

## Somers Teen Mourned as the First Illegal Migrant Murder Victim in Westchester



*Help Christina and Matthew Overcome Tragedy-GoFundMe Account Reaches \$160,000*

*Christina Raimondi, with her sons, Michael right, and Matthew*

*By Dan Murphy*

The northern Westchester and Putnam County communities are mourning the murder of 15 year old Michael Raimondi, who died from gunshot wounds on October 28 at his home in Baldwin Place-Somers, and are shocked at the incident and the shooter, 40 year old Fernando Jimenez, who was an illegal resident of the US.

ICE has confirmed to us that Jimenez was an illegal resident of Westchester County when he shot his ex-girlfriend, Christina Raimondi, and her two sons, Michael and Matthew.

Shortly after the shooting, the grandparents of Michael and Matthew were notified and sped to the complex on Route 6. The shooter was still at the scene, and pointed his gun at the grandparents before escaping into the night.

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## Eastchester Teacher Arrested, Charged with Sextortion Crimes Against Teenage Student



*Thomas Puccini, 28, left was arrested for sextortion crimes against an Eastchester teenage student.*

*DA Mimi Rocah is asking any other victims to come forward*

*By Dan Murphy*

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah is urging any possible victims of the Eastchester school district athletic director, who was arrested and charged in connection with allegedly extorting a teenager to send sexually explicit images and videos, to contact the DA's Office or police.

DA Rocah said: "Pressuring and threatening people for content that is sexual in nature, also known as 'sextortion,' is increasingly directed at our youth and is a crime. Anyone who may have been victimized or may have information about other possible victims of this defendant should contact the DA's Office at (914)995-TIPS (8546). My Office is on standby to offer support and assistance to victims and families while our investigation continues."

The defendant, Thomas James Puccini, 28, employed by the Eastchester Union Free School District as the Interim Director of Physical Education, Health and Athletics, was arrested on Nov. 1 by the Westchester County District Attorney's Office and arraigned before Judge Lynette Spaulding on the felony charge of grand larceny in the fourth degree in White Plains City Court.

As the charge is not bail eligible in New York, the defendant was released on his own recognizance and is due in Eastchester Town Court on Nov. 6.

According to the felony complaint, the defendant obtained images and videos of a sexual nature from a teen, starting when the victim was 17 years old, by threatening to expose confidential information about the victim. The communications allegedly occurred between November 2021 and November 2023 on the social media platform Snapchat and CashApp, a mobile payment service.

The Westchester County District Attorney's Office's Cyber Crimes Bureau and High Technology Crimes Squad conducted the investigation after the victim filed a report with the Eastchester Police Department, who referred the

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**Read it all Online at [Yonkerstimes.com](http://Yonkerstimes.com)**

## As Trump Wins the Presidency, The Blue Wall in Westchester Holds

*Dems Win Across the County, Prop 1 Passes: Prop 2 Fails*



*District Attorney -elect Susan Cacace, State Senator Shelly Mayer and Congressman elect George Latimer, were all victorious on Election Night 2024*

*By Dan Murphy*

As former President Donald Trump scored a decisive victory over Vice-President Kamala Harris on Election Night 2024, and won the popular vote across the county, here in Westchester, voters elected democrats across the board. Harris won Westchester County, defeating Trump by a 61%-37% margin. Harris won NY by a 55%-44% margin.

Another important vote for Westchester residents and all New Yorkers on Nov. 5 was the vote on Proposition One, which has strong support and op

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## Lawler and Latimer Elected to Congress Representing Westchester



*left, former President Bill Clinton at a fund raiser for Congressman -elect George Latimer. Right Congressman Mike Lawler voting on Election Day with daughter . See story on page 7-*

## Yorktown Proposed 2025 Budget Includes a Whopping 8.6% Property Tax Increase Highest Tax Increase in Westchester So Far

*By Dan Murphy*

Yorktown Republican Supervisor Ed Lachterman proposed a budget for 2025 that many residents and taxpayers are not used to. Lachterman and the republican majority on the Town Board have proposed a budget for next year that includes an 8.6% property tax increase, which far exceeds the tax cap and is the largest proposed tax increase in Westchester so far for fiscal year 2025.

Yorktown Supervisor Ed Lachterman presented a tentative 2025 Town budget today impacted by fiscal challenges due to escalating costs, unfunded mandates, and economic pressures on both state and national levels.

"While Yorktown stands as a model of fiscal responsibility, our partners in Albany and Washington are not, and we are now seeing the impact firsthand," said Supervisor Lachterman. "Our mission to protect property taxpayers continues, and we will seek innovative ways to address the economic pressures we face."

To manage these pressures and ensure Yorktown remains a vibrant and affordable community, Town officials were forced to propose an 8.6% Town tax increase in the tentative 2025 Town Budget. The proposed Town property tax increase on a home assessed at \$10,000 would be \$144. Town taxes represent about 11% of taxpayers total tax bill, while school taxes—which Town officials do not control—represent about 70% of the total.

During his time on the Town Board, Supervisor Lachterman and his team focused on keeping Yorktown among the most affordable communities in Westchester County, successfully reducing or maintaining flat Town taxes over the

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**Aerosmith Founding Member to Host Disabled American Vets Benefit Show Nov. 10 -Pete’s Saloon**



Joey Kramer, Tom Hamilton, Steven Tyler, Joe Perry, Raymond Tabano



Ray Tabano with disabled vets, left

Ray Tabano, a founding member of Aerosmith and a Yonkers resident is hosting a fundraiser for Disabled American Veterans Chapter #23. Ray and his childhood friend Aerosmith front man Steven Tyler grew up in northeast Yonkers and attended Roosevelt HS. Later both moved to Boston and formed Aerosmith with Ray as the bands’s original rhythm guitarist. Ray Tabano has been featured internationally in numerous books, documentary films, tv and radio shows.

This benefit will be held on Sunday Nov. 10th, 2024 – 1PM at Pete’s Saloon, 8 West Main St., Elmsford NY. Admission is \$ 20. Guitarist, singer & songwriter Ray Tabano and his Third Step Band, will perform originals and covers of top British hits songs of the 60’s. The show also features a sparkling multi-media presentation of the period along with beginnings of Aerosmith who were influenced by the music of that time.

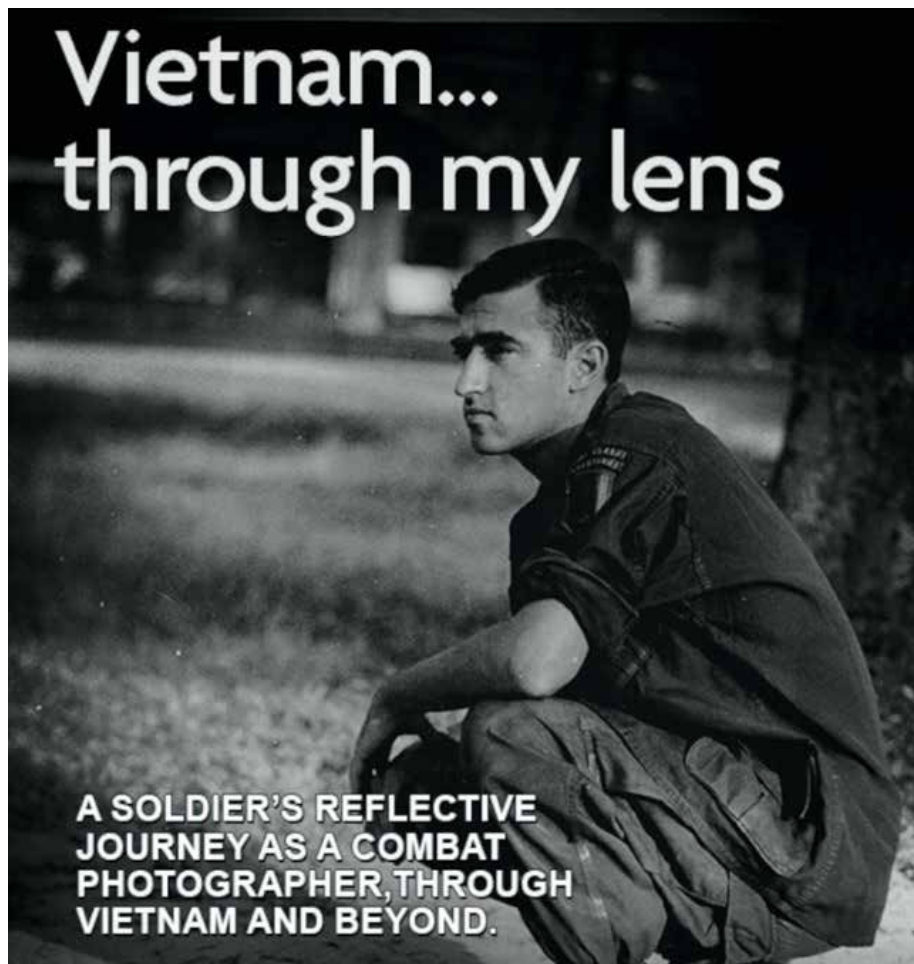
Tabano’s special guest on Sunday night will be Pat “Elvis “ Perone who will be performing his amazing Elvis Tribute Show. Tabano noted, “ Keep an eye out for some “special guests” that will be dropping by in support of our DAV Vets. This rockin fun filled charitable event will help us help our Veterans. In addition, there will be a 50/50 raffles each night.

The Disabled American Veterans is an organization created in 1920 by World War I veterans for disabled military veterans of the United States Armed Forces that helps them and their families through various means. It was issued a federal charter by Congress in 1932. It currently has over 1 million members.

Visit [www.dav.org](http://www.dav.org) to learn more.

**American Legion Post 8, New Rochelle and Post 50 Pelham, Sponsor Free Showing of Indi Film Vietnam...Through My Lens**

at Pelham Picture House on Veterans Day Nov. 11-4pm



Vietnam...through my lens is Stu Richel’s thought-provoking, solo performance that explores his journey as a combat journalist and photographer to, through and beyond his military service in Vietnam. One soldier’s intimately personal and unique tale about friendships, trust, tenacity... and an experience that has colored his life. No blood and guts. No politics. Drama, poignancy, and a healthy dose of humor. The film reflects Stu’s pride in having served, and his enormous respect for all those who put themselves in harm’s way, every day, so the rest of us can flourish.

Richel has an extensive stage and screen resume, including TV appearances on “30 Rock”, “One Life to Live”, “What Would You Do?”, “Law & Order” and “Billions”. He has appeared in Off Broadway stage productions and regional theaters around the country.

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What the critics and viewers say: “in his simple storytelling style, Stu can make the ordinary seem extraordinary and the everyday seem heroic. His words bring to life a palpable sense of what the country’s pulse was at the time of Vietnam.” – David Lally, Critic

“I was thoroughly impressed with the production” – Loretta Swit (Hot Lips, MAS\*H), Actor, Artist “Richel has written and performs an absolutely engaging, realistic yet primarily light-hearted, view of his participation in a war that tore not only Viet Nam, but this country, to shreds... (he) tells a great tale, no matter what your age.” – Karen D’Onofrio, Critic

“You hit it out of the park.” Tom Lynott, retired NYPD Detective. “A mixture of chuckles and tears.” Jim Miller, attorney. “Fascinating, touching, inspiring, glued to my seat, first rate.” Phyllis Erickson, corporate exec.

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## Open Fire Ban Issued for Westchester County Parks

Ban is in effect immediately.

Due to the dry conditions an open fire ban has been issued for Westchester County Parks effective immediately.

The wooded environment in the parks, including camping sites and remote areas have an increased risk of fire due to the significant shortage of rainfall this season. While this ban is in effect, charcoal and propane fires will only be permitted for cooking in permanently fixed grills in the parks.

Safety tips on the open fire ban and drought watch include:

Where camp fires are permitted, limit their size and never leave one unattended. Make sure it has been fully extinguished before leaving a campsite.

The burning of tree limbs or other organic debris is not permitted while the burn ban is in effect.

Safely dispose of any charcoal used in a grill or ashes from wood burned in a fire-place.

Extinguish cigarettes and other lightened materials safely and do not drop them in any wooded or grassy area.

If you observe any smoke or small fire in any park or wooded area, please call 911 immediately so it can be quickly contained.

## Westchester County Signs New Law to Improve Road Quality and Limit Patchwork Repaving by Private Companies

New Law Enforces Paving Standards for Private Contractors, Promoting Long-Term Road Safety

Westchester County Executive George Latimer signed into law a new amendment to Chapter 813 of the Westchester County Laws to curb patchwork or spot repaving on County roads by private contractors. The new legislation, sponsored by County Legislator James Nolan and County Legislator Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, is designed to improve road durability, safety, and overall quality by enforcing consistent and thorough repaving standards.

The new legislation addresses the issue of incomplete road repairs often left behind by private companies, resulting in uneven surfaces and increased maintenance needs. Companies performing work on County roads will now be required to follow specific paving standards, helping to ensure that any construction leaves roads in better, safer condition for residents and travelers.

Latimer said: "Westchester's roads connect our communities, residents, and businesses, so it is essential they remain in the best possible condition. By requiring companies to uphold our repaving standards, we're not only preserving our infrastructure but ensuring safety for everyone who relies on these roads daily."

Nolan said: "Thank you to my colleagues in County government for all their help in passing Legislator Woodson-Samuel's and my bill that would require any company doing road work to do curb-to-curb replacement instead of spot repaving. As you may know, some companies have been doing spot repaving on our County roads for decades, and my bill seeks to end this practice. Spot repaving is often an eyesore, but can be expensive for municipalities to repave. Curb-to-curb replacement can prevent rutting and erosion from water seepage into surface cracks, is more aesthetically acceptable, and can be more cost-effective over time. The goal for this piece of legislation is that instead of patch jobs, we will see full repairs on these roads and move the savings from this work back to the taxpayer, all while improving our infrastructure. This is great piece of legislation and I am thrilled that it will be beneficial to all."

With this new legislation, Westchester County takes a proactive step toward enhancing road quality and addressing inconsistent repairs.

## The People Have Spoken Why Did Kamala Harris Lose

By Eric Wolf Schoen



When former New York City Mayor Ed Koch lost the nomination for Governor to Mario Cuomo in 1982, he made a very good speech to his supporters and the the people of New York. He said the people have spoken

And so we the People of America elected a new President Tuesday night. No, maybe he is an old President brought back for his constitutionally permitted second term. Bottom line is that Donald Trump will occupy 1600 Pennsylvania Ave come January for 4. Years.

Some expected Trump would Get reelected, and many did not. After His comments blaming Jewish people of which religion group is in Trumps family of bring the reason he would lose the Presidency, he finally settled down and shut his mouth and his stupid comments were taken with a grain of salt.

Then last weekend Trump hired a comedienne for one of his 'shows', the comedian made inappropriate comments regarding Puerto Rico and many people got upset. by them. People thought he would loose the Puerto Rican vote, he lost some but still did not have a major crisp on his bands.

If these two episodes didn't kill the cat, they certainly put fuel on the fire. But as the famous Howard Stern always says, 'Blame the Jews!'

I can think of a least 10 reasons why Kamala lost. Number one is Blame Joe Biden and The Biden family. They knew Joe was having health issues and waited for the last minute to pullout. So Kamala.had no time to get to know the depths of the American people and the problems on their mind and get her opinions thought out to the American people.

What Right did Kamala have to claim she was heir apparent to the throne.? People did not know her and there were many more qualified candidates for the job.And Yes I will include Bernie Sanders in that group even though he has embarrassed himself a great deal lately.

Kamala's handlers kept her sequestered and away from the press. Bottom line is she was incapable of answering many important questions.

Kamala was given the task of fixing the borders that are allowing was too many people to enter the United States. Granted Trump in his earlier.term planned on fixing the borders and nothing the Trump administration tried worked. But it took Kamala a while to get to the borders.

Kamala did very good when she debated Donald one on one. She should have pressed for more and if she had to sit oppsite an empty chair so be it.

Kamala had a Democratic Party in disarray after the Biden affair. She had to little time to pull everyone together.

What did Kamala do with all the money she raised. I'm not saying anything criminal occurred, but the people who handled her air buys didn't get the bang for the buck she needed.

Kamala played the innocent, naive role way too many times. Even though he is a convicted felon and a pervert, people feel they can go to bed easily knowing if he had to push the button in the middle of the night they trust he would make the right decision.

Don't think for one minute that Donald will be going to jail. If you think he will be, I have a bridge in Brooklyn to sell you. That's the problem with politics in America today. . A Democrat is the same thing as a Republican. Both parties

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## South American Burglary Gang Suspects Arrested in Mount Pleasant-Westchester



*Jhonn Pulido Betancur is charged with burglary in the second degree. Photo courtesy of the Mount Pleasant Police Department*

The Mount Pleasant Police arrested two men suspected of being part of a South American burglary ring targeting Indian and Chinese American households in New York and multiple other states.

Police arrested Johan Matallana-Gomez, 29, and Jhonn Pulido Betancur, 46, while perpetrating the burglary of a residence on Swanson Drive. One of the suspects is in the country illegally.

At approximately 8:08 p.m. on Friday, November 1, a resident called the police and reported hearing breaking glass coming from her neighbor's house. Mount Pleasant Police responded within minutes. Officer Lester soon discovered a broken rear window, and other officers swiftly set up a perimeter around the home.

At 8:15 p.m., Matallana-Gomez fled through a rear sliding door, and in a desperate escape maneuver, he vaulted a fence to a lower terraced yard, where he fractured his right ankle upon landing. Officers immediately apprehended him. Moments later, Pulido Betancur tried to escape by jumping from a second-floor deck, only to be swiftly tackled by Sergeant Mann, Officer Perucci, and Officer Fimmano.

Police Chief Paul Oliva noted that an accomplice likely fled the scene in a vehicle as police arrived, and the investigation remains ongoing.

"It was a fantastic job by patrol, and I am super proud of their quick response and professionalism," said Chief Oliva. "Unfortunately, we are not immune from the problems caused by an open border policy, but we will continue to do our job to protect the community."

Police discovered a Wi-Fi jammer brought by the duo and left in the residence when they fled. The jammer is used to disable security cameras and Wi-Fi connections. The investigation suggests these suspects may be connected to a broader criminal organization targeting families of Indian and Chinese descent. The victims fall into this category and the jammer is a tool that has been used by this particular burglary ring.

Police arraigned one suspect at police headquarters, and the other at Westchester Medical Center prior to undergoing surgery for his injuries. Both men have been charged with burglary in the second degree, a Class C felony. Matallana-Gomez remains in custody at the Westchester Medical Center and Betancur is currently remanded to the Westchester County Jail. Both men could be eligible for release this week due to the current bail legislation.

"On behalf of our entire community, I commend our Mount Pleasant Police Department for their swift and effective response to last night's burglary. Thanks to their professionalism and quick action, two dangerous individuals were taken off our streets, and our residents can feel safer knowing that our officers are vigilant and prepared," said Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi.

## Derickson Lawrence Sentenced to 7 Years for Wire Fraud, But Continues to Declare His Innocence



*Derickson Lawrence*

Fintech CEO Takes Case to 4th Circuit Court of Appeals After Sowing the Record with New Evidence

Derickson Lawrence takes his case to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals to appeal his conviction and sentence of 7 years and 3 months after being found guilty of 10 counts of wire fraud and 1 count of mail fraud in March of 2024.

At the time of conviction, the government had announced that Lawrence faced a maximum of twenty years for each count. On June 21, 2024, he fired his attorneys to self-represent.

Originally scheduled for sentencing on July 19, 2024, as pro se, Lawrence moved the Court through interlocutory proceedings and a couple of sentencing dates [During the post-conviction phase] until October 25, 2024. During that time he sowed the trial record with new evidence, and/or evidence not presented during trial.

MarketView Resources, Lawrence's former company provided vendor payments, ACH services, and enhanced card services to the unbanked from 2001-2019. "There's a lot of ink spilled to air the unproven details of the case (United States of America 'Eastern District of Virginia' v. Derickson Lawrence) in the press. But why (with their unlimited resources) engage in an insidious smear campaign against one man, already sentenced? The answer: To prejudice public sentiment and besmirch the thirty-year history of dedicated public service in the community. Perhaps this speaks to the strength of the case going forward," Lawrence speculated. "So we look forward to the appellate process and instead of reciprocating, we will rely on 'smooth stones' of the facts and evidence introduced in the first trial phase to guide the appellate review process," Lawrence said.

Lawrence, a humble servant of his community, who is not an attorney, will none the less lead his case through appellate review. Ultimately, this is about fundamental fairness (due process) which requires a meaningful opportunity to present a complete defense, not half a defense, and constitutionally guaranteed access to evidence."

Lawrence is a former congressional candidate for the NY 16th Congressional District, former Chair of Westchester County Crimestoppers, and former Chair of City of Mt. Vernon Charter Revision Commission.

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*-Thomas Jefferson*

## Rabies Alert: Rabid Raccoon Found in Tarrytown

The Westchester County Department of Health is notifying residents that a rabid raccoon was found acting aggressively on Thursday, October 31 near John Paulding School, 154 Broadway in Tarrytown. The raccoon, which was also seen near the Warner Library and Patriots Park, has tested positive for rabies.

The County Health Department is alerting residents to call as soon as possible if they or a family member have had contact with a raccoon, so they can be evaluated for preventive rabies treatment. Residents can call the Health Department at (914) 813-5000, 24-hours a day.

Health Commissioner Sherlita Amler, MD, said: "Rabies is fatal, but it is also 100 percent preventable with post-exposure treatment. To avoid rabies, steer clear of wild animals and strays and teach your children not to approach or handle animals they don't know. Children should tell parents right away if they are bitten or scratched by any animal. It is also important to bat proof your home and keep your pets' rabies vaccinations up to date. Discourage wild animals from visiting your yard by securely covering trash cans, and keeping pet food and water indoors."

Unusual behavior may be the first sign of rabies in an animal. A rabid animal may become either abnormally aggressive or unusually tame. It may lose fear of people and become excited and irritable, or appear particularly passive and lethargic. Staggering and frothing at the mouth are sometimes noted.

Residents should never approach or have contact with a stray or wild animal. Residents who see a stray or wild animal acting strangely should alert local authorities immediately to avoid possible exposure to rabies. Any physical contact with a wild or unfamiliar animal should also be reported to a health care provider. All animal bites or contact with animals suspected of having rabies must be reported to the County Health Department.

Keeping pet rabies vaccinations up to date is also important for protection against rabies. New York State law requires dogs, cats and ferrets to be vaccinated against rabies and receive regular booster shots. For more information, go to [www.westchestergov.com/health](http://www.westchestergov.com/health) or call the RABIES INFOLINE at (914) 813-5010.

## County Archives Center to Be Named After Former County Executive & County Clerk Andrew Spano



Westchester County Executive George Latimer introduced legislation to the Westchester County Board of Legislators to recognize Andrew J. Spano, Westchester's seventh County Executive, by naming the Westchester County Archives and Records Center in his honor. The building is proposed to be named the Andrew J. Spano County Archives and Records Center. The dedication is part of Latimer's ongoing effort to pay homage and respect to his predecessors in Westchester County Government.

Latimer said: "As I close my seventh year as Westchester County Executive, I feel a sense of pride in recognizing the accomplishments of the leaders who came before me. I would like to extend my deepest gratitude to Andy and his family, and it is my hope that as people pass this County building, they will think of him fondly for all that he achieved for the people of Westchester."

Westchester Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "Andy Spano was the kind of leader we all aspire to be – an executive, a mentor, and a friend. He cared about making a difference in the lives of Westchester's residents, but he also cared very much about his colleagues in County government. Andy is truly deserving of this prestigious honor, and today we recognize him for his lasting contributions as County Executive."

Westchester County Clerk Timothy Itoni said: "Andy Spano is best known for twelve amazing years as our County Executive. But, his public service began as first a teacher and then as an amazing County Clerk. As Clerk, Andy was a true visionary, automating an antiquated recording system and bringing about a true, important public understanding of the then obscure work the Clerk's office performed. This is a truly deserving honor."

Westchester County Historical Society Executive Director Barbara Davis said: "The Westchester County Historical Society is forever grateful to Andy Spano for including the WCHS operations in the development of the Records Center. As a result of his keen vision, the preservation, protection and promotion of the County's extraordinary history is secure for all generations."

Former Westchester Deputy Executive and Former Director of Communications Susan Tolchin said: "Andy was County Clerk and I was Greenburgh Town Clerk

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## The Importance of Mental Health and Wellness for Law Enforcement

### OP-ED by Keith Olson

Once again, tragedy has struck our Westchester community. In the early morning hours of October 16th, we were shocked to learn that retired NYPD Detective Sean O'Neill shot and killed his wife Arlene Connolly O'Neill, a fifth-grade school teacher, at their home in Yonkers. The retired police officer then turned the gun on himself in yet another murder-suicide involving a law enforcement officer, this time leaving three young sons behind. This horrific tragedy comes less than ten months after a Bronxville, NY police sergeant killed his wife and two young sons before taking his own life[1].

These two recent tragedies, both signs of the growing mental health crisis in law enforcement, beg a number of questions. The most basic, yet significant of these questions being "is the law enforcement community receiving the support they need to adequately address the mental health and wellness of their members?" As the current President of the Affiliated Police Associations of Westchester (APA), representing roughly 4,000 law enforcement officers in Westchester County and as a recently retired 34-year veteran of the Yonkers Police Department, I am sad to say that the answer to that question is a resounding "No."

Having been at the forefront of this discussion for more than a decade as the former President of the Yonkers PBA and the President of the APA I will say that law enforcement has made some strides in recognizing the importance of promoting both mental and physical health and wellness with their members. Some agencies have robust peer support systems and are actively trying to find ways to improve. Acknowledging that protecting the mental health and well-being of police officers is essential in keeping our communities safe, Congress passed the Law Enforcement Mental Health and Wellness Act (LEMHWA) in 2018[2]. However, despite this progress, we have barely scratched the surface of truly tackling this important issue.

A recent study showed that a staggering 90% of police officers surveyed showed a reluctance to seek mental health help[3]. One of the prevailing reasons driving this reluctance is that far too often, officers feel that their career will suffer if they seek help, many fearing that they may even lose their job as a result. From my decades of experience in representing police officers, I can tell you unequivocally that this fear is legitimate. Far too many times I have seen situations throughout the county where officers sought the help they needed to address mental health issues, only to then feel abandoned by their own police departments and municipalities after admitting they needed help. We must do better with this. If we want our officers to come forward and seek the help they need, they must feel secure in knowing that their career will not be in jeopardy if they do so. In the law enforcement community, avoiding perceived career suicide can often lead to actual suicide.

Another situation we must begin to address is with the mental health of retired members of law enforcement. After experiencing decades of incredible trauma and stress on the job, frequently witnessing things no human being should ever have to witness, police officers retire and are often left to deal with the effects of this trauma on their own. Considering the extraordinarily high rate of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and depression experienced by police officers[4], it is a recipe for disaster to abandon our officers after they retire. We must build a system that provides our retirees the help they need to maintain their health and wellness. We must also build a network where peer support members can stay in contact with the retirees in order to check on them regularly and to keep them informed of available programs and services.

The discussion of improving the mental health and wellness of police officers should also include implementing thoughtful policies on how police respond to and follow up on traumatic incidents, building effective peer support systems with well trained volunteers, ensuring that the necessary psychological treatment is available to officers when they request it and much more.

In June of 2020, then New York Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed Executive Order 203 requiring each local government in NY State to adopt a policing reform plan that would maintain public safety while building trust and mutual respect between police and the communities they serve. We were told to "reimagine policing." Having personally served on the Yonkers Police Reform Committee I can tell you that our committee recognized the crucial connection between officer mental health and wellness and fair and effective policing. In every reform plan that I've read related to this executive order, and I've read many, maintaining the mental and physical health and wellness of police officers was listed as a priority. It is past time that our elected officials and high-ranking police leaders make this a top priority as well.

As we saw most recently on this heartbreaking early morning in Yonkers, the results of not getting our active or retired law enforcement officers the mental health help they need can be catastrophic. We have to do more. And when it comes to funding crucial wellness initiatives for police officers who risk their lives for our communities, the words "we cannot afford it" should not be uttered. The hard truth is that we cannot afford not to.

**Keith Olson is the President of the Affiliated Police Associations of Westchester, and Founder & CEO of KO Solutions & Strategies LLC. He served as President of the Yonkers PBA.**

**Read it all Online at [Yonkerstimes.com](http://Yonkerstimes.com)**

### Westchester Rising

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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST,

-against-

OMOWUMI LONGE, ET AL.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Westchester on June 20, 2024, wherein U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST is the Plaintiff and OMOWUMI LONGE, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the WESTCHESTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE,, LOBBY, 111 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD., WHITE PLAINS, NY 10601, on December 2, 2024 at 9:30AM, premises known as 437 SOUTH 5TH AVENUE, MOUNT VERNON, NY 10550; and the following tax map identification, 169.39-3091-37.

ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER AND STATE OF NEW YORK

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No.: 68185/2022. Robert Huffjay, Esq. - Referee. Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, social distancing and mask wearing. \*LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIRECTIVES.

CORPORATION NOTICE  
CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers, New York will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, November 19 at 6:25 PM in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following resolution, to wit:

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YONKERS ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE CITY'S PLANNING BOARD TO NAME A PROPOSED SUBDIVISION STREET AT BLOCK: 4391, LOT: 435, ON THE PROPERTY KNOWN AS 612 EAST GRASSY SPRAIN ROAD ("TOLL BROTHERS SUBDIVISION"), "VICTOR LANE," IN HONOR OF VICTOR OGLEY, A YONKERS CITIZEN AND DECORATED WORLD WAR I VETERAN

Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary. Further information may be obtained at the City Clerk's office, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York and on the City's Website.

VINCENT SPANO, City Clerk, November 6, 2024

Notice of formation of Hampton Estate Care LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/17/2024. 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, 35 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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 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 130 FRANKLIN AVE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 10/15/2024. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Brian Caldwell at 68 North Steet, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, November 20, 2024 AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN YONKERS CITY HALL, 40 SOUTH BROADWAY, 4TH FLOOR (building is handicapped accessible).

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV .

OPEN/CONTINUED HEARINGS

# 5797 – Area Variance - Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Marketin Hila/110 Ravine Realty LLC, Owner, on premises known as 110 Ravine Avenue, Block: 2118, Lot: 39, Zone: A (B29521) [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H-4V45sMcWs0\\_3rOyDixjXc\\_ttIYGnZq?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H-4V45sMcWs0_3rOyDixjXc_ttIYGnZq?usp=share_link)

# 5810 – Use & Area Variance – David S. Steinmetz, Esq. & Jacob E. Amir, Esq., on behalf of TCP Realty LLC, owners, on premises known as 143-151 Woodworth Avenue, Block: 2102, Lots: 4, 5, 11, 39 & 41, Zone: C (B32117) [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H-uwlmInZ67PdqnXin47LX7kkvY8uwUh?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H-uwlmInZ67PdqnXin47LX7kkvY8uwUh?usp=share_link)

# 5850 – Area Variance – Kathleen Bradshaw, Esq., on behalf of 194 Yonkers Avenue LLC, owner, on premises known as 182 Fillmore Street aka 194 Yonkers Avenue, Block: 405, Lots: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7,8, 9,13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Zone: BA - [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rmdP3X61js\\_cy3P25c-FkrsMpUyXHf34?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rmdP3X61js_cy3P25c-FkrsMpUyXHf34?usp=sharing)

# 5854 – Area Variance – Stephen A. Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of P and B Yonkers LLC, owner, on Premises known as 37-43 Post Street, Block: 158, Lots: 66 & 68, Zone: M (B31035) \*Adjourned [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CD\\_9e4Guj-ufCACfnF18U\\_5fJkkwC9wT?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CD_9e4Guj-ufCACfnF18U_5fJkkwC9wT?usp=sharing)

# 5836 – Use & Area Variance – Mastrogiacomo Engineering PC, on behalf of My Main Man LLC, Owner, on premises known as 47 High Street aka 102 Park Avenue, Block: 2167, Lot: 1.3, Zone: G (B32874) \* Adjourned <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KcvFoSwZw6ljqBkVUCJQsWyXq4z4Pn-x?usp=sharing>

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

# 5855 – Area Variance – Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of 160 Stanley Avenue LLC, owner, on premises known as 160 Stanley Ave, Block: 184, Lots: 68, Zone: A (B00033778) [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sBCFaH0Iubtvx\\_DMeLZGYwbaUBYOPlzH?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sBCFaH0Iubtvx_DMeLZGYwbaUBYOPlzH?usp=sharing)

#5863 – Area Variance- Nicolas Zapata, RA on behalf of Carmen Tejada owners of Premises know as 43 Moultrie Avenue, Block 3130, Lot:11, Zone T (B0033416) [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Xjs3vQ4v\\_KnrFVa5ciJ3GsJUmkIGH3h9?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Xjs3vQ4v_KnrFVa5ciJ3GsJUmkIGH3h9?usp=sharing)

#5864 - Area Variance - James Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of T&H 1828 LLC, owner, On premises known as 1828 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4615, Lot: 22, Zone M (B0034059) <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tvmzVMblrm8eG1pWxNYvpLQoJ90JLi02?usp=sharing>

#5865 – Area Variance – Janet J. Giris , Esq., on behalf of NY Riverview Properties LLC, Owner, On premises known as 105-111 Vineyard Avenue , Block:2170 Lot: 72.77 & 71 Zone: M(B0034840) <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1buGzAfK2sGOwCz4kaXko13yEFQXzkbW?usp=sharing>

#5867 – Area Variance - Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of 221-223 Buena Vista Ave , Block: 172, Lot: 92 & 94.98 (B0035075) Zone: UR-LD, Two Twenty One Vista Group LLC owner, on premises know as 221 Buena Vista Ave <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F1m-R-0c-gBFiMzvD3FNmtZIP7EDj1mO?usp=sharing>

#5868 – Area Variance – Shahin Badaly on behalf of 221 Lake Ave , Block: 2179, Lot:02 Zone: A&I District; 22 Lake Partners LLC owner, on premises know as 222 Lake Ave \* Adjourned [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mf7O9\\_0k71Ctg3VjstKmcYFfc2p9cjld?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mf7O9_0k71Ctg3VjstKmcYFfc2p9cjld?usp=sharing)

NEW HEARINGS

#5852 - Area Variance - Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of 94 St. Andrews Place , Block: 133, Lot: 3 (B0033786) Zone: A, Pleasure Home Improvement LLC owner, on premises know as 94 St. Andrews Place. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-WAnk-6N6D-BLNUSRFplEp6VBcZd6V80?usp=sharing>

#5869 – Area Variance - T&N Home Solutions LLC Regina Parker on behalf of 152 Hawthorne Ave, Block:175, Lots 16.17 (B0034021) Zone :A, on the premises know as 152 Hawthorne Avenue owner Nicholas Satchel [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HcshqQg13HNBB2\\_hVJlckAr1cmXM0o4H?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HcshqQg13HNBB2_hVJlckAr1cmXM0o4H?usp=sharing)

#5870 – Area Variance – Cristian Hernandez on behalf of 105 Ridgewood Avenue, Block: 6335, Lot:20 (B0034666) Zone:S-50 ; Khaled Awwad owner , on premises know as 105 Ridgewood Avenue. [https://drive.google.com/drive/folder/s/1HsjnBOsXe6vhUxrKFTHGptkneGt\\_d7A?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folder/s/1HsjnBOsXe6vhUxrKFTHGptkneGt_d7A?usp=sharing)

#5871 – Area Variance – Shahin Badaly on behalf of AMS Estates LLC, Block:3078, Lot:1 (B0034832) Zone S-50, on premises know as 154 Hillside Ave aka 350 Roberts Ave <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1lxvsM9I8jg0tVwjdyPyv2BdcA0Yqhltoy?usp=sharing>

#5872 – Area Variance – Ellen Theg , on behalf of Groundwork Hudson Valley Inc., owner, on premises known as 8 Orchard Street, Block:2075, Lot:13 (B0035484) Zone :MG [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HXO5IJTIPIqXlxAlQZcau2pHTBCNc\\_SO?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1HXO5IJTIPIqXlxAlQZcau2pHTBCNc_SO?usp=sharing)

#5873- Area Variance- Improvement to a Non-Conforming Use - Nick Faustini, Architect, on behalf of 148-158 Ludlow St. Corp. ,owner, On premises known as 148 Ludlow Street, Block:165, Lot:12, (B202101347) Zone:I [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o98Rq5rr-geGQr2l-16SP7g3GbfqYZK\\_?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o98Rq5rr-geGQr2l-16SP7g3GbfqYZK_?usp=sharing)

## Harris and Trump They are both a part of the malaise called America

**OP-ED by Clifford Jackson**

The election between Vice President Kamala Harris and former president Donald Trump is not the

good vs evil reporting that we are seeing in the corporate media. They are reporting, at least most of the main stream media, about the racism, xenophobia, white supremacy and pugnacious behavior and hatred that have epitomized the Donald Trump campaign and the millions who are depraved and sick in their support for him.

However their reporting of Kamala Harris is a sanitized image of someone who by no stretch of the imagination is the savior of democracy and advocate for the disenfranchised. Donald Trump

has a history of racism and blatant discrimination that goes back to Fred Trump's involvement with the KKK in the 1920's on Long Island. Fred Trump also was lambasted by Woody Guthrie for his racist housing policies at the Brookhaven complex in Brooklyn. Guthrie wrote a song about how he moved into the complex in 1950 and was exposed to a housing policy that prevented blacks and Latinos from living there. Fred Trump and Donald Trump continued this with their ownership of a housing complex in "Stuyvesant Town" that prevented black World War 2 veterans from moving into. They were sued in a class action suit in 1973 because Trump and Roy Cohn violated the 1968 federal housing anti discrimination act. Trump has used the word nigger throughout his life especially when it came to his properties, he would say "I don't want to have people come here and the first thing they see is a nigger". His niece and former property manager at several casino sites made that clear in their respective books on Donald Trump. I am pretty sure that with the Central Park Five ad, where he asked for their public execution, the "N" word was flying out of his mouth.

Trump is Cosa Nostra on steroids with all of the banks and vendors that he has defrauded and stolen from. His relationship with the late Nicholas Scarfo, the John Gotti from Atlantic City, also brings this point home. As Geraldo Rivera said "any Latino man or woman needs to have their head examined if they vote for Donald Trump." This point was in effect long before the despicable comments about Puerto Rico at the rally in Madison Square Garden.

Kamala Harris is a typical mendacious politician. When you say, as she and other politicians have said for decades when running for office, "I am here to fight for middle class families". That is putative for politicians democrat or republican. When you make those type of statements as a politician you are pandering to mainly middle class white families. That is what Kamala Harris and many other politicians do daily. The most egregious quality of life in this society happens to the poor, homelessness, substandard housing so-called food insecurity, the highest level of infant and mother mortality, Medicaid that many times does not cover healthcare expenses or procedures that are necessary to save their lives.

As well as the self hatred that poor people especially black and brown deal with because they are daily dehumanized and defined as a cipher. The terms "hand outs" their lazy "something that poor people deal with everyday that helps make them feel less worthy. These are comments that middle class people especially middle class whites say constantly. The reason why poor people have this level of contempt for themselves is because they are demeaned in a society where people are defined by the size of their wallet. That very American quality makes Christianity in this society a fraud many times over. This is what Kamala Harris, because she is smart enough, understands. When Harris says "we have more in common and that we should strive to emulate the founding principles of this nation", she is showing how pathetically dishonest she is. The founding principles of this nation were white supremacy and the enslavement and destruction of African Americans and indigenous people. As well as white pathological violence that is expressed in terms of every president from Washington to Biden that have blood on their hands, and all of the Supreme Court decisions and congressional acts, such as the Indian Reorganization Act of 1832, that enforced "White mob rule". Harris Like Barack Obama are educated enough to know this history, that is why they are the consummate dishonest politicians. I knew this about Barack Obama when he made that speech at the democratic convention in 2004 that made him an insult to the legacies of Malcolm X, Fannie Lou Hamer, Paul Robeson, Frederick Douglass, Dr. King, Ella Baker and many others. These people were honest about the evils of American History. They were all in the MAWS of American racism, violence and injustice fighting these evils and lost their lives doing so. If it was not for the sacrifices of those human rights heroes Barack Obama and Vp Kamala Harris would not have made it to their respective seats within the American Political hierarchy. When Harris and Obama are honest about the brutally racist and barbaric state called Israel that Malcolm X, James Baldwin and others have condemned than maybe they will have some credibility.

**Clifford Jackson, Larchmont**

## Lawler and Latimer Elected to Congress

Congressman Mike Lawler and Congressman-elect George Latimer will serve the people of Westchester County in Washington, D.C., for the next two years after both won the election on Nov. 5.

Lawler defeated former Congressman Mondaire Jones, 51%-44% (with 2% for Anthony Frascione and 3% not voting for Congress) in the 17-Congressional district of N.Y. In contrast, Latimer defeated Dr. Miriam Levitt-Flisser, 66%-26%, with (7.5% not voting for Congress) in the 16th Congressional District.

Latimer's supporters were calling his victory a landslide. They said it added to his unbroken record of electoral victories, including defeating Congressman Jamaal Bowman in a nasty Democratic primary in June.

Latimer's record of electoral success in Westchester is unmatched (he has yet to be defeated in his races for County Legislator, Assemblyman, State Senator, County Executive, and now Congress).

"Congratulations goes out to Westchester County Executive George Latimer, who will become New York's 16th Congressional District's next representative after defeating candidate Miriam Flisser last night, winning the seat after ousting a top progressive incumbent in the primary earlier this year. Mr. Latimer has always been good to veterans, veteran issues, and especially the Yonkers City Post 1666 VFW. Good luck, sir, and we know that you will represent us well down in Washington."

Some Republicans questioned the decision to nominate Levitt-Flisser to run against him. "I want to congratulate Westchester GOP Chair Doug Colety on getting Republicans to run for state senate, assembly, and Congress. My only question is, why did he endorse Miriam Leavit-Flisser for Congress for the second time? Two years ago, she lost to Jamaal Bowman by 30 points; this year, she lost to Latimer by 35. She raised no money in either race and attracted no support or enthusiasm. I understand how reluctant some Republicans might be to run against Latimer in this district, but I think we could have done better," said one Yonkers Republican.

Latimer's victory is a testament to his grassroots campaign, his clear commitment to Democratic priorities, and his proven track record of delivering accurate progressive results. Driven by his commitment to leading on issues like women's right to choose, voting rights, the economy, affordable housing, and sustainable infrastructure, Latimer hopes to bring new energy and his real-world experience to Washington, fighting for all of NY-16.

During his remarks on election night in White Plains, Latimer expressed deep gratitude and appreciation to his supporters. "The people of Westchester and the Bronx have spoken, and I am honored to be your Congressman-elect. Thank you so much to those who volunteered, knocked on doors, phone banked, and joined me on a train. I look forward to fighting relentlessly for every resident of this district.

"Tonight marks a turning point in American history. Extreme views on both sides are all anyone hears, and people are upset enough to want to do away with democracy. My mission in Washington will be to move past the extreme rhetoric and work to produce real results," said NY-16 Congressman-elect George Latimer.

"Thank you to my family, friends, neighbors, colleagues, and campaign for your hard work. I am honored and humbled to be your congressman-elect, and I look forward to fighting relentlessly for every district resident."

Congressman Mike Lawler thanked his supporters on election night in Rockland County. "What an absolute ass-kicking," said Lawler, highlighting his obsession with everything Michael Jackson. Folks, tonight the Hudson Valley told Mondaire Jones to beat it!" Jones defeated Lawler in Westchester, 55%-43%, but Lawler won decisively in Rockland and Putnam counties. The \$42 million in campaign spending on both sides of this contest makes it the most expensive in Westchester. A third-party candidate, Anthony Frascione, got 2% or 5,200 votes. Frascione ran on the Working Families Party line after defeating Jones in the WFP Primary in June. The WFP leadership called Frascione a spoiler candidate funded by Lawler and told its voters to vote for Jones on the democratic line. Jones's campaign faltered after he endorsed Latimer over Bowman for Congress in NY-16. That move angered progressive Democrats, and media reports have questioned Jones's campaign tactics. The other question answered by Lawler's victory was who was more unpopular in NY-17, AOC, Congresswoman Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, or President Donald Trump? Lawler's campaign and supporters blasted a T.V. spot heard thousands of times by those of us in the district, with AOC shrieking, "The pride of New York right now, Mondaire Jones." Jones' campaign and supporters blasted a T.V. spot where President Trump said good things about Lawler. Jones's campaign and supporters also relentlessly tied Lawler to the fight to "outlaw abortion" in hundreds of mailings all of us in the district received. Lawler's supporters countered with T.V. ads using Jones' own words to "defund the police." When Jones tried to explain those comments, saying he said them when he was young, Lawler's supporters hit the air with another ad that pointed out that Jones was in Congress 4 years ago when he said them.

Jones was elected to Congress in 2020, taking Nita Lowey's Westchester congressional seat. He defeated Maureen McCardle-Schulman, 60%-35%. President Joe Biden won the district that year by 10 points. Four years later, Jones could not repeat his winning ways. Part of the reason is that. Trump got 44% of the vote in New York, up from 38% four years ago. Another statewide race where Republicans did better but did not win was for the U.S. Senate. Democrat Senator Kirsten Gillibrand got 58.4%. Six years ago, she got 67%.

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Cardboard Cutout Clothing Collage at Hudson River Museum Nov. 9



Channel your inner fashion stylist at Cardboard Cutout Clothing Collage this Saturday, November 9, 1:30–3:30pm. In this workshop led by Teaching Artist-in-Residence Nancy Mendez, you will choose a cardboard clothing cutout of a t-shirt, pants, or a dress pattern, then decorate it with paint and clothing pattern swatches. The final designs will be mounted and displayed, creating a collaborative composition that celebrates diversity and inclusivity across different cultures! Recommended for ages 12+. This program is #free with Museum admission and will be conducted in English and Spanish. Visit [HRM.org](http://HRM.org) to learn more.



On Friday, November 15, at 7pm, Celebrate the 50th anniversary of Pink Floyd's iconic album The Dark Side of the Moon with an immersive full-dome planetarium show. Production of Pink Floyd's official The Dark Side of the Moon planetarium show has been led by the award-winning UK production studio NSC Creative, working closely with Pink Floyd's long-time creative collaborator Aubrey Powell from Hipgnosis. Tickets: \$20; Members \$15; includes general admission. Recommended for ages 10+; 42-minute show. Advance reservations are encouraged. Visit [HRM.org](http://HRM.org) to learn more

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## Community Baptist Church Celebrates & Appoints Rev. Dr. Nigel O. Cole as New Pastor



**Rev. Dr. Nigel O. Cole, left**

Community Baptist Church is pleased to announce the appointment of Rev. Dr. Nigel O. Cole as its new pastor. Rev. Dr. Cole succeeds the late Rev. Clarence E. Bolling, whose legacy of faith and service has left an indelible mark on our congregation and community.

Rev. Dr. Cole brings 43 years of experience and a deep commitment to spiritual leadership. With a distinguished career in ministry, he has served various congregations within the tristate area with dedication, compassion, and a vision for growth and community engagement. In addition, Rev. Dr. Cole has over 31 years' experience as an educator. Collectively, his academic achievements and pastoral experience make him a fitting suc-

cessor to continue the ministry and lead the congregation with a new and exciting vision.

In his role, Rev. Dr. Cole aims to build on the strong foundation laid by his predecessor, fostering a spirit of unity, outreach, and spiritual growth within the church and the broader Yonkers community. He is passionate about creating inclusive spaces where all individuals can experience the love and grace of God.

For more information, please contact: Community Baptist Church 160 North Broadway Yonkers, NY 10701 Phone: (914) 969-4223 or visit their website at <https://cbeyonkers.churchtrac.com>.

## Entire Maria Regina Student Body Participates in Program to Help Those in Need for All Saints Day



**Olivia Maskara of the Bronx and Alexa Candelaria of Yonkers cut the fabric to craft the pouches that will house feminine hygiene products to support the young women in Tanzania.**

"Being able to get together with other girls from the Maria Regina High School community and create new memories with each other while doing works of service was truly a blessing," reported senior Morgan Avelli of the Bronx. She was among all of the 486 students of the renowned all-girls Catholic high school who recently participated in an unprecedented program of fulfilling the meaning of service of helping those in need—in their local communities as well as overseas—with a wide range of hands-on activities during All Saints Day—Day of Prayer and Service

This year's campaign built on Maria Regina's inaugural All Saints Day- Day of Prayer and Service four years ago, a post-Covid pandemic initiative that was designed to re-engage students in service work with opportunities that had been interrupted during the crisis.

But, "this year's expanded program of service opportunities was nothing short of breathtaking in its range and scope," declared Maria Carozza-McCaffrey (Class of '99) Principal, adding: "Our students were inspired to think outside the box and build upon long standing traditions, further enhancing their

*continued on pg 10-*

**Read it all Online at [Yonkerstimes.com](https://Yonkerstimes.com)**



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Eric Spencer, MD; Mario Voloshin, DPM, FACFAS



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*Maria Regina Students give back, continued from pg 9-*

impressive contributions to a variety of meaningful causes.”

Among the highlights of the special day were five service trips that students took to help support essential community causes in the region. They included:

• HOPE (an acronym for ‘Help Our People Eat) Food Kitchen in New Rochelle, one of the largest in Westchester that serves more than 100 nutritious meals a night. The students assembled care packages, learned about local food insecurity, and the importance of community outreach in supporting nonprofits like HOPE.

• The Sharing Shelf in Port Chester that addresses the clothing needs for children and teens in Westchester. A contingent of Maria Regina students lent a helping hand in sorting and preparing the donated clothing for distribution to families in need.

• GiGi’s Playhouse Westchester in Ardsley whose mission is to change the “way the world views Down syndrome and to send a message of acceptance and hope.” In that regard, students met with the directors of the nonprofit to create a video to raise awareness and understanding of the genetic disorder that causes developmental and intellectual delays.

• Hillside Food Outreach in Mt. Kisco which provides nutritious food for homebound individuals in the community who are chronically ill and disabled. A group of freshmen helped brighten the day for 750 homebound individuals served by Hillside Food Pantry by creating colorful artwork for the placemats they use when they eat their meals.

• Topfield Equestrian Center in Cold Spring which provides therapeutic interactions with horses for children, teens and adults experiencing physical, psychological and behavioral challenges. Morgan Aveli, who was among the seniors who assisted with the stables and learned all about the benefits of equine therapy, noted: “I was so grateful that we were allowed to meet some of the horses after we finished helping around the ranch. Service is so valuable because it brings people together and makes connections.”

Reflecting the need to help make a difference in the lives of other individuals across the globe, following the celebration of Mass on All Saints Day, students listened to an inspiring presentation by Alumna Moira G. Madonia (Class of ’72) of Mahwah, N.J., founder of Edpowerment, an organization that provides transformative educational support and programs dedicated to helping individuals in Tanzania, particularly the struggles that teenage girls face every day. Following the address, juniors proceeded to the dining hall to work with members of Casa de la Solidaridad where they crafted fabric pouches for feminine hygiene products to support the young women in Tanzania.

In addition to Madonia, Maria Regina students also heard inspiring addresses by guest speakers Brian Harrington, Senior Vice President of Advancement, Elizabeth Seton Children’s Center, Yonkers; Kiera O’Connor (Class of ’15) and Trena Yonkers Talz (P’28), both of the Bronx. Continuing a 29-year tradition of “500 feeding 500”, students also launched their annual Thanksgiving Drive, collecting turkeys and non-perishable food items for St. Peter’s St. Denis Parish in Yonkers.

The sophomore class helped Marilyn Samuelian (Class of ’25) of Bronxville work towards her distinguished Girl Scout Gold Award by delivering 1,000 handmade holiday cards to the children at Elizabeth Seton Children’s Center, Yonkers, another Maria Regina tradition. The freshmen also participated by creating the cards to help spread holiday cheer to the young patients/residents.

Since the start of the new 2024-25 academic school year in September, the entire student body has been inspired to think of new ways to fulfill the Catholic meaning of service by Patrice McDermott, the new Associate Director of Catholic Mission and Outreach and Maryellen Laino, the newly promoted Director of Campus Ministry.

McDermott, who previously helped orphaned children in Honduras and also saw the effects of poverty on the young elsewhere, tells Maria Regina students: “We have so much that is sometimes taken for granted. In Peru, I saw kids who looked in garbage cans for their next meal. Find a cause that is close at home to support and bring your best self to it whether it’s a nursing home, hospital or food pantry.”

McDermott added: “Our hope with this effort is that a seed will be planted with the students, that they will go home and talk about it with their family and friends which will hopefully help their good deeds to thrive and spread.

Principal Carozza-McCaffrey summed up the significance of the high bar of giving back that the students raised for themselves and the Maria Regina family: “Keeping with our school’s mission to live a life of charity, truth and service to others, this day was just one example of how our students are changemakers and committed to bringing God’s love to those in need and transforming lives through their actions.”

## DEC Declares Drought Watch for Westchester & Putnam Counties

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) today declared a drought watch for 15 New York counties because of a significant shortage of rainfall and declining levels of streamflow and ground water. Following the declaration, DEC briefed the State Drought Management Task Force and federal partner agencies. New York State is encouraging residents in affected counties, particularly those dependent on private groundwater wells, to conserve water whenever possible during the coming weeks.

DEC Interim Commissioner Sean Mahar said, “Recent unseasonably warm weather and lack of precipitation have led to dry conditions for many counties in New York, resulting in some downstate areas being put under drought watch. Local water restrictions and educating residents about how to help conserve our water resources are crucial steps to help prevent a more severe shortage until conditions improve.”

The counties under drought watch are Bronx, Delaware, Dutchess, Greene, Kings, New York, Orange, Putnam, Queens, Richmond, Rockland, Schoharie, Sullivan, Ulster, and Westchester. A watch is the first of four levels of State drought advisories, which are watch, warning, emergency, and disaster. No mandatory restrictions are in place under a state Drought Watch.

New York City today also issued a citywide drought watch after a historic lack of precipitation, ordering city agencies to update water conservation plans and prepare to implement them, and urging the public to help conserve water. Conserving water will slow the depletion rate of the stored water in the city’s reservoirs and can potentially postpone or eliminate the threat of a serious shortage.

To protect water resources, homeowners in regions under drought watch are encouraged to voluntarily reduce outdoor water use and follow these tips:

Water lawns only when necessary, choose watering methods that avoid waste, and water in the early morning to reduce evaporation and maximize soil hydration;

Reuse water collected in rain barrels, dehumidifiers, or air conditioners to water plants;

Raise lawn mower cutting heights. Longer grass is healthier with stronger roots and needs less water;

Use a broom, not a hose, to clean driveways and sidewalks; and

Fix leaking pipes, hoses, and faucets.

New York State continues to encourage New Yorkers and visitors to follow the recommendations below to reduce the risk of wildfires. The Catskills, Hudson Valley, and Long Island are currently at high risk for fires. Any outdoor fire can spread quickly, especially if the wind picks up. It is illegal to burn leaves anywhere in New York State. Brush of a certain size may be burned. See the burning regulations for details.

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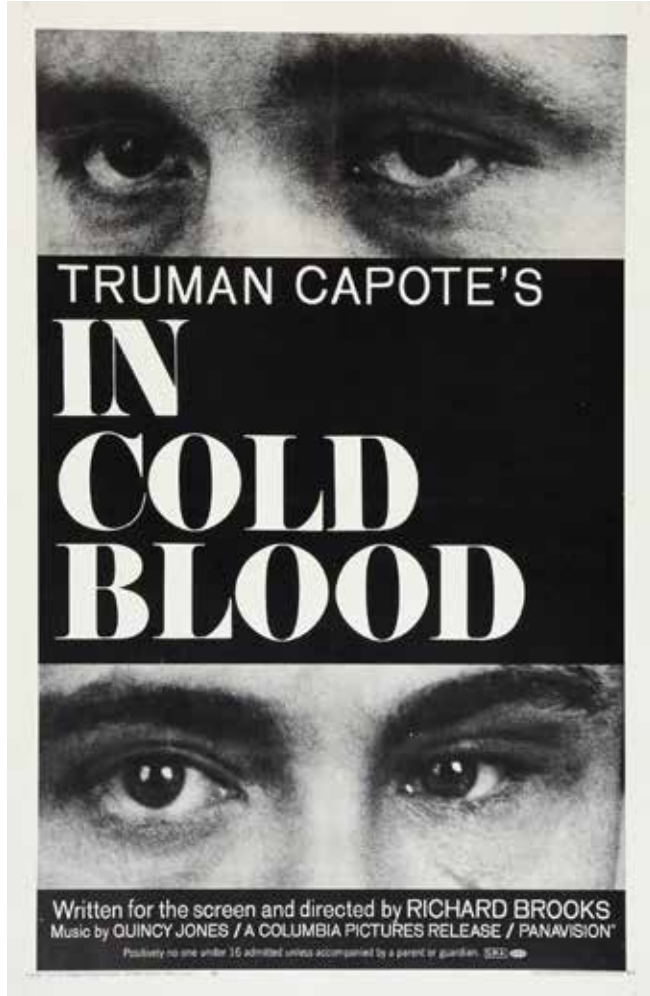
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## Upcoming Events at the New Rochelle Library

Westchester Election 2024, continued from pg 1-

**Native Americans in Film (Virtual)**

Wednesdays, November 13 and 20 7:00 pm

In observance of Native American Heritage Month, we are pleased to present Native Americans in Film; a 2-part film discussion series online presented by Professor William Costanzo, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor of English and Film and author of six books on writing and film.

If movies are a mirror of our culture, the changing images of Native Americans on film reflect our shifting views and values over time. In the early Westerns, America's first people appeared on screen as hostile red-skin savages. As American attitudes evolved, the camera focused more on Native Americans as individuals, accentuating their own faces, languages, and diverse communities. In this series, Professor Costanzo will use selected film clips to help trace this progression and to facilitate a lively discussion.

Part 1 will focus on Hollywood and independent films that illustrate the various stories told about Native Americans throughout movie history. [November 13]

Part 2 will focus on the writers, performers, and directors who helped to tell these stories from their own perspectives. [November 20] Registration required at [https://bit.ly/NAHMFilm\\_11\\_2024](https://bit.ly/NAHMFilm_11_2024)

**Notary Public Night Thursday, November 14 6:00 - 7:30 pm** Need a document notarized? Notary Public Corey Link will be at the Library from 6:00 to 7:30 pm. Stop by the BTOP HELP Center on the 2nd floor with your document(s) and a current photo ID. First-come, first-served. Questions? Please call Denise at (914) 813-3733. Location: HELP & Learning Center

**New Rochelle Plays Hollywood: The Shootist (1976)**

Sunday, November 17 2:00 - 4:00 pm New Rochelle Plays Hollywood is a film series presented by the New Rochelle Public Library. Prior to the screening, film aficionado Les Srager will introduce the history of the film and its creative personnel with a discussion period following the screening. The Fall 2024 series features "Excellent But Little Known Films." Location: Ossie Davis Theater Registration requested at [https://bit.ly/NRPL\\_Shootist\\_Nov2024](https://bit.ly/NRPL_Shootist_Nov2024)

**Writing the College Essay**

Thursday, November 14 4:00 - 5:30 pm

Join college essay coach Andrea Atkins Hessekiel for a program that will demystify the college essay writing process and give you the confidence to construct a winning essay that will reflect your voice and your best self. With humor and patience, she will offer guidance, answer your questions and get you started. Registration required at [https://bit.ly/CollegeEssay\\_11\\_2024](https://bit.ly/CollegeEssay_11_2024)

**Friday Night Concert Series: Harlem Blues and Jazz Band**

Friday, November 22 7:00 - 9:00 pm Coined as "The best that America has to offer", the Harlem Blues and Jazz Band returns to the New Rochelle Public Library by popular demand! The Band, founded in 1973 by jazz aficionado Dr. Albert Vollmer, brings together the best sidemen of the times who played with such bands as Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway, Duke Ellington, Fats Waller, Lionel Hampton, Benny Carter and others. They began to tour internationally in 1976 and continue to be one of the most authentic Swing Bands playing today. Location: Ossie Davis Theater Registration requested at [https://bit.ly/NRPL\\_HarlemJazz\\_Nov2024](https://bit.ly/NRPL_HarlemJazz_Nov2024)

**NRPL 'True Crime' Film Series: In Cold Blood**

Saturday, November 23 1:00 - 4:00 pm In this series, New Rochelle librarian and film historian Chris Poggiali will introduce and discuss feature films that examine true crime and detail the actions of people associated with and affected by criminal events. Location: Ossie Davis Theater. Registration requested at [https://bit.ly/NRPL\\_ColdBlood\\_Nov2024](https://bit.ly/NRPL_ColdBlood_Nov2024)

position on both sides of the issue, and which was used by supporters as a way to ensure abortion rights in NY, while opponents said it could mean boys will be able to play in girls high school sports and illegal migrants would be given more rights and benefits. Prop One passed in Westchester, 68%-32%, and statewide 62%-38%.

A second proposition in Westchester, which would have extended the term of county legislators from 2 to 4 years, failed 57%-43%.

Election night in Westchester for Republicans was a disappointment, with the only two republicans winning were Congressman Mike Lawler, (who lost Westchester but won re-election) and Assemblyman Matt Slater, who won with 61% of the vote and was re-elected.

Westchester County Chair Doug Colety was able to put together a full slate of candidates for Congress, State Senate and Assembly, but lost all but 2.

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins was reelected by a 66%-34% margin over Khris Kerr.

State Senator Shelley Mayer was also reelected, defeating republican Tricia Lindsay, 62%-38%.

And in a State Senate race that many republicans had hoped on, Senator Pete Harckham defeated republican Gina Arena by a 51%-45% margin.

The other race Republicans had hoped for was in the Assembly race in Yonkers, 90th District, with democrat Assemblyman Nader Sayegh defeating republican John Isaac, by a 56%-44% margin.

In the 92nd Assembly District, Democrat MaryJane Shimsky defeated republican Allesandro Crocco, 66%-34%.

In the race for Westchester District Attorney, democrat Susan Cacace defeated republican John Sarcone, 64%-36%.

Five democratic candidates for State Supreme Court also cruised to election, beating the republican judicial candidates by 130,000 votes.

"I congratulate Mr. Harckham on his reelection, and remain passionately opposed to his progressive agenda," said Gina Arena.

The Coalition to Protect Kids, who was opposed to Prop One, said, "This was always an uphill fight. Governor Hochul and her colleagues stacked the deck with unfair ballot language, yet our warnings resonated with countless New Yorkers. Prop 1 will almost certainly end Girls-only sports in this state, and it will significantly impinge on parental authority and religious freedoms. We urge New Yorkers to remember who's responsible for it." -- Ayesha Kreutz, Spokeswoman, Coalition to Protect Kids-NY.

*Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-*

work together for the 'public. Good?' or is it really the private good.

But as I have said before ad nauseum in these papers,, people vote their pocket-books and their wallets. They ask themselves a simple question: are things any better financially for themselves over the last four year than the four years before?

Bottom line is that everything from a Steak at Ruth's Chris Steakhouse to a 4 pack of premade jello selling for \$5 at a store in Mamaroneck, to a dirty water hot dog "some" by in Manhattan has gone up in price. People can't afford the basics because the cost of milk, bread and other foodstuffs has gone up in price.

If you didn't go out and vote on Election Day, if you don't take part in the political process, you get a Donald Trump as your President.

All we can do is pray that he can bring this country together and that Donald can restore our Great Country so we are the premiere power in The world. Give the man a chance and your prayers. God Bless America!

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



Read it all Online at  
[Yonkerstimes.com](http://Yonkerstimes.com)

**Yorktown budget, 8.6% tax increase continued from pg 1-**

past five years. Despite this record, new, external pressures from state and federal mandates—such as a 40% spike in general and health insurance costs and rising paving costs—are now straining the Town’s finances. State aid remains flat, requiring Yorktown to invest an additional \$1.25 million in road paving alone to meet local infrastructure needs.

Yorktown, N.Y. (October 31, 2024) — Even amid economic challenges, Yorktown saw significant achievements in 2024:

- Mohegan Avenue elevated to prevent flooding.
- Enhanced erosion control implemented at Mohegan Lake Park.
- A new water loop added to improve service for approximately 200 homes in Croton Heights.

Police officers will soon be equipped with body cameras, reinforcing transparency and public confidence.

The community center received a new elevator and theater upgrades, including beautiful new glass doors.

The John C. Hart Memorial Library completed renovations, adding study rooms and upgraded lighting to better serve the community.

Nearly \$350,000 in park improvements were made, including new pickleball courts.

Upgraded entire Town wide communication system with reliable VOIP phone systems, which had been an issue for over a decade.

In the coming weeks, the Town Board will meet with department heads to explore further cost-saving measures that could reduce the tentative Town tax increase.

A copy of the Tentative 2025 Town Budget is posted on Yorktown’s website.

While this is the first that Town residents have heard about the proposed tax increase, some are wondering what other local governments budgets and tax increases will be.

If Supervisor Lachterman is correct, and that State and Federal governments lack of support for Town and City budgets is substandard, then other local governments in Westchester will come in with budgets way above the tax cap like Yorktown.

Other residents are wondering why the property tax increases were 0% under former Supervisor and now Assemblyman Matt Slater but now 8.6%. Is it that Matt Slater did a great job controlling taxes, or did he kick down the road so that after he was gone and in Albany, taxes went through the roof?

**Andy Spano, continued from pg 5-**

when, as a history buff, he turned the Records Center (as it was known then) into a showplace where anyone would be welcome to learn about the growth of the County. He created a volunteer corps to help residents search for the records they needed. And he gave a home to the Westchester County Historical Society. Later, as County Executive, when he asked me to join his Administration, I knew he would bring change to a County that had been stagnant for years. He well deserves this honor, and I thank County Executive George Latimer for publicly recognizing Andy’s legacy.”

Former Westchester Deputy County Executive Larry Schwartz said: “I want to thank County Executive George Latimer and the County Legislature in recognizing Andy Spano’s many contributions to the people of Westchester County both as County Clerk and County Executive. During his term as County Clerk, some of Andy’s initiatives included creating a County Archives in the Records Center, in addition to introducing technology to the County Clerk’s office by implementing digital copies of Westchester’s most critical records. As a history buff, Andy always understood and appreciated the importance and value of recording and preserving the History of Westchester County. This will serve as part of his unsung legacy both as County Clerk and as Westchester’s County Executive.”

Former Westchester County Executive Andy Spano said: “Today I am really, really happy. And I’m happy for this reason, not because my name is on a building. I’m just really happy that the County thought of doing this, that the County did this for me, and that you all came today. Thank you so much.”

Spano served three terms as County Executive from 1998 through 2009. During his administration, he oversaw the implementation of many programs that improved the quality of life for Westchester’s residents, including protecting the environment, encouraging affordable housing, combating domestic violence and enhancing public safety. Spano is credited with tripling the County’s New Homes Land Acquisition Fund, which helped builders of affordable housing overcome the high cost of land. Spano also created the County’s Domestic Violence Legal Program, a nationally-recognized center where women could obtain orders of protection, legal representation and child support.

Spano served as County Clerk from 1982 through 1994, and it was during that time he is credited with expanding the County’s record management program to include an archive, and digitizing the County’s most critical records. Once County Executive, Spano continued this work, helping to shepherd the creation of the County’s Virtual Archives, and the renovation of the Archives and Records Center. The introduction to this legislation follows Latimer’s naming of the Andrew P. O’Rourke Westchester County Trailway, and the rededication of the Edwin G. Michaelian County Office Building.

**Yonkers Police Department Holds Bridge Re-Naming Ceremony in Memory of Detective Sergeant Frank Gualdino**



Hundreds gathered earlier on Tuckahoe Road at the Sprain Brook Parkway overpass as the community celebrated the renaming of the overpass in memory of Yonkers Police Detective Sergeant Frank Gualdino.

On December 1st, 2022, Detective Sergeant Frank Gualdino was killed in the line of duty in a head-on crash when an unlicensed 16-year-old speeding driver lost control of his vehicle and collided with Sergeant Gualdino’s police vehicle while he was traveling on Tuckahoe Road. After a lengthy investigation, this driver was charged and arrested exactly one year ago today. This case was adjudicated in Family Court due to the driver’s age.

After this tragic loss, plans were set in motion to memorialize the sacrifice of Detective Sergeant Gualdino. A bill to create this roadway dedication was ultimately signed by Governor Kathy Hochul earlier this year. The bill was primarily sponsored in the NYS Assembly by New York State Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, and primarily sponsored in the State Senate by Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, co-sponsored by New York State Senator Shelley Mayer. These members worked closely with local officials in Westchester County, including County Executive George Latimer and County Legislator James Nolan, who provided local support to enact this dedication. Resolutions to support this dedication were also made by Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and the Yonkers City Council.

“With this sign, it’s an eternal thank you from the people of Yonkers,” said Mayor Mike Spano. “We will never stop supporting our local police officers, who, like Det. Sgt. Gualdino put their uniforms on every day and protect and serve our City. This is a moment in our hearts to pause and celebrate his life every time we drive across this bridge.”

“Even almost two years since his death, we still feel the void caused by the tragic loss of Detective Sergeant Gualdino,” said Yonkers Police Commissioner Christopher Sapienza. “When we lose an Officer in the line of duty, we vow to ‘never forget.’ This is the reason why we do memorials and dedications- we want our community to remember Frank every time they are on this bridge; his legacy, service, and sacrifice to our community will never be forgotten.”

The NYS Department of Transportation placed memorial signs on both the northbound and southbound lanes of the Sprain Brook Parkway at the Tuckahoe Road overpass. The City of Yonkers installed memorial signs both eastbound and westbound on Tuckahoe Road at the overpass, which were created and installed by the Department of Public Works.

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## Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

### SATURDAY, NOV. 9

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7282. Book Buddies, 9 a.m. - 12 p.m. Come into one of our animal enclosures and encourage your child to read in a unique atmosphere. Bring your favorite books or pick from our collection! Also: Nov. 23; Dec. 21. Get details and register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/book-buddies-program-at-muscote-farm-tickets-1009763037427?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. Ecotherapy: The Benefits of Nature, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Ecotherapy, also called nature therapy, focuses on improving mental and physical well-being through outdoor activities. We will walk through different areas of Lasdon to explore and experience nature and its benefits up close. Be prepared to walk; wear comfortable clothing and shoes; rain or shine. Pre-register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/ecotherapy-the-benefits-of-nature-2/2024-11-09/>

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720. Day of the Living Shoreline, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Tour a very cool project that involves the creation of a living reef. We'll observe structures, planting sites and sandy substrates.

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050 Quilltop: A Literary Club, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Do you have a hard time committing to a book club or working on your writing? This club lets you bring your own book or writing while enjoying the picturesque hills of the farm. Quilltop meets on the second Saturday of every month on the hill behind the farm stand. All ages and abilities are welcome. Also: Dec. 14.

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

Lasdon Green Squad, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Every Saturday through November. Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/lasdon-green-squad-2/2024-11-09/>

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005. Inspired by the Preserve, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Poet/artist Dave Donelson will read his poem Sestina of the Quarrymen, then lead a hike to spots in the preserve to discuss how they inspired scenes in the mural he created that's now on display in the nature center.

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720. Bamboo Again!, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.. Let's explore and harvest some bamboo to see how it thrives before the cold of wintertime. We'll look at the inside and outside makings of these grasses.

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851. Canoe Burn, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.. All ages can learn about and witness the burning of the Tuliptree canoe—a traditional Lenape practice of creating canoes using fire. Stop in at any point to experience this great outdoor demonstration!

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466. How to Think Like a Tracker, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Tracking skills open up the world of nature like nothing else. We'll investigate nearby fields and forests through the eyes of birds, mammals, reptiles and more. Discover how the landscape influences animals and how animals influence the landscape.

### SUNDAY, NOV. 10

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

Yoga in the Gardens, 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. A gentle discovery of the amazing benefits of a yoga practice. \$25 through \$180. Also: Nov. 10, 17, 24. Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/yoga-in-the-gardens/2024-11-10/>

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

Farmers Market, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Our market, which supports farmers and sustainable efforts in our area, features more than 25 local vendors every Sunday until Nov. 17. Get details <https://www.muscotefarm.org/markets/farmers-market-information.html>

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005. Naturalist Choice Hike, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Hiking shoes are recommended when you join our naturalist for a guided, 2-mile hike around the preserve.

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. Gardening Sundays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/gardening-sundays/2024-11-10/>

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. Trail of Honor, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. The Trail of Honor is a tranquil, one-third-mile wooded walk that's a series of sculptures that represent every major American military conflict dating from the American Revolution to today. Free. Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/trail-of-honor-tour/2024-11-10/>

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. Trees of Lasdon Arboretum, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Come for a late-fall stroll through our gardens and arboretum. Look for fall fruits and berries! Meet at the upper parking lot kiosk. Free. Pre-register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/trees-of-lasdon-arboretum/>

Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River: (914) 864-7322. Microscope Safari, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Explore the hidden worlds around us through the power of microscopes!

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. Atten-hut! Veterans Day for Children, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. In honor of Veterans Day, children will decorate their very own military-style dog tag and then wear it during a special hands-on tour of the Veterans Museum. \$5. Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/atten-hut-veterans-day-for-children/>

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

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**Read it all Online at [Yonkerstimes.com](http://Yonkerstimes.com)**

*Illegal Immigrant Murder's Teen, continued from pg 1-*

One day later Jimenez was caught in Putnam Valley. Shortly after his arrest, ICE reported on their history with him. We received the following email from ICE, "Fernando Andres Jimenez Meza is a 40-year-old unlawfully present citizen of Chile who entered the United States on an unknown date and location without inspection, admission or parole by an immigration official. U.S. Border Patrol encountered him at or near Tecate, Calif., Aug. 11, 2004, and during this encounter, he claimed to be to be Erik Melendez-Arellano from Mexico, after which he was voluntarily returned to Mexico. Jimenez unlawfully reentered the United States at some point after that encounter.

"ERO New York City lodged an immigration detainer with Westchester County Jail, Oct. 30, where Jimenez is currently being held on local charges. Regardless of nationality, ICE makes custody determinations on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with U.S. law and U.S. Department of Homeland Security policy, considering the circumstances of each case. ERO officers make decisions on associated enforcement actions and apply prosecutorial discretion in a responsible manner, informed by their experience as law enforcement professionals and in a way that best protects the communities we serve.

"Noncitizens who are apprehended by ICE have their case reviewed by an ICE officer to determine their custody status. Noncitizens subject to mandatory detention are placed in ICE detention facilities, while those who are released constitute ERO's non-detained docket. ICE officers weigh a variety of factors when making general custody determinations, including criminal record, immigration history, community ties, flight risk, and whether the individual poses a potential threat to public safety or national security," said an ICE spokesperson.

Jimenez's whereabouts are not known to law enforcement until 2018, when he was arrested in Yonkers for DWI. He was released after receiving a \$500 fine. Media reports also have Jimenez being charged with assault also in 2018.

A vigil was held in Somers to mourn the death of Michael Raimondi, a student at Somers High School. A GoFundMe page has been set up for the Raimondi family, and has already raised \$166,000 to date. [www.gofundme.com/f/help-christina-and-matthew-overcome-tragedy?](http://www.gofundme.com/f/help-christina-and-matthew-overcome-tragedy?)

"We're reaching out during a moment of profound heartbreak on behalf of Christina and her two beloved sons, Matthew and Michael. Recently, this family endured a devastating domestic violence incident. Michael, a cherished 15-year-old son and brother, tragically lost his life, and now Christina and Matthew are both in critical condition. As Christina fights for her life, she faces the unimaginable reality of having to bury her child. Their road to recovery will be long, arduous, and filled with immense challenges.

"Christina is a loving, devoted mother who has always put her family above all else. Matthew, her surviving son, is a bright, kindhearted young soul who brings warmth to everyone around him. Together, they've shown remarkable strength and resilience, but they cannot face this alone.

"Your generosity, in any amount, will go directly towards their medical care, therapy, funeral arrangements, and the support they need to start healing. Please, let's come together to show them that they are not alone—that we're here for them in this fight," states the GoFundMe page.

Assemblyman Matt Slater said, "The horrific murder of a high school student in my district is just more proof that we need to repeal New York's and Westchester's sanctuary policies."

Congressman Mike Lawler said, "The horrific killing in Somers of a high school child by an illegal immigrant is a story that's been repeated across the nation far too many times."

Jimenez was charged with 2nd degree murder, two counts of 2nd degree attempted murder and criminal possession of a weapon.

Both Michael and Matthew were Westchester County Police Cadets. "Our Westchester County Police Cadet, Michael Raimondi, was killed in a tragic domestic violence incident yesterday in Somers, NY that also left his mother, Christina, and brother, Matthew, also one of our Cadets, in critical condition, fighting for their lives. The suspect was captured by police. Please keep them in your prayers and please, if you can find it in your hearts to donate to the family, that would be greatly appreciated!"

This is the first time that a violent criminal offense resulting in death, has occurred in Westchester County.

Due to a lack of cooperation between Westchester County law enforcement and ICE, ICE will have to make an application with a Judge to get custody of the murder suspect, who has reportedly confessed to the crime.

Christina Raimondi is recovering while Matthew is still in serious condition.

**Editor's Note: County Exec-Congressman-elect Latimer and several Westchester republicans differ on whether the Westchester County Immigrant Protection Act makes Westchester less safe. Both sides of this issue next week.**

Sachi Spa Week in Yonkers is Here!

Join us from Nov 5–12 for exclusive spa week specials designed to help you relax, rejuvenate, and glow! Reserve & follow @sachivip your treatments today and experience wellness at its finest. Treat yourself or bring a friend to enjoy these limited-time offers:

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**New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert, with new City Manager Wilfredo Melendez and members of the New Rochelle City Council**

On Oct. 30, the New Rochelle City Council announced their unanimous selection of Wilfredo Melendez, PE to be the next City Manager. The appointment caps a months-long executive recruitment effort that initially produced a field of nearly forty candidates from a dozen states.

"We are delighted to welcome Wilfredo Melendez as our next City Manager," said Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert. "During the past six months, while serving in the dual role of Acting City Manager and Public Works Commissioner, Wilfredo brought a unique blend of professional expertise, integrity, and humility—qualities that make him the ideal leader for this pivotal chapter in New Rochelle. His dedication to addressing some of our City's most urgent infrastructure needs, coupled with his deep commitment to collaboration, has united our Council and exceptional staff around a shared vision. With Wilfredo at the helm, we are excited to see New Rochelle continue to grow and evolve, knowing that his leadership will drive us forward and put our community first."

City Manager Melendez has served as Acting City Manager since April of this year, overseeing the City's departments and presenting the draft 2025 budget to City Council earlier this month. He additionally has served as Commissioner of Public Works since February 2023, directing the diverse bureaus that maintain the City's physical facilities and infrastructure including Administration, Central Garage, Engineering, Property & Grounds, Sanitation & Recycling, Sewers & Drains, Streets & Highways and Traffic Services.

"I am truly honored to accept the role of City Manager for the City of New Rochelle. The dedication of our Mayor, City Council, skilled professional staff, and vibrant community has built an incredible foundation, and I am privileged to help shape our next chapter together. I've seen the strength, resilience, and potential of this City firsthand, and I'm committed to using my experience and passion for New Rochelle to build on our successes, tackle new challenges and guide us toward an exciting future," said Wilfredo Melendez, City Manager of New Rochelle.

Prior to joining the City of New Rochelle, Mr. Melendez spent sixteen years as Deputy Director of the Bureau of Water Supply-Water Treatment Operations South at the New York City Department of Environmental Protection, where he oversaw critical water treatment facilities that supplied the entirety of New York City's drinking water. Mr. Melendez also has prior experience in the private sector, working at a construction firm as a project manager, superintendent, and engineer on a variety of multi-million dollar projects for the New York City Department of Design and Construction, NYNJ-Port Authority, and NYC Department of Sanitation. He began his career in 1989 at the NYC Department of Environmental Protection as Resident Engineer, managing numerous water main, sewer, and roadway construction projects throughout the five boroughs of New York. Mr. Melendez received his Bachelors in Civil Engineering from Manhattan College.

Reporting directly to the City Council, by City Charter, New Rochelle's City Manager serves as the Chief Executive Officer for the City and assumes full responsibility for all activities and operations of the City Government based on policies and priorities established by the City Charter, Mayor and City Council. The City was supported through the recruitment process by Strategic Government Resources, a full service local government consulting firm.

Mr. Melendez will take the position on December 1.

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case to the DA's Office.

Anyone who may have been victimized or may have information about other possible victims of the defendant can contact the DA's Office at (914) 995-TIPS (8477) - press no. 6. Language assistance is available.

Puccini is a 2014 graduate of Eastchester High School. He was named interim Athletic Director of the Eastchester school district in July of 2024.

Puccini has been placed on administrative leave and is not permitted on district property.

Eastchester School District Superintendent Ronald D. Valenti sent out the following letter to parents.

*Dear Members of the Eastchester School Community:*

*Earlier today, the Superintendent's Office received notification that a District employee was arrested off District premises. Although the District is unable to comment on specific personnel matters, the District's practice in such circumstances is to immediately place an employee on administrative leave pending a District investigation. During such reassignment, the employee is not permitted on District property.*

*As this is both a personnel and legal matter, we are unable to provide any additional information at this time; however, we wish to assure our families that the safety of our students and staff is always our top priority.*

*Sincerely,*

*Ronald D. Valenti, Ph.D.*

*Superintendent of Schools*

*Media reports say that prosecutors believe that Puccini may have more young victims and that he was arrested at the Westchester County Airport. on Nov. 1.*

Puccini's LinkedIn page has his appointment to interim Director of Physical Education in July and receiving tenure in June. His other listed position for the school district and the town include camp director.

Which has parents concerned.

In the Matter of:

Bow Hunting/ Deer Hunting Event, Scheduled for, approximately, October through December, 2024

Location: Village of Irvington and related areas

### NOTICE DANGEROUS CONDITION AND FOIL REQUEST

By email: MAYOR JON SIEGEL, [jsiegel@irvingtonny.gov](mailto:jsiegel@irvingtonny.gov)

(also to be sent via certified mail, return receipt requested)

TRUSTEES MITCHELL BARD, [mbard@irvingtonny.gov](mailto:mbard@irvingtonny.gov)

LARRY LONKY, [ltonky@irvingtonny.gov](mailto:ltonky@irvingtonny.gov)

ARLENE BURGOS, [aburgos@irvingtonny.gov](mailto:aburgos@irvingtonny.gov)

LARRY OGRODNEK, [logrodnek@irvingtonny.gov](mailto:logrodnek@irvingtonny.gov)

VILLAGE ADMINISTRATOR:

LAWRENCE SCHOPFER, [lschopfer@irvingtonny.gov](mailto:lschopfer@irvingtonny.gov)

BOARD: [board@irvingtonny.gov](mailto:board@irvingtonny.gov)

By certified mail, return receipt requested:

Village Clerk, Village Hall 85 Main Street Irvington, NY 10533

S I R S / M A D A M S:

The Legal Action Network for Animals ("LANA") has been made aware of a potentially dangerous condition that not only poses a danger to humans, but goes against public opinion.

1 [www.lanalawgroup.org](http://www.lanalawgroup.org)

2 THE VILLAGE OF IRVINGTON is about to permit, or is currently permitting, a BOW AND/OR FIREARM HUNTING event, targeting (including but not limited to) deer, within the municipality. This may cause serious injuries to the general public as a result of "accidental" impaling, goring, shooting, or death to humans, along with emotional and psychological distress to the public and others who are traumatized by such violence, and additional risks exist including but not limited to the possibility of motor vehicle collisions with deer resulting from frightened or injured deer running into roadways.

LANA also believes, upon information and belief, that the permitting of this barbaric hunt/event goes against public policy, public opinion of the constituents in the subject area, and violates the basic tenet of treating animals and wildlife humanely. See, <https://www.irvingtonny.gov/ArchiveCenter/ViewFile/Item/2893>

<https://yonkerstimes.com/westchester-village-urged-to-use-humane-non-lethal-deer-and-wildlife-management/>

LANA has further information to believe that the "contract" issued with respect to this "hunt" may not have been properly offered and/or vetted with respect to an RFP2,

3. That said, please consider this an official FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST. In connection with the above matter, pursuant to the Freedom of Information Law Section 84-90, Public Officers Law, Article 6, kindly provide the following information to the undersigned:-any and all documents, communications, RFPs, bids, responses to RFPs, communications, memos, emails, deliberations, decisions, and any other information, records, and/or documentation, including but not limited to digital

and/or written, in connection with the contract between the Village of Irvington and Kelley Deer Management, and any other companies retained and/or considered by the Village of Irvington, or who submitted proposals, with respect 2 "request for proposal"

3 <https://ag.ny.gov/sites/default/files/combating-fraud-in-public-purchasing.pdf> 3to deer "management", including but not limited to hunting or other forms of "control", inhumane or otherwise, and/or killing.

Pursuant to §89(3)(a) of the Freedom of Information Law, you have five business days to grant or deny access in whole or in part, or if more time is needed, to acknowledge the receipt of the request in writing and indicate an approximate date by which the agency will respond to the request, but not more than 20 additional business days. Thank you.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that, in the event a Notice of Claim or other legal proceedings is filed against the Village of Irvington, in connection with any injury or death resulting from the subject bow and/or firearm hunting, the within shall become part of the public record in that proceeding, and same shall be considered prior written notice, and to satisfy the state's "prior written notice" requirement, and the Village of Irvington shall be held fully accountable for any and all damages resulting therefrom. Nora Constance Marino, Esq. LEGAL ACTION NETWORK FOR ANIMALS, [www.lanalawgroup.org](http://www.lanalawgroup.org)

# A Celebration of Joe Cotter's Life



*(Photo by Toshi Tasaki/914INC)*

On October 25, Joseph Cotter, one of the region's most successful and prolific real estate developers, passed away suddenly in New York City. Joe, at 66, accomplished so much, developing visionary projects in places and communities that he believed in.

On Saturday, November 9th, a Memorial will be held to honor the tremendous impact that Joe's life has had on his industry and the region.

The Memorial will be held at 10 AM at the Robert Halmi Sr. Academy of Film and Television, 463 Hawthorne Avenue, Yonkers.

*This celebration will be held outdoors in a tent. Please wear appropriate footwear and outerwear.*

## Hillside Food Outreach Hosts 'Lights of Hope' Bridge Lighting Event on November 21



On Thursday, November 21, Hillside Food Outreach will host its 2nd annual Lights of Hope bridge lighting event at The Sailhouse in Tarrytown. The event is one of Hillside's largest annual fundraisers, with proceeds benefiting the Westchester nonprofit and its mission to deliver high-quality, nutritious food to thousands of low-income and limited mobility families, seniors, and the chronically ill each month.

The evening will feature a bridge lighting ceremony, during which the iconic Mario M. Cuomo Bridge will be illuminated in bright orange – the symbolic color of hunger – to raise awareness for the fight against food insecurity. This visual display, seen by thousands on both sides of the Hudson River, will highlight Hillside's ongoing efforts to combat hunger in the region and the importance of the community's support.

"We are thrilled to host Lights of Hope again this year. The need for hunger relief in our community continues to grow, and this event is a powerful way to remind everyone of the difference we can make together," said Kathy Purdy, Founder and CEO of Hillside Food Outreach.

Tickets are \$75 and limited to 100 guests. Sponsorship opportunities are also available. The event, taking place from 5:30 to 7:30 PM, includes passed appetizers, a cash bar, wine tasting from Napa Valley Vineyard, raffles and a silent auction. Those interested in attending or supporting Lights of Hope are encouraged to visit <https://tinyurl.com/LightsOfHopeEvent>. Hillside Food Outreach relies on the generosity of community members, volunteers, and donors to continue its work. They are headquartered in Mount Kisco, N.Y. and operates in Fairfield County through its Danbury, CT satellite location. Visit [hillsidefoodoutreach.org](https://hillsidefoodoutreach.org).

## Cardinal Dolan Visits Annunciation Church



Last month, students at Annunciation School in Crestwood served alongside Cardinal Dolan to celebrate the nuptials of Mary Kilduff (Class of 2009) It was a special day for our Annunciation community!

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