

# Westchester Rising

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## Auto Thefts at the Car Wash in Westchester? Shoplifter Arrested 17 times in 13 Months

Even Al Sharpton Says Its Time for Some Criminal Justice Reform



**Beware of  
car thieves  
at the car  
wash**

By Dan Murphy

The latest crime trend in NYC has now come to Westchester, with car thieves now grabbing autos at Car Washes in Mamaroneck and Pelham Manor. "In an effort to keep our community informed and on alert, the Village of Mamaroneck Police Department would like to notify the community about three incidents of cars being stolen from car wash businesses.

"Two incidents happened in the Village of Mamaroneck and another in the Village of Pelham Manor. On Monday, February 13, at 1:00 pm, at 9:00 pm, and Tuesday, February 14, at 3:45 pm., in a coordinated manner unknown perpetrators stole cars from car washes, after the cars were just cleaned and left unattended. Please keep an eye on your vehicle while it is being washed, as this is an ongoing investigation, writes the Mamaroneck PD.

Some simple tips for avoiding a car theft are to keep your vehicle in sight at all times, and prior to having your vehicle dried, have the attendant turn off your vehicle and hand you the keys.

The Yonkers Police recently posted about the need for criminal justice and bail reform. "Dear New York State Legislature: Bail reform has degraded the quality of life in our region and led to an increase in crime and lawlessness.

"Thieves and recidivist property offenders have been empowered to literally stroll through our retail stores and steal what they want with impunity. These perpetrators have no fear of committing crimes or getting caught. Why?

"On Feb. 12, Yonkers Police arrested 25-year-old Anthony Arias of the Bronx for felony shoplifting from Burlington Coat Factory at 2500 Central Park Avenue. This was his 17th arrest since January 2022 – that's more than one a month.

"Anthony has failed to appear in court at least six times: he had two open arrest warrants and four open bench warrants. If there are no consequences for bad behavior, if the criminal justice system is literally a revolving door, then we are failing in our duty to protect the public.

"Courts must have the discretion to jail offenders based on their propensity to reoffend or the danger they pose to the community. Fix our laws. Put victims and law-abiding citizens first," writes the YPD.

*continued on pg 4-*

## Wake Up Westchester!

**For Pete's Sake, Don't Let Indian Point Dump  
1M Gallons of Nuclear Waste into the Hudson**



*Beacon of Hope, by Michael D'Antuono, ArtandResponse.com*

By Dan Murphy

After reading a story in the Gothamist by Rosemary Midsary, (<https://gothamist.com/news/dumping-radioactive-water-hudson-river-best-option-indian-point-nuclear-plant-owner-holtec>) that Holtec, the owner of the now closed Indian Point Power Plant, was planning to discharge 1 million gallons of nuclear waste into the Hudson River, I immediately thought of Pete Seeger, and his efforts over 40 years to make the Hudson clean, and liveable for fish and wildlife.

As a young boy, I used to attend the yearly concert at Croton Point Park in the 1970's with my parents called Clearwater Festival, that Pete Seeger organized to raise funds and awareness for his work to clean up the Hudson. One of my classmates at the time at Brookside Elementary school was Dave Matthews.

When Pete passed away in 2014, Matthews wrote for Rolling Stone, "A Pete Seeger concert was the first concert I ever saw. My parents took my brother, my sisters and me. I will never forget it. I was little. Dancing in a field in upstate New York while the grown-ups sat on the grass. My parents and family raised me on music of all sorts and Pete Seeger was a big part. He was full of hope but disappointed in our wasteful ways. He made me want to be a better person. Why don't we lend our ears to the greatest among us. Pete Seeger fought for the working people and he fought against greed, and corruption, and war, and pollution, until the end of his life. Thank goodness for Pete Seeger."

Perhaps that concert that Dave was talking about was the same Clearwater Festivals that I attended with my parents in Croton.

In a Feb. 10 post, Riverkeeper made the case to just say no to dumping in the Hudson. Riverkeeper writes, Riverkeeper joins call for storing tritium-contaminated water in tanks on site while seeking a safe disposal method

Holtec International, the firm responsible for decommissioning the Indian Point nuclear power plant, has stated that it will resume discharging radioactive wastewater into the Hudson River from a spent fuel pool on the site as early as

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## Slater and Town Board Sued by AAA Carting Yorktown Residents Say Garbage Deal Stinks!



*A Competitive Carting Garbage Truck being towed after breaking down in Yorktown*

By Dan Murphy

Most Westchester residents don't think a lot about their garbage and recycling removal, but only when these services are not performed properly that residents and taxpayers take note. That is what is happening in the Town of Yorktown.

Last year, the Yorktown Town Board, under the leadership of then Supervisor Matt Slater, went out to bid for a new garbage contract. The current bidder was AAA Carting, who also submitted a bid to continue their services. There were no major complaints made against AAA, who had serviced the residents of Yorktown from 2018-2022.

Slater and the Town Board decided to award the garbage contract to Competitive Carting, who began operating on Jan. 1, 2023 in Yorktown. Since that time, Yorktown residents have complained at Town Board meetings, created a Facebook page dedicated to bad garbage service in Yorktown, and sent us letters to the editor about the mess.

On Feb.3, AAA Carting filed a lawsuit against the Town, Slater and members of the Town Board, alleging that they illegally awarded the contract to Competitive. The lawsuit claims that AAA was "the lowest responsible bidder for the public contract," and that the Town was irresponsible in awarding the contract to Competitive.

"First, the Town arbitrarily and capriciously awarded the public contract to Competitive Carting, an entity known by the Town to be a newly-created company by an individual, Brian Amico, who filed personal bankruptcy as well as for a fictitious entity he had created, Competition Carting ("Competition"), which was the Town's waste hauling company prior to AAA Carting.

"Subsequently, during the course of its contract with the Town, Competition assigned the contract to another hauler, R&S Waste, which subsequently lost its license to haul waste issued by the Westchester County Solid Waste Commission. Given this history, among other facts set forth below, the Town's award of the public contract to Competitive Carting, was in contravention of (laws) which require municipalities, such as the Town, to award public contracts to the lowest responsible bidder."

The lawsuit also claims that the Town's, "award of the public contract included a material modification of the performance bond requirement, which gave Com-

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**Please Stop Naming & Renaming the Cuomo-TZ  
Bridge- Work On Something More Important!**



OPINION:

New York State, and our leaders in Albany, have many challenges in the weeks ahead, most notable is the passage of a State budget. Included in every NY State budget are priorities that are jammed into the budget, forcing State Senators and Assembly members to "take it or leave it" and having to make a choice of voting yes or no on the budget, but on other items as well.

Governor Kathy Hochul wants to ban Menthol Cigarettes and all flavored tobacco products in New York State. She also wants some type of criminal justice reform, and wants to increase the number of Charter Schools permitted in New York City.

All of these issues are important to Westchester Residents. But one issue that is of NO importance to the people of Westchester is the name of the Mario Cuomo Bridge, formerly known as the Tappan Zee Bridge.

Governor Hochul and several state legislators have threatened to change the name back to the TZ bridge, apparently as punishment to former Governor Andrew Cuomo, who forced through the renaming late one night while he was Governor. A. Cuomo was forced to resign in 2021 for sexually inappropriate comments to staff and state employees.

But nobody cares about the name of the bridge that connects Westchester to Rockland anymore. Our newspaper, like others, did have an initial interest when A. Cuomo proposed it. But now it is nothing more than grandstanding and a waste of time.

So why are we writing about such an insignificant event? To call out our state delegation from Westchester, not to engage in this subject or topic. We agree with our State Senator, and Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, who recently commented that the continued obsession with the vote for NYS Chief Judge LaSalle was a "distraction" that should end so that the Senate could focus on the

*continued on pg 3-*



## Film Industry Generates More than \$1Billion in Economic Impact in Westchester County

## Animals Lovers Come to the Rescue of 200 Cats Found in Yonkers Hoarding House



Barry Surman, Dep. Director, Westchester County Tourism & Film; Masha Turchinsky, Director/CEO, Hudson River Museum; Bridget Gibbons, Director of Economic Development, Westchester County; Ernie Karpeles, Location Manager; Westchester County Executive George Latimer; Michael Hartel, Location Manager; Melissa Velez-Goldberg, Director, Office of Film & Photography, City of Yonkers; Natasha Caputo, Director, Westchester County Tourism & Film; Yoni Bokser, Executive Director, NYS Gov. Office of Motion Picture & Television Development

A new analysis of the film sector in Westchester County found it generated over \$1.1 billion of economic activity in 2021, County Executive George Latimer announced. The report shows the industry supported 3,784 jobs and nearly \$356.8 million in wages, surpassing pre-pandemic levels. In addition, the number of production days rose to an all-time high of 1,288 days of filming in the County.

Latimer made the announcement at an event hosted by Westchester County Tourism & Film at the Edith Macy Center. Over 150 representatives from the film industry and Westchester locations and municipalities participated in the program, designed to foster collaboration on filming in Westchester. The event, which featured speakers from State government, local municipalities and the film and television industry, focused on best practices on how to boost the filming appeal of a given location - which in turn boosts tourism economic revenue.

Latimer said: "The message from this report is clear: The film industry plays a leading role in generating investment in Westchester. Every film, television, and commercial production brings economic activity to our County. In addition to providing thousands of jobs for our residents, productions are using local vendors, increasing foot traffic to local stores and restaurants, hiring our talented residents, and showcasing our incredible locations to audiences around the world."

Westchester County Tourism & Film Director Natasha Caputo said: "The data show that the collective efforts with our partners to attract new film business are paying off. The fact that we have exceeded pre-pandemic numbers speaks to the quality and diversity of our locations and affirms that we are creating a welcoming, film-friendly environment. Another benefit of the film industry in Westchester is screen tourism. Our locations — such as Lyndhurst, the Belvedere Estate, and the Hudson River Museum/Glenview Historic Home — have been featured in popular shows, resulting in a boost in visitors at those locations."

The award-winning and popular shows that filmed in Westchester in 2020 and 2021 included The Blacklist (NBC); Dickinson (Apple TV+); The Flight Attendant (HBO); FBI and FBI: Most Wanted (CBS); The Gilded Age (HBO); Law & Order: SVU (NBC); Only Murders in the Building (Hulu); Severance (Apple TV+); Succession (HBO); and The Watcher (Netflix).

In addition, the industry generates significant fiscal benefits for businesses and communities, contributing \$7.4 million in sales tax, lodging-related tax, and permit and property rental fees. In 2021, 946 tourism jobs were created as a result of the film industry.



two of the first persons (from Brooklyn) to adopt cats found in Yonkers, left

below: 200 cats found in Yonkers Hoarding House



By Dan Murphy

You may have heard about a home in Yorktown Heights where police found two dead persons and 150 cats. A similar "hoarding home" was found in Yonkers recently. Another house full of 200 cats was found in Yonkers.

The Yonkers Animal Shelter posted the following on Feb. 5. "By strange coincidence a cat hoarding situation was brought to the shelter's attention a day or two after the sad situation in Yorktown Heights was discovered. Thankfully no one was deceased in Yonkers however there are between 150 to 200 cats who need our help.

The Yonkers Animal Shelter has already begun housing them but desperately needs help from rescues who are able to take some of the many cats in need. As you can see in the video all the cats appear to be pretty social and of various ages. We also need help with cat food donations.

continued on pg 5-

# WHAT KIND OF TOWN ARE THE YORKTOWN RESIDENTS PAYING FOR?

## You need help from the NYS PUBLIC INTEGRITY BUREAU

**Request Integrity Investigation and submit evidence to the public integrity bureau.**  
**Management policy on public integrity, self-governance, transparency, accountability, ethical behavior, and financial integrity.**  
**Request a public integrity investigation or submit evidence to the public integrity bureau.**  
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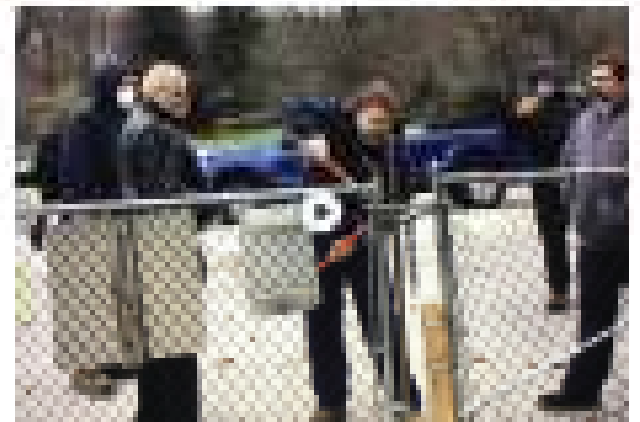
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## Idoni: After 10 Years of Consecutive Drops, In 2022, Westchester Foreclosure Filings Creep Up

After consistently dropping over a ten-year period of time foreclosure filings and judgments have begun rising again in Westchester County. While not reaching the highs seen during the end of the real estate bubble bursting from 2009 through 2015, there has been a statistical doubling of both filings and judgments over the past 14 months according to Westchester County Clerk Timothy C. Idoni, who as Clerk of the County's Supreme Court is responsible for the filing of the foreclosure cases and their ultimate decisions.

Idoni said, "There can be a number of reasons for the bump in these cases. There was a definitive drop in filings during Covid-19 but since mid-2022 the filings have begun to rise again for the first time in a decade."

Idoni noted from the period of 2007-2015 over 2,000 filings per year were the norm as the financial institutions attempted to recover from the bad loans common during the housing bubble. Judgments jumped substantially from 2015 through 2017 then leveled off and dropped until the past fourteen months.

### Foreclosure Filings 2006 -2023

2006-1545-  
 2007-2150  
 2008-2190  
 2009-3064  
 2010-2453  
 2011-1641  
 2012-1810  
 2013-2696  
 2014-2320  
 2015-2120  
 2016-1411  
 2017-1210  
 2018-1146  
 2019-1041  
 2020-380  
 2021-224  
 2022-503  
 2013-113-Through February 13, 2023

Filings jumped 137% between 2021 and 2022. In the first two months of 2022, 27 total filings were received. In the first two months of 2023, 113 have already been received, an increase of 318%.

Judgments jumped from a 16-year low of 134 in 2022 to 268 in 2023, a 50% increase.

### Foreclosure Judgments 2015-2022

2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
1181	1176	1062	880	715	219	134	268

### Cuomo Bridge renaming nonsense, continued from pg 1-

Governor's proposed \$227 Billion state budget. Hochul nominated LaSalle to be the next Chief Judge of NY, but lost a confirmation vote, and it wasn't close. Now its time to move on.

Similarly, we have already debated the name of the Cuomo bridge. Regardless of your opinion of Andrew Cuomo, Mario Cuomo served our state with honor and without scandal. Keep the name and let's move on, and if we hear about any of our Westchester State Senators or Assembly members wasting our time with this discussion, we will call them out. If anything, we are more concerned about the toll that is charged for crossing the bridge than its name.

And for those who wish to punish Andrew Cuomo, in a pre-emptive attempt to keep him from making a political comeback, that dog won't hunt. It's easy to see that the former Governor is trying to find a way back into politics, and on a ballot someday.

## Spring Training Baseball Begins?

By Eric Wolf Schoen



### Spring Training Baseball Begins?

Time moves fast. Not a drop of snow (or neither a quarter inch) has hit the ground. Global warming? Climate change? For us warm weather lovers, it's a dream come true. If you never saw another snowflake would you be happy or sad?

### Don Lemon

I was listening to a colleague who worked with CNN's Don Lemon in his days in Philadelphia and said he was a wise guy back then like he is today. His age remark regarding women isn't the first stupid remark he has made since joining CNN. His attitude atrocious. I think it's time for him to hang up his hat and call it a day at CNN. There is plenty of talent out there to take his place. They got rid of Chris Cuomo and no one misses him.

### The CWTZ or WCTZ or What?

Speaking of Cuomo, here we go again! The Republican powers that be want in Albany joined by a Democrat want to take Mario Cuomo's name off the bridge that crosses the Hudson from Rockland to Tarrytown. I have a solution. Why not call it the Cuomo-Wilson Tappan Zee (CWTZ) or Wilson-Cuomo Tappan Zee (WCTZ). Let's remember that it was Mario Cuomo that suggested the change in name to the Malcolm Wilson Bridge and yes, Malcolm Wilson is from Yonkers. I don't know why the legislators from Yonkers are silent on keeping Malcom Wilson's name on the bridge. Do they think people forgot him. Robert Moses built a great many things around New York, very few people know who he is but his name is on a park in Long Island and stamp is on many projects throughout New York.

### The Race for Mayor Begins

Every day a new candidate enters the race for Mayor of Yonkers and there will certainly be primaries all over the place. Mayor Mike Spano has been quiet and I always worry about quiet politicians. Glad to see so many woman entering the race. It's been a long time since we had a Mayor or for that matter Vice Mayor who was a woman running Yonkers.

### George 'Liar' Santos

I can't believe that George Santos is still working in the halls of Congress. His latest comment: 'If you are going to make up a lie are you thinking at all? I didn't realize that he ran in 2020 and lost. In all those years no one checked this phony out? This guy should have been investigated the minute he announced he was running. And Long Island and Queens have some particularly savvy people who play in the political circus..

Santos would not sit down for an interview with Don Lemon. Why? To quote him, 'We are not going to sit down with someone who speaks so Ill of woman.' Santos has real 'you know what' for making that statement. *continued on pg 6-*

**Streaming LIVE Mondays 5:30pm on WVOX.com and on WVOX 1460 AM**



In the September 24, 2021 issue of Westchester Rising, Steve Mayo, a 30-year county resident, was photographed while observing at an August 5, 2021 GOP fundraiser-rally for former President Trump at a Briardiff Manor country club. Mayo previously managed a Bronx manufacturing company and is an attorney admitted to practice in the State of New York. His community and civic record includes service on the boards of directors of three New York City public charter schools, the planning commission of the City of New Rochelle, and several citizens' advisory boards. In 2022 he ran for a seat on New Rochelle's Board of Education. He has written for Westchester Rising. For nearly 20 years, he has hosted/co-hosted a public affairs talk show on commercial radio station WVOX 1460 AM; now, on Mondays at 5:30 pm. Check it out at [thestevemayshow.com](http://thestevemayshow.com).



**thestevemayshow.com**





## Mt. Sinai Study Finds COVID-19 Vaccination Linked to Fewer Cardiac Events

First U.S. study to show lower risk in patients following SARS-CoV-2 infection

Analyzing the most extensive datasets in the United States, researchers from the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai have revealed that vaccination against COVID-19 is associated with fewer heart attacks, strokes, and other cardiovascular issues among people who were infected with SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes COVID-19.

The research letter, "Impact of Vaccination on Major Adverse Cardiovascular Events in Patients with COVID-19 Infection," was published in the Journal of the American College of Cardiology on February 20.

It is the first study to examine both full and partial vaccination and the link to major adverse cardiac events (MACE) in the United States, confirming similar analyses performed previously using the Korean COVID-19 registry. Researchers used the National COVID Cohort Collaborative (N3C) database, the largest national comprehensive database on COVID-19. Since its inception in 2020, the N3C has continuously collected and harmonized data from electronic health records of institutions across the country. Included in this study were 1,934,294 patients, 217,843 of whom received mRNA vaccine formulations by Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna or viral vector technology by Johnson & Johnson. Cox proportional hazards, a statistical technique, was implemented to assess vaccination association with MACE.

"We sought to clarify the impact of previous vaccination on cardiovascular events among people who develop COVID-19 and found that, particularly among those with comorbidities, such as previous MACE, type 2 diabetes, high cholesterol, liver disease, and obesity, there is an association with a lower risk of complications. While we cannot attribute causality, it is supportive evidence that vaccination may have beneficial effects on a variety of post-COVID-19 complications," said senior author Girish N. Nadkarni, MD, MPH, Irene and Dr. Arthur M. Fishberg Professor of Medicine at Icahn Mount Sinai, Director of The Charles Bronfman Institute of Personalized Medicine, and System Chief, Division of Data Driven and Digital Medicine (D3M), Department of Medicine.

"To our surprise, even partial vaccination was associated with lower risk of adverse cardiovascular events," said first study author Joy Jiang, an MD/PhD candidate in the lab of Dr. Nadkarni. "Given the magnitude of SARS-CoV-2 infection worldwide, we hope our findings could help improve vaccination rates, especially in individuals with coexisting conditions."

Further work will be necessary to elucidate the mechanisms involved from an immunological perspective and clarify the role of SARS-CoV-2 subtypes and reinfections in their relationship to the risk of MACE.

Additional co-authors are Lili Chan, MD, MS; Justin Kauffman, BS; Jagat Narula, MD, PhD; Alexander W. Charney, MD, PhD; and Wonsuk Oh, PhD, all from Icahn Mount Sinai.

The work was supported, in part, by funds from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases of the National Institutes of Health. In addition, the research will be presented in a poster session in New Orleans, LA, at the American College of Cardiology's 72nd Annual Scientific Session Together With World Heart Federation's World Congress of Cardiology: Poster Session -Title - Prevention and Health Promotion: Population Science, March 5, 2023, 9:30 am to 10:30 am, Central Time.

### Car Wash Thefts, continued from pg 1-

Arias was charged with Grand Larceny, Shoplifting, and False Personation, for giving police a fake name. The point is he's been arrested 17 times in 13 months, has zero convictions, keeps getting arrested, and keeps getting out to reoffend.

Is that fair to the law abiding citizens of Yonkers? And those shopping on Central Avenue?

The views of the Yonkers Police Department about the need for bail reform are shared by many, including the Rev. Al Sharpton. Last month Sharpton said, "Many of us have spent the better part of a year calling for our criminal justice system to be fine-tuned. Addressing public safety is a question of how, not if, which is why I convened New York's unprecedented number of Black citywide and statewide leaders this month to start that conversation. Let me be clear that we're not retreating from the hard-fought reforms that ended the jailing of men of color on Rikers simply for the crime of being too poor. But there are tweaks that can turn these good reforms into great ones by addressing issues like recidivism, giving our District Attorneys the right tools, and helping the thousands of mentally ill New Yorkers forced out onto the streets. This is a moment where Black leaders will show why voters put them in office. It is on all of us to support their efforts and stand up to those who want to turn back the clock on justice. I know we are up to that challenge." said Sharpton.

## New Study Shows 2019 Rent Laws Are Having Fiscal Effects On Rent-Stabilized Apartment Buildings In Westchester

The Building and Realty Institute (BRI), recently released a new study, The Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act: An Analysis of Early Impacts in Westchester County. The study reviews the preliminary impacts of the 2019 Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act (HSTPA) law in the real estate market within Westchester County.

Commissioned by the BRI, the study was conducted by nonprofit group Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress. The BRI, which counts among its members rent-stabilized and market-rate property owners, managing agents, commercial and residential lenders, and others, requested an objective and data-driven analysis of how the real estate market has changed since 2019. The study was completed in 2022.

Among other reforms, HSTPA changed a number of programs whereby property owners with rent-stabilized units could increase rents on new or renewing tenants. A previous vacancy bonus, which allowed landlords to add a fixed percentage to the rent when there is a change in tenant to help pay for renovations, had been eliminated entirely. Programs related to Major Capital Improvements (MCIs) like replacing a boiler or renovating an outdated elevator or Individual Apartment Improvements (IAIs) like repairing major wear and tear or replacing outdated appliances or fixtures were both greatly reduced in terms of the money that could be recouped and the period of time that such reimbursements needed to be spread out over.

The Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act: An Analysis of Early Impacts in Westchester County is available to read here.

The findings in this report suggest that there may indeed be some unintended consequences of HSTPA that may prove detrimental to both property owners and tenants. Key findings include:

There has been a measurable decrease in the number of MCI applications since HSTPA became law

There has been a decrease in the annual dollar amount on repairs and maintenance in rent-stabilized apartments.

Allowable rent increases in Westchester for rent-stabilized buildings have not kept up with the rate of inflation.

Buildings with low-rent units may have a more difficult time recouping the costs of an MCI

"The data collected for this study found a decrease in the number of applications for the maintenance and upkeep of buildings that are subject to HSTPA in Westchester County," Pattern for Progress CEO Adam Bosch said. "These data need to be collected and tracked in future years to understand whether that decrease in applications is an effect of the law, an effect of the Covid-19 pandemic, or a combination of both. Our study will allow organizations like the BRI to track those changes over time to make fact-based conclusions about HSTPA and its impacts on renters and building owners. To help in that effort, the state Division of Homes and Community Renewal should post MCI applications, approvals and other data in a public portal to improve tracking and accountability for all."

"Since Albany revised the rent-stabilization laws, we've heard from numerous property owners that the sweeping changes to the Individual Apartment Improvements and Major Capital Improvement programs had made it financially feasible to do much more than patch over renovation and repair issues," BRI CEO Tim Foley said. "We turned to Hudson Valley Pattern for Progress to provide unbiased, rigorous research and careful analysis to determine whether these were temporary growing pains or the beginning of trends in need of correction. We believe their report gives both policymakers and advocates a lot to consider on how we reach our shared goals of providing housing that is affordable, safe, stable, and dignified."

To conduct the study objectively, Pattern employed a combination of qualitative and quantitative research methods. The primary limitations of this study are the short amount of time that has passed since HSTPA was adopted in 2019 with the concurrent timing of Covid-19 pandemic with the passage of HSTPA. For additional information, please visit <https://www.buildersinstitute.org>.

## Upcoming Events at the Hudson River Audubon Society

### The Dry Tortugas and the Florida Keys

Michael Bochnik, past president and field trip leader for Hudson River Audubon Society, will discuss birds of the Dry Tortugas, 7 coral islands 80 miles west of Key West, Florida, that host thousands of nesting tropical seabirds and provide a stopover for neotropical migrants. He will also cover the drive out to Key West from the mainland, stopping at a few of the well known birding hotspots. Wednesday, March 22, 7:00 p.m. Lenoir Nature Center, 19 Dudley Rd., Yonkers. Also on zoom: email [info@hras.org](mailto:info@hras.org) for invitation.

### Feeder Watch:

FeederWatch, sponsored by the Hudson River Audubon Society. Help count birds for a Citizen Science project managed by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. No experience necessary. Lenoir Nature Center, 19 Dudley Rd., Yonkers.

### Dates:

Saturday, February 25, 10:00-a.m.-12:00 noon  
 Sunday, February 26, 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
 Saturday, March 11, 10:00-a.m.-12:00 noon  
 Sunday, March 12, 2:00-4:00 p.m.  
 Saturday, March 25, 10:00-a.m.-12:00 noon  
 Sunday, March 26, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

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## Former Westchester District Attorney Scarpino Named Chair of Solid Waste Commission



Anthony Scarpino

### Longtime Westchester Leader Charged with Leading the County's Commission Governing Trash Collection Agencies

Westchester County Executive George Latimer is pleased to announce the appointment of Anthony Scarpino to chair the County's Solid Waste Commission. Latimer said: "Tony is perfectly suited to merge his years of judicial experience, private practice, law enforcement and public service to best serve the people of Westchester in this new role. While it may not be the most headline-grabbing function of County government, the work done by our Solid Waste Commission and its Executive Director Peri Kadanoff is essential to the daily quality of life Westchester residents expect and deserve."

Born and raised in Mount Vernon, Judge Scarpino attended Mount Vernon High School and graduated with High Honors from the University of Connecticut. Scarpino has served as a F.B.I. Special Agent, City Court Judge in Mount Vernon, Westchester County Court Judge, New York State Supreme Court Judge, Westchester Surrogate Court Judge and Westchester County District Attorney. Scarpino has also spent some of his career as an attorney in private practice, currently as a Partner at Dorf & Nelson L.L.P.

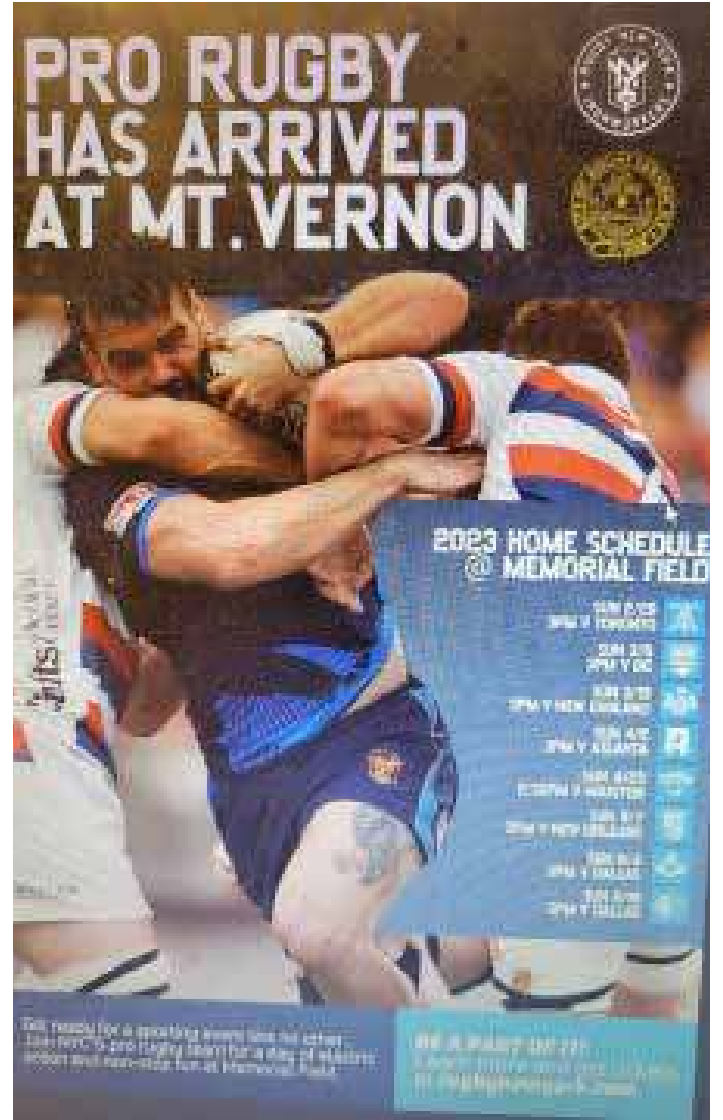
In his new role, Scarpino will be charged with presiding over the meetings and be in charge of the order and procedure, conducting meetings following Robert's Rules of Order for the established procedure of Open Meetings, calling for special meetings and calling for votes on Resolutions.

Scarpino said: "It is an honor to receive this appointment from County Executive Latimer and I look forward to continuing my lifetime of service to the people of this County in my new role."

Kadanoff said: "I am delighted to have Judge Anthony Scarpino as the new Chair of the Solid Waste Commission. With his Law Enforcement experience, excellent legal mind, never-ending list of accomplishments and a deep commitment to public service, which is so important to the members of the Commission, I know he will be a great asset to the Commission and the people of Westchester County"

This is another example of County Executive Latimer, a democrat, reaching across the aisle to appoint Scarpino, a republican.

## Memorial Field Track Opens to Walkers and to NY Rugby



On Feb. 18, residents in Mount Vernon celebrated the opening of the Memorial Field track. Closed for 12 years, Westchester County finally took over the project and completed a \$33 Million renovation of the stadium, which has already hosted high school football.

Mt. Vernon Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard opened the track to local residents and the community last weekend. "In a community largely of color where we have lots of health disparities, this field walking, running, skating, jogging, football, soccer, rugby, track will add to the physical mental, and emotional wellness of this community. I am excited for the residents of Mount Vernon to have an opportunity to get healthy and enjoy the jewel of Mount Vernon which is our beloved Memorial Field."

The track is open daily from 6am-10am, and 5pm-8pm. A Skatepark was also opened last weekend, and is available for use 10am-8pm daily.

The City of Mt. Vernon also announced that NY Rugby, also known as Rugby New York Ironmakers, will be playing their home games at Memorial Field. The first Rugby game at Memorial Field will take place Sunday Feb. 26 at 3pm. For tickets and more information, visit [rugbynewyork.com](http://rugbynewyork.com).

## Yonkers Man Sentenced To 25 Years To Life For The 2020 Murder Of His Neighbor

### After shooting the 23-year-old victim, defendant fled into the Saw Mill River where he was apprehended

On Feb. 16, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced today that a Yonkers man was sentenced to 25 years to life in state prison for fatally shooting his neighbor, 23-year-old Lateef Butler, outside their Yonkers apartment building in 2020.

DA Rocah said: "In keeping my promise to hold perpetrators of gun violence accountable, today's sentence brings justice for Lateef Butler's family and removes a dangerous individual from our streets."

After a four-week trial, a jury on Dec. 21, 2022, found Terrence Gonzalez, 31, guilty of Murder in the Second Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, both violent felonies.

On June 26, 2020, at approximately 6:08 p.m., the defendant used a .38 caliber revolver to shoot the victim five times, striking him in the neck, chest, hip and thigh, during a dispute outside an apartment building where they both lived on Nepperhan Avenue in Yonkers. The victim was transported to St. Joseph's Medical Center in Yonkers, where he was pronounced dead.

Following the incident, the Yonkers Police Department arrested the defendant in the Saw Mill River, by Stefanik Park in Yonkers, after he fled the shooting scene and led police on a foot chase. Following the pursuit, Yonkers police recovered the gun used to murder the victim under a bush near Center Street, and obtained surveillance video of the fatal shooting. The District Attorney thanks the Yonkers Police Department for their collaboration during this case. The case was before Judge George Fufidio in Westchester County Court, and was prosecuted by Bureau Chief James Bavero and Senior Trial Counsel Brian Bendish, both of the Trials and Investigations Division.

### Cats Found in Yonkers, continued from pg 2-

If you can send food please send to the Yonkers Animal Shelter 1000 Ridgehill Boulevard Yonkers NY 10710. If you would like to make a cash donation please call the shelter at 914-377-6730

The shelter does NOT have a foster program however if you are interested in fostering any of these cats let us know and we may be able to put you in touch with a rescue who would help make that happen.

The other thing greatly needed is veterinary help. All these animals need to be vetted. As you can imagine that's going to be no easy task.

Please please share this post and tag any rescues you know or any animal hospital you think might help.

On Feb. 13, and pictured on pg 1. "Congratulations to these two handsome young gentlemen. They are the first two cats from the Yonkers hoarding situation to go to their new homes. As you can see they are beautiful and they have nice shiny coats and seem sweet and friendly. Their Mom and Dad travelled from Brooklyn especially to help two of these cats

For those of you asking for the Amazon link to send food for the cats. Here it is and thank you all so much for your support.

<https://l.facebook.com/l.php...>

The link to the video of all the cats found in the home, which has not yet been identified is

<https://www.facebook.com/YonkersShelter/videos/1299843900574536>

Ways to help-call- 201-981-3215 or email [Lesliem147@gmail.com](mailto:Lesliem147@gmail.com) or [Ollie71498@icloud.com](mailto:Ollie71498@icloud.com). The shelter is open 11-4 seven days a week.

They are young adults (no kittens). The fee is \$65.00. Once they are adopted, the Yonkers Animal Shelter are able to take more in from the house. Thus far, of the over 200 cats discovered in the home, the Yonkers Animal Shelter through the Parks Department was able to work with rescue groups and move out 124. Two more rescues will be coming tomorrow to assist.

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NYTOPSOLUTIONS LLC of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/06/2022. 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, 475 S. 4TH Avenue Mt. Vernon, NY 10550. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Beagal, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/11/2022. 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, 47 Washington Blvd Mt Vernon NY 10550. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of 808 Commerce LLC, a domestic LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/05/2022. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: LLC at 808 Commerce Stret, Thornwood, NY 10594. Purpose: Any lawful act.

Notice of formation of PRESS START! Mobile Gaming LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 01/03/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC, 455 Tarrytown Rd Suite# 1521 White Plains NY, 10607. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Creative Tiny Steps, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/09/2022. 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, 114 West Hartsdale ave, Hartsdale, NY 10530. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Notice of Formation of AADNYS TECHNOLOGIES LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/30/2023. 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, 6 Lewiston Ct, Briarcliff Manor NY, 10510. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**Liquor License**

Notice is hereby given that a license, number Pending, for beer, cider, liquor and wine has been applied for by 721 North Salem LLC d/b/a La Bastide and Cenadou to sell beer, cider, liquor and wine at retail in the restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 721 Titicus Road, North Salem, New York 10560 for on premise consumption.

**721 North Salem LLC d/b/a La Bastide and Cenadou**

**Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-**

Families who lost relatives in the Holocaust or at the World Trade Center are fed up like we all are with this guy and his stupid 'Jew-ish' remark. Why are the Jewish organizations not calling him out on this?

**Alec Baldwin Saga**

Who would think that a movie set would need an armorer? Are you telling me that real loaded guns with real bullets that can kill someone are used on movie sets? Why? It's like the punches given to a character in a movie are real. You know they are not.

Be honest, before Mr Baldwin shot his gun had you ever heard of an armorer. I saw the movie Marlowe (good movie) over the weekend and all the locations they shot at had armorers. Does one get certified as an armorer? What do you have to know? That there are no live bullets in a gun? Why should there be? That is the question!

It was announced by the prosecutors and judge this week that if Baldwin gets convicted he will get less time than originally announced. The question you and want to know is why was there a live bullet in a prop gun?

**NYC Selling Covid Equipment**

As the pandemic didn't get as bad as they thought and they have all his equipment left over, New York City has put the excess equipment on the market. This includes metal pieces that they were going to use if there were not enough respirators. The equipment is being sold at half the price the city bought it for.

If I was in charge here I would wait a little bit longer to make sure the pandemic is realistically over before I would start selling equipment.

**Jimmy Carter**

I had the good fortune to be present when peanut farmer Jimmy Carter came to New York to accept the nomination for President. I had the better fortune to welcome him as he came off the plane, Shake his hand and boarded a limousine that would take him to his hotel before the nominating convention started.

He and his wife had those country style smiles you never forget. His hand-shake was one of those you never forget, not too hard, not too soft. My friend Bob Stauff was with a group of us lucky to get in and welcome the Carters to New York. With security these days we would never be able to get on the field next to a plane yet alone able to reach the future president's hand to shake it!

Jimmy Carter was no supporter of the Israel or Jewish people. That aside this 98 year old man did a lot after he left the presidency. He built many homes for homeless vets and people, he taught Bible School school drawing some 500 Sunday morning for his lessons, and when called on by the Government to do something in support of our country he always replied in the affirmative.

Carter and his wife Rosalind are married 75 years. Always holding hands and smiling when out in public. A marriage made in heaven. President Carter now is home with hospice care. May his final days be comfortable and let's remember him for all the positive things he has done for our country.

In closing, watch for the alligators in Prospect Park Zoo in Brooklyn!

**Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.**

**AAA Sues Slater, continued from pg 1-**

petitive Carting an improper substantial and material advantage over Petitioner in calculating its proposed costs of its bid. In effect, the Town awarded the contract to Competitive without a competitive bid because the contract that was, in effect, awarded to Competitive, was materially different than what was put out to bid."

In doing so, the Town violated the foundational premise of New York's competitive bidding statutes, which were enacted to promote the "(1) protection of the public first by obtaining the best work at the lowest possible price; and (2) prevention of favoritism, improvidence, fraud and corruption in the awarding of public contracts."

AAA Carting has significant experience in bidding for garbage contracts. In fact, there is case law where they are named, "AAA Carting and Rubbish Removal, Inc. v. Town of Clarkstown.

The suit claims that the Town put the garbage contract out to bid four times in 2022. "The Town did not open and review AAA's First Bid. Instead, without even knowing the price of the bid, it summarily rejected it. The fact that the Town would reject a bid without opening it is highly suspicious and suggests the members of the Town Board had ulterior motives other than the cost of the contract."

On the fourth bid, AAA and Competitive Carting submitted bid for a five-year contract. Competitive Carting's bid was lower than AAA's bid. "On or about October 17, 2022, concerned with the bidding process for the Public Contract, Petitioner's counsel left a voicemail message for the Attorney for the Town of Yorktown, Adam Rodriguez. The Town Attorney did not return that call. Instead, two days later, on October 19, 2022, the Town awarded the Public Contract to Amico and his company Competitive Carting."

What is a responsible bidder. According to NYS Town Law, "In evaluating a bidder's responsibility, the Town may consider the following factors: i. financial resources; u. technical qualifications; ul. experience; iv. organization, material, equipment, facilities, and personnel resources and expertise( or the ability to obtain them) necessary to carry out the work and to comply with required delivery or performance schedules, taking into consideration other business commitments; v. satisfactory record of performance; vi. a satisfactory record of business integrity[.]"

"To that end, in 2020, Amico, individually and together with a d/b/a "Competitive Carting Corp" filed for Chapter 7 bankruptcy protection," states the lawsuit. "documents produced by the Town in response to several Freedom of Information Law requests propounded by Petitioner reveal that the Town did not conduct the proper due diligence to determine, inter alia, whether Competitive Carting has the necessary "capital and infrastructure" to fully perform under the Public Contract."

"Amico and Competitive Carting's recent petition for bankruptcy in 2020 compel the conclusion that Competitive Carting is not a responsible bidder, and, as described below, Competitive Carting could not even obtain a I-year performance bond that was required by the bid specifications.

"In stark contrast to Competitive Carting's inexperience and financial instability, AAA Carting has been in business for over twenty-five years and currently holds contracts with the City of New York, the City of White Plains, the Town of Kent, the Village of Briarcliff, New York State O.O.T., New York State Office of General Service, the County of Westchester, the County of Putnam, the Town of Putnam Valley, the Town of Carmel, and more.

"Given AAA Carting's long and current history of servicing towns and municipalities, the awarding of the Public Contract to Competitive Carting, whose reliability is more suspect, to put it charitably, strains credulity and gives rise to a strong inference of an improper purpose.

"This special treatment also compels inquiry into what motivated the Town to give Competitive Carting a material financial edge over other bidders." AAA is requesting that a NYS Supreme Court Judge set aside the award to Competitive Carting and award the contract to AAA.

Yorktown residents continue to complain about the garbage and recycling removal from Competitive. They have appeared at Town Board meetings, created a Facebook group dedicated to complaining about their garbage removal, letters to the editor, and more.

The problems began immediately after Competitive began their contract on Jan. 1, 2023. Residents were placing the recycling outside, but according to many, Competitive was comingling the garbage with all of the Christmas boxes.

One source in the garbage industry told us, "Competitive should have recycled 25 Tons the week after Christmas. Instead they came to the recycling center with 5 Tons."

If this accusation is true, it is a violation and a fine, either against the carting company or the Town. We have submitted FOIL requests to the Town and the Westchester Solid Waste Commission to determine if Competitive Carting was fined. The usual fine is \$10,000 per occurrence.

Also named in the lawsuit are town councilmembers Ed Lachterman, Sergio Esposito, Luciana Haughwout and Supervisor Tom Diana.

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**Town of Eastchester Town Court**  
**40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York 10709**

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**Two-story colonial with three bedrooms, eat-in kitchen, dining room, living room with a fireplace, patio/deck and one-car garage.**

**Opening Bid: \$ 390,000.00**

***Ramos-Herbert Wins Dem. Nomination for NR Mayor; Maher to Stay in Race***



In a unanimous vote, Councilmember Yadira Ramos-Herbert (District 3), pictured left, has earned the endorsement of the New Rochelle Democratic Committee to succeed Noam Bramson as Mayor.

“Yadira is the most qualified candidate to become our next Mayor,” said District Leader Jonathan Nwaru who seconded her nomination. “With her track record of collaborative leadership, I am proud of our organization for the historic choice to support her as our next Mayor.”

Council Member Martha Lopez-Hanratty added, “This is a historic day for New Rochelle. For the first time in our city’s history, the Democrats have united behind a woman. This is a proud day for us as Democrats and us as residents of the city we love so dearly.”

In accepting her endorsement, Ramos-Herbert said, “I am grateful to the New Rochelle Democratic Committee and humbled by their support. New Rochelle is strongest when we are united together and the results of tonight’s vote show that New Rochelle is strong. We have a long road ahead of us to the Mayorship, but I will put in the work to ensure every corner of this city understands the importance of the moment.”

County Legislator Damon Maher said that he will continue his campaign for Mayor of New Rochelle without the support of the New Rochelle Democratic Committee. “The New Rochelle Democratic District Leaders received new “weighted vote” allocations at 4:47pm on the day before the preference poll run by local party bosses. The new figures, used by the committee to calculate the weighted votes to decide which candidate to support, differed greatly from the previous Election District allocations. They don’t come close to fairly reflecting the voting strength of the parts of New Rochelle that I have represented in the County Legislature for 5-plus years and where I have been most popular. I refused to participate in this deeply flawed process and removed my name from consideration in the party committee vote, announcing that I will instead run full-tilt in the June 27 primary to let the voters decide. I look forward to the Democratic primary in June,” said Maher.

*Wake up West., continued from pg 1-*

August, and possibly sooner.

After hearing presentations from Holtec and David Lochbaum, a retired nuclear engineer, reactor safety watchdog, and member of the Decommissioning Oversight Board (DOB), along with fellow environmental advocates, Riverkeeper is calling for a halt to the discharges and a means of storing the contaminated water safely in tanks on the site while safer disposal methods are evaluated. It’s time to draw the line against using the Hudson as a dumping ground for tritium, a radioactive isotope found in the wastewater. Ingestion of tritium is linked to cancer, and children and pregnant women are most vulnerable.

A groundswell of public voices is objecting to Holtec’s discharges that prioritize profit margins and expediency over the Hudson River, and local communities. Riverkeeper supports their request to explore alternatives to dispose of the tritium.

The DOB held a nearly four-hour meeting on Thursday, February 2, to discuss disposal options that would spare the River and hear community concerns from numerous residents, officials and experts.

Four readily available wastewater disposal options became clear during the meeting:

I- Hold the wastewater on site.

Although no definite holding time was discussed at the meeting, storage on site was. We believe an initial 12 year period would be appropriate. After 12 years, tritium’s half-life (the radioactive isotope) will have cut its activity by 50%. During this 12-year period we would like Holtec to explore separation of the tritium, solidification, and any other options that emerge.

II- Transfer the wastewater to out-of-state sites. The danger of transporting radioactive waste on our roads and railways increases the risk to millions of people as accidents have and will occur in an uncontrolled environment. Even if safe transport is successful, transferring the problems of radioactive waste to other communities is not fair or equitable.

III-Allow for evaporation of the wastewater. Evaporation methods for the wastewater are a poor option as after the evaporation is absorbed into the air the contaminants will fall back to the ground, covering a much wider footprint that could include schools, parks and residential areas. A consensus emerged during the DOB meeting rejecting this option.

IV-Discharge the wastewater in the Hudson River. This is the method the plant used while it was still operating. We believe it is time to take a precautionary approach and end the practice of dumping radioactive wastewater into the Hudson.

As with any nuclear plant, none of these options are risk free. Without research that shows the true impact of tritium on vulnerable populations, we should not take any chances to impose unnecessary risk.

The previously documented mistakes, violations and fines incurred by Holtec raise serious concerns and demand that we take the most cautious approach of the available actions that will keep this contaminated wastewater out of the Hudson River. That means storing it on site for at least a 12 year period, allowing contamination levels in the water to decrease, and for better, less dangerous disposal options to be developed during that time.

With Holtec announcing its plan to begin wastewater discharges in August of 2023, and possibly sooner, there is a level of urgency for action. Riverkeeper is reaching out to decision-makers on the local, state and national level to explore every possible action and option that will halt any further harmful discharges by Holtec into the Hudson River.

Riverkeeper will be releasing an action for the public soon. Together, we can protect and restore the Hudson River for the health and safety of all who depend on it.

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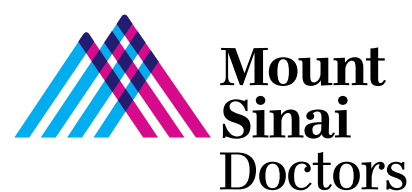
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1086 North Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701  
914-968-3535

**Mount Sinai Doctors-Yonkers Orthopedics**  
984 North Broadway, Suite 306, Yonkers, NY 10701  
914-369-1700