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Friday June 9, 2023

## Who “Laundered” \$60K to Get to New Rochelle Mayoral Candidate Ramos-Herbert’s Campaign?

## Westchester Congressman Spit on Debt Ceiling Deal: Lawler Votes Yes, Bowman Votes No



New Rochelle Mayoral candidate Yadira Ramos-Herbert

By Dan Murphy

Robert Cox, Editor of The The Talk of the Sound website has broken another story on his substack page which highlights a mysterious \$60,000 transfer from the Westchester Democratic Party Committee to New Rochelle Mayoral candidate Yadira Ramos-Herbert. The story can be found at the following link: [https://robertcox.substack.com/p/unprecedented-60000-dark-money-infusion?utm\\_source=profile&utm\\_medium=reader2](https://robertcox.substack.com/p/unprecedented-60000-dark-money-infusion?utm_source=profile&utm_medium=reader2)

Ramos-Herbert is running against County Legislator Damon Maher in the democratic primary for New Rochelle Mayor on June 27. Cox goes on to characterize the \$60k transfer as “dark money,” because the Westchester County Democratic Committee has not filed its required financial disclosure reports with the Board of Elections.

Maher told us that he see the \$60k transfer as “money laundering” into Ramos-Herbert’s campaign. “Who doesn’t want me elected,” asked Maher. “I originally thought it was a typo, and that the correct transfer-donation was \$6,000 or \$600, but it was \$60,000. I guess they are afraid of my campaign, and the fact that we are knocking on thousands of doors and getting our message out.”

“If I had received this type of donation, I would want to know where it came from. I don’t take donations from developers doing business with the city or with unions that have employees in the city,” said Maher, who has raised \$10,000 for his campaign.

Before collecting the \$60k transfer, Ramos-Herbert raised \$50,000. So this mysterious transfer, from an unidentified donation to the WCDC, doubles the amount of campaign cash being used in the race for New Rochelle Mayor.

According to Koch’s reporting, the \$60k transfer is by far the largest transfer from the WCDC in years. It also appears that the Ramos-Herbert campaign made an error in taking the transfer on May 18, instead of waiting until May 23. If they had waited until May 23, they would have been able to wait to report the transfer-donation until after the Democratic Primary.

Democrats we spoke to in New Rochelle who do not support Maher’s campaign for Mayor, told us that the \$60k transfer is an indication that “people are worried that Maher can win the Primary.” Another Westchester democrat had a

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## Second Migrant Arrival in Westchester, at White Plains Central Courtyard



A second arrival of migrants from New York City have come to Westchester, and the City of White Plains, at the Central Motel Courtyard, located at 441 Central Avenue. Yonkerstimes.com has received confirmation that up to 40 migrants did arrive at the motel on June 5.

The motel has been closed for a period of time, after being known for a drug and prostitution location, according to law enforcement sources. More than 30 people, with luggage, and an accompanying security detail, were dropped at the motel, according to White Plains residents, who took video and photos.

The first location of migrants from New York City in Westchester was in Yonkers, at the Ramada Inn on Tuckahoe Road. All 100 rooms at the Ramada have families, mostly young women and young children.

The group in White Plains includes women and men. Some residents who live near the 29-room motel said they saw the location being set up with administrative offices the day before the migrants arrived.

New York City and Mayor Eric Adams’ administration have been quiet about what location would be next. 70,000 migrants have come to New York City is recent months, and while their was an indication that Central Motel Courtyard could be a possible location, “you don’t know for sure until they arrive,” said one official.

White Plains Mayor Tom Roach, who was notified the day of the arrival, said, “our focus is on working with our partners and non-profits, to do the best we can. There will be no impact on city services. They are in our community and we are going to work to make there time here productive and pleasant and make sure they have the dignity they deserve.”

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said the migrants are coming from Latin America but also from Afghanistan, Turkey, Russia and China.



Rep. Mike Lawler, left; Rep. Jamaal Bowman right

By Dan Murphy

Westchester’s two congressional representatives, democrat Jamaal Bowman and republican Mike Lawler, voted differently on the compromise agreement reached between President Joe Biden and House Speaker Kevin McCarthy to avoid a default on US Debt.

The Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 reduces federal spending over the next two years, in exchange for a two-year delay until the next debt ceiling vote in Jan. 2025, after the next Presidential election.

Calling it a vote against harmful republicans, Westchester congressman Jamaal Bowman voted no on the compromise debt limit increase.

“The ability of the United States government to meet its obligations should never be in doubt. But Republicans have tried to disillusion the American people by manufacturing a political crisis over the debt limit in order to circumvent the normal budget process and pursue their goals undemocratically. Americans deserve to know that throughout these negotiations, Republicans’ only agenda was to slash programs for working families and vulnerable Americans, so they could continue to hand those dollars to rich donors. I appreciate that President Biden fought off their most extreme demands and won some important concessions. But this process was designed to rely primarily on Republican votes. Like many of my colleagues, I cannot in good conscience endorse a bill that unnecessarily pairs a debt limit increase with attacks on the poor and marginalized, and that threatens our shared future with more giveaways to the fossil fuel industry.”

“This harmful agreement revokes \$28 billion in COVID-19 relief funds, wipes out over \$20 billion for the IRS to ensure rich tax cheats can’t get away with robbing Americans, imposes cruel and racist work requirements on older adults who rely on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), and undermines national environmental law while jamming through the Mountain Valley Pipeline. It is anything but fiscally responsible: it effectively cuts a wide range of domestic programs that keep our economy strong, yet allows the military budget to continue to balloon and fails to make the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share. We should have never been here in the first place, but President Biden has numerous options for executive action to ensure that Republicans can never again hold our country hostage. I am saddened to see how these nego-

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## Political Agendas, Ethics, and Interference in Judicial Races in Westchester



“I am disheartened and angered by the attacks on Judge Charley Wood by WCLA Choice Matters. The reality is that Judge Wood is pro-choice. I urge women voting in the 9th judicial district to consider his excellent record on women’s issues.”

**-Robi Schlaff, former Vice-Chair of the Westchester Democratic Party’s Judicial Screening Committee**

*left; State Supreme Court Judge Charles Wood*

By Dan Murphy

In December 2022, Hector LaSalle, the Presiding Justice of the Appellate Division, Second Department, was nominated by Governor Kathy Hochul to become the state’s first Latino Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals. Immediately, New York Focus published an article entitled “Hochul Picks Hector LaSalle for Chief Judge. Progressives Fear Return to Conservative Era.” That article was the first to articulate progressive opposition to Judge LaSalle, who ultimately became the first Chief Judge nominee to ever be rejected by the State Senate.

On April 5, 2023, New York Focus published an article that can be charitably called “unfavorable” against State Supreme Court Justice Charles Wood, who is running for re-election this year in the Ninth Judicial District. In the two months since that article ran, a newly formed progressive group called, “Citizens for a Democratic Judiciary” circulated a letter to the Westchester County Democratic Committee, calling for some nominee other than Wood. On June 1, the group issued a press release claiming that their letter was “signed by more than 1,000 local Democrats.” Lohud then published a story on June 5, which started, “Many candidates have to collect 1,000 signatures to get on the ballot in New York. That’s how many people have signed a petition trying to keep state Supreme Court Justice Charles Wood off it this year.”

But it turns out that Citizens for a Democratic Judiciary didn’t get anywhere near 1,000 online “signatures”—at least not valid ones. A quick review of the zip codes provided by signers, reveals that almost 1 in 5 of them live outside the 5 counties that comprise the Ninth Judicial District, including signers from Florida,

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## NY Heat Act Would Deliver Climate Action and Energy Affordability



OP-ED By Anshul Gupta

Climate conversations often get mired in mindless money minutiae – how much will a certain climate policy cost and how will we pay for it – as if it was possible to put a price on civilization. But what if there was an impactful policy that didn't cost a dime, saved money from day one, and helped relieve energy burdens while leading to healthful homes and communities?

Such Goldilocks policy options aren't hypothetical; there's one in front of New York State lawmakers right now – the New York Home Energy Affordable Transition or NY HEAT Act – a popular climate and energy affordability bill that deserves the legislature's attention. Recently, advocates and elected officials, including members of the state assembly, Westchester legislature, and Yonkers City Council, held a rally calling on the state leadership to pass the Climate Jobs and Justice package of bills, including the NY HEAT Act.

The NY HEAT Act will lower home energy bills for millions of New Yorkers by directing the state's Public Service Commission to limit the average energy burdens of low-to-moderate income households to 6% of their earnings, which the Commission can accomplish while shielding higher earners from cost shifts. Just this provision of the bill could lead to average monthly savings of \$75 or more on utility bills for families earning under 80% of Area Median Income, directly benefiting a large number of Yonkers households. It's no surprise that the Black, Puerto Rican, Hispanic, and Asian Legislative Caucus, whose legislative leaders Senator Stewart-Cousins and Speaker Hastie are also the State's legislative leaders, has included NY HEAT among its end-of-session priority bills.

This bill, however, does a lot more than provide short-term relief from escalating home energy bills; it helps all gas customers of all incomes and protects existing natural gas customers from spiraling prices.

Many New Yorkers are unaware that outdated state laws allow gas hookups worth thousands of dollars each to be given away at no or minimal cost to new customers. Existing customers are forced to pick up the tab that grows by about \$200 million each year, raising everyone's gas bills. Luring new customers with ratepayer funded free hookups adds tens of thousands of dekatherms of unnecessary gas demand, which increases upward pressure on supply prices. With the US becoming the world's largest exporter of liquified natural gas, the era of cheap natural gas is over.

Dug up streets for old pipe replacement are more than a traffic nuisance; these will also add billions to utility bills. The new pipes laid at the cost of \$6 million per mile will be mostly empty in just a few decades, but utility customers would be on the hook to continue paying for them for years after these are retired. Just like new hookups, our outdated laws allow the utilities a 9–10% return on these investments at ratepayer expense.

Whether these are service lines for new customers or replaced mains, these costs are added to utility bills based on an anticipated 60–80 years of service life that the new pipes will never see – heating and cooking with gas isn't just going out of style, it will also be out of compliance with New York's climate law by 2050. Without squeezing the cost-recovery into a couple of decades, which will dramatically magnify the impact on gas bills, ratepayers could be on the hook to continue paying for decades after the pipes are retired.

There's even more trouble brewing for existing gas customers. As gas bills increase, awareness of gas stoves' serious health impacts grows, and heat pumps buoyed by federal and state incentives gain popularity, gas customers will increasingly make the switch to superior electric alternatives. This will leave fewer customers to bear the growing costs of the gas distribution network. Bill hikes will cause more customers to defect, raising the costs for those whose circumstances prevent them from making the switch or the most ardent gas-stove aficionados who prefer not to switch, setting a feedback loop.

This isn't just a hypothesis, but a conclusion that utility experts have arrived at after rigorous analysis. The NY HEAT Act has provisions for modernizing New York's laws governing utility regulations to address each of these issues. Even Con Edison supports the key provisions of this bill and enacting forward-looking energy policies.

Last year, the state passed legislation backing utility thermal energy networks – a clean, efficient and cost-effective heating and cooling solution for entire neighborhoods. Strategically replacing the oldest, riskiest pipes with thermal energy conduits would build lasting energy infrastructure and offer a path for union workers with pipe skills to transition to a clean-energy future. The NY HEAT Act will clear legal hurdles impeding these labor-friendly networks.

It is unconscionable that despite lofty goals set by our climate law, we are still expanding the distribution network for fracked gas that leaks and pollutes everywhere from drilling to distribution to domestic appliances. And it's even more unconscionable that we are doing this on the backs of our energy customers reeling under inflation while the gas utilities laugh all the way to the bank. Every day without NY HEAT is a day that we're digging ourselves deeper into a climate and financial hole. Every day without NY HEAT makes meeting our climate and energy security goals harder and costlier in the future.

The recently passed NY State budget failed to do much to address affordability concerns of New Yorkers, especially individuals and families of modest means. Passing the NY HEAT Act is a chance for legislators to return to their districts after the session and tell their constituents that they did something for their cost of living.

*Westchester resident Anshul Gupta is a Senior Policy Analyst with New Yorkers for Clean Power and a steering committee member of the NYS Climate Reality Chapters Coalition.*

## DiNapoli: Thruway Authority Owed More Than \$275 Million in Unpaid Tolls and Fees

Audit Finds Nearly Half Owed by Out-of-State Drivers, Led by NJ and CT

The state's Thruway Authority has to do a better job of identifying, billing, and collecting tolls and related fees, including \$276.3 million it has a collection agency seeking as of March 2023, according to a new audit from State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli.

"This audit has identified ways in which the Thruway can improve its collection of tolls and fees," DiNapoli said. "Based on the Authority's response, I'm hopeful action will be taken to implement our recommendations to maximize revenue for the Thruway."

Tolls and related fees make up more than 90% of the Thruway's revenue. Ninety percent of toll revenues are from users of E-ZPass with the rest through Tolls by Mail. In 2021, the Thruway collected \$804 million from tolls and related fees. Nearly half (43%) of the unpaid tolls and related fees, \$119.3 million, is owed by out-of-state drivers. A substantial portion of that money is from vehicles registered in New Jersey (\$34.2 million) and Connecticut (\$16.7 million).

Vehicle owners get a warning if their E-ZPass account has a negative balance for over 30 days. If no payment is made in the next 30 days, the account is canceled and a \$25 fee is charged. If the E-ZPass device isn't returned another \$16 fee is added. Tolls by Mail that aren't paid in 30 days trigger a warning notice and a \$5 fine. If it's still not paid 30 days later, it is in violation and a \$50 fee is added to the invoice. Thirty days after the violation notice, the Thruway can send it to a collection agency.

### Lapse in Collections

During the audit period, the Thruway used two collection agencies. When the first vendor's contract expired Sept. 15, 2020, it returned the uncollected accounts totaling \$430 million to the Thruway. This included \$14 million in negative balances and \$416 million in tolls and related fees.

The second collection agency's contract took effect January 2021, but the Thruway did not send it any accounts to collect until July, more than nine months after the last contract had expired. Thruway officials said the new vendor needed time to reprogram its system to incorporate revisions in toll violations and that, while there was no collection agency during this time, it continued to collect overdue payment through its in-house customer service employees.

### Registration Suspension Program

The Thruway can ask the Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to suspend the registration of any in-state passenger vehicles that do not pay tolls, fees, or other charges, if they have three or more violations in five years, and for commercial vehicles, if they owe \$200 or more over five years. The Authority has a reciprocity agreement with Massachusetts — it's only such agreement — to request registration suspensions there.

The Thruway halted the suspension program in January 2018 as cashless tolling was being introduced following negative press and public concerns related to system problems including erroneous billings and excessive fees. It resumed the program four-and-a-half years later in July 2022, but has made very limited use of it. Separate from the accounts with the Thruway's collection agency, auditors found 257,917 past due accounts, owing \$288.4 million, that were eligible for suspension.

Of these, 49,740 customers were persistent violators that had outstanding balances every year going back to 2017. Since restarting the program, however, the Thruway has referred 60 or fewer plates per week for suspension and had just two employees assigned to the program.

### Rejected License Plate Images

Auditors also found fault with the Thruway's identification of license plates from the images it takes. The audit sampled 161 images that were rejected and found 11% were identifiable and billable. Auditors also estimated the Thruway missed out on billing an additional \$7.2 million in tolls last year based on the number of license plate images that were rejected for reasons, such as being too dark or too bright, that were within the Thruway's ability to fix.

DiNapoli made several recommendations to the Thruway for improving its identifying, billing and collecting tolls and related revenue to the Thruway, including that it:

- Ensure that there is a smooth transition in any change of collection vendors to avoid gaps in service.

- Establish procedures for dismissing violation fees, including the selection criteria that explain why they are being dismissed and the basis for the amounts.

- Review accounts that are eligible to have their vehicle registration suspended to determine where collection efforts will have the best results, and assess the feasibility of entering into registration suspension agreements with more states in addition to Massachusetts.

- Revise the methodology for selecting accounts to refer to DMV for suspension to target persistent violators and accounts nearing the 6-year statute of limitations.

- Ensure that all images rejected by the automated process that are identifiable manually are billed.

- Monitor trends in the incidences of rejected images and take appropriate corrective actions.

In response to DiNapoli's Audit, the NYS Thruway emailed us the following response: "We're pleased that many of the State Comptroller's recommendations affirm actions the Thruway Authority was already undertaking to improve the cashless tolling experience for our customers. Since November 2020,

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## Latimer Announces Free Bee Line Bus Fares Again This Summer



Westchester County Executive George Latimer is once again taking action to ease the burden on Westchester residents' wallets as he announces for the third time that Bee-Line Bus fares will be suspended from July 1 until September 4 during this summer. The fare suspension will also apply to the County's ParaTransit system.

Latimer said: "This is a move we are able to make on behalf of Westchester residents due to the strong, smart fiscal management my Administration has taken during our tenure. From cutting property taxes to ensuring our Public Safety Department is fully funded, this is another way we County government can improve the lives of the people we serve."

During the summer of 2022, the County offered its first free rides program and saw a dramatic increase in ridership. The system experienced a 37% increase in ridership during the three-month period of June, July and August, compared to the prior three-month period in March, April and May.

Department of Public Works/Transportation Commissioner Hugh Greechan said: "Westchester County is proud of our ability to provide this outstanding service to our residents fare-free for a limited time. We understand the impact it has on the budgets of our riders and looking forward to providing some relief."

The Bee-Line is Westchester County's bus system, serving over 27 million passengers annually with convenient service connecting residents to jobs, recreation, shopping and other regional transportation services. It is the second largest transit bus fleet in New York State, operated by the County's Department of Public Works and Transportation (DPW&T).

Office for People with Disabilities Director Evan Latimer said: "County Executive Latimer is once again looking out for the constituents of Westchester County in providing cost savings when traveling on our ParaTransit system. By providing this free fare period it is again allowing our ridership to utilize ParaTransit free of charge for their transportation needs. We thank the County Executive for continuing to be there for our ridership."

Over 65% of all Westchester County residents are within walking distance of a Bee-Line bus route, making the bus both close and convenient. The system has over 3,300 bus stops and almost 60 routes. All Bee-Line buses are accessible, and designed with many accessibility features including "kneeling" buses, ramps and lifts

## Listen Up: What to know about Hearing Loss: St. John's Riverside Hospital Webinar June 14

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### Hearing Loss Issues?

St. John's Riverside Hospital is hosting a webinar about "What to Know About Hearing Loss" on June 14th at 11am and featuring Michael Tom, MD and Chief of Otolaryngology. You will learn about new remedies and procedures to help mitigate the effects for hearing loss. RSVP today at <https://form.jotform.com/231424705538152>.

## What Idiot Would Destroy A Park?



By Eric W. Schoen

The city of Yonkers has been investing a lot of money in beautifying the many wonderful parks in town over the last few years. Redmond, Cook Field, what ever you want to call it has been undergoing major renovations this summer.

So what happens on Memorial Day weekend? Trespassers tore up the field on all terrain vehicles and dirt bikes and all these other electronic vehicles that are popular now. Tearing up extensive and expensive work to destroy a park we all enjoy.

What possesses people to do something crazy like this destroying a park. City funds are hard to come by in the first place. To have crews work on the site only to have it dug up and have their work done over is a waste of time and money.

If you know of a person or persons responsible, please call the Police Department at 914-377-7900. We should make those that did the damage pay for it. But again I ask you what possesses someone to do damage like what occurred destroying a park in the middle of summer? Do people have no respect for anything? A simple park everyone can enjoy? Does the minority of people feel they have the right to destroy the park that the majority of people enjoy safely and without destruction? Who are the idiots involved. What do you think? Now unto other business of the day!

### Recycling Machine tells you how to Recycle Paper, Plastics and other materials

Recycling numbers of paper, plastics and other recyclables leave a lot to be desired. There are numerous problems. People don't know what bin to put their recyclable item in. They don't know what is recyclable and what is not. People don't know if they can recycle items that have food waste on them like a paper plate with grease on it. And no where are the rules spelled out.

So now a company is coming out with a machine that you put the item you hope to recycle in and it will tell you whether it is recyclable or not and what bin to put it in. My guess is the machine is not cheap, but if over time it recycles a lot of what would normally go to landfills it probably will pay for itself.

Most recyclable items are marked but how often do we look at the items to see where it should be put in the recycling bins as we hurry to finish our meals.

### The Race for President in 2024

Let me start out by saying I hope there are no debates or that the candidates decide not to participate. Debates if any should be without a studio audience which takes away from the whole debate. People come in supporting a candidate and the occasion turns into a shouting, clapping match. And the candidate with the loudest mouth and supporters wins.

We have to come up with a better system for debates in this country. Shouting matches accomplish nothing. And What do you expect with Donald Trump and Chris Christie in a debate?

I frankly can't believe that Christie has the nerve to run. He left as Governor of New Jersey with the lowest polling numbers of any governor in the state. Bridgegate, or 'Time for Some Traffic Problems in Fort Lee' was his recipe. I know several people who got stuck for hours even though Christie claimed he did not know about the traffic mess. People went to jail because of it and many people think Christie was the mastermind behind the whole scheme.

Christie's 'hanging out' literally and figuratively at the beach in his private residence while beaches and parks were closed to the public due to budget woes on a holiday weekend was a rather stupid move.

With all due respect to Trump and Christie, Americans like a Presidential candidate who is in good physical shape. Same applies to Biden. That's why I think there will be another candidate who will jump in the race and win. People are so tired of the same candidates running over and over again Democrats and Republicans want change. It is going to be An interesting election year in 2024!

### How Migrants Show Up at a Hotel

I was listening to County Executive George Latimer on WABC Radio over the weekend discussing the migrant crisis. Of all the public officials to comment on what is going on he and Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano have been the most realistic with the public.

Government has no role to play when it comes to housing migrants in your local hotels. County Executives and elected officials can go to court to fight placement of migrants, but hotel owners have every right to place migrants in their hotels without any intervention. It's like if you or I want a hotel we call the hotel and make a reservation. If a room is available we get it. If not we don't.

So the next time you hear some big mouth politician say he is going to stop migrants from coming into his county or community, ask him or her what power they have to do this. Other than talking to the hotel owner or chain officials if the hotel is part of a chain, there really is not much your elected officials or you can

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## New Rochelle Library Celebrates Juneteenth With Programs for Children and Adults



The New Rochelle Public Library is hosting a variety of Juneteenth programs this month as part of the New Rochelle citywide Juneteenth Celebration presented by The Lincoln Park Conservancy and The City of New Rochelle.

On Thursday, June 8, 4:00 - 6:00 pm, children and adults are invited to be inspired by the sights and sounds of jubilation as they create a paper collage in celebration of Juneteenth.

Participants' work will be photographed and included in a digital quilt, reminiscent of the beautiful story quilts African American women created to record ancestral history and family memories. These quilts were also often embedded with codes to lead others to freedom along the Underground Railroad. Registration is requested at [bit.ly/QuiltWkshp\\_06\\_2023](http://bit.ly/QuiltWkshp_06_2023)

On Thursday, June 15, 2023, 4:00 - 5:30 pm, authentic African rhythms and culture will be brought to life in a multigenerational African Drumming workshop, led by Master Drummer, Kazi Oliver. Children and adults are encouraged to attend. Registration requested at [bit.ly/DrummingWkshp\\_06\\_2023](http://bit.ly/DrummingWkshp_06_2023) At 6:30 pm that evening, enjoy an inspiring African Drumming concert featuring Kazi and his band. Registration requested at [bit.ly/DrummingPerformance\\_06\\_2023](http://bit.ly/DrummingPerformance_06_2023)

Kazi Oliver has been teaching and performing for over 54 years. Professionally, he has performed in many places, including the famed jazz venue, the Village Vanguard, the Museum of Modern Art, and on ABC-TV's "The View."

On Saturday, June 17, 5:00 pm, the Global Jazz Community All-Star Women Band will perform live in the Ossie Davis Theater. This all female ensemble, featuring Camille Gainer, Mimi Jones, Clarissa Sinceno and Dinah Vero, will perform selections by Billy Taylor, Bobby Timmons and others. Registration requested at [bit.ly/JuneteenthJazz\\_06\\_2023](http://bit.ly/JuneteenthJazz_06_2023)

Presented by The Lincoln Park Conservancy and The City of New Rochelle, a "History Out Loud" exhibit will be on display in the Lumen Winter Gallery through June 5- 25, 2023.

All programs take place at the New Rochelle Public Library, 1 Library Plaza, New Rochelle. All events are free and open to the public.

## Crestwood Community Fund Raises \$420K for Park Improvements in Memory of Annie & Allie



**L-R-County Legislator James Nolan, Councilman Mike Breen, Mayor Mike Spano, Theresa McMahon, Katie Sullivan, Kristen McDermott, Rebecca Kerrigan, Councilman John Rubbo, Parks Commissioner Steve Sansone**

By Dan Murphy

The Crestwood neighborhood in the City of Yonkers is a close-knit community, with many generations living in the same family homes they grew up in. One popular City park in Crestwood is Schultze Park and field, located at St. Eleanoras Lane. The park has been in need of an upgrade for some time.

When two of Crestwood's "Angels," Annie McMahon and Allie Sullivan, passed away in 2019, an effort began to remember them, but to also accomplish something meaningful in their memory.

That's when two Crestwood residents, Kristen McDermott and Rebecca Kerrigan, began the effort to raise money to help improve the park in the memory of Annie and Allie. They formed the Crestwood Community Fund in 2020, and last week presented a check for \$420,000 to Mayor Mike Spano and the City to help make needed upgrades to the park.

"Crestwood is a special community, and after the girls passed away, we wanted to do something in their memory. But we also wanted to see if we could raise funds to improve the park that so many of us have used," said co-founder Kristen McDermott. "We are transplants to Crestwood, but it is heartwarming to see a community come together like this," said Kerrigan.

After speaking to their Councilman Mike Breen, and City Parks Commissioner Steve Sansone, the fund raising began. In 2022, Allie and Annica plunge for the park was held at Growler's in Tuckahoe that raised \$35k. And in June of 2022, a big fundraiser gala was held that raised \$185,000.

"The whole project was a gift to the Sullivan and McMahon families, who are always looking for way to help people," said McDermott.

"We look forward to the future of Schultze Playground and feel so lucky that our (soon to be) new playground has two of the very best Angels watching over it and all those who get to enjoy it," said Kerrigan.

Was COVID an obstacle to getting this done? "Yes, but after COVID, people came out like lightening out of a bottle, looking for something to do," said McDermott.

"Even if you didn't have a connection to the family, this park is the heart of our community and the place to be. You still want a park to bring your kids to." Said Kerrigan.

Key features to the park improvements will be, first and foremost, a rubberized floor for the playground. A figure 8 pathway around the park and alleviating some of the summer heat with some shading are also on the list.

"We want to thank many people for making this happen. Several local schools, and The Ursuline School (where both Allie and Annie graduated from) all stepped up, and the families and friends of all the girls all came together to help achieve this goal. And we had donations from throughout Westchester and across the country to help us with this endeavor," said McDermott.

Councilman Mike Breen and Parks Commissioner Steve Sansone have been great partners. Councilman Breen made sure we got the attention of the City and made sure we were heard. Sansone was amazing and exciting to work with."

"I'm so happy that we were able to expedite the improvements to this park for the community. The people who donated wanted to see this get done. It is a true public private partnership, and they know exactly what they need and want in their new park," said Breen.

The group is hoping that the City can break ground this fall with an opening date of Spring 2024. "Crestwood is a very special community, in a great city. It took a village, and help from the 3rd largest city in NY state, to make this dream come true," said Kerrigan.

*Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-*

do to stop the migrants from coming into town.

Briefs: A vending machine that features emergency equipment like naloxone available for sale to stop drug overdoses? A grandfather selling marijuana for the government to boost his pension. A pizza graffiti artist decorating pizzerias in Yonkers and Westchester secretly in the middle of the night. And the pizzeria owners are not complaining. Doors on New York Subway platforms that prevent patrons from getting pushed on the tracks. Now that's long overdue!

**Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge. Reach him at [thistooisyonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistooisyonkers@aol.com).**

## Join in the Festivities for Yonkers Pride Weekend A Celebration of Equality, Acceptance and Joy

For the 6th year in a row, Yonkers Pride is welcoming everyone to join in the celebrations of love and acceptance with an extraordinary lineup of events from Thursday, June 8 through Saturday, June 10. This year the festivities begin with Yonkers Pride's first-ever Mini Ball on Thursday, June 8, and continue with the annual Flag Raising with Yonkers LGBTQIA+ Advisory Board and Mayor Mike Spano on Friday, June 9. The main event is the Yonkers Pride Festival taking place on Saturday, June 10, showcasing celebrity entertainment, including headliner Aquaria of RuPaul's Drag Race.

This year's judges will be Icon Hall of Famer Luna Khan, Icon Father Stan Elle, Legendary Father Julian De La Blanca, Legendary God Mother Veronika Mugler, and Sydney Xtravaganza. The event's Commentator is NY Overseer Neko Lanvin, and beats are by DJ Ultraviolet. Tickets for the Mini Ball are \$20 via Eventbrite and \$25 at the door.

This event is proudly sponsored by Great Point Studios, Majority Leader Tasha Diaz, New York-Presbyterian Westchester, RXR Realty/Sawyer Place, Webster Bank. "I am honored to be this year's Festival Chair and am excited to celebrate Pride Month with the diverse and vibrant LGBTQ+ community we have here in Yonkers," said Angel Castro, Chair of Yonkers Pride. "With Aquaria headlining the festival and the collaboration with House of De La Blanca for the Mini Ball, we are aiming for an extraordinary celebration that truly represents the spirit of pride and inclusivity."

In an effort to create an inclusive and memorable celebration, Yonkers Pride will once again host the annual LGBTQ+ Flag Raising ceremony at City Hall's Unity Fountain. "The Yonkers Pride Festival is a day to celebrate love and the individuality of who we are," said Mayor Spano. "Yonkers' greatest strength continues to be our diversity, and what better way to demonstrate that than by our LGBTQIA+ neighbors, friends, and allies coming together for this festive event. We invite all to join us."

Festival Event Schedule:

LGBTQ+ Flag Raising Ceremony

Jun 09, 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM

The Unity Fountain at City Hall, 40 S Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701

Yonkers Pride Festival

Jun 10, 2:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Downtown Yonkers, Main St, Yonkers, NY, USA

For more information on Yonkers Pride, visit <https://www.yonkerspride.org/>.

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## 61 Officers Graduate from Westchester County Police Academy



### Will go to work for 19 law enforcement agencies

Sixty-one recruits graduated Friday from the Westchester County Police Academy and are headed off to work at 19 law enforcement agencies in Westchester and beyond.

The new officers, who completed 21 weeks of training at the police academy in Valhalla, received their diplomas before a packed house at the SUNY Purchase Performing Arts Center.

County Executive George Latimer, Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins and Acting Public Safety Commissioner Terrance Raynor presented the graduates of the 155th Session of Basic Recruit School with their diplomas and congratulated them for mastering the physical and academic demands of the Academy.

Latimer told the graduates that their willingness to serve their communities and put themselves in harm's way was not just a job but a higher calling. He noted that our nation marks Memorial Day this weekend and he compared their courage and commitment to those who gave their lives serving our nation in the armed forces. "We send you out into the community to do something a majority of people can't do. We thank you for the service you will provide to your communities and the people of Westchester."

Raynor encouraged the graduates to pay as much attention to their emotional well-being as they will to their physical fitness. "In this line of work you may eventually see and deal with some unimaginable horrors and find the need to decompress. Fortunately law enforcement professionals are paying more attention to officer wellness. No longer is there a stigma attached to a person who seeks emotional support. In fact, across the country, we are beginning to recognize that officer wellness is equally as important as officer safety."

The new officers and their departments are:

Westchester County: Jake Barbara, Christopher Duffy, Matthew Laccetti, Sean MacDonald, Francisca Menaez, Tyler Smith, Brian Walsh.

Bronxville: Kevin Iglesias.  
 Carmel: Matthew Valente.  
 East Fishkill: Jason Bailey, Duresa Berisha.  
 Eastchester: Daniel Krippel, Nicholas Scala, Michael Schur.  
 Greenburgh: Tyler Weir.  
 Lewisboro: Charles Mule.  
 Mamaroneck Village: John Paul.  
 Mount Pleasant: Michael Theriault.  
 Mount Vernon: Angeline Ballesteros, Virginie Beauvoir, Jimmy Bosque, Kyren Braunskill, Brian Familia, John Fiumefreddo, Brandi Mason, Sheila Miller, Alphonse Piliero, Michael Sabatino, Liridone Tetaj, Maximillian Ward, Ra-Mel Williamson.

New Rochelle: Juan Santiago.  
 Ossining: Robert Cregier, Christian Mosqueda.  
 Port Chester: Michael Guerrero, Alan Novoa.  
 Rye Brook: Amber Meagher.  
 Scarsdale: Ainsley Brown, Anthony Gallindo.  
 SUNY Optometry: Ryan Luu.  
 White Plains: Martin Loane, Joseph Maniscalco, Amanda Patterson, Kaitlyn Scully, Anthony Volpe.  
 Yonkers: Faith Anker, Nicholas Antenucci, Faith Berry, Jean Cabral, Julio Castillo, Keven Cochran, Robert Gebo, Sharnel Hill, Jeffrey Knanishu, Kendall Luquis, Joseph Nolan, Vincenzo Pullano, Timothy Riordan, Tiffany Roman, Angeliqe Sarro.

Yorktown: Gino Argiro.

## Harrison Cop Honored for Stopping Stolen Construction Vehicle with a DPW Rig



Kristin Hufnagel, left, was arrested for driving a stolen construction vehicle, and was stopped by Officer Marco Bisceglia

A Harrison police officer commandeered a DPW vehicle in the early morning hours of May 13, to halt a skid steer that had rammed two marked patrol cars in Harrison and North Castle during an hour-long pursuit.

The incident began for Harrison officers about 12:30 a.m. when North Castle Police reported that the stolen construction vehicle was refusing to stop for its officers and had entered Harrison in the Park Lane area. The driver of the stolen construction vehicle - a skid steer with a forklift attachment - then struck a North Castle patrol vehicle and a Harrison patrol vehicle at separate times, causing extensive damage to both.

As the dangerous incident unfolded, Harrison Police Officer Marco Bisceglia, who has prior experience working at Harrison DPW and operating heavy machinery, retrieved a loader from the nearby Harrison DPW yard.

PO Bisceglia skillfully operated the loader to disable the skid steer in the area of Lake Street and I-684 and push it off the road. As seen on police video, other officers on scene were then able to take the driver and an underage male passenger safely into custody.

Chief John Vasta praised PO Bisceglia for his decisive actions in obtaining and then operating the DPW loader to bring the encounter to a close. He noted that there was no damage done to the loader or skid steer, and there were no injuries to officers or suspects.

Kristin Hufnagel, 22, of Fishkill, N.Y., was charged by Harrison Police with Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 3rd Degree and Criminal Mischief, felonies; Reckless Endangerment, Endangering the Welfare of a Child and Reckless Driving, misdemeanors, along with multiple traffic violations. Hufnagel is also facing criminal charges from the Department of Environmental Protection and North Castle Police Department. Also credit to Westchester County Police Department for their assistance.

Officer Bisceglia was named the Officer of the Month for June.

## New Rochelle Man Arrested for Impersonating a Federal Agent and Weapons Possession



On June 1st, 2023, New Rochelle Detectives conducted a traffic stop that culminated in the arrest of the driver for impersonating a Federal Agent and weapons possession. New Rochelle Detectives had an open investigation on a person who was alleged to have been in possession of a handgun and who had allegedly made comments that he was a Federal Law Enforcement Officer.

At about 1:15pm, New Rochelle Detectives observed the suspect driving and conducted a traffic stop. During the traffic stop the suspect identified himself as a Federal Agent to the Detectives. Further investigation revealed that the suspect was in possession of a stolen handgun and Federal Law Enforcement badges.

Manrique Perez, 48 years of age, of New Rochelle, was arrested and charged with Criminal Impersonation 1st Degree - E Felony, Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd Degree - C Felony, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 4th Degree - E Felony.

According to The Talk of the Sound, one of the two badges that police found was "Healing Hearts Chaplaincy". Perez was a HHC chaplain.

Robert Cox at Talk of the Sound got the following statement from the organization. "Healing Hearts Chaplaincy is a legitimate not-for-profit organization that train chaplains to serve God's work in community, hospitals and jails. Badges are provided for identification purposes for hospitals and prisons.

"We are in shock of the charges against Manrique Perez known to us as Manny Perez. At this time his title as a Chaplain has been revoked. We had no and have no reason to believe that he was involved in any criminal activities. Our organization apologies to the public for any fraudulent representations that Mr. Perez could have associated with our organization with out knowledge or authorization.

Read the Talk of the Sound story at <https://talkofthesound.com/2023/06/02/new-rochelle-man-arrested-for-impersonating-a-federal-agent-and-weapons-possession/>.

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## BID ADVERTISEMENT LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Eastchester Public Library will receive sealed bids for ELEVATOR MODERNIZATION- EASTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY, 11 Oakridge Place, Eastchester, New York 10709, in accordance with the Documents prepared by the office of Lothrop Associates Architects D.P.C., 333 Westchester Avenue, White Plains, NY 10604.

All proposals shall be on a lump sum basis and include all Elevator Modernization work under a single Contract. Segregated proposals will not be accepted. In general, the work includes demolition of existing elevator, new elevator equipment and machinery, new elevator cab and entrances and related mechanical and electrical work for a two stop hydraulic elevator.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the site on June 13, 2023 at 10:00 AM local time.

Proposals will be received until 2:00 PM local time on June 27, 2023 at the Office of The Town Clerk, Eastchester Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York 10709, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bid documents will be made available at 9:00 AM on June 9, 2023 and may be obtained from the Architect as follows:

All prospective bidders must register with Lothrop Associates Architects D.P.C. via e mail in order to obtain the bid documents. The following information is required:

1. Company name, address, phone number.
2. Contact person and e mail address.
3. Fax number (optional).
4. Request access to FTP site or Drop Box to obtain bid documents.

Send the above information via e mail to: [vlsanti@lothropassociates.com](mailto:vlsanti@lothropassociates.com) Upon receipt of this information, a password will be sent to the registered prospective bidder via e-mail and prospective bidders may then download the bid documents. Bids will be accepted only from registered bidders. Only registered bidders will be notified of addenda availability via the FTP site or Drop Box. Bid security shall be submitted with each bid in the amount of five percent (5%) of the Base Bid.

Bidders must be properly licensed under the laws governing their respective trades and be able to obtain Insurance and Bonds required for the Work. The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish and pay for satisfactory Performance and Labor and Material Payment Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total Contract Amount.

This is a Prevailing Wage Project. All bids shall be submitted in an opaque, sealed envelope clearly marked "ELEVATOR MODERNIZATION – EASTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY", addressed to: Town Clerk, Eastchester Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York 10709. Unless otherwise permitted by law, no bids may be withdrawn for a period of forty-five (45) days after the date of the bid opening. Time of Completion: 210 calendar days from Notice to Proceed.

The Library reserves the right to reject all bids and to waive any informality or irregularity in any or all bids.

LATE BIDS - All bids received after the deadline date and time stated above will not be considered and will be returned to the bidder unopened. The bidder assumes the risk of any delay in the mail or in the handling of the mail by Owner's employees or volunteers. Whether sent by mail or by means of personal delivery, the bidder assumes all responsibility for having the bid deposited on time at the place specified.

Dated: June 6, 2023  
Town of Eastchester  
40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York 10709

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#### Education / Career Training

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COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM! Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer & Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain programs for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! 844-947-0192 (M-F 8am-6pm ET). Computer with internet is required.

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Notice of formation of My Mind Is Magic, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 3/14/2023. 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, 50 Hawthorne Ave C3-1, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of CR8TIONZ, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 2/21/23. Office location: Westchester County. REPUBLIC REGISTERED AGENT SERVICES INC. designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1434 Western Ave, Suite 1 #7811 Albany, NY 12203. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Cake Bar By Charlene, LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/08/2023. 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, 1 Glenwood avenue, 18E, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of R.O.S.Y. LLC. filed with the SSNY EIN on 2/22/2023. 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, 2803 Larkspur Street, Yorktown Hts, NY 10598. Purpose: Real Estate

Notice of Formation of Hatter Luxury Eyewear LLC filed with New York State Department of State on March 11, 2023, Office location: Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents, Inc. is designated as the agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of ATSOLO HOLDINGS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/13/23. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The Law Office of Adrian T. Solomon, Esq., 2585 Broadway Suite 235, New York 10027. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of THE BOSS BAR & RESTAURANT, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/13/23. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The Law Office of Adrian T. Solomon, Esq., 2585 Broadway Suite 235, New York 10027. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of LIVE LONG LIVE STRONG FITNESS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/07/22. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 33 Sherwood Ave, apt. 3w, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Peek Holdings LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/8/2023. 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, 43 Nob Ct, New Rochelle, NY 10804. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Thornwood Books LLC. Arts. of Org filed with the SSNY on 02/25/2023. Office: Westchester County. U.S. Corp. Agents, Inc. designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to U.S. Corp. Agents, Inc, 7014 13th Ave Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Motives Thru Fabric LLC. Filed with Angel Luis Morales III. Office: Westchester County. Angel Luis Morales III designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Angel Luis Morales III Shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 35 Montague Street, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Kate Closet LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 02/21/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 27 Brook Street, Croton on Hudson, New York, 10520. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of AADNYS TECHNOLOGIES LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/30/2023. 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, 6 Lewiston Ct, Briarcliff Manor NY, 10510. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of FITT 4 LIFE PRO GYM LLC. Arts. of Org. Filed with the SSNY on 03/29/2023. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 444 South Fulton Avenue, Mt. Vernon, NY 10553. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

### CORPORATION NOTICE CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 20, 2023 at 5:30pm, Mayor's Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING article IX of the charter of the City of Yonkers in relation to sewer rents

Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary. Further information, including access to a copy of said proposed local law, may be obtained at the City Clerk's office, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York and on the City's Website.

MIKE SPANO, Mayor

Date: June 7, 2023

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6208-0721

*Judge Wood, continued from pg 1-*

Syracuse, Schenectady, Long Island, and at least 3 boroughs of New York City.

Jennifer Oelkers, who is the campaign manager for both Justice Wood and Justice Fran Connolly, who is also running for reelection, said, “This number reflects a very small minority of Westchester Democrats who either have been duped with false information into opposing Judge Wood, or who want activist judges who will ignore the law. Since March, they have regurgitated the same false attacks on a judge who has earned a stellar reputation with people who have actually met him and appeared in court before him.”

The effort to cast doubt on Judge Wood as a Democratic candidate seeking reelection this year has come in the form of numerous emails from the political action committee for the Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion, WCLA-Choice Matters.

The emails cast doubt about Judge Wood’s views on abortion, but WCLA, nor its President Catherine Lederer-Plaskett, have found any decision by Judge Wood related to choice or abortion rights, and in fact Choice Matters, of which Lederer-Plaskett is also President, found Judge Wood pro choice.

According to his colleagues and Democratic friends, “Judge Wood has always been pro-choice.”

Here are some facts: In 2009, Judge Wood ran as a republican for State Supreme Court in the 9th Judicial District. During that campaign, WCLA labeled Wood anti-choice without interviewing him or finding out directly his personal views. So the claim that Wood was not pro-choice in 2009, is False; There is no proof, or statement, or comment to prove it.

But an old photo of Wood driving a motorcycle to law school in New York City gives us anecdotal proof that Wood has always been pro-choice. One sticker on his motorcycle is for NARAL, the National Association for the Repeal of Abortion Laws, NARAL, now called pro-choice America. After becoming a registered Democrat during President Trump’s administration.

Robi Schlaff, former Vice-Chair of the Westchester Democratic Party’s Judicial Screening Committee said, “I am disheartened and angered by the attacks on Judge Charley Wood by WCLA Choice Matters. The reality is that Judge Wood is pro-choice and as Chair of the 9th Judicial District Gender Fairness Committee, brought the leading international abortion rights lawyer to present to our committee. He is the number one judge on fairness and gender equity in the court system. I urge women voting in the 9th judicial district to consider his excellent record on women’s issues.”

Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier said, “Judge Wood has always been pro-choice. He has been labeled to the contrary by other groups in an effort to discredit him. They want a preferred candidate that they have in mind. But we don’t blindly endorse incumbents. Judge Wood has been screened by the county democratic judicial committee, and was found well qualified. Judge Wood has served the people honorably on the court for the 14 years and will do so for the next 14 years.”

The genesis of the progressive opposition to Judge Wood is somewhat revealing. Lederer-Plaskett and Powell both have ties to Judge Veronica Hummel, who was appointed in July, 2020 by Governor Cuomo, to the Court of Claims. Hummel’s last-minute appointment avoided a contested Democratic convention and gave the nomination to Alexandra Murphy, daughter of then Chief Judge Janet DiFiore, a close Cuomo ally.

Hummel, despite taking that appointment, went back to running for Supreme Court, in 2022 and 2023. In 2022, Hummel sought the nomination, but Democrats nominated 7 new candidates from Westchester, all of whom won. In 2023, Hummel ran to unseat either Wood or Connolly, despite having 15 years less judicial experience and less party support. She withdrew from the race in April, after she was not among the 10 candidates recommended by the Westchester County Democratic Judicial Screening Committee.

One reason why Hummel withdrew her name is that she was accused of violating judicial ethics when she tried to galvanize opposition to Wood. Rising has obtained a copy of an email addressed by Veronica Hummel to Robi Schlaff, head of the Westchester County Office for Women in April, in which she made no mention of her own qualifications, but rather stated: “Similar with Janet DiFiore (sic) the party is debating giving a former Republican recently turned democratic (sic) the democratic nomination – Charley Wood. There has been quite a bit of push back by prochoice (sic) organization and journalists but the issue is undecided.” Hummel then offered to forward articles to Schlaff, who immediately forwarded the email to Wood, with whom she has served on the court’s Committee on Gender Fairness for 15 years.

Wood then referred Hummel to the Commission on Judicial Conduct (CJC) for what appears to be a clear violation of judicial ethics. New York’s Code of Judicial Conduct requires a judge to maintain the dignity appropriate to judicial office and act “in a manner consistent with the impartiality, integrity, an independence of the judiciary.” It also prohibits a judge or candidate for judicial office from “publicly endorsing or publicly opposing (other than by running against) another candidate for public office.” Also, Opinion 12-129 of the Advisory Committee on Judicial Ethics states that each candidate should “take steps to make every effort to avoid misleading the public with mere speculation or innuendo.”

Retired Supreme Court Justice and Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, Jeffrey Cohen was the author of one of the decisions that was used against LaSalle in his Court of Appeals nomination. He described the experience of watching LaSalle come under fire over a decision: “The issue in that case had nothing to do with abortion. The issue was a subpoena. What the progressives did to Judge LaSalle then, and what they’re doing to Judge Wood now, goes against everything that we hold dear about the judiciary—that the judges decide cases honestly and competently, without fear or favor. It begs the question of why non-attorney progressive activists should have a role in the process of selecting judges. They would be the first to cry foul if right wing Republican activists were doing the same, but now that they had success once, they’re adopting a playbook that guarantees a politicized judiciary. Nobody, left, right, or center, should want that.”

All of this leaves Westchester County Democratic Chair Suzanne Berger with concerns about judicial races in the future. “We have two highly regarded incumbents running for reelection this year, and excellent candidates coming in the next few years. I expect that the candidates we nominate will win their election and become judges. As an attorney, having a competent and experienced judiciary is important to me. As the County Chair, having a diverse group of judges representing Democratic values and high ethical standards is important to me. The best way to accomplish both is for Westchester Democrats to advocate positively for the candidates they want to support, not to tear down the ones that they don’t. If we do so, issues like arose this year will not be a problem.”

The real problem that many in the Westchester legal community take offense at is the attempt to blur the lines between an independent judiciary and one political issue.

The second concern is the attempt to discredit Judge Wood’s views on abortion by falsifying his record or what his view has been, for more than 30 years.

On the matter of switching political parties, we defer to NYS Democratic Chair Jay Jacobs who said “I come from the suburbs. Lots of people registered as Republicans when they grew up, because you couldn’t get a job as a lifeguard at the beach if you weren’t a Republican,” Jacobs said. “How a person acts in their political life, that I think is more determinative as to whether or not they truly are in principle, and in values, Democrats.”

So who will decide whether Judge Wood gets the democratic nomination? A Judicial Convention will be held this summer, with democratic party representation from Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess, and Orange Counties to determine who is on the ballot in November.

## Letter to the Editor:

Parents Always Be Looking Out for Your Children:

May 25 marks the 40th annual National Missing Children’s Day in the United States. The day is meant to draw attention to child safety and recognize people who strive to reunite missing children with their parents. It was established by President Ronald Reagan in 1983 and coincides with International Missing Children’s Day, first commemorated in 2001.

May 25 was chosen in honor of Etan Patz, who was 6 when he was abducted while walking to his school bus stop on that date in 1979. Pedro Hernandez, a clerk at a neighborhood bodega, was convicted of murder and kidnapping in connection with the case nearly four decades later, in 2017.

I think you provide the public a service when you publish the names and photos of missing young Westchester residents. While it must be traumatic for the family, hopefully somebody can recognize your information and help bring that child back to her parents.

I also think that the publication of those missing children from Westchester helps publicize what a real problem this is, and hopefully is a wakeup call to parents everywhere.

Christina Maxwell  
Lewisboro, NY

### *New Rochelle Mayor, continued from pg 1-*

similar sentiment but said “democrats are in a panic” over the race for New Rochelle Mayor.

The maximum dollar amount that individuals can contribute to a candidate for New Rochelle Mayor is \$1,300, but transfers from other campaign committees can exceed that amount. So while this transfer may be legal, “this is not how democrats win elections, in Westchester or anywhere,” said another county democrat.

No comment yet from Suzanne Berger, Westchester County Democratic Chair, or any prominent Westchester Democrat. We hear that other news reporters in Westchester are on this story.

Kudos to Bob Koch and his reporting. If anyone knows where the \$60,000 donation and then transfer came from, let us know.

Another Westchester progressive asked, “is this how progressive democrats are winning elections in Westchester now? By grabbing money from anyone, anywhere?”

### *Unpaid Tolls, continued from pg 2-*

more than 908 million transactions have been processed systemwide, a record 86 percent through E-ZPass. Over the course of the audit period from January 2019 to January 2023, the Thruway Authority collected approximately \$3.27 billion in total revenues and maintained rigorous enforcement mechanisms to pursue toll scofflaws. The Thruway remains one of the safest super highways in the nation and continues to make every effort to collect unpaid tolls. As a user-fee system, the Thruway is not supported by any dedicated federal, state or local taxpayer funding. It is imperative that everyone pay their fair share to keep our tolls some of the lowest in the nation.”

### *Debt Ceiling Vote, continued from pg 3-*

tations went, but my constituents and people across the country deserve to be able to put food on their tables.”

Westchester Congressman Mike Lawler, voted yes on the Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA). “Throughout the debt ceiling debate, I’ve had three parameters. The President must negotiate with the Speaker, we must cut spending, and we cannot default. The Fiscal Responsibility Act met all three, which is why I was proud to support it,” said Congressman Lawler. “The bill will save American taxpayers over 2.1 trillion dollars, while blocking 5 trillion dollars in new taxes the Biden administration sought to impose.”

“The bill also caps spending at 1% growth over the next six years, and through the appropriations process House Republicans will have the opportunity to continue to reduce federal spending,” continued Congressman Lawler. “The FRA also includes permitting reform and modernizes the NEPA process, which will unleash American energy. With this, we’ll be able to get inflation under control and our economy back on track, which is why passing the Fiscal Responsibility Act was essential.”

“With a divided government, no party is going to get 100% of what it wants,” concluded Congressman Lawler. “With that said, the Fiscal Responsibility Act puts us on the path to fiscal sanity, protects our commitments to veterans and seniors, and raises the debt ceiling so we don’t default. I was proud to vote in favor of this bipartisan agreement between Speaker McCarthy and President Biden.”



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# 2023 JUNETEENTH CELEBRATION

THEME: KUJICHAGULIA: SELF-DETERMINATION

FRI JUNE 16

3pm-5pm  
Pan-African  
Flag Raising Ceremony  
@ City Hall Plaza

6:30pm  
Tribute to Black Music Month  
with Yonkers Downtown BID Live  
Concert Series @  
Waterfront Amphitheater  
(Next to Dolphins/X<sup>2</sup>O)

8pm  
Family Affair Open Mic  
@Bougie Brews  
52 Main Street

SAT JUNE 17

9:00am-11:00am  
Unity Worship Service  
@ Trevor Park

1:00pm - 3:00pm  
African Heritage Parade  
(From Cerrato Park to Trevor Park)

3:00pm-8:00pm  
Juneteenth Festival  
Summer Stage  
Vendors/Arts & Crafts  
@ Trevor Park

4:00pm-6:00pm  
Softball Game  
The Westchester/Rockland County  
Guardians Association  
vs  
The Vulcan Society  
of Westchester County  
@ Trevor Park

6:00pm  
Juneteenth Support Raffle Drawing  
@ Trevor Park

MON JUNE 19

12pm -4:00pm  
Juneteenth Education Conference  
Guest Speaker: Dr. Alexandria Connally  
@ Nepperhan Community Center  
342 Warburton Avenue

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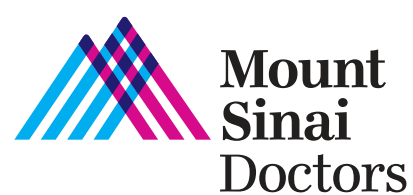
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