

ICE Make Arrests & Apprehensions in New Rochelle, Sleepy Hollow and Ossining



Dominican Illegal wanted for Homicide Arrested, Deported

By Dan Murphy

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, (ICE), has taken action in at least three westchester communities in its continued effort to arrest and deport, illegal residents with a criminal record.

On May 19, New York City arrested Marlon Josuel Cruz Fernandez, an illegal alien from the Dominican Republic wanted in his home country for homicide.

ICE officers and special agents assigned to ICE's Newburgh office, along with special agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigations, the Drug Enforcement Administration and Homeland Security Investigations arrested Cruz without incident in New Rochelle pursuant to a warrant of arrest.

"This foreign fugitive mistakenly thought he could exploit our immigration laws to evade arrest in his home country," said ICE Enforcement and Removal

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Happy 100th Birthday Kathleen Mareneck!



We continue our tradition of putting any Westchester resident who celebrates a 100th Birthday on the front page.

Email us at dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com, with your 100th Birthday.

Yorktown Supervisor Ed Lachterman, left, with centenarian Kathleen Mareneck, center, and senior center manager Noreen O'Driscoll

Yorktown officials celebrated the 100th birthday of resident Kathleen Mareneck last week with a party at the senior center. Mareneck, who logged the century mark on May 17, along with 12 nonagenarians also celebrating birthdays, received certificates from elected officials, lunch and birthday cake at the municipal nutrition program that serves hot meals five days a week to residents 60 and over.

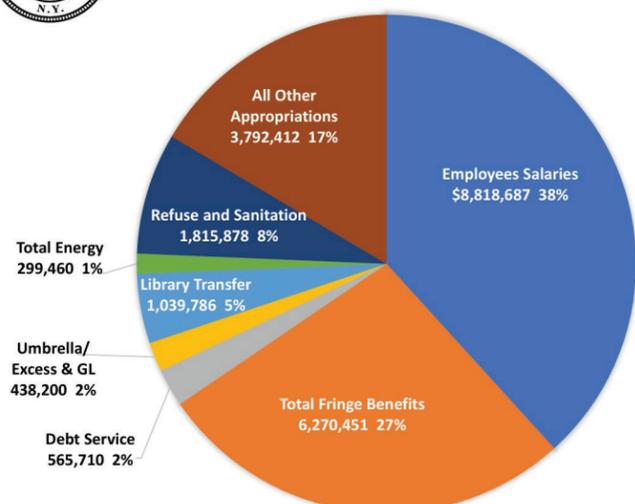
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Where Do Your Tax Dollars Go?

By Larry Thaul



2025-26 ADOPTED BUDGET APPROPRIATIONS ANALYSIS
TOTAL APPROPRIATIONS: \$23,040,584



On Tuesday, May 13th, the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Local Summit convened a panel of our municipal administrators at their final pre-summer event on the subject of how our local tax dollars are spent. Inside an hour the operating budgets were laid out per department and expense category by the municipalities. Kathleen Gill, Manager, Village of Mamaroneck (VOM), and Meredith Robson, Administrator, Town of Mamaroneck (TOM), each presented answers to questions posed by Local Summit board member and former Village of Larchmont mayor, Lorraine Walsh, who moderated the discussion. Unfortunately, a last-minute exigency

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Lawler Votes Yes on Big Beautiful Bill

Half of Westchester Supports Him, While the other half want Him Out



Latimer Votes No

By Dan Murphy

This week, we talk about SALT. Next week Medicaid –Latimer votes NO

On May 22 the House of Representatives voted 215-214 to pass HR 1, which approves a Federal Budget for 2025, keeps the Trump tax cuts from 2017 in place, and for Westchester homeowners, raises the cap on the amount of State and Local Taxes,

SALT, that you can deduct from your Federal Income Tax from \$10,000 to \$40,000.

Three Republican House members, Thomas Massie of Kentucky and Warren Davidson, voted no and House Freedom Caucus chairman Andy Harris of Maryland, did not vote yes.

Westchester Congressman Mike Lawler voted yes, as his vote was needed for final approval. After the vote, Rep. Lawler outlined key wins for the Hudson Valley in the new tax package, H.R. 1, that passed the House of Representatives early this morning.

"This tax package extends key 2017 tax cuts, puts more money back in the pockets of hardworking New Yorkers, and supports small businesses. While no legislation is without compromise, this bill makes meaningful strides toward a fairer tax system," said Congressman Lawler. "We must build lasting consensus along party lines and across the aisle to achieve progress."

The following list of key wins for the people of the Hudson Valley includes:

Quadrupling the SALT Deduction

Raises the cap from \$10,000 to \$40,000 for the next decade, with annual in-

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Nursing Home Deaths During COVID Still Haunting Andrew Cuomo



protestors outside of a NYC Mayoral Forum that included Andrew Cuomo

By Dan Murphy

Despite leading the democratic field in polls for NYC Mayor, former Governor Andrew Cuomo continues to be called out for his decisions he made in nursing homes during COVID by family members of some of the 15,000 seniors lost when New York, under Cuomo's leadership transferred COVID seniors into state nursing homes.

Three New Yorkers who lost loved ones in nursing homes during COVID, wrote the following letter to President Trump which outlines their complaints against Cuomo.

"Dear Mr. President,

As always, we, the NYC nursing home families, want to extend our deepest gratitude for having deployed the Navy hospital ship USNS Comfort and the federal alternate care facility at the Jacob K.

Javits Convention Center for COVID patients back in 2020. Unfortunately, our governor at the time,

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Senator Mayer Honors Judy Troilo As 2025 New York State Senate Woman of Distinction



L-R-Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Judy Troilo, Senator Shelley Mayer

Senator Shelley Mayer is pleased to announce Judy Troilo (she/her) as her nominee for the 2025 Woman of Distinction award. Troilo is recognized for her leadership in Westchester County and dedication and service to the LGBTQ+ community throughout Senate District 37 and Westchester County. Troilo was honored as a Woman of Distinction alongside 62 other women from across New York State during a ceremony in Albany.

Troilo served as the Chief Executive Officer of the LOFT, the largest LGBTQ+ based community center and service provider for Westchester County, for over eleven years. Under her leadership, the LOFT significantly expanded free programs and services, organized pride events that attracted thousands of attendees, and led the LOFT to be recognized at the local, state, and federal levels for its achievements in community building, public health, the arts, and activism.

The Senate Women of Distinction program was created in 1998 to honor women across New York State for their achievements and accomplishments. The honorees are women who have made enriching contributions to both their local communities and the state.

Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, "I am honored to name Judy as a NYS Senate Woman of Distinction. During the eleven years she led The LOFT – and in her activism prior – Judy has led fiercely for the good of the community and to improve the lives of so many. I am proud to have people like Judy in our community and am honored that she is my nominee for the 2025 New York State Senate's Woman of Distinction. Thank you Judy, for all you have done and continue to do for our community."

Judy Troilo said, "It's an incredible honor to receive the Woman of Distinction award for my work with the LGBTQ+ community, especially from Senator Shelley Mayer, whose leadership and dedication inspire me every day."

Troilo began her time at The LOFT as Chief Executive Officer in November 2014. During her tenure, she increased the organization's operating budget by over 400%, allowing the LOFT to increase staff and provide over 50 free programs, services, and events – serving thousands of LGBTQ+ community members in Westchester County each year.

Under her leadership, The LOFT hosted Westchester Pride, a celebration that welcomes over 7,000 visitors annually, as well as the Hudson Valley TransForum, the largest annual conference for Transgender, Gender Nonconforming, and Non-Binary Communities in the Lower Hudson Valley.

Recently, Troilo spearheaded – and still leads – the development of The LOFT's new facility, which will include 40 units of affordable housing, senior, LGBTQ+ affirming housing, directly above the new center complete with an LGBTQ+ affirming medical center.

Additionally, Troilo served on Westchester County District Attorney's Hate Crimes Task Force, the advisory committee for Equality New York, The Women's Advisory Board of Westchester County, and is a Board Member for Non-Profit Westchester.

Troilo is a graduate of the School of Visual Arts (BFA) in New York City. She is also an artist, filmmaker, musician, and activist.

WMCHHealth, Westchester County, and Stew Leonard III Water Safety Foundation Unite to Combat Childhood Drownings



At a waterfront press conference held May 20 at Glen Island Park, leaders from the Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHHealth), Westchester County, and the Stew Leonard III Water Safety Foundation joined forces to issue an urgent call to action: preventable drownings are on the rise — and communities must act now to stop them.

The event brought together David Lubarsky, MD, MBA, President and CEO of WMCHHealth; Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins; and Kim and Stew Leonard, Jr. from the Foundation and Stewie the Duck Swim School. Together, they spotlighted a sharp increase in pediatric drownings across the region, underscoring the importance of water safety education, early swim instruction, and vigilant supervision during the summer season.

In 2024, the Network's advanced care pediatric center and Level I pediatric trauma center, Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, treated 23 pediatric drowning cases, more than triple the historical average of 7–8 per year — a trend described by speakers as "deeply alarming."

"We're here today because something deeply alarming is happening in our communities," said Dr. Lubarsky. "Last year, we saw 23 pediatric drowning emergencies across our trauma and emergency departments. That's not a statistic — that's 23 families forever changed. And that's why we're here: to stop this trend before it takes another life."

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "As we look forward to a fun and festive Memorial Day Weekend, we know that many of you will be headed to one of our beautiful County beaches or gathering with family and friends around a pool at home. We want to remind everyone – parents, grandparents and caretakers – that the most important thing to remember this summer is the safety of your children. We all know too well that accidental drownings can happen within seconds, and sometimes those seconds can mean the difference between life and death. Westchester County is proud to stand with WMCHHealth and the Stew Leonard III Water Safety Foundation for this important initiative, to reduce the number of pediatric drowning incidents and prevent tragedies from occurring this summer."

At the event, Kim and Stew Leonard, Jr., announced a \$400,000 funding initiative in partnership with Step into Swim to offer free or low-cost swim lessons for underserved children at greater risk of drowning. These lessons will be provided through certified programs that meet American Red Cross safety standards. Swim lesson providers seeking funding should apply at StepIntoSwim.org.

"Until swimming lessons are part of every child's school curriculum, it's up to caregivers to make water safety a priority," said Kim and Stew Leonard Jr., co-founders of the Foundation. "It starts with supervision, education, and teaching children to swim."

Glen Island Park provided a fitting backdrop for the announcement — a place that embodies both the joys of summer and the need for heightened vigilance near water.

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Civil Rights Attorney Demands Continued Fed Oversight of MVPD Following DOJ Dismissal

Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers Celebrates 30 Years of Empowering Future Educators



Lauren Raysor

Civil Rights Attorney Lauren P. Raysor is speaking out against the U.S. Department of Justice's decision to halt investigations into alleged misconduct by the Mount Vernon Police Department and several others across the country. The announcement, made just one week before the fifth anniversary of George Floyd's death, has sparked concerns that racial injustice in policing will go unchecked.

On May 21, 2025, Assistant Attorney General Harmet K. Dhillon announced that the DOJ will close investigations into police departments in Mount Vernon, NY; Phoenix, AZ; Trenton, NJ; Memphis, TN; Oklahoma City, OK; and the Louisiana State Police. The DOJ also stated it would dismiss lawsuits against the Louisville, KY and Minneapolis, MN police departments with prejudice. Dhillon criticized the prior administration's findings, claiming they were based on "flawed methodologies and incomplete data," and argued that local, not federal, entities should oversee police accountability.

However, Attorney Raysor strongly disagrees, pointing to the DOJ's December 2024 findings under the Biden administration, which revealed:

- Excessive use of force by Mount Vernon officers, including the overuse of tasers and physical strikes, even when suspects were already restrained
- Unlawful strip and body cavity searches, continuing at least through 2023
- Arrests without probable cause
- Racially biased practices in vehicle stops and evidence collection

While the Mount Vernon Police Department has since introduced policy changes and implemented body-worn cameras, Raysor believes those efforts are not enough without sustained federal oversight.

"There should be no reason for the Justice Department to stop investigating police departments that have violated the rights of its citizens, especially those who are Black," said Raysor. "Five years after the deaths of George Floyd and Breonna Taylor, racial profiling and discrimination are still prevalent among our local police force. Now, people can be arrested by police for no reason, other than the color of their skin."

Raysor is calling on elected officials, civil rights organizations, and the public to demand the reinstatement of DOJ investigations into departments with documented civil rights violations.



Evelise Mercado & Natalie Joseph, 2nd & 3rd left, were TSTT teachers to be honored as TSTT Perkins Scholars for reaching their 10-year milestone as teachers. Other prominent TSTT educators (l-r) Dr. LaTanya Lawrence; Dr. Melissa White; TSTT founder/President/CEO Dr. Bettye Perkins and Dr. Merica Neville.

Distinguished guests including prominent educators, business and community leaders, school district and college partners, local, county, state and federal officials and supporters recently gathered for Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers (TSTT) 30th Anniversary Celebrating the Legacy Recognition and Awards Ceremony Brunch.

TSTT celebrated its 30-year legacy and the significant impact it has made on public education and the promise it holds in continuing to strengthen the ranks of public-school teachers, arguably the key to the nation's workforce and competitiveness on the world stage.

The acclaimed nonprofit has successfully recruited, mentored and trained culturally diverse and economically challenged high school students to pursue teaching professions and placed them as effective and committed teachers. In so doing, the teachers have strengthened schools and communities and are serving as role models for future teachers.

Among the notable guests who participated in the celebration, held at the Sleepy Hollow Hotel and Conference Center in Tarrytown, were New York State Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins; New York State Senator Shelley B. Mayer, Chair of the state Committee on Education; Westchester County Executive Kenneth W. Jenkins and Congressman James E. Clyburn of South Carolina, who has served as TSTT's Honorary Chair for the past 11 years. Award-winning News 12 journalist Lisa LaRocca served as Mistress of Ceremonies.

TSTT's innovative and viable mentoring model-- which has been lauded by the U.S. Department of Education, American Federation of Teachers and United Federation of Teachers, among others-- has helped close the critical teacher diversity gap in the nation's public schools. It is a mission that was begun by Dr. Bettye Perkins in 1995 when she founded TSTT for which she has served as President and CEO.

The nation's public education is facing an unprecedented crisis. From teacher shortages and a decline in student enrollment in colleges and universities, especially in schools of education, to reduced funding and a decrease in student academic achievement, the news has not been encouraging.

"TSTT's impressive legacy of achievement and highly adaptable mentoring model in school districts, large and small, is a beacon of hope for the future of public education during this very challenging and uncertain period," Dr. Perkins said, adding "At a time when the student achievement gap has widened for a variety of reasons including the pandemic, TSTT is very proud that our students have consistently outperformed their peers."

Dr. Perkins noted that the TSTT high school graduation rate is 95%; college admission rate is 96% and the college graduation rate is 70%. In addition, TSTT has a five-year teacher retention rate of 90%, compared to 50% nationally.

TSTT's legacy began with a cohort of 7 students, a pipeline that has recruited, mentored and trained nearly 1,700 middle, high school and college students and over 400 teachers and leaders who are helping to shape the lives of students in classrooms across the country.

Underscoring the enduring power of TSTT's mentoring model, the next generation of aspiring teachers—a group of mentored 60 college-ground high school

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2025 ALICE REPORT: As Costs Increase, the Number of People Struggling Hits Record



New research zeroes in on households living paycheck to paycheck, yet often with income that's too high for assistance

In 2023, the number of households that are struggling to make ends meet reached a record number, according to new data from United Way of Westchester and Putnam and its research partner United For ALICE. The State of ALICE in Westchester reveals that traditional measures of poverty have severely undercounted the number of households countywide that are living in financial hardship.

While 10% of all households in the county lived in poverty in 2023, the new research shows that 28% –nearly three times as many – were ALICE® (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). Combined, 38% of Westchester's households, totaling 144,612, fell below the ALICE Threshold of Financial Survival in 2023, up from 2% or 10,581 households in 2022. It is the largest number of households falling below the ALICE Threshold since the study began in 2010.

ALICE households bring in less than the basic costs of housing, childcare, food, transportation, health care and technology, plus taxes. Yet because their income is above the Federal Poverty Level, they often don't qualify for assistance.

"Entire families and essential workers can't make ends meet and are being overlooked for support. When we underestimate how many households are struggling, we underestimate what it truly takes to build thriving communities," said Tom Gabriel, President and CEO of the United Way of Westchester and Putnam. "This means too many are left without the resources they need to stay healthy, achieve financial stability and reach their fullest potential. That's a loss not just for ALICE families, but for all of us. We cannot continue to ignore this problem when Westchester residents are struggling in an economy that simply isn't working for them."

The crux of the struggle for ALICE families is the gap between wages and expenses. In 2023, a family of four with children in childcare in Westchester needed \$131,316 just to cover the essentials – more than four times the Federal Poverty Level of \$30,000. Yet even with both parents working full time in two of the state's most common jobs – a personal care aide and a stock worker/order filler – this family's combined income still fell short of the cost of basics by \$57,436.

Additionally, some groups face financial hardship at disproportionate rates, with 75% of the youngest and 47% of the oldest households in Westchester falling below the ALICE Threshold, compared with 38% of households headed by someone age 25-44. Similarly, Black and Hispanic households are 53% and 52% likely to be below the ALICE Threshold as compared to 30% of white households.

The statistics from Westchester County align with the state findings. The State of ALICE in New York State also reveals that in 2023:

New York State ranked 3rd in financial hardship among all 50 states plus the District of Columbia, with one of the nation's highest percentages of households struggling to make ends meet. Louisiana and Mississippi were the only two states with a greater rate of financial hardship at 50% and 49% respectively.

Housing continues to be an obstacle for struggling families. Among households below the ALICE Threshold in New York, 70 % of households that rented and 61% of those that owned were rent and housing burdened – meaning they paid 30% or more of their income on rent and housing costs.

"ALICE families are especially vulnerable during natural disasters and times of economic uncertainty and yet often feel unseen or left behind," said Stephanie Hoopes, Ph.D., National Director at United For ALICE. "By providing a name and a way to quantify these households, we're equipping communities with the data to build solutions that offer better choices and real pathways to stability."

A copy of the latest The State of ALICE in Westchester is available on the United Way of Westchester and Putnam website at www.uwvp.org/alice. UWWP is located at 336 Central Park Ave., White Plains, NY 10606. Phone: 914-997-6700 Website: www.uwvp.org. For more information, on United for ALICE visit: UnitedForALICE.org.

Advice for LGBTQ+ Teens: Stay True, Stay Strong



Clockwise: top left- Devine Bey, Annalise Wall, Selena Martinez, Harlow Sory

By: Dennis Richmond, Jr.

Being a teenager is hard. Being a teen in the LGBTQ+ Community can feel even harder. Whether you're out, questioning, DL, trade, or navigating the everyday challenges of identity, four LGBTQ+ folk want you to know—you're not alone. From New York to Canada, these voices are living proof that youth can grow into powerful, passionate, thriving individuals.

"The internet isn't everything."

Harlow Sory, 21, is a writer and artist living in Colorado Springs, Colorado. A trans woman with a BA from Sarah Lawrence College, Harlow encourages teens to look beyond online debates and discourse.

"There are so many beautiful connections to be made in real life," she says. "Don't worry if someone doesn't know all the 'right' words. That doesn't make them bad."

What matters to her is safety, access to healthcare, and a future where trans people can live freely. "Let's fight for liberation—not just for visibility," she urges. "You are more than a label. You deserve a life filled with purpose and power."

"Take your time. Find your tribe."

Devine Bey, aka The Goddess Eve (also known online as Oso Divine), is 23 and based in the Bronx. Her message is clear and tender: slow down.

"Surround yourself with people who want better for you and for themselves," she says. "Stay informed, stay aware, and never forget—you are loved. There is a place in this world that was made just for you."

Devine, a trans woman, wants the youth to know they are sacred, special, and worthy of community.

Balance care with action."

Annalise Wall, 22, is a bisexual writer currently living in Nova Scotia. Like Harlow, she studied at Sarah Lawrence and is now pursuing a degree in library and archival science.

Her advice? "Balancing your own care with community action is key. That means learning more about yourself and your biases, even when it's hard."

She reminds teens that activism doesn't have to mean burnout. "Don't fall into the trap of infighting," she says. "It's okay to be tired. But stay engaged. Stay angry. Your presence matters—right now, and always."

"Never stop being who you are."

Selena Martinez, a truck driver and future nurse from Staten Island, has a message that is unforgettable.

"Whether it's your parents or strangers—don't let anyone stop you from being yourself," she says. "You are important. Never give up."

To LGBTQ+ youth everywhere: your existence is a revolution. These four voices—bold, brave, and beautifully different—want you to know that your journey is only beginning. And even when it gets hard, you're never walking it alone.

Happy Pride Month.

Dennis Richmond, Jr. (@NewYorkStakz) is a journalist, historian, and educator from Yonkers, NY. He writes to uplift unheard voices, honor history, and inspire change.

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The \$8 Million Blow: How Terminations of Federal Arts Grants Will Harm Westchester



Like thousands of organizations across the U.S. that provide access to the arts and opportunities to advance creative free expression, ArtsWestchester recently received termination notices for several federal grants.

Over these last few weeks, the Trump Administration terminated some \$2,000,000 in federal grants to the Westchester County arts and cultural community. When we include the match requirements of these grants and outstanding project proposals to these agencies, the total impact of these cuts is in the magnitude of \$8 million.

These grant terminations are devastating and disruptive.

The defunded projects include initiatives to document, preserve, and increase access to America's cultural heritage and history, curriculum development and teacher training, and cultural workforce programs. Federal dollars support our cultural institutions, but they also go directly into the hands of independent artists and small businesses.

Westchester's non-profit arts sector contributes \$183 million to our local economy annually and supports 2,250 cultural jobs. A cut to the arts is a blow to our local economic landscape.

We are especially concerned that the current federal FY2026 spending proposal calls for the elimination of the NEA, IMLS, and the National Endowment for the Humanities. These agencies represent 13% of all public monies allocated to Westchester arts and cultural organizations.

As news of the funding cuts spreads, many might wonder how they can help keep the arts alive in their communities. At this critical moment, tell your elected officials the arts matter and to save the NEA; buy a ticket to an arts event and take part in the arts; or donate to your favorite arts group to help fill the gap left by federal grant cuts.

Public funding of the arts is essential because the arts are how we express our culture, our hopes and aspirations, and our identity as individuals and as communities. The arts fundamentally help us advance towards the goal of achieving a "more perfect union."

To silence artists is to silence us all.

Kathleen Reckling, CEO, ArtsWestchester

Visit

Town of Yorktown Bans New Tier 2 Battery Energy Storage Systems

The Town Board will prohibit the construction of new Tier 2 battery energy storage systems (BESS) within the town limits.

The Town Board based its May 20 decision on a variety of factors, including the nascent stage of BESS technology, particularly lithium-ion batteries, and the documented incidents of fires at several BESS facilities across New York since May 2023.

"Our priorities are our residents and the environment," said Supervisor Ed Lachterman. "Given the early stage of battery energy storage technology and the recent fires, we have significant concerns with fire suppression best practices, the availability of appropriate emergency response equipment for our local fire departments, and the potential for gas emissions and chemicals to pollute our groundwater."

The Town Board's decision came after extensive deliberation and a May 6 public hearing, where residents voiced reservations regarding the safety and environmental impacts of such systems. The Town Board concluded that siting Tier 2 systems in proximity to residential properties or environmentally sensitive areas could lead to substantial harm to residents, damage to properties, and adverse environmental impacts.

The Town Board will monitor technological, safety, and other developments concerning Tier 2 systems. The ban is not necessarily permanent but reflects a cautious approach until further advancements and assurances regarding the safe operation and emergency response for these facilities are established.

A massive 95-Acre, 116 Megawatt Battery Plant proposed on the Westchester-Putnam Border in Somers was withdrawn only after tremendous opposition from the public and community.

State Police Arrest Yorktown Man for DWI with 14-Year Old Child in Car

On May 23, 2025, at approximately 10:10 p.m., a Trooper from the Cortlandt barracks initiated a traffic stop on a 2003 Jeep traveling westbound on East Main Street in the Town of Cortlandt for multiple violations of the Vehicle and Traffic Law.

The operator, identified as Alberto Pimentel Garcia, 41, of Yorktown Heights, NY, exhibited signs of intoxication. Garcia was administered standardized field sobriety tests, which he failed. Further investigation revealed that a 14-year-old child was also present in the vehicle.

Garcia was arrested and transported to SP Cortlandt for processing, where he provided a breath sample with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of 0.13%. The child was safely released to a sober third party.

Garcia was charged with the following offenses:

Aggravated Driving While Intoxicated with a Child Passenger Under 16 (Leandra's Law)(E felony)

Driving While Intoxicated (unclassified misdemeanor)

Multiple Vehicle and Traffic Law violations

Garcia was arraigned in the Town of Cortlandt Court and released on his own recognizance. He is scheduled to reappear in court on June 2, 2025, at 9:00 a.m.

Suspect Arrested in Public Lewdness Investigation on I-684

On May 20, 2025, at approximately 8:50 a.m., New York State Police Troopers and Investigators assigned to the Somers Barracks responded to a "Be on the Lookout" (BOLO) alert regarding a vehicle of interest on Interstate 684. The vehicle was connected to an ongoing Somers Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) public lewdness investigation.

In a coordinated effort, Troopers and Investigators from SP Somers, the Rye Police Department, and the FBI Safe Streets Task Force located the suspect vehicle traveling southbound on Interstate 684 near mile marker 0.5 in the Town of Harrison. A traffic stop was initiated without incident.

The driver and sole occupant of the vehicle was identified as Jose M. Reyes-Marquez, 55, of Newburgh, NY. Reyes-Marquez had previously been observed engaging in lewd conduct visible to passing motorists on multiple occasions while traveling on Interstate 684.

He was charged with two counts of Public Lewdness, a Class B misdemeanor. Reyes-Marquez was issued an appearance ticket and is scheduled to appear in Town of Bedford Court on June 11, 2025, at 3:30 p.m.

This investigation is ongoing. The New York State Police thank the Rye Police Department and the FBI Safe Streets Task Force for their assistance.

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Public Notice Notice of Public Hearing
Town of Eastchester Architectural Review Board

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Architectural Review Board of the Town of Eastchester will hold a public hearing on Thursday, June 5th, 2025 at 7 PM at the Town of Eastchester, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, NY in the Court room auditorium on the site plan application for 11 Maple Ave, Section 44, block 10, lot 7 for a review of the architectural features of the proposed alteration of the 2 family to a 3 family. The public is invited to attend the hearing and voice their opinion on the application, a copy of the notice has been mailed to the owners within 200 foot radius of the property.

Name of formation of THEOAK LLC. Date of filing Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State (SSNY) 6/14/24. The LLC is located in Westchester County. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against it served is to the principal business location at c/o 669 Main Street, Unit 605, New Rochelle NY 10801. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of FUSE WORKS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/11/2025. Office location: Westchester County, NY. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 54 Brosnan Pl, Tuckahoe, NY 10707. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of BLUEPRINTS AND BEYOND LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on February 4th, 2025. 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 the process to the LLC: 70 Ashburton Avenue, Apt. 7H, Yonkers, New York, 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Schmoose Pack Projects LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/20/2024. 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 Bruce Wong 10 Station Square Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of OnPoint Home Designs LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 8/28/2024. 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, 14 Crosby Court, Cortlandt Manor NY 10567. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF Whispering Hearth, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/12/2025. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC is: 3 Orlando Ave, Ardsley, NY 10502. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of LIQUID ASSET SERVICES LLC. Application for Authority Filed with the SSNY on 12/05/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to THE LLC, 46 LINCOLN AVENUE, PORT CHESTER, NY 10573. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Super Smart Future LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/20/2023. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Super Smart Future LLC, 58 Valley Rd, Katonah, NY 10536. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of IT TAKES ALL KINDS PICTURES, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/21/2025. 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, Republic Registered Agent Services Inc. 54 State Street Suite 804 Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful

Notice of Formation of SteenShots LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/12/2025. Office Location: 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, 343 South 3rd Avenue, Mt. Venron NY 10550. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of 1M Consulting LLC filed with the SSNY on 11/05/2024 with the existence date as 01/01/2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whole processes 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 Bridgeway Physical Therapy, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/05/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC, 50 Clinton Place PH5, New Rochelle, NY 10801. Purpose: Provide Physical Therapy Care

Notice of formation of Natalie Stopka Studio, LLC. Art. of Org. filed with SSNY 05/15/2025. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served and SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC at 160 Shonnard Terrace, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF SALE

SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, AS OWNER TRUSTEE OF THE RESIDENTIAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITIES TRUST VIII-A, Plaintiff, vs. PUBLIC ADMINISTRATOR OF WESTCHESTER COUNTY, AS ADMINISTRATOR OF THE ESTATE OF BETTIE A. LAMBDON, ET AL., Defendant(s).

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered on April 18, 2025, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Westchester County Courthouse, Lobby, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, NY 10601 on June 23, 2025 at 9:30 a.m., premises known as 500 High Point Drive a/k/a 500 Highpoint Drive, Unit 5506, Hartsdale, NY 10530. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the Town of Greenburgh, County of Westchester and State of New York, Section 8.80, Block 50-1 and Lot 0.5506 together with an undivided 0.403 percent interest in the Common Elements. Approximate amount of judgment is \$205,373.34 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #59828/2022.

Julie C. Curley, Esq., Referee

Friedman Vartolo LLP, 85 Broad Street, Suite 501, New York, New York 10004, Attorneys for Plaintiff. Firm File No.: 230321-1.

Notice of formation of Offlo LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/23/2025. Office location: 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, 1112 Wilmot Rd, STE 91H, Scarsdale NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Social Security Delivers the Most Popular Baby Names in New York for 2024

See the list at www.ssa.gov/oact/babynames/

The Social Security Administration today announced the most popular baby names in New York for 2024. Liam and Mia topped the list.

The top five boys' and girls' names for 2024 in New York were:

Boys:	Girls:
1) Liam	1) Mia
2) Noah	2) Emma
3) Lucas	3) Sophia
4) Ethan	4) Olivia
5) Joseph	5) Isabella

The agency announced last week that Olivia and Liam were the most popular baby names in the U.S. How does New York compare to the rest of the country? Check out Social Security's website, www.ssa.gov/oact/babynames/, to see the top national baby names for 2024 and see where your name ranks now and over the past 100 years.

Social Security began compiling the baby names list in 1997, with names dating back to 1880. Each year, the list reveals the effect of pop-culture on naming trends. In addition to each state's top baby names (and names for U.S. territories), Social Security's website has a list of the 1,000 most popular boys' and girls' names for 2024 and the fastest rising girls' and boys' names.

Most parents apply for their child's Social Security number (SSN) at birth, during their hospital stay. Social Security Commissioner Frank Bisignano encourages families to take this vital step in ensuring valuable protection for any benefits their children may be eligible for in the future.

An SSN is needed to claim a child as a dependent for income tax purposes or to open a bank account in the child's name and buy savings bonds. More information on getting a child's Social Security number and card is provided in Social Security Numbers for Children.

Social Security encourages everyone to enjoy the baby names list and, while online, see what else you can do at www.ssa.gov.

Notice of formation of Great Livinggs, LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed with the NY department of state on 03/25/2025 Office Location: Bronx. UNITED STATES CORPORATION AGENTS, INC. 7014 13TH AVENUE, SUITE 202 BROOKLYN, NY, 11228, USA, designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to 228 PARK AVE S #948027 NEW YORK, NY 10003. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Arteya LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/19/2025. Office Location: Westchester. ZENBUSINESSINC, 41 State Street, Suite 112, Albany, NY 12207, designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to ZENBUSINESSINC. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

Albanian Heritage Day Returns to Kensico Plaza June 1

Albanian Heritage Day will take place on Sunday, June 1, from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla.

This festival will feature Albanian cuisine, beverages, dancing and a variety of sports. The event will also include live performances by Ermina Bushi, Indrit Mlita, the folkdance group Rozafati and children from the Mother Tereza Center. DJ Geni will play lively traditional music from all regions of Albania.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "Immersing yourself in Westchester's rich cultural diversity cultivates broader perspectives and a deeper appreciation for the varied lifestyles and viewpoints of its residents. Cultural festivals serve as powerful conduits for empathy and compassion, illuminating the universal human experiences that transcend cultural boundaries."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Kathy O'Connor said: "Experiencing other backgrounds expands our perspectives of the varied ways our County's populations live and think. Kensico Dam Plaza is a beautiful venue for all the wonderful perspectives this event offers."

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

The festival will be held rain or shine. Seating is informal; bring blankets or folding chairs for sitting on the lawn. Coolers aren't allowed. Admission and parking are free.*

The other 2025 heritage festivals are:

African-American, Sunday, June 22, noon to 6 p.m., Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

Hispanic, Sunday, July 13, noon to 6 p.m., Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

Irish-American, Sunday, July 13, noon to 6 p.m., Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale

*Admission: \$5 adults; free ages 14 and under

Italian, Sunday, July 20, noon to 6 p.m., Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

Arab, Sunday, July 20, noon to 6 p.m., Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale

India, Sunday, Aug. 3, noon to 6 p.m., Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

Jewish, Sunday, Aug. 17, noon to 6 p.m., Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

Muslim, Sunday, Aug. 24, noon to 6 p.m., Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

Kensico Dam Plaza is at the north end of the Bronx River Parkway, in Valhalla. Ridge Road Park is at 287 Ridge Road, Hartsdale.

Albanian Heritage Day is sponsored by Westchester County Parks and Our Lady of Shkodra Church in Hartsdale.

For more information, call (914) 231-4500.

Child Water Safety, continued from pg 2-

Key prevention strategies shared during the press conference included:

Enrolling children in certified swim programs

Using barriers like pool fences and covers

Designating undistracted adult "Water Watchers"

Educating children early using tools like the Stewie the Duck Learns to Swim book and app

The Maria Fareri Children's Hospital and emergency teams across WM-CHHealth are committed to both treatment and prevention, reinforcing their leadership in pediatric safety and public health education.

To learn more or to register for swim lessons, parents can contact:

info@stewietheduck.org

For more information about Stewie the Duck's educational programs and resources, visit: www.stewietheduck.org. Follow @StewieTheDuck on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

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Hope to hear from you! Thanks!

Letter to the Editor:

In the wake of the Joe Biden debacle, corrective legislative actions and transparency are required by Congress now to prevent future occurrences.

I write to respond to one of the lead articles in the May 23, 2025 issue of Westchester Rising ("We're Looking Forward Ain't Good Enough") with respect to recent revelations that former President Joe Biden's staff covered up instances about lapses in the former President's mental acuity during last year's Presidential campaign.

Like most Americans, I pray for President Biden's speedy recovery and continued years of service to the nation as a former President.

In my opinion, there is a "rush to judgement" about the former President's ability to simultaneously run an effective campaign and handle the burdens of the Presidency in 2022-2024. Clearly, we will have to wait for the former President to present his side of the story so that historians will have a more balanced and complete picture of what occurred during his Administration.

Until that history is written, Congress needs to focus on taking corrective actions to assure the American people that the possibility of what happened does not occur again. I suggest the following:

- Mental competency tests should be mandated for many executive level-elected positions such as President, Governor, etc. Last year, former South Carolina Governor/Ambassador Nikki Haley (whose candidacy I actively supported) made such a proposal for candidates aged 75 and older;

- The 25th Amendment (TFA) to the U.S. Constitution, which became law in the wake of President John F. Kennedy's assassination, addressed issues of Presidential incapacity due to injury, illness or other reasons. But the Amendment does not address, in the opinion of many scholars, the issue of mental incapacity – given that mental incapacity involves a spectrum of cognitive and psychological conditions. Congress needs to step up and seriously consider a modification to TFA to handle such situations;

- Congress needs to consider a legal requirement that the President's physician be required to annually certify that POTUS is physically and cognitively fit to serve. Such a proposal has the support of Dr. Jonathan Reiner, a noted internist and cardiologist at George Washington University and who served as White House Medical Unit consultant for the last 4 administrations.

This is a priority matter that needs to be addressed, the sooner the better so that there is less of a chance of a repetition not only in the 2028 election cycle, but thereafter. Congress also needs to take its job seriously in this area as well.

Stephen R. Rolandi, Larchmont

TSTT, continued from pg 3-

students and college students—were recognized.

Deeandre Greaves, who graduated from Kingston High School in 2022 and attended Columbia-Greene Community College for two years, received the Annual TSTT Lois Bronz Scholarship Fund Award. He was the sixth consecutive deserving male student to receive the scholarship that will enable him to continue the journey to become a teacher. Currently, he is a Mathematics Education major at Mercy University and plans to earn a certification in Special Education.

The award was established in 2018 to commemorate Bronz's distinguished career as an educator, math teacher at every level from K-12 to college and in civic activism and politics including becoming the first African-American Woman elected to the Westchester County Board of Legislators.

TSTT also announced the establishment of the new Helen Williams Scholarship to help an outstanding student succeed at college. The late Helen Williams, a former educator for 40 years at Ossining High School, and mother of actress Vanessa Williams, was a long-time supporter of TSTT who helped prepare TSTT college graduates to become teachers.

Veronica Green, who is graduating from Kingston High School, was named the first recipient of the Helen Williams Award. She joined TSTT as a 9th grader and will attend Dutchess Community College where she will pursue Music and Early Childhood Education studies.

In addition, the latest group of TSTT teachers who have reached their 10—year milestone was honored by receiving 2025 Golden Apples from Dr. Perkins. They included Natalie Joseph, a graduate of Ramapo High School and Manhattanville University, is a first-grade teacher at The School at Columbia University and Evelise Mercado, a graduate of Peekskill High School and Pace University, who is a second-grade teacher at Virginia Road Elementary School in Valhalla, NY. Teacher mentors who reached 10 years were also honored and they included Collean Keaveney from Fallsburg Jr/Sr School and Brenda Rivera from Monticello.

Dr. Catherine Flores, a special education teacher at Scarsdale High School, was honored as the recipient of 2025 TSTT Trailblazer Award, conferred on alumni who are Perkins Scholars and hold leadership positions in education and/or have earned doctorate degrees. Among past recipients are Emerly Martinez, Principal, White Plains High School; Dr. Melissa White, Principal, Mt. Vernon; Jeffrey Cole, Director of Special Services, Mahopac; Dr. LeTanya Lawrence, District Supervisor of Specialized Instruction, Bridgeport, CT; Dr. Tomeka Wilcher, Assistant Professor, Hampton University; Dr. Merica Neuville, Principal, Carmel; Dr. Letitia Payne, Assistant Principal, Putnam Valley and Dr. Mariela Henry, Founder and CEO at EASE Services, New Hempstead.

TSTT also saluted its collaborative partnership with 46 school districts, 23 colleges and universities as well as business partners and other supporters who have provided students with much needed financial assistance by way of scholarships.

Another highlight of the program was the presentation of the 2025 Community Impact Awards to the Greater Hudson Valley and the Westchester County Chapters of The Links Incorporated. Dr. Shuana Tucker-Sims, Chief Talent Officer for the Connecticut State Department of Education and National Vice-President of The Links, Incorporated presented the awards.

"The 30-year legacy is a defining moment for TSTT. Thanks to the inspired vision, commitment and generosity of TSTT's extended community, we have emerged as a leader in empowering deserving high school students to pursue the noble profession of teaching who will continue to make a difference in the lives of thousands of children and in the future workforce," said Dr. Perkins, who founded TSTT in 1994 and launched the organization in 1995 as an early teacher preparation program. For more information visit: www.tstt.org.

WCT Presents Lisa Gutkin on Stage
with Brian Glassman June 7

Visit Untermyer Gardens This Summer



With summer fast approaching, one of the best ways to enjoy the outdoors is by visiting Untermyer Gardens in Northwest Yonkers, which has been restored by the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy, www.untermyergardens.org.

Despite record attendance year after year, in 2024?? Many of our readers have not experienced this special greenspace.

Below is a list of events in June. Pay a visit, you will not be disappointed.

Sunday, June 1, 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. NEW! VIP President's Tour. \$50 plus Eventbrite fees. For details and to register go to <https://VIPPresidentsTour2025.eventbrite.com>

Thursday, June 5, 7:15-8:15 p.m. Sunset Tour. \$20 plus Eventbrite fees. For details and to register go to <https://sunsettour060525.eventbrite.com>

Saturday, June 7, 5:00-6:30 p.m. Rain Date Sunday, June 8. 2025 Minnie Untermyer Concert Series: Moslem Alipour and Roxana Sarrafi. \$35 plus Eventbrite fees. For details and to register go to <https://2025alipourandsarrafi.eventbrite.com>

Sunday, June 8, 8:30-10:00 a.m. Spring Bird Walk. \$20 plus Eventbrite fees. For details and to register go to <https://birdwalk060825.eventbrite.com>

Sunday, June 8, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Untermyer Gardens History Tour Part 1: Walled Garden to the Vista. \$15. For details and to register go to <https://HistoryPart1-2025.eventbrite.com>

continued on pg 12-

On Saturday evening, June 7, multiple award-winning violinist/vocalist Lisa Gutkin and double bassist Brian Glassman will play at Westchester Collaborative Theater (WCT)'s Music in the Box series at 7:30 pm. They will perform Klezmer inflected music and delve into other genres.

Lisa Gutkin has crafted a courageously varied artistic career by bringing an instantly relatable style to audiences through her theater, music, and storytelling. Recognized for her work as violinist and vocalist for the ground breaking Jewish Roots band, The Klezmatics, and as fiddler for the "Downtown" Celtic band Whirligig, she is also known for her scoring, performance, and music direction in the two time Tony award-winning play, Indecent. Gutkin had an on-screen cameo and compositions featured in Sex and the City; has performed in Sting's Broadway musical The Last Ship, and her song "Gonna Get Through This World" - with words by Woody Guthrie - was hailed by Pete Seeger as "a piece of genius."

Glassman is a master of many musical genres: classical, rock, Latin, R&B, cabaret and is renowned for his work in jazz and klezmer. He has performed with many legendary stars of jazz including John and Bucky Pizzarelli and Lionel Hampton and such artists as Liza Minnelli, Anne Hampton Callaway, and Stephen Schwartz. He has performed nationwide and throughout the world as an honored Musical Ambassador for The U.S. Dept. of State. He was named one of the world's 100 most important Klezmer Musicians by The Museum at Eldridge Street.

Lisa Gutkin and Brian Glassman will play on Saturday, June 7th 7:30pm at WCT's black box performance space, 23 Water St., Ossining, NY. Cash bar and refreshments available. Tickets are \$30 per person. Purchase seats online at: <https://LisaGutkinWCT2025.eventbrite.com>. (limited seating available.)

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Cross County Center Heats Up the Summer with SUMMER FEST 2025



Westchester, get ready to turn up the volume — Summer Fest 2025 is taking over Cross County Center and it's BIGGER, BOLDER, and more FUN than ever before! All summer long, Yonkers' favorite outdoor destination transforms into a sizzling hub of music, movement, creativity, and community — and best of all? Most events are totally FREE!

From new salsa nights and live concerts to ninja-style obstacle courses, paint & sip parties, and dance fitness under the stars, Summer Fest 2025 is where unforgettable memories are made.

"We're beyond excited to bring even more energy and inclusive fun to Summer Fest 2025," said Kayli Tarcy, Marketing Manager for Cross County Center. "Whether you're a music lover, an art enthusiast, a fitness fanatic, or just looking for a great night out with the family — this is your summer to shine!"

All events are free (unless noted) and open to the public. With its outdoor setting, free up-close parking and family-friendly amenities, Cross County Center is a one-stop for summer fun including shopping, dining, and entertainment.

continued on pg 12-

Music Flows Through the Rivertowns: 10 Years of FREE RiverArts Music!



RiverArts® celebrates a decade of musical exploration in the Rivertowns on Saturday, June 14 (rain date: Sunday, June 15). The RiverArts Music Tour is the largest, family-friendly, free event for music lovers in lower Westchester County. 2025 RiverArts Music Tour:

Date: Saturday, June 14, 2025 (Rain date: Sunday, June 15th)

Time: 11:00am – 9:00pm

Locations: Venues across Hastings-on-Hudson, Dobbs Ferry, Irvington and Tarrytown

For more details and to view the updated map & schedule, visit RiverArtsMusicTour.com

The 10th annual RiverArts Music Tour will feature over 300 musicians across 27 venues in 4 villages, with live music on the hour from 11am to 9pm in a celebration of music throughout the Rivertowns.

The RiverArts Music Tour has become a cherished cornerstone of our community's cultural landscape, weaving together the vibrant musical threads that define our unique region. For ten years, we have transformed ordinary spaces into vibrant stages, yards, storefronts, and of course the waterfront!

New for 2025: Interactive Map

This year, RiverArts debuts an interactive digital map, offering a real-time, mobile-friendly way to explore the Music Tour. With just a tap, visitors can locate performances, get directions, and plan their experience on the go. Say goodbye to static schedules—this dynamic tool brings the music to your fingertips.

Attendees are encouraged to visit RiverArtsMusicTour.com and follow us on social media for updates, artist profiles, and real-time schedule changes.

Highlights & Venues

This year's Tour showcases over 85 performances transforming the Rivertowns into a daylong musical celebration. Musicians will perform in parks, churches, storefronts, backyards, village centers, and along the scenic Hudson River.

Featured performers:

Gary Smulyan: Jazz musician, six-time Grammy Award winner

Singers from The Metropolitan Opera Chorus

The Dang-it Bobbys: country, jazz, and Americana pop blend

The Altogether: rich vocals and tight three-part harmonies

Notables venues:

Hastings: 20 Marble Terrace, just off the OCA trail by the new Quarry Park

Dobbs: Mercy University Pavilion,

Irvington: Centrally located, Main Street School

Tarrytown: Jazz Forum, a premier Jazz club

The tour culminates with an evening concert from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at the Dobbs Ferry Waterfront, featuring live music, food trucks, beverage vendors, and the Phoenicia Flea Market during the day.

Visit RiverArtsMusicTour.com to learn more.

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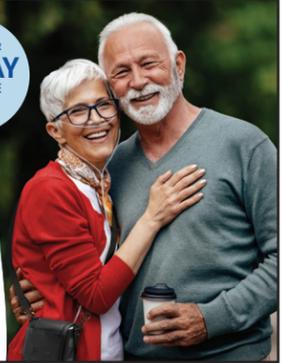


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Nursing Homes Death During COVID in NY, continued from pg 1-

Andrew Cuomo, severely restricted New Yorkers from accessing their services.

With Mr. Cuomo running in New York City's mayoral primary coming up on June 24, 2025, New Yorkers deserve the truth about the tragic deaths of 15,000 loved ones in nursing homes. It is imperative for NYC voters to learn once and for all whether, as Mr. Cuomo dubiously claims, he was following the CDC and CMS guidelines set forth by your administration.

Over the past five years Mr. Cuomo has publicly stated that his deadly March 25, 2020 nursing home directive, compelling nursing homes to accept 9000 COVID-positive patients while prohibiting them from requiring a COVID-19 test, followed federal guidelines.

In reality, most governors took bold actions to shield their vulnerable elderly citizens from contracting COVID in nursing homes. Mr. Cuomo, by contrast, freely admits to having been pressured by the state hospital lobby – by far his largest campaign contributor – to force COVID-positive elderly patients out of hospital beds and back into nursing homes, turning such facilities into vectors for the spread of the dread disease with devastating consequences.

Here are four notable quotes from Mr. Cuomo where he blames the Trump administration's guidance:

At a May 20, 2020 press conference, Governor Cuomo said (1:04:37): "Anyone who wants to ask, why did the state do that with COVID patients in nursing homes? It's because the state

followed President Trump's CDC guidance. So they should ask President Trump. I think

that will stop the conversation," said Cuomo. He further stated (1:05:19): "Your first point,

why did the state do that? Because the state followed President Trump's CDC guidance.

Okay. That's that answer."

At a January 29, 2021 press conference, when confronted about the nursing home death report,

Cuomo callously stated (47:45): "Who cares [where they died]?" "They died!" He further

stated (46:14): "When I say the state Department of Health, as the report said, the state

Department of Health followed federal guidance. So if you think there was a mistake, then

go talk to the federal government."

On February 17, 2021 Governor Cuomo announced, "I would sue the federal government for malpractice on their CDC and CMS guidance the same way I sued the federal government on SALT [deductions] and sued the federal government on their immigration policy and sued the federal government for their global Trusted Traveler Program. I would sue the CDC and CMS for malpractice and we followed their advice, which was malpractice. That's what I would do if I believed the March 25 memo was wrong."

On June 11, 2024, Governor Cuomo testified to the Congressional Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic: "Investigators found that New York's Department of Health March 25 guidance was consistent with the prior guidelines issued by the federal CMS and CDC on March 4, 9, 13th and 23rd

For the past year, our COVID-orphan families have led a bi-partisan effort to get New York elected officials to write to the CDC/CMS in pursuit of a formal determination as to whether the New York Department of Health's March 25, 2020 directive was consistent with the guidelines set by your administration or not.

We sent a letter to then President Biden requesting his help with CDC/CMS but to no avail. Now our families are looking to your administration to set the record straight.

The following bi-partisan elected officials have recently written letters to the CDC and CMS seeking answers:

- NY Congressional Republican Caucus 2025 Michael Lawler, Nicole Malliotakis, Nick LaLota,

Claudia Tenney, Nicholas Langworthy, and Andrew Garbarino

- NY State Senator Jessica Ramos: CDC 2025, NYS DOH

- NYC Comptroller Brad Lander: CDC 2025, CDC 2024, NYS DOH, NYC DOH

- NY State Senator Andrew Gounardes

- NYC Republican Council Common Sense Caucus

- NY State Republican Senate Minority Leader Robert Ort

- NY State Assemblyman Ron Kim: CDC, NYS DOH, NYC DOH

- NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams

The Congressional Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Pandemic released their final reports:

Republican final report and Democratic final report.

The Republican report states on pages 230-234: "FINDING: The March 25 Directive Was

Inconsistent with Applicable Federal Guidance Regarding Hospital to Nursing Home Transfers and COVID-19 Related Infection Control."

The Democratic report, on page 35, when comparing the NYS DOH March 25, 2020 directive to the federal guidelines, concluded: "Governor Cuomo was immediately criticized for the Advisory, which also arguably contradicted federal CMS guidance by requiring nursing homes to accept patients with a COVID-19 diagnosis."

See this document that we created to show that the DOH March 25th directive was at odds with CDC/CMS guidelines. Words highlighted in yellow are not found in the CDC or CMS guidelines; you will see that the directive is almost entirely highlighted in yellow.

It is a national tragedy that New York lost 15,000 of our most vulnerable loved ones in nursing homes within the space of mere months. Worse still, many died alone and in agony. We are respectfully requesting your help to obtain for these victims, their families and loved ones, and the elected officials seeking responses to their inquiries, a written determination from the CDC/CMS: "Was former Governor Cuomo's March 25, 2020 directive following CDC/CMS guidelines?"

Thank you in advance for your leadership on this vital issue for public health.

Respectfully, Peter Arbeen Janice Dean Vivian Zayas/Alexa Rivera"

end of letter.

Yonkers Resident Announced Winner of Brain Injury Association of NY Founder's Award



L-R-Luz Mota, Erika Rodriguez, Amanda Truffi, Jenn DiBenedetto

Yonkers resident, Jenn DiBenedetto, who is a certified brain injury specialist, and founder and executive director of A1 Service Coordination (A1SC), has been named the Founder's Award winner by the Brain Injury Association of New York State (BIANYS). Jenn will be presented the award at the organization's annual conference on June 11-13, 2025. The Founder's Award recognizes her outstanding efforts to help establish new services or opportunities for people with brain injuries and their families.

A1 Service Coordination is dedicated to delivering top-quality Service Coordination for individuals and families living in New York City and the Lower Hudson Valley participating in the Nursing Home Transition and Diversion and Traumatic Brain Injury Waiver Programs, both of which help individuals with traumatic brain injuries, disabilities, and the elderly community receive life changing medical services.

Jenn founded A1SC after working at different service coordination agencies for the TBI Waiver and realizing things needed to be done differently. Her passion for this work was also driven by her personal experience after facing the challenge of securing care for her grandmother, who was diagnosed with dementia. Experiencing financial strain, family conflict, caregiver burnout, and a lack of knowledge about available resources, Jenn became determined to support others through these struggles.

"It's incredibly humbling and truly meaningful to win the Founder's Award, not just for me, but my entire team," said Jenn DiBenedetto. "While my name may be on the award, it belongs just as much to the incredible team behind me - the people who show up every day with compassion, commitment, and a deep belief in person-centered care. I'm so proud of what we've built together."

Jenn's background spans a variety of roles, including Service Coordinator, Service Coordinator Supervisor, Director, and Regional Resource Development Specialist. These roles have equipped her with the knowledge and skills to advocate for participants and guide them through each step of the process.

Jenn and BIANYS have worked together in one way or another throughout her years in the field. She's attended their conferences, collaborated with their staff, and worked alongside board members on various initiatives. BIANYS has always been a constant presence in her work, a trusted resource, a strong advocate, and a true partner in supporting individuals with brain injuries. When Jenn started A1SC, she knew she wanted to stay closely connected to BIANYS and make sure her team had the same opportunity — to learn, grow, and be part of a larger movement of advocacy and person-centered care.

"By founding A1 Service Coordination, Jenn has addressed a massive need within the brain injury community — a truly person-centered service location that prioritizes dignity, respect, and support for the people they serve," said Eileen Reardon, BIANYS executive director. "Jenn fully embodies the spirit of the Founder's Award, and we look forward to presenting it at our annual conference."

In addition to her professional work, Jenn is a loving wife and mother. She brings the same dedication to the families she serves, striving to keep loved ones at home and out of nursing facilities. With her wealth of experience and knowledge, Jenn remains committed to ensuring that A1 Service Coordination delivers exceptional support to individuals and families across New York City and the Lower Hudson Valley.

Jenn DiBenedetto will be presented with the award at BIANYS' Annual Conference. On June 11-13, 2025, professional, caregivers, service providers, and brain injury survivors will all come together for two days of interactive workshops and educational sessions that cover industry trends and information to support and serve New York's brain injury community.

In Trouble with the IRS or the NYS Tax Department?

In trouble with the IRS or the New York State Tax Department? I can help. My name is Gerald Snyder, and I am an enrolled agent and a former IRS Group Manager. I have successfully represented clients before the IRA and the NYS Tax Department for over 25 years. I resolve liens, levies, seizures, income tax and sales audits, and penalties and trust fund recovery issues. I also handle unfiled tax returns.

I operate from convenient offices at 73 Market Street in Ridge Hill, Yonkers, NY. My fees are reasonable and I offer a free initial consultation. I offer in person meetings. Why deal with an unknown person online when you can meet with me in person?

For more information, call me at 914-793-5654 or email me at thasnyder1@verizon.net.

Letter to the Editor:
The Best of America

100th Birthday, continued from pg 1-



L-R-Usha Vance, Vice-President JD Vance, Pop Leo XIV, Secretary of State Marco Rubio, Jeanette Dousebebes Rubio

Mr. Murphy-I read this on Facebook and thought you might appreciate it and perhaps print. Something positive, thanks Helen McCabe, Bronxville.

Regardless of your politics, I'd encourage you to consider this picture: the beautiful, brilliant, daughter of Indian immigrants. A man who grew up without a father and a drug addicted mother, who joined the military and then attended and graduated from the #1 law school in America on the GI bill.

The first American pope, a Godly man, faithful to Catholic doctrine, who spent ten years in Peru, sleeping on dirt floors and serving the poor.

The son of Cuban immigrants who fled Castro's Cuba. His mother was a maid. His father was a bartender. And his wife, the beautiful daughter of Colombian immigrants.

We have recently seen some of the worst of America. Here's a picture of the best.- John Samuel Craig

"Birthdays are one of those double-edged swords. We hate to say, oh my God, we got another year older. Yet, oh great, I got another year older!" said Supervisor Ed Lachterman, who distributed certificates to the birthday celebrants. "It's just amazing to chat with someone over 100. Think of the history you've lived through."

Mareneck is not the only Yorktown resident who recently celebrated 100 years. Evelyn O'Neill of Jefferson Village recently became a centenarian and was invited to the party, but she could not attend.

Summit, continued from pg 1-

arose, and the Village of Larchmont administrator could not attend.

Both empaneled officials reported that school budgets comprise the single largest item of spending from our total property taxes paid. Figures are: TOM 59%, VOM 55%.

Ms. Robson presented a TOM 2025 budget of \$55.75M. The TOM has 128 full time employees, (triple that figure for part-time and seasonal employees.) In diminishing order, the cost centers in the TOM were employee benefits (\$13.9M), public safety (\$10M), public works (\$6.6M), parks/recreation (\$5.6M), home/community services (\$4M), debt service (\$4M), and health (\$2.4M).

Ms. Gill showed a VOM tentative 2026 budget total of \$49.43M and 162 full time budgeted positions. Major budget items were employee benefits (32%), public safety (24%), general government support (15%), debt service (11%), culture/recreation (7%), and home/community services (6%).

When asked about capital budget expenditures, both municipal administrators expressed their concerns over substantial increases to budgeted costs from the time of their approval – even for some projects approved only a couple of years ago. This when coupled with the vagaries of federal funding and its trickle down effect upon our receipt of state funding, has been some cause for concern over project completion. Gill said they must ask themselves whether they would be able to finance a project solely with tax revenue funds should a grant be denied or someday be rescinded by executive order. Robson stressed the need for multi-year planning for capital projects. She emphasized the coordinated effort between the town controller, engineer and the town board. The town has its own 5-year capital plan separate from but complementary to the town's Comprehensive Plan. Public surveys are used to prioritize such projects such as the Hommocks pool and storm water management. Some projects may be subdivided into phases to be completed in segments as funds are available. Both Robson and Gill concurred that municipal ratings can be affected by completion of projects and adherence to budgets.

Manager Gill provided the example of flood mitigation whereby even if FEMA ultimately comes through with its pledged grants, it may be a couple of years until the money is made available. Congressman Latimer who was present at the meeting added that the uncertainty created by the federal government in potentially canceling approved projects can make governance more difficult and unpredictable.

Both administrators stressed the need for substantial reserve funds. The VOM keeps roughly 30% of its operating budget in reserve, while TOM keeps within a target range of 15-25% of its operating budget for reserves. This helps keep its AAA rating. Both municipalities must manage cash flow according to tax receipts and the lag in grant receipts. They both have restrictions on their own cash investments but achieve a little over 4% returns.

Gill posited that new sources of income via revenue and fees for VOM are being sought. For example, keep your eye out for public discussion about having a restaurant and/or seasonal food in Harbor Island.

There was evident synergy between Robson and Gill when asked if there are efforts to combine services where it is totally within their interests. Brine for icy streets purchased from New Rochelle and sewer cameras are examples of shared expenses achieving savings in scale.

The fair impact of taxes on certain subsections of our municipalities was raised by an attendee and both managers indicated the pains taken to ensure that the effects are not one-sided or demonstrably mis-weighted on any particular resident group or locale.

The Larchmont/Mamaroneck Local Summit is an informal community council that seeks to make a better life for the community by keeping it informed of major issues of concern. Join us for the next meeting which will be held in person at The Nautilus Restaurant, 1240 West Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck, NY 10543, on Tuesday, September 9th at 8:00 a.m. where we will hear from our local state legislators.

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Village of Ossining Police & State Police Arrest Ossining Man on Narcotics & Gun Charges



Gun Seized by State Police during narcotics investigation in Ossining

A comprehensive investigation led by the Village of Ossining Police Department, in collaboration with the New York State Police Troop K and Troop F Violent Gang and Narcotics Enforcement Teams (VGNET), has resulted in the arrest of Dion Bentley, 29, of Ossining, NY. The investigation, which spanned several months, focused on activities related to narcotics distribution within the region.

On May 22, 2025, law enforcement agencies executed a search warrant at 24 James Street in the Village of Ossining. During the operation, officers recovered a Jennings Firearms 9mm pistol and a quantity of suspected crack cocaine from inside the residence.

Bentley was subsequently charged with: Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the 3rd Degree with Intent to Sell (Class B Felony); Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 3rd Degree (Class D Felony); Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd Degree (Class C Felony)

Following his arraignment in the Village of Ossining Court, Bentley was remanded to the Westchester County Jail in lieu of \$15,000 cash bail or \$75,000 bond.

This investigation is ongoing. We would like to extend our sincere gratitude to the Village of Ossining Police Department, Peekskill Police Department, and FBI Westchester County Safe Streets Task Force for their invaluable assistance in this operation.

Summer Fest, continued from pg 9-

Free Concerts on The Green

Bring a lawn chair and enjoy a variety of live performances featuring everything from pop hits to classic rock and soulful R&B. This year we have concerts featuring Showtime Dance Band, Men of Soul, Willie Villegas Y Entre Amigos, Ras Droppa, and FDR Drive Band, on select Wednesdays from 6:30 PM – 8:00 PM, June through August. It's the perfect midweek wind-down!

Free Zumba Classes

Sweat, smile, and stay active with outdoor Zumba workouts suitable for all ages and skill levels. Held weekly by Yonkers own Zumba instructor extraordinaire Guillermo Ruiz, this FREE Zumba class that feels like a party! Classes take place on Thursday nights from 6:15 PM – 7:00 PM starting June 12 through August 7th. *No class July 4th week

New This Year: Salsa Dancing Nights

Feel the rhythm with high-energy Salsa nights! Learn new moves from live instructors from Ballet Folklorico de las Americas and dance the night away with live Latin music performances on select Mondays from 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM.

Paint & Sip Nights

Tap into your inner artist during guided painting sessions with wine and good vibes. Join instructors from We Art One of Yonkers as they show you step-by-step instructions on how to paint colorful landscapes, dreamy designs, and fun seasonal scenes. No experience is necessary. The price is \$35 per person and includes all supplies. Pre-Registration is required by signing up through INSERT LINK, ADULTS 21+ ONLY. Select Tuesdays from 6:15 PM – 8:00 PM. Supplies included—just bring your creativity!

New This Year: ArtsWestchester Mobile Art Workshops

The ArtsWestchesterArtsMobile provides hands-on creative workshops and will roll into Cross County Center, bringing the arts directly to the community. Great for kids and adults alike! Select Sundays from 11:00 AM – 2:00 PM.

New This Year: No Limit Ninja Obstacle Course

Challenge yourself on a real-life ninja warrior course! Designed for kids and adults, this exciting new activation brings high-energy fitness and fun to the lawn. Select Sundays from 11:00 AM – 7:00 PM.

New This Year: Outdoor Boot Camp

Get moving with Blink Fitness personal trainers at our energizing outdoor group training workout – no equipment needed! This bodyweight-only boot camp combines heart-pumping cardio, core work, and functional movements for a total-body sweat session that's perfect for all fitness levels. Train alongside a supportive group, led by expert Blink trainers who will motivate and guide you every step of the way. Select Mondays from 6:15-7:00 PM. Just bring a mat and water and get ready to crush your goals—together!

Bring the family, bring your friends, or just bring your dancing shoes — Cross County Center is where summer happens. For a full schedule and weather updates on events, please visit www.crosscountycenter.com/events.

Westchester Rising

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Lawler votes yes, continued from pg 1-

creases.

Provides immediate relief to middle-class families in Rockland and Westchester, two of the highest property tax counties in America.

93% of Middle-Class families in the Hudson Valley making below \$300,000 will be able to fully deduct their State and Local Taxes

Protecting and Strengthening Medicaid

Implements work requirements and eligibility verification to eliminate fraud and preserve Medicaid for those who truly need it: seniors, single parents, and individuals with disabilities.

Blocks taxpayer-funded Medicaid benefits for illegal immigrants.

No Taxes on Tips or Overtime

Eliminates federal taxes on tip income and overtime pay—directly helping restaurant workers, first responders, and other hourly employees.

Making Healthcare More Affordable

Delays harmful DSH cuts, preserving safety net hospitals in the Hudson Valley.

Increases physician reimbursements and reduces prescription drug costs by cracking down on pharmacy benefit manager abuses.

Eases access to out-of-state pediatric care for sick children on Medicaid and CHIP.

Preventing Middle-Class Tax Hikes

Preserves key provisions from the Trump Tax Cuts set to expire in 2025, including:

\$2,000 Child Tax Credit for nearly 88,000 NY-17 families

199A Small Business Deduction for over 78,000 local businesses

Protection from the Alternative Minimum Tax and increased death tax exemptions for 228 family-owned farms

Prevents an average tax increase of nearly \$4,000 for families earning the district's median income.

Supporting Education and Workforce Development

Expands Pell Grants to include workforce training and prevents a funding shortfall.

Helps rural and farm families by exempting small business value from student aid calculations.

Allows medical and dental residents to defer loan payments during training.

Westchester's other Congressman, Rep. George Latimer, called the budget bill America's Worst Budget Ever. "It includes cuts to SNAP and Medicaid funding that will hurt those who can least afford it and provide tax breaks for those who don't need them. Also among these tax changes are rollbacks to critical clean energy taxes and credits that were part of the Inflation Reduction Act. These include phasing out clean energy production and investment tax credits and ending long standing home energy efficiency tax credits. If these aren't bad enough, they have also added provisions to require the accelerated sale of public lands for oil and gas drilling and to rescind funding from the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund that protects Americans from pollution and lowers the cost of energy bills. Climate change is real and its happening now. We must act. These were common sense initiatives to move us away from complete reliance on fossil fuels and move toward a clean energy future. Try to spin it anyway you want, Americans will suffer. Our world will continue to burn," said Latimer on the House floor.

The divide in Westchester between Trump supporters and Trump haters is evident in the divide between Congressman Lawler and Congressman Latimer. Half of the country, and half of our county, support Trump and Lawler, while Half of the country, and half of our county, support Latimer.

Interest groups attacked Lawler for his vote. "Under Pressure from Trump, Congressman Lawler FOLDS!

Rep. Mike Lawler Abandoned His Constituents, Voting For Steep Cuts to Medicare, Medicaid, & SNAP in Order to Pay for Tax Breaks for Billionaires. Despite repeated promises that he would not abandon his constituents, Congressman Mike Lawler voted in favor of the GOP's disastrous reconciliation bill. The controversial legislation, which is set to cut nearly \$700 billion from Medicaid, over \$250 billion from SNAP, and potentially \$500 billion from Medicare, all in order to pay for vast tax breaks for the ultra-rich, now moves to the Senate.

If passed into law, more than 2 million New Yorkers could lose their health coverage or SNAP benefits, including tens of thousands of seniors, veterans, and children in Rep. Lawler's own district. The New York Congressman recently characterized this as "not a major cut."

"What Congressman Mike Lawler did today is reprehensible," said Diane Volz, a retired public school teacher from Peekskill who recently celebrated her 102nd birthday. "Like nearly one-fifth of Americans, I rely on Medicaid for my healthcare—I simply couldn't survive without it. Now, because of Rep. Lawler's short-sighted cowardice, millions of us are at risk of losing that coverage, all so that a handful of billionaires can get new, larger tax breaks. These cuts don't make Medicaid better. They will lead to countless New Yorkers losing access to lifesaving treatment, and people will die because of it."

A billboard calling out Lawler after the budget vote began to travel around New York. "a mobile billboard truck will drive around Madison Square Garden ahead of Game 2 of the NBA Eastern Conference Finals, highlighting Congressman Mike Lawler's recent votes to cut Medicaid after months of promising not to do so.

A mobile billboard truck will highlight Congressman Mike Lawler's recent votes to cut Medicaid after months of promising not to do so. | CREDIT: Empire State Voices.

"Representative Mike Lawler has long claimed to be a moderate voice in Congress, but this week, we watched him fall short and abandon his constituents when it truly mattered," said Maria Martinez, Executive Director of Empire State Voices. "With his deciding vote on the House reconciliation bill, Rep. Lawler chose to strip life-saving healthcare away from tens of thousands of his own constituents, all so that a handful of billionaires can get a larger tax break. So now, as New Yorkers are out cheering on the Knicks, we're making sure that they know which team he's really playing for."

Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

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Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, MAY 31

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Kids' Community Farm-to-Table, 8:30 a.m. - 10 a.m. Ages 7 through 13 will make their own breakfast, fresh from the farm! \$20 class fee. Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/kids-community-farm-to-table-tickets-1317613450299?aff=erelexpmlt>

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Community Farm Workday, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Get your hands dirty and help out with various tasks around the farm. We will be retiring plants and renovating some of our native seed increase plots! Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/community-farm-work-day-tickets-1353274272779?aff=oddtcreator>

Merestead Estate, Mount Kisco: (914) 864-7958 Warbler Ways, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Join environmental educator Scott Williamson on this rite of spring: the return of the warblers! Meet at the carriage house parking area on the south side of 455 Byram Lake Road in Mount Kisco. The program will run in light rain, but worse weather will cancel.

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. Lasdon Green Squad, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Every Saturday through November and for those age 14 and older. Volunteers will work with Lasdon staff on tasks such as invasive species removal, planting, watering, weeding, trail maintenance, mulching, trash clean up, and other tasks. Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/lasdon-green-squad-2-2/2025-05-31/>

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005. Microscope Discovery, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Learn about the beautiful patterns and complexities of nature that are not visible to the naked eye.

Glen Island Park, New Rochelle: (914) 813-6720. Beach Open, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. The beach will be open weekends and holidays through Sunday, June 22. Open daily from Friday, June 27, through Monday, Sept. 1; weather permitting. No admittance after 6 p.m. Parking and beach admission fees apply. Westchester County residency is required for admission, with a County Park Pass, a valid New York State driver's license or a valid New York State ID with a Westchester address. Get details: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/swim>

Playland Beach, Rye: (914) 813-7010. Beach Open, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The beach will be open weekends and holidays through Sunday, June 22. Open daily from Friday, June 27, through Monday, Sept. 1; weather permitting. No admittance after 6 p.m. Parking and beach admission fees apply. Westchester County residency is not required for admission. Get details: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/playland-park-info/playland-beach-and-pool-fees>

Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson: (914) 862-5290. Beach Open, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. The beach will be open weekends, Memorial Day and 4th of July through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 1; weather permitting. No admittance after 6 p.m. Parking and beach admission fees apply. Westchester residency is not required for admission. Get details: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/swim>

Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla: (914) 231-4033. Asian Heritage Festival, 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. The celebration will showcase Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Thai and Indonesian cultures with live songs, dances, musical performances, ethnic foods, Asian arts and cultural exhibits, and Chinese paper cutting and origami. Admission and parking are free. Get details: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/press-releases/3485-the-28th-annual-asian-american-heritage-festival-to-be-held-on-saturday-may-31>

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Katonah: (914) 864-7282. BLOOM!, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Visit for the last day of The Westchester Watercolor Group's exhibit in Muscote's main house. Get details: <https://www.muscotefarm.org/programs-events/event-calendar.html/event/2025/05/03/1746291600/bloom-westchester-watercolor-group-exhibit/522251>

Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River: (914) 864-7322. Intro to Wildflower ID, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Have you seen the Reservation's beautiful flowers and wondered about their names? Wonder no more! Learn how to identify wildflower species and about each's unique uses.

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466. Animals Around the World!, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. A presentation by Anthony Cogswell will let you travel to the most fantastic places in the world to meet amazing animals and learn how they survive in their habitats.

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851. Lenoir History Tour, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Lenoir has a unique historical background, with centuries of fascinating owners and various uses for the land. Join us on a walk around the preserve to learn all about it!

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720. Volunteer Work Project: Painting of Certain Outdoor Surfaces, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Help beautify some of our structures for the summer. Please bring work gloves. Hand tools will be provided. Great for service credit hours. Get details: <https://friendsofreadwildlifesanctuary.org/event/volunteer-painting-of-certain-outdoor-surfaces/>

Westchester County Center, White Plains: (914) 995-4050. Westchester County Clash, 6 p.m. See a night of action-packed amateur boxing as firefighters and police officers from across Westchester face off in the ring—all to benefit the Tunnel to Towers Foundation. Get tickets: <https://countycenter.biz/event/westchester-county-clash/>

ICE in Westchester, continued from pg 1-

Operations New York City acting Field Office Director Judith Almodovar. "Let his futile attempt highlight to other criminal aliens we will always collaborate with our domestic and international law enforcement partners to ensure these fugitives are returned to their home countries to face justice."

The U.S. Border Patrol encountered and arrested Cruz Dec. 11, 2015, in the Rio Grande Valley in Texas after he illegally entered the U.S. Border Patrol officials served him with a notice to appear for violation of the Immigration and Nationality Act and turned him over to ICE for detention placement. ICE Harlingen granted Cruz bond Feb. 1, 2016, which he posted three days later. Cruz failed to appear for his immigration proceedings Jan. 5, 2017, so the immigration judge ordered him removed in absentia from the U.S. to the Dominican Republic.

On Feb. 2, 2018, authorities in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, issued a warrant for Cruz's arrest for the offense of homicide, which went international six weeks later. ICE New York City received notification March 16 this year.

The New Rochelle Police Department arrested Cruz for having improper plates and impounded his vehicle May 17. The New Rochelle Police Department released Cruz on his own recognizance prior to realizing that he was an international fugitive wanted for homicide. Upon receiving this information, the police department immediately notified ICE New York City, which — along with federal partners — arrested Cruz. Cruz is currently detained in ICE custody pending removal to the Dominican Republic.—end of release from ICE.

On May 22 in Sleepy Hollow, ICE took three persons into custody, with Mayor Martin Rutyna confirming that ICE agents made the arrest at 530AM. Sleepy Hollow Police were notified but did not participate in the arrest. A warrant for the arrest of one individual with a criminal record was presented by ICE, but two others were also taken into custody.

"As Mayor of the Village of Sleepy Hollow, I am focused on public safety and enhancing the quality of life for our residents. I want to encourage and promote an environment in which all residents feel safe in the village," said Rutyna.

ICE did not issue a release about activity in Sleepy Hollow, nor in Ossining, where several individuals have posted about ICE sightings on several occasions over the past few months.

Pleasantville and Peekskill are other Westchester locations where ICE agents have been seen.

County Legislator James Nolan, who last month called for more cooperation between ICE and local law enforcement, said after the arrest in New Rochelle. "A few weeks ago, I expressed the urgent need for my colleagues at Westchester County to join me in revising the Immigration Protection Act. We must focus our efforts on cooperating with ICE to ensure that only violent criminals—those convicted of serious offenses—are removed from our community. With the recent report of a staggering \$24 million budget gap and the clear warning that operating as a sanctuary county may jeopardize the millions in federal funding we receive, we cannot afford to ignore this reality.

"ICE is actively apprehending violent criminals who endanger our residents and disrupt our safety without our cooperation. The issue is if we continue to not work with them a lot is on the line of us losing. It's time for us to take decisive action before we put critical funding, which our taxpaying Westchester County residents rely on, at risk. We cannot protect those who commit acts of violence, whether here or abroad, while disregarding our responsibility to safeguard our citizens. I urge my colleagues once again: let's not turn a blind eye to this pressing issue. We must protect our communities, support those who wish to immigrate legally and responsibly and collaborate with the federal government to eliminate violent offenders from our streets. We must act now to secure the necessary funding that our county desperately needs," said Nolan.

Letter: Don't let Trump sell off our public lands to Big Oil!

Dear Editor

Donald Trump is offering a massive public lands giveaway to the fossil fuel industry.

He's ordered the U.S. to "drill baby drill" on public lands, and he's fast-tracked new oil and gas projects, bypassing environmental and public review. His allies in Congress are even pushing to open Alaska's Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil drilling.

If they get their way, the fossil fuel industry will wreck our national landmarks for profit and pump millions more tons of planet-warming pollution into the atmosphere in the process.

So if we don't want to see drilling rigs the next time we head outdoors, we need to send a clear message: Don't sell off our public lands to Big Oil!

Sincerely,

Gregory Spock, New Rochelle*Westchester Parks events, continued from pg 13-*

SUNDAY, JUNE 1

The Bronx River Parkway. Bicycle Sunday, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. A 13.1-mile loop of the parkway is closed to cars for the exclusive use of non-motorized bicyclists, scooters and in-line skaters, e-bikes class 1 only, plus walkers and joggers. The course runs from the Westchester County Center in White Plains, south to Scarsdale Road in Yonkers. Many points of entry and exit are along the way. Also: June 8, 15, 22, 29 (8 a.m. - 12 p.m.); July 13, 20, 27 (8 a.m. to noon); Sept. 7, 14, 21, 28 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.); Oct. 5 (10 a.m. to 2 p.m.). Get details: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/bicycle-sundays>

Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. "Reading the Landscape" with Tom Wessels, 9:30 a.m.-10:30 a.m. This rare opportunity offers participants an in-depth interpretive forest walk as Wessels shares his expertise in interpreting the natural history of the land through ecological patterns and clues. Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/reading-the-landscape-with-tom-wessels/>

Alfred B. DelBello Muscoot Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7282. Farmers Market, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. The market supports farmers and sustainable efforts in our area, featuring over 30 local vendors every Sunday until Nov. 16. Get details <https://www.muscotfarm.org/markets/>

Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson: (914) 862-5290. Low-Tide Hike, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Ages 6 and up can explore the shoreline with the park naturalist to learn about estuarine ecology, glacial geology and the deep history of this beautiful Hudson River promontory. Meet at the entrance to the RV Park. Free; some difficult terrain.

Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. Celebrate National Dinosaur Day!, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. To celebrate National Dinosaur Day, ages 6 and up will make Lasdon's unique "Paleo-pouch" and excavate a dinosaur in which to put it. They can also touch real dinosaur fossils—including dino poo—during a special tour of the Dinosaur Trail. \$10. Register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/celebrate-national-dinosaur-day/2025-06-01/>

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7263. Gardening Sundays and Tuesdays, Weekly, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Enhance your gardening skills and plant knowledge by working side by side with the gardeners at Lasdon Park. Tasks include planting, watering, weeding, pruning, staking, deadheading, potting up, and more! Also: Tuesday, June 3. Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/gardening-sundays-2/2025-06-01/>

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005. Amphibians and Reptiles, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. During this hike for beginners, learn about our fascinating native snakes, frogs and more! Hiking shoes are recommended.

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7263. Garden Highlights Tour, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Join one of the gardeners for a free walking tour of the native plants, annuals, perennials, and flowering and fruiting shrubs and trees. Rain or shine. Also: June 29. Register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/garden-highlights-tour/2025-06-01/>

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Ethnobotanical Walk, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Discover the diversity of plant life on Hilltop's trails, along with historical uses, foraging practices and crafting potential during this guided walk. \$5. Get details and register <https://hilltophanoverfarm.org/events/event-calendar.html/event/2025/06/01/ethnobotanical-walk/524573>

Westchester County Center, White Plains: (914) 995-4050. Westchester Reggae Festival, 7 p.m. This lively event will feature Yellowman, Queen Ifrica, Leroy Sibbles and Etana. Get details and tickets <https://countycenter.biz/event/westchester-reggae-festival/>

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Supplemental Summons and Notice of Object of Action Supreme Court Of The State Of New York County Of Westchester ACTION TO FORECLOSE A MORTGAGE Index #: 74122/2024 U.S. Bank Trust National Association Not In Its Individual Capacity But Solely As Owner Trustee For RCAF Acquisition Trust Plaintiff, vs Maria Irizarry 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 General Or Specific Lien Upon The Real Property Described In This Action; Such Unknown Persons Being Herein Generally Described And Intended To Be Included In 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, Juan A. Irizarry 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 General Or Specific Lien Upon The Real Property Described In This Action; Such Unknown Persons Being Herein Generally Described And Intended To Be Included In 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, People Of The State Of New York, United States Of America On Behalf Of The IRS John Doe (Those unknown tenants, occupants, persons or corporations or their heirs, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, guardians, assignees, creditors or successors claiming an interest in the mortgaged premises.) Defendant(s). Mortgaged Premises: 1 George Street White Plains, NY 10604 To the Above named Defendant: 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 Supplemental Summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff(s) attorney(s) within twenty days after the service of this Supplemental Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this Supplemental Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York). In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. The Attorney for Plaintiff has an office for business in the County of Erie. Trial to be held in the County of Westchester. The basis of the venue designated above is the location of the Mortgaged Premises. TO Maria Irizarry, and Juan A. Irizarry, Defendants In this Action. The foregoing Supplemental Summons is served upon you by publication, pursuant to an order of HON. Robert S. Ondrovic of the Supreme Court Of The State Of New York, dated the Fifteenth day of May, 2025 and filed with the Complaint in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Westchester, in the City of White Plains. The object of this action is to foreclosure a mortgage upon the premises described below, dated June 3, 2005, executed by Maria Irizarry and Juan A. Irizarry to secure the sum of \$360,000.00. The Mortgage was recorded at Instrument Number 451920412 in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk on July 13, 2005. The mortgage was subsequently assigned by an assignment executed October 25, 2022 and recorded on November 15, 2022, in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk at Instrument Number 623183612. The mortgage was subsequently modified on October 17, 2023. The mortgage was subsequently assigned by an assignment executed March 29, 2024 and recorded on April 11, 2024, in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk at Instrument Number 641023100. The property in question is described as follows: 1 George Street, White Plains, NY 10604 HELP FOR HOMEOWNERS IN FORECLOSURE NEW YORK STATE LAW REQUIRES THAT WE SEND YOU THIS NOTICE ABOUT THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS. PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY. SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME. IF YOU FAIL TO RESPOND TO THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT IN THIS FORECLOSURE ACTION, YOU MAY LOSE YOUR HOME. PLEASE READ THE SUMMONS AND COMPLAINT CAREFULLY. YOU SHOULD IMMEDIATELY CONTACT AN ATTORNEY OR YOUR LOCAL LEGAL AID OFFICE TO OBTAIN ADVICE ON HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF. SOURCES OF INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE The state encourages you to become informed about your options in foreclosure. In addition to seeking assistance from an attorney or legal aid office, there are government agencies and non-profit organizations that you may contact for information about possible options, including trying to work with your lender during this process. To locate an entity near you, you may call the toll-free helpline maintained by the New York State Department of Financial Services at 1-800-342-3736 or the Foreclosure Relief Hotline 1-800-269-0990 or visit the department's website at WWW.DFS.NY.GOV. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO LEAVE YOUR HOME AT THIS TIME. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO STAY IN YOUR HOME DURING THE FORECLOSURE PROCESS. YOU ARE NOT REQUIRED TO LEAVE YOUR HOME UNLESS AND UNTIL YOUR PROPERTY IS SOLD AT AUCTION PURSUANT TO A JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER YOU CHOOSE TO REMAIN IN YOUR HOME, YOU ARE REQUIRED TO TAKE CARE OF YOUR PROPERTY AND PAY PROPERTY TAXES IN ACCORDANCE WITH STATE AND LOCAL LAW. FORECLOSURE RESCUE SCAMS Be careful of people who approach you with offers to "save" your home. There are individuals who watch for notices of foreclosure actions in order to unfairly profit from a homeowner's distress. You should be extremely careful about any such promises and any suggestions that you pay them a fee or sign over your deed. State law requires anyone offering such services for profit to enter into a contract which fully describes the services they will perform and fees they will charge, and which prohibits them from taking any money from you until they have completed all such promised services. § 1303 NOTICE NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this Foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. DATED: May 19, 2025 Gross Polowy LLC Attorney(s) For Plaintiff(s) 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 The law firm of Gross Polowy LLC and the attorneys whom it employs are debt collectors who are attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained by them will be used for that purpose. 85864

NY Attorney General James Fines Walmart for Shipping Illegal Realistic Toy Guns to NY



OAG Investigation Found That Walmart Shipped Nine Realistic Toy Guns (pictured above) to New York, Walmart to Pay \$14,000 in Penalties

On May 27, New York Attorney General Letitia James announced that her office secured a settlement with Walmart for shipping realistic-looking toy guns to New York. An investigation by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG) found that third-party sellers on Walmart's online store sold realistic-looking toy guns to New Yorkers and Walmart shipped nine of them to addresses in New York, including New York City, Westchester, and Western New York. New York law prohibits retailers from selling or shipping toy guns that are black, dark blue, silver, or aluminum-colored and look like a real gun. Realistic-looking toy guns can be used to engage in unlawful activity and have led to several deaths and shootings across the state. Businesses that illegally sell or distribute realistic-looking toy guns in New York can be fined up to \$1,000 per violation. As a result of this settlement, Walmart must pay \$16,000 in penalties and fees and ensure that all its third-party sellers are unable to sell imitation toy guns to New York.

"Realistic-looking toy guns can put communities in serious danger and that is why they are banned in New York," said Attorney General James. "Walmart failed to prevent its third-party sellers from selling realistic-looking toy guns to New York addresses, violating our laws and putting people at risk. The ban on realistic-looking toy guns is meant to keep New Yorkers safe and my office will not hesitate to hold any business that violates that law accountable."

An OAG investigation found that third-party sellers on Walmart's online store sold realistic-looking toy guns and Walmart shipped them to New York through its fulfillment services. Investigators from OAG were able to purchase a toy gun from Walmart and have it shipped to New York.

New York's General Business law does not allow retailers to sell or distribute realistic-looking imitation guns, which can be black, dark blue, silver, or aluminum-colored. Toy guns sold in New York must be made in bright colors or made entirely of transparent or translucent materials. Businesses that illegally sell or distribute realistic-looking toy guns in New York can be fined up to \$1,000 per violation.

As a result of this settlement, Walmart must pay \$14,000 in penalties and \$2,000 in fees to the state for illegally shipping realistic-looking toy guns to New York addresses.

Attorney General James encourages consumers who see realistic-looking guns sold in stores or online with shipping to New York to contact her office by filing an online complaint.

Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy, continued from pg 9-

Wednesday, June 11, 7:00-8:00 p.m. Sunset Yoga with Sylvia. \$20 plus Eventbrite fees. For details and to register go to <https://SunsetYoga061125.eventbrite.com>

Sunday, June 15, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Seasonal Highlights Garden Tour. \$15. For details and to register go to <https://seasonalhighlights2025.eventbrite.com>

Saturday, June 21, 10:00-11:30 a.m. NEW! Foraging Walk with Heather Flournoy. \$20 plus Eventbrite fees. For details and to register go to <https://ForagingWalk062125.eventbrite.com>

Saturday, June 21, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Easy Walking Tour. \$15. For details and to register go to <https://EasyWalking062125.eventbrite.com>

Saturday, June 21, 5:00-6:30 p.m. Rain Date Sunday, June 22. 2025 Minnie Untermeyer Concert Series: Christopher Williams Dance. \$35 plus Eventbrite fees. For details and to register go to <https://2025christopherwilliamsdance.eventbrite.com>

Sunday, June 22, 8:30-10:00 a.m. Spring Bird Walk. \$20 plus Eventbrite fees. For details and to register go to <https://birdwalk060825.eventbrite.com>

Sunday, June 22, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Untermeyer Gardens History Tour Part 2: Vegetable Garden to the Temple of Love. \$15. For details and to register go to <https://HistoryPart2-2025.eventbrite.com>

Tuesday, June 24, 9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Drawing and Painting in the Garden with Shelley Haven. \$50 plus Eventbrite fees. For details and to register go to <https://DrawingandPainting062425.eventbrite.com>

Sunday, June 29, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m. Untermeyer Gardens History Tour Part 1: Walled Garden to the Vista. \$15. For details and to register go to <https://HistoryPart1-2025.eventbrite.com>

**Send us your letters, announcements, opinions,
photos and story ideas to
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Playland Opens for Memorial Day Weekend

“Gonzo Girl” With Willem Dafoe, At Irvington Theater June 13



Playland Park kicked off the 2025 season over Memorial Day Weekend—Saturday, May 24 through Monday, May 26. Visitors enjoyed everything this Westchester County Parks landmark has to offer with free admission, rides and parking all three days from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: “Opening this park in time for Memorial Day Weekend wasn’t easy. It took hustle. It took late nights, early mornings, and a team of County employees who refused to give anything less than 100 percent. From Public Works to Parks, from leadership to laborers — including contractors, vendors, the Westchester Children’s Museum, the New York State Department of Labor and even the Governor’s Office — this was truly an all-hands-on-deck operation. And even though we’re not fully open yet, what you see here today is a \$150 million investment in you, in our history, in our children and grandchildren. Playland, as it stands today, is a testament to what’s possible when people care deeply about this place and the families who come here. And let me tell you — we are just getting started.”

The park will continue to undergo repairs and upgrades, with some rides coming on line over the summer.

On June 13, The Irvington Theater will screen “Gonzo Girl,” the day after its Tribeca premiere, and before it is distributed to theaters. Following the screening, Academy Award-winning actress Patricia Arquette will discuss her directorial debut with writer Cheryl della Pietra, whose novel (inspired by her experience as the assistant to Hunter S. Thompson, the creator of gonzo journalism and one of America’s most celebrated and storied literary giants), served as the basis for the film, and producer and Irvington resident Tom Heller.

Set in 1992 in Aspen, Colorado, “Gonzo Girl” follows Alley Russo (Camila Morrone), an aspiring writer who takes on an assistant job to the iconoclast and founder of gonzo journalism, Walker Reade (Willem Dafoe). Alley is thrown headfirst into his psychedelic, drug-fueled world that blurs the boundaries between co-dependence and addiction. Witnessing her literary hero’s fading glory, she falls deeper into his chaotic world and tries to help him finish his long-awaited novel—by any means necessary.

“Gonzo Girl” was produced by Irvington local Tom Heller, who has produced and executive-produced a string of critically acclaimed and financially successful independent films over the last ten years, including Academy Award-winning “Precious,” directed by Lee Daniels, and Danny Boyle’s “127 Hours,” which was nominated for six Oscars, and Bennett Miller’s Oscar-nominated “Foxcatcher.”

“We are grateful to Tom Heller for allowing us to screen this gorgeous film on the day after its Tribeca premiere. And we are thrilled to welcome Patricia and Cheryl to our theater. This will be one of Irvington Theater’s most exciting events, and the official kickoff to our (first!) summer season,” says Shana Liebman, co-chair of the Irvington Theater Commission.

This event takes place on Friday, June 13, at 7:00 p.m. All tickets are \$30 and are on sale now at <https://www.irvingtontheater.com/events/gonzogirl>.

Irvington Theater is home to a diverse range of innovative programming that entertains, enlightens, and inspires, establishing itself over its 123-year history as the cultural heart of the Rivertowns. The theater produces original programming and, in collaboration with its Arts Partners, curates high-quality theater, music, film, comedy, and dance for the greater New York metropolitan area.

“Were it left to me to decide if we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.—Thomas Jefferson



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