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Friday June 14, 2024

We Endorse: Susan Cacace for District Attorney Democratic Primary; June 25 Early Voting Begins June 15



Susan Cacace, with supporters in Mt. Vernon

Westchester Democrats will be asked to cast their vote, by absentee ballot, early voting or on primary day June 25 to determine who their party's candidate for District Attorney will be.

Incumbent District Attorney Mimi Rocah is not running for reelection. Three candidates are running in the democratic primary: Susan Cacace, William Wagstaff and Adeel Mirza.

After careful weighing the candidates, their experience, their platforms and their vision, we've decided to endorse Susan Cacace in the democratic primary on June 25 and in early voting starting June 15.

Cacace has the perfect combination, in our view, of experience, and new ideas to move the office of DA forward.

Cacace has served as a County Court Judge for 14 years. At the time of her retirement, December 7, 2023, Cacace was the longest tenured County Court Judge of Westchester County, having been elected in 2005 and re-elected in 2015. She gave up her County Court seat to run for DA, which is a testament to her desire to serve the people of Westchester as DA.

Shortly after she took the bench, Judge Cacace's unique qualifications and expertise in the areas of crimes against children and sex offenses committed against the most vulnerable victims, our children and our elderly, lead to her assignment to preside over the Sex Offense Part in 2010 - a position that she has continued to hold for the ensuing 14-years. In this capacity, Judge Cacace was responsible for handling all felony sex crimes throughout all phases of their prosecution in the County Court.

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Man Charged with Attempted Murder After Beating Social Worker Now on Life Support



Rear entrance of apartments on South Street Peekskill where attack took place

By Dan Murphy

A Westchester County Department of Social Service social worker remains in critical condition one month after she was attacked in Peekskill. Maria Coto, 56, knocked on the wrong door during a home visit and was beaten nearly to death by Hasseem Jenkins, 31.

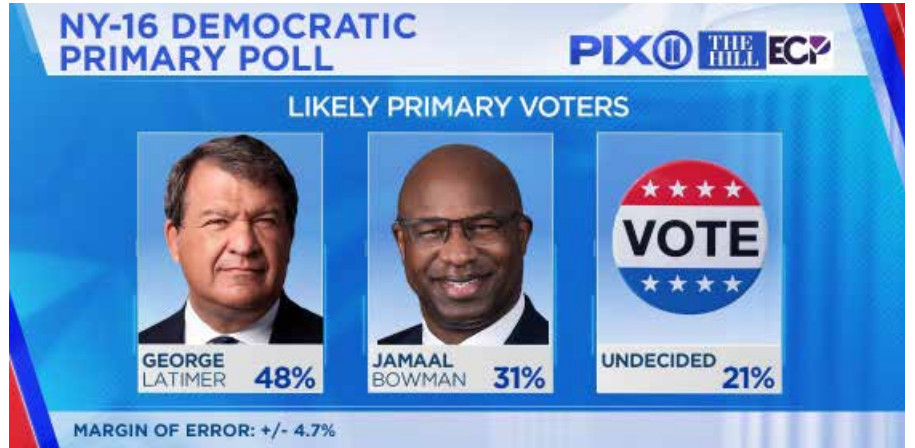
The incident occurred at 3pm on May 14, at apartments in the rear of 900 South Street, Peekskill. According to the criminal complaint, on May 14, Hasseem Jenkins, "... repeatedly punch[ed] [Maria] Coto with his fists and did repeatedly kick Ms. Coto with heavy boots ... above the head and body causing Ms. Coto to sustain severe brain bleed, swelling of the brain, and multiple facial fractures ..."

Neighbors in the apartments said that Jenkins grabbed Soto after she ran away from his apartment, threw her to the ground, repeatedly yelling "I'm going to kill you bitch."

Peekskill police quickly arrived after 911 calls were made and arrested Jen

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As Bowman Makes Final Push, Latimer Up by 17 in Latest Poll



By Dan Murphy

As Westchester Congressman Jamaal Bowman and his progressive supporters make a final push to try and help win his reelection, a new Emerson College Polling/PIX11/The Hill survey of the New York 16th Congressional District Democratic Primary finds 48% of voters support Westchester County Executive George Latimer, while 31% support incumbent Representative Jamaal Bowman. Twenty-one percent are undecided.

"Voters under 40 break for Bowman: 44% to 35%, while voters over 40 break for Latimer," Spencer Kimball, executive director of Emerson College Polling, said. "Democratic primary voters ages 40-59 break for Latimer 53% to 31%, while voters in their 60s break for Latimer 46% to 29%, and voters over 70 break for Latimer 53% to 22%."

Black voters break for Bowman, 48% to 34%, and white voters for Latimer, 62% to 20%. Hispanic voters are split evenly, with 36% supporting Bowman and Latimer respectively.

Fifty-one percent have a favorable view of the incumbent congressman, while 43% have an unfavorable view of him. Six percent are not familiar with Bowman. Sixty-five percent of voters have a favorable view of Latimer, while 23% have an unfavorable view. Twelve percent are undecided.

President Joe Biden holds a 69% job approval among Democratic primary voters, while 23% disapprove of the job he is doing. Governor Kathy Hochul has a 55% job approval, while 26% disapprove of the job she is doing in office.

The economy (22%) and housing affordability (21%) are the top issues for Democratic primary voters in the district, followed by threats to democracy (14%), healthcare (13%), crime (12%), and immigration (6%).

Forty-five percent of voters align more with George Latimer on the war between Israel and Hamas, 29% align more with Bowman, and 26% are unsure.

Voters under 40 align more with Bowman than Latimer on the war, 54% to 32%, while voters 40-59 align with Latimer 43% to 28%, in their 60s, 52% to

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Yorktown High School Senior Posts "From the River to the Sea"



By Dan Murphy

Parents and students in the Yorktown School District are concerned and embarrassed about the 2024 Yorktown High School yearbook, that includes a quote below the photograph of a Senior that reads, "from the river to the sea,"

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Larchmont-Mamaroneck Lions Welcome Nine New Members



L-R-Dr. Charles Sampson, Dr. Katherine Sinsabaugh, Dr. Eric Lutinski, Jason Pinto, Mike Witsch and Lisa Chase

Membership Includes Officials from All Area School Districts

The Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions welcomed new members Dr. Katherine Sinsabaugh/Supervisor Fine & Performing Arts- Port Chester-Rye UFSD; Dr. Colleen Carroll/Deputy Superintendent Port Chester – Rye UFSD, Dr. Eric Lutinski/Superintendent of Schools Rye Neck UFSD and Dr. Charles Sampson/Superintendent of Schools Mamaroneck UFSD.

With these inductions, the LM Lions now have representatives from all local school districts in the Lions youth needs and solutions dialogue. They join existing members Dr. Colin Byrne/Superintendent of Schools Blind Brook – Rye Union Free School District and Dr. Michael Curtin/Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum, Instruction & Assessment Blind Brook Rye UFSD.

In addition, the LM Lions also welcomed Jason Pinto, Mamaroneck Village Recreation Supervisor, Lisa Chase, founder of Victory Farms, Mike Witsch, LMC Media Board Member, Heidy Barros Rye YMCA Senior Director of Health & Wellness and Randl Ikeda, Rye YMCA COO.

The LM Lions, celebrating their Centennial, focus on supporting community service groups-providing funding, volunteers & advocacy. Their motto “Better Together”– to bring community leaders together to determine needs, resources & achieve solutions. The Lions causes are vision, hunger, childhood cancer, diabetes, the environment and community. The LM Lions work closely with our local schools & youth programs and participate in community events. The LM Lions are part of Lions Clubs International, the world’s largest service organization of over 1.4 million members in more than 200 countries.

Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins Leads Passage of First-in-Nation Legislation to Regulate Social Media Algorithms for Children

New Regulations Require Parental Consent for Curated Feeds for Users Under 18

Under the leadership of New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the Senate has passed groundbreaking legislation to prevent social media companies from showing harmful and addictive content to children under the age of 18, and limit the collection and use of children’s personal information.

“As we navigate the threats social media poses to our youth in today’s ever-evolving technological landscape, I’m proud that, under my leadership, the Senate is the first in the nation to pass legislation that would prohibit how social media companies can target children,” said Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. “These bills place the power back in the hands of parents and protect our children from addictive and exploitative practices. Together, we will continue to take all necessary actions to protect the mental well-being of New York’s children.”

The Stop Addictive Feeds Exploitation (SAFE) for Kids Act would prevent social media companies from showing addictive feeds – with content designed to keep children “glued” to devices – for users under 18, unless they have parental consent. It would also prohibit social media platforms from sending overnight push notifications, so that addictive notifications will no longer wake children in the middle of the night.

The Child Data Protection Act will limit media companies from collecting, using, sharing or selling personal information and data of anyone under the age of 18. Both pieces of legislation aim to protect children’s well-being and privacy.

Letter to the Editor:

CONCERNING THOSE “GUN BUYBACKS”---

There has been a lot of publicity lately about the captioned topic, with law enforcement departments “crowing” about how many guns have been turned in.

Let me repeat my credo:” Gun buy backs are an exercise in futility-why? Because “the good guys turn “em” in—the bad guys keep “em”, and keep on using them to commit more crimes.

A recent study by The National Bureau of Economic Research, stated that Gun buybacks analyzed have done little to reduce gun crime or firearm related violence “

“Our results suggest that gun buyback programs, have been inefficient use of tax payers dollars in the United States,” the authors conclude.”

“Perhaps deterring gun violence as alternate firearm-related policies, such as safe storage laws or stricter background checks would be more effective at deterring gun violence. Our findings also suggest that prior city (gun buyback programs) have been poorly designed to achieve their policy objectives.”

In my estimation, the ”Cash Bail Reform Law has been a dismal failure, releasing convicted felons back onto the streets to commit more violence.

Also, in a case where a felon kills an innocent person-the punishment should be “You take a life-you forfeit your own”-the verdict-- Life without parole.

The old adage applies here-“If you can’t do the time-don’t do the crime.”

Joe Pettit Yorktown NY

Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Two Westchester Accountants Plead Guilty to Tax Fraud Conspiracy



Jack Sardis, photo from Facebook

Damian Williams, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and Thomas M. Fattorusso, the Special Agent in Charge of the New York Field Office of the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation (“IRS-CI”), announced that GEORGE SANOSSIAN and JACK N. SARDIS pled guilty to conspiracy to defraud the IRS, on May 29 and June 5, 2024, respectively, in White Plains federal court. Sentencing for both is scheduled for September.

U.S. ATTORNEY DAMIAN WILLIAMS SAID: “AS THEY ADMITTED IN COURT, THE DEFENDANTS, BOTH CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS, CONSPIRED TO FRAUDULENTLY REDUCE THE TAX LIABILITY OF CLIENTS OF THEIR ACCOUNTING FIRM. THIS CASE SERVES AS A REMINDER TO ALL AMERICANS THAT THEY ARE REQUIRED TO TRUTHFULLY REPORT THEIR EARNINGS AND THAT CRIMINAL PENALTIES COULD AWAIT THOSE WHO FRAUDULENTLY DECEIVE THE IRS, AS GEORGE SANOSSIAN AND JACK SARDIS HAVE LEARNED.”

IRS-CI Special Agent in Charge Thomas M. Fattorusso said: “Schemes to conceal and reduce federal income and payroll tax liability, such as those utilized by Sardis and Sanossian, are unfair to every taxpayer who obeys the law and pays their fair share. These guilty pleas place the defendants a step closer to realizing the consequences of their actions.”

According to the Informations, to which SARDIS and SANOSSIAN pled guilty, and statements made court: SARDIS and SANOSSIAN were certified public accountants and partners in an accounting firm in Scarsdale, New York, that provided accounting and income and payroll tax services to clients, including nine businesses in the construction industry (the “Clients”). From in or about 2012 through at least on or about April 15, 2018, SARDIS and SANOSSIAN agreed with Clients to scheme to: (i) fraudulently reduce the income tax liability of the Clients; (ii) conceal wages paid to employees by the Clients and, thereby, fraudulently reduce the Clients’ payroll tax liability; and (iii) conceal personal income of the Clients. The defendants advised the Clients to participate in a scheme to reduce their federal income and payroll tax liability, pursuant to which the Clients issued checks made payable to a shell company and gave the checks to SARDIS and SANOSSIAN, who then caused the checks to be cashed at a check cashing service and returned the cash, minus a fee, to the Clients. Some Clients used the cash to pay employees without reporting the cash wages on their IRS Forms 941, thereby evading both their employer contributions to Social Security and Medicare and their obligation to withhold income tax on those wages, which permitted the employees to evade federal and state income tax. The owners and managers of some Clients took the cash for personal use without reporting the income on their personal federal and state tax returns. SARDIS and SANOSSIAN caused checks to be cashed in this manner for Clients in a total amount exceeding \$2 million.

SARDIS, 66, of Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, and SANOSSIAN, 70, of

continued on pg 4-

Primary Day, June 25: George Latimer is Your Man

By Eric Wolf Schoen



If I was looking for someone to go out and get a beer with, George Latimer would be my choice of the many elected officials I know. And he seems like the kind of guy who would pick up the tab. George is like an Everready bunny up all hours of the night. While drinking your beer He would engage you not about the virtues of buying silver and gold, but of some interesting topic that would entertain you!

A week from this coming Tuesday morning, every Democrat in New York Congressional District 16 must wake up and make sure that they have done one of two things. Either Cast their vote for George Latimer during early voting that starts this Saturday. Or allocated time in their schedules to visit their polling station to make George Latimer becomes the next Congressman representing NY 16.

We need to send someone with integrity to represent us in Washington. And we have to make sure we are represented by someone who reflects our values and the needs of the .community in the halls of Congress. After we cast our ballot we need to call all our neighbors, relatives and friends, basically everyone we know who is a Democrat and make sure they have done what we have done.

We simply cannot continue to have someone embarrass us in the halls of Congress like we have today. Pulling a fire alarm could have god forbid hurt someone trying to get out of the building or caused the loss of life. This behavior is totally unacceptable for a 2 year old, let alone a member of the House of Representatives.

The other day the current Congressman attended a Church function at WESTCHESTER Manor in Shorts, sneakers and a polo shirt. Disgraceful! Now I don’t think George’s clothes are from Hart Shaffner and Marx, but he has enough common sense to dress respectfully for a church event.

As we go to press George Latimer is up 17 Points in the latest poll of the Congressional race. I I never trust polls. They should be used as tools to make you work harder, not as a device to rest your laurels on. The work has just begun. So make sure if you support George like I do that you recharge yourself and get ready to dig in.

I was introduced to C.E. Latimer by then Assemblywoman Shelley Mayer when she was elected to the State Assembly. Right before Election Day the two of them would attend a Candidate’s Reception Friends of Yonkers Public Library would sponsor to introduce candidates running for office to the voters. I would always engage the CE with questions which he would answer promptly showing his support of our libraries and the WESTCHESTER Library System. I friended him on Facebook and would find him posting comments in the wee small hours of the morning from Denny’s restaurant in Albany!

Now I was jealous. My favorite pancakes were the Regular pancakes, 2 for \$2 that I would buy from Denny’s while on the Jersey Shore. 2 pancakes satisfied me, and I always felt their pancakes were the best pancakes compared with more expensive Diner pancakes.. George was always alone munching away, and I would often engage him in conversation no matter what time of night it was via the Facebook platform. He seemed extremely knowledgeable .

Let’s face it, Albany is not the most exciting place to be anytime of the year, and winters are brutal. I remember saying to Shelly Mayer one day that Albany

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Former George Latimer Supporters Launch Westchester Progressives

New Grassroots Group Steps in With #LatimerLostUs Campaign to Support True Progressive Values in Heated NY-16 Primary

A group of volunteers and supporters that were behind George Latimer's County Executive run have come together to launch a new progressive, grassroots group opposing the 30-year politicians' controversial run for NY-16's congressional seat.

The group, called Westchester Progressives, is made up of progressive Democrats from across the county who say that while Congressman Jamaal Bowman champions the district's progressive values, Latimer has sold them out in both rhetoric and record.

Said Farah Kathwari, (George Latimer Transition Team member & Westchester County Human Rights Commission board member) "I voted for George Latimer because I thought we needed somebody who would stop trying to divide us along ethnic lines. Instead, he's spreading hateful rhetoric about Muslims and accusing people of being 'Hamas' supporters just for wanting peace. I remember what it was like after 9/11--I don't want that to happen to my children."

Brook Packard, a resident of George Latimer's hometown, Rye NY said, "We elected George to get MAGA Republicans out of Westchester. Now he's win-ing and dining with top Trump Donors, taking a million dollars from a Republican-funded PAC. They even registered thousands of Republicans as Democrats to vote for him. All to run against one of the most important progressive champions in Congress. He wasn't uplifting our values; he was uplifting himself."

The campaign's supporters cite Latimer's extensive support from Republicans, both through the AIPAC right wing lobby group which recruited Latimer to run and is spending over \$25 million to support him in what could be the most expensive primary ever, and directly from Trump fundraisers [he attended].

Said Sandra Bernabei (Founder, Antiracist Alliance, National Association of Social Workers President 2014-16) "We worked to build the Democratic party so we could keep unseating Republicans. We were ready to spend this year going all-in on helping Democrats, just like we went all-in on helping George beat Rob Astorino in 2017. Instead, we're now defending one of the most vital young Black progressives in Congress... from George! Running against Jamaal Bowman is dividing the party at the time we should be uniting."

Westchester Progressives are announcing their launch with the #Latimer-LostUs social media campaign. Members are asking like-minded progressives, who previously supported Latimer, to use the hashtag #LatimerLostUs to share their reasons why they are not endorsing George Latimer to represent them in the U.S. Congress.

Westchester Progressives can be found on Instagram (@WestchesterProgressives), on Twitter/X (@WEProgressives) and the Westchester Progressives Group on Facebook.

Accountants Arrested, continued from pg 3-

Scarsdale, New York, pled guilty to one count of conspiracy to defraud the IRS, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison. SARDIS and SANOSSIAN have agreed to pay restitution to the IRS and New York State, representing the additional tax due and owing as a result of their conduct, in the total amount of \$652,883.60.

The maximum potential sentence in these cases is prescribed by Congress and is provided here for informational purposes only, as any sentencing of the defendants will be determined by a judge.

Mr. Williams praised the outstanding investigative work of the IRS-CI in this case.

The case is being prosecuted by the Office's White Plains Division. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jeffrey C. Coffman and James McMahon are in charge of the prosecution.

Letter to the Editor: Reelect Congressman Jamaal Bowman on June 25th

To the Editor: I write to support the re-election of Representative Jamaal Bowman, in the upcoming Democratic Congressional primary on June 25th. In his two terms in office, Congressman Bowman has been a strong advocate for our community, and our district. He has brought in over \$1 billion in investments in education, child care, affordable housing, workforce development, as well as gun violence prevention – all solid investments that have immensely benefited his constituents.

Congressman Bowman's primary opponent, County Executive George Latimer, is campaigning on the slogan -- "Results, not Rhetoric" – to try and paint Mr. Bowman as a show horse, not a work horse. Elect me, says Mr. Latimer, and I will bring home the bacon since my opponent has not. This gimmicky catchphrase is transparently false, starting with the illogical premise that results and rhetoric are mutually exclusive. They are not, of course, and there's nothing inherently wrong about rhetoric either. We should always applaud solid results (which Jamaal has demonstrated), and captivating rhetoric (which he is a master of!). What's wrong with getting stuff done, as the Congressman has manifestly shown, AND speaking out for a more humane, equitable and inclusive multiracial society?

In stark contrast to his opponent, let's not forget that Congressman Bowman has also been a forceful spokesman for climate justice, having been an early champion of the "Green New Deal" (GND). He's also not afraid to take on the big polluters (i.e., fossil fuel power plants), and the fracking industry. He has also fought for a GND for Public Schools that would address the crumbling state of far too many public schools in underserved neighborhoods that suffer disproportionately from polluting infrastructure. Meanwhile, his opponent blithely vows that if elected "There is not going to be a George Latimer climate change bill." No surprise there from a pay to play County Executive whose "green" agenda includes keeping the Peekskill Wheelbrator, Westchester county's number one polluter, operating through 2029.

Jamaal has also demonstrated courageous and moral leadership in drawing attention to the plight of Palestinians and the need for both a permanent ceasefire in Gaza and a change in Israeli leadership. His opponent, meanwhile, fueled by millions in donations from right wing groups like AIPAC, has studiously avoided taking any concrete positions on Gaza, and in effect has validated the annexationist aims and ethnic cleansing of the extremist Netanyahu coalition.

Furthermore, during his televised debate last month with Congressman Bowman, Mr. Latimer infamously remarked "I'm not worried about who is giving me donations." I believe Mr. Latimer should be worried because many of us are (worried). We have learned of late that he has failed to file – as required by election law – a candidate financial disclosure statement. That failure does not install confidence.

Finally, let me express (and I'm certain I'm not alone in my sentiments) how fatigued and disgusted I am at the relentless deluge of flyers and attack ads that have saturated my e-mail inbox, TV screen, radio, etc. during this seemingly interminable primary contest. It is true that both candidates have engaged in this war of attrition. However, the sheer volume of Latimer's mailings and ad spots – enabled by over \$7 million in outside spending from reactionary groups such as AIPAC and MAGA donors --has been overwhelming. Win or lose, this does not speak well for the Latimer "brand," such as it is, and suggests a degree of desperation that his message has not been winning over any new voters.

On or before June 25th, (early voting begins on June 15), please vote to reelect Jamaal Bowman to Congress. I believe he is the superior candidate to deliver progress, and moral leadership to our district.

Bill Gaston
Bronxville Democratic Party District Leader

The views expressed in this letter are his own, and do not represent the views of the Bronxville Democratic Committee, which has not endorsed any candidate in the race.

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Juneteenth Events Happening in Westchester

Thanks to ArtsWestchester for providing this information

artswestchester.org/nearly-30-juneteenth-events-happening-in-westchester-in-2024

Juneteenth, also known as Freedom Day or Emancipation Day, is a federal holiday that commemorates the date when slaves in Galveston, Texas found out they were free in 1865. The announcement, in fact, had been made two years earlier, so these were the last slaves in the confederacy to claim their freedom. Though June 19 is the official holiday, the day is celebrated throughout Westchester all month long.

Ardley, 6/15 The Ardsley Multicultural Diversity and Inclusion Juneteenth Celebration Presented by: The Village of Ardsley. This event will include music, dance and poetry, as well as a DJ and local youth performances. Food and ice cream will also be available for purchase. 1-4pm at Pascone Park in Ardsley.

Irvington, 6/19, Ways to Fly: Irvington's 5th Annual Juneteenth Celebration Presented by: Irvington Juneteenth Committee and the Village of Irvington

This free workshop for kids in grades four through six focuses on the messages of hope and resilience seen in sculptor Vinnie Bagwell's Yesterday statue. The workshop will be grounded in the Jacqueline Woodson's The Year We Learned to Fly story and will incorporate a discussion and art activity so participants can explore their own resilience techniques. Pre-registration is required. 10:45- 11:30am at Irvington Historical Society.

Irvington, 6/22, Celebrating the Legacy of Madam C.J. Walker: Irvington's 5th Annual Juneteenth Celebration Presented by: Irvington Juneteenth Committee and the Village of Irvington. This historic street-naming celebration in honor of Madam C.J. Walker at the legendary Villa Lewaro will be attended by Madam's great, great granddaughter A'Leia Bundles. There will also be music, food and tours of Villa Lewaro. The event is free, but preregistration is required for the timed tours. 2-5pm at Villa Lewaro, 67 North Broadway, Irvington.

Katonah, 6/16, Charles Turner & Uptown Swing Presented by Caramoor Jazz vocalist and songwriter Charles Turner and his band performs music from 1920s to modern day in the style of swing, bebop and blues. The day includes family-friendly activities.

Lewisboro, 6/22, Let's Celebrate Juneteenth Together! Presented by: Equity4All. This event includes live music, food, crafts, games, family fun and a DJ. 2-4pm at Lewisboro Town Park.

Mount Kisco, 6/22, Mount Kisco's Annual Juneteenth Celebration, Presented by: Aaliyah Thompson. This event includes food and entertainment. Rain Date: Saturday, June 29. 12:30-5pm at the Mount Kisco train station parking lot.

Mount Vernon, 6/19, Mount Vernon Annual Juneteenth Celebration. Presented by: Yusef Shah Islamic Center in collaboration with the Mount Vernon Department of Recreation. A celebration of freedom and unity. 12-3pm at Hartley Park, Mount Vernon.

New Rochelle, 6/19, 4th Annual Resilience Juneteenth Celebration 2024. Presented by: The Lincoln Park Conservancy, Inc. This Juneteenth celebration will include an African marketplace, performances, a petting zoo, food trucks and more. 12-6pm at Glen Island Park in New Rochelle.

Ossining, 6/21, Ballroom Has Something to Say: An Ode to Black Gay/Queer Men Presented by: ArtsWestchester, Bethany Arts Community, The Loft, The Juneteenth Council Icon Michael Roberson's newest production presents an intergenerational history of the Black LGBTQ+ house ballroom community. 7-9pm at Bethany Arts Community in Ossining.

6/22, 5th Annual Ossining Juneteenth Festival. Presented by: The Juneteenth Council, The Town of Ossining, ArtsWestchester, Bethany Arts Community This celebration includes performances, food, and vendors. 12-6pm at Louis Engel Waterfront Park, Ossining

6/29, WBBTC 3rd Annual Juneteenth Tournament & Family Fun Day Presented by: The Juneteenth Council, Ossining. This celebration from the Westchester Basketball Tournament Committee includes performances, food, and vendors. 10am-2pm at Ossining Parks and Recreation (95 Broadway, Ossining).

Peekskill, 6/15 Peekskill's 13th Annual Parade Presented by: Peekskill Youth Bureau, Tuesday Paige McDonald This year's celebration theme is "Empowering the Next Generation." Grand Marshals are Dr. Glenetta C. Phillips, Kenneth A. Phillips and Todd M. Scott. The parade kicks off at 1pm AME Zion Church (1220 Park Street, Peekskill).

6/15, Peekskill's 13th Annual Festival Presented by: Peekskill Youth Bureau, Tuesday Paige McDonald Festival with live entertainment, vendors offering unique and cultural goods and services, a food, vendors and community partners. The festival will take place in downtown Peekskill 2-7pm on the Intersection of N. Division Street and Park Street.

Pelham, 6/16 Juneteenth in the Village of Pelham Presented by: The Village of Pelham Council of the Arts A celebration will be a day of inspiration, education, cultural connection and entertainment to honor the Juneteenth Federal Holiday. Approximately 3-6pm at Wolfs Lane Park, Pelham.

Pleasantville, 6/19, Film screening: Miss Juneteenth. Presented by Jacob Burns Film Center Once a beauty queen and now a single mom, this movie's protagonist struggles to prepare her rebellious teenage daughter for the Miss Juneteenth pageant.

Port Chester, 6/19, Juneteenth Celebration. Presented by: The Port Chester Historical Society. This family-friendly event will feature music, poetry, history and community art. 5:30-7:30pm at Bush Lyon Homestead in Lyon Park

Pound Ridge, 6/19, Juneteenth in Pound Ridge. Presented by: Pound Ridge Partnership, Human Rights Advisory Committee, Pound Ridge Library, and Pound Ridge Library Foundation A free Broadway performance will feature Dan Micciche, musical director of Wicked; and Stephanie Umoh, who plays Angelica Schuyler in the national tour of Hamilton. 6pm at The Green in Scotts Corners in Pound Ridge.

Tuckahoe, 6/15, Tuckahoe Freedom Day Juneteenth Presented by: Tuckahoe Kids Table, NY Presbyterian. This Freedom Day includes an opening ceremony, poetry, awards and presentation, chess, gardening demonstrations, local vendors and small businesses. There will also be arts and crafts, African drummers and dancers, music, food and line dancing. 12-5pm at Main Street Park in Tuckahoe.

Yonkers, 6/15, Juneteenth Heritage Parade Presented by: Yonkers Downtown B.I.D., The Autism Project- FLOS Inc. Parade day will include food, merchandise, vendors, prizes, arts and crafts, and family fun. 1-3pm at JFK Marina Park in Yonkers; Raffle drawing at 6pm.

6/19, 3rd Annual Juneteenth Educational Conference Presented by: Yonkers Downtown B.I.D., The Autism Project- FLOS Inc. This educational conference will showcase Dr. Alexandria Connelly, Dr. William Seraile, Dr. Bob Baskerville and Sierre Leone Ambassador Amara Turay Jalloh. Performances will include Terrell Armstead and TRCY, African Libation Drum & Dance with the Afrikan Healing Circle, as well as live DJ Superior and refreshments. 12-4pm at Nepperhan Community Center in Yonkers.



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Saturday June 15th
12pm - 10pm

Sunday June 16th
12pm - 7pm



All net profits from this year's festival will be donated for humanitarian aid in Ukraine

www.YonkersUkrainianFestival.org

Sponsored by the Ukrainian American Youth Association - Yonkers Branch

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Notice of formation of Studio Elise LLC filed with the SSNY on 04/05/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of processes to the LLC, 3 Ward Street, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Lee & Mazie's LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 04/02/2024 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : Lee & Mazie's LLC 1 Sherwood Terrace Apt 5D Yonkers, NY 10704 Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date.

Notice of Formation of KW Services NY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 3/30/24. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 875 King Street Chappaqua NY 10514. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Intentional Journey Psychotherapy, LCSW, PLLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/8/24. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against PLLC to 1374 Midland Ave, Suite 410, Bronxville, NY 10708. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of Northern Lights Massage Therapy PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 8/21/23. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 409 North Broadway Apt 38 Yonkers NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of RR 207 Consulting, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 03/27/24. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 603 Warburton Ave, Ste 2, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, 10706. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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

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

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

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

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

1. RFP-496 – DUE DATE: 7/26/2024: The City of Yonkers is requesting proposals to be submitted electronically through the Empire State Purchasing group system – BidNet (<http://www.empirestatebidsystem.com/>) from qualified individuals or entities with the intent of entering into a multi-year agreement for the operation of a revenue generating restaurant or other food services business in the space located on the second floor of the Yonkers Recreation Pier (the “Yonkers Pier”) and the rehabilitation and maintenance of same, as described more fully in this RFP. Site visits have been scheduled for the following dates: MONDAY, JUNE 24, 2024 – 11 AM EST and MONDAY, JULY 8, 2024 – 2 PM EST. Attendance at one of the site visits is STRONGLY ENCOURAGED.

2. Bid RFB-7196 – Opening date: 6/28/2024: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months to provide on-call line stopping services at various locations through the City of Yonkers (KS).

3. Bid RFB-7203 – Opening date: 6/28/2024: Purchase of one Odra model MT4H, or Yonkers approved equal, mechanical, ride-on street cleaning sweeper (FB).

4. Bid RFB-7204 – Opening date: 6/28/2024: Purchase of various sport uniforms for the Yonkers Public School district for the 2024-2025 school year 26 items manufactured by Under Armour, Alleson, Founders Group, or Yonkers approved equals (FB).

5. Bid RFB-7206 – Opening date: 6/28/2024: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide on-call HVAC maintenance and repair services for City owned facilities (FB).

6. Bid RFB-7161A – Opening date: 6/28/2024: Twelve month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide parts, maintenance, and repairs for Ross control valves as-needed (AC).

CORPORATION NOTICE
CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers, New York will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 6:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following General Ordinance, to wit:

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A PROPOSED GENERAL ORDINANCE TO ESTABLISH A TEMPORARY MORATORIUM ON APPROVALS FOR BATTERY ENERGY STORAGE SYSTEMS WITHIN THE CITY OF YONKERS PENDING APPROPRIATE REVIEW

VINCENT SPANO
City Clerk

CORPORATION NOTICE
CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers, New York will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 5:45 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following General Ordinance, to wit:

PROPOSED GENERAL ORDINANCE

A PROPOSED GENERAL ORDINANCE INSTITUTING AN EIGHT-MONTH MORATORIUM ON SELF-STORAGE FACILITIES WITHIN THE CITY OF YONKERS IN ORDER TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH REVIEW ON HOW TO BETTER SERVE THE CITY’S ECONOMIC GROWTH.

VINCENT SPANO
City Clerk

CORPORATION NOTICE
CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers, New York will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 6:15 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following General Ordinance, to wit:

PROPOSED GENERAL ORDINANCE

A PROPOSED GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 43 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS ENTITLED “ZONING” IN REGARDS TO THE CLEAR CUTTING AND EXCAVATION OF LAND PRIOR TO REQUIRED SITE PLAN APPROVAL.

VINCENT SPANO
City Clerk

CORPORATION NOTICE
CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers, New York will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, June 26, 2024 at 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following General Ordinance, to wit:

PROPOSED GENERAL ORDINANCE

A PROPOSED GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 43 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS ENTITLED “ZONING” IN REGARDS TO SENIOR CITIZEN HOUSING PARKING REQUIREMENTS.

VINCENT SPANO
City Clerk

Notice of formation of WIT SOCCER LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/18/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 390 Heritage Hls, Unit D, Somers, NY 10589-1989. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Resonance Interactive LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 5/14/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 17 Arlington Road, Scarsdale NY, 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Westchester County Hires Director of Flood Mitigation and Resiliency



Dean Tarulli

In an ongoing effort to address the increasing impact of flooding and severe weather storms on residents, businesses and infrastructure in Westchester, the County Department of Planning has hired a Director of Flood Mitigation and Resiliency. Dean Tarulli, formerly of the New York State Office of Storm Recovery and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), has joined Westchester County Government to help develop and manage flood prevention and mitigation projects, as well as look at ways to maximize state and federal funding in communities plagued with flooding issues.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: “We have all seen the catastrophic impact flooding and severe storms can have on our residents and businesses throughout Westchester County, which is why we created this brand new position as part of our 2024 County budget. Dean Tarulli has been brought on to create a more comprehensive approach to flooding concerns in all of our communities, and we know the County will greatly benefit from his past experience and expertise.”

Westchester County Commissioner of Planning Blanca Lopez said: “Almost every day, we hear from municipalities and County residents alike about the need to increase the resiliency of communities impacted by flooding. Adding Dean Tarulli to the Planning staff sends a clear message that this is a priority and a critical step forward in order to take immediate action. We welcome Mr. Tarulli to the Planning Department and look forward to his leadership in this role.”

Tarulli said: “I am looking forward to this exciting role and the challenges it presents. Thank you to everyone who has been working on this issue. Together, we will build upon past successes and create solutions for a more resilient Westchester.”

Tarulli’s responsibilities will also include:

- Administrating the County’s Flood Mitigation Program funded in the Capital Budget
- Addressing concerns from local municipalities as the County’s Floodplain Coordinator
- Collaborating closely with many County Departments including the Department of Emergency Services, Department of Environmental Facilities and Department of Public Works and Transportation

Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, JUNE 15

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466

Identifying Invasive Plants, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Many plants in North America aren’t native, yet they pose no threat to our ecosystems despite being here for hundreds of years. Why are some non-native species a problem? Learn to recognize the invasive plants that might be hiding in your backyard!

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

Lasdon Green Squad, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Every Saturday through November. Get details and register at <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/lasdon-green-squad/2024-06-15/>

Glen Island Park, New Rochelle: (914) 813-6720

Beach Is Open, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. The beach will be open on weekends and on June 19 through Sunday, June 23, and then daily from Friday, June 28 through Monday, Sept. 2; weather permitting; no admittance after 6 p.m.; parking and beach admission fees apply. Westchester County residency is required for admission, with a County Park Pass, a valid NYS driver’s license or a valid NYS ID with a Westchester County address.

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

Beach Is Open, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. The beach will be open weekends and on Wednesday, June 19, through Sunday, June 23; weather permitting; no admittance after 6 p.m.; parking and beach admission fees apply. Westchester residency is not required.

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

Seining by the Shoreline, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. It’s the time of the season when we will catch, study and release creatures from the Long Island Sound using a 25-foot seining net. Please dress in clothing to get wet. No swimming gear, please.

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466

Take Out the Trash!, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Keep our salt marsh beautiful by collecting trash left by the tides. It’s a great way to have fun, get some exercise and give back to the earth.

Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River: (914) 864-7322. Tree ID Workshop, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Join the Trailside crew for a guided hike. Together we’ll learn about how to identify wildflowers, as well as find a few of the noteworthy tree species that call our Reservation home.

SUNDAY, JUNE 16

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

Farmers Market, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Our market, which supports farmers and sustainable efforts in our area, features more than 25 local vendors every Sunday until Nov. 17. Get details at <https://www.muscotefarm.org/programs-events/event/2024/06/16/1718548200/farmers-market/479750>

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

Gardening Sundays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/gardening-sundays/2024-06-16/>

The Bronx River Parkway

Bicycle Sundays, 10 a.m. - 1:45 p.m. A portion of the parkway is closed to cars for the exclusive use of non-motorized bicyclists and scooters, as well as in-line skaters, walkers and joggers. Runs through July and resumes Sept. through Oct. 6. Get details at <https://www.thewpf.org/events/uat2xxrxqzb9rr27qs0f7v961nhmc1-yrpk5-a4g45-3t9xr-w5ja6-37rw7-pk4n7-2f8nk-f4c5c-8w89a-7nwnm-szc32-6sknj-fkmpn>

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

Father’s Day Hike, 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Celebrate your father at beautiful Lasdon! Free. Get details and register at <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/fathers-day-hike/>

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

The Beauty of Bulbs, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Join Lasdon staff for a tour of the gardens to view some of the thousands of bulbs planted throughout the property. See what’s flowering this time of the year. Meet at the entrance kiosk. Free. Rain or shine. Get details at <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/spring-at-lasdon-public-gardens/2024-06-16/>

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

Big Equipment Day, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. Get up close with tractors, mowers and other equipment that do some of the biggest jobs here on the farm.

Glen Island Park Beach, New Rochelle: (914) 813-6720

DJ Day, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Come for a swim and enjoy music at the beach! Proof of Westchester County is residency required. Participation is free; admission and parking fees apply; weather permitting. Get details at <https://parks.westchestergov.com/family-fun-days>.

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From Yonkers to Pocantico Hills and Back Again, an Artistic Journey



Left to right. Amanda Lynne, Artist, Susan MacMurdy, Artist, Robert Antonik, Blue Door Art Center Board President, Pradeep Gupta, Artist

By Michele Amaro and Pradeep Gupta

Explore the captivating works created during Blue Door Art Center’s Rockefeller Community Arts Residency, opening Saturday, June 15th, 2024 at the Blue Door Art Center. The Exhibition aptly named TRIO, celebrates the work of three highly talented artists, Pradeep Gupta, Susan MacMurdy and Amanda Lynne. This exhibition features the works developed over a six month period in the light-filled art studio in the David E. Rockefeller Creative Arts Center. The artists spent two months each in Residency at the DR Centre in Tarrytown, New York. The exhibition will be open to the public from Saturday June 15th and will run through July 13th 2024. “We are so excited to share this fabulous artwork with our community!” Michele Trommer Amaro, Gallery Director.

The Blue Door Art Centre, the host of the Trio exhibition, is the proud winner of ROCKEFELLER COMMUNITY ARTS RESIDENCY AWARD 2023/24 sponsored by Rockefeller Brothers Fund. The award included a \$25,000 prize and six months use of their art studio at the DR Center. Yonkers residents were brought up to the beautiful Pocantico Center, once the Rockefeller estate, for number of art workshops, including; special needs adults, children, teens, adults and more. A sold-out, poetry and jazz concert by The Jazz and Poetry Choir Collective was part of the residency as well as the above mentioned residencies of

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Muffin Dowdle & Dan Hollis Honored at “Hats Off to 85 Years” Annual Gala



From left, BGCNW CEO Alyzza Ozer, Youth of the Year Award Winner Grace Gerosa, Honoree Dan Hollis, County Legislator Erika Pierce and Honoree Muffin Dowdle

It was Hats Off to 85 Years as more than 400 friends and supporters of the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester (BGCNW) were on hand June 7 for the 29th Annual Humanitarian Award Gala. The theme of the event — Hats Off to 85 Years —celebrated the Club’s 85th anniversary this year. The gala, which was held at the Brae Burn Country Club in Purchase, raised approximately \$800,000.

The honorees are two long-time supporters of BGCNW – Muffin Dowdle and Dan Hollis. Muffin Dowdle has been a lifelong member of the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester! She grew up in Mount Kisco, one of eleven children, and she and her brothers and sisters learned how to swim and attended after-school programs at the Club. She returned to the Club as an adult as a member of the Board of Directors, serving for 30 years.

Muffin has been invaluable to the Boys & Girls Club since signing on to the Board. She has not only “sold”the Club story to countless individuals throughout Westchester and beyond, but she has also convinced those individuals to support the organization.

Dan Hollis has been practicing law for almost 50 years. Over those decades, he has led some of the most consequential litigations in New York. He has conducted some of the State’s most newsworthy trials and appeals, from state trial courts all the way to the Supreme Court of the United States. Dan has deep involvement in organizations throughout Northern Westchester, where he

continued on pg 11-

VILLAGECAREMAX

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The Martin & Iris Walshin Memorial Golf Classic June 25-at Saint. Andrew's Golf Club

Iona Preparatory Class of 2024 Earns Record \$38 Million in Scholarships



Left: Valedictorian Kristof Spellen with Iona Preparatory President Brother Thomas R. Leto



Below: L-R- Co-Salutatorian Michael Colby, Br. Leto, Co-Salutatorian Oree Banks

St. John's Riverside Hospital invites the community to attend their annual Marty & Iris Walshin Memorial Golf Outing on June 25th at St. Andrews Golf Club in Hastings-on-Hudson.

The proceeds from the evening will be used toward new patient beds throughout the hospital system. Beds cost over \$10,500 each.

Visit the following link to bid on prizes, purchase tickets, or become a golf outing sponsor <https://e.givesmart.com/events/BYr/>

Another way to contribute and participate is a Box Pool Raffle at \$50 per box. Visit the following link <https://e.givesmart.com/events/BYr/i/> to buy a box.

Iona Preparatory School seniors outdid themselves, catapulting past the previous mark in earning more than \$38 million in merit-based, academic scholarships to colleges and universities across the nation. Three-quarters of the class earned those scholarships, and with an average award of almost \$60,000, an Iona Prep education continues to pay for itself.

The Class of 2024's top students — Valedictorian Kristof Spellen (New Rochelle) and Co-Salutatorians Oree Banks (New Rochelle) and Michael Kolby (White Plains) — were all members of the Superior Talent Enrichment Program, have taken 37 AP courses between them, and are off to MIT, Cornell and Georgia Tech, respectively. In all, 73 members of the class graduated with honors.

In addition to merit scholarships, the Class of 2024 has also set a new record regarding athletic commitments as 43 scholar-athletes made theirs this year. That constitutes a quarter of the class and nearly three times the national average! Even more impressive, those scholar-athletes earned an average award of over \$140,000 per player, and all while averaging a collective 90 in the classroom.

For more information on Iona, visit www.ionaprep.org

Major Organizations & Community Leaders Applaud Legislation to Protect Children Online

Unions, Community Groups, and Advocates Praise Legislation Advanced by AG James That Will Limit Social Media Features Harmful to Teen Mental Health, Prevent Collection of Children's Personal Data

After two bills that will help protect children online and which were advanced by New York Attorney General James, sponsored by Senator Gounardes and Assemblymember Rozic, and supported by Governor Hochul passed in the State Legislature, prominent unions, community groups, and advocates issued statements of support for the legislation. The bills, when signed into law, will help protect children by prohibiting online sites from collecting and sharing their personal data and limiting addictive features of social media platforms that are known to harm their mental health and development.

"The legislation that was announced here by Governor Hochul, Attorney General James, Senator Gounardes, and Assemblymember Rozic in October 2023, are set to become law, and our children will be safer as a result," said Michael Mulgrew, President of the United Federation of Teachers. "Bottom line: this legislation will help protect our students. As educators, we know the impact social media can have on our students' emotional health and well-being. Hopefully, other states will follow New York's lead."

"Educators see the harmful effects of social media on our kids every day, and this legislation is a tremendous first step toward ensuring these influences remain in their proper places," said New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) President Melinda Person. "We are grateful to the Legislature, the Attorney General and the governor for championing the mental health of our students as they navigate our rapidly changing world online. These platforms have potential to enhance teaching, learning and connectivity in our classrooms, but should never risk our children's health or safety. New York can lead the nation in creating protections for the mental and physical wellness of the future generation, and this is just the beginning."

"Hats off to New York's leaders who have made the safety and well-being of children and teens online a top priority," said James P. Steyer, Founder and CEO of Common Sense Media, the leading organization in the coalition to protect New York kids online. "From the start, Attorney General James, along with the Governor and their allies in the legislature, put together carefully crafted legislation that gets at the heart of what harms kids and their families online — the dangerous algorithms and constant notifications and the vacuuming up of kids' data that is all used to make more money for social media companies. Once these bills are implemented, that will change for kids and teens in New York. Instead, kids' data will be more secure, and the social media experience for young users will be healthier. That's really important. We are proud to have played a key role in this campaign, and we are deeply grateful to the Attorney General and other state leaders who got this done."

"We are grateful that New York has taken the lead in keeping children safer from the harms of social media," said Kathleen Spence, Middle School Teacher, Mother of Alexis Spence. "We appreciate that these bipartisan bills were passed so swiftly by Attorney General James, Governor Hochul, Senator Andrew Gounardes, and Assemblymember Rozic. Although both of our children are older now, we feel reassured knowing these laws are in place to protect students and future generations."

"The historic passage of the New York Child Data Protection Act sets a precedent across the nation to safeguard the data of children under the age of eighteen from online entities seeking to collect, sell, or utilize such information for their own purposes," said Robert S. Schneider, Executive Director, New York State School Boards Association. "School boards share parents' and guardians' concerns about online data safeguarding and thank Attorney General James and all stakeholders for the advancement and now enforcement of this law's intent to protect the online privacy of children and adolescents."

"In an era where children's lives are deeply embedded in the digital world, it becomes even more crucial to prioritize their safety and mental wellness," said Luisa Lopez, Executive Director of the Latino Social Work Coalition & Scholarship Fund, Inc. "We celebrate the passage of these bills, which will equip parents with the necessary tools to protect children from predatory practices affecting their mental health. They ensure that online privacy is the default for New York's children, preventing companies from collecting and using their data. We extend our gratitude to Assembly sponsor Nily Rozic, Governor Kathy Hochul, Attorney General Letitia James, and our partners in the Senate for their dedicated efforts to make online spaces safer for kids."

"We know the harm that addictive social media practices can have, especially on our most vulnerable populations," said Rose Pierre-Louis, Executive Director of the McSilver Institute. "These common-sense reforms will help make New York a leader in addressing the crisis among our young people, particularly girls and youth in communities of color. The efforts by community activists and researchers to bring these issues to the forefront of public attention have been essential to supporting elected officials like State Senator Gounardes and Assemblymember Rozic in their work to hold social media companies accountable. Thanks to Attorney General James and Governor Hochul for publicly supporting these efforts to show that New York State stands united in protecting our young people from harmful social media practices."

"As the nation's only pan-Asian children and families' advocacy organization, CACF has had an inside look at the current mental health crisis affecting our children and teens," said Anita Gundanna and Vanessa Leung, Co-Executive Directors of the Coalition of Asian American Children and Families (CACF). "Asian American girls are particularly vulnerable, with studies showing that they are both more likely to experience symptoms of depression and less likely to seek help from a school counselor. CACF congratulates Governor Hochul, Attorney General James, Senator Gounardes, and Assemblymember Nily Rozic for the passing of critical legislation that would protect the mental health of our young people and ensure that their personal data is safeguarded. The addictive nature of social media apps along with the lack of age-appropriate internet safeguards often create a perfect storm when it comes to anxiety, depression, body image, and mental health."

Pride and Power in Yonkers: The 7th Annual Pride Festival



*above-large crowds at
Yonkers Pride Festival*

*left-Angelique Piwinski
receiving the Michael
Sabatino Legacy Award*

By Dennis Richmond Jr.

The City of Yonkers kicked off its annual Pride Weekend with a vibrant display of solidarity on Friday, as the LGBTQ+ Flag soared high in front of City Hall. The Flag Raising Ceremony, a symbolic gesture of inclusion and celebration, drew a diverse crowd eager to honor the LGBTQ+ community.

Amidst cheers and applause, Angelique Piwinski received the prestigious Michael Sabatino Legacy Award, recognizing her tireless advocacy for LGBTQ+ rights. The podium witnessed impassioned speeches from community stalwarts like Anthony Nicodemo and Brentin Brown-Beausoleil, who led a poignant moment of silence. Michael Sabatino, echoing the sentiments of many, urged the younger generation to cherish and learn from their history.

This year holds particular significance as it marks the 55th anniversary of the modern LGBTQ+ civil rights movement, ignited by the defiant actions of Marsha P. Johnson at the Stonewall Inn. The historic Stonewall Riot of 1969 catalyzed a movement that continues to inspire progress and change.

Mayor Mike Spano's visionary leadership paved the way for Yonkers' LGBTQ+ community with the establishment of the LGBTQ Advisory Board in 2014. Committed to advocating for inclusive policies, the board stands as a beacon of hope and progress.

As the flag fluttered in the breeze, anticipation mounted for the 7th Annual Yonkers Pride Festival on June 8th, 2024, set to electrify Downtown Yonkers. From Shay D'Pines to Angel Elektra, a stellar lineup promises a day of celebration and empowerment.

Behind the scenes, the Yonkers Pride Board's dedicated planning committee, led by luminaries like Robert Voorheis and Jessika Pineda, worked tirelessly to ensure a memorable and inclusive event. With acts like Xunami Muse ready to grace the stage, the festival is poised to be a testament to the city's vibrant LGBTQ+ community.

As the rainbow flag flies high over Yonkers, it serves as a reminder of the city's unwavering commitment to diversity, equality, and love. In the words of Mayor Spano, "Yonkers Pride is more than a festival; it's a testament to our shared humanity and the strength of our community."

The 7th Annual Yonkers Pride Festival on June 8th, 2024, wasn't just an event—it was a vibrant explosion of color and unity that truly showcased the heart of Yonkers, NY. Thousands gathered for a day filled with dazzling pictures, joyous reunions, and an unyielding spirit of inclusivity. This year's festival was a powerful testament to the community's unwavering commitment to equality and its relentless pursuit of a brighter, more inclusive future.

In a kaleidoscope of vendors, attendees, and electrifying performances, the festival was a beacon of hope and celebration. From the iconic Shay D'Pines to the dazzling Angel Elektra, the lineup was nothing short of spectacular, igniting the stage with a day dedicated to pride, empowerment, and unity.

Behind this landmark event was the indomitable Yonkers Pride Board and its dedicated planning committee, spearheaded by Robert Voorheis and Jessika Pineda. The Yonkers Pride Board worked tirelessly to ensure that the festival was not only memorable but also inclusive, welcoming all to celebrate their true selves.

Xunami Muse, from RuPaul's Drag Race S16, took to the stage, delivering a performance that had the audience screaming with love. Inspired by her energy, many attendees took pictures and recorded videos. Among the myriad of vendors at the event was Michael Stephens, offering unique crafts and engaging with festival-goers.

Michael, an estate sales manager whose eclectic array of goods—from nostalgic VHS tapes to essential clothing racks—drew eager onlookers. The festival also served as a reunion for old friends Bradlee Vasquez and Teejay Williams, both in their 20s, whose bond dates back to grade school, with my own memories of them stretching back to middle school.

The Yonkers Pride Festival was more than an event; it was a revival of connections, a chance to relax, and a profound display of love and happiness. As the sun set on this vibrant day, one thing was clear: pride and power surged through Yonkers, leaving an indelible mark on all who attended.

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

Yearbook, continued from pg 1-

the sea,” as her yearbook quote.

The phrase “from the river to the sea,” has become more popular by Palestinian protestors after the October 7 attacks by Hamas on Israel.

According to the Anti-Defamation League, ADL, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” is an antisemitic slogan commonly featured in anti-Israel campaigns and chanted at demonstrations. This rallying cry has long been used by anti-Israel voices, including supporters of terrorist organizations such as Hamas and the PFLP, which seek Israel’s destruction through violent means. It is fundamentally a call for a Palestinian state extending from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, territory that includes the State of Israel, which would mean the dismantling of the Jewish state. It is an antisemitic charge denying the Jewish right to self-determination, including through the removal of Jews from their ancestral homeland. Usage of this phrase has the effect of making members of the Jewish and pro-Israel community feel unsafe and ostracized. It is important to note that demanding justice for Palestinians, or calling for a Palestinian state, should not mean, as this hateful phrase posits, denying the right of the State of Israel to exist.”

In an email to the Yorktown High School families, Superintendent Ron Hattar wrote, “This afternoon we learned that one of the quotes in the 2024 YHS yearbook included language that is hurtful to members of our school community. We always strive to promote an inclusive environment for all students, and this quote runs contrary to our values. This was an oversight and we have already begun planning additional measures to include in our yearbook review process moving forward.”

Some parents and students are asking for more information about how this phrase was allowed to be printed in the yearbook, and who had the oversight for the yearbook before it went to press?

“Was the yearbook advisor aware of this message, and did they let it go through? Or were they unaware of it?” posted one parent on social media.

One parent of a Yorktown High School student, Rabbi Robbie Weiner, of Temple Beth Am in Yorktown, told News 12, “The students are told that they shouldn’t use words of hatred, political statements and things of this sort, this is absolutely hate speech.”

One YHS student added, “From the river to the sea to me, means, I hear that and that’s the land of Israel so I think no Israel. I was personally very upset that it was in the yearbook, and I wish they would address it a little bit more,” said Tailia Pierson.

A second letter that went out to the YHS community offered students a reprinted Yearbook without the quote, or they can be provided with a sticker to cover up the quote.

Others have called for this unfortunate incident to be used as an opportunity to educate this student, and all students on how hateful this phrase is.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

is a calling. It doesn’t have the glitz of say Washington, D. C. And years ago the salaries were not that great. I had George on my Radio Show on WVOX, and I noticed how engaged he was with our conversation and the callers to the station.

Fast forward to George’s run against Rob Astorino. A debate was held at Iona College between incumbent Rob and George. I never saw a more poorly run debate than that one. Astorino had gathered together a pack of animals to boo George and sing Astorino’s praises. The Iona administrators sat there and did nothing to calm down the animals. It was the worst political debate I had ever seen. I felt sorry for George. Sadly some of the animals had

Civil Service protection so it was impossible to fire them on the spot.

George has done a lot in a little over 6 years as County Executive. Just recently he re-authorized free bus service for the county. This is a big thing for people with no car and people who could not afford the congestion pricing piece thankfully on hold. Many WESTCHESTER buses are electric good for the environment.

He supports term limits and has promised he will follow through on his commitment unlike some other big city in WESTCHESTER where they changed the charter without public vote.

Israel doesn’t have to worry that George Latimer will not be her friend. He won’t waffle trying to please all sides and try to work with his colleagues to come up with a solution amenable to all.

Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security and support of our men in military will be high on his agenda. He understands how important the rebuilding of the infrastructure of this country is and will support the requisite dollars needed to make sure we have clean drinking water.

George won’t be a television celebrity like the current congressman and will spend his time on the people’s agenda. He has served our County for so many years that we know where he is coming from. There will be no surprises when George Latimer goes to Congress. He is an open book, not as exciting as the current congressman but he knows how to get things done.

And take my word, George Latimer knows what a fire alarm is. He needs no on the job training and will listen to people’s needs versus have them listen to his.

Don’t take the polls for granted friends. You know what you have to do to get George Latimer elected and once again our congressional district will be a place we can be proud to call home.

Good Luck George!

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

“The key to the future of the world, is finding the optimistic stories and letting them be known.”— Pete Seeger

Governor Hochul Announces Overhaul at NYS Office of Cannabis Management

Appointees to Lead Operational Overhaul at OCM and Implement Recommendations from Task Force Report

Governor Kathy Hochul today announced three new leadership appointments at the Office of Cannabis Management, part of a sweeping operational overhaul of the agency launched last month. These appointments, including Felicia A. B. Reid as Executive Deputy Director and Acting Executive Director, put in place a leadership team that will implement changes to end the bottleneck of license applicants, improve communication with applicants and licensees, and reaffirm the agency’s commitment to the social equity goals codified in the Marihuana Regulation and Taxation Act.

“I’m committed to ensuring New York’s nation-leading cannabis market continues to thrive,” Governor Hochul said. “With these new appointees, the Office of Cannabis Management will continue to focus on expanding the most equitable adult-use market in the nation while cracking down on illicit storefronts.”

The Governor also announced a nationwide search for a permanent Executive Director of OCM to lead the agency as it works to grow and support the nation’s most diverse and equitable legal cannabis marketplace. The Governor’s Appointments Office will work with an experienced recruitment firm to identify qualified candidates from across the state and the country.

Felicia A. B. Reid has been appointed Executive Deputy Director and Acting Executive Director. In this role, Felicia will oversee major operational and regulatory functions of the office including licensing, compliance and enforcement. She will manage the implementation of the OCM Assessment Team’s recommendations in partnership with OCM leadership and staff.

Felicia has over a decade of experience in State government and spent the last six years at the Office of Children and Family Services, including overseeing statewide juvenile justice operations as Deputy Commissioner. She is admitted to the New York State Bar Association and earned her law degree from New York Law School. She also has a Bachelor of Arts from Fordham University.

Office of Cannabis Management Executive Deputy Director and Acting Executive Director Felicia A. B. Reid said, “I am excited to work with everyone at OCM and our partners statewide to expand upon the agency’s work, build best internal and external practices, and focus on making New York’s cannabis industry one that meets the needs of small businesses and consumers. Cannabis is an enormous opportunity for our state, and OCM is obligated to ensure that its work makes those opportunities accessible, transparent, and responsive to the industry’s movement and trends. I want to thank Governor Hochul for this opportunity and look forward to doing the work with equity as the central-most focus of OCM’s way forward.”

Susan Filburn has been appointed Chief Administrative Officer. This new position will focus on stabilizing and formalizing administrative functions of the agency to support licensing, compliance and enforcement operations. She will also work closely with the licensing and technology teams to implement process improvements to streamline the license review process and improve responsiveness.

Susan has more than 20 years of experience in State government, including the last four years as Deputy Commissioner of Employment Security at the Department of Labor. Susan is a U.S. Army Veteran who served in numerous locations as an Aviation Officer. Susan holds a Masters of Public Administration from the Syracuse University Maxwell School, as well as a Bachelor of Science from the United States Military Academy at West Point.

Jessica Woolford has been promoted to the position of Director of External Affairs. In this role, she will ensure that communication and community engagement are prioritized as the agency implements transformational change. She will also build out the agency’s first customer service team to provide transparency to applicants, licensees and consumers about the agency’s processes and the marketplace.

Jessica previously served as Director of Communications at OCM and has adeptly led the agency’s external communications through challenging transitions over the last nine months. She has more than a decade of experience working in government and for social justice organizations, and she holds a bachelor’s degree from Williams College in History with a concentration in Africana Studies.

From Yonkers to Pocantico, continued from pg 8

Pradeep Gupta, Susan MacMurdy and Amanda Lynne, at The DR Center.

The Blue Door Art Centre is a non-profit organization dedicated to bringing the arts to local communities in Yonkers and the surrounding area for over 20 years and is located at 13 Riverdale Ave, Yonkers, NY 10701. Gallery Hours are: Thursdays and Fridays 3-6pm, and Saturdays 1-6 pm.

Hats Off, continued from pg 8-

has resided for nearly 60 years. Dan has been the recipient of the Mount Kisco Chamber of Commerce Citizen of the Year award and a two time recipient of the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester Humanitarian of the Year Award.

Among those attending the festive evening event were Martha Stewart, County Legislator Erika Pierce and Youth of the Year Award Winner Grace Gerosa of Pleasantville. Among the many live auction items was a horse ride through private gardens with Martha Stewart. It sold for \$60,000!

“At the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester our programming key differentiator is civic advocacy and leadership ensuring that all children every color, socioeconomic background, gender affiliation and religion have the opportunity to hone communication and leadership skills to give back to community,” said Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester CEO Alyzza Ozer.

Early Voting Starts in Westchester June 15 at 25 Locations

Democratic voters in Westchester will be able to cast their vote in upcoming Democratic primaries for Congress, District Attorney and Assembly, starting on June 15.

Voters in the 16th Congressional District, which includes mid-lower Westchester, can vote for incumbent Congressman Jamaal Bowman and Westchester County Executive George Latimer.

Democrats throughout Westchester can cast a vote for District Attorney between Susan Cacace, William Wagstaff and Adeel Mirza.

And Greenburgh Democrats can vote in the Assembly primary in the 92nd District, between Assemblywoman MaryJane Shimsky and former Assemblyman Tom Abinanti.

Democrats can vote at any one of the following early voting locations starting on June 15 and through June 23. You can also cast your vote on Primary day, June 25.

Croton Municipal Building, 1 Van Wyck Street, Croton on Hudson, NY 10520
Eastchester Public Library, 11 Oakridge Place, Eastchester, NY 10709
Greenburgh Town Hall, 177 Hillside Avenue, White Plains, NY 10607
Hastings-on-Hudson Public Library, 7 Maple Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706

St. Gregory The Great Church, 215 Halstead Avenue, Harrison, NY 10528
Mamaroneck Town Center, 740 W. Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck, NY 10543

Mt. Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main Street, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549
Mt. Pleasant Community Center, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla, NY 10595
Joseph G. Caputo Community Center, 95 Broadway, Ossining, NY 10562
Pound Ridge Town House, 179 Westchester Avenue, Pound Ridge, NY 10576
Rye Brook Firehouse, 940 King Street, Rye Brook, NY 10573
Somers Town House, 335 Route 202, Somers, NY 10589
Jefferson Village Annex, 3500 Hill Boulevard, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
Yorktown Cultural Center, 1974 Commerce Street, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598

Doles Center, 250 S. 6th Avenue, Mt. Vernon, NY 10550
Mt. Vernon City Hall, 1 Roosevelt Square, Mt. Vernon, NY 10550
New Rochelle City Hall Annex – 90 Beaufort Place, 90 Beaufort Place, New Rochelle, NY 10801

New Rochelle United Methodist Church, 1200 North Avenue, New Rochelle, NY 10804

Peekskill Lincoln Depot Museum, 10 S. Water Street, Peekskill, NY 10566
Peekskill Neighborhood Center, 4 Nelson Avenue, Peekskill, NY 10566
Rye City- Resurrection- Early Childhood Education Center, 88 Milton Road, Rye, NY 10580

Westchester County Board of Elections, 25 Quarropas Street, White Plains, NY 10601

Grinton I. Will Library, 1500 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710
Nodine Hill Community Center, 140 Fillmore Street, Yonkers, NY 10701
Riverfront Library, One Larkin Center, Yonkers, NY 10701.

Days and Hours as follows:

Saturday, June 15, 2024 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Sunday, June 16, 2024 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Monday, June 17, 2024 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Tuesday, June 18, 2024 from 12 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Wednesday, June 19, 2024 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Thursday, June 20, 2024 from 12 p.m. until 8 p.m.

Friday, June 21, 2024 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.

Saturday, June 22, 2024 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Sunday, June 23, 2024 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

VIRTUAL
New Rochelle Public Library
Yankee Stadium: From the (Organ) Bench with Ed Alstrom
Thursday, June 20 · 6:30 pm

Ed has had a rich and extremely diverse musical career. He is currently the Music Director/Organist at Central Presbyterian Church in Montclair, and Accompanist/Choir Director at Temple Ner Tamid in Bloomfield. Ed is a graduate of Westminster Choir College. He continues to play all kinds of music at all kinds of gigs in the NJ/NY area. Ed has performed with Bette Midler, Chuck Berry, Leonard Bernstein, Herbie Hancock, Odette, Dion, Ronnie Spector, Zubin Mehta, Steely Dan, Blood Sweat and Tears, and many other notables. He has won a Backstage Bistro Award and a MAC Award nomination on the NY Cabaret Circuit. His Broadway experience includes a stint as Associate Conductor on Hairspray, as well as Leader Of The Pack, Smokey Joe's Café, Taboo, Brooklyn, Catch Me If You Can and Hot Feet. Off-Broadway, he has been Musical Director for Dream A Little Dream (The Mamas & Papas Musical).

Join us virtually next Thursday, June 20 for “Yankee Stadium: From the (Organ) Bench with Ed Alstrom”! Ed Alstrom just finished his 20th season as the Weekend Organist at Yankee Stadium. In this presentation, he will talk about that job, demonstrate how it gets done, and tell stories about his experiences at the Stadium. Registration is required here

https://bit.ly/YankeeStadiumMusic_06_2024

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YPIE Recognizes Judge Karen Beltran and Volunteers at Gratitude Celebration



Mayor Mike Spano joined YPIE in honoring Hon. Karen T. Beltran at this year's YPIE Gratitude Celebration alongside YPIE Board Chairman David Westin, YPIE College Student Ashley Tobar, and YPIE Executive Director Sam Wallis.

On a beautiful, sunny afternoon, Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE) recognized the impact and dedication of its 230+ volunteers and partners at its annual Gratitude Celebration.

Mayor Mike Spano joined more than 100 volunteers, YPIE Board Members, community members, staff, and friends to express gratitude to YPIE's volunteers for making a lasting difference in the lives of Yonkers students.

The Honorable Karen T. Beltran was recognized with the Wendy R. Nadel Volunteer Legacy Award, created in honor of YPIE's founding executive director.

"Judge Beltran has been a fierce advocate for Yonkers students and has lifted many young people into the legal profession," said Sam Wallis, YPIE Executive Director. The Hon. Karen Beltran served as President of the Yonkers Council of PTAs/PTSAs and joined the YPIE Board of Directors in 2015. She has been a leading voice on several Board committees and provided YPIE students the opportunity to have Summer Law Internships, which have positively impacted their interest in pursuing a career in law.

Several students who participated in these summer law internships attended the celebration.

"Not many high school students have access to internships in their field of interest, which can be extremely beneficial in college when it comes time to declare majors," said Ashley Tobar, YPIE College Student attending John Jay College of Criminal Justice. "I can say with full certainty, thanks to this internship, that becoming a lawyer is what I want to do. I hope to one day be able to help young, inspired high school students the same way Judge Beltran helped me."

Judge Beltran accepted this award and shared her strong belief in Yonkers students. "We share a deep love and commitment to YPIE and do the work for one reason only – for the students. We see their potential, admire their grit, and want them to soar to the highest level. We want to help them in any way we can to break cycles and achieve their goals and aspirations, not only for themselves but for their entire family and the Yonkers community. What happens here at YPIE sparks societal change and empowers the youth in our city."

YPIE also recognized a "Volunteer of the Year" from each Yonkers high school. "The impact we have on young people would not be possible without the time, dedication, and love of our volunteers who, at 230 strong, may very well be the largest corps of volunteers in Westchester County," stated Stacy Winitz, YPIE Senior Director of Volunteer Engagement. YPIE thanks the Cross County Center for hosting this annual Gratitude Celebration on its beautiful mall and all the YPIE community members who participated in this meaningful event. Learn more at ypie.org/volunteer.

Social Worker Attacked, continued from pg 1-

kins, charging him with second-degree attempted murder, a Class A-1 felony, and first-degree assault. Soto was taken by ambulance to Westchester Medical Center and put on a ventilator.

In the complaint, the District Attorney's office states that the victim required immediate surgery at Westchester Medical Center and requires a ventilator in order to breathe.

The Peekskill Herald reported that Jenkins has a violent criminal history that includes disorderly conduct for fighting and violent behavior in 2023, and in 2011 he was charged with 2nd degree assault, a Class D felony, for punching a 16 year old boy in the face leaving a party.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "This unforeseen and tragic incident has prompted us to take immediate action to protect our personnel from further harm while they perform their duties on behalf of the County of Westchester. DSS staff perform essential work within the community, we respect them and we want to do all we can to keep them safe."

Westchester County has announced additional safety measures for its staff. Effective immediately, DSS will offer enhanced security escorts for staff during community and home visits. While DSS has long provided escort services, the new initiative expands their availability to cover more visits and programs.

Century Protective Services, Inc. will provide escorts on a case-by-case basis to assist DSS staff.

DSS Commissioner Leonard Townes said: "Due to the urgent nature of this situation, DSS has determined that an immediate contract with a security services provider is necessary. Our employees perform the most selfless work, and we want to ensure their safety every step of the way."

We join Latimer in saying, "Our thoughts are with Marie Coto and her family during this difficult time." Jenkins faces 25 year in prison.

Letter to the Editor:

I'm a mother who is angry about the lack of action on climate.

I am writing to ask you to cover the story of the medical dangers inherent in the use of gas stoves in people's homes.

Right now, mounting evidence suggests deleterious harms associated with gas stove use. (1)

In fact, New York State, as well as Illinois and California are considering legislation to promote informed consumer choice by requiring warning labels to be attached to new gas stoves. The California bill just passed the Assembly and is headed to the Senate.

The gas industry and appliance manufacturers are, of course, disputing the science and trying to cast doubt on it. This strategy echoes the way the tobacco industry tried to fight against public education regarding the harmful effects of smoking. That similarity of strategy is not just coincidence. The gas industry has fought against public understanding of the health harms since the 1970's often partnering with the same strategists and PR people who worked with the tobacco industry. (2)

The industry has recently been getting called to task for allegedly hiding the facts regarding the hazards to human health. Last year three separate class-action lawsuits were filed regarding allegations that the industry was obfuscating the truth about the harms from worsening indoor air quality. Another case was brought in May of 2024 in the District of Columbia Supreme Court accusing a manufacturer of GE appliances of breaking the Consumer Protection Procedures Act by failing to inform the public of indoor pollution risks. (3)

Please cover this important story.

Lisa Owen, New Rochelle

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 2024 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 https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1luztIIO9IzkFIBUNhKvFBj6CNy_bLXR5?usp=sharing

5810 – Use & Area Variance – David S. Steinmetz, Esq. & Jacob E. Amir, Esq., on behalf of TCP Realty LLC, owners, on premises known as 143-151 Woodworth Avenue, Block: 2102, Lots: 4, 5, 11, 39 & 41, Zone: C https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H-uwlmlnZ67PdqnXin47LX7kkvY8uwUh?usp=share_link

5850 – Area Variance – Kathleen Bradshaw, Esq., on behalf of 194 Yonkers Avenue LLC, owner, on premises known as 182 Fillmore Street aka 194 Yonkers Avenue, Block: 405, Lots: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Zone: BA https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rnpD3X61js_cy3P25c-FkrsMpUyXHF34?usp=sharing

5851 - Area Variance – Maximillian Mahalek, Esq. of Cuddy & Feder LLP, on behalf of Islamic Community Center of Mid-Westchester, owner, on premises known as 20 aka 2 Grandview Boulevard, Block: 4600, Lot: 114, Zone: S-100 https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15E-kh7_GSXNeKgLGHZoeWbH6XSDiylq9?usp=drive_link

5852 – Area Variance – Jared Smith, R. A., on behalf of Rupert Clarke, owner, on premises known as 115 Morris Street, Block: 156, Lot: 26, Zone: M https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13nnXrp9qZaPxaKFYnN61xT2D2595Y_-O?usp=drive_link

5853 - Area Variance – Kevin Solli, P.E., on behalf of Chipotle Mexican Grill, owner, on premises known as 1201 Nepperhan Avenue, Block: 3395, Lot: 64, Zone: BA https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ofRPXeeFGksxwAOlaaeRlRPQ-2yN95Xa?usp=drive_link

NEW HEARINGS

5855 – Area Variance – Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of 160 Stanley Avenue LLC, owner, on premises known as 160 Stanley Ave, Block: 184, Lots: 68, Zone: A (B00033778) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sBCFah0Iubtvx_DMeIZGYwbaUBYOPlzH?usp=sharing

5856 – Area Variance – Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of Barak Realty Profit Sharing Trust fbo Yael Dunayer 50% and Barak Dunayer 50%, owner, on premises known as 133 Morsemere Terrace, Block: 2426, Lots: 39.42, Zone: T (A0000258) # 5856 – Area Variance – Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of Barak Realty Profit Sharing Trust <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1BmRt11a1UHAr0sgt1WmmeVRua3uZ65Vk/view?usp=sharing>

5857– Area Variance –Badaly Engineering PLLC on behalf of 1 Bronxville Owners Corp , owner, on premises known as 1 Bronxville Road, Block: 5269, Lot: 20, Zone: A (B0032740) <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mwjCMRvNKjEunKRWmivxZFomwVADYVch?usp=sharing>

5858 – Area Variance –James G. Dibbini Associates, P.C., Esq., on behalf of 1098 Yonkers Avenue Corp. LLC, owner, on premises known as 1098 Yonkers Ave, Block: 6301, Lots: 15& 18, Zone: BA (B0024594) <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YY3Lq7CPKYQ017996QBBynveYcCwza0C?usp=sharing>

Cacace Endorsement, continued from pg 1-

In addition, Judge Cacace served as the first presiding judge of the DWI Part of Westchester County, where she spearheaded the crafting of consistent dispositions of all felony-level DWI cases throughout Westchester County from its creation in 2014-2023.

And during this campaign, Cacace announced her support for new legislation to aid sexual assault victims and vigorous prosecution of sex crimes in Westchester. Legislation introduced by Senator Michael Gianaris and Assemblywoman Amy Paulin would allow New York State Courts to make evidence of prior sexual offenses admissible at trial. This legislative move follows the reversal of Harvey Weinstein's 2020 rape conviction by New York's highest court.

"Evidence of other sexual assaults by the abuser should be admissible in court as long as it doesn't create an unfair bias. Victims should not be silenced.

"If elected DA, I will do everything in my power to make sure that sex crimes are vigorously prosecuted and that survivors of these heinous crimes get the justice they deserve."

We have confidence in Cacace's ability as DA to balance the needs of victims with the rights of the accused.

Cacace also has experience in the Westchester District Attorney's office, serving as an Assistant District Attorney for Westchester County from 1989 through 2003, where she tried felony cases as a member of the Superior Court Trial Division while also coordinating the Animal Cruelty Division.

Cacace, who has been rated 100% pro-choice by Choice Matters and as a 2024 Gun Sense Candidate by Moms Demand Action, wants to improve communications and relations between the District Attorney's office and the community.

"I feel it is incredibly important that our prosecutors have an opportunity to see the world through the eyes of a local kid from Mount Vernon, a senior citizen from Mamaroneck or an at-risk youth from Yonkers. I also believe it is important that people understand the efforts of law enforcement and that they hear from us on what we do and why we do it. Should I be elected district attorney, I look forward to building these programs and to expanding on what was already begun by current DA Mimi Rocah," wrote Cacace, in a recent OP Ed.

We find Susan Cacace to be the most experienced and qualified candidate running for Westchester District Attorney. Her opponents lack the leadership, ethics and commitment to Justice that Judge Cacace brings to the table, and what is critical to run an office with over 40 Police Departments that prosecutes more than 20,000 cases per year.

Adeel Mirza is attempting to lead a District Attorney's office that he was fired from and escorted out of the office. Now he wants to lead that same office.

We've seen many of the mail pieces coming out of the Mirza campaign and not only do they lack substance, but they seem to prioritize negative messages about his opponent. In fact, the Westchester Fair Campaign Practices Committee, recently ruled against Adeel Mirza and the campaign committee Mirza4DA, and determined that two mailers paid for by Mirza4DA were "unfair campaign practices" that violates the FCPC Principle that "The candidate will not use or condone any campaign material or advertisement that misstates, misrepresents or distorts material fact or any communication that misleads the public,"

William Wagstaff's campaign claims that the criminal justice system needs re-imagining. While crime is steady in Westchester at large, we are wondering how an attorney with only 7 years of experience, none of which we are told has ever been prosecutorial, expects to run an office that processes approximately 20,000 cases a year. Aside from his lack of experience, how can the DA effectively prosecute cases without a strong, respectful, collaborative relationship with local law enforcement? As per the wagstafforda.com website, we could not find any endorsements from local law enforcement groups before our publication.

And Wagstaff did not pay his Federal Income Taxes over a six-year period, totaling more than \$189,000, and he did not find his tax troubles worthy of mention to Westchester democratic leaders we spoke to, who were concerned and disappointment and had no knowledge of this before the story broke.

Wagstaff recently earned \$726,000 from the City of Mount Vernon as a "Special Prosecutor" but did not use his earnings to pay his taxes on time, resulting in several democratic leaders asking the question, if you can handle your personal finances, how can we trust you to run the office of Westchester District Attorney?

Susan Cacace has the combination of experience in the office that she now wants to lead, as a Judge for 20 years, and as a defense attorney. She has seen it all from all sides.

And as we go to press, Cacace has received the endorsements from Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, and Westchester District Attorney Mimi Rocah.

Yonkers Rising, Westchester Rising and Yonkerstimes.com endorse Susan Cacace for Westchester District Attorney in the democratic primary June 25.

DINAPOLI AUDIT FINDS AS MUCH AS \$1.5 BILLION IN "QUESTIONABLE, IMPROPER" MEDICAID SPENDING

An audit released by New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli found Medicaid managed care organizations made as much as \$1.5 billion in improper and questionable payments to providers who did not appear to be enrolled in Medicaid. Generally, under federal and state law providers are supposed to be enrolled, a process that gives DOH assurance that they are equipped and eligible to deliver services.

"The deadline for managed care organizations and their providers to comply with enrollment requirements was over five years ago, yet our audit shows payments to providers that are still not enrolled in Medicaid or have been denied," DiNapoli said. "Medicaid is vital to millions of New Yorkers in need of quality health care and the Department of Health must do a better job ensuring the program's integrity."

DOH pays for Medicaid in two ways — fee-for-service and managed care. Under fee-for-service, DOH pays Medicaid enrolled providers directly for health care services. Under managed care, DOH pays monthly premiums to Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) for each enrolled Medicaid recipient and in exchange MCOs arrange for services with providers.

Under the federal 21st Century Cures Act, in-network managed care providers were required to be enrolled in Medicaid by January 1, 2018. Enrollment informs DOH that the providers are licensed, credentialed, and able to provide Medicaid services. MCOs are supposed to terminate providers from their networks who do not enroll in the state's Medicaid program.

After services are provided and paid by MCOs, they then submit claims that report the services to DOH. Auditors reviewed claims from January 2018 through June 2022 and found \$1.5 billion in improper and questionable claims:

Five MCOs paid \$916 million in claims for services by in-network providers whose IDs did not match with a Medicaid enrolled provider on the date of service.

\$832.5 million in claims were for services by providers whose Medicaid application was denied or had been withdrawn by DOH either because they failed to meet Medicaid program standards or were automatically withdrawn because the application was missing information. For example, one pharmacy was denied enrollment by OMIG due to unclean conditions, lack of proper supporting documentation, and expired medications on pharmacy shelves, yet received over \$57 million in MCO payments. (\$212 million of the \$832.5 million was included in the \$916 million referenced above).

\$9.6 million in improper MCO payments went to in-network and out-of-network providers who were excluded from or otherwise ineligible for the Medicaid program. (\$548,184 of the \$9.6 million was included in the \$916 million referenced above.)

MCOs are supposed to maintain a network of providers that can deliver comprehensive care to their enrolled population. They submit their contracted providers to DOH's Provider Network Data System (PNDS) at least quarterly. The data system helps DOH ensure MCOs are meeting requirements of federal and state regulations and the providers are entered into the NYS Provider and Health Plan Look-up website. DOH also uses PNDS to create error reports for MCOs to identify unenrolled in-network providers.

DiNapoli's audit found PNDS error reports were flawed and did not capture all unenrolled in-network providers. Even when providers were identified on error reports, auditors found MCOs often did not make timely fixes to their submissions to DOH. For example, one physician was flagged on 12 consecutive error reports for one MCO that indicated the physician was not enrolled. The audit concluded that the MCOs' lack of response could be attributed at least in part to inadequate DOH oversight and communication.

DiNapoli's audit recommended that DOH improve its oversight of MCO claim payments, ensure MCOs are following the requirements under the Act, and review the payments and providers the audit identified and take appropriate action, including recovering money where appropriate.

DOH generally agreed with most of the audit's recommendations, and said it is examining the audit findings to determine how to best address the issues raised. Read the report at the following link https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/state-agencies/audits/pdf/sga-2024-21s6.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

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Latimer Bowman, continued from pg 1-

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

17%, and over 70 49% to 22%.

A plurality of Democratic primary voters (43%) are less inclined to support a member of Congress who opposes a ceasefire in Gaza, while 37% are more inclined to support a candidate who opposes a ceasefire. Twenty percent say it has no impact on their support.

Male voters are more inclined to support a candidate that opposes a ceasefire in Gaza, 41% to 36%. Female voters are less inclined to support a candidate that opposes a ceasefire, 47% to 35%.

Half (50%) of Democratic primary voters think the U.S. government is spending too much on aid to Israel in the war with Hamas, a third (33%) think the U.S. is spending the right amount, and 17% think the U.S. is spending too little. Regarding humanitarian relief to Palestinians in Gaza, 46% think the U.S. is spending too little, 34% the right amount, and 21% too much.

A majority of voters (55%) think there is about the same amount of crime in their area as there was a year ago, while 28% think there is more crime, and 17% find there is less crime.

Sixty-four percent of Democratic primary voters approve of President Biden's executive order that prevents migrants from seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border once the average number of daily encounters hits 2,500 between ports of entry, while 23% disapprove, and 13% are unsure.

The polls comes after the last debate between Bowman and Latimer was held on June 9 by the League of Women Voters of Westchester. The debate was held online on Zoom, and did not include any "knockouts" on either side.

Bowman's supporters tried to highlight a comment Latimer made about Bowman not paying enough attention to the Westchester communities in his district. "You get as much money as you can from outside the district. Your constituency is Dearborn Michigan, your constituency is San Francisco," said Latimer.

Jasmine Gripper, Co-Director of the New York Working Families Party, has issued the following statement. "George Latimer has traded in his dog-whistle for a bullhorn. The diversity of NY-16 is one of its strengths, but you wouldn't know it from Latimer's campaign. His bigoted comments against Arab-Americans is the latest in a series of racist appeals that have only served to divide the community. Voters in NY-16 deserve leadership that will treat all constituents with decency and respect. That's not George Latimer."

Latimer's campaign responded with, "another day another lie from Jamaal Bowman. George's comments were taken out of context, because in the same breath he also mentioned San Francisco. The reality is the incumbent has failed the district and has lackluster support. The majority of the incumbents donations come from thousands of miles away."

Bowman recently received the endorsement from more than a dozen clergy members citing his strong moral leadership and steadfast commitment to uplifting the needs of working families as key reasons for their support. Rev. James Duckett, Rev. Dr. Stephen Pogue, Rev. Patrick Goodman, Rev. Louis, Rev. Carlton Spruill, Rev. Gene Girtman, Rev. Verlin Williams, Bishop Angelo, Rev. Debra Jenkins, Bishop Leslie Rawlings, Elder Diane Berry, Rev. James Robinson, Rev. Stephen Green, Rev. Mark Thompson, Rev. Veron House, Rev. Willie Spencer, Rev. Robert Williams, Rev. Nancy Rosario, Rev. Donna Modeste.

"Congressman Bowman is the champion we need in Congress," said Pastor Mike McBride, founding member of Black Church PAC. "His commitment to peace and justice at home and abroad is consistent with our values and we are excited to endorse his campaign to continue to serve in Congress. Now more than ever, we need moral and principled leadership on issues impacting the most vulnerable."

Bowman also commented on the recent poll, stating "The voters of our district have been flooded with polls and attack ads for months, dividing our community and distorting my record. AIPAC's Republican megadonors have spent a record setting \$13 million dollars to sow disillusionment and depress turnout. But this election is about the many versus the money. Our volunteers are talking to tens of thousands of voters across the district every week, and our data shows consistently that through direct conversations, voters see through the lies and are energized to reject AIPAC's attempt to buy this seat. On June 25th, we decide." A poll in April also had Latimer with a 17 point lead.

A recent NY Times story has Bowman stating that "I'm still a member," of the Democratic Socialists of America, (DSA) and "I didn't let my dues lapse."

The story continues, "Pressed by members to explain why his office had publicly stated otherwise, he added: "Media has a tendency to talk about B.S., and not focus on the race. And we wanted to make sure we were focusing on our race at that time and getting re-elected."

Bowman was endorsed by DSA in 2020, not endorsed by DSA in 2022, and has now been endorsed for the democratic primary this year.

DSA was criticized for posting this on Twitter-X after the October 7 attacks by Hamas on Israel. 'One could (and should) very well argue that in a settler colonial context there are no such things as "civilians", but disregarding that even, it's total folly to honestly compare settlers perpetrating pogroms to resistance groups deploying violence to liberate themselves.'

DMFI PAC Chairman Mark Mellman said, "That Congressman Bowman admits to having lied to get re-elected is a sad commentary on his character. His hostility to the truth is only matched by his hostility toward his own constituents — all of them — and President Biden. Bowman falsely attacked 'everyone in [his] district,' as well as President Biden, for dehumanizing an entire people. It's hard to imagine why anyone would vote for a candidate who lies to them and then attacks them all."

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

AJAX MORTGAGE LOAN TRUST 2021-G, MORTGAGE-BACKED SECURITIES, SERIES 2021-G, BY U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS INDENTURE TRUSTEE, Plaintiff, -against- AMELIA LORETONI; if living, and if he/she be dead, any and all persons unknown to plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or generally or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them, or either of them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to plaintiff; CLAIRE DISAPIA; FEDERAL NATIONAL MORTGAGE ASSOCIATION, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA – INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE and NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE Defendants. Index No.: 63664/2023 D/O/F: July 13, 2023 THE BASIS OF VENUE IS THAT THE PROPERTY IS SITUATED IN SAID COUNTY. TO THE ABOVE- NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorneys within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the State, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint. This supplemental summons and amended complaint are being filed pursuant to Order of the Court dated May 10, 2024. Dated: May 18, 2024, Uniondale, New York. Margaret Burke Tarab, Esq., PINCUS LAW GROUP, PLLC, Attorneys for Plaintiff, 425 RXR PLAZA, UNIONDALE, NY 11556, Phone 516-699-8902.

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