

Back to School in Westchester, With a Cell Phone Ban in Effect



Many Westchester school districts are using Yondr cell phone cases, left, for their students to keep their phones in during the school day.

By Dan Murphy

As students return to Westchester's 40 school districts for the start of the 2025-26 school year, educators, parents and students will have to get used to and comply with New York State's "Distraction-Free Schools" law, which mandates a bell-to-bell ban on student use of internet-enabled devices, including smartphones, across all K-12 public schools, charter schools, and BOCES.

Each district has developed its own plan for enforcing the new *continued on pg 10-*

Austin Frankel, Blind Brook HS Senior, Develops Top Ranked Seat Maker App



Austin Frankel

By Dan Murphy

We recently spoke with Austin Frankel, a senior at Blind Brook High School in Rye Brook, who developed Seat Maker, an app designed to create

seating charts for anyone hosting an event and needing to determine who will sit where.

Austin's APP has quickly climbed to #4 in the U.S. paid Lifestyle category. "I built it because I saw the need for an easy way to arrange seats at community events and dinners," said Frankel.

How Did You Come Up With This Idea?

"In 10th grade, I was at a youth organization event, and no one knew where to

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Family with 48 Illegal Guns in Armonk Results in 7 Year Jail Sentence for Illegal Weapons Possession for Son; Dad Gets 7.5 Years; Mom Gets Probation



By Dan Murphy

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that an Armonk man was sentenced on Aug. 19 to seven years in state prison for weapons

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Stealing from a School for the Disabled? To Buy a Chanel Purse?



Queens Woman Charged with Stealing Over \$220,000 meant for Mt. Pleasant School Serving Disabled Students. Shortly after depositing the funds, the defendant is accused of purchasing a Chanel purse

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that a Queens woman was arrested Thursday morning on multiple felony charges for allegedly stealing over \$220,000 in funds intended for the Mount Pleasant Cottage School Union Free School District, which serves students with educational, behavioral and emotional challenges.

Nataly Ramos Allende, 26, was arraigned Thursday in the Mount Pleasant Justice Court on two counts of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony, and two counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony.

Justice Mark Rubeo, Jr., released the defendant on her own recognizance as none of the charges are bail-eligible. She is due back in court on Oct. 2.

DA Cacace said: "It is unconscionable that anyone would prey upon a public school district, especially one serving our most vulnerable students. My office will not hesitate to act where the welfare of our children is at stake. We will work to ensure that the school districts victimized by this alleged scheme are made whole."

As alleged in a felony complaint, on Nov. 6, 2024, the defendant incorporated a limited liability company in New Jersey entitled "Mt Pleasant Cottage School LLC" and opened a Citibank account in the LLC's name shortly thereafter.

On Nov. 15, the defendant deposited into the Citibank account a \$107,402.40

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Westchester's Political War Against Con Edison Intensifies

Con Ed Workers and Residents Condemn Con Ed at Board's Final Input Session

By Dan Murphy



The political war that elected officials from Westchester, in both county and state government, has reached a new record of intensity.

Elected officials of both parties DO NOT consent or agree with Con Ed's proposed rate increase of xxx%.

On August 19, the Westchester Board of Legislators held their last public hearing and heard from a whistleblower of sorts

A packed room of angry community members and utility workers exposed predatory practices and voiced outrage about Con Edison's alarming rate hike proposals at the Westchester County Board of Legislators' sixth and final Public Input Session in Mount Kisco on Tuesday, August 19.

The presence of current and former Con Edison utility workers, who comprised nearly half of the 50 attendees at the Mount Kisco Library, ignited the evening. Frank Morales, President of the Utility Workers Union of America, A.F.L.-C.I.O., Local 1-2, spoke passionately about the exploitative practices and wasteful spending of Con Edison leadership.

As an example, Morales revealed that "among the IT projects Con Ed wants ratepayers to fund is a plan to install driver cameras in all vehicles. Con Ed previously placed these cameras in trucks and vans, then removed them because they failed to reduce accidents or improve driver safety," he said. "Instead, they were a distraction, activating every time vehicles hit potholes or had to brake suddenly. Enough is enough. Con Ed, stop bleeding ratepayers dry."

The utility is seeking increases that would raise residential bills by an average of 11.4% for electricity and 13.3% for gas by 2026, inflicting an undue burden on working families, older adults, and small businesses.

"That 20% isn't just money, it's prescription money, it's grocery money," said one distraught resident.

Another frustrated speaker noted, "Disabled residents with only one window for ventilation cannot afford air conditioning during the summer... while the Con Ed CEO is earning massive compensation."

The Board launched the series of public forums as part of its commitment to oppose the proposed double-digit rate increases. Comments from this and all of the Board's Con Edison Public Input Sessions will be submitted to the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC), which makes the final decision about the utility's rate increases. In March, the County joined Con Edison's rate case before the PSC, to ensure residents have a voice in proceedings that will shape

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Letters to the Editor:

To The Editor: Mr. Murphy

Thank you for printing my letter on Greenburgh Police Officer Stein last week. I hope that the powers that be in Greenburgh come to her aid soon.

This letter concerns another story that you wrote- <https://yonkerstimes.com/ice-makes-two-more-detentions-in-port-chester-and-peekskill/>

Anyone who read your story can feel empathy for the mother and the child. But one part of the story that I was puzzled by this part of the story. "ICE agents showed her a photo of her partner, Wilmer Delgado, who they were seeking to detain. Lituma said she did not know where Delgado was. ICE allowed Lituma to return home and had her call Delgado, who told her, "Don't say anything."

Didn't Mr. Delgado realize that Ms. Lituma and their son would be detained if he did not come? That man, in my view, was a coward and let his son and mother take the hit for him.

I wonder if he had turned himself in if ICE would have let the mother and son go. Based on what I read in the news, I doubt it. It appears that ICE is now detaining and deporting anyone who is here illegally, include those who are living with criminal illegals who ICE wants to deport.

I don't agree with this policy, and I think the vast majority of Americans do not agree with this policy either.

But the man who ICE was looking for should have stepped up and done the right thing for his partner and his son. Instead he forced them to leave the country. Keep telling the truth-Tracey Cargulio, Westchester voter.

Letter to the Editor: Mike Lawler, the ICE Man

Need help with ICE? If you belong to a significant voting bloc, Congressman Mike Lawler may take your call. If not, don't count on him.

The recent surge in Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) arrests makes this an urgent issue for our community. Too often, law-abiding people are being detained in the streets, their families torn apart without due process. Congressman Lawler, a close ally of ICE, has intervened in a couple of cases—such as the release of Alan Junior Pierre and Yeonsoo Go—yet his choices raise troubling questions.

Although Yeonsoo Go is not a constituent of Lawler's, she does belong to the Korean community which has a significant voting bloc in Rockland County and her mother is a minister. Alan Junior Pierre is Haitian, part of another significant voting bloc in Rockland County. Meanwhile, when Milton Guamariga, a long-time Port Chester resident, father of three, steady worker for over two decades, and volunteer firefighter, was taken by ICE, Lawler was silent. The difference seems to come down not to fairness, but to vote counting.

Lawler has proven that he has the power to secure releases. But he does not care to fix a failed and cruel system: ICE's indiscriminate detentions apparently fueled by racial profiling. According to the CATO Institute ICE is now arresting four times more noncriminals per week on the streets than people with convictions. And, according to the American Immigration Council fewer than 1% of ICE arrests included a judicial warrant.

America now has increasing numbers of masked officers sweep neighborhoods like Spring Valley in fear-driven raids that ensnare U.S. citizens, including children undergoing cancer treatment.

Let's be clear: Congressman Lawler's record does not inspire confidence. He voted yes on the 2023 Secure the Border Act, a bill that has been condemned for eroding due process, expanding DHS power, and deputizing local police in immigration enforcement. It also made it harder for immigrant youth to obtain legal protections. This is part of a broader pattern of undermining immigrant rights in service of political gain.

Lawler has a duty to demand transparency (none), legal oversight (none), and accountability from ICE (none). It is not enough to act when it serves him politically—he must stand for justice and due process for everyone.

Every person, regardless of ethnicity or political importance, deserves to be treated with dignity and fairness under the law. Until that happens, Congress—and representatives like Lawler—will continue to fail the people whom they are supposed to represent.

Sincerely,
Mark A. Lieberman, Yorktown, NY

Smash Music Opens New White Plains Location



Monster Music has been helping people fulfill their musical dreams for over 30 years, and now they are excited to announce a new location in White Plains. Smash Music will officially open its doors at the former Sam Ash location, 176 Mamaroneck Avenue, on Saturday, September 6, with an all-day grand opening celebration.

Smash Music invites the public to explore its newly designed retail space. With convenient onsite parking, visitors can easily stop by and check out the latest gear, including a world-class school instrument rental fleet — just in time for back-to-school season. Smash Music is a part of the nationwide Sweetwater Band & Orchestra rental partnership program, which provides students access to the highest-quality rental fleet in the country at affordable rates.

Special deals and musical activities are planned throughout the day, from 9AM to 5PM. Highlights of the grand opening celebration at Smash Music include:

Live music all day, featuring performances from renowned Grammy-nominated artist Gil Parris. Parris will take the stage at 4PM.

A ribbon-cutting ceremony with the White Plains Business Improvement District at 12PM

A special appearance by White Plains' mayor, Thomas Roach

"Opening this new store isn't just about expanding our business — it's about deepening our roots," commented Brian Reardon, founder and owner of Smash Music. "We're thrilled to be part of White Plains, and we cannot wait to serve the community and help musicians young and old.

Whether you're looking to rent an instrument, sign up for lessons, or simply enjoy a day of community and music, the grand opening promises something for everyone. For more information regarding the grand opening event, visit the Monster Music event page www.smashmusic.net/upcoming-events.htm.

Support Connection's Support Groups for Sept.

Please find below a list of Support Connection's Support Groups this September for those impacted by breast, ovarian, and any gynecological cancer.

September 8: Metastatic Breast Cancer Support Group | 7PM-8PM via Zoom

September 3: Breast, Ovarian and Gynecological Cancer Post Treatment Support Group | 7PM-8PM via Zoom

September 10: Offered Via Zoom – Ovarian and Gynecological Cancer Support Group | 7PM-8PM via Zoom

September 15: Breast Cancer Support Group-(Hybrid Format- IN Person and ZOOM videoconference option) 7:00pm - 8:00pm at NewYork-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital

September 24: Breast and Ovarian Cancer Support Group-(Hybrid Format- IN Person and ZOOM videoconference option) Soul Ryders Office

We have many other support groups for women with breast, ovarian, or other gynecological cancers. For details, please visit <https://supportconnection.org/calendar/>

Pre-registration is required for all groups. To register or to learn more, please call 914-962-6402 or 800-532-4290. Support Group meeting location for in person groups and/or Zoom login info will be provided to anyone who registers. Please continue to refer women and families to us. Anyone dealing with breast, ovarian, or any other gynecological cancer can learn more by visiting our website: www.supportconnection.org or by calling us toll-free at 800-532-4290.

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Yonkers Mayor Spano and Republican County Exec. Candidate Sculti Exchange Barbs Over MGM Casino Gaming Application



Christine Sculti



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano

By Dan Murphy

Last week, Christine Sculti, the republican candidate for Westchester County Executive this November, penned an op-ed for Yonkerstimes.com in which she expressed serious concerns over the proposed application by MGM-Empire City Casino for a full gaming license at their Yonkers site.

Sculti writes, Yonkers' Casino Expansion: A Gamble on Our Community's Future

While the expansion of the MGM Empire City Casino in Yonkers has strong support from the Mayor and City Council, the state government has the final say on whether MGM will receive a coveted full casino license. The addition of live gaming tables could mark a new chapter for the city and Westchester County. The promise is obvious: more jobs, more tourism, and more tax revenue. But without a granular, public plan for how the community will absorb the shockwaves, this "jackpot" could turn into a long-term loss. In fact, a few days ago Atlantic City Mayor, Marty Small, Sr., was compelled to pen his own Op-ed. His "look before you leap" guidance to localities contemplating casino development is worth the read: <https://www.nydailynews.com/2025/08/15/nyc-casino-lessons-from-atlantic-city>

An Infrastructure Nightmare in the Making: First, traffic. The casino already sits in a residential neighborhood at the tangled crossroads of state, county, and city roads, just off the Major Deegan, the Bronx River and Cross County Parkways, and Central Avenue.

Congestion is a daily complaint. A significant surge in visitors could gridlock not only Yonkers but neighboring communities. Who is responsible for fixing this? Will the state pay for ramp upgrades? Will the city get funding for signal improvements and road widening? Without a binding infrastructure agreement, the region will be left holding the bag.

Sex Trafficking and Drug Activity Concerns: This is a deeply concerning issue, but one that cannot be ignored. A casino of this size is not just a destination for entertainment — it is also a magnet for crime, ranging from petty theft to organized criminal operations.

While there is already gambling at MGM Empire City Casino, it is currently limited to slot machines. The proposed expansion would introduce a full range of table games, including cards and other forms of gambling, significantly increasing the risks. Plans to add a hotel in later phases have been discussed. Studies have consistently shown a correlation between large-scale casino operations and increased risks of sex trafficking and drug-related crime. Casinos — especially those operating around the clock — attract transient populations, cash-based transactions, and nightlife activity, creating conditions that enable illicit activity such as trafficking and drug distribution. The U.S. State Department's 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report highlighted how casinos have

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Time to Think! Sliwa for NYC Mayor in November!

By Eric Wolf Schoen



'As Goes New York City, so Goes the Suburbs!'

The Mayoral race in New York City has a major affect on those counties to the north and cities especially like Yonkers

Fed up with traffic as we head home from what was a summer filled with beautiful weather, many of us haven't take the stay home route spending time locally with friends and family. As we sat on the balcony of our family and friends NYC apartments sipping Percecco eating those dainty little hors d'ouerves, one question that frequently came up was who will be the next Mayor of New York City.

A managerie of candidates came forward in a Primary to decide the next Mayor of New York. The small group of Primary winners included Andrew Cuomo (blah..) and current Mayor, Eric Adams (blah blah) to their credit voters chose an outsider to City Hall, Zorhan Mamdani as the prisid&

Why did Mamdani win . Maybe because people are tired of the same, thoughtless candidates, candidates that are running time and time again. It's power ,it is power, it's potato chip Adam's and, Cuomo, well what can I say about his candadicy.. Cuomo's dad is turning over in his grave thinking about his son's behavior and in particular, behavior toward women.

It was the 70's. My sister was going to New York University commuting from Yonkers everyday. Thank God a McDonalds manager took a break to take it upon himself to create a group of young men to provide security in the subways,

Curtis' beret is clean. His sateen jacket still shining. Bright. Let's give him a chance

Reach Eric Schoen at ewschoen@icloud.com.

Editor's Note: Recent polling has shown that independent candidate Andrew Cuomo could beat Mamdani if they ran one on one. But Sliwa is the republican candidate for NYC Mayor, he will not be withdrawing from the race.

We also continue to receive Ask Andrew stories from a group called The Cuomo COVID Orphans. We will begin to print these stories in the coming weeks.

My family and I just went to Manhattan for a day in the city. It has been some time since our last visit. We walked through Central Park and around mid town with no incident. There was a massive police presence at Rockefeller Center and some homeless in the streets.

SAXON WOODS AND SPRAIN RIDGE POOLS TO STAY OPEN FOR TWO WEEKENDS IN SEPTEMBER

Summer fun continues in September at two Westchester County pools!

Splash into September at Saxon Woods Pool in White Plains and Sprain Ridge Pool in Yonkers as the pools will be open for two weekends in September, Saturdays and Sundays, Sept. 6, 7, 13 and 14, weather permitting.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "Keeping Saxon Woods and Sprain Ridge Pools open for an additional two weekends will provide extended recreational opportunities for families looking to keep the summer spirit going. I'm excited to welcome residents back to make the most of these bonus weekends."

Westchester County Parks Commissioner, Kathy O'Connor said: "We are thrilled to offer additional weekends at Saxon Woods and Sprain Ridge Pools to our residents and we are grateful to our staff and lifeguards for going the extra mile this September to keep the fun going and ensure a safe, enjoyable experience for everyone."

The pools will be open from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. each day. Proof of Westchester County residency is required; admission fees apply. Last entry is at 6 p.m.

Saxon Woods Pool is located at 1800 Mamaroneck Ave. in White Plains and Sprain Ridge Pool is located at 149 Jackson Ave. in Yonkers.

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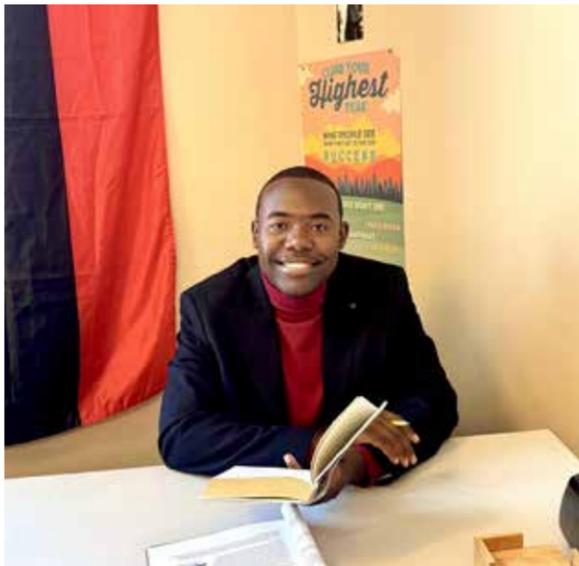
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Yonkers Native Enters Fifth Year in the Classroom



Dennis Richmond Jr.

By: Dan Murphy

Yonkers native Dennis Richmond, Jr., 30, has begun his fifth school year as a classroom teacher. For the past two years, Richmond has taught in Mount Vernon, where he continues to inspire scholars with his passion for reading, writing, and history.

Throughout his career, Richmond has prided himself on giving his scholars more than just literacy skills. His goal, he says, is to help them see themselves as bosses. Students who are expert readers and writers.

Before securing his own classroom, Richmond spent time working as a substitute teacher in Yonkers Public Schools. In his early and mid-20s, he taught in nearly every building across the district. That experience, he recalls, was invaluable—not only did it allow him to teach a wide range of students, but it also helped him network with principals, assistant principals, faculty, and staff throughout Yonkers.

Even before stepping into his substitute teaching role, Richmond was already a familiar face to many young people in the region. From 2013 until 2020, while still a teenager and into his early 20s, he was known for “beating the drum for HBCUs.” His advocacy for Historically Black Colleges and Universities was covered extensively by Yonkers Times. Through that work, Richmond helped thousands of students across New York—including in Yonkers, Mount Vernon, and Greenburgh—learn about and apply to HBCUs.

Today, Richmond is as committed to education as ever. He often points out that Black men make up less than 2% of America’s public school teachers, and he sees his presence in the classroom as vital. For now, he has no plans to pursue an administrative role as an assistant principal or principal.

“Students need to see Black men in front of them teaching,” Richmond said. “Especially in New York.” Dennis has written for our publications for several years. We are proud of his successes, and for his commitment to teaching the next generation. Congratulations, my friend.

Farm to People Expands Delivery to Westchester



First Deliveries Begin Thursday, September 4,

Farm to People, New York City’s premier online farmers market delivering seasonal and sustainably-sourced produce and products from over 150 local farms and makers, will begin delivering to Westchester County, NY and Southern Connecticut starting Thursday, September 4, 2025.

Customers in the new delivery area will enjoy the same curated selection of local produce, pasture-raised meats, small-batch pantry goods, and chef-crafted prepared foods that New York City dwellers have loved since Farm to People’s launch in 2013: Ronnybrook Dairy, Hudson Valley Fisheries, She Wolf Bakery’s amazing Sourdough Breads, Snowdance Farm Heritage Chicken, Autumn’s Harvest Beef and Pork, Knead Love Gluten-Free Bakery, Black Seed Bagels, Jasper Hill Farm, Cheeses, and much more. Not to mention an array of mouth-watering Easy Meals – for parents and kids alike – prepared in the FtP Kitchen, using all these ethically sourced and produced products.

“Expanding to Westchester and Southern Connecticut is a really exciting next step for us,” said Michael Ray Robinov, Co-Founder and CEO of Farm to People. “These are communities with deep appreciation for locally-sourced food. They are looking for a way to connect more directly with the regenerative farms and makers in our region.”

Also, as a fun fact, this is a return home for Michael’s father, co-founder David Robinov, who opened two of the first natural markets in Westchester nearly forty years ago: Nature’s Warehouse, in Larchmont, and Katonah Natural Market. He later partnered with Mrs. Greens and branched out to open more markets in the mid-nineties. A pioneer in the natural and organic food industry, David’s vision to offer transparency and sustainably raised and grown food online is an important progression in enabling people to access healthier food and have it conveniently delivered to their door.

Farm to People’s flexible model allows customers to shop whenever they like, with the ability to choose from over 1,300 products (and growing) each week. Their customizable farm boxes are the best way to keep your fridge stocked year-round! Orders are packed and delivered on the same day—right to your door (never shipped).

Go to farmtopeople.com [2] to place an order and enjoy different first time customer offers.

Delivery Details:

First Delivery Day: Thursday, September 4, 2025

Delivery Days: Sundays, Mondays, and Thursdays

Free delivery over \$150; \$7.99 delivery fee for orders under that amount; \$20 minimum order.

Eligible ZIP Codes: Westchester: 10573, 10604, 10577, 10528, 10580, 10601, 10602, 10603, 10605, 10606, 10607, 10610, 10532, 10591, 10533, 10523, 10530, 10583, 10503, 10502, 10522, 10706, 10538, 10543, 10801, 10802, 10803, 10804, 10805, 10708, 10470, 10550, 10701, 10702, 10703, 10707, 10709, 10710, >10551, 10552, 10553, 10595, 10704, 10705, 10466, 10467, 10469, 10468, 10463, 10458, 10471

How to Order: Residents in the new delivery area can begin placing orders at farmtopeople.com starting Thursday, August 28th.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY TO HOST FREE PAINT RECYCLING EVENT Residents and Businesses can Recycle Unused Paint at Sprain Ridge Park on Saturday, September 20

Westchester County’s Department of Environmental Facilities (WCDEF) will be hosting a free Paint Recycling Day in partnership with GreenSheen Paint.

Free Paint Recycling Event- Saturday, September 20, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sprain Ridge Park, 149 Jackson Ave, Yonkers, NY

County Executive Ken Jenkins said: “Our goal is to make recycling simple, effective and widely available for Westchester residents. Paint recycling prevents hazardous materials from entering the waste stream and converts old products into something usable again. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this event and join us in reducing waste, conserving resources and keeping Westchester clean and sustainable for generations to come.”

Residents and businesses of Westchester County who register for this event can bring a variety of paint products to be recycled. This includes latex, acrylic, water-based, alkyd, oil-based, enamel, and floor paints, as well as stains, shellacs, waterproofing finishes, metal coatings and more.

Recycling paint diverts material from the waste stream and reduces the demand for raw, non-recycled materials when new paint is manufactured. The County also accepts paint by appointment year-round, Tuesday through Saturday, at the Household Material Recovery Facility (H-MRF) on the Grasslands Campus at 15 Woods Road in Valhalla. In addition to paint, the H-MRF accepts household chemicals and a variety of other items requiring special handling, often not accepted through curbside collection.

For more information on how to register for the event, visit circular.eco/event/westchester or call the Recycling Helpline at (914) 813-5425.

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MOUNT VERNON MAN SENTENCED TO 16 YEARS IN STATE PRISON FOR SENSELESS KILLING IN WHITE PLAINS

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.- Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that Nathaniel Hill, 55, of Mount Vernon, was sentenced on Thursday to 16 years in state prison for the killing of 40-year-old Bernard Potillo in July, 2024. Hill, who pleaded guilty to Manslaughter in the First Degree in March, was sentenced by Supreme Court Justice James McCarty.

On July 4, 2024 in White Plains, Hill stabbed Potillo in the abdomen, killing him. Potillo was a resident of Yonkers.

DA Cacace said: "This is another sad example of a senseless and tragic killing. The impact of this horrible crime will be felt by the victim's friends and family forever. My hopes are that this sentencing offers the family at least some measure of solace and closure."

In a victim's impact statement read in court, Caprisse Hall, Potillo's girlfriend said: "Our future was taken. The family we dreamed of, the businesses we wanted to build, and the life we were crafting together. All of it vanished in one devastating moment. I was supposed to become his wife. We were supposed to create a legacy together. And now, I'm left holding the pieces of a broken heart and a shattered life."

This case was investigated by the White Plains Police Department and was prosecuted by ADA Adrian Murphy and Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau Chief James Bavero.

FORMER CONSTRUCTION FINANCE MANAGER CHARGED WITH STEALING OVER \$50,000 FROM BUSINESS ACCOUNTS

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. – Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that the former finance manager for a White Plains-based construction company was arraigned last week on allegations that she stole over \$50,000 from the firm and committed numerous other felonies.

Michele Rinaldo, 52, of The Bronx, was arraigned Aug. 13 in Westchester County Court on one count of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony, one count of Identity Theft in the First Degree, a class D felony, three counts of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a class E felony, and one count of Falsifying Business Records in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor.

Rinaldo pleaded not guilty to the charges. Judge Melissa Loehr released her on her own recognizance as none of the charges are bail-eligible. A conference in the case is scheduled for Sept. 24.

DA Cacace said: "The defendant's alleged thefts were as brazen as they were careless. Not only do these kinds of frauds hurt honest small businesses, they drive up the cost of doing business for everyone in Westchester County. I commend our partners at the U.S. Social Security Administration and the North Castle Police Department for helping to uncover this scheme."

According to a felony complaint earlier filed in the case, Rinaldo managed the books and payroll for a White Plains-based construction firm from September 2022 to March 2023. During this time, she issued 34 separate payments from the firm to two personal bank accounts, according to the complaint.

The complaint further alleges that shortly after making each payment, Rinaldo would go into the firm's payroll systems and change the listed payee on the transaction from her name to "US Treasury," "United States Treasury" or "United S Treasury."

The amounts allegedly diverted to Rinaldo's personal accounts totaled over \$200,000, according to the complaint.

The investigation was conducted by the North Castle Police Department, the U.S. Social Security Administration (Office of the Inspector General), the New York City Police Department and the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

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It's not southern hospitality, it's cover.
A new play by Susan Jennifer Polese
Directed by Michelle Concha
Whippoorwill Theatre
19 Whippoorwill Road East, Armonk, NY
September 4-7, 2025
September 4th @ 7:30pm
September 5th @ 7:30pm
September 6th @ 7:30pm
September 7th @ 3pm

Performances
*Thursday, Sept 4th @ 7:30pm
**Friday, Sept 5th @ 7:30pm
Saturday, Sept 6th @ 7:30pm
Sunday, Sept 7th @ 3pm

Tickets
*\$25 preview night
\$35 general admission
**\$40 opening + reception
www.stateofplayproductions.com

Featuring homegrown actors and production staff from throughout Westchester, the new play *Two Junes & No July* by Susan Jennifer Polese is the first production in the county from State of Play Productions (stateofplaytheater.com), Westchester's newest theater incubator for developing and producing original, full-length plays. *Two Junes & No July* will run Sept 4-7 at Whippoorwill Hall, part of North Castle Library, 19 Whippoorwill Road East, Armonk, N.Y. 10504.

Though based in Westchester, presenting its work within the county is a first for State of Play Productions, which has spent the past 10 years honing its craft by helping playwrights bring their work to stages in New York City.

"We are excited to bring this process closer to home here in the Hudson Valley," says State of Play Artistic Director Michelle Concha, an Ossining resident. "We couldn't be happier to be in Armonk at the Whippoorwill Theater the first weekend in September."

Says the author, award-winning playwright Susan Jennifer Polese, of North Salem, "The play was developed with State of Play Productions both in Manhattan and Westchester. We are so happy to see it come to life right here in Westchester, using amazing local talent."

Cast of *Two Junes & No July*

- Edie Roth (as Angela "Angie" Bernardi) - Greenwich, Conn.
- Robert Dumont (as Francis "Frank" Bernardi) - White Plains, N.Y.
- Laura Shoop (as Maybelline "Maybe" Turner) - Briarcliff Manor, N.Y.
- Jordan Kaplan (as Dr. Norman) - Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y.
- Brian Dallas Field (as Halston Turner) - Brewster, N.Y.
- Lina Sarrello (as Cummare) - Harlem, N.Y.

Production Team of *Two Junes & No July*
Written by Susan Jennifer Polese (North Salem, N.Y.)
Directed by Michelle Concha (Ossining, N.Y.)
Stage Manager - Nora Matz (Garrison, N.Y.)
Set Design - Laura Valenti (Brooklyn, N.Y.)

Costume and Props Design - Sara Jay Halliday (Stormville, N.Y.)
Lighting and Sound Design - Dan Scherer (Bedford Hills, N.Y.)

Performance Schedule and Ticket Prices of *Two Junes & No July*
Thursday, Sept 4 @ 7:30 p.m. (Preview) \$25
Friday, Sept 5 @ 7:30 p.m. (Opening Night Reception) \$40
Saturday, Sept 6 @ 7:30 p.m., \$35
Sunday, Sept 7 @ 3 p.m., \$35

Running time: 90 mins with no intermission

Recommended for Ages 13+

To purchase tickets: <https://twojunesandnojuly.eventbrite.com>.

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Hastings Library Presents: Local Luminaries
David Zweig - An Abundance of Caution Sept.4

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PLANNING DEPARTMENT**
40 Mill Road
Eastchester, NY 10709
Phone: (914) 771-3319
(914) 771-3393
www.eastchester.gov

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
TOWN OF EASTCHESTER ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Zoning Board of Appeals of the Town of Eastchester will hold a public hearing on:

Tuesday, September 9, 2025, at 7:00 p.m.
(day of week) (month and date) (year) (time)

at the Town of Eastchester Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York, in the Court Room/Auditorium on the application of:

Faisal Shaikh

(name of application/applicant)

for:

Area Variance

(area variance(s), use variance, interpretation, site plan, subdivision, architectural review and/or special permit approval)

related to: Installation of a new pergola on the rear existing deck
(describe the proposed project)

affecting the premises identified as the following Section(s), Block(s) and Lot(s) on the Tax Map of the Town of Eastchester:

8.20.44

and located at the following address:

28 Central Drive, Eastchester, New York

(street address)

Notes:

1. Visit the town's website (www.eastchester.gov) to access the most current agenda prior to each meeting. If you have any questions regarding the Public Hearing or any of the agenda items, you can contact the Building & Planning Department at (914) 771-3319. Applications are available for review electronically by clicking the link at the top of the agenda and physically in the Planning Department.

2. The purpose of this Notice is to notify you of the Public Hearing for the referenced project in case you would like to attend and/or participate in the meeting and/or comment on the application. However, you are not required to attend the meeting or to respond to this notice.

Town of Eastchester

13

August 1, 2024

Notice of Formation of PRINCE & BROADWAY PROPERTIES LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/22/25. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 172 Rockne Road, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of LIQUID ASSET SERVICES LLC. Application for Authority Filed with the SSNY on 12/05/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to THE LLC, 46 LINCOLN AVENUE, PORT CHESTER, NY 10573. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Super Smart Future LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/20/2023. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Super Smart Future LLC, 58 Valley Rd, Katonah, NY 10536. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of IT TAKES ALL KINDS PICTURES, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/21/2025. 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, Republic Registered Agent Services Inc. 54 State Street Suite 804 Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful

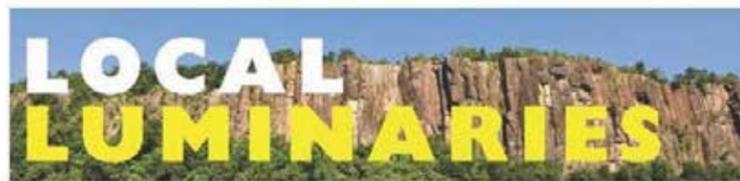
Notice of Formation of SteenShots LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/12/2025. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 343 South 3rd Avenue, Mt. Venron NY 10550. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of 1M Consulting LLC filed with the SSNY on 11/05/2024 with the existence date as 01/01/2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whole processes against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of processes to the LLC, 3 Ward Street, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of FUSE WORKS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/11/2025. Office location: Westchester County, NY. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 54 Brosnan Pl, Tuckahoe, NY 10707. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Math Power LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY On 07/12/2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 35 Florence St, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of BLUEPRINTS AND BEYOND LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on February 4th, 2025. 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 the process to the LLC: 70 Ashburton Avenue, Apt. 7H, Yonkers, New York, 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.



Interactive lectures from Hastings artists, authors and other minds.

DAVID ZWEIG
AN ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION

David Zweig's book, *An Abundance of Caution: American Schools, the Virus, and a Story of Bad Decisions*, chronicles one of the worst American policy failures in a century—the extended closures of public schools during the pandemic.

As students return to the classroom, it's an opportune time for us to learn why, during the pandemic, more than 50 million kids in America were prevented from attending school full time, a circumstance that for many of them—including those in Hastings-on-Hudson—lasted for more than a year. The answers matter and they are likely not what you think.

Join us for a lively conversation about this moment and its lingering effects upon students.



Thursday, September 4
7 to 8:15pm
at the Hastings Public Library

7 Maple Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706
914.478.3307 www.hastingslibrary.org

David Zweig's book, *An Abundance of Caution: American Schools, the Virus, and a Story of Bad Decisions*, chronicles one of the worst American policy failures in a century—the extended closures of public schools during the pandemic.

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Join us for a lively conversation about this moment and its lingering effects upon students.

Notice of Formation of 155 ROUTE 202 LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 07/10/2025. 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, 401 Broadway, Suit 1111, NY, NY 10013. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation JUST SHIPSHAPE LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on [07/17/2025]. Office location: Westchester county. ENTITY PROTECT REGISTERED AGENT SERVICES LLC is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. ENTITY PROTECT REGISTERED AGENT SERVICES LLC shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 1 ALEXANDER STREET APT 314, Yonkers, New York, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Schmoose Pack Projects LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/20/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Bruce Wong 10 Station Square Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of LCS Advisers LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 7/11/2025. 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, 260 Garth Road, Apt. 2d4, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: any lawful activity

Notice of Formation of OnPoint Home Designs LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 8/28/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 14 Crosby Court, Cortlandt Manor NY 10567. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Beautifully Hauled LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 07/15/2025. Office Location: 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 28 Chestnut Street, Yonkers NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Name of formation of THEOAK LLC. Date of filing Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State (SSNY) 6/14/24. The LLC is located in Westchester County. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against it served is to the principal business location at c/o 669 Main Street, Unit 605, New Rochelle NY 10801. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

The Robeson in Peekskill Project presents

THE PEEKSKILL RIOTS: THEN & NOW

A Panel Discussion





JOHN NICHOLS
Executive Editor, *The Nation*. Writer American politics, global media systems.



KENDALL HALL
Founder, Ubuntu Cultural Pavilion, preserving Paul Robeson's Legacy in NJ



SHANA L. REDMOND
Award winning Author *Everything Man: The Form and Function of Paul Robeson*



MICHAEL MEEROPOL
Economist, educator, author. Elder son of Julius & Ethel Rosenberg



Thursday, September 4, 2025
7:00 – 8:30 PM (doors open 6:30)

RSVP by September 2nd

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YONKERS TIMES

News in Yonkers and around Westchester

On September 4th, the anniversary of the Peekskill Riots, we will present a special panel discussion, "The Peekskill Riots: Then & Now."

More than a remembrance, we will hear some of today's most insightful voices explore why the riots happened, what it meant then and why it still matters now.

Our distinguished panel includes:
John Nichols – (Moderator) Executive Editor of The Nation and previous correspondent on national affairs and Washington. Nichols has written, cowritten, or edited over a dozen books on topics ranging from histories of American socialism and the Democratic Party to analyses of US and global media systems.

Kendall Hall – Founder of Ubuntu Cultural Pavilion, preserving Black and African American history in Somerville, NJ, including Paul Robeson's local legacy. A leader in community engagement and archival preservation, she also co-founded the Rutgers African American Alumni Alliance.

Shana L. Redmond (Ph.D.) – Grammy nominated writer and creator. Author of Anthem: Social Movements and the Sound of Solidarity in the African Diaspora and Everything Man: The Form and Function of Paul Robeson, which won numerous awards including an American Book Award. She teaches in New York City.

Michael Meeropol – Economist, educator, and son of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. Author of Surrender, How the Clinton Administration Completed the Reagan Revolution and co-author of Principles of Macroeconomics, Activist vs. Austerity Policies. He edited The Rosenberg Letters, A Complete Prison Correspondence of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg.

Join us for this timely conversation with leaders who bring deep historical knowledge and lived experience to one of the most significant moments in our community's and our nation's history.

Thursday, September 4, 2025
7:00 – 8:30 PM (doors open 6:30)
Plumbers & Steamfitters Local Union 21
1024 McKinley Street, Peekskill, NY

Reserve your seat at:
<https://givebutter.com/The-Peekskill-Riots-Panel>
Admission is free

Manhattanville University to Host Sports Journalist

Jane McManus for Book Talk on the Rise of Women's Sports

REID CASTLE, EAST LIBRARY

September 18 at 6pm

Jane McManus



Professor Amy Bass, Emmy-award winning writer and expert on sports, culture, and politics to lead Q&A

Manhattanville University will host acclaimed sports journalist Jane McManus for a talk and Q&A session on her new book, "The Fast Track: The Rise of Women's Sports as an Industry and Investment."

The event and book signing are open to the public and will be held on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 6 p.m. at Reid Castle East Library.

McManus, a veteran sports journalist and academic, will delve into the themes of her book, which challenges the notion that "no one cares about women's sports." "The Fast Track" provides compelling evidence of the increasing popularity and financial viability of women's sports, highlighted by recent watershed moments like the fervor surrounding Caitlin Clark during the 2024 NCAA Women's Basketball championship.

The book examines the upward trajectory of women's sports while also addressing the historical forces that have hindered its growth since Title IX in the early 1970s. "The Fast Track" confronts resistance toward women's leagues, analyzes media coverage of female athletes, and considers future investment possibilities. Additionally, McManus addresses critical topics such as racial inclusivity, the participation of transgender athletes, women's health issues, and the ongoing fight for equal pay.

The evening at Manhattanville will feature a question-and-answer session led by Amy Bass, professor of sport studies and Emmy-Award winning writer whose interests focus on sport, culture, and politics. She has made appearances on the TODAY SHOW, CNN Newsroom, and Anderson Cooper's Full Circle among other public affairs programs. She is chair of the division of social science and communication.

"I am absolutely delighted to welcome Jane to campus to share insights from her important new book on women's sports," said Professor Bass. "A trailblazer in sports journalism and a fierce advocate for equity and representation, she brings a wealth of experience and perspective that will resonate deeply with our students – especially those in our fast-growing interdisciplinary Sport Studies major. Her visit offers an extraordinary opportunity for our students to engage with one of the field's most vital voices."

Manhattanville University's Sport Studies major, one of the largest in the School of Arts and Sciences, offers a comprehensive curriculum that includes a 4+1 pathway to a master's degree in Sport Business Management. Undergraduate students in the program gain expertise in both sport marketing and sport management, preparing them for diverse careers in the dynamic sports industry.

For more information on the event and to RSVP, please visit the Manhattanville University events calendar: <https://www.mville.edu/events/calendar.php#event-details/a2fbc37d-d42d-4342-ba99-3b473409b74f>

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Senator Shelley Mayer Partners with United Way & Hispanic Federation For Back-to-School Drive



State Senator Shelley B. Mayer partnered with United Way of Westchester and Putnam Counties and Hispanic Federation for her annual Back-To-School supply drive for students and teachers. The donations were distributed at Port Chester Middle School on Tuesday, August 26 during News 12 and Optimum's Backpack Giveaway event.

From July 21 through August 21, Senator Mayer, United Way and Hispanic Federation collected donations at the City of Rye Recreation Center, Tuckahoe Village Hall, Pound Ridge Townhouse, and Senator Mayer's office in White Plains. Among the supplies were: backpacks, spiral notebooks, composition books, two-pocket folders, pencil cases, twelve-inch rulers, safety scissors, #2 pencils, ballpoint pens, colored pencils, crayons, pencil sharpeners, glue sticks, highlighters, pink erasers and three-ring binders.

Senator Shelley Mayer said, "As always, I am thankful to live in a community that comes together to ensure our neighbors have everything they need to thrive. The new school year is an exciting time for students and teachers and is an opportunity for a fresh start, but for many families, school supplies are too expensive. I am overwhelmed once again by the generosity of our community, and I thank everyone who donated to our drive. I also thank the City of Rye Recreation Center, the Tuckahoe Village Hall, and the Pound Ridge Town House for providing drop-off locations. Lastly, thank you to United Way of Westchester and Putnam and Hispanic Federation for your commitment to our community and for partnering with me to ensure our students and teachers can start the school year

continued on pg 15-

Happy Art for Westchester Parks Showcase



Westchester Parks Foundation (WPF), in collaboration with Marla Beth Designs, hosted a vibrant evening of creativity and community at the Happy Art for Westchester Parks showcase on Tuesday, August 12 at Garcia's at The Capitol Theatre.

The event featured 10 local artists whose work was selected from over 40 submissions through a community-wide social media campaign. Each piece was inspired by one of Westchester County's 50+ parks, and many

were accompanied by touching personal stories, reflecting the deep bond between residents and their public green spaces.

Top Three Winners Include:

Quyen Nguyen from Dobbs Ferry, Work features the Tarrytown Lighthouse, top left



Derek Oscarson from Ossining, Work features George's Island, bottom left

Eileen Stodut from New Rochelle, Work features Glen Island, middle right

All three winning artworks will be featured at the WPF's Parks Are Essential Gala on September 17 and in a special exhibit at a TBD Westchester County Park this fall.



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Eastchester Police Department Welcomes DJ Daniel, Sworn in as Honorary Police Officer



The Eastchester Police Department recently had the honor of welcoming Devarjaye “DJ” Daniel, a brave 13-year-old from Texas who is battling terminal cancer. DJ’s dream is to one day become a police officer, and since his diagnosis in 2018, he has made it his mission to be sworn in by as many police departments as possible. We are humbled to be part of his incredible journey. His courage, positivity, and determination inspire us all.

DJ was officially sworn in as an honorary Eastchester Police Officer by Sgt. DiLege during a brief ceremony. Welcome to the Eastchester Police Department family, Officer Daniel, Shield #55.

DJ his father, Theodis, have traveled the country, and he has been sworn in as an honorary officer by more than 1,200 law enforcement agencies, a goal that surpassed the previous Guinness World Record for this feat. His positive attitude and resilience have touched the hearts of law enforcement and the public.

He was recognized by President Trump at the State of the Union address.

2025

Westchester County Executive
Ken Jenkins
Invites You to Join Us

INTERFAITH PRAYER VIGIL
Wednesday, September 10 at 5 p.m.
Kensico Dam, Valhalla
The Rising & 9/11
First Responders Memorial

**SEPTEMBER 11
MEMORIAL SERVICE**
Thursday, September 11 at 3 p.m.
Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

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Bloated Budget, continued from pg 1-

policy, which can be found at <https://www.governor.ny.gov/programs/eliminating-distractions-new-york-schools>. Most schools have purchased lockable cell phone pouches for each student, and most of those pouches are from Yondr.

The other option is for students to be required to keep their cell phones in their lockers during the school day. The Pocantico school district in Sleepy Hollow implemented a no-cell-phone policy last year, requiring students to keep their cell phones and Apple Watches in their lockers for the day.

The idea of the cell phone ban is the work of Governor Kathy Hochul, and we applaud her for her efforts to get the teachers' union on board.

Hochul has also announced \$13.5 Million in funds to school districts to help pay for the pouches. This breaks down to \$11 per student, but the Yondr pouches cost more than \$30.

And in Yonkers, where there are 24,529 students in the Yonkers Public Schools, the total bill for Yondr is \$750,000. You can do the math for your school district if you know your enrollment.

A Yondr pouch locks when students put their cell phones inside, and they get it unlocked at the end of the day. Some schools will allow students to attend classes with their locked Yondr while others will have them put away for the day.

Some parents are complaining about not being able to reach their children during the school day, and some school districts are concerned about having to hire extra staff to handle the Yondr logistics.

But most are glad that K-12 students will not be able to use their phones during the school day.

Governor Hochul said it best earlier this year when she was pushing for the cell phone ban in schools. "Smartphones and social media have a stranglehold on our children. They're spending hours each day on their phones, scrolling instead of socializing, immersed in someone else's reel instead of living their own lives. And it's taking a toll. Our kids are lonelier, more anxious and increasingly disconnected.

"We're in the middle of a youth mental health crisis. The research shows it, but I don't need another scientific report — I've heard directly from parents, teachers and teenagers all across this state about the issue. And everywhere I go, I hear the same thing: addictive technology is hurting our kids.

"As New York's first Mom Governor, this is personal to me. I've raised teenagers. I know the helplessness a parent feels when their child is suffering. It's the worst feeling in the world. So I knew we had to do something about it," said Hochul. "The transition's tough, it's tough, but I'm telling parents, get ready for this."

While staff at the schools and the parents will be affected, the biggest impact will be on the students, who will be unhappy at first because their addiction will have to be broken.

One upstate Superintendent said, "What we learned, to my surprise, is that our students appreciated the time to disconnect from their phones, the distractions, the notifications."

And it's not just being done in NY, 17 other states have new restrictions starting this school year.

If we are honest, there are adults who are also addicted to their cell phones and social media. Maybe they can learn from their kids.

Sculti vs Spano, continued from pg 3-

been used to facilitate human trafficking, with online platforms tied to casinos increasingly linked to cyber scams and the exploitation of vulnerable individuals for forced labor. Furthermore, a University of Nevada, Las Vegas study found that casino patrons are 17% more likely to pay for sex than the average survey respondent. These findings underscore the heightened risks that come with the expansion of MGM Empire City Casino from a slot-machine-only venue to a full-scale gambling operation. This expansion demands careful, comprehensive planning to protect our community from the serious consequences that often accompany large-scale casinos.

Social Services Need a Safety Net: Gambling addiction rates inevitably rise when casinos expand offerings. The Westchester County Department of Social Services and local nonprofits must be equipped with additional funding, staff, and training before the doors open to high-stakes table play. Right now, there's no clear indication they are preparing for this.

Follow the Money and Keep It Local: MGM will profit — but how much of that windfall will stay here? Are we reserving a percentage of new jobs for Yonkers and Westchester residents, or will outsiders flood in and take them? Is there a mechanism to earmark a larger slice of gaming revenue for local infrastructure, schools, and addiction treatment, rather than letting it disappear into Albany's general fund?

Planning Now, Not Regretting Later: The expansion is coming whether we're ready or not. But readiness means more than cutting a ribbon and celebrating "economic development." It means a transparent community benefits agreement that ensures dedicated law enforcement resources, traffic and road improvement projects, investment in commercial corridors, housing initiatives, social services resources, improved sanitation and elected officials presenting a unified, public plan before the first card is dealt. Otherwise, we're just rolling the dice with our community's future. My support of the expansion is contingent on a community benefits agreement that addresses the above concerns, and it must not come at the expense of the existing quality of life," writes Sculti.

The day after Sculti's Op-Ed was live, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano penned a rebuttal to Sculti. Spano writes, "She might live on the other side of the County from Yonkers, but that's no excuse for Rye resident and Republican-Conservative County Executive candidate Christine Sculti to throw cold water on MGM's application for a full gaming casino license.

Writing in the Yonkers Times, Sculti rolls out the standard objections that casino gaming is really a license for human trafficking, drugs, organized crime, and traffic gridlock — her list goes on and on.

She demands a plan to deal with community concerns. But guess what? There is one. You just have to take the time to read it.

But first let's review the benefits of a casino license for Empire Casino. No longer limited to slot machines, the additional table games and sports betting will generate more than \$350 million a year in gaming taxes, with 10 percent of that amount going directly to Yonkers. We'd have to raise the property tax by double digits to otherwise make up for that amount.

Then there are the jobs — not just the 6,500 construction jobs for the build out, but the additional 2,000 permanent union jobs that will be created once the expansion opens. Combined with the existing 700 jobs, that's 2,700 area households that will enjoy good wages thanks to this license.

MGM's submission, available on the State's website, runs to more than a thousand pages. It outlines how it will spend more than \$40 million to deal with traffic and other issues. Dozens of area intersections will be rebuilt or get improved signalization — many of them aren't even near the casino but will be improved anyway. A landscaped buffer will be created along one side of the casino, and new streetscapes will be constructed.

On top of this my office and the City Council have reached a community benefits agreement with MGM that amounts to much more. Besides \$10 million to create a new neighborhood public library and \$2 million a year to provide additional neighborhood police patrols, at least \$500,000 a year will go to local non-profit agencies.

While there are easy political points to be made in criticizing a casino license, let's take a minute to consider what happens if Yonkers doesn't get one. The answer is simple: The existing slot parlor and racetrack will close. A study by the leading gaming consultant in the nation confirms this. MGM agrees.

But we don't need a study to tell us this. Our own common sense will do.

The State is going to award three full casino licenses in the New York City area. How long do we think people will flock to an aging slot machine parlor when there are three other brand new casinos a half hour away that have table games, sports betting, performance venues, and a variety of restaurants?

The choice isn't whether MGM Empire Casino stays as it is or becomes a full casino. The choice is whether Yonkers gets a full casino license or closes altogether, throwing hundreds of people out of work, causing Yonkers an immediate \$28 million annual tax loss, and losing the opportunity for thousands of new jobs and new tax revenues for years to come.

If Yonkers doesn't get a casino license, then who does? The closest competitor is the Bally golf course in the Bronx near the Whitestone Bridge. It used to be called Trump Links, and when Bally's purchased it they agreed to pay Donald Trump \$115 million if it ever becomes a casino.

Maybe some political candidates are willing to risk Yonkers' future for the benefit of Donald Trump or the other deep-pocketed competitors.

By the end of the year New York State will decide who gets the three new casino licenses, and whether our City's biggest private sector will win one or be forced into eventual closure. I hope that all of our local leaders, and those who wish to become local leaders, will do what is right for our collective future," writes Spano.

In trouble with the IRS or the New York State Tax Department? I can help. My name is Gerald Snyder, and I am an enrolled agent and a former IRS Group Manager. I have successfully represented clients before the IRA and the NYS Tax Department for over 25 years. I resolve liens, levies, seizures, income tax and sales audits, and penalties and trust fund recovery issues. I also handle unfiled tax returns.

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-Pete Seeger-

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and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Fall Open House at Hoff-Barthelson Music School - September 6



Hoff-Barthelson Music School invites students of all ages—from Pre-K through adults—to experience the excitement of music-making at the School’s Fall Open House on Saturday, September 6, 2025, from 1:00–4:00 pm at its Scarsdale campus, located at 25 School Lane.

Whether you’re picking up an instrument for the first time or seeking to advance your skills, the Fall Open House offers a unique opportunity to explore the breadth and excellence of Hoff-Barthelson’s programs. Participants can sample private mini-lessons, observe or join group classes, and meet the School’s world-class faculty, who bring a wealth of experience and a passion for teaching. Attendees will have the opportunity to explore:

- First Instrument Group Classes for young beginners in violin, cello, and guitar (Grades PreK–1)
- Youth Ensembles including Junior Flutes, Percussion, and Vocal Ensembles (Grades 2–12)
- Musicianship Classes for all ages, from Pre-K to adult
- Private Mini-Lessons for all ages, from Pre-K through adults

Space is limited and advance registration is required. RSVP at <https://hbms.org/event/fall-open-house/>.

With a legacy of over 80 years, Hoff-Barthelson is known for its exceptional faculty, welcoming community, and comprehensive approach to music education. Don’t miss this opportunity to explore where your musical journey can begin—or grow!

Hochul’s \$17B Medicaid Surge Leaves Little to Brag About

By Bill Hammond, *EmpireReport.org*

Governor Hochul has made Medicaid her dominant budget priority over the past four years, increasing the state’s annual share of the program by \$17 billion – which is more new money than she allocated for every other part of state government, combined.

Yet she barely mentions the program in a list of accomplishments she posted to mark her fourth anniversary in office, suggesting that her heavy spending has bought few results that she cares to boast about.

The list used the word “Medicaid” only once, noting that Hochul signed legislation authorizing the program to cover remote monitoring of pregnant women.

The program plays an uncredited role in two other listed items: a \$1 billion “investment in mental health care” over several years, a portion of which is to come from Medicaid; and efforts to bolster access to abortion, which include higher Medicaid reimbursements for providers.

Otherwise, the safety-net health plan that covers one-third of the population goes unmentioned in a list of 47 bullet points. The list touts a cumulative school-aid increase of \$8 billion, but says nothing about the more than twice-as-large amount that she plowed into the health-care system.

This near-silence is consistent with her State of the State speech in January, in which she had little to say about Medicaid or health care generally.

Hochul has occasionally spoken out about problems that need fixing – such as the dismal quality ratings of the state’s hospitals, or the rapidly rising cost of home health care. Yet her actions have mostly consisted of adding billions to the Medicaid budget (which is already the highest per capita in the country) and pushing to grow the health-care workforce (which is already the largest per capita in the country).

Both of these priorities happen to align with those of the health-care industry and its major labor union, 1199 SEIU, which are consistently among Albany’s biggest-spending special interests – and campaign donors.

The result has been a 61 percent increase in state-share Medicaid spending in four years, compared to a 57 percent increase over 10 years during the Cuomo administration.

Meanwhile, festering health-care problems are going unaddressed, such persistently low quality ratings (and high emergency-room wait times) in New York’s hospital system, and the grim conditions in many nursing homes, as exposed in lawsuits by Attorney General Letitia James.

In one major attempt at reform, Hochul abruptly moved to consolidate Medicaid’s Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program, or CDPAP, under a single statewide contractor, replacing hundreds of smaller “fiscal intermediaries.”

Secretively negotiated and hastily implemented, the overhaul has proven to be disruptive for recipients and caregivers alike, promises modest savings and does not address the eligibility rules that have allowed the program to grow so explosively.

One of the few stakeholders with reason to cheer was 1199, because the consolidation has paved the way for the union to organize CDPAP workers and boost its dues-paying membership by hundreds of thousands.

In 2023, Hochul established a Commission on the Future of Health Care and filled it with well-credentialed appointees, many of which come from outside the Albany bubble.

Although its report is eight months overdue, Chairwoman Sherry Glied, dean of the NYU Wagner School of Public Service, said in a recent interview that improving the poor quality of New York’s hospitals – which she called “not acceptable” – would be one of the panel’s top priorities.

In creating that commission, Hochul tacitly acknowledged that she needed a stronger agenda on health care – or at least one that goes beyond spending more on Medicaid.

Improving hospital quality would be a good place for her to start.

TOWN OF EASTCHESTER EASTCHESTER/TUCKAHOE SCHOOL TAXES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT I HAVE THIS DAY RECEIVED THE WARRANT TO COLLECT THE SCHOOL TAXES FOR 2025-2026 FOR FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2025 TO JUNE 30, 2026 EASTCHESTER UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT TUCKAHOE UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT AT MY OFFICE

Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, N.Y.
OFFICE HOURS 8:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.
OFFICE CLOSED ON SATURDAYS
TAXES DUE
SEPTEMBER 1, 2025

TO AVOID PENALTY, the first half must be received by Sept. 30, 2025. The second half school taxes are payable by January 31, 2026.

IMPORTANT: Official U.S. Postal Service postmarks are accepted to secure a penalty-free payment if postmarked on or before the due date. FedEx UPS, and DHL mailed to 40 Mill Road, Eastchester can also be accepted as timely if showing a mailing on or before the due date. However, metered mail postmarks (such as Pitney-Bowes or Quadiant/Neopost, for example) are NOT acceptable for this purpose under the NYS Real Property Tax Law (RPTL), and neither are foreign postmarks. An envelope without any postmark-- or an illegible postmark-- is deemed under the law to have been made on the date of delivery to the collecting officer. If the due date is not met, the following Penalties prescribed by tax law for deferred payment apply:

Rates of Penalties SECTION 550-A WESTCHESTER COUNTY TAX LAW PENALTY SCHEDULE

	First Half Due Sept 1st	Second Half Due Jan 1st
During SEPTEMBER (Taxes payable without penalty on or before September 30, 2025)	NONE	-
During OCTOBER	2 Percent	-
During NOVEMBER	5 Percent	-
During DECEMBER and JANUARY	7 Percent	-
During FEBRUARY and MARCH	10 Percent	10 Percent
During APRIL	12 Percent	12 Percent
During MAY	13 Percent	13 Percent
During JUNE	14 Percent	14 Percent

July 1st-2026, Delinquent taxes will be filed with the Westchester County Clerk’s Office. In addition, 1% per month thereafter until completion of IN-REM foreclosure.

ROCCO N. CACCIOLA
RECEIVER OF TAXES

Dated August 21, 2025

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Letter-OP ED

This is a comment regarding the article: "Yonkers Launches New Initiative to Help Students Get Working Papers Faster" that appeared in the August 22, 2025 issue of "Yonkers Rising".

Any effort to help teenagers get jobs faster is a great one! I applaud it and I'm assuming this resource is open to all teenagers of Yonkers.

My comment is regarding the article's capitalization of "black" and "brown" as it relates to human beings. Colors are adjectives. Adjectives describe a noun. In this case, two groups of people. Adjectives in the English language are not customarily capitalized unless they are part of a name or title. ("The Blue Hen Café"; "The Yellow Rose of Texas") But if an (any) editorial staff makes the decision to break with grammatical custom and capitalize colors in reference to people, then it would be wise to apply this in a uniform manner to all racial groups, including "White".

Here's why: By capitalizing only particular racial groups and lower-casing others, it appears to show greater respect to one group over another. This results in fueling the ire of the "crazies". So if "black" and "brown" are capitalized and not "white", (as currently seen in many publications) this gives easy "ammunition" to MAGAs and white-supremacists. Why would we want to do that?

Also, by uniformly using one case or the other, it gives a subtle nod to the equality of all people. Especially if the word "people" immediately follows the color adjective. ("brown people", "white people", etc.) That's the word that needs the most emphasis!

Lastly, there are some racial groups for whom it could be considered offensive to be identified by their racial "color". For instance: Is it courteous to refer to the original inhabitants of North America as "red people"? To Asian people as "yellow people"?

I understand that sometimes there is a need to specify particular racial groups for clarity's sake. But let's "give ammunition" to the goal of harmonious relations by referring to each one in a consistent manner.

Maybe we should break with grammatical rules and always capitalize the most important word: "People"!

Thank you,
Diane Serniak
Yonkers, NY

New York Apple Association Names New Chairman of the Board



Thomas Coene, left

Just in time for the upcoming Apple season in New York State, the New York Apple Association has named Thomas Coene as chairman of the board. Coene and his wife Lindsey farm alongside his parents, David and Elizabeth Coene, and his grandparents, Robert and Judith Coene, at Windmill Farms LLC, a fifth-generation family operation. The family cultivates approximately 500 acres across Monroe and Wayne counties on the southern shore of Lake Ontario, growing apples for both

fresh and processing markets. They also operate an on-farm controlled-atmosphere storage facility. Coene holds a degree in agricultural business management from SUNY Cobleskill. "I look forward to leading the organization and working side by side with the other board members," Coene said.

Kristen DeMarree has been named vice president. She earned a doctorate in physical therapy from Nazareth University before returning to the family farm, where she is now transitioning to full ownership. Newly appointed board members Domenic Porpiglia and Jenna Roberts-Bruning join current members Ely Giroux, Kenny Bowman, Marcus Jones, Helene Dembroski, Joy Crist, Catherine Blackler, Mark Russell, Jeffery Fremouw, Carrie Waffler and Kent Schwab. Board members are elected by New York state apple growers to serve three-year terms, with the option to serve up to two consecutive terms.

The New York Apple Association is a nonprofit organization representing more than 500 apple growers across 50,000 acres statewide. New York is the second-largest apple-producing state in the U.S. NYAA supports fresh, processing and direct-to-consumer growers through advertising, promotions, public relations and educational initiatives aimed at strengthening the industry.

This year, NYAA was awarded two state contracts totaling more than \$3 million. "New York is expecting a robust crop this year, with production projected to exceed 30,500 million bushels," Coene said. "We've had a good mix of rain and warm summer days. Harvest in the Hudson Valley will begin around mid-August, followed by Western and Central New York, and then Northeast New York a few days later. Harvest typically wraps up the first week of November, depending on the weather."

Cynthia Haskins, NYAA president and CEO, announced an omni-channel consumer marketing campaign featuring a large digital billboard in New York City, 225 panel display billboards, and a targeted social media campaign showcasing digital images of New York apple growers. The campaign will highlight "The Big Flavor in The Big Apple," with branded display shippers and signage throughout the city. "We have a great opportunity to tell the story of New York apple growers," Coene said. "Consumers are more interested than ever in where their food comes from, who produces it and how it's grown." NYAA is expanding the Big Flavor campaign nationwide. Retail account managers are securing cooperative advertising partnerships and launching digital and coupon programs. New York apples are available in more than 7,400 retail stores across the country.

Yorktown Needs to Stop Playing "Infrastructure Catch-Up"

A Guest Column by Jann Mirchandani

This week, Cait Conley, Candidate for Congressional District 17, and I hosted a community discussion about Yorktown's infrastructure and housing challenges. What became clear is that our town is stuck in a costly cycle of crisis management when we should be investing in proactive solutions.

The Real Cost of Waiting

Take our sewer issues. We've been talking about this problem for decades. Money was allocated years ago, but no action was taken. Now costs have skyrocketed, and we're still talking. Research shows that every dollar spent on preventive maintenance saves five dollars later—yet we continue to defer essential upgrades until they become emergencies.

Meanwhile, our current leadership celebrates paving the high school commuter parking lot as a major "infrastructure improvement" and "beautifying our parks." While maintaining parking lots is certainly necessary, calling routine pavement repair a significant infrastructure achievement highlights exactly what's wrong with our approach. When parking lot repaving gets social media posts with exclamation points, but our sewer system gets years of inaction, our priorities are clearly misaligned.

This reactive approach isn't just inefficient; it's expensive. According to a study completed by Utah State University in December 2023, every water main break costs us approximately \$10,000 in emergency repairs when you factor in labor, materials, traffic management, and emergency response. And with utility rate hikes looming—NYSEG is seeking 35% increases for delivery rates starting in 2026—the fact that we're not investing in renewable energy sources for our municipal buildings is particularly short-sighted.

Other communities are doing better. Croton-on-Hudson partnered with Columbia University and private developers to install a solar canopy at their train station—at no cost to taxpayers. The village now receives annual lease payments totalling \$500,000 a year, while residents can subscribe to community solar and save on their electric bills.

Housing: The Hidden Infrastructure Crisis

With average home prices in Westchester at \$833,161 and over 41% of households paying more than half their income on housing, we're facing a workforce crisis. Our teachers, police officers, and nurses can't afford to live here. This isn't just a housing problem—it's an economic development problem.

Federal programs like Low-Income Housing Tax Credits and HUD grants can help private developers build affordable housing locally without requiring large municipal investments. But accessing these programs requires proactive planning and coordination.

Our current leadership's response to the housing crisis has been to approve high-density developments under the banner of addressing housing costs. But when these projects—like the proposed Navajo Fields development in a wetland area—include no affordability requirements whatsoever, they're not solving the problem for working families.

Building luxury units in environmentally sensitive areas doesn't make housing more affordable—it just makes developers richer while potentially damaging our natural resources and exacerbating flooding concerns.

What Yorktown Needs Now

We need leaders who understand that investing in infrastructure isn't just about fixing what's broken—it's about building systems that work for the future. We need to:

- Pursue federal resilience grants for proactive infrastructure upgrades
- Coordinate with Westchester County on regional solutions like our sewer system
- Leverage programs that help developers build housing that is affordable at a variety of price points
- Implement community solar projects that benefit renters and homeowners alike

Time to Lead

Ten years is a significant tenure in local government—long enough to implement meaningful change, complete major projects, and move a community forward. Instead, Yorktown has been stuck in crisis management mode, celebrating parking lot repairs while real infrastructure challenges go unaddressed.

The question isn't whether we can afford to invest in our infrastructure and housing—it's whether we can afford not to.

Jann Mirchandani is running for Yorktown Supervisor.

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Hope to hear from you! Thanks!

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Events

ANTIQUA LOVERS TAKE NOTE: BRIMFIELD IS HERE-ALL SHOWS! September 2-7 New Shows open daily! Info for 2025:brimfieldantiqueweek.com.

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Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, AUG. 30

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

Book Buddies, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Children ages 7 and up can join us for a unique reading experience in one of our animal enclosures, where they can enjoy reading in an engaging and unique environment. \$10 fee for a 30-minute time slot (limited to one registration per time slot). Also: Sept. 27.

Get details and register: <https://www.muscotefarm.org/programs-events/event/2025/08/30/1756562400/book-buddies/528172>

Lasdon Park, Arboretum & Veterans Memorial, Katonah: (914) 864-7268

The History and Highlights of Lasdon Park, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Urban naturalist Bruce Rosenberg leads a free walking tour that will focus on Lasdon's Arboretum. Also: Aug. Sept. 27. Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/history-and-highlights-of-lasdon-arboretum/>

Hilltop Hanover Farm & Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050

Sweet Farm-to-Table, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Craving something sweet? Adults and kids 8 and older can join us to harvest and make dessert fresh from the farm. \$20 class fee. Also: Sept. 27. Get details and pre-register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sweet-farm-to-table-tickets-1374762163639>

Tibbetts Brook Park, Yonkers: (914) 231-2870

DJ Day, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Swim and enjoy music at the pool! Participation is free; admission and parking fees apply. Westchester County residency is required; weather permitting. Get details: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/family-fun-days>

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

Art Exhibit: "Second Time Around: More Works From Martin Munroe," 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Munroe's journey continues down the road of acrylic and canvas. Tomorrow is the exhibit's final day. Get details: <https://www.muscotefarm.org/programs-events/art-shows-at-muscote.html>

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466

Naturalist's Choice Hike, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Join us for a walk through Marshlands' trails at as we interpret the wondrous things nature is showing us today.

Hilltop Hanover Farm & Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050

Savory Farm-to-Table, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Let's review sustainable methods of harvesting and kitchen skills related to the recipe, and then enjoy what we make together! \$20 class fee. Also: Sept. 27.

Get details and pre-register: <https://hilltophanoverfarm.org/events/event/2025/07/26/1753552800/savory-farm-to-table/525865>

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

Pond Patrol: Exploring Water-Quality Indicators, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Ages 10 and up can come along on an exciting outdoor adventure at our ice pond! In this hands-on program, you'll venture to the pond to search for macro-invertebrate small aquatic beings that reveal a lot about the health of our water and ecosystem. Also: Sept. 27. Pre-registration required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pond-patrol-exploring-water-quality-indicators-tickets-1396605096439?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Lasdon Park, Arboretum & Veterans Memorial, Katonah: (914) 864-7268

Lasdon Green Squad, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Every Saturday from April to November join the Lasdon Green Squad to keep Lasdon, Westchester's Public Garden looking beautiful. Volunteers will work with Lasdon staff on tasks such as invasive species removal, planting, watering, weeding, trail maintenance, mulching, trash clean up, and other tasks. For those age 14 and older. Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/lasdon-green-squad-2-2/2025-08-30/>

SUNDAY, AUG. 31

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

Yoga in the Gardens, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Take a yoga class in the Conservatory or Gardens (weather dependent). Class will include meditation, poses, movement with the breath (Vinyasa). For beginner or advanced. \$25 per person. Pre-registration required: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/yoga-in-the-gardens/2025-08-31/>

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

Muscote Farmers Market, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. The market supports farmers and sustainable efforts in our area, featuring over 30 local vendors every Sunday until Nov. 16. Get details: <https://www.muscotefarm.org/marets/>

Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial, Katonah: (914) 864-7263

Gardening Sundays and Tuesdays, Weekly, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Enhance your gardening skills and plant knowledge by working side by side with the gardeners at Lasdon Park. Tasks include planting, watering, weeding, pruning, staking, deadheading, potting up and more! Through November. Also: Tuesday, Sept. 2. Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/gardening-sundays-2/2025-08-31>

Saxon Woods Pool, White Plains: (914) 995-4480.

DJ Day, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Swim and enjoy music at the pool! Participation is free; admission fees apply. Westchester County residency is required; weather permitting. Get details: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/family-fun-days>.

Westchester Rising

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Con Ed, continued from pg 1-

their energy costs.

Board Chairman Vedat Gashi (D- New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, "We are united against Con Edison's outrageous rate hike proposals—across party lines, branches of government, local communities, state representatives, and, as we heard at our last Public Input Session, Con Ed workers themselves."

In addition to Chairman Gashi, legislators Shanae Williams, Terry Clements, Nancy E. Barr, Benjamin Boykin II, David T. Imamura, Erika L. Pierce, Jewel Williams Johnson, Emiljana Ulaj, and Margaret A. Cunzio listened intently to speakers, which included Mount Kisco Mayor J. Michael Cindrich and Trustee Thomas G. Luzio.

Residents are encouraged to submit written comments directly to the PSC at <https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=25-E-0072>.

Editor's Note: In most cases, a Whistleblower like to stay out of the public eye. We recently heard from John Stiloski, who complained about his Village of Tarrytown overpaying for a new fire truck; he put his name to it.

Mr. Morales is the President of the Utility Workers Union of America, A.F.L.-C.I.O., Local 1-2. He is a prominent member of labor in our region, and he testified to improper practices from Con Edison. Morales was by far, the most notable speaker at the BOL public hearings to date.

Con Edison has proposed rate hikes for 2026 that would increase the average electric bill by 11.4% and the average natural gas bill by 13.3%.

Seat Maker App, continued from pg 1-

sit. People were moving chairs, asking around, and trying to figure it out on the fly. A week later, I went to a wedding dinner and saw the same thing. It almost ruined the whole night. That's when it clicked. There should be a fast, mobile app for seating that actually works. No spreadsheets, no long setup. Just a simple way to build and share a seating chart that makes sense."

What is the concept?

"Seat Maker makes event seating simple. Whether it's a dinner, party, mitzvah, or school event, figuring out where people sit is usually stressful. Most tools out there are designed for desktop or require complicated setup."

How did it get so popular?

"I solved a real pain point. No one wants to retype guest lists or deal with long spreadsheets. With Seat Maker, you import from contacts, drag to a seat, and you are done. Short demo clips, social media channels, and ambassadors also helped promote the product a lot. It reached #4 in U.S. Paid Lifestyle within 24 hours and #75 overall, with more than 30,000 impressions and strong early reviews."

What are Your Future Plans?

"I am a senior at Blind Brook High School in Rye Brook, NY. I plan to study business and entrepreneurship in college while continuing to build Seat Maker."

What are your thoughts on AI?

"As a kid, I remember asking Google for hours on end to fix simple problems. AI helped me move faster. I used it to learn SwiftUI, debug, and pressure test ideas. For Seat Maker, I am exploring smart seating suggestions and conflict checks."

Have you had any other successes in creating apps or in the tech industry?

"In high school, I started a coding class for kids, a tutoring program for AP Computer Science students, and built websites for local businesses. Seat Maker is my first iOS app and my biggest launch so far."

What does it cost to use your APP?

Seat Maker is now free to download on iOS (as of today). I am also planning on implementing a one-time purchase (OTP) that will unlock new/premium features (e.g., ad-free, advanced templates, smart seating suggestions, batch tools).

How do you monetize Seat Maker?

I currently monetize with in-app advertisements.

We tried Austin's app and found it to be very useful and easy to use for older, non-tech-savvy individuals like this reporter.

If you have an upcoming event, Try Seat Maker at www.seatmakerapp.com/ **Austin Frankel is a 17-year-old high school senior from Rye Brook, NY, and the creator of Seat Maker. He is an entrepreneur who loves turning ideas into life. I'm ambitious and motivated to keep building, learning, and finding new ways to make an impact. Contact Austin at austinhfrankel@gmail.com.**

Putnam County Sheriff Kevin McConville

Passes at the Age of 68



Sheriff Kevin J. McConville passed away peacefully in the early morning hours of Friday, August 22, 2025. He was exactly where he wanted to be: in his bed, in his home, surrounded by his family. He was 68 years old. McConville was a life-long resident of Cold Spring, NY. He was born on January 31, 1957, and was raised in the village, where he lived with his parents, former Mayor Ronald McConville and Marjorie "June" McConville, and his siblings, Barbara, Ronnie, and Dickie. McConville graduated from Haldane High School in 1975, and received both his

undergraduate and graduate degrees from Marist University. In 1982, he married his high school sweetheart Janice (née Brigati) and together they raised their three children — Ryan, Kylie, and Ilana — in the same house he grew up in, in the village he adored.

McConville was a man of devotion: to his family, his friends, his community, and to his work. He was a proud police officer, a career he treated with unflinching reverence and respect. With more than 30 years of service in the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Police Department, he began his career as a patrolman, rising through the ranks to become the first member from the Agency to be appointed Chief of Police in 2005. Prior to becoming Chief of Police, McConville was First Deputy Chief of the Department, Captain of the District 6 Command, Captain of the Department Manual Development Team, and held roles as Sergeant, Lieutenant, and Detective, as well as Executive Officer in various units.

During his tenure as Chief, he created the Interagency Counter Terrorism Team, worked closely with the FBI and members of the Joint Terrorism Task Force, and created a fifty-team Canine (K9) Unit. He managed the MTA's response at Grand Central on September 11, 2001, coordinating alongside local and state police agencies to ensure Grand Central, railways, and subway lines were safe and secure. He was Chief of Police during the London and Madrid bombings, where he assisted the MTAPD response and developed strategies and deployment plans that were instrumental to maintaining public safety and security. He was also a member of the Governor's Homeland Security Team. After retiring as Chief in 2008, he served as Director of Security at Hudson Valley Hospital Center (now New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital) in Cortlandt, NY, until 2020.

In 2021, he was elected Sheriff of Putnam County, where he was incredibly proud to serve the community and county that he loved. Under his leadership, he improved working conditions for the men and women of his department by implementing safer, more efficient, and appropriate services such as a new records management system and a new jail management system. He ensured that a radio communication system, which was years in the making, went into effect and obtained new vehicles for officers. He routinely worked with schools and leadership teams to keep students and faculty safe and partnered with local mental health and domestic violence organizations to provide support, services, and resources for those in need.

In December of 2024, McConville and the Sheriff's Department achieved Division of Criminal Justice Services (Division) State Accreditation in Law Enforcement, a major achievement and benefit to all county residents. In addition to the DCJS State Accreditation, the Putnam County Sheriff's Office Response Team also met the standards for the SWAT Team Certification. With just its DCJS Accreditation, the Sheriff's Department became the only agency in Putnam County to receive such accreditation, let alone two certifications.

McConville was a public servant in every sense of the word, devoting his life to serving others with integrity, courage, and compassion. He was a Trustee of the New York State Sheriffs Association, a lifelong member of the New York State Association of Chiefs of Police, the New York State Fraternal Order of Police, Stephen P. Driscoll Lodge #704, the Hudson Valley 10-13 Association, Knights of Columbus Council 36318, and the Brewster Elks Lodge #2101.

His family was exceptionally proud of his professional achievements, but at home, he was just Dad. He was an adoring husband, a dedicated father, and a beloved "Bop" to his grandchildren, Bennett and Reagan. He was silly, sarcastic, stubborn, steadfast, and a total softie for his favorite dog, Wolf. He taught his children and his grandchildren to be kind, smart, considerate, faithful, and to argue better than anyone else in the room (even when that person was him). He loved them more than anything — and was infamous for having "something in his eye" whenever he talked about them.

He was always ready for one of Reagan's knock-knock jokes and he made an incredibly convincing Robin to Bennett's Batman, even converting his closet into a batcave. He was happiest when they were all together, whether that was in the backyard at their house in Cold Spring, overlooking his favorite view of the river, or on family trips to Fort Myers, Florida. He loved the chaos that came with 10 people sharing two bathrooms. He was endlessly loyal, altruistic, and compassionate.

He dedicated hours to his work and his personal and professional development, but always made time for his kids. He was a Pop Warner coach, a CYO coach, a Little League coach, a school trip chaperone, and a fixture at Saturday morning rec and AAU games. As they got older, he loved watching Ryan, Kylie, and Ilana play football and basketball at Haldane, and regularly made the five-hour trip to St. Lawrence University to watch Ryan play football in college. He was such a proud Bop watching Bennett and Reagan play baseball and softball.

He is survived by his wife of 43 years, Janice; his son, Ryan (Megan) McConville; his daughters, Kylie ("Z") and Ilana (Andrew) McConville; his grandchildren, Bennett and Reagan McConville; and his brothers, Ronnie (Diane) McConville and Dickie (Carol Ann) McConville. Ask, and they will tell you he is deeply loved and will be deeply missed.

Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne said, "Kevin dedicated his life to public service, most recently as one of Putnam County's top law enforcement officials. He served with integrity, courage, fairness, and an unwavering commitment to the community he loved. Sheriff McConville faced his long illness with the same strength and dignity that marked his career. Even during the most difficult times, his focus was always on the safety and well-being of others. On behalf of all of Putnam County, I extend my deepest condolences to Kevin's family, friends, colleagues, and the men and women of the Sheriff's Department. He will be greatly missed."



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Stolen Checks, continued from pg 1-

check issued by the Southern Westchester BOCES to the “Mt Pleasant Cottage School,” according to the felony complaint.

By law, public school districts are required, in some circumstances, to pay for their disabled students’ out-of-district educational expenses.

Further, on Nov. 25, the defendant is accused of opening another bank account in the LLC’s name at Chase Bank. As alleged in the felony complaint, the defendant deposited two checks issued to the Mount Pleasant Cottage School into this account: one, worth \$96,103.43, issued by the County of Onondaga; another, worth \$7,438.26, issued by the Carmel Central School District.

Further still, on Dec. 5, the defendant is accused of opening a bank account at the Bank of America in the LLC’s name. Into this account, the defendant deposited a \$19,114.05 check issued by the County of Onondaga to the Mount Pleasant Cottage School.

After depositing the above-referenced checks, the defendant made cash withdrawals and bought a Chanel purse, according to the felony complaint.

The investigation was conducted by the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office, the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Mount Pleasant Police Department.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Emily Rowe-Smith of the Economic Crimes Bureau.

The District Attorney’s Office would like to take this opportunity to remind Westchester residents to avoid, to the extent practicable, issuing physical checks in the mail.

Despite the decreasing use of physical checks, check-related fraud has surged since the start of the pandemic. Federal regulatory filings related to check fraud increased by 132% from 2020 to 2024.

In lieu of physical checks, consumers can make payments electronically through their bank’s website or mobile app.

Editor’s Note: Three points:

I-Is it really worth it if you have to steal from a disabled school? Perhaps, if the money were needed for the medical needs of a family member, or to keep your home. Even then...

II-Allende set up the phony LLC and then started to deposit checks meant for the school. At some point, the accountants or bookkeepers at the school would realize that deposits and/or checks were missing, especially in the amount of \$96,103.43. That check amount is unique, and would be easy to find.

III-DA Cacace is correct in warning residents not to use checks whenever possible. With electronic deposit and bill pay, most of us use very few checks today. But in this case, the check likely made it easier for investigators to follow into Allende’s phony LLC account. They might even have been able to watch video from the bank the day the deposit was made and see Allende committing Grand Larceny.

Not the best thought out crime!

North Castle Gun Family, continued from pg 1-

possession. Brandon Brois, 27, was sentenced to the minimum prison term by State Supreme Court Judge Larry Schwartz despite prosecutors’ request for a term of 12 years in state prison.

In January 2022, Brois was found in possession of an arsenal of illegal firearms in his Armonk home, including two assault weapons, a machine gun, two rifles, two pistols and a shotgun. In October 2024, a jury returned guilty verdicts convicting Brois on a total of 10 counts including Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Fourth Degree.

DA Cacace said: “Our office remains fully committed to combatting the scourge of illegal firearms that plague our community. Far too often these illegal firearms land in the hands of our most violent criminals, resulting in serious assaults and, at times, homicide. We will continue to team with law enforcement to keep all of Westchester safe.”

This prosecution was a result of an investigation by the North Castle Police Department, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety’s Real Time Crime Center, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office.

Brandon Brois’ parents, Theodore and Helene Brois, who all lived in the home at 3 Tallwoods Road, North Castle, were also charged in the incident, dating back to 2022. All three were charged with the illegal possession of nearly 50 guns, including semi-automatic rifles, shotguns, machine guns and a ghost gun, by then DA Mimi Rocah.

Helene Brois, now 65 was charged with Criminal Possession of a Firearm. Theodore Brois, now 70, was charged with first-degree criminal possession of a weapon.

On January 25, 2022, at approximately 11:25 a.m., the North Castle Police Department arrested the three defendants who had no permits to legally purchase or possess firearms, and seized 48 guns, which were found in several rooms throughout the house. At least 15 of the guns were loaded.

The defendants’ arrests were a result of an investigation by the North Castle Police Department, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, the

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

-Thomas Jefferson

No Kid Hungry Reminds New York Families to Apply for Summer EBT- Deadline Sept. 4



Program gives eligible families \$120 per child to cover cost of food – visit summerebt.ny.gov to check your eligibility and apply

See Summer EBT reminder video from New York Governor Kathy Hochul and No Kid Hungry New York Director Rachel Sabella here

No Kid Hungry today reminded New York families to check their eligibility for Summer EBT and apply before the September 4 deadline. The program provides much-needed relief for households by helping cover the cost of groceries when school is out, ensuring children can enjoy healthy meals year-round.

Summer EBT gives eligible New York families a one-time installment of \$120 per child on a Summer EBT card, which can be used to pay for groceries. Now in its second year, Summer EBT will provide approximately \$250 million in grocery benefits to more than 2 million children in every corner of the state. New Yorkers can check their eligibility and submit an application by visiting summerebt.ny.gov.

“Families are stretched thin right now as grocery bills across our state continue to climb. Summer EBT provides direct support to eligible families and makes sure that kids can have healthy meals any time of year – even when school is out. The deadline to apply is almost here, and I encourage every family to check their eligibility and apply before September 4,” said Rachel Sabella, Director of No Kid Hungry New York.

Rising costs are continuing to put healthy meal options out of reach for many New York families. Earlier this year, No Kid Hungry New York issued a poll, which showed that 86 percent of New York households said the cost of food was rising faster than their income. Fifty-three percent of New Yorkers also reported that their debt has increased in the past year due to the cost of food

About No Kid Hungry

No child should go hungry in America. But millions of kids could face hunger this year. No Kid Hungry is working to end childhood hunger by helping launch and improve programs that give all kids the healthy food they need to thrive. This is a problem we know how to solve. No Kid Hungry is a campaign of Share Our Strength, an organization committed to ending hunger and poverty. Join us at NoKidHungry.org

Back to School Drive, Continued from pg 8-

off strong.”

Tom Gabriel, United Way of Westchester and Putnam President and CEO, said, “40% of our Westchester residents are living in poverty or paycheck-to-paycheck, and with the skyrocketing costs of necessities like food and clothing, the donations from the Back-To-School Drive will save hard-working families real money as they get their children ready for school.”

Jessica Orozco Guttlein, Acting Co-President of Hispanic Federation said, “Back-to-school season is a time of excitement and possibility for students across New York State. At the same time, it is also a period when many parents stress about finding essential supplies and ensuring their children are ready for the school year. That’s why Hispanic Federation is proud to work with community members and dedicated leaders like Senator Shelley Mayer to alleviate some of that stress and ensure our children have the essential tools they need to thrive in the classroom. Together, we are addressing long-standing disparities in hopes that students are able to start the school year with dignity, confidence, and opportunity.”



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