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Out of Control Lakeland Parents Hurl Racial Slurs at Superintendent, Staff, Board President



L-R-County Legislator Colin Smith, a member of the Peekskill NAACP, and Congressman Jamaal Bowman, attending a Lakeland School Board meeting
Dr. Gagliardi Called a "n***r lover", Dr. Norman Called "Uncle Tom"

By Dan Murphy

An unruly mob of parents returned to a Lakeland School Board budget meeting on Feb. 10, upset about what they called Critical Race Theory being taught in the school district, and that taxpayers had to pay for illegal immigrants crossing the border and ending up in the Lakeland schools.

Repeated efforts to calm the crowd, or at least maintain some sense of order failed, because several speakers refused to stay on topic, or ran over their time, or began shouting at members of the Lakeland School Board, Superintendent Karen Gagliardi and acting Assistant Superintendent Tracy Norman.

Several speakers would not give up the microphone until school security removed them. And more than one speaker required a police escort from Yorktown Police.

According to Lakeland Federation of Teachers President Michael Lillis, at the end of the meeting, as Superintendent Gagliardi was leaving the auditorium, she was called a "n***r lover." Assistant Superintendent Tracy Norman was called an "Uncle Tom," on the way out. Gagliardi required a police escort to get home safely.

Parents who attended the meeting said that the cat calls from the crowd starts at the 15 minute period in the video link below,

<https://events.locallive.tv/events/74140?fbclid=IwAR1GIffc5Jo0LBZmYzeOvNvBOAJvn-DLinM4mhMYqkEBbffcFZquWqlM9g>

One parent posted, "Comments were shouted from the audience like: "How very German of you", at Jewish board president Adam Kaufman for attempting to control the meeting. "We don't want to live in Harlem", at Paul Edwards for talking about race and racism and DEI. "Get rid of racism by stop talking about racism", at Paul again. And one speaker got up to the microphone demanding to know, "who is paying for all the illegals". During Gagliardi's equity presentation, she said "we want equity for our kids" and an audience member shouted, "no we don't!" Several people were escorted out by police for bad behavior but not nearly enough. The board had to take a recess to recalibrate. People shouted at Dr. Gagliardi.

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Who is Vedat Gashi? And Why is He Challenging Rep. Jamaal Bowman for Congress?



County Legislator Vedat Gashi, left, is challenging Rep. Jamaal Bowman, right, in a democratic primary for Congress in the new boundaries of the 16th District
By Dan Murphy

On Feb. 8, Westchester County Legislator Vedat Gashi filed paperwork with the Federal Elections Commission, (FEC), for Gashi for Congress, taking the first step to challenge incumbent Congressman Jamaal Bowman in a democratic primary June 23, in the 16th District, which now runs from the Bronx all the way north into Putnam County.

Who is Vedat Gashi? Here's what his website tells us about his interesting life story. "Vedat's commitment to public service came from his family's experience as political activists and refugees, opportunities he had working with inspiring leaders, and his experience helping to create a country out of the ashes of war.

"Vedat was born in Kosovo (formerly Yugoslavia) in April of 1978. At the age of 4, he and his family fled the oppressive, socialist regime to the United States. Vedat first moved to the Bronx and later put down permanent roots in Yorktown. Vedat is one of five children, four of whom still reside in Yorktown where they are raising their families.

"After graduating from Lakeland High School, Vedat went on to pursue a B.A. from Connecticut College, where he was invited to serve on the Board of Trustees as a Young Alumni Trustee. Next, Vedat earned his J.D. from Seton Hall University. During his studies, Vedat interned with two of his heroes, Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor, then at the Second Circuit Court of Appeals, and Congressman Lee Hamilton on the House International Relations Committee.

"Upon passing the New York Bar, Vedat was called to service in Kosovo to join the US/EU effort to help establish the newly formed state of Kosovo – first through a grant from the Rockefeller Brothers Fund and later through the US Agency for International Development (USAID) and the United Nations. While in Kosovo, Vedat's hard work lead to remarkable accomplishments,

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Latimer: Crime is Down in Westchester County

CRIME HAS BEEN DOWN AND CONTINUES TO BE DOWN IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY

**27.6 %
DECREASE IN
VIOLENT
CRIMES**

**26.3 %
DECREASE IN
PROPERTY
CRIMES**

Pushes Back on Bail Reform Advocates, Says "Look at the Facts" in Video Message <https://vimeo.com/677331420>,

By Dan Murphy

Westchester County Executive George Latimer released a video on Feb. 14 which provides a statistical analysis of crime data that points to a continued decline in overall crime in Westchester. Latimer's one minute video, is titled Crime Has Been Down and continues to go down in Westchester County

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, in a recent video to members of Indivisible NYCD 16 said, "They are linking crime to bail reform. Crime is going up in some places but not in Westchester, according to the County Executive."

Stewart-Cousins has pushed back on those pushing for bail reform in New York, and instead supports keeping the criminal justice reforms passed two years ago in place.

Latimer's video supports Stewart-Cousins claim with factual data. "You might have heard that crime is out of control and that criminals are running rampant. Let's look at the numbers, let's look at the facts. Because here in Westchester County crime is down."

The video then shows crime data, comparing 2017 crimes to 2021 crimes. Violent crimes, murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault, are down in every category and as a total, from 1,484 in 2017-to 1074 in 2021, a 27.6% decrease.

Total crimes in Westchester County have decreased from 8,434 in 2017 to 6,196 in 2021. This reflects a 26.5% Total decreased in all indexed crimes in Westchester over the four year period, which also coincides with Latimer's first four years in office. The decrease in crime has been reflected in all categories of crime data, including a 26.3% decrease in property crimes.

"People move here and stay here for the advantages of living in Westchester County, one of which is they know it is a safe environment. Crime is down and will continue to go down. Together we are building a safer westchester for you to grow

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Dr. Gitig, Mount Sinai Doctors-Westchester: Be Aware of The Risks of Heart Disease



"About half of the people who are candidates for a heart attack and stroke are walking around without knowing it,"

Dr. Alon Gitig, Mount Sinai Doctors-Westchester, left

By Dan Murphy

In recognition of American Heart month in February, Dr. Alon Gitig, Mount Sinai Doctors-Westchester shares ways that all of us can learn more and stay informed about their heart health, including the importance of keeping up on our annual Doctor's visits and testing during COVID.

"659,000 people in the United States die from heart disease each year, that's 1 in every 4 deaths. And most of those deaths are heart attacks. 15% of people who have a fatal heart attack had no prior diagnosis. About half the people who are candidates for heart disease, stroke and a heart attack are walking around without knowing it," said Dr. Gitig.

These are sobering statistics, but the good news is that by better understanding your own heart health, you can treat the symptoms, stay current with your checkups and physicals, and get healthier. "I want my patients to be aware of their own health and to recognize the signs and symptoms of heart disease. Only half of Americans know the 5 most common signs and symptoms of a heart attack," said Dr. Gitig.

- The major symptoms of a heart attack are
- Chest pain or discomfort. Most heart attacks involve discomfort in the center or left side of the chest that lasts for more than a few minutes or that goes away and comes back. The discomfort can feel like uncomfortable pressure, squeezing, fullness, or pain.
- Feeling weak, light-headed, or faint. You may also break out into a cold sweat.
- Pain or discomfort in the jaw, neck, or back.
- Pain or discomfort in one or both arms or shoulders.
- Shortness of breath. This often comes along with chest discomfort, but shortness of breath also can happen before chest discomfort.

Anyone experiencing one or more of these symptoms should see their doctor for an EKG or other heart test or go to the hospital.

"Each patient needs to learn about their own heart health and get an understanding and acknowledgment of your family history, blood pressure ranges,

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Hundreds Come out to Ask Governor Hochul to “Unmask Our Kids” in School



Yonkers City Councilman John Rubbo, helped organize the rally

By Dan Murphy

On Feb. 17, chanting “Our Kids, Our Choice, We Choose Not to Mask,” several hundred parents rallied outside the Yonkers Riverfront Library, steps away from the Yonkers Public Schools main offices, to call on Governor Kathy Hochul to end the mask mandate for students in school.

The rally was organized by City Clerk Vincent Spano his wife Jaime, and City Councilmember John Rubbo, who were joined by Assemblymember Nader Sayegh, Council Minority Leader Mike Breen, Councilmember Anthony Merante, and County Legislators James Nolan and David Tubiolo.

Rubbo and Spano have young children in the Yonkers Public Schools who have had to deal with two years of COVID, remote learning and masking. Together with hundreds of other parents, they asked Governor Hochul to end the mask mandate in schools after the winter break on Monday Feb. 28.

“When we see a 90% reduction in COVID cases, there is no reason in the Science to wait until after mid-Winter break in classes to lift the mask mandate in schools. I am calling on Governor Kathy Hochul to end the mask mandate today. Meanwhile, I continue to support the Governor’s efforts to encourage parents to have their children vaccinated and will continue to advocate for this in Yonkers and New York State as this is the best way to protect the health of our children and grandchildren,” said Assemblymember Nader Sayegh.

City Council Minority Leader Mike Breen said, “Governor Hochul, are you listening? Unmask our kids. You can do it, we know what the statistics are. The class of 2020 and 2021 got robbed of a proper graduation and school life. Can you hear us Governor Hochul?”

Councilmember John Rubbo said, “After two years we want clear guidance. Our children deserve it. We look to New Jersey and Connecticut, both have given clear guidance that after winter break their kids can take off their masks. It’s important to look to the science and the data that says its ok to take your mask off. This is not a democratic or republican issue, its an issue of the people. We don’t want to wait. It’s cruel punishment to not allow our kids to socialize and get back to normal. Governor Hochul, now is the time to lead us and tell us that after the winter break that our parents can have a choice. We are asking for parents choice.”

County Legislator James Nolan said, “Two years is too long. As someone who works in the Yonkers Public Schools, I can see how tough it has been on children and enough is enough. Gov. Hochul’s future is in our hands. It’s time to lose the masks, and let parents have a choice. We are not going away.”

Councilmember Anthony Merante said, “The kids have done their fare share during this pandemic. The answer is to take the masks off and let them enjoy their life. It time for the Governor to do her part or else we will do our part.”

County Legislator David Tubiolo said, “Our children’s mental health is a serious issue. Governor Hochul, please hear us and do the right thing and life the mask mandate.”

Also on Feb. 17, Mayor Mike Spano tweeted, “I support Yonkers families who are calling on New York State to lift the mask mandate in our public schools. Let’s give parents the choice.”

Letters to the Editor & Email Comments

To The Editor:

Thanks to your coverage of what happened at The Westchester Mall. While it is not an indication at all about how safe it is to live in our county, I do agree that we, the taxpayers, have a right to know.

I have read some reports that the lack of response from security to alert the White Plains Police was the reason why they got away. I know that you included in your story that security is not supposed to try and apprehend those committing crimes, but couldn’t the guy have called 911?

Sincerely, Julianne Commisso, White Plains

Letter to the Editor:

While I don’t agree with your coverage of what has happened in Lakeland Schools and DEI education, I would say that any idiot who said the words to the Superintendent or Uncle Tom, or How German of You, is not helping the cause of those who want to challenge and oppose DEI. It is very similar to what happened in Washington DC. The morons who attacked the Capitol hurt the cause if they supported President Trump, and his chances in 2024. Control yourselves please!

Phillip Nelson, Cortlandt Manor

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Ossining High School Grad Obi Toppin Wins NBA Slam Dunk Contest



Ossining High School graduate, and New York Knick Obi Toppin won the NBA Slam Dunk contest on Feb. 19. “There’s been a lot of legends who have won the dunk contest, so for my name to be a part of that, I don’t take that for granted,” Toppin said. “We wanted to do some dunks that have never been seen before or done at the dunk contest, so for me to win it, I knew I had to come back with my revenge from last year and I’m glad I came out with the ‘W.’ ”

Toppin almost won the dunk contest last year, finishing second. Toppin was born in Brooklyn but moved to Ossining and attended Ossining High School graduating in 2017. He then went to the University of Dayton where he excelled, being named the College Player of the Year for 2019-20.

Toppin was selected with the #8 pick by the New York Knicks in the 2020 draft. Now in his 3rd year, Toppin continues to improve with his home town team, and Westchester says -Congratulations Obi thanks for making us proud!

Girl Scout Cookies are Back!



Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc. (GSHH) and Girl Scouts of the USA (GSUSA) are celebrating National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend February 18–20 with the launch of nationwide online cookie ordering. Customers who don’t already know a Girl Scout now have the chance to purchase Girl Scout Cookies online for direct shipment to their door or donation to local causes. Girl Scouts are selling classic Girl Scout flavors including Thin Mints®, Trefoils®, Tagalongs®, and more!

The annual National Girl Scout Cookie Weekend highlights Girl Scout entrepreneurs across the United States who sell cookies to their families, friends, and communities via in-person booths, door-to-door activity, and the Digital Cookie® platform online. In addition to launching online ordering nationally for customers who haven’t already satisfied their cookie craving, this year Girl Scouts throughout Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson will be participating in the Girl Scout Cookie Program in their communities with socially distanced and contactless ordering tools.

Every Girl Scout Cookie purchase helps girls learn important entrepreneurial skills and powers amazing adventures for them. Girl Scouts use their cookie earnings to better their communities, explore new things in STEM and the outdoors, plan exciting travel adventures, have fun experiences with their friends, and so much more. Girl Scouts in Girl Scout Heart of the Hudson also donate cookies to active and veteran service people at home and overseas through our council’s Operation Cookie Drop, now in its 20th year.

Marie Reger, CEO of Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson, Inc., said of the Girl Scout Cookie Program, “Girl Scout Cookie Season is one of our favorite times of year. It is an opportunity for Girl Scouts to bring the skills they have learned through their Girl Scout journey into their communities and develop their entrepreneurial skills. The Girl Scout Cookie Program is the largest girl-led entrepreneurial program in the world, and we are so happy support the leaders of tomorrow in achieving their goals.”

If you don’t already know a Girl Scout, enter your zip code at www.girlscout-cookies.org to purchase cookies online or to find socially distant or contact-free cookie booths if they are available in your area. You can also text COOKIES to 59618* or use the official Girl Scout Cookie Finder app for free on iOS or Android devices.

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Arthur Miller Classic The Price Plays Westchester in March



M&M Performing Arts Company will present Arthur Miller's classic drama *The Price* in the Grand Picture Gallery at Lyndhurst Mansion for three consecutive weekends in March. Called by *The New York Times* "one of the most engrossing and entertaining plays" that Miller wrote, it examines with compassion and humor the relationship of two estranged brothers who meet after many years to dispose of their family's belongings.

Performances will take place in the Grand Picture Gallery of Lyndhurst Mansion on Friday through Sundays from March 4-20, 2022. Tickets are \$45 for all seats. All tickets must be purchased in advance, either at Lyndhurst.org or at 1-888-718-4253 opt. 1 (additional fees apply on phone orders). Parking is free. The subject matter is appropriate for ages 12 and up.

When the Great Depression cost his family their fortune, Victor Franz (Michael Muldoon, Yorktown Heights) gave up his dream of higher education to support his father. Three decades later, Victor has returned to his childhood home to sell the remainder of his parents' estate.

Victor's wife Esther (Melinda O'Brien, Yorktown Heights, who also directed the play), his estranged brother Walter (Richard Troiano, Monroe), and second-hand furniture appraiser Gregory Solomon (Bruce Apar, Yorktown Heights) all arrive with their own agendas, forcing Victor to question the true value of his sacrifice. Stage managers are Emmy Schwartz and Nan Weiss (both Briarcliff).

Covid-19 Requirements: All ticket holders must show proof of vaccination and booster, if eligible, and must wear a mask. No one under 12 will be admitted. These requirements may be amended per CDC, N.Y. State, and Broadway Covid-19 guidelines.

Lyndhurst is located at 635 South Broadway (Route 9), Tarrytown, N.Y. 10591. Visitor information: 914-631-4481.

Westhab's VP of IT, Steve Myrthil, Named One of Crain's 2022 Notable Black Leaders



Westhab, Inc. is pleased to announce Steve Myrthil, left, Vice President of Information Technology, has been named to Crain's 2022 Notable Black Leaders list. This honor is awarded to those who have a proven ability to affect change in their current role and who have gone above and beyond to be a leader in matters of diversity and inclusion.

At Westhab, Myrthil is leading the charge on addressing the urgent technological needs of over 8,000 shelter and affordable housing residents across New York City and Westchester County. Since his arrival in October of 2020, he has been actively crafting a strategic plan for Westhab's growth, leading ideation across teams, and implementing and supporting scalable solutions that allow

Westhab to serve more people than ever before.

This includes designing the infrastructure that provides residents with reliable broadband access and rapidly deploying technology to establish and grow Westhab's programs. Myrthil's work also focuses on establishing the cybersecurity platforms and practices necessary to keep Westhab's people and information safe.

Most recently, Myrthil worked on the grand opening of the Dayspring Campus, a 63-unit affordable and supportive residence next door to the newly gut-renovated Dayspring Community Center, where Westhab provided all apartment residents and the entire community center with free Wi-Fi access. In collaboration with the Westchester County Association and the City of Yonkers, Myrthil also helped to establish the Dayspring Community Center as a home base for Project OVERCOME's Y-Zone initiative. Project OVERCOME is a \$2.7 million effort designed to expedite the delivery of broadband services to underserved communities across the United States. The Y-Zone initiative serves the Yonkers community and will act as a starting point for the future of digital connectivity.

"As a child of Haitian immigrants, I learned firsthand the importance that education and technology can have on one's life," said Myrthil. "While other kids in school had Apple computers, I was using a discarded typewriter I salvaged. It wasn't until my mother saved up enough money for a PC that I was finally exposed to new technology."

Myrthil joined Westhab after spending over 12 years in education, where he worked in charter schools with children with similar backgrounds to his own. Throughout his tenure in education, Myrthil did his utmost to help close the technological divide that exists in lower-income communities. While working with Excellence Community Schools, he led the COVID-19 EdTech strategy for students working remotely. In this role, he helped thousands of students across New York and Connecticut learn remotely during the beginning of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Myrthil is also a board member of The Ascenders, Inc., a nonprofit that utilizes higher-ed networks and knowledge to guide students to and through college successfully with the support of mentors.

"The entire Westhab team is proud of Steve for being recognized as a notable Black leader on such a prestigious list," said Rich Nightingale, President and CEO of Westhab. "He is fiercely dedicated to serving Black communities and other underserved communities, and he is a true leader in the quest for digital equity and to close the digital divide."

The entire Crain's 2022 Notable Black Leaders feature can be accessed at <https://www.craigslist.com/awards/notable-black-leaders-2022>

2022 Black History Month Series: Remembering Mrs. Joyce Jones, From 28 Lamartine Terrace



photos of Joyce Jones throughout her life in Westchester County

By Dennis Richmond Jr.

My paternal grandmother is Joyce Marie Watkins. Joyce was born on July 26th, 1937, in Greenwich, Connecticut. When she was born, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt was in office. That same year, Joe Louis had won the heavyweight championship. My grandmother, a strong Black woman, was one of a kind.

Joyce was born in Greenwich and lived with her family in Mamaroneck in 1937. By April 5th, 1940, the family relocated from Mamaroneck to New Rochelle, New York. Her mother, Adele Matilda Merritt, was born in Greenwich and raised in New Rochelle. Joyce and her siblings saw their father, Thomas Sinclair Watkins, Sr., leave for the service. He served honorably in the China Burma India Theatre of Operations in World War II.

Joyce and her siblings attended Albert Leonard Middle School in New Rochelle. She graduated in 1952. The same year, she started high school at New Rochelle High School. Her maternal grandparents would drive her and her siblings to school. One day after school, Joyce was talking to her friend Maxine Venable. The two teenagers went to a card game on North Avenue.

The young men playing cards didn't want Joyce around. One young man told her, "You can't be here." "Why not," she replied. "Because girls can't play cards," he said. That was the last time he ever said that to her. That man, Joe Richmond, ended up dating Joyce. The two of them would go on dates to the movies. At the time, movie tickets were 30 cents apiece.

On July 29th, 1954, Joyce and Joe had their first child, Michael Joseph Richmond. Dennis Richmond, Sr., the couple's second child, was born on September 30th, 1955. Joyce always made sure that she worked and cared for her family. She loved her children. Joe went into the army, and Joyce took care of her boys. The couple decided to leave New York upon his arrival back home. They relocated to Washington, D.C.

Having a beautiful home with a place for children to play and a successful life at young ages didn't bring the couple joy. Things didn't work out in Washington, and Joyce moved back to New York. A few years later, she met Franklin Delano Jones. The couple had a daughter named Charlene Jones. Everything was good. Joyce worked, and Frank worked. By 1975, the family lived in New York City, having had lived in California. Michael was 21, Dennis was 20, and Charlene was 15. Joyce ran a successful daycare in the Bronx. One of the children from her daycare grew up to be a famous actor.

Unfortunately, tragedy struck on October 5th, 1975. Joyce's son Michael died in the Edenwald section of the Bronx at 21-years-old. A year or two after her Michael died, Joyce and Frank relocated from New York City to Yonkers, New York.

My grandmother went on to live in Yonkers from c. 1977 to 2015. She was a longtime resident of 28 Lamartine Terrace in Yonkers. An almost 40 years Yonkers resident, my grandmother was unique. Joyce never bit her tongue and loved to laugh. Joyce died in Yonkers on February 8, 2015, seven years ago this year. She has deep Westchester County roots too. Her family was in the New York and Connecticut area for centuries.

My family is truly a legacy.

Assemblymember Paulin Passes Bill Requiring Airports to Provide Information to Help Human Trafficking Victims

Assemblymember Amy Paulin (D-Scarsdale) announced that her bill (A.9169/S.8262) has passed in the New York State Assembly which requires all airports of the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey, which are JFK International, Newark Liberty International, LaGuardia, New York Stewart, and Teterboro airports, to provide information on support services for human trafficking victims. It will now proceed to the New York State Senate where it is sponsored by Senator Anna Kaplan.

The bill requires the airports to have informational cards or signs available in public restrooms. Such items would contain information on services for trafficking victims as well as the national human trafficking hotline number.

"Since trafficking networks often rely on air travel to transport victims, we are including airports in our efforts to help these victims," said Assemblymember Paulin. "For some victims, the information they will see in an airport restroom may be the only opportunity to learn about services available to them. Ideally a victim will take a card or a photo of a sign and call the hotline for help either on the spot or at a later time."

Human trafficking is a global phenomenon that generates \$150 billion in annual profits. In 2021, an estimated 25 million people were trafficked. Airports are known hubs used to traffic victims both internationally and domestically, and as a result they are an ideal location to provide information about victim services. This information will inform victims, as well as other travelers, about the availability of services.

Pursuant to the bill, the posters and cards must include information on human trafficking services and must prominently display the national human trafficking hotline number. Many victims are heavily supervised and controlled while in transit, preventing them from safely seeking help or finding resources for fear of retaliation. By having the victim services informational signs or cards posted in all restrooms, victims will have easy access to the information.

"Through this legislation, airports can assume a more prominent role in responding to and preventing human trafficking," said Assemblymember Paulin. "It will also afford victims a resource to help escape their capture."

This bill is the latest in a host of legislation authored and passed by Assemblymember Paulin designed to strengthen New York's laws against human trafficking. In 2014 she passed a law ensuring that human trafficking victims who are 16 and 17 years old will be treated as victims instead of criminals and get the services they need (Ch. 402 of 2014). In 2015 she passed the landmark "Trafficking Victims Protection and Justice Act" to increase the accountability of buyers and traffickers, providing law enforcement with additional tools to identify traffickers,

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Manhattanville College Center to Offer Certificate in Design Thinking



Alison Carson, Ph.D., associate provost for academic innovation and design thinking at Manhattanville teaches class in September.

Manhattanville College will offer a certificate in Design Thinking beginning in the fall semester, giving its undergraduate students the opportunity to gain the top skills employers today are seeking. This new Manhattanville offering is unique as very few undergraduate liberal arts colleges offer such a certificate. Non-matriculated students can also enroll in the certificate program, allowing working professionals and high school students to develop these skills at Manhattanville.

Design thinking is a systematic approach to solving problems that has gained popularity in recent years among business leaders and others because of its emphasis on innovative solutions to complex issues. A Design thinking approach fosters the development of skills that are useful in any environment, including adaptability and empathy.

"Design thinking is an interdisciplinary approach to problem solving, with collaboration and empathy at its core," said Michael Geisler, Ph.D., President of Manhattanville College. "It fits with the values of the liberal arts and our mission to educate ethical and socially responsible leaders. Design thinking skills are in high demand in today's workplace in large part because they train students in focusing on customer-friendly solutions, thus giving humans an advantage in the marketplace compared to software solutions that rely solely on artificial intelligence."

The Center for Design Thinking at Manhattanville College brings a sharp focus to the methods and mindsets of design thinking, integrating and amplifying many of the skill sets that are already developed through a strong liberal arts education. The Center provides opportunities for the application of these skills through real-world problem solving. The certificate program can be completed alongside any of Manhattanville's undergraduate majors, allowing students to apply design thinking methodology and mindsets to disciplinary challenges, developing real-world experience in the process. Those in the program will learn to use design thinking to identify and test innovative solutions to the most difficult problems in a real-world setting with an emphasis on team creation, project management, collaboration, and professionalism. Students will conduct research using design thinking and develop oral and visual communication skills.

"Design thinking skills distinguish innovators from others in the workplace," said Alison Carson, Ph.D., associate provost for academic innovation and design thinking at Manhattanville. "This certificate allows our students entering the workforce to set themselves apart from the pack. It signals to employers that this is a person who knows how to think and solve problems creatively and with empathy." Carson directs the Center for Design Thinking at Manhattanville which opened in 2019 and is among the first of its kind on a liberal arts college campus.

Students in the program will complete six-courses – four required courses and two electives – for a total of 18 credits to earn a certificate in Design Thinking. There will be opportunities to participate in a design thinking internship which can substitute for an elective with approval by the program administrators. For more information or to apply, visit www.mville.edu.

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Westchester County Launches Opioid Response & Overdoses Prevention Initiative (ORI)

ORI Brings Together Key Stakeholders to Reduce Overdose Deaths in Westchester

In response to a rise in overdose deaths in Westchester County during the COVID-19 pandemic, the Westchester County Departments of Community Mental Health, Health, Social Services, Public Safety, the Medical Examiner's Office and the County Executive's Office have partnered with the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, and local and federal law enforcement to launch the Opioid Response and Overdose Prevention Initiative (ORI). The ORI brings together key stakeholders from across Westchester County who work collaboratively to prevent overdose deaths, and save lives.

ORI partners meet regularly to address the following:

- Collaborate on public health and law enforcement data sharing.
- Identify which communities are most in need of overdose support services.
- Execute more effective education, training and distribution of Naloxone or "Narcan," a vital tool for preventing fatalities in people at a high risk for drug overdoses.
- Conduct more thorough data collection, analysis and transparency relating to overdoses.
- Increase community education, outreach and support services to populations in need.
- Increase access to addiction, mental health, and co-occurring treatment, harm reduction and family support services, including substance use prevention services.
- Find and implement evidence-based treatment approaches for individuals with addiction who are also struggling with co-occurring mental health needs.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: "ORI brings together the most important stakeholders, health professionals and community service providers to address a critical issue that we want to see come to a stop in Westchester County. We want every resident to know that if they are struggling, there are real support services in place to help them overcome their addiction. It is our hope that by working together, we will see fewer of these tragic, preventable deaths occurring in Westchester County."

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah said: "Preventing and combatting overdoses is a top priority for me that requires action from those in government and community partners. This initiative will allow us to more effectively collaborate, to create meaningful solutions that address all components of this crisis, and to develop enforcement strategies that target emerging threat areas and individuals, including medical professionals, who perpetuate the opioid crisis by supplying those suffering from substance use disorders, including minors, with harmful substances."

According to preliminary data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, more than 100,000 people died of drug overdoses in the United States during the 12-month period ending in April 2021, accounting for the highest number of overdose deaths ever recorded in a single year. Seventy-five percent of those overdose deaths were opioid-related, primarily involving fentanyl. Westchester County also experienced an increase in overdoses at the local level, with Westchester County recording 119 overdose deaths in 2020, an increase of 28 over the previous year (2019). In addition, there have been many nonfatal overdoses in the County, which can cause serious physical and emotional impact on the individual and their loved ones.

The efforts of the ORI have already led to positive results. Westchester County has increased naloxone education, and equipped local law enforcement departments, emergency medical services and the general community with the potentially life-saving drug. Medication Assisted Treatment has also expanded to facilitate increased access to substance use disorder treatment. The entities participating in the ORI have the data sharing abilities to identify which communities are most in need of overdose support, and assist them with the services they need.

Commissioner of the Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH) Michael Orth said: "Under the leadership and vision of County Executive Latimer and District Attorney Rocah, and the strong collaboration between County Departments, Westchester County has created a multi-faceted approach in responding to the Opioid and overdoses epidemic. Westchester's ORI efforts have strengthened our ability to expand community education, outreach and support, and use of evidence-based substance use, mental health, and co-occurring treatment for individuals struggling with addiction and their families."

Commissioner of Health Dr. Sherlita Amler said: "Substance use disorder is a complex and often multifaceted disease that requires an all hands on deck approach to address. The ORI brings together individuals across disciplines to provide their unique expertise around prevention, response and treatment. Collaboration between public health and mental health professionals, law enforcement, first responders, the medical community and people who use drugs, gives us the ability to transform the way we understand the problem, as well as how we prevent and treat it."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Public Safety Thomas A. Gleason said: "Investigators assigned to the Real Time Crime Center continue to coordinate with the District Attorney's Office and local police departments to collect timely and accurate data regarding overdoses. This data helps to inform appropriate law enforcement investigations and community outreach efforts. In addition, our Patrol officers have been trained to administer Narcan to persons suffering an overdose and have saved numerous lives in recent years as a result."

Watch the Full News Conference: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MBK7xc1ZNEc>

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Send us your Letters, Opinions, Story Ideas and Photographs to: Risingmediagroup@gmail.com

Eric Schoen, continued from pg

Folks, washing your hands after you go to the bathroom predates Covid, the coronavirus and pandemic we currently face.

Merchants must examine the signage they have on their doors regarding mask usage. A lot of it is outdated. The 'State' does not require masks to be worn indoors. Individual merchants can establish their own mask policies, and many have. And you must follow them. Don't want to. Don't shop at the merchant. It's that simple.

I started this column off so positive but must finish it with a real story. I'm at Dunkin Donuts off Executive Boulevard. Sign on the door says you must wear a mask. A unmasked man orders coffee. The clerk gives it to him. He wants sweetener. The clerk tells him where they are so he can put them in. He says no, it's your job to put them in, you have them behind the counter. Put them in. The clerk was brown skin. The man, white is rude and obnoxious.

I normally wouldn't say anything but the man was clearly racist. The clerk has to put the Equal in? Buddy the sign at the entrance says you must wear a mask. I bring it to his attention. He carries on that the law is lifted and I should mind my business. Trying to explain the rules to this racist man is like talking to a piece of toilet tissue. He leaves and says something nasty to me on the way out.

Was he racist. You bet your life. I felt bad for the clerk. And the people behind me on line applauded me for what I did.

Quintez Brown, 21, was released Wednesday with the help of the Louisville, Kentucky Community Bail Fund, a group co-founded by Black Lives Matter Louisville organizer Chanelle Helm. They put up the \$100,000 bail. He is accused of the attempted Murder of Louisville mayoral candidate Craig Greenberg, who is Jewish. Greenberg said he and his family have been further traumatized after the activist charged with his attempted murder was released on bail just days after the shooting.

Friends, sadly racism in this country goes both ways! It has to stop.

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericsonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen and Dan Murphy 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.

TOWN OF EASTCHESTER

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Supervisor of the Town Board of the Town of Eastchester, after public hearing held on February 15, 2022 at the Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York, at 7:00 o'clock p.m., duly adopted the following local law:

LOCAL LAW NO. 1 – 2022 THE ZONING LAW OF THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER

A Local Law amending Local Law 5-2000, last amended by Local Law No. 1-2021, "THE ZONING LAW OF THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER," (the "Eastchester Zoning Law") to Repeal the Residency Preferences included as Section 12H(27)[A][E] and to amend Section 12H(27)[B](A) to remove the reference to such preferences.

BE IT ENACTED by the town governing body of the Town of Eastchester:

WHEREAS, notice of said public hearing was duly published on Friday, February 4, 2022 in the Westchester Rising, the official newspaper of the Town of Eastchester and posted at the Eastchester Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York on Monday, February 2, 2022.

WHEREAS, the Town of Eastchester after due deliberation, finds it in the best interest of the Town of Eastchester to adopt said Local Law.

NOW, THEREFORE, the Town of Eastchester hereby adopted said Local Law No. 1 – 2022, the Zoning Law of the Town of Eastchester and a copy of said Local Law is on file in the Office of The Town Clerk, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York 10709.

BY THE ORDER OF THE SUPERVISOR AND
THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF
EASTCHESTER, NEW YORK
LINDA LAIRD

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF
NEW YORK – COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER
INDEX # 67098/2018 FILED: 1/7/2022
SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Plaintiff designates Westchester County as the Place

of Trial. Designation of Venue is based upon the situs of the Subject Property. Subject property: 15 S Kensico Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601. U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR J.P. MORGAN MORTGAGE ACQUISITION CORP. 2005-OPT2, ASSET BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-OPT2, Plaintiff, against ARIANA ALVARADO AS ADMINISTRATRIX AND HEIR OF THE ESTATE OF JORGE E ALVARADO A/K/A JOSE ALVARADO, DIANA ALVARADO AS HEIR OF THE ESTATE OF JORGE E ALVARADO A/K/A JOSE ALVARADO, if they be living and if they be dead, the respective heirs-at-law, next-of-kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by or through said defendant(s) who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lien or inheritance, any right, title or interest in or to the real property described in the Complaint, SARA ZARI, THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE and "JOHN DOE" and "JANE DOE" the last two names being fictitious, said parties intended being tenants or occupants, if any, having or claiming an interest in, or lien upon the premises described in the complaint, Defendant(s). TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York) in the event the United States of America is made a party defendant, the time to answer for the said United States of America shall not expire until sixty (60) days after service of the Summons; and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME. If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. The foregoing summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Honorable Janet C Malone, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Westchester County, granted on the 6th day of January, 2022, and filed with the Complaint and other papers in the office of the County Clerk of Westchester County. The object of this action is to foreclose a mortgage upon the premises described below, executed by JORGE ALVARADO to OPTION ONE MORTGAGE CORPORATION, bearing date September 14, 2005 and recorded in Control No. 452910566 in the County of Westchester on October 27, 2005, which was modified by Loan Modification Agreement on September 1, 2010 creating a new principle amount of \$646,397.52, which was assigned to U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE FOR J.P. MORGAN MORTGAGE ACQUISITION CORP. 2005-OPT2, ASSET BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2005-OPT2 by assignment executed August 1, 2018 and recorded on August 6, 2018, in Control No. 582153544. Said premises being known as and by 15 S Kensico Avenue, White Plains, NY 10601, bearing tax map designation Section: 126.53, Block: 4, Lot: 6, which is more fully described in the Schedule "A" attached to the Complaint. Aldridge Pite, LLP. Attorneys for the Plaintiff, 40 Marcus Drive, Suite 200, Melville, NY 11747 Our File 1221-2159B

Letter to the Editor:

In your last issue of Westchester Rising, you gave both sides of the argument concerning criminal justice reform. Those who support the police like to call it Bail Reform, but its more than that. Yonkers Police Commissioner Mueller is quoted in your story as explaining that the Raise the Age portion of the reforms passed by the State legislature are also having an affect on crime.

But my question to you or anyone is, where is the middle ground on all of this? I understand Senator Stewart-Cousins view but it sounded like Comisioner Mueller was reasonable in his requests?

Instead of pointing fingers and inflating each others base of supporters, why not keep most of the reforms in place, but also give judges a little bit of leeway in sentencing, and let them see the records of prior crimes committed?

-Harold Stefanowski, Eastchester

Gashi for Congress continued from pg 1-

including drafting some of Kosovo's foundational legal documents and establishing Kosovo's Ministry of Local Government Administration. Vedat was later nominated by the United Nations to serve as the Chief Legal Advisor to Kosovo's Prime Minister. Shortly after Kosovo declared independence, Vedat returned to his home in the United States.

"Vedat's experiences abroad made him appreciate the value of the strong democratic foundation in the United States. Upon returning home to Yorktown, Vedat followed in the footsteps of his family's small business success in real estate by opening up his own small business, in the form of a real estate legal practice, in Yorktown Heights and in the Bronx.

"Currently, Vedat lives and works in his hometown of Yorktown, with his wife, Vjosa, and their children, Leka and Hana, who also attend the Yorktown public schools. Vedat is a member of the Rotary Club of Yorktown and an active member of the Yorktown Democratic Party where he serves as a Democratic District Leader."

Gashi is currently serving his second, two-year term on the Westchester Board of Legislators. Outside of political circles, he is a relatively unknown elected official.

But those who we spoke to called Gashi "a rising star in democratic politics," and "someone who will give Bowman a tough race."

"Gashi is a smart, effective alternative. He has a unique demographic as a native of Kosovo, but raised in Northern Westchester. As a Muslim, he brings diversity to the race and will be able to raise a lot of money. He has served his community well in so many ways. Look out Rep. Bowman," said one Westchester democrat.

Another Democrat who lives in Gashi's district said, "There are some elected officials who rise to the top sooner than others. I have known and campaigned with Vedat for four years. He is a thoughtful and engaging person. He went to Lake-land High School and i went to Yorktown. He has a wonderful family, and is just another welcome face at Starbucks in the morning. But he is also a politician with a bright future."

Several Westchester democrats said that they did not want to come out publicly against Rep. Bowman but had nothing but respect for Gashi. Bowman's 16th District was changed to include less of the Bronx, (but the Bronx is still 30% of the district) and more of Westchester, running north into Yorktown and Putnam County.

"Yorktown is Vedat's hometown and there are a thousand Yorktown democrats who want to make some noise politically. They will help Vedat build some momentum in the northern parts of the district. Democrats will come out for Vedat in northern Westchester," said another Westchester democrat.

Some believe that Bowman is too progressive for the Westcheter democrats he represents. Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, who was looking at a run against Bowman, spoke about and penned an editorial about the moderate part of the Westchester democratic party that needs a voice. Maybe Vedat Gashi is that person. Gashi is expected to formally announce by Feb. 18.

Editor's Note: Gashi for Congress was first report in the Yonkers Tribune. The FEC paperwork is dated Feb. 8.

As of press time, Feb. 23, no formal announcement or kickoff from Gashi, making some wondering why he is waiting. Petitions to get on the ballot go out on March 1. While reports are that Gashi is already raising money for the race, the FEC has not yet processed any information that we can share.

Notice of Formation of J's Admin, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/12/22. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Julia Rea 69 Dale Ave Apt 6 Ossining, NY 10562. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of Jovanna Realty LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 5/14/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Jovanna Realty LLC, 100 Riverdale Ave., Apt. 8C., Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Aiyana's Creations LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY, 11228 designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. US Corporation Agents Inc shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 127 Ramsey Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1339572, for Beer, Liquor, Wine & Cider has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer, Liquor, Wine & Cider at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 188 Waverly Street, Yonkers, NY 10701, NY, Westchester County, for on-premises consumption. JESMYR CORP. d/b/a EL CALVARIO COCINA MEXICANA

Notice of formation of JGS Notary Services LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/28/21 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 : C/O JGS Notary Services LLC , 588 Warburton Apt 2 Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of LOREDANA VICARI PHOTOGRAPHY LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/6/21 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 : C/O LOREDANA VICARI PHOTOGRAPHY LLC , 125 Dunwoodie Street Yonkers, NY 10704 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice is hereby given that a license , # pending has been applied for by Dazzles Restaurant & Lounge, Inc to sell liquor at retail in a restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 130 132 S. 4th Ave. Mt Vernon NY for on premises consumption.

Notice of Formation of HSKickz Company LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/09/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 3 Bainton Street, Yonkers, New York 10704. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of BARK BARK BROTHAS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State (SSNY) on 02/09/2022. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 50 Riverdale Avenue, 2H, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Racial Slurs, Lakeland School Board, continued from pg. 1-

gliardi as she was exiting, with a police escort for her protection. It was an absolutely horrifying display of the worst parts of humanity, a breakdown of decorum and civility, and an assault on the very fabric of what makes a community. And people are proud of it.

LFT President Lillis wrote after the meeting to his membership, "I am writing to you as the President of the LFT, as well as an educator who has taught thousands of Lakeland's students for over 28 years.

"We are all aware of the difficulties presented during the public comment period at the school board meetings in recent months. At last Thursday's meeting, things escalated to an entirely new level that, quite simply, cannot be tolerated.

"At the end of the meeting – when Dr. Norman and Dr. Gagliardi were leaving – members of the audience outrageously abused them by hurling racial epithets. It pains me to write this, but sunlight is the best antiseptic. Dr. Norman was called "uncle Tom" and Dr. Gagliardi was called a "n****r lover." In addition to these despicable comments, Dr. Gagliardi had to call the police on her way home as she was being followed to her home.

"I am sure that you, like me, are sickened to hear this. As educators, we teach our students to speak up when something is wrong. Well, this is wrong, and it is our moment to stand for what is right. This Thursday, February 17, at 7 PM, there is a school board meeting at Lakeland High School. I am asking you to join me at the meeting in a show of support for Dr. Norman, Dr. Gagliardi, and the entire Board of Education. We need to speak in one voice to say that racial abuse will not be tolerated at Lakeland. We owe this to our students, as there is nothing less than the future civility we expect in our schools at stake," wrote Lillis.

"We call on everyone, including the Yorktown Republican Town Committee, to join us in urging residents to turn down the heat at these meetings, and embrace civility, decency, and respect. We owe this to the BOE, our community and the students," said Yorktown Democratic Committee Co-Chair Marni Rabin Marron.

"The YDC welcomes an informed discussion around the role of diversity, equity, and inclusion in our local school systems, which could lead to a consensus around priorities that advance the needs of our schools and enrich our entire community. But that didn't happen, and we must stand united against the kind of hatred, ignorance, and bigotry that was on display last week," said YDC Co-Chair Mark Lieberman.

Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater stated before the Feb. 17 meeting, "I have spoken to Lakeland School Officials about their school board meeting last week and find the actions and words used by some in attendance to be abhorrent. We are blessed to live in a country that protects and encourages passionate debate but racist and hate filled remarks are a stain on our community. Hate has no home here in Yorktown and we must stamp it out every time it raises its wicked head."

The Lakeland School Board meeting on Feb. 17 was much different from the one held on Feb. 10. Several elected officials, including Supervisor Slater, County Legislator Colin Smith, and Congressman Jamaal Bowman were in attendance, along with dozens of teachers, students and residents.

"The public display of hateful and racist rhetoric during last week's board meeting is a reminder of how racism and hate continue to threaten our democracy, and we must come together to uproot it and show that we refuse to regress as a society," said Rep. Bowman. "As not only a former teacher and principal with over 20 years of experience but a Black father to three children, it pains me to see a situation like this, especially in our schools – a place that is supposed to serve as a safe haven for our kids. We are supposed to be protecting, loving, and most importantly educating our kids. Last week, a handful of people tried to take us several steps back into a world where people of color, especially Black students, had to live in fear and experience harassment simply for seeking an education. But today, I am proud to stand in solidarity with the parents, teachers, school board members, unions, and community leaders who will attend today's board meeting to stand up against this hate. Our children are watching our behavior as adults, and how we respond to hate and racism. Let's show them that we are going to stand up against it in love, faith, and community," said Bowman in a statement.

According to one of the speakers at the Feb. 17 meeting, Police are investigating the slurs against Gagliardi, and whether those comments extended into someone following her home after the meeting. 90% of the speakers at the Feb. 17 meeting, made up of students, parents, teachers, and residents, supported the efforts of the school district against racism and in favor of Gagliardi's inclusion program.

The story now turns to who it was that made the wreckless and racist comments at the Feb. 10 meeting, and to see who if anyone went beyond making comments at a school board meeting to threatening the Superintendent and following her home.

Paulin Bill, Human Trafficking continued from pg. 4-

and providing victims recourse to recover damages from their traffickers (Ch. 368 of 2015). In 2016 she passed a law requiring hospitals to establish written policies and procedures for the identification, assessment, and treatment or referral of suspected human trafficking victims (Ch. 408 of 2016).

In 2018 Assemblymember Paulin passed several anti-trafficking laws, including the End Child Sex Trafficking Act, which eliminated the requirement for proof of force, fraud, or coercion in order to prosecute an individual for the class B violent felony of sex trafficking of a minor (Ch. 189 of 2018). Another law she passed in 2018 requires lodging facilities to provide information about services for human trafficking victims on cards in public areas, including in their public restrooms and guest rooms (Ch. 190 of 2018). She also passed a 2018 law which allows any county to move an action pending in a local criminal court to a human trafficking intervention court (Ch. 191 of 2018).

"We must continue to extend protection, services, and assistance to victims, while also strengthening laws which hold those that enslave and exploit children through the commercial sex trade accountable," said Assemblymember Paulin. "I am grateful to my colleagues in the Assembly for passing this bill and now look to my Senate colleagues to do the same. It's critical that we help victims escape lives of abuse and exploitation at the hands of their predatory traffickers."

Notice of formation of Thomas Family Taste LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as the agent of the LCC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 268 Van Cortlandt Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Gelpdawg Media LLC..Articles of Organization filed with the New York Department of State on 12/01/2021. Office location: Westchester County. The New York Secretary of State is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served upon him or her to the company c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave. 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Principal business address: 428 Marlborough Rd., Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful acts.

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company Love Jones 360 Experience LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 9/23/21 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 : C/O Love Jones 360 Experience LLC , 41 Ridgeview Terrace Elmsford, NY 10523 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

A Pricey Cigar Butt

Paraphernalia of all sorts belonging to Michael Jordan is offered at auction frequently, says the Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC]. Not long ago a bidder paid \$57,068 for a photocopy of the contract he signed with the Chicago Bulls in 1984. It makes you wonder what the actual contract might bring. A game-worn, Dream Team Jersey signed by Jordan went for a whopping \$216,000. And so one can only imagine what the final bid will be for a half-smoked cigar butt that is being offered by the auctioneers art Lelands; the starting bid for the stogie is a mere \$500. Its owner is a woman who had her picture taken with the b-ball star. Lelands says that "Before taking the photo, he put out his cigar in the ashtray, snapped a quick picture and went about his day. After noticing Michael had left his cigar in the ashtray, our consentor decided to take the cigar along with her."

The 2.4 million member Association of Mature American Citizens [AMAC] [https://www.amac.us] is a vibrant, vital senior advocacy organization that takes its marching orders from its members. We act and speak on their behalf, protecting their interests and offering a practical insight on how to best solve the problems they face today. Live long and make a difference by joining us today at https://amac.us/join-amac.

Crime is down in Westchester, continued from pg. 1-

and thrive," said Latimer, who held a press conference on Feb. 23 to share the data with the public and talk about "the perception of Westchester County's degree of safety and the reality of Westchester County's safety."

Latimer discussed the Smash & Grab video at the Westchester Mall in White Plains. "People saw the video and made the assumption that crime is out of control."

"What is the reality? Crime in Westchester county is down. The perception or other narrative out there is not correct, and after these numbers are presented, if you purposely advance a narrative that is not correct then you are lying. The crime statistics show that to suggest that crime is out of control in Westchester is a narrative that is proven false," said Latimer.

"These statistics show how safe Westchester County is. Things have gotten significantly better."

Mount Sinai Doctors, Heart Health continued from pg. 1-

whether you have diabetes or are pre-diabetic, and your weight and physical activity. All of these play a role in determining if you may have coronary disease. Half of patients who die suddenly from cardiac arrest had not been diagnosed previously," said Dr. Gitig.

One test that Dr. Gitig says he uses to test heart health is a coronary calcium test, which detects calcium buildup in plaque along the walls of the coronary arteries, that supply the heart with blood and oxygen. This test is used for patients who may not have any symptoms but may be at risk for heart disease.

"I am a huge proponent of a coronary calcium scan test. This test has been shown to improve the classification of risk for people with heart disease and stroke over traditional risk factors. While not every person should get this test, certainly if your physician says that you are in the intermediate group for risk of heart attack, then it is a very useful test in a significant portion of people.

"And in my opinion, there is an argument that every man over the age of 40 and women in their 50's to get this test done. While It might not change whether they have to take medications for blood pressure or cholesterol, it helps people have a better understanding of what is happening with their body and will help many patients take control of their health and their lifestyle for the long term. You may change your way of thinking when you know more about what's going on with your body," said Dr. Gitig.

High Blood Pressure:

High blood pressure is one of the major causes of heart disease and risk of having a heart attack. "Many of my patients have high blood pressure, but almost half of those with high blood pressure don't know if they have it or that the optimal number is less than 130 over 80.

"Some believe that high BP is an inevitable part of our aging population, but we can't ignore the fact that in more traditional societies, BP numbers are not so high. And that is because of three reasons; they eat less or no processed foods, they have more physical activity, and they have improved mental states and less stress.

The higher your blood pressure levels, the more risk you have for heart disease, heart attack, and stroke. Nearly half of adults in the United States have hypertension, defined as blood pressure greater than 130 over 80. Only one in four adults with hypertension have their condition under control.

"I recommend to all of my patients that they know and understand their blood pressure numbers and their blood sugar levels to determine if they are pre-diabetic. Diabetes is another major cause of heart disease. That is why you should continue to see your doctor regularly, even when you are feeling well."

"I've seen a lot of people stop coming in regularly for their physicals, and the evidence shows that it because of a fear of COVID. But the research also shows that its quite rare to contract COVID at the Doctor's office or the hospital. Once universal masking when into effect, COVID rates went down," said Dr. Gitig.

"The take home message is that people don't stop having heart disease because there is a pandemic. If you feel sick you should go to the doctor or the hospital. If you are at high risk of heart disease, the risk to your health of not seeing a doctor is greater than the risk of getting COVID. As long as you are vaccinated and boosted, that risk of getting very sick from COVID is low.

"If you want to be proactive about your health and if you have symptoms, you should be coming in to get checked. It's the safest thing to do," said Dr. Gitig.

Alon Gitig, MD, is Director of Cardiology at Mount Sinai Doctors-Scarsdale and Mount Sinai Doctors-Yonkers. He is also an Assistant Professor of Cardiology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and Medical Director of the Heart Failure Management Program for the Mount Sinai Health Network.

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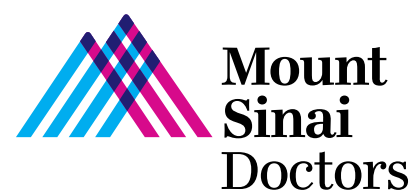
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