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Friday November 18-25, 2022

## Latimer Cuts County Property Taxes Four Budgets in a Row No One-Shots, \$65 M Surplus



Westchester County Executive George Latimer, left, with Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, presents proposed County budget for 2023

Westchester County Executive George Latimer has proposed a \$6 million dollar cut to the County property tax levy in a preview of his 2023 proposed Operating Budget. This is the fourth County property tax cut in a row presented by Latimer as County Executive.

Latimer said: "I have been all around this County; I have heard the stories from families who are feeling the strain of inflation- this budget is for them. We have once again cut taxes, and expanded the programs that the people of this County need. I am proud of this Budget, this is what honest and fair governing is, that is who we are as an administration."

Closing 2022 with projected \$65.9 million operating surplus

- No borrowing for tax certs
- No borrowing for pension
- No use of fund balance
- 2023 Budget contains no borrowing or one-shots
- No use of fund balance
- No borrowing for cash flow

Latimer said: "The 2023 Budget reflects a continued commitment to programs that meet the needs of Westchester County residents. We have cut taxes but we have also added \$1 million to food security programs that serve 100 pantries, we have increased funding for homeless shelter contracts, and we have put in \$500k for New Rochelle Family Court support services."

Budget Director Larry Soule said: "This budget reflects the steadfast commitment of the County Executive to serve the needs of all residents of Westchester County, while at the same time remaining accountable to the needs of the taxpayers."

*Continued on pg 5-*

## Two Long Serving, Beloved Westchester High School Coaches Let Go; One Rehired



Eastchester Coach Fred DiCarlo, left, was fired and then rehired by the school district;

below: Katonah Coach Bill Swertfager is fighting to keep his job



By Dan Murphy

Two Westchester school districts decision to part ways with two long serving and beloved coaches, for reasons that parents, students and taxpayers in Eastchester and Katonah cannot understand, is being met with massive support for both, and the Superintendents and School Boards for both the Eastchester and Katonah-

*Continued on pg 4-*

## Election Wrap-Up: Northern Westchester is Red but the rest of the county remains Blue



Congressman-elect Mike Lawler, with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi

By Dan Murphy

The photo above is real. Republican Congressman-elect Mike Lawler, on a visit to Washington, took a photo with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi. At least we have this sign of bi-partisanship before the election of 2024.

So what happened in the Westchester elections on Nov. 8? Here's five take-aways to ponder.

1-It appears that Republicans will hold a slim majority in the House. A major factor in handing the Speaker's gavel to Kevin McCarthy will be the election of republicans to Congress from New York State, including Lawler, Mark Molinaro and two new GOP congressmembers from Long Island. Most attribute the strong showing of Lee Zeldin, the republican candidate for Governor, for the election of a handful of republicans to Congress.

2-Zeldin's 53%-47% loss to Governor Kathy Hochul was a good result for republicans, but not the victory that many had hoped for. "Zeldin had coattails for Congress, but that's about it," said one Westchester republican.

3-Assemblyman-elect Matt Slater will be the only republican member of the State delegation of State Senators and Assembly members from Westchester. All of the other Assembly and State Senate races in Westchester had democrats

*Continued on pg 5-*

## Thank You Andre Wallace-Rents Out Picture House for 200 to See Black Panther-Wakanda



former Mt. Vernon Mayor Andre Wallace, with two attendees to Wakanda

During the holiday season, we like look for examples of Good Will, and giving back to our community. Former Mount Vernon Mayor Andre Wallace did that last week, when he provided 200 residents of the city a free screening of the movie Black Panther: Wakanda at the Picture House in Bronxville.

"I learned about how others have rented out the theater for fund raisers, but I wanted to do something to give the community a chance to come together and have a great family day. With rising prices and inflation making it difficult on a lot of families, I wanted to give parents the opportunity to have a good time without worrying about anything," said Wallace.

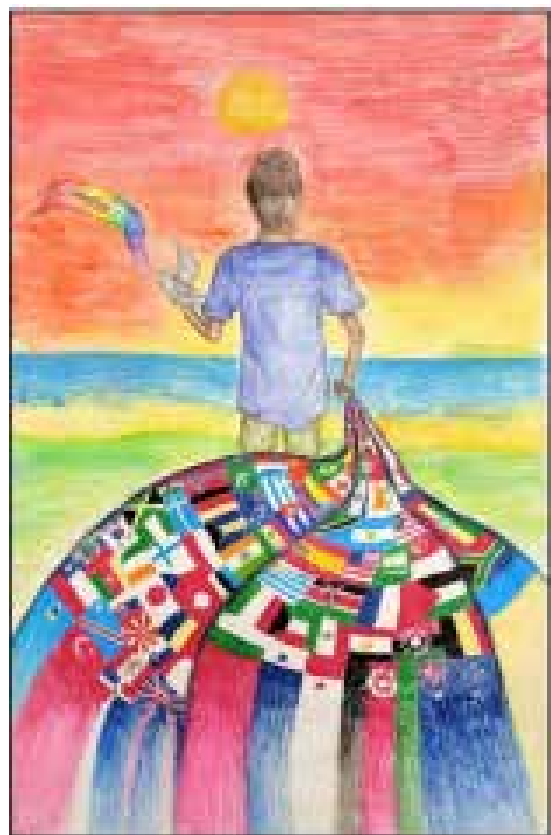
The Family Day included the movie, snacks and Black Panther action figures for the kids, free of charge. Some donations made it happen but also the generosity of Wallace, who thanked Shez Darden for her help in making sure everyone got to the theater and in their seats.

"Everyone had a blast, and I loved it. It's great to see so many smiling faces and we all came together."

In our conversations with the Picture House, we also learned that at their Pelham theater, an anonymous donor rents out the place for a screening of It's A Wonderful Life every year.

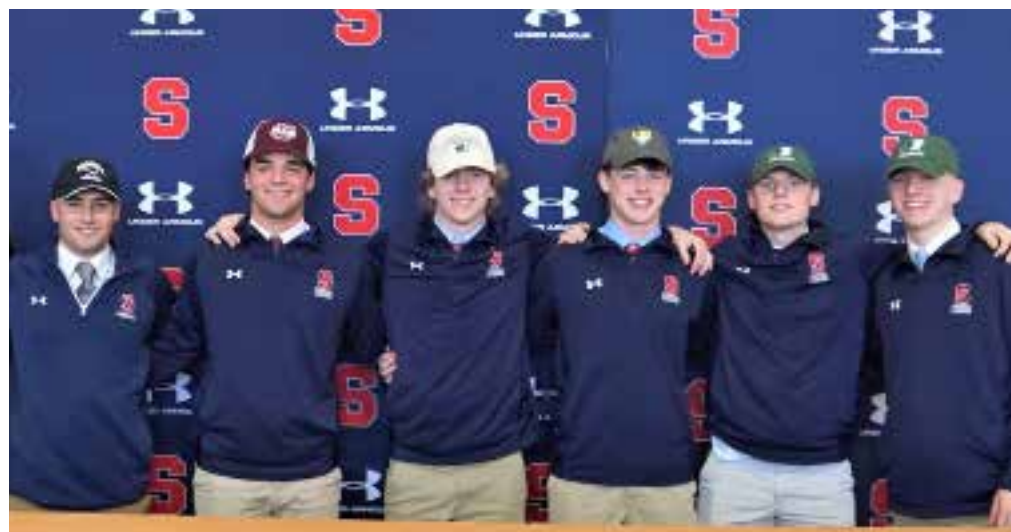
Here's hoping that this story can help all of us find a little more generosity this time of year. If you have a story that will help us spread some good cheer, email it to [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com)

**Peace Poster Contest Winners Announced**



*One of the winning Peace Poster contest winners from Nina Heery, from Rye Neck Middle School*

**Stepinac HS Lacrosse Program Makes History Six Student-Athletes Commit to DI Colleges**



*L-R- LJ Iacuone, Matt Stewart, Brady Sharkey Sean Fogarty, Andrew Girolamo and and Nolan Sharkey*

Stepinac High School’s lacrosse sports program made history today as six outstanding athletes committed to play with Division One universities during the first National Collegiate Athletic Association’s (NCAA) Signing Day. A seventh student, who is a star baseball athlete, also signed to play Division 1 baseball.

On hand to congratulate the students at the ceremony, held in the school’s gymnasium, were their families, teammates, members of Stepinac’s administration, faculty and coaching staffs.

Stepinac’s unprecedented group comprised the largest number of lacrosse players from any high school in Westchester, private and public high school, who were recognized by the NCAA this year.

The six Stepinac lacrosse star athletes and their Division One universities are Sean Fogarty of Yonkers (Long Island University); Andrew Girolamo of Mahopac (Binghamton); Luke Iacuone of Mahopac (Monmouth); Brady Sharkey of Tuckahoe; Nolan Sharkey of Tuckahoe (Binghamton); and Matthew Stewart of Cortlandt Manor (UMass – Amherst). Kyle Eddington of Valhalla committed to play Division 1 baseball at University of Maryland-Baltimore County

Two of the players—Brady and Nolan Sharkey—are also identical twin brothers who will continue the next chapter of their academic and athletic education at the same university, Binghamton.

“The NCAA Signing Day represents yet another milestone for Stepinac’s lacrosse program,” declared James Goldmann (Class of ’04), head coach of the Crusaders varsity lacrosse team, adding: “It’s been quite a notable year for them and their teammates for having captured the 2022 CHSAA New York AA championship title. We congratulate them and wish them continued success in their post-secondary pursuits.”

Paul Carty, Principal, noted that Stepinac’s superb student athletes will be joining a very select group of lacrosse and baseball players who will be competing in Division 1 athletics, “which makes theirs a truly singular achievement for them personally and for Stepinac.” According to the NCAA’s 2020 estimated probability of high school lacrosse athletes playing collegiate lacrosse, only 3.1% of them will be selected to play at the top Division 1 level. And less than 2% of high school baseball athletes are accepted to play at Division 1 colleges.

The NCAA also notes that education is at the forefront of Division I’s mission and Division 1 schools collectively award billions of dollars in athletic scholarships each year. “Student-athletes at Division I schools are required to meet specified academic standards to practice and compete in athletics... These criteria ensure that student-athletes are prepared for the rigors of college coursework and are on a path to graduate throughout their college experience.”

For more information, visit [www.Stepinac.org](http://www.Stepinac.org).

Elsa Thorez from The French-American School, Emma Sapperstein from Hommocks Middle School, Nina Heery from Rye Neck Middle School and Estelle Puong from Saints John & Paul School, have taken the first step to becoming an internationally recognized artist by winning the Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions local competition in the Lions International Peace Poster Contest.

In addition to the winners, the following runners up received honorable mentions: Marina Leifert & Mathilde Auguste from The French American School, Evan Hammer & Abby Andrews from Rye Neck Middle School and Amelie Oddo & Nganji Bardoux-Chesneau from Saints John & Paul School.

These local winners were announced on November 10, 2022, at a special presentation at the Mamaroneck Library. The event was attended by the students, their families, teachers, and dignitaries & guests. County Legislator Catherine Parker presented certificates to the winners and runners up in recognition of their accomplishments. Maryann Joyce Director of Constituent Services for NY State Senator Shelley Mayer’s office presented the certificates to the winners from both State Senator Shelley Mayer and Assemblyman Steve Otis.

Prizes for winners and runners up were provided by Paul Mahoney from Circle 7 Framing in Larchmont and Jennifer Gomes of One River School in Larchmont. The event was covered by volunteer Sal Ciavarello for LMC Media.

The Lions International Peace Poster Contest is an annual worldwide competition for children 11-13, encouraging them to express their vision of world peace through art, based on a particular theme. This year’s theme was “Lead With Compassion”.

Winners and runners up were selected by a panel of local artists, Amanda Schlumberger, Carey Federspiel and Laura Saravia. The winning posters will advance through the district into the international competition, with the International winner announced at a United Nations event in the spring.

The Lions are proud to have worked with Victoria Rolett from the French-American School, Madelyn Fortuna from Hommocks Middle School, Trisha Appel from Rye Neck Middle School and Angela Howard-Rude from Saints John & Paul School in their efforts to bring this contest to the community and provide these students with the opportunity to share their visions of peace.

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## Supporters and Opponents of Menthol Cigarette Sale Ban in Westchester Rally:



On Nov. 14, supporters and detractors of a proposed ban on the sale on Menthol cigarettes in Westchester County held rallies outside the County office building, hours before the County Board of Legislators held a public hearing on the proposed ban of flavored tobacco products.

Members from the New York Association of Convenience Stores (NYACS) reiterated their opposition to the County Board of Legislators' proposal to prohibit licensed wholesalers and retailers from selling flavored tobacco products. They argue that there are currently more than 445 businesses in Westchester County that sell flavored tobacco products. In Westchester, 40% of all cigarettes sold are menthol and 84% of all smokeless tobacco is flavored. If this proposed ban goes into effect the county will lose \$1.8 million per year in tax revenue and the elimination of hundreds of jobs will also adversely impact the Westchester economy.

Opponents of the ban also point to the fact that there are currently 906 retailers within only five miles of Westchester County's border, all of whom will continue to sell flavored tobacco products. This ban would drive customers to bordering retailers for these products, subsequently resulting in economic unsustainability for local mom-and-pop small businesses in Westchester County. These businesses rely on the revenue from flavored tobacco products to compensate their employees and keep their doors open.

Supporters of the ban point to the fact that in New York, 22.3% of high school students use e-cigarettes, with most preferring to use flavored tobacco, with fruit, candy, desserts, mint, and menthol reported as the most popular flavors. Menthol cigarettes play a significant role in enticing new users—predominantly those under 18 and in Black and Brown communities—to a lifetime of addiction. New York spends \$12.07 billion annually in healthcare costs directly caused by smoking, and there are 280,000 kids now under 18 and alive in New York who will ultimately die prematurely from smoking.

"Californians have just voted overwhelmingly in favor of barring the sale of flavored tobacco," said Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson, Chair of the Health Committee and sponsor of the bill. "In Westchester County, we are setting the trend for our state to do the same in protecting the health of children and the general public by removing access to these deadly products."

"With this bill, Westchester can pass the most comprehensive flavored tobacco ban in New York," said Legislator Catherine Borgia, Chair of the Westchester County Board of Legislators. "We are showing our commitment to children and families by taking a firm stand in stopping the cycle of addiction that has been perpetuated by the tobacco industry for generations. Enough is enough."

"Smoking and tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease in the US," said Legislator Chris Johnson, Majority Leader of the Westchester County Board of Legislators. "We also know the tobacco industry heavily advertises these products to young people and other vulnerable communities like the ones I represent in Yonkers. I see it every day as both an educator and a Legislator, and I am proud to be able to do my part to make Westchester healthier for all."

"Westchester is fighting for the health and economic wellbeing of current and future generations," said Legislator Erika Pierce. "According to US News and Worlds Report, smoking costs in the US was \$891 billion in 2020 alone. And for communities of color, which historically have less access to medical care while also having more smoking-related disease and health complications, the impacts are particularly devastating. With this bill, we will do better."

"Tobacco is responsible for devastating health disparities in communities of color in Westchester and across New York," said Dr. Hazel N. Dukes, President of the NAACP New York State Conference. "For decades, the tobacco industry has targeted Black Americans with aggressive marketing around menthol flavored tobacco products – leading to disproportionately high rates of tobacco related diseases and health complications. This necessary legislation will get menthol cigarettes and other flavored tobacco products off the shelves, while making sure not a single individual is ever targeted or criminalized for using them."

Damon Jones, a member of Blacks In Law Enforcement of America, who opposes the ban responded to Dukes, stating It is good to see the NACCP State Office in Westchester County; the NAACP has a long history of fighting for equal rights. But unfortunately, their eyes are wide shut to the inequality of this legislation... Unfortunately, all Black Law Enforcement organizations, including the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, have said that this ban is a bad idea, that the bill is biased, will feed the black market, and will create the new stop-and-frisk.... According to County Legislator James Nolan, by passing this Menthol Ban, Westchester County is willing to throw away \$36 million in Sales Tax Rev-

*continued on pg 4-*

## Happy 60th Birthday Will Library



By Eric W. Schoen

This is a special week in Yonkers. The Grinton I. Will library, the beautiful building off Central Park Avenue which Everyone from Out of town can never find celebrates 60 years of service to the Yonkers community. I am proud to say that for 56 years I have been a patron at the Will library only to be beat by my older sister who has been a patron since it's opening.

Originally called the Sprain Brook Library, it's name was changed to the Grinton I. Will Library in honor of Library Director Grinton Will, a well respected individual. In Yonkers. I don't know what the I stands for. Maybe a reader of this column Can clue me in. For the work that she did for so many years To get a new library built I figured by now the Riverfront Library would be named after Jacqueline Miller, Library Director for so many years after Mr. Will.

When the library was built the roadway became 2 levels between Arlington street and Sadore lane. This brought a Lot of traffic to an already busy road for people like my mother always trying to get some place fast!

Oh, how I remember the third floor with record players you could put your headphones on and sit and listen to the latest recordings without bothering anyone. The Fine Arts Department went from reel to reel to record to VCR recordings to cassette tapes to our latest the Compact Disc. The cassette tapes were locked in cabinets so you had to get a librarian to open it.

Sheet music was available for loan. A book of reel to reel movies that you could take out which was great if you had a reel to reel projector. There was always one in the auditorium you could use and the projector room which today is used for a meeting room more than a projector room.

When some trustees and Friends went to the library to request VCR tapes be added to the collection, the response was if we add VCR Tapes today, lawn mowers were next. Mind you at one time the library loaned out works of art to Adults and children. Look around the building today and as they say the rest is history.

Before reconstruction began probably 20 years ago the second floor consisted of staff offices and the Children's room. Always on the left wall as you entered was the scoreboard for the various reading programs listing how many books the children in the program had read. My sister always topped the list reading many more than she had to. Me, well let's just say I read the required Number.

On the first floor we have the auditorium. Our 325 seat auditorium is one of the biggest in WESTCHESTER County Library System. The only bigger auditorium is the Riverfront with over 400 seats. Once a month children's programs including

Paper bag players, a famous children's theater troupe would perform to 325 eager children. Mrs Schoenfeld, head of children's programming always greeted participants coming into the auditorium which most of the times had its 325 seats filled with happy kids. Mom piled everyone who could fit in the car in little blue rambler for the shows. After the show, mom, the teacher that she was was brought her careful of kids to the Children's Room to pick out to a minimum of 3 books-hopefully more... thus my sisters love for reading.

Many people don't know about the Patio at the end of the Reading Room. A delightful place for a reception or simply to relax with a book. I always thought how perfect the library and all its spaces would be for a New Years Night Out so many communities have. Imagine disco dancing under the stars on the patio!

The author Philip Roth died this past spring. My sister tried to read as many books of his as possible that she has not read. Let's face it, a copy of Portnoy's Complaint should be in our Yonkers libraries. You would think they would have a classic like that. No, the library had to get it from Mt. Vernon.

To honor the 60th Birthday of the library, We would like to get 60 books, classics and important books donated By those here today and the general public. The library will select the books missing from the collection and you simply donate the cost of the book which will have a sticker on it with your name

The Will Library should have all the classic and well known books. You can do your Part by giving staff time to prepare a list of classics and important books. And then paying for 1, 2, however many you can afford.

A shout out to the librarians, leadership and behind the scenes including bookmobile drivers and out in public staff for 60 years of serving the general public with a smile! And to Friends of the Library of Which I am President and the Yonkers Public Library Foundation for being an important part of what makes Yonkers Libraries the great institutions serving the public that they are.

Grinton Will Library. For 60 years this, too has been an important part of Yonkers!

A final thought: When my sister was studying early childhood at NYU, one her professors, well known professor in the world of childrens literature. Con-

*continued on pg 6-*

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## Peekskill man Indicted for Fatally Stabbing Step-Father and Arson



Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that Peekskill resident Shane Gilleo, 30, left, was indicted on charges connected with the murder of his step-father Edward Reeves in Peekskill. The defendant is being held without bail.

The defendant was indicted by a Westchester County Grand Jury for Murder in the Second Degree and Arson in the Third Degree, both felonies. The defendant was arraigned in Westchester County Court on Nov. 10, 2022.

On Sep. 14, 2022, at approximately 12:30 a.m., the defendant allegedly stabbed the 48-year-old victim multiple times with a knife on North James Street in Peekskill. The victim was transported to Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, where he died. It is further alleged that at approximately 11:20 a.m., the defendant started three separate fires on the second floor of a two-family residence on Grant Avenue in Peekskill, where a relative lived.

The Peekskill Police Department arrested the defendant shortly after the incidents, following an investigation, with assistance from the Westchester County Department of Public Safety.

## Our Children are the Future of Westchester, We Need to Protect Them from Big Tobacco

Op-Ed By Erica Peterson

The threats posed by tobacco use to the future of New York’s kids are as alarming as they’ve ever been. I see this firsthand every day in the school I teach at. For decades, overall tobacco use among kids was on the decline. Over the past couple of years, I have seen a big increase.

Smoking still kills more people each year than alcohol, AIDS, car crashes, illegal drugs, murders, and suicides combined — and thousands more die from other tobacco-related causes — such as fires caused by smoking and smokeless tobacco use.

New York State has made some efforts to address tobacco use by young people in recent years, with lawmakers in Albany increasing the age of sale to 21 and passing a statewide ban on the sale of flavored e-cigarettes. But until all flavored tobacco products are removed from the market in New York, Big Tobacco will continue to use those that remain to relentlessly target our kids. Now is time to stop kicking the can down the road and end the sale of all flavored tobacco products.

In Westchester County, we have an opportunity right now to take an important step toward protecting the health and safety of young people. This month, the Board of Legislators will consider a bill to end the sale of all flavored tobacco products in retail stores countywide — and it’s critical that we make sure it passes before the year ends.

Eliminating these dangerous products will have the most significant impact on kids in communities of color like mine. Big Tobacco has aggressively targeted communities of color since the 1950s with menthol flavored tobacco products. They know that menthol masks the harshness of tobacco, makes it easier for kids to start smoking, and more difficult to quit.

Flavored cigars, which can be smoked like cigarettes, have become especially popular among kids at the schools I work in. These products are sold in a wide assortment of kid-friendly flavors like Cherry Dynamite and Chocolate and can be as cheap as three for 99 cents, making them highly appealing.

And these flavored tobacco products are intentionally designed to attract kids. Although tobacco companies claim adult tobacco users demand variety, flavored tobacco products play a crucial role in enticing new users—predominantly under 18—to a lifetime of addiction. According to the 2022 National Youth Tobacco Survey, 85% of middle and high school e-cigarette users use flavored products — with fruit, candy, desserts, mint, and menthol reported as the most popular flavors. These sweet tobacco flavors create the false impression that a tobacco product is less harmful than it really is.

Anyone who spends a lot of time with kids knows just how impressionable they are. And the tobacco industry knows it too. Published research studies have found that kids are twice as sensitive to tobacco advertising as adults and are more likely to be influenced to smoke by cigarette marketing than by peer pressure. Big Tobacco wants to addict kids early with appealing flavors to make them lifelong customers. Annually \$177.3 million is spent by Big Tobacco on advertising in New York.

Ending the sale of flavored tobacco products will save the lives of countless numbers of my students and young people across Westchester County. It’s time to end the sale of these dangerous products.

*Erica Peterson is the Parent Resource Center Coordinator at Mount Vernon School District in Westchester County.*

## If You Have A Loaded Gun in Your Car, Don’t Do 100 MPH on the Parkway



On October 30, 2022, the New York State Police from the Hawthorne barracks arrested four individuals for illegal possession of two handguns on Tuckahoe Road in the city of Yonkers.

At approximately 6:25 p.m., Troopers observed a BMW 440 traveling in excess of 100 miles per hour on the Sprain Brook Parkway. The suspect vehicle was followed to Tuckahoe Road where a traffic stop was initiated. Investigation found two loaded handguns in the vehicle, a .380 Ruger LCP, and a 9MM Smith & Wesson SD9 VE.

Jalen S. Irwin, age 19, of Valley Stream, NY, was arrested for Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd degree, a class C felony, and Criminal Possession of a Weapon (large capacity ammunition feeding device) in the 3rd degree, a class D felony. Deandre A. Bowen, age 21, Kevin E. Hill, age 21, and Daijaun I. Jarvis, age 20, all of Queens, NY, were arrested for Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the 2nd degree, a class C felony.

All four subjects were arraigned before the Honorable Judge Best of the city of Yonkers Court and remanded to the Westchester County Jail in lieu of \$15,000 cash bail, \$30,000 bond, or \$45,000 partially secure bond. They are scheduled to reappear before the court on November 7, 2022, at 9:30 a.m.

### Flavored Tobacco ban continued from pg 3-

enue on menthol-flavored cigarettes. The County collects an additional \$5 million on other flavored tobacco products..... Let us not forget, a Westchester City, with a population of 80 thousand and 80 percent Black people, hasn’t had a fully functioning hospital for over a decade. This should have been considered a public health emergency a long time ago! But our County legislators are silent, and the NAACP State Office has also been AWOL in that discussion!

Again, if passed, County Executive George Latimer must VETO this legislation,” stated Jones, who has previously pointed to the support of Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, former Mt. Vernon Mayor Andre Wallace, and County Legislators Nolan, District 15, and Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, District-13.

County Legisltor Damon Maher, District 10, was also in attendance at the rally in support of the legislation, which is schdeuled to be voted on Nov. 28.

### Two Beloved Coaches, continued from pg 1-

Lewisboro School Districts are now feeling the heat, and pressure, from the public to fire Eastchester Basketball and Football coach Fred DiCarlo, and Katonah Wrestling Coach Bill Swertfager.

One social media post from a supporter of Coach DiCarlo explains it well. “Coach Fred DiCarlo, a 1985 graduate of Eastchester High School and a Varsity Basketball and Football coach, was fired from Eastchester on November 9th, 2022. Coach Fred has dedicated over 30 years of service to the Football and Basketball programs. Despite never once being disciplined by previous athletic directors, principals, or superintendents on any major issues, Coach DiCarlo was fired for using profanity, which is a “violation of the athletic contract”. Instead of verbal warnings, meetings, or suspensions, the superintendent decided to fire a coach with 32 years of experience. The superintendent’s investigator only interviewed and took written statements from people that wanted to see Coach Fred fired. There was no opportunity for fellow coaches or the thousands of former players and parents who would be in support of Coach Fred and would think this investigation is nonsense, as no Varsity level coaches would be able to coach 15-17 year old boys without using profanity on occasion. We are humbly asking for Ron Valenti, Superintendent of Eastchester Schools, to change his decision and allow Fred DiCarlo to continue to coach at Eastchester High School.”

**And Superintendent Valenti DID re-hire DiCarlo, who is now coaching the basketball team immediately.**

In Katonah, Wrestling Coach Bill Swertfager appeared before the school board to fight for his job, after being told his services were no longer required after 25 years of coaching the John Jay Wrestling team. “I sincerely hope,” Swertfager told the board, “that you will reconsider and reinstate me as the head coach of John Jay wrestling.”

Coach Swertfager has not been told what his infraction was, but he guesses it was while serving as a first base coach for the Girls Softball team, (his daughter was manager), he patted a player on the team on the back for a good hit.

At the school board meeting, Coach Swertfager called his action, acknowledging a job well done, “very common and generally accepted in sports everywhere and had been done in full view of more than 100 “parents, players, coaches, umpires at the game” as he coached at first base,” adding “I have now learned that I need to be more sensitive to a person’s personal space, and it won’t happen again,

Hundreds of former players, students and players came out to support Coach Swertfager. The Katonah-Lewisboro School Board and Superintendent Andrew Slesnick and the school board tabled a decision on the hiring of coaches for the winter season. We hope that they listen to the community and bring back Coach Swertfager.

I would have loved to play for both Coach DiCarlo and Coach Swertfager, and have my daughter learn about the examples of teamwork, dedication, practice and commitment that both have given to thousands of students.

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## Westchester Board of Legislators to Hold Budget Hearings

On Thursday, County Executive George Latimer introduced the proposed Westchester County operating budget for fiscal year 2023 to the Board of Legislators (BOL). By County Charter rule, this budget must be submitted no later than November 10 each year.

With the submission of the operating budget, the BOL will launch a series of committee meetings starting on Monday, November 14, 2022. During this time, representatives of all County departments and offices make presentations to and take questions from the Budget & Appropriations Committee.

Additionally, the BOL will host two public hearings throughout the County and one statutory public hearing at the Board of Legislators' Chamber in White Plains. Participants will be allowed to speak and provide public comment at all scheduled dates with remote participation available via Webex at the White Plains meeting.

The details for the public hearings are as follows:

Wednesday, November 16, 2022 at 7 PM (live streamed via Facebook)  
New Rochelle Public Library (Ossie Davis Theater)  
1 Library Plaza New Rochelle, NY 10801

Wednesday, November 30, 2022 at 7 PM (live streamed via Facebook)  
Chappaqua Performing Arts Center  
480 N Bedford Rd, Chappaqua, NY 10514

Wednesday, December 7, 2022 at 7 PM (remote participation available)  
Board of Legislators Chambers  
148 Martine Avenue, 8th Floor  
White Plains, NY 10601

Information regarding the FY2023 budget deliberations can be viewed on the Budget Dashboard section of the BOL website. The dashboard will include relevant details such as the Webex remote participation instructions, budget meeting schedule, and links to view the proposed operating, capital, and special districts budgets.

The Dashboard can be found at: <https://bit.ly/fy23budgetdashboard>.

*Latimer, County Budget, continued from pg 1--*

### RATING AGENCIES

The 2023 Budget increases the "rainy day fund" to about 19% of County operating expenditures- a bold way to stabilize the bond ratings for the County.

Latimer said: "For the past four consecutive fiscal years, our administration has been able to propose an Operating Budget that included a cut to the County property tax levy. Westchester County also boasts a AA+, AA+ and Aa1 rating by Standard and Poor's, Fitch and Moody's, respectively – among the highest ratings awarded by these three major agencies. These accomplishments are due in no small part to the professional work of the Westchester County Department of Finance."

Finance Commissioner Karin Hablow said: "I applaud the County Executive for submitting a balanced budget that also includes another consecutive year of a decrease to the tax levy. The County has steadily improved its financial position while continuing to offer the services needed and sought out by its residents. The fiscally responsible budgets that the County Executive has proposed year after year will position Westchester County as a financially stable entity for years to come."

### PUBLIC SAFETY / CORRECTIONS / PROBATION

In a record setting year, the Department of Public Safety, Department of Corrections and Department of Probation are funded at the highest level they have ever been funded in Westchester County history – a total of \$260.9 million.

- Correction \$156.6 million
- Public Safety \$59.1 million
- Probation \$45.2 million

This allocation in the Budget includes:

- IT Coordinator and Crime Data Analyst for Public Safety
- Three additional School Resource Officers in Katonah, North Salem and Hendrick Hudson
- New class of Corrections Officers included in Budget for 2023

### HEALTH & COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

The Westchester County Health Department accounts for \$220.8 million in the Operating Budget, and \$17.2 million for the Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH).

Health Budget includes:

- Maternal Mortality \$1 million
- Federally Qualified Health Centers / Neighborhood Health Centers expansion \$1 million (total \$3 million)

Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler said: "The Health Department has devoted a considerable amount of its resources over the past two years to its COVID response. This budget will allow the Department to refocus its attention on core public health priorities and inequities."

DCMH Budget includes:

- Project Alliance Mobile Crisis Response Team, Crisis Network and 988 Suicide Crisis Lifeline (\$6.1 million)
- Opioid Response and Overdose Prevention Initiative (\$565,000)
- Early Childhood Mental Health Services (\$737,892)

### EMERGENCY SERVICES

The Westchester County Department of Emergency Services has a total of \$13 million in the County's Operating Budget. This includes:

- EMS mutual aid support \$3.3 million
- Ongoing Threat Assessment Management (TAM) Operations
- Two additional staff for Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan (CEMP) and to coordinate volunteers for Hazmat incidents

### PARKS & RECREATION

Total amount in the Budget for Parks and Recreation is \$60.3 million. A combined \$28 million has been slotted for structural improvements at the Ice Casino and Playland Amusement Park. Additionally, \$7 million has been allocated for Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, and \$3.3 million for Cranberry Lake Preserve improvements.

Latimer said: "As the construction of the County's historic investment in Playland continues, we look toward other park facilities that have suffered from underinvestment in the past."

### HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The total amount allotted for the Human Rights Commission in the Budget is \$1.3 million. This includes an additional investigator.

### YOUTH BUREAU

Total Youth Bureau funding is \$4.7 million dollars. Among the new initiatives is an expansion of the Invest-In-Kids program to \$250K.

## Brother- Sister Win Middle & HS Scholarships in Rye Free Reading Room Spelling Bee



L-R: Library Board of Trustee President Kathleen Riegelhaupt, Mayor Josh Cohn, Library Director Chris Shoemaker, and Rye patron Jacqueline Mecca. In front: winners Emma and Ryan Crozier

The Fifth Annual Rye Free Reading Room Spelling Bee Every year, The Rye Free Reading Room invites Rye middle and high school students to come to the Library on Veteran's Day to test their spelling skills. On November 11, 2022, Director Chris Shoemaker, joined by Library Board of Trustee President Kathleen Riegelhaupt, introduced the fifteen participants and thanked the judges/word readers Mayor Josh Cohn and Rye patron Jacqueline Mecca for coming.

After fourteen rounds, 6th grader Emma Crozier emerged as the middle-school winner by correctly spelling the word "fanfare". Other finalists fell to misspellings of "radon" (the chemical element) and "hoedown".

It took thirteen rounds for high-school winner, 9th grader Ryan Crozier to claim his title by spelling "saxhorn", while his competitors were foiled by "mullion" and "bassoon."

This year it was a family affair. Both winners hailed from the same family and parents Jen and David Crozier were on hand to cheer them on.

Emma and Ryan's names will be inscribed on the permanent Spelling Bee trophy that is displayed in the main reading room at the Library. They will each be awarded a trophy and scholarship prize at the Library's annual meeting February 2023.

The \$2,500 middle-school and \$500 high-school scholarship prizes are sponsored by Carpet Trends and in honor of Emanuela Riccio, respectively. For more information, go to [www.ryelibrary.org](http://www.ryelibrary.org) or call 914-231-3161.

### Election Wrap-up, continued from pg 1-

easily winning re-election, and most by the same 62%-38% margin that we see in almost all Westchester elections.

State Senate Majority Leader-Andrea Stewart-Cousins-62%, State Senator Shelly Mayer -58% and Assembly member Amy Paulin -62%, all cruised to victory.

Yonkers Assemblyman Nader Sayegh also fought off a tough challenge from republican Mike Breen-51%-46%. The reason that most of these results don't total 100% is that about 5% of voters cast a vote for Governor, and perhaps for Congress, and did not vote down the ballot.

4-State Senator Pete Harckham does it again. Harckham's 51%-45% for republican Gina Arena gives Harckham three election wins in what is the toughest district for a democrat to win in Westchester. Harckham defeated Senator Terrence Murphy in 2018 and former County Executive Rob Astorino in 2020.

The 40th District also runs north into Putnam County, and Harckham did better in Putnam this year than in past elections, despite Putnam going Red across the rest of the ballot.

5-Pockets of Republican strongholds in Westchester remain in Eastchester, Harrison and Yorktown, but only on the local level.

6-The Red Wave did also not extend to Judicial Races in the area. All seven democrats were elected to the State Supreme Court from the 9th Judicial District, which runs north from Westchester into more republican counties like Dutchess and Orange.

Turnout was lower for this election statewide than four years ago. 5.7 Million New Yorkers cast votes this year, compared to 6.2 million in 2018.

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## Westchester County to Host Household Recycling Day at Playland Park in Rye Nov. 19

Westchester County's Department of Environmental Facilities (DEF) will be conducting a Household Recycling Day (HRD) event on Saturday, November 19 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Playland Park in Rye. The upcoming HRD event in Rye will be the sixth and final HRD event of 2022, giving residents across the County an opportunity to conveniently and safely dispose of their household waste.

This event is held in conjunction with Rye's Zero Waste Day, which offers residents an opportunity to donate good condition, gently-used furniture, children's coats and winter clothing, prescription eyeglasses, lightly-used soccer gear and pet supplies. For specific guidelines and information about donations, please call the Recycling HelpLine.

In addition to properly labelled household chemicals, tires, scrap metal, electronics, appliances and other special wastes found in a typical household, residents can bring documents for shredding and expired or unwanted medications for disposal to the November 19 HRD Event. Residents should place items in their trunk or backseat and remain in their vehicles while staff unload vehicles in the drop-off area

Items that will not be accepted and should not be brought to the Household Recycling Day include, non-rechargeable alkaline and carbon zinc batteries (they can be safely discarded in the trash), motor oil, smoke detectors, cell phones, explosives (flares, fireworks, ammunition), construction debris and hypodermic needles. Also, waste from businesses, schools or other institutions will not be accepted.

For more information on what to bring to this event, visit [www.westchester.gov/recycling](http://www.westchester.gov/recycling) or call (914) 813-5425.

*Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-*

stantine Georgieou Author of CHILDREN AND THEIR LITERATURE the gold standard and must read for new teachers of young children. Would give her a list of books-to take out for him for the term. She had him for 3 terms. His favorite library, where he knew he would always find the books was the Yonkers Public Library. He relied on the Yonkers Public Library collection over the NYU collection of books!

**Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.**

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## TOWN OF EASTCHESTER LEGAL NOTICE OF HEARING ON 2023 PRELIMINARY BUDGET

Please take notice that the Town Board of the Town of Eastchester shall hold its annual budget hearing on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2022 to consider the adoption of the Town of Eastchester's 2023 calendar year budget. Said hearing on this Preliminary Budget shall be held at the Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York at 7:00 p.m.

The salaries of Elected Officials incorporated in said preliminary budget are as follows:

Each	Total
Supervisor (1)	\$98,093- \$98,093
Council Members (4)	\$15,831- \$63,324
Judges (2)	\$42,545- \$85,090
Receiver of Taxes (1)	\$65,000- \$65,000
Town Clerk (1)	\$87,605- \$87,605

All residents of the community may present written or oral comments at the above-described place, date and time.

BY THE ORDER OF THE SUPERVISOR AND THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER, NEW YORK  
LINDA D. LAIRD TOWN CLERK

## New Rochelle Police Issue Arrest Warrant: Wanted for Murder



### HOMICIDE UPDATE: ARREST WARRANT ISSUED

New Rochelle Detectives have obtained a Warrant of Arrest regarding the Homicide that occurred on October 26th, 2022 on Horton Avenue and Colonel Lee Archer Boulevard.

Mtayari Z. Dixon, 29 years of age, formerly from New Rochelle but currently known to reside in Stamford, Connecticut. The Warrant calls for full extradition from any U.S. State. Anyone with current information of his whereabouts are encouraged to call New Rochelle Police Detectives at 914-654-2300.

#### VICTIM:

James Caldwell Jr, 29 years of age, of New Rochelle. The New Rochelle Police Department extend condolences to the family and friends of Mr. Caldwell.

On October 26, 2022, at about 5:54pm, New Rochelle Police received multiple calls of shots fired, and that a person was shot near the intersection of Horton Avenue and Colonel Lee Archer Boulevard. Upon arrival, New Rochelle Police located a person on the ground with multiple gunshot wounds. New Rochelle Police, Fire and Ambulance personnel administered first aid and the victim was transported to a local hospital, where he ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

Notice of Formation of Professional Limited Liability Company. Name of PLLC: Sokol Acupuncture PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with NYDOS: October 11, 2022. Office of the PLLC: 1 Columbia Ave Apt A10 Hartsdale NY 10530. Westchester County. The NYSS has been designated as the agent upon whom process may be served. NYSS may mail a copy of process to the PLLC at: 1 Columbia Ave Apt A10 Hartsdale NY 10530. No specific dissolution date. The purpose of the PLLC is to provide acupuncture services.

Notice of formation of Beagal, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/11/2022. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 47 Washington Blvd Mt Vernon NY 10550. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of WRITESTRONG LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 8/30/2022. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 10 1/2 Spruce St, Sleepy Hollow, NY. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Application for Authority of ALLIED REAL ESTATE PHILADELPHIA, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/13/2022. Formed in PA 4/6/2005. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC on whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail copy of process to 2200 Walnut St., Philadelphia, PA 19103. The office address in PA is 2001 Hamilton St., Ste. 304, Philadelphia, PA 19130. Cert. of Organization filed with the Secy. of the Commonwealth, 302 N. Office Bldg., 401 North St., Harrisburg, PA 17120. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Formation of ESAL REALTY LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 11/8/2022. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Ernest Salerno, 2395 E. Long Shadow Pl., Tucson, AZ 85718. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

### Westchester Rising

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# Trumpty Dumpty You Saw it Here First!

## Westchester Crime Stoppers Offers \$7500 Reward for Unsolved Homicide in Mt. Vernon



# \$7,500 REWARD



### UNSOLVED HOMICIDE —

JUNE 23, 2021  
MOUNT VERNON, N.Y.

**JEREMY LOGAN** was shot and killed in the vicinity of 266 South Fulton Avenue, Mount Vernon, on June 23, 2021 at 10:40 PM during a memorial service.

Call Westchester Crime Stoppers at

# 1-800-898-TIPS

or submit an anonymous tip by texting "MVPD" and your tip to 847411

Westchester County Crime Stoppers has announced that it is offering a \$7,500 reward for information that leads to an arrest and indictment in the unsolved murder of a Mount Vernon resident in June 2021.

Jeremy Logan was shot and killed while attending a memorial service near 266 South Fulton Avenue, Mount Vernon, on June 23, 2021 at 10:40 p.m. Mr. Logan's mother attended the press conference with Crime Stoppers Chairman Derickson K. Lawrence, Mount Vernon Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard and Mount Vernon Police Commissioner Glenn Scott.

A relative of Logan, China Smith, asked for help from community members in finding whoever killed her nephew. "Unfortunately, Jeremy was gunned down by yet another coward in our community."

Mount Vernon Police continue to try and identify the a suspect in this case, but need the community's assistance. Those with information are asked to call Mount Vernon Police at 914-685-2510, or Westchester County Crime Stoppers at 1-800-898-TIPS.

The NY Post recently had the following front page headline and cartoon-  
Trumpty Dumpty

In our January 18, 2019 newspaper, Westchester Rising, we printed the following drawing and poem.

Editor's Note: Chris, a frequent caller into WVOX, 1460 AM, read this poem to me and gave permission to print it:

Trumpty Dumpty sat on a wall  
Trumpty Dumpty could have a great fall  
All the kings men and  
All the kings horses  
May not put our Country  
Back together again

Cartoon-by Katie Murphy

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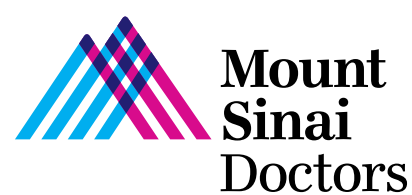
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