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Friday July 8, 2022

County Beaches and Pools Free This Summer For Westchester Residents



Beginning Tuesday, July 5, Glen Island Beach fees will be waived, Monday through Thursday, through Thursday, September 1. The latest move to ease inflation costs for residents will be at Glen Island Beach in New Rochelle and also at the County's pools, Saxon Woods Pool in White Plains and Sprain Ridge and The Brook at Tibbetts in Yonkers. Croton Point Beach in Croton-on-Hudson is open weekends only, and Willson's Woods in Mount Vernon is currently free daily.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: "As costs continue to rise, the County is taking measures to ease the burden facing residents. Visiting pools and beaches during the summer should be a stress-free experience, and I look forward to families coming out this summer to enjoy their time together."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, Kathy O'Connor said: "Our pools and beaches are a local destination our residents look forward to visiting each summer. I'm happy we are able to take these steps to ensure our residents don't miss out this year."

The beaches and pools are accessible by the Bee-Line Bus, which is free to ride this summer, through Labor Day, Monday, September 5.

Earlier this week Latimer announced other measures taken by the County to ease the burden facing County residents' wallets. These actions include:

- Funding for Feeding Westchester: Increasing funding to Feeding Westchester by \$700,000, which doubles what is included in the 2022 budget and covers the increased cost of food and fuel. Feeding Westchester has experienced an increase this year to \$0.71 per pound across the foods they provide, compared to \$0.60 per

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Crime Down Again in Westchester County in All Categories Over Five Year Span

"While other parts of the Country and State may be having issues with crime – Westchester County is making our downtowns and rural streets safer for the residents who call Westchester home. This is a safe county, this will continue to be a safe county, and all the credit goes to the brave men and women in uniform who are driving crime down." **-County Executive George Latimer**

By Dan Murphy

On June 23, Westchester County Executive George Latimer pushed back on the state and national narrative about fears of crime by pointing to countywide data that shows crime continues to decline in Westchester, including last year, 2021.

"While other parts of the Country and State may be having issues with crime – Westchester County is making our downtowns and rural streets safer for the residents who call Westchester home. This is a safe county, this will continue to be a safe county, and all the credit goes to the brave men and women in uniform who are driving crime down," said Latimer, who shared the following crime data:

- Total crime, property crimes, violent crime are all down from when comparing 2017 to 2021.
- Crime generally dropped each year as compared the prior year, except in 2020.
- In 2020, there was a spike in property crime – and therefore total index crimes – as compared to the year before. But the 2020 numbers for both total index crimes and property crimes was still less than the 2017 numbers.
- In 2020, violent crime was down as compared to the year before even as property crimes rose
- Violent crime dropped every year from 2017 to 2021 as compared to a prior year.
- Latimer made a similar announcement in Feb., but did not have the 2021 data. Now with five years of crime data, (2107-2021) all crime continues to be down in Westchester County. Counting all four quarters of 2017-2021, crime in Westchester County has dropped significantly in all categories.
- The Westchester County Department of Public Safety compared 2017 through 2021 and saw a decrease across the board.
- 20.4 % Decrease in Index Crimes
- 22.9 % Decrease in Violent Crimes
- That includes murder, rape, robbery and aggravated assault.
- 16.7 % Decrease in Property Crimes
- That includes burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft.
- Source: DCJS, Uniform Crime Reporting File
- Department of Public Safety Acting Commissioner Terrance Raynor "The Westchester County Police remain committed to working collaboratively with all local, state and federal partners to make a safe Westchester County even safer. We do so in multiple ways, from hosting the multi-agency Real Time Crime Center, to assigning personnel to joint task forces, to partnering with individual departments on a variety of investigations. By working together, we can continue to keep the people of Westchester safe."
- Latimer released the latest crime statistics in Ardsley, where crime has also dropped. In Ardsley, total index crimes follow a similar trend to the the county, trending down from 2017.
- Latimer said: "Here in Westchester we pride ourselves on working together – across jurisdictional lines and across party lines – the result is a better more cohesive police response. Our police are doing a remarkable job and I am incredibly proud of them. People move to Westchester, and stay in Westchester, because Westchester County is safe. Crime is down -it's been down and it will continue to

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Shimsky and Levenberg Win Dem Primaries for Assembly; Hochul & Zeldin Advance for Gov.



MaryJane Shimsky, left and Dana Levenberg, were the big winners in Westchester on primary day June 28
By Dan Murphy

Westchester County Legislator MaryJane Shimsky defeated incumbent Assemblyman Tom Abinanti in a democratic primary for his seat in the 92nd Assembly district on June 28. Shimsky decisively beat Abinanti by a 57%-43% margin with relatively low turnout.

The race between Shimsky and Abinanti was one of two closely watched Assembly primaries in Westchester. Shimsky's victory also points to one of two victories for progressive democratic candidates against their more moderate opponents.

Shimsky's victory in the primary almost guarantees her victory in November, in the overwhelmingly democratic 92nd district, which includes the Town of Greenburgh and Mt. Pleasant, and a small part of Yonkers.

The other contested democratic primary in Westchester was in the 95th Assembly District, to replace retiring Assemblywoman Sandy Galef. Three democrats sought to replace Galef; Ossining Supervisor Dana Levenberg; County Legislator Colin Smith and former Peekskill Councilmember Vanessa Agudelo.

Levenberg was the winner on Primary night with 44% of the vote, with Agudelo second with 34% and Smith a distant third with 19%. Agudelo is still running on the Working Families Party line in November.

In the race for Governor, Democrat Kathy Hochul won her primary, decisively defeating Tom Suozzi and Jumaane Williams. Governor Hochul received 67%, with Williams second at 19% and Suozzi with 13%.

In the GOP Primary for Governor, Congressman Lee Zeldin was the winner with 44%, Andrew Giuliani with 22%, Rob Astorino with 19% and Harry Wilson with 15%. Zeldin and Hochul will now face each other in November, with Williams currently on the Working Families Party line.

Westchester High School Student Donates 130 Dance Costumes to Non-Profits



Isabel Lavery, with her donated dresses

By Dan Murphy

Isabel Lavery, a rising senior at Croton Harmon High School, was able to collect 130 dance costumes that were donated by Westchester families to benefit Youth Theatre Interactions (YTI) in Yonkers and Revelators Dance Troupe in Mt. Vernon. The dance costumes donated were of high quality and in great condition with a retail value of over \$10,000.

"I've been a dancer since I was four and I have my costume from my first performance. I kept them and they are piling up in my closet. I thought what a better way to put them to good use and give it to someone and give it a second life and hopefully they will love it like I did," said Lavery, who presented the costumes on June 25 at the new home of YTI, at 68 Warburton Avenue in Yonkers.

"I contacted dance schools and stores that I know in Westchester, and asked if they would put a bin out for customers to see and donate costumes. We ended up working with Ms. Dancewear in Mohegan Lake and Repertoire Dance Shop in Scarsdale – my two favorite shops!" said Lavery.

ArtsWestchester, a non-profit supporting the arts in Westchester, has been incredibly supportive of Isabel's costume drive. "ArtsWestchester was a tremendous help with the drive. Sue Abbott helped me find recipients for the donated costumes. She reached out to dance schools. Youth Theater Interactions in Yonkers, and Revelators Dance Troupe were the recipients we worked with – both great local institutions. Without ArtsWestchester, Star2Star could not have happened! They connected me with the studios and helped me polish the concept to a working model, which caused an increase in donations and support," said Lavery.

All of the 130 costumes came from generous donations. "I even had a neighbor, who dropped off 16 costumes at my house towards the end of the drive!"

Youth Theatre Interactions, Inc. (YTI) is a non-profit that provides professional instruction in the performing arts to Westchester County youth. With the support and participation of their parents, YTI nurtures creativity and pride in accomplishment while fostering discipline, confidence, and critical thinking in young people.

Revelators Dance Troupe, located in Mt. Vernon, is a 501(c)3 multi-disciplinary arts education organization providing a safe artistic outlet for young people. They offer quality programming aimed to inspire, strengthen and develop young people and educate through dance.

Both organizations were grateful for Isabel's hard work and generosity. "It's important to recognize and celebrate positive efforts by our youth. Isabel's efforts will impact so many other children. She shared fond memories of her dancing and

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Historic Hudson Valley & Mark Rockefeller Honor Martin & Irene Ginsberg



L-R-Wilson S. Neely, Chairman of Historic Hudson Valley; Irene Ginsburg; Martin Ginsburg; Mark F. Rockefeller, Chair, Executive Committee, HHV

In recognition of Martin and Irene Ginsburg’s significant contributions to the economic development, environmental protection, and cultural vitality of Westchester County, Historic Hudson Valley honored the couple at a dinner on June 23 at Abeyton Lodge, in Pocantico Hills, New York. Martin Ginsburg is the founder and principal of Ginsburg Development Companies, which has its headquarters in Valhalla and operates throughout the Hudson Valley region.

More than 150 guests, including New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins; Mark F. Rockefeller, Chair, Executive Committee of Historic Hudson Valley; Wilson S. Neely, Chairman of Historic Hudson Valley; and Kimberly J. Huchro, Vice-Chair of Historic Hudson Valley and Founding Committee Chair, gathered to celebrate the Ginsburgs’ many achievements, including the restoration and transformation of a 19th-century convent in Peekskill into the Abbey Inn & Spa. Since opening in 2020, the Abbey Inn & Spa has been profiled in the New York Times, named one of the best new hotels by USA Today, and has become one of the Hudson Valley’s premier tourist destinations.

Sen. Stewart-Cousins, who recently secured \$1 million in the New York State budget to support arts programs in the region, spoke at the dinner. The senator has been involved with HHV’s Women’s History Institute initiatives in the past, including an appearance at the popular event, “Vote Like a Girl,” a summer festival at Washington Irving’s Sunnyside. “I’m pleased to support Historic Hudson Valley’s Women’s History Institute, which tells the stories of the women — both free and enslaved — who contributed so much to the economy and culture of the Hudson Valley,” Sen. Stewart-Cousins said. “My heartiest congratulations go out to Martin and Irene Ginsburg who were honored for their restoration and transformation of a historic Peekskill convent into a world-class destination.”

Messrs. Rockefeller and Neely presented the Ginsburgs with an award recognizing their decades of work and their dedication to the area.

“With HHV’s focus on preserving and contributing to this unique regional landscape, it is only fitting that we honor the Ginsburgs and their extraordinary adaptation of the former home of the Community of St. Mary, the oldest Episcopalian religious order in the United States,” said Waddell Stillman, President of Historic Hudson Valley.

The Women’s History Institute, which was founded in 2016, illuminates the contributions of women in the Hudson Valley through critical research, popular events, and digital programs, such as “Invisible Women,” a virtual field trip under development featuring the little-known stories of the free and enslaved women of Philipsburg and Van Cortlandt Manors. “Invisible Women” was supported by a prestigious grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Summer Screenings Under the Stars Starts July 15 with Sing 2



Westchester County Parks and Share Creative present the White Plains Hospital Screenings Under the Stars, which kicks off with the musical comedy, Sing 2 (2021-PG) on Friday, July 15, at Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla.

County Executive George Latimer said, “Outdoor movies bring back fond childhood memories. I hope Westchester County residents will start some treasured family traditions and take advantage of this wonderful program, which is possible thanks to our sponsors!”

Parks Commissioner, Kathleen O’Connor said, “Summertime is synonymous with outdoor movies, and Kensico’s great lawn is the perfect spot to enjoy a free movie with family and friends on a warm summer night.”

The gates open at 5:30 p.m. and movies begin at sundown. Event is rain or shine. Admission and parking are free. Moviegoers should bring blankets, folding chairs and a picnic. Refreshments will be available for sale.

The other movies in the series are:

* Boss Baby 2: Family Business (2021-PG) on Wednesday, Aug. 17, at Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

* Spider-Man: No Way Home (2021-PG 13) on Saturday, Sept. 17, at Glen Island Park, New Rochelle

* The Addams Family 2 (2021-PG) on Friday, Oct. 21, at Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson

The White Plains Hospital Screenings Under the Stars is presented by Westchester County Parks and Share Creative with Westchester Parks Foundation, and support from Westchester Talk Radio, 100.7 WHUD, 107.1 The Peak, Palisades Mazda, The Premier Collection, Look Dine-In Cinemas, Valley Bank, Hamlethub, Robison, LLP, Inspiria Outdoor Advertising, and Westchester Magazine.

Movies may be cancelled due to inclement weather conditions.

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NOT SHOWN: Evan Gaines, MD; Vishal A. Mehta, MD; Patrick Murray, MD; Paul S. Ragusa, MD; Daniel Shein, MD; David Shein, MD; Eric Spencer, MD; Mario Voloshin, DPM, FACFAS



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Town of Yorktown Releases Cyberbullying Video



L-R-Marie Considine, Supervisor Matt Slater, Police Chief Robert Noble, Liz Talbert

On June 29, the Town of Yorktown and the Alliance for Safe Kids released a cyberbullying video to help parents identify the signs of online harassment. Cyberbullying is defined as bullying or harassment that occurs through digital devices like cell phones, computers or tablets. The bullying can be delivered through text messages, phone apps, social media and gaming platforms where people can view or share content.

"It includes sending, posting, or sharing negative, harmful, false or mean content about someone else," said Liz Talbert, the executive director of the Yorktown Alliance for Safe Kids.

Many parents may not recognize the signs of cyberbullying because they were not teenagers during a time when cell phones and social media were a daily part of life.

"When I was growing up in Yorktown, we didn't have cell phones and we didn't have social media," said Supervisor Matt Slater. "So, when you left school during the day and you returned home, you returned to your safe haven."

Social media has shattered the sense of home as a safe haven, said Marie Considine, executive director of Nami Westchester, an affiliate of the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

"These days, it's where a lot of social anxiety is happening, right in their own bedrooms," said Considine.

Signs that a child is being bullied include:

- Not performing well in school
- Prolonged feelings of sadness
- Decreased self-esteem
- Changes in appetite
- Avoiding school

Yorktown Police Chief Robert Noble said parents who suspect that their child is being bullied should contact school officials because school codes of conduct apply to students even when they are off campus.

"You should work with the school leadership to have them assist you. It is legally mandated in New York state for all school districts to have an anti-bullying policy, so that is where I begin. I would avoid contact the parents of the bully," said Chief Noble.

A copy of the video is posted on Yorktown's YouTube channel.

Does Anyone Have Manners Anymore?



By Eric Wolf Schoen

Summer is here. The television and radio meteorologists had Saturday of the holiday weekend with locusts coming from the sky and it ended up being a gorgeous sunny day. Where they get their information from God only knows. But then again he's responsible for the weather and there isn't much we can do about it other than waste a BBQ day at the movies.

One thing I have noticed even before the pandemic but especially as Covid has taken its toll on us is the loss of manners, actually loss of a civilized society. People are so obsessed with speeding to get where they have to go that they drive on the striped lines on the road honking their horns like maniacs and zooming around other cars just to be a couple of seconds ahead. This is even on roadways where the posted speed limits are clear as a whistle.

Where do these speeders have to go? Is it worth the risk of driving over the limits and risking your life to get to where you have to go one minute ahead of the person in front of you? I think not. All we see on the road are accidents caused by dangerous drivers. And the faster they go, the worse gas mileage they get. Bottom line: go slower, save gas and be safer.

And if you are not going fast enough for the driver behind, apply the brakes. They get a quick lesson you mean business and might not be Speedy Gonzalez zooming around town.

No one has any manners anymore. So I thought I would review some of the common manners just as a refresher course. I went to the gym, a man had one good leg and one leg missing, and the idiots didn't open the door for him or at least hold the door as he got in and out of the gym. Pray god you never find yourself in that situation.

Did people forget how to say please and thank you? Thank you if someone does something nice and please before taking something that is not yours even if it is to borrow it.

If someone is in conversation, do not interrupt them without saying excuse me. So many of us are in a rush and simply interject our thoughts, or interject our thoughts in other people's conversations.

If you have doubt about something, ask permission. Don't just take everything for granted. Maybe the plastic bags and flyer in a grocery cart by the bathroom in a supermarket belong to someone going to the bathroom. You don't bring your grocery cart in the bathroom. Someone recently took my marked up Stop and Shop flyer and some plastic bags that I was going to use to bag my groceries right out of my cart as I spent a minute using the facilities. If the nickel for a paper bag is going to break you, then you better examine your budgetary spending. And there are plenty of flyers or circulars listing sales in the front of the store.

Think negative opinions to yourself. Don't think everyone wants to converse with you. Only add something in if it will help the person you know like someone buying 2 packages of a product when they can get a third one free. Many times however the person you are interacting with doesn't have room in the freezer or fridge for the third item, so if someone suggests a special to you and you are in this predicament simply say thank you!

Don't comment on people's physical characteristics unless it is a compliment. In the aforementioned situation with the man who lost his leg, he might not want you to know how he lost it. And frankly it's none of your business.

When people ask how you are, tell them. But make sure to ask them how they are. We all go through ups and down, and if someone is down try to cheer them up. Nothing better than when one has a positive mood!

When you are going to someone's house for a play date or for dinner, bring them something they will enjoy. Whether it's a box of candy or cake or a simple toy for a child, bringing them something could guarantee a visit back. And make sure you offer to clean up. Let them say no!

Knock on closed doors. Wait till you see if there is anyone before you enter. Don't talk loud while you are waiting to see if the coast is clear.

When making a phone call always introduce yourself first. Then after you have established who you are, ask for the person you are calling for.

Plain, old fashion hand written notes can be just as nice as a fancy card. Whether it's to celebrate someone's Birthday or simply to say hello. In this age of email, sometimes it's nice to get a penned note with a more personal feeling to it that the recipient can display for all to see.

Never use foul language even if you know the party you are talking to. Everyone knows the foul words and will think less of you if you use them.

At McDonalds, a fast food restaurant or a friend's barbecue, clean up after yourself. The workers or your friend's family are not servants who have to pick up after you!

Don't call a person mean names. Only use a nickname if you know the person and the nickname is not negative in nature. People will think more of you if

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The unofficial kick off of the Saratoga racing season.

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Rent Guideline Board Approves 2% One Year Increase, 3%-2 Year

Landlords Wanted More Due to Inflation

On June 27, the Westchester County Rent Guidelines Board approved a rent adjustment of 2% for one-year leases and 3% for two-year leases starting October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023, with a final vote of 5-3. Although the new increases will avoid the rent freeze and near-freezes of the past two years, the rent adjustment does not keep up with the operating costs of rent-stabilized buildings that have dramatically increased due to inflation and the supply shortage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. There are 25,000 rent stabilized apartments in Westchester.

Nationally, the inflation rate has risen to over 8%. Building materials are up 19.2% year over year according to the National Association of Home Builders, and 35.6% since March 2020. Since September, the cost of lumber shot up again by 60.4%. Labor costs and windows and doors are increasing on jobs across the county. In Westchester County, heating oil prices increased from 302 cents per gallon to 515.1 cents per gallon from April 2021 to April 2022, a 71% increase. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) estimated that on average there will be an increase of 3.9% in the price of electricity for U.S. households this summer. In Con Edison's Westchester County territory, bills could jump 15%, the company says.

"Businesses everywhere are adjusting their prices to coincide with the inflation rates in order to continue staying viable. Why shouldn't we be able to do the same?" Lisa DeRosa, President of the Building and Realty Institute (BRI) and White Plains landlord said. "How are we supposed to keep our businesses going if we can't make the necessary investments and repairs in the properties that allow us to provide housing that is safe, secure, and dignified for our tenants? If we continue to receive improper increases in rent renewals, our buildings will suffer tremendously and so will our tenants."

Along with rising operating costs, insurance premiums have doubled in the past few years and will continue to grow for the foreseeable future. As a result, property owners are finding it difficult to make any sort of return on renovations leading to more vacancies in an already depleted housing market. The passing of the statewide Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act (HSTPA) in 2019 also placed many restrictions on how buildings can be improved or renovated.

"New York has some of the toughest rent regulations, and yet we still try to manage. We used to be able to cross subsidize jumps in cost through vacancy bonuses, through fully reimbursed Individual Apartment Improvements, for reasonable repayments related to Major Capital Improvements, or from some flexibility from market rate tenants or even commercial tenants helping to subsidize rent-stabilized units," DeRosa said. "After the ruling of HSTPA, we can no longer do that. Then the COVID-19 pandemic hit, and we were faced with an eviction moratorium that left many small landlords with missing payments, a loss of income, and no one to help us."

"We're not faceless corporations, or fly-by-night investors, or people looking to make a quick buck. We have deep roots in these communities, we have deep connections with many of our tenants, and we're dedicated to keeping our buildings in proper condition. We are all on the same side at the end of the day: we want safe and quality housing for everyone in our communities. But not providing us with a sufficient increase prevents us from supplying that - which will undoubtedly hurt our tenants as well."

The Westchester Rent Guidelines Board announced that it will be scheduling a further public meeting to be held in September 2022 (specific date to be determined) to certify the rent guidelines for rent-stabilized leases commencing between October 1, 2022 and September 30, 2023. This formality will not change the percentage rent increases voted upon on Monday night.

The Building and Realty Institute of Westchester and the Mid-Hudson Region (BRI), based in Armonk, has more than 1,800 members in fourteen counties of New York State, in the real estate industry. Its mission is to improve the relationships among builders and real estate business owners to the mutual advantage of the industry. For additional information, please visit <https://www.buildersinstitute.org>.

County Board Approves, Latimer Signs, Reproductive Health Care Facilities Access Act

On June 27, the Board of Legislators voted to approve a law ensuring safe access to reproductive health care facilities. The measure passed by a 15-2 vote. Westchester County Executive George Latimer signed the act into law immediately after its approval by the Board.

The new law, which takes effect immediately, will protect health care workers and patients seeking medical treatment from being obstructed from entering or exiting a reproductive health care facility and from harassing behavior from persons within specific distances of the premises. It enacts a 25-foot no-harassment zone around the facility's perimeter and establishes the designation of an 8-foot personal space bubble surrounding the person within 100 feet of the facility.

As the nation reels from the Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization decision that overturned Roe v. Wade, the need to codify stronger anti-harassment legislation for reproductive health patients, providers, and staff while preserving the free speech of legitimate protestors is more critical now than ever. The decision will likely result in an increase of out-of-state residents seeking reproductive health care and, conversely, an increase in anti-choice protesting.

Chairwoman Catherine Borgia (D - Cortlandt, Croton on Hudson, Ossining, Briarcliff Manor, Peekskill), one of the original sponsors said, "Women will be looking to New York for sanctuary to reclaim their bodily autonomy, and we want to say Westchester is ready. Any person who travels to our County seeking reproductive care can access it safely without intimidation or provocation. I hope other counties can see the urgency and importance of this law and consider it for their jurisdictions, as well."

Legislator MaryJane Shimsky (D - Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Edgemont, Hartsdale, Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington), main sponsor of the bill, said, "The road to getting this act passed was very long and arduous. However, it's led us to a strong, well-balanced piece of legislation that safeguards the rights of patients to receive their care without infringing on protected free speech. I am more than happy to finally see that hard work come to fruition. I thank our County Executive George Latimer for his unwavering support and understanding that this bill could not wait another minute without being signed."

Majority Leader Christopher Johnson (D - Yonkers) said, "As Americans, we are founded on the beliefs and principles that we are a society with inherent rights and freedoms. We are free to live, worship, and speak as long as we remain peaceful and law-abiding. This bill mutually protects and respects one's right to privacy, right to choose, and right to protest equally and fairly."

County Executive George Latimer said, "We want to protect the women who need these services from aggressive advocacy that exceeds free speech and becomes intimidation and interference with their personal safety."

Read the legislation at: <https://bit.ly/3bjScYb>. County Legislators James Nolan and Mararet Cunzio voted no.

Westchester District Attorney Mimi Rocah said, "The unsettling ruling by the U.S. Supreme Court to overturn Roe v. Wade has made it all the more critical that existing protections in New York be ironclad for those who seek and provide reproductive health care. Passage of new state and local legislation strengthening New York's protections for abortion and other reproductive health care services, like the ones signed by Governor Hochul earlier this month and the "Reproductive Health Care Facilities Access Act" passed yesterday and signed into law by Westchester County Executive George Latimer, are important measures that will enhance safe access to abortion, which remains legal in the state of New York.

"My office successfully prosecuted trespassers at a White Plains women's clinic last fall, and we will continue to prosecute any individuals who interfere with patients' access to reproductive health care in our jurisdiction in violation of the laws of our State and County," said Rocah.

In 2021, Christopher Moscinski, Matthew Connelly, and William Goodman were arrested in White Plains after entering the All Women's Medical Clinic and refusing to leave for two hours. They were charged, and found guilty of misdemeanor criminal trespass. The maximum sentence each person can receive is three months in jail.

We have received several letters to the editor asking that each receive the maximum sentence.

Hispanic Heritage Festival Returns to Kensico Dam July 10

Come celebrate Hispanic culture at the Hispanic Heritage Festival on Sunday, July 10, from noon to 6 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla.

County Executive George Latimer said, "We continue to foster diversity and inclusion through our heritage festivals. I hope Westchester families join us as we come together to celebrate Hispanic culture and continue to do so at the following heritage festivals right here at our very own Central Park."

Parks Commissioner Kathleen O'Connor said, "Here's another opportunity to travel the world without a passport. Bring your family and friends to enjoy Hispanic heritage and culture with great food, music, and dancing."

The Hispanic Heritage Festival takes place from noon until 6 p.m. There will be dancing, arts and crafts, food, and special activities for children.

The festival will be held rain or shine. Seating is informal; bring blankets or folding chairs for seating on the lawn. No coolers will be allowed. Admission and parking are free. Carpooling or taking mass transit is encouraged. To attend the festival via Metro North, ride the Harlem Line to Valhalla Station.

The other heritage festivals in the series are:
Italian- Sunday, July 24, noon-6 p.m. Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
India- Sunday, Aug. 7, noon-6 p.m. Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
Jewish- Sunday, Aug. 21, noon-6 p.m. Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
Muslim Heritage- Sunday, Aug. 28, noon-6 p.m. Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla.

Controller Indicted for Stealing \$340,000 from Westchester Paint Supply Company

On June 29, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that ToniAnn Rosado, the former Controller of CR Wallauer & Company in North Castle, was indicted for stealing more than \$340,000 from the paint supply company between 2017 and 2019.

Rosado, 51, of Orlando, Florida, was indicted by a Westchester County Grand Jury for Grand Larceny in the Second Degree and Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, both felonies. The defendant was arraigned before Judge Robert Prisco in Westchester County Court on June 23, 2022.

The U.S. Marshals arrested Rosado on June 6, 2022, in Orlando, with assistance from the Fugitive Unit of the Orange County Sheriff's Office and the Westchester County Department of Public Safety's Warrant Fugitive Unit. The investigation was conducted by the Economic Crimes Bureau of the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

The case is before Judge Robert Neary in Westchester County Court, and is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Nicole Gamble of the Trials and Investigations Division. Rosado is scheduled to appear again in court on July 8, 2022.

The charges against the defendant are merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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Peekskill Cop Never Apologizes to Victim for Sex Abuse, Gets 7 Years



Michael Agovino

On June 23, former Peekskill police officer Michael Agovino, pictured above, was sentenced to seven years in prison for repeated sexual abuse of a female victim. In March of 2022, Agovino pled guilty to sexually abusing a woman he threatened with arrest while he was on duty on multiple occasions between 2019 and 2020.

Westchester District Attorney Mimi Rocah held a press conference after Agovino was sentenced. Rocah's office had asked for a 15 year sentence in prison for Agovino, but Judge Barry Warhit agreed to a 7 year prison term, 15 years of probation, and the requirement that Agovino register as a sex offender.

"We believe a longer sentence was warranted, but we are pleased that he will be serving a lengthy prison sentence," said DA Rocah. "He (Agovino) violated the trust of the Peekskill community, abused his authority as a police officer and violated his oath. I hope this case sends a strong message to any victim that no one is above the law."

One of the prosecutors in Rocah's office who was in the courtroom for the sentencing said that while Agovino expresses a number of regrets, he never said sorry to the victim for what he did. And that lack of apology had a tremendous impact on the victim.

Rocah also praised the Peekskill Police Department for cooperating in the investigation and arrest of Agovino. Peekskill Police Chief Leo Dylewski said, "this is not a reflection on the men and women who serve in the Peekskill Police Department. We were appalled when we found out and worked with the District Attorney's office. He got what he deserved."

Rocah said that the sentencing of Agovino was important because abuse by law enforcement, "can erode the public trust. I would like to say thank you to the victim for her bravery. And the victims statement can be used as evidence, and I would encourage victims to come forward, we are here for you."

On two occasions in July 2019, Agovino, while on duty as a police officer, unlawfully entered the victim's Peekskill home under the pretext that he was conducting an investigation where she was a suspect. During the first visit, Agovino demanded the victim remove all of her clothing under the pretense of conducting a body search, and then sexually abused her. On the second visit, Agovino returned to the home, threatened the victim with arrest unless she removed her clothing or performed a sex act on him, and again sexually abused her.

Over the next five months, on three separate occasions, while on duty, Agovino unlawfully entered or attempted to enter the victim's home for his own sexual gratification at the expense of the victim, and in one instance sexually abused her. On the last date, in January 2020, unbeknownst to Agovino, the victim audio recorded their interaction, and provided that recording to the District Attorney's Office.

Investigators with the District Attorney's Office arrested Agovino on February 15, 2020, following an investigation, in collaboration with the Peekskill Police Department. Agovino resigned from the Peekskill Police Department in 2021.

SV Summit Focuses on Evictions



By Janet Bear

Three Mamaroneck High School Students from the OCRA program (Original Civic Research in Action) along with their teacher Joe Liberti, addressed the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Local Summit webinar, co-hosted by LMC Media on Tuesday, June 13th, explaining the importance of the Right to Counsel in eviction proceedings.

Four years ago, Village of Mamaroneck Judge Daniel Gallagher spoke to the OCRA students about what he sees in his courtroom during eviction proceedings, "Landlords bring lawyers and tenants bring babies in strollers." This large power imbalance (90% of landlords have legal representation but only 10% of tenants) results in most tenants quickly losing their cases, many in under 4 minutes. Once a tenant is evicted, his/her future ability to rent is severely impacted (most landlords immediately reject an individual with an eviction record), they are more likely to encounter long-term poverty and suffer psychological and generational trauma. Caitlyn Carpenter, Allison Hecht and Anna McDonald, three of the OCRA students who heard Judge Gallagher speak, decided that the "Right to Counsel in Westchester County" would be their OCRA project. Two other students, Todd Freifeld and Frances McDowell, were also part of the OCRA group who spent four years working on this issue, but were unable to attend the Summit's presentation.

After Anna presented the overview, Allison explained that the Right to Counsel (R2C – the guarantee of legal representation in eviction proceedings) currently exists in three states (Washington, Connecticut and Maryland) along with a number of major US cities including New York City, but does not exist elsewhere in New York State. Allison stated that tenants are twice as likely to remain in their homes if they have legal representation at eviction proceedings. As reported in the Stout Feasibility Study (released March 2022) 42% of NY tenants (outside NYC) don't even appear in court because they don't understand their rights, and they immediately lose their case. It's estimated that nearly one-third of those tenants wouldn't be evicted if they had been represented by legal counsel.

Eviction is the leading cause of homelessness. Students are 3 times more likely to repeat a grade if they experience housing instability. 1-2% of suicides are eviction related. Workers who experience an eviction are 11 to 22% more likely to be laid off.

Beyond the devastating impact evictions can have on tenants, evictions also can result in sizeable financial costs to municipalities. Allison provided figures on the costs in NYC of homelessness (emergency shelter for a family tops \$81,000/year) and stated that since R2C was enacted in NYC, 84% of tenants have been able to remain in their home. It's estimated that R2C saved NYC \$320 million/year.

In Westchester County there are two sources for free legal representation. Legal Services of Hudson Valley serviced over 5000 clients in 2021, but demand was 2 to 3 times higher and they don't serve undocumented individuals. Hudson Valley Justice Center does serve the undocumented, but their capacity is very limited.

Caitlyn spoke about what is happening in Westchester County. In 2020, the Westchester Right to Council Coalition was formed, made up of legal providers, community organizers and faith leaders. County Executive George Latimer introduced legislation in May 2022 to create the Office of Housing Counsel (within the Department of Social Services) which will be responsible for organizing a program to provide legal services through designated organizations or qualified professionals to tenants up to certain income levels. The legislation is currently in committee, addressing five concerns that the coalition has raised. It is hoped that the legislators can vote on this legislation this summer. During the Q&A session, George Latimer mentioned that money has been budgeted for increased funding for legal services. If Westchester County joins NYC to enact Right to Council legislation, that will help state legislators pursue action at the state level.

How can you help? Anna indicated that individuals should call, email or write a letter to their local legislator urging them to pass this legislation. In addition, faith-based communities are also urged to support this legislation. Further information and sample communications can be found at <https://bit.ly/WestchesterRight2Council>.

The next Zoom program, co-hosted by LMC Media, will be Tuesday, September 13th at 8:00 am. Visit the Local Summit online: <https://www.localsummit-lm.org/> LMC Media: <https://lmcmedia.org/>.

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Notice of formation of LaceMafia LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/20/2022. 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, 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228 . Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Articles of Organization (DOM-PROF.LLC). Komosinski Law, PLLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) 4/19/2022. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of DOM-PROF.LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail copy of process to Richard F. Komosinski, Esquire, 30 Emmett Pl., Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: The practice of Law.

Notice of Formation of INNER THEIA LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 03/01/2022. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Inner Theia LLC at 5 Aspen Road, Scarsdale NY 10581. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Eric Schoen continued from pg 3-

you use their proper name.

Don't make fun of someone. Don't switch languages to talk about other people. You never know if they are acquainted with the language you are speaking and will get truly offended. Nowadays many people speak more than one language, even Americans who are known to speak only English.

If an event (play, movie, concert, children's event) is boring, sit through it. The performers are doing their best, quite often have rehearsed for months and deserve your respect. Don't talk when you are at the movies. It's not like home where only family and friends are present.

If you bump into someone say excuse me. Look at the jerk that slapped former Mayor Giuliani, a 78 year old man on the back. The video is so clear that what the man did was wrong. Why would the other store employees have gone after him as they did. Something like a slap on the bag can kill someone in a fragile state.

Particularly in this age of Covid, cover your mouth when you cough or sneeze. Never pick your nose, scabs or cut your fingernails in public. These are things done in the privacy of your home or bathroom, not for others to see.

Hold the door for the next person. If you do and they don't thank you, simply say 'you are welcome' as a reminder that a thank you was in order.

If you come across someone working on something you are not familiar with, ask if you can help to learn what that person is doing. It's important to learn something new everyday! When a person older than you asks you to do something, do it with a smile! Don't grumble or ignore the person. You will get old one day too! When a person helps you thank them. They will be more apt to help you again!

Use eating utensils properly. If you don't know how to ask. I was at a political dinner one time and a prominent politician was served a tough steak. The person had no qualms asking me to help them so as to not get the steak all over the place. Keep napkins on your lap, and elbows off the table. Don't reach for things. Ask to have them passed.

Are these things habits adults should have. In fact, many of them I adapted from a friend who teaches etiquette to 3 year olds. But as you know and can see, they certainly apply to the adults we deal with.

Wash your hands with soap and water and sing Happy Birthday twice. In this environment that's something we all can agree upon to keep us safe and healthy!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show alternating Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, WVOX.com click listen or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

Classifieds

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Events

ANTIQUe LOVERS TAKE NOTE! BRIMFIELD IS HERE – ALL SHOWS! July 12-17, New shows open daily! BrimfieldAntiqueFleaMarket.com. Next Show Dates: September 6-11.

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Notice of formation of J Troncoso Construction LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/29/2022. 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, P.O. Box 1434 Yonkers, NY 10702. Purpose: General Construction

AGENDA FOR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JULY 19, 2022 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

5727A – Area Variance – Andrew Maniglia of Ginsburg Development, on behalf of Pier LLC 70, owner, on premises known as 70 Pier Street, Block: 146, Lot: 1.4, Zone: M (B24085)

5785 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Casino Hospital-ity LLC, owner, on premises known as 651 Bronx River Road, Block: 5226, Lot: 17.21, Zone: BR (B28653)

5788 – Use & Area Variance – Stephen A. Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of Hampshire Management Company Number 30, LLC, owner, on premises known as 1111 aka 1113 Central Park Avenue, Block: 5425, Lot: 100, Zone: OL (B30224)

5789 – Area Variance – Stephen A. Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of CCNA Realty LLC, owner, on premises known as 470 Nepperhan Avenue, Block: 2073, Lot: 1, Zone: I (B20313)

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)

5791 – Area Variance – Kyle Pustola, on behalf of Hudson View Building #4 LLC, owner, on premises known as 29 Wells Avenue, Block: 2009, Lot: 1, Zone: D-IRT (B29483)

NEW HEARINGS

5793 – Improvement to a Non-Conforming Use – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of City North LLC, owner, on premises known as 376 Hawthorne Avenue, Block: 150, Lot: 16, Zone: T (B29137)

5794 – Improvement to a Non-Conforming Use & Area Variance – Mathew Valade, P.E., on behalf of NYC DEP, owner, on premises known as 100 Central Park Avenue, Block: 8002, Lot: 1, Zone: T (B30519)

5795 – Area Variance – Keith P. Brown, Esq., on behalf of McDonald's Corporation, owner, on premises known as 155 South Broadway, Block: 188, Lot: 11, Zone: SBCE (B21666)

5796 – Use & Area Variance – Matthew Bruton, P.E., on behalf of Carp Yonkers LLC, owner, on premises known as 587 Tuckahoe Road, Block: 4453, Lot: 6.31, Zone: B (B30522)

JOSEPH CIANCIULLI CHAIRMAN, ZBA

DISH Wireless LLC is proposing to install new wireless telecommunications antennas on an existing building located at 636 Palisade Ave., Yonkers, Westchester County, NY. The new facility will consist of the collocation of antennas at a top height of approx. 68ft on the 70.9ft building (80ft 3in to the highest appurtenance). Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 6122005841 - JD EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at (203) 231-6643.

Notice of formation of Color It Black, LLC. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/28/2022. 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 Color It Black LLC, 33 Cliffside Drive, Yonkers, NY 10710 Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Sweeney Tech, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 06/16/2022. 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, 14 Alta Place, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Formation of LNE CONSTRUCTION, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/21/2022. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to James Saisa, 25 Harvard Ave., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Sutton E.L.S Ent, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/18/2021. 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, 103 McLean Avenue Apt.# 3b, Yonkers NY 10467. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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Westchester High School Grads to Attend US Service Academies

Westchester Congressman Mondaire Jones recently congratulated his service academy nominees who will be attending the United States Military (West Point), Air Force, Naval, and Merchant Marine Academies. Students will report to the academies for basic training this summer.

“Congratulations to the 15 students from Westchester and Rockland Counties who were appointed to the United States Service Academies,” said Congressman Mondaire Jones. “These outstanding students have dedicated themselves to developing their leadership skills and strengthening the community around them. They have answered the call to serve and I’m proud they will represent New York’s 17th Congressional District.”

The following 10 students are from Westchester:

Air Force

- Grant Becker of Pleasantville
- Gabriel Capicotto of Montrose
- Spencer Norris of Yorktown Heights

West Point

- Alexander Bjorgvinsson of Tarrytown
- Thomas Flanagan of Tarrytown
- Daniel Nuzum of White Plains
- Chinmay Satpute of Yorktown Heights

Navy

- Mariam Abud Chalita of Briarcliff Manor
- Sofia Meyer of Croton-on-Hudson
- Maximilian Thomas of Tarrytown

Congratulations and thank you for serving your country.

County Beaches, Pools, continued from pg 1-

pound last year. Overall, they are seeing an 18% year over year increase in food costs. The additional \$700,000 for Feeding Westchester will enable them to support 883,838 people. In addition, the average food package provided by a food pantry has a value of approximately \$60 saving a family \$240/month.

- **Free Commuter Parking:** Westchester County will be providing free parking at the North White Plains Commuter Lot, and the County Center parking lot from July 1 – August 31.

- **Sales Tax:** Westchester County has the ability to lower/eliminate the sales tax on residential energy on a quarterly basis. The County needs to adopt a local law and notify NYS Tax and Finance 90 days ahead of implementation. The County is proposing eliminating the sales tax for the quarter beginning December 1. This time period would cover the start of the heating season. The sales tax elimination covers home heating oil, propane, natural gas, electric, coal and wood for residential heating purposes. It covers homeowners as well as rental units. Renters or landlords would be eligible depending on the structure of the unit’s heat and electric use.

- **Civil Service Exams:** The County will waive the fees for civil service exams through December 31.

All four pools and Glen Island Beach are open daily, 11 a.m. through 6:30 p.m.; last admission at 6 p.m.; proof of residency is required. Croton Point Beach is open weekends only and Mondays, July 4 and Labor Day, Sept. 5. Parking fees at Glen Island and The Brook at Tibbetts still apply during the time admission fees are waived. For additional information, visit parks.westchestergov.com or call: 914-864-PARK.

DISTRICT ATTORNEY WESTCHESTER COUNTY

VIRTUAL FORUM

Gun Safety in our Community

MONDAY, JULY 18

4:00PM

Register now: bit.ly/DAGunSafety

Learn what tools are available in the fight against gun violence to keep our communities safe. Hear from DA Rocah, DA's office members and Moms Demand Action on New York's expanded gun safety laws, Extreme Risk Protection Orders, the Safe Storage Program and ghost guns + Q&A

MOMS DEMAND ACTION
FOR GUN SENSE IN AMERICA

Dance Costume donations, continued from pg 1-

we will share those stories with the hope that they inspire another child to “pay it forward”, said Genie Flammia, YTI Board President.

We hope that this story inspires our readers to help others and give back to the Westchester community. “This costume drive has reminded me how much I love helping others. In my early years of dance, I was fortunate enough to have others there supporting me, and as I wrap up high school, it feels like it’s my turn to do the same for others. Helping young students on the path to becoming well rounded artists thrills me! Even here in NY, the dance community is small, so we have to support one another along the way!

I have been dancing since I can remember. I’ve always done ballet, but ever since joining the Pre Professional Program at Steps on Broadway, I’ve added classes in Horton, Contemporary, Jazz, Hip Hop, Afro Dance, and many other styles. It is something I want to build on in college, too!

Any advice to young dancers? “Don’t stop doing what makes you happy, and don’t be afraid to branch out – the dance world is bigger than your one school, and there are many ways to keep dance in your life. I have always danced because it makes me feel strong and brings me so much joy, and I can’t imagine it any other way. It’s my favorite way to express myself, and that’s something you can always work on.

“And do not be hard on yourself – part of dance is critiquing your own work. You become your worst critic, and sometimes that makes it hard to stay positive. You are amazing as you are, and dance is just another way to communicate.”

Crime Rates Lower in Westchester , continued from pg 1-

be down. Together we will fight to keep our streets safe.”

County Public Safety credits the drop in crime to the work of the local municipalities, the collaborative efforts at the Real Time Crime Center and community policing. The Westchester County Police Department operates a real-time crime center that includes automated license plate readers and artificial intelligence. The hub is where police collect and analyze surveillance, intelligence, and data from a number of sources in real-time. Every police agency in Westchester County is represented at the Real Time Crime Center.

All three crime categories listed below:

Index Crimes
2017 – 11,580
2018 – 9,846
2019 – 9,664
2020 – 10,307
2021 – 9,216

Property Crimes
2017 – 9,267
2018 – 8,169
2019 – 8,031
2020 – 8,723
2021 – 7,712

Violent Crime
2017 – 1,953
2018 – 1,677
2019 – 1,633
2020 – 1,584
2021 – 1,504

YONKERS IDA

A Driving Force Behind the Yonkers Renaissance.

Building on a nearly decade-long economic renaissance, the Yonkers Industrial Development Agency (YIDA) under the leadership of Mayor Mike Spano has been instrumental in providing financial incentives for development projects representing nearly \$5 billion in private investment and more than 9,100 multifamily units planned, completed, under construction and approved for development.

To learn more about the financial incentives provided by the Yonkers IDA, visit yonkersida.com or call (914) 509-8651.

f i t

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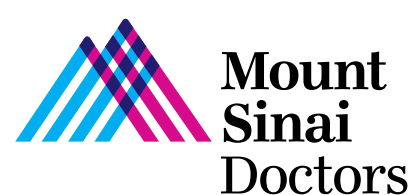
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