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YonkersTimes.com

Friday January 12, 2024

Outrage Over Anti-Semitic Incident at High School Girls Basketball Game in Yonkers



Members of The Leffell School girls basketball team & coach John Tessitore

By Dan Murphy

On Jan. 4, members of The Leffell School's Woman's Basketball Team, were the subject of anti-Semitic remarks during a game against Roosevelt High School in Yonkers. The slurs came directly from members of the Roosevelt HS girls basketball team, and were related to the Israeli war against Hamas as a result of the terror attack on October 7.

The worst of the anti-semetic slurs was, "I support Hamas, you f-king Jew," which is alleged to have come from a Roosevelt Girls Basketball player. The game was cancelled during the 3rd Quarter, and security walked off members of The Leffell School.

One of the players for The Leffell School, a private, Jewish school in Westchester, wrote a letter for their school newspaper detailing what happened.

"Throughout the first half of our game against Roosevelt High School in Yonkers, there was a somewhat hostile environment, with substantially more jabs and comments thrown at the players on our team than what I have experienced in the past. Despite this, our team chose to let their aggressiveness fuel us going into the second half of the game, as we continued to play passionately.

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MGM Resorts Unveils Vision for Empire City Casino-Yonkers if Full Scale Gaming Approved



A 5,000 seat entertainment venue are part of MGM plans for a new Casino in Yonkers

MGM Resorts International recently unveiled its vision to transition Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts into a world-class entertainment destination, MGM Empire City, if awarded a commercial casino license for its historic Yonkers, New York site. Key elements of the phase one design include a comprehensive casino floor redevelopment and expansion, 5,000-capacity entertainment venue, state-of-the-art BetMGM sportsbook, food and beverage outlets by celebrated chefs, cocktail bars and lounges, technologically advanced meeting spaces and more.

MGM Empire City's plans feature a complete property redevelopment shifting from a video lottery terminal racino into a full-scale commercial casino with live-dealer table games, the newest slot machines and a high-limit gaming area for the most discerning casino guests. The design includes the addition of several new destination dining experiences, including a modern steakhouse.

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If Bowman Beats Latimer, Could a Republican Beat Bowman?



Jeanine Pirro



Congressman Jamaal Bowman

By Dan Murphy

The race for Congress in Westchester between Congressman Jamaal Bowman and County Executive George Latimer will be one of the most watched democratic primaries in the country. Whoever wins the democratic primary for Congress in the 16th district of NY, (lower and mid-Westchester) in June, they will represent the democratic primary in November 2024.

Voters in the 16th district-NY have elected a democratic to represent them for the past 30+ years. Congressman Bowman has represented the 16th for four years. Before that, Congressman Eliot Engel served for 28 years.

The political question that some are asking is, if Bowman defeats Latimer, can a republican beat Bowman? Has Bowman angered, turned off, or disap-

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Westchester's First Baby New Year-2024!



Congratulations to Alaysia Miller, left, who gave birth to Adrien Miller on New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2024, at 12:47 a.m., at New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital. Baby Adrien weighed 8 pounds, 11.2 oz, and 20 inches. Both mother and son are healthy and happy.

Yorktown Mourns the Passing of Town Supervisor Tom Diana



Yorktown Supervisor Tom Diana

Yorktown Supervisor Tom Diana passed away on Jan. 5 at the age of 66. Last November, Diana was elected Town Supervisor and had just started his term. He had previously served on the Town Board.

Deputy Supervisor Ed Lachterman released the following statement on the death of Supervisor Thomas Diana: "With deep sorrow and a profound sense of loss for his wife Donna, his family and friends, and the entire Town of Yorktown, we regret to inform you of the tragic news that Yorktown Town Supervisor Tom Diana passed away this morning. Tom was an incredible friend to so

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Congressman Lawler Updates Press Policy for His Town Hall Events



Congressman Mike Lawler released the following statement regarding an update to his press policy at town halls:

“During my first year in Congress, I have accepted more interview requests from the press than many of my colleagues in the state of New York, and have regularly granted television, radio, podcast, and print interviews on a wide range of topics.

I’ve also hosted thousands of constituents of the 17th Congressional District at public town hall meetings and mobile office hours in all four counties of my district. In doing so, I have been sought to be more open and accessible than my predecessors.

In an effort to make those town halls as hospitable and welcoming as possible to my constituents, our office put in place a policy that prohibited members of the press, who were not constituents, from attending, and requested that no cameras be used during the town hall.

The goal was to prevent these town halls from being hijacked by out-of-district political grandstanders desperately searching for a viral video clip, and instead geared towards hearing directly from constituents with serious questions or concerns.

Upon reflection, while well-intentioned, these rules could have been explained and implemented in a better way. To that end, effective immediately, I am making the following changes:

Officially credentialed members of the press will be allowed regardless of their residency, so long as they register with my staff ahead of time.

Cameras and recording devices operated by members of the credentialed press will also be allowed without restriction.

At the conclusion of each town hall, and after I have had an opportunity to engage with all constituents seeking to speak with me, I will hold a press gaggle and take questions.

Our rule allowing only 17th District constituents to attend will still be enforced. New York's 17th Congressional District is just north of New York City and contains all or parts of Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, and Westchester Counties.

Music Has Power in Senior Wellness and Healthcare: Best Practices from Music Therapy



Dr. Concetta Tomaino and music therapy client

For the first time, Dr. Concetta Tomaino, pictured left, a pioneer in the field of music therapy, shares more than 40 years of clinical and research experience—not just with Music Therapists but also with healthcare leaders, clinicians, and direct care staff. The book, *Music Has Power® in Senior Wellness and Healthcare: Best Practices from Music Therapy* is now available for sale.

With chapters on mental health and wellness, dementia, movement rehabilitation (for stroke and Parkinson’s disease) and speech rehabilitation (for aphasia) this comprehensive and friendly practice guide will help everyone on the team use music therapy best practices to provide better, more fulfilling caregiving, across all senior healthcare settings.

While music activities are ever present in most care settings, these activities don’t provide the therapeutic benefits that are possible with music therapy-informed interventions and programs. Today best practices from music therapy are transforming dementia care, and have the potential to improve healthcare—and health—for older people, whatever their needs, wherever they receive care.

Dr. Concetta Tomaino is the Executive Director, and co-founder (with renowned neurologist and author, Oliver Sacks) of the Institute for Music and Neurologic Function (IMNF). Internationally known for her research in the clinical applications of music and neurologic rehabilitation, Dr. Tomaino received the United Nations’ Music Therapists for Peace Award of Accomplishment, and her work has been featured on 48 Hours, 60 Minutes, and internationally on the BBC and CBC. Connie Tomaino is a visionary and leader in the field of music therapy, and here she shares her vast knowledge and clinical experiences with the rest of us in this compelling book. From senior care facilities, to drum circles, rehabilitation, and personal wellness, *Music Has Power* provides an overview of best practices and the latest knowledge on the therapeutic potential of music.

Dr. David Gentner, President and CEO of Wartburg, who wrote the book’s forward, said “We are very excited to be part of the book release and the next steps in developing complimentary educational programming.”

Plans are in motion to translate the book into a certification program that can be accessed virtually and in person. Visit imnf.org for more information.



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Mayor Mike Spano
Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation

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BY MGM RESORTS

Weekend Events at Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, JAN. 13

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7282
Animal Interactions, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Do you want a more up-close view of our animals? Join us for a private experience and enter one of our enclosures where you will see, touch and learn more about an animal of the farmer's choice. Also: Feb. 10, March 9.

Get details and pre-register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/animal-interactions-tickets-773107303757>

Miller House, 140 Virginia Road, White Plains: (914) 428-1005
Miller House Open House, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Drop in to visit the former home of the Ann and Elijah Miller family, an average colonial Westchester family whose lives were changed forever when Gen. Washington and his army fought for American independence.

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268
Winter Art, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Have some wintry fun with snowflakes that won't melt.
Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/winter-art/>

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720
Animals in Hibernation, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Where do animals go during the winter? Join us for this program about types of hibernation for different animals found here in the sanctuary.

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

Wildflower Paper Workshop, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Let's recycle paper and give it new life! Together we can make our own custom wildflower seed cardstock, which will be perfect for art projects and can be planted to create a beautiful spring garden instead of being recycled.

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851
Invasive Vine Basket Weaving, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Join us for a chance to learn simple basket weaving while supporting the ecology of the preserve. We will forage for our weaving materials by cutting back invasive vines, then sit in a warm spot to construct our very own baskets. For ages 12 and older; an indoor/outdoor program.

Feeder Watch at Lenoir Preserve with Hudson River Audubon Society

All are welcome. We sit inside a cozy room in the Lenoir Preserve Nature Center and watch birds come to the outdoor feeders. A great way to learn about backyard birds, if you're not familiar with them. A citizen science project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Hot drinks and snacks served, too.

Multiple dates:

Saturday, January 13, 10AM - Noon

Sunday, January 14, 2PM - 4PM

Saturday, January 27, 10AM - Noon

Sunday, January 28, 2PM - 4PM

Cost: Free

Winter Birds Field Trip with Hudson River Audubon Society | Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 8 AM Meet at Pelham Bay Park at 8 AM; far left corner of the Orchard Beach parking lot. We will search the woods and water for winter birds. American Wigeon, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser should be in the bays.

Lenoir Preserve 19 Dudley Street, Yonkers, NY 10701

Antisemitism: Yes, it has Existed in Westchester and Yonkers



By Eric Wolf Schoen

In large part fueled by what is going on in the Middle East, Antisemitism has reared its ugly head again throughout the United States and other parts of the world. This is particularly true in areas such as New York and places where there are large Jewish populations. Jewish College students are afraid to go to class, Jewish teachers have every word they say monitored, and Jews are afraid to leave their homes for fear of attack.

I planned on writing about antisemitism that members of my family and I have experienced dating back to before I was born in an article in these newspapers. But when you live in an area chock full of news and information that people need to know about, you first want to share that news that affects the population you are writing for and put broader topics like antisemitism off to the side.

Then you have an incident like what occurred Thursday at a basketball game between Yonkers Public Schools students from Roosevelt High School in Yonkers and Leffell School in Hartsdale, formerly the Solomon Schechter school. It reminds you to never forget about important topics that hit close to home in your life and never put them to the side.

Allegations were made and substantiated that one Roosevelt High School student said 'Free Palestine' during the game. That student was suspended from the basketball team. Another allegation was made that a Roosevelt student said, 'I support Hamas you (expletive) Jew.'

Another published account has Roosevelt students shouting other antisemitic slurs and curses and 'Free Palestine' at Leffell School players.

Glad to see the Yonkers Public School district took quick action on the student with the substantiated comment. If investigation finds more students made antisemitic remarks, those students need to be dismissed from the team per the District Code of Conduct and the rest of the teams games need to be cancelled. The Coach of the Roosevelt team was suspended from the team and the public needs to know why this occurred.

The District must continue its investigations, but an outside party needs to be brought in from the State Education Department or the section basketball organization to review what went on here and to be sure the district response is appropriate. I agree with the restorative Justice circle outlined by the Interim Superintendent of Schools and that this incident can be used as a 'teachable moment.' However, those students or district staff who acted improperly must be sanctioned.

The investigation must determine why no Yonkers Public School participates in the Anti Defamation League's 'No Place for Hate' anti bias program a reported 75 schools in Westchester do. The answer to that as a former student and Administrator in the district could be that Yonkers never experienced this problem in the past. When I graduated high school in 1978 the district was 50% white and 50% minority, black and Hispanic. Everyone got along, and though it is over 40 years ago the district never had or has had problems like what occurred on Thursday.

State Senator Shelley Mayer's comment that an initial statement she saw from the school district that wasn't shared publicly minimized the impact of the incident also needs investigation from an outside source to see who generated the statement. In light of the antisemitism currently going on in the world

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Mordance Ballet Company Relocates to Yonkers



MorDance, the trailblazing ballet company renowned for pushing artistic boundaries and fostering impactful social change, is delighted to announce its exciting relocation to the vibrant city of Yonkers. This strategic move marks a pivotal moment in MorDance's history, opening doors to expanded opportunities, heightened community engagement, and the realization of the company's long-term vision.

Founded in NYC in 2014, MorDance has consistently challenged ballet's traditional structures to embody a more inclusive and diverse vision of the artform. Now, as MorDance sets its sights on Yonkers, the company is poised to infuse the city with its unique blend of contemporary ballet and artistic innovation.

Founder and Artistic Director, Morgan McEwen, expressed her enthusiasm for the move, stating, "Yonkers offers a vibrant cultural landscape, and we are eager to contribute to its artistic tapestry. Our relocation is not just about finding a new home for MorDance; it's about building bridges through the transformative power of ballet. We believe in the ability of the arts to inspire, connect, and enrich lives, and we are thrilled to embark on this journey in Yonkers."

Through the generosity of AMS Acquisitions, MorDance will take up temporary residence in an extraordinary 12,000-square-foot venue in the heart of downtown Yonkers overlooking the Hudson River. The company perceives this incredible opportunity as a prelude to establishing a lasting legacy and forever home in Yonkers. This interim space will serve as a dynamic platform for MorDance to immerse itself in the local community, cultivate a new more expansive audience base, and launch outreach initiatives.

Looking ahead, MorDance envisions the establishment of a 200-seat black box theater and rehearsal space. More than a mere venue, the center will embody the company's core values of community, creativity, and collaboration. This ambitious project reflects MorDance's commitment to leaving an indelible mark on the cultural landscape of Yonkers.

MorDance's plans for the upcoming year are nothing short of ambitious. The company is set to unveil an expanded and captivating programming lineup, promising audiences an immersive and unforgettable ballet experience.

As the Hudson River Museum's Spring/Summer 2024 Teaching Artist In Residence, MorDance is thrilled to collaborate with the Museum on multiple public events and performances inspired by the exhibition Rivers Flow/Artists Connect.

MorDance will kick off its first Yonkers performance season from April 30 to May 4, followed by its long-standing NYC season at New York Live Arts in Manhattan. The company plans to open its rehearsals to the public regularly in Yonkers, and anticipates launching a series of free outdoor performances in the summer of 2024. MorDance is excited to expand its outreach programs into the Yonkers and Westchester communities while maintaining its current programs in NYC.

MorDance's mission is rooted in fostering a more dynamic and inclusive future for the performing arts by enhancing accessibility and creating empowered environments for creative expression. MorDance invites the Yonkers community and beyond to join them in this thrilling new chapter. Visit MorDance.org for more information.

Local Anesthesiologist Arrested; Alleged to Have Drugged, Assaulted Female Patient



Dr. Paul Giacopelli

Putnam County Sheriff Kevin J. McConville reports the arrest of a Southeast man for a series of sexual assault incidents that took place in the last month.

On December 29, 2023, Sheriff's Investigators were alerted to the fact that a female victim, who was known to the suspect, had been given anesthesia without her knowledge and was subsequently sexually assaulted. Through interviews with the victim, it was learned that the suspect was an Anesthesiologist with access to various drugs.

On December 30th, Investigators interviewed and arrested 59-year-old Paul M. Giacopelli for 4 counts of Sexual Abuse in the 1st degree and Assault in the 2nd degree, both felonies.

He was arraigned in the Town of Southeast Court and remanded to the Putnam County Correctional Facility on \$150,000 cash bail or \$500,000 bond.

Mr. Giacopelli was currently employed by Northwell Health with privileges at Putnam Hospital Center. Anyone with further information about him or his instance is asked to contact the Putnam County Sheriff's Office at (845) 808-4377. All calls will be kept confidential.

Letter to the Editor

As a former Yonkers Public Schools teacher who made respect for others through exposure a goal in my classes, I am appalled and disgusted at the behavior of the basketball players who blatantly used antisemitic remarks against the players from the Leffel School.

My question? Why isn't antisemitism being addressed universally in the Yonkers public schools.

I feel strongly that the horrific behavior of the students involved Must Not continue. It is the job of all those who have contact with the students to keep them all safe and to be respectful to others.

After I retired, the district ran an amazing program I was involved with which was about the Holocaust. It taught understanding and respect for those who are different and who learned so much from horrific experiences they went through.

As a Jewish teacher in a district where there are so few Jewish children it is so important for students to learn, understand and respect others.

If this behavior is allowed to continue, Jews today-who will be next?

WR Hollander
White Plains

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State Police Arrested Driver for DWI & Possession of 36 Pounds of Marijuana



On December 22, 2023, the New York State Police from the Poughkeepsie barracks arrested Eric Huang, age 33, of Brooklyn, NY, for Driving While Intoxicated and Unclassified misdemeanor, and Criminal Possession of Cannabis in the 1st degree, a class D felony.

Troopers conducted a traffic stop of a 2008 Acura MDX on the Taconic State Parkway in the town of Pleasant Valley for violations of the vehicle and traffic law. Investigation determined the operator, Eric Huang, was operating the vehicle while impaired and he was subsequently arrested. Further investigation determined he was in illegal possession of over 36 pounds of cannabis.

Huang was issued an appearance ticket returnable to the town of Pleasant Valley Court this month.

Letter to the Editor:

We noted those substantial raises for the Mayor & the Council members. We noted the the Mayor's salary had not increased for (20) years. Look!

“FIRST PAY RAISE FOR YONKERS CITY COUNCIL IN 10 YEARS & FOR MAYOR IN 20 YEARS, UNDER REVIEW”

AND! Look.

“Value of \$1 from 2003 to 2023

\$1 in 2003 is equivalent in purchasing power to about \$1.67 today, an increase of \$0.67 over 20 years. The dollar had an average inflation rate of 2.59% per year between 2003 and today, producing a cumulative price increase of 66.88%.”

This means that today's prices are 1.67 times as high as average prices since 2003, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics consumer price index. A dollar today only buys 59.880% of what it could buy back then.”

Let me write this about that “raise”. It was long overdue.

Mayor Spano has done a terrific job putting our city on the map. Our population is finally increasing. Housing, new retail stores, a major film studio, etc., have evolved under his leadership. My wife and I were down at the YoFi Festival recently. It was a grand success. The new construction by the Library is most impressive! Etc.! Etc.!

And, if you haven't noticed, we are also having a rip roaring inflation going on. In addition, with higher gross income....Uncle Sam is there with his large hand out!

Q.E.D. (Q.E.D. is an acronym for the Latin phrase quod erat demonstrandum, a fancy way to show off you just logically proved something.)

Happy New Year to all
Hilary Duncanson/Yonkers

NYS Police Make Drug Arrest on I-684 in Harrison; Crack Cocaine & Heroin Seized



On December 22, 2023, the New York State Police while patrolling Interstate 684 in the town of Harrison stopped a 2022 Jeep for multiple violations of the New York vehicle and traffic law. Investigation determined the operator, Sidney A. Gershenov, age 34, of Armonk, NY, was in possession of approximately 1.2 grams of crack-cocaine, and passenger, Katherine E. Oliver, age 35, of Chappaqua, NY, possessed approximately 11.8 grams of cocaine, 6.8 grams of heroin, and 2.4 grams of Alprazolam.

Sidney Gershenov was arrested for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 5th degree, a class D felony. Katherine Oliver was arrested for Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 2nd degree, a class A-II Felony, Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd degree, a class B felony, and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 7th degree, a class A misdemeanor.

Both subjects were arraigned before the town court of Harrison. Sidney Gershenov was released on his own recognizance, and Katherine Oliver was remanded to the Westchester County Jail.

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Notice of Real Estate Auction**By Order of the City of New Rochelle**

Notice is hereby given by the City of New Rochelle (the "City") of the public auction of the surplus City property listed below, which is in New Rochelle, NY.

The public auction will take place January 29 beginning at 10:00 AM and will end January 31 at 12:30 PM.

Bid online only at www.auctionnetwork.com.

The auction will be conducted in accordance with, and all bidders agree to be bound to, the terms and conditions of the auction and sale.

In Rem Auction Property

Parcel ID 1227-0017

Address 55 Walnut Street

WilliamsAuction.com/NewRochelle

800.801.8003

Philip R. Heiliger Re Lic 10311207661

Williams & Williams Re Lic 109911428

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

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

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

Notice of formation of Say Say Mwah, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/31/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY, designated as agent of the Notice of Formation of 326 PROSPECT AVE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 03/24/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Brian Caldwell at 130 Franklin Avenue, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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

Formation of TAQUERIA MARQUITO, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/8/2023 with formation date of 1/1/2024. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Lundy, Beldecos & Milby, P.C., 450 N. Narberth Ave., Ste. 200, Narberth, PA 19072. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

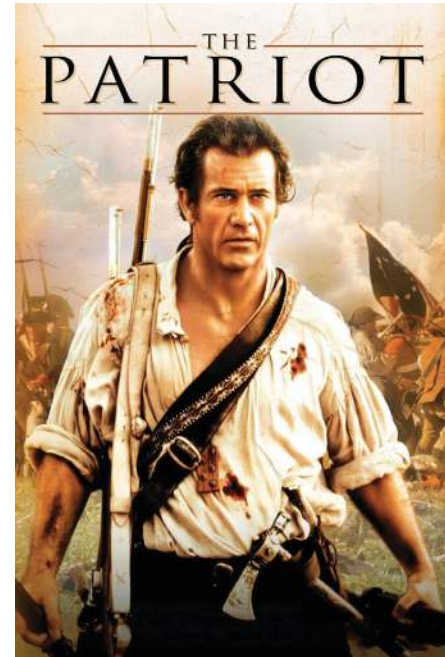
Formation of EVERYBODY EATS FOOD GROUP, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/8/2023 with formation date of 1/1/2024. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Lundy, Beldecos & Milby, P.C., 450 N. Narberth Ave., Ste. 200, Narberth, PA 19072. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

Ana Lucia Nail Lounge LLC, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 1/8/24.. Office: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 115 Chelsea Street Hawthorne, NY 10532. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Philipse Manor Hall Hosts Historians for Commentary on Revolutionary War Movie

Historians discuss accuracy of "The Patriot" (2000)



Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site and the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall are pleased to host "Historian and A Movie: The Patriot" on Friday, January 19, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

If you could think of one Hollywood movie about the American Revolution, it's probably this one, for better or worse. "The Patriot" (2000, 165 mins, R) follows the fictional story of a veteran of the French and Indian Wars and his family as they are reluctantly pulled into the American Revolution. Set in South Carolina, it includes graphic depictions of the brutality of war. We'll hear from historians Michael McGurty and Chad Johnson of New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site, as they reveal the accuracies and inaccuracies of the film's depiction of the American Revolution. This film is rated R and is not recommended for young or sensitive audiences.

The Historian & A Movie is a program series in which Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Sites invites historians and subject experts to give commentary on popular Hollywood films with historical subjects. The program occurs monthly on Friday evenings.

This program is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Seating is first-come, first-served. Refreshments provided by the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall. Registration is recommended, but not required. Register at <https://www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events/historian-a-movie-the-patriot>.

A Soft Delicate Flower by Kae, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 1/3/24. Office location: Peekskill County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1840 Crompond Road Peekskill NY 10566. Purpose: any lawful act.

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

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

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

Westchester Rising

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Tom Diana, continued from pg 1-

Home Sales in Westchester-Putnam-Dutchess Down by 23%

Opportunities and challenges marked the fourth quarter real estate landscape in Westchester, Putnam, and Dutchess counties. Notably, the market saw a continued decline in home sales by approximately 21% on average, primarily due to persistent low inventory levels over the past few years, according to the Houlihan Lawrence Westchester-Putnam-Dutchess Q4 Market Report released today. The report said that despite the sales decline, median sale prices increased across most markets, on average 9%, offering sellers favorable returns

In the Westchester County market, single-family home sales for 2023 were down 23.7 percent from 2022 while median sale prices were up 4.3 percent. The Putnam County market reported sales down 25 percent compared to 2022 and median sale prices down just 1 percent. Dutchess County sales declined 21.2 percent compared to 2022 with median sale prices up 3.4 percent.

“Amidst the inventory scarcity, we continue to benefit from the diverse offerings of recreation, cultural amenities, and vibrant communities our region has to offer. Most areas have sustained heightened demand across all price points, further fueling the competitive buyer environment,” said Liz Nunan, President and CEO of Houlihan Lawrence. “However, a small sign of change has emerged with a slight uptick in inventory observed in select luxury markets, though this remains an exception rather than the norm,” Nunan added.

Looking ahead the report noted that recent statements from the Federal Reserve indicating a potential reduction in interest rates in mid-2024 may serve as a catalyst, prompting more buyers and sellers to enter the market and start to alleviate the inventory shortage.

Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess Markets at a Glance (2023 vs 2022)

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Homes Sold: Down 23.7% Median Sale Price: Up 4.3%

New York City Gateway (Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Pelham, and Yonkers) Homes Sold: Down 18%-Median Sale Price: Up 1%

Lower Westchester (Bronxville, Eastchester, Edgemont, Scarsdale, and Tuckahoe) Homes Sold: Down 24%- Median Sale Price: No Change

Rivertowns (Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, Mount Pleasant, Pleasantville, Tarrytown, Briarcliff Manor, Elmsford, Irvington Ossining, and Pocantico Hills) Homes Sold: Down 23%- Median Sale Price: Up 9%

Greater White Plains (Greenburgh, Valhalla and White Plains)

Homes Sold: Down 30% Median Sale Price: Up 9%

Sound Shore (Blind Brook, Harrison, Mamaroneck, Port Chester, Rye City and Rye Neck) Homes Sold: Down 27%- Median Sale Price: Up 5%

Northern Westchester

(Bedford, Byram Hills, Chappaqua, Katonah-Lewisboro, North Salem and Somers) Homes Sold: Down 22%- Median Sale Price: Up 1%

Northwest Westchester (Croton-on-Hudson, Hendrick Hudson, Lakeland, Peekskill and Yorktown)

Homes Sold: Down 28%- Median Sale Price: Up 6%

PUTNAM COUNTY

(Brewster, Carmel, Garrison, Haldane, Lakeland, Mahopac and Putnam Valley)

Homes Sold: Down 25%

Median Sale Price: Down 1%

For more information visit: <http://www.houlihanlawrence.com/> |

many. He was filled with energy, an open mind and heart, and a sense of duty and that influenced everything he did.

The Yorktown Republican Town Committee said, “We are devastated to report the passing of Yorktown Town Supervisor Tom Diana. Tom was a true public servant, having served as a Police Officer in Yorktown, the Town of Cortlandt and Westchester County Police Departments. He also served as a Town Councilman prior to his election as Town Supervisor. Our sincere condolences go to his wife Donna, his children and grandchildren.”

His Obituary reads, “Thomas Paul Diana of Shrub Oak, New York, passed away on Friday, January 5, 2024 at the age of 66. Thomas was born to the late Henry Paul Diana, and Maurine Audra Power Diana. He was born and raised in Shrub Oak, New York where he proudly continued to live and serve.

“Thomas graduated from Lakeland High School in 1975. He then started his long career in public service as Putnam County Deputy Sheriff. After serving for Putnam County, he transferred to Yorktown, New York Police Department as a part of the K9 Unit. Succeeding his employment there he transferred to the town of Cortlandt Police Department, where he became Patrol Commander Sergeant. Thomas then finished his law enforcement career in the Westchester County Police Department, retiring in March 2005.

“Thomas was a successful small business owner. During this time Thomas served as town Councilman for Yorktown for seven years. He became the interim Town Supervisor for Yorktown and then was overwhelmingly elected as the current Yorktown Town Supervisor in November 2023.

“Thomas never met a stranger he didn’t know and loved talking to people. He would drop everything to help anyone in need. He had a quick wit and beautiful, blue eyes that lit up the room. Thomas had a jovial smile and laugh that made everyone happy whenever he was near. Outside of his law, small business, and political ventures, Thomas enjoyed many hobbies. His favorite being drag racing. He was a momentous part and supporter of Guiding Eyes for the Blind. He socialized, pups and successfully raised a graduate pup named Nacho. Thomas loved the sea and sky. He was an avid boater and a licensed boat captain. Thomas also received his pilot’s license.

“Thomas loved community service and was an integral part of initiating the Yorktown Against Heroin Program. He had a passion for socializing, meeting new people, and serving his community. Thomas was a member of many organizations including The Yorktown Elks, Circolo DaVinci Italian Club, and Sons of the American Legion. His love of this was evident in his everyday life. He loved his family and adored his grandchildren.

“Thomas is survived by his devoted, loving wife Donna, daughter Megan, her husband, William, their children, Emma Marie and Gracie Lynn, his daughter, Brianna, her husband, Steven, and their children, Penelope Rose and Daisy Row. Family and friends will honor the life of Thomas at Yorktown Funeral Home on Monday, January 8 from 2 to 9 PM mass of Christian burial will be held on Tuesday 11:15am at St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Church, with a burial to follow at Assumption Cemetery in Cortlandt Manor New York.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Tom Diana to Guiding Eyes for the Blind <http://donate.guidingeyes.org/donate>.

County Executive George Latimer said, “It is with deep sorrow that I extend my heartfelt condolences on the passing of Yorktown Town Supervisor Tom Diana. Supervisor Diana’s dedicated service to our community, marked by his tenure as a former Westchester County Police Officer, leaves an indelible impact on the lives he touched. His commitment to public service and his leadership will be remembered with gratitude. In this time of grief, our thoughts and prayers are with Supervisor Diana’s family, friends and the entire Yorktown community as we mourn the loss of a respected public servant.”

Congressman Mike Lawler said, “I’m heartbroken to hear of Tom’s passing. Over the past few years, I have gotten to know and work closely with Tom. He worked tirelessly on behalf of the people of Yorktown and was dedicated to the cause of public service. His passing is not only a loss for the Yorktown community and his colleagues in government, but for his family, especially his wife Donna. We are keeping them all in our prayers. God Bless the Diana family.”

Assemblyman Matt Slater said, “Supervisor Tom Diana was a true public servant who was proud to call Yorktown his home. He was a terrific police officer and dedicated himself to serving the people of Yorktown on the Town Board. This is a true tragedy and a profound loss for our community. My prayers are with his wife Donna and his family.”

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Three New Legislators Join Westchester County Board



(L-R Bottom Row: Leg. Colin Smith, Leg. Benjamin Boykin, Leg. Erika Pierce, Leg. Nancy Barr, Leg. Catherine Parker; Middle Row: Leg. Shanae Williams, Leg. Emiljana Ulaj, Leg. Judah Holstein, Leg. Jewel Williams Johnson, Leg. David Imamura; Top Row: Min. Leader Margaret Cunzio, Maj. Whip Terry Clements, Vice Chair Jose Alvarado, Chair Vedat Gashi, Maj. Leader Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, Min. Whip James Nolan (Not Pictured Leg. David Tubiolo)

On November 7, 2023, three new Legislators were elected to represent Westchester residents in County Legislative Districts 9, 10, and 16. Legislator Emiljana Ulaj (D - Cortlandt, Ossining, Croton, Briarcliff, Buchanan), Legislator Judah Holstein (D - Eastchester, New Rochelle, Tuckahoe), and Legislator Shanae Williams (D - Yonkers) will be officially sworn in at the Board’s Organizational meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., along with the 14 current Legislators. The Oath of Office will be administered by Westchester County Clerk, the Honorable Timothy C. Itoni, in the Board Chamber at 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains.

Legislator Emiljana Ulaj said, “Public service and government is about creating the conditions for residents to thrive and self-actualize. Every step we take, every priority we advance, will be done with that goal in mind. As an immigrant and a refugee, the weight of the responsibility of this role is never lost on me. I look forward to working together with my County Legislative colleagues--For The People.”

Ulaj and her family fled Albania in 1997 in the midst of a civil war. After nearly a year spent as refugees, the family emigrated to the United States where they were granted asylum. They settled in Northern Westchester, and Emiljana’s parents worked multiple jobs to ensure a stable family life. Her father found a union job at a local public school that provided health insurance for the whole family and financial security for the children to go to college and pursue fulfilling careers. Seizing on this opportunity, Emiljana began a career focused on public service. Today, Ulaj works as a union organizer for New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), the union that gave her family so much. Having worked as a hands-on public advocate, staff member for the New York State Senate, and currently as a union organizer, Emiljana looks forward to advocating for others on the County Board of Legislators. She is a graduate of John Jay High School in Cross River and Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson. Her work history includes serving as Director of Communications & Strategic Planning for State Senator Shelley B. Mayer, Communications Specialist for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 32BJ, and Regional Political Organizer for NYSUT.

Legislator Judah Holstein said, “I have always been a fair and objective listener, helping people understand different viewpoints and bringing people together. People appreciate being heard and being treated with respect, even in a disagreement. I look forward to representing District 10 and working with my colleagues at the Board of Legislators to find effective solutions to the challenges we all face.” Holstein is a lifelong District 10 resident and a graduate of Iona College, Judah was raised in the Bonnie Crest neighborhood of New Rochelle. His wife, Jackie, grew up in Eastchester but was born in New Rochelle and traces her New Rochelle roots back four generations. Judah and his family live in Eastchester, where his three children all attended public school.

Judah began his career as a respected software developer in the corporate world, and founded his small software company, Miracom Computer Corp., in 1995. He has a long history of community involvement, including three terms on the Eastchester School Board beginning in 2013, where he worked to ensure the best possible public education through advocacy, vision, communication, and balance. Throughout his tenure, he has consistently advocated for the residents of Eastchester and their children, exercised responsible budget oversight, fostered constructive dialogue to build consensus and achieve outcomes, and prioritized transparency and diplomacy. In addition to his three terms on the School Board, he has served on the boards of three local PTAs.

Legislator Shanae Williams said, “I am honored to represent the 16th district and look forward to working on issues that matter most to my constituents, including housing, quality of life, and mental health. As an immigrant from a big family, I have always looked to understand different perspectives and bring people together.”

Williams was born in Jamaica, immigrated to Yonkers as a child, and attended the Westchester public school system. Williams holds a Bachelor of Science from the State University of New York at Albany and holds the highest GPA Award for the Class of 2011 in the Department of Sociology. Williams interned and then served in the New York State Assembly. Upon graduating from college, Shanae worked full-time at the Office of the Mayor of Yonkers. She obtained her Master of Business Administration with a focus in Leadership from Walden University in 2015. Williams was appointed to the Yonkers City Council on January 1, 2018 and subsequently elected to the Council in 2019, where she represented the First Council District.

Williams was the City Council’s liaison for the Yonkers Human Rights Commission, and Chair of the Community and Mental Health Committee, Women and Children Committee, and the former chair of the Legislation and Codes Committee. Williams has been a leader in advocating for more affordable housing in Yonkers and a strong advocate for the homeless community in downtown Yonkers. She looks forward to continuing her work for the residents of the City of Yonkers in her new role as County Legislator for District 16.

Chairman Vedat Gashi (D- New Castle, Somers, Yorktown) said, “We are excited to begin the 2024-2025 Legislative term by welcoming a strong freshman cohort of three duly elected Legislators. I look forward to hearing their unique perspectives and ideas as we collaborate as a body to move forward for the benefit of their districts and all of Westchester County.”

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Con Edison's Scholar-Athlete of the Week: Stella Perini-Harrison High School



By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to Stella Perini, a senior at Harrison High School, for being named a Con Edison Scholar Athlete of the week. Stella has starred on the Harrison HS basketball, Soccer and Lacrosse teams.

Perini was a key component to the Harrison HS Girls Basketball team that made it to the State finals. In three recent basketball games, Stella recorded a double-double, averaging 16 points and 10 rebounds. She has been named all league in basketball three times, and a three time all league player in Lacrosse.

Stella has served as an English tutor for Ukrainian students separated from their families, and as a leader in Backyard sports, for students with severe physical and mental disabilities.

Perini served as School Government President, and as a member of the Athletic Council, National Honors Society, Math Team and Spanish Club.

Stella will graduate with a 97.38 GPA, and is enrolled in the IB program at HHS.

"Stella is committed to her studies and is most certainly an academic," said HHS Counselor Kelly Malczewski. "Stella has challenged herself with higher level Physics and Calculus courses. As an IB Diploma candidate, she has been highly successful in her classes."

"She is also highly involved in the school's DECA Club (Business Club) and travels regionally and nationally for business competitions."

"Stella is a regional qualifier for her science research project on the affects of CTE (Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy)"

Stepinac HS Students Mobilize for SOUPER Bowl, to Help Address Food Insecurity Crisis



Stepinac's students who participated in last year's SOUPER Bowl Food Drive.

Continuing a 12-year tradition, Stepinac High School students are mobilizing their efforts in the school's single largest annual food drive, known as the SOUPER Bowl, to help Feeding Westchester meet its critically important mission.

When the campaign ends on February 9, the canned nutritious food items the students collect will be donated to the non-profit committed to "nourish our neighbors in the fight against hunger" in communities throughout Westchester. The timing of the SOUPER Bowl Food Drive helps to address low inventories of food items that food pantries experience following the holidays.

Last year, students of the renowned all-boys Catholic high school collected and donated more than 2,000 pounds of nutritious, non-perishable food item which made it possible for Feeding Westchester to provide about 2,000 meals to help feed children, seniors and families throughout the region.

On its website, www.FeedingWestchester.org, the nonprofit notes children and adults from all walks of life go hungry in every community. "Our programs are designed to address food insecurity when and where the need is greatest."

"Although Westchester is a wealthy area, wages remain low and stagnant for the working poor, and the cost of living continues to rise. With fixed expenses like rent and childcare, groceries are often the first family expense to be cut."

Underscoring the severity of food insecurity in the region, on average, every month Feeding Westchester serves 220,000 people, many of whom are children. In fiscal 2023, it distributed more than 21 million pounds of food, equal to more than 17 million meals.

When Fr. Thomas Collins (Class of '79), President, launched Stepinac's SOUPER Bowl in 2012, he said: "We knew the food pantries in this area would be depleted after Thanksgiving and Christmas so I challenged the students to meet the needs of the hungry." Year after year, Stepinac's students have continued to meet that challenge.

To learn more about Feeding Westchester and to make a donation to support its mission, visit www.FeedingWestchester.org.

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Learn more about New York State's commitment to climate action, including answers to common questions. Share your thoughts on state environmental legislation and initiatives with Assemblywoman Levenberg as the legislative session gets underway.

Thursday, January 25 at 7:00 PM
Ossining Public Library
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Man Charged with Attempted Murder of Ex-Girlfriend in Sleepy Hollow

Roosevelt HS, continued from pg 1-

The defendant allegedly forced his way into victim's home in violation of an order of protection before shooting her

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah and Sleepy Hollow Police Chief Anthony Bueti announced that a man has been arraigned after his arrest for attempted murder in the shooting of his ex-girlfriend in Sleepy Hollow.

DA Rocah said: "We will do everything we can do to support this victim who survived terrifying violence allegedly inflicted by a former intimate partner. I thank the Sleepy Hollow Police Department and our law enforcement partners for their efforts in locating and arresting this defendant as swiftly as possible."

Chief Bueti said: "I applaud all of our officers and detectives for the thorough investigation, and quick response, which helped to ensure there were no threats to the community or our schools. Our thoughts are with the victim and her family."

The defendant, Ruben Santiago, 38, was arrested on Jan. 3 by the Sleepy Hollow Police Department and arraigned before Judge Katherine Baldwin in Sleepy Hollow Village Court on felony charges of Attempted Murder in the Second Degree, Attempted Assault in the First Degree, Assault in the Second Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, and Aggravated Criminal Contempt. He was remanded to Westchester County Jail. His next court date is Jan. 22.

It is alleged that at approximately 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 2, the defendant, in violation of an order of protection, forcibly entered the Sleepy Hollow home of his ex-girlfriend, and shot her with a .38 caliber revolver. The victim, who suffered gunshot wounds to her neck and hand, is being treated at an area hospital for her injuries.

The Sleepy Hollow Police Department conducted the investigation, with the assistance of the FBI's Westchester Safe Streets Task Force, Westchester County's Real Time Crime Center, the Greenburgh Drug and Alcohol Task Force, the New York Police Department, and the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

and here at home, anyone who minimizes the incident needs to wake up and extensive sensitivity training. And to turn on the news.

Antisemitism has shed its ugly light on my family and I going back to the days my father owned a grocery store on Palmer Road where Palmer Lizzie's exists today close to Bronxville before I was born. Many of his customers were not use to dealing with a Jewish businessman. Mom was a student teacher in Bronxville, and in a village where there were no Jews quite often felt uncomfortable teaching in its' public schools.

Growing up there were swim and tennis clubs in Yonkers that did not let Jews join. They only let Jews in when they were about to go bankrupt to save the day. Same is true for at least 1 golf club.

The largest loss of life in a fire in Yonkers was at the Jewish Community Center on South Broadway across from St. Joseph's hospital. Close friends of the family died in the fire in which both Jews and non Jews perished. The fire, arson was in 1965. Is there any plaque on the site in memory of those who died. Nope!

I took a Civil Service test that had no qualifications other than a college degree for a position with the Yonkers Municipal Housing Authority. I scored high and was interviewed by a member of the Board that ran the authority. The lady belittled me so and questioned why I even showed up for the interview. I almost left in tears until I spoke with a neighbor who worked For the Authority who said Jews need not apply for jobs there. My uncle had another member of the Authority board as his gym teacher in high school and told me what an antisemite he was. That's why I always refer to Civil Service, an agency I went on to run as silly service.

Some say that part of the reason for the Yonkers Schools desegregation case was to break up clusters of Jewish students on the east side of Yonkers and to spread them around. When I went to work at the Board of Education the schools never had off Easter Monday but were closed most days of Passover and for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Every year I would get a call in my job as Press Secretary from a parent who would say the Jews got their holidays off why was the district not closed for Easter Monday. I had to remind them that Easter Monday is not a holiday.

There were certain sections in Yonkers where Jews, though it was unofficial were not allowed to live. Don't get me wrong the same was true for many ethnic, racial and religious groups. Fortunately I never experienced this but know of friends who did.

You won't find many Jews on Yonkers boards and commissions. Kudos to Mayor Spano for putting a highly qualified Jew on the Yonkers Board of Education which hasn't had a Jewish member in years. Take a look at the dedication plaques in many Yonkers schools and you will see many Jewish Board of Education members responsible for approving their building.

I'll leave you with two incidents, one with antisemitic overtones and one clearly antisemitic. I was called to meet with a high ranking City of Yonkers official during my tenure working at Yonkers City Hall. The official greeted me by telling me how he had worked with Jews in a previous job and how he was familiar with Judaism. This had nothing to do with why I was meeting with this official.

The others incident I remember clearly as if it was yesterday. I was the guest of an elected official from Yonkers who was running for statewide office at a campaign fundraiser at a major country club in Westchester. I checked my coat at the event and there was no sign of a charge. I came back to retrieve my coat and there was posted a sign for something crazy like \$5 per coat. I questioned the coat clerk if the sign was up at the beginning of the night. The clerk put a penny in the ash tray in front of me and gave me my coat and my mothers coat. A member of the club retrieving his coat laughed. My mother said to me welcome to the world of antisemitic country clubs in Westchester.

Yes, antisemitism has existed in WESTCHESTER and in Yonkers. Let's get what happened a week ago Thursday investigated and have those involved face the punishment they deserve. Let the County Executive bring all those involved in the section together, and let the Interim Superintendent of Schools proceed with his restorative Justice circles and sanction those who did wrong.

And let Yonkers once again be the City of Gracious Living!

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

However, all of that changed in the third quarter. Members of our team started to get injured from the other team's physical style of play. At the end of the quarter, players on the opposing team started shouting "Free Palestine" and other antisemitic slurs and curses at us.

"Attacking a team because of their school's religious association is never acceptable, but especially due to the current war in Israel and the world's rise in antisemitism, this felt extremely personal to me and many members of my team. I have played a sport every athletic season throughout my high school career, and I have never experienced this kind of hatred directed at one of my teams before.

"I was so impressed with my teammates for coming together and deciding that we did not want to continue this game after the third quarter, as it no longer felt respectful as the other team did not show sportsmanlike conduct. Instead of responding to hatred with more of the same, we chose to separate ourselves from the situation and leave with dignity and pride in who we are and what we believe in," wrote Robin Bosworth, Class of 24'

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and Yonkers Public Schools Interim Superintendent Dr. Luis Rodriguez issued the following statement on Jan. 7. "The Yonkers Public Schools along with the City of Yonkers sincerely apologize to the students and community of The Leffell School for the painful and offensive comments made to their women's basketball team during a recent game with Roosevelt High School-Early College Studies. Collectively, we do not and will not tolerate hate speech of any kind from our students and community. The antisemitic rhetoric reportedly made against the student athletes of The Leffell School are abhorrent, inappropriate and not in line with the values we set forth for our young people.

"As soon as the School Administration learned of the incident, an investigation was conducted involving game officials, coaches and students, including school officials from The Leffell School. After a thorough review of videos taken at the game and interviews with those who witnessed the incident, the Yonkers Public Schools dismissed the coach and one player from the Roosevelt basketball team. The investigation is ongoing. Should the District determine other students were involved in the incident, further action would be taken by the school District where appropriate.

Along with Mayor Spano's convening of religious, educational and civic leaders, Yonkers Public Schools also will administer further counseling and guided training sessions amongst the school community so to prevent this from happening again."

Westchester County Executive George Latimer has called for an Education Round Table. "Hate speech has no place in Westchester County and will not be tolerated. High school sports are meant for enjoyment, camaraderie and good sportsmanship. The recent incident goes against the spirit of fair play and unity that these games are intended to foster. I am now calling on all members of the community to come together and condemn such behavior, emphasizing that unity is paramount, especially in challenging times."

Congressman Jamaal Bowman said, "There is no place for antisemitism on the court, in our schools, or any other place in our society. The behavior and harmful rhetoric displayed during Thursday's game is unacceptable, and it's our job as parents and educators to teach against hate in all forms so our children can learn and do better... we must remember that Jewish Americans are not responsible for the actions of the Israeli government, just as Arab Americans are not responsible for the actions of Hamas.

State Senator Shelley Mayer said, "Antisemitism in Yonkers cannot be ignored- and it won't be. Thank you Mayor Mike Spano for responding and committing to following up with action. As a proud Yonkers resident and a Jewish elected official, I'm determined to take steps to ensure it doesn't happen again."

State Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, D-Scarsdale, wrote on X, formerly Twitter, said that the response from the Yonkers Public Schools lacked outrage. She called for "consequences" and a full investigation.

"The Jewish community is increasingly under attack, and we cannot allow antisemitism to be normalized," she wrote. "As New Yorkers, and Americans, we have a responsibility to look out for one another, and uphold tolerance and respect. I hold our school districts, and all people, to this higher standard, and demand more of a response."

In a statement released Monday morning, state Assemblywoman MaryJane Shimsky, D-Dobbs Ferry, whose district includes Hartsdale, said the alleged antisemitism was "deeply disturbing," and called for the New York State Board of Regents to join with the City of Yonkers and Yonkers City Schools in further investigating the matter.

The coach of the RHS Girls Basketball team who was fired, Brian Williams, has not been accused of participating in any of the comments made.

Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner wrote, "I plan to send the following to the New York State Board of Regents regarding troubling antisemitic conduct by a few members of the Roosevelt High School basketball team that impacted high school girl team members from the Leffell School in Hartsdale. I am asking the State Board of Regents to review, and expand, where appropriate, guidelines for Codes of Conduct required by the NYS Education Law for school districts and schools as to appropriate disciplinary actions for improper behavior on school grounds.

"No one should be subject to abuse and hate on the grounds of any school district in New York State because of their religion. As history has taught us, silence from good people, particularly silence from leaders, can lead to horrendous consequences."

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, "I am deeply saddened and disappointed to learn of the antisemitic comments at a high school basketball game in my district. Religious intolerance has no place in our society, and especially in our schools. I've dedicated my life to making sure every child has a right to attend school in a space which is safe from violence and hatred, and my heart goes out to the students and families of the Leffell School in the aftermath of this disturbing and upsetting incident. I join my fellow elected officials in calling on the New York State Board of Regents and the City of Yonkers to conduct a full investigation into the allegations, and I am encouraged that the Westchester County Human Rights Commission, which I worked to establish, will be investigating further to ensure appropriate action is taken."

AI Is Here! Business Council of Westchester Announces Bold New Initiative for 2024



Bargav Balakrishnan, VP of Industry Modernization, IBM

The Business Council of Westchester, the county's largest and most influential business membership organization, will devote much of its 2024 programming to artificial intelligence (AI).

The initiative is called AI Alliance 360°, and it is devoted to helping BCW members prepare for the opportunities that await in this latest technological revolution. AI Alliance 360° will consist of in-person and virtual events that will explore the technology's many implications with the goal of helping BCW members understand how they will be affected by AI's power.

"AI will be a disruptive economic force, just as the Internet revolution was in the past generation," said BCW president and CEO Marsha Gordon. "The growing adoption of AI will challenge all of us to reconsider our business models and pivot to new operations."

The BCW's year of AI begins on January 30 with AI Unveiled: Understanding and Navigating the Future of Intelligent Systems at Manhattanville College. The breakfast event features a coffee chat with Bargav Balakrishnan, VP of Industry Modernization, IBM and a Regeneron expert, followed by a Decoding AI Workshop with Nikhil Jagga of CMIT Solutions.

Subsequent AI-related events are scheduled throughout the year. Key events include:

- AI in Professional Services: Innovation and Integration
- Healing Horizons: Navigating AI in Healthcare's Transformative Technologies
- FutureEd: Harnessing the Power of AI in Academic Innovation
- Securing Tomorrow: AI in Cybersecurity and Technology
- AI Unleashed: Smart Insights and Innovations to Transforming Marketing Strategies

"We must become conversant about AI to ensure that we can harness its potential while having the proper safeguards in place within our organizations and networks. Through the AI Alliance 360° programming, the BCW aims to increase awareness of AI and its role in the future," said Gordon.

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 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 bid 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 RFB-7089 - Opening date: 1/26/2024: Purchase of Vulcan and Bakers Pride, or Yonkers approved equals, commercial kitchen equipment, 6 items (JH).
2. Bid IFB-7090 - Opening date: 2/16/2024: Replacement of the Pedestrian Bridge in Doyle Park located at 463 Walnut Street, Yonkers, New York 10701 (AC).
3. Bid IFB-7091 - Opening date: 2/16/2024: Windows, masonry, interior improvements, and site work at Family School 32 located at 1 Montclair Place, Yonkers, New York 10710 (MM).
4. Bid RFB-7092 - Opening date: 2/16/2024: Inside network cabling services for the 3rd, 9th, 10th, and 11th floors at 20 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York 10701 (DC).
5. RFP-485A - due date: 1/26/2024: On-call, multiple consultants, to provide multi-discipline engineering, architectural, and landscape design services for a 36-month term with the option to renew for 24-months (MM).

Can a Republican Beat Bowman, continued from pg 1-

pointed, enough democrats in the 16th district, that they would consider voting republican?

One of our Westchester democratic readers writes, "It has also been implied by some far-left Democrats that George Latimer's primary challenge may weaken Bowman if he is the Democratic nominee in the general election, but the experienced, centrist Latimer may actually be the Democratic Party's only chance to hold onto this Congressional Seat.

"Imagine if Bowman were the Democratic nominee and the Republican Party nominated former District Attorney and current Fox News panelist Jeanine Pirro.

"I have no idea if Ms. Pirro is planning to run against Jamaal Bowman, but if Donald Trump personally urged her to make the race...explaining how she could be a vital member of his Congressional team if he re-won the White House...do you really think she would decline?"

"Granted, that race would have all the subtle, understated dignity of a wrestling match in a steel cage ("Bowman the Showman" vs "Pristine Jeanine" "Going Bonkers in Yonkers!") with AOC and Laura Ingraham strutting across the square circle holding up cards between rounds and Rachel Maddow and Greg Gutfeld offering incisive sideline commentary, but unlike Dr Miriam Levitt Flisser, a 76-year-old physician and former Mayor of Scarsdale who got 36% of the vote against Bowman in 2022, skilled debater Pirro...backed by substantial contributions from across the country, and even internationally... might actually prevail.

"Republican candidates who nobody ever heard of defeated incumbents with less baggage than Jamaal Bowman to capture several Congressional districts in New York in 2022 that Joe Biden carried in 2020.

"For many Democrats, having to choose between Jamaal Bowman and Jeanine Pirro may be reminiscent of a question baseball broadcaster Vin Scully (I believe) asked his sidekick Joe Garagiola during the 1965 All-Star Game:

Vin queried, 'if you were a pitcher with the game on the line, would you rather pitch to Willie Mays...or Hank Aaron?'"

"And Joe replied, without missing a beat, 'that's like asking a guy going to the electric chair...do you prefer AC or DC?'"

"Can Democrats really not think 'Judge Jeanine' could pick off this allegedly safe seat?"

The Republican Party is clinging to a Congressional majority thinner than a slice of prosciutto at DeCicco's deli counter, further reduced by the expulsion of pants-on-fire liar George Santos and the Quixotic quitting of Speaker-for-a-day Kevin McCarthy. Hakeem Jeffries can't wait to order drapes for the Speaker's office.

"So, George Latimer's campaign is not only an effort to retain this Congressional seat...but to regain control of Congress. After all, isn't that what all Democrats...even members of the Squad...should work towards?" end of letter, name withheld.

In 2022, Rep. Bowman got 64.2% of the vote, with Dr Miriam Levitt Flisser with 35.7%. Bowman received 133,567 votes to 74,156 for Flisser. But in a Presidential year, the vote totals will be higher.

If the republican baseline is 36% in the district, can Pirro, or another big-name republican, flip 15% of the vote? That is a tall order, but the two big knocks on Bowman make it a possibility. His stance on Israel and his inability to connect with constituents.

Most believe that Pirro will not walk away from the Fox \$\$\$ to run for Congress. Pirro is a panelist of the Fox TV News-Talk Show "The Five" which is the #1 show on Cable.

But one democrat told us that if it were Bowman against an unknown republican, not Pirro, "I would consider voting for the other candidate, and I think that there are a lot of democrats in the district who feel the same way. That's why we must elect Latimer."

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Good Government Groups Call for More Transparency in Congressional Redistricting Process

The letter, which was sent on December 18, calls for the Independent Redistricting Commission to prioritize transparency and public input as it drafts a new Congressional map for the 2024 election cycle.

December 18, 2023

Ken Jenkins, Chair, Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair
Ross Brady, Esq., Yovan Samuel Collado
John Conway III, Esq., Dr. Ivelisse Cuevas-Molina
Dr. John Flateau, Elaine Frazier
Lisa Harris, Esq., Willis H. Stephens, Jr., Esq.

Re: Ensuring Transparent Redistricting Commission Hearings
Dear Commissioners,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to urge you to prioritize transparency and public participation as you resume drawing New York's congressional map in the coming weeks. Our organizations represent a broad range of groups and communities that remain deeply invested in an equitable and transparent process that includes substantive input from New Yorkers around the state. We firmly believe that an open redistricting process is critical for ensuring that the voices of all New Yorkers are heard.

New Yorkers deserve the opportunity to weigh in on district lines before they are finalized despite the challenges presented by the procedurally set timeline for the creation and submission of the new map. The adherence to a strict timeline should not be achieved at the expense of the interests of everyday New Yorkers. Notwithstanding the position expressed by some commissioners in their December 15 statement, we note that several commissioners are newly appointed and do not have the benefit of having heard directly from New Yorkers at the hearings held in 2021 and early 2022. Moreover, prior hearings held were not in response to current congressional maps drawn by the Special Master.

The Commission should solicit feedback from New Yorkers by holding hybrid hearings at different locations in the state. The Commission should also allow the public to submit written testimony that the Commission is required to share with all commissioners. Such hearings and written testimony are required to ensure that any new map reflects the diversity of New York's population and upholds the principles of the Voting Rights Act. To ensure fair representation for all New Yorkers, we urge you to protect communities of interest and minority voices throughout the state.

Finally, the Commission should make it clear that its duty is to the public, not elected officials or political parties. Holding mapping deliberations in public will significantly help the Commission achieve this goal. It is our hope that the Commission collaborates and prioritizes reaching a consensus on the new map. New Yorkers deserve a redistricting process free of gridlock, and we ask that the Commissioners do everything in their power to reach an agreement.

The lack of public trust in New York's redistricting process is pronounced and voters are weary of ever changing district lines and the attendant uncertainty it brings right before a consequential election cycle. We urge the Commission to make every attempt at collaboration, meaningful public input, openness and transparency before submitting any new congressional map plan to the Legislature.

Sincerely,

APA VOICE Redistricting Task Force
Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund (AALDEF)
Citizens Union, Common Cause/NY
Empire State Indivisible, League of Women Voters New York
New York Civic Engagement Table (NYCET)
New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)
New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)
Reinvent Albany

CORPORATION NOTICE

CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers, New York will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following General Ordinance, to wit:

PROPOSED GENERAL ORDINANCE

A PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 43 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, AND THE ACCOMPANYING ZONING MAP TO RECLASSIFY AND REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 900 NORTH BROADWAY ON THE TAX MAP AS BLOCK 3415, LOT 23, SECTION 23, SECTION 3, FROM ITS PRESENT PEP DISTRICT DESIGNATION TO THE MG DISTRICT.

Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary. Further information, including access to a copy of the proposed legislation, may be obtained at the City Clerk's office, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York and on the City's Website.

VINCENT SPANO City Clerk

Letters to the Editor WESTCHESTER RISING

We are proud that New York State has become the tenth state to enact a ban on wildlife killing contests.

Wildlife killing contests aren't hunting - they are bizarre, gruesome spectacles giving prizes to the largest number of massacres in a set time period. 'Traditional' hunters like Jim Posewitz, the president of the Hunter's Institute, are against these 'contests,' saying such contests create poor public relations for hunters. Ed Nuse, former executive director of International Hunting Education, said, 'We don't like true hunting to be mixed up with such contests for money and prizes.' There are hunting shows on TV, but not the killing contests - gotta go underground to view them. The public would be too appalled to see our wildlife - including crows, squirrels and rabbits - suffering and dying in piles like they're trash.

They are not trash. They are not illegal immigrants, they are not criminals, they are not merely moving paper targets at the carnival. Youtube has shown us animal's intelligence and sentience. Those who defend these contests by saying the prizes 'benefit' various charities can in fact reach into their wallets and make donations right now, from their hearts - no killing is necessary.

This is a great country; greatness doesn't come by eagerly and pointlessly slaughtering and piling up dead and dying innocent beings to win a prize. Thank you, New York State, for being leaders in wisdom and compassion for the profoundly voiceless.

Kiley Blackman, Tuckahoe
Founder, Animal Defenders of Westchester
www.ADOW.org

Classifieds

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MGM Casino Yonkers, continued from pg 1-

The entertainment venue will be the first-of-its-kind in the region, hosting A-list performers and events in a spectacular 5,000-capacity setting with unrivaled views, cutting-edge acoustics and dedicated amenities. MGM Resorts is renowned for its entertainment offerings as the third-largest ticket seller for live performances in the United States and the capacity to seat more than 100,000 people a night across entertainment venues around the world. MGM Empire City's entertainment venue will boost the region's economy, attracting new events to the market and bringing together locals and tourists alike.

A commercial casino license will also enable MGM Empire City to introduce The BetMGM Sportsbook & Lounge, offering guests lively game day experiences with a 112-foot wrap-around LED screen, stadium seating, VIP areas, multiple betting kiosks and food and beverage operations.

"MGM Resorts has a long and proud history of delivering world-class entertainment and gaming experiences, and we couldn't be more excited to build on that track record at MGM Empire City," said Bill Hornbuckle, President and Chief Executive Officer, MGM Resorts. "A full-scale casino and entertainment destination will provide unparalleled experiences, create thousands of jobs, boost the state's economy, and be a game-changer for the entire region."

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said, "This is a momentous opportunity for the City of Yonkers, and I'm excited for the future, knowing the development of MGM Empire City will create thousands of good-paying union jobs and the economic growth that will ensure our city continues to flourish and prosper. Already drawing millions of guests annually, this development plan will solidify Empire City's status as a premier entertainment destination. Generations of Yonkers residents have worked at, enjoyed, and supported this historic property for 125 years, and I am excited about the significant impacts this project will have for residents now and for the next 125 years."

Ed Domingo, General Manager of Empire City Casino, said, "When MGM Resorts acquired Empire City Casino in 2019, we knew we were becoming stewards of a historic institution that has served generations of New Yorkers as a gathering place for entertainment, a source of jobs for the community, and a driver of economic development. As MGM Resorts prepares to enter its sixth year at the helm of this iconic property, we are excited to be able to combine the knowledge we have developed of the New York market with our expertise as a global entertainment brand, to bring the next chapter of New York's entertainment landscape to the incredible community we are part of."

With 31 destinations around the world, MGM Resorts offer best-in-class hotels and casinos, state-of-the-art meeting and conference spaces, incredible live and theatrical entertainment experiences, and an extensive array of restaurant, nightlife and retail offerings, sports betting and online gaming operations.

Empire City currently boasts the largest casino floor in the company's domestic portfolio at 160,000 square feet and is also one of the largest gaming floors in the country. It has been operating since October 2006 with video lottery terminals and electronic table games under its current lottery license. The site is also home to the historic Yonkers Raceway, a world-renowned horse racing harness track that has been operating since 1899. MGM Resorts remains committed to continuing racing operations and recently made significant investments in track renovations.

Empire City is Yonkers's largest tax contributor and one of its largest private employers. Future development plans will substantially boost workforce numbers with thousands of direct hires and over 10,000 anticipated indirect and induced jobs. The property currently spends tens of millions annually on local goods and services, keeping New York dollars in the state.

A full commercial gaming license will allow MGM Resorts to offer a casino experience that is competitive to the offerings of neighboring states, deterring the current flow of entertainment dollars from New York to gaming and entertainment properties in other states. The commercial license is also expected to spark more than \$1 billion in new economic activity for the region.

The development plan will move forward if MGM Resorts is successful in securing one of three available full commercial casino licenses currently up for bid in the State of New York. Application process and timeline will be provided by the state's Gaming Facility Location Board in the coming months.

CORPORATION NOTICE

CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested for all interested persons to be heard in favor of or in opposition to the proposed resolution:

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF YONKERS TO RENEW A CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH CABLEVISION SYSTEMS WESTCHESTER CORP. IN THE CITY OF YONKERS

Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary. Further information, including access to a copy of the proposed resolution, may be obtained at the City Clerk's office, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York and on the City's Website.

Vincent Spano

City Clerk

Date: January 3, 2024

Peterson Foundation Statement on National Debt Surpassing \$34 Trillion

Michael A. Peterson, CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, commented today as the United States surpasses \$34 trillion in debt. Peterson said:

"We are beginning a new year, but our national debt remains on the same damaging and unsustainable path. Following last year's debt ceiling deal, we quickly crossed \$32 trillion in June, \$33 trillion in September, and now we are soaring past \$34 trillion. Looking ahead, debt will continue to skyrocket as the Treasury expects to borrow nearly \$1 trillion more by the end of March. Adding trillion after trillion in debt, year after year, should be a flashing red warning sign to any policymaker who cares about the future of our country.

"The debt rises unabated because of well-known, structural drivers, including an aging population, high healthcare costs, rising interest costs, and a tax system that doesn't fund what we've promised. On our current path, important programs like Medicare and Social Security will both face the depletion of their trust funds within a decade. Despite these clear and present fiscal dangers, our leaders are still debating this year's appropriations, with a potential government shutdown looming.

"To help break through partisan gridlock, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle and in both the House and the Senate have supported a bipartisan fiscal commission. This is promising, because a dedicated, comprehensive process would put everything on the table, allowing lawmakers to look across the entire budget to recommend revenue and spending reforms that stabilize our debt. Nine-in-ten voters, across party lines, support a bipartisan fiscal commission, because they understand that we can't borrow our way to a positive economic future. As we enter a critical election year, it's an important time for a national conversation about our fiscal outlook and economic future, and an opportunity to start to put the nation on a stronger, more sustainable path."

Libertarian Party of New York Denounces State Reliance on Surveillance Cameras for Revenue Generation

-Questions Impact on Safety

The Libertarian Party of New York (LPNY) declares its staunch opposition to the New York State Department of Transportation's broadened implementation of automated speeding tickets. The automated ticketing system, implemented in a limited way in 2021 and expanded recently, employs technology to detect and automatically issue speeding tickets. While excused as a road safety measure, the LPNY interprets this move to broadly expand this system as an insidious strategy for hidden taxation of the working class while egregiously infringing upon their Fourth Amendment rights.

According to LPNY, the exploitation of these systems for financial gain under the guise of public safety constitutes not just a breach of personal privacy but also an act of state-sanctioned extortion. Their position is that this system not only exemplifies governmental overreach but also serves as a devious mechanism for revenue gathering, effectively extorting money from vehicle owners via a hidden tax under the pretext of safety.

"The deployment of automated ticketing systems amounts to a flagrant violation of the Fourth Amendment, which protects against unreasonable searches and seizures," remarked Andrew Kolstee, Chair of the Libertarian Party of New York. "Beyond the constitutional transgression, it is a thinly veiled attempt to extort money from hard working New Yorkers. The lack of human oversight and the denial of any recourse to contest these automated tickets is a profound infringement on the rights enshrined to every American."

The LPNY is particularly alarmed by the lack of public awareness and debate regarding the broadened implementation of this system. The covert manner in which this law was passed and put into effect raises significant concerns about governmental transparency and accountability.

Furthermore, the LPNY expresses deep concerns over the potential expansion of such surveillance technology and its implications for personal privacy and freedom. "What starts as automated speeding enforcement could easily become a slippery slope towards more invasive forms of government surveillance," added Kolstee. "This is already happening. These cameras were introduced in work zones, but are reportedly being installed in non-work zone areas, which discretely expands the government surveillance system."

Moreover, the LPNY posits that the strategic setting of fines at a low threshold suggests an intent to discourage contestation, subtly coercing the populace into acceptance of this new norm. According to LPNY, this approach disproportionately burdens the financially vulnerable and working class New Yorker, creating a two-tiered justice system based on one's ability to pay.

"The LPNY calls for an immediate suspension of this automated ticketing system," remarked Kolstee. "We urge state legislators and the New York State Department of Transportation to consider the serious Fourth Amendment concerns raised by such a system. We are committed to the principles of individual liberty, due process, and limited government, and advocate for a state where public safety is upheld without compromising the constitutional freedoms of its citizens. The automated speeding ticket system violates these principles and the constitutional rights of New Yorkers."

The LPNY is actively seeking people who have been ticketed by this new system, as plaintiffs in a legal challenge against it. The LPNY is concurrently launching a fundraising drive to support these efforts. By combining legal action with advocacy, the LPNY aims to protect the Fourth Amendment rights of all New Yorkers against what it considers to be invasive measures by NYS

PUBLIC NOTICE

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 109 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC" IN REGARDS TO DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES FOR TOWING AND IMPOUNDED VEHICLES

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Yonkers has adopted the abovementioned legislation that amends Chapter 109 of the Code of the City of Yonkers entitled "Vehicles and Traffic" is hereby amended in part by amending various sections to update the process by which vehicles are towed and impounded and by which vehicle owners/lessors are notified.

The penalties for violation of this local law are as follows:

§ 109-160. Penalties for offenses; towing and storage fees.

A. Except for violations of this chapter which are within the jurisdiction of the Parking Violations Bureau, and in the event that a penalty is not established for a given violation of this chapter, then such violation shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$250 or confinement in jail not exceeding 10 days, or both.

B. Parking, standing and stopping violations shall be punished as follows:

Type of Violation	Fee	Type of Violation	Fee
Expired meter (on street)	\$30	M/T 12 inches from curb, 2-way street	\$50
Overtime parking at meter (on street)	\$30	M/T 12 inches from curb, 1-way street	\$50
Expired meter (off street)	\$30	Parking left side to curb, 2-way street	\$50
Failed to activate meter (on street)	\$30	Parking wrong direction, 2-way street	\$50
Overtime parking at meter (off street)	\$30	Parking wrong direction, 1-way street	\$50
Failed to activate meter (off street)	\$30	Parking opposite construction site	\$50
Parking in 2 meter spaces (on street)	\$50	Improper parking	\$50
Parking rear to meter (on street)	\$50	Parked rear to curb	\$50
Parking in 2 meter spaces (off street)	\$50	Improper angle parking	\$50
Parking rear to meter (off street)	\$50	Angle parking prohibited, 2-way street	\$50
No parking	\$50	Angle parking prohibited, 1-way street	\$50
Overtime parking, no meter	\$50	Wheels not turned to curb on hill	\$50
Parking in driveway, public or private	\$50	Parking a trailer, semitrailer, tractor-trailer, tractor, house-on-wheels, bus or school bus	\$500
Parking within 30 feet of stop sign	\$50	Other commercial vehicle	\$50
Parking within 10 feet of crosswalk at intersection	\$60	Parked on bridge	\$50
Parking in loading zone	\$50	Unattended vehicle	\$70
Parked at theater entrance	\$50	No current license plate	\$90
Parked on private property	\$50	Unauthorized license plate	\$90
Parked without lights	\$50	Parked leaving L/T 10 feet roadway	\$90
Inspection violations	\$50	Restricted area	\$70
Parked on entrance or exit ramps, state highway	\$50	Restricted area, parking lot	\$70
Parked on state highway	\$50	Restricted area, off street	\$70
Parked alongside curbscut	\$50	Restricted, raceway parking	\$70
Parked for purpose of vehicle sale	\$50	Obstructing traffic	\$90
Parked for vehicle repair, except emergency	\$50	Obstructing traffic, L/T 10 feet roadway	\$90
Parked on highway with speed limit over 35 mph for purpose of selling frozen desserts	\$50	Double-parked	\$90
Parked within safety island	\$60	Double-parked commuting hours (Mon. - Fri. 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., excluding holidays)	\$100
Parked within crosswalk	\$60	Parked within 15 feet of fire hydrant	\$70
Parked within intersection	\$60	Parked in fire zone	\$90
Parked on sidewalk	\$80	Parked within 20 feet of fire station entrance	\$90
No standing	\$70	Parked in tow-away zone	\$90
No stopping	\$70	Emergency snow removal	\$90
No stopping, bus stop	\$50	Parked in handicap space, no permit, on street	\$200
Stopped on pavement	\$50	Parked in handicap space, no permit, off street	\$100
Registration violations	\$70	Abandoned vehicle	\$450
Unregistered motorcycle	\$70	Abandoned vehicle in a designated emergency	\$500
Tab improperly on plate	\$70	All other parking violations, including violations of Article 32 of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law	\$50
License plate violations	\$90		

C. In the event that a respondent does not enter a plea or remit the fine due for a parking, standing or stopping violation as and when required by this chapter, then they shall pay a late payment penalty equal and in addition to the scheduled fine for the violation charged.

D. In the event that a vehicle is towed pursuant to this chapter, the owner or person entitled to possession of the vehicle shall pay a towing charge and a storage charge as set by the rules and regulations of the City of Yonkers. These charges shall be in addition to any fines or penalties for illegal stopping, standing, parking, abandonment or any other offense under this chapter. Towing and storage charges shall be paid as lawfully. No vehicle shall be released unless all towing and storage fees, outstanding parking violations and related penalties are paid in full.

The complete text of the ordinance is on file and may be examined at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 40 S. Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701.

Dated: December 18, 2023 Vincent Spano City Clerk

Winter Train Show at Hudson Park, New Rochelle Jan. 14 & 21

Adeel Mirza Kicks Off Campaign for Westchester District Attorney



Adeel Mirza

Democrat Adeel Mirza recently made it official, announcing that he is a candidate for Westchester District Attorney. "I am running for Westchester District Attorney because as a career prosecutor, I know how to balance public safety and equal justice for all. I've prosecuted cases at the highest levels and led multiple Branches around the County. That's the experience I'll bring to lead the office as we create the safest, fairest Westchester for all our families.

Mirza worked in the D.A.'s office for 18 years, focusing on gang and gun violence cases and became a "branch chief." Most recently he's been a criminal attorney, taking on pro bono cases.

"I am a career prosecutor in the office I seek to lead," Mirza said. "I know that office and the strengths and weaknesses of that office and I think I can use that experience and my knowledge in order to improve the criminal justice system for the people of Westchester."

Mirza lives in New Rochelle with his two sons. During his time as a Supervisor in the DA's office, Adeel oversaw thousands of prosecutions each year - on all levels from misdemeanors to violent crimes like rape and homicide. He built critical relationships with the police departments in Westchester County who serve as a crucial partner for the District Attorney's office.

Since his time in the District Attorney's Office, Adeel has been in private practice handling pro bono cases for defendants in Westchester who cannot afford representation. This has given him a view from the other side of the criminal justice system that is important for any District Attorney to have.

"I will protect women and children from domestic violence. I will protect tenants from bad landlords. I will protect workers from unscrupulous contractors, and I will protect seniors from elder abuse."

"At this moment it's important to have a District Attorney that understands the balance between public safety and equal justice for all. It's important to have a District Attorney that understands a modern prosecutor's office and the present day rights of defendants going through the system. And it's important to have a District Attorney who is compassionate at the worst times in people's lives - whether that's the victims of crime or those accused. But above all, I'm running for District Attorney because I know how to keep Westchester families safe from crime - because that's what he's done his whole career."

Visit mirza4da.com, for more information.

Judge Susan Cacace, Civil rights Attorney William Wagstaff, Public defender Sheralyn Pulver Goodman are also announced democrats running for Westchester DA.

Embrace the joy of the season and join us for a whimsical journey through the Hudson Park Children's Greenhouse's first-ever "Winter Train Show"! This perfect family event promises an evening filled with joy, wonder, and the warmth of community. Experience the enchantment of meticulously crafted scale model trains as they wind through a winter wonderland, featuring a London-themed city with 19 ceramic landmarks and a charming United States setup.

Event Dates:

Sunday, January 14th, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Sunday, January 21st, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

Location:

Hudson Park Children's Greenhouse

Hudson Park, 44 Wildcliff Road, New Rochelle, NY 10805

Ticket Information:

\$5 per person, available at [<http://hpcgreenhouse.org/>]

Curated with passion by President Millie Radonjic-Ilich and committee member John Hessel, this educational event invites families to explore the fascinating world of trains while supporting the greenhouse's commitment to children's education. Bring friends and family for an evening that combines entertainment with learning—a delightful blend that promises to create lasting memories.

Ask Rusty – Can Someone Work While Collecting Social Security Disability?

Dear Rusty: If a person is collecting Social Security disability benefits, can they, at any point, work at all? If they can, what is the maximum they can earn and still keep the disability benefit? I am asking because my husband is still young, but his injuries will not allow him to go back to the job he had prior to his injuries and surgeries. He does not just want to sit at home doing nothing! Signed: Concerned Wife

Dear Concerned: Actually, the Social Security Administration (SSA) encourages those collecting SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance) benefits to attempt to go back to work and they provide considerable leeway for them to do so. The monthly earnings limit for those collecting SSDI benefits in 2024 is \$1,550 and as long as your husband earns less than the limit while working, his SSDI benefits will not be in jeopardy. Your husband should contact Social Security's Ticket to Work program directly to protect his disability status and discuss returning to work while collecting SSDI benefits.

The Ticket to Work program assists those now receiving SSDI benefits who wish to test their ability to return to work without putting their SSDI benefits at risk. The program provides considerable assistance, including new career training opportunities and connection to potential employers, and it is voluntary and costs nothing. Here is a link to Social Security's information on the Ticket to Work program: <https://choosework.ssa.gov/>

It's not mandatory for your husband to enroll in the Ticket to Work program but, in addition to other available assistance, he can request a Trial Work Period (TWP) which would allow for 9 months, over a rolling five year period, during which he can earn any amount (even over the normal monthly limit mentioned above) without risking his SSDI benefits. Within the Trial Work Period, only those months he earns over the normal monthly SSDI limit would count as a Trial Work Month. So, for example, your husband could work part time regularly earning under the normal monthly limit and if, in some months (up to nine), he earned more it wouldn't affect his SSDI benefits.

So, your younger disabled husband can, indeed, work while on Social Security disability, for as long as he wishes while earning under the monthly SSDI limit (the SSDI earnings limit changes yearly). He may also wish to enroll in Social Security's Ticket to Work program for assistance with developing a new career. Plus, he can take advantage of using trial work months in the event his work earnings will, at times, exceed the monthly SSDI limit. If your husband earns over the SSDI limit for more than the 9 trial work months and his benefits are consequently stopped, he can - within the 5-year Trial Work Period - have his benefits reinstated (without again going through the full application process) if his disability, once more, renders him unable to work full time.

For starters, I suggest your husband contact Social Security's Ticket to Work program directly at 1.833-889-0108 to discuss returning to work part time. Social Security will guide him through the entire process.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Visit us online at Yonkerstimes.com



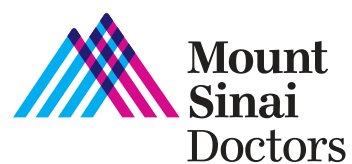
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