

## We Endorse: Ken Jenkins for Westchester County Executive



Left: County Executive Ken Jenkins

Sculti refuses to debate Jenkins at LWV Forum for County Executive: See Story on pg 14

Rising Media and Yonkerstimes.com endorse Ken Jenkins for Westchester County Executive in the special election on February 11.

In the short time that Jenkins has served as County Executive since being appointed by the Board of Legislators, he has shown himself ready for the job and has hit the ground running with innovative proposals and fresh ideas.

We endorse Jenkins for several reasons: First, he has the experience to serve the people of Westchester. Jenkins was elected a County Legislator representing Yonkers and also served as BOL Chair. In 2010, when Jenkins was BOL Chair, and Rob Astorino was County Executive, Jenkins proposed a property tax cut for homeowners who faced the highest property taxes in the country today and still do.

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## Town of Mount Pleasant Closes Park After 12 Canadian Geese Found Dead

Town of Mount Pleasant officials are cautioning residents after 12 Canada geese were found dead at a pond in a local park.

Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi and Police Chief Paul Oliva strongly advised residents to keep away from any dead geese that may be found at other locations in the community.

The dead birds were found Sunday at Carroll Park on Rollings Hill Road in Thornwood. Supervisor Fulgenzi said that they were removed by a professional wildlife expert and taken by the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for testing. Out of an abundance of caution, Carroll Park has been closed until it can be determined that there is no health threat posed to visitors. A laser device is being used to chase off any other geese that try to land at the pond.

Supervisor Fulgenzi said that dead Canada geese have been found at other locations in Westchester and that the Town has notified the County Department of

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## Muscoot Farm's Cluxatawney Henrietta Predicts Six More Weeks of Winter



Bundle up for a few more weeks of Winter! Westchester County is gearing up for six more weeks of winter as Muscoot Farm's weather-predicting chicken, Cluxatawney Henrietta, did not lay an egg at this morning's Groundhog Day celebration at the farm. Now in its seventh year, Muscoot Farm's annual Groundhog Day festivity offers a fun twist on tradition with kid-friendly activities, treats and a unique weather prediction by one of the beloved farm's own residents.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said, "Cluxatawney Henrietta has become a true Groundhog Day icon in Westchester County. The excitement and buzz surrounding our hometown hen's annual weather prediction is simply unbeatable."

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathy O'Connor said, "Muscoot Farm's Groundhog Day celebration has grown into one of the County's most adored traditions, bringing joy and fun to residents of all ages year after year."

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## On Immigration: Dispatch from a Social Worker



By Alexander Kinaj

A child pulled me aside recently, the usual cool optimism in his eyes replaced by something else—a quiet desperation. News of the Trump administration's harsh crackdown on illegal immigration and the enforcement of those policies in his backyard of Westchester had reached him. He feared that his father would get swept up and taken away from him in an ICE raid.

Just this past summer, he came to me, bursting with joy, when his father bought him a new guitar and told me about his hopes of being able to emulate one of his favorite musical artists. Now, he feared his father wouldn't be home when he returned from our program. I knew he was just looking for the support and

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## CE Jenkins Signs Bill to Provide Free Westchester County Park Passes to U.S. Military Veterans



Military veterans welcome! Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins has signed a bill into law that provides free Westchester County Park Passes to U.S. military veterans residing in the County. This legislation marks a significant step in recognizing the dedication and sacrifices of veterans by granting them free access to the County's extensive park system and recreational programs.

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## Eagle Scout Project Brings Narration to Yorktown Museum Exhibits



Left: Kelly Griffiths at the Yorktown Museum with one of the QR code placards she created. Photo courtesy of the Town of Yorktown

Visitors to the Yorktown Museum can now enjoy interactive exhibition narrations on their smart phones thanks to a new Eagle Scout project.

Kelly Griffiths, 17, a senior at Yorktown High School, recently completed the narration project using QR codes mounted next to displays at the museum located in the Albert A. Capellini Community and Cultural Center. The project consists of 10 new narrations, with five for adults and five for children.

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Read it all Online  
at Yonkerstimes.com

## Business Council of Westchester Launches the Clean Energy Action Coalition



CEAC director Ron Kamen, left, with John Ravitz, the BCW's executive vice president and COO. Photo courtesy of the BCW.

The Business Council of Westchester (BCW) will begin the inaugural year of the Clean Energy Action Coalition (CEAC) with a transformative initiative designed to accelerate the adoption of clean energy technologies across Westchester County.

CEAC's mission is to reduce carbon emissions, enhance energy affordability and reliability, and drive the transition to clean energy solutions in three critical segments: electricity, thermal energy, and transportation.

"CEAC represents a bold step forward in moving all of Westchester County's communities down the road to greener and cleaner energy technologies," said John Ravitz, the BCW's executive vice president and COO. "By fostering collaboration among stakeholders and advocating for climate-positive legislation, we're ensuring that Westchester remains a leader in sustainability and innovation."

The BCW announced the formation of CEAC at its Annual Dinner in November. Since then, the group has compiled an ambitious agenda, with 9 workgroups providing the framework for legislation that facilitates the deployment of clean energy infrastructure by county and municipal leaders.

CEAC includes over 85 Westchester leaders representing solar and battery energy storage, geothermal, heat pumps, renewable fuels, electric vehicles, demand response, transmission, energy efficiency, and workforce development, as well as real estate developers, local government, professional planners, engineers, landscape architects, land use attorneys, environmental risk managers, nonprofits, construction professionals, contractors, and other businesses.

### 2025 Goals and Outreach Initiatives

CEAC has outlined ambitious goals for 2025, focusing on coordinated outreach, education, and advocacy to support:

**Solar and Battery Storage:** Promoting incentives and streamlining approvals for renewable energy adoption.

**Biofuels:** Encouraging the use of low-emission alternative fuels.

**Construction:** Advocating for cost-effective green practices in new, renovated, and existing buildings.

**Transmission:** Supporting the efficient movement of solar, wind, and hydropower from upstate New York to local communities.

### Leadership and Expertise

As part of this initiative, the BCW has named Ron Kamen, founder of Earth-Kind Energy, as CEAC's director. With decades of expertise in catalyzing sustainable energy adoption, Kamen brings a proven track record of creating successful public-private partnerships in clean energy and sustainability.

"I'm thrilled to join the Business Council of Westchester in this pivotal role," said Kamen. "Westchester County and New York are at the forefront of climate leadership, and the private sector has a critical role to play in achieving these goals. Together, we'll make clean energy adoption more accessible and impactful than ever." Visit [bcw.org](http://bcw.org) to learn more.

## 14-Year-Old Charged with Murder for 2024 Yonkers Shooting



Daquan Glenn

The defendant is accused of fatally wounding Daquan Glenn and shooting another victim in the leg at Doyle Park, in Yonkers.

On Jan. 30, Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that a 14-year-old Stratford, Conn., resident was indicted for murder, among other charges, and arraigned this afternoon in the Youth Part before Westchester County Court Judge Helen Blackwood.

The defendant was charged by indictment with Murder in the Second Degree, Attempted Murder in the Second Degree, Assault in the Second Degree, and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree. He pleaded not guilty to each of the charges.

He was remanded to the custody of the Westchester County Department of Correction at Woodfield Cottage.

DA Cacace said: "The circumstances surrounding this case are tragic and disturbing. When I took office, I made a commitment to address the scourge of gun violence that affects all of us in Westchester, but our cities most acutely. We will pursue every avenue available to keep guns off our streets and out of the hands of those who would misuse them. Daquan Glenn should be alive today, and we will work to provide his family, and the community, with a measure of justice."

At approximately 5 p.m. on Aug. 26, 2024, the defendant is accused of shooting at two victims, one fatally, at Doyle Park in Yonkers. Daquan Glenn, 29, sustained multiple gunshot wounds, including two gunshot wounds to the head. He was later pronounced dead at Saint Joseph's Medical Center.

The second victim was discovered a short distance away with a gunshot wound to the leg. He survived his injuries.

The defendant is accused of aiding, abetting, and acting in concert with another person while committing these crimes.

Because of the defendant's age, the murder charge carries a maximum potential penalty of 15 years to life in state prison.

The defendant is due to appear in court again on Feb. 6.

In December, the defendant was charged in a felony complaint with attempted murder and attempted assault, among other charges, in connection with an unrelated incident that occurred one month prior to the Doyle Park shooting. That case remains pending.

The investigation into the Doyle Park shooting was conducted by the Yonkers Police Department and the FBI's Safe Streets Task Force.

The case is being prosecuted by Bureau Chief Jonathan Strongin and ADA Brian Bendish, Senior Trial Counsel in the Homicide Bureau.

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## The Sharing Shelf Served 6,764 Westchester Children and Teens in 2024



Suehay, pictured above, a dedicated social worker in the Larchmont Mamaroneck Schools, has been a trusted partner for over five years, always looking out for her students' best interests. She consistently taps into our services to ensure their clothing needs are met.

To celebrate her recent birthday, Suehay invited her friends and family to volunteer with us.

She shared, "I wanted to again thank you for allowing my family and I to volunteer, although you were closed for vacation. I am so grateful for the partnership and the blessing you offer the families I work with. Volunteering at The Sharing Shelf was a great way to kick off my birthday, and give back to such a wonderful community organization. Thank you for allowing me to share your organization's mission with my family."

Thank you, Suehay, for your unwavering support and generosity. Actually, we celebrate you!

The Sharing Shelf, the nonprofit clothing bank serving children and teens in need in Westchester County, announced today that it had provided clothing to 6,764 children and teens in 2024. That number reflects the 5,805 children who were served through the clothing bank, and 959 teens who received clothing from the Teen Boutique.

The total number represents an increase of 23% from 2023, and the need for clothing continues to grow: In the first three weeks of 2025, requests for clothing have grown 145% over the same period in the previous year – from 178 requests in 2024 to 437 in 2025.

Requests to The Sharing Shelf for clothing for the children and teens came in 2024 from 588 staff members at 161 community partner agencies across Westchester. Those children and teens live in every community in Westchester.

Those numbers have grown as well. The number of staff members at partner agencies who requested clothing grew from 522 in 2023 to 588 in 2024. The number of partner agencies grew from 138 to 161.

While Westchester is among the nation's wealthiest counties, its poverty rate for children under five was 11.1% in 2023, according to Westchester Children's Association. More than 67,000 children and teens live in poverty or a low-income home in Westchester.

"Clothing insecurity is often overlooked, on the assumption that as long as one has some kind of clothes, there's no problem," said Deborah Blatt, Founder and Executive Director of The Sharing Shelf. "But for students to perform well in school – and stay in school – they need to have clothes that are the right size, that are appropriate to the season, that reflect their personality, and they need enough of them to be clean. Imagine how you would feel going into a meeting inappropriately dressed, and how you would perform in that situation. The need is great in Westchester, and growing. The Sharing Shelf plays a crucial role in addressing clothing insecurity countywide."

Vist <https://www.facebook.com/TheSharingShelf> to learn more.

## Assemblyman Slater Proposes \$1,000 Pothole Tax Credit



In recognition of National Pothole Day yesterday, Assemblyman Matt Slater (R,C-Yorktown) has introduced legislation to address the mounting costs New Yorkers face due to vehicle damage caused by poorly maintained roads. The proposed Pothole Tax Credit would allow drivers whose tires are damaged by potholes on state roads to claim a tax credit of up to \$1,000 for repairs.

"Potholes are an all-too-familiar obstacle for drivers, often leaving us swerving to avoid costly damage to our vehicles," said Slater. "If the state can't maintain its roads, taxpayers shouldn't be left footing the bill. This legislation is one step toward making Albany address the chronic neglect of our infrastructure."

Potholes remain a persistent and dangerous issue on New York's roadways, particularly in areas like the Hudson Valley, which has some of the worst-rated roads in the state. According to the New York State Department of Transportation (NYS-DOT), 60% of the roads and half of the bridges in the Hudson Valley are in poor condition, yet the region consistently receives less proportional funding than others. This disparity has contributed to a significant backlog of needed repairs.

Assemblyman Slater has consistently joined other elected officials and industry leaders in advocating for increased funding for the Hudson Valley region. Despite being home to the most state-maintained lane miles in New York, Hudson Valley faces a 16-year repaving cycle—significantly longer than the 12-year average in other regions. A 2024 report by TRIP, a national transportation research organization, found that poor road conditions cost New Yorkers an average of \$3,600 annually in vehicle damage, crashes and traffic delays. Slater's proposed tax credit would directly offset repair costs for damages incurred on state roads.

"This is not a criticism of the hardworking men and women or the regional leadership who do their best with the limited resources they're given. This is about the need for greater investment in areas that directly affect millions of New Yorkers, instead of continuing to waste money on misguided priorities that don't address our state's real challenges. Our residents deserve better roads, and they shouldn't have to wait years for action."

The Pothole Tax Credit would apply year-round, ensuring drivers can claim the credit regardless of when damage occurs. New Yorkers are also encouraged to report potholes in their communities by calling 1-800-POTHOLE.

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## Assemblywoman Amy Paulin's Reintroduces Bill Expanding Abortion Medication Access



*"Right now I see this bill as the only foolproof way of fighting back against states that are blocking access to reproductive healthcare in this country."*

*Assemblywoman Amy Paulin*

**Paulin's Bill would allow pharmacists to dispense abortion medication with non-patient specific prescriptions, allowing NYers to easily purchase and send the medication out of state**

Assemblywoman Amy Paulin has reintroduced legislation A.1172/S.2533 to expand abortion access by allowing pharmacists to dispense abortion medication with the use of non-patient specific prescriptions. Her bill would allow abortion medication to be purchased from a pharmacy without presenting a prescription to the pharmacist. Purchasers could then mail the medication out of state.

"As states around the country continue to ban and limit access to abortions, it's not surprising that a doctor in New York has now been indicted by Louisiana over providing an abortion medication prescription to someone in Louisiana via telemedicine. Rather than remain in shock and disbelief however, we just need to take action and respond by expanding abortion medication access for New Yorkers so that they can easily help women out-of-state without a potential legal threat looming over them," said Paulin. "And that is exactly what my bill would do."

Under Paulin's bill, a doctor, or any New Yorker, could purchase abortion medication at a pharmacy in New York, and send it to someone out-of-state. "The bill would make it impossible for Louisiana or any other state to pinpoint who the abortion medication is coming from," said Paulin. "Someone could mail it with no return address. States like Louisiana would essentially have no means to find let alone punish a New Yorker for mailing out abortion medication. Right now I see this bill as the only foolproof way of fighting back against states that are blocking access to reproductive healthcare in this country."

The abortion pills mifepristone and misoprostol are drugs which can be safely self-administered by a patient at home over a 2-day period in order to medically induce an abortion. Mifepristone and misoprostol can be taken up to 10 weeks into a pregnancy.

While current State law allows abortion medication to be prescribed by a licensed physician, certified nurse practitioner or properly licensed midwife, Paulin's bill would allow these healthcare professionals to prescribe a non-patient specific regimen of abortion medication to be dispensed by a pharmacist, eliminating the need for someone to walk into the pharmacy with their own prescription. "Once someone has the medication in hand," says Paulin "they can mail it to whoever needs it around the country."

Abortion medication is appropriate for a non-patient specific prescription model because it is safe and effective, has few side effects, and directions for its use are so simple that physician oversight is not needed. "Abortion medication has been widely and safely used in this way for many years throughout India and Mexico, and now in Washington State as well," said Paulin. "Pharmacists always advise that if a woman has any issue when taking abortion medication, that they go to an emergency room. This is standard procedure and will not change under a non-patient specific prescription model. So we're not adding any risk, we're just expanding access."

"In light of what Louisiana has just done, I'm putting forward this bill to fight back," said Paulin. "I see it as the best way to both protect New Yorkers from out-of-state lawsuits and indictments, and help women outside of New York gain access to an abortion." A.1172/S.2533 is sponsored in the New York State Senate by State Senator Rachel May.

## Heather Rosen, PhD, Eating Disorders Expert, Joins Psychology Partners Group



*Heather Rosen, PhD, left, has joined Psychology Partners Group*

Psychology Partners Group (PPG), a comprehensive mental health practice with two locations in Westchester, is pleased to announce the addition of Heather Rosen, PhD, to its team of psychotherapists. Dr. Rosen is based in PPG's new White Plains Office, located in the heart of downtown White Plains. Dr. Rosen is a licensed clinical psychologist with expertise in the evaluation and treatment of eating disorders in adolescents and young adults.

Dr. Rosen earned her doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology from the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C. and completed her doctoral internship and postdoctoral fellowship at Stanford University School of Medicine. Prior to joining PPG, Dr. Rosen held academic positions at large medical centers and children's hospitals, including Stanford University/Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and Seattle Children's Hospital. In these roles, she provided inpatient and outpatient treatment to patients with eating disorders, expanded clinical services for the treatment of eating disorders through program development initiatives, and served as a primary clinical supervisor for psychology and psychiatry learners. Most recently, Dr. Rosen held a position as Assistant Professor in the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai at the Center of Excellence in Eating and Weight Disorders. Dr. Rosen is a certified Family-Based Treatment (FBT) therapist and supervisor. She also serves as a faculty member for the Training Institute for Child and Adolescent Eating Disorders, which trains and provides certification in FBT to licensed mental health professionals.

"We are delighted to welcome Heather Rosen to Psychology Partners Group," said Emily Bly, PhD, CEO and Clinical Director of Psychology Partners Group. "We know she will make an outstanding addition to our already dedicated team. Eating disorders affect nearly 29 million Americans each year. Dr. Rosen will be a wonderful resource for anyone seeking help with an eating disorder."

"I'm very pleased to be part of Psychology Partners Group and to be able to offer a truly interdisciplinary model of care for eating disorders to people in Westchester. It often takes a team to help someone with an eating disorder – including psychologists, psychiatrists, nutritionists, and medical doctors – and we offer a strategic approach to treatment with unparalleled coordination of care. We help organize the disparate parts of care into a comprehensive plan," said Dr. Rosen.

Dr. Rosen evaluates and treats an array of eating disorders in children, adolescents, and adults, including:

- Anorexia Nervosa
- Bulimia Nervosa
- Avoidant Restrictive Food Intake Disorder (ARFID)
- Binge Eating Disorder (BED)
- Other Specified Feeding or Eating Disorder (OSFED)

Those looking for psychotherapy services at PPG's White Plains location can call (347) 560-4628 or visit <https://psychologypartnersgroup.com/> for more information or to schedule an appointment.

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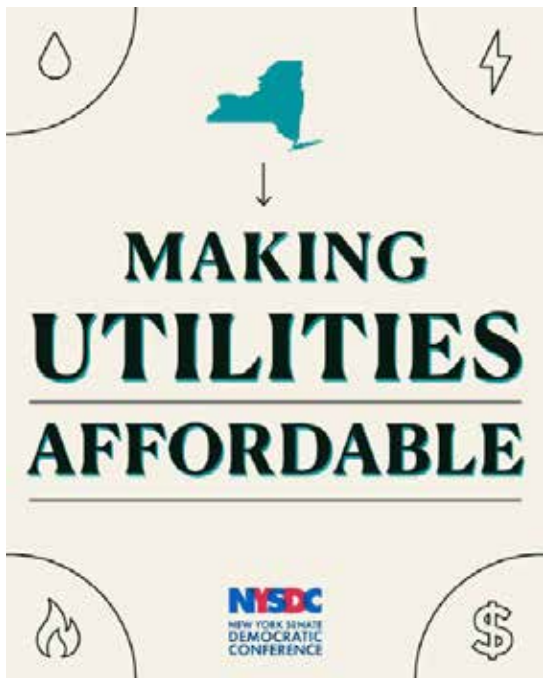
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## Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins Leads Passage of Legislative Package to Lower Utility Costs



Last week, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins led the New York State Senate in advancing a package of new legislation to protect ratepayers and address New York’s affordability crisis by prioritizing consumers and holding utility companies accountable.

These bills aim to lower costs, improve transparency, and ensure fairness for households across the state. Provisions would, among other things, set up affordable payment plans for eligible utility customers, prevent service shut-offs and late fees while a utility company is being investigated, and require the Public Service Commission (PSC) to study how rate changes could impact customers financially.

“A significant percentage of the calls my office receives from constituents are related to concerns about high energy costs. This is especially true every few years in Westchester, when ConEd asks the PSC for rate increases,” said Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. “This package will require the PSC to take into consideration how any rate change will impact its customers. It will also expand payment options to help those whose bills are increasing past affordability, eliminate estimated billing practices and cap certain charges.”

State Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, “I am pleased that two of my bills passed the Senate this week as part of the Utility Affordability Package. I hear from constituents daily regarding their utility bills, often showing bills that bear little resemblance to their actual usage, or that have the “regulated” part of their bill far exceeding the “market-driven” portion. My bill, S.1896, will prioritize New Yorkers’ right to have stable utility rates that are as low as possible by requiring the PSC to determine rates in a fairer, more transparent manner that puts the interest of ratepayers ahead of the for-profit utility company. My other bill, S.1701, will hold utility companies more accountable when they fail to prepare for and respond to storms. I deeply appreciate everyone who has reached out to me regarding their outrageous ConEd bills and I thank Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and my colleagues for prioritizing the crisis of unaffordable utility rates. In the Senate, we are committed to working to lower utility rates and hold the PSC and Con Ed accountable.”

### Highlights of the Legislative Package:

**Assessing Utility Rate Changes:** Requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to consider how rate hikes impact consumers’ economic well-being.

**Protecting Customers During Investigations:** Prevents service shut-offs and late fees while the PSC investigates a utility and requires notifications to customers during investigations.

**Ensuring Accurate Utility Bills:** Mandates utility companies to use actual meter readings, not estimates, to ensure customers are only charged for what they use.

**Improving Storm Responses:** Strengthens emergency response requirements and allows the PSC to impose stronger penalties for poor utility compliance during storms.

**Fair Utility Profit Calculations:** Requires standardized equity calculations to ensure fair and reasonable rates.

**Capping Fixed Charges:** Limits utilities to recovering only necessary fixed costs, such as metering and billing.

**Affordable Payment Plans:** Directs utilities to create statewide affordable payment plans for low-income customers enrolled in social service programs.

**Minimum Standards for Payment Plans:** Establishes guidelines for affordable utility payment plans to protect eligible customers.

**Automatic LIHEAP Re-enrollment:** Requires automatic re-enrollment for low-income households still eligible for energy assistance programs.

## Westchester County Department of Health Gives Update on Bird Flu

### What should I know about bird flu?

Although the risk of avian flu remains low and no human cases of H5N1 have been identified in New York State, the Westchester County Health Department urges residents to take precautions. Avoid contact with wild birds and any birds that appear sick or have died. Refrain from touching surfaces or materials contaminated with saliva, mucus, or feces from wild or domestic birds. Additionally, do not consume raw milk or unpasteurized dairy products, including cheese, yogurt, and ice cream.

Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler said: “While there are no cases here in Westchester County, we must still be vigilant. Avian flu remains a concern, and taking preventive steps—such as avoiding contact with sick or dead birds and following proper hygiene practices—helps protect both public health and our local wildlife.”

If a dead bird is found on a property, it should be disposed of in accordance with New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) guidance. Proper precautions include wearing disposable gloves, a mask, and eye protection. Avoid direct contact with the animal and its fluids; keep children and pets away, use a shovel, and wash hands and clothing immediately after with soap and hot water. Carcasses should be triple-bagged in garbage or contractor bags and placed in an outdoor trash can.

Amler said: “The virus can be airborne, and you don’t want it getting in your eyes, nose, or mouth. Always wash your hands and clothing with soap and water after disposing of a dead bird.”

Amler also advised residents to keep their pets away from sick or dead birds and not to directly touch any sick or dying animal.

In cases where multiple dead birds are observed in a single location, it is recommended to report the incident to the DEC. More information about wildlife health is available at the NYSDEC Wildlife Health webpage.

#### Avian Influenza Resources:

Centers for Disease Control

New York State Department of Health

USDA

American Veterinary Medical Association

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

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-7385 – Opening date 03/07/2025: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide services to test and supply results for phosphorus and fecal coliform analysis of wastewater samples (AC).

2. Bid No. RFB-7387 – Opening date 02/21/2025: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for two 12-month periods, to provide truck repairs and maintenance as needed for the Yonkers Public Schools (FB).

3. Bid No. RFB-7391 – Opening date 03/07/2025: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for two 12-month periods, to remove, discard, furnish and install, repair and/or reset various types and quantities of fencing throughout the School District as needed (FB).

4. Bid No. RFB-7393 – Opening date 02/28/2025: Purchase of a variety of IT hardware and technology products manufactured by Promethean, HP, TrippLite, and Texas Instruments, or Yonkers approved equals, for the Yonkers Public Schools. Bidders are required to comply with NYSED's Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE) participation goals for this bid (MM).

5. Bid No. RFB-7394 – Opening date: 02/28/2025: Purchase of Avon Protection FM54 Respirators and accessories, or Yonkers approved equals. (VB).

6. Bid No. RFB-7395 – Opening date: 02/28/2025: Twelve-month contract to purchase six Rologard Global Company model K2600, or Yonkers approved equal, vehicle barriers with vehicle transport kit. The initial purchase will be for six units with the option to purchase another six units within 12-months (VB).

7. Bid No. RFB-7396 – Opening date: 02/28/2025: Purchase of one Anatomage Virtual Cadaver Table, or Yonkers approved equal, with clinical crate, online training, and one-year warranty. (KS).

8. Bid No. RFB-7397 – Opening date: 02/28/2025: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to purchase as needed, approximately 2,400 forty-quart bags of Oil-Dri granular absorbent item #105040G50, or Yonkers approved equal (FB).

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) #2025-01

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR

SECURITY GUARD SERVICES

AT VARIOUS PROPERTIES OWNED OR MANAGED BY

THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers ("MHACY") is soliciting proposals from qualified firms

for Security Guard Services for MHACY at various sites as specified in this Request for Proposals ("RFP").

This RFP package contains submission requirements and terms and conditions and other pertinent information for

submitting a proper and responsive proposal. This RFP is the only information provided to prospective bidders

(hereinafter "Responders" or "Respondents") and is available online starting February 14, 2025, at [www.mhacy.org](http://www.mhacy.org).

A site tour will take place on February 25, 2025, starting at 1-8 Schroder Street, Yonkers, NY at 10am. The

RFP questions deadline is February 27, 2025, at 3:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions

must be emailed to [procurement@mhacy.org](mailto:procurement@mhacy.org) by the deadline. No telephone calls and/or written

communication sent via mail will be accepted.

Proposals must reach MHACY no later than 3:00 PM (EST) on March 6, 2025. Late submissions will be

handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B.

Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria stated in the RFP. Negotiations may be conducted with contractors

who have a reasonable chance of being selected for the award. After evaluation of the proposal revision, if any,

the contract will be awarded to the responsible firm(s) whose qualifications, price and other factors are

considered to be the most advantageous to MHACY.

MHACY reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any irregularities or informalities if it is

in MHACY's best interest to do so. MHACY reserves the right to cancel this RFP or to reject, in whole or in

part, any and all proposals received in response to this RFP, upon its determination that such cancellation or

rejection is in the best interest of MHACY.

MHACY is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation,

color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or family status. MHACY solicits and encourages the

participation of minorities and small businesses in procurement.

Contact, related to this procurement, with members of MHACY's Board of Commissioners, or MHACY's

officers and/or employees other than the contact person show above, during the procurement process could

result in disqualification of a proposal.

Wilson Kimball

President & CEO

Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers

1511 Central Park Avenue

Yonkers, New York 10710

Project No. 2025-01

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 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.

# Letters to the Editor:

## *Betraying Those Who Keep Us Safe*

My father was a police officer with the NYPD for 27 years. On September 11, 2001, I was sent home from school early to find him gone into the chaos we were all sheltering from. I was eight years old. I don't remember feeling afraid, but I remember understanding that something big and scary was happening, I remember my family gathered together, watching the news. And I remember my mom was afraid. Looking back now, understanding all of what happened that day, I still struggle to imagine how afraid she must have been.

In 2021, Michael Fanone went into a scene of chaos. He'd been a police officer for over 20 years and was responding to calls from officers in distress. He found himself faced with a mob. They dragged him down the stairs, beat him, sprayed him with chemicals. They tried to take his gun while others cheered that he should be killed with it. One man tased him multiple times in the neck, then sent a message to a group chat, "tased the f\*\*\* out of the blue". Fanone sustained a heart attack and traumatic brain injuries, but he survived. Others didn't. Officer Brian Sicknick died after suffering multiple strokes as a result of his injuries. Four other officers later died by suicide. In all, about 140 police officers were injured while defending the U.S. Capitol.

January 6, 2021 was the kind of day my family hoped and prayed thousands of times my dad would never have to face. But we knew that he would, if it ever came to it, to keep us safe, just as Fanone and so many others did that day.

The men who beat Fanone to unconsciousness are now free. The man who boasted of tasing Fanone is free, less than 2 years into his twelve-and-a-half year sentence. Every rioter, regardless of their crime, has been pardoned or had their sentence commuted by President Trump, despite the Vice President's assurances that, obviously, violent offenders shouldn't be pardoned.

Trump made it sound like he couldn't be bothered to parse through the 1500 or so convictions. "It would be very, very cumbersome to go and look," he told Sean Hannity. Men died defending our nation, but keeping track of who assaulted them is too cumbersome.

Rather than an accident of laziness, Fanone believes Trump is sending a clear message: If you commit crimes on his behalf, he will support you. If you try to prevent him from doing what he wants, then you know what's coming. Whatever Trump's reasoning, pardoning violent attacks on police officers is an insult to the men and women who risk everything to keep us safe. It is an insult to their families, who fear every day that the worst might happen. It emboldens extremist groups. And it invites yet more violence.

After January 6, Fanone was unable to return to the force due to his injuries. He ultimately resigned, but he continues to speak out about the attack on our nation's Capitol. As a result, he and his family have received threats and suffered acts of violence. His mother has been harassed. Feces and bricks have been thrown at her and her home. Now, Fanone is seeking protective orders against the men who attacked him and may need to relocate for the sake of his family. If this is the thanks he gets, how can we as a nation continue to ask police officers to defend us?

Trump campaigned on bringing down crime, but betraying our police officers and freeing violent criminals will not make America safe. It will only make our country worse.

*Cooper Tamayo, Yonkers*

### **ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS—A "TAXING SITUATION"**

Before all those "hand ringers" begin to bemoan how badly illegal immigrants are being treated, here are a few "hard facts":

- 1-More than 43% of all food stamps are given to illegals,
- 2-95% of murder warrants in Los Angeles are for illegals,
- 3-Less than 2% of illegals are picking crops, but 41% are on welfare,
- 4-More than 66% of all births in California are to illegals on MediCal—paid By American Taxpayers.

#### **OUR TAXES ARE ALSO BEING PAID FOR:**

- A-Nearly 60% of all occupants of HUD properties in the U.S-are illegals,
- B-More than 39% of California students, grades 1-12 are illegals,
- C-75% of LA's Most Wanted-are illegals,
- D-More than half of all gang members, are illegals.

Guess what president and his administration, was responsible for "Opening the gates", admitting these people without proper vetting???

"If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government, then you are doomed to live under the rule of fools." (Plato)

*Joe Pettit, Yorktown Heights*

(sourceJ Renewed Right Organization-1/31/25)

# Black History Month 2025: The Black Panther Party: Empowerment, Resistance, and Liberation



*By: Dennis Richmond, Jr.*

In the 1960s, the Black Panther Party (BPP) emerged as a force of revolution and hope for Black communities in America. Born in the heart of Oakland, California, the BPP was forged in the fire of systemic oppression, offering both protection and purpose to a people who had long been silenced. The Party, founded by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale, became a beacon of resistance, its armed patrols and community programs illustrating the power of Black self-determination. But as revolutionary as the Black Panther Party was in theory, its story remains as heartbreakingly poignant as it is inspiring.

Fred Hampton, the charismatic leader of the Illinois chapter of the BPP, captured the soul of the movement. In 1969, at just 21 years old, Hampton became a voice for the disillusioned, rallying Black youth to embrace their power and demand their rights. His words, now immortalized in history, still echo today: "We say, we want freedom, we want power to determine the destiny of our Black community." Hampton's belief in the power of unity and the necessity of revolution was not just a political stance—it was a call for survival. Tragically, his life was stolen from him in a brutal assassination by the FBI, a loss that marked one of the darkest chapters in American history.

Yet, even in death, Hampton's words resonate deeply with the struggle of young Black men and women today. For Black youth in Yonkers, Mount Vernon, and across the nation, the fight for justice is far from over. The challenge today, as it was in Hampton's time, is to recognize that the struggle for liberation is inherently tied to how we learn and teach. As Fred Hampton said, "You can kill a revolutionary, but you can't kill a revolution."

Stokely Carmichael, who later became Kwame Ture, called for a radical change in the way Black people viewed their relationship to power and authority. His call for "Black Power" was not simply about reclaiming Black pride, but about realizing that power does not come from the government or the status quo; it comes from the people. Carmichael's words reverberate now more than ever: "This is the first time in history that the oppressed have an opportunity to take over their own destiny, their own power." Young people in New York, in Brooklyn, Harlem, and the Bronx, are inheriting a legacy of revolutionary thought that demands they take control, not just of their communities but of their futures.

And then there's Angela Davis, whose voice was an unyielding drumbeat of liberation. As a member of the Communist Party and an advocate for Black liberation, Davis understood that true revolution begins in the classroom. "Education is the practice of freedom," she wrote, "the means by which we learn to recognize and develop our own voices." Yet in our schools today, too many young Black minds are still shackled by curricula that teach submission and silence rather than liberation and justice.

The fight for justice today is about the same principles the Panthers lived and died for—self-defense, empowerment, and unity. But it also demands that we radically transform how we teach the next generation. In New York, educators must learn not just to teach for education, but to teach for liberation. This is how we honor the Panthers, and this is how we fight. As Fred Hampton said, "We have to love each other and support each other. We have to teach the people how to defend themselves." The struggle continues. And for that, we owe it to the Panthers—and to ourselves—to keep fighting, teaching, and loving.

The Black Panther Party's legacy is not just a history lesson. It's a living, breathing movement that is still taking shape today. My father, Dennis Richmond, Sr., attended a BPP meeting when he lived in California. It is our duty as Black Americans—every single one of us—to make sure the legacy of the Black Panther Party never dies.

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

**Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com)**

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## Stepinac HS and White Plains Hospital Partner to Teach Life-Saving Hands-Only CPR Skills



**ARCHBISHOP STEPINAC HIGH SCHOOL**



**WP**  
White Plains Hospital  
A MEMBER OF THE MONTEFIORE HEALTH SYSTEM

**CPR TRAINING SESSIONS**  
FEBRUARY 10  
ARCHBISHOP STEPINAC HIGH SCHOOL  
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE VISIT [WWW.STEPINAC.ORG](http://WWW.STEPINAC.ORG)

Archbishop Stepinac High School is proud to partner with White Plains Hospital to provide essential hands-only CPR training sessions on Monday, February 10, from 9:30 AM to 11:30 AM, as part of American Heart Month.

Four experienced nurses from White Plains Hospital will lead the training, equipping participants with life-saving skills. Each session will include six individuals, ensuring hands-on instruction and personalized guidance. Health Science students, student-athletes, faculty, and staff will take part in the training, reinforcing Stepinac's commitment to health, safety, and community preparedness.

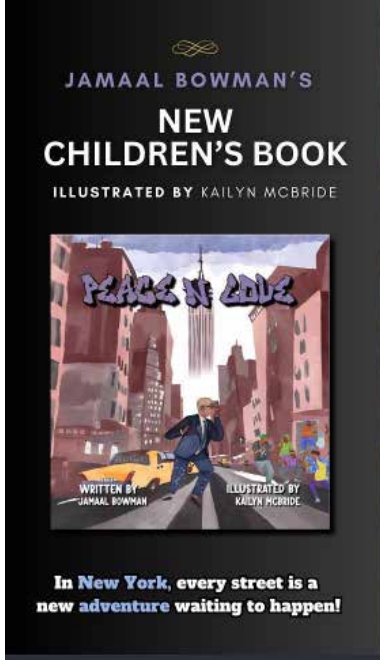

"Empowering our students and faculty with critical CPR skills not only enhances personal safety but also strengthens our school community," said School Nurse, Lillian O'Grady. "We are grateful to White Plains Hospital for their expertise and dedication to American Heart Month."

"With more than 350,000 cardiac arrests occurring outside of the hospital setting each year, knowing CPR can make a life-saving difference," says Bernadette Amicucci, PhD, DNS, MBA, FNP-BC, CNE, NEA-BC, NPD-BC, Senior Director of Clinical Education at White Plains Hospital. "We are proud to share these critical skills with Stepinac students so that they have the skills and confidence to take quick action when needed."

All media is invited to attend and cover this impactful event. Interviews with Stepinac representatives and White Plains Hospital nurses will be available upon request.

Stepinac High School remains dedicated to providing educational experiences that extend beyond the classroom, ensuring that students and staff are equipped with valuable life skills.

## Former Congressman Jamaal Bowman Has Published a Children's Book!

WWW.PEACENLOVEBOOK.COM PRE-ORDER JANUARY 31, 2025

Former Congressman Jamaal Bowman (NY-16) is excited to announce the upcoming release of his new children's book, "Peace N Love," dedicated to inspiring a generation that dreams of a world filled with kindness and compassion, and showing kids that they can be anything they want to be. This heartfelt book is set to be available for pre-order on January 31st, 2025.

"Peace N Love" draws inspiration from Bowman's signature phrase, which he has used to begin and end every speech throughout his career. The phrase embodies his commitment to ending war and senseless violence while advocating for love and compassion in every child's home and community. Through this book, Bowman aims to instill these values in young readers, encouraging them to envision a brighter future.

"I wrote 'Peace N Love' because I believe that every child deserves to grow up in an environment where love prevails over hate," said Jamaal Bowman. "This book is not just for children—it's a call to action for all of us to foster kindness in our communities. At a time when our country faces a divide, we must continue to strive for an America that promotes empathy and understanding, which is what my children's book aims to do."

The book features vibrant illustrations by talented artist Kailyn McBride, bringing Bowman's words to life in a way that resonates with children and adults alike. Each page invites readers on a journey filled with messages of hope, understanding, and the importance of treating one another with respect.

"Art is colorful, and it resonates with anyone and any child, no matter the color of their skin. I make sure that my illustrations tell a story far beyond the picture on a page," said Kailyn McBride. "Marrying words that promote acceptance with diverse illustrations is the idea behind my work, and I'm glad I was able to help tell Bowman's story. We want every child in grades Pre-K-3rd across America to read this book or have it read to them."

"Peace N Love" will be available for pre-order starting January 31st, 2025. Interested readers can purchase the book by visiting [www.peacenlovebook.com](http://www.peacenlovebook.com).

**WIN A NEW GMC**

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**MAYOR'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

CITY OF YONKERS and MAYOR MIKE SPANO Present the Annual Mayor's Basketball Tournament

sponsored by the Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation

**February 18-21**  
Roosevelt High School  
Lower Gym  
631 Tuckahoe Road  
Yonkers, NY 10710

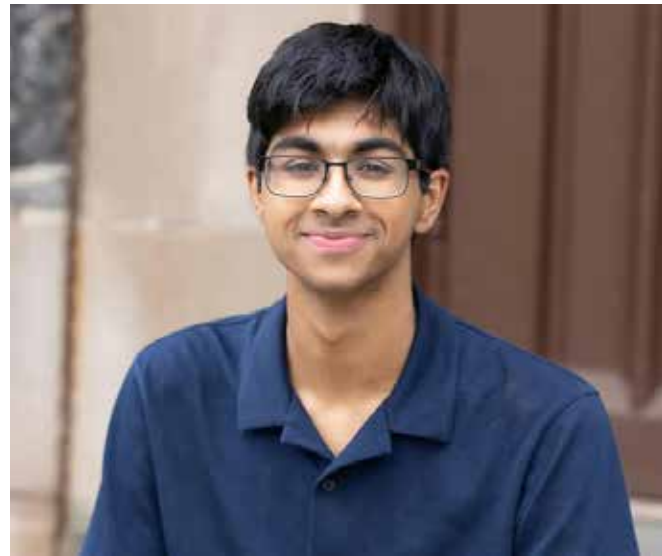
The tournament is open to girls and boys teams in the following divisions:  
**Grades 7 & 8**  
**Grades 9 & 10**

Deadline for rosters is Monday February 10, 2025

For more information on the rules and regulations governing the tournament, player eligibility and the official team roster call 914.377.6440.



## Hackley Student Vivek Malik Named Regeneron Science Talent Search Finalist



Vivek Malik

Congratulations to Vivek Malik who was named a Regeneron Science Talent Search 2025 finalist. Vivek is a student at The Hackley School and is the only Westchester student to make the finals. The title of his research is Novel characterization of Plexin D1's role in regulating the macrophage immune response.

A description of his research explained: "Targeting these immune cells can lower inflammation and help treat diseases like cancer and hardening of the arteries. Vivek found that blocking Plexin D1, a protein on the surface of macrophages, had anti-inflammatory effects. Macrophages could also more easily travel and destroy invaders. Targeting Plexin D1 may help treat inflammation."

Vivek is researching new methods of targeting and treating aggressive blood cancers called peripheral T-cell lymphomas. "I have always been interested in how we can leverage our own immune system to fight cancer. Blood cancers are particularly interesting to me because they do not necessarily present themselves in one localized region of the body, like a solid tumor would. After learning about antibody-drug conjugates (ADC), a new immunotherapy that can seek out and kill cells that express specific proteins, I became quite interested in seeing if ADCs could be successful at targeting proteins preferentially expressed on blood cancer (lymphoma) cells. I found that a cell-surface receptor that is expressed on lymphoma cells plays a crucial role in regulating the mechanisms of the cancer, and an ADC targeting that receptor could be effective at killing malignant cells."

Malik is one of 40 finalists who will be invited to Washington, D.C., in March to compete for \$1.8 million in awards.

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**The VITA Program Runs From February-April 15th at 9 Sites**

**For more information, or to make an appointment, call: 211 or 1-800-899-1479**

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VITA Program Partners:



Funding for the VITA grant program provided by the IRS and Westchester County

### 2025 Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) Season

Runs February 2025-April 15, 2025. Appointments required at most locations. Call for an appointment by dialing 211 or 1-800-899-1479.

Please bring with you:

- Photo ID and Social Security cards for all dependents to be listed on your tax return
- A copy of last year's tax return
- W-2 forms for each job, 1099-R, 1099-INT/DIV, 1099-G, 1099-SSA, 1099-MISC, Marketplace 1095-A, 8962 for Premium Tax Credit, 8965 Exemption, and Employer 1095-B
- If claiming childcare expenses, documentation, & provider's Tax ID
- Form 1098T and 1098-E (tuition and fees paid)
- If married and filing jointly, spouse must be present
- If you prefer direct deposit bring a voided check to verify the account routing and account number

Sites & Locations	
<p><b>White Plains Career Center</b> 120 Cloonindale Road, 2nd Floor, White Plains, NY 10606 Dates/Times: February 16 to April 16 Tuesdays: 5pm-8pm Saturdays: 9am-3pm * Appointments Only Last Day: April 16 (Parking/Entrance is in the rear of the building)</p>	<p><b>Westchester Jewish Community Services—Hartsdale</b> 141 North Central Avenue, Hartsdale, NY 10630 Dates/Times: February 11 to April 16 Tuesdays &amp; Thursdays: 5pm-7pm * Appointments Only Last Day: April 16 (Parking/Entrance is in the rear. It is the shopping center before Tricer Leffe.)</p>
<p><b>Mount Vernon Career Center</b> 130 Mount Vernon Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY 10650 Dates/Times: February 14 to April 12 Fridays: 10am-6pm Saturdays: 10am-3pm * Appointments Only Last Day: April 12 (Front entrance is on Macquinn Parkway. Parking is on Mount Vernon Avenue in the middle of the block.)</p>	<p><b>Mercy University—Dobbs Ferry Campus</b> 688 Broadway, Victory Hall, Room 100 Dobbs Ferry, NY 10661 Dates/Times: February 16 to April 12 / 8:30am-3pm Saturdays: March 8 to April 13 / 8:30am-1:30pm * Appointments and Walk-ins welcomed Last Day: April 13</p>
<p><b>Ossining High School</b> 28 South Highland Avenue, Room 202, Ossining, NY 10662 Dates/Times: February 10 to April 7 Wednesdays: 4pm-8pm * Appointments and Walk-ins welcomed Last Day: April 7</p>	<p><b>Mercy University—Orangetown Campus</b> 1200 Waters Place (1st Floor, Room 1344), Orangetown, NY 10461 Dates/Times: February 14 to April 11 Fridays: 11:30am-6:30pm * Appointments and Walk-ins welcomed Last Day: April 11</p>
<p><b>Ossining Youth Bureau</b> Joseph G. Caputo Community Center 95 Broadway, Ossining, NY 10662 Dates/Times: February 16 to April 12 Wednesdays: 5pm-8pm Saturdays: 9am-6pm * Appointments Only Last Day: April 12</p>	<p><b>Westchester Community College—G Stoney Center</b> 75 Greendale Road, Room G14, Valhalla, NY 10686 Dates/Times: February 17 to April 8 Sats. &amp; Weds: 9am-5pm * Appointments Only Last Day: April 8 (Entrance is across from Parking Lot 3)</p>
<p>Reasonable accommodations will be provided on request. Language translation available. Tax Sites may be subject to closure due to inclement weather.</p>	<p><b>UWCC/ANYI at Finkelstein Memorial Library</b> 24 Chestnut Street, Spring Valley, NY 10877 Dates/Times: March 1 to March 26, 2025 Saturdays, March 8: 9am-1pm Sundays, March 16: 1pm-5pm Tuesdays, March 26: 9am-5pm * Appointments Only</p>

Call for an appointment by dialing 211 or 1-800-899-1479.

All Ages | Black History Month | Riverfront Library

## Black History Month: Author Talk with AJ Woodson Primary

Saturday, February 22  
2 pm, Community Room A&B

Come join the author of *We Got Our Own Thang*, A book that gives you a look at Hip-Hop from The 914 (Westchester County, New York). This book doesn't only celebrate the superstars and rap legends that grace its cover, like DMX, Heavy D & The Boyz and Mary J. Blige, but many of the early legends. The book highlights the contributions of individuals of The 914 in the 50-year history of Hip-Hop.



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ypl.org/events

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Read it all Online at [Yonkerstimes.com](http://Yonkerstimes.com)

## Congressman George Latimer's Statement on Proposed Tariffs on Canada and Mexico

Levying tariffs against long term allies and neighbors for political purposes is foolish. A tariff is a strategic tool, used against bad international actors who seek to hurt an American industry by flooding the market with cheap products. When used as an across the board measure, such as the Smoot-Hawley Tariff imposed during the Hoover years of the Great Depression, tariffs only made things worse.

Wall Street knows this. Main Street knows this. Ronald Reagan, the icon of Republicans, spoke forcefully against tariffs during his tenure.

But neither economics nor history matters if your purpose is simply to disrupt government functions and flex your muscles.

This Administration has embarked on policy after policy that will hurt this country. Vaccination policy, environmental policy, and now international trade policy. They are flush with power after last November's results... but we will all come to see the negative impact on Americans as these ill-advised actions come to full fruition.

## Westchester County to Offer Police Civil Service Exams in May -Deadline to file is Feb. 24

Westchester County will be holding police officer civil service examinations for the first time in four years. Tests for Police Officer and Police Officer (Spanish Speaking) will be given on May 3 or May 4. The deadline to file to take the exams is Feb. 24.

The exams, to be administered by the Department of Human Resources, will result in a list of eligible police officer candidates for the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, the cities of Rye and Peekskill, and all towns and villages in the County.

Among the requirements to take the test

- All candidates must be a legal resident of Westchester County at the time of their test and for at least one month prior to it. Candidates will be required to submit proof of residency when requested. Candidates who cannot provide proof of Westchester County residency will be disqualified

- Applicants must not have reached their 35th birthday by their test date; exceptions are made for persons with military service;

- A high school diploma or equivalent is required;

- U.S. citizenship is required to be appointed as a police officer. It is not required to take the civil service exam.

The exam applications and more details about requirements are available at [www.westchestergov.com/hr](http://www.westchestergov.com/hr). A link to a study guide can also be found in the exam announcements.

Westchester County only accepts applications for civil service exams online. Candidates can apply through the website or by scanning the QR code in the exam announcement. Applicants seeking to take both Examination # 60-012780, Police Officer, and examination # 60-012790, Police Officer (Spanish Speaking) must submit a separate application and application fee for each examination number. That is the only way to appear on both eligible lists resulting from these examinations.

Due to an anticipated high volume of applicants, candidates may be assigned to take their test either Saturday, May 3, 2025, or Sunday, May 4, 2025. Candidates' exam admission notice will indicate when and where their test is being given.

### Mount Pleasant Closes Park, continued from pg 1-

Health of this case.

"Unfortunately, there are a growing number of Avian Flu cases across the state and beyond. All of us need to be aware of the potential health risks posed to humans and be sure to report but not go near a dead bird as the chances are high that it will be infected," said Supervisor Fulgenzi.

Anyone who finds a dead goose in a public park or other Town-owned property should contact the Town Police Department at 914-769-1941. Police will arrange to have a wildlife professional remove it. Dead birds found on private property in the Town should be reported to the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation.

## United Way of Westchester -Putnam and Library Systems Launch February Canned Food Drive



United Way of Westchester and Putnam and the Westchester Library System are partnering again this year, for the second annual canned food drive during the month of February! In honor of National Canned Food Month in February, United Way and the Westchester Library System are collecting canned goods to donate to Feeding Westchester, which will be distributed among many food pantries across Westchester County.

National Canned Food Month highlights the convenience and long shelf life of canned goods, which provide essential nutrients when fresh produce is not always accessible. Contrary to the myth that canned foods are unhealthy, they often offer similar nutritional value to fresh and frozen options. In Westchester and Putnam Counties, food insecurity is a growing issue, with around 40% of households falling in the ALICE (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) threshold and struggling to make ends meet. Even small donations can make a big impact in ensuring everyone has access to nutritious meals.

Last year, an incredible 3,600 pounds of food were donated through the drive, making a tremendous impact on those in need. This year, we can do even better. Come together to support those struggling with hunger in our community! Your contributions will make a difference for countless individuals and families facing food insecurity.

Donate canned goods at your local library through Saturday, February 22nd. The libraries participating are: Chappaqua Library, Greenburgh Public Library Harrison Public Library, Harrison - West Harrison Branch Library, Hastings-on-Hudson Public Library, Hendrick Hudson Free Library (Montrose), Lewisboro Library, John C. Hart Memorial Library (Yorktown), Mamaroneck Public Library, Mount Kisco Public Library, Mount Pleasant Public Library, Port Chester-Rye Brook Public Library, Pound Ridge Library, Somers Library, The Field Library, Town of Pelham, Tuckahoe Public Library, White Plains Public Library, Westchester Library System

The items that can be donated are: Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruits, Canned Proteins: Fish, beef, poultry, pork, spam, beans, Canned Sauces, Soups, Stews, Canned Meals: Ravioli, spaghetti, chili, and other ready-to-eat meals, Canned Pet Food. Other Non-Perishable Items: Rice, pasta, grains (quinoa, oatmeal, couscous, cereal), dried beans (kidney, pinto, black, lentils), cereal, peanut butter or other nut butters (good sources of protein), Olive oil and other healthy oils in plastic bottles, Condiments (ketchup, mustard, mayo, relish, salt, pepper, spices), Baby food (jars/cereal), powdered formula, Shelf Stable milks: evaporated milk, condensed milk, powdered milk, and Juices/boxes

Please be mindful that we cannot accept fresh produce, dairy, glass containers

This drive is a partnership amongst the following organizations: Feeding Westchester, St John's Pantry in Mahopac, Brewster Community Food Pantry, Brewster Public Library, Mahopac Public Library, and the Westchester Library System.

### Eagle Scout, continued from pg 1-

"This project means so much to me, especially as a history buff. I'm in my school's History Honor Society. It's what I love," said Griffiths, who first approached the museum about a year and a half ago to inquire about projects she could realize there. "This project is the first Eagle Scout project in our newly co-ed Boy Scout troop. We're one of the first in the country to have girls and boys in one troop, and that's reflected in this project. I had both male and female scouts as some of my narrators."

Griffiths credits her love of history in part to the Yorktown Museum, which she remembers visiting on a field trip when she was in pre-school. Eagle Scout projects are community service activities performed by scouts to earn scouting's highest rank of Eagle Scout by demonstrating leadership skills and commitment to their community.

Supervisor Ed Lachterman and other Town officials attended a reception on January 29 for the unveiling of the new QR codes.

"I think it's amazing that a young woman like Kelly was able to put together this narrated walking tour of our museum. It shows a love of her Town, a love of history, and it will benefit all people who come to the museum.... It's a very cool project," said Supervisor Lachterman.

Town Clerk Diana Quast worked with Griffiths on the project. She said that an Eagle Scout project is not just about completing a task, it is about leaving a positive impact on your community through leadership and service.

"Kelly has done that for the Yorktown Museum through her love of history and her commitment to scouting that will enrich her community for years to come. It was my pleasure to work with her on this project and I wish her all the best in her future endeavors," said Town Clerk Quast.

The Yorktown Museum holds historical artefacts, and it features displays recreating an 18th-century home and an early Mohegan Indian settlement. There is also a diorama with a working toy train depicting Yorktown Heights in the past when the Old Putnam Railroad operated.

The Yorktown Museum is located at 1974 Commerce Street in Yorktown Heights. It is open Monday through Friday from 9 a.m. until 4 p.m. Special tours are by appointment.

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**WESTCHESTER COUNTY ANNOUNCES SALES TAX SHARE**

**BACK DISTRIBUTION TO MUNICIPALITIES IN FEBRUARY**

Westchester County is pleased to announce that the next round of sales tax revenue distributions to local municipalities and local public school districts. The next quarterly distribution will be on Friday, February 7th for an amount totaling \$52,930,066. Municipalities will be receiving \$37,923,809 and schools will be receiving \$15,006,257.

County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "This collaboration allows us to work together for the benefit of our residents, giving local governments the financial breathing room they need to address their community's needs without overburdening taxpayers."

This critical program underscores Westchester's unique commitment to supporting local governments, making it one of the few counties in New York State to share back sales tax revenue with its municipalities at this high level.

In 2024 the County collected \$926,674,419 in sales tax. Of those gross collections, the County shared \$219,164,484 (approximately 24%) with municipalities and school districts. Quarterly distributions were made in February, May, August, & November of 2024, with municipalities receiving \$157,043,492 and schools receiving \$62,120,992.

By allocating a portion of the County's sales tax revenues to cities, towns and villages, with the exclusion of Mount Vernon, White Plains, Yonkers and New Rochelle. Westchester helps ease the financial burden on local budgets. This initiative allows municipalities to keep property taxes lower than they would otherwise need to be, providing direct relief to residents while enabling local governments to maintain essential services.

The sales tax share back program is part of the County's ongoing effort to foster strong partnerships with local governments while prioritizing fiscal responsibility and community investment.

*We Endorse Jenkins, continued from pg 1-*

Astorino had proposed a 1% tax cut, while Jenkins proposed a 2% tax cut. Astorino vetoed Jenkins's additional property tax cut (why, we will never know) but Jenkins and the BOL overrode that veto. Still, the instance shows, in our view, that Jenkins is serious about giving homeowners and taxpayers a break whenever possible.

As Deputy County Executive for 7 years under Latimer, Westchester County Budgets came in with a 0% property tax levy increase in six of those seven years. We are confident that Jenkins had input on those budgets and in providing property tax relief.

Jenkins also had 7 years to be a partner with Latimer in leading county government. Now Jenkins is ready to lead Westchester into the future.

We appreciate that Ken and his wife, Deborah Hudson-Jenkins, have lived in Yonkers since their marriage in 1982 and raised their children here. More than 40 years in Westchester give Jenkins firsthand experience about the challenges facing families in the county.

Jenkins has also worked in the private sector, building a career in telecommunications and technology with Apple, AT&T, Bell Atlantic, New York Telephone (Verizon), NYNEX, and Seer Technologies, and as a real estate agent.

Jenkins was also a political commentator for News 12 during its political heyday a while ago. He has a unique and interesting professional background that will serve the people of Westchester well.

Much like Latimer, Jenkins is known all over Westchester due to his numerous organizations Jenkins' extensive public and community involvement includes board service with the Greyston Foundation, United Way, Westchester County District Attorney's Community Advisory Committee, Westchester County Crime Stoppers and the Community Planning Council of Yonkers. He served as President of the Yonkers Branch of the NAACP and the Yonkers Community Action Program.

The comfort that the people of Westchester already have with Jenkins is an important reason that warrants his election. Jenkins represents a generation of Westchester residents who have stayed in Westchester when others have left for places across the country.

We applaud Chris Sculti for running on the republican party line and giving voters in Westchester a choice when they cast their ballot for County Executive. But we are disappointed that Sculti declined to debate Jenkins at a League of Women Voters forum. (See story on pg 14).

Most Westchester voters need to be reminded that there is a special election on February 11.

When Jenkins accepted the endorsement of Black Pastors from Westchester, one pastor said, "It's his time." We agree,

Ken Jenkins experience, integrity, and commitment to our county make him the ideal leader to take on the role of Westchester County Executive.

We endorse Ken Jenkins for Westchester County Executive in the special election on February 11 and in early voting.

**Yonkers Charter School Foundation  
Elects New Leaders**



The Foundation in Support of Education Excellence (FSEE) has elected Elizabeth Bracken-Thompson and Eric Cruz, pictured above, as its new co-chairs.

Bracken-Thompson, a partner at Thompson & Bender, and Cruz, vice president of Innovation & Technology at Alexandria Real Estate Equities, will lead the foundation's fundraising efforts for the Charter School of Educational Excellence, a K-12 public charter school on Warburton Avenue. Both have served on the FSEE's board for years.

"As I pass the torch, I am filled with confidence and excitement for the future of the Foundation in Support of Educational Excellence. Elizabeth Bracken-Thompson and Eric Cruz bring an extraordinary blend of expertise, vision, and passion to this role. Their leadership will undoubtedly elevate our mission to provide life-changing opportunities for the students of the Charter School of Educational Excellence. I look forward to seeing their efforts create even greater impact in the years ahead," said Betsy Stern, outgoing chair of the FSEE.

Bracken-Thompson is the creative force behind Thompson & Bender's success and oversees all aspects of its advertising, integrated marketing, special events, public relations, and strategic planning initiatives. She began her career with Gannett Suburban Newspapers (now The Journal News) and rose to the position of vice president of marketing for Gannett's entire 10 newspaper group.

Cruz has a proven track record in strategic IT deployment, successful technical solutions, and leadership. He is recognized for motivating teams, strategic planning across markets, and establishing robust networks and cybersecurity protocols in real estate.

"As a long-time supporter of the foundation's work, I am deeply committed to advancing its mission of providing critical resources for the Charter School of Educational Excellence," said Bracken-Thompson. "Together, we will continue to build on the strong foundation established by Betsy Stern and drive efforts to ensure every student has the tools they need to succeed."

"Our shared goal is to expand opportunities for the students of the Charter School of Educational Excellence, empowering them to thrive academically and beyond. With the dedication of our board and community partners, I am confident we can take the foundation's impact to new heights," said Cruz.

In addition to the co-chair appointments, Mary Cahill recently joined the board of trustees.

The Charter School of Educational Excellence on Warburton Avenue in Yonkers is a K-12 public charter school with more than 1,000 students. Last year, the Class of 2024 received more than \$9 million in college scholarships. Founded in 2005, the school is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2025.

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## Letter to the Editor: Where are the Democrats?

By Jon Hochschartner

President Donald Trump is rapidly degrading the United States of America into a fascist hellscape. The nominal opposition leaders are nowhere to be found. As a socialist, I've never been overly fond of the Democratic Party, but I'm shocked by how little fight its most prominent members have in them at this crucial historical juncture.

On January 20, Democratic Senate Leader Chuck Schumer posted the following boilerplate nonsense on social media: "It is time to look to the future. The challenges that face America are many and great. The Senate must respond with resolve, bipartisanship, and fidelity to the working and middle class of this country."

Bipartisanship! Is Schumer out of his mind? That very same day, Republican oligarch Elon Musk repeatedly gave a Nazi salute at a Trump inauguration rally. I'd be more open to the idea this was some kind of awkward faux pas if the richest man on Earth wasn't simultaneously supporting fascist parties throughout the world.

There can be no bipartisanship with people like this. There can be no bipartisanship with people looking to dismantle what remains of the New Deal or Civil Rights legislation. There can be no bipartisanship with people seeking to force women out of public life and gay people back into the closet. Schumer should resign.

I assumed personal ambition would motivate some Democrats to distinguish themselves in their opposition to fascism, if only to make a name for themselves in advance of the 2028 presidential primary. With a few exceptions, however, that hasn't been the case. Appeasement seems to be the preferred strategy throughout the party.

Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez is one such exception. It should come as little surprise then that Democrats voted for a 74-year-old cancer patient, Representative Gerry Connolly, to serve as the party's top member on the House Oversight Committee, instead of the 35-year-old rising star with a national profile.

The existing Democratic organization needs to be replaced root and branch. I'd like it to move significantly leftward. I'd like it to champion the development of cellular agriculture, which I view as the most promising means of advancing animal welfare. But, at the very least, the party needs to be one interested in confronting fascism.

The truth is there can be no progress on any of our political priorities under a right-wing authoritarian state. Democratic officials who aren't willing to fight the Republican administration, like the country depends on their winning, because it does, should step aside for leaders who will. We need wartime consiglieres.

God willing, there will be a free-and-fair presidential election in 2028. How prospective Democratic candidates behave now — in this moment of peril — will be front of mind for me as a primary voter. I'd rather eat my shoe than vote for a mealy-mouthed Democrat who was silent in the face of Trumpian terror or made peace with it.

I'm sick of feeling helpless. Part of this is unavoidable in the current circumstances. Republicans control the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government. But a significant part comes from being left adrift by Democratic leaders, who won't use what little power voters have given them, for fear of violating long-forgotten norms.

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*. Visit his blog at [SlaughterFreeAmerica.Substack.com](http://SlaughterFreeAmerica.Substack.com).

Dispatch from a Social Worker, continued from pg 1-

assurance I have tried to provide all my clients. And I tried to do just that, letting him know that he had people who cared for him—I being one of them—and that he was not alone in dealing with this fear.

And yet, I could not tell him that his fear was unjustified.

Earlier last week, the President of Colombia, Gustavo Petro—before capitulating to President Trump's demands of accepting migrants back to his nation—stated on X, "A migrant is not a criminal and must be treated with the dignity a human being deserves." I don't think the majority of this country would disagree with Petro's sentiment—perhaps that makes me naive.

But the current rhetoric around immigration—legal or otherwise—is not just about policy, nor is the presence of ICE merely just an example of law enforcement performing its function as an agent of the state. They are signals, and their message is as clear as the fear in my client's eyes: you are not welcome here, and you should be afraid.

What seems to be lost in these arguments about asylum, immigration, and border security are the people behind these debates. These are, by and large, God-fearing, hardworking, decent people who have laid down roots in this country, started families in this country, and contributed to the economy of this country. These are the people who construct those fancy, unaffordable high-rises in White Plains and New Rochelle; they are the nannies who take care of your children in Scarsdale and Harrison; they are the health aides who take care of your aging parents; they are the cooks and dishwashers at your favorite restaurant along the Hudson River; they are the parents of your child's friend in school.

They are the invisible spokes in our community, our society, and their contributions largely go unnoticed and unappreciated. They don't deserve our fear, contempt, or scapegoating for problems that were festering long before they arrived in this country.

I'm not suggesting that we be naive to the real-life impacts of immigration, nor am I suggesting we throw open the border and allow anyone to enter the country at any time without thinking of the consequences. We can have well-meaning disagreements on the merits of immigration: the effects on our economy, the already limited housing opportunities for citizens, concerns of social cohesion, etc. We can debate policy.

But what can't get lost in the noise of these debates is my client, who just wants to learn to play a song on the guitar for his father—before he can't.

*"Were it left to me to decide if we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.*

*-Thomas Jefferson*

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## Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, FEB. 8

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

Valentine's Day Card Making, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Want to express to our animals how much you love them? Write a Valentine to any or all of them! Letter templates will have photos of each of our animals to ensure that every animal knows they are cared about. All Valentines will then be hung on the fences of the specific animal you wrote to. Letters will stay up until the weekend after Valentine's Day! Come while supplies last! Free and for all ages.

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466

Winter World, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

How do plants and animals survive the harsh winter months? What natural processes are taking place in the landscape? Let's take a walk to find out!

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

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

Join us in our Sugar House to watch and learn how we boil our sap to make maple syrup. Also: Feb. 16, 22; March 1.

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851

Family Maple Tapping, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Sugaring season has begun and we've got a fun way to enjoy it! We invite families and friend groups to come to learn how we tap our maple trees at Lenoir. This event will be held outdoors, so dress for the weather. Please arrive on time to experience the entire 30-minute program. Also: Feb. 15.

Reservations required <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-maple-tapping-tickets-1091363400309?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>

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

Animal Tracking, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Winter can be one of the best times of year to look for animal tracks! Ages 7 and older can learn about identifying tracks in the snow or mud and identify other signs you might otherwise miss. \$5 suggested donation.

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

Valentine's Day Craft Drop-In, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Go to the nature center to make some Valentine's Day crafts out of natural materials.

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

Winter Festival, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Help thaw the cold of winter by joining us for a weekend of music, animals, winter treats and more! Some activities may be weather-dependent and are subject to change. Also: Feb. 9.

Get details <https://www.muscotefarm.org/programs-events/event-calendar.html/event/2025/02/08/1739034000/muscote-farm-s-winter-festival/504928>

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

Winter Arts and Crafts, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

All ages are welcome to join us for some fun seasonal arts and crafts!

SUNDAY, FEB. 9

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

Wintering Eagles & Waterfowl, 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.

Croton Point's wide embayments are well known as a winter gathering habitat for many species of waterfowl and bald eagles. Hike the Point to observe and learn about these birds' behaviors and history. Free; for ages 6 and up; wear sturdy shoes for winter hiking conditions. Meet at the entrance to the RV Park.

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

Valentine Card Creations, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Stop by the studio between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. to make a card for your special someone, using different printmaking techniques. Free; for ages 3 and up.

Register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/valentine-card-creations/> Only a few spots left!

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

Bamboo Identification, 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Hike through the bamboo forest to learn about the species of bamboo and how to distinguish one from the other. Cut samples to study and take them home.

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## Sculti Declines to Debate Jenkins in LWV Forum for County Executive



**Republican County Executive candidate  
Christine Sculti**

By Dan Murphy

In 2021, republican Christine Sculti ran for Westchester County Executive against democrat George Latimer. During that campaign, Sculti refused to participate in the League of Women Voters debate against now Congressman Latimer.

Now four years later and Sculti is once again the GOP nominee for County Executive. And, once again, unfortunately, Sculti has declined to participate in a LWV debate days before a special election will be held for County Executive on Feb. 11.

Here is the release. "The League of Women Voters of Westchester announces that it will not be holding a Candidate Forum for the Westchester County Executive Special Election. Democratic candidate Ken Jenkins had stated that he would be available for the proposed February 3, 2025, virtual candidate forum. However, Republican candidate Christine Sculti declined the League's invitation to participate.

"A candidates' meeting with only one candidate present is an "empty chair" meeting, and is not permitted under LWVW rules and its policy of nonpartisanship. LWVW regrets that this important proposed educational event for voters had to be cancelled.

"This is a lost opportunity for the public to hear directly from candidates during a virtual event or post-event recording and to address their own questions to them through electronic submission," stated Westchester County League President Kathy Meany. "We strive to run forums in a respectful, non-partisan environment that encourages civil discourse and allows candidates to address voters' inquiries and concerns. It is a disappointment that there will be no such opportunity for voters residing in Westchester to learn more about the candidates running for County Executive in this Special Election."

Here's what we wrote four years ago. Are political debates fast becoming a thing of the past? The Westchester League of Women Voters, LWV, longtime sponsors of candidate forums in Westchester County, announced on Sept. 27 that they were canceling their upcoming forums for County Executive and County Clerk because of the lack of participation of the Republican candidate for County Executive, Christine Sculti, and the GOP candidate for County Clerk, Scooter Scott.

The Democratic candidates in both races, incumbent Westchester County Executive George Latimer and incumbent Westchester County Clerk both accepted the League of Women Voters' invitation to participate, but the organization's policy requires at least two participants for a candidates forum to be held.

In recent years, some republicans have been reluctant to participate in LWV debates for what some believe is a democratic bias in some forums against republican candidates.

But as one westchester republican told us, "You have to participate in any and all debates to get your message out and hope for a newsworthy event or slip up from your opponent. Especially, if you are the challenger, you have to get into any exchange you can with County Exec. Latimer and County Clerk Idoni. It's kind of like waiving the white flag not to do so." End of prior story.

We understand the "gripe" from Westchester republicans, which we have heard for some time, that there is a "democratic bias" favoring Westchester dems.

But even if that is true, it is not enough to boycott, and not let the people of Westchester meet you and hear from you, and contrast your views with your opponent.

Chris Sculti had some issues to run on this year. She's has articulated those views on social media. She should have attended the debate and presented those views.

Clearly, County Executive Ken Jenkins has more experience in these types of forums. But you never know what may happen in debates. Sculti could have hoped for the best and given it her best shot.

Democrats hold a massive enrollment edge in Westchester County. That is a fact, and those voters are inclined to support democrats.

So what? Does that mean Sculti or any republican should throw in the towel, which is what passing on the one big debate appears to look like.

If you want to lead Westchester County, then stand up and tell them why they should vote for you at the League of Women Voters debate.

I have watched many republicans do just fine in LWV debates. It's not impossible.

Note: District Attorney Susan Cacace, a democrat, skipped last year's LWV forum. So, people from both parties opt out on occasion.

One of our independent minded friends from Tuckahoe wrote to us, "I completely agree with you. She does have some issues to run. A real leader will not be afraid to debate their opponent no matter what the perceived bias is. If you're prepared and know your stuff, it shouldn't matter. If you are not comfortable speaking in public, get some training. Get out of your comfort zone."

## ArtsWestchester Offers Affordable Rehearsal Space for Artists

ArtsWestchester has an affordable rehearsal space for local artists thanks to a new state grant.

For 2025, ArtsWestchester will offer its rehearsal room on the 9th floor of its historic building in downtown White Plains to qualified artists and groups at the subsidized rate of \$10 an hour for up to 100 hours in 2025. All performers are welcome to apply, and rentals will be on a first come, first served basis. Space must be rented for creative rehearsal time only. Performances, workshops, or classes are excluded.

ArtsWestchester's subsidized rehearsal space program is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature. This grant supports and funds local creative rehearsal time.

Interested artists should contact Logan Hanley, Facilities Manager, lhanley@artswestchester.org. All email inquiries should have Rehearsal Space Inquiry in the subject line of the email.

### Free Parks Passes for Veterans, continued from pg 1-

Jenkins said: "Veterans have given so much to protect our freedoms, and it is our responsibility to show our gratitude in meaningful ways. Signing this legislation into law ensures that all veterans feel recognized and valued. Our parks provide opportunities for relaxation, connection, and healing, and this initiative opens those benefits to every veteran in our County."

The legislation, approved by the Westchester County Board of Legislators, eliminates the financial barrier to obtaining a Park Pass, allowing veterans to enjoy the mental, physical, and social benefits of outdoor recreation.

Westchester County Board of Legislators Chairman Vedat Gashi said: "Such enthusiastic bipartisan support from legislators reflects the gratitude we all feel for these important community members."

Legislator Erika Pierce said: "We are so proud to have veterans here in Westchester County. We value them, their families and the skills they contribute to our communities. We wanted to find a way to give back to them, especially those who otherwise wouldn't be able to afford visiting our beautiful parks."

Veteran and County Attorney John Nonna said: "This is a thank you that goes a very long way, and as a veteran I am grateful. Whether it's hiking along scenic trails, spending time with family in nature, or participating in community programs, veterans now have enhanced access to this award winning County park system."

Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Commissioner Kathy O'Connor said: "Our veterans deserve our utmost gratitude and support. I am thrilled that they will now have the opportunity to apply for our resident park passes for free so they can enjoy our parks at the discounted rates."

Veterans Service Agency Director Ron Tocci said: "The passage of this legislation reflects the County's ongoing commitment to honoring and supporting its veteran community. By removing the financial barrier to enjoying County parks, the bill acknowledges the sacrifices made by veterans while promoting their physical health, mental well-being, and connection to the community.

To apply Veterans must provide:

Proof of County residency (e.g., New York State driver's license, lease, deed, or utility bill).

Proof of veteran status (e.g., Department of Veterans Affairs-issued Veteran Identification Card (VIC), Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC), or New York State driver's license with Veteran designation).

This legislation extends the benefit to all veterans, expanding the County's existing program that provides free Park Passes to veterans with service-connected disabilities.

### Cluxatawney Henrietta Predicts, continued from pg 1-

Muscoot Farm Director Jonathon Benjamin said, "Who needs a groundhog when we have Cluxatawney Henrietta? Our spirited fine-feathered forecaster steps up to the challenge every time, proving she can outshine groundhogs across the nation with her unique weather-predicting talents!"

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### Westchester Rising

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, February 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=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H-4V45sMcWs0_3rOyDixjXc_ttIYGnZq?usp=share_link)

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

# 5854 – Area Variance – Stephen A. Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of P and B Yonkers LLC, owner, on Premises known as 37-43 Post Street, Block: 158, Lots: 66 & 68, Zone: M (B31035) \*Adjourned

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CD\\_9e4Guj-ufCACfnF18U\\_5fJkkwC9wT?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CD_9e4Guj-ufCACfnF18U_5fJkkwC9wT?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)

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sBCFaH0Iubtvx\\_DMelZGYwbaUBYOPlzH?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sBCFaH0Iubtvx_DMelZGYwbaUBYOPlzH?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 (B0035075) Zone: UR-LD, Two Twenty One Vista Group LLC owner, on premises know as 221 Buena Vista Avenue

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F1m-R-0c-gBFiMzvD3FNmtZIP7EDj1mO?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/1mf7O9\\_0k7ICtg3VjstKmCYFc2p9cjld?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mf7O9_0k7ICtg3VjstKmCYFc2p9cjld?usp=sharing)

#5852 - Area Variance - Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of 94 St. Andrews Place, Block: 133, Lot: 3 (B0033786) Zone: A, Pleasure Home Improvement LLC, owner, on premises know as 94 St. Andrews Place

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-WAnk-6N6D-BLNUSRFpIep6VBcZd6V80?usp=sharing>

#5870 – Area Variance – Cristian Hernandez on behalf of 105 Ridgewood Avenue, Block: 6335, Lot 20 (B0034666) Zone: S-50; Khaled Awwad, owner, on premises know as 105 Ridgewood Avenue.

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#5872 – Area Variance – Ellen Theg , on behalf of Groundwork Hudson Valley Inc., owner, on premises known as 8 Orchard Street, Block:2075, Lot:13 (B0035484) Zone :MG

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#5873- Area Variance- Improvement to a Non-Conforming Use - Nick Faustini, Architect, on behalf of 148-158 Ludlow St. Corp. ,owner, On premises known as 148 Ludlow Street, Block:165, Lot:12, (B202101347) Zone: I

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o98Rq5rr-geGQr2l-16SP7g3GbfqYZK\\_?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o98Rq5rr-geGQr2l-16SP7g3GbfqYZK_?usp=sharing)

#5764- Area Variance - Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of Woodycrest Yonkers LLC, owner, Block: 2207, Lot 21 (B0024208), on premises know as 37 Woodycrest Avenue, Zone: T

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TS9\\_F9jAFdMVLmrRI-47Z7vWeraW1hP?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TS9_F9jAFdMVLmrRI-47Z7vWeraW1hP?usp=sharing)

#5763 – Area Variance - Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of Woodycrest Yonkers LLC, owner, Block: 2207, Lot 23 (B0024199), on premises know as 33 Woodycrest Avenue, Zone: T

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13ZXZ25vr0exLhnUzHnm7ewIVyOkQEHVP?usp=sharing>

#5874- Area Variance—HDR (Alicia Vaccaro, PE), on behalf of NYC DEP- Bureau of Water Supply (Maria Mandarino, PE). , owner, on premises known as 601 Midland Avenue, Block: 8001, Lot: 10, (B0035159) Zone: S-60

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#5875 – Area Variance – Andrew Collingham, RA , on behalf 20 Ferndale Realty LLC, owner , on premises know as 20 Ferndale Street, Block:2375; Lot: 14 ( A0000235) ; Zone: M

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1b4ZLmVx93CJ7YnCYq2F9TmDz8eXEWoP?usp=sharing>

#5876 - Area Variance – Andrew Collingham, RA , on behalf Samuel Olivieri, owner , on premises know as 18 Ferndale Street, Block:2375; Lot: 14; ( B0033562) Zone: M

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#5877 – Area Variance- Diana Toledo, on behalf of Toledo LLC, owner, on premises know as 29 Cliff Avenue, Block: 128; Lot: 21 (B0035812) Zone: M

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#5878 – Area Variance – Maximillian Mahalek, Esq.,Cuddy & Feder LLP on behalf of Central Plaza Associates LLC, owner, on premises know as 2542 Central Park Avenue aka 2604 Central Park Avenue, Block:4877 Lot:1 (B0035618) Zone: BR

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TM1vg\\_bChwa4-xX7RuZaMbyJxQjZaLk?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TM1vg_bChwa4-xX7RuZaMbyJxQjZaLk?usp=sharing)

NEW HEARINGS

#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/1LZNApx4mudDxRIX28IY-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, (B0033159) Zone: CM

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cGo5mBWlLohorm\\_tffNLI5GDaCCKPxrL?usp=sharing](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/1Ilg4amV3RGTnsYwNnd2nJ4lhMsNslXN8r?usp=sharing>

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

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