will be making one of nature's sweetest rewards: maple syrup. Come into the sugar house to chat with us!

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7282. Sugar Shack Chat, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. Stop by our sugar shack anytime between noon and 3 p.m. to learn about how we make maple syrup! Also: Feb. 25.

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720. Invasives "R" Us, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Learn how to remove and identify these problematic plants. All tools and hand gloves will be provided.

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466. Who's Hibernating Here?, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Learn about hibernation and the crucial role it plays for some species in surviving winter months. Discover who is sleeping the winter away, who remains active in the park and how they all manage to endure winter. After our walk we'll return to the nature center to warm up with tea and hot chocolate.

SUNDAY, FEB. 25

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005. Naturalist's Choice Hike, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Join our naturalist as we set out on a guided hike around the preserve. Hiking shoes are recommended.

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. Nibble and Learn Lecture Series: The History of Glass Houses, 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Learn about the fascinating history of glass houses as you sip and nibble. For people ages 21 and over. Get details and register at <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/sip-nibble-learn-the-history-of-glass-houses/>

Visit us online at [Yonkerstimes.com](https://www.yonkerstimes.com)

United Way of Westchester and Putnam Hosts Canned Food Drive*NY Heat Act, continued from pg 3-*

In an effort to combat hunger for families struggling to make ends meet, United Way of Westchester and Putnam will hold a canned food drive from Saturday, February 24th and Saturday, March 2nd during National Canned Food Month.

All donated canned goods will be given to food pantries in Westchester and Putnam Counties. Fresh produce or dairy products, anything in glass containers, expired food, anything in open/damaged packing, leftovers, cooked foods, or used items will not be accepted.

"Hunger is a widespread problem throughout Westchester and Putnam Counties and the rise in the cost of living puts more strain on individuals and families that are struggling to make ends meet," said Tom Gabriel, CEO of the United Way of Westchester and Putnam. "Almost 40% of people fall within the ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) threshold within Westchester and Putnam counties, and don't make enough to provide for their basic needs, including food. We thank our partners in the Westchester Library System and participating libraries, Feeding Westchester, Volunteer New York! and other organizations for helping us to improve the lives of our neighbors who live in poverty or paycheck to paycheck through initiatives such as this food drive."

Donors can drop off donations to their local libraries. The participating libraries are: WESTCHESTER Ardsley Public Library; Bedford Free Library, Briarcliff Manor Public Library, Eastchester Public Library, Greenburgh Public Library, Hendrick Hudson Free Library (Montrose), Irvington Public Library, Larchmont Public Library, Lewisboro Library, New Rochelle Public Library, North Castle Public Library, North White Plains Public Library, Port Chester-Rye Brook Public Library, Pound Ridge Public Library, Ruth Keeler Library (North Salem), Somers Library, The Field Library (Peekskill), Town of Pelham Public Library, Tuckahoe Public Library, and Warner Library (Tarrytown).

PUTNAM Brewster Public Library; Julia L. Butterfield Memorial Library (Cold Spring); Mahopac Public Library; Putnam Valley Free Library.

Those who wish to volunteer for the food drive can help by sorting, documenting, and packaging donations for distribution, and delivering items to recipient food pantries on Saturday, March 2nd. To sign up to volunteer, please contact Bianca Joseph-Goldson bjosephgoldson@uwwp.org or register at: www.uwwp.org/canned-food-drive-volunteer-sign-up/.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC

Plaintiff,

vs.

JAMES GARZIA, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF SARAH GARZIA; DIANE M GARZIA, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF SARAH GARZIA; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTEES OF THE ESTATE OF SARAH GARZIA, 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 the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, 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, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to plaintiff; SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; LARCHMONT FEDERAL SAVINGS AND LOAN ASSOCIATION; THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK; JOHN DOE #1,

"JOHN DOE #2" through "JOHN DOE #12," the last eleven names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises, described in the complaint,
Defendants.

To the above named Defendants

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action and to serve a copy of your Answer on the plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days of the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after service of the same is complete where service is made in any manner other than by personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service. Your failure to appear or to answer will result in a judgment against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. In the event that a deficiency balance remains from the sale proceeds, a judgment may be entered against you.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT

THE OBJECT of the above caption action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure the sum of \$795,000.00 and interest, recorded on January 03, 2011, in Control Number 503213391, of the Public Records of WESTCHESTER County, New York., covering premises known as 2 CHERRY HILL CIRCLE, OSSINING, NY 10562.

The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above.

WESTCHESTER County is designated as the place of trial because the real property affected by this action is located in said county.

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 the mortgage company will not stop the 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: February 5th, 2024
ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC
Attorney for Plaintiff Matthew Rothstein, Esq.
900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310
Westbury, NY 11590 516-280-7675

Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky said, "The transition off fossil fuels cannot be achieved on the backs of working New Yorkers. While I applaud the proposal in the Executive Budget to end fossil fuel subsidies, the fact is that we need the consumer protections from the NY HEAT Act to go with it. Spikes in utility distribution rates are causing serious problems for middle class families and people on fixed income in my district. I will be working with my colleagues to have the cap on costs restored. New York State must meet its climate reduction target through policy that is fair and equitable for New York residents."

"The data is clear. If implemented, NY Heat would make a significant dent on Westchester's energy affordability crisis," said Juan-Pablo Velez, executive director of think tank Win Climate and author of the new analysis. "One in five area residents are energy burdened, and their bills would be cut nearly in half, on average."

"Amidst the current energy landscape, the NY HEAT Act stands as a beacon of progress," said Dr. Courtney Williams of Safe Energy Rights Group in Peekskill. "By putting this bill in the New York budget, we're not just lowering energy bills; we're creating the pathway for investment in cleaner heating programs beyond the confines of gas dependency. It's time to break free from the shackles of antiquated energy models and embrace a future where sustainability and affordability go hand in hand. Let's ensure that every dollar saved doesn't just benefit our pockets but also fosters a healthier tomorrow for our children."

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

INDEX NO. 66627/2023

Plaintiff designates WESTCHESTER
as the place of trial situs of the real property
the place of trial situs of the real property

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Mortgaged Premises:

2 CHERRY HILL CIRCLE, OSSINING, NY 10562
Section: 89.12, Block: 1, Lot: 39

Westchester County Parks Offering Lifeguard Certification Scholarships

Westchester County Parks in partnership with Westchester Parks Foundation is offering 10 scholarships to local students to fund Lifeguard Certification courses for those who want to work as a Westchester County Parks Lifeguard this summer.

In order to be considered for the scholarship, students ages 15+ are encouraged to write in explaining why they want to become a Westchester County Parks Lifeguard and why they will benefit from the experience. Submissions should be at least 250 words and emailed to: PRC-Aquatics@westchestercounty.gov. Deadline is Friday, March 15. Those awarded will be notified via email by Monday, March. 25.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "Lifeguarding is a great opportunity for our County's youth to gain a sense of responsibility that can prepare them for their future. It is imperative that everyone who wants to become a Westchester County Parks Lifeguard has the chance to do so."

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathy O'Connor said, "Westchester County Parks Lifeguards are the backbone of our summers and we are thrilled to offer assistance in allowing youngsters to pursue their goals."

Executive Director of Westchester Parks Foundation, Joe Stout said, "Westchester Parks Foundation believes that parks are for everyone, and we support this effort to ensure that students who may not have the means to do so, have access to lifeguarding skills."

Those awarded with the scholarship will be expected to work at any of the following facilities:

- Croton Point Beach in Croton-on-Hudson
- Glen Island Beach in New Rochelle
- Saxon Woods Pool in White Plains
- Sprain Ridge Pool in Yonkers
- Tibbetts Brook Pool in Yonkers
- Willson's Woods Pool in Mt. Vernon

NY State Police Arrest 139 People for DWI During Super Bowl Weekend

The New York State Police announced that troopers issued 6,876 tickets during a special STOP DWI traffic enforcement period over Super Bowl Weekend. During the campaign, which started on Friday, February 9, 2024, and ran through Sunday, February 11, 2024.

State Police increased patrols and conducted sobriety checkpoints to deter, identify and arrest impaired drivers. The initiative was funded by the Governor's Traffic Safety Committee (GTSC) and was also carried out by local law enforcement agencies across the state.

During this enforcement period, State Troopers arrested 139 people for DWI, and investigated 245 crashes, which injured 37 people. State Police did not respond to any fatal crashes during the weekend.

As part of the enforcement, Troopers also targeted drivers speeding and aggressive drivers across the state. Below is a sampling of the total tickets that were issued: -Speeding- 2,180 -Distracted Driving 192-

During last year's Super Bowl enforcement State Police issued 8,311 tickets and arrested 141 people for DWI.

In the Lower Hudson Valley region, which includes Westchester County, there were 43 DWI Arrests, 344 arrests for speeding, and 46 arrests for distracted driving.

Dr. John Morgan, continued from pg 2-

ran for the NYS Assembly in 1930. An Advisory Board Member of the Yonkers Council for Protection of Foreign Born Workers, he opposed anti-alien legislation and promoted naturalization for immigrants.

In the 1920s, he was an active member of the Conference for Progressive Political Action. Elected Financial Secretary of the Yonkers Progressives August 1924, he addressed its 1925 meeting featuring keynote speaker Eugene Debs, the 1924 Socialist Candidate for President; Debs spoke about the need to rebuild and reorganize our country.

The 1925 NYS AME Zion Church Annual Conference was held at Yonkers' new AME Zion Church, designed by noted architect Lansing Quick. Dr. Morgan, speaking on behalf of Yonkers' professional men, welcomed 300 delegates and visitors from throughout NYS to the five-day event-filled symposium.

The good doctor donated prizes for the annual Schoolboys Races and was involved in the Messiah Baptist Church War Relief Circle for Black soldiers. He raised money for all three Yonkers' hospitals and helped organize a City-Wide Committee to celebrate appointment of Thomas Brooks, YPD's first Black officer. During the Depression, he worked on the Colored Citizens Unemployment Relief Committee. One of its first events was the 1931 performance by Hemsley Winfield's "The Bronze Ballet Plastique" at Saunders High School, advertised as "the first Negro dance recital in America." (Winfield attended School 13 and Yonkers High School.)

A faithful member of the Sunday Men's Club, he served many years as its Vice President. A men's intellectual discussion group, the club's purpose, according to its incorporation papers, was uplifting "the condition of the Negro race," bringing "members together on Sundays for religious and moral instruction and discussion to inculcate sound ideas of religion and morality." They presented literary discussions, speakers on many topics and cultural programs, with topics focused on the life of Black Americans.

An active participant in area medical associations, he continuously upgraded his skills by attending medical conferences and clinics, especially the NY Homeopathic Medical College's demonstrations of the latest laboratory techniques, methods and equipment. He put them to good use successfully treating Dog Catcher Edward Smith, bitten by a rabid dog, using the Pasteur treatment to prevent hydrophobia. The same year, Smith survived a second rabid dog bite; although he went into convulsions, it wasn't fatal. The original series of treatments had given Smith the ability to fight the fatal disease a second time.

John Morgan, avid Socialist, respected physician, devoted family man, and leading Yonkers citizen for 27 years, passed away at home August 13th 1931, survived by his wife Mary and three daughters.

The funeral cortege, with six honorary pall bearers (Arthur Giddings, Monrow Foy, Hilary Harris, John Jackson, Toler Brooks, Harry Carter) walking beside the hearse, made its way to the church. Members of the Masons, Odd Fellows, Friendly Society, Lincoln Lodge #17, Knights of Pythias, Order of Druids Lodge, Friendly Society, and doctors from Westchester County and New York City medical societies brought up the rear of the cortege. Judge Gerald Nolan and Corporation Council Harry Laragh officially represented the City of Yonkers.

His funeral, held at Memorial AME Zion Church, was punctuated by the music and hymns Dr. Morgan so loved. An estimated 1,000 people overflowed the Irving Place church onto the sidewalk and street, which was closed for the funeral.

The Yonkers Socialist Party unanimously adopted a resolution, here in part: "Resolved, that we have learned with heartfelt grief the sad tidings of the death of Dr. John A. Morgan... many years one of the most earnest, ardent and intelligent strugglers for the emancipation of humanity... His splendid personality and broad cultural gifts endeared him to a wide circle of appreciating friends. For us, he lives on... not as a mere memory, but as a vital factor in our thoughts and activities."

In 1956, daughter Mae Morgan Robinson donated a beautiful baptismal font at St. Augustine's Episcopal Church in memory of her father. The dedication ceremony incorporated baptism of three babies; no doubt Dr. Morgan smiled his blessings down on them.



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**Black History Month:
Recognizing Heroes Past and Present**



*By Dennis Richmond Jr.
Author: He Spoke at My School*

Black History Month is a special time when people around the world celebrate the rich history of African and African-American heritage. Started in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, it took until 1970 for the first official month-long celebration. It gained national recognition in 1976 thanks to President Gerald Ford.

This year, Yonkers Times proudly presents a series of articles on Black History Month, aiming to combat the erasure and suppression of this vital history. Understanding Black History promotes diversity, combats racism, and empowers individuals by shining a light on forgotten stories.

One aspect of Black culture celebrated during this month is the Ballroom Scene, a vibrant expression of Black and Latinx LGBTQ+ identity. Originating during the Harlem Renaissance, it provides a safe space for artistic expression and community building. Through contests and chosen families, Ballroom offers a platform for individuals like Jauan T. Durbin, Avery Parker, and Nekia Zulu to thrive and resist societal norms.

In addition to historical celebrations, Yonkers Rising highlights the achievements of modern-day trailblazers like Cienna Rose, Tajé Dean, and Kierra Carter. These young individuals from diverse backgrounds showcase resilience, creativity, and empowerment in their respective fields. Cienna Rose advocates for the trans community, Tajé Dean expresses himself through art, and Kierra Carter empowers others through therapy and motivational speaking.

As we honor the contributions of Black trailblazers both past and present, let us remember the importance of uplifting and amplifying their voices. Through celebration and recognition, we continue to pave the way for a more inclusive and equitable future.

Girl Scout Cookies are Here!



Did you know that the Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world? Every purchase of Girl Scout Cookies helps Girl Scouts explore new adventures. Support local Girl Scout troops—and enjoy tasty treats packed with discovery and fun!

With each cookie purchase, you're supporting Girl Scouts as they learn, grow, and thrive through all of life's adventures. Plus, all proceeds stay local to help fund life-changing, girl-led programs, experiences, and learning all year long in your community.

Because you get your cookies directly from a Girl Scout (or troop), you'll enjoy them even more knowing you're helping local Girl Scouts gain the business experience and confidence to take on the world, one cookie at a time.

Girl Scouts learn five essential skills when they sell cookies, that are essential to leadership, to success, and to life.

Goal Setting: Girl Scouts learn how to set goals and create a plan to reach them.

Decision Making: Girl Scouts learn to make decisions on their own and as a team.

Money Management: Girl Scouts learn how to create a budget and handle money.

People Skills: Girl Scouts find their voice and build confidence through customer interactions.

Business Ethics: Girl Scouts learn to act ethically, both in business and in life.

Enjoy Girl Scout Cookies yourself, give some to a friend, or donate to a worthy cause—every bite counts!

**LISTENING.
CARING.** THE WAY MEDICINE
WAS MEANT TO BE



FROM L TO R: KLAUDIA NOWALIWSKY, MD; THOMAS APUZZO, MD
ANA ANDRONE, MD; EVELYNN SANTAMARIA, FNP; KIRANPRIT KAUR, MD

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