

# Westchester Rising

Early Voting Starts Oct. 28

Times and Location on pg 4

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Friday October 27, 2023

## Two Recent Disturbing Incidents in the Lakeland School District



By Dan Murphy

My daughter graduated from Lakeland High School, class of 2018. So, the recent bit of bad news coming out of Lakeland is both disturbing and surprising. Our headline comes from the group Lakeland RISE. At a recent home game, Lakeland vs Nyack, the Nyack Cheerleaders reported that they heard racists slurs from someone in the crowd, once during halftime, again at the concession stands, and finally when they were leaving.

Several news reports claim that an investigation is underway by either the Yorktown Police or the Westchester County police. We certainly hope so, and hope that a video can be found of who it was who had the audacity to do this three different times? Without any adults in the crowd hearing them? Or anyone in the crowd who heard it coming to the Police?

Lakeland RISE wrote, "We were dismayed to hear that Nyack cheerleaders at a Lakeland football game were taunted with racial epithets. We feel the district continuously dodges its responsibility to undertake serious, and much-needed, equity work. While improving crowd control and working with local police to secure events are fine measures, they are not a substitute for the district-wide, systemic changes needed to educate students, train staff and increase educator diversity. We're calling on the district to select members of the Equity for All committees that are committed to supporting and implementing substantive, district-wide changes. They should also be able to undertake meaningful building-level initiatives, such as school climate surveys, without ongoing interference from the district administrators or board of education."

We would recommend another way that might also be useful. (We are assuming that a student in the crowd made the slur). Find out who did it and who said it and tell the school district and the Yorktown community.

A few years ago, at a victory celebration for Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater, one of his supporters called Slater's democratic opponent, Vishnu Patel "A Sand N-word." That person was exposed and was embarrassed by his actions. Let that happen again with this incident.

Most of the students at Lakeland High School don't condone what was said. This is a blemish on them as well, even more reason to find out who did it. Lakeland student Nick Jurado was interviewed by WABC TV-Channel 7 and said, "That's just something we don't want coming in here," Jurado said. "We don't condone that at all. We respect everybody we play, including the cheerleaders."

Another Lakeland student, Nalia James said, "It's upsetting, but it's not surprising at the same time. Because we go through stuff like this on almost a daily basis with people in our schools."

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## Can Republicans Win 9 Seats on BOL as WCLA PAC Claims? Is Abortion on the Ballot?



Republican Joe Torres, left, and Democrat Emiljana Ulaj, right are running to join the Westchester Board of Legislators

By Dan Murphy

The Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion, WCLA, recently celebrated its 50th anniversary, with its goal "to keep abortion legal and to ensure that all women, regardless of age, race, class, status, geography or ability to pay, have full, unimpeded access to reproductive health care."

Through the work of the WCLA's PAC, the Westchester County Board of Legislators currently has a 15-2 democratic super majority. And all 15 of those democrats on the county board are pro-choice and have the support of WCLA PAC.

But over the past few months, in dozens of email blasts, WCLA PAC has been warning its supporters that "Anti-choice extremists are on the ballot right here in Westchester, running for NYS Supreme Court and for the County Board of Legislators. Their goal is to take over our courts and County government - and they're gunning to take Westchester's clinic access legislation to the US Supreme Court which could result in destroying safe access to abortion not just here in Westchester, but in states across the country."

"Right now the polls are neck-and-neck - but in election years like this one, with no top-of-the-ticket races, it will all come down to turnout. If enough voters are manipulated by anti-choice candidates' lying slanderous ads, our chances of holding the County government will plummet."

In requesting a contribution, WCLA PAC claims that "Remember: Anti-abortion candidates only need to FLIP 7 pro-choice seats to take control of the County Board." "THERE ARE 9 SEATS IN PLAY!" or "8 seats are in play!"

We decided to take a look and figure out if there was any chance of republicans taking control of the Westchester Board of Legislators on Nov. 7.

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## We Endorse: Tony Colavita for Town Supervisor; Scooter Scott for Tuckahoe Mayor, Sheila Marcotte and Anthony Giacobbe for Town Board

Tuckahoe Results Could Predict Countywide Trend



Above: Supervisor Tony Colavita, left, Tuckahoe Mayoral candidate Scooter, right. Below: Town Board member Sheila Marcotte, left Town Board candidate Anthony Giacobbe right



By Dan Murphy

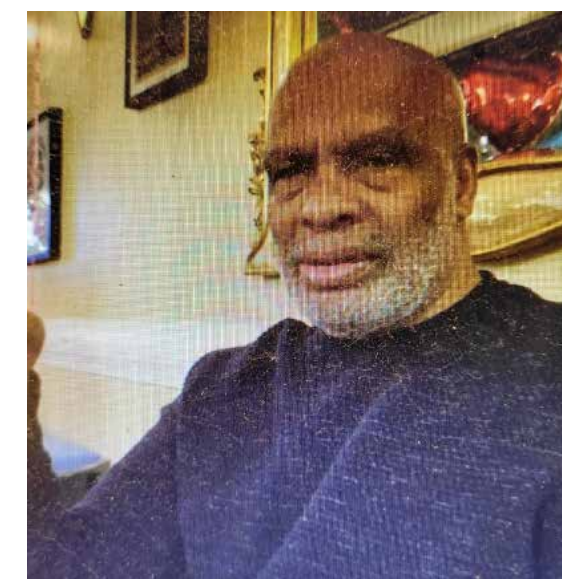
One Recent poll has Governor Kathy Hochul's approval rating at an all-time low of 33%. Another poll has President Joe Biden ahead in New York state by only 9 points. The reasons for both democrats' low numbers in deep blue New York State? The migrant crisis, inflation, and crime are three real issues on the minds of voters, but the question is, will this anger at Hochul and Biden translate into republican wins in deep-blue Westchester County?

One republican stronghold in Westchester is in the Town of Eastchester, where Supervisor Tony Colavita has served for 20 years. Our newspaper has supported Colavita in every one of his elections, but more importantly the voters keep reelecting Supervisor Colavita. Why? The reason for that is simple. Eastchester Town government has worked under Colavita's leadership. The residents of the Town demand that their tax dollars are watched and not wasted, but also that services in the town are kept to the highest standards.

The Town of Eastchester has consistently been cited as one of the best places to live, in part because of the balance that Colavita and the Town Board have been able to find between controlling property taxes and delivering town services. Running with Colavita this year is Town Board member Sheila Marcotte for reelection, and Anthony Giacobbe, running for Town Board for the first time.

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## Mt. Vernon Library Trustee Gets Arrested at Board Meeting; Harrasses Two Female Trustees



Mt. Vernon Library Trustee Jonathan Davis, left was arrested for Harassing another trustee

By Dan Murphy

First, let us thank BlackWestchester.com for their coverage of this story. Jonathan Davis is a Trustee of the Mt. Vernon Public Library. On September 20, at approximately 7:55 p.m., following the adjournment of a meeting of the MVPL Board of Trustees, Mr. Davis violated the Code of Conduct Policy,

According to a police report and other documents, Davis is reported to have repeatedly shouted the phrase "this bitch, bitch, your fucking lying bitch!" referring to a female trustee, Hope Marable, after being removed from the office of board president by the board, and eventually charging that female Ms. Marable with a clenched fist.

Davis continued to harass Marable until the Mount Vernon Police eventually intervened. After this incident, Davis is accused of grabbing Board President Chanese Coleman, while she was leaving. David cursed at Coleman and asked her to get in his vehicle.

Before she could drive off, Davis drove his car and blocked the exit from the parking lot and tried to enter Coleman's car again. An order of protection has now been issued against Davis. There is videotaped evidence of what happened. When Black Westchester first reported this, Davis began posting on social media,

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**Letter to the Editor: The Harassment & Bullying of Rye Town Employees – Must Be Stopped**

With recent news articles regarding various mis-management issues by the Town of Rye Administration – I felt it prudent to inform our communities (Port Chester, Rye Brook, Rye Neck) of the on-going harassment many Town employees, both past and present have experienced over the past few years across various departments.

During the past several months, as an employee of the Town, I have been subjected to an unfounded HR Investigation, personal accusations intended to damage my integrity and credibility as a manager. This pervasive professional abuse was led by the Town Administrator/Debbie Reisner, the Town Attorney/ Jeff Binder, the Director of Grounds & Facilities/Vic Federico, all under the leadership of Town Supervisor/Gary Zuckerman.

Since Debbie Reisner heads up all things HR related and Jeff Binder all things legal, I had no internal support to turn to, so the abusive treatment continued for months.

As a result, last week I was forced to resign my position of almost 4 years as Community Liaison of the Town and Assistant Park Manager at Crawford Park. The primary role of these positions was the sales and management of all events at Crawford – which has successfully generated a considerable revenue stream for the Town.

But this is NOT just about me. Many Town employees are being bullied, treated with disrespect, and frequently scolded in front of their co-workers. They have been silenced on occasion (most recently some were told not to discuss anything about my resignation as it could impact the upcoming election results). Some staffers personally shared with me they tolerate this harassment for fear of losing their job. Other staffers who fought back have been fired for what the town considered non-compliance or lack of qualifications. Then, there are those of us who fought back and reluctantly resigned for reasons rooted in our respective experiences.

Many of the 100+ people employed by the Town are our friends, neighbors, and family members. They are dedicated hard-working people who should be respected and appreciated. Condescending comments and personal humiliation should not be a part of anyone's workday.

It is my opinion that our community should be aware of what is happening inside the Town offices. The management style of the current administration is unacceptable and must be stopped.

With election day around the corner and Town Supervisor Gary Zuckerman running for re-election – I urge you to consider your options.

Please think before you vote....

Do you want this treatment of our friends, neighbors, and family members to continue for another 4 years? I certainly don't! ..... What do you think?

Camile Meola, Rye Brook

Editor's Note: Last week, we published a story on Rye Town Attorney Jeff Binder and his income earned for legal work for the town. The link to that story is

We have verified the author of this letter

**More Than 350 Attend Senator Harckham's Senior Resource Fair in Yorktown**



**State Sen. Pete Harckham with (l-r) Melissa Holden, director of resident relations at Yorktown Assisted Living Residence; Kate Maguire, regional director of trauma services at WMCHealth; Ellen Bloom, director of marketing and development for NewYork-Presbyterian / Hudson Valley Hospital; Patti Pelican, director of marketing & sales at Artis Senior Living – Somers; and Carisa Vallaro-Lingenfelter, director of sales, Artis Senior Living – Briarcliff Manor.**

On Oct. State Senator Pete Harckham hosted a Senior Resource Fair here at the Albert A. Capellini Community & Cultural Center, and more than 350 people interested residents attended, despite the inclement weather.

The special event, which was open to the public, gave residents an opportunity to talk with Harckham and meet with representatives from over 45 different organizations and learn about various health and community resources that cater to the senior citizen population in Senate District 40.

"I'm delighted to see that so many senior residents were able to attend this Resource Fair, and thank all of those who helped make the event a big success," said Harckham. "The 40th Senate District has a robust population of seniors, many who have lived their entire lives here and helped build up and sustain our communities. We owe it to them to provide the services that will make their golden years, safe, affordable and enjoyable."

Harckham added, "I want to especially thank the four partnering organizations that helped support this event: NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital, Westchester Medical Center, Yorktown Assisted Living Residence and Artis Senior Living Communities. All are integral members of our community that work hard to make a difference in the lives of our seniors."

Among the many different vendors at the Senior Resource Fair were several state agencies, including the Department of Motor Vehicles, Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman, Office of Addiction Services and Supports, Consumer Protection, New York State Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). Other groups in attendance were Alzheimer's Association – Hudson valley Chapter, SPCA Westchester, American Cancer Society, Hudson Valley Regional Community Health Centers, American Lung Association, Legal Services of the Hudson Valley, Metro North, American Red Cross Greater NY Region, the Feller Group, Family Services of Westchester and Open Door Family Medical Center.

Free Covid-19 tests and masks were given away to attendees, 15-minute chair yoga sessions were available throughout the day and light refreshments were provided as well.

Melissa Holden, director of resident relations at Yorktown Assisted Living Residence, said, "We're so happy to be a part of this event because it brings the community together and offers residents a tremendous amount of information to help better their lives. Senior living can be a great experience when the right resources are available and utilized, and when important decision making is informed."

Josh Ratner, executive vice president and chief strategy officer of Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHealth) and CEO of HealthAlliance of the Hudson Valley, said, "We thank Senator Harckham for sponsoring the 2023 Senior Resource Fair and giving WMCHealth the opportunity to share fall, stroke and heart disease prevention information, and more, with our neighbors. As the premier provider of healthcare services in the Hudson Valley, it is as much of our duty to help prevent illness and injury as it is to treat it."

Ellen Bloom, director of marketing and development for NewYork-Presbyterian / Hudson Valley Hospital, said, "The health and well-being of our communities is a top priority. NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital and Medical Group is pleased to participate in this important event to provide health and community resources to local senior citizens."

**Buying Comics!**

Looking for 1960's-1990's I PAY CASH!  
Located in Yonkers Text or call Andrew at 914-646-1718.



## Incumbent State Supreme Court Judges Connolly and Wood Deserve Your Vote

Westchester voters will be asked to elect four candidates to serve on the NYS Supreme Court in the 9th Judicial District, on Nov. 7 and in early voting starting Oct. 28.

Eight candidates are on the ballot: four democrats, Justice Fran Connolly, Justice Charley Wood, Judge Rolf Thorsen and Judge Larry Schwartz

And four republicans John Sarcone, Judge Karen Ostberg, Judge Susan Sullivan, and John Ciampoli.

As early voting begins this week, we can announce our endorsement for two of the four Supreme Court candidates right now: They are incumbent State Supreme Court Judges Fran Connolly and State Supreme Court Judge Charley Wood. Both, in our view, deserve your vote and deserve reelection.

We endorse Connolly and Wood because both are sitting State Supreme Court Judges, and both have been rated Exceptionally Well Qualified by the Westchester Bar Association, and received the highest ranking, from the other county bar associations in the 9th JD.

After serving 14 years on the State Supreme Court both Judge Connolly and Judge Wood have the experience of presiding over both criminal and civil cases, and have excellent reputations of serving in a fair manner before thousands of residents and attorneys who have come before them.

While there are other Judges also running, the experience that both Connolly and Wood have is what we would like to see continue. Qualification matter, and Connolly and Wood have the best qualifications to continue to serve the residents of Westchester.

Both Connolly and Wood are Westchester residents, and we believe that Justice Matters so Judges Matter.

We endorse Justice Fran Connolly and Justice Charley Wood for reelection to the State Supreme Court, 9th Judicial District.

## Unite NY Poll: Governor Hochul's Approval Rating Drops to 33%

57% Say NY on Wrong Track

A new poll out from nonpartisan Unite NY shows Governor Hochul's approval rating dropping from 50% in March to 33% by last month, with two-thirds of independent voters saying the state is on the wrong track. These stunning numbers come from the latest edition of Unite NY's Voter Empowerment Index (VEI). Support for the state legislature is even lower, at a meager 29%, while voters once again consistently assert politics are so bad in the Empire State, they are considering moving, with a whopping 40% considering packing their bags.

All is not bleak, though as strong majorities voiced their desire to see New York state implement important reforms such as term limits, citizen ballot initiatives, and nonpartisan primaries.

For nearly two years Unite NY has been measuring voter sentiment towards democracy reform via the organization's Voter Empowerment Index. The latest VEI, conducted just prior to Labor Day, found falling ratings for politicians and steady support for reform. Once again, voters identified crime and public safety (42%) as their most important issues, followed by taxes and state spending (30%) and immigration (25%). For New Yorkers aged 18-34, affordable housing (32%) was their largest concern.

Governor Hochul's approval rating has fallen steadily this year following her November 2022 election, starting at 50% in March of 2023, falling to 40% in June and dropping to 33% currently. The state legislature's already low approval rating fell from 36% in March to 29% in this latest poll.

Contrasted with cratering support for elected officials, those surveyed continue to consistently back key reforms that will give more power to voters, including term limits for Governor (75% support), term limits for the State Legislature (75% support), citizen ballot initiatives (71% support), nonpartisan primaries (65% support), and ranked-choice voting (46% support). New Yorkers also recognize New York is behind other states, as only 10% feel that the state is ahead of the curve when it election reforms, while nearly half (47%) believe the state has fallen behind.

Unite NY Executive Director Tim Dunn said, "For two years our Voter Empowerment Index has consistently found that voters support common sense reforms such as term limits and nonpartisan primaries, while approval ratings for elected officials continue to fall. New Yorkers want a government that embraces solutions and not politics and this latest research demonstrates growing voter dissatisfaction with elected officials who do not act on these measures. The good news is the VEI found voters are willing to try and connect with others from across the aisle and we urge lawmakers to embrace reforms that reduce partisanship and increase results."

Among the VEI's positive findings, more than half of those surveyed (53%) said they would attend a cross-partisan event to talk about issues with those who have different opinions and more than a third of New Yorkers (36%) think politics are fixable.

The survey polled 800 likely New York State voters on their attitudes towards present day politics and political reforms. The margin of error is 3.5 percent. The entire survey is available on the Unite NY website at: <https://unityny.org/voter-index/>.

## Halloween Organ Spooktacular

On Tuesday, October 31 at 4:00pm, Dr. Sandor Szabo, acclaimed concert organist will perform an organ concert featuring a spooky selection of well-known organ music such as Toccata and Fugue by Bach, Dance Macabre by Saint-Seans, excerpts from Peer Gynt Suite by Grieg, The Flight of a Bumble Bee, by Rimsky-Korsakov, Ride of Valkyre, Wagner, Fugue on "Pink Panther" by Bovet and Suite Gothique by Boellman at the Sacred Heart Church, 417 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry NY. Come in costume and enjoy this festive music family friendly event.

Dr. Sándor Szabó is actively engaged as pianist, conductor, organist, and harpsichordist throughout Europe, Asia, Canada and the United States has established his reputation by highly colorful and varied concert programming. He is the Music Director, Choirmaster and Principal Organist at Sacred Heart Church and Our Lady of Pompeii parish in Dobbs ferry.

## Fall Hudson Valley Restaurant Week Kicks Off Oct. 30

Fall 2023 Hudson Valley Restaurant Week has arrived. A record number of Westchester restaurants are participating in this semiannual celebration of the booming culinary scene. Over 70 eateries from all corners of the County have joined in the excitement.

County Executive George Latimer said: "Hudson Valley Restaurant Week is always a fan favorite. What a great reason to get out and try a new Westchester restaurant or gather with loved ones at an old favorite. I encourage both residents and visitors to make their reservations and enjoy all Westchester has to offer this season."

Director of Westchester County Tourism and Film, Natasha Caputo said: "Hudson Valley Restaurant Week is the ticket to a very special fall culinary experience, and the convenience of the Metro-North network into Westchester County makes it easy to participate. During this season of crisp air and vibrant foliage, we encourage people to dig into the rich flavors and warm hospitality of Westchester's local restaurants – many of whom are recognized by Michelin for offering great food at an incredible value."

Catherine Rinaldi, Metro-North President and Long Island Rail Road Interim President said: "Whether you're trying a new restaurant nearby or planning a weekend getaway on one of our Leaf Peeper trains, the MTA can take you there. Metro-North provides a seamless connection for New Yorkers to experience everything the Hudson Valley and the region have to offer."

Mike Martinelli, Today Media's Hudson Valley Group Publisher said: "Embrace the flavors of Westchester as we invite you to join in the culinary celebration of the upcoming Hudson Valley Restaurant Week. Discover delectable three-course menus at special discounted prices, all while supporting the thriving heartbeat of our community. These establishments not only offer a delightful array of flavors but also fuel economic prosperity, ensuring a vibrant gathering space for all."

More than 130 restaurants, spanning seven counties across the Hudson Valley are participating in this bi-annual celebration. For two delicious weeks, from October 30 through November 12, the Hudson Valley will be celebrating restaurant dining with delicious, creative dishes featuring locally sourced ingredients. Prix-fixe lunches and dinners will be offered at \$24.95, \$29.95, \$39.95 or \$44.95. (Pricing does not include tax, beverages, or gratuity.) Prix-fixe menus may be offered for both dine-in and takeout.

Make sure to check out HVRW newcomers Argonne Rose Brewing Company, Mohegan Lake; Bistro de Ville, Scarsdale; Goosefeather, Tarrytown; Our Place, Yorktown Heights; Red Horse by David Burke, White Plains; The Tav'ery, Bronxville; Wicked Wolf North, Yonkers, among others.

The complete list of restaurants and menus can be found at [valleytable.com/hvrw](http://valleytable.com/hvrw). Reservations are suggested as space fills quickly.

### Westchester Rising



## Letters to the Editor:

**Dear Friends and Neighbors,**

Once again, I am asking for your vote!

I served on the Westchester County Board from 2020 to 2022, during the worst global pandemic in a century. Westchester elected officials worked collaboratively with businesses and local municipalities to keep residents safe and businesses open. As we rebuild, it's a good time to consider why your vote in local elections truly matters.

My record is strong on the climate, public health (including reproductive health), and gun violence prevention, three priorities that closely align with the majority of voters in this district as well as with our youngest generation of voters.

Working with other legislators and County Executive George Latimer's great team, I was able to advocate for funding for important Yonkers community benefit organizations doing work in youth employment, flood mitigation, pollinator pathways and Black maternal health. Partnering with our terrific state legislators, Senators Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Senator Shelley Mayer, I was able to advocate for gun safety legislation and noise mitigation legislation.

My family and I are small businessowners. Dobbs & Bishop Fine Cheese (in Bronxville and soon Scarsdale) is a local institution for 14 years. I am the mom of two amazing young scientists and I've been married to a newly sworn-in American, Kevin McNeill, for 29 years.

I'm a hard worker and my record of service to the residents of Bronxville and Yonkers is strong. I served on 6 committees during my term, and I continue to serve on several important boards, notably the Westchester County Cybersecurity Task Force (as Chair), the Bronx River Parkway Reservation Conservancy, and the Foundation for Yonkers Public Library. I'm past Board member of Groundwork Hudson Valley as well as former Court Clerk in the Bronxville Justice Court, former President of the Bronxville Library Board of Trustees and former PTA member.

The election is November 7th at your regular polling location. You can also vote early starting on October 28, 2023 at the Yonkers Riverfront or Yonkers Will Library on Central Park Avenue.

When we say Vote your Values and Local Elections Matter, we urge you not to sit this one out! Vote for Ruth as your next Westchester County Legislator!

## Early Voting Dates and Locations in Westchester County



### Early Voting Dates and Locations in Westchester

Saturday, October 28, 2023- 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.  
 Sunday, October 29, 2023- 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.  
 Monday, October 30, 2023- 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.  
 Tuesday, October 31, 2023- Noon until 8 p.m.  
 Wednesday, November 1, 2023- 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.  
 Thursday, November 2, 2023- Noon until 8 p.m.  
 Friday, November 3, 2023- 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.  
 Saturday, November 4, 2023- 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.  
 Sunday, November 5, 2023- 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

### Westchester County Early Voting Centers:

Croton Municipal Building, 1 Van Wyck Street, Croton-on-Hudson, NY 10520  
 Eastchester Public Library, 11 Oakridge Place, Eastchester, NY 10709  
 Greenburgh Town Hall, 177 Hillside Avenue, White Plains, NY 10607  
 Hastings on Hudson Public Library, 7 Maple Avenue Hastings on Hudson,  
 St. Gregory The Great Church, 215 Halstead Avenue, Harrison, NY 10528  
 Mamaroneck Town Center, 740 W. Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck, NY 10543  
 Mt. Kisco Public Library, 100 E. Main Street, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549  
 Mt. Pleasant Community Center, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla, NY 10595  
 Joseph G. Caputo Community Center, 95 Broadway, Ossining, NY 10562  
 Pound Ridge Town House, 179 Westchester Avenue, Pound Ridge, NY 10576  
 Rye Brook Firehouse, 940 King Street. Rye Brook, NY 10573  
 Somers Town House, 335 Route 202, Somers, NY 10589  
 Jefferson Village, 3500 Hill Boulevard, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598  
 Yorktown Cultural Center, 1974 Commerce Street, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598  
 Doles Center, 250 S. 6th Avenue, Mt. Vernon, NY 10550  
 Mt. Vernon City Hall, 1 Roosevelt Square, Mt. Vernon, NY 10550  
 New Rochelle City Hall Annex, 90 Beaufort Place, New Rochelle, NY 10801  
 New Rochelle United Methodist Church, 1200 North Ave, New Rochelle, 10804  
 Peekskill Nutrition Center, Neighborhood Center, 4 Nelson Ave, Peekskill 10566  
 Peekskill Lincoln Depot Visitor Center, 10 S. Water Street, Peekskill, NY 10566  
 Westchester County Board of Elections, 25 Quarropas Street, White Plains 10601  
 Grinton I. Will Library, 1500 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710  
 Nodine Hill Community Center, 140 Fillmore Street, Yonkers, NY 10701  
 Yonkers Riverfront Library, One Larkin Center, Yonkers, NY 10701

Please note that the Early Voting locations are different from Election Day voting locations. Check your postcard from the Board of Elections or go to this link to confirm where to vote on Election Day <https://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com/find-polling-place>

### Letter to the Editor: by Clifford Jackson, Larchmont

Albert Einstein said 75 years ago " It is great sadness that the zionists are doing to the Palestinians what the third reich did to the jews". A Jewish philosopher in 1895 said" If we keep treating arabs like this we will be bringing a lot of trouble to the world". More than a few Israeli Defense officials have denounced the persecution of Palestinians in Gaza and the occupation of Palestine. Including Israeli Defense Forces Chief of Staff Herzl Halevi, Shin Bet Chief Ronen Bar and Police Commissioner Kobi Shabati that denounced the daily attacks by israeli settler colonists on Palestinian Villages. Ariel Sheron, ' the butcher of Beirut", said " what we have done to the Palestinians is a bad thing".

Yet we are seeing an unprecedented attack on the Palestinian people in this country because of the Hamas invasion of the occupied territory that the corporate media as well as many organizations private and public have called a terrorist attack, and yet ignore the daily terrorism and savage brutality that israeli's inflict upon Palestinians that the aforementioned Jewish Philosophers and Israeli defense officials have recognized. The Palestinians have been victims since the Balfour Declaration of 1917 unleashing a brutal white western policy that has led to more than 700,000 Palestinians being forcibly removed from their home with the illegal partitioning of Palestine in 1947. The United Nations Charter specifically says that you " cannot assign land without a majority of the inhabitants consenting". A majority of Palestinians did not consent to this partitioning of Palestine.

The racism and violence against Palestinians has been incessant and going on for 75 years under the evil auspices of David Ben Gurion in 1948. He unleashed a level of racism and apartheid treatment of Palestinians that is no different than what Black south Africans including Steven Biko and Nelson Mandela experienced at the hands of White South Africans and Afrikaaners in South Africa. Palestinians have been subjected to 75 years of ethnic cleansing ( an attempt at genocide) 15 years of a blockade keeping palestinians in a virtual prison in Gaza. The confiscation of Palestinian Lands, as well as pogroms in Palestinian towns for decades. Desecration of Palestinian sacred sites. Daily raiding of Palestinian homes by Israeli's and constant humiliation by israeli's with chants of " death to arabs". Then should we wonder why Hamas did what it did??

9/11 had the same consequence in this country for America's brutally racist, barbaric and Jingoistic foreign policy. As Dr. King said" America is the biggest purveyor of violence" and "America is going to hell for all of the violence it has committed on this continent and exported around the world". That is one of a thousand reasons why 9/11 happened. 10/7/23 is the consequence of all of the evil and inhumane treatment that Palestinians have received that the white western world and their colonized allies have ignored. Tens of thousands of Palestinian men women and children have been slaughtered by the israeli's going back to the regime of Yitzhak Rabin and the Oslo Accords. So Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin showed himself , as Malcolm X would say , " to be the ultimate " House Negro" when he shows is utter disgust and contempt at the israeli Victims of Hamas and yet he has not said one word on all of the violence, death and misery that Palestinians have experienced for decades by israeli's . His boss President Joseph Robinette Biden Jr is the ultimate hypocrite as well as a war criminal when he calls what Hamas did " pure evil with no excuse" and yet patronized the palestinians by referring to " their aspirations for dignity and self determination" while ignoring the unbridled carnage and death and destruction that they have been subjected to. That lack of acknowledgement by Biden makes his catholicism a categorical fraud! He is a war criminal like his predecessors because this evil committed by the occupiers of Palestine could not happen without the United States.

There are holocaust survivors around the world that have denounced this evil apartheid occupation. Including Gabor Mate, whose grandparents were killed in Auschwitz, he said" say the worst thing about Hamas and multiply that a thousand times and it will not equal the murder, repression and subjugation of the Palestinians by the Israeli's for years".

This racism as I mentioned earlier goes back to the period of David Ben Gurion who said " we must do everything we can to make sure the Palestinians never return". Golda Meir and Moshe Dayan were just as virulently racist. Meir Kehane, a rabid racist Rabbi said" we need to exterminate the arabs as soon as possible". His hate led to his assassination in 1990. He is a progenitor of the racism and evil of war criminals like Naftali Bennett who said " I have killed many arabs before and do not have a problem continuing to do that". Benjamin Netanyahu another criminal many times over said " Continue to beat up the Palestinians until it is unbearable" . IDF Deputy Defense Minister Rabbi Eli Ean Dahan said" Palestinians are beasts, they are not human". You will NOT see or hear any of this on the corporate media, or any of the major news stations. The rest of the world is aware, but this goes to show ignorant and myopic Americans are especially their lack of understanding of history. To be clear there are jews and hasidim in this country and in the occupied territory who have condemned this evil against the Palestinians. Anyone who claims that the condemnation of this evil is " anit-semitism" is not only ignorant and racist but bring disgrace to people like Abraham Heschel, who said " No religion has a monopoly on the truth". Malcolm X met with the Palestinian authority in 1964 and he stood with the Palestinian People. In the words of the great Paul Robeson, " my name is Cliff Jackson and here I stand " with the Palestinian People as well as millions of other people around the world who are white, black, latino asian, Judaic , muslim, hindu and otherwise.

### In Home Personal Training

In-Home Personal Training Available. NASM, EMT and Special Needs Certified. Strength Training, Fat Loss, and Muscle Building. Virtual and online coaching available. Text or call Andrew at 914-646-1718.

### Westchester Rising

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## Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

### Friday Oct. 27

The Westchester, White Plains Mall Walk at the Westchester: Fridays and Tuesdays, 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Get details at <https://parks.westchestergov.com/mall-walking> or call (914) 231-4539.

Westchester County Center, White Plains: (914) 995-4050. Aqui Esta La Salsa: 8 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. Get details and tickets at <https://countycenter.biz/event/luisin-marti-presents-in-association-with-eeg-liveaqui-esta-la-salsa/>

### Saturday Oct. 28

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268 Wonderful Leaves: 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. For children 2 through 8 years old. Parents must accompany their children. Let's take a walk to see which leaves have and haven't fallen. Free. Also: Nov. 4. Register at <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/wonderful-leaves/2023-10-28>

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268 Make a Haunted Fairy House: 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Participants will paint and decorate a recycled cardboard house to make their very own creepy house! Each child must be with a caretaker. Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/make-a-haunted-fairy-house/2023-10-28/3/>

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Farm-Grown Native Seeds: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.. For ages 13 and older who are accompanied by a participating adult. Free. Join our native plants team as we harvest our seeds and learn about Hilltop's living seed bank and native plant conservation nursery. Registration ends on Friday, Oct 27, at 4 p.m. Rain date: Sunday, Oct. 29. Get details and register <https://hilltophanoverfarm.org/events/event/2023/10/28/harvesting-hilltop-s-farm-grown-native-seed/447789>

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851. Hawk Watch: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Hosted by the Hudson River Audubon Society. Meet behind the mansion at 10 a.m. and witness the amazing migration of some of our favorite hawks. Bring binoculars, snacks, drinks and a comfortable chair if you don't want to sit at a wooden picnic table. At 1 p.m., join us at the nature center for a live birds of prey show with master falconer James Eyring.

Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River: (914) 864-7322 Spooktacular Oktoberfest: 1 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. Dress up in your Halloween costume to celebrate this boo-nanza! From 1 p.m. to 6 p.m., kids of all ages can trick-or-treat, visit the Haunted Sugar Shack, pet animals, go on pony rides, grab snacks and more! The Oktoberfest area will be open from 1 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. and feature live music, Captain Lawrence beer/food truck, a Bona Bona ice cream and more. Rain date: Oct. 29. Learn more and register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/spooktacular-oktoberfest-tickets-722308282517?aff=oddtcreator>

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Katonah: (914) 864-7282. Potion Making I: For Kids: 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. For ages 6 to 18. Grab your cauldrons and join our potions master to brew and test your own "potions." We encourage you to dress up in a Halloween costume. Get details and register <https://www.muscotefarm.org/programs-events/event/2023/10/28/potion-making-i-for-kids-/449780>

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Katonah: (914) 864-7282. Potion Making II: For Adults: 7 p.m. - 8 p.m. Ages 18 and older can follow along with our potions master to learn about the history and folklore of alchemy while brewing your very own (non-alcoholic) "potions." Costumes are more than welcome! Get details and register <https://www.muscotefarm.org/programs-events/event/2023/10/28/potion-making-ii-for-adults-/449781>

Westchester County Center, White Plains: (914) 995-4050. Freestyle Fall Harvest Concert: 7 p.m. - 10 p.m. Get details and tickets at <https://countycenter.biz/event/freestyle-halloween-fest>

### SUNDAY, OCT. 29

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Katonah: (914) 864-7282. Farmers Market: 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. It features more than 20 local vendors each week; every Sunday until Nov. 19. Get details at <https://www.muscotefarm.org/programs-events/event-calendar.html/event/2023/07/02/1688308200/muscote-farm-s-farmers-market/441909>

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Katonah: (914) 864-7282. Annual Boo Walk: 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. Come in costume and stroll through our non-scary, Halloween-themed wooded trail anytime between noon and 3 p.m. The trail begins at the end of the parking lot. Free admission; registration is not required.

### Library Trustee Harassment, continued from pg 1

claiming that the incident didn't happen.

Black Westchester then obtained additional evidence and reports and witness statements from the Mount Vernon Police Department confirming that Davis's actions did indeed happen.

This is an example of a member of the Journalistic community properly reported a story but was attacked for writing "Fake News."

This type of push back against the media is happening in our country and all over the world. Fortunately, Black Westchester and Editor AJ Woodson was able to back up his story with more facts and a follow up.

Another media colleague in Westchester, the Yonkers Ledger, highlighted the Black Westchester story and wrote, "We would like to highlight this important piece by our colleague, AJ Woodson at Black Westchester Magazine, and stress the importance of civility in civic life."

We agree but will take it one step further. Davis's actions go beyond a lack of civility. He completely lost control of his behavior and harassed two of his fellow board members on the Mt. Vernon Library Board.

Regardless of whether Davis will be found guilty of committing a crime, (he has been charged with Harassment in the 2nd degree-Physical contact), his verbal abuse of two women because he was upset with a determination of the board, in unacceptable. He should be removed from the board immediately.

And shame on you Davis for objecting to a story that did nothing but expose what you did. Don't blame Black Westchester for your actions!

Please read the Black Westchester story at [blackwestchester.com/the-facts-of-the-arrest-charging-arraignment-of-mvpl-trustee-jonathan-davis-and-the-order-of-protection-that-followed/](https://blackwestchester.com/the-facts-of-the-arrest-charging-arraignment-of-mvpl-trustee-jonathan-davis-and-the-order-of-protection-that-followed/)

And support local journalism whenever you can. And we hope that the Journal News and News 12 pick up Black Westchester's important story.

## NYS Independent Redistricting Commission & Chair Ken Jenkins Await Courts Decision on Congressional Boundaries-Nov. 15

By Dan Murphy

Westchester County Deputy County Executive, and New York Independent Redistricting Commission Chair Jenkins, and Commissioners Collado, Cuevas-Molina, Flateau, and Frazier have invited public input on congressional districting while awaiting a decision from the New York Court of Appeals in a case concerning the Commission's constitutional obligation to complete the congressional redistricting process. Argument before the Court of Appeals is scheduled for November 15, 2023.

The public is invited to submit input by emailing [submissions@nyirc.gov](mailto:submissions@nyirc.gov) or by sending mail to 250 Broadway, 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10007 Attention: Submissions, Independent Redistricting Commission. All submissions received will be made available to all Commissioners and staff.

Should the public wish to view the congressional plans the Commission previously submitted to the Legislature, those plans can be found at <https://www.nyirc.gov/plans>.

Should the public wish to view the congressional plan drawn by the Special Master appointed by the Steuben County Supreme Court and used in the 2022 congressional elections, that plan can be found at [https://www.latfor.state.ny.us/maps/?sec=2022\\_congress](https://www.latfor.state.ny.us/maps/?sec=2022_congress).

On June 28, 2022, a group of NY republican voters filed a lawsuit against the New York Independent Redistricting Commission (the "IRC" or "Commission") in Albany County Supreme Court asking for a writ of mandamus that would direct the Commission to prepare and submit to the Legislature a second congressional districting plan and the necessary implementing legislation for such plan.

On July 13, 2023, the New York Appellate Division, Third Judicial Department, granted the writ and directed the New York Independent Redistricting Commission to "commence its duties forthwith." That order is currently on appeal to the New York Court of Appeals, which has scheduled a hearing on the matter for November 15, 2023. The Court of Appeals has held that although the Appellate Division's order is stayed pending appeal, the "stay does not prohibit the IRC or its members from taking any actions."

Accordingly, Chair Jenkins, and Commissioners Collado, Cuevas-Molina, Flateau, and Frazier are taking action to obtain public input in the event the Court of Appeals affirms that the Commission is required to submit a second congressional districting plan to the Legislature. As the Appellate Division held, the "right to participate in the democratic process is the most essential right in our system of governance," and the Commission process is the "means of providing a robust, fair and equitable procedure for the determination of voting districts in New York."

Former NY Congressman John Faso, who has been leading the fight against the congressional lines drawn by the democrat majorities last year, argues that the democrats legal arguments for new lines to be drawn are "absolutely bogus" and accused them of trying to "re-gerrymander the state. It's really unbelievable that they would put the candidates and public through this again," Faso said to USA Today.

The NYS Court of Appeals, the highest court in the state, will begin on Nov. 15 to hear arguments about whether to have the Independent Redistricting Commission attempt again to redraw congressional districts in NY. Democrats are hoping that the court says yes and that the IRC can come up with a new set of congressional lines that are fair to both parties.

The resulting Congressional districts in NY in 2022 helped several House republicans, including Westchester congressman Mike Lawler, win their elections and helped republicans hold a slim, 5 seat majority.

Faso believes that the court of appeals will not grant the IRC another chance at congressional redistricting because, "The constitution is clear that there is no mid-decade redistricting," and that the next time the lines will be redrawn is in 2030.

If the Court decides early next year to allow another attempt at bi-partisan redistricting, the IRC will have another chance to get its members to agree on a new set of maps. If the IRC can come up with an agreeable set of maps, those maps would have to be approved by the democratic majorities in the State Senate and Assembly, with input from Governor Kathy Hochul.

Theoretically, that would give enough time for the congressional lines to be used in the June primaries in 2024.

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

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, October 24, 2023 at 5:30pm, Mayor's Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

### A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 85 ENTITLED, 'FORFEITURE OF VEHICLES IN CONNECTION WITH CRIMINAL ACTS' IN RELATION TO FORFEITURE OF VEHICLES ATTEMPTING TO EVADE POLICE OFFICERS.

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

MIKE SPANO Mayor  
Date: October 12, 2023

Visit us online at [Yonkerstimes.com](https://Yonkerstimes.com)



## Union Church to Present Classical Concert to Benefit Music Works



*Wilderness String Quartet*

Union Church of Pocantico Hills will be presenting a classical music concert to benefit MusicWorks at 3 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 3 in the Parish Hall. The concert will feature mezzo soprano Alison Tupay and the Wilderness String Quartet in a program that will include the world premiere of songs composed by William Eckfeld set to the poetry of Emily Dickinson, as well as additional repertoire from female composers and opera arias.

Tickets for the concert, which will be available at the door, are \$25 for adults and \$15 for students under 18 or with a valid school ID. Union Church of Pocantico Hills is located at 555 Bedford Road, Pocantico Hills, NY.

Founded 15 years ago in partnership with the Tarrytown public schools, MusicWorks is a community organization that provides one-to-one music lessons and cultural opportunities to talented musical students from Sleepy Hollow High School with economic need. As part of its community outreach program, Union Church of Pocantico Hills is aiding MusicWorks in several capacities.

Alison Tupay's operatic credits include Der Trommler (Der Kaiser von Atlantis), Sesto (La clemenza di Tito), Jocasta (Oedipus Rex), Rosina (Il barbiere di Siviglia), and Pitti-Sing (The Mikado). Her orchestral credits include Mahler's Symphonies Nos. 2 and 3, Verdi's Requiem, Mozart's Requiem, and Beethoven's Symphony No. 9. She is a graduate of Boston University and The Juilliard School.

The Wilderness Quartet—Rebecca Eckfeld, violin; William Eckfeld, piano; Steven Miller, clarinet; and Carole Tilson, cello—made its debut in July 2015 and have performed together over many years as members of the Norwood Trio (flute/clarinet, violin/viola, cello), founded in 1990, and as members of the Trio d'été (piano, violin, cello), founded in 2013.

William Eckfeld was the orchestra director at White Plains High School from 1987-2013. A graduate of Eastman School of Music, he was a member of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra and Dallas Symphony Orchestra before beginning his career in music education. William also studied at the Hochschule für Musik und darstellende Kunst in Graz, Austria, and earned his Masters degree from Lehman College in New York, where he studied composition with John Corigliano. As a composer, Eckfeld has written numerous works for chamber groups, soloists and orchestras.

Notice of Formation of RyPlunk LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 7/28/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 104 Seminary Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of Pro-Ductiv Exhaust System Services LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on (09/04/2023). Location: (Westchester County). SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: (70 Hillside Avenue Apt. 1R, Yonkers, NY 10703). Purpose: Any lawful purpose

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company ENH Assets Limited Liability Company Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/28/22 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : ENH Assets Limited Liability Company 465 Tuckahoe Road #1189 Yonkers, NY 10710 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of GLOW N GLAMOUR LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the Sec of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/14/2023. Office location, County of Westchester. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process served to:, c/o Faisal Butt - 117 Wickes Ave., Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful act.

Formation of 25 COUNTY ROUTE 62 LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/6/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The principal business loc. and address SSNY shall mail process to is Floann and Raymond Landeck, 79 Pembroke Dr., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Hanyst RX Consulting LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 9/2/23. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 35 Florence Street, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: Pharmacy Consulting

### Classifieds

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**Meet the Authors**  
Saturday October 28  
1:00 - 5:00 pm  
The Village Bookstore of Pleasantville will be on site.

Authors featured include: P. J. Caldas, Karin Lin-Greenberg, William Maz, C. J. Farley, Susie Luo, Idra Novey, Mariah Fredericks, Devan Sandiford, Jimin Han, Charles Soule, Mary Beth Keane, Beatriz Williams, Clémence Michallon, Carolyn Mackler, and Lauren Willig.

**Save the Date**  
for  
**The Exchange Club's Awards Gala**  
Saturday, November 18, 2023

Honoring

**Distinguished Service Award**  
Dr. Ammir Rabadi, Family Medicine Specialist  
Dr. Lawrence Neshiwat, Endocrinologist  
Dr. Vinay Taneja, PT, DPT, Doctor of Physical Therapy

**Outstanding Leadership Award**  
Robert W. Cacace, Jr., Yonkers Commissioner of Information Technology  
Joseph Talone, HR Director, 5 Star Premiere Residences

**Outstanding Women of Distinction Award**  
Kelly Chiarella, Yonkers Director Office of the Aging  
Debbie Hicks, Administrative Assistant PBA  
Janine Rose, Award Winning News Anchor, Journalist, and Political Analyst

**Book of Golden Deeds Award**  
John Epps, Senior Advisor YMOL Community Outreach Group

**Special Recognition Award**  
Barry McGoey, Esq., Former President, Yonkers Firefighters Local 628

For additional information contact  
Ann Muro  
914-346-9469

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**Lakeland School District , continued from pg 1-**

“Racist and hurtful comments are never acceptable and have no place in our community, and we take reports of this nature very seriously,” Lakeland Superintendent Karen Gagliardi said in a statement. “We are working closely with the Superintendent of Nyack Schools, our administrative team, and local police to investigate this matter and ensure all feel welcomed, respected, and safe on our school grounds.”

Nyack Superintendent Yom said, “Any incidents of harassment, bullying or discrimination are investigated, so that we can ensure that appropriate action is taken immediately.” We wonder what, if any, investigation or video might be found back in Nyack that might be helpful here.

**SOMEBODY HAS TO KNOW WHO SAID THIS**

The second incident concerns former Lakeland teacher Alejandro Mendoza, who is accused of grooming a 16-year-old student and repeatedly having sexual intercourse with her in his office and classroom at Walter Panas High School, according to a News 12 report.

Medoza resigned from his Lakeland position this year but was recently hired in the Monore-Woodbury school district. Five days after he was hired, a civil lawsuit was filed by his former student in Lakeland, alleging that he had sex with her on numerous occasions, most inside Panas High school. The district was notified by the now-former student’s attorney of the allegations last April.

“Lakeland RISE would like to address two recent disturbing incidents in the Lakeland school district. The allegations against a former Walter Panas teacher, and the actions of the Lakeland school district administration, are extremely disturbing. While we don’t know many details, we do know that all allegations of sexual abuse need to be thoroughly investigated, and not by the defendants being accused in the case. We ask that an outside, independent investigation be conducted by a respected third-party that can approach this work impartially so that there’s an accurate understanding of the district’s role in this incident.”

The Lakeland School District said that they reported Mendoza to the NYS Education Department in April, yet he was able to get another job this fall and did not have his license revoked. State law prevents the State Education Department from denying employment clearance to teachers or revoking their teaching licenses until a review proceeding is concluded.”

State Senator and Education Chair Shelley Mayer said, “I am very troubled that despite being aware of the allegations against Alex Mendoza for 6 months, SED is not able to suspend his teaching certification at this stage of the process. While teachers deserve due process, our highest responsibility is to the children who were put in harm’s way when Mendoza returned to the classroom. I have spoken with Commissioner Betty Rosa and look forward to working with the State Education Department and my colleagues to amend existing law to ensure that SED has clear authority to temporarily suspend a teacher’s certification in these extreme circumstances.”

A lawsuit was filed this summer, July 2023, against Mendoza and the Lakeland School District. The details include: “The abuse began in the beginning of her junior year when she was 16,” (2015) and “Walter Panas, staff, teachers and leadership were aware or should have been aware of the sexual abuse.”

“He then began to coerce her into performing oral sex,” when she was 16. When she was 17, “Mendoza eventually pressured and coerced her into engaging in sexual intercourse,” and “sexual activities on and off school grounds,” “at least a few times a week, and during some months, almost every day.”

“Mendoza made little effort to hide his sex abuse from his colleagues and/or students at Panas High school.” “Many times, faculty and employees would observe Mendoza taking her into his classroom or office for a long period of time.”

“Faculty were aware that she was NOT A STUDENT OF MENDOZA’S”

“The principal of Panas, Keith YI, contacted the victim’s mother, expressing concern that she was spending too much time with Mendoza after school.”

Mendoza and the student then began meeting off school grounds, in his car. The lawsuit also alleges that the student and Mendoza engaged in social media activity including “pictures of his genitalia.”

In 2018, we published a story titled, Resident Claims Misconduct in Lakeland Schools, link <https://yonkerstimes.com/resident-claims-misconduct-in-lakeland-schools/> In that story, Westchester resident Anthony Cassone alleged that more than one Lakeland School District teacher was engaged in sex abuse with students.

While Cassone did not name Mendoza at the time, he has now confirmed to us that Mendoza was one of three Lakeland School District teachers having sex with their underage students. And Cassone claims that Mendoza had more than one victim while he was teaching at Lakeland.

Other media reports have Mendoza, through his attorney, denying the allegations.

When we asked for comment, the Westchester County Police emailed us, “We are aware of the allegations contained in the lawsuit and have opened an investigation in conjunction with the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office.”

**County Board of Legislators, continued from pg 1-**

There are 17 seats on the Westchester BOL. Republicans are running candidates in 10 districts:

District 1- Cortlandt, Peekskill, Yorktown: Republican Joe Torres vs Legislator Colin Smith, democrat. This is a rematch from 2021, when Smith narrowly won, 52%-48%. Torres is a former member of the Peekskill Common Council and is a small business owner. He is running an active campaign, including a campaign video and a good social media effort.

Legislator Smith is also campaigning hard. Two years ago, Smith had George Latimer running for reelection as County Executive on the top of the ticket. This year there are no Big Name races for President, Governor or County Executive on the ballot. There are some local elections that will have an impact on turnout. Torres has a chance to flip.

District 3 – Mount Pleasant, North Castle, Pleasantville: Legislator Margaret Cunzio. Cunzio, a registered Conservative, is serving her fourth, 2-year term. Two years ago, Cunzio defeated democrat David Vinjamuri by a 57%-43% margin. She is running unopposed.

District 4-New Castle, Somers, Yorktown: Republican Dan Branda vs Democratic Chair of the Board, Legislator Vedat Gashi. Gashi is well known in Westchester and his political star is on the rise. But Branda is making a contest of it, and has been active in the media opposing democrats on crime statistics and other hot-button issues. Yorktown has a contested race for Supervisor and Town Board, which could increase turnout in this race. If Branda wins, look for a good night for republicans countywide.

District 7 – Harrison, Larchmont, Mamaroneck, New Rochelle, Rye: Republican Katie Manger vs Legislator Catherine Parker, democrat. Manger is an attorney who has lived in the Sound Shore for 18 years. Parker is a well known and popular legislator. Tough one for the republicans to flip.

District 9- Briarcliff Manor, Cortlandt, Croton-on-Hudson, Ossining, Peekskill: Legislator Catherine Borgia is term limited from running again, making this an open seat. Republican Laurie Abbate-Ryan is on the ballot but not running an active campaign. Democrat Emiljana Ulaj is a Union Organizer and former Staff member to State Senator Shelley Mayer. No republican pick up here.

District 10 –Eastchester, Tuckahoe, New Rochelle: Republican Beth Acocella vs democrat Judah Goldstein. This is an open seat, with Legislator Damon Maher deciding to run for New Rochelle Mayor. This is another race to watch on election night. Republicans need to flip this seat. Both Acocella and Goldstein are actively campaigning.

The district is one of the most evenly divided based on party enrollment. Republican Sheila Marcotte represented the district. Turnout in republican strong Eastchester will be important for Acocella to get enough votes. Democrat rich New Rochelle will be voting for Goldstein, who was born and raised in New Rochelle, and is a software company owner. Acocella is also a lifelong New Rochelle resident, realtor and New Rochelle Library Board Trustee.

District 11 – New Rochelle, Pelham, Pelham Manor: Republican John Hynes vs Legislator Terry Clements, democrat. Not a lot of information on Pelham resident Hynes. Clements won election twice in this heavy democratic district. Another tough one for republican to take.

District 15 – Bronxville, Yonkers: Legislator James Nolan vs democrat Ruth Walter. This is another rematch; Nolan beat Walter two years ago. Walter, a former legislator, wants her job back, but Nolan will knock on as many doors as possible up to election day. Another very close race to watch.

District 16 – Republican Debbie Kozak vs democrat Shanae Williams. This is an open seat after Legislator Christopher Johnson resigned. Williams is a Yonkers Councilwoman in a large part of this district. She almost upset County Clerk in a democratic primary two years ago. Kozak is running an active campaign. In a heavy democratic district.

District 17 – Republican Jose Diaz vs Legislator Jose Alvarado. Diaz is running an active campaign as a Latino Republican, in a heavy democratic district. Alvarado serves as the Majority Leader on the county board.

Best case scenario has 5 Republicans winning election on Nov. 7. (Nolan, Cunzio, Torres, Branda, Acocella). If there is some type of republican wave in NY and in Westchester (less likely) than another two seats are possible long shots-maybe an upset win for Diaz over Alvarado, or Hynes over Clements. But that best case get us to 10-7 democrat.

We do not agree with the WCLA PAC that the County Board is in play for pro-life republicans. Another interesting fact, in speaking with Branda, we found out that he is a Buddhist, and may not have any interest in overturning the county’s clinic access law. And who the last republican Chair of the BOL? Geroge Oros, in 1998.

**Eastchester, Tuckahoe, continued from pg 1-**

reelection, and Anthony Giacobbe, running for Town Board for the first time. Marcotte has served the Town well, as a County Legislator for 6 years, and as a Town Board member seeking her second term. In her service both on the county board and town board, Marcotte has been a fiscal conservative always watching out for the taxpayer dollars.

Anthony Giacobbe ran for County Board two years ago, for Marcotte’s old seat, and narrowly lost to democrat Damon Maher. Giacobbe knocked on thousands of doors during that campaign, and his enthusiasm and willingness to help and serve the people of Eastchester is contagious.

Colavita, Marcotte and Giacobbe are three public servants that the Town of Eastchester can be proud of-we endorse their election.

The Village of Tuckahoe is part of the Town of Eastchester, and Tuckahoe residents will vote for Eastchester Supervisor and Town Board, but also for Tuckahoe Mayor and and two Trustees. Republican Scooter Scott is running for Mayor against democrat Mayor Omayra Andino.

Republicans Danny Lang and Claudia DeMaio-Francis are running for Tuckahoe Village Trustee, against democrats and Village Trustees Darryl Taylor, and Joshua Gaccione.

We Endorse Scott for Mayor and Lang and DeMaio-Francis for Trustee. We like their ideas about moving Tuckahoe forward.

The results in Tuckahoe could serve as a bell weather for the county.



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County Executive Latimer Fight Influenza & COVID-19 By Getting Both Vaccines

*Maddy Walsh, Rye High School Named Con Edison's Scholar-Athlete of the Week*



Westchester County Executive George Latimer gets vaccine from Westchester Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler

County Executive George Latimer rolled up his sleeves for a flu shot and an updated COVID-19 vaccine at the Westchester County Department of Health clinic in White Plains.

Urging residents to follow his lead, Latimer said: "Schedule your flu and COVID-19 shots today, for yourself and your children. The flu can be miserable, and this vaccine offers the best protection we have throughout flu season."

Flu and COVID-19 vaccines are available for a fee for people with insurance at many pharmacists and medical offices. To find a vaccine near you, go to <https://www.vaccines.gov>.

Vaccines are also available for uninsured and underinsured adults and children through the Vaccines for Adults and Vaccines for Children programs at Health Department clinics by appointment. Call 914-995-5800 weekdays before 4:30 p.m. to discuss eligibility. To reach residents who have difficulty accessing flu shots, the Health Department is holding clinics at some soup kitchens and homeless shelters.

Health Commissioner Sherlita Amler, MD, said: "I urge everyone six months and older to get both these vaccines, and the sooner the better. Both flu and COVID-19 cases tick up as it gets colder and we spend more time indoors. Knowing this, I urge you to schedule flu shots for all your children and yourself as soon as possible. Vaccination protects you and it protects those around you who are more vulnerable to complications, such as infants too young to be vaccinated, seniors and people with chronic health conditions."

In the U.S., there are usually more flu cases between December and February, but flu can linger into May. One flu vaccine now provides protection all season long and can prevent illness or reduce the severity of flu symptoms. The vaccine becomes fully effective after about two weeks. Dr. Amler said that anyone who does get a respiratory infection should consider COVID/influenza testing. To avoid spreading germs to others, the CDC recommends residents wear a mask; cough or sneeze into their elbow; wash their hands frequently with soap and water.

Those with flu should stay home for 24 hours after their fever subsides. Those who test positive for COVID should stay home for five days to avoid spreading germs and then wear a mask in public for another five days; clean surfaces they touch frequently, such as doorknobs, water faucets, refrigerator handles and telephones; and get plenty of rest.



Maddy Walsh

Congratulations to Maddy Walsh, a senior at Rye High School, for being named Con Edison's Scholar-Athlete of the week. During her freshman, sophomore and junior years, Maddy was an All League, and All Section soccer player for the Rye High School soccer team. She has led the Garnets soccer team to four undefeated league titles and two sectional titles.

Maddy is a four-year member of the Varsity squad and is a two-year captain not only for the soccer team but the basketball team as well. She is an exemplary leader on a relatively young Garnet team with only five seniors on the team, and only one of whom is a starter. In every practice, Maddy is the leader on the team. All of her teammates look to her for her leadership. Over the summer, Maddy organized team training runs beyond the bi-weekly open summer practices offered to all interested in trying out for

Maddy participates in Varsity basketball as a starting point guard. She will captain the team this year. Maddy also participated in lacrosse her freshman year and is anticipating playing this year as well.

Maddy's accomplishments extend well beyond the athletic field. She has completed 10 AP courses and has a 100% GPA! (Rye HS does not rank its students). She was the president of the student body from her freshman to junior year.

During the height of the Covid Pandemic, Maddy worked tirelessly to get appointments for senior citizens to get a vaccine appointment. Her effort was recognized and she received a Congressional Certificate of Honor.

Maddy also organized a blood drive, working directly with the American Red Cross. Maddy organized a gym space through a local elementary school, organized volunteers and had over 100 people come give blood.

Maddy just recently got involved with a group called STEER. This is an organization with student athletes providing mentorship, tutoring services and guidance for children who do not have the financial means to receive extra help. The website is [www.steerforstudentathletes.org](http://www.steerforstudentathletes.org)

Maddy will be attending Air Force Academy next fall and will be playing soccer for their program. "I rarely come across students who I feel have the passion and dedication to truly change the world. Maddy is, without a doubt, a student I know will make that change. Maddy is constantly focused on the work and outcome itself instead of the "look" of the tasks as most other students are," said Principal Suzanne Kelly Short.

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