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Help Us ID Myster Many Stealing Nude Art From SUNY Purchase



By Dan Murphy

Yonkerstimes.com just recently became aware of an older gentleman walking onto the SUNY Purchase campus and stealing art projects of Purchase students. And all of the art this many has stolen are nudes.

Students familiar with the case have been posting about this has now been happening for two semesters and the thief remains at large. The picture above is a good enough rendering for someone in Westchester to come forward and contact the State Police.

The stolen works of art are important to the students, who are graduating after presenting their senior thesis exhibits on campus.

In a statement, the Purchase College Police Chief Dayton Tucker said the investigation is ongoing and “our Investigators are working diligently with local law enforcement in the region to solve and close the case.”

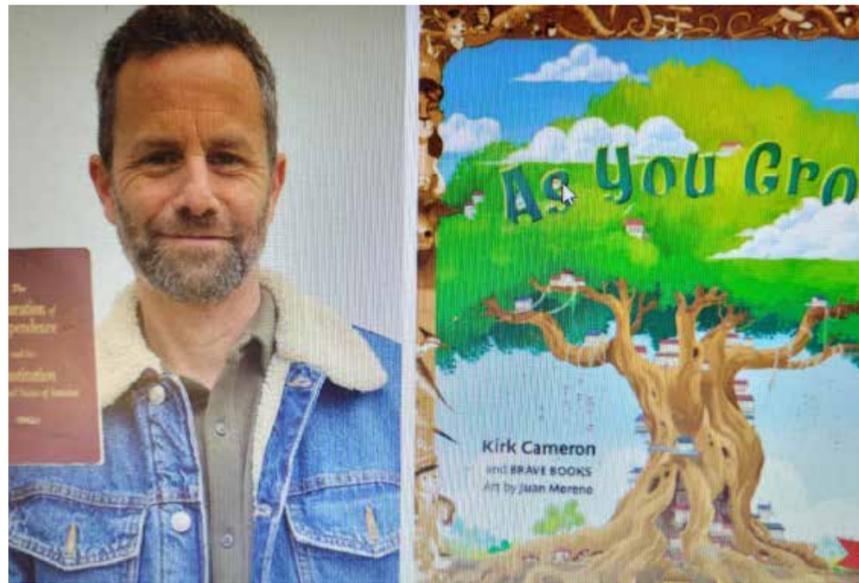
One post online from a student reads, “THIS MAN HAS BEEN STEALING ARTWORK FROM SUNY PURCHASE COLLEGE. For the past two semesters he has been stealing figurative drawings and paintings, always nudes. The police’s facial recognition software can not identify him. PLEASE help us identify him so we can get our work back. Thank you.”

The man allegedly sneaks past security on campus and into the art gallery in the early morning hours. Some have questioned why the art gallery cannot be locked, or at least have a feature where a college ID is required for entry.

Others wonder why this matter has not been made more public. Perhaps it was because officials at SUNY Purchase did not want the negative publicity, or were hoping to make an arrest.

If you recognize this man, or have more information, call SUNY Purchase public safety at 914-251-6868. You call can be kept anonymous. Or email us at dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Families & Children Enjoy Kirk Cameron Read Children’s Christian Book at Scarsdale Library



By Dan Murphy

Every Westchester resident should support the First Amendment rights of its citizens to host a Drag Queen Story time, but also the right of a Christian Author to read his children’s book, both at a Public Library.

In both cases, only those interested in hearing either story can attend. And if you don’t like it, or don’t want to participate, you can “turn the channel” and don’t show up.

According to Scarsdale Police, 700 families, and some protestors, showed up at the Scarsdale Library on Dec. 30 to hear actor and author Kirk Cameron read from his Christian children’s book ‘As You Grow’.

The Scott Room at the library holds 170, and Cameron read his book to two groups of families. Everyone who listened to Cameron’s reading understood that his book, “teaches kids biblical wisdom, through the seasons of life and how to grow the fruits of the Spirit, which are love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, gentleness, faithfulness, and self-control,” as Cameron explained.

But the response from most of the media, and several protestors has been against Cameron and those who came out to hear about his book and his message. First, based on the attendance, there was strong interest.

Second, according to the SPD, there was no incidents of criminal behavior, and the event went off without a hitch. Cameron wanted to pay for extra time to read to more families who were lined up inside and outside but wasn’t able to make it happen.

Westchester resident Robin Stettinisch covered Cameron’s event for our newspaper, and like us, was surprised at the negativity in the coverage by some in the local media, notably, Scarsdale 10583. The title of 10583 coverage of Cameron was “Library Overtaken by 700 Visitors to Kirk Cameron’s Story Hour,” but

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It’s Good to See Eagle Scouts Still Serving Their Westchester Communities in 2023!



Members of Troop 5 making renovations and improvement to the Community Service Associaton Soup Kitchen

On December 10th, Bronxville Troop 5’s Devavrat “Dev” Tarwala conducted his eagle scout project of renovating the ceiling of the Community Service Associates soup kitchen and office space. With the help of William Neild, Robert Harrison Brown, Owen Anderson, Luke Guszowski, and his Scoutmaster, Mr. Anderson, they were able to replace the drop ceiling and the harsh fluorescent lightbulbs with new LED ones. He would like to give a special thanks to Mr. Jared Apuzzo for giving him the opportunity.

Dev first got in contact with Mr. Appuzzo from CSA soup kitchen in January 2022 and asked if they had any tasks he and his fellow Scout could help out in. They did. One very close to them, not necessarily under their noses but above their heads: the drop ceiling of their kitchen and office space was in desperate need of replacement. When Dev first arrived at the CSA soup kitchen, he was surprised at how badly the drop ceiling panels were beaten up. Some of the panels had water stains or holes, while others were altogether missing chunks. Mr. Apuzzo had also mentioned that the light bulbs were in need of replacement. And by looking at how dimly lit the room was, anyone, especially Mr. Appuzzo and his fellow volunteers and chefs who work in the space from morning to night, could say such is true.

After figuring out the logistics, Dev determined that around \$900 to \$1,000 would be needed to buy the materials to complete the project. This gargantuan goal seemed out of reach for him and his fellow scouts. Yet, the community of Yonkers helped achieve this goal. By fundraising outside of the Stop and Shop at Cross County shopping center for six hours, Dev and his fellow scouts were able to raise \$1,406.25, all thanks to the generosity of customers and Yonkers and Westchester residents.

With the funds he needed, Dev secured the supplies and materials that would be used to undertake this task. After weeks of planning and preparing, Dev held

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First Legal Marijuana Sale in NY, But Court Case Holds Up Westchester Marijuana Stores



NYC Council Member Carlina Rivera Celebrates the Opening of the First Cannabis Dispensary in Manhattan

By Dan Murphy

The first, legal, non-medical marijuana dispensary will open in lower Manhattan today, Dec. 29. Housing Works Cannabis Co., located at 750 Broadway, near Astor Place and Washington Square Park, will be selling marijuana products starting at 4:20pm today, and daily from 11am-7pm. Cash payments only are accepted for the time being. Housing Works is a non-profit that assists persons involved in the criminal justice system.

The opening validates Governor Kathy Hochul’s promise that New York will start selling, and taxing, marijuana by the end of the year. Other marijuana stores and cafes will open in early 2023.

Last month, the NYS Office of Cannabis Management awarded 36 licenses, to 28 Justice-involved individuals & 8 Nonprofit organizations, to sell marijuana grown in New York State, at 223 farms.

OCM Director Chris Alexander said, “Not only have we ended the prohibition in New York, but we’re showing the nation, and the world, how to build a market that’s truly equitable and inclusive, and works to undo the harms caused

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Westchester Speaks Out on George Santos: Latimer calls on him to resign; Spotorno Asks Where Was the Vetting by GOP?

Westchester County Executive George Latimer, a democrat, said that disgraced Congressman George Santos “must resign, enough.”

“When prominent Democrats ran afoul of scandal – Comptroller, Governor, Speaker, Attorney General, Lt. Governor – other Democrats came out publicly and called for resignation. Within one’s party, this is not easy... but everyone who defends the indefensible now owns the offense as well.

“I am encouraged that some Nassau Republicans are speaking out against George Santos – and not at all surprised that Marjorie Taylor Greene spoke in his defense.

“Santos has lied not about one or two things in his resume, but literally everything: his jobs, his schooling, his ethnicity, his parents. He won under false pretenses and the people that wanted a conservative voice in Congress and so chose him, will get another chance in a special election to pick someone they agree with in ideology but is not a flat-out liar.

“Those of us in political life are constantly bombarded by opponents with accusations that corrode public faith... “all is fair” in trying to gain power. When a George Devolder-Santos comes along, he gives every critic the platform to say “they’re all alike – all liars”. Santos must resign. Enough,” writes Latimer.

Westchester Congressman elect Mike Lawler, a republican, issued a statement on Twitter that reads, “George Santos owes the people of his district the complete and total truth about his personal and professional background, and a sincere apology for his behavior. Attempts to blame others or minimize his actions are only making things worse and a complete distraction from the task at hand.”

“With multiple federal, state, and local investigations seemingly underway, Mr. Santos should cooperate fully if he is to regain the trust of his constituents and colleagues,” stated Lawler.

Yonkers resident and former Congressional candidate Frank Spotorno asked **WAS THERE A DOUBLE STANDARD IN VETTING SANTOS, OR NO STANDARD?** in his Op-Ed, which reads

The news about Congressman elect George Santos keeps getting worse, and the hits just keep on coming. A recent comment from Dave Wasserman, the guru for covering congressional races for the Cook Political Report, who reminded readers that in September he wrote, that “Top House Republicans were well aware of Santos’s dishonesty before the election/NYT article, w/ several expressing late concern/incredulity that he might win,” and “republican strategists bitterly regard this race as a recruitment failure. ‘Nobody wants to touch him with a 10-foot pole,’” said one Washington DC GOP aide.

In 2016, I ran for Congress as the republican candidate against Joe Crowley in a NYC district that is now held by AOC. I ran a business for 20 years and campaigned in some of the same neighborhoods in Queens that Santos was elected to represent.

Both the NY GOP and NY Conservative parties vetted my candidacy, as they should every congressional candidate. Because I was a proud Italian Ameri-

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Legal Marijuana continued from pg 1-

by the disproportionate enforcement of cannabis prohibition. Every dollar spent in this growing industry will help support independent businesses, our schools, and our communities.”

OCM received more than 900 applications for licenses to sell, and plans on approving 150 in 2023. NY State issued 37 recreational cannabis licenses, 13 in New York City and 3 in the Bronx, closest to Westchester.

No licenses were awarded to applicants from Westchester, Putnam or Rockland Counties, because of a lawsuit filed by a company outside of New York State. The lawsuit claims that round one of the licensing process, which grants licenses to applicants from NY only, is unconstitutional.

Variscite NY One, Inc. filed the lawsuit and applied for OCM licenses in the mid-hudson region which includes Westchester, Brooklyn and other upstate locations. A federal judge has issued a restraining order barring OCM from granting licenses in those communities.

OCM has filed an appeal to the restraining order, which affects more than 50 licenses to sell marijuana. As a result of the lawsuit, OCM did not announce the recipients of licenses in Westchester or Putnam when they announced the 36 other licenses last month.

But several Westchester communities have already opted out of allowing marijuana stores or cafes to open in their communities. According to the Rockefeller tracker, 23 Westchester local governments have opted out. They are:

Ardasley, Bronxville, Eastchester, Elmsford, Irvington, Larchmont, Lewisboro, Mamaroneck Town, Mamaroneck Village, Mount Kisco, Mount Pleasant, New Castle, North Castle, North Salem, Pelham Manor, Pleasantville, Port Chester, Rye City, Rye Brook, Somers, Tuckahoe, Yorktown and Harrison.

And according to the tracker, the Westchester cities of Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, White Plains, Yonkers and the Town of Pound Ridge and the Village of Sleepy Hollow will permit both cafes and dispensaries. The Town of Greenburgh will allow stores but not cafes.

So when and if the lawsuit is resolved, the only place in Westchester where stores and cafes can open will be in the seven communities listed above, and we will report on that when it happens.

Catalytic Converter Theft Ring Busted by DA and 13 Westchester Law Enforcement Agencies



PROTECT YOUR VEHICLE FROM CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFT

On Dec. 28, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced a 24-count indictment of five men in connection with the countywide theft of 56 van and bus catalytic converters with a fair market value of more than \$50,000. The year-long investigation, conducted by 13 law enforcement agencies, led to a coordinated takedown of the five men alleged to have participated in the five-month stealing spree.

DA Rocah said: “This case sends a clear message that Westchester County is cracking down on catalytic converter thefts, a nationwide scourge plaguing car owners with thousands of dollars in replacement costs and damages. I applaud the efforts taken by the criminal investigators in my Office and all of our law enforcement partners in continuing to protect Westchester residents and businesses from fraud and theft.”

The Westchester County District Attorney’s Office initiated the investigation with the Briarcliff Manor Police Department, the Greenburgh Police Department, the New Rochelle Police Department, and the Pelham Manor Police Department, which identified Timothy Jimenez, 24, Christian Ancrum, 23, and Jason Vargas, 19, all of New Rochelle, and Joalen Garcia, 31, of Orlando, Florida, as the individuals who allegedly participated in the theft of a total of 56 catalytic converters from Ford Econoline vans, Royal Coach Lines buses, and school buses in Briarcliff, Greenburgh, Peekskill, Pelham, and Yonkers on 11 different occasions between November 21, 2021 and March 28, 2022. At least 42 of the stolen catalytic converters were recovered in a Bronx scrap yard.

The investigation also identified a fifth defendant, Nicholas Luzardi, 23, of New Rochelle, who is alleged to have been in possession of stolen catalytic converters in Pelham Manor on January 28, 2022.

Assisting in the investigation were the Mount Pleasant Police Department, the North Castle Police Department, the Peekskill Police Department, the Yonkers Police Department, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, the New York City Police Department, the New York State Police, and the Bergen County Prosecutor’s Office in New Jersey.

Jimenez, Vargas and Luzardi were arraigned in Westchester County Court on December 22, 2022. Ancrum is scheduled to be arraigned on January 5, 2023. Garcia will be arraigned following his arrest.

A Westchester County Grand Jury indicted the defendants on the following charges:

- Jimenez was charged with six counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, six counts of Auto Stripping in the First Degree, three counts of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree, all felonies, and three counts of Auto Stripping in the Third Degree, misdemeanors.
- Ancrum was charged with two counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, two counts of Auto Stripping in the First Degree, three counts of Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, and three counts of Auto Stripping in the Third Degree.
- Garcia was charged with two counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, two counts of Auto Stripping in the First Degree, and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree.
- Vargas was charged with three counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, three counts of Auto Stripping in the First Degree, Grand Larceny in the Fourth Degree, and Auto Stripping in the Third Degree.
- Luzardi was charged with Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Third Degree.

Stolen catalytic converters carry a resale value averaging \$300 each at scrap yards, and up to \$1,000 on the black market, for the precious metals they contain, such as palladium, platinum and rhodium. Larger vehicles, trucks and SUVs are often targeted because the larger-sized catalytic converters carry higher values, and because the height of the vehicle from the ground allows for easier access to steal the catalytic converters.

The case is before Judge George Fufidio in Westchester County Court, and is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney and Auto Crimes Coordinator Adrian Murphy of the Trials and Investigations Division.

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Dr. Janusz Rudnicki, ST. John's Riverside Hospital, Offers Robotics & Compassionate Care



By Dan Murphy

Yonkers Rising and Yonkerstimes.com recently spoke to Dr. Janusz Rudnicki, Gynecological Surgeon and OBGYN at St. John's Riverside Hospital, about the latest advances in gynecological robotic surgery, and specifically the minimally Invasive da Vinci® Gynecologic Surgery.

Dr. Rudnicki is a physician who brings more than 40 years of experience to his patients, and it shows in the compassion he brings to each consultation, diagnosis, and surgery if required. But Dr. Rudnicki also brings a passion for keeping up to date with the latest technological advances and sharing them with his patients.

"I take great joy and pride in providing compassionate and highly skilled care for generations of women. If you love what you do, you aren't working a day in your life, and at St. John's Riverside Hospital, it is the nurses and staff that make it like a family. We all respect our patients and each other."

A hysterectomy removes the uterus and possibly the ovaries and fallopian tubes. Several conditions may prompt your doctor to recommend a hysterectomy. They range from benign (noncancerous) conditions to cancer conditions, including uterine cancer. Approximately 400,000 women in the U.S. still receive hysterectomies each year.

Dr. Rudnicki explained that there are four ways to perform a hysterectomy on women: Open surgery, through a long incision through the abdomen; trans vaginal surgery, laparoscopic surgery, also known as keyhole or band-aid surgery, where minor cuts are made in the tummy; or robotic surgery, which is the most advanced and sophisticated.

"For 20 years, we did laparoscopic hysterectomy, so robotics is the next step in performing minimally invasive surgery. I think it's the future of medicine, and I'm excited because robotic surgery is a significant extension of performing surgery with less pain and scarring. There is also a faster recovery, reduced risk of infection, and patients stay in the hospital for a shorter amount of time," said Dr. Rudnicki.

Robotic surgery involves mounting tiny instruments on robotic arms to maximize the range of motion while using small, lighted cameras, which allows the doctor to view the surgery from a computer monitor. The da Vinci surgical systems integrate robotics and sophisticated computer technology with the skills of Dr. Rudnicki.

"At St. John's Riverside Hospital, we are operating on the da Vinci 4, the most advanced model. Safety is paramount, and Intuitive Surgical, the company that makes the da Vinci robot, has set standards ensuring that all surgeons at our hospital are trained and updated," said Dr. Rudnicki.

The da Vinci system allows surgeons to see and move in three dimensions, allowing them to perform delicate operations with precision and only tiny surgical openings. "Everybody who needs gynecological surgery could be considered a candidate for robotic surgery. I tell all my patients that the lighting and the instrumentation are more precise and state of the art."

The da Vinci vision system delivers 3D high-definition views, giving your surgeon a crystal-clear view of the surgical area magnified ten times what the human eye sees. Suturing is far easier with robotic instruments as well. Also, blood loss is significantly reduced.

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We Are All to Blame for George Santos



By Eric Wolf Schoen

Editorial Note: As I was sitting having lunch at Panera on Tuesday, the day after New Year's Day was celebrated, on both sides of me were biz folks talking about the insane plane experiences they had over the holiday weekends. Seems like no one got to the right place at their scheduled date and time. Congress and the agencies that monitor the industry need to investigate the mess that occurred and going forth, the reimbursement travelers should receive for delays and disruptions. And if the airlines can't carry the increase in passenger load, they should not schedule flights. You can only blame weather, technical issues and getting flight crews as the reason for all this mess so far. We never had these problems 20 years ago, and airline technology has gotten better while the number of flights have increased as demand has increased. Remember when it was fun to fly?

George Santos: Congressman Elect (lol)

Can you believe the news coming from Long Island where George Santos was elected Congressman. Everything from theft, incredible increase in assets, lies about the colleges he attended, lies about the high school he attended, a resume full of fantasy, Ponzi (Madoff Style) scheme, I am only at the tip of the iceberg as to what this fraudster is all about.

We have to give credit to the North Shore Leader, a small town Long Island community newspaper similar in content to the one you are reading for exposing 2 months ahead of Election Day what a scammer Santos was. That said, let's give credit to that paper and this one as well as blogs and internet radio and All forms of communication where enlightened citizens like you and me have the opportunity to see and hear comments on things happening locally.

But wait a minute. This is a Congressman from New York, the media capital of the world. No Dorothy, we are not in Kansas anymore. New York is chock full of community newspapers, radio stations, blogs as well as The New York Times, Daily News (a fraction of its old self), New York Post (what many consider the paper of record as it offers stories that tell you the the crime and carnivals) and Newsday. New York has a plethora of radio and television stations with their flagship stations in New York. Most weekly nationwide magazines publish from New York. Our media is considered to be the finest in the world.

So what happened here? No one reads the North Shore Leader? Fortunately that's not the case in Westchester with Rising Media Group Newspapers one of which you are reading today. Can't believe it. There's only so many bake sales and high school car washes a community can have. Community newspapers are just that, news about the community!

If no one read the newspaper it wouldn't be published. If it's a community newspaper at least the political folks give it a gander. If they didn't that would be dumb. No one in politics read the newspaper? I don't know the paper but if it runs grocery ads no one wants to know the sale price for corn flakes? Or apple-sauce. Or cheese blintzes?

Long Island politicians are supposed to be the smartest in the country. Did Republican, Independent, Conservative or whatever lines this Santos character was on check his background to at least see if he voted before? He was registered but in another district. The Peter King's of the world run political machines in Long Island and there are many sophisticated Democrats who slickly run the Long Island Political parties. No slick Long Islander read the Leader and checked George Santos out before he was nominated by the political parties and nominating petitions went out. He's wanted in another country. No one from that country was aware Santos was running for office?

Friends this stuff doesn't go on in Arkansas yet along big bad New York State. You mean to tell me no one vetted this guy including the thousands of people who live in his district. And he was in a close race. Is someone hiding something. This is a fairytale. Fantasyland.

I don't know how this could have occurred unless a lot of people were paid off big time. Where do we go from here. There are enough investigations at all levels of government that hopefully this man will be in handcuffs or out of his Congressional seat in short order. Moral of the story? Review a resume and do a background check on the person you want to elect to office or hire in your business. A McDonald's clerk gets a better screening for a job than this guy running for Congressman did!

Demar Hamlin

Other than to pray for his recovery, my only thought on what occurred to Demar Hamlin on the football field in Cincinnati is that we as a society have to make up our minds if we want individuals on the professional, college or high school level to be subject to injury playing football or not. There's no way at any level of the sport to play without the potential for injury, and there is no equipment currently on the market that can prevent the injuries that come with playing this most dangerous sport. While we are at it let's examine the safety and health

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Sen. Mayer “Disappointed” That Gov. Hochul Vetoes 4 of Her Bills

Westchester State Senator Shelley Mayer issued the following statement after Governor Kathy Hochul vetoed four of her sponsored bills.

“On the eve of Christmas Eve, I’m extremely disappointed that Governor Hochul chose to veto four of my legislative bills-proposals that addressed specific problems my constituents have faced. With my colleagues, I worked hard on these bills for months, always with an open door to those who raised concerns about them. Frequently, I modified the bills to reflect their concerns.

“Ultimately, these four bills made it through the Committee process in both the Senate and Assembly, passed on the floor, in some cases unanimously, and then were summarily vetoed on the last possible day.”

“One bill for example, S.6828-would have required the Department of Labor to notify applicants for Unemployment Insurance whether their claim was approved or denied in 30 days-like most other government benefits. During COVID, hundreds of constituents came to my office for help, and knowing the poor experiences my constituents were having, I was determined to find a better way for them to find out information about their claims on a timely basis.”

“This bill was a common sense solution to a problem, one that is premised on the belief that the agencies of New York State work for you, the people, not the other way around. Without this legislation, claimants will continue to be left in indefinite limbo, unsure of their status, and unable to appeal DOL’s decision. The bill passed the Senate unanimously.”

“Another of my bills, S.9432, would simply require the MTA to develop a vegetation management policy, to protect green space, and require notice to neighbors and elected leaders when land modifications are made. As a good neighbor, the MTA should voluntarily support this effort, but we needed a law to get it done. Sadly, my legislator to require this was vetoed as well.”

“I believe the agencies of state government are here to serve the taxpayers and the residents. If I find they are not serving New Yorkers, it is my job as a State Senator to make them do so.”

“I’m disappointed in these vetoes, but I’m not going to stop doing what I was elected to do-to fight for my constituents and all New Yorkers,” said Senator Mayer.

Dr. Rudnicki, continued from pg 3-

Dr. Rudnicki combines the experience of more than 40 years in medicine with his embracing of the latest technologies. But, in the end, the decision is entirely up to the patient. “Now, more people are asking for robotics based on our discussions and their need for surgery. For those who are concerned about robotics, I give them the pros and cons. I respect the patient’s autonomy, but robotic surgery creates better outcomes. I reinforce that I control every move of the robot. And the results, of less pain, less loss of blood, less risk of infection, and getting back to normal life in days instead of weeks, and nine out of 10 of my patients want that outcome.”

Dr. Rudnicki also praised the St. John’s Hospital team that works with him in robotic gynecological surgery. “We are completely committed to safety and quality. Our Robotic Steering Committee creates teams where everyone knows exactly what they are supposed to do. We also have a superb anesthesia team. There are no weak links.”

Dr. Rudnicki is a highly skilled gynecological surgeon with over 25 years of performing thousands of minimally invasive procedures and 12 years of experience performing hundreds of minor surgeries using da Vinci robotic surgery.

In his other capacity, you will find Dr. Rudnicki as an OBGYN delivering babies at St. John’s Riverside Hospital. “I’m addicted to bringing life into this world—it is an incredible experience, and the staff at St. John’s Riverside Hospital helps make the mother more secure. His approach to personalized care combined with St. John’s Five Star Maternity is the perfect choice for mom and baby.

“I love my job, helping women and bringing babies into the world. Nobody is treated like a stranger here at St. John’s Riverside Hospital, and they are greeted like family members. My philosophy is I want my patients to go home and say they had great care. Everyone at St. John’s shares that philosophy, from the nurses to the CEO.

Patient testimonials for Dr. Rudnicki all point to his compassion for his patients and the highest level of personal care during non-rushed appointments.

“Seen right away, great bedside manner and friendly staff. He got me in right away for diagnostics, and his other office was equally amazing. Thank you!” said Christine.

Dr. Rudnick has cared for generations of mothers and their daughters. And it is that type of seasoned professional that you can trust. He also brings a passion for the latest technology to your healthcare needs. Together, Dr. Rudnicki and St. John’s Riverside Hospital give their patients comfort, knowing that you made the right choice.

Call 914.964.3300 for an appointment. Dr. Rudnicki is pleased to announce he is accepting new patients.

Dr. Rudnicki is an active member of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Association of Gynecologic Laparoscopists, and the Westchester/Putnam County OB/GYN Society. He is the recipient of the Physician of the Year Award and multiple awards in Westchester and Putnam Counties.

Body of Missing New Rochelle Man Found in Long Island Sound

MISSING



Christopher Corcoran

On December 26th, 2022, at about 9:00am, New Rochelle Detectives were notified by the New York City Police Department that a body was found in the Bronx on the North shore of Hunter Island, located within the confines of the 45th Precinct.

New Rochelle Detectives responded, and the investigation revealed the deceased to be Christopher Corcoran, 61 years of age, who was reported missing out of New Rochelle on November 16th, 2022. The New York City Medical Examiner will be conducting an autopsy to determine the cause of death.

There is no indication at this time that Mr. Corcoran’s death was related to a criminal act. The New Rochelle Police Department offers its sincere condolences to the Corcoran family.

130 Grams of Crack Cocaine Found in Mt. Vernon Drug Bust



FBI-Westchester Safe Streets Task Force & Mount Vernon Police in Joint Raid

Mount Vernon Police recovered over 130 grams of crack cocaine from a home in Mount Vernon on Thursday, December 22. Detectives from the Mount Vernon Police Department investigated the sale of crack cocaine from 111 South Fulton Ave, pictured above. This investigation led the Detectives to apply for and be granted a search warrant for the location.

At approximately 5:00 AM on December 22, 2022, members of the Mount Vernon Police Department, Emergency Services Unit, the Mount Vernon Police Department, Violent Crimes Unit, and the FBI Westchester Safe Streets Task Force, executed the search warrant and discovered numerous people inside the home and the stash of crack cocaine.

In total, eight people were arrested and charged; Jack Price, 21 years old, from Mount Vernon, Patrick Pilgrim, 32 years old, from Mount Vernon, Prince Scott, 34 years old, from Mount Vernon, Aaliyah Jones, 21 years old, from Mount Vernon, Louise Harris, 58 years old, from Brooklyn, Dominique Willis, 36 years old, from Mount Vernon, Sheila Draine, 54 years old, from Mount Vernon

The above individuals were all charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree, a class B Felony. Prince Scott was additionally charged with violating the terms of his United States Probation. John Ivory, 57 years old, of Mount Vernon was also charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 7th Degree and Tampering with Physical Evidence..

Eagle Scouts, continued from pg 1-

his eagle scout project on December 10th. After a grueling seven hours of work, the drop ceiling of the CSA soup kitchen looked pristine and immaculate. The boys felt a sense of pride in their achievement. And Dev was able to go to bed that night exhausted beyond what he thought possible, yet happy.

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Nearly \$30 Million in Final Excluded Workers Fund Payments Sent to New Yorkers in Need

You may be eligible for up to

\$15,600

through the NYS Excluded Workers Fund.



• Did you lose work or income due to the COVID-19 pandemic?

• Were you left out of relief programs like unemployment and other federal benefits?

Dial 211

or visit 211hudsonvalley.org/ewf for more information about how to apply.



United Way's 211 Helpline is a trusted community-based organization working with the New York State Department of Labor

Most recipients will get the maximum benefit amount of \$15,600.

More than \$2 billion was distributed to 130,000 New Yorkers who did not qualify for traditional Unemployment Insurance or other pandemic relief benefits.

The first-of-its-kind program served as a model for local and state governments across the country who established similar programs.

More than 1,900 New Yorkers are set to receive benefits as part of the final round of payments from the state's historic Excluded Workers Fund (EWF). Nearly \$30 million will be sent before the end of the year. In total, more than 130,000 EWF applications have been approved and, minus administrative costs, the entirety of the \$2.1 billion fund will soon be distributed to eligible New Yorkers.

"The Excluded Workers Fund has provided critical relief to low-wage workers who performed vital services to keep New York running throughout the pandemic," New York State Department of Labor Commissioner Roberta Reardon said. "As we send this final round of payments, I'd like to applaud the advocates, community organizations, and legislators who made this historic fund a reality. It exemplifies the values of New York State and our ability to look out for our neighbors during the most difficult of times."

The EWF provided financial help to New Yorkers who lost income during the COVID-19 pandemic and were left out of various federal relief programs, including unemployment and pandemic benefits.

The program went live in August 2021 and, within the first month, more than 90,000 applications were received by the DOL. To qualify for EWF benefits, applicants needed to verify both their identity and residence. Benefits under the fund were tiered, with approved applicants receiving one of two amounts based upon the proof of work eligibility they provided. Tier 1 qualifiers received \$15,600 and Tier 2 qualifiers received \$3,200. More than 99 percent of approved applicants received the maximum funding amount of \$15,600. Approved applicants will receive a one-time payment on a prepaid card.

More information about the first-of-its-kind program, including testimonials from recipients, is available at https://dol.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2022/01/nys-ewf-whitepaper-november21_01-26-22_0.pdf.

George Santos comments, continued from pg 2

can and a proud union member, my vetting may have taken longer because some wanted to make sure that I was who I said I was.

Did anyone in the Queens GOP, or Nassau GOP, or in the NYGOP, investigate George Santos like they looked into my past? Obviously not.

And the leaders in the NYGOP had two years to vet Santos, because he ran in 2020, losing to Tom Suozzi.

I also believe that some other republican should have challenged Santos this year, in anticipation of a Red Wave of republican support in this district, and across Long Island. Santos rode this Red Wave to victory, as another republican could have done, without the embarrassment to the party that we now see. The fact that we elected a fraud, instead of a loyal, honest republican, is another lost opportunity.

Another red flag in Santos' campaign is that he loaned his campaign \$700,000 and spent it like a drunken sailor. I loaned my campaign \$100,000, but I spent it cautiously.

I worked hard earning every dollar, manufacturing, and installing elevator cabs across the city and the suburbs. I wasn't going to spend my hard-earned dollars foolishly, and most candidates who are able to loan their campaigns funds are also cautious. Mr. Santos, according to his financial reports, did spend lavishly, which is an indication to me that he was not spending his own money.

Was Santos a donor to the NY GOP, or Nassau GOP? Did he attend fund raisers and buy tables for party events like I did, and most republican candidates do?

Everyone I speak to say that nobody ever believed his tales, but George Santos didn't get the same amount of scrutiny that other GOP candidates do. Why?

I want Republicans to have control of the House of Representatives this year, and I understand that we have only a 5-seat majority, including Santos. However, if the lies keep coming out, and his FEC reports and disclosure forms have more inaccuracies, Santos may not make it to Congress.

And if he does survive, it is worth the embarrassment?

As a proud American, I am also disturbed by a story in the Daily Beast, which says that Santos took \$56,000 from a Russian businessman named Andrew Intrater, who is connected to a business partner of Putin.

The story goes on to say that after receiving the money, Santos began attacking Ukraine in their war against Russia, calling Ukrainian President Zelensky a "fascist". After Santos was criticized, he lied again, claiming that he was Jewish and Ukrainian.

As I continue to examine Santos FEC reports, I say that George Santos is a distraction from the critical issues that face our country. It's time to remove that distraction, as soon as possible.

Can we win a special election if Santos steps down? I hope so, and I'm ready for the phone call if needed.

And I support Kevin McCarthy as the next Speaker of the House.

Frank Spotorno is the founder of Bring Our Jobs Home, an organization committed to US manufacturing. He was the republican and conservative candidate for Congress in NY-14 in 2016.

Mondaire Jones Returns to Westchester, Won't Rule Out Another Run for Office or Congress



Congressman Mondaire Jones, with Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater and members of the Town Board, highlighting a federal grant for \$1.2 Million for town sewer improvements

By Dan Murphy

Congressman Mondaire Jones is completing his first two year term representing Westchester and Rockland counties. Rep. Jones did not run for reelection to his congressional post because of redistricting, and because a more senior member of Congress, Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney, decided to run in Jones' district.

Maloney's decision forced Jones to run for an open seat in New York City, in which he lost the democratic primary. Now Jones is returning to Westchester where he will begin a new government post and ... who knows what the future brings.

Rep. Jones is completing his term by delivering grant monies to the district and by sounding off on the issues of the day. "I'm proud to be delivering nearly \$29 million in federal funding for vital community projects throughout New York's 17th Congressional District. From expanded health care and mental health services, to restoring our roads, bridges and vibrant community spaces, these projects will improve the everyday lives of my constituents in Rockland and Westchester Counties. I'm proud to have worked with my Senate partners, Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand, to secure this money for my district.

Rep. Jones is pictured above in the Town of Yorktown, where he highlighted a federal grant to help the town improve its sewer systems.

Jones also recently penned an Op-Ed urging Congress to pass a law he is introducing to try and regulate what he calls "right wing activist judges."

"Democrats must respond to this historic moment of right-wing judicial activism by limiting the ability of activist judges to strike down federal policies without a basis in fact or law. In doing so, we would restore integrity to the judiciary while returning power to the people and the representatives they elect."

"I have long called for Congress to restore sanity to our democratic system and exercise its well-established constitutional powers to regulate the federal judiciary. As one of my final acts this term, I'm introducing the Injunction Reform Act to bar the ability of activist federal courts to issue nationwide injunctions of federal policies, channeling that authority instead to the federal district court in Washington, D.C., the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals, and the U.S. Supreme Court."

In an interview with City & State NY, Jones said that he is moving to Sleepy Hollow and returning to his roots in the hudson valley. Jones grew up in Rockland County. Maloney lost his election to republican Mike Lawler, leaving the door open for Jones to challenge Lawler in 2024, a Presidential year where the outcome may be more favorable to a democrat.

"I care too deeply to go away, I'm only 35 years old."

After Congress adjourns in Jan. 2023, Jones will begin his new position, an appointment to the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights. Jones said that while he looks forward to serving in his new post, it does not prevent him from running for Congress or another elected office in Westchester. "It's something that I'm considering."

The City and State story, <https://www.cityandstateny.com/politics/2022/12/brooklyn-and-back-again-mondaire-jones-moving-17th-congressional-district/381254/> also included a mention of a NY1 interview in which he expressed "his lasting frustration with Maloney, while actually calling Lawler a friend", from their Rockland county connection.

Overall, Jones was well liked and respected in Westchester during his first term, replacing Nita Lowey. Were it not for redistricting, and what some have called the "Bigfooting" by Maloney, Jones would be serving in the next session of Congress.

DOBBS FERRY MAN INDICTED FOR ASSAULTING TWO TEENAGERS

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah and Dobbs Ferry Police Chief Manuel R. Guevara announced that a Dobbs Ferry man was arraigned on an indictment charging him with assaulting two 15-year-olds in September 2022.

Vincent Pappas, 62, was indicted by a Westchester County Grand Jury for Assault in the First Degree, two counts of Assault in the Second Degree, and Criminal Mischief in the Third Degree, all felonies, and Assault in the Third Degree, Resisting Arrest, and two counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, all misdemeanors. The defendant was arraigned before Judge Robert Prisco in Westchester County Court on December 28, 2022, and was remanded.

On September 29, 2022, at approximately 5:35 p.m., the defendant allegedly threw one of the 15-year-olds through a storefront window on Main Street in Dobbs Ferry. The victim was transported to Westchester Medical Center, where he was treated for a punctured lung, a cervical spine fracture and multiple lacerations. It is further alleged the defendant assaulted the second 15-year-old victim during the incident, and that he resisted arrest as police placed him into custody.

The Dobbs Ferry Police Department arrested the defendant shortly after the incident.

The case is before Judge Robert Neary in Westchester County Court, and is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Catalina Blanco Buitrago of the Trials and Investigations Division.

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NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER DYNASTY, LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST CGSRE ACQUISITION CORP, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered October 22, 2021, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Lobby of Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, NY on January 11, 2023 at 10:30AM, premises known as 68 Runyon Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester and State of New York, Section 3 Block 3112 Lot 59+60. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,792,943.78 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #50855/2019. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the WESTCHESTER County COVID-19 Protocols located on the Office of Court Administration (OCA) website (<https://ww2.nycourts.gov/Admin/oca.shtml>) and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. Anthony J. Centone, Esq., Referee CLAIR GJERTSEN & WEATHERS PLLC 4 New King Street, Suite 140 White Plains, NY 10604 50855-2019 74515.

Notice

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to law, that a meeting of the City Council to be held on January 17, 2023 Time 7:00 PM, in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, Yonkers, New York, the City Council will proceed to give a Public Hearing on the application of Lemor Development Group LLC and Empire Development Capital Holding, LLC in relation to a change of Zone District Classification from its present "M" Zone District (apartment houses, medium-density) to the "A" Zone District (apartment houses, high-density) for the following described City of Yonkers owned parcels of land, to wit:

Lots 29-41, 43 and 44 in Block 2172 on the Official Tax Map of the City of Yonkers, bearing street addresses of 273-297 Glenwood Avenue, 146 Lake Avenue, and 164 Lake Avenue.

These lots are situated along the northwestern side of Father Finian Sullivan Drive and the southeastern side of Somerville Place, with a public walkway extension on Lake Avenue bounding the northeast of the Property.

The Applicants are proposing to construct Glenwood Hill Manor. A 177-unit residential building, to include a variety of unit mixes. The Applicants respectfully submit that remapping to the A zoning district would allow for a more beneficial use of the Property.

Dated: January 6, 2023

Lemor Development Group LLC
Empire Development Capital Holding, LLC
Applicants by
Attorney for Applicants
Cuddy & Feder LLP
445 Hamilton Avenue
White Plains, NY 10601

AGENDA FOR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JANUARY 17, 2023 AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN YONKERS CITY HALL, 40 SOUTH BROADWAY, 4TH FLOOR (building is handicapped accessible).

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

OPEN CONTINUED HEARINGS

5790 – Area Variance – James Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of Mehranco Limited Liability Co., owner, on premises known as 1999 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4385, Lot: 42.43, Zone: BR (B30132) (Adjourned to May 2023 ZBA meeting)

5797 – Area Variance – Shahin Badaly, P.E., on behalf of Marketin Hila/110 Ravine Realty LLC, owner, on premises known as 110 Ravine Avenue, Block: 2118, Lot: 39, Zone: A (B29521)

5799 – Area Variance – Jacob Amir, Esq., on behalf of Dagro Associates II, LLC., owner, on premises known as 165 aka 167 North Broadway, Block: 2094, Lot: 25, Zone: BA (B23338)

5800 – Area Variance – James G. Dibbini & Assoc., P.C., on behalf of Sherwood Holding Company, owner, on premises known as 1186 Yonkers Avenue Rear aka 2 Sherwood Terrace, Block: 6315, Lot: 14, Zone: BA (B29260)

5802 – Area Variance – Diana B. Kolev, Esq., on behalf of Macquesten Development LLC, contract vendee, on premises known as 632 aka 636 South Broadway, Block: 29, Lot: 1, Zone: SBS (B31218)

#5804 – Area Variance - Veneruso, Curto, Schwartz & Curto, LLP, on behalf of City of Yonkers, owner & Verus Development LLC, contract vendee, on premises known as 345 McLean Avenue, Block: 59, Lot: 75, Zone: A (B27461)

#5805 – Use Variance - Daniel Patrick, Esq. Cuddy & Feder LLP, on behalf of Sgarson LLC, owner, on premises known as 673 aka 675 McLean Avenue, Block: 6215, Lot: 1.49, Zone: B (B31393)

#5806 – Area Variance – Andrew Maniglia & Jim Surdoval, on behalf of 70 Pier LLC, owner, on premises known as 70 (66) Pier Street, Block: 146, Lot: 1.4 & 5, Zone: L-MX (B24085)

WILSON KIMBALL
CHAIRPERSON, ZBA

Notice of formation of JCJ Electrical LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York on 01/06/2022. 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, 15 Dexter Road, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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Eric Schoen continued from pg- 3

records of other sports in terms of injuries obtained by players. I'm not saying end sports in our country, I am just saying we have to come up with ways to make the sports our teams play from high school to college safer.

Masking Up?

It seems like the number of people with COVID is rising again. I guess part of it is that with winter upon us more people are spending more time inside where it can spread rather quickly. As I learned last weekend never having to deal with the issue on a personal level, you are not going to get the medication on the market unless you have serious symptoms. Your doctor has to authorize your receipt of the medication. And make sure you read the instructions thoroughly on the initial home test you are given. The medication doesn't rid your body of Covid, it just helps the symptoms you have go away quicker and milder. Any questions call your doctors office, the local hospital or pharmacy as this can be easily triaged without an initial hospital visit which costs you money for no reason.

The doctor told me to mask up again when indoors, particularly in a crowded space. Are you masking up? Don't forget to wash those hands!

Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge

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Notice of formation of PRESS START! Mobile Gaming LLCArts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 01/03/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC, 455 Tarrytown Rd Suite# 1521 White Plains NY, 10607. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of PRESS START! Mobile Gaming LLCArts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 01/03/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC, 455 Tarrytown Rd Suite# 1521 White Plains NY, 10607. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

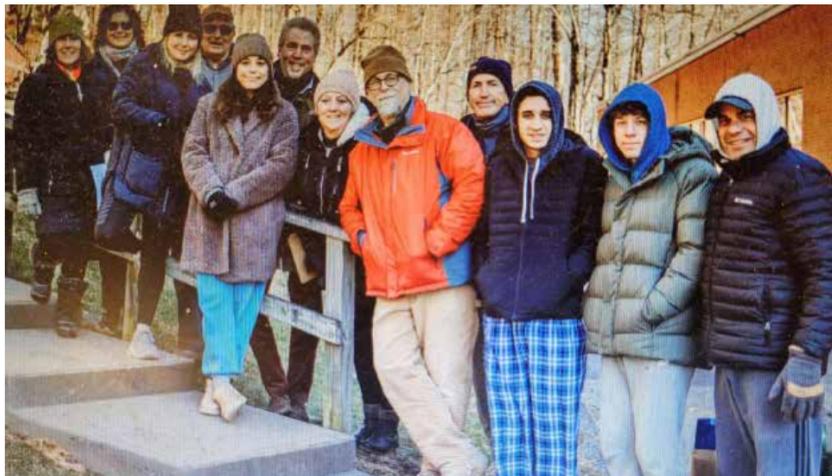
Notice of formation of Beagal, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/11/2022. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 47 Washington Blvd Mt Vernon NY 10550. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of 808 Commerce LLC, a domestic LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/05/2022. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: LLC at 808 Commerce Stret, Thornwood, NY 10594. Purpose: Any lawful act.

HRHELP SOLUTIONS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/04/2022. Office: Albany County. Republic Registered Agent LLC. designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Registered Agent, at 600 Broadway, STE 200 Albany, NY 11207. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of PERIGONMED LLC. filed with the SSNY on 12/30/2022. 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, 73 Market st suit 300 Yonkers NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

29 Years and Counting-The Westchester Christmas Dinner Delivers Holiday Spirit to Neighbors



Volunteers for The Westchester Christmas Dinner

The holidays are filled with special moments – family and friends, gifts, delicious meals, and memories. Unfortunately for the less fortunate Westchester County residents, the holidays don't hold the same good tidings.

For the last 29 years, the Westchester Christmas Dinner has hosted almost 10,000 neighbors who have fallen on hard times. The mission of the 501(c)3 organization is to provide a warm meal, gifts, and friendship on Christmas Day organized, funded, hosted, and run strictly by volunteers. Up until 2020, on Christmas Day, the Dinner hosted approximately 325 residents of all faiths living in shelters and seniors living on their own throughout the County at St. Mary's Church in Katonah, NY. Once COVID hit the Board of Directors decided that, although they wouldn't be able to host, the spirit of Christmas would be delivered directly to the residents.

Once the Pandemic hit, the Board quickly pivoted and made the decision to call for volunteers sign up to grant wishes and/or deliver hearty meals to guests on Christmas Day. The call was answered (and then some) by dozens of volunteers who took on tasks including calls to guests to help organize wish lists, shop for gifts, and deliver – truly a Christmas miracle year after year. This year, on Christmas morning, the volunteers were able to make cherished memories for 65 families and 235 individuals. 137 volunteers helped coordinate the enormous task led by long-time volunteer Jane Emmer.

Jamer Breene, President of the Board of the Westchester Christmas Dinner explains, "Each year we host the dinner we consider all outside factors including weather, a global pandemic, space, etc. We do what we can do to touch as many lives as possible and make Christmas special for those that don't usually have that privilege. Watching the faces when the guests receive their meal and gifts is why we do what we do. No one should feel alone at Christmas."

Each year it's the goal of the Board to continue to increase the number of guests that are invited to the Dinner – whether in person or at home. Fundraising is critical and they will continue to reach out to corporations and individuals to help fund this special event throughout the year.

Says Clare Murray, Executive Director of the Katonah Community Center, "We were so grateful for the opportunity to partner with the Westchester Christmas Dinner again this year and truly appreciate all for making Christmas special for so many individuals and families. Thank you for helping our neighbors who face extraordinary challenges to celebrate and feel cared for with your meals and gifts and loving support."

The Westchester Christmas Dinner relies on residents and businesses to keep their mission moving forward. 100% of the donations go back to the community. Please visit the website to donate and/or volunteer for the 30th anniversary 2023 event which will be a truly special celebration. Visit www.westchesterchristmas.org/home, for more information.

New Corrections Officers, continued from pg 8-

women in their care and help them prepare for a successful return to their communities. As demonstrated in the 2023 budget, my administration will continue to provide resources to support the advancement of our Corrections Department, its workforce and those remanded into their care and custody."

In addressing the recruits, Correction Commissioner Joseph K. Spano reinforced that the new career as correction officers is one of the most challenging in all of law enforcement and highlighted the large number of promotions made during the past 2.5 years.

Spano stated: "I know from firsthand experience that the job of a correction officer is not easy and it will take time to adjust to a fast moving and complex environment. I also know that correction officers have one of the most important roles in criminal justice. Along with providing custody and supervision for incarcerated individuals, you have a significant role in their rehabilitation process. The extensive training you received over the last 12 weeks combined with our continuing support will help you adjust to your new profession and safely carry out your daily responsibilities in a challenging environment."

Spano continued: "These 9 promotions brings the combined total number of promotions in the past 2.5 years to 57; 38 Sergeants, 17 Captains and 2 Assistant Wardens. Due to the Coronavirus Pandemic, many of our senior supervisors chose to retire early, leaving us with some staffing challenges. With the support of County Executive Latimer and his senior management team, we have been able to keep pace with our recent staff separations and safely meet the operational needs of our agency. Now, as newly promoted Sergeants and Captains, you have to respond by working up to our expectations and serving as strong leaders, mentors, role models and agents for positive changes. We are confident in your ability to maintain and build on the successes of our agency in the coming years".

Commissioner Spano further noted that the Westchester Department of Correction is considered a national leader in the space, recognized for its robust rehabilitation program system and accreditation certifications through the American Correctional Association, the National Commission on Correctional Healthcare and the Prison Rape Elimination Act.

Congratulations to the following: Brett Aleschin, Danelly Henriquez, Christina Anglin-Roberts, Cory Hill, Ivan Antigua, Kurtz Howell, Damian Blyden, Michael Miller, Rameek Boyd, Dianne Phillip, Todd Bryant-Harper, Michael Saldana, Joseline Criollo-Leta, Francis Sofsky, Shane Gibbs, Techa Taylor.

Iona Prep Students Athletes Sign to Attend Yale, Cornell, Dartmouth

Nineteen Iona Preparatory School scholar-athletes committed to playing collegiate sports as part of the school year's second National Signing Day. This brings the total to thirteen Division I signings from the Class of 2023, seven members of its 2021 Catholic State Championship team sign with Division 1 schools, including the previous season's New York MaxPreps Player of the Year, Catholic High School Football League Player of the Year and Westchester/Putnam Player of the Year senior Ajani Sheppard, who signed with Rutgers. (Video Clips of Ajani Sheppard can be found here: <https://spaces.hightail.com/space/6VPjdUwwcl>) An incredible thirteen students – 8 percent of the graduating class – signed with Division 1 schools compared to the less than 7 percent of all high school athletes going on to compete at any level.

The average GPA for the nineteen scholar-athletes was 91.29, and over the course of the fall season, 6 of 7 teams – some 254 students – posted combined GPAs over 90 with the highest going to cross-country (the largest team) at 93.30. The following Gaels committed on December 21, 2022:

Iona Prep student athletes from Westchester included:
 Brandon Blenk, 17, New Rochelle, Siena College, Lacrosse
 Gaetano Corrao, 17, Thornwood, SUNY Cortland, Soccer
 John DeStefano, 17, Eastchester, University of Scranton, Baseball
 Jonathan Mayer, 18, White Plains, Cornell University, Crew
 Matteo McIver, 17, Scarsdale, Bryant University, Track & Field
 Marcus Nahim, 17, Ossining, SUNY Binghamton, Track & Field
 Blaise New 18, Bedford, UMASS, Lacrosse
 Colin O'Garro 17, New Rochelle, Dartmouth College, Football
 Sean O'Neill, 17, Yonkers, University of New Hampshire, Football
 Ciaran Phibbs, 17, Yonkers, Dean College, Soccer
 Seamus Ruiseal, 17, Yonkers, Tufts University, Crew
 Tomas Schulz-Langendorf, New Rochelle, Trinity College, Football

To learn more about Iona Preparatory, please visit www.IonaPrep.org.

New Yorkers Asked to Donate Blood

The blood supply currently stands at 2-3-day level, below the ideal level of 5-7 days. The last few years have been challenging for the blood supply. In 2022 NYBC faced five blood emergencies and the past two years have brought chronic blood shortages nationwide. Hospitals and patients rely upon a steady flow of volunteer donors to receive life-saving blood donations, but donations have still not returned to pre-pandemic levels. The "triple-demic" of increasing RSV, Flu and Covid-19 cases is creating a new concern for the blood supply, as fear of getting sick is causing donors with upcoming appointments to cancel.

25 percent of the blood supply is used by patients battling cancer and roughly 1,800 units of blood are used by pediatric patients across the country daily. 62 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to donate blood, but just 3 percent of the population donates. One donation can save up to three lives in the community. To make an appointment, donors can call 1-800-933-2566 or visit nybc.org. Can't donate blood? You can still support NYBC's mission by texting 'NYBC' to '20222' to give \$25.

Kirk Cameron, continued from pg 1-

most librarians would be overjoyed if 700 people attended one of their programs.

The story continues with "Cameron and his book publisher, Brave Books, exploited free speech laws to hold his event at Scarsdale Library." There is no exploitation in exercising your First Amendment rights as an American. A journalist should respect this right more than others, and Cameron was given the same First Amendment protection to hold his event at the same location as Drag Queen Storytime.

One social media post from the 10583-story included, "As far as "exploit[ing] free speech laws to hold his event at Scarsdale Library," these laws exist to protect the speech of those the majority find controversial and even objectionable (yes, even Kirk Cameron's). And it appears they worked as intended here, with "no incidents reported."

10583 continues with "The library was quickly overwhelmed as only 170 people could fit into the Scott Room." The author's use of the term "overwhelmed" indicates a negative connotation that attendees were "invading" the Scarsdale Library. The library, its staff, and the Scarsdale police understood Cameron's event could result in large attendance. They were prepared, and the crowd was peaceful and respectful.

And perhaps the most disturbing part of the 10583 story was, "Though no one knows where all the people came from, there seemed to be few Scarsdale residents in the crowd." As Stettinisch points out, "OK how did they make that determination? By how the people looked? What cars they drove? Seems awfully judgmental and condescending to me."

Stettinisch's characterization that any Scarsdale resident who opposed Cameron's program because attendees lived outside Scarsdale are judgmental and condescending is putting it lightly. In fact, ANY resident of Westchester County can attend ANY program at ANY Westchester library. If the residents and taxpayers of Scarsdale wish to restrict "outsiders" from attending programs at their library, they should lose the state funding that comes for libraries.

10583 also reported that SPD "said that there were 2 readings in the allotted timeframe and 170 were in each reading. There were no incidents reported. Six Scarsdale officers were supported by six County officers for traffic and crowd control. The event concluded on schedule."

Scarsdale 10583 article states, "only one session (storytime) was planned but the library permitted 2 to accommodate more visitors". Stettinisch clarifies, "that was within the hour that was booked and paid for, so they "permitted" nothing. And no mention of how Cameron offered to pay to stay extra and was refused, despite the room being available and the library not closing for another 2 hours."

Another odd piece to the 10583 story was "though billed as a story hour for young children, the visitors included grandparents, parents, teens, and toddlers," as if to indicate that for family members to join young children in a book reading was strange.

A post below the story reads, "Also, LOL at "though billed as a story hour for young children, the visitors included grandparents, parents, teens and toddlers." Yes, that's generally how all children's events go, as young kids generally cannot drive themselves to a library."

And from Stettinisch, "So... what's so horrible about a family story time? They didn't seem to mind the toddlers that were there with family at the Drag Queen storytime sponsored by and promoted by the library for children as young as 2."

The 10583 story concludes with a quote from Mark Gompertz, Group Editorial Director at Skyhorse Publishing and a Scarsdale resident. "While I'm not sure how I feel about all the "outsiders" coming into the community, I applaud the village/ library for allowing it just as I would a story hour about a drag Queen even if all right groups didn't feel it was appropriate. Crazy world."

But isn't diversity and inclusion supposed to be all about "outsiders"?" "I would note that Scarsdale Library hosted a LGBT Drag Queen story hour this past June (2022). But families showing up to hear a story about love, patience, kindness, oh no!" said Stettinisch, who reminds us that the drag queen storytime was arranged for, sponsored and promoted by Scarsdale Library for ages 2+ to "inspire a love of reading while teaching deeper lessons on diversity, self-love, and an appreciation of others," but they refused to sponsor or promote a storytime dealing with values such as love, patience, kindness etc which should not only be "Christian" but "Universal".

Cameron said after the event, "Thank you to my brothers and sisters in the Family of Faith and all who showed up in Indy and Scarsdale, NY to celebrate faith, hope and love and protect the hearts and minds of our children... One of the aspects that has always made this country great is the free expression of ideas essential to an informed citizenry."

In the final analysis, the Scarsdale Library did the right thing by allowing Cameron to read from his book.

Editor's Note: Stettinisch has her own story to tell about her decades working as a librarian for the Scarsdale Library. More on her story next week.

Iona Prep Students Athletes Sign to Attend Yale, Cornell, Dartmouth



see story
on pg 7-

Westchester County Corrections Department Swears in 16 New Officers



Late last month, the Westchester County Department of Correction (WCDOC) held a formal graduation and promotional ceremony for 16 new correction officers, 7 Sergeants and 2 Captains. Joining the graduating class was 1 Yonkers Detention Officer who participated in the 12-week correction officer academy training period.

The ceremony began with a call to order, opening prayer and a presentation of the colors by the Department's Honor Guard, who entered the Westchester Community College Hankin Academic Arts Center accompanied by bagpipers and drummers of the Westchester County Emerald Society.

County Executive George Latimer said: "One of the most important functions of County government is the safe running of a correctional facility. The individuals remanded into the custody of WCDOC have arrived there for many reasons and will look to our new correction officers and supervisors as role models and mentors – a class of role models and mentors which continues WCDOC's commitment to diversity. A full commitment to their new professions and responsibilities will directly impact the men and

continued on pg 7-

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