

Westchester Republicans Nominate Christine Sculti for County Executive -Special Election February 11

The Debate Over ICE in Westchester & Deporting Illegal Criminals

**SPECIAL ELECTION
FEBRUARY 11, 2025**

EARLY VOTING INFO:

FEB 1: 10AM-6PM	FEB 6: 12PM-8PM
FEB 2: 10AM-6PM	FEB 7: 8AM-4PM
FEB 3: 8AM-4PM	FEB 8: 10AM-6PM
FEB 4: 12PM-8PM	FEB 9: 10AM-6PM
FEB 5: 8AM-4PM	

Christine SCULTI
for County Executive
* SPECIAL ELECTION *
TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 11

NATIONAL TPS ALLIANCE

“ I came to this country when I was 14 years old—that means I have lived here for 25 years; I have spent more time living and working here. I got married and have my children here and own my truck and work here. I love Honduras, the place where I was born. But I feel American, I just don't have a paper that says I am American.”

-Oscar, NY

By Dan Murphy

ICE agents are currently searching for illegal resident criminals, and not those like Oscar, left

Westchester residents will soon be seeing more agents from the US Immigrations Custom & Enforcement, (ICE). With the election of President Trump, a new policy will be enacted regarding the detaining and deporting of illegal migrant criminals.

Westchester currently has a law that does not allow law enforcement in our communities to cooperate with ICE when they are detaining illegal migrants. This law, the Immigrant Protection Act (IPA), does not prohibit ICE from doing its job but requires it to go before a Federal Judge and get a court order before they detain these individuals in Westchester.

Opinions are split on the Westchester IPA, with supporters saying it helps protect the migrant community while opponents say it makes ICE's job tougher to complete. Recently, ICE has worked in Westchester without the help of local law enforcement

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Republican Christine Sculti of Mamaroneck, the former Chief Advisor to County Executive Rob Astorino, has kicked off her campaign in the special election for Westchester County Executive against Ken Jenkins, who was not elected to the seat, but was appointed this month. Sculti's campaign will focus on repealing Jenkins' controversial Sanctuary Law. Sculti is also committed to reining in out-of-control county spending, cutting the confiscatory sales tax and to establishing an Office for Parental Rights in order to ensure Westchester parents maintain oversight of the health and well-being of their children.

Sculti said it is time to put the safety of Westchester families first, "For too long, our appointed County Executive, Ken Jenkins, has prioritized the welfare of dangerous criminal illegal aliens over our safety. On March 20, 2018, he celebrated the passage of a law that made Westchester a Sanctuary County—a law

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Susan Spear Named Commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services



Susan Spear, First Woman to Head DES in its History

Susan Spear has been appointed commissioner of the Department of Emergency Services, becoming the first woman to hold that post in DES history, County Executive Ken Jenkins announced.

Spear, who served as deputy commissioner at DES since November 2020, replaces Richard G. Wishnie. He was named by Jenkins as his Deputy County Executive last week.

"Susan Spear has done a tremendous job as deputy commissioner, and she is the right person to lead the Department of Emergency Services into the future. I am grateful for her leadership at DES and for her exemplary service to our County during the Covid-19 pandemic and other major events in Westchester."

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Democrats Obsession with RFK Jr. Continues with Westchester Democratic Chair's Complaint



President Donald Trump with Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

By Dan Murphy

I wanted to vote for RFK Jr. for President last year. I have long been fed up with both major political parties in Washington, and their inability to get things done. Instead, we have democrats advocating for higher spending and republicans demanding tax cuts. The result is a 37 trillion-dollar debt.

Kennedy advocated for many things that I support, like ending the forever wars and having an honest discussion about COVID and the harmful effects of many of the foods we eat.

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Mind Your Business: The State of Local Small Businesses in Westchester



L-R-Shari Rosen Ascher, Director Policy & Programs for Small Business and Chambers of Commerce, Westchester County, Michael Murphy, President, Mamaroneck Chamber of Commerce, Gina Proia, President, Larchmont Chamber of Commerce--By Rina Beder-See Story on pg

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Step Dad Who Gave Gun to Son and Said "Do What You Gotta Do"-Gets 25 Years

Zyaire Fernandez, right

Defendant Phillip Ferrell provided the gun that was used to shoot and kill Zyaire in March 2023.

On January 16, Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that Phillip Ferrell, 48, of Yonkers, was sentenced to 25 years in prison over his role in the killing of 14-year-old Zyaire Fernandez in March 2023. Mr. Ferrell was sentenced this morning by Westchester County Court Judge George Fufidio, Jr., who further order-



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New Real Estate Report Reveals Dramatic Growth In Westchester County



*Left: David Cortez, CEO of Foretold Predictive Analytics
Right: John Barrett, co-managing director at RM Friedland*

A new real estate report authored by RM Friedland reveals the explosive growth of housing in Westchester County since 2021, with about 12,500 new residential units delivered and another 15,000 units under construction.

Representatives from RM Friedland delivered their findings on January 14 in White Plains at the Business Council of Westchester's and the Fordham Real Estate Institute's annual real estate development conference.

"The amount of residential development that has occurred in Westchester County in recent years is unprecedented," said BCW president and CEO Marsha Gordon. "The report explores the impact of this development on the local economy and the countywide school system."

RM Friedland president Sarah Jones-Maturo said that Westchester County is responding to the national housing shortage head-on. "We believe Westchester serves as a microcosm for the nation, demonstrating how strategic planning, innovative policies and balanced development can create thriving communities," said Jones-Maturo.

One of the report's surprising findings is that Westchester County's new construction has not overcrowded schools. Westchester cities experiencing the most substantial new development activity, such as New Rochelle and Yonkers, have seen a notable decline in their overall student populations between 2018 and 2023. This trend challenges the commonly held assumption that increased residential development leads directly to overcrowded schools.

"The impact of these developments on the schools is minimal at this point," said David Cortez, CEO of Foretold Predictive Analytics, one of the keynote speakers. "I often hear from other people in the community, particularly homeowners, saying our schools are going to become overcrowded. That's not the case at all."

The report noted that New Rochelle has emerged as the clear leader in development within Westchester County, with more than 6,145 residential units currently under construction. This rapid growth is due to the city's strategic investments, its emphasis on transit-oriented projects, and the transformative impact of its Master Development Plan.

The report also pointed to Yonkers, whose key strength is the scale of its development potential, particularly as its downtown area expands further into Getty Square. This expansion is expected to unlock massive opportunities for mixed-use and residential projects.

John Barrett, co-managing director at RM Friedland, explained that the report does not include proposed housing units that are still under review for approval.

"As a company, we are tracking another 10,000 units that are not under construction yet, but they are appearing before boards, or the ideas have been floated with local municipalities. This is unprecedented for Westchester County," said Barrett.

The BCW-Fordham event featured two dynamic panels with members of the community that brought a tremendous diversity of perspective. The panels were moderated by Dr. Joshua Harris, executive director of the Fordham Real Estate Institute, addressing RM Friedland's findings.

The first panel: A Reality Check: The Impact of New Development included luxury and affordable housing developers and government officials with opposing views.

Kenneth Morrison, managing member of Lemor Development, an affordable hous

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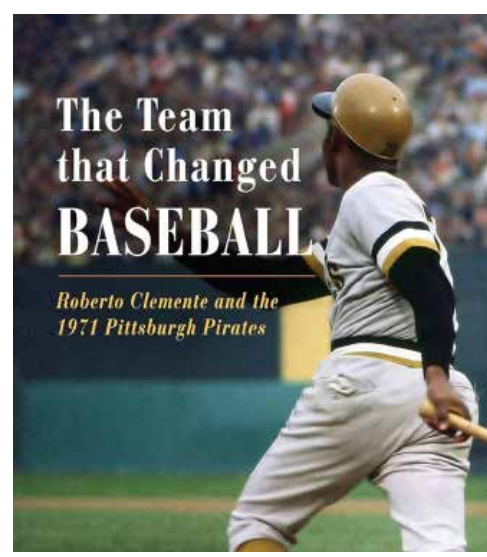
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Baseball-Civil Rights Talk: Baseball Historian to Discuss 1971 Pirates at White Plains Library



September 1, 1971 was the first time in Major League Baseball history that a team fielded a lineup of all African American and Afro Latino players.

A relevant sports history topic that did not get full coverage when the event occurred, the Pittsburgh Pirates fielded a line-up of all African-American and Afro-Latin ballplayers. John Vorperian will give a talk on this momentous occurrence explaining the baseball angle as to why it happened, the omission of news reporting as well featuring the players themselves, including Roberto Clemente and Dock Ellis.

Vorperian has written for RED SOX MAGAZINE and contributed to eleven other baseball team books for SABR. He also hosts a sports themed cable TV program BEYOND THE GAME on White Plains Community Media.

This program is made possible thanks to the support of the White Plains Library Foundation.

Baseball History: 1971 Pittsburgh Pirates
Friday, February 14
12:30pm - 1:30pm
Add to Calendar
White Plains Public Library, Auditorium

DiNapoli: School District Tax Levy Cap at 2%

Property tax levy growth for New York's school districts and 10 cities will remain capped at 2% for the fourth year in a row, according to data released today by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli.

The tax cap, which first applied to local governments (excluding New York City) and school districts in 2012, limits annual tax levy increases to the lesser of the rate of inflation or 2% with certain exceptions. The law also includes provisions that allow school districts and municipalities to override the cap. DiNapoli's office calculated the inflation factor at 2.95% for those with a June 30, 2026 fiscal year end.

"For the fourth year in a row, the property tax levy for school districts and 10 cities will be capped at 2%," DiNapoli said. "School district and municipal officials will have to deliver services efficiently as they face the difficult task of managing costs that continue to rise."


The 2% allowable levy growth affects the tax cap calculations for 675 school districts and 10 cities with fiscal years starting July 1, 2025, including the "Big Four" cities of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers, as well as Amsterdam, Auburn, Corning, Long Beach, Watertown, and White Plains.

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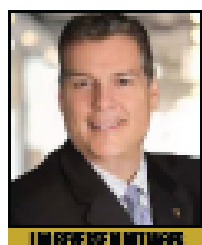
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County Executive Jenkins Announces Members of Gun Violence Prevention Task Force

“The Donald” is Here!

Congestion Pricing DISAPPEARS!



County Executive Ken Jenkins with members of the Gun Violence Prevention Task Force

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins and County Legislator Shanae Williams have appointed all members to the Westchester County Gun Violence Prevention Taskforce. The taskforce, appointed by both the County Executive’s Office and the Board of Legislators, consists of experts, advocates and diverse community representatives from across Westchester County.

Under the leadership of the Office of the County Executive, the taskforce is committed to unifying and strengthening efforts across Westchester to combat gun violence. Deputy County Executive Richard Wishnie to Co-Chair the taskforce, ensuring collaboration between the administration and community stakeholders as they address this issue.

The following individuals have also been appointed:

- Sam North, Teacher at Ossining High School
- Barry Graubart, NYS Advocacy Lead at Moms Demand Action
- Rev. Shaun Jones, Pastor at STAR Bethlehem
- Joanne Dunn, Executive Director of Youth Shelter Westchester
- Charles Barnette III, Community Activist and former SNUG Employee
- Sharon Rubinstein, Lawyer and Advocate
- Detective Dave Clarke, Mt. Vernon Police Department
- Elise Margolis, Healthcare Professional
- Debbie Burrell, Executive Director of Mount Vernon Youth Bureau United
- Yocasta Jimenez, LMSW
- Stephanie Dotel, Director of Youth Empowerment Programs at O.Y.P. and Court Mentor Coordinator in New Rochelle
- Rev. Dr. H. Lee Jordan, Jr., Pastor at Shiloh Baptist Church
- Kailani Ledesma, Youth Member
- Alejandro Leon, Youth Member
- Cynthia Lobo, Attorney

The following County employees will also be part of the taskforce: Dr. Christopher John, Head of the Mobile Crisis Team; Liz Oliveto from Youth Development; Ernest McFadden, Director of the County Youth Bureau; Rachel Kotzur from Probation; Michael Gerard from Corrections; and James Luciano from Public Safety.

Jenkins said: “We are proud of the dedicated individuals we have assembled to confront this urgent and serious issue. This taskforce will be a vital platform for addressing the root causes of gun violence while championing effective prevention strategies.”

Williams said: “There is so much work to be done to eliminate gun violence from our communities. Given the background and expertise of each member, I am confident that they are up for the task. I am thankful for the members’ willingness to serve Westchester County and I look forward to the work that we will accomplish together.”

Wishnie said: “Gun violence prevention is a priority for this administration. By assembling this taskforce, we are demonstrating our commitment to creating safer communities through collaborative efforts. Every member brings invaluable experience to the table, and together we will work tirelessly to address this issue head-on.”

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By Eric Wolf Schoen

Governor Kathy Hochul, under pressure from officials and voters in the New York counties outside the city, stopped a steep toll regime also known as congestion pricing that would have charged drivers \$15.

Mr. Trump vowed to “TERMINATE” that version “in my FIRST WEEK back in Office!!!”

After Trump was elected, she raced to put a cheaper version in place, knowing she might have a harder time doing so once he was running the country.

In a letter after Mr. Trump was elected, New Jersey Governor Murphy wrote that New Jersey planned to amend a pending lawsuit against federal transportation agencies that helped pave the way for congestion pricing. He also requested that New York’s congestion pricing scheme “receive the close look it deserved but did not receive from the federal government last year.”

And so my dear friends, we have a new President of these United States. I have to be honest. I enjoy reviewing the Presidential Inauguration ceremony when it is outside on the beautiful grounds of the city. You really think that the cold weather would have forced George Washington or Abraham Lincoln to change their minds and hold the festivities inside?

Can you imagine the Times Square New Years ball drop indoors? Or the NYC THANKSGIVING PARADE indoors? Or a Ticker Tape parade indoors as opposed to the Canyon of Heroes!

And Washington and Lincoln didn’t have the warm clothing we have. Do you think Mrs. Washington or Mrs. Lincoln were able to pick up a warm coat on sale from our beloved Macy’s or Saks off 5Th? Maybe a good price from Target? And my guess is if the coat needed hemming the ladies had to do it themselves. Same goes for the men.

Neither Washington nor Lincoln were ‘off the rack’ kind of guys. And how easy would it be to have a hat made like Mrs. Trump wore, covering her eyes? What was up with that hat? I doubt George or Abe would want their wives eyes covered unable to see the electorate.

That In fact is what the purpose of the parade down Pennsylvania Avenue is for. It gives people the impression that the President and his family are real people just like they are. There are very few events like this during a President’s term of office. I particularly like when the President and his wife get out of their limousine and stroll hand in hand down the ‘Avenue.’

Now if the venue change was for security I might understand that. But I am sure we have had Inaugural Parades in colder, snowier, icy weather! Or have we become a nation of woosies? Frightened by weather observed in most of these states.

So Mr. President, what happened here. I was shocked that the last time this occurred was under Reagan. Two tough guys. That had to be security related.

Getting back to congestion pricing, a week is going by very fast. Monday at noon. I didn’t say it, my highly taxed readers didn’t say it, you said you would terminate congestion pricing in one week.

The American people like honesty from their elected officials. They are not happy with pardons by you of a drug dealer or associates with familial connections or Mr. Biden of similar people. Though it is your right!

We wish you Godspeed even if we didn’t vote for you or dislike every action that you take. The red/orange hair dye? I think you found the right hairstylist. The make-up? It looks more natural. Jergen’s makes an excellent product for men to give you that ‘glow’ and it is not expensive. Just trying to save our country some money!

God Bless America, my home sweet home!

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Former Corrections Officer from Mt. Vernon Pleads Guilty To Accepting Bribes For Smuggling Narcotics Into Rikers Island



DOJ Photo of Ghislaine Barrientos, entering Riker's Island with drugs

On Jan. 8, Edward Y. Kim, the Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that GHISLAINE BARRIENTOS, a former corrections officer, pled guilty to bribery in connection with her participation in a scheme to accept bribes in exchange for smuggling narcotics into Rikers Island. BARRIENTOS pled guilty before U.S. District Judge Gregory H. Woods and is scheduled to be sentenced on April 16, 2025.

Acting U.S. Attorney Edward Y. Kim said: "Ghislaine Barrientos took bribes when working as a corrections officer at Rikers Island. Rikers Island is less safe, for inmates and officers alike, when corrections officers and others in positions of public trust accept bribes to smuggle contraband. We will not tolerate any breach of trust or corruption that jeopardizes the well-being of inmates and staff."

As reflected in the Complaint, Information, and statements made in court:

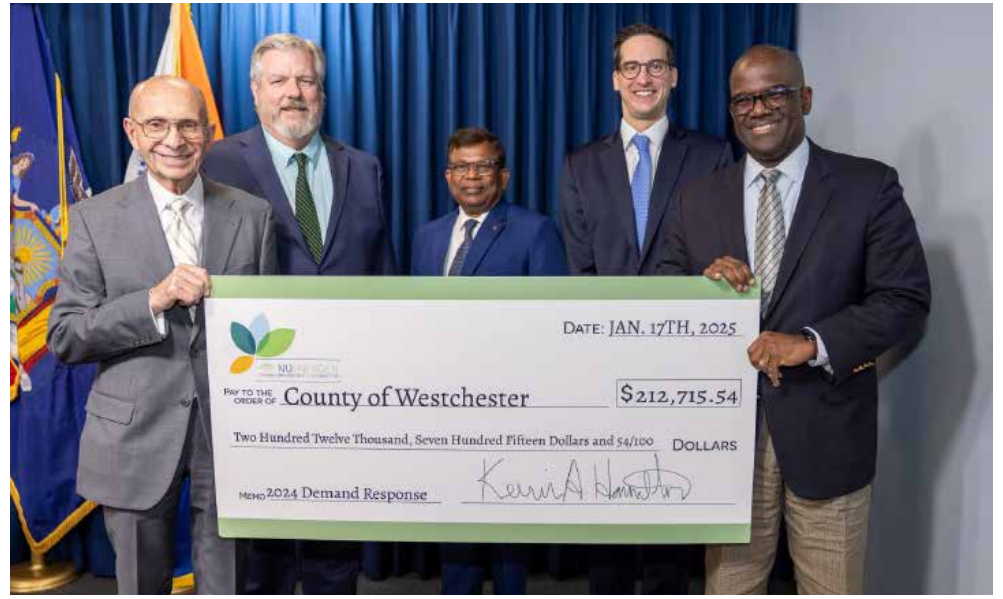
BARRIENTOS, a former New York City Department of Correction ("DOC") correction officer, conspired with others to smuggle contraband, including cocaine, smokeable synthetic cannabinoids (known as "K2"), and food to inmates housed at the Robert N. Davoren Complex on Rikers Island in exchange for thousands of dollars in bribe payments.

For example, on April 11, 2024, CC-1, an associate of an inmate ("Inmate-1"), and BARRIENTOS discussed CC-1 sending BARRIENTOS a package through a delivery service. On April 15, 2024, surveillance footage showed BARRIENTOS entering Inmate-1's cell, where surveillance footage could not capture her actions. Two days later, DOC searched Inmate-1's cell and recovered sheets of paper that tested positive for the presence of cocaine.

On April 24, 2024, CC-1 sent BARRIENTOS another package using the delivery service. When BARRIENTOS went to work later that day, a drug-detecting canine alerted for the presence of narcotics. DOC employees searched BARRIENTOS's belongings and found approximately 10 sheets of paper that tested positive for the presence of K2. In an interview with law enforcement, BARRIENTOS falsely stated, among other things, that no inmate had ever asked her to bring them contraband. Law enforcement officers then searched BARRIENTOS's vehicle and recovered additional sheets of paper, as well as approximately \$2,466 in cash.

BARRIENTOS, 37, of Mount Vernon, New York, pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to commit federal program bribery, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

Westchester County Earns Over \$212k in Energy Conservation Incentives Through



Through Demand Response Program

Westchester County received \$212,715.54 in total earnings for its participation in the NYISO and ConEdison Demand Response program(s), an initiative designed to reduce energy consumption, strengthen grid reliability during peak usage periods and prevention of blackouts. As part of the recognition for last year's performance, the County's Demand Response provider, NuEnergen, presented the County with a ceremonial check, reflecting payments earned for remaining on standby to reduce energy usage when the New York State energy grid is at risk of overload.

The Demand Response program is a vital tool in managing the stability of the energy grid, preventing blackouts and mitigating the need for new carbon intensive power plant construction(s). Westchester County earned \$31,196.62 during the winter season and \$181,518.95 over the summer, demonstrating the year-round importance of the initiative. By reducing power consumption during critical periods, the County not only generates significant revenue but also contributes to environmental preservation by curbing greenhouse gas emissions, lowering the overall strain on the grid, and minimizing brown-outs and blackouts.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "Our participation in the Demand Response program is a prime example of how Westchester County is leading the way in energy conservation and environmental stewardship. This initiative provides direct financial benefits that can be reinvested into the community and reinforces our commitment to reducing emissions and promoting grid stability. We are proud to partner with NuEnergen as our demand response provider and to continue taking steps that benefit both the environment and our constituents."

Director of Energy Conservation and Sustainability Peter L. McCartt said: "The Demand Response program allows our County to take meaningful action in addressing energy challenges faced by the energy transition. By strategically reducing energy consumption during periods of high demand, we are helping stabilize the grid, contributing to dirty emissions reductions, and improving air quality. This program exemplifies how local governments can drive impactful change, proving that sustainability efforts can generate environmental and economic rewards for our community."

NuEnergen's Representative Scott Besada said: "Westchester County continues to demonstrate exceptional leadership in energy conservation and sustainability. Their active participation in the Demand Response programs reflects a forward-looking energy management approach that benefits the County and the broader region. We are thrilled to present this ceremonial check to recognize Westchester's commitment to responsible energy usage and environmental stewardship."

President at Environmental Energy Solutions (EES) Dr. Kasi Rengasamy said: "Demand Response programs greatly facilitate environmental compliance by providing substantial support and supplemental energy to the high energy producing power plants, thus easing Utility grids' stress, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Environmental Energy Solutions (EES), a subsidiary of NuEnergen, is proud to be a part of the county's effort in energy savings and maintaining energy and environmental sustainability by meeting the federal, state and all applicable local governments air pollution regulations."

Westchester County's active involvement in the Demand Response program is part of a broader effort to keep the grid balanced from a supply and demand perspective while enhancing environmental sustainability. The County remains committed to pursuing energy-saving opportunities that benefit the community, contribute to New York State's clean energy goals and reinforce the County's position as a leader in environmental responsibility.

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Letters to the Editor:

“LEGISLATING” GOD OUT OF AMERICA—

A distinguished historical novelist, author of six N.Y Times best sellers, who has appeared on major news TV, as well as giving hundreds of interviews on presidential politics, the economy, and Iran, in one of his novels, he wrote, “I explored how the ACLU has twisted the first Amendment and Thomas Jefferson’s articulation of a “wall of separation” between church and state to transform what previous generations of Americans believe can only be “freedom from religion”. In my book I argued that since the end of World War II, the United States has witnessed the ACLU wage a “war on God”, determined to systematically remove any and all references to Judeo-Christian faith from our public schools and our public squares.

I was distressed when the U.S. military in 2013 threatened to court martial soldiers and chaplains for proselytizing religion to troops not initially receptive to a biblical message, despite the importance of evangelical work has always played in the historical mission of Christianity. I am especially troubled for our future when the Obama administration’s decision to abandon the “Don’t ask, Don’t tell” standard for military conduct means the LGBT community is now pressing to have joining the ranks of the U.S. Military declared a Constitutional right. How long will it be before a Christian chaplain faces discipline and possibly court-martial for refusing to perform a same-sex “marriage” of two military personnel the chaplain feels violates his or her Judeo-Christian religious beliefs?

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

Joe Pettit
Yorktown Hts. NY
Source-Bad Samaritans –Author-Jerome Corsi

Editor’s Note: We received several letter concerning the US Senate confirmation of Kath Patel to become FBI Director. Here is one of those letters

To the Editor:

Only weeks away from his presidential inauguration, Donald Trump continues to tack on more unqualified nominees to his incoming cabinet including Kash Patel, who if confirmed by the Senate as the new head of the FBI, could be Trump’s most dangerous nominee of all.

Trump could have nominated an FBI director who would prioritize protecting Americans, instead he nominated a MAGA loyalist.

Patel is an extreme and unqualified individual who met the only qualification that mattered to Trump: unquestionable allegiance to him over the American people.

Trump would direct the Patel-led FBI to use the nation’s law enforcement apparatus to enable his self-centered agenda and protect his billionaire friends.

Patel is motivated by political revenge, not delivering justice.. He has reiterated his blind loyalty, implying he’d use the FBI to prosecute perceived enemies and publicly threatened media figures and journalists with jail time.

Patel could steer the FBI to deem progressive organizations and certain progressive leaders as terrorists, target marginalized communities, and strike at those who don’t align with MAGA views.

Patel seeks to divide the American people instead of unite them. He lacks the judgment and temperament needed for leadership.

Our Senators must vote against Trump’s nomination of Kash Patel as FBI director. I urge my neighbors to contact Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and ask the to take leadership roles in opposing Patel’s nomination.

Respectfully,
Sincerely, Ronald Eligator

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Byrne Asks Trump to End Congestion Tax

Sends letter to President Trump on January 21, 2025 asking for federal intervention.

Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne has taken a strong stand against the recently implemented congestion pricing tax in New York City, addressing the issue directly to President Donald J. Trump in a formal letter sent on January 21, 2025. The letter highlights the detrimental impact of this policy on commuters, businesses, and residents across Putnam County and beyond, while urging the newly inaugurated Trump Administration to take swift action to eliminate it.

The Central Business District Tolling Program, commonly known as congestion pricing, went into effect earlier this month, imposing costly new tolls on drivers entering Manhattan below 60th Street. Byrne’s letter to President Trump outlines the financial strain the tax places on hardworking commuters, noting that it could cost drivers an additional \$3,000 to \$4,000 annually.

“This congestion tax is not only misguided and unpopular, but it’s also an unfair burden on our residents, many of whom are already struggling with some of the highest taxes in the country,” said County Executive Byrne. “As a commuter county, Putnam’s residents depend on affordable access to New York City for their livelihoods. This policy punishes those who live outside the city and does little to address the inefficiencies and mismanagement at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA).”

In addition to advocating for federal intervention, Byrne shared that he as County Executive submitted an amicus brief to support Rockland County’s action challenging the legality of congestion pricing. The lawsuit argues that the tolling program imposes an undue burden on suburban and rural communities without addressing the root causes of the MTA’s financial inefficiencies. New Jersey’s Governor Phil Murphy has taken separate legal action and wrote to President Trump seeking intervention from the federal government earlier this week, as well.

“We stand shoulder to shoulder with our neighbors who are harmed by this unjust and punitive policy,” said Byrne. “It’s clear that this tax is a cash grab designed to bail out the MTA at the expense of working families, and we will not stand for it.”

Byrne’s letter to President Trump also outlines several recommendations for the federal government, including revisiting the environmental review process, withholding federal grants to the MTA until the tax is repealed, and conducting a forensic audit of the agency’s finances. Byrne highlighted the need for accountability and transparency at the MTA, noting a 2023 report that identified \$700 million in lost revenue due to fare evasion.

Legislator Bill Gouldman, who has also been vocal in his opposition to congestion pricing, echoed Byrne’s concerns. “The MTA needs to focus on solving its financial inefficiencies rather than taxing commuters to make up for its failures,” said Gouldman. “I stand with County Executive Byrne in calling for action to reverse this unjust tax.”

“We are committed to protecting our residents and ensuring that their voices are heard,” Byrne added. “I am confident that with President Trump’s leadership and the strength of our coalition, we can reverse this damaging tax and focus on real solutions that benefit all New Yorkers.”

To view the letter, visit https://www.putnamcountyny.gov/images/Departments/County_Exec/PDF_Documents/memo/CongestionpricinglettertoPresidentTrump1222025-pcny.pdf.

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Notice of formation of Grace For Today Desserts, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/30/2024 Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 10 Hilltop Lane, Thornwood, NY 10594. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

AARP Offers Free Tax Assistance at New Rochelle Library

Assistance offered Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning Tuesday, February 4

Free, in-person tax assistance through AARP Tax Aide will again be offered at the New Rochelle Public Library this tax season. Assistance will be provided on a first come, first served basis; no appointments will be available. Assistance will be provided on Tuesdays and Thursdays, beginning Tuesday, February 4 through Tuesday, April 15, 9:00 am - 2:00 pm at the Main Library, 1 Library Plaza, New Rochelle. Trained AARP volunteer counselors will meet with patrons in the library's Meeting Room and on the stage of the Theater, in the order in which they arrive. If demand is high, some days there may be a need to stop accepting new patrons before 2:00 pm to ensure service for those already in line. Participants are reminded to bring with them last year's federal and state returns and supporting documentation, as well as an official photo identification and a social security card, or other comparable documentation. Tax documents should be printed out to ensure accuracy. Learn more at nrpl.org.

Gun Prevention Task Force, continued from pg 3-

County Legislator Terry Clements said: "This gun violence prevention task force is vital because it will implement programs that help rehabilitate our youth by providing mentorship, guidance, and alternative opportunities. By engaging young people and offering them a new perspective on life, we can steer them away from crime and empower them to build brighter futures."

County Legislator James Nolan said: "Illegal gun violence impacted my life tragically with the loss of my younger brother, Mike. Being part of this task force with my colleagues means everything to me. Together, we have the chance to change lives and stop these terrible crimes. We need to do what it takes to keep our young people off the streets and out of a life of crime. This task force is all about passing the initiatives and laws that will make that happen!"

The goals of the Taskforce:

- Change the social conditions and address the influences that lead young people to resort to gun violence.
- Foster collaboration across all agencies and levels of government, including county, town, village, city and law enforcement agencies.
- Facilitate collaboration between nonprofit and for-profit businesses already engaged in this work.
- Engage the community in meaningful dialogue, including victims and perpetrators of gun violence.
- Develop prevention and intervention strategies tailored to eliminate gun violence.
- Advocate for the necessary resources to support these efforts.

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

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

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

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

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

1. Bid No. RFB-7361A – Opening date 02/07/2025: Purchase of Peerless Snow Chains, tighteners, and hardware or Yonkers approved equal (FB).
2. Bid No. RFB-7368A – Opening date 02/07/2025: Purchase Action Target, TAC House, or Yonkers approved equal, moveable shooting range target system (VB).
3. Bid No. RFB-7369A – Opening date 02/07/2025: Purchase various DeWalt Tools cordless nail guns, cordless reciprocation saws, cordless circular saws, cordless angle grinders, cordless work lights, cordless rod cutters, cordless drills, cordless impact drivers, cordless impact drivers, cordless wrenches, cordless leaf blower, cordless hammers, and chargers, or Yonkers approved equals (KAS).
4. Bid No. RFB-7382 – Opening date 02/07/2025: Purchase of ten Elkay model LZS8WSLP, or Yonkers approved equal, drinking fountains (MM).
5. Bid No. RFB-7383 – Opening date: 02/07/2025: Purchase of Midmark, or Yonkers approved equal, animal cages and accessories. (VB).
6. Bid No. RFB-7384 – Opening date: 02/07/2025: Purchase of Stryker Lucas 3, or Yonkers approved equal, chest compression system and accessories. (VB).

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Empowering Health:

Prostate Cancer Awareness Seminar Luncheon

Dems Obsessed with RFK Jr., continued from pg 1-



By Dennis Richmond Jr.

On Saturday, January 18th, 2025, there was an important event at the Yonkers Riverfront Library. The third prostate cancer awareness seminar luncheon brought together nearly two dozen attendees for an insightful and impactful event aimed at increasing awareness about prostate cancer, particularly within the Black community. This event was made possible by a collaboration of five groups: Luther V. Garrison Masonic Foundation, James H. Farrell Lodge #34, Fans for the Cure, Covenantstone LLC., and RISEUP.

Prostate cancer is a significant health concern for men, especially Black men, who are diagnosed with the disease at a rate of one every 13 minutes. Dr. Michael Feuerstein, Chief of Urology at New York Presbyterian Hospital in Westchester and Assistant Professor at Columbia University, served as the guest speaker for the event. His presence added a critical layer of expertise, as he emphasized the importance of early detection, which can save lives. Dr. Feuerstein explained that nearly 100% of prostate cancer patients diagnosed early will survive for at least five years. However, the reality is stark—nearly 17 Black men die every day from the disease, highlighting the urgency for education and early intervention.

The seminar not only focused on statistics but also shared personal stories, including a moving testimonial from a man who had undergone surgery for prostate cancer. His story resonated deeply with the audience, illustrating both the emotional and physical challenges of facing the disease and the importance of seeking medical care when necessary.

Dr. Feuerstein's speech emphasized the role that women play in encouraging men to seek medical help. He explained that women are often the ones who push men to see a doctor, making them vital allies in the fight against prostate cancer. His remarks were met with appreciation from the audience, many of whom nodded in agreement, recognizing the truth in his words.

Reflecting on his experience at the event, Dr. Feuerstein shared his gratitude: "As a man... this was a great experience," he said. "I'm glad to be reaching out to the community." His words highlighted the importance of engaging directly with the public to share knowledge and empower individuals to take control of their health.

The seminar provided not only valuable information but also a sense of community, as attendees connected over shared experiences and a common goal: to spread awareness and improve health outcomes for men facing prostate cancer.

The event's success underscores the power of collaboration between community organizations and medical professionals in fostering awareness and providing support for those affected by prostate cancer. The hope is that by continuing these discussions and encouraging early screening, more lives will be saved, and the statistics will begin to shift in a positive direction.

For those unable to attend, the message remains clear: early detection is key. Prostate cancer can be managed effectively if caught early, and all men, especially those in high-risk groups, should be proactive about their health.

Dennis Richmond, Jr., an educator, historian, and writer, illuminates the experiences of Black, Latinx, and LGBTQ+ communities in Yonkers and NYC through his journalism. Stay connected with him by following @NewYorkStakz on social media.

Although his campaign collected more than the required 40,000 signatures to get on the ballot in New York, RFK Jr. was kicked off the ballot because he was still registered to vote in New York, while living in California.

The result for thousands of New Yorkers was two choices: Kamala Harris or Donald Trump. For the first time in decades, New Yorkers were not given a third party choice for President.

Like many Kennedy supporters, I watched as RFK Jr. endorsed Donald Trump for President. My last two votes for President (2016 and 2020) were third party, for the Libertarian party candidate. But with no choice I voted for Trump, and I wonder how many voters across the country did the same. And did those Kennedy voters who followed RFK Jr. to Trump make the difference on election day?

RFK Jr. has explained the reasons why he remains registered to vote in NY, his voter card lists a residence in Katonah. He still maintains a law license and hunting license in New York. He still spends a great deal of time in NY, and he moved to NY 50 years ago, living in Westchester county for most of that time.

Democrats were bitter and angry at RFK Jr. for running for President. His family disavowed his run, and the democratic party halted a presidential primary in favor of re-nominating President Biden.

Kennedy is now set to become Trump's Secretary the Department of Health and Human Services, and now comes word that the Westchester Democratic Chair, Suzanne Berger, has filed a complaint against Kennedy for voting in NY for the 2024 Presidential election.

In December, Berger asked NY Attorney General Letitia James and then Westchester DA Mimi Rocah to investigate Kennedy to see if he had committed a crime by voting in NY.

Berger claimed that Kennedy broke NY Election law by voting from an address "ruled to be unusable for the purposes of establishing residency."

Berger told the Journal News that "voter integrity is an important issue.... People need to know that this is someone who doesn't play by the rules."

Perhaps the larger reason why Berger filed the complaint was to tarnish Kennedy as he faces US Senate confirmation for his cabinet post.

Usually, law enforcement doesn't comment on an ongoing investigation. Rocah's office did confirm receipt of Berger's complaint. No word from the NYAG.

But if as Berger alleges, Kennedy committed a crime with his vote (for Trump?) he got some help from the Westchester Board of Elections, who mailed Kennedy an absentee ballot to his Katonah address.

RFK Jr. used that absentee ballot to mail in before the election. He is still registered to vote in NY, and his voter registration card has not been purged from the database.

We also wonder if this is an obvious case of selective enforcement if RFK Jr. is ever charged with voter fraud. A review of all of the instances where the Board of Elections, or any law enforcement in NY have investigated and prosecuted any cases of voter fraud in this past election would have to be undertaken.

But is this all worth it? And aren't the thousand of Kennedy supporters in NY, and millions of Kennedy supporters across the country the kind of voters that democrats need to win back in order to win in 2028?

Is this the best way to accomplish that goal?

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

— Pete Seeger

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Sharing Shelf's Clothing Bank "Deposits" 66 Bags of Donations



The Sharing Shelf recently concluded a successful Clothing Bank, which was humming with activity as the Westchester Links rolled up their sleeves for a dual purpose - to celebrate their friend Yolanda's birthday and give back to the community through volunteering. They sorted a stellar 66 bags of clothing, filling our sizing carts for our Monday crew to size and prepare into Wardrobe Packs. Many of these friends work in local school districts that we serve, so they were thrilled to have an inside view of The Sharing Shelf and be part of our mission to address #clothinginsecurity.

The Sharing Shelf combats clothing insecurity by providing children and teens in need with clothing and basic essentials, empowering them to learn, grow and reach their full potential. Visit sharingshelf.org to learn more.

Cassatt Strings Quartet Celebrates 40 Years



The Cassatt String Quartet, photo by Dario Acosta

This season, the Cassatt String Quartet celebrates 40 years of performing world class chamber music together. Founded in 1985, the ensemble has championed living composers and those whose music is not often heard. They have commissioned, performed, and recorded dozens of new works, while also delivering critically acclaimed performances of core repertoire.

The season kicks off with a pair of concerts in New York: in Bronxville on January 24, and in Briarcliff Manor on January 29. January 24 (Bronxville, NY): Concert at Reformed Church of Bronxville. January 29 (Briarcliff Manor, NY): Concert at Artis Briarcliff.

In spring 2025 the Cassatts perform in New York, Ohio, and Connecticut. Pianist Emely Phelps will join them for select dates. In July, they sail off to the Seal Bay Festival of American Chamber Music in Maine where they've been an ensemble in residence since 1994. This season also sees important commissions, including a piano quintet by Victoria Bond and a new string quartet by Joan Tower, to be premiered at Maverick Concerts in September 2025.

A forthcoming album of works by Daniel S. Godfrey will be the latest addition to the Cassatt String Quartet's extensive discography, which features over forty recordings, three of which were named "10 Best Classical Recordings" in The New Yorker.

CSQ violinist Muneko Otani says "When I joined the quartet in 1987, I could not have imagined that I'd still be making music with such wonderful colleagues in 2025. It's a joy to see the expanding list of works we've commissioned and albums we've recorded. I'm excited for the upcoming tour in Ohio and premiering works by our longtime collaborators and friends Joan Tower and Victoria Bond this year."

The season kicks off with a pair of concerts in New York: in Bronxville on January 24, and in Briarcliff Manor on January 29. The quartet will perform Dorothy Rudd Moore's Modes, Mozart's String Quartet No. 17 "The Hunt" and Shostakovich's String Quartet No. 14 on both programs. Moore was a co-founder of the Society of Black Composers. Her music "is at once richly structured, quirky, and whimsical, at once emphasizing form and line as well as lightness and, at times, humor" (Gina Genova, Director of American Composers Alliance).

In February, pianist Emely Phelps joins the quartet in Ohio on February 12 at Ohio University in Athens and February 14 at Oberlin College, where CSQ cellist Gwen Krosnick is Visiting Professor of Cello this semester. The programs feature Brahms' Piano Quintet in F minor as well works by Moore and Mozart.

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Westchester Symphonic Winds Continues 37th Season with "Adventures"

WESTCHESTER SYMPHONIC WINDS 37th SEASON | 2024-2025

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 9, 2025 AT 2:00 PM | TARRYTOWN MUSIC HALL

ADVENTURES Works by Aldridge, Chance, Glinka, Green, Horne, Karrick, Taylor, and Ticheli

CURT EBERSOLE CONDUCTOR / MUSIC DIRECTOR

LTC DANIEL TOVEN GUEST CONDUCTOR

BARTON GREEN APPRENTICE CONDUCTOR

CARAMI HILAIRE VOCAL SOLOIST

Noting the significance of the concert program theme, Maestro Ebersole shared, "For musicians, every performance is an adventure. This program emphasizes the diversity and flexibility a wind ensemble can exhibit with every type of repertoire. From blues jazz (Blue Shades, by Frank Ticheli) to a soulful spiritual (Deep River, by Benjamin Horne), to musical theater (Damn Yankees and Candide), this concert is for everyone!"

To Purchase Tickets: Tickets for this performance are priced at \$30 for adults, \$20 for students and seniors, and free of charge for children under 10. Tickets may be purchased in person at the Tarrytown Music Hall box office, by calling 877-840-0457, or online at <https://tickets.tarrytownmusicHall.org/eventperformances.asp?evt=2984>

**Read it all Online
at Yonkerstimes.com**

Westchester Symphonic Winds (WSW) continues its progressive season of music for wind band with "Adventures," the second performance of its 37th season on Sunday, February 9, 2025 at 2:00 pm at the Tarrytown Music Hall. The concert will take the audience on the adventures of a lifetime, beginning with Romantic opera and ending with music of the American bayou.

Guest artists for the Adventures concert include adventurers from West Point, Long Island, and Brooklyn. Taking the stage as the featured soloist is Carami Hilaire, who hails from Brooklyn and is just as comfortable singing operatic leads and sultry jazz. Our guest conductor is Lt. Col. Daniel Toven, commander of the West Point Band; he brings a wealth of experience to this exciting program. Apprentice conductor Barton Green, a member of the WSW clarinet section and the band's principal arranger, now takes his turn on the podium.

Westchester Disabled on the Move Receives a \$20k NYS Grant to Support Healthcare Consumers



Westchester Disabled on the Move (WDOM) has received a \$20,000 grant from New York State to help people find, get and keep healthcare insurance.

WDOM is part of a network of community-based organizations that serve as Community Health Advocates (CHA), providing free, one-on-one assistance to help people access low-cost or free care, solve billing issues, understand healthcare reform and their healthcare rights, and much more.

Maria Samuels, executive director of WDOM, thanked State Assemblymember Amy Paulin for her assistance in obtaining the grant which will help many families stay insured. She also thanks the Community Service Society (CSS). “Amy has been tireless in advocating for us and other agencies like us who help people navigate our complex healthcare system. Access to health insurance and healthcare is one of the key determinants of longevity and the ability to live an independent life,” said Samuels. “We also thank CSS for making these services available to organizations statewide.”

Assemblymember Amy Paulin said, “I’m so pleased to have helped Westchester Disabled on the Move secure a \$20,000 grant from New York State for Community Health Advocates. Healthcare, insurance, billing and reimbursements are complicated. As Assembly Health Committee Chair I’m acutely aware of this and am working to improve the system, but we need CHA and their key partner community-based organizations like WDOM, which provide free help to residents navigating the healthcare system. Thank you WDOM for your great service to our community!”

Founded in 1984, WDOM works to help people with disabilities, the elderly, and low-income families live independent lives by providing them with access to healthcare, housing and other assistance through government programs. Since 1999, CHA has assisted more than 445,000 clients through a diverse network of community-based organizations (CBOs) like WDOM. For more information about CHA, please visit www.communityhealthadvocates.org or call WDOM at 914-968-4717.

Westchester Collaborative Theater (WCT) Launches Spring Classes in Acting and Yoga

SPRING 2025 CLASSES

wctheater.org 23 Water St. Ossining, NY 10562

3-part Screen Acting Workshop Series
with Jennifer McCabe
6 Mondays • 7-9pm
starting 2/10

Let be Yoga
with Flori Doyle
8 Saturdays • 10:00-11:30am
starting 2/8

The Art of Acting
with Susan Ward
8 Tuesdays • 7-9pm
starting 2/4

Westchester Collaborative Theater (WCT) is offering three varied classes to the community beginning February 4. Susan Ward will teach an Art of Acting class; Jennifer McCabe will head a three-part Screen Acting workshop series and Flori Doyle will be the instructor for a Saturday morning yoga class. All three teachers are experienced, creative and will set up an environment that makes learning fun.

All classes will be held at Westchester Collaborative Theater, 23 Water Street, Ossining.

For more information go to the WCT website: www.wctheater.org

Black Heritage Concert: Celebrating the Legacy of Black Composers

The Yonkers Philharmonic

Ariel Rudiakov, Music Director

Black History Month Celebration

Sunday, February 9, 2025

3:00 pm

Saunders Trades and Technical High School

183 Palmer Road, Yonkers, NY

Take a tour from classical to modern, blues to soul featuring viola soloist Amadi Azikiwe and with a rousing finale from the Antioch Baptist Church Choir of Bedford, New York (music director—James Farley)

2:00 pm Pre-concert Talk with Maestro Rudiakov

The Yonkers Philharmonic invites you to a Free concert celebrating the contributions of Black composers from classical music to modern, blues to soul. The concert is Sunday, February 9, 2025 at 3:00 pm at Saunders Trades and Technical High School and is FREE. Join Maestro Rudiakov at 2:00 pm for a pre-concert talk. Amadi Azikiwe, violist, will perform Adolphus Hailstork’s *Two Romances for Viola and Orchestra*. This piece creates a simple yet beautiful wash of color and light. Joseph Bologne, Scott Joplin, Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, Florence Price and Ellington pieces tell the story of composers from the time of Mozart to the present. Their works have and continue to make indelible marks on the music world. Gospel music from the Antioch Baptist Church choir will send the audience home with their ears ringing and their hearts rejoicing.

Whether you’re a dedicated concert goer or just dipping your toes in to see what classical music has to offer, there’s something for everyone. Bring your children and because the concert is free you can stay as long as you like (although we do ask that you not enter and exit while the orchestra is playing.)

This concert is made possible through a generous NYS Legislative Grant sponsored by Nadar Sayegh and Sen. Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins. YPO concerts are produced by the Fine Arts Orchestral Society of Yonkers - a 100% volunteer led and run organization.

FREE CONCERT INFORMATION

Yonkers Philharmonic Black Heritage Concert

Sunday February 9, 2025 at 3pm

Pre-Concert talk with the conductor: February 9, 2025 at 2:pm

Saunders Trades and Technical High School, 183 Palmer Road, Yonkers NY

The 60th Anniversary of the Death of the Incredible Lorraine Hansberry



Lorraine Hansberry, left

OP-ED By Clifford Jackson

January 12 2025 was the sixtieth anniversary of the death of Lorraine Hansberry. She was a brilliant writer, playwright and human rights activist. She was the first African American Female to have her plays performed on Broadway as well as being the first African American Female dramatist to win the New York Drama Critics Circle Award. She Authored a number of plays, her production of "raisin in the sun" was her signature composition that was a reflection of the racist housing policies that have existed throughout the history of this country. It premiered on Broadway at the Ethel Barrymore theater in March 1959 and was made into a movie in 1961 starring young and upcoming actors like Sidney Poitier, Ruby Dee, Ivan Dixon and Lou Gossett. The play not only reflected the brutal racist housing policies that were in place in the plays venue of Chicago but was also an expression of what Lorraine Hansberry and her family went through where they were restricted because of a racial covenant that prevented Carl Hansberry, Lorraine Hansberry's father, from moving their family into the Washington Park neighborhood in Chicago. This racist housing policy orchestrated by the all white community in Washington park was in effect in every state of the country at that time. Carl Hansberry took these racist housing owners to court where it reached the Supreme Court in 1940 in the case of "Hansberry vs Lee". Every white person reading this piece, including the editor, should understand that these racial covenants as well as redlining is the reason why you have "lily white" suburban communities in this country to this day. These racist housing policies were a part of Federal Housing Assistance (FHA) Loans that were given to white families 98 percent of those issued, and along with the racist policy of the G.I. Bill that for the most part allowed whites access to jobs, purchase homes and get an education, and that excluded black and brown people from the same access. That is how white suburbia got started not the myth of hard work by white immigrants. This is what spurred on Lorraine Hansberry and her fight for racial equality as well as gender equality in this country. Her father Carl Hansberry in an effort to move his family from all of the racism in this country died in Mexico in 1946 from a stroke that was related to all of the stress from the evils of racism in this country, which also motivated Lorraine Hansberry to fight for social justice in her artistic and aesthetic way. This led to her involvement with "Freedomways" a publication that dealt with the intellectual analysis of the human rights and colonial struggles of people of color against the racism and apartheid conditions of the white western world. Hansberry joined it in 1961 with Dr. W. E. B. Dubois as the editor. Hansberry worked with him and greats like Paul Robeson and Kwame Nkrumah writing and organizing against the apartheid system in America and the anti colonial movement that was going on at the time in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Lorraine Hansberry was also a part of the LGBTQ Community and she was good friends with the honorable James Baldwin. There was a meeting at the Manhattan Apartment of Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy arranged by James Baldwin on May 24, 1963 with Lorraine Hansberry, James Baldwin's brother David, Harry Belafonte, Actor Rip Torn, Lena Horne, Psychologist and Westchester County resident Kenneth

Clark, Clarence Jones civil rights lawyer and aide to Dr. King and several others including Burke Marshall, RFK's chief aide at the justice department. The urgency of the civil rights movement was the main reason that Baldwin scheduled this meeting. Hansberry pressed Kennedy and Marshall on the issue of American Apartheid in this country and they seemed not to understand the gravity of, and frustrated she left the meeting. She also knew Malcolm X and developed a friendship and mutual understanding after Confronting Malcolm X about his stance concerning interracial marriage that Malcolm X at one time was against, Hansberry had been married to someone white. Lorraine Hansberry was diagnosed with Pancreatic Cancer in 1964 and died January 12, 1965. Paul Robeson and Malcolm X attended her funeral. She is buried at Bethel Cemetery on Croton on the Hudson here in Westchester County. Lorraine Hansberry was an expression of the best of humanity. She was a beautiful woman who fought against the evil history of this country and the sub human treatment of black and brown people by white America.

Unfortunately many people, Especially people of color, do not know who she is because of the criminal and vile aspects of American history, like we are seeing today, with the banning of books and erasing of history.

Cliff Jackson, Larchmont

Westchester Rising

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Westchester Real Estate, continued from pg 2-

ing developer with proposed projects in Yonkers, reflected upon the challenges of building affordable housing. "Our 80-20 is 80 percent affordable and 20 percent market rate, so the uniqueness about that is that it is extremely expensive to build that kind of housing. This project that we're working on in Yonkers would be 166 units.... Interest rates went up over the last 12 months, turning a project that was feasible into a project that has a tremendous gap.... The issue that we have is trying to plug that gap without having to raise the rents."

Peter Chavkin, managing partner of Biddle Real Estate Ventures, a luxury housing developer that is best known in Westchester as one of the developers of Edge on Hudson in Sleepy Hollow, spoke of his success at the project. "In our condominium product called the Daymark, the first waterfront condominium project in the Edge on Hudson community (Sleepy Hollow), we have about eight months left on construction. We've sold 70 of the 100 units already. That's about two and a half times faster than we would have expected."

Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert provided further details on the status of new development in New Rochelle. "The model that my predecessors on the City Council experimented with is working. We have 11,000 units approved within a nine-year period, which is remarkable.... It's the opportunity to really reimagine your city, and so we're entering phase two of New Rochelle's renaissance, which is investment in that downtown and activating the first floors."

Mayor Mary Marvin expressed some concern about the impact of new development on the Village of Bronxville: "We're an outlier on the school issue.... We have 35 children that joined the last week of August. (The superintendent) had to add a sixth second grade, which took away the art room at the Bronxville schools, so now they have what they call 'art on a cart.' The current taxpayers are not thrilled about what happened to the art room."

The second panel featured representatives that support the infrastructure of our county. Leaders from the sectors of early childcare, energy/sustainability, healthcare and education were all represented. The panel was titled: The Development Surge: Community Opportunities and Challenges Faced.

Noam Bramson, acting in his role as Executive Director of Sustainable Westchester, urged consideration of the environment when discussing new development and touted Westchester's success. "A zero-growth philosophy is completely unrealistic and undesirable from a wide spectrum of considerations. The better way to look at it is to say we are going to grow. We should grow, but how do we want to grow? The sort of development that we're all talking about is entirely consistent environmental values and climate action because it's concentrated in areas that are walkable and that have access to mass transit."

Dr. Joseph Ricca, superintendent of the White Plains public schools, asked that developers work collaboratively with school administrators to ensure a healthy community. "With all the challenges, one of the things that we benefit from is a strong community. Even what we're doing right now, collaborating, and talking about how we can work together. I've had the privilege of working with Mayor (Tom) Roach for the last eight years in partnership with the Common Council and talking about smart choices that we can collaborate on for the benefit of the city and the children. That's what's attractive, the commitment to community throughout Westchester County."

Mark Mathias, Lightbridge Academy/The Barley House, expressed further concern about the environment and how that may affect his clients with young children. "I love the idea of emboldening the downtown areas of our Westchester communities.... I'm a big proponent of it, but I do share the concerns about impervious surface areas, the flooding issues that we've had in Westchester. Traffic is always an issue in every town we're in."

Tina Macica, AVP of design and construction, Department of Facilities & Real Estate at Montefiore Health System, provided insight into how her health system is addressing Westchester's growing population. "From a broader perspective, how do we serve the growing need? Being proactive and staying ahead of growth is crucial. We remain focused on recruiting top healthcare professionals and expanding access to high-quality care to meet the increasing demand."

Marsha Gordon said in closing: "As the report mentions, the collective efforts of all parties involved in Westchester County's development projects offer valuable lessons for regions grappling with housing shortages. By harmonizing development with community needs, the county has created a sustainable model for growth that fosters economic resilience, preserves quality of life, and positions itself as a beacon for modern urban and suburban planning."



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

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

To view all of support groups in a comprehensive calendar: <https://supportconnection.org/calendar/>

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

The following virtual support groups are scheduled for February 2025:

Advanced Stage or Metastatic Breast Cancer Toll-Free Telephone Support Group: Monday, February 3 at 7pm

Breast, Ovarian, & Gynecological Cancer Post-Treatment Support Group: Wednesday, February 5 at 7pm

Breast Cancer Zoom Support Group: Monday, February 10 at 7pm (hybrid)

Ovarian Cancer Toll-Free Telephone Support Group: Wednesday, February 12 at 7pm

Wednesday, February 26 at 7pm (hybrid)

To learn more, to donate, or to view upcoming events, visit www.supportconnection.org. For toll-free cancer support, call 800-532-4290.

Mind Your Business: The State of Local Small Businesses in Westchester

By Rina Beder-

There were many heads nodding among the over 40 attendees of the January 14th meeting of the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Local Summit when Shari Rosen Ascher, Westchester County's Director of Policy and Programs for Small Business and Chambers, said, "The pulse of Westchester is the main streets." The program focused on the current trends, challenges, and opportunities shaping the local business economy and featured Shari Rosen Ascher; Michael Murphy, President of the Mamaroneck Chamber of Commerce; and Gina Proia, President of the Larchmont Chamber of Commerce.

Westchester's Main Streets Post-COVID

Post-COVID, there has been substantial growth in entrepreneurship and a greater community-wide focus on supporting local businesses. While the pandemic had a profound impact, it also accelerated many changes already underway.

One such change is the significant growth in home-based and professional service businesses, which now comprise half of the 210 members of the Larchmont Chamber of Commerce, according to Gina Proia. In response to the pandemic and the rise of online shopping, businesses that adopted a multi-channel shopping model—integrating both in-store and online experiences—saw a strong holiday season. Proia noted that "the biggest competition isn't each other; it's online."

Shari Rosen Ascher emphasized that businesses offering unique products and personalized experiences have a competitive edge. Building relationships and a sense of expertise are crucial for success in today's market, she added. A bright spot in Larchmont's recovery is the opening of a dozen new storefronts over the past year.

The Village of Mamaroneck has also seen new storefronts open, but it faced a "double whammy" with the impacts of Hurricane Ida and COVID-19. "It hit the business community in a big way," said Murphy. Despite these challenges, the Village's restaurant scene remains vibrant, and efforts are ongoing to attract diverse businesses. Murphy humorously advised against opening another pizza, ice cream, or bagel shop to increase variety.

In response to these challenges, the County has stepped in with Element 46, a tech accelerator and programs like Launch 1000 which helps entrepreneurs transition from ideas to sustainable businesses. Additionally, the Downtown Improvement Grant program has supported municipalities in revitalizing their business districts. The County also utilized Federal ARPA funds to provide grants to local chambers of commerce, businesses, and non-profits.

Challenges

Proia pointed out that, in addition to online shopping, parking is frequently mentioned as a challenge by members. Larchmont's two distinct retail areas compound this issue. Ascher Rosen

offered a different perspective: "I don't think parking is the problem; I think walking is the problem." Drawing from her experience living in NYC, she suggested promoting walkability to ease congestion and enhance the downtown experience. Ascher even half-jokingly suggested to then County Executive George Latimer that the County sponsor a Fitbit competition between municipalities to encourage walking.

Another challenge Rosen Ascher identified is high rent and the lack of affordable housing for workers. "Westchester needs to be made more affordable for the workforce," she said. "this affordability issue makes it harder for businesses to attract and retain staff."

Both Proia and Murphy noted the presence of empty storefronts in the community. They pointed to absentee landlords and diffuse building ownership as major obstacles to filling vacancies.

Leveraging Resources and the Value of Chamber Membership

The County's goal, said Rosen Ascher, is to partner with the business community and not be an obstacle. Resources such as the Westchester Catalyst website provide information on grants and other opportunities, addressing the critical need for access to capital. The County's "Good Neighbor" policy has fostered stronger relationships with the 45 municipalities in Westchester.

Despite these resources, challenges persist. Murphy highlighted the difficulty businesses face in securing loans for repairs or rebuilding following multiple floods. For instance, Bilotta Kitchens, a local business, had to relocate after rebuilding multiple times due to the strong potential for future flooding.

Membership in local Chambers of Commerce has proven to be a significant asset for businesses. Rosen Ascher noted that Chamber members fared better during the pandemic due to better access to information and resources. The Chambers foster partnerships between local governments and businesses, creating a support network that helps members navigate challenges more effectively.

Both the Larchmont and Mamaroneck Chambers of Commerce hold regular meetings to provide valuable information and share ideas, fostering a sense of community and collaboration among businesses. The next Mamaroneck Chamber of Commerce meeting is scheduled for February 6th at the Nautilus Diner and the Larchmont Chamber meets on February 11.

Rosen Ascher also highlighted the benefits of Chambers collaborating, especially during the pandemic. Weekly phone calls and multi-Chamber events ensured that no single organization had to solve every problem on its own. "When you're part of an organization that can bring together the business community, it adds value," she said.

Building a Stronger Future

The panelists encouraged residents to shop locally. Proia pointed out that for every dollar spent at an independent business, 54 cents stays within the community, compared to just 14 cents from big-box stores.

To address empty storefronts, Ascher suggested hiring dedicated business advocates at the local level, separate from elected officials. She pointed to Hastings-on-Hudson, which successfully reduced vacancy rates by hiring a consultant to engage absentee landlords and attract new tenants.

The meeting concluded with a call to action: shop locally and explore innovative solutions to sustain and grow the community's economic vitality. Westchester's main streets are more than just commercial hubs; they are the heart of the community. By working together, businesses, governments, and residents can ensure a thriving local economy for years to come.

The Larchmont-Mamaroneck Local Summit is an informal community council that seeks to make a better life for the community by helping keeping it informed of major issues of concern. The February 11 program will be on disaster preparedness. Visit the Local Summit online: <https://www.localsummitlm.org/> LMC Media: <https://lmcmmedia.org/>.

ICE, continued from pg 1-

and will continue to do so.

More important, according to Tom Homan, Director of ICE, agents are focusing on removing illegal aliens that have committed crimes. Families and illegal migrants who have not committed crimes are not the current target of ICE.

A review of recent ICE activities in the NY Metropolitan area shows ICE activities occurring for noncitizens who presented a danger to the American public specifically targeted noncitizens for apprehension who had felonies or misdemeanors for domestic violence, sexual abuse or exploitation, burglary, unlawful possession or use of a firearm, drug distribution or trafficking, and driving under the influence. Drug traffickers and cartel members have also been detained and deported.

There have been no detentions of family members or persons in the US illegally who have not committed a crime, according to their website news, [//www.ice.gov/news/releases/ero](http://www.ice.gov/news/releases/ero).

Homan has called this policy detaining the worst -first. "Right now, we are concentrating the worst first-public safety and national security threats. We gave them the direction to prioritize public safety threats. That's what we're looking for. We've been working with a target list."

"ICE officers throughout the country were told today, 'Go make arrests of those here illegally that have a public safety threat.' So, they've developed target sheets, an operational plan to go out in the field ... so they're out there right now looking for the most serious public safety threats throughout the country," Homan said.

On the first day under President Trump, ICE, under the guidance of Tom Homan, has reportedly arrested 308 individuals in the past 24 hours, focusing on those illegally in the U.S. who are considered public safety threats, such as murderers and rapists. This operation is part of a broader policy shift aimed at reducing illegal entries, with border apprehensions significantly dropping.

Homan also reported that over the first 24 hours of President Trump total apprehensions on the southern US border were 766. That compares to 10,000 to 12,000 per day under President Biden.

A Department of Justice memo states that federal prosecutors must "take all steps necessary to protect the public and secure the American border by removing illegal aliens from the country and prosecuting illegal aliens for crimes" committed in U.S. jurisdiction."

Westchester's two members of Congress disagree on the best course of action. Congressman George Latimer signed the IPA as County Executive.

Congressman Mike Lawler has supported ICE, and the removal of illegal criminals. Last year, a report from ICE revealed that there are tens of thousands of illegal immigrants with convictions for sexual assault and homicide convictions loose on American streets. The report from ICE specifically cites sanctuary city policies as "shielding dangerous criminals, who often victimize those same communities." Of a staggering seven million illegal immigrants not in detention as of July 2024, 425,431 were convicted criminals and 222,141 had pending criminal charges.

"As I have said again and again, sanctuary city policies are putting Americans in danger and getting people killed," said Lawler.

Immigration support groups in Westchester fear that the ICE policies will include detaining and deporting illegals who have not committed a crime.

The New York Immigration Coalition recently highlighted Oscar, a NY resident alien, from Honduras. "I came to this country when I was 14. I have lived here for 25 years. I have spent more time living and working here. I got married and have my children here and own my truck and work here. I love Honduras, but I feel American. I just don't have a paper that says I am an American."

There is no evidence that ICE is working to detain and deport illegal residents like Oscar and his family. Currently ICE is limited to working off a list of illegal alien criminals due to staffing restrictions.

Step Dad gets 25-continued from pg 1-

ordered that he undergo 5 years of post-release supervision following his release from prison.

D.A. Cacace said: "Mr. Ferrell set off the chain of events that resulted in Zyaire Fernandez's death. Today's sentence reflects the seriousness of his role in this tragedy. My office is committed to ensuring that our children are kept safe from gun violence and that our communities remain safe places for them to live, learn, and grow."

In November of last year, a jury convicted Mr. Ferrell of Manslaughter in the First Degree, among other charges. At trial, prosecutors showed that Mr. Ferrell provided his 9 mm pistol to his stepson, Tyrese Coghiel, and told him to "do what you gotta do." Shortly thereafter, Mr. Coghiel used the pistol to shoot and kill Zyaire.

After the killing, Mr. Ferrell retrieved the gun and proceeded to hide it in his oven alongside two explosive devices and ammunition, all of which were recovered by law enforcement during the execution of a search warrant.

At sentencing, Zyaire's mother stated: "Ever since that day, my life has not been the same. I miss my baby. He was 14 years old. He didn't deserve what happened to him."

The trial jury additionally found Mr. Ferrell guilty of several related charges and Judge Fufidio sentenced him on these charges as follows: two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree (15 years' imprisonment on each), two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree (3 to 6 years' imprisonment on each), Hindering Prosecution in the First Degree (3 to 6 years' imprisonment), and Tampering with Physical Evidence (2 to 4 years' imprisonment). All of these sentences are to run concurrently with the 25-year sentence for Manslaughter.

Mr. Coghiel, 23, pleaded guilty to Murder in the Second Degree in February of last year. Because of his cooperation with Mr. Ferrell's prosecution, it is expected that he will be allowed to change his guilty plea to Manslaughter in the First Degree. He is scheduled to be sentenced Feb. 20 before Judge Fufidio.

The investigation was conducted by the Mount Vernon Police Department's Major Case Bureau with the assistance of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Safe Streets Task Force and D.A. Investigator Jed Salter.

The case was prosecuted by Lana Hochheiser, Chief of the Homicide Bureau, and Assistant District Attorney Adrian Murphy.

Tyrese Coghiel used the gun to shoot Zyaire Fernandez at the Levister Towers housing complex in Mt. Vernon.

\$1 Billion Settlement! Yellowstone Capital

Settles with NYAG James For Predatory Lending

Yellowstone Capital Will Cancel \$534 Million in Outstanding Debts for Small Businesses It Preyed on and Immediately Pay \$16.1 Million to Affected Businesses More Than 1,100 Small Businesses in New York Will Have Over \$36 Million in Debt Canceled

On Jan. 22, New York Attorney General Letitia James announced a settlement with a network of 25 predatory lending companies controlled by Yellowstone Capital (Yellowstone) and its officers that will deliver over \$534 million in debt relief and provide at least \$16 million in restitution to small businesses across New York and the country that Yellowstone targeted with illegal high-interest loans. The settlement includes a \$1.065 billion judgment against Yellowstone, with over \$534 million of that paid by canceling all outstanding debts owed by small businesses, including over 1,100 across New York state and over 18,000 nationwide. The companies and the officers also immediately paid \$16.1 million to be distributed to impacted small businesses. The Yellowstone companies will be liable for the remaining \$514 million of the judgment.

"Targeting small businesses with predatory loans and outrageous interest rates threatens the livelihoods of hardworking business owners and their employees," said Attorney General James. "Yellowstone and its executives lined their pockets at the expense of vulnerable small businesses who turned to them for help. Their predatory loans forced successful companies to close and put New Yorkers out of work. My office has put an end to these predatory loans and secured over \$534 million in debt relief for businesses that were harmed, helping them stay open and continue to thrive as the engine of our economy. I will always fight to protect New Yorkers' jobs and will continue to go after anyone who tries to take advantage of small businesses with fraud and deception."

Attorney General James filed a lawsuit against Yellowstone CEO Isaac Stern, President Jeffrey Reece, and the Yellowstone entities in March 2024 after an Office of the Attorney General (OAG) investigation found that they exploited small businesses through fraudulent loans with astronomical interest rates. These loans were disguised as merchant cash advances, an increasingly prevalent form of short-term, high-interest funding for small businesses, particularly those that cannot get loans from traditional banks.

In a typical merchant cash advance, a business will receive a lump sum in exchange for a share of its revenue over time. In this case, Yellowstone and the other perpetrators of the scheme used contracts that fraudulently described each transaction as a purchase of a portion of a small business's future revenues, with flexible payment amounts and open-ended terms. In reality, the predatory lenders collected fixed amounts directly from small businesses' bank accounts every day during short repayment periods that often lasted just 60 or 90 days. These daily collections had little connection to the portion of the businesses' revenues the lenders supposedly purchased. While the lenders promised to "reconcile" or refund small businesses' daily payments to ensure they never rose above an agreed-upon percentage of their revenue, they used numerous fraudulent measures to ensure borrowers almost never qualified for these payment refunds. As a result, the transactions actually functioned as short-term loans with ultra-high interest rates of up to 820 percent per year – more than 50 times the legal interest rate.

Over 1,100 small businesses across New York were affected by Yellowstone's predatory loans and will receive debt relief. These businesses include a food truck and caterer in Buffalo, a hair salon in Syracuse, and a Long Island tailoring shop.

One affected business in Manhattan, City Bakery, a caterer and bakery in Union Square, was forced to close after Yellowstone's predatory loans trapped the business in a cycle of debt. When the owner was unable to get a traditional business loan from a bank, they turned to Yellowstone for merchant cash advances beginning in 2017. The exorbitant interest rates and punishing repayment terms ultimately led to City Bakery's closure after nearly 30 years in business. Before closing, the bakery, which employed 30-50 full-time staffers, had to pay more than \$2,000 per day to Yellowstone.

The OAG will continue its lawsuit against the companies that took over Yellowstone's operations in 2021, Delta Bridge Funding and Cloudfund, as well as eight other individuals involved in the scam lending operation, including Yellowstone's co-founder David Glass. Before filing the lawsuit, Attorney General James reached settlements with five other individuals, in which they paid \$3.37 million to OAG to be distributed to impacted small businesses and were banned from the merchant cash advance industry.

Under the settlement announced today, the Yellowstone entities are canceling all amounts owed by merchants, totaling \$534,552,724, and together with Stern and Reece, have made an immediate \$16.1 million payment toward the remaining \$514 million judgment that will be distributed to impacted small businesses. This cash payment will be increased to \$30 million if they fail to comply with the terms of the settlement. The Yellowstone entities are required to cease all attempts to collect on balances owed by businesses they lent to, discontinue pending actions to enforce them, vacate unsatisfied court judgments, and terminate some liens on small businesses' property. The companies and the officers will also be permanently banned from the merchant cash advance industry. The \$1.065 billion total judgment is the largest consumer settlement obtained by OAG, excluding multistate settlements.

Impacted small businesses that have a court judgment or pending lien against them from Yellowstone that they would like vacated will receive information by mail on how to make these requests, which must be made within the next six months. Business owners with questions about the settlement can find more information on OAG's website.

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Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

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The Knicks challenge the Maine Celtics.
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Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720
Waterfowl Migrants and Shorebird Sightings, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m.

This may be the right time to observe both types of birds in action, from the brackish waters of the lake to the salty shoreline adjacent to the Long Island Sound. Please bring binoculars and dress for the weather.

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851

Community Science: Climate Watch, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.
How can community members participate in conservation research projects? Join the staff in the meadow behind the mansion to learn about Climate Watch and how you can get involved. Dress for the weather. Also: Feb. 1.

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

Second Photography and Art Exhibit, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
View people's talents and love for wildlife and nature through photography and artwork. Tomorrow is the exhibit's final day.

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

Shelter Building, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Our homes are nice and warm in the winter, but how well would you fare if you lived outdoors? Learn the importance of survival skills and cooperation as you build your shelter in the forests of the Reservation. Layer up to keep warm. For ages 6 and older.

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

Pyrography: Beginner's Techniques, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Ages 10 and older can learn the basics and take home their own wood-burning art piece in this introductory class. No experience is necessary. \$17.85 per person. Also: March 15.

Registration required <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pyrography-beginners-techniques-tickets-1124535498949?aff=oddtcreator>

SUNDAY, JAN. 26

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

Community Science Series: Trail Camera Workshop, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
Learn from the conservation staff about the proper use and setup for on- and off-trail wildlife cameras. Find out about the lake's wildlife and how we study their use of the preserve.

Westchester County Center, White Plains: (914) 995-4050

Westchester Wedding & Bridal Expo, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.
\$10 general admission.
Get details <https://countycenter.biz/event/westchester-wedding-bridal-expo/>

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

Guided Farm Tours, 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.
Join a guide who will take you on a free tour around the farm to visit and learn about our animals and some of our historic buildings. Also: Feb. 23, March 23.
Pre-registration required <https://eventbrite.com/e/guided-farm-tours-tickets-1138229116929?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

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

Animal Tracks at Read, 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.
Take a guided journey to identify different animal tracks throughout the sanctuary. You'll learn about markings and species in the area.

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Sculi for County Executive, continued from pg 1-

that sets free these violent criminals to commit even more crimes in our neighborhoods. This isn't just bad policy; it's a direct threat to our residents' safety."

Sculi continued, "A law that limits information the County will share with federal immigration authorities is the very definition of sanctuary."

Sculi also promised to cut the extreme taxing and spending that have been the hallmark of the past 7 years under one-party Democrat rule. "Ken Jenkins has raised the sales tax by a whopping \$452 million, making everything you buy more expensive," said Sculti. "He has recklessly increased the county budget by \$656 million over the last seven years. Families, seniors, and young people are being priced out of Westchester—unable to stay in their homes, unable to build their futures here. I will put a stop to this out-of-control spending, prioritize fiscal responsibility, and make sure that your hard-earned dollars are used to benefit YOU, not the bloated bureaucracy."

Reflecting the collective conscience of Westchester and the nation, Sculti is committed to a return to common sense and reality in the social fabric of the county by establishing an Office of Parental Rights. Sculti said, "I know how important it is to ensure parents have a say in their children's education and well-being. I will fight to stop the dangerous, woke ideologies that push life-altering drugs and surgeries on children and that allow men to compete in girls' sports and enter girls' private spaces like locker rooms. Parents, not the government, should decide what is best for their children. It's time to give back control of our schools to parents."

Westchester Republican County Committee Chairman Doug Colety expressed great confidence in the GOP's return to the executive's office. "New York and Westchester are in crisis. Governor Hochul has the state on the precipice of financial and social collapse and the time for serious leadership is now." Colety continued, "Westchester taxpayers deserve serious leadership to stand up to a disastrous governor and Christine Sculti has the experience and the intelligence to do exactly that. She will make a great county executive."

Christine Sculti is a highly skilled professional with extensive experience in government and the private sector. As Chief Advisor to the County Executive, Christine was the highest-ranking woman in County Executive Robert P. Astorino's administration, which cut taxes and kept spending flat for eight years. She has also served as Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the Westchester County Taxi & Limousine Commission, as Assistant to the Mayor of Yonkers, spearheading a 1.5 billion dollar redevelopment project, as Regional Director and Statewide Troubleshooter for the New State Consumer Protection Board, and in economic development for New York State as Mid-Hudson Regional Director. She currently works as Deputy Commissioner of the Westchester County Board of Elections.

As Vice President of a family-owned business and a corporate business development manager for an international business, Christine knows the importance of business-friendly policies that reduce regulations and keep taxes low in order that businesses can thrive and create jobs. She faced adversity when she was present for the bombing of the family's satellite office at the World Trade Center in 1993. Her experience during that traumatic terrorist attack led her to embrace public service.

A lifetime Westchester resident, Christine graduated from Fordham University. Dedicated to community service, she served on the Hudson River Valley Greenway Board, Harrison Board of Assessors, Rye City Rotary Club, Yonkers Downtown Waterfront Development Corp., the Mamaroneck Village Tree Committee and the Vice Chair of the Saint Pio Foundation.

Notes:

This will be the first election in Westchester after President Trump took the oath of office for a second term.

Sculi ran for County Executive four years ago, losing to Latimer-62%-38%. Some Westchester Republicans we spoke to said that although many of the bigger-name Westchester Republicans (County Legislator James Nolan, Assemblyman Matt Slater, Eastchester Supervisor Tony Colavita) declined to run, Sculti could do better this time.

"Trump did better in Westchester last November, and I think some of the issues she (Sculi) is running on could resonate. Plus, turnout will be lower in a special election," said a Yonkers republican.

On Nov. 5, 2024-Trump got 37% of the vote in Westchester, with Vice President Kamala Harris winning the county with 63%. In 2020, Biden beat Trump in Westchester -68%-32%. So Trump improved his totals in Westchester by 5% from 2020-24.

In 2022, Lee Zeldin got 40% of the vote for Governor, with Governor Kathy Hochul winning Westchester with 60% of the vote.

Sculi has also been involved in a group -Save our Schools for Westchester Children, which has advocated against DEI education and as she mentioned in her release-gender transitioning and boys playing in women's high school sports.

We are glad that the residents of Westchester County will have a choice when they vote on February 11 for County Executive.

But as one Westchester Democrat put it "Ken has to be elated that he is running against Sculti. But I'm not sure there is any republican who could beat Ken for County Executive. And that includes Trump, Astorino, you pick one."

TAX SALE NOTICE**CITY OF YONKERS**

Department of Finance and Management Services, Office of the Commissioner, City Hall, Yonkers, New York.

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 452, Laws of 1908, known as the Supplemental Charter of the City of Yonkers, as amended by Chapter 725, of the Laws of 1917, adding thereto a new article numbered Article V-a, as further amended by Chapter 487, Laws of 1922, and as further amended by Chapter 667, Laws of 1933, as amended by Article IX Section 1 of Local Law No. 20-1961, as amended by Section 57 of Local Law 11 of 1995, and any subsequent amendments thereto, known as the Charter of the City of Yonkers, I, the undersigned Commissioner of Finance and Management Services of the City of Yonkers, do hereby give public notice

That the respective owners of the lands and tenements in the City of Yonkers on which any taxes or assessments have been imposed and became a lien and have remained unpaid for one year since the same were due and payable are required to pay the amount of said taxes and assessments, together with all unpaid taxes and assessments affecting such lands and tenements, which became a lien and were due and payable prior to December 24, 2024 with all penalties thereon remaining unpaid, together with the interest thereon at the rate provided by law from the time the same became due and payable to the time of payment, and the charges of this notice and all other costs and charges accrued thereon to the time of payment, to the Commissioner of Finance and Management Services of the City of Yonkers, at his office in the City Hall, Yonkers, New York.

And Notice is hereby given that if default be made in such payment, the lien of the City of Yonkers, upon said lands and tenements for any tax or assessment, which became a lien so as to be due and payable before December 24, 2024; will be sold at public auction in the Ceremonial Court Room, 4th Floor, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, in the City of Yonkers, on Wednesday, May 14, 2025, at 10:00 A.M. of that date, for the lowest rate of interest, not exceeding 12 per centum per annum, at which time any person or persons shall offer to take the same in consideration of advancing the said taxes and assessments and penalties, as the case may be, the interest thereon as aforesaid to the time of sale, the charges of notice and all other costs and charges accrued thereon; and that such sale will be continued from time to time until all said liens of taxes and assessments shall be sold.

The transfer of tax liens to be executed and delivered to the purchaser thereof pursuant to the terms of said sale shall be subject to the lien for and the right of the City of Yonkers to collect and receive all taxes and assessments and penalties and interest thereon which became due and payable, of which became a lien upon said lands and tenements on and after the date mentioned in the advertisement for sale as stated herein, namely, the 24 day of December.

Each of the tax liens referred to in this advertisement will be sold subject to the provisions of the Federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act and amendments thereto and Section 314 of the New York State Military Law.

Notice is hereby further given that a particular and detailed statement of the property affected by this sale, together with the total amount of the tax lien thereon, which are to be sold will hereafter be published in the official newspaper(s) of the City of Yonkers.

FURTHER OR ADDITIONAL TAX SALE NOTICE

In addition to the foregoing Tax Sale Notice and Statutes therein described, the further or additional notice is given setting forth the lots and parcels of land, including the street address thereof, on which the tax lien is to be sold together with the aggregate amount of tax lien thereon, and the assessed valuation of every said lot and parcel as described in the 2023 Tax Rolls as approved by the Department of Assessment and Taxation and confirmed by the City Council.

The name set forth is that of the person, corporation or legal entity appearing on the tax rolls as the owner or occupant of the lot or parcel of land upon which the tax lien is to be sold.

The first item is the Comptroller's Tax Lien Number; the second is that of the person appearing on the tax rolls as the owner or occupant of the property; the third is the location of the property as described on the tax rolls which includes the Section, Block and Lot Numbers as shown on the Official City Map; the fourth is the assessed valuation unimproved as shown on the tax rolls; the fifth is the total assessed valuation as shown on the tax rolls; the last group of figures is the total amount of the lien which is to be sold.

John Liszewski, Commissioner of Finance and Management Services

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Spear, County EMS, continued from pg 1-

Spear said, "I am thankful to County Executive Jenkins for the trust he has placed in me and for his longtime support of this Department. I am proud to lead the outstanding men and women at DES who play such a vital role in keeping Westchester safe. On behalf of all of us at DES, I would also like to thank Richard Wishnie for his leadership and significant contributions to DES during his tenure as commissioner."

The Department of Emergency Services, which just celebrated the 25th anniversary of its creation, consists of four divisions: Fire Services, Communications (60 Control), Emergency Management (OEM) and Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

The Fire Services Division is comprised of four units: fire training, fire inspection, special operations, and fire prevention and protection. The division administers, coordinates and maintains the fire training program that is available to Westchester County's 59 fire departments. It also oversees specialized units, including the Hazardous Materials Response Team and the Technical Rescue Team.

The Emergency Communications Center, commonly referred to as 60 Control, provides primary dispatch service for 54 fire departments and 34 EMS agencies in Westchester. The center is staffed by communications specialists 24 hours each day and also handles all fire and EMS mutual aid requests going in and out of the County.

OEM provides planning, preparedness training and emergency response to major events. It works collaboratively with local, state and federal agencies to prepare Westchester for disasters and related response. During a major emergency and significant weather events, OEM may activate the County's Emergency Operations Center, a state-of-the-art facility where the County, local municipalities, hospitals, utilities and other agencies work together to keep Westchester safe. The division also maintains a stockpile of critical supplies that can be dispensed to local communities during an emergency.

The EMS Division collaborates with local, regional and state agencies to enhance the effectiveness of the County's Emergency Medical Services system. It provides medical training to County employees, EMS providers, firefighters, police agencies and other organizations. It also assigns EMS personnel to County events and facilities, and provides mutual aid coordination and incident management assistance during large-scale events.

"The next few years will bring new challenges, which DES is well-prepared to address with the support of County leadership. We plan to continue making progress on important capital projects and facilities improvements that will further enhance our training programs and resource capabilities," Spear said.

Spear's appointment as commissioner must be confirmed by the Westchester County Board of Legislators.

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

EAGLE FEST

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Welcome a Lifelong Friend - Open Your Home to a Foreign Exchange Student

World Heritage International Student Exchange Program (WH), a Non-Profit, Public Benefit Organization, is seeking local families to host foreign exchange students this coming school year. World Heritage students come from a variety of countries worldwide: Italy, Denmark, Spain, France, Germany, Ukraine, Japan, Australia, to name just a few. They are between the ages of 15 and 18 years, and they are enthusiastic and excited to experience American culture, family life, school, sports, etc. They also love to share their own culture and language with their host families, who welcome the students into their home, not as a guest, but as a family member, giving everyone involved a rich cultural experience. Host families may be single parents, couples and single persons.

The exchange students have pocket money for personal expenses and full health, accident and liability insurance. World Heritage students are carefully selected based upon academics and personality, and host families choose their student from different backgrounds, countries and personal interests.

World Heritage also offers qualified American students the opportunity to learn another language and culture by spending a school year, semester or a summer with a host family in another country.

If interested in hosting an exchange student or becoming an exchange student abroad, please call Debra at 1-800-888-9040, visit www.world-heritage.org or send an email to info@world-heritage.org to request more information or start the application process. Students are eager to learn about their American host family, so begin the process of welcoming your new son or daughter today. The memories and the relationship you create with your exchange student will stay with you forever.

Contact: Debra Garbon, World Heritage Program Director, at 1-800-888-9040 or send an email to info@world-heritage.org.



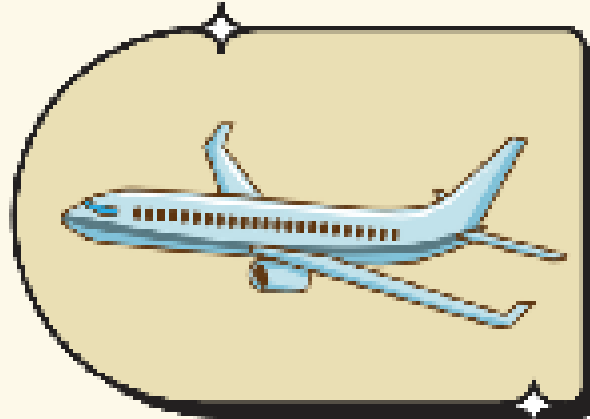
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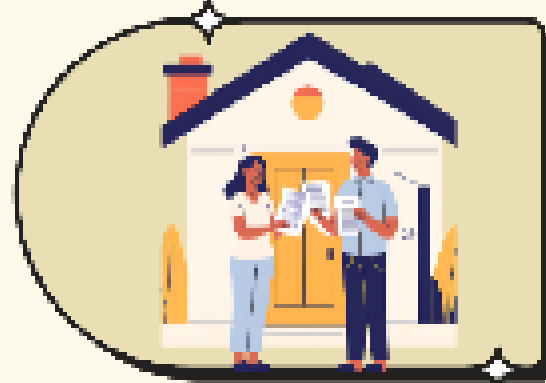


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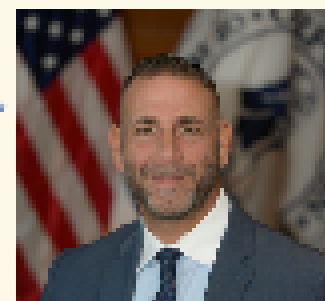


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City Clerk Vincent Spina

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