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YonkersTimes.com

Friday June 28-July 5, 2024

Westchester Corrections Officers Arrested, Charged with Accepting Bribes, Drug Smuggling

America Watches as Latimer Trounces Bowman Cacace Wins District Attorney Dem Primary



One of the corrections officers arrested was Shakia Smythe, left

Defendants allegedly received money from associates of incarcerated individuals to smuggle prison contraband into Westchester County Jail

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah and Westchester County Department of Correction Commissioner Joseph K. Spano announced today that Westchester County Department of Correction (WC-DOC) officers and civilian employees were arraigned on charges for accepting bribe payments and smuggling contraband to incarcerated

individuals at the Westchester County Jail in Valhalla. A civilian employee with the Mount Vernon Police Department was also arraigned earlier this month on charges for smuggling contraband into the Mount Vernon Police Department Cell Block.

DA Rocah said: "These defendants put their own interests above the safety of incarcerated individuals, employees, civilians, and other correction officers. Our jails become less safe when correction officers and others in position of public trust accept bribes to smuggle in contraband. We commend the Westchester County Department of Correction for working with my Office to ensure these individuals face serious consequences."

Commissioner Spano said: "The involved correction officers have disgraced the shield that they once wore and violated the trust we put in them to uphold the law and work with integrity. I thank DA Rocah and her team for the great work they did investigating these cases and our Major Case Squad for provid

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"This Doesn't Happen in Westchester"

Social Worker Dies After Beaten for Knocking on Wrong Door-Man to be Charged with Murder



God Bless Maria Coto

By Dan Murphy

A Westchester Social Worker who was brutally beaten by a man for knocking on the wrong door during a home visit in a Peekskill apartment has died. Maria Coto, 56, was on life support at the Westchester Medical Center since the May 19th incident before her breathing tube was removed on June 19.

The Peekskill Police reported, "On 06/19/2024, Maria Coto died as a result of the injuries she sustained during this assault. Hasseem Jenkins remains in the custody of the Westchester County Jail, where he awaits his

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George Latimer on Election night

Westchester County Executive George Latimer won a decisive victory on June 25 in his quest to represent the 16th district of NY in Congress. Latimer soundly defeated incumbent congressman Jamaal Bowman in the democratic primary by a 58%-41% margin.

The Latimer-Bowman contest was the most expensive House primary in history, with more than \$25 Million spent between both campaigns and PAC's. This contest was also watched by the national media, and Americans

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Harckham and Arena Spar Over Lithium Power Plant Plan on N. Westchester-Putnam Border



Gina Arena



State Senator Pete Harckham

Home Rule Protects Us from Albany

By Gina Arena

Suburban communities have been under assault by New York State and the federal government for several years now, and some of our Democrat legislators have outright embraced the effort.

From 2008 - 2017, The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) worked to dissolve local zoning in seven Westchester communities, which they outrageously labeled "racist" for having single-family zoning, much of it 1/4 acre. The feds, and the local elected leaders who bowed down to them, refused to acknowledge that local zoning determines where projects can be built in towns and villages, not who can live there. (It's worth noting that Westchester is the most diverse county in New York State outside the five boroughs of New York City, something we can be proud of.)

Then, in 2022, State Senator Peter Harckham, one of HUD's kowtowers, tried to pull another fast one on his constituents. Harckham sponsored legislation to effectively erase local zoning laws in Westchester and Putnam communities near train stations. Under Harckham's bill, multi-family buildings could be erected as-of-right in quiet residential neighborhoods in Putnam and Westchester, threatening their resources, character, and traffic patterns. Extraordinary organic blow-back convinced Harckham to pull his measure.

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Fair Play? The Battle Over Trans Athletes



By: Dennis Richmond, Jr.

In recent years, the debate surrounding trans participation in sports has intensified, drawing passionate viewpoints from advocates and opponents alike. Cienna Rosalina, a trans woman from Yonkers, encapsulates one side of the argument succinctly, stating, "Let people play the sports they want. Nobody was having these conversations until trans people wanted to play sports. Let people play sports and enjoy their extracurricular activities. It's not that deep."

Conversely, Mills, a trans man hailing from New York, offers a different perspective: "To be honest, I think they should have their own category when it comes to sports because it's not fair. I'm going to speak up because I'm trans and it's not right."

Nekia Zulu echoes Mills' sentiments, adding, "I don't think trans women should compete in women's leagues. If we're on hormones, we're actually at a disadvantage. I can't keep up with biological women. They should allow us to have our own spaces."

The Human Rights Campaign emphasizes that transgender inclusion in sports does not threaten women's sports. Instead, the real threat lies in underfunding of women's sports by educational institutions. A recent USA Today report revealed a stark reality: colleges and universities consistently allocate significantly more resources to men's sports compared to women's, with disparities in funding for equipment, recruiting, and travel expenses across various sports.

According to the NYCLU, the legal landscape is also contentious. In Nassau County, Long Island, an executive order banning transgender girls and women from participating in girls' and women's sports was issued earlier this year. However, justice prevailed when the Nassau County Supreme Court ruled in favor of the NYCLU, striking down the executive order. Despite this victory, legislative efforts continue to resurrect such bans, prompting ongoing legal battles and community mobilization.

The debate over trans inclusion in sports often hinges on perceptions of fairness and competitiveness. Proponents argue that trans athletes should be allowed to compete according to their gender identity, supported by medical guidelines and hormone therapies that mitigate perceived advantages. Opponents raise concerns about fairness and the potential for cis women to be at a disadvantage due to perceived physiological differences.

It is crucial to note that all interviewees in this article identify as either trans men or trans women, offering firsthand perspectives on the complexities of this issue. Both sides of the debate are rooted in a desire for equity and inclusivity, albeit with divergent opinions on how best to achieve these goals within athletic competitions.

As discussions continue across legislatures, courts, and communities, the future of trans participation in sports remains a deeply contested terrain. Advocates emphasize the importance of respecting gender identity and challenging discriminatory practices, while opponents seek to uphold what they perceive as fairness in competitive sports. The path forward will likely involve ongoing dialogue, legal precedents, and evolving policies aimed at balancing inclusivity with competitive integrity in sports.

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 @NewYork-Stakz on social media.

Dobbs Ferry Man Gets Six Years for Assaulting Two Teenagers

We are holding this defendant accountable for his vicious attack on two teenagers and his repeated anti-Hispanic hate directed at a young boy. While the teenagers have been able to recover from their physical injuries, all three victims continue to deal with the trauma inflicted by this defendant.

**Miriam Rocah
District Attorney**

Defendant also sentenced in separate case after pleading guilty to a hate crime for repeatedly threatening, harassing a 13-year-old Hispanic boy

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that a Dobbs Ferry man was sentenced on Thursday to six years in state prison for assaulting two teenagers in September 2022. The defendant also received a one-year sentence in a separate hate crime case for harassing and threatening a 13-year-old boy.

DA Rocah said: "We are holding this defendant accountable for his vicious attack on two teenagers and his repeated anti-Hispanic hate directed at a young boy. While the teenagers have been able to recover from their physical injuries, all three victims continue to deal with the trauma inflicted by this defendant."

Assault
The defendant, Vincent Pappas, 63, pleaded guilty on Sept. 14, 2023, before State Supreme Court Justice James McCarty in Westchester County Court to Assault in the First Degree, a felony, and Assault in the Third Degree, a misdemeanor. He will be subject to five years of post-release supervision.

The defendant has remained remanded to Westchester County Jail since his arrest on the day of the 2022 assault.

On Sept. 29, 2022, at approximately 5:35 p.m., the defendant followed two 15-year-olds into a restaurant on Main Street in Dobbs Ferry. As he started yelling at them, the defendant punched one of the 15-year-olds in the face, causing him to fall down, and continued to punch him, at which point, the second victim attempted to physically stop the defendant. The defendant then pushed the second victim through the glass storefront window. A portion of the incident was captured on surveillance video.

One victim was transported to Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, where he was treated for a collapsed lung, a cervical spine fracture and multiple lacerations. The other victim went to St. John's Riverside Hospital in Yonkers the next day and was treated for swelling on the head and pain to the face, jaw, chest and thighs.

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

In a statement made to the court, the mother of one of the victims stated: "While he survived his physical injuries, the mental trauma will stay with him for the rest of his life.... We are grateful for the team who brought this...man to justice and hope that he will never be able to harm anyone ever again."

The case was prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Catalina Blanco Buitrago of the Hate Crimes Unit in the Trials and Investigations Division.

Hate crime
The defendant was sentenced to one year of incarceration after pleading guilty on Feb. 1 to the hate crime of Aggravated Harassment in the Second Degree, a misdemeanor. Between July 5 and Sept. 29, 2022, the defendant repeatedly harassed and threatened a 13-year-old boy, who is of Guatemalan descent, on a Main Street sidewalk in Dobbs Ferry. During this period, the defendant repeatedly said he hated people from Guatemala and would kill the victim if he didn't leave the country.

The defendant, who was arrested on Jan. 19, 2023, while in custody at the Westchester County Jail on his prior case, was sentenced to 364 days of incarceration, which will merge with the six-year prison sentence for his assault conviction.

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U.S. Attorney Announces Consent Decree With Westchester Drinking Water Provider And Three Municipalities For Violating The Federal Safe Drinking Water Act

Defendants to Construct \$138 Million Drinking Water Filtration Plant, Take Steps to Protect Source Water Quality, Pay a Total of \$1.25 Million in Civil Penalties

Damian Williams, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York; Todd Kim, the Assistant Attorney General for the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Justice Department; David M. Uhlmann, the Assistant Administrator for the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance of the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA"); and Lisa F. Garcia, the Regional Administrator for Region 2 of the EPA, announced today that the United States filed a civil lawsuit against the WESTCHESTER JOINT WATER WORKS ("WJWW"), the TOWN/VILLAGE OF HARRISON, the VILLAGE OF MAMARONECK, and the TOWN OF MAMARONECK (collectively, "the defendants"), along with a Consent Decree resolving the case. The lawsuit alleges that the defendants violated the federal Safe Drinking Water Act ("SDWA") in 2019 due to the presence of contaminants in the public water system in excess of the level set by EPA, and thereafter WJWW violated an EPA administrative order requiring the construction of a water filtration plant by specified deadlines. The Consent Decree requires the defendants to construct a drinking water filtration plant projected to cost \$138 million, take steps to protect source water quality, and pay a \$600,000 civil penalty to the United States.

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said: "Public water systems have the critical responsibility of ensuring that our communities have safe drinking water. Thanks to today's settlement, Westchester Joint Water Works will finally construct a long-delayed drinking water filtration facility to protect the Westchester County communities it serves."

EPA Regional Administrator Lisa F. Garcia said: "WJWW will build a drinking water filtration plant that will ensure clean and safe drinking water for 120,000 people in Westchester County, immediately pay a \$600,000 civil penalty to the federal government and implement a \$900,000 Supplemental Environmental Project to improve source water quality through decreased stormwater discharge into the Kensico Reservoir. We are happy to partner with the State of New York to address this long-standing violation of the Safe Drinking Water Act and protect public health."

According to the allegations of the Complaint, the Consent Decree filed with the Court, and other public records:

The defendants failed to ensure that the drinking water they supply to approximately 120,000 Westchester County residents complies with federal limits on potentially cancer-causing disinfection byproducts resulting from water treatment. Specifically, the defendants own and/or operate a public water system (the "WJWW Water System"). During the first, second, and third quarters of 2019, the WJWW Water System violated the SDWA and its Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule ("Stage 2 DBPR") because it supplied water exceeding legal limits for certain chemicals resulting from the disinfection process — specifically, five regulated haloacetic acids known as "HAA5." Although the WJWW Water System has taken certain short-term measures to mitigate risk to its consumers, defendants have failed to implement necessary corrective actions — including WJWW's failure to construct and operate a filtration plant required by an EPA administrative order.

Compliance with the SDWA is not only a public health necessity but also a matter of environmental justice. At least one of the municipalities relying on defendants' drinking water is overburdened and underserved, facing disproportionate environmental and other burdens.

The United States' lawsuit seeks an injunction compelling defendants to comply with the SDWA and EPA's administrative order, including by constructing

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Congressman Latimer will Bring Dignity Back to Washington and NY 16

By Eric Wolf Schoen



Several weeks ago George Latimer, attending an event at the Yonkers Public Library Will Branch which doesn't draw thousands of people but draws people who will go out and vote asked me a question. 'Eric. You are out there in the community. What are you hearing about my race for Congress?' The polls had George up by 17 Points, a pretty nice number.

My response? 'George, I have been around this political game since the early 70's when I was too young to vote. I worked for family friends including Harry Oxman, Judge Jesse Eisen, Dominick (Brother) Iannacone and in 1978 when I turned 18 and could vote, Congressman Richard Ottinger.'

One thing I learned early on is that you never take anything for granted in the political world and elections, particularly. Dad had a friend named Abe Thompson who ran against the Icon, Senator John 'Chippy' Flynn. Dad told Abe he couldn't support him because Senator Flynn was a good friend of the family. Abe thanked dad for being honest. People would show up at Abe Thompson's campaign events, give him small donations and say they fully supported Abe. The next day these same people would show up at Chippy Flynn's political events, give him twice the amount of a donation, and include their names in an advertisement of Chippy Flynn's supporters that appeared in the Yonkers Herald Statesman, the paper now known as the Journal News!

I want to give credit to outgoing Congressman Jamaal Bowman. He talked about bringing people together? He sure brought a lot of people together to oppose his candidacy. This was true in Yonkers and many towns and villages throughout WESTCHESTER. He brought conservatives, liberals, Republicans, Democrats, union members, religious group members, the rich and the poor together, everyone opposed to his political philosophies and the 'Squad' company he would keep. People from little old Yonkers got turned off to the foul language he would use, and his trying to act like a man of the streets many years younger than he really was.

Heavens Jamaal, you are a member of Congress. Can you please for the rest of the time you are in office act like one. His district has been represented by such prestigious people like Elliot Engel, Nita Lowey, Richard Ottinger, Peter Peysner and Mario Biaggi. Biaggi, who despite his legal troubles would do anything for his constituents. None of these gentlemen would show up Election Night in a t-shirt, and Nita's hair was always coiffed and she wore a dress or dressy pants outfit when she was doing her Congressional duties or on the floor of the House of Representatives, pretty much whenever she was out in public.

Jamaal's vote against the Infrastructure Bill was a shocker to many. The bill would have improved our roadways and brought good paying jobs to the community. At first many of us thought that was the end of his doing things the people in the district did not want him to do. But it continued. His lack of support for Israel upset many of his Jewish and non Jewish constituents. He waffled on Israel and Jewish organizations were deeply concerned with his actions in Congress. Yes, many Jewish organizations contributed funds to his opponent, a

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Playland Summer Weekend Concerts to Include Partnership with the Capitol Theater and the Rock & Roll Playhouse



Starting July 6 to September 1, 2024, Playland is collaborating with the live music venue in Port Chester to present family-friendly entertainment every other weekend, including performances by The Rock and Roll Playhouse and Summer Sounds Concert Series

Get ready to rock this summer at Playland as the historic amusement park and waterfront destination announces a first-time partnership with The Capitol Theatre, also known as “The Original Rock Palace” headquartered in Port Chester, NY, to offer live music and entertainment at Playland’s Main Stage every other weekend from July to September. Whether taking on thrilling rides at the amusement park or soaking in the sun by the beach or pool, visitors can complete their day of recreation and relaxation by jamming out to fun, family friendly tunes.

“We are thrilled to be partnering with The Capitol Theatre to bring live musical performances that visitors from all generations can enjoy and appreciate. This collaboration is just one of the ways that Playland is working to grow its reach within the community through new and robust arts and culture programming. In addition to our diverse range of attractions, from the iconic amusement park to the beach and pool, arcade, dining locations, and more, Playland is constantly working to expand its offerings as part of our vision of being a place for exploration, culture and community,” said Evonne Keeler, CEO of Playland.

Programming will kick off on Saturday, July 6th at 7 pm with the Playland Summer Sounds Concert Series, presented by The Capitol Theatre, bringing the rhythms of rock and pop through dynamic live performances from a variety of cover artists and musical groups. Summer Sounds will continue at Playland every other Saturday at 7 pm until August 31st with headliners including 1 Wild Night – Bon Jovi Tribute; Jackknife Lori – 90’s Alt Rock Hits; Half Step – Grateful Dead Tribute; Damn The Torpedoes – Tom Petty Concert Experience; and Taylor’s Version – A Swiftie Dance Party.

In addition, starting Sunday, July 7th at 2 pm and continuing every other week until September 1st, Playland and The Capitol Theatre will present The Rock and Roll Playhouse, a family concert series that translates some of music’s most recognizable anthems into age-appropriate sing-alongs suitable for listeners of all ages, with classic titles from a variety of genres such as classic rock, new wave, pop, and pop-punk. The concert series will feature kid friendly covers of Queen, Talking Heads, Taylor Swift, Blink 182, and The Beatles, and more.

Guests can also enjoy a full season of fun with Playland’s 2024 All Access Season Pass, which includes admission to both concert series as well as unlimited access to the amusement park, pool, beach, lake paddle boats, free parking, and 10% off select products.

Live music is just one of the many offerings that visitors can take advantage of this season at Playland, located in close proximity to the Metro North station in Rye, NY. A number of additional experiences and special programming will debut this year, including weekly Friday and Saturday night fireworks starting June 28th, Stage Variety Shows, arts programming in collaboration with ArtsWestchester, outdoor movie nights under the stars, the Dragon Coaster’s 95th Birthday celebration, the return of the World’s Largest Rubber Duck, and so much more.

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Legal Aid Society of Westchester Opens New Training Center with Moot Courtroom



From left, New York Senator Shelley Mayer; Westchester County District Attorney Miriam Rocah; Legal Aid Society of Westchester Executive Director Clare J. Degnan; Chief Judge of the State of New York Hon. Rowan D. Wilson; Senior Associate Justice, Appellate Division, 2nd Dept. Hon. Cheryl E. Chambers; Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives Hon. Edwina D. Richardson; Legal Aid Society of Westchester Deputy Executive Director Sherry Wallach; County Board of Legislator Jewell Williams Johnson; Office of Indigent Legal Services Director Patricia Warth; and New York Assemblyman Chris Burdick

More than 200 members of the judicial and legislative branches of state and county government were on hand June 20 to celebrate the grand opening of the Legal Aid Society of Westchester’s (LASW) new Training Center in downtown White Plains.

Located at LASW’s headquarters at 150 Grand Street, the 6,337-square-foot Training Center features a cutting-edge Moot Courtroom, two spacious conference rooms, two offices, and three public areas: reception, kitchenette, and lounge which also double as breakout areas. A moot courtroom simulates a real court environment to give law students an opportunity to put their learning into practice.

The Training Center’s state-of-the-art technology is on par with that of the Federal Courthouses of the Southern District of New York. Utilizing the fully-integrated courtroom AV technologies of NOMAD AV Systems, the Moot Courtroom features four large screens that seamlessly connect to all other screens in the Center, including two LASW conference rooms.

A versatile space at the heart of the Training Center, the Moot Courtroom is a hub for trial advocacy training, a platform for attorneys to moot their trials in preparation, and a spacious lecture hall for training programs, including Continuing Legal Education (CLE) for attorneys. Its availability for use by legal organizations, bar associations, and community providers underscores its immense value and adaptability to various needs. One of the additional offices in the Training Center will house the Westchester Office of the Center for Community Alternatives.

“This Training Center came out of our mission to improve mandated representation across New York State, and particularly in the ninth Judicial District, which incorporates Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Rockland counties. Our purpose is to provide training for all of the public defenders and Family Court representation within the ninth Judicial District,” said LASW Executive Director Clare J. Degnan.

“Young attorneys need to understand that they can be incredible advocates to stand up for their clients and push back at any injustices or biases. But the way to do that is to practice in an area that you’re comfortable with. That means you get comfortable in a courtroom like this. You can take that skill set outside and do what you need to do as a public defender in the real world,” said Degnan.

“I would like to especially thank our Deputy Executive Director Sherry Wallach for her tireless work and collaboration in helping to make this amazing new facility a reality,” said Degnan.

Degnan noted that the Training Center is not just for lawyers. It is for the entire community. “This Training Center provides opportunity and space to put on resource fairs where we can bring in members of the community that are providing support to the community members in multiple areas, such as mental health and substance abuse. There are many pilot programs throughout Westchester County that are alternatives to incarceration.”

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Westchester Disabled on the Move Celebrates 40th Anniversary

WDOM levels the playing field for people with disabilities



Westchester Disabled on the Move Executive Director Maria Samuels

Leading advocates for people with disabilities will come together on June 27 to help celebrate the 40th anniversary of Westchester Disabled on the Move (WDOM), an organization dedicated to advocating for the rights and empowerment of individuals with disabilities.

Since its inception in 1984, WDOM has been at the forefront of championing inclusivity, accessibility, and equality for people with disabilities in Westchester County and beyond. Whether acting as a watchdog on accessibility issues in schools, public transportation and public buildings or creating programs to help people with disabilities maintain their independence, WDOM has been a leader.

“For 40 years, WDOM has given a voice to people with disabilities,” said Maria Samuels, Executive Director of WDOM. “Many of our employees are people with disabilities so we understand what obstacles people face in their normal, day to day lives. We work with them to provide resources and solutions so they can remain independent and live their best lives.”

A series of events to celebrate starts on June 27 at its Annual Meeting from 2-3:30 pm at the Yonkers Riverfront Library. For more information about Westchester Disabled on the Move and its 40th-anniversary celebrations, please visit <https://wdom.org/> or call 914-968-4717.

WDOM is part of a national network of Independent Living Centers dedicated to independence and equal rights for individuals with disabilities. The programs and services of WDOM are free to consumers with disabilities and their families. WDOM has assisted thousands of clients during its 40 years, providing help applying for healthcare, housing, transportation and other services to keep them out of institutions and in the community.

They have helped people like Marcus Blacknall, 38, who after a tragic motorcycle in 2010 was forced to live in a nursing home. Through sheer persistence and the help of WDOM, Blacknall is now living independently, driving and living on his own and making progress adapting to his physical limitations.

“Westchester Disabled on the Move gave me back my life,” said Blacknall. “I was able to leave the nursing home within a matter of three months.”

Imani Carbin also received help from WDOM which assisted her in finding a safe, stable home for her and her young child. “Having them help me obtain an apartment for me and my son was the best thing that has ever happened to me,” said Carbin.

Dionne Meredith-Voltz’s daughter turned to WDOM when her 100-year-old mother was released from the hospital and needed help coordinating services for her return home. “I reached out the Westchester Disabled on the Move and it has been the best thing for myself and my mother that I have done,” said Tina Voltz-Bongar.

In addition to working directly with clients, WDOM advocates for changes in the law and enforcement of the Americans with Disabilities Act, a federal civil rights law that protects people with disabilities against discrimination and ensures access for people with disabilities. Jeremiah Frei Pierson, a White Plains Councilman and Attorney representing WDOM, called WDOM’s lawsuit against rideshare provide LYFT for violations of the ADA “incredibly brave.”

The Class Action Suit brought by WDOM is suing to get Lyft to remove its blocker that keeps riders from being able to order a wheelchair-accessible vehicle anywhere in the United States that Lyft operates. “Many organizations would back down from a multibillion-dollar company, but WDOMI had the courage to fight back against Lyft’s discrimination. WDOMI has already won some very significant legal victories in this case; we certified the case as a nationwide class action, and, in July, we are taking the case to trial. As proud as I am of WDOMI’s lawsuit against Lyft, WDOMI’s good work extends far beyond one court case..”

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RiverArts Welcomes Ecka Blaire Faulds as New Executive Director



RiverArts, the nonprofit organization serving Hudson River communities in lower Westchester County, has announced Ecka Blaire Faulds as its next Executive Director. She will succeed RiverArts’ current Executive Director, Josh Suniewick, who will continue to serve RiverArts as a member of the Board of Directors, ensuring a seamless transition.

Ecka Blaire Faulds joins the RiverArts team with 15 years of nonprofit arts and museum experience, specializing in fundraising, events, and program development. She has held positions at The Bruce Museum in Greenwich, CT, Wave Hill in the Bronx, the Hudson River Museum in Yonkers, and The Picture House in Pelham, among others.

As a visual artist, Ecka has always been passionate about providing opportunities to celebrate the strength and diversity of creative disciplines. She has produced many unique opportunities to engage with visual art, music, and performance in the lower Hudson Valley and beyond. Ecka launched the Hudson River Museum’s HRM After Dark and Music Under the Dome series, where guests experienced live music by Westchester artists in the museum’s planetarium, and engaged with new exhibitions after hours through custom programming. She’s successfully created multilevel fundraising events, including Wave Hill’s 2021 Spring Gala, which incorporated site-specific art installations, live dance performances, and more in a roaming, 3-day event that allowed all visitors to celebrate the arts together.

Raised in northwest Connecticut, Ecka studied painting at the Hartford Art School, and later moved to the Rivertowns which she has lovingly called home for the past 12 years. She has been an enthusiastic participant of RiverArts’ studio tours, exhibitions, Drink and Draw programs, and events. Outside of work and the studio, you’ll often find her strolling the Aqueduct, enjoying the trees and vistas along the trail.

As she looks forward to becoming the next leader at RiverArts, Ecka shared, “I am thrilled to be in a position to support the talented and diverse community of artists that make the Rivertowns an exciting and sought after destination. I hold a steadfast belief that all individuals deserve a rich cultural life with transformative opportunities to enjoy the arts while forming lasting connections with peers and neighbors. I look forward to working with the RiverArts Board, team, and community to ensure the continued success of the organization’s mission and distinct programming.”

“Ecka has dedicated her entire career to bringing people together through the arts. She is an impressive arts manager, with a proven track record of successfully growing membership and fundraising support for the arts as well as creating innovative events to engage new audiences. Ecka is also so clearly passionate about lifting up artists and arts programs—be it visual art, dance, music, theater, education, and beyond—as a way to strengthen and enrich our communities. We are so excited for her to bring her experience and vision to RiverArts,” shared Board President Kristin Madden.

Josh Suniewick added, “It has been a pleasure getting to know Ecka through this search process. Having worked so closely with RiverArts’ community of artists and supporters over the last several years, I am happy to know we will have such a talented arts professional helping the organization to flourish and continuing our great tradition of connecting people through the arts.”

Ecka officially begins her tenure as Executive Director at RiverArts on July 8, 2024. Coming up at RiverArts, SummerArts, the multi-disciplinary camp for kids directed by Emily Gosweiler, has four sessions running from July 29 through August 23. RiverArts’ annual dance concert featuring Paul Taylor Dance Company will take the stage at Tarrytown Music Hall on September 28 under the direction of Artistic Producer Maxine Sherman. And, RiverArts’ annual Studio Tour returns on November 2-3, with preview exhibitions in Hastings and Tarrytown once again, with Artistic Producer Kit Demirdelen at the helm.

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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.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 2-

strong candidate and a strong supporter of Israel. Relations between Blacks and Jews in our community were always strong, and the outgoing Congressperson tried hard to cause a break in a decades old friendship. Pulling a fire alarm was dangerous, unnecessary and upset Democrats and Republicans. That many feel was the icing on his cake!

Something I promised my Facebook friends that I would bring them was the 'Jamaal of the Day,' something that would show them the reality of the man who represented them from a position or statement he made that was out of order. That was easy, and quite often truly infuriated my Facebook friends even more. We are all so used to looking up to our elected officials as role models, and outgoing Congressman Bowman was certainly not.

I noticed the tide changing in George's favor the last several weeks of the campaign. As Michelle Obama said, 'When they go low we go high.' People who initially supported Jamaal were turned off to his antics. The chair in the air episode, the AOC freak show turned off not only people who were turned off to him already but many more. I'm talking about White, Black, Brown, Jewish, Christian, people from all backgrounds and faiths who believe that their Congressman should not behave the way he was. Most folks understand the prestige of Congressional office and respect those individuals who have taken the call to represent us in Washington, D.C. George went high, always a man of principle!

My black friends could not believe what they were seeing, so familiar with what they watched in person or saw on television or knew about the distinguished members of Congress. Cursing in front of children? Unacceptable to them. They were embarrassed. This is what changed their minds and they filled out the circle on the ballot for George. And I believe cost him the election.

I know that some of the good relationships I developed with people of all backgrounds, some who have been critical of my writing on certain topics may be upset with what follows. Just like I feel that there is a certain level of prestige and dignity that was not exhibited by the outgoing Congressperson, I feel the same way about the episode that took place at the Capitol as the Vice President got ready to certify the last election. The institution is so important, and I hate the embarrassment this country faced when people climb the walls of the Capitol and our Representatives must hide for fear of their lives. There was no need for that episode just like there was no need for Congresspersons to act out on a stage.

I fully believe that the people of this country and in our case NY 16 want a representative

in Washington that will do the business of Congress, come home on weekends to their district, be seen around the district, invite a cross section of opinions to discuss issues in their offices in district and in D.C. and provide constituent services with which the bureaucracy out there seem more important everyday. There are so many constituents who have no one to act on their behalf dealing with the federal bureaucracy. As Elliot Engel once told me, he kept most of the staff he had in his Bronx District Office as opposed to his Washington office so they could deal with the problems of his constituents.

My friend George Latimer has a tough job ahead of him. He has to restore the dignity of the office of Congressperson, a task I know he clearly can do. People called him some terrible names and accused him of things anyone who knows him knows are not true. George is as far from following MAGA philosophies as I am (someone called me MAGA in a Facebook room and I just laughed.)

We need you George to go to Washington, fight like hell for dollars for the district, support peace in the world, support Israel and push for peace in the Middle East, make sure our country is safe and that there is food we can afford on our table and gas at a reasonable price for our cars. Provide constituent services in district and make sure people in NY 16 see you and know they can meet with you and talk to you about issues important to them.

We don't need to see you on MSNBC or television every night to prove you are working for us. Try your hand at bringing the divergent groups who supported you together to work on common areas, and never forget those who did not support you!

And please Congressman Latimer, get some rest in Washington, DC and when you are here at home. I enjoy getting a text from you at 4:30 a.m. , but you have a tough job ahead. Text me at 5:30 a.m. I am so proud of all that our Editor, Dan Murphy did to support your candidacy. We look forward to writing about all of your accomplishments for the America People!

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

Pattern Bargaining: A One-Way Tool Against Labor OP-Ed By Neil Pellone Westchester COBA President

As the president of a labor union representing over 700 dedicated men and women, I have seen firsthand how the promise of pattern bargaining has been twisted into a one-way tool that municipalities use to undermine labor organizations and dismantle collective bargaining agreements.

Pattern bargaining, in theory, is meant to establish a standard of fairness. It's intended to create a benchmark for wages and working conditions that can be applied across similar sectors, ensuring that workers are treated equitably. However, in practice, we have found that these "patterns" are only embraced by management when they serve their interests, not ours. Municipalities across the country have adopted a strategic approach to pattern bargaining that is fundamentally unbalanced. When management perceives that a pattern will benefit them, such as setting a precedent for lower wage increases or reduced benefits, they invoke it as an ironclad rule. They point to other agreements and insist that our members must accept the same terms, claiming it is only fair to maintain consistency.

Yet, when the pattern would favor workers-such as when a neighboring municipality negotiates better wages, enhanced benefits, or improved working conditions-suddenly, the pattern is dismissed. Management argues that each situation is unique, that budgets are strained, or that other factors prevent them from matching those terms. The inconsistency is glaring and deeply frustrating for those of us fighting for fair treatment.

This selective adherence to pattern bargaining is a clear tactic to weaken unions. By setting lower standards and refusing to acknowledge higher benchmarks, municipalities are effectively using pattern bargaining as a weapon against labor organizations. It erodes our collective strength and undermines our ability to negotiate better conditions for our members. Pattern bargaining should be a tool for equity, not an excuse for austerity. It should ensure that workers in different municipalities receive comparable treatment, not serve as a mechanism for driving down standards. Our members are the backbone of our communities. They deserve contracts that reflect their hard work and dedication, not the bare minimum that can be justified by cherry-picking patterns that favor management.

We call on municipalities to honor the true spirit of pattern bargaining. If they are genuinely committed to fairness, they must apply patterns consistently, recognizing improvements in other agreements and working with us to elevate standards across the board. Only then can pattern bargaining be a force for good, rather than a one-way tool of oppression.

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.

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 Freedenfeld Impact Advisors, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/23/24. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 350 Ringgold St., Peekskill, NY 10566. Purpose: Any lawful 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.

Notice of formation of Toneske Management Services LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/27/2024. 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, 146 Catskill Ave., Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: Any lawful activity

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Hispanic Community in Yonkers Rallies to Save St. Mary's Church

Parishioners and residents of the city of Yonkers held a rally outside of Yonkers City Hall on June 25 to urge elected officials to take immediate action to accord landmark status to St. Mary's (Church of the Immaculate Conception).

St. Mary's Church (The Church of the Immaculate Conception) is the oldest Roman Catholic parish in the city of Yonkers. Built in 1848, St. Mary's is often called the "Cathedral of the Hudson River Valley."

An official application has been submitted to the Yonkers City Council to accord landmark status to St. Mary's Church. The city of Yonkers Landmark Preservation Board unanimously accepted the application to landmark the church on April 3, 2024.

The application has been reviewed by the city of Yonkers Planning Board, who also unanimously approved it.

The Archdiocese of NY has alleged that the church structure is in need of \$10 million to repair the structure. Private Engineers agree that the church structure is in need of repair, but the \$10 million estimate is grossly exaggerated.

The Archdiocese of NY banned St. Mary's Parish Council and its parishioners from engaging in fundraising activity to make repairs to the church.

The Archdiocese of New York has recently decreed that Mass in Spanish will no longer be said, thereby alienating its many Hispanic parishioners, who believe St. Mary's Church is a sacred place.

Parishioners assert that the Archdiocese of NY, through its representatives, has been lobbying the Yonkers City Council and the Mayor of Yonkers to stall, delay, and ultimately deny giving landmark status to St. Mary's Church.

The Archdiocese of New York has decreed that St. Mary's Church will be merged with St. Peter's/St. Denis, a parish already at capacity.

In the absence of a landmark decision, parishioners are concerned St. Mary's Church will be sold by the Archdiocese of NY, and subsequently demolished.

St. Mary's sits on .52 acres. If the Archdiocese were to sell the church site, they would fetch a good price from commercial real estate developers.

The Archdiocese of NY has recently suffered a financial setback. The New York state appeals court has found that its insurer for the Archdiocese of New York, Chubb Insurance entities, is not required to cover costs for settling hundreds of sex abuse claims.

St. Mary's Church has been a major part of the Yonkers community for over 175 years. The church is a sanctuary for people of diverse backgrounds, united by their faith. Tonight the Yonkers catholic community, many of whom are Hispanic, will come together in solidarity to demand that the Mayor of Yonkers, Mike Spano, and the seven members of the Yonkers city council, vote in favor of designating St. Mary's as a landmark, with no further delay.

Editor's Note: While the Landmarking of St. Mary's was not on the agenda for their June 26 meeting, every summer the council calls a special meeting and it is believed that the Landmarking vote will be held then.

In April, the New York Supreme Court's Appellate Division, ruled that suits filed by Chubb against the Archdiocese of NY, claiming that the Archdiocese had prior knowledge of sex abuse cases filed against Archdiocese staff under the Child Victims Act can proceed.

Look for both parties to continue to litigate this in court for a long time.

Water agreement, continued from pg 3-

a filtration plant, and civil monetary penalties. The State of New York is contemporaneously joining the lawsuit to assert its own claims under state law and a previously entered state court judgment requiring the construction and operation of a filtration plant.

In the Consent Decree, the defendants admit, acknowledge, and accept responsibility for the following, among other matters:

WJWW directly supplies water to approximately 60,000 individuals in the Town/Village of Harrison, the Village of Mamaroneck, and the Town of Mamaroneck, as well as portions of the City of Rye and the City of New Rochelle, and indirectly supplies drinking water to an additional approximately 60,000 residents of the Village of Larchmont, the City of Rye, the Village of Rye Brook, and the Village of Port Chester.

EPA has set the "maximum contaminant level" for the five regulated disinfectant byproducts known as HAA5 at the level of 0.060 mg/L.

In the first, second, and third quarters of 2019, the WJWW Water System contained water with levels of HAA5 in excess of 0.060 mg/L, as determined by testing performed by WJWW and reported to EPA.

EPA issued an administrative order dated November 26, 2019, which required, among other things, that WJWW ensure the WJWW Water System's compliance with the Stage 2 DBPR by constructing and operating a filtration plant by certain milestone dates. The administrative order required construction to commence by January 1, 2022.

WJWW has not yet commenced construction of, and does not operate, a filtration plant.

The Consent Decree requires defendants to build and commence operation of a filtration plant by July 1, 2029. WJWW has publicly estimated the cost of the project to be \$138 million. The Consent Decree also establishes various interim deadlines for the construction project and requires WJWW to continue to implement measures to ensure the safety of its water supply until the filtration plant is operational.

The Consent Decree also requires WJWW to pay a \$600,000 civil penalty to the United States and to spend at least \$900,000 on a supplemental environmental project to modify an extended detention basin in the Rye Lake portion of the Kensico Reservoir and manage invasive species in the area. This supplemental environmental project is expected to improve source water quality in the Reservoir by decreasing natural organic material and turbidity.

The Consent Decree resolves claims by New York to enforce a previous state judgment against WJWW for violating separate regulations requiring the implementation of filtration. In addition to the construction of the filtration facility, the defendants will pay New York a \$650,000 civil penalty and spend at least \$6,800,000 on two state water quality benefit projects.

WDOM, continued from pg

Westchester County Legislator Nancy Barr said that Westchester Disabled on the Move has worked with government, encouraging it to form advisory councils like one she formed with Maria Samuels that give people with disabilities a voice in helping to advise elected officials on what laws are needed and where funding is needed most. "WDOM's Executive Director Maria Samuels was instrumental in creating the County's Council for People with Disabilities, which provides information and advice to the Board of Legislators and the County Executive on behalf of people with disabilities, and I was proud to partner with her on this endeavor," said Legislator Barr.

Gail Cartenuto Cohn, President Emeritus of the WDOM Board, said that over the years the organization has championed a myriad of causes that has made life a little easier for people with disabilities including fighting for wheelchair accessible seating at movie theaters, accessible school drinking fountains, ATMs for the visually impaired and wheelchair users and access to transportation, polling locations, shopping centers, government buildings and more. "As WDOM celebrates its 40th year, I am filled with pride as the past Board President," said Cartenuto Cohn. "I remember the impact WDOM has made on the lives of people with disabilities in Westchester and continues to make through its programs, services and its advocacy."

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Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center Dedicates Anne Frank Tree in White Plains



Anne Frank Center USA CEO Dr. Lauren Bairnsfather with Fred and Tony Polak, left, next to Anne Frank tree and plaque



*Photos by
Raya Cottrell Photography*

Photo L to R: NY State Senator Shelley Mayer, Westchester County Executive George Latimer, NY State Deputy Director of Jewish Affairs Eva Wyner, NY State Assemblyman Chris Burdick, Anne Frank Center USA CEO Dr. Lauren Bairnsfather, Anne Frank Center USA Actor Olivia Konteatis, HHREC Board Chairperson Michael Gyory, HHREC Executive Director Millie Jasper, Fred Polak, Office of the County Executive Director of Research Ellen Hendrickx, Tony Polak, Chairman, Westchester County Board of Legislators Vedat Gashi.

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Anne Frank would have been 95 years old on June 12. On that same day the Human Rights Education Center in White Plains honored Anne by dedicating an Anne Frank Tree at Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center in White Plains.

The Sapling Project began in 2009 with the Anne Frank House in Amsterdam's efforts to preserve the original chestnut tree by gathering and germinating chestnuts and donating the saplings to organizations dedicated to Anne Frank's memory.

Over the last 10 years, Anne Frank Center USA has awarded saplings to sites across the United States, including the U.S. Capitol, the United Nations Headquarters, and others. Taken together, these trees form a living memorial with branches reaching from coast to coast.

"Where there's hope, there's life." - Anne Frank, June 6 1944. The tree can be found at 148 Martine Avenue.

One of the most recognizable and impactful Jewish victims of the Holocaust, Anne lived most of her life in Amsterdam and famously received a diary on her thirteenth birthday — just before she went into hiding with her family in 1942 to escape the Nazis. During the two years she hid in an attic, she wrote in her diary to pass the time. She wrote short stories and journaled about missing her friends, her fears, and the day-to-day experience of hiding. Unfortunately, her family's secret hideout was discovered and she was taken to Auschwitz, and later to Bergen-Belsen where she died at the age of 15.

Miraculously, her journal was saved and later published posthumously by her father, the sole family survivor. In spite of her tragically short life, Anne's personal and heartfelt writing has reached millions of people around the world. Anne was able to appreciate the beauty of life in the face of tremendous hate. Her bravery, perseverance, and perspective is awe-inspiring, and her impact will continue to touch the lives of many. May her #MemoryBeABlessing.

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

Hollow Brook Golf Club: A Hidden Gem for Family Fun



The 12 hole at Hollow Brook Golf Club



The 18th hole and clubhouse

By Dan Murphy

For families in Northern Westchester and Putnam Counties looking for a full service country club that offers golf, swimming and activities and programs for kids, there are very few options. But one option available is the Hollow Brook Golf Club, located in Cortlandt Manor, which we had the pleasure of visiting and playing recently.

The course is in top shape as we teed off on April 22. The 6,923 yard layout offers several different tees for golfers of any handicap. Designed and built by Eric Bergstol, Hollow Brook Golf Club sits on 250 picturesque acres, and provides golfers with some of the most dramatic elevation changes.

The challenging and unique 6,923 yard layout, provides golfers with a combination of classic Westchester style holes, with dramatic elevation changes on other holes.

continued on pg 14-



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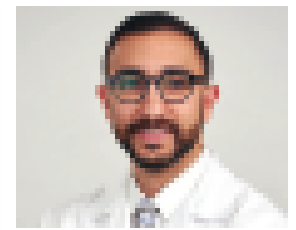
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Celebrate Hispanic Cultural Festival at Kensico Dam Plaza-July 7

Join us to celebrate Hispanic culture and traditions at the Hispanic Heritage Festival on Sunday, July 7 from noon to 6 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla.

County Executive George Latimer said, "Family, respect and loyalty are core values in the Hispanic way of life. Most valued is familismo, which is the concept that family should take priority over all other aspects of one's life. Hispanics are also known for their love of music, religion, and elaborate holiday celebrations. Come celebrate and learn about Hispanic culture at Kensico Dam Plaza!"

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathleen O'Connor said, "Leave your passport at home. Come enjoy this family-friendly free event, listen to the upbeat music, try some Hispanic cuisine and learn all about Hispanic customs without having to travel abroad."

There will be dancing, arts & crafts, ethnic food, special activities for children health vendors, educational vendors and much more!

The festival will be held rain or shine. Seating is informal; bring blankets or folding chairs for seating on the lawn. No coolers will be allowed. Admission and parking are free. Carpooling or taking mass transit is encouraged.

The other heritage festivals in the series are:

- Irish Sunday, July 14 Noon – 6 p.m. Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale (Admission: \$5 adults; free for ages 14 and under)*
- Italian Sunday, July 21 Noon – 6 p.m. Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
- India Sunday, Aug. 4 Noon – 6 p.m. Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
- Jewish Sunday, Aug. 18 Noon – 6 p.m. Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
- Muslim Sunday, Aug. 25 Noon – 6 p.m. Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

The Hispanic Heritage Festival is co-sponsored by Westchester County Parks, Westchester Hispano, Westchester Medical Center Health Network, Affinity by Molina Health Care, Brady Golberg Law and M&T Bank.

Kensico Dam Plaza is located at 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla. More information or call (914) 864-PARK.

Please be advised that on July 7 the Bronx River Parkway will be closed for Bicycle Sundays from 8 a.m. to noon between Scarsdale Road in Yonkers and the Westchester County Center in White Plains. The park can be accessed via Route 22, from the north or south.

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NYS DMV ENCOURAGES NEW YORKERS TO GET A REAL ID AND AVOID RUSH BEFORE FEDERAL DEADLINE

REAL ID-Compliant Identification Will be Required for US Flights Beginning May 7, 2025-No Added Cost to New Yorkers for a REAL ID

The NYS Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) is joining a nationwide call to action, encouraging New Yorkers to get a REAL ID, as the federal REAL ID deadline is now only one year away. Beginning May 7, 2025, everyone flying in the US will need a REAL ID, Enhanced ID, Passport or another form of federally compliant identification to fly domestically and enter certain federal facilities.

To make this process as easy on New Yorkers as possible, the DMV has implemented several online tools such as a document guide and application pre-screening process to help them prepare. Two DMV mobile units will also travel to various locations throughout the spring, summer and fall so New Yorkers who have a valid Driver License, Permit, or Non-Driver ID can upgrade to a REAL ID or Enhanced ID without visiting their local DMV office.

“Now is the time to get a REAL ID or Enhanced ID rather than waiting until the last minute,” said DMV Commissioner Mark J.F. Schroeder. “I encourage New Yorkers to visit our website to find out what you need to apply and take advantage of DMV mobile units when they visit your region.”

Manhattanville College Sport Studies Program Announces Adrian Burgos as Speaker in Residence



Adrian Burgos

Manhattanville University’s Sport Studies Program announced its first Speaker in Residence for its National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) funded project “Sport Studies in the 21st Century: Amplifying the Latinx Experience in Curricula, Conversation, and Community,” Adrian Burgos, Jr., Ph.D., He will be in residence in October 2024, with his marquee public lecture taking place on October 21 at 6pm.

Dr. Burgos, Professor of History and Chair of the Department of History at the University of Illinois, specializes in U.S. Latino history, sport history, and urban history. His teaching, writings, and public engagement focus on Latino migrations in terms of racialization, urbanization, and labor in the United States. He is the author of the award-winning “Playing America’s Game: Baseball, Latinos, and the Color Line” (2007) as well as “Cuban Star: How One Negro League Owner Changed the Face of Baseball” (2011). He co-authored with Margaret Salazar-Porzio, “Pleibol! In the Barrios and Big Leagues” (2020). He was the founding editor-in-chief of “La Vida Baseball,” a multi-platform digital brand focused on Latinos and baseball from a cultural lifestyle perspective. He has written for MLB.com, “Memories and Dreams,” and “Baseball Prospectus,” and was a contributor to sportingnews.com. The subject of a 2016 Big Ten Network documentary “Playing America’s Game,” Dr. Burgos has appeared on ESPN, MLB Network, and NPR, as well as national and local programs discussing Latinos, baseball, and race. He served as a consultant on the Smithsonian’s “Pleibol!” exhibit and the National Baseball Hall of Fame’s “Viva Baseball” exhibit, and as a program advisor for numerous documentaries, including Bernardo Ruiz’s “Roberto Clemente” and Ken Burns’ “The Tenth Inning” and “Jackie Robinson.”

Dr. Burgos’s residency is the first in this groundbreaking three-year project that aims to explore the multifaceted social, political, historical, and cultural aspects of sport within Latinx communities. This award is one of five given as part of the NEH’s 2023 Humanities Initiatives at Hispanic-Serving Institutions competition. The university earned a designation as a Hispanic Serving Institution by the U.S. Department of Education, which recognizes the campus’ significant Hispanic population.

Manhattanville’s Sport Studies faculty — Amy Bass, Ph.D., Seth Tannenbaum, Ph.D., and Samantha White, Ph.D. — conceived the award-winning project and serve as project directors. Founded in 2013, Manhattanville’s unique interdisciplinary Sport Studies program is the fastest growing major (and one of the largest) in the School of Arts and Sciences, with courses that range from “Sport Communication and Media” to “Sport and Social Change” to “Fundamentals of Team Sports.” The NEH-funded project seeks to address gaps in the field of Sport Studies, making stronger connections with the broader fields of Latinx and American Studies. By focusing on the impact of Latinx athletes and the role of sport in Latinx communities, the project aims to rectify the underrepresentation in this vital area of study.

The speaker-in-residence series, featuring renowned scholars in sport and Latinx studies, is the core of this initiative. The speakers will be in short residencies at Manhattanville over the course of the next three years, working with students, faculty, and members of the wider community through a series of lectures and interdisciplinary learning clusters, building upon the strong collaborative nature of the Sport Studies major. The university’s archivist, Lauren Ziarko, will preserve the proceedings both online and in the university’s library, available for broad future use.

Dr. Bass, Professor of Sport Studies and Chair of the Division of Social Science and Communication, expressed her excitement to be hosting Dr. Burgos, “I am thrilled to be hosting someone of Dr. Burgos’s stature at Manhattanville, enabling students, faculty, and staff a chance to learn from his expertise. We welcome the broader community to take part, particularly in his public lecture.”

“Manhattanville University offers a high-quality liberal arts education to students in the heart of the Hudson Valley,” said Senator Kirsten Gillibrand. “I’m a proud advocate for the National Endowment for the Humanities, and I commend Manhattanville University for its agility in implementing this resource to bring Dr. Adrian Burgos to campus. I look forward to seeing the speaker-in-residence project flourish, and hope it may serve as a model for future projects to come.”

Westchester Rising

PO Box 705, Yonkers NY 10702-914-815-1388. Proudly serving the the people of Westchester with hyperlocal news. Member NY Press Association. Legal notice inquiries to: risinglegalnotice@gmail.com. Daniel Murphy, Publisher & Editor in Chief, dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com. Bayan Baker, Assistant to the Editor in Chief risingmediagroup@gmail.com.

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Weekend Events at Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, JUNE 29

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

Patterns In Nature Exhibition, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Explore the mesmerizing tapestry of patterns that can be found everywhere in this interactive exhibit and flower show. Saturdays and Sundays until August 31.

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

Undiscovered Realm Comic Con, 10 a.m. - 7 p.m.

Also: June 30, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

Glacial Geology Hike, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Hike the Croton Point shore with the county naturalist to learn about the forces that created the Lower Hudson Valley landscape. Meet at Pavilion 1; for ages 6 and up; of moderate difficulty; wear sturdy shoes.

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

Lasdon Green Squad, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Every Saturday through November.

Willson's Woods Park, Mount Vernon: (914) 813-6990

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.

Sprain Ridge Park, 149 Jackson Ave., Yonkers: (914) 231-3450

DJ Day, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Come for a swim and enjoy music at the pool! Proof of Westchester County is residency required. Participation is free; admission and parking fees apply; weather permitting.

SUNDAY, JUNE 30

Tibbetts Brook Park, Yonkers: (914) 231-2870

DJ Day, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Come for a swim and enjoy music at the pool! Proof of Westchester County is residency required. Participation is free; admission and parking fees apply; weather permitting.

Saxon Woods Park, White Plains: (914) 995-4480

DJ Day, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Come for a swim and enjoy music at the pool! Proof of Westchester County is residency required. Participation is free; admission and parking fees apply; weather permitting.

Alfred B. DelBello Muscoot 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.

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

Gardening Sundays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

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 (8 a.m. - 11:45 a.m.) and resumes Sept. through Oct. 6

Latimer Wins, continued from pg 1-

woke up the day after the primary to learn more about George Latimer.

How did Latimer do it? By using his political playbook that he has used to win again and again and yes again in elections over four decades. Latimer was known and respected by a supermajority of Westchester democrats, and those democrats (and a few republicans) worked for his election and made donations.

While Bowman was on the Colbert Show in Manhattan, Latimer was at a neighborhood association meeting in Yonkers, Bowman's home turf.

Latimer has done something in Westchester that is unheard of in today's nasty political climate. He has earned the trust of the people he has been elected to represent. Latimer won Westchester by a 63%-37% margin. Bowman won the Bronx with over 80%, but most of the 16th Congressional district is made up of Westchester.

Along with Latimer's political skills, Bowman controversial stances on Israel played a role in his defeat. Westchester County is home to one of the largest Jewish-American communities in the country. The NY Times wrote how, "centrist Jewish voters flocked to him."

Latimer received a massive boost to his campaign from outside PAC's, most notable AIPAC, who helped steer donors to contribute to his campaign, and for paying for \$17 Million in TV ads through the United Democracy Project, UDP.

Most interesting were the nature of the TV ads. None featured Bowman's stance on Israel, but his vote against President Biden's infrastructure, Bowman's pulling of the fire alarm, and positive ads on Latimer.

Other groups like Westchester Unites (Teach Coalition), DMFI, and Fairshake (Crypto companies) added additional volunteers on the ground and with mail-TV.

"Rep. Bowman embraced his anti-Israel record that he built both before and since October 7, and expressed anti-Israel views that were deeply out of touch with his constituents and the mainstream of the Democratic Party," said the UDP.

"Congressman Bowman made anti-Israelism the centerpiece of his campaign in a deep-blue district, and his constituents voted to oust him in favor of George Latimer, who earned our endorsement with his strong support for the U.S.-Israel relationship and the broader Biden-Harris agenda. DMFI PAC Chairman Mark Mellman

"Pro-Israel activists strongly supported George Latimer — a progressive Democrat who is firmly committed to standing with Israel as it battles Iranian terrorist proxies. Voters rejected his opponent's vituperative barrage of scurrilous attacks against the pro-Israel community. The outcome in this race once again shows that the pro-Israel position is both good policy and good politics — for both parties," said AIPAC.

Bowman becomes the first member of the Ultra-Progressive "Squad" of seven house democrats to lose their seat. AOC and Bernie Sanders came to Bowman's rescue last weekend but couldn't save his campaign. AOC easily won her democratic primary in NYC over Irvington resident Marty Dolan, 80%-20%.

"We have to fight to make sure we do not vilify each other, and that we remember we are all Americans. We have serious issues to deal with, from climate change to immigration. We will argue and we will debate, but we must come together and understand the necessary for unity," said Latimer, whose pivotal triumph paves the way for the next chapter of his campaign for Congress, which will culminate on November 5, 2024. Latimer does have a republican opponent in Miriam Flisser, who ran two years ago and got 36% of the vote against Bowman.

In a press release that claimed Bowman Falls Just Short (17 points?), Bowman states, "Our community isn't done fighting." Does that mean that Bowman will continue to run on the Working Families Party line in November?

In Westchester's other marquee political primary, Susan Cacace won the democratic primary for District Attorney with 60% of the vote. William Wagstaff was second with 30%, and Adeel Mirza, who had gotten out of the race, got 10%. Cacace touted her experience, as a prosecutor and judge, which contrasted with Wagstaff's lack of experience.

Finally, Assemblywoman MaryJane Shimsky won her democratic primary over former Assemblyman Tom Abinanti. Shimsky got 60% of the vote.



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Northern Westchester Hospital Launches Internal Medicine Residency program

Northern Westchester Hospital (NWH) has launched its internal medicine residency program, marking a transformative milestone in its evolution as a premier medical facility. The program strengthens the hospital's role as a center for quality medical education, enhancing its delivery of advanced, evidenced-based care for patients and the community.

In its first year, the new residency program will enroll 16 residents from around the country, divided equally between categorical and preliminary trainees. Categorical residents will spend three years at the hospital preparing for careers in primary care or hospital medicine, or they may go on to pursue fellowships in internal medicine sub-specialties such as pulmonology, cardiology and gastroenterology. Preliminary residents will complete a one-year term before specializing in fields like ophthalmology, dermatology, radiology, radiation oncology, or physical medicine and rehabilitation. The initial year provides a foundational understanding of general medicine before moving on to a specialization.

"We are excited to introduce the hospital's inaugural internal medicine residency program, a significant step forward in our growth as a leading medical institution," said Sherri Sandel, DO, FACP, medical director at NWH. "This initiative strengthens our commitment to providing cutting-edge, evidence-based care to our community for generations to come."

The program is led by Gary Stallings, II, MD, MPH, FACP, internal medicine residency program director and medical education director at NWH. Dr. Stallings has dedicated his career to medical education, previously serving at New York Medical College and Westchester Medical Center, where he held multiple leadership roles and earned more than 35 teaching awards. He is recognized both regionally and nationally for his contributions to medical education.

The hospital has created a new dedicated space for resident training. It includes four fully equipped on-call rooms, two bathrooms, a nourishment station/kitchenette, an office space with lockers, eight workstations, a television for teleconferences and educational sessions, a training room for multi-modal teaching and 20 handheld Point-of-Care Ultrasound devices.

The program will also include training at NWH's medical practice at Chappaqua Crossing, a new 3,500-square-foot primary care facility with six patient care rooms, a lab and a large teaching area. Under the supervision of attending physicians, residents will tend to patients who receive care at NWH, as well as the uninsured and under-insured individuals from the surrounding community.

Throughout the next several years, the program will grow from the initial 16 residents to a full class of 32 residents. In addition to internal medicine, the hospital plans to expand its training programs to include surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, and psychiatry, among other specialties.

"Over the past few years, we've built a curriculum and program that I'm thrilled to lead at Northern Westchester Hospital," said Dr. Stallings. "I've received amazing support from Northwell and my colleagues here at NWH, and I look forward to helping these young doctors grow and shape the foundation of their careers to be excellent clinicians and leaders in the medical profession."

Northern Westchester Hospital's residency program joins Northwell Health's extensive Graduate Medical Education (GME) program that includes six other internal medicine programs and 200+ training programs. According to the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education (ACGME), Northwell is the third largest GME institution in the country with just over 2,000 trainees annually.

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- Opportunity for Q&A at the end of the presentation.

PRESENTATION BY JEFF GRABELSKY
Special Projects Director of the Worker Institute at Cornell University ILR

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Who should join us? Local elected officials, municipal managers and administrators, zoning board members, public works professionals, and other community advocates. The event is in person only at
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View recording at westchestercountyny.legistar.com. On the website, scroll down to find the meeting, and click on "Video" in the video column.

For more information, contact the Chair of the Labor and Human Rights Committee
Legislator Emiljana Ulaj at ulaj@westchesterlegislators.com

Letter to the Editor:

BOMB THREATS & SABOTAGE—

Millions of people have seen Shun Yun Performing Arts- a Chinese Dance Company whose breath taking costumes and dance, reflecting traditional Chinese culture has shaken the foundation of Beijing's control over the cultural narrative.

The performers are all Chinese artists who fled their country because of religious persecution for their belief in Falun Gong.

This is an ancient Chinese spiritual practice consisting of slow moving exercises and spiritual improvement based on the principals of truthfulness compassion and tolerance.

A former head of China's Communist party started his persecution of the dance group in 1999 after his government surveys estimated that 70 to 100 million people were practitioners –figures that outnumbered the Party's membership at that time.

So far, China's efforts have been

(1) slash the tires of the groups busses to a point where they would not deflate, but, once they were loaded, and underway, the tires would rupture, causing a serious accident,

(2)-Chinese consulates in the U.S. have sent bomb threats to theatres where the group was slated to appear,

(3)-There have also been emails sent to the group smearing their reputations,

(4)-The group was threatened by a customs official at O'Hare International Airport.

Human Rights groups have also estimated that millions of Faun Gong followers have been arrested, tortured, and killed in China.

We have the FBI who is supposed to put a stop to this kind of terrorism-where are they.???

Joe Pettit
Yorktown Heights

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 5:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following resolution, to wit:

PROPOSED GENERAL ORDINANCE

A PROPOSED GENERAL ORDINANCE ADOPTING AN AMENDMENT TO THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING CODE, RECLASSIFYING AND REZONING 221-223 BUENA VISTA AVENUE, DESIGNATED ON THE CITY'S TAX MAP AS BLOCK 172, LOTS 92, 94 AND 98, FROM ITS PRESENT URBAN RESIDENTIAL LOW-DENSITY DISTRICT ("UR-LD) TO APARTMENT HOUSES, HIGH DENSITY ("A" ZONE).

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Hollow Brook Golf, continued from pg 8-

My favorite Hollow Brook holes are the 5th, a 100-yard, downhill par-3, and the 18th, a classic Par four with the 22,000 square foot clubhouse in the background. Challenging holes include the 10th and 11th, which circle around a lake that was used decades ago as a private swim club and recreational park called Lakeland Acres. Both holes require a good tee shot and have waste traps surrounding the fairways.

Director of Golf Phil Eyre has been working at Hollow Brook Golf Club since 2007 and manages the golf operations and the golf shop, and teaches golfers of all ages and abilities, including a notable young golfers program. For the family looking for a place that will teach their young golfer, consider Hollow Brook and Eyre, who is originally from England, and who teaches the "complete game."

Eyre makes sure that everyone is comfortable, and says Hollow Brook offers "an extended family atmosphere." "Hollow Brook is a hidden gem that people don't know about. We are super family friendly and very laid back. The golf course is one of the best tests of your golf game in our area. It never plays the same two days in a row, because of the wind. We welcome golfers of all ages and abilities."

Eyre said the front nine and closing holes play like a New England course, while holes 10-12 have a South Carolina feel. It's a golf course that you will rarely see in the Northeast. Three stately bridges cross the waterways, which include a crystal clear trout stream that runs through the property.

The seclusion of the holes 13-16, adjacent to the Cortlandt walking Trails, gives you a scenic feel of sanctuary more like the Catskills. Three stately bridges cross the waterways, which include a crystal clear trout stream that runs through the property.

The course is walker friendly. A large outdoor swimming pool completes the package for the Westchester or Putnam family looking for a recreational getaway close to home. And all of the amenities of a country club are available at Hollow Brook.

Because of its natural beauty and large, modern clubhouse, Hollow Brook is also a perfect venue for your wedding, special occasion, or golf outing. My wife recently attended a retirement party at Hollow Brook and loved the food and the atmosphere. "Much better than the other places our union has been to in the area over the years."

The history of Hollow Brook before the course was built includes ownership by the Sisterhood of Saint Mary for one half of the property, with the other half the location for the Hollow Brook Drive in Movie Theater up until 1970's.

My round at Hollow Brook reminded me of what a different and unique course awaits you in Northern Westchester. For the Westchester family looking to spend time this summer outdoors, Hollow Brook is worth a visit to see what its all about. Visit golfhollowbrook.com or call 914-734-1500 for more information.

Maria Coto, continued from pg 1-

next court appearance. Peekskill police detectives will continue to work collaboratively with the Westchester County District Attorney's office on this case, which is an ongoing investigation. Anyone with information is urged to contact the Peekskill police detective bureau immediately at 914-737-8000, or by email at arenwick@peekskillpolice.com. Anonymous tips may also be made at www.cityofpeekskill.com under the crime tips section."

Westchester County Executive George Latimer Issues Statement on Passing of Maria Coto "We are deeply heartbroken to learn of the tragic passing of Maria Coto. Maria was a dedicated employee of the Westchester County Department of Social Services, who was brutally attacked while selflessly performing her duties. It is enraging that someone whose life was devoted to helping others was viciously taken from her friends and family. We remember Maria for her warmth, courage and commitment to doing good and helping people."

Coto, a senior caseworker, was a member of CSEA, and her union members are distraught over her passing. "Maria Coto's life was cut short in a senseless and vicious attack simply because she was doing her job," said CSEA President Mary E. Sullivan. "Her loss is felt throughout CSEA and shall serve as a solemn reminder of how we need to continue to fight for worker safety."

"We are devastated by the passing of Maria Coto," said Westchester County CSEA Local President Hattie Adams. "We will in her memory continue to be committed to do everything possible in conjunction with the Westchester County Executive's office to educate and to assure our membership is safe while working to service the community. Our condolences go out to her CSEA family, co-workers, friends and family during this difficult time."

According to the criminal complaint, 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 ..." according to the complaint filed by the Westchester County District Attorney's office.

Westchester County District Attorney Mimi Rocah will be announcing that Jenkins will now be charged with Coto's murder at some point.

Jenkins had minor altercations with the law before this incident. He still has an outstanding case from an October 20, 2023, incident when he was charged with disorderly conduct and assault for an incident outside of the Field Library in Peekskill.

He was released and did not return for his court dates. On June 13 he appeared in Peekskill City Court for both cases and was met with a large number of Westchester Social workers who packed the courtroom.

Jenkins attempted murder-soon to be murder charge was transferred to county court in White Plains. Coto ran from Jenkins apartment, but he followed her screaming, "I'm going to kill you. I'm going to kill you b**ch. I'm going to kill you b**ch," the neighbor said.

One of Maria's family wrote to us, "All that my cousin did was knock on the wrong door, and she was taken from us for that? Mental illness is a ticking time bomb. Help us Jesus. This type of crime doesn't happen in Westchester. She didn't deserve it."

Corrections officers arrested, continued from pg 1-

ing valuable assistance."

Five defendants were arrested by the DA's Office Criminal Investigators Squad on June 11 and arraigned before Judge Mark Rubeo on June 20 in Mount Pleasant Justice Court on the following charges:

Peter Cumberbatch, 39, of New Rochelle, a Westchester County correction officer assigned to the Westchester County Jail, was charged with Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, a felony, and Promoting Prison Contraband in the Second Degree, a misdemeanor, for allegedly accepting an \$800 payment from an associate of an incarcerated individual in exchange for smuggling contraband into the jail in March 2023. Cumberbatch was suspended following his arrest and is being scheduled for an employment termination hearing.

Shakia Smythe, 32, of Peekskill, a Westchester County correction officer assigned to the Westchester County Jail, was charged with two counts of Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree and Promoting Prison Contraband in the Second Degree for allegedly accepting multiple payments, totaling more than \$500, from an associate of an incarcerated individual in exchange for smuggling contraband into the jail between June and August 2022. Smythe was suspended following her arrest and is being scheduled for an employment termination hearing.

Wilfredo Gonzague, 36, of Briarcliff Manor, a former Westchester County correction officer who was assigned to the Westchester County Jail, was charged with three counts of Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree and two counts of Promoting Prison Contraband in the Second Degree for allegedly accepting payments, totaling more than \$2,000, from an associate of an incarcerated individual in exchange for smuggling contraband into the jail between September 2022 and February 2023. Gonzague was terminated from the WCDOC on Feb. 7, 2023.

Sadari Holt, 30, of the Bronx, a former employee of a County-contracted vendor that provides commissary services to the Westchester County Jail, was charged with five counts of Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree and five counts of Promoting Prison Contraband in the Second Degree for allegedly accepting multiple payments, totaling more than \$1,500, from associates of two incarcerated individuals between December 2021 and April 2022. Holt's security clearance was revoked by the WCDOC on Apr. 4, 2022.

Shardae Moore, 35, of Yonkers, a former employee of a County-contracted vendor that provides commissary services to the Westchester County Jail, was charged with Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree for accepting a \$500 payment from an associate of an incarcerated individual in December 2023. Moore's security clearance was revoked by the WCDOC on Dec. 12, 2023.

Prior to these arrests, on May 20, the DA's Office Criminal Investigators Squad arrested Sean Rogers, 40, of Mount Vernon, a civilian jailor with the Mount Vernon Police Department, for allegedly delivering three cylindrical objects wrapped in electrical tape containing a leafy substance to an incarcerated individual awaiting a court appearance at the MVPD Cell Block on March 11.

Rogers was arraigned on the charge of Promoting Prison Contraband in the Second Degree before Judge Peter St. George Davis on June 3 in Mount Vernon City Court. His next court date is July 9.

The investigations into the incidents at the Westchester County Jail were conducted by the DA's Office Public Integrity and Law Enforcement Integrity Bureau and the WCDOC Major Case Squad. The investigation into the incident at the MVPD Cell Block was conducted by the DA's Office Public Integrity and Law Enforcement Integrity Bureau, the WCDOC Major Case Squad and the Mount Vernon Police Department.

The cases are being prosecuted by the Public Integrity and Law Enforcement Integrity Bureau of the Trials and Investigations Division.

The charges against the defendants are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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Harckham-Arena, continued from pg 1-

Now, Harckham is at it again, this time by working to give New York State authority over local communities in placing massive energy facilities. Harckham seems to believe that progressives in Albany, like him, know what's better for our communities than we do. We only live here.

I mention Harckham by name because he refused to use mine in an attack on me recently published in these pages. The subject was the proposal to build the largest battery farm in America in the Mahopac-Somers-Carmel area which I and thousands of my neighbors adamantly oppose. That opposition caused Harckham to take a step back, this time saying he's supporting a "temporary" moratorium on the project. We all know what "temporary" means in New York.

Harckham and his progressive allies in Albany are making a habit of advancing projects against the will of everyday New Yorkers. The disastrous \$15 Congestion Pricing Tax proposal, for example, which Harckham supports, just wasted more than half a billion dollars in taxpayer funds for license plate readers that will likely never be used. Governor Hochul, with Harckham's full support, buried congestion pricing in a budget bill to avoid public debate.

Once again, they knew better, and it cost us.

It doesn't stop there: Also in 2022, Harckham threatened to cut off all state funding for local public schools with mascots he deemed offensive. He walked that one back, too. He also supported the natural gas ban on new residential construction in large swaths of the state. Albany knows better than new homeowners, it seems. Harckham knows better than car owners as well. Under a law he backed, all new vehicles in New York have to be electric by 2035, regardless of whether people want or can afford them.

I won't even go into his plan to bring socialized medicine to New York, other than to note that Harckham's legislation would abolish private health insurance in the state and increase personal income tax rates from 6.65 percent to 18.3 percent for those earning \$150,000 per year or more. Pete knows best, just as he did in legalizing marijuana without adequate safeguards in place. The result is thousands of illegal pot shops across the region selling completely unregulated products.

I'm running for State Senate to represent the everyday, common-sense residents of Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland who actually know a thing or two about their hometowns," writes Arena.

State Senator Pete Harckham, wrote the following OP-Ed on June 12,

It's time to set the record straight on the 116-megawatt battery energy storage system proposed for a 93.5-acre parcel of land in Mahopac on the Carmel-Somers town line. The Union Energy Center project, which will be discussed at a June 19 public hearing of the Carmel Town Board, has caused residents considerable consternation.

Dozens and dozens of upset residents have contacted my district office to voice their concerns about this project and the feeling they were shut out of the process by Carmel officials. The persistent interjection of partisan politics into the situation, however, has added to the challenges that I have faced in addressing the real worries of homeowners while offering support to the municipalities involved.

Despite my repeated declarations of respect for the autonomy of the town of Carmel's Planning Board and its decision-making processes on local zoning, Republicans at all levels of government have sought to take partisan advantage of the issue and fabricated wildly outrageous claims and lies purporting to the contrary.

Here is the problem: the town of Carmel has been without an updated comprehensive master plan for more than two decades. That makes the Carmel board responsible for this quagmire; for the board members to blame the Covid-19 pandemic on the lack of an updated master plan is disingenuous, at best. As it stands, the current Carmel master plan allows for the planning board to okay this project.

At a recent Carmel Town Board meeting, it was erroneously noted that the state had overruled local zoning for the placement of cell towers, and that Governor Hochul would do the same for the battery energy storage project— even though there is no basis in law for her to do so. A town board resolution in opposition to the state's oversight on where to place renewable energy facilities, like wind and solar farms, was a diversion, as it had no impact on a stand-alone energy storage system.

Meanwhile, Rep. Mike Lawler and Assemblymember Matt Slater poured gas on the fire by issuing a joint press release with my opponent declaring victory for home rule after my legislation enabling the Office of Renewable Energy Siting (ORES) to help communities with battery energy storage system proposals was pulled back, its enacting clause stricken, because the bill's language was made invalid by the new state budget, which gives this responsibility now to the Public Service Commission.

Although my opponent has no clue on the subject, the two lawmakers should have known better, as they ignored the bill's intent to help in situations exactly like this in Carmel, Somers, Putnam County, Westchester County and New York City (because of the reservoirs). The bill would seek input from neighboring municipalities, something the constituents from Somers say is missing from the process. No consideration was given in this press release as to why having the state's professional and technical input could benefit the decision-making process.

Indeed, this project is a prime example for why a regional solution should at least be discussed: it simply gives a voice to neighboring residents. In this case, the homeowners in Somers have every reason to decry this particular process. Also, it is important for state legislators to weigh in on a state process. As chair of the Senate Environmental Conservation Committee, I was instrumental in ensuring that a different energy project did not proceed because it would have impacted wetlands and prime farmland.

To date, I have communicated to the Carmel Planning Board (in April) that it should engage in a "robust public engagement process" regarding East Point Energy's proposed Union Energy Center project, which has resulted in the upcoming public hearing. Additionally, I have publicly supported Carmel's proposed moratorium on siting a battery energy storage system while it considers more comprehensive local regulations.

That's trying to be helpful. Elected leaders don't always have to agree on policies and certain issues, but we damn well better work together when it counts. Politicizing each and every issue possible continues to be a model of failure. The Carmel Town Board's resolution about the state's oversight on where to place renewable energy facilities, like wind and solar farms, struck me as both unhelpful and diversionary.

The Norwegian company behind the Union Energy Center and NYSEERDA have done little to explain or educate what a battery storage system is, whether it is safe and what environmental impact it may have. writes Harckham.

After Harckham's letter was published on LoHud.com, Congressman Mike Lawler, Assemblyman Matt Slater, Arena, and Carmel Supervisor Mike Cazzari claimed that Harckham was "spreading falsehoods" see top right of this page

Rep. Mike Lawler, Assemblyman Matt Slater, State Senate Candidate Gina Arena, and Town Supervisor Mike Cazzari Condemn Senator Peter Harckham's False Claims on Battery Storage Legislation

On June 14, Congressman Mike Lawler, Assemblyman Matt Slater, State Senate Candidate Gina Arena, and Town Supervisor Mike Cazzari released a joint statement condemning State Senator Peter Harckham for spreading falsehoods regarding his controversial battery storage legislation (S7834) and its implications for local control.

A recent op-ed by State Senator Harckham misled the public and distorted the facts surrounding his bill that sought to remove local input on battery storage projects across New York State. Harckham's bill would have transferred control of local zoning decisions to unelected bureaucrats in Albany, undermining the autonomy and voice of local communities.

Town Supervisor Mike Cazzari emphasized, "The residents of Carmel and Somers raise valid concerns regarding the environmental and safety implications of the proposed battery storage facility. The ORES legislation circumvents local input and rushes these projects without thorough examination. We staunchly oppose any actions undermining local governance and remain committed to advocating for our communities' right to participate in decisions impacting them directly."

"Senator Harckham's attempt to mislead the public is disappointing," said Congressman Mike Lawler. "His bill was a blatant effort to strip away local control and push through battery storage projects without proper consideration for the concerns of residents, and now he's lying about the purpose of the legislation - it's frustrating that Harckham, similar to Mondaire Jones, is resorting to lies in an effort to score political points."

Assemblyman Matt Slater emphasized the importance of local control, stating, "As a former town supervisor, I understand the critical role that local control plays in maintaining the quality of life in our communities. Senator Harckham's legislation is an attack on local control and his attempt to paint it as anything else is an outright lie. The residents of Mahopac and Somers deserve better."

State Senate Candidate Gina Arena also criticized Harckham's misleading statements, saying, "Senator Harckham's op-ed is nothing more than a desperate attempt to save face after his bill rightfully failed. His proposal ignored the legitimate concerns of local residents and sought to centralize power in Albany. By pulling his name off the bill, he tacitly admitted its flaws, but now he tries to mislead the public about its intent. This type of political double-talk is unacceptable.:"

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

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.

Westchester Rising

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Fourth of July Fireworks Celebrations in Westchester



Tarrytown-Pierson Park-Fireworks after dark-July 4
 The Somers Independence Day Celebration at Reis Park is happening on Wednesday, July 3rd, starting at 5:00 pm. Fireworks in the evening.
 The "Spark the Sound" celebration in New Rochelle will be held on July 4th at 9:00 pm at Joe Curtis Five Islands Park. This is a Grucci family production.
 The Village of Mamaroneck Fire Department is hosting its annual Firemen's Carnival at Harbor Island Park from Thursday, June 27th to Saturday, July 6th, 2024 July 4th at 9:15
 White Plains, July 2, A fun filled evening of entertainment, giant inflatable rides, food and fireworks. Music by Stolen Moments Entertainment. Fireworks at night.

See mesmerizing fireworks light up the night sky during the annual Music Fest & Fireworks sponsored by Captain Lawrence Brewing Company and Westchester Parks Foundation. Celebrate at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla on Wednesday, July 3, 2024.
 Pre-concert entertainment begins at 5 p.m. with a guest DJ followed by the Total Soul Band at 7 p.m. Spectacular fireworks, with the historic Kensico Dam as the backdrop, will follow at about 9 p.m.
 Admission and parking are free. Carpooling or taking mass transit is suggested. Parking at the North White Plains or Valhalla train stations is recommended.
 Concert-goers should bring lawn chairs or blankets for seating and a picnic if desired.
 The annual Music Fest & Fireworks are presented by Westchester County Parks and sponsored by Westchester Parks Foundation and Captain Lawrence Brewing Company.

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