

Corrections Officer from Mt. Vernon Arrested for Smuggling Drugs into Riker's Island Jail



DOJ Photo of Ghislaine Barrientos, entering Riker's Island with drugs

Damian Williams, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, Jocelyn E. Strauber, the Commissioner of the New York City Department of Investigation ("DOI"), and James E. Dennehy, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), announced the unsealing of a Complaint charging GHISLAINE BARRIENTOS with conspiracy to commit honest services fraud, conspiracy to distribute controlled substances, and false statements as part of a scheme to smuggle narcotics into Rikers Island. BARRIENTOS was arrested today and will be presented before Chief U.S. Magistrate Judge Sarah Netburn later today.

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said: "Rikers Island is less safe, for inmates and officers alike, when corrections officers and others in positions of public trust accept bribes to smuggle contraband. As alleged, the defendant in this case engaged in corruption for her own enrichment. In our relentless pursuit of justice, we leave no stone unturned, especially within the confines of jails and prisons, where the safety and dignity of all individuals must be safeguarded. We will not tolerate any breach of trust or corruption that jeopardizes the well-being of inmates and staff."

DOI Commissioner Jocelyn E. Strauber said: "The contraband trade destabilizes the City's jails, and City Correction Officers play a vital role in maintaining order and keeping persons in custody, and their fellow officers, safe."

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OP-ED: Gina Arena is Not Pro-Choice Page 2

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

Why Are 34% of NY High School Students Chronically Absent?



photo from Freepik.com

A new report by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli details how chronic absenteeism rates among New York public and charter school students increased sharply as schools transitioned back to in-person learning after the COVID-19 pandemic subsided and remained high with nearly one in three students chronically absent during the 2022-23 school year (SY). The rates were highest for high school students at 34.1%, 7.6 percentage points higher than elementary and middle school students.

"Chronic absenteeism has been linked to lower grades, lower standardized test scores, and increased risk of dropout," DiNapoli said. "Students who chronically miss classroom time often fall behind. Reducing chronic absenteeism will be essential for turning around pandemic-era learning loss. School districts need to engage students, families, and their communities to address this troubling issue."

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Peekskill Judge Johnson Resigns

Special Treatment Given to Superintendent, Councilman's Friend and Judge's Daughter



former Peekskill Judge
Reginald Johnson

"How many Judges have done the same things Judge Johnson did?"

"Is this a Halloween Witch Hunt Against Judge Johnson and Councilman Fernandez?"

"What about the others involved? What is their punishment?"

-Laura Morales, Peekskill

By Dan Murphy

City of Peekskill Judge Reginald Johnson resigned his position on September 30 after a scathing report from the NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct found that Johnson had dismissed tickets and violations for a number of friends and powerful people in Westchester politics, the courts and the public schools.

The detailed complaint against Johnson text messages, testimony and dismissals of cases by Judge Johnson without advising the prosecutor or the police officer who wrote the tickets. The actions occurred between 2018-2022.

One charge has been picked up by the local media and the Peekskill City Council. It involves Mateo Piragua who was charged with driving without a license and driving while on his cell phone.

"Mr. Piragua is a family friend of Ramon Fernandez, a Peekskill City Council member. In or about June and July 2018, Mr. Fernandez met with and spoke to Respondent about Mr. Piragua's VTL tickets, expressing his view that the tickets were unjust and that Mr. Piragua was a good person. Mr. Fernandez understood from Respondent's response that the tickets would be dismissed. On or about July 27, 2018, Respondent dismissed the tickets in People v Piragua, in chambers, off the record, outside the presence of the parties, without notice to or the consent of either the Peekskill City Prosecutor, Ingrid O'Sullivan, or the Peekskill City Police Department, which had issued the tickets," states the complaint.

After the facts about Judge Johnson became public, the Peekskill City Council passed a resolution calling for Councilman Fernandez to step down. Fernandez refuses to resign.

But other noteworthy officials were also named in the Johnson complaint. They include:

1-Peekskill Schools Superintendent Dr. David Mauricio. "On or about January 31, 2019, Dr. David Mauricio was charged with violating the VTL, for al

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Bowman Closes White Plains Office Three Months Early, Because "We Lost"



222 Mamaroneck Avenue, White Plains

By Dan Murphy

We received the following letter to the Editor from a reader and White Plains resident. "I wanted to inform you of a troubling development. I am a disabled woman living in Westchester County. I have lived in White Plains for the past 20 years. My member of Congress is important to me because of the importance of having local business comply with the Americans for Disabilities Act, ADA.

"My member of Congress for many years was Nita Lowey. Recently, I have been represented by Rep. Jamaal Bowman, who opened one of his two Westchester offices in White Plains at the same location as Rep. Lowey did, at 222 Mamaroneck Avenue.

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King Quality Raises Awareness of Feeding Westchester Ahead of Giving Season



Long Island-based contractor marks expansion into Westchester by supporting nonprofit's mission of nourishing neighbors in need

King Quality Roofing and Siding, a Long Island-based contractor, has awarded a marketing grant worth approximately \$30,000 to Feeding Westchester, a local nonprofit that sources and distributes food to communities across Westchester.

The grant is funding a TV commercial that aims to raise awareness of Feeding Westchester's mission to nourish its neighbors in the fight against hunger. The 30-second spot, airing in Westchester County on News 12 Westchester and a variety of cable channels throughout October, features King Quality CEO Jeff Brett and Feeding Westchester Chief Operating Officer Tami Wilson. It highlights food insecurity in Westchester, where one in three households is at risk of hunger.*

"We're very grateful to King Quality for their generous support and hope this commercial inspires people to learn how they can help our neighbors in need access good, nutritious food so they can thrive," said Wilson. "The timing is perfect, as it leads into the holiday giving season which is so important to us. But the truth is, the fight against hunger is a year-round effort. Westchester residents are often surprised to learn how many hungry children and adults there are right here in our community."

Wilson noted that economic trends, including stagnant low wages and rising costs, have forced some Westchester residents to prioritize fixed expenses, such as rent or childcare, over groceries, contributing to the number at risk of hunger. In its fiscal year 2024, Feeding Westchester distributed 23.2 million pounds of food, each month serving 229,000 neighbor visits, including 80,000 child and 36,000 senior visits.

Ways to Get Involved with Feeding Westchester

In addition to monetary donations, there are many ways to join the fight against hunger:

- Start a fundraiser
- Host a food drive
- Volunteer
- Pack Help from Home bags
- Follow us on social media and post on social media to spread hunger awareness

Visit feedingwestchester.org/get-involved/ for details

This marketing grant is the latest initiative under King Quality Cares, the contractor's philanthropic arm dedicated to raising awareness of charities and community organizations in Long Island and now Westchester.

"The heart of King Quality Cares is coming together to build better communities," said Brett. "In this spirit, we hope the commercial helps unite our new Westchester neighbors in fighting against hunger and supporting Feeding Westchester."

The partnership with Feeding Westchester coincides with King Quality's recent expansion into Westchester County this past summer. Founded in 1992, King Quality has grown into one of New York's most decorated contractors and was recently named a GAF 3-Star President's Club Award winner, the only contractor in the state to receive this recognition.

To learn more about Feeding Westchester and how to get involved, including donation and volunteer opportunities, visit FeedingWestchester.org.

Abortion Groups Push Back on Arena's Claim to be Pro-Choice

By Dan Murphy

Last week, State Senate candidate Gina Arena, highlighted her position on women's issue in an ad claiming "I'm Pro-woman, Pro-Girl and Pro-Choice."

In response, Pro-Choice groups have called out Arena over her claims.

"Yes, there are pro-choice NY Republicans. Gina Arena is NOT one of them!" writes Catherine Lederer-Plaskett in an online column at choicematters.org.

"Gina Arena, who is running for the fourth time, is definitely NOT pro-choice. She has shared her staunch anti-choice views in her answers on the Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion — Choice Matters questionnaire and in her follow-up interview in 2019. Choice Matters sends its questionnaire to each individual running for the Westchester County Legislature and for every higher office, every year. Arena has refused to participate in her three subsequent races and has been marked ANTI-CHOICE each time. She has also been endorsed by the anti-abortion anti-contraception group Westchester Putnam Right to Life PAC.

"In her own handwriting, Arena has stated that abortion should be legal only in cases of rape or incest or to save the life of the woman — and only in the first trimester. She opposes both Roe v. Wade and the New York State Reproductive Health Act that enshrined Roe in state law. She advocates for harsh regulations for both patients and healthcare providers, and opposes assistance to the incarcerated. She is against the FDA decision making emergency contraception available over-the-counter. And that's just for starters.

"From abortion to contraception to facility and provider access, Arena stands vehemently opposed to women's comprehensive reproductive health care.

"But now as she works to defeat Proposition No. 1, the NY Equal Rights Amendment, she is attempting to placate voters by whitewashing her real position in order to "rebrand" herself. Why? Because New York voters support abortion rights and comprehensive reproductive care by a huge margin. Contrary to her op-ed, Arena's anti-abortion position does not make her pro-choice. Choice Matters will not allow Arena to redefine the term pro-choice to suit her campaign and suggest that the term "anti-choice" applies only to those who advocate for a total abortion ban.

"New Yorkers should not be fooled by her deceitful use of alternate facts.

"Arena belongs to a formidable opposition movement led by MAGA-style anti-choice extremists that is spreading disinformation with the goal of defeating Prop #1.

"Prop #1 closes loopholes to make sure that no New Yorker can be discriminated against. In addition to protecting abortion rights in the state Constitution, it will elevate access to all reproductive health care including contraception and IVF, protect older New Yorkers, those with disabilities, and the LGBT community.

"The truth is that Pro. No. 1 is totally consistent with the federal Title IX and NYS Human Rights Laws. States must comply with federal legislation. Signed into law by President Richard Nixon in 1972, Title IX "prohibits discrimination based on sex in education programs and activities that receive federal financial assistance." Women have benefited beyond anyone's wildest dreams from Title IX, and will continue to!

"On Nov. 5, New Yorkers have the opportunity to stand up against discrimination and for equality and abortion rights. We must seize the moment. Turn over the ballot and vote yes on Prop #1.

Catherine Lederer-Plaskett is president of WCLA – Choice Matters. WCLA – Choice Matters' mission is to ensure that all women – regardless of age, race, class, immigration status, geography or ability to pay – have full, unimpeded access to reproductive health care. The oldest ongoing pro-choice advocacy organization in the nation, Choice Matters is and always has been non-partisan.

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Oldest Living Democrat from Westchester County Board of Supervisors Endorses Trump



Andrew J. Balint

The sole surviving Democrat who was elected to both the now defunct Westchester County Board of Supervisors and the first Westchester County Board of Legislators has proclaimed his support for the election of Donald J. Trump in the upcoming presidential election. Andrew J. Balint, who represented the 10th Ward in the City of Yonkers from 1964 through 1969, and who represented the County of Westchester's 16th Legislative District from 1970 through 1971, has attributed the downward slide of the once great Democrat Party to the seizure of national leadership positions by leftist extremists.

He recalled that, when Elon Reeve Musk disassociated himself from the party earlier this decade, he noted that the Democrat Party went from being the "party of kindness" to being the "party of hatred and division". "The party leaders have demonstrated that on countless occasions" claims Balint, who also charged the media with forsaking the high standards set by Walter Cronkite, Chet Huntley, David Brinkley, Ted Koppel and other like kind professionals.

Balint recalls watching on You Tube a panel of five news people, including Ted Koppel and Brian Stelter, who were discussing national politics. When Trump became the topic of discussion, Koppel told Stelter that CNN's ratings would be "in the toilet" if it didn't have Trump to bash around. Koppel was equally critical of MSNBC.

Balint also expressed his disgust with the party's making abortion its crowning glory. He observed their use of euphemisms to enhance the appearance of this once criminal act of slaughtering infants in utero like "women's reproductive health", "women's right to choose", and "women's reproductive rights". Balint raised the question: "What about the rights of the in utero infant?" The former County Legislator, himself a Catholic, is appalled by the the countless Catholics who have been elected to public office and who disregard the teachings of their faith about this serious sin. He commented: "We have witnessed the culture in which we live going from deeming abortion a crime to approving it even though the head of the infant is visible. The Catholic faith remains firm in its holding that abortion is a serious sin and violates moral law."

One of Balint's piques with the media is the manner in which it has gone from doubting that Harris is the right person to be Biden's running mate to making her the high priestess of American politics within an extremely short period of time after Biden's disturbing dismissal as the party's candidate for president. It reminded him of the words he happened upon many years ago "When wealth or ego or country or power becomes the central preoccupation of one's life, disintegration follows as surely as night follows day."

God Forgive Me

By Eric Wolf Schoen



During Rosh Hashanah which we celebrated last week, Jews asked God for forgiveness for their mistakes in the past year. The holiday commemorates the completion of God's creation of the world.

Jews resolve not to repeat their mistakes in the coming year. The holiday also marks the beginning of the Days of Awe which last for 10 days

The last day of this 10 day period is Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. This is a day Jews atone for their sins. It starts tonight at Sundown and is over tomorrow when the sun sets. The day is marked by fasting and continuous prayers of repentance in the Synagogue.

Last year certainly was a rough year for me health wise. I pray for better health this year. The year ended with a bang with a week's hospitalization caused by Parkinson's freeze and Parkinson's cough. Two things I was not expecting and never heard of before. The freeze is when your whole body is in spasm and you can't move, The cough is is when all off a sudden you develop this cough that causes extreme back pain. Neither is fun but when you have never heard of them before can be a little frightening.

Luckily I have excellent doctors treating me 'orthopedically' and 'neurologically', but it's all new to Me. I have excellent medical care, but several times over the last few months I have asked the. Question, 'Why me? What did I do to be in so much pain at times I simply want to cry or get back under the covers. And my perennial question, 'When is what I am going through going to get better?'

Sadly no one can answer these questions. After 64 years everything is catching up with me. Ten years ago the doctors prognosis's of correcting my scoliosis was not good. Now with Parkinson's it is no better.

I don't enjoy using a walker but sometimes I must. And yes the getting up in the morning not knowing how I am going to feel is no fun.

I will have to make major surgical decisions in the weeks ahead, and probably be out of commission for several months. I have an MBA, A BA, am a Paralegal and have an extensive plate of work ahead of me. Being out of Commission will be no fun. And the risks of complication from surgery on my neck and back is very great.

There really is nothing one can do but pray that the interventions will be successful. And hope that God is on my side. That he has forgiven me for anything bad I did this year.

So if I miss a week in these newspapers, I apologize In advance. I have been blessed to be surgery free for 64 years. If I don't have the surgery I need now, who knows what the future will bring.

People talk about insurance and I am grateful I have a good plan that will take care of most of the costs. The problem is when it comes to the neck and back, progress has been slow. And sadly the risks have not gotten any better.

I know many of you are battling difficult health situations. I just had a relative in the Hospital who to stay alive must titrate the medicines she takes daily. One mistake And yes Houston we have a problem.

continued on pg 6-

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Westchester County Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month



Westchester County Executive George Latimer celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month, seen here with Latino U College Access (LUCA) Executive Director Shirley Acevedo Buontempo, Latino U College Access (LUCA) Director of Marketing Grace Battaglia, and Latino U College Access (LUCA) Director of Programs Jennifer Polanco-Calderon.

Latimer and Local Leaders commemorate on the Hispanic Community's Influence in Westchester County

Westchester County Executive George Latimer celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month, bringing together community leaders, residents and local organizations to honor the contributions of the Hispanic community to the cultural, economic and social fabric of Westchester County. The celebration underscored the County's ongoing commitment to celebrating its diversity and promoting inclusion across all of its communities.

Latimer said: "This annual reception is not just a celebration of Hispanic Heritage Month, but a reminder of our Hispanic community's vital role in shaping Westchester's future. The Hispanic community here has contributed significantly to the cultural richness, economic vitality and diversity in our County. My administration has worked tirelessly to ensure that our programs and services reflect the needs and aspirations of our Hispanic residents, and we remain committed to fostering a welcoming environment for all."

Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "Hispanic Heritage Month is not only a time to celebrate the cultural richness of the Hispanic community but also to reaffirm our commitment to creating more opportunities for all Westchester residents. The County is proud to work with the Hispanic community to advance inclusivity and equity across the County."

Director of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development Martha Lopez said: "This event is a reflection of Westchester County's deep appreciation for the Hispanic community and all it has contributed to our County's growth. The County has remained dedicated to celebrating those contributions and continuing to provide opportunities that allow all our communities to flourish."

Hispanic Advisory Board Chair Dr. Carmen Martínez-López said: "This reception is a celebration of our rich heritage, our culture, and the growing impact of our community in Westchester. I'm proud of the County's ongoing support, from events like these to initiatives like the first comprehensive needs assessment project in over two decades for the Hispanic population in Westchester county, which help ensure our voices are heard and our needs are addressed."

Hispanic Heritage Month, celebrated from September 15 to October 15, honors Hispanic and Latino Americans' history, culture and contributions. As part of Westchester County's ongoing efforts to support the Hispanic/Latino community, a comprehensive survey is currently being conducted in collaboration with Pace University. The survey aims to gather essential data to help the County better address the evolving needs of its Hispanic/Latino residents in areas such as education, healthcare, employment, housing and social services.

To learn more on the survey or to participate, please visit https://pace.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_5BZuvSBzMKX2Hyu or contact Martha Lopez-Hanratty, Director of Minority and Women-Owned Business Development and Immigrant Affairs, at mlopez@westchestercountyny.gov or 914.995.2947.

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Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

Yonkers Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association Hosts Police Appreciation BBQ



The Yonkers Citizen Police Academy Alumni Association hosted their second annual Police Appreciation BBQ for the Yonkers Police Department on Saturday, September 14th at the First Precinct. Police Officers were acknowledged for their professionalism and keeping our city safe. Many officers stopped by during their shift to eat, socialize with everyone in attendance and catch up with one another.

The organization also acknowledged the following for their donations and participation: Phil Foley, Rory Dolan's, Bobby Kitson, OEM/CERT, Stew Leonard's and The Butcher's Fancy. A hearty thanks also goes out to our wonderful chefs for working hard on the grill.

If you would like to know more about the Yonkers Citizen Police Academy, check the City of Yonkers website or contact Captain Vincent Castelli at 914 377-7360 or send an email to Vincent.castelli@ypd.yonkersny.gov.

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County Executive George Latimer Shines a Light on Domestic Violence Awareness Month



Westchester County Executive George Latimer, with members of the Westchester County Office for Women

On the first day of Domestic Violence Awareness Month, County Executive George Latimer, the Westchester County Board of Legislators and the Westchester County Office for Women (OFW) joined with Hope's Door and five lead advocacy organizations to "Shine a Light" on victims and survivors of domestic violence.

In a moving ceremony to raise awareness, support prevention efforts and provide available resources, they spoke out on the issue which concluded with a candlelight vigil and moment of silence on the steps of the Michaelian Office Building in White Plains. Other participating organizations included Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, My Sister's Place, Pace Women's Justice Center (PWJC), WestCOP Victims Assistance Services and New Dawn Family Resource Center.

Latimer said: "We need to do everything we can at the County level to make it safe for victims of domestic violence to report incidences and have conversations about their experiences. So much fear and shame cloud the lives of Domestic Violence victims and their families. It is time to move them from the darkness of these hidden circumstances to the light of healing, support and understanding."

Board of Legislators Chairman Vedat Gashi said: "October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, reminding us of the important work we've done to support those impacted and the ongoing commitment needed year-round. This event highlights the urgency of addressing domestic violence and reinforces our dedication to supporting survivors and preventing future incidents."

OFW Director Robi Schlaff said: "Domestic Violence is often hidden and families suffer in silence. The Westchester County OFW is here to assist you. We are confidential and bi-lingual. And yes, we help male victims as well. Please get in touch if you or someone you know is being harmed by an intimate partner. We provide services County-wide and if we can't help you, we will find someone who can."

Hope's Door Executive Director Carl Horton said: "If you're experiencing abuse in your relationship and feeling alone, isolated and without clear options, Hope's Door is here to help with free and confidential support. We can offer shelter, counseling and legal services. Please know that you are not alone and that abuse is never your fault. You can reach us 24/7 at our Hotline (888) 438-8700. Making the call may be the bravest thing you ever do but we'll be there on your journey to safety, independence and healing."

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley Attorney-in-Charge, White Plains Office, Joanne N. Sirotkin said: "In our Domestic Violence Advocacy Unit, our team works tirelessly to ensure clients' safety and rights by offering both protection and advocacy for victims of domestic abuse. We provide legal counsel to survivors of intimate partner abuse to help them navigate complex legal proceedings, from filing restraining orders to representing them in court for custody or support cases. Our expertise encompasses a deep understanding of the laws related to domestic violence to ensure a fair outcome, and we focus on taking a client-centered and trauma-informed approach to the work."

My Sister's Place Interim Chief Executive Officer Denise Durham Williams said: "During National Domestic Violence Awareness Month, My Sister's Place joins with other organizations across the country to reaffirm our commitment to ending domestic violence and to honor, stand united with and lift up the voices of courageous survivors and their families. We speak up and speak out, educating our many communities and encouraging action to ensure all relationships embrace the principles of respect, equality and safety."

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Bloodied But Not Bowed, Yonkers Barber Reinstalls Mezuzah – Jewish Symbol



Yonkers barber Slava Shushakova, 51, enlisted the help of Chabad of Yonkers Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz to place a new mezuzah on the doorpost of his Classic Touch Yonkers Avenue barber shop at 797A Yonkers Avenue, after suspect Ahmed Al Jabali, age 34, repeatedly slashed his right hand on August 29th, leaving him unable to work in his barber craft, seen here with the daughters of plastic surgeon Dr. Ira Savetsky. Yonkers City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, Westchester County Board of Legislators 10th District Jukah J. Holstein, and Pam Holdstein, Michael Scheffler, Board Member Westchester Jewish Council. Photo © 2024 Robert Kalfus.

By Robert Kalfus

After Hamas attacked Israel villages on October, 2023, murdering more than 1,200 people, and seizing 251 as hostages, Yonkers Barber Slava Shushakova took down the mezuzah on the door of his Yonkers Avenue barbershop, fearing that he too be targeted. Despite removing the obviously Jewish symbol, Mr. Shushakova was viciously attacked on August 29th, by one of his customers, who grabbed the barber's own scissors, stabbed him repeatedly in his hand and arm, yelling anti-Semitic words and saying he was going to kill him.

Since that day the perpetrator has been in Westchester County jail and the crime is being prosecuted as a hate crime. Because of the injuries to his dominant right hand, Mr. Shushakova, a sole practitioner managing his barber shop, has not been able to work. Chabad of Yonkers Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz said that "Because Slava was stabbed because he was a Jew, he now realized just the opposite. Let me now run away from Judaism, let me come very strong back to it." Mr. Shushakova was adamant that the mezuzah be reinstalled before he would consider returning to work.

With the help of Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz, today he reinstalled the mezuzah, an especially beautiful one presented by Dr. Avi Savetsky, the plastic surgeon who addressed the physical injuries.

"Since October 7th, there have been lots violent hate crimes against Jews," said Dr. Savetsky. "He is one of several whom I have taken care of. Slava left his native country due to anti-Semitism. He came here for a better life, something that my great uncle, who was a Holocaust survivor, said 'How much as you try to run away from your Judaism, you can't run away from it. The important lesson today that you are teaching my kids is a very important lesson: to really embrace your Judaism and to not hide."

Said Dr. Savetsky's wife, Lizzy Savetsky, "A lot of people think that the mezuzah is a symbol to protect us for the outside world. But the reason we have the mezuzah is to remind us of who we are. Unfortunately you had a very vicious and brutal reminder of who you are. My prayer for you in this coming year," (the Jewish New Year starting on Wednesday night, October 2nd) is that with hanging this mezuzah that you should only be reminded of who you are as a Jew in a beautiful way and never in a negative, violent way, ever again."

The mezuzah is attached about a third from the top of the right side as one enters, and a special blessing is said. Rabbi Hurwitz also blew the shofar, the ram's horn, and helped Slava and others put on tefillin on their arm and forehead.

Speaking and joining the installation of the new mezuzah were Yonkers City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, Westchester Jewish Council members Pam Goldstein and Michael Scheffler, Westchester 10th District Legislator Judah J. Holstein, former Yonkers City Council President Chuck Lesnick and his wife Dr. Beth Schorr Lesnick, Dr. Ira Savetsky, his wife Lizzy and their four children, and former New Rochelle Firefighter Norman Hauptman.

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CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YONKERS
PUBLIC HEARING
AMENDMENT TO 2024/2025 CAPITAL BUDGET

I, Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, City Council President of the City of Yonkers, do hereby call a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the 2024/2025 Capital Budget of the City of Yonkers as follows:

22nd day October, 2024
City Council Chambers
City Hall
40 South Broadway – 4th Floor
Yonkers, New York
7:00 p.m.

The proposed amendment to the Capital Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2024 and ending June 30, 2025, increasing the estimated total authorization set forth in said Capital Budget by an amount not to exceed Three Million (\$3,000,000) Dollar, from Sixty-Eight Million Five Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Eighty-Six (\$68,583,086) Dollars, to an amount not to exceed Seventy-One Million Five Hundred Eighty-Three Thousand Eighty-Six (\$71,583,086) Dollars, to fund capital projects in and for the City of Yonkers.

Anyone wishing to speak may sign up on the night of the hearing at the hearing site. Each speaker shall be permitted three minutes and speakers shall be called in the order in which they have signed up.

LAKISHA COLLINS-BELLAMY
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT
October 8, 2024

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, pursuant to law, that a meeting of the City Council of the City of Yonkers, to be held on Tuesday, October 22, 2024 at 7:05 PM in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, the City Council will proceed to give a public hearing on the application/Petition of DMD Realty LLC, Petitioner in relation to a requested amendment to the city's zoning map by rezoning a portion of the premises known as 218 South Broadway from its current "SB-Central subdistrict" zone classification to a "C" commercial district zone classification to match the "C" commercial zone classification of 12 Bright Place, for the following described parcels of land, to wit:

12 Bright Place (designated on the City of Yonkers Tax Map as Section 1., Block 191, Lot 20)
218 South Broadway (designated on the City of Yonkers Tax Map as Section 1., Block 191, Lot 31)

The Petition is submitted in connection with the existing parking lot and laundry mat uses at the subject properties. No construction project is proposed.

All interested parties may appear at the public hearing and may submit any comments on the petition during the public hearing or in-writing prior to the public hearing. Instructions for attending the meeting and submitting comments and copies of the petition materials and City of Yonkers Zoning Code are available upon request from the City of Yonkers City Clerk who can be reached at (914) 377-6020 or by visiting <https://www.yonkersny.gov/160/City-Clerk>.

Dated: October 11, 2024

Cuddy & Feder LLP
Attorneys for the Petitioners
445 Hamilton Avenue, 14th Fl.
White Plains, NY 10601
914-761-1300

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, October 22 at 6:45 PM in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following resolution, to wit:

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

A PROPOSED RESOLUTION OF THE YONKERS CITY COUNCIL TO HONOR THE FAMILY AND COMMUNITY'S REQUEST TO HONORARILY RENAME HALLEY STREET BETWEEN MILE SQUARE ROAD AND CRESCENT PLACE "PATRICK QUINN WAY"

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

Letter to the Editor:

Mr. Murphy, thanks for your story on the Congressional race in NY-17. I too live in the district and want to make an informed vote.

I learned from your story about Anthony Frascone, and how he stole the WFP from the progressive members in a sham primary. After reading your piece, I read a few stories in Big Media who are interested in this race and also interested in Frascone.

I could not find any social media for Frascone or his campaign. This guy is a ghost. No photos either.

I hope you write more about this part of the race in the last few weeks. It deserves our attention.

Thanks Lee Zigfred, Ossining

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

I'll pray for you and all I ask is that you do is pray for me and VOTE! Voting is your obligation. You might be disenchanted with the candidates, but refusal to use is not the answer. It's your right and obligation. If you don't vote we will continue to have what's going on in the world today, much of what is not to our liking.

To all my friends Jewish and non-Jewish a year filled only with good things. As always, thanks for your support and prayers not only for me but for all those who are suffering.

God, forgive me. I promise to do better in the new year!

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

Third Precinct Police Community Council monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2024 7:30 PM at the Chema Community Center, 435 Riverdale Avenue. Residents and merchants of the southwest Yonkers area are strongly encouraged to attend this important community meeting. Usual quality of life concerns will be discussed. For future information please contact Bob Stauff, President at 914 476-2284.

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

Westchester Rising

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

Notice of formation of CUADRADO LAW PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/19/2024. 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, 295 Main Street, MT KISCO NY 10549.

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.

Notice of formation of Grace For Today Desserts, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/30/2024 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, 10 Hilltop Lane, Thornwood, NY 10594. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of La Estrofa Entertainment, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 06/06/2022. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to La Estrofa Entertainment, LLC, P.O. Box 1049, Yonkers, NY 10703. 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 C BY Mayra LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/03/2024. 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, 3 Sherwood Terrace, apt 3K Yonkers NY 10704. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Notice of formation of Maranatha Health Career Training School, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 8/13/2024. 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, 7 ODELL PLAZA POST OFFICE BOX 1243, YONKERS, NY, 10703, USA. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Letters to the Editor:

Dear Editor: Stop the Prop.

Proposition 2 should be labeled "The Incumbent Protection Package".

According to your page one story, all County Legislators now want to extend their terms from two to four years.

Their hollow arguments fail to convince me and should push my fellow Westchester residents to vote No on Prop 2.

Why can't these Legislators provide us with clear, concise examples of the purported benefits of this radical proposal?

Sure, eliminating the number of elections results in less cost. In proportion to the County budget what is the saving percentage? I was surprised no figures as to actual savings were given by the Legislators.

The Legislators say doubling a term's time will allow for more oversight in law-making and passage of noble legislation. Where is one single example of any resolution not being enacted because its sponsor was no longer a legislator? There is none.

Finally, the Legislators say with term extension instead of fundraising and campaigning they will have more time for policy study. To that point, one could say being a County Legislator would be a great job, if you just didn't have to deal with voters.

Thanks,
John Vorperian
White Plains

"OUR OUT OF CONTROL FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES."

This was a talk delivered to the students of a mid-western college by a noted author, attorney, firearms expert, and Special Forces combat veteran--part of what he said follows: "In March of this year Bryan Malinowski, the executive director of the Bill and Hillary Clinton National Airport in Little Rock Arkansas, was killed by agents of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Explosives (ATF), during a pre-dawn raid on his home. It was an unwarranted and indefensible killing of a kind that should never, ever, happen in a free country like the United States. Because we have a media that no longer serves in its traditional role as a government watchdog, this incident was not widely reported.

Because too many members of Congress no longer take seriously their responsibility to protect the rights of those who elect them, the ATF has suffered no repercussions."

After the killing, Malinowski's wife was forcibly taken outside in her nightgown in 34 degree weather and kept outside for over four hours despite multiple requests to see her husband, and use the bathroom --in an audio recording from a police vehicle she can be heard sobbing, asking why they killed her husband, and insisting that th agents must have the wrong house. "

Source: Ryan Cleckner--talk delivered on July 23rd, 2024 at Hillsdale College's Blake Center for Faith and Freedom in Somers, CT.

CONGRESS WHERE ARE YOU!!!!
Joe Pettit
Yorktown Hts NY

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

-Thomas Jefferson

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FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

Mohegan Lake Woman Sentenced to 2-6 Year Prison for Embezzling Money From Employer

ToniAnn Rosado CR Wallauer & Co Mohegan Lake Defendant, while employed as controller for North Castle-based business, stole more than \$340,000 of company funds over two-year period

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced today that a Mohegan Lake woman was sentenced to a term of two to six years in prison for stealing more than \$340,000 from a North Castle-based paint supplier where she was employed as the controller.

DA Rocah said: "This defendant exploited her role overseeing finances for a business that entrusted her with this important responsibility. This case outcome underscores our commitment to prosecuting financial crimes across the county, as well as our continued work to secure restitution on behalf of individuals and businesses."

Following her guilty plea in April, the defendant, ToniAnn Rosado, 54 of Mohegan Lake, was sentenced on Sept. 27 before Westchester County Court Judge Maurice D. Williams to two to six years in state prison for Grand Larceny in the Second Degree and one and one-third to four years for Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, both felonies. The sentences will run concurrently.

The defendant is also ordered to pay \$170,000 in restitution to the North Castle-based CR Wallauer & Company, Inc., where she was employed from 2017 to 2019 to oversee their accounting and finances.

In her role as controller, the defendant stole \$341,707.54 of company funds between July 7, 2017 and Aug. 9, 2019, and falsified business records to conceal the stolen funds between Jan. 2 and March 29, 2019.

After CR Wallauer owners discovered the fraud, the defendant was terminated in August 2019.

Following an investigation by the DA's Office Economic Crimes Bureau, the defendant was arrested in June 2022 in Orlando, Florida by the U.S. Marshalls with assistance from the Fugitive Unit of the Orange County Sheriff's Office and the Westchester County Department of Public Safety's Warrant Fugitive Unit.

The case was prosecuted by Senior Tax Fraud Counsel Nicole Gamble of the Economic Crimes Bureau with assistance from Forensic Accountant Michael Frenza, both of the Trials and Investigations Division, and Criminal Investigators Steven Sassone and Joseph McGann.

The District Attorney thanked the Ossining, North Castle and the Westchester County police departments for their assistance in the case.

THE AFRICAN CHILDREN'S CHOIR

Performance in Yonkers, Wednesday, October 16, 2024 at 7:00 PM
Calvary Chapel of Grace and Truth, 1373 Nepperhan Ave
Yonkers, NY 10703
t: (914) 410-4830

We're celebrating our 40th year! We Are The African Children's Choir (africanchildrenschoir.com)

The African Children's Choir is sure to melt the hearts of audiences with their performance of popular children's music, traditional spiritual songs and African cultural pieces.

The African Children's Choir is composed of African children, aged 7 to 10 years old, all who come from vulnerable backgrounds and have faced hardship and lack of education. However, they represent the potential of the African child to become leaders for a better future.

"The African Children's Choir proves just how powerful music can be," says Tina Sipp, Choir Manager for the African Children's Choir. "These concerts provide hope and encouragement, not just to our audiences, but to the children whose lives are forever changed by their experiences with the Choir."

The African Children's Choir is more than just a choir. It's part of a larger, international, Christian organization called Music for Life, which provides thousands of impoverished children throughout Africa with the education, discipleship, and leadership skills needed to rise above their conditions so they can bring positive, lasting change to their families, communities and countries.

No tickets required. Donations appreciated.

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75 Teens and Adults Receive Laptops from The STEM Alliance and AT&T



Teens and adults receiving their new laptops at Port Chester Carver Center.

AT&T* and Human-IT provided The STEM Alliance of Westchester County with 75 refurbished laptops yesterday to distribute to families in need.

Laptops were distributed to members in the community from The Port Chester Carver Center in Port Chester, Alcance Latino in White Plains, and the Community Resource Center in Mamaroneck. The laptops, funded by an AT&T contribution, were given to students and adults who were pre-selected prior to this event.

“AT&T has been a dedicated supporter of digital equity initiatives here in Westchester and beyond. In today’s world, device ownership is critical to thriving as a student but also for success in so many other arenas: looking for a job, banking and even saving money”, says Margaret Käufer, President of The STEM Alliance. “We applaud AT&T’s commitment and are thrilled that these students are starting their school year equipped for success.”

The STEM Alliance distributed the devices to provide support to those individuals with previous computer skills but lacking devices. In partnership with AT&T, The STEM Alliance is serving teenagers working toward high school/college completion and adults seeking employment opportunities.

“On behalf of the Community Resource Center, we extend our deepest gratitude to The STEM Alliance for their invaluable partnership in advancing digital equity within our community,” says Jirandy Martinez, Executive Director at the Community Resource Center. “Through their generous donation of 25 laptops, our client members now have increased access to essential digital tools, enabling them to engage more fully in educational, professional, and personal development opportunities. This contribution is not just a gift of technology, but a profound investment in the future of our community. We are excited to continue working together to bridge the digital divide and empower those we serve.”

It’s estimated that 11% of households in New York do not have access to the internet or connected devices needed to fully participate in the online world, an issue called the digital divide. AT&T has committed \$2.1M+ from 2021–2023 to organizations and initiatives focused on closing the digital divide in New York, and has funded 6,100+ laptops for students and families across the Empire State.

This effort is part of the AT&T Connected Learning® initiative to help address the digital divide through internet accessibility, affordability and safe adoption. AT&T is committing \$5 billion to help 25 million people get and stay connected to high-speed internet by 2030. “AT&T is proud to collaborate with organizations like The STEM Alliance to help close the digital equity gap in Westchester County,” said John Emra, President, AT&T Atlantic Region. “Connectivity is vital for students, and we’re glad we can provide these resources to those that need them most.” Learn more at att.com/connectedlearning.

Bring Your Family to Muscoot Farm for Pumpkin Picking Fundraiser Oct. 12-14



Nothing announces October like the sight of a plump, hardy pumpkin! Pick your perfect pumpkin at Muscoot Farm’s Annual Pumpkin Picking Fundraiser. This year’s fun-tastic seasonal event is Saturday, Oct. 12 through Monday, Oct. 14, from 10 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. each day.

The event is free, and each pumpkin’s price will be based on its size. Hayrides are \$5 per person, with ages 2 and under free. Delicious cider and doughnuts will also be for sale. Attendees can see Muscoot’s engaging animals in their pens and enjoy free kids’ activities. Cash, Venmo and credit cards are accepted.

And on Sunday, drop in on Muscoot’s weekly Farmers Market, which supports local farmers and sustainable efforts in our area. It’s open every Sunday from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. until November 17. Visit muscootfarm.org for an up-to-date list of vendors.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, “The crisp air, colorful fall leaves, and the sight of countless pumpkins scattered across a field create a festive and inviting atmosphere. It’s an adventure to search for the perfect pumpkin, whether you’re looking for a small one for decorating or a large one for carving.”

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathy O’Connor said, “Families and friends of all ages can enjoy picking pumpkins together. The outing fosters bonding and creates lasting memories. Pumpkins’ earthy tones complement Muscoot’s vibrant foliage, making them a natural fit for October’s gorgeous landscape.”

Muscoot Farm opens at 10 a.m.; and 9:30 a.m. on Sunday for the Farmers Market. The pumpkin patch will close at 3:30 p.m., and the hayrides run from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. The trails will be closed during the event.

This event benefits the Friends of Muscoot Farm, which preserves and interprets, for the public benefit, the agricultural, cultural and natural heritage of a Westchester County farm, circa 1880 – 1930.

Alfred B. DelBello Muscoot Farm, a 777-acre, early 1900s interpretive farm, is owned and operated by the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation on Conservation. It is open daily and offers a variety of interpretive programs to the public on weekends throughout the year.

For more information, visit muscootfarm.org or call (914) 864-7286.

FREE ADMISSION

Ulster County Italian Festival 2024

The area's largest Italian Festival!

Live Music | Great food | Family Fun

Sunday, Oct. 13 12-8PM | Kingston Waterfront | UCIAF.org

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NADER SAYEGH IS

TAKING THE SAFETY OF OUR

COMMUNITIES SERIOUSLY



"We all deserve to feel safe and protected in our neighborhoods. I'll keep working with Mayor Mike Spano and law enforcement to keep Yonkers families safe."

- Nader Sayegh

ENDORSED BY LAW ENFORCEMENT



NADER SAYEGH IS WORKING TO MAKE OUR COMMUNITIES SAFER

- ✔ **Strengthened the Red Flag Law**, raised the age to purchase a semiautomatic rifle and cracked down on untraceable ghost guns
- ✔ Required social media platforms to provide **an easily accessible way to report hateful content**
- ✔ **Secured grants for the Yonkers Police Department** and got \$1 million for Yonkers neighborhood violence prevention programs
- ✔ **Strengthened penalties** for retail theft and illegal cannabis shops
- ✔ Gave judges more discretion to **hold dangerous criminals accountable**
- ✔ Will work with the federal government on **commonsense solutions to the immigration crisis** to stop the flow of illegal guns and drugs into our communities

THREE WAYS TO VOTE

VOTE BY EARLY MAIL OR ABSENTEE: ELECTIONS.NY.GOV/REQUEST-BALLOT

VOTE EARLY: **OCT 26 - NOV 3**

VOTE IN PERSON: **NOVEMBER 5**

Paid for by Friends of Nader Sayegh

Weekend Events at Westchester Parks

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 12

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466. Birding for Beginners, 10 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. Join us for this walk and find out which of our feathered friends are passing through the conservancy on their way south. Led by Chris Mignone of Central Westchester Audubon.

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 hill behind the farm stand. All ages and abilities are welcome. Also: Nov. 9, Dec. 14. Details: <https://hilltophanoverfarm.org/events/event/2024/10/12/1728745200/quilltop-a-literary-club/499884>

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/2024-10-12/>

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7282. Pumpkin Picking Weekend, 10:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m. Join us for our annual pumpkin-picking fundraiser! Pumpkins, hayrides and more will be available for purchase to benefit the Friends of Muscote Farm. Also: Oct. 13, 14. Space is limited. Get details <https://www.muscotefarm.org/programs-events/event-calendar.html/event/2024/10/14/pumpkin-picking-weekend/495563>

Miller House, 140 Virginia Road, White Plains: (914) 428-1005. Path Through History Weekend: Miller House Open House, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Drop in to visit the former home of the Ann and Elijah Miller family, an average colonial Westchester family whose lives were changed forever when Gen. George Washington and his army fought for American independence.

Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River: (914) 864-7322. Fall Foliage Arts & Crafts, 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. All ages are invited to celebrate our changing landscape with some leaf identification and foliage theme arts and crafts.

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050 Trick-or-Treating, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. Visit the animals and explore the farm's historic sites as you trick-or-treat at our barn doors! Treats will be available while supplies last; dressing up in costumes is encouraged!

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720. Final Fall Seining, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Kids and adults will use a 25-foot seining net to catch the saltwater creatures close to the shores of Long Island Sound. Dress to get wet.

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 965-5851. Honeybees, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Have you ever wondered how beekeepers harvest honey from their hives? Join our beekeeper Todd Patton to learn about and watch the extraction process.

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466. Habitats of Marshlands, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. A walking tour of the various habitats, including a meadow, forest and salt marsh. Learn what distinguishes each habitat and which animals and plants live there.

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Wild Seed Collection Workshop, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Adults can join our native plants curator in this hands-on workshop during which you will learn how to sustainably collect seeds from native plants. Free. Registration required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/wild-seed-collection-workshop-tickets-1037077335227?aff=oddtcreator>

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 13

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. Raptor Migration, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Join us on a 2-mile hike to the top of the quarry to observe raptors migrating to their wintering grounds. Binoculars and hiking shoes are recommended.

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/2024-10-13/>

The Bronx River Parkway. Bicycle Sunday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Today is 2024's final day to bike, walk or jog a 13.1-mile loop of the Bronx River Parkway from White Plains to Yonkers. A portion of the parkway is closed to cars for the exclusive use of non-motorized bicyclists and scooters, as well as in-line skaters, walkers and joggers. Get details: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/bicycle-sundays>

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. Autumn Highlights Tour, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Join a Lasdon gardener for a walk through the park to see what's still in bloom! Wear comfortable walking shoes. Meet at the entrance kiosk next to the parking lot. Free. Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/autumn-highlights-tour/>

Bowman Closes Early, continued from pg 1-

"When I went to the office at the end of September, I found no answer and the doors locked. When I called the office number for Congressman Bowman, I was told that the office had been closed due to a staffing issue. When I explained that there were still three months left in Rep. Bowman's term of office, until Dec. 31, 2024, I was told that they still had their Mount Vernon office open for in person visits or questions. And even the Mount Vernon office is only open two or three days per week.

"When I explained that I was a disabled constituent who would have difficulty making the trip from White Plains to Mount Vernon, I was not given a remedy. And when I asked why they had closed the White Plains office so early, the woman on the phone answered, "Because we Lost." At that point, I ended the conversation.

"When Nita Lowey retired in 2020, she kept her office open until the very end of her term. I cannot recall how long Rep. Mondaire Jones kept his office open in White Plains until the end of 2022.

"The answer, "because we lost" does not make sense to me. It actually offends me. As a proud democrat, I voted for Congressman Bowman. And as a taxpayer, I deserve to have the same representation throughout the two-year term of a House member, regardless of whether that member lost his or her reelection bid.

"But now I will be voting for George Latimer on Nov. 5, and this tale may be part of the reason why Mr. Latimer defeated Congressman Bowman.

"I have also attempted to inquire as to whether it is legal for a member of Congress to close their district offices 90 days before their term of office expires. The best that I could do was to find the House of Representatives Office of Ethics. I emailed them this same letter.

"I do understand how staff working for Congressman Bowman would want to find another job, but they should finish their job here before doing so," writes Ruth Lydia, White Plains NY

Editor's Note: We have confirmed that the White Plains office for Rep. Bowman closed sometime before the end of September. Some of our readers have told us that it happened over the summer.

Unfortunately, we have been unable to determine if any ethical violations occurred with the closing of one of his district offices. We doubt that any laws were violated as a result of the White Plains office closing, especially when the Mt. Vernon office remained open.

But Ms. Lydia makes a good point about the staff for Congressman Bowman. Did they resign their positions? Or are they still getting paid?

And was there a lease for Bowman's White Plains office. Did that lease run until the end of the year, and the end of Bowman's term?

While likely not illegal, the departure of Congressman Bowman and his staff, from his White Plains office three months early have many Westchester democrats scratching their heads. "It was an unprofessional move, and unbecoming of a Congressman representing Westchester," said one Westchester democrat.

Bowman's Mt. Vernon office is located at 6 Gramatan Ave. Suite 205.

While Bowman remains active on his Twitter-X account, his press office's last release was in July, two months ago.

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General Election: Tuesday, November 5, 2024
Early Voting: Saturday, October 26, 2024 to Sunday, November 3, 2024

Voter Registration

Use the NYS Board of Elections Online Voter Registration portal (NY.Gov ID required) or the downloadable fill-in NYS voter registration form to:

Register to vote

Change your name or address on your voter registration

Become a member of a political party

Change your party membership (Please note: An application to change one's party enrollment for the primary election in any year must be received by the board of elections no later than February 14th of that year. Party changes received on or after February 15th, will be placed on hold until seven days after the June Primary.)

Pre-register to vote if you are 16 or 17 years of age

Check your voter registration status at the NYS Board of Elections Voter Lookup Service. For more information, view the NYS Board of Elections Voter Registration Process webpage.

Important Voting Deadlines

Saturday, October 26, 2024 (Golden Day, ten days before the election): Early voting begins (follow link for all early voting polling times and locations in Westchester County); last day for NYS voter registration form to be received by the Board of Elections; last day for an early mail ballot application or an absentee ballot application to be received by the Board of Elections if requesting that the ballot be sent by mail.

Sunday, November 3, 2024: Last day of Early Voting.

Monday, November 4, 2024 (one day before the election): Last day to apply in person at the Westchester County Board of Elections (25 Quarropas Street, White Plains, NY 10601) for an early mail or absentee ballot.

Tuesday, November 5, 2024 (General Election Day): In person voting only at your assigned polling location that may be found using the Westchester County Board of Elections Find a Polling Place webpage; last day to postmark a completed early mail or absentee ballot (must be received by Tuesday, November 12, 2024) or to submit an early mail or absentee ballot in person to the Westchester County Board of Elections or at any polling site throughout Westchester County by the close of the polls.



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legedly traveling at 55 MPH in a 45 MPH zone. A copy of court records pertaining to the ticket is annexed as Exhibit 2. Dr. Mauricio is the Superintendent of the Peekskill City School District and an active member of the local community. Respondent's wife, Pamela Hallman-Johnson, serves on the Board of Education of the Peekskill City School District.

"In or about January or February 2020, while Respondent, his wife and Dr. Mauricio were attending a community event, Dr. Mauricio privately asked Respondent to look into his traffic ticket and shared some purportedly mitigating circumstances. Respondent told Dr. Mauricio he would look into it. On or about February 6, 2020, Respondent dismissed Dr. Mauricio's ticket, in chambers, off the record, outside the presence of the parties, without notice to or the consent of either the Peekskill City Prosecutor, Ingrid O'Sullivan, or the State Police Officer who had issued the ticket. On or about February 6, 2020, Ms. Hallman-Johnson texted Dr. Mauricio to thank him for attending her brother's funeral and to advise, "My husband took care of that issue today." Dr. Mauricio responded, "Tell your husband I said a big thank you."

II-Zwana Loehr, daughter of Judge Melilssa Loehr. "On or about August 1, 2016, Zwana Loehr was charged with violating the VTL, for allegedly failing to stop at a stop sign. On or about September 2, 2016, Ms. Loehr was again charged with violating the VTL, for allegedly operating a motor vehicle without adequate lights. A copy of court records pertaining to the tickets is annexed as Exhibit 3. Zwana Loehr is the daughter of Judge Melissa A. Loehr, who at the time was a co-judge of Respondent's at Peekskill City Court. Zwana Loehr and Respondent's daughter, Ashley Johnson, were friends, having been classmates during middle and high school, having frequented each other's houses, and having lived together for a time as young adults in the home of Judge Loehr's mother.

"On or about March 10, 2017, Respondent presided over People v Zwana Loehr, regarding both VTL cases then pending against the defendant. After Ms. Loehr stated her name for the record, the following exchange between Respondent and Ms. Loehr was placed on the record:

THE COURT: Good afternoon, Zwana. How you doing?

THE WITNESS: Good. How are you?

THE COURT: I'm good. Okay. Dismissed.

THE WITNESS: Oh, wow. Thanks. Have a great day.

THE COURT: Take care.

"Respondent did not make any disclosure on the record about his or his daughter's relationship with the defendant, or the defendant's relationship with his co-Judge Melissa A. Loehr. Respondent dismissed both of the pending VTL tickets against the defendant without explanation and without hearing from the Peekskill City Prosecutor, Ingrid O'Sullivan, or any other representative of the People."

Judge Loehr is now an Associate Supreme Court Judge in the New Rochelle Family Court.

III-Carly Fields: While we do not know of the relationship between Fields and Judge Johnson, her offense was serious.

"On or about October 11, 2022, Carly A. Fields was charged with violating the VTL, for allegedly traveling 80 MPH in a 40 MPH zone. The defendant pled not guilty by mail on or about October 14, 2022. On or about October 21, 2022, before the Fields matter had been scheduled for a court appearance, Court Clerk Allison Carter saw the defendant's court file at her desk, bearing the dismissal code "21" and Respondent's initials, indicating that Respondent had dismissed the ticket based on a "Statutory Motion to Dismiss in Furtherance of Justice" pursuant to CPL §170.40. Neither the defendant nor the prosecutor had appeared in court or made a motion to dismiss the Fields matter. "

Why were these strange dismissals brought to the attention of the NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct? Perhaps because of the inappropriate remarks, comments and actions made by Judge Johnson to court staff. Those allegations are included in the complaint.

Johnson was accused of making "sexual innuendos and other inappropriate remarks to court staff and attorneys on at least two occasions; On at least one occasion touched or caressed his co-judge's her arm without invitation or permission, and otherwise said offensive things to her; Berated, screamed at, and otherwise treated court staff discourteously; and Engaged in an unauthorized ex parte communication with a government official regarding a pending criminal matter.

Judge Johnson has served as a Judge of the Peekskill City Court since 2014.

Commission Administrator Robert H. Tembeckjian made the following statement. "The responsibility to decide cases impartially and on the merits is corrupted whenever a judge fixes traffic cases on behalf of friends or family. The harmony and decorum of the courthouse is undermined whenever a judge mistreats colleagues, attorneys, and court staff. One who repeatedly does all this and more does not belong on the bench."

Laura Morales writes, "How many Judges have done the same things Judge Johnson did? Is this a Halloween Witch Hunt Against Judge Johnson and Councilman Fernandez? What about the others involved? What is their punishment? "

Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER ; Index No. 59236/2023 Filed 04/07/2023 Plaintiff

MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC VS.

UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF LUCIETTA BORGIA; DONNAMARIE DISTASIO, HEIR-AT LAW OF THE ESTATE OF LUCIETTA BORGIA; RICHARD DISTASIO, HEIR-AT LAW OF THE ESTATE OF LUCIETTA BORGIA; SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOODS LLC; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA O/B/O INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; "JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #12," the last twelve names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the Subject Property described in the Complaint,

PUBLICATION

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS:

UNKNOWN HEIRS OF THE ESTATE OF LUCIETTA BORGIA

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Amended Complaint in the above captioned action and to serve a copy of your Answer on the Plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner than by personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a Defendant in this action may answer to appear within sixty (60) days of service hereof. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Amended Complaint.

NOTICE

YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to this Summons and Amended Complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure

proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the publication and protect your property.

Sending payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE ASSETS MANAGEMENT, LLC) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

To the above named defendants: The foregoing Publication is served upon you by publication pursuant to an order of the Hon. Paul I Marx, J.S.C, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of N.Y., dated September 06, 2024 and filed along with the supporting papers in the Westchester County Clerk's Office. This is an action to foreclose a mortgage on the property located 26 Gail Road, Yonkers, NY 10710 Section: 4 Block: 4863 Lot: 56

Westchester County is designated as the place of

trial based upon the location of the property being foreclosed. Attorneys for

Plaintiff: Stern & Eisenberg, PC, 20 Commerce Drive, Suite 230, Cranford, NJ 07016 T:(516) 630-0288.

PWJC Executive Director Cindy J. Kanusher, Esq. said: "We are so happy to be joining together during DV Awareness month with our community partners to bring awareness about the resources available in our County for DV survivors. It is so important for those living with domestic violence to know that they are not alone and that there is help available. At PWJC, we provide free legal services for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and elder abuse, and one of our main priorities is to ensure access to our services to those who need our help. We so appreciate the opportunity to highlight the services and help available from PWJC and all of our partner agencies."

WestCOP Victims Assistance Services Program Director Samantha Favara said: "At Victims Assistance Services, we provide free, comprehensive victim-centered services to all victims of crime. We aim to mitigate the shame-inducing stigma of victimization, and provide all victims the opportunity to regain a sense of dignity, empowerment and wholeness through compassionate services. We may be reached at our 24/7 hotline at 914-345-9111. We hear you, we see you, and you are not alone."

New Dawn Family Resource Center Vice President David M. Ryan said: "It is the mission of the New Dawn Family Resource Center to provide and expand support for programs and services for victims of domestic abuse, sexual assault, elder abuse, and human trafficking. By having these conversations publicly and speaking out against domestic violence, especially as we enter October which is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, we can gain insight as to the serious nature of domestic violence and remind everyone that it is a crime and that it is unacceptable behavior. Freedom from the fear of violence at home is, and always should be, a basic human right." A resource table is set up in the Michaelian Office Building lobby for the month of October to provide materials for those seeking information on any topic related to domestic violence.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER
INDEX NO: 70289/2023
D/O/F: 11/03/2023

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Property Address: 351 South 3rd Avenue a/k/a 351 Third Avenue South a/k/a 351 South 3rd Street, Mount Vernon, New York 10550

Plaintiff designates Westchester County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the property is situated.

BRITE FAMILY LLC,

Plaintiff,

-against-

BRENDA O. JONES A/K/A BRENDA JONES A/K/A BRENDA A. JONES, if living, and if she be dead, grantees, mortgagees, lienors, heirs, devisees, distributees or successors in interest of such of them as may be dead, and their husbands and wives, heirs, devisees, distributees and successors in interest, all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to Plaintiff;

TEMICKA L. JONES A/K/A TEMICKA JONES A/K/A TENICKA JONES A/K/A TEMICKA C. JONES A/K/A TOMICKA L. JONES, if living, and if she be dead, grantees, mortgagees, lienors, heirs, devisees, distributees or successors in interest of such of them as may be dead, and their husbands and wives, heirs, devisees, distributees and successors in interest, all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to Plaintiff;

DOUGLAS R. DRAYGOH A/K/A DOUGLAS DRAYGOH A/K/A DOUGLAS R. MADDOX, if living, and if he be dead, grantees, mortgagees, lienors, heirs, devisees, distributees or successors in interest of such of them as may be dead, and their husbands and wives, heirs, devisees, distributees and successors in interest, all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to Plaintiff; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA O/B/O INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE;

"JOHN DOES" and "JANE DOES", said names being fictitious, parties intended being possible tenants or occupants of premises, and corporations, other entities or persons who claim, or may claim, a lien against the premises,
Defendant(s).

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorneys within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the State, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. Nancy Quinn Koba, a Justice of the Supreme Court, Westchester County, entered Sept. 16, 2024 and filed with the complaint and other papers in the Westchester County Clerk's Office.

THE OBJECT OF THE ACTION is to foreclose a mortgage recorded in the Westchester County Clerk's Office on September 29, 2021 in Control #612713799, covering premises k/a 351 South 3rd Avenue a/k/a 351 Third Avenue South a/k/a 351 South 3rd Street, Mount Vernon, NY 10550 a/k/a Section 169.31, Block 3115, Lot 24.

NOTICE

YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.

Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

The following notice is intended only for the defendants who are owners of the premises sought to be foreclosed or who are liable upon the debt for which the mortgage stands as security.

YOU ARE HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

PLEASE BE AWARE:

(1) that debt collectors, in accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., are prohibited from engaging in abusive, deceptive, an unfair debt collection efforts, including, but not limited to:

- i. the use or threat of violence;
- ii. the use of obscene or profane language; and
- iii. repeated phone calls made with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass.

(2) If a creditor or debt collector receives a money judgment against you in court, state and federal laws may prevent the following types of income from being taken to pay the debt:

1. Supplemental security income, (SSI);
2. Social security;
3. Public assistance (welfare);
4. Spousal support, maintenance (alimony) or child support;
5. Unemployment benefits;
6. Disability benefits;
7. Workers' compensation benefits;
8. Public or private pensions;
9. Veterans' benefits;
10. Federal student loans, federal student grants, and federal work study funds; and
11. Ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty days.

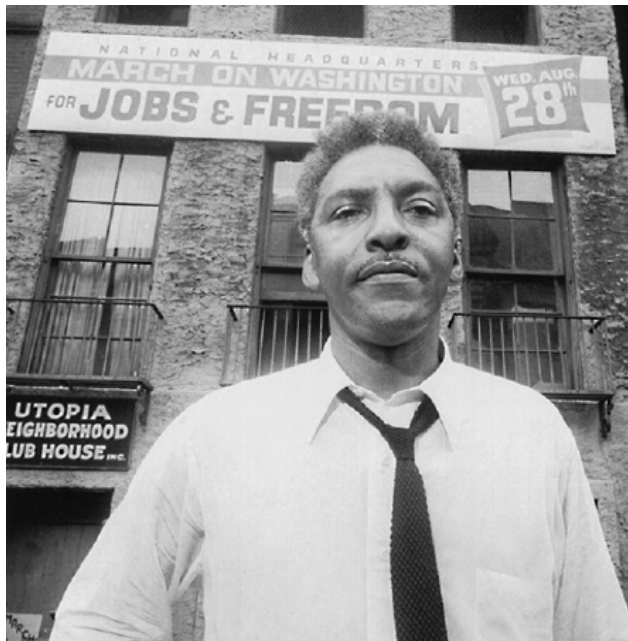
TO THE DEFENDANTS, except Brenda O. Jones, Temicka L. Jones, and Douglas Draygo: The Plaintiff makes no personal claim against you in this action.

TO THE DEFENDANTS: Brenda O. Jones, Temicka L. Jones, and Douglas Draygo: If you have obtained an order of discharge from the Bankruptcy court, which includes this debt, and you have not reaffirmed your liability for this debt, this law firm is not alleging that you have any personal liability for this debt and does not seek a money judgment against you. Even if a discharge has been obtained, this lawsuit to foreclose the mortgage will continue and we will seek a judgment authorizing the sale of the mortgaged premises.

Dated:

Sandy J. Stolar, Esq.,
Margolin, Weinreb & Nierer, LLP, Attorneys for Plaintiff
165 Eileen Way, Suite 101, Syosset, New York 11791-516-921-3838
#101810

LGBTQ+ History Month: Overlooked Pioneers



Bayard Rustin

By Dennis Richmond Jr.

As we celebrate LGBTQ+ History Month, it's important to remember not only the widely known activists but also the unsung heroes who quietly, yet profoundly, contributed to the progress of the LGBTQ+ community. These individuals may not be household names, but their courage and dedication paved the way for the freedoms enjoyed today.

One such figure is Bayard Rustin, a key architect of the 1963 March on Washington. Rustin, a gay Black man, was a trailblazer in the civil rights movement and a close advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. His open homosexuality often made him a target, leading some within the movement to sideline him. Despite the prejudice he faced, Rustin remained steadfast in his activism, advocating for both racial justice and LGBTQ+ rights. His legacy reminds us that the struggle for equality often crosses multiple lines of identity.

Sylvia Rivera, a Latina trans woman, is another figure who helped define the modern LGBTQ+ movement. A fierce advocate for trans and homeless folk, Rivera co-founded the Gay Liberation Front and the Gay Activists Alliance after the Stonewall riots. Alongside Marsha P. Johnson, Rivera started the Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR), providing housing and support for homeless LGBTQ+ youth. While Rivera's radical activism was often met with resistance from within the LGBTQ+ community, particularly from those who sought a more mainstream approach, her work ensured that the voices of the most marginalized were not forgotten.

Another unsung hero is Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld, a German physician who founded one of the world's first organizations for LGBTQ+ rights, the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee, in 1897. Hirschfeld was a pioneer in sexology and worked tirelessly to decriminalize homosexuality in Germany. His institute was destroyed by the Nazis in 1933, and much of his groundbreaking research was lost, but Hirschfeld's contributions to LGBTQ+ visibility and rights continue to resonate.

These heroes, and countless others like them, remind us that the fight for LGBTQ+ equality has been shaped by a diversity of voices, many of whom faced discrimination not only from society at large but sometimes within their own movements. This month, let us honor those who stood at the intersections of multiple struggles, often without recognition, yet whose work has left a lasting impact on the path to justice.

Dennis Richmond, Jr., an educator, historian, and writer, illuminates the experiences of Black, Latinx, and LGBTQ+ communities in Yonkers and NYC through his journalism. Stay connected with him by following @NewYorkStakz on social media.

NONPARTISAN COALITION TO PROTECT KIDS-NY ANNOUNCES

“WALK OFF FOR FAIRNESS DAY”

Statewide Sports #GirlCott October 24

New York State high school athletes are being urged to walk off playing fields on Thursday, October 24th — “Walk Off for Fairness Day” — to protest the continuing efforts to end girls-only sports in New York, the nonpartisan ballot issue committee, Coalition to Protect Kids - NY, which is organizing the #GirlCott, today announced.

The Coalition is urging female athletes, and males who want to stand with them, to skip practices and games that day to raise awareness about two separate and imminent threats to Girls and Women's Sports in New York: the ongoing effort by the State Board of Regents to combine Girls and Boys High School Sports, and Prop 1, a 2024 statewide Constitutional ballot amendment that would almost certainly lay the groundwork for biological males gaining a permanent right to compete on girls teams, despite their clear physical advantages.

“Girls are being systematically canceled in this state, and ‘Walk Off for Fairness Day’ will give them a safe opportunity to make their voices heard,” said Coalition to Protect Kids - NY spokeswoman Ayesha Kreutz. “So many of these young women are afraid of speaking out, so they’re forced to watch as 50 years of female athletic progress gets washed away by destructive ideologues. Girls are not second class citizens, so why are they being treated that way?”

In April 2024 the NYS Department of Education issued draft guidance allowing boys on Girls Sports teams based on their chosen gender. It also allows boys - regardless of their gender choice - to play on girls’ teams if the school fails to offer a boys’ team in a selected sport. If Prop 1 passes on November 5th, these regulations could likely gain permanent NYS constitutional backing, the Coalition notes.

“New Yorkers know what’s happening to Girls Sports isn’t fair,” said Tamara Marcella of Staying Woman TMM Global, a Coalition partner. “Indeed, 66% recently polled (Siena) want girls-only sports preserved in the state. They aren’t anti-anyone; they’re simply pro-Girl, and that should be enough.”

Visit

Corrections Officer from Mt. Venron Arrested, continued from pg 1-

But this defendant, as charged, ignored her obligations and violated the trust the City placed in her when she took bribes in exchange for smuggling dangerous narcotics and other contraband into Rikers Island jail facilities. I thank the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York and the FBI for their partnership with DOI in the effort to stop illegal contraband smuggling in the City's jails.”

As alleged in the Complaint:[1]

BARRIENTOS, a former New York City Department of Correction (“DOC”) correction officer, conspired with others to smuggle contraband, including cocaine, smokeable synthetic cannabinoids (known as “K2”), and food, to inmates housed at the Robert N. Davoren Complex on Rikers Island in exchange for thousands of dollars in bribe payments.

For example, on April 11, 2024, CC-1, an associate of an inmate (“Inmate-1”), and BARRIENTOS discussed CC-1 sending BARRIENTOS a package through a delivery service. On April 15, 2024, surveillance footage showed BARRIENTOS entering Inmate-1’s cell, where surveillance footage could not capture her actions. Two days later, DOC searched Inmate-1’s cell and recovered sheets of paper that tested positive for the presence of cocaine.

On April 24, 2024, CC-1 sent BARRIENTOS another package using the delivery service. When BARRIENTOS went to work later that day, a drug-detecting canine alerted for the presence of narcotics. DOC employees searched BARRIENTOS’s belongings and found approximately 10 sheets of paper that tested positive for the presence of K2. In an interview with law enforcement, BARRIENTOS falsely stated, among other things, that no inmate had ever asked her to bring them contraband. Law enforcement officers then searched BARRIENTOS’s vehicle and recovered additional sheets of paper, as well as approximately \$2,466 in cash, as shown in the following photographs:

BARRIENTOS, 37, of Mount Vernon, New York, is charged with one count of conspiracy to commit honest services wire fraud and one count of conspiracy to distribute controlled substances, each of which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison; and one count of false statements, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

The statutory maximum sentences in this case are prescribed by Congress and are provided here for informational purposes only, as any sentencing of the defendant will be determined by the judge.

Mr. Williams praised the outstanding investigative work of the FBI and DOI.

This case is being handled by the Office’s Public Corruption and Narcotics Units. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Jeffrey Coyle and Sheb Swett are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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DECLARATION OF LAND PATENT

LAND PATENT #: awarded to Caleb Heathcote, Joseph Theale, John Horton and others, dated the seventeenth day of February, 1701

KNOW ALL MEN AND WOMEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that I, Alena Karakova, BEING FIRST DULY SWORN AN AOTH, deposes and says:

1. That, Alena Karakova, does certify and declare that I am "Assignee" in the LAND PATENT name above; That I have brought up said Land Patent in my name as it pertains to the land described below. The character of said property so claimed by patent, and legally described and referenced under the Patent listed above is:

All that certain plot, place or parcel of land, situate lying and being in the Town of North Castle, County of Westchester, State of New York, designated as Lot 6, as shown on a certain map entitled, "Amended Subdivision of Property prepared for Townsend Estates, LLC". Said map filed in the Westchester County Clerk's Office, Division of Land Records, October 13, 1999 as Map No.26435. Said Lot 6 being more particularly bounded and described as follows:
 BEGINNING at a point formed by the intersection of the division line between Lot 5 and Lot 6 and the easterly boundary line of Stony Brook Place;
 THENCE easterly along said division line between Lot 5 and Lot 6, the following three courses and distances:
 South 75 degrees 50 minutes 56 seconds East 94.88 feet;
 North 67 degrees 23 minutes 18 seconds East 291.03 feet;
 North 72 degrees 21 minutes 57 seconds East 240.05 feet to lands now or formerly of Manganiello;
 THENCE southerly generally along the centerline of stone wall and along lands now or formerly of Manganiello, South 10 degrees 09 minutes 30 seconds West 67.00 feet;
 THENCE southerly continuing along said stone wall and along the division line between Lot 6 and Lot 7 as shown on said filed map, South 19 degrees 30 minutes 53 seconds West 392.94 feet to the division line between Lot 5 and Lot 7 as shown on said filed map;
 THENCE westerly along said division line between Lot 6 and 7, North 60 degrees 24 minutes 45 seconds West 532.37 feet;
 THENCE North 31 degrees 44 minutes 18 seconds West 72.41 feet to the easterly boundary line of Stony Brook Place;
 THENCE northerly along said easterly boundary line of Stony Brook Place on a curve bearing to the left having a radius of 55.00 feet and an arc length of 56.55 feet to the point or place of BEGINNING.

2. That, Alena Karakova, is domiciled at 30-04 14th Street, Astoria, New York Republic USA NON-DOMESTIC. Unless otherwise stated, I have individual knowledge of the matters contained in this Declaration of Land Patent. I am fully competent to testify with respect to these matters.
 3. I, Alena Karakova, am an Assignee At Law and acceptor of that certain legally described portion of Land granted under the original certified LAND PATENT, which is duly authorized to be executed in pursuance of the supremacy of treaty law, citation and constitutional mandate, herein referenced, whereupon a duly authenticated true and correct lawful description, together with all hereditament, tenements and pre-emptive rights arising.
 4. No claim is made herein, that I have been assigned the entire tract of land as described in the original patent. My assignment is inclusive of only the attached lawful description. The publishing of this DECLARATION OF LAND PATENT shall not deny or infringe on any right, privilege, or immunity of any other Heir or Assignee to any other portion of land covered in the above described patent.
 5. If this duly certified LAND PATENT is not challenged by a lawfully qualified party having a claim, lien, debt or other equitable interest in a court at law within sixty (60) days from the date of publishing and NOTICE, then the above described property shall become the allodial freehold of the Assignee or said Patent, the LAND PATENT

shall be considered henceforth perfected in my name, and all future claims against this land shall be forever waived.

6. When a lawfully qualified sovereign State National natural person has a claim to title and is challenged, the court of competent original and exclusive jurisdiction is the Common law supreme court (Article III). Any action against a Patent by a corporate State or their respective statutory, legislative units (i.e., courts) would be an action AT Law which is outside the venue and jurisdiction of these Article I courts. There is no At Law issue contained herein which may be heard in any of the State courts (Article I), nor can any court of Equity (Admiralty/Military set aside, annul, or correct a LAND PATENT.
 7. Therefore, said land remains unencumbered, free and clear, and without liens or lawfully attached in any way, and is hereby declared to be private land and private property, not subjected to any commercial forums (e.g., U.C.C.) whatsoever.
 8. Additionally, a Common Law courtesy of sixty (60) days is stipulated for any challenges hereto, otherwise, laches or estoppel shall forever bar the same against said ALLODIAL freehold estate; assessment lien theory to the contrary, notwithstanding. Therefore, said declaration, after sixty (60) days from date of publishing, if no challenges are brought forth and upheld, perfects ALLODIAL TITLE their name forever.

JURISDICTION

THE RECIPIENT HEREOF IS MANDATED by Article VI, §2 & 3, the 9th and 10th Amendments with reference to the 7th Amendment, enforced under Article III, §3, Clause 1, of the Constitution for the United States of America.

Pursuant to Title 26, USC §1746(1) and executed "without the United States," I affirm under penalty of perjury under the laws of the United States of America that the foregoing is true and correct, to the best of my belief and informed knowledge. And Further deponent saith not, I know affix my signature and official seal to all of the above affirmations with EXPLICIT RESERVATION OF ALL OF MY UNALIENABLE RIGHTS, WITHOUT PREJUDICE to any of those rights pursuant to U.C.C. 1-207 and U.C.C. 1-103.6

Respectfully,

By: 
 Alena Karakova
 Witness: 
 Svetlana Eliseicheva
 Witness: 
 Leni Goga

Notary Public as JURAT CERTIFICATE

NY State

Queens County The

United States of America

On September 16, 2024 date before me,

a Notary Public, personally appeared _____
 who proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the woman whose Name is subscribed to the within attached instrument and acknowledged to Me that she executed the same in her authorized capacity, And that by her autograph(s) on the instrument the woman executed, the instrument known as Declaration of
LAND PATENT

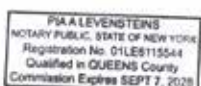
I certify under PENALTY OF PERJURY under the lawful laws of NY State that the foregoing paragraph is true and correct.

WITNESS my hand and official seal.

Signature 

of Notary / Jurat

seal



Chronic absenteeism is defined by the U.S. Department of Education as the share of students who miss at least 10% of days (typically 18) in a school year for any reason, excused, unexcused, or for disciplinary reasons. New York state excludes suspensions and extended medical absences from the state's chronic absenteeism calculation.

DiNapoli's report found during SY 2022-23:

Large city public schools (Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and Yonkers) and charter schools had the greatest high school chronic absenteeism rates: 64.2% and 52.1%, respectively. These high schools also had the greatest increase in chronic absenteeism between SYs 2018-2019 and 2022-2023. New York City high schools had a 43.1% chronic absenteeism rate in SY 2022-2023.

Chronic absenteeism rates are higher in high-need school districts than in low-need districts. High schools in high-need rural districts had a chronic absenteeism rate of 33%, a 10.1 point increase from SY 2018-2019, and high-need urban-suburban districts had a rate of 40.9%, an 8.6 point increase from SY 2018-2019. Low-need districts had a high school chronic absenteeism rate of 13.4%, a 4.9 point increase from SY 2018-2019.

Racial disparities also impact chronic absenteeism rates. Asian or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander (21.3%) and White (24.7%) high school students have much lower chronic absenteeism rates than Hispanic or Latino students (43.7%) and Black or African American students (46.4%).

Absenteeism rates are also higher among economically disadvantaged students, English language learners and students with disabilities. In the large city high schools, the SY 2022-2023 rate for these students was an alarming 71.2%.

Pandemic's Impact

New York's public and charter schools were forced to quickly shift to remote learning when the pandemic affected daily life in March 2020, and through SY 2020-21. As a result, these school districts continued to utilize a mixture of remote, in-person and hybrid formats: 61% of students were fully remote, 38% were in-person, and 1% were hybrid. As parents, students and school personnel contended with the effects of the virus and its impact on learning, chronic absenteeism increased to 24.1% in SY 2020-2021 from 18.6% in SY 2018-19. When fully in-person instruction returned in SY 2021-22, chronic absenteeism spiked further with 32.6% of students chronically absent—an increase of 14 percentage points from SY 2018-19.

While the public health emergency remained in effect, many school districts implemented restrictions preventing students who tested positive for COVID-19 from returning to school for a period of time. These restrictions likely had a significant bearing on the increase of chronic absenteeism rates. Rates improved in SY 2022-23 but remained significantly above pre-pandemic rates.

Policy Efforts

Chronic absenteeism rates vary significantly between student subgroups. The New York State Education Department (SED) reports chronic absenteeism rates by race and ethnicity, as well as for students that are economically disadvantaged, English language learners and with disabilities. Though New York had initially set the long-term goal of reducing chronic absenteeism rates to no more than 5% of students statewide in each subgroup, the state paused that goal in SYs 2022-23 and 2023-24 in response to the post-pandemic heightened absentee rates.

SED has proposed eliminating the chronic absenteeism metric altogether in SY 2025-26 in favor of an attendance index rank metric. SED also launched the "Every Student Present" initiative as a public awareness campaign to help parents, school staff and communities understand the impact of chronic absenteeism. SED has recommended that school districts reduce chronic absenteeism with expanding school breakfast programs as a means of getting students to school each day and on time, engaging in frequent and positive communications with parents and caregivers and recognizing good attendance and improvements in attendance, among other initiatives.

School districts like Buffalo and Syracuse have also launched their own efforts, and federal funding provided through the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) can also be used to address chronic absenteeism.

DiNapoli's report highlighted the need for the state to continue its tracking and public reporting of chronic absenteeism on a school, district and state level to provide transparency and the ability to measure the state's progress in addressing this persistent problem. Chronic absenteeism is one of the key factors impacting the ability of some students to overcome pandemic-era learning losses.

Read the report at: https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/reports/pdf/missing-school-ny-chronic-absenteeism.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

In the Yonkers Public Schools, In the Yonkers Public Schools, 55.3% of all students were chronically absent in the 2022-23 school year, including:

Asian or Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander-35.7%; Black or African American -57.8%; Hispanic or Latino -58.0%

White -45.0%; Economically Disadvantaged - 57.4%; English Language Learner - 58.6%; Students with Disabilities- 62.6%

Mayor Mike Spano has encouraged students to attend school every day, on time and ready to learn. Spano has created the Pledge 182 campaign to create incentives for students to attend school every one of the 182 school days in the academic year.

Yonkers Public Schools prioritizes reducing chronic absenteeism and is committed to supporting students and families, by decreasing chronic absenteeism Districtwide. Since the 2023-2024 school year, chronic absenteeism has decreased by approximately 13%, with the current Districtwide percentage now at 35.78%.

In conjunction with professional development, Yonkers Public Schools continues to promote best and promising practices to reduce chronic absenteeism across the district by offering incentives and rewards, engaging families, establishing Attendance Teams, mentoring, and partnering with mental health professionals to support students and families.

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