

Soccer Coach Arrested for Kissing A 15-Year Old Girl, “Can You Keep a Secret?”



Rochambeau Alternative High School where soccer clinic and incident occurred

More Details on Coach Needed to Determine if there are Other Victims

By Dan Murphy

The news from Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace that a coach for a White Plains-based youth soccer clinic was recently arrested and charged with multiple offenses for allegedly kissing a 15-year-old girl and making suggestive comments to her, gives us another example of someone entrusted with young adults has violated that trust.

Jose Grajales-Giraldo, 44, of Mamaroneck, arraigned before White Plains City Court Judge John P. Collins Jr. on two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a class A misdemeanor, and two counts of Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree, a class B misdemeanor.

Grajales-Giraldo pleaded not guilty to the charges and was released on his own recognizance pending further proceedings. Judge Collins provided a temporary order of protection for the victim.

DA Cacace said: “Protecting our young residents remains among my highest priorities as Westchester District Attorney. Our office treats offenses against children with the utmost seriousness. We are proud to take a proactive role in the community educating young people to recognize abusive and inappropriate conduct. We urge anyone with further information about this incident to contact our office.”

As alleged in the misdemeanor information, Grajales-Giraldo, a coach for a youth soccer clinic held at Rochambeau Alternative High School, in White Plains, approached a 15-year-old girl at the beginning of soccer practice on Jan. 25, 2025, and kissed her on the cheek. The information further alleges that Grajales-Giraldo kissed the girl again toward the end of practice.

On Feb. 1, the misdemeanor information alleges that Grajales-Giraldo approached the same girl and asked her if she is good at keeping secrets. He then told her, according to the information, that he really likes her and wants to kiss her.

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Hey Kim That’s Not Me! I Am Not Being Executed! Yorktown Resident Sues Kim Khardasian



Kim Kardashian, above, incorrectly posted the photo on Instagram of Yorktown resident Ivan Cantu as a prisoner facing execution, right

By Dan Murphy

“To all my friends and family, I am not getting executed. Some idiot who runs @KimKardashian used my picture instead of Ivan “Abner” Cantu.” This is the message that Yorktown resident Ivan Cantu was forced to post after Kim Kardashian posted his photo on Instagram, which went out to her 350 million followers. Kardashian, an advocate for prison reform and the death penalty, attempted to bring awareness to the case of another, Ivan Cantu, a death row inmate who was convicted of murdering his cousin and his cousin’s fiancée. Inmate Ivan Cantu was executed last year. Cantu has hired the LA law firm Sobo & Sobo to represent him and sue Kardashian.

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Lawler Refuses to Apologize for Questioning Legislators Alvarado’ Immigration Status-

Lawler Releases Letter Signed by Westchester Latinos in Support



Congressman Mike Lawler

County Legislator Jose Alvarado

By Dan Murphy

Congressman Mike Lawler put his foot in his mouth after a recent meeting with the Westchester Board of Legislators, during which he questioned whether County Legislator Jose Alvarado was a US Citizen. The story made national news after the meeting, held on Feb. 18.

Congressman Lawler and Westchester’s other Congressman, George Latimer, met with the BOL to discuss federal issues, including immigration and ICE in Westchester.

Lawler’s remark came after José Alvarado, the vice chair of Westchester County’s Board of Legislators, asked the congressman what documentation people should be expected to produce if they are stopped by ICE.

“I’m speaking to you, Mr. Lawler — somebody that looks like me is approached by ICE. What would your immediate expectation be for me to do? Should I carry on demonstrating that this immigrant is the board’s vice chairman?” said Alvarado.

“Well, like every other person that is engaged by law enforcement, if you are asked for information, cooperate. I wouldn’t expect you as a — I don’t know. I assume you’re a citizen. Maybe you’re not. Maybe you are,” said Lawler.

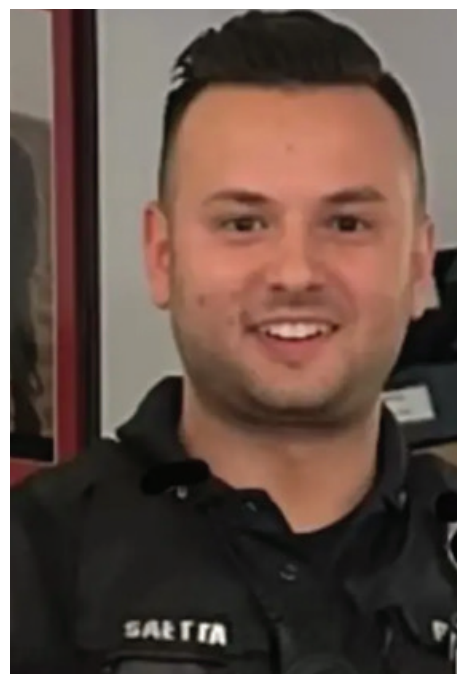
“I didn’t realize that you didn’t know that in order to be elected, you have to be a citizen. In order to vote, you have to be a citizen,” said Alvarado.

Alvarado later said he was appalled at the comment, as were others in

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Is a PBA Card a Get Out of Jail Free? Heck NO!

Fired Westchester County Cop Claims in Lawsuit He Was Let Go Because He Ticketed Driver Despite Showing a PBA Card



above: Corinne Pascariu-Costo

left: former Westchester County Police Officer Joseph Saetta

By Dan Murphy

Is a PBA Card a Get Out of Jail Free Card? Those of us who are family members of those in law enforcement know the answer to that question. No, it is entirely up to the officer who pulled you over.

A former Westchester County cop is suing the WCPD, Commissioner Terrence Raynor, and Westchester County for wrongful termination following his dismissal from the PBA Card incident, which he claims is why he was let go.

Joseph Saetta, 29, was serving as a probationary Westchester County Police Officer on December 6, 2023, when he pulled over a car in Yonkers. According to the lawsuit, Saetta pulled over a car that was later determined to be “driven by Corinne Pascariu Costo. The motorist was driving a vehicle with an expired temporary New Jersey license plate. She could not produce a driver’s license, which she claimed was in the trunk.

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Westchester County Executive Signs Bill Banning AI “Deep Fakes” Use of Digitally Deceptive Material



an obscene, fake video of Taylor Swift led to the passage of many AI Deep Fake laws

County Executive Ken Jenkins signed legislation prohibiting the unlawful use of digitally deceptive material in Westchester. Digitally deceptive material, or what many know as “deep fakes,” refers to content such as images, videos, or text that have been created or modified by artificial intelligence (AI) to present false information. The legislation closes gaps in the penal law if someone not only impersonates a person’s image or video image, but also their voice, or anything else relating to their likeness using AI. The new law expands penalties for the creation and distribution of digitally enhanced media, ensuring Westchester County’s residents are better protected from the circulation of harmful, false content.

Jenkins said: “Using digital tools to create something that is seemingly authentic, with the intent of deceiving others, will not be tolerated in Westchester. This new law provides an additional level of protection for our residents, especially our seniors, who have increasingly fallen victim to harassment and scams. I want to thank the Westchester County Board of Legislators for introducing this new bill that addresses gaps that exist due to the progressing world of AI.”

The law classifies the use of digitally deceptive content as a Class B misdemeanor, punishable by imprisonment, fine or both. The law increases to a Class A misdemeanor if a person violates the law during the commission of another crime, or if the offender has a prior conviction for the same offense within the last ten years.

Digitally deceptive material can include any still or video image, audio, text, or technological representation of a person’s name, picture, likeness or voice that has been modified to:

Exhibit authenticity or an appearance that is visually or audibly indistinguishable from reality; or

Depict a scenario that did not actually occur, or has been altered in a significant way from how it actually occurred through digitization.

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace said: “I am thankful for the partnership of our executive and legislative branches in providing this new tool to hold abusers accountable. Too often, gaps in existing laws allow advances in technology to outpace the criminal justice system. Impersonators who use AI, in any medium, will no longer be able to evade accountability. I look forward to continuing to address these key areas of concern with our government partners.”

Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators Vedat Gashi said: “I would like to thank County Executive Ken Jenkins for signing this vital bill into law today. It will help protect our residents – especially seniors and other vulnerable members of our community - from the growing threat of malicious AI use. This bill addresses a critical gap in our legal system, and I commend Legislator Holstein for his dedication to this cause. It’s through the hard work of many, including the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office, that we’ve been able to take this important step toward ensuring our community is better protected from digital deception.”

Legislator Judah Holstein sponsored the law in partnership with the Westchester District Attorney’s Office and the County Law Department. Holstein said: “AI has incredible potential, but when used maliciously, it can cause real harm, especially to our seniors, women and young people. I’m proud to see this law signed today. It will help protect residents from the growing threats of digital deception, including AI-driven ‘deep fakes’ used to impersonate individuals or depict them in obscene situations without consent. I want to thank County Executive Ken Jenkins for his leadership and our legislative team for their tireless work in crafting this important bill. This is a prime example of government working as it should. When leaders come together around common-sense solutions, we can act quickly to protect the public. I hope this legislation, and the collaborative, bipartisan effort behind it, serves as a model for the state and beyond.” The law goes into effect immediately.

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Coalition Thanks Gov. Hochul for Budget Plan to Increase NYSDOT Capital Plan by \$800M



Glenn Pacchiana, President & CEO, Thalle Industries; Edward Cooke, Vice President, Westchester Putnam Building Trades and Business Agent Carpenters Local 279; Assembly Member MaryJane Shimsky; Assembly Member Chris Burdick; John Cooney Jr., Executive Director, Construction Industry Council of Westchester and Hudson Valley Inc.; Louis Picani, President Teamsters Local 456, and Jim Sasso, President, Operating Engineers Local 137.

A coalition led by the Construction Industry Council of Westchester and Hudson Valley and local construction trade unions is demanding that state lawmakers allocate more funds for the repair and maintenance of the Hudson Valley’s crumbling and pothole-filled state roadways.

The coalition held a Hudson Valley Road Funding Rally on February 19 at the Teamsters Local 456 Union Hall in Elmsford. The coalition thanks Gov. Hochul for her executive budget proposal to increase the NYSDOT Capital plan by \$800 million, the increased funding will help the NYSDOT restore the buying power for its core program eroded by unprecedented construction materials inflation. The increased funding will help improve road and bridge conditions across New York State. Further the coalition asks the Hudson Valley New York State Assembly and New York State Senate delegation to include an increase of \$250 million in funding for the NYS DOT local roads program called CHIPS in their respective One House Budget proposals. The increased funding need for CHIPS is driven by the same construction materials cost inflation experienced by the NYSDOT core program.

“While we have work to do to ensure the Hudson Valley receives its fair share of this proposal, increasing the overall investment is a great first step,” said CIC Executive Director John Cooney, Jr. “This funding will help ensure we can complete critical projects already in the pipeline by offsetting the impact of rising material costs caused by inflation. This increased investment will save New York State taxpayers money because the cost of deferred maintenance will only grow over time.”

Speaking on behalf of more than four hundred contractors, suppliers and aligned labor unions, Cooney also urged the New York State Senate and Assembly to “follow the Governor’s lead by including this funding in their one-house budget proposals.” He said, “The CIC stands ready to work with state leaders to ensure this funding becomes a reality and delivers meaningful improvements for all New Yorkers.”

NYSDOT Region 8 has had the worst road and bridge conditions in New York State for over 10 years. It also noted that Region 8 has the most highway lane miles (5,963) and the most bridges (1,143) of any Region, yet on average Region 8 ranks third in terms of funding. Region 8 includes 13 cities, 75 villages and 107 towns including Westchester County.

Attending the rally with Cooney were representatives from Local Construction Trade Unions, Teamsters Local 456, Laborers Local 60, Laborers Local 235, Operating Engineers Local 137, Operating Engineers Local 825, Laborers Local 754, Laborers Local 17, Carpenters Local 279 and Assembly Members MaryJane Shimsky and Chris Burdick.

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, “As Senate Majority Leader, I have consistently fought to secure funding for New York’s infrastructure. We have delivered historic investments in roads, bridges, and public transportation, ensuring that communities across New York—especially in the Hudson Valley—receive the resources they need. Governor Hochul’s proposed increase to the NYSDOT Capital Plan is another step forward. Under my leadership, the Senate Majority has provided historic CHIPS funding, and I look forward to continuing to advocate for this crucial funding.”

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Westchester Democrats Endorse Jenkins for County Executive, Roach for County Clerk



County Executive Ken Jenkins at Westchester Democratic Committee convention

Westchester Jewish Democrats Added to WCDC Executive Committee Affinity Groups

The Westchester County Democratic Committee has endorsed its candidates for this November's county elections.

The endorsement came during a meeting of the committee on Feb. 18 at the Westchester Marriott in Tarrytown.

County Executive Ken Jenkins, who earlier this month won a special election to complete the current unexpired term of former County Executive and current Congressman George Latimer, got the committee's nod for the race this November for a full term.

Outgoing White Plains Mayor Tom Roach won the committee's endorsement to run for County Clerk, in the race to succeed longtime County Clerk Tim Idoni who is retiring.

The committee also voted to endorse incumbent Westchester County Surrogate Court Judge Brandon Sall. Current Greenburgh Town Justice Erin M. McGoey won the committee's endorsement for County Court Judge. Family law attorney and New Rochelle resident Emily R. Rubin was endorsed for Family Court Judge.

The committee also backed the slate of incumbent Democratic legislators running for re-election:

Chair Vedat Gashi, District 4 (New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown)

Vice Chair José Alvarado, District 17 (Yonkers)

Majority Leader Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, District 13 (Mount Vernon)

Majority Whip Terry Clements, District 11 (New Rochelle, Pelham, Pelham Manor)

Colin Smith, District 1 (Cortlandt, Peekskill, Yorktown)

Erika Pierce, District 2 (Bedford, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, North Salem, Pound Ridge, Somers)

Nancy E. Barr, District 6 (Harrison, Port Chester, Rye Brook)

Jewel Williams Johnson, District 8 (Elmsford, Greenburgh, Tarrytown, White Plains)

Emiljana Ulaj, District 9 (Cortlandt, Ossining, Croton, Briarcliff, Buchanan)

Judah Holstein, District 10 (Eastchester, New Rochelle, Tuckahoe)

David Imamura, District 12 (Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Greenburgh, Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington)

David J. Tubiolo, District 14 (Yonkers, Mount Vernon)

Shanae Williams, District 16 (Yonkers)

Committee Chair Suzanne Berger said: "Westchester County is a model for New York and the nation of the good things that happen when we elect fiscally strong, socially progressive Democrats. Races in non-presidential years don't get the press attention they deserve, but they're crucial. It's county government that most touches us in our day-to-day lives, and it's our Democratic slate who will continue Westchester's progress economically, socially, environmentally, and in public safety. Democrats are ready to work hard and win this November."

Democrats also voted overwhelmingly to add the Westchester Jewish Democrats to the roster of affinity groups with a voice and vote in the WCDC's executive committee. Westchester Jewish Democrats join Black Democrats of Westchester, Hispanic Democrats of Westchester, Women Democrats of Westchester, Westchester Young Democrats, Westchester Asian American Democrats and Hudson Valley Stonewall Democrats.

Berger said, "Hearing every voice, reaching out to every community, welcoming, not fearing, our diversity: these are core values of Democrats, and having Westchester Jewish Democrats in our executive discussions will help us put those values into practice."

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We are hiring attendants to engage at Honda's Café Corp, (Dobbs Ferry, New York). We are seeking candidates who demonstrate leadership skills, successfully motivating and guiding the team. Additionally, having a passion for coffee culture and a desire to learn and share knowledge with both the team and customers is essential. Excellent communication skills to treat customers with courtesy and respect are indispensable. Experience with Microsoft Excel or Planning will be considered an advantage for inventory management, purchasing, and inventory control. Flexibility in scheduling is required, including weekends and holidays. Proficiency either in Spanish and Portuguese languages is desirable, though not essential. 48 Hours per week. INCOME/YEAR – \$46,800/YEAR. Please contact Valnei Honda Soares, CEO, via email at procesohonda@gmail.com

My Five Accomplishments in the Last Week



By Eric Wolf Schoen

As The unelected President Elon Musk and our Donald ask millions of Federal workers to submit 5 accomplishments in the last week, you know our turn as flag waving Americans is next.

So I thought about 5 accomplishments I had, and thought I would share them with you This way, you can think about how you will answer the question before it's your turn.

I'm not an egg eater, but I had my first omelette, a cheese one this week. It was ok, but not something I would eat on a steady basis. Particularly with the price of eggs and the egg shortage, I would rather donate my share to those who crave eggs. And I know there are many of you out there in that position.

If you don't eat eggs, what about using them for Easter? What are we going to do if there is an egg shortage and we can't dye eggs. But wait! The egg is an intricate part of the Seder meal too! Well, whoever gets it first can have my eggs!

I was eating pancakes with bacon (I know I should not be eating bacon you can scold me now) and some square piece of meat showed up on my plate. Hark, could it be Taylor Ham? My I have always wanted to try Taylor ham, a southern treat. Sorry friends, not my cup of tea. So I will donate my share to those who really enjoy it.

I normally eat spaghetti and meatballs at Italian restaurants but recently had a big plate of the dish at an American restaurant. And it was quite good! Yes, the red pepper flakes and Parmesan cheese were missing, and it wasn't as good as so many of my Italian friends can make, but it was an accomplishment to be able to get a good Italian meal at a non Italian restaurant. Mangia my friends.

I have been practicing my Spanish as much as I can recently. Only in America are people not bilingual and speak only one language. I view it as an accomplishment when I can understand bits and pieces of those around me speaking Spanish. My Spanish is Yonkers High School Rose Levine Spanish. Mrs Levine was my teacher and spoke Spanish with a bit of a Yiddish accent. I found learning another language difficult in High School and marvel at the little 5 year olds able to speak and understand multiple languages all around me.

I have a wonderful doctor in New York who happens to do his surgical procedures in New Jersey. I have spent a lot of time recently in the Garden State. I have friends and family in New Jersey. But recently I noticed people in New Jersey are strange too. They never want you to leave their state.

Whether it be the fact that New Jerseyans don't have to pump their own gas, they are too busy selecting a soda from the hundreds in the WAWA soda dispenser, or stuffed with the WAWA cream cheese pretzels hot and sitting at the checkout, there is something strange about New Jerseyans. But I love them just the same.

And I love you too! I hope you were not subject to the stupid accomplishments Musk/Trump questionnaire. Because I think by reading this column you realize how ridiculous I think the questionnaire is.

And I salute the hard working government employees who make this country great. God bless America, my home sweet home!

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“I Assume You’re a Citizen—Maybe You’re Not”: A Call for An Apology and Respect

An Opinion Piece by Legislators Jewel Williams Johnson & Shanae Williams

As elected representatives of Westchester County, we are compelled to address the recent remarks made by Congressman Mike Lawler during a public meeting with the Westchester County Board of Legislators. His statement to our colleague, Vice Chair José Alvarado—“I assume you’re a citizen; maybe you’re not”—was both deeply offensive and emblematic of a broader insensitivity. This attitude undermines the dignity of all in the 17th Congressional District.

Many Americans who have never had to question their place in the United States of America struggle to understand why ICE’s presence in communities of color is problematic. To them, it’s easy to say, “Just cooperate with ICE” or “Just show your documents,” and life will go on. For many people of color, however, ICE represents more than just an immigration enforcement agency; it is a symbol of racialized oppression and state-sanctioned violence.

It sparks fear woven into communities of color—not only for Latinos and undocumented residents, but also for naturalized citizens, asylum seekers, mixed-race families, Indigenous people, and those of the African diaspora, all of whom live under systemic threats rooted in hatred.

We, at the Westchester County Board of Legislators, held a public meeting with the Westchester Federal Delegation to discuss the County’s 2025 agenda and address pressing issues.

During our wide-ranging conversation the Vice Chair of the Board, José Alvarado, asked Rep. Lawler, what he, as a Latino and sitting member of the Board of Legislators, should do if ICE were to approach him. This was an opportunity for the Republican representative to show some compassion and ease the fear so many people of color and immigrants experience daily. Instead, Mr. Lawler chose to deflect and disrespect Vice Chair Alvarado by insinuating he may be undocumented. He actually asked if he was a citizen.

If anyone should know that elected officials in New York State must be citizens to run for office, it would be Rep. Lawler, himself an elected official in New York.

Vice Chair Alvarado, a naturalized U.S. citizen born in Honduras, has dedicated his career to public service, representing the diverse community of Yonkers with integrity and commitment. Questioning his citizenship status, especially in a public forum, is a blatant display of disrespect and ignorance. Such remarks demean an esteemed public servant and send a chilling message to immigrants and naturalized citizens about their place in society.

As an immigrant from Jamaica, I, Legislator Shanae Williams, understand first-hand the challenges and triumphs that come with building a life in the United States. My journey, like that of many others, is a testament to resilience and the pursuit of the American dream.

Similarly, I, Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson, often reflect on my family’s history; my maternal grandfather immigrated to the U.S., from the dual island nation, the Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, in the 1930s with barely any belongings, wrapping newspapers around his feet for shoes. His perseverance laid the foundation for our family’s future.

These personal narratives are not unique; they echo the experiences of countless families who have contributed to the rich tapestry of our nation.

It is mortifying that a Congressional representative would question the legitimacy of a fellow elected official in such a manner. Congressman Lawler was an invited guest at a Committee of the Whole meeting, convened to discuss our concerns regarding recent sweeping changes to federal policies, funding, staffing, and programs. Instead of providing assurances, he issued threats, incorrectly labeled Westchester as a “sanctuary county,” and insulted our colleague.

This behavior exacerbates an already fraught environment, fostering division rather than unity. As legislators, our duty is to ensure the well-being and quality of life for all our constituents, irrespective of their background. We expect the same commitment from our federal representatives.

A public and sincere apology from Congressman Lawler is not only warranted but necessary. Respect for one’s colleagues and constituents is fundamental to effective governance. According to the US Census Bureau and Data USA, the racial and ethnic composition of Congressional District 17 includes approximately 20% who identify as Hispanic or Latino, approximately 8% who identify as Black or African American and approximately 5% who identify as Asian. Notably, 31.8% of households in the district report speaking a non-English language at home, reflecting the linguistic diversity of the area. We urge Congressman Lawler to reflect on his actions and to engage with all communities in his district and beyond with the respect and dignity they deserve.

In these challenging times, it is imperative that our leaders exemplify the values of inclusivity, respect, and understanding. Only then can we truly serve the diverse and vibrant communities that make up our great county and nation.

About the Authors:

Jewel Williams Johnson was elected to the Westchester County Legislature in November 2021 to represent the constituents of the 8th Legislative District. Jewel serves as Chair of both the Board of Legislators’ Committee on Budget & Appropriations and the Committee on Health.

Shanae Williams was elected to the Westchester County Legislature in November 2023 to represent the 16th Legislative District. Shanae serves as Chair of the Housing and Planning Committee.

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Yonkers Successes Fuel Speculation About Mayor Mike Spano’s Future



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, pictured with Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins

By Dan Murphy

Former Lt. Governor Antonio Delgado’s decision not to seek reelection next year and break from the administration of Governor Kathy Hochul has fueled speculation about who will succeed him. Politico’s Playbook for Feb. 25, included the following:

“And yet, Playbook’s phone lit up with speculation (and some pitches) for who could replace Delgado, a former swing seat House member, on the statewide ticket. After all, this is a job that puts you a heartbeat or scandal away from being governor of New York — as Hochul herself can attest.

“One very early bit of speculation was Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, a Democrat who presides over the state’s third-largest city, could be a potential fit, according to a person familiar with internal party discussions. Spano would provide geographic balance for Hochul — though another white moderate may be a tough sell for the ticket.”

Mayor Mike Spano’s successes in Yonkers, including becoming the first Mayor to win four four-year terms, and his overall achievements in presiding over the city’s progress over the past two decades, and his ability to manage a City that some believe was unmanageable, have fueled speculation about his political future.

Spano has more than two years remaining on his fourth, and what most believe will be his final term, as Mayor of New York’s Third-Largest City. So while there is time for Spano to plan his next move, Delgado’s departure has sped up the calendar on who his replacement will be.

One of Mayor Spano’s biggest achievements in Yonkers has been the \$500 million investment from the filmmaking industry, specifically Lionsgate Studios, which has resulted in the moniker for Yonkers, “Hollywood on the Hudson.”

Under Spano’s watch, crime is under control, property tax increases have largely been kept under the tax cap, and the political drama that for years portrayed the city in a negative light has disappeared over the past 14 years.

When asked for a comment, Mayor Spano said, “I am often asked about the secret to Yonkers’ success story: we are the fastest growing city outside of New York City, our schools are leading the State, we provide quality, equitable housing and remain one of the safest cities of our size in the nation. We certainly have a message that can be taken statewide and I would be honored to be considered.”

Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier said, “Mayor Spano has done tremendous things in Yonkers. He has helped create jobs, reduce unemployment and improve the city’s bond rating, all during a time when the other big cities in New York were going in the other direction. He has done all the things a big city mayor needs to do, and someone in state government needs to do. He has checked all of the boxes, and he is a former state legislator.”

But does Mayor Spano want to leave his job? “He is laser focused and loves his job and that is why he agreed to serve four terms. But I also think the people of the state of New York would be well served to have a leader like Mike Spano,” said Meier.

The Politico story states, “though another white moderate may be a tough sell for the ticket.” And we spoke to several democrats in Westchester who mentioned that, and the fact that Hochul might be more inclined to pick someone from New York City as her next Lt. Governor.

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Yonkers We Have A Problem....



Debbie Kozak

Op-Ed By Debbie Kozak

Word has no doubt by now spread far and wide of what a catastrophic fiasco last week's (Feb. 19) extremely-short-advance-notice Yonkers Republican City Committee's Nominating Convention ultimately turned out to be...and still is.

For those who missed it, more than 50 GOP Ward and District Leaders, including two City Councilmen and one County Legislator, turned out to nominate, second and listen to earnest speeches from half-a-dozen candidates before casting roll-call votes – only to learn more than two hours into the evening event that it was suddenly being adjourned for lack of a quorum.

And in fact, the electoral fate of every one of these would-be nominees continues to be undecided (defeated by their own party?). ‘With Republicans like these, who needs Democrats?’ one participant quipped.

While no official explanation has yet been published, word of mouth that night was that one of the Ward or District Leaders failed to show up with his or her required list of proxies.

It has since been learned that a hoped-for ‘do-over’ convention on Feb. 27 that was hastily announced that evening...may not take place after all.

So, stay tuned...who knows what'll happen next?

OKAY, SO WHAT COMES NEXT?

Do Republicans in Yonkers not have a right to expect not only better and more diligent performance on the part of a committee whose primary responsibility is to make the nominating process clear, smooth and foolproof?

WELL, HELL YES, we do, and – given the uncertainty that unfortunately continues to be so apparently carelessly exhibited, we believe the time has come – sadly but frankly – for a change in leadership.

The Yonkers Republican Party has suffered tremendous setbacks over the years, largely due to defections from our own ranks. Candidates like John Rubbo and David Tubiolo, who were elected as Republicans, abandoned their principles and switched to the Democratic Party for personal gain. Even some former Republican leaders followed this shameful trend, weakening our party instead of standing their ground and fighting for the values they once claimed to uphold. Worse yet, past Republican leadership did nothing to stop this betrayal, allowing the party to wither under their watch.

These defections and failures have delivered a near-fatal blow to the Yonkers Republican Party. Every year, things deteriorate further as Democrat Mayor Mike Spano consolidates his power, using taxpayer dollars to buy influence and silence opposition. Many of those who should be defending our party have instead been compromised, turning the Yonkers Republican Party into little more than a paper organization.

But imagine a different future—one where the Yonkers Republican Party breaks free from Spano's grip and rebuilds itself into a true political force. A party that reorganizes across the city, stands firm in its principles, and gives voters a real choice in every election. The Democrats have worked relentlessly to eliminate the few strong Republican areas left in Yonkers, but we cannot allow them to succeed.

The first step toward revival is removing those within our own party who have been compromised by Democratic influence. We must replace them with true Republicans—leaders who will fight, not surrender. We need candidates who will stand up to the Democratic machine and give taxpayers a real opportunity to vote for change.

This is not the time for despair. It is time to take action. The destruction of the Yonkers Republican Party is not inevitable—if we stand together, we can rebuild, we can fight, and we can win. The future of our city depends on it. Never give up. The fight starts now. The NW Yonkers Republican Club's mission is to grow MEMBERSHIP in the Republican party and make sure our elected representatives decisions align with the interests of our community — And also to have us in the back of their minds when they make crucial votes that concern our area.

Debbie Kozak is President, John P. O'Leary NW Yonkers Republican Club and the 2023 Republican Candidate for Westchester County Legislator District 16 (Yonkers).

NYAG James Secures \$16.75 Million from DoorDash for Cheating Delivery Workers Out of Tips

More Than 60,000 New York Delivery Workers May Be Eligible to Receive Restitution Payment from DoorDash

New York Attorney General Letitia James today announced a \$16.75 million settlement with delivery platform DoorDash for misleading both consumers and delivery workers (known as “Dashers”) by using tips intended for Dashers to subsidize their guaranteed pay. Between May 2017 and September 2019, DoorDash used a guaranteed pay model that let Dashers see how much they would be paid before accepting a delivery. An Office of the Attorney General (OAG) investigation found that under this model, DoorDash used customer tips to offset the base pay it had already guaranteed to workers, instead of giving workers the full tips they rightfully earned. DoorDash will pay \$16.75 million in restitution for Dashers and up to \$1 million in settlement administrator costs to help issue the payments.

“Delivery workers are integral to our communities, working tirelessly to bring food and other essentials directly to our doorsteps in all conditions,” said Attorney General James. “DoorDash misled customers who generously tipped and deceived Dashers who deserved to be paid in full. This settlement returns millions to the pockets of hardworking Dashers and ensures transparency in DoorDash’s payment practices going forward. My office will continue to protect New York workers from deceptive business practices and ensure they receive all of the money they’ve earned.”

The OAG investigation found that under DoorDash’s deceptive pay model, workers were only able to see their tips if they were greater than the amount DoorDash had already guaranteed to pay them for the order. DoorDash would always pay a minimum of \$1 to the Dasher and would use the tips paid by the customer to offset the rest of the amount guaranteed to the delivery worker.

For example, for orders with a guaranteed amount of \$10:

If a customer tipped \$0, DoorDash would pay \$10 (\$1 + \$9 remainder). The Dasher received \$10.

If a customer tipped \$3, DoorDash would pay \$7 (\$1 + \$6 remainder). The Dasher still only received \$10.

If a customer tipped \$6, DoorDash would pay \$4 (\$1 + \$3 remainder). The Dasher still only received \$10.

If a customer tipped \$9, DoorDash would pay \$1 (\$1 + \$0 remainder). The Dasher still only received \$10.

If the customer tipped \$11, DoorDash would pay \$1 (\$1 + \$0 remainder). The Dasher only received \$12.

Customers were misled into believing their tips would directly benefit Dashers. Instead, DoorDash would keep the tips meant for Dashers and take it out of their guaranteed pay. DoorDash would guarantee pay to a delivery worker, and then only actually pay them whatever the tip did not cover.

DoorDash also failed to clearly disclose these practices to customers and Dashers. At checkout, customers were encouraged to tip with a message reading “Dashers will always receive 100 percent of the tip.” Disclosures about the use of tips were buried in online documents and inaccessible during critical moments in the ordering process. Customers had no way of knowing that DoorDash was using tips to reduce its own costs.

Attorney General James has secured \$16.75 million in restitution from DoorDash, which a settlement administrator engaged by OAG will distribute directly to Dashers affected by the deceptive pay model, providing them the compensation they were denied. Any worker who delivered for DoorDash between May 2017 and September 2019 in New York state may be eligible to file a claim for this settlement. During that period, New Yorkers placed more than 11 million delivery orders with DoorDash and approximately 63,000 New York delivery workers stand to benefit from this settlement. Payments are expected to begin in early 2025. Eligible drivers will be contacted by the settlement administrator via mail, email, and/or text with notices of the settlement and information on how to file a claim. --continued on pg 10

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Notice of formation of S2K REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/09/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to NCH REGISTERED AGENT, 42 BROADWAY, FL 12-200, NEW YORK, NY, 10004-3892. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

Notice of formation of Break Bread Not Hearts, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/26/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: Break Bread Not Hearts, LLC PO Box 36 Valhalla, NY 10595 Purpose: any lawful activity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Notice of formation of Granola Girl, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/19/24. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 206 B Heritage Hills Drive, Somers, NY 10589. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of LIQUID ASSET SERVICES LLC. Application for Authority Filed with the SSNY on 12/05/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to THE LLC, 46 LINCOLN AVENUE, PORT CHESTER, NY 10573. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

CORPORATION NOTICE
CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers, New York will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, March 11 at 6:30 PM in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following ordinance to inform the public and review the public purpose, pursuant to Eminent Domain Procedure Law, of the proposed acquisition of the leasehold held by All County Bus ,LLC, located at 76 Fernbrook Street, also known as a portion of Section 1, Block 615, Lot 1 designated on the Official Tax Map of the City of Yonkers, for the development of a waterfront park, to wit:

SPECIAL ORDINANCE 60-2024
A SPECIAL ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE ACQUISITION
OF THE FOLLOWING LEASEHOLD INTEREST AT 76 FERNBROOK STREET REQUIRED IN CONNECTION WITH THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE WATERFRONT PARK AT FERNBROOK STREET

All persons having an interest in the leasehold, which acquisition is required for the development of the waterfront park, are invited to attend the hearing to give oral or written statements concerning the proposed acquisition,

Further information may be obtained at the City Clerk's office, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York and on the City's Website.

VINCENT SPANO
City Clerk
February 26, 2025

THE CITY OF YONKERS/YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BUREAU OF PURCHASING, One Larkin Center, 3RD Floor, Yonkers, New York 10701 (Located in the Yonkers Riverfront Library Building across from the Metro-North train station) will receive sealed Bids and Proposals for the following projects until 2:00 PM, on the dates below.

Sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read at the address above in the 3rd Floor Finance Conference Room.

The building is open from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM for receiving packages via courier services and in person. If delivering bids in person, individuals must see the Public Safety Officer in the library atrium, who will contact Purchasing to meet the individual at the 3rd floor elevator.

Those interested in listening to the Sealed Bids opening and the reading of bids can dial Conference Call number 1-701-802-5221 and enter Access Code 1354203 when prompted.

Solicitation documents are available for downloading from the Empire State Purchasing Group website at <http://www.empirestatebidsystem.com/>. The City welcomes and encourages participation by local and minority and women owned business enterprises.

- 1. Bid No. RFB-7368B – Opening date: 03/21/2025: Purchase of one Action Target, TAC House, or Yonkers approved equal, moveable shooting range target system (VB).***
- 2. Bid No. RFB-7383A – Opening date: 03/21/2025: Purchase of Midmark, or Yonkers approved equal, animal cages and accessories. (VB).***
- 3. Bid No. RFB-7392 – Opening date: 03/28/2025: Asbestos abatement/removal at Yonkers City Hall, Second Floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, NY (MM).***
- 4. Bid No. RFB-7400 – Opening date 03/21/2025: Purchase of (25) Sierra 24VDC AC Adapter, (25) Panorama Low Profile 4x4 5G GPS GNSS IoT Antennas and (25) Sierra Airlink Rugged 5g Router, or***
- 5. Bid No. RFB-7407 – Opening date: 03/14/2025: Purchase of (1) Rapid Assault Tools Ratdoor Breacher Door and (1) Gen2 kit, or Yonkers approved equals (VB).***
- 6. Bid No. RFB-7408 – Opening date: 03/14/2025: Purchase of various brands, or Yonkers approved equals, EMS medical supplies - 30 items (VB).***
- 7. Bid No. RFB-7411 – Opening date: 03/21/2025: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to purchase various Kennedy, or Yonkers approved equals, fire hydrant repair parts, 140 items (AC).***

DOT Funding for Roads, continued from pg 2-

State Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, "I am pleased Governor Hochul has included \$800 million in her Executive Budget proposal for the DOT Core program. Still, the final adopted budget must include the necessary and proper funding for our region - and it doesn't. Our community, located in Region 8 of the DOT, has been underfunded for years. Our constituents cannot wait any longer - the more time goes on, the greater threat the roads and bridges pose to the safety and well-being of those who travel on them. We must address these issues immediately, with the appropriate funding, to do so responsibly and safely. I thank CIC and my colleagues in the Building Trades unions for their continued advocacy and leadership in this fight, and my colleagues in the legislature for their partnership."

State Senator Pete Harckham said, "I have been a strong advocate for much-needed funding to maintain and repair our roads and bridges throughout my public service, and I appreciate the Governor listening to our voices and including the \$800 million increase for the NYSDOT Capital plan in her proposed budget. Finally, we are making meaningful investments in our transportation infrastructure, thanks to the coalition of trades unions and the Construction Industry Council of Westchester and Hudson Valley."

Assembly Member MaryJane Shimsky said, "The 2025-26 State budget is, potentially, a historic one for repairing our crumbling road network. We owe Governor Hochul a big debt of gratitude for including \$800 million of additional funding for repairs to our State roads, and for proposing legislation to protect our road workers. But, we need more investments in our local roads as well - an additional \$250 million in the State's CHIPS program will help our counties and municipalities catch up with inflation. Increased investment in our roads here in the Hudson Valley also will help transform DOT Region 8, home of the most neglected road system in all of New York State."

Assembly Member Chris Burdick said, "I wish to thank Governor Hochul for including in her proposed 2026 budget an additional \$800 million for the Department of Transportation for state roads and bridges. It is also critical that the final budget include \$250 million in additional funding for local roads through the CHIPS program. I will continue to work assiduously to get the funding needed to fix our deteriorating infrastructure. Every day, I have constituents calling in and complaining about the road conditions in our district - and I completely agree with them. As a representative in the Hudson Valley, I am joining my colleagues to press for increased funding for our region of the DOT, which simply is not receiving its equitable share."

Assembly Member Dana Levenberg said, "As a former Town Supervisor, I know how important state funding is to improve our local roads. I am grateful to the Governor for including a \$800 million increase to the DOT capital plan, but we need a \$250 million increase in CHIPS, too. I am proud to stand with my colleagues and stakeholders, like CIC, for this funding to be included in the Assembly One House Budget. This increase would be a win-win-win for those who drive on our roads, local taxpayers, and union labor."

Breaking Barriers: Four Trans Women Who Are Changing Black Culture



Clockwise: Nekia Zulu, Jonovia Chase, Divine Bey, and Yonkers native Cienna Rosalina.

By Dennis Richmond, Jr.

“As trans women, we are some of the strongest women walking this earth.” These powerful words from Yonkers native Cienna Rosalina, a social media star and activist, echo the strength of countless Black trans women who are reshaping history today. In honor of Black History Month, we spotlight the work and influence of four Black trans women—Jonovia Chase, Nekia Zulu, Cienna Rosalina, and Divine Bey—whose stories are breaking barriers, shattering stereotypes, and fighting for a future where their identities are not only accepted but celebrated.

In a time when Blackness and queerness are too often seen as separate, these women are rewriting the narrative, reminding us that the fight for racial justice and LGBTQ+ rights are deeply intertwined. They are showing up, not just for themselves, but for the entire Black and trans community. But their journey hasn’t been easy—especially as anti-trans legislation sweeps the nation, and the visibility of Black trans women continues to be met with violence. Black trans women are disproportionately affected by hate, violence, and systemic exclusion. These four are fighting to ensure that their stories are heard, their rights are protected, and their contributions to culture are recognized.

Nekia Zulu, an entertainer and activist, remains dedicated to creating spaces where Black queer people can thrive. “I’m very intentional in making sure it’s something for Black queer people,” she says. As a woman who has dedicated her life to uplifting marginalized voices, Nekia’s commitment to being a source of strength for others is unwavering. “It’s my job to be strong so others can be strengthened by what I do.” In a world that constantly attempts to erase Black trans women from the conversation, Nekia reminds us that community is everything, and no one should ever feel alone in their journey.

Divine Bey, a host and community leader from the DMV area, is a beacon of light for those seeking solace and belonging. Through her platform, she stresses the importance of unity, not just within the trans community, but for Black people as a whole. “We really need to come together and look out for each other,” Divine says. Her call for solidarity echoes the reality that Black trans women face daily—rejection, discrimination, and hate. But she is resolute: “I’ve done a lot for the community in the DMV,” showing that even in the face of adversity, she is determined to ensure that Black trans people have a place to call home.

Jonovia Chase, a producer and dancer whose art speaks directly to the heart of Black identity, is frustrated by the lack of support for trans individuals within the broader LGBTQ+ community. “I am beginning to lose faith in the broader LGBTQ+ community’s commitment to advocating for the inclusion of transgender individuals,” Jonovia shares. While issues like gay marriage gained overwhelming support, she points out the glaring absence of action when it comes to defending Black trans women’s rights. “The discussions surrounding transgender women in sports are not only targeted but also misogynistic and inhumane. It’s pure HATE.”

Through their work, these four women are demanding the space and respect they deserve. They are not just shaping culture—they are changing it. As Black trans women, they face obstacles that many cannot fathom, but their determination to push forward in the face of violence, discrimination, and fear is a testament to their resilience.

This Black History Month, we honor Jonovia Chase, Nekia Zulu, Divine Bey, and Cienna Rosalina. Not to mention the contributions of Black trans women like Marsha P. Johnson, Laverne Cox, and Madison “Ts Madison” Hinton. These trailblazers either have or are still breaking barriers, reclaiming their narratives, and paving the way for future generations to live with pride and power. In a world that tries to silence our trans sisters, they continue to amplify their voices, demanding recognition and respect. It’s our job to help them.

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

Congressman Latimer Calls House Republican Budget Plan “Reckless”



Rep. George Latimer

On Feb. 25, Congressman George Latimer (NY-16) voted against the House Republican’s budget plan that would hand more than \$4.5 trillion in tax breaks to billionaires while cutting Medicare and SNAP benefits for working-and-middle class families:

“Like many House Democrats, I am extremely concerned about the House Republican budget plan that just passed the House, and how it would affect families in my district.

The cuts needed for these tax breaks will mean over 196,000 residents in my district are at risk of losing Medicaid coverage. This includes 73,000 children and 27,000 seniors. This budget plan also threatens 74,000 people who count on SNAP to put food on the table.

Republicans have promised to lower costs, but this budget won’t do that at all. Instead, it will make life harder and more expensive for my constituents and Americans across the country. As the budget process moves forward in the House, Democrats are going to fight for fairness and opportunity for every American.”

Yorktown resident Sues Kardashian, continued from pg 1-

Sobo & Sobo filed against Kim Kardashian for serious injuries she inflicted through her Instagram account. The lawsuit includes six counts, including libel, slander, and invasion of privacy. The case is being filed in the Superior Court in Los Angeles, the largest trial court in the United States. The primary purpose of the lawsuit is to help the social media environment become a safer place with more responsibility. The Plaintiff in the lawsuit, Ivan Cantu, suffered serious emotional damage from Kim Kardashian making a libelous post about him on her Instagram page. According to the lawsuit, Kim Kardashian violated Cantu’s right to privacy and civil liberty by posting a false story about him to over 350 million people on her Instagram page. Kim Kardashian’s post drew much criticism in the social media community because it falsely alleged that Cantu was a convicted murderer on death row. As a result, Mr. Cantu suffered serious emotional damage, including a diagnosis of depression, post-traumatic stress, and social anxiety.

The lawsuit emphasizes the importance of using social media responsibly. Greg Sobo, Esq., Founder and CEO of Sobo & Sobo, said, “For too long, we have seen social media cause devastating injuries to innocent victims. Social media is too often abused to bully the innocent, incite harm, and injure our communities. Just like those who cause physical harm should be held accountable, those who cause injuries to innocent victims through social media must also be held responsible. If anyone should know the power of social media, it is Ms. Kim Kardashian.” Kardashian’s attorney said that she made a “simple mistake” and that the image was taken down almost immediately once the error was discovered,” adding that they would prefer to solve the matter without litigation. Sobo called Cantu a “very private family man with two daughters” who was grieving a loss when Kardashian made her post.

The case is interesting and poses a few legal questions. Mr. Cantu was not a public figure before this incident. Mr. Cantu does have some suffering due to the millions of Instagrammers who follow Kim K. Kim Kardashian and whoever posted the Cantu error almost certainly did not intentionally post the wrong photo. A settlement could be costly.

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

— Pete Seeger

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Westchester Collaborative Theater to Premiere a Trio of Compelling Pieces in Box Spring: A Festival of One-Act Plays March 28 – April 6.

19th Annual Eastchester St. Patrick's Day Parade Set for March 16

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SUNDAYS
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@ 3PM

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PRESENTS
BOX SPRING: PART 1

A LEAVE OF ABSENCE
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DIRECTED BY JULIA LaVERDE

GABRIELA
BY GIOVANNI PUCCI
DIRECTED BY MISSY FLOWER

NEVER WILD
BY EVELYN MERTENS
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A FESTIVAL OF ONE-ACT PLAYS

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2025 Eastchester St. Patrick's Day Parade Grand Marshal Roisin Wiley

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Róisín Wiley
and her Aides:
John Wiley Briana Jagoe
Danny Hendry Cathrena
Collins

and our *Honoree*
Mary Ellen Barbieri

The 19th Annual Eastchester St. Patrick's Day Parade is Sunday, March 16, 2025 at 3pm, along Main Street & White Plains Road. Visit EastchesterIrish.org for more info.

Visit www.wctheater.org/ for more

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Yonkers Native and Air Force Veteran in Police Academy to Join the Yonkers Police Department



Probationary Police Officer Dejuan Morrison

In honor of Black History Month, the Yonkers Police Department checked in with one of their newest Officers in the Police Academy, Probationary Police Officer Dejuan Morrison. PPO Morrison joins the YPD after serving in the Air Force and is now proud to have joined our ranks. Let's hear from him below:

Tell us something about yourself:

Yonkers has been my home for most of my life. Even when I moved away to attend Universal Technical Institute, I always found my way back. I graduated from Lincoln High School in 2016. Before joining one of the best families on earth (the Yonkers Police Department), I served in the United States Air Force.

What made you want to become a Yonkers Police Officer?

As a child, I participated in the P.A.L. poster contest and have always looked up to law enforcement. When it was time to choose a lifelong career, my local police department was one of the first and best options I considered. This career gives me the chance to build a comfortable future for my family, do something valuable that I can be proud of, and most importantly, make a difference in my own community.

How does this career compare to your previous job?

My time in the Air Force instilled in me a deep understanding of structure and discipline, qualities that are essential in policing. The major difference is that here, not only am I making a difference in the world, but more significantly, in our community! In this line of work, we are running low on young men and women, especially people of color, who are willing to keep our city safe and serve our community. It's never too late to make a difference in your life and your community.

Registration is Open for Westchester County Parks Summer Nature Camps



Our seven nature camps offer stimulating adventures that only Mother Nature can provide.

If this winter's bitter temperatures are giving your children cabin fever, soothe their restlessness by signing them up for Westchester County Parks' Nature Camps. The camps are the perfect choices for youngsters entering grades one through nine!

One and two-week sessions are offered beginning Monday, July 7, through Friday, Aug. 15, from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Online registration is open. Fees are \$175 to \$350 per camper per week. Locations:

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye

Lenoir Nature Preserve, Yonkers

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye

Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "Our nature and environmental camps give children valuable experiences while encouraging independence, teamwork and problem-solving skills. They promote physical activity and creativity. The counselors at each camp love working with kids and helping them develop resilience, social skills and confidence."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, Kathy O'Connor said: "The camps are in stunning surroundings that enhance each child's mental well-being, curiosity and lifelong appreciation for our environment. The kids have a blast and make new friends who they would otherwise not get to know."

Campers can immerse themselves in the natural beauty of Westchester County through exciting, hands-on experiences at our nature centers. Each camp highlights various aspects of the outside world, introducing young explorers to animals, insects, plants and more. Every week offers a unique theme.

Additional Summer Nature Camps will be held at Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center in Yorktown Heights, and Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial in Katonah. Registration will open Tuesday, March 4 at noon.

<https://parks.westchestergov.com/children-camps/nature-camps>

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Sunday, March 2
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Done in cooperation with Mayor Mike Spano and the Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. Funding is received from Arts Westchester with support from Westchester County Government, The City of Yonkers, Andrea Stewart Cousins, Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, the Ira Goldman Memorial Fund, and our loyal arts patrons.

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Soccer Coach Arrested, continued from pg 1-

Anyone with further knowledge about Grajales-Giraldo is urged to contact the Westchester District Attorney's Office at (914) 995-TIPS (8477).

The investigation into this incident was conducted by the White Plains Police Department.

Editor's Note: In order for the public to determine if they know about Coach Grajales-Giraldo, we need more information. What is the name of the soccer clinic and the names of those who operate it. A photo of Grajales-Giraldo would also help families to see if they recognize him, and to help in the investigation.

Anyone with information can contact me at dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Mollie O'Rourke of the Special Prosecutions Division.

NYAG DoorDash, continued from pg 5-

In addition to the restitution fund, DoorDash must:

Revise Payment Practices: DoorDash is required to maintain a pay model that ensures consumer tips are paid to Dashers in their entirety, without impacting DoorDash's contribution to guaranteed pay.

Enhance Transparency: The company must clearly disclose pay policy details to both Dashers and consumers, and share a breakdown of base pay, promotional bonuses, and tips with Dashers for every delivery.

Improve Dash History Access: Dashers, including those deactivated, will have access to their delivery history for at least four years.

"Greed – that's what this case is all about," said William Medina, a delivery worker and organizer with Worker's Justice Project and Los Deliveristas Unidos. "A company built on greed that has to steal tips from workers – and customers – to make its revenue and keep its investors happy, that is unjust. It's unjust to the workers that put their lives on the line every day doing this work. And it's unjust to the customers who meant to provide a tip to a hard-working deliverista instead of lining the pockets of executives at a billion-dollar company. Since 2020, Los Deliveristas Unidos has been organizing for our rights and to keep the app companies honest and transparent, because we continue to see an unfortunate pattern of such practices, including at DoorDash. Whether it's stealing tips or making it harder for customers to tip after the minimum pay law went into effect, keeping workers in the dark about how they're paid or why they've been suddenly deactivated – this is a company that operates on secrecy and a total lack of respect for workers and customers. We are grateful to Attorney General James for joining us in the fight and we once again call on DoorDash to do better by those who order food and those who deliver it."

"I have been delivering for DoorDash since they started, but I do not work for them as much anymore because the system was not clear and they were taking our tips," said Lee Vaughn, a Dasher with DoorDash since 2016. "DoorDash never told us accurate distances and the payment amount they would promise was not always true. They would show us an amount plus tips, but they were not telling us the truth. We worked hard and we deserve to be paid. I am thankful to Attorney General Letitia James and her office for getting us our money back."

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Former Cop Sues Over PBA Card, continued from pg 1--

After failing to produce a driver's license, the motorist took out a black leather wallet which contained a small replica police shield, which Officer Saetta knew was usually given by police officers to family and friends, and a "PBA card," a card issued by a police union to identify friends, family members, or other individuals shown favor by police union members. The motorist identified herself as "a family member."

"During the traffic stop of Ms. Pascariu-Costo, Petitioner looked at the mini-shield and PBA card, noted to himself that he did not recognize the agency allegedly associated with the PBA card, and returned the wallet to the motorist. When he returned to the patrol car, he did not tell his partner, Officer Chandoo, about it, thinking it was irrelevant and, as stated, within his discretion, how to respond to the motorist. There is a camera mounted on the interior ceiling of the police car that recorded all of the interactions between Chandoo and Petitioner.

"After an investigation, while he was along with the motorist, Petitioner decided to issue a ticket for a single minor traffic infraction and, after obtaining Chandoo's approval, did so. The entire series of events was captured on Petitioner's body-worn camera. The Petitioner was courteous to the motorist during the entire interaction.

"Shortly thereafter, Ms. Pascariu-Costo called the desk officer at Petitioner's command and made a complaint about him. Upon information and belief, Ms. Pascariu-Costo informed the desk officer that she was an attorney and had connections in an out-of-state police department and, therefore, felt that she had been mistreated by Officer Saetta because he had issued her a lawful traffic summons. The desk officer on duty at the time did not note the call as an official civilian complaint but notified a superior officer of the call nonetheless. Officer Chandoo was then allegedly asked whether the motorist had shown a PBA card, which Officer Chandoo denied because Officer Chandoo had not been with Saetta as required and had not reviewed Petitioner's body-worn camera or the in-vehicle camera. Chandoo then asked Petitioner, who confirmed that he believed he had seen a card from an unfamiliar organization.

On or about December 9, 2023, Officer Chandoo informed Petitioner that Ms. Pascariu-Costo's complaint had been escalated to DPS upper management and that other officers have been disciplined for "writing over" PBA cards, i.e., issuing tickets to motorists who provide them. Upon information and belief, none of these other officers were probationary, so they could not be summarily fired as Petitioner was.

On December 19, 2023, Petitioner was called into Captain Greer's office and was told that Commissioner Raynor was reviewing Ms. Pascariu-Costo's complaint and was deciding whether Petitioner would fail his probation as a result. On December 20, 2023, Petitioner was informed that Raynor had told multiple people, both within and outside the DPS, that the entire issue revolved around Petitioner having written over a PBA card.

Petitioner was given passing marks of 4 on all evaluation reports, except for the date of the traffic stop in question, where Officer Chandoo's evaluation for December 6 states, "P.O. Saetta needs to show more discription [sic] and professionalism with dealing with the public. He needs to show more honesty and integrity when dealing with the review of negative incidents and be more fourth [sic] coming when dealing with the public."

The Petitioner spoke with his union President and counsel later that day and confirmed that Raynor said that the Petitioner was being terminated for writing over a PBA card and that no one had ever been fired for this previously (possibly because no one else was probationary).

To add confusion to this matter, perhaps in an attempt to avoid the consequences of his actions, Commissioner Raynor sent a letter to Petitioner on January 22, 2024, that read, in pertinent part:

This communication will confirm that Police Officer Joseph Saetta separated from service with the Westchester County Department of Public Safety effective January 31, 2024. This separation of service was during his probation and was neither a "removal for cause" as such term is defined by 9 NYCRR 6056.2(h) nor a "removal during a probationary period" as such term is defined by 9 NYCRR 6056.2(i).

Police Officer Saetta has never, during his employment by the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, been the subject of a disciplinary investigation or been the subject of any misconduct, including such misconduct as is described in 9 NYCRR 6056.2(h)(1).

As such, and according to Commissioner Raynor's own statements, the Petitioner's termination was arbitrary, capricious, and in bad faith.

Saetta worked for several police departments before joining the WCPD, including the Mount Vernon Police Department in 2021 and the Pleasantville Police Department in 2022. He was hired on October 30, 2023, but was fired three months later, on January 31, 2024. Saetta lives in Rockland County.

We spoke to Saetta's attorney, Peter Brill, who said his client was "a probationary employee fired for being discourteous. Now, they are saying that this was bad policing and a bad traffic stop. I have been representing cops for 20 years and understand the idea of police courtesy. But it's a courtesy and not a policy."

Everyone should agree on one fact. Officer Saetta was entirely within his rights to issue a ticket if he deemed there was a traffic crime committed. He is entitled to issue the ticket even after seeing a PBA card.

The suit says that Saetta did not recognize the PBA card. The expired license plate was from New Jersey. The driver probably showed Saetta an NJ PBA card, and Saetta did recognize it.

Saetta alleges that he has been looking for other jobs in law enforcement in the Westchester County area and beyond following his termination, Petitioner has been repeatedly turned down and informed that he is being blackballed by his former employer (Respondents).

As a result, he has been unable to obtain employment in his chosen field and is currently working as a security guard.

Brill says nothing else in Saetta's 3-month-old personnel file warrants his firing. "He's a young cop, maybe a little gung ho, but there's nothing wrong with that."

We spoke to former law enforcement officers in Westchester who did not believe that Saetta would be fired for issuing a ticket after a PBA Card was presented. "That's not enough; it's probably something else," said one retired Westchester cop.

My dad was an NYPD cop, a sergeant, and a lieutenant. He frequently gave me and our family members PBA cards, SBA Cards, and LBA Cards.

I used those cards on more than one occasion, all for minor traffic incidents, such as speeding or making an illegal turn. Sometimes, the officer would let me go with a warning, but other times, I received the ticket and went on my way.

As a longtime member of the Law Enforcement family, I take offense if the allegations in the suit are true with Ms. Pascariu-Costo's attitude toward office Saetta. Many family members of police officers feel they have a sense of entitlement when they get pulled over. But she took this to another level by calling in the complaint, which eventually got him fired. If the allegations in this suit are true, that Officer Saetta was fired for denying a PBA card, that is a shame to all of us in the law enforcement family. My dad always said, "Show the officer the card and then leave it up to them." Saetta filed a similar suit in 2024, but it was thrown out on a technicality. The new suit was filed on February 22, 2025. In the prior case, Westchester County argued in court last year that the case had no merit. They will likely argue the same this year, with this case likely headed to trial.

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Lawler, continued from pg 1-

the meeting. "I think he demonstrates really how he really feels about minorities, specifically Latinos, some of whom live in fear of ICE these days, even if they have some legitimacy in this country," Alvarado said.

"I'm not crying for him to give me an apology," he continued. "But I think he owes an apology to all the people he insulted by his apparent ignorance."

Legislator Alvarado has served on the County Board at various times since 2001, when he became the first Latino member of the BOL.

Lawler is usually one of the more thoughtful members of Congress, appearing on TV shows with both the liberal and conservative media. Progressive Democrats in Westchester had already begun attacking Lawler before this incident.

Lawler has not and will not apologize for his comments. Instead, he released a letter signed by ten Latino leaders from Westchester and Rockland.

The two most prominent Westchester names who signed the letter are former County Legislator Virginia Perez and former Peekskill Councilman Joe Tores.

The letter reads-"Congressman Lawler has been a friend of the Latino community in the Hudson Valley for year and these personal attacks against him are just wrong. Mike has been a strong supporter of community organizations that directly serve Latinos-and has been honored by those same organizations for his friendship and partnership during his time in elected office. He has also been a bipartisan advocate of common sense immigration reform.

"The attempts to twist his words into something sinister is a sad reflection of our current political environment, where people immediately attack someone they disagree with instead of engaging in a productive discourse. Those in the Latino community know that Congressman Lawler is our friend, and we look forward to continuing to work with him on key issues facing our community." end of letter

"From Vice Chair Alvarado's predecessor to former members of the Peekskill City Council and leaders of prestigious community organizations, it's clear the ridiculous attacks on Congressman Lawler are overblown and hyper partisan," said Lawler spokesman Nate Soule.

"The Congressman's record as a bipartisan problem solver and thoughtful lawmaker is clear," concluded Soule. "Those engaging in this absurd character assassination only do so because they can't debate immigration policy or defend their own radical beliefs and votes."

While Lawler and his team downplay the blunder, other believe that this will harm or end his desired run for Governor in 2026. One sound shore democrat wrote to us,

Note to Mike Lawler:

Go on line for Trulia. And Zillow. Or scour the real estate classifieds in the Washington Post, if they still exist.

Investigate buying a home in the Washington suburbs, preferably in Virginia, because Republicans feel more comfortable there than in solid-blue Maryland.

Check out the quality of pre-K programs; your two daughters will need them before you know it.

Because you will NEVER be moving into that big drafty mansion on Eagle Street in Albany.

It's no secret that Mike Lawler wants to be Governor, even more than a high school boy wants to lose his virginity.

But while the latter will usually occur eventually, the former will never happen.

Because Lawler's carefully-crafted appearance of being a bipartisan centrist is easily disproven.

One example was something he did which was baffling, because it was so unnecessary.

When Georgia Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene proposed crackpot legislation to change the name of The Gulf of Mexico to The Gulf of America, Lawler was one of only 14 of 218 Republican members to sign on to the bill.

Why, Mike?

It would be one thing if this were a bay or an inlet off the coast of Ireland, Italy, or Israel, and supporting a name change would be an understandable act of gratuitous pandering to an ethnic group with many members in your district.

Besides, Lawler must know that the President and Congress can only change the names of bodies of water wholly within American boundaries.

So it was obviously a stunt to gain points with Donald Trump and his most fervent supporters. A stunt he hoped no one would notice.

Then there is the issue of Dr Margaret Carpenter, who prescribed an abortion medication that was mailed to a patient in Louisiana. The Governor of Louisiana has asked Governor Kathy Hochul to extradite Dr Carpenter to Louisiana for trial, and Governor Hochul has refused.

Which raises a question: Would Governor Lawler extradite Dr Carpenter to Louisiana?

There is no satisfactory answer. If he says yes, he will forfeit the votes of centrist Democrats and many independents that a Republican needs to win statewide election in New York.

If he says no, he will provoke outrage among conservative Republicans, and either lose the nomination, or see many of these voters stay home in November, assuring a Democratic victory.

And if he gives the typical political answer, that he "will have to closely scrutinize the issue", he will be branded by both sides as a coward.

Which is why Mike Lawler will never be Governor."

But don't fret, Mike: Your strong record on supporting Israel will keep you a favorite in Rockland County, and your efforts to hold down taxes and control costs will be beloved in the traditionally conservative parts of the district.

So your Congressional seat is probably assured, even for decades. And you might even be Speaaer of the House someday.

But Governor of New York? No way.

Which may turn out to be a blessing.

You've been to Albany in January.

Wouldn't your daughters be happier growing up in Alexandria or Arlington?"

Two Westchester democrats, county legislators Shanae Williams and Jewel Williams Johnson wrote an Op-Ed titled, "I Assume You're a Citizen—Maybe You're Not": A Call for An Apology and Respect" can be found on this page.

Two more points. First, Lawler's comments are very much out of his ordinary discussions in front of the media. We have found him to be articulate and willing to debate and discuss the issues of the day with anyone, and any media outlet, both conservative and progressive.

But this time, Alvarado was able to push his buttons on the issue of immigration and out came a stupid and insensitive thing to say from a member of Congress..

Soccer Coach Arrested for Kissing A 15-Year Old Girl, "Can You Keep a Secret?"

Act of Kindness donations delivered to charities

Yorktown officials launched their collection drive today for the annual Captain Kenneth Sgroi Act of Kindness Day.

Through March 13, the Yorktown Police Department will accept donations to benefit the Alliance for Safe Kids (ASK) and United for the Troops, two non-profits that operate in Yorktown. Members of the Yorktown Police Department will not shave their beards during the collection drive to raise awareness about the effort.

"When you see us out in the community and we have beards growing, know that all employees rallied together to donate and collect, and we will make a cash contribution to both of these fine charities," said Yorktown Police Chief Robert Noble.

On January 2, 2023, Yorktown Police Captain Kenneth Sgroi died from a sudden illness. The Town Board subsequently adopted a resolution recognizing March 16 annually as "Captain Kenneth Sgroi Act of Kindness Day." The drive's end date is March 13 because March 16 falls on a Sunday.

Capt. Sgroi served with the Yorktown Police Department for almost 14 years.

United For The Troops collects food, toiletries and goods and ships donations throughout the world to our troops. Support Connection is a not-for-profit organization that provides emotional, social, and educational support to women, their families and friends affected by breast, ovarian and gynecological cancer.

"Yorktown has a lot of great community groups," said Supervisor Ed Lachterman. "I've worked with both Alliance for Safe Kids and United for the Troops... they're unbelievable organizations and I encourage everyone to log on to their websites. Even if you can't afford to donate right now, find out what they do. Donate some time, or work with the community."

"The most important thing that ASK can ask of the community is to engage—look at our resources, use our resources, be aware and be ready to help your family, neighbors and other community members," said Liz Talbert, executive director of ASK.

"(Recipients) open boxes and there's a wow factor," said James Rathschmidt, one of the group's founders. "It goes to men and women who we don't even know, and they don't know us. But they're away from home and some of them have nothing. So, it's a huge project."

Author Melissa Ludtke in Conversation with Yankees Radio Broadcaster Suzyn Waldman



Suzyn Waldman

Thursday, March 6, 7:00 - 8:30 pm

Veteran Yankees radio broadcaster Suzyn Waldman will join Melissa Ludtke, author of *Locker Room Talk: A Woman's Struggle to Get Inside*, in conversation about the inroads women are making into baseball – along with the challenges they confront. They'll explore Ludtke v. Kuhn, the well-known case in which Melissa fought Major League Baseball in federal court to gain equal access for women sportswriters to interview ballplayers in the same place and time that their male peers did. Judge Constance Baker Motley's order in Melissa's case opened locker room doors to all reporters, and in the decades since more women found jobs in sports media. Today, women work in broadcast booths of men's and women's college and professional teams. This will be Suzyn's 39th season covering the Yankees, including 21 seasons on radio. Location: Ossie Davis Theater
Registration requested at bit.ly/Ludtke_Waldman_Talk_03_2025

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THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, March 19, 2025, AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN YONKERS CITY HALL, 40 SOUTH BROADWAY, 4TH FLOOR (building is handicapped accessible).

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV .

OPEN/CONTINUED HEARINGS

5797 – Area Variance - Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Marketin Hila/110 Ravine Realty LLC, Owner, on premises known as 110 Ravine Avenue, Block: 2118, Lot: 39, Zone: A (B29521)

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H-4V45sMcWs0_3rOyDixjXc_ttIYGnZq?usp=sharing

5850 – Area Variance – Kathleen Bradshaw, Esq., on behalf of 194 Yonkers Avenue LLC, owner, on premises known as 182 Fillmore Street aka 194 Yonkers Avenue, Block: 405, Lots: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7,8, 9,13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Zone: BA -

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rndP3X61js_cy3P25c-FkrsMpUyXHf34?usp=sharing

5836 – Use & Area Variance – Mastrogiacomo Engineering PC, on behalf of My Main Man LLC, Owner, on premises known as 47 High Street aka 102 Park Avenue, Block: 2167, Lot: 1.3, Zone: G (B32874)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KcvFoSwZw6ljqBkVUcJQsWyXq4z4Pn-x?usp=sharing>

5855 – Area Variance – Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of 160 Stanley Avenue LLC, owner, on premises known as 160 Stanley Ave, Block: 184, Lots: 68, Zone: A (B00033778) * Adjourned https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sBCFaH0Iubtvx_DMeIZGYwbaUBYOPlzH?usp=sharing

#5864 - Area Variance - James Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of T&H 1828 LLC, owner, On premises known as 1828 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4615, Lot: 22, Zone M (B0034059) <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tvmzVMblrm8eG1pWxNYvpLQoJ90JLi02?usp=sharing>

#5867 – Area Variance - Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of 221-223 Buena Vista Avenue, Block: 172, Lot: 92 & 94.98 Zone: UR-LD, (B0035075), Two Twenty One Vista Group LLC owner, on premises know as 221 Buena Vista Avenue

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F1m-R-0c-gBFiMzvD3FNmtZlP7EDj1mO?usp=sharing>

#5868 – Area Variance – Shahin Badaly on behalf of 221 Lake Avenue, Block: 2179, Lot: 02 Zone: A&I District; 222 Lake Partners LLC, owner, on premises know as 222 Lake Avenue* Adjourned https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mf709_0k71Ctg3VjstKmcYFc2p9cjd?usp=sharing

#5852 - Area Variance - Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of 94 St. Andrews Place, Block: 133, Lot: 3 , Zone: A, (B0033786), Pleasure Home Improvement LLC, owner, on premises know as 94 St. Andrews Place * Adjourned <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-WAnk-6N6D-BLNUSTRFplEp6VBcZd6V80?usp=sharing>

#5877 – Area Variance- Diana Toledo, on behalf of Toledo LLC, owner, on premises know as 29 Cliff Avenue, Block: 128; Lot: 21 ,Zone: M, (B0035812) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RmlGFLEgcBHhAWG0Wf_7HSFigVhAEUTZ?usp=sharing

#5811 – Brian T. Sinsabaugh, Esq, Zarin & Steinmetz LLP, on behalf of Warburton Equities LLC, on premises know as 289 Warburton Avenue and 230 Woodworth Avenue , Block: 2116 Lots:40 & 7, Zone: A, request for Area Variance Approval Renewal to renew the July 19, 2023 ZBA Resolution of Approval <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1LZNApx4mudDxRlX28IY-06NO6fufPt7w?usp=sharing>

#5879 – Improvement to a Non-Conforming Use –Andrew M. Romano, Esq., on behalf of Holy Apostolic Church, owner, on premises known as 129 Buena Vista Ave, Block: 510, Lot: 27, Zone: CM, (B0033159) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cGo5mBWlLohorm_tffNLI5GDaCCKPxrL?usp=sharing

#5880 -#5880 – Area Variance -Shahin Badaly on behalf of Eric Byars Freeman, 5 Woodworth Avenue, Block: 2008, Lot: 14, Zone: D-MX,(B0035418) owner, on premises know as 5 Woodworth Avenue <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1lg4amV3RGTnsYwNnd2nJ4lhMsNslXN8r?usp=sharing>

NEW HEARINGS

#5881 – Area Variance – Snyder & Snyder LLP on behalf of New York SMSA Limited Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless , owner , on premises know as 701 Ridge Hill Blvd, Block:4076, Lot: 1;Zone: PMD, (B0035684) <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Dx2f1v4Z1mnJP017NrrHUt2eUuB0otXz?usp=sharing>

#5882 – Use Variance and Area Variance – LHP Architects, PLLC on behalf of New York City department of Environmental Protection (NYCDEP) owner, of the Hillview Police Precinct Headquarters property located at 750 Mclean Ave aka 81 Cumberland Drive, Block: 6224, Lot:32 Zone: BR ,(B0034792) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1NdJNyt-b99owA9BTcTebt0_uzGFrihSU?usp=sharing

#5883 – Area Variance – James G. Dibbini & Associates, P.C. on behalf of 105 Deerhurst LLC , owner , on premises know as 105 Deerhurst Road, Block: 4961, Lot:31,Zone: S-100 (B0035444) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/12GjoDuEcYkvzuhMQufvMhA8pKEcd_Mjb?usp=sharing

For American Heart Month, Tips and Advice for Managing Diabetes and Protecting Your Heart

By Dr. Edleen Sarette-Exama, DNP, MSN RN, Care Coordinator, VNS Health Health Plans

While February is Heart Health Month, given the statistics, heart health should really be a priority all year long. In New York State alone, almost 18% of adults 65 and older report they have some form of cardiovascular disease (CVD), and 27% of all deaths are the result of CVD. And here’s another alarming fact: While many factors can increase the chances of cardiovascular disease and stroke, people with diabetes have twice the chance of developing CVD compared to the population as a whole.

As a registered nurse and care manager at the home- and community-based health care nonprofit VNS Health, I work with individuals who often suffer from multiple chronic illnesses. Diabetes in particular is common, especially among people of color. Diabetes is a challenging disease to manage, and it can feel overwhelming to contemplate other ailments on top of a diabetes diagnosis. But managing your blood sugar levels should be top-of-mind for the 1.8 million New Yorkers with type 1 or 2 diabetes, as well as their caregivers.

For diabetics, blood sugar impacts blood vessels, increasing the chances that blood flow to the heart is impeded or stops, which can lead to a stroke or heart attack. This is in addition to the normal aging process, in which our blood vessels become less flexible, making it more difficult for blood to move easily. These factors can combine to increase the chance that someone might develop cardiovascular disease.

The good news is many of the same things you may already do to address your diabetes can also lessen your risks for cardiovascular disease. For people with diabetes, in addition to regularly monitoring your blood sugar and taking medication as instructed, there are several lifestyle steps you can take that will help protect your heart health, and we all have the power to make positive changes to our health!

Here are a few tips on how to manage your diabetes and protect your heart

Choose the Right Meals

For diabetics, watching what you eat is especially important, so keep “heart-healthy” foods in mind next time you head to the grocery store. Fresh fruits and veggies high in potassium and magnesium, whole-grains, and food with “good cholesterol” like avocados, nuts, and olives are great places to start. I often encourage my clients to plan their meals in advance, and swap out certain ingredients for something healthier where they can—like making a sandwich with whole grain bread, using a spice mix instead of salt, or making orange juice fresh at home rather than buying a premade brand.

Sometimes those we care for struggle to afford food, or physical mobility issues make it difficult to shop—but there are resources such as local food pantries, free food delivery services, and others that make it easier to access fresh produce and other healthy foods.

Stay Active

Even moderate exercise can make a marked difference in your heart health. For people who have physical mobility issues or are primarily homebound, a little creativity can be helpful. You don’t need a full gym at home—start with small steps (literally). This might mean taking the stairs for a few floors instead of the elevator, or using a can of vegetables to “lift weights,” or doing leg exercises while you watch TV. Another approach is to break up exercise into manageable increments of ten minutes at a time, and set an alarm reminder for yourself.

One important note: Whether you have serious challenges with physical mobility or not, you should consult directly with a clinician before you start a new exercise regimen. Your doctor, nurse, or rehabilitation specialist can provide guidance on how to exercise safely.

continued on pg 14-

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Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, MARCH 1

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466

Birding for Beginners, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

For anyone interested in birdwatching, this is a great way to learn some basics. Bring binoculars. Led by Chris Mignone of Central Westchester Audubon.

Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River: (914) 864-7322. Sugar House Chat, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Join us in our Sugar House to watch and learn how we boil our sap to make maple syrup.

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Native Plant Seed Propagation, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Ages 12 and older will learn how to stratify and sow native seeds in this hands-on workshop! \$28.52 per person.

Get details and register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/native-plant-seed-propagation-tickets-1124562299109?aff=oddtcreator>

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Farm Stand Open, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Buy our harvested crops as well as freshly grown greens from our greenhouse. Also: April 1.

Get details <https://hilltophanoverfarm.org/events/event-calendar.html/event/2025/02/01/1738422000/farm-stand-open/504586>

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

Community Science Series: Beech Leaf Disease, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Learn the impacts of beech leaf disease, how to identify beech trees and methods used to minimize its impacts on the preserve. Hiking shoes are recommended for this moderate hike.

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Animal Meet & Greet, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Ages 8 and older can see our animals up close! Join one of our educators to learn more about our cows and goats, how we care for them and their purpose on the farm. \$17.85. Get details and register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/animal-meet-greet-tickets-1124513743879>

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Old Time Music Jam, 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. This is a monthly gathering of local acoustic musicians who play traditional Appalachian fiddle music. Come to play or just listen, and enjoy the community music can create! Musicians of all levels are welcome.

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851

Sugarhouse Chat, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. How does sap become syrup? Folks of all ages can stop by during those three hours to see our Sugar Shack in action! We will be inside using the evaporator to boil down gallons of Lenoir's very own maple sap until we have sweet maple syrup!

Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial, Katonah: (914) 864-7263

Open Art Studio, 1 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Stop by between 1 and 3 to create works with repurposed materials. For ages 3 and up.

Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/open-art-studio/>

SUNDAY, MARCH 2

Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson: (914) 862-5290

Croton Point's History & Natural History, 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Join village historian Marc Cheshire and Croton Point Park naturalist John Phillips to learn about the history and environment of the Park. Meet at the entrance to the RV Park. Free; for ages 6 and up; wear sturdy shoes; winter hiking conditions. Also: March 16.

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

Bird Feeder Watch, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Stop by the environmental learning center for a morning of bird watching at our feeders. Bring binoculars to get the best views.

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

The Water Cycle, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Water, water, everywhere—even where you might not think! Learn about how water moves through the atmosphere, land and oceans in one big cycle, and how it shapes everything from ecosystems to human society. Oriented toward kids in grades 3 through 8, but all ages are welcome.

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

Maple Munchies, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Syrup isn't just for pancakes! Learn about all the ways to use maple syrup in the kitchen while cooking up a maple-themed culinary treat! \$22.50 per person, for adults and kids ages 6 and older. Also: March 8.

Pre-register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/maple-munchies-tickets-1119233961909?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial, Katonah: (914) 864-7263

Sip, Nibble and Learn: The History of Lasdon as a Westchester County Park, 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Ages 21 and older can sip, nibble and learn how Lasdon became a Westchester County Park 40 years ago, and how it has grown and developed since then. \$10 per person.

Pre-registration required <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/sip-nibble-and-learn-the-history-of-lasdon-as-a-westchester-county-park/>

Westchester County Expands Free EV Charging to Support Sustainability Goals



new EV charging stations

Free EV Charging Now Available at the County Center's South Parking Lot

Westchester County has installed 25 new electric vehicle (EV) charging stations at the County Center's South Parking Lot, providing free charging for up to 50 electric vehicles at a time. The initiative, funded through a \$115,000 Clean Energy Communities Grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), is part of the County's broader commitment to sustainability, clean energy adoption, minimizing air pollution and reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

The charging stations are available at no cost to event attendees, mass transit commuters, Bicycle Sunday participants and visitors to the Bronx River Parkway Reservation walk and bike trail. This initiative aligns with the County's Climate Action Plan, which prioritizes reducing emissions and expanding access to clean energy infrastructure. The Hudson Valley Regional Council, a multi-county organization dedicated to regional planning and sustainability, partnered with the County to help implement the program.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "Providing free EV charging at the County Center is another way Westchester is leading the charge on sustainability. We are committed to making it easier for residents and visitors to transition to clean energy transportation while reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality."

Director of Energy Conservation and Sustainability Peter L. McCart said: "This initiative is about making electric vehicle use more accessible and convenient for our County. Expanding our EV charging infrastructure is a practical step toward a greener Westchester, and we are proud to be taking action to support clean energy adoption. These 50 charging ports are exceptionally handy for those attending various events at the County Center but also commuting from the White Plains train station, or enjoying the park's trails or even grabbing a bite at the nearby restaurants."

Board of Legislators Chairman Vedat Gashi said: "Expanding EV charging is a key step in our efforts to keep our air clean, support our local economy, and make environmentally friendly transportation accessible to all Westchester residents."

County Legislator David J. Tubiolo said: "This initiative not only promotes the use of clean energy but also embraces technology to provide a greener, more sustainable future for our community."

County Legislator Erika L. Pierce said: "As the County Center continues to draw more people for its varied programs, adding free EV charging to its parking lot is a great perk for visitors and encourages residents to drive EVs to this special venue."

With this investment, Westchester County is taking a major step toward reducing transportation-related emissions while providing convenient, cost-free charging options for those who live, work and visit the region. The County will continue to seek opportunities to expand its EV charging network and promote clean energy adoption.

The County Center parking lots are only for permit holders unless a resident utilizes the EV chargers. To learn more about County Center parking permits, visit <https://countycenter.biz/directions-and-parking>.

Virtual Support Groups in March 2025 for women with breast, ovarian, all other gynecological cancers

Support Connection, Inc. is a not-for profit organization that provides free, confidential support services and programs for people affected by breast, ovarian, or other gynecological cancers. They offer monthly support groups which focus on topics pertaining to living with breast, ovarian, and all gynecological cancers through all stages of diagnosis, treatment, and post-treatment.

Support Groups are offered on virtual platforms (Zoom or toll-free teleconference), making them accessible to women from the comfort of their homes, regardless of where they live. The organization does have a nationwide reach. All groups are open to new members as well as past participants. Advanced registration is required: call 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290 to register.

To view all of support groups in a comprehensive calendar:

<https://supportconnection.org/calendar/>

Please also note: Support Connection's Peer Counselors are available for unlimited, one-on-one individual counseling and assistance via phone and email: call 800-532-4290 or submit an online request at supportconnection.org/contact-a-counselor

The following virtual support groups are scheduled for March 2025:

Advanced Stage or Metastatic Breast Cancer Toll-Free Telephone Support Group: Monday, March 3 at 7pm Breast, Ovarian, & Gynecological Cancer Post-Treatment Support Group:

Wednesday, March 5 at 7pm. Breast Cancer Zoom Support Group:

Monday, March 17 at 7pm (hybrid) Ovarian Cancer Toll-Free Telephone Support Group:

Wednesday, March 12 at 7pm Breast, Ovarian, & Gynecological Cancer Support Group:

Wednesday, March 26 at 7pm (hybrid)

Visit supportconnection.org for more information

Heart Health with Diabetes, continued from pg 12-

Reduce Stress

Stress is a big trigger for high blood pressure, and reducing stress should be a priority for all of us. There are many relaxation techniques you can try—from deep breathing exercise, meditation, yoga, journaling, prayer, and more—so find what works for you. Another great way to de-stress is to plan quality time with loved ones, even if it's just a weekly phone call or meeting up with a friend for coffee.

Get a Proper Amount of Sleep

Getting enough sleep is another important part of self-care. Most adults need at least 7–8 hours of sleep nightly. Keeping your room dark at night and avoiding screen time right before going to bed will also help ensure a sound sleep.

Stop Smoking

No way around it, smoking has no health benefits, and is especially dangerous if you have diabetes. If you smoke, you're more likely to have heart disease, kidney disease, eye problems, peripheral neuropathy, and nerve damage in the legs and arms that causes weakness, numbness, and pain. Quitting can be tough, but there are free resources out there, like calling 1-800-QUIT NOW or going to smokefree.gov.

Find Your Champions and Highlight the Positive!

Making lifestyle changes can be hard but know that you are not alone. When checking in with my patients, I remind them that it's important to celebrate progress and it's also okay to have "off" days. What's most important is to stay positive and do your best to be consistent. You may want to ask friends or family, your home health aide if you have one, or your clinician, to act as your "champion" and help you stay motivated. Putting forth your best effort, no matter where you begin, is a great way to start on the path to getting – and staying – healthy.

Dr. Edleen Sarette-Exama, DNP, MSN, RN is a Care Coordinator with VNS Health Health Plans. For more information on home care, as well as health tips, visit www.vnshealth.org

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Replace Schumer and Jeffries

By Jon Hochschartner

I began President Donald Trump's second term deeply skeptical of the willingness and ability of Democratic minority leaders in the Senate and House to stand up to the fascist Republican. Since that time, Chuck Schumer and Hakeem Jeffries have shown I wasn't worried nearly enough. Democrats must replace them with leaders willing to fight.

As Trump rapidly destroys what's left of American democracy, Schumer and Jeffries are telling the press they're picking their battles and waiting for the president to make a mistake. While the Republican provokes one constitutional crisis after another, without consequence, the Democratic leaders are sending out generic press releases about inflation.

Trump and his gang of fascist criminals are playing for all the marbles right now. It's clear from their actions, which are constantly and brazenly in violation of the law, this group doesn't believe they will ever face any kind of accountability. Their confidence suggests to me Republicans don't plan on allowing completely free-and-fair elections going forward.

I hope I'm wrong, but recent history has shown the most alarmist view of Trump and his cohort to be the most predictive. Schumer and Jeffries need to be acting with a fierce urgency, like the window of electoral resistance to fascism is closing. The pair's defenders frequently blame the media for not giving proper weight to Trump's threat.

This is a justifiable criticism. On the other hand, it's hard to condemn the press too harshly when leaders of the nominal opposition party are acting, in many ways, as if we are in the midst of politics as usual. Schumer and Jeffries need to be screaming from the rooftops. They should be throwing everything at the wall to see what sticks.

Confronted about their quietism, the Democratic leaders throw up their hands and ask what voters expect of them, given Republican control of all three branches of the federal government. Notably, when former Republican Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell faced these circumstances in 2009, he didn't whine and give up.

Instead, McConnell launched a wildly successful strategy of obstruction. Schumer and Jeffries should be doing the same on a far greater scale. They wouldn't be able to stop all of Trump's power grabs. But if they showed up, and behaved like they were in the midst of a five-alarm fire, the pair might at least stop some of them.

Schumer and Jeffries need to gum up the works of government in every manner possible. Stalling the fascist agenda is a kind of victory. The more Democrats can run out the clock until the midterms — when they have a chance to regain the Senate and House, and exercise more control over this renegade White House — the better.

The anti-fascist coalition has a wide variety of goals. For instance, I want to see a massive infusion of public funding into cultivated-meat research, which I view as the most promising means of advancing animal welfare. However, none of our aims can be achieved under a right-wing authoritarian state. We must defeat Trump.

The Democratic Party needs leaders who are willing to fight. Schumer and Jeffries have made very clear they are not up to the task. We don't have time to wait and see if they can turn things around. Too much is at stake. The pair should stand aside or be removed by their colleagues in favor of leadership better suited for this perilous moment.

*Jon Hochschartner lives in Connecticut. He is the author of a number of books, including **The Animals' Freedom Fighter: A Biography of Ronnie Lee, Founder of the Animal Liberation Front.***

*Dear Editor,
Sadly our worldwide population is facing inconvenient realities which are upheaving many lives. I hope my poem below finds a place within your publication...*

Zombie Democracy

*The World is under attack
A Coup at our back
Lives are changed forever
Light is turning Black*

*Cancer in our midst
Growing Nightly in our Minds
Spirit of Good & Nice
Poisoned by Evil & Vice*

*Monsters in the House
Coming for what we Love
Ripping Sanity at the Core
Like Gestapo at the Door*

*Power of Fear & Hate
Is all that THEY Create
Leaving Tears & Broken Hearts
Families Torn Apart*

*How to Fight Cowards with Power
We MUST Organize by the Hour
TOGETHER we face the Fight
Do Everything we Know that's RIGHT*

*Time is of the Essence
Their Zombies have no Care
If we don't PUSH BACK SOON
There'll be PANIC everywhere*

*CHASE Them from your MIND
CHASE Them from your HEART
PUSH them back to Hell*

And let them fall APART!

Howard Jay Fleischer

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

MANUFACTURERS AND TRADERS TRUST COMPANY A/K/A M&T, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER WITH HUDSON CITY SAVINGS BANK, Plaintiff -against- MICHAEL FRITH, LAURA DESHON, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein and dated March 5, 2020, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at public auction in the Lobby of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., White Plains, NY on April 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. premises situate, lying and being in the Town of Cortlandt, County of Westchester and State of New York, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the easterly side of Sunny Way, where the same is intersected by the division line between Lot Nos. 266 and 267 on Map No. 6584; being a plot 100.00 feet by 200.00 feet by 100.00 feet by 200.00 feet.

ALSO, situate, lying and being in the Town of Cortland, County of Westchester and State of New York, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the dividing line between Lot 37 and Lot 38 on the above mentioned map where the same is intersected by the northerly line of Lot 267 as shown on Map entitled, as filed Map No. 6584 and which point is distant 99.58 feet southerly as measured along said dividing line between Lot 37 and Lot 38 from the southerly boundary of Red Oak Lane as same is shown on Filed Map No. 25985; RUNNING THENCE South East, 24.00 feet; South West, 89.53 feet; South West 13.64 feet; THENCE North East, 100.00 feet. Section: 34.17 Block: 1 and Lot: 14

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Index Number 53628/2017.

STUART I. BALL, ESQ., Referee
David A. Gallo & Associates LLP
Attorney(s) for Plaintiff
47 Hillside Avenue, 2nd Floor, Manhasset, NY 11030
File# 7777.122

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Cardinal Timothy Dolan Visits Wartburg Campus



above: Cardinal Timothy Dolan administers a blessing and visits Berkemeier Living Center. below: Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Dr. David Gentner, Dr. Nicholas Cicchetti



— His Eminence, Cardinal Timothy Dolan, Archbishop of New York, visited Wartburg’s historic campus to celebrate a special Mass dedicated to the many women religious residing at Wartburg. The visit served as a tribute to Wartburg’s continuing legacy of service spanning nearly 160 years.

More than 100 people, including administrators, staff, residents, and families, gathered to participate in the prayer service led by Cardinal Dolan. His visit commemorated Wartburg’s social ministries and its enduring mission to support seniors and vulnerable populations in the region.

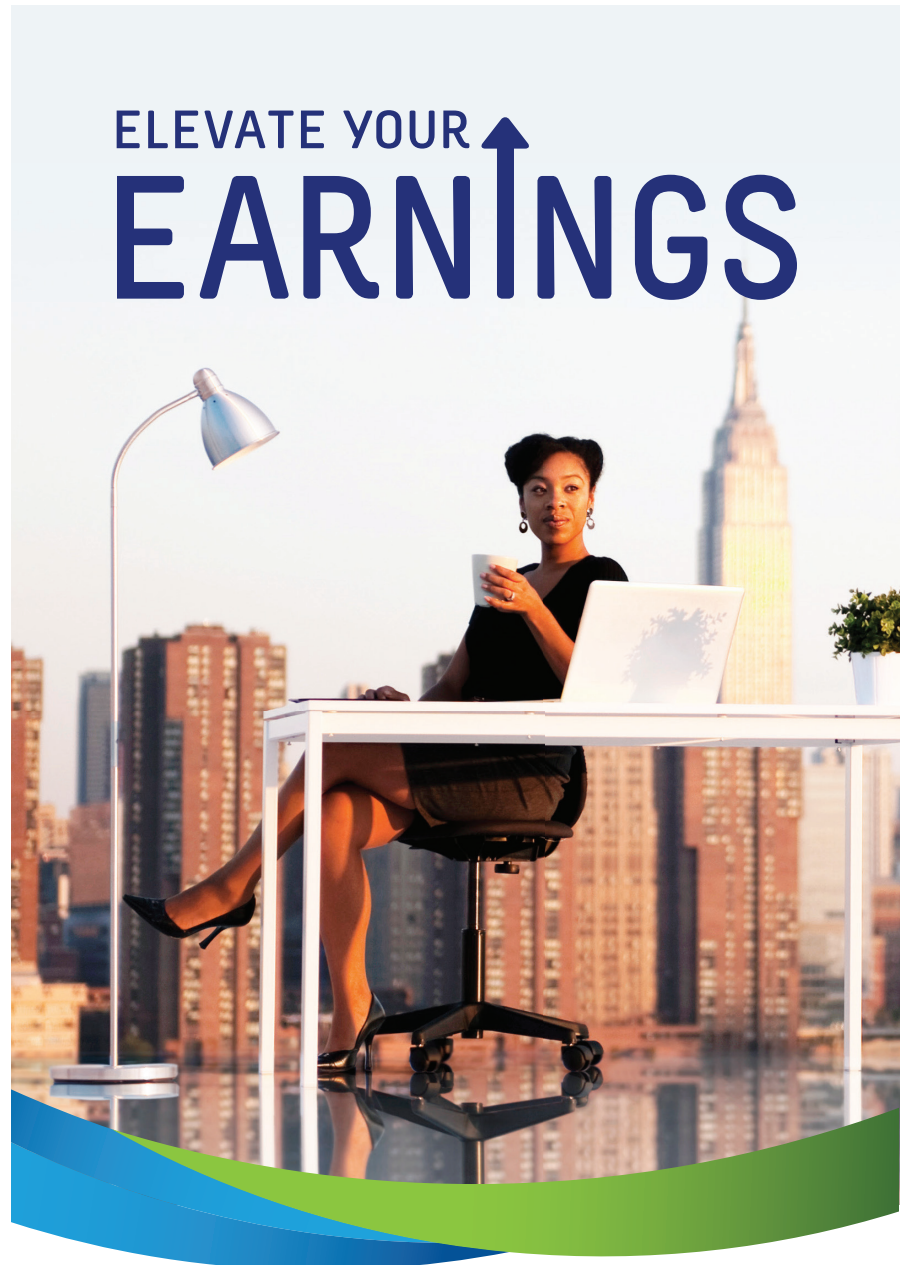
During the Mass, Cardinal Dolan highlighted the significance of the blessing of St. Blaise, traditionally observed on this day for protection against injuries and illnesses of the throat. He invoked the saint’s intercession, proclaiming, “Through the intercession of Saint Blaise, may God deliver you from every disease of the throat and from every other illness.”

In his homily, Cardinal Dolan expressed gratitude for the hospitality and care provided by Wartburg. “We praise the Lord for the hospitality, and the warmth, and the embrace of the Wartburg community, for all the residents here, especially for our beloved consecrated religious,” he stated.

His Eminence also visited the Berkemeier Living Center, Wartburg’s award-winning Memory Care building for those with Alzheimer’s Disease and other related dementias and later joined many of the sisters for lunch.

Dr. David J. Gentner, President and CEO of Wartburg, echoed the sentiment, emphasizing the profound spiritual and communal impact of the event. “This Mass was a beautiful way to provide spiritual nourishment to the greater Wartburg and Mount Vernon community,” he said. In recognition of Cardinal Dolan’s visit, Dr. Gentner presented him with a proclamation on behalf of the Board of Directors, officially designating His Eminence a Patron and Friend of Wartburg.

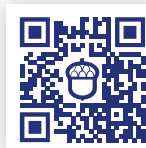
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