

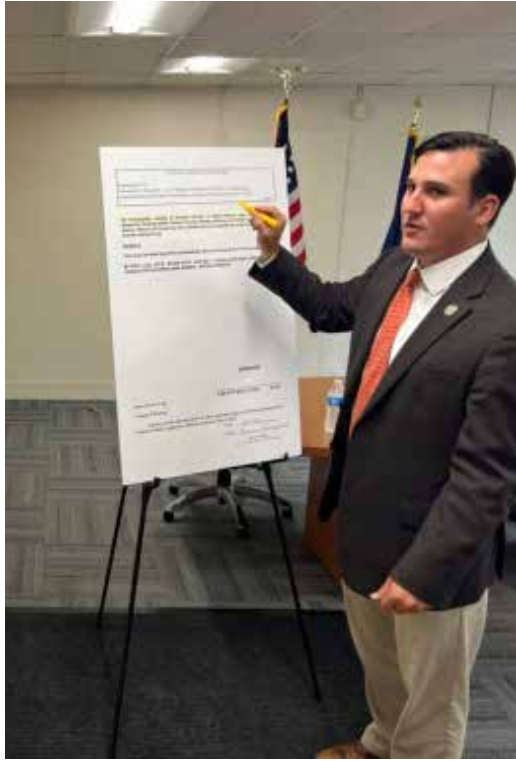
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Friday August 11, 2023

Putnam County Exec. Byrne: Only Federal Government Can Solve Migrant Crisis



“While Putnam County has acted responsibly, the fact remains that this is a national crisis in need of a national solution. The federal government must wake up and finally rise to the occasion.”

*Putnam County Executive
-Kevin Byrne*

Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne outlining misinformation about Putnam’s Homeless Shelter law
By Dan Murphy

Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne recently signed a new “Homeless Shelter” law that prevents outside governments, like New York City, from housing its homeless and migrant population in temporary residences or motels, without first entering into a shared services agreement with Putnam County.

The law challenges the way in which NYC Mayor Eric Adams has relocated thousands of migrants coming from the southern border. Adams has not shared any information with local governments until the last possible moment and has negotiated directly with hotel owners and operators.

Byrne recently penned an Op-Ed letter to explain his position, which is supported by the vast majority of residents in Putnam County. “Despite what critics have asserted, this law does not ban or prohibit any human being from existing in Putnam County, it does not eliminate or change local zoning, it does not change any law enforcement operations or powers, nor does it infringe on anyone’s Constitutional rights. While the migrant crisis is part of the origin of this law, it’s not what this law is about. New York City’s actions simply exposed a flaw in existing law that other municipalities could exploit in the future, and we sought to fix it,” writes Byrne, who said that at least one facility in Putnam was contacted by NYC and the Adams administration but rejected the offer.

To avoid having NYC negotiate with a hotel or residence community in Putnam, Byrne declared a state of emergency, like the other Hudson Valley communities in Orange, Rockland and Dutchess Counties. “The City of New York has not been forthcoming or transparent throughout this process,” said Byrne. The Executive Order was lifted after Byrne and Putnam legislators passed the Homeless Shelter law, which also recommitments the county’s law enforcement relationship with federal immigration enforcement agencies, (ICE), and makes it clear- Putnam County, while a caring and compassionate county, is definitively not a “sanctuary county”.

Byrne’s Op-Ed directly challenges some of the local media, and the ACLU, for their coverage. “No one in local government asked for this national migrant crisis, but tragically, decades of inaction by our federal government amplified by dishonest and underhanded moves by politicians placed it on our doorstep.

“In New York, the misinformation began with City officials and their representa-

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Memo to NYS Legislature: Get to Work on Artificial Intelligence-and Fast!



By Douglas Goldwater and Stephen Mayo

The American political system is designed to act slowly. This is largely a good thing. It provides the proper time for developments to take shape, promotes innovation and prevents governments from rapidly gaining control over our personal lives and decisions. But sometimes, technological progress overwhelms our institutions; threats to public safety and health from technology or its accidents, like epidemics, power past safeguards.

Today, artificial intelligence (AI) threatens to transform the fabric of our society, yet legislators seem curiously silent on the subject. Both progressives who are quick to regulate for social justice, and conservatives, who are quick to regulate on issues regarding social morality have proposed little on a technology whose very creators worry may one day displace millions of humans from their jobs, and replace productive human enterprise as we know it.

To be clear, the precise “threat” of AI is yet to be quantified, and some of its effects may prove supremely beneficial to humanity. But the unprecedented pace of loosely-regulated technological change could devastate humans economically as well as socially, and could even threaten our role as the leading creative species on the planet. Even pioneers and leaders in the field like Elon Musk and Chat GPT founder Sam Altman agree that unregulated AI development can bring disastrous outcomes.

So why isn’t there more public clamor for industry regulation and calls for legislative debate on the subject? Why haven’t commercial and public interest groups and lobbies, labor unions, and other organized groups of Americans called

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You Never Know: Is There a Sex Offender Living Next Door?



Mug shot of Derrick Rocco from the Carmel Police Department

Derrick Rocco’s life began to fall apart on July 4, when he was caught “upskirting”-taking photos of young girls in a Mahopac supermarket. Two victims at the Mahopac Stop and Shop were able to help Carmel Police to identify Rocco, who had fled the scene. He was arrested on July 12 and charged with second degree unlawful surveillance, and was released with a monitoring bracelet

But the story doesn’t end there for Rocco, 47, married and a father of two boys, after Carmel Police and the Putnam County Sheriff’s office examined the contents of his cell phone and found videos alleged to have come from a hidden camera in the bathroom of Rocco’s Deli on Route 6. The videos that Rocco kept on his phone included underage girls, but also adult women and men.

Rocco’s iPhone also contained videos of underage girls having sex that were not from the Deli. The possession of those videos could put him in jail for a long time. He is charged with three counts of sexual performance by a child, a five felony counts of second degree unlawful surveillance.

Because Rocco’s resident was in Putnam Valley, that investigation is being handled by the Putnam County Sheriff’s office, and the incident in Mahopac by the Carmel Police Department.

Carmel Police Lt. Bodo said that the Sheriff’s department used their experience in electronics to help find some of Rocco’s storage devices. Kudos to Putnam Sheriff’s Investigator John Hyla and K-9 Hannah, who is trained in detecting hidden electronic storage devices, for uncovering additional evidence.

Rocco has been the owner of Rocco’s Deli and Catering, located at 926 Route 6, since 2021. But Rocco kept the name of the prior owners of the successful deli at that location, Bucci Brothers Deli.

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Gov. Hochul Touts First MTA Transit Oriented Development Project in Harrison



Avalon Harrison, pictured above, will include more than 140 affordable housing units, access to shops, retail

Governor Kathy Hochul, leaders from the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and officials from AvalonBay Communities today announced the completion of Avalon Harrison, a transit-oriented development at the Harrison Metro-North station built with support from the MTA. Transit-oriented development is intended to promote downtown revitalization and improve the environment and healthy lifestyles by providing residents access to shops, amenities, and rail stations within walking distance. The MTA is continuing to advance transit-oriented developments, with another active project underway in Westbury.

“My administration is continuing to do everything in our power to build new housing in every corner of this state,” Governor Hochul said. “With more than 140 units of affordable housing, the Avalon Harrison project does not only fit seamlessly into the community — it promises to make Harrison more dynamic and walkable and serve as a model for transit-oriented development everywhere.”

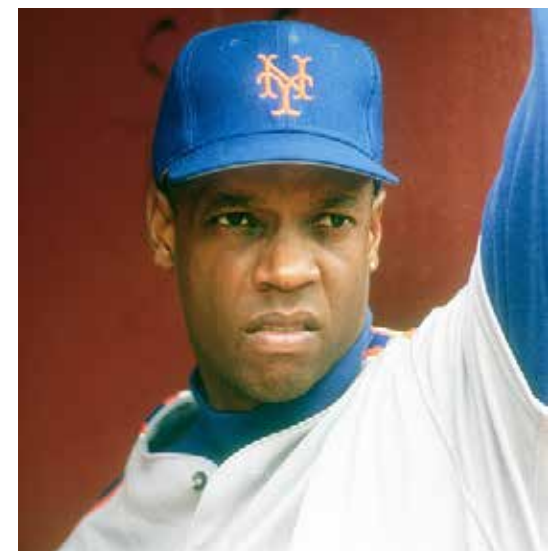
Avalon Harrison, built at the Metro-North Railroad Harrison Station, includes: 143 apartments in three residential buildings, including seven affordable apartments subsidized by Westchester County; Approximately 5,000 square feet of interior amenities for the residential community; Approximately 27,000 square feet of vibrant, street-level retail/commercial space; Two landscaped public plazas with connections to the Metro-North Harrison Station platform; 758 total project parking spaces; 475 Metro-North Customer Parking spaces (an increase of 218 or 85 percent); 96 Retail Parking Spaces; 187 Residential Parking Spaces

State Senator Shelley Mayer said, “I am excited to join Governor Hochul and the MTA to celebrate the opening of the first transit-oriented development complex here in my district. With over 140 new apartments built in the heart of downtown Harrison, more New Yorkers will have the opportunity to enjoy the vibrant Harrison community while having first class access to Metro-North service. I commend Governor Hochul’s commitment to supporting transit-oriented development in communities like Harrison, which I am proud to represent.”

Assemblymember Chris Burdick said, “It is exciting to see how this new transit-oriented development in Harrison has dramatically changed the landscape of the city center. This will no doubt provide a more vibrant downtown experience, which will benefit the businesses and the feeling of community.”

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Party with the Police and Doc Gooden for a Good Cause



former NY Met Star Dwight Gooden will attend Loeb Foundation, BBQ & Pool Party

The Nick Loeb Foundation's 2nd annual BBQ and Pool party to support our local police officers and their families is set to take place on August 26th, 2023, at the Loeb home in Purchase NY. This year, the Foundation will be opening the event to donors in order to help supplement the cost of college and expenses for the children of our local police families (initially, Purchase, Harrison, and White Plains and expected to widen next year). This is a great opportunity for the communities to come out to help and mix with their local police families.

These responders who are typically the first help on scene, often don't have the financial resources to send their older children to the colleges of their choice, and many don't qualify for financial aid.

"We believe every child should have the opportunity to go to any school they want," said Executive Director Ilaria Damiano, "The Foundation will focus its contributions to those who are local and take care of us specifically supporting kids that adhere to the Foundation's values."

The Foundation will be building a committee of local police officers, their families, school teachers, and community leaders to select the students. If a parent is on the committee, they will have to recuse themselves if it is for their child.

NY Mets star pitching ace, Dwight Gooden, will be on hand at the festivities for a bit of baseball fun with the guests. Other special guests include the Chief of Police of White Plains, and Igor Gracie of the famed Gracie Jiu Jitsu family who will be doing a clinic for kids.

Tickets start at \$250 with VIP Tickets at \$350 (which includes baseball with Doc Gooden). Sponsorships are \$2,500, \$5,000, \$10,000 & \$25,000 and include Regular & VIP tickets, Batting Practice, Autographed Baseballs, Photos with Dwight Gooden, Dinners with local Police Chiefs, golf outings with Nick Loeb and local Police, tours of the White Plains Police Headquarters, and many additional opportunities. For all guests, there will be a 50-foot water slide, mechanical bull, face painting, trampoline park, BBQ, Ice Cream, Pizza, a masseuse, a manicurist, JiuJitsu with the Gracie's, Games including Dunk the Police Chief, and much more

For tickets, sponsorships and additional information about the event and the Nick Loeb Foundation please contact +1 914-500-9618 or ilaria@thenickloebfoundation.com.

The Nick Loeb Foundation is a 501 c3 non-profit organization. For more information on the Foundation please visit: <https://thenickloebfoundation.com>

County Legislator David Tubiolo to Serve Our Country in the Army Reserves



County Legislator David Tubiolo

By Dan Murphy

Yonkers County Legislator David Tubiolo is off to basic training to serve our country in the Army reserves, Yonkerstimes.com has learned. Tubiolo will spend the next three months in basic training at Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri.

According to Tubiolo, "I have always wanted to serve in the military, and at my age that time has to be now. I will be gone for a few months, but will return to my service on the County Board."

The age requirement for Army Reservists is between 17-35 years old, and reservists must spend one weekend a month on duty and two weeks a year in training.

Tubiolo said that he always wanted to serve his country "since I was young. I joined ROTC in college and did some training at Fort Knox in 2008. I thought about joining but it was a big commitment. Now that I'm older, its now or never."

With most of the news about the US Military focusing on how recruitment numbers are down, here is a positive story about an elected official who wants to serve his country. We asked Tubiolo if his decision might be an example for others to serve.

"I think military service is a great opportunity to learn discipline, and trusting other soldiers and networking, while learning about life. There are a lot of positive attributes."

"As a County Legislator, I'm serving my local community. In the reserves, I will be serving my country and fulfilling a dream that I've always had," said Tubiolo, who underscored the fact that he has to complete basic training before becoming an Army reservist.

County Executive George Latimer said, "I salute David's desire to serve our nation. I'm confident that he will bring his full dedication to this commitment and will reflect well on all us who know him."

Tubiolo leaves for Fort Leonard Wood on Aug. 2. Godspeed!

Transit Housing, con't from pg 1-

The first phase of the two-phase project opened August 23, 2021, and included the construction of a 598-space commuter parking garage located steps away from the Harrison station's Connecticut-bound platform. The garage is owned and operated by Metro-North.

The Harrison project is expected to be a transformative project for the station and the central business district of Harrison and is a three-way win for the partnership. On the public sector side, MTA now has improved station access (increased parking, improved pedestrian flow with direct access to the outbound platform from the garage); an enhanced station environment with retail shops along the frontage of Halstead Avenue and in the plazas/courtyard; and increased residential density within walking distance to the station for potential ridership increases; all while avoiding any capital cost.

The Town/Village of Harrison benefits with a potential economic catalyst for the central business district and tax revenues from property that was previously public owned. Avalon Bay Communities now has a showcase transit-oriented development along Metro-North's highest ridership line.

Harrison currently has 98 trains per weekday and 75 on Saturdays and Sundays, generally offering service every 30 minutes toward Manhattan and Stamford during off-peak hours and every 20 minutes during peak hours.

Avalon Harrison complements Governor Hochul's comprehensive agenda to strengthen New York's housing supply and make the state more affordable and more livable. The Governor recently announced a package of executive actions to promote housing growth across New York State. As part the FY 2023 Budget, the Governor also secured funding for a five-year, \$25 billion Housing Plan to create and preserve 100,000 affordable homes in urban and rural areas across New York.

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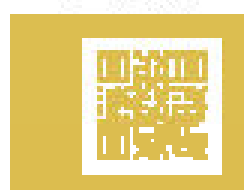
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Westchester Assembly Members Urge Hochul to Sign “Save the Hudson” Bill and Stop Holtec from Hudson River Toxic Dump



Seven of Westchester’s eight Assembly members sent a joint letter to Governor Hochul on Tuesday, urging her to sign Assembly Bill 7208 as soon as possible. A.7208 (Levenberg), known colloquially as the “Save the Hudson” bill, would prohibit radioactive wastewater discharges into the Hudson River in connection with the decommissioning of a nuclear power plant. A bipartisan group of elected officials from more than 30 municipalities on both sides of the river have passed resolutions in support of the legislation, and both A.7208 and the Senate version of the bill, S.6893 (Harckham), had bipartisan support in their chambers. The Assembly passed the bill 101-44, and the Senate passed it unanimously.

The letter comes after months of advocacy by leading environmental groups, and follows previous letters to the Governor from sponsors and co-sponsors of the legislation. The issue has gained new urgency following a July 31 public forum hosted by the Decommissioning Oversight Board, during which members of the public learned for the first time that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) would permit Holtec to discharge its wastewater without waiting for all of the results of the required testing to be returned.

“Specifically, results for strontium-90 take longer to receive than the results for other contaminants,” the members write, referring to information shared by a Department of Health representative at the meeting who indicated that strontium-90 results would take around three months to come back. Approximately 90 minutes into the public forum, a questioner asked if testing had already begun, given Holtec’s stated intention to begin discharging the water as early as mid-September. Representatives from the regulatory agencies confirmed that it had not, and that Holtec may still be permitted to discharge its wastewater without waiting for those results.

“Strontium-90 is readily absorbed into the tissues of plants and animals due to its similarity to calcium. It is particularly dangerous for growing children, and is believed to induce bone cancer and leukemia. The idea that Holtec would be permitted to discharge its wastewater into the river before levels of such a contaminant can be verified is alarming,” the letter continues. “Decisions such as this contribute to mistrust, not just of Holtec, but of the state and federal agencies that are tasked with monitoring them and ensuring our safety.”

“How can the public trust the federal regulators who tell us that these discharges are safe if we will not have confirmation of what is actually in the wastewater until after it is released?” asked Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg, lead sponsor of the bill. “Our testing protocols should put safety first. Fining violators after the damage is already done does not protect the public from potential harm. I get more questions about the progress of this legislation than any other,” Levenberg continued. “People are very anxious about this issue. We need Governor Hochul to reassure our communities that decommissioning will proceed in a safe way.”

Assembly members Gary Pretlow (D-Mount Vernon), Amy Paulin (D-Scarsdale), Steve Otis (D-Rye), Nader Sayegh (D-Yonkers), Chris Burdick (D-Bedford), and MaryJane Shimsky (D-Dobbs Ferry) joined Levenberg in sending the letter.

Assembly Member Amy Paulin said: “For decades the Hudson River was heavily polluted as factories along the river dumped garbage and industrial waste into its waters. It has taken decades of remediation work, all at the cost to taxpayers, and the steadfast activism of Westchester’s residents, to turn the Hudson around and back into a healthy river. We need more analysis of all of the possible options of dealing with the treated wastewater from Indian Point.”

Assembly Member Steve Otis said: “We have a long history of depending upon assurances that practices are safe, only to later have them determined to be unacceptable. New York should set the example that the issue of releasing radioactive material into water bodies as part of the decommissioning process needs more intense scrutiny, review, analysis, and caution. It would be wise and prudent for New York to prohibit these discharges now and require storage until better options are presented or developed as the science of what to do with these materials improves.”

Assembly Member Nader Sayegh said: “Our historic Hudson River waterfronts have enjoyed a rebirth helping to grow the region’s economy by creating jobs and new housing. Allowing over a million gallons of radiological waste water to be discharged into the river is completely unacceptable.”

Assembly Member Chris Burdick said: “The release of radioactive wastewater into the Hudson River is unconscionable and must be stopped. It is detrimental to our health, our water quality, and our environment. The threat is dire and imminent, and I urge the Governor to sign the bill promptly.”

Assemblymember MaryJane Shimsky said: “My office has heard from more constituents on the issue of Holtec’s planned discharge of tritiated water into the Hudson River than on any other issue — the vast majority of them opposed to such a reckless step. Among other concerns, this maneuver by Holtec will threaten the economic redevelopment of our Hudson River waterfronts.”

“I hope that Governor Hochul will take immediate action to protect our Hudson Valley communities, as Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey has done for Cape Cod,” added Levenberg, referring to the Healey administration’s recent move to block Holtec from discharging one million gallons of wastewater from the decommissioned Pilgrim nuclear power plant into Cape Cod Bay.

Who Comes Up With These Ideas?



By Eric Wolf Schoen

Did you ever wonder what possesses people to do things? We have all had Mister Softee ice cream with the truck blasting the famous jingle. Far-left Brooklyn Councilman Lincoln Restler is pushing new legislation that would require Mr. Softee and other Big Apple ice cream trucks to stop powering their soft-serve machines and freezers with generators that use fuel.

The bill would require the vendors to switch over to environmentally friendly alternatives like electric or solar power — likely at a cost of \$5,000 or more.

Does it make such a difference to the environment to require vendors to switch cutting their profits and requiring them to retrofit their vehicles.

U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand intends to get to the bottom of potential UFO activity. How does this affect your life? New York has a dire need for federal action to help New York support asylum-seekers, and the Senator is possessed with UFOs?

Condiments (mustard, ketchup, mayonnaise, etc) and plastic silverware have been served up with to go and delivery items for years. Now there are rumblings in New York City and Westchester that vendors will be fined if they provide these items without a request from the consumer. Don’t we have more important things on the world agenda than relish packets. And everyone has a drawer where they keep extras often helpful in an emergency.

No new weed shops will be able to open in New York after a judge blocked cannabis regulators from moving forward with retail licensing. This is the latest blow to New York’s ambitious effort to ensure that people harmed by marijuana enforcement are able to reap the financial benefits of legalization.

Do we really need a weed shop, smoke shop, whatever you want to call it on every street corner? Has the smell of weed smoked openly on the street gotten to you? Are these stores selling products for purposes other than smoking weed?

An ‘influencer’ with some million followers tweeted that he was giving away Play Stations, telephones and gaming accessories in Union Square in New York City. 2000 people showed up for some of the loot, causing chaos and the destruction of police vehicles and equipment. 66 people were arrested, much damage was caused with the ‘influencer’ getting a simple desk appearance ticket also known as desk disappearance ticket. Nothing will happen to this man who caused harm, danger and destruction to people and property. Pathetic!

There are so many problems in the world today that we seriously need to examine what the real problems are and what the made for TV or made for publicity problems are.

TRAVEL SAVINGS and Important things To-Do

I received so many emails regarding ways to save at the grocery store that I thought I would give travel a shot. The first thing one needs when traveling is a good quality cell phone. There are so many on the market that with the help of a child you can select one appropriate for you.

Try not to check bags because this is where the costs come in. Mark your bags with your name and cell phone number, not your address. This is enough information for someone to contact you. Putting your address on your bag gives thieves just enough information that they know you are away and can burglarize your house.

Sometimes it’s cheaper to take Amtrak than fly. It’s a lot more convenient depending where you are going. Amtrak has a lot of discounts including big discounts if you travel overnight or are an early bird.

Sometimes with car rentals you are better off to rent off site rather than at the airport and cab it to the offsite rental location. This way you avoid the on-site fees at airports which can be a third of the cost of your rental. Always rent from a reliable company that has a live person to handle problems 24 hours a day.

Data from Airline Reporting Corp. shows booking a flight on a Sunday instead of Friday will save an average 15%. Don’t book your airline ticket at the last minute if you can avoid it. Data also shows booking your ticket 28-35 days before departure can save you a minimum 10% versus two weeks or less before flying.

Friends of mine just booked a vacation home in Texas. There were 5 families and each family got a room. They were only together for a short period of time, so having everyone together in a house was not only fun but cheaper than a hotel.

Hotels typically provide full refunds until several days before arrival. If prices drop you can always refund the hotel and book at the lower rate.

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North Salem Man Trashed Carmel Cinema, Impersonated an Officer and More



North Salem Man Arrested Twice in 24 Hours

Sheriff Kevin J. McConville reports the arrest of a 43-year-old North Salem, NY man for two violent incidents which took place within a one-day span.

On July 29, 2023, at approximately 8:40 am, Deputies were dispatched to 156 Route 52, the Carmel Cinema, for a commercial burglar alarm. Upon arrival, they observed an unsecured front door and a large amount of broken glass from the interior doors. Deputies observed a male inside of the building who was yelling and throwing papers and were able to quickly take him into custody without further incident. They then proceeded to check the rest of the building, where they found additional damage throughout, including the front snack counter, which was smashed, emergency lighting, which had been pulled down, and damage to the doors to the theatres. The suspect, Brian Venuti, was charged with the following crimes: Criminal Trespass 3rd, Petit Larceny, both misdemeanors, and with felony Criminal Mischief 2nd, Burglary 3rd, and Criminal Impersonation 1st due to the fact that he told Deputies that he was a Police Officer, which he is not.

Venuti was transported by Carmel Volunteer Ambulance Corp personnel to Putnam Hospital Center, where he was evaluated and released back to the Deputies. He was then processed at the Putnam County Correctional Facility and arraigned before the Honorable Justice Douchkoff in the Town of Kent Court, where he was released and given an Appearance Ticket for a future court date.

On July 30 at approximately 6:55 am, Deputies were dispatched to the area of 15 Independent Way to assist EMS with an unconscious male. When they arrived, they observed the individual, Venuti, lying in the roadway and members of the Brewster EMS attempting to assist him. At that time, Venuti then stood up and began yelling that he needed to go to the hospital for an appointment. Deputies then attempted to place him into custody for an evaluation, at which time he resisted arrest and struggled with the Deputies, two of which were injured. Venuti was then taken into custody and transported to Putnam Hospital.

He was charged with Resisting Arrest and Obstructing Governmental Administration 2nd, both misdemeanors and with Assault 2nd, a felony. He was later arraigned before the Honorable Judge Vercollone in the Town of Southeast Court and was remanded to the Putnam County Correctional Facility on \$1,000 cash bail or \$2,000 bond.

The Carmel Cinema is one of my favorite movie theaters in the Northern Westchester-Putnam area, and one of the few remaining independent theaters in our area. Patronize this establishment.

Bronx Gun Violence Advocate Busted in Yonkers Home with 1.5 Kilos of Cocaine & Guns

Accused of being "a major drug dealer" in Orange County



Michael Rodriguez

Law enforcement officials in Orange County concluded a two-year investigation into a narcotics operation into cocaine trafficking that resulted in 15 persons arrested.

Included in those arrested was Michael Rodriguez, 48, from Yonkers. Rodriguez was the Director of an anti-violence group called Bronx Rises Against Gun Violence, (BRAG), a prominent anti-violence program that receives government money and works in the Bronx to promote safer streets.

Michael Rodriguez was charged with Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the First Degree two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree, and Conspiracy in the Second Degree. Michael Rodriguez is accused of supplying cocaine to narcotics dealers in the City of Middletown and the City of Port Jervis and possessing two illegal handguns. On July 26, 2023, a search warrant was executed at Michael Rodriguez's Yonkers residence, which resulted in the seizure of 1516 grams (over 1.5 kilograms) of cocaine, \$165,509 in United States currency, scales, a money counter, an unlicensed Ruger .380 caliber pistol, an unlicensed Bond Arms .357 caliber handgun, a vacuum sealer, digital scales and jewelry estimated to have a value of approximately \$50,000. It is alleged that Michael Rodriguez regularly supplied cocaine to Angelica Rodriguez, who would sell it in and around Middletown, and Tiano Lopez who would sell it in and around Port Jervis. Michael Rodriguez is currently being held without bail in the Orange County Jail pending his appearance in County Court. The District Attorney's Office has filed a Notice of Affirmative Grand Jury Action in the City of Middletown Court with respect to Michael Rodriguez.

Orange County District Attorney David Hoovler said, "The very guy that we have that is supposed to be stopping gun violence in one jurisdiction in New York City, is poisoning our jurisdiction up here."

Hoovler called Rodriguez "a major drug dealer," adding "It is unconscionable that the Director of a respected group which has pledged to reduce gun violence and help at-risk youth would himself choose to commit weapons offenses."

Henry Wallace; Our Forgotten Vice-President Who Called Westchester Home



President FDR, right, with his Vice-President Henry Wallace in 1941

By Dan Murphy

Most Americans know that Harry Truman was President Franklyn Roosevelt's last vice-president. But do you know who was FDR's VP before Truman? His name was Henry Wallace, who served from 1941-1944.

Known by many historians as our "Forgotten Vice President", Wallace was removed from the vice-presidency in a strange, backroom political deal at the 1944 democratic convention, and replaced by unknown Senator Harry Truman. After running as a third-party candidate for President in 1948, Wallace retired from politics and bought a farm in South Salem which still stands today.

Wallace was America's first true Progressive vice president, and a visionary who fought for Civil Rights, women's rights, peace with Russia, and health insurance for all Americans. With today's democratic party embracing the same progressive values and beliefs that Wallace stood for more than 80 years ago, the hope is that Wallace's memory and legacy will finally be realized.

First and foremost, Henry Wallace was a farmer, from Iowa. His father, Harry Wallace, was also a farmer who served as Secretary of Agriculture under Republican President Harding.

In 1932 Henry Wallace supported FDR in his Presidential bid and was appointed Agriculture Secretary in the Roosevelt administration, where he served from 1933-1940. The Great Depression brought out the best in Wallace, who helped restore order to the failing farm industry. Wallace became one of the stars of the FDR-New Deal administration, which was one of the reasons why Roosevelt picked Wallace as his Vice-President in 1940.

FDR admired Wallace's support of the New Deal policies and his support of aiding Britain during the early part of WWII. FDR's insistence that Wallace serve with him as VP, while unpopular and controversial with some, was enough, and Eleanor Roosevelt's speech at the convention (FDR did not attend), sealed the deal.

For the next four years, FDR's advisors and all Americans understood that Wallace would succeed an aging Roosevelt as our next President. NY Times journalist James Reston dubbed Wallace, "the new Assistant President," writing in 1941 that Wallace's "decisions in the next few months or years will undoubtedly affect your job, your rent, and the price of your groceries. And, what's more important, his decisions may determine the outcome of the war and the basis of the peace."

In 1942, Wallace gave his famous, 'Common Man' speech, which outlined Wallace's vision, to help America's poor and working class after WWII ended. "Some have spoken of the American Century. I say that the century on which we are entering—the century which will come out of this war—can be and must be the century of the common man. There must be neither military nor economic imperialism. . . . International cartels that serve American greed and the German will to power must go. . . . The people's revolution is on the march, and the devil and all his angels cannot prevail against it."

In 1944, Wallace took a good-will mission to Russian and China, where he was welcomed, as a partner with both countries fighting Axis Germany and Japan.

A 1944 Gallup Poll found Wallace the most popular democratic sans FDR, but many democratic party insiders saw Wallace as a dangerous future president, because of what they perceived as his pro-communist, Soviet beliefs, which were never proven. Wallace only wanted to work with Stalin and Russia after WWII, instead of heading into a Cold War that lasted 45 years.

While FDR insisted on Wallace as his VP in 1940, by 1944 an ailing FDR didn't fight hard enough for Wallace, giving the democratic party bosses the chance to steal the vice-presidential nomination for Harry Truman.

Wallace served out his term as VP until 1945. FDR died 82 days later; Wallace fell three months short of becoming president and was indeed a heartbeat away from becoming our 33rd President.

Wallace served under Truman as Commerce Secretary for two years. In 1948 Wallace challenged Truman and ran as a third-party Progressive party candidate for President. His platform called for an end to desegregation, civil rights for black and white, equal rights for men and women, a call for national health insurance, and peaceful coexistence with Russia.

Wallace's 1948 Presidential campaign included bravely campaigning in the south, where he denounced racism by registering voters with a multiracial campaign staff and refusing to speak to segregated crowds. He faced threats of violence and was pelted with eggs and vegetables. His running mate, Glen Taylor, was arrested when he tried to use a door marked "Colored."

Wallace would ask Folk Singer Pete Seeger, "Are you an American? Am I in America?" as the two campaigned across the southern states, and at the end of each day Wallace would ask for what came to be known as the campaigns theme song of sorts. "Passing Through": "I was at Franklin Roosevelt's side, / Just a while before he died, / 'One world must come out of World War Two.'

In the November election, Wallace received 1 million votes, 2.4%, and finished fourth, behind Truman, Republican Tom Dewey, and segregationist Strom Thurmond. After 1948, Wallace faded away from political life.

Henry and Ilo Wallace bought Farvue Farm, in South Salem, 1946. They made some restorations to the century-old farmhouse and settled into the slower-paced life of what was then northern Westchester farm country.

Henry Wallace's other passion in life was the betterment of the world through agriculture. On his beloved Farvue Farm he experimented with chickens and strawberries.

continued on pg 6-

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Symra Brandon Appointed Interim County Legislator for District 16



Symra Brandon takes oath from County Clerk Tim Itoni

The Board of Legislators announce the appointment of Symra D. Brandon to fill the vacancy for Westchester County's Legislative District 16 (Yonkers). She was unanimously voted in to serve as Legislator until certification by the Board of Elections of the County Legislator-Elect for the 2024-2025 term.

Born in New York City and raised in Yonkers, Symra Brandon has dedicated her life to serving her community, from her role as Assistant to the Westchester County Executive to making history as the first African American woman to serve on the Yonkers City Council. In her six-year stint on the City Council, she exhibited exceptional leadership, notably serving as the Majority Leader in her fifth term. She explored an academic career by becoming an adjunct professor at prestigious institutions such as Elizabeth Seton, Iona College, and Columbia University. Most recently, she has served as the Director of Community Affairs for the Office of Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

Majority Leader José Alvarado (D – Yonkers) added, "Symra is a trailblazer who has consistently broken barriers and set new standards of excellence for Yonkers. Her dedication to improving the lives of our constituents is truly inspirational, and I welcome her expertise on our Board."

Brandon has an extensive record of community involvement, serving on several boards and organizations, including Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Terrace City Chapter #26, Black Democrats of Westchester, the NAACP, and the Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus. Additionally, she is a board member at Saint Cabrini Nursing Home and served as Vice Chair of the Yonkers Charter Revision Commission.

Chair Vedat Gashi (D - Yorktown, New Castle, Somers) said, "The combination of Ms. Brandon's experience in government and her deep ties to the community made her the best candidate to represent Yonkers in this interim capacity. We look forward to the wisdom, leadership, and passion she will bring to this role, and congratulate her on this new chapter of her illustrious career of public service."

Brandon will fill the seat left vacant by the resignation of former Legislator Christopher Johnson.

The City of White Plains, with the Help of Westchester County, Create an On-site Food Scrap Composting Facility

In an expansion of the current City's composting operations, the City of White Plains, with the assistance of the County of Westchester's Compost & Education (CompostED) Program, has begun in-house food scrap composting. To further reduce the carbon footprint of its food scrap composting program the City has eliminated the transportation of the food scraps to an off-site location. Utilizing the County's CompostED composting facility as a model, the City established a compost site at the Gedney Recycling Yard. White Plains residents can continue to drop-off food scraps at the Gedney Yard, which will be composted on site.

The site harnesses the potential of the food scraps to create nutrient-rich soil and contribute to a greener future for the next generation. The new local, on-site process demonstrates White Plains commitment to environmental stewardship and the pursuit of sustainable solutions. County Executive George Latimer said: "One of the original goals of the CompostED facility was to serve as a model for our municipalities to see local food scrap composting in action and be able to envision such a facility in their communities. The City of White Plains officials saw the possibilities and have now made local composting a reality in their community. We are especially proud that the first municipality to take this step is also the County seat. We encourage other communities to look to their own backyards to manage food scraps and reduce their waste in this way."

White Plains Mayor Tom Roach said: "By adding on site food waste composting to our existing composting program we eliminate the trucking of food waste to a remote site reducing our carbon footprint. With the assistance of Westchester County we have successfully developed an efficient and financially feasible composting program that ensures the environmental benefits are more fully achieved."

Residents within the City of White Plains have the opportunity to participate in this exciting initiative by bringing separated food scraps to the Gedney Recycling Yard Facility. This convenient service allows community members to dispose of food scraps, including fruit and vegetable peelings, coffee grounds, eggshells, and other organic materials, in an environmentally responsible manner. The facility will transform the organic waste into nutrient-rich compost, which can then be used to improve soil health, promote plant growth, and reduce the need for chemical fertilizers. By composting locally, White Plains will effectively reduce carbon dioxide emissions by eliminating transportation of the food scraps to an offsite location thereby taking a meaningful stride toward achieving its sustainable goals. According to a report commissioned by the County's Department of Environmental Facilities (DEF), food scraps comprise approximately 22% of residential waste. While joining RFSTAD was the first step in reducing the amount of waste, transportation of the waste to composting facilities creates greenhouse gas. DEF created (CompostED) in Valhalla as a demonstration site to educate municipal officials, residents, and students, on the benefits and ease of local composting. With the expert guidance of DEF, the City's Department of Public Works staff was trained in the proper techniques for incorporating food waste into current composting operations. This included guidance on the construction of an Aerated Static Pile System (ASP), a composting technique that accelerates the decomposition process of organic materials by using controlled aeration to enhance microbial activity and facilitate the composting process, while also helping to reduce odors. The City employees were able to construct the system at a minimal cost mostly using materials on hand at the site, resulting in very low start-up costs.

Westchester County's Element 46 Tech Accelerator Seeking Startups to Join 3rd Cohort

Tech entrepreneurs invited to apply for a 10-week accelerator program beginning this September

Westchester County's Element 46 Tech Accelerator Powered by Cela is currently accepting applications for its third cohort, which will begin in September 2023. Each startup selected will experience a world-class accelerator program that features key curriculum, connections to entrepreneurs, investors and mentors and full-time support from the Element 46 staff. The program will culminate with a Demo Day in November 2023, where each participant will have the opportunity to pitch their venture to a room full of investors, technology experts, press representatives, government officials and other key contacts. The deadline to apply is August 19, 2023.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: "We are immensely proud of the positive and lasting impact that our Element 46 Tech Accelerator is making on the County's technology-driven startups. The program is a tremendous opportunity for tech-focused startups who are looking for education and mentorship that can help them to refine their concept and become well-positioned to scale locally and beyond."

Westchester County Director of Economic Development, Bridget Gibbons, said: "Participating in the Element 46 Tech Accelerator can help Westchester startups build community and connections, while paving the way to raising capital. I strongly encourage growth-minded tech entrepreneurs in the County to take advantage of this opportunity and apply today."

Westchester County Director of Entrepreneurship and Innovation, Deborah Novick, said: "Westchester County is home to a large, diverse community of entrepreneurs. Our Element 46 Tech Accelerator alums are a group of driven and enterprising individuals who are contributing to their communities and the economy. We look forward to continuing to make an impact on our startup ecosystem and welcoming a new group of participants this fall."

Cela Innovation Co-Founder, John Lynn, said: "We are looking for ground-breakers, innovators and disruptors who are leveraging technology to drive innovation for our next Element 46 Tech Accelerator cohort. If you are leading a Westchester tech startup and looking for mentorship, inspiration, collaboration, community and more, this is the program you should be applying for."

Members of each Element 46 Tech Accelerator cohort are selected in a competitive, county-wide selection process. Up to 12 tech startups from across the County are selected for each program, and must feature committed founders with at least a prototype of their technology or tech-enabled product. In the past, selected startups have additionally been investor-backed, grant-funded, and/or revenue-generating operations.

In the program, each founder is matched with hand-picked mentors who are leaders in technology, finance, business strategy, venture capital, marketing and other key areas. Participants also gain access to a world-class curriculum on fundraising, customer development, executive management, product iteration, branding, marketing and more.

The Element 46 Tech Accelerator Powered by Cela runs for 10 weeks every spring and fall. This is the third cohort produced in partnership with Cela Innovation, experts in tech accelerator programming and operations.

Success stories from recent Element 46 Tech Accelerator graduates include: ConConnect, which was founded with the mission to create a supportive network for the formerly incarcerated, has rebranded to Untapped Solutions and widened their reach to also support veterans, LGBTQ, people of color, disabled persons and many other marginalized communities that also face challenges in accessing the resources and services they need. In July 2023, the company received a \$150,000 investment from Google for Startups, and an additional \$100,000 in Google Cloud credits. With this support, Untapped Solutions can continue working on enhancing their platform and amplifying their impact.

Open Market, a socially responsible marketplace that redistributes capital and customers to BIPOC (Black Indigenous People of Color) and POC (People of Color) businesses, launched a shoppable online marketplace that makes it easy for consumers to locate and patronize the brands that align with the initiatives they care about: social justice, equity, sustainability, and livable wages.

In late 2022, SilverBills partnered with the Knoebel Institute for Healthy Aging at the University of Denver to conduct an NIH-funded research study on caregivers to assess whether SilverBills could decrease dementia caregiver stress, and increase quality of life. All participants received SilverBills' bill management services free for one year as part of the study. To learn more about the Element 46 program, visit <https://www.element46.org/>

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

Particularly when going out of the country, check your insurance policy to see what is and is not covered. It may pay to take out extra insurance if your policy does not cover health costs overseas.

When booking a cruise if you are using a travel agent use one that specializes in cruises. They often get special deals or upgrades a regular travel agency might not get.

I'll be back as the summer winds down with more travel tips. Travel is one of those places where the you can always save money if you head in the right direction!

Briefs: Could my column last week have stirred up folks against congestion pricing? Now the unions as well big corporations and other groups with influence are lobbying against these insane fees.

This week marks the 49th anniversary of the resignation of President Richard Nixon. It seems like only yesterday!

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

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PUBLIC NOTICE

A GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 43 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, ENTITLED “ZONING” WITH REGARD TO OUTDOOR DINING

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Yonkers has adopted the abovementioned legislation that amends and provides zoning requirements related to usage of parking lots and other non-public outdoor space for seasonal outdoor dining. This would be in addition to permanent outdoor dining provisions which are currently allowed in the zoning code. The penalty for violation of this ordinance is as follows:

§ 43-153 Violations, penalties and injunctions.

Any owner or agent and any person or corporation who violates any of the provisions of this chapter or other local laws or fails to comply therewith or with any of the requirements thereof, or who erects, structurally alters, enlarges or rebuilds or changes the use of any building or buildings or any structure; or who puts into use any lot or land in violation of any statement or plan submitted and approved hereunder; or who refuses to allow a reasonable opportunity for any premises to be inspected, shall be subject to the following:

A.

A violation of this chapter shall constitute a Class II offense. Nothing herein shall preclude the imposition of more severe penalties when such penalties are imposed pursuant to Chapter 55 (Fire and Building Code), Chapter 56 (Building and Electrical Code), Chapter 57 (Plumbing and Drainage Code), Chapter 58 (Housing and Building Maintenance Code) or Chapter 59 (Fire Code).

B.

The owner of any building or structure, lot or land or part thereof which by virtue of its location or existence is in violation of this chapter, and any architect, builder, contractor, engineer, agent, person or corporation employed in connection therewith and who may have assisted in the commission of any violation, shall be guilty of a separate violation for a first violation and a separate misdemeanor for a subsequent violation of the same code section by the same person or corporation pertaining to the same premises and, upon conviction thereof, shall be liable to the same fine or imprisonment, or both, hereinbefore specified.

C.

In addition to the foregoing remedies, the City of Yonkers, by its Corporation Counsel, may maintain an action for an injunction to restrain, correct or abate any violation of this chapter.

The complete text of the ordinance is on file and may be examined at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 40 S. Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701.

Dated: July 26, 2023

Vincent Spano, City Clerk

VP from Westchester, continued from pg 4-

He sought the “perfect” chicken – one that could be raised for its meat and its egg-laying ability. An enormous chicken house became one of the landmarks of the 100-acre farm.

Another pet project of Henry’s was the perfection of a strawberry cross between a common berry like the Ozark and the delicate French wild strawberry, a cross that would provide a commercial berry that also tasted good and could be shipped long distances.

Thirty years earlier, in 1922, Henry Wallace was working to increase the quality of corn crops by crossbreeding and inbreeding. Working with a Chinese strain and one supplied by the plant geneticist Donald Jones, Wallace developed what became the first commercially successful hybrid corn, which he turned into Pioneer Hi-Bred, a hybrid-seed company.

Vice President Wallace loved his years in South Salem, where he died in 1965. He was frequently seen in and around town and helped raise funds and contribute to the South Salem library and fire department. He was a true man of the people, a regular guy if any former vice president could be. He was also a man of Christian faith.

The Wallace family has kept Farvue Farm as it was 70 years ago, and it remains a 100-acre piece of private green space. Not open to the public, the farm, managed by caretakers, grows some vegetables and trees for sale, but primarily stands as an unofficial museum to a great American, and Westchester resident.

Henry Wallace’s history as a progressive democrat 75 years ago should be examined and highlighted more by progressive democrats of today. A great politician, agriculturalist, economist, author, and businessman, Henry Wallace, most of all was a great American.

Henry Wallace deserves his proper place in American history. Perhaps we can get the Wallace family, or someone else, to create a Henry Wallace Center for Progressive studies at Farvue Farm. He was, after all, one of our most famous Westchester residents.

Notice of formation of My Mind Is Magic, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 3/14/2023. 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, 20 South Broadway Suite 420, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of LIVE LONG LIVE STRONG FITNESS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/07/22. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 33 Sherwood Ave, apt. 3w, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Formation of LIMESMASHER LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/2/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Michael Lime-killer, 938 Saw Mill River Rd., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of True to Life Counseling Psychotherapy Services, LCSW PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 5/26/2023 Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC at 50 Riverdale Avenue Suite 15J, Yonkers, Ny 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of 54 TOWER PLACE LLC of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/10/2023 Office: Westchester County. RAED MALAMMARI designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of the process to the LLC, 54 TOWER PLACE YONKERS, NY 10703 Purpose: Real Estate.

Formation of OFF THE MILL LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/29/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Desmond Clarke, 1271 Saw Mill River Rd., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER THE BANK OF NEW YORK MELLON, Plaintiff AGAINST MAXINE LANSKY-TEJADA, ALEJANDRO TEJADA, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered June 16, 2023, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Lobby of Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, NY on September 11, 2023 at 10:30AM, premises known as 94 Jervis Road, Yonkers, NY 10705. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, in the County of Westchester, State of New York, Section 1, Block 73, Lot 30. Approximate amount of judgment \$234,256.25 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #59161/2021. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the WESTCHESTER County COVID-19 mitigation protocols and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. Syma Funt, Esq., Referee Gross Polowy, LLC 1775 Wehrle Drive Williamsville, NY 14221 20-001206 77099

BID ADVERTISEMENT LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Eastchester Public Library will REBID and receive sealed bids for

ELEVATOR MODERNIZATION- EASTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY, 11 Oakridge Place, Eastchester, New York 10709, in accordance with the Documents prepared by the office of Lothrop Associates Architects D.P.C., 333 Westchester Avenue, White Plains, NY 10604. All proposals shall be on a lump sum basis and include all Elevator Modernization work under a single Contract. Segregated proposals will not be accepted. In general, the work includes demolition of existing elevator, new elevator equipment and machinery, new elevator cab and entrances and related mechanical and electrical work for a two stop hydraulic elevator.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the site on August 21, 2023 at 10:00 AM local time.

Proposals will be received until 2:00 PM local time on September 7, 2023 at the Office of The Town Clerk, Eastchester Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York 10709, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

Bid documents will be made available at 9:00 AM on August 11, 2023 and may be obtained from the Architect as follows:

All prospective bidders must register with Lothrop Associates Architects D.P.C. via email in order to obtain the bid documents. The following information is required:

1. Company name, address, phone number.
2. Contact person and email address.
3. Fax number (optional).

4. Request access to FTP site or Drop Box to obtain bid documents. Send the above information via email to: vlisanti@lothropassociates.com Upon receipt of this information, a password will be sent to the registered prospective bidder via e-mail and prospective bidders may then download the bid documents. Bids will be accepted only from registered bidders. Only registered bidders will be notified of addenda availability via the FTP site or Drop Box.

Bid security shall be submitted with each bid in the amount of five percent (5%) of the Base Bid. Bidders must be properly licensed under the laws governing their respective trades and be able to obtain Insurance and Bonds required for the Work.

The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish and pay for satisfactory Performance and Labor and Material Payment Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total Contract Amount.

This is a Prevailing Wage Project.

All bids shall be submitted in an opaque, sealed envelope clearly marked “ELEVATOR MODERNIZATION - EASTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY”-REBID, addressed to: Town Clerk, Eastchester Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York 10709. Unless otherwise permitted by law, no bids may be withdrawn for a period of forty-five (45) days after the date of the bid opening.

Time of Completion: 210 calendar days from Notice to Proceed.

The Library reserves the right to reject all bids and to waive any informality or irregularity in any or all bids.

LATE BIDS - All bids received after the deadline date and time stated above will not be considered and will be returned to the bidder unopened. The bidder assumes the risk of any delay in the mail or in the handling of the mail by Owner’s employees or volunteers. Whether sent by mail or by means of personal delivery, the bidder assumes all responsibility for having the bid deposited on time at the place specified.

Dated: August 11, 2023 Town of Eastchester 40 Mill Road Eastchester, New York 10709

Sex Offender, continued from pg 1-

Patrons of the real Bucci Brothers deli said that the family was dismayed at what happened, and obviously did not know about who they sold their business to. Some on Facebook were angry at others posting to make the clarification about the ownership, which we believe is important for everyone to know.

As one post on Facebook read, “you never know who is the pervert that may be hiding among us. He could be a former teacher and sports announcer. Or he can be the family man with everything going for him. It’s a scary time.”

The reference in the post concerns Richard Leaf a former Harrison Teacher and announcer at the Westchester County Center. Leaf recently admitted his crimes, which included receiving a naked video from a 15-year old boy. The required sentence for receiving child pornography is a minimum of 5 years.

Get to work on AI, continued from pg 1-

for protection from the dislocation and destruction of unhampered AI proliferation? Where are the calls to action from celebrities and the new class of “influencers?”

All these conditions are of course subject to change as quickly and radically as the technology itself. But there are some explanations as to why artificial intelligence has not become a hot button issue in our political capitals.

1. Legislators are not especially knowledgeable about AI. Congress has been behind the “21st century technological times” for a long time. Legislative seniority and backgrounds betray the public interest against entrepreneurial zeal; the typical representative is 58 years old; senators 65. Chances are your representative has worked as a lobbyist, lawyer, local politician, or bureaucrat for several decades, rarely at the cutting edge of technology. Most delegate social media and webcasting tasks to young staffers. AI and other cutting edge technological developments are not always easy to comprehend and its application is thus far unaccounted to public officials charged with public welfare and safety; at least before serious damage is found.

2. AI does not neatly fit traditionally partisan patterns. Democratic legislators who represent Silicon Valley-like tech centers may not want to trouble their district’s economies. Republicans traditionally wary of hampering economic or scientific “progress” may buck at checking private enterprise. Regulating AI means standing up for principles like the “work ethic,” private labor organizations and the dignity of manual labor held by sectors once mutually antagonistic. The hope for a future utopia where all work is automated, and humans are content with a basic income of some kind may turn quite dystopian when the costs to freedom, individual autonomy and consumer choice are finally calculated, as critics increasingly sense today. Republican Teddy Roosevelt, a robust advocate of capitalism, and the crusading Progressives of the early 20th century united against the unbridled power of oil monopolies and corporate trusts. Similarly, ideological partisans today must stand up for their respective constituencies against the predatory anti-competitive nature of big tech monopolies. AI developments will be used as another tool for such companies against their competition, and small businesses and laborers will need protection from their representatives. Anyone; conservative or liberal, of the right or of the left devoted to founding principles should comprehend that any billion dollar enterprise with knowledge of your purchases, writings, or public comments online is not just another bidder for your dollar in an ordinary marketplace.

3. Any AI regulation or oversight provokes the self-serving “ways and means” of legislators, lobbies, and constituencies for their own protection. Altman, the Chat GPT founder mentioned above, has recommended licensing requirements for AI creators, something that would benefit established players like himself, and would pull up the ladder for smaller startups and entrepreneurs. Companies capitalizing on AI like Google, Meta, Microsoft, Apple, and Amazon contribute to industry PACs and their employees donate huge sums to the major parties (at present, over 80% Democrat-wards). All legislators, knowledgeable about AI’s benefits and risks may have concerns about tampering with American national and regional economic advancement. The trade-offs of regulation versus laissez-faire mirror the debate about AI itself. But in considering the stakes, we all must recognize that unlike the federal and state legislative “culture wars” of late, technology, “good or bad” waits for no one.

The survival of our unique republican democracy is too important to be left to the politicians. American citizens can neither wait for politicians to act nor wait for politicians’ permission for us to act. Make AI a state and federal political agenda priority. Common cause must start between those who thoroughly disagree on many social and economic issues but thoroughly agree that democratic-republican government can only exist where humans, not robotic systems or algorithms created by corporate administrators and enabled by timid bureaucrats, decide our future.

President Lincoln stated at Gettysburg in November 1863, “Government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth.” Our challenge today is to ensure that technology does not make the popular sovereignty that created it obsolete.

Douglas Goldwater; blogger and founder of “The You Frontier”: and Stephen I. Mayo attorney, business manager; co-host, the “Steve Mayo Show,” Mondays 5:30 @ WVOX radio, 1460 AM.

tives refusing to coordinate with municipalities before bussing homeless individuals into their jurisdictions. But the truth is the misinformation has come from all angles and political persuasions. Elected officials, political organizations, and pundits in the press, that did not support Putnam County’s emergency action and local legislation, engaged in a campaign of disinformation to gaslight and further their own goals of self-promotion, division, and fear mongering.

“Shuttling homeless individuals around without a coordinated plan agreed to by all parties is simply inhumane. Humanitarian organizations, such as the International Rescue Committee have acknowledged this deep concern saying “asylum seekers are being transported by state and local governments... often without informed consent, coordination or planning.”

“The reality is, what New York City and other municipalities have attempted to do equates to dumping their obligations onto other municipalities with zero planning. In Putnam County, we demonstrated restraint and exercised responsible decision making. In the face of every neighboring county (even Westchester according to early remarks by Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano) being taken off guard by the City’s actions, after Title 42 expired generating a new wave of unplanned migration into the United States, after I wrote to Mayor Adams and received no response, after we confirmed Putnam County’s temporary rentals were already 80% full with limited capacity, and after Putnam County learned that NYC’s representatives engaged directly with a motel, without any County or Local government’s knowledge, seeking a 6 month to 5 year contract.

“Virtue signaling gestures of funding from the federal and state governments have been largely cosmetic as these very same entities have refused to address the source of this crisis. Earlier this year, New York City was given one billion dollars in the state budget, yet the City continues with its half-baked plans and no meaningful coordination,” writes Byrne.

On July 5th, the Putnam County Legislature, by a vote of 7 –1 approved the new homeless shelter law

“I refused to let Putnam County be bullied by the City or anyone else. Despite the rhetoric and angry disinforming commentary, we remained confident in going to court to defend our preliminary measures.

“Our nation is dealing with a humanitarian crisis at our southern border of incredible proportions. Our federal government has failed us for far too long and we need a real solution. The President’s refusal to take ownership of this crisis and take corrective actions to secure our nation’s southern border and fix the asylum-seeking process has left municipalities across America with few options. The one billion dollars from the state and hundreds of millions of dollars from the federal government provided to New York City doesn’t even scratch the surface of the outstanding need that still exists. Cities all over the country have become overwhelmed. While Putnam County has acted responsibly, the fact remains that this is a national crisis in need of a national solution. The federal government must wake up and finally rise to the occasion,” writes Byrne.

Several media reports, and organizations, characterized the actions of Byrne and Putnam legislators as “extreme” and “incendiary”.

“The New York Civil Liberties Union sent cease-and-desist letters to county and town leaders who had issued emergency declarations and executive orders against the possibility that New York City might temporarily house *some of the thousands of* newly-arrived migrants in their jurisdictions.

“Nearly 40 counties and towns across New York State have attempted to block recently arrived immigrants from resettling in their communities. These incendiary orders – which are premised on non-existent emergencies – could generate hostility, bias, and even violence against immigrants while perpetuating false narratives of ‘thousands’ of immigrants entering counties and placing undue burdens on services,” wrote the NYCLU.

Nancy Montgomery, Putnam County Legislator, District 1, who voted no, stated, “It’s outrageous that my Republican colleagues in the legislature are moving forward dangerous legislation that will create more divisiveness, make our region less safe for all, and make the very few existing homeless shelters illegal, all simply to cater to extremists. At a time when our region is still struggling to recover from the economic hardships of the pandemic, these legislators are not only fanning the flames of hate, but once again ignoring our county’s humanitarian responsibilities and curtailing the economic opportunity of our local businesses.

Murad Awawdeh, Executive Director, New York Immigration Coalition, said, “The actions taken by the Putnam County lawmakers are a direct attempt to create an asylum seeker ban and is nothing more than a fear-mongering tactic fueled by racism and xenophobia. It’s shameful to see local officials exploit vulnerable immigrant families for cheap political points.

Northern Westchester and Putnam County are linked in so many ways. Residents of both counties, shop, dine and entertain in Westchester and Putnam. But Putnam County has a population 1/10th the size of Westchester, and the number of units, motels or shelters available for Mayor Adams and NYC to attempt to send migrants to is minimal. A review by Putnam County showed that as of June 25-Putnam County only had 140 total motel rooms-and only 40 of those rooms were available.

We do agree with Byrne in his disappointment for a lack of coordinated response from NY Governor Kathy Hochul and President Joe Biden. Neither has proposed or suggested a plan or solution to the problem. And only NYC received \$1 Billion from Hochul in the state budget to address the migrant crisis.

Mayor Spano and Yonkers have asked for help to educate some of the children housed at the Ramada Inn in their City, to no avail. Westchester County has two locations with migrants-in Yonkers and White Plains.

But the issue of migrants has now exploded in NYC, with migrants now staying outside the filled Roosevelt Hotel. Until Governor Hochul and President Biden come up with a plan, with funding for local governments who have migrants, we agree with Putnam County Executive Byrne- Now is the time for action.



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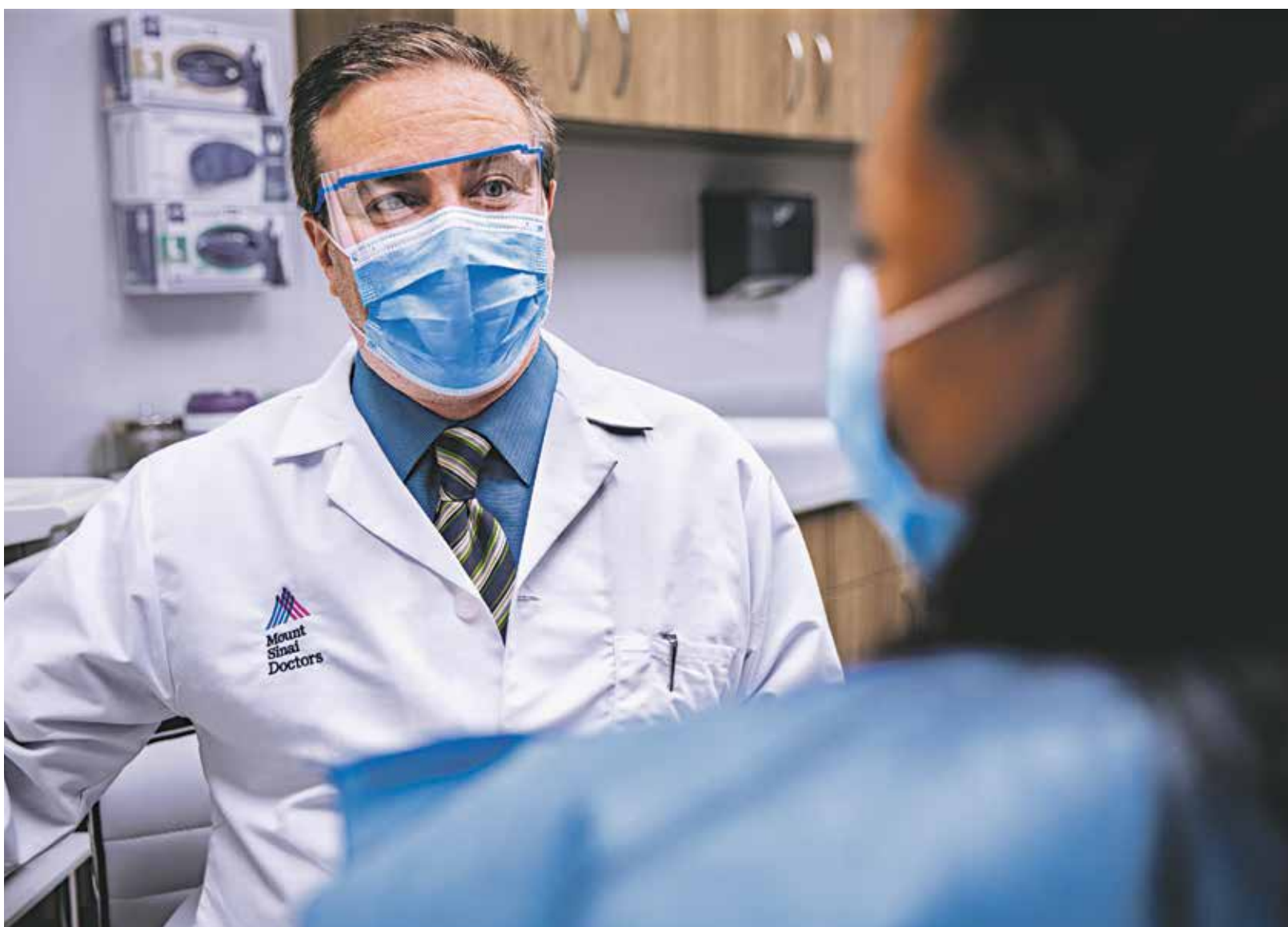
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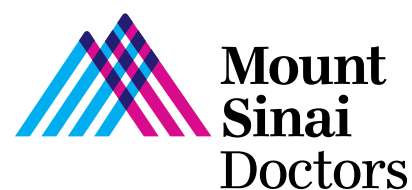
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