

Note to the Fight Lawler Crowd: Doxxing His Supporters Doesn't Help Your Cause



A Fight Lawler protestor, left, with "Epstein Files" printed around her private parts

A Teacher and Police Officer from Yorktown Harassed for Supporting SALT Deduction Increases

By Dan Murphy

With Congress now on summer recess, Rep. Mike Lawler has returned to his NY-17 district (Northern Westchester, Putnam, Rockland) to discuss the details of the Federal Budget Bill that was passed and signed into law by President Trump.

Among those details is a quadrupling of the SALT deduction, the amount of State and Local Taxes, including property taxes, that homeowners can deduct from their federal income tax returns.

The SALT deduction was reduced and capped in 2018 at \$10,000. For most Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland homeowners, that meant that if their property taxes are \$20,000, they could only deduct \$10k.

Now the SALT deduction is \$40,000, a 4x increase for those earning less than \$500,000. As you head further south in Westchester,

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ICE's Biggest Blunder: Scarsdale HS Grad Yeonsoo Go is Released After 5 Days Detention



Yeonsoo Go, left

By Dan Murphy

A "worst case scenario," and the fears of many undocumented residents in Westchester played out last week when 20-year-old Yeonsoo Go was detained by ICE for five days for no legal cause.

Known as Soo to family and friends, Yeonsoo came to New York from South Korea in 2021, with her mother on a religious Visa. She attended Scarsdale High School and graduated in 2024. Her mother is an Episcopal church pastor and works at a church in Scarsdale.

Soo is attending Purdue University and was attending what was to be a routine Immigration hearing in NYC when ICE detained her.

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Westchester Native Madison Nero, Miss Earth USA-Water, Brings the Fight for Climate Policy to DC



Madison Nero

By Bryan Fumagalli

Whether she is wearing a bikini on a reality TV show or addressing congress, Westchester's Madison Nero is making waves from Michigan to Washington.

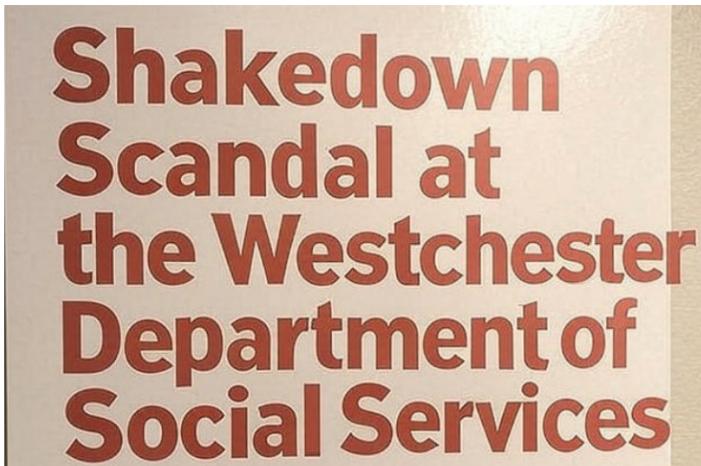
Nero, 21, who holds the title of Miss Earth USA Water, finished as the second runner up in the Miss Earth USA competition, a leading environmental pageant that combines the beauty pageant industry with pressing environmental issues.

The Miss Earth USA 2025 pageant was broadcast this summer through a reality show "Pretty Down To Earth" exclusively broadcast on QBN, the Queen Beauty Network.

"The preliminary competition included a private impact statement, swim wear, evening gown and abbreviated on-stage impact statement,"

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Westchester Social Services Clerk Arrested in Daycare Shakedown Scheme



Cheryl Spencer, a social services audit clerk, is accused of demanding payments in exchange for issuing reimbursement checks

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that a Department of Social Services (DSS) Senior

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Smile Your on Camera! 14,897 Tix Issued in Year 1 of AI-Powered School Bus Safety Plan

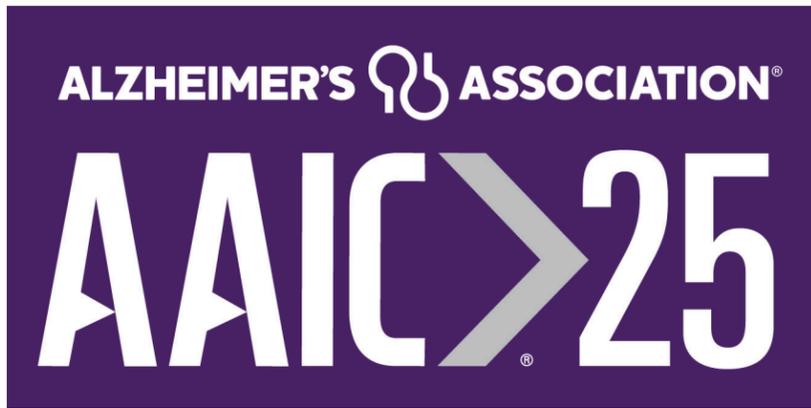


No one is thinking about back to school just yet, but the numbers are in from last school year and from November 18, 2024 through June 26, 2025 there were 14,897 tickets, across 879 buses, mailed to motorists who were caught on camera failing to stop for school buses stopped with their red lights flashing and stop-arm extended. Less than 7% of the violations were from repeat offenders.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "The safety of our children is non-negotiable, and the success of this program sends a clear message that illegal and dangerous passing of stopped school buses will not be tolerated. Every ticket issued through our School Bus Stop Arm Safety Camera Program sends a message that we are looking out for our kids and that drivers who illegally pass school buses will be held accountable for breaking the law, even when they think no one is watching. In less than one year this program has grown to be integrated within 12 of Westchester's school districts, with seven

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New discoveries in Alzheimer’s and Dementia Research Highlighted at Alzheimer’s Conference



New research results reported at the Alzheimer’s Association International Conference® 2025 (AAIC®) advanced scientific understanding of risk, diagnosis and treatment of Alzheimer’s disease and other dementias.

This year’s conference in Toronto attracted nearly 19,000 registered attendees and included more than 6,400 scientific submissions.

“AAIC is a cornerstone event for Alzheimer’s researchers—and for everyone committed to a future without Alzheimer’s and dementia,” said Anthony Marino, regional vice president of the Alzheimer’s Association New York City Chapter. “As the world’s leading nonprofit funder of Alzheimer’s research, the Association recognizes that the discoveries shared at this conference are vital to deepening our understanding of the disease, reducing risk, and supporting caregivers.”

Here are eight major takeaways from this year’s conference:

Two lifestyle interventions in the U.S. POINTER clinical trial improved cognition in older adults at risk of cognitive decline. Both interventions focused on increasing physical activity, improving nutrition, cognitive and social challenge, and health monitoring. These positive results underscore the message that healthy behavior has a powerful impact on brain health and encourage us to look at the potential for a combination of a lifestyle program and drug treatment as the next frontier in the fight against cognitive decline and possibly dementia.

The Alzheimer’s Association released its first evidence-based clinical practice guidelines on use of blood biomarker tests by specialists to assist in the diagnosis of Alzheimer’s disease. The guidelines – aimed at a variety of specialists in settings like neurology, psychiatry, geriatrics and more who diagnose and evaluate cognitive impairment – provide rigorous, evidence-based recommendations for using these tests more confidently and consistently.

Taking a combination of common drugs to treat blood pressure, cholesterol and diabetes may slow cognitive decline, according to data from five studies. A study of more than 4,500 older adults showed cognitive test scores similar to people three years younger for participants who took a combination of drugs targeting vascular or metabolic conditions like high cholesterol or blood pressure, all of which are known risk factors for dementia.

Lead in the atmosphere and environment may be linked to memory problems 50 years later, based on a study of more than 600,000 people. Researchers tracked how exposure to airborne lead from 1960-1974 — when leaded gasoline use was at its highest — impacted brain health later in life. The report estimated that half the U.S. population at that time, more than 170 million people, were exposed to high lead levels in early childhood. While leaded gas has long been phased out, other sources of exposure remain, such as old lead paint, pipes and industrial pollution. Experts say people who had past lead exposure should focus on reducing other risk factors for dementia, including

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Westchester Board of Legislators Approves County Fight Against NYSEG’s 24% Rate Hike



The Board of Legislators voted unanimously to advocate for Northern Westchester residents against substantial rate increases recently proposed by New York State Electric and Gas (NYSEG).

In a bipartisan decision, the Board authorized the County to join NYSEG’s rate proceedings before the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC), which regulates the utility. This action continues the Board’s efforts to challenge the utility rate increases that burden residents, demonstrating the County’s commitment to working families, older adults, and small-business owners by safeguarding access to affordable electricity and gas.

On June 30, NYSEG proposed rate increases that would raise residential utility bills by an average of 23.7% for electricity and 33.5% for gas, starting May 2026. These hikes would follow six years of prior increases that have generated significant utility profits while many residents struggle with basic necessities.

By obtaining party status in the rate case, the County gains legal standing to conduct discovery, submit testimony, and participate in hearings to advocate directly for residents. This intervention follows the County’s similar action in Con Edison’s rate case in March, showing the Board’s dedication to challenging excessive utility rate increases through the regulatory process.

The PSC will determine final rates after a months-long administrative process. The Board of Legislators will soon host Public Input Sessions in Northern Westchester municipalities in NYSEG’s coverage area, giving residents the opportunity to share their experiences and submit comments for the public record in NYSEG’s rate case before the PSC.

Board Chairman Vedat Gashi (D- New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, “NYSEG’s rate hikes may impact fewer people than Con Edison’s, but they are no less egregious. In fact, they are significantly higher. People use NYSEG because they have no other choice. It’s a monopoly hiding behind an intentionally frustrating and opaque process. Our vote shows the Board doing everything possible to advocate for our residents.”

Legislator Colin D. Smith (D- Cortlandt, Peekskill, Yorktown), Chair of the Board’s Legislation Committee, said, “As members of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, we are joining NYSEG’s rate case to stand up for our residents and businesses on the record with the PSC. Westchester ratepayers deserve reliable service and fair pricing, not repeated outages, billing problems, and steep increases. We’re taking this step to hold NYSEG accountable and ensure our communities are not left in the dark, literally or financially.”

Legislator Erika L. Pierce (D- Bedford, Lewisboro, Mount Kisco, North Salem, Pound Ridge, Somers) said, “I enthusiastically support our County joining this rate case. I have been flooded with emails from constituents who have had problems with NYSEG. There have been so many issues with poor customer service, delivery, inadequate infrastructure, and problematic billing practices that, as someone living in this district for more than 25 years, NYSEG has made managing and understanding even my own bill impossible. The PSC’s recent audit included 128 recommendations for improvements, which shows the scope of these problems. Our ratepayers need a voice at the table, and Westchester is stepping up to be that voice.”

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Clothing Insecurity in Westchester Grows Rapidly



By Deborah Blatt

Clothing insecurity is dramatically increasing in Westchester County, with more children in need of basic essentials than ever before. At The Sharing Shelf, the nonprofit Clothing Bank serving children and teens in need in Westchester, demand for clothing increased 43.5% in the first half of 2025, compared to the same period last year.

The Sharing Shelf supports area schools, nonprofits and government agencies, providing a seasonal wardrobe – a week’s worth of clothing matched to a child’s sizing need – to children from birth to age 19 who face clothing insecurity. In the first six months of 2025, 4,324 children and teens secured clothing from our program. That’s an increase of 1,310 children compared to the first half of 2024, when we supported 3,014 children and teens. More than a quarter of those we serve—26%—live in Yonkers.

Clothing insecurity—the lack of sufficient, clean, seasonal, and size-appropriate apparel—has profound implications throughout the year. It’s well documented, for instance, that children who are clothing insecure are more likely to endure bullying and miss school. Children facing clothing insecurity withdraw from social engagement and suffer from a lack of confidence and lower self-esteem.

Historically, summer has been a quieter period for our program. With schools on hiatus, we see a correlating drop in demand. This year, that pattern changed. For the first time in our 15 years, demand during summer months is on the rise and dramatically so. In June 2025, The Sharing Shelf received the second-highest number of requests in a single month: 738. That’s a staggering 78% increase compared to the 414 requests received in June 2024.

One might assume that clothing insecurity would take a vacation in the summer, or be a less pressing issue since children are not in school. Unfortunately, that’s not the case, and summer presents its own challenges for those facing clothing insecurity.

Every summer, The Sharing Shelf receives requests for children and teens who don’t have the clothes needed to participate in ordinary summer activities. Many children, for instance, have the chance to take swim lessons or attend day camps with a swimming pool, but they don’t have a bathing suit or flip flops, and their parents can’t afford to buy them.

Overnight camps are often offered to low-income children as a chance to leave an urban setting and experience the outdoors. Yet for many families, meeting the camp packing list—seven pairs of socks and underwear, a rain jacket, and a sturdy pair of shoes—is simply out of reach.

The combination of the increased demand for clothing in the first half of 2025, combined with the spike in June, should sound alarm bells about rising poverty in Westchester, because these numbers are being reported in real time. Typically, childhood poverty is measured by analyzing data collected several years earlier, which tells the story of what was happening at that time recounted today, but that’s not today’s reality. The data we are measuring, the reality we are seeing, is what’s happening right now.

It’s especially worrisome, because this is taking place in Westchester, one of the nation’s wealthiest counties. Despite our county’s affluence, the county’s poverty rate for children under five was 11.1% in 2023 (the latest available data), according to Westchester Children’s Association. In Yonkers, 8 in 10 public school children live in poverty or a low-income home. According to the United Way’s ALICE (Asset Limited Income Constrained Employed), nearly 1 in 4 Westchester households are income-constrained, and a family of four with children in childcare in Westchester needs \$131,316 in income just to cover the essentials.

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Here Comes the RAIN Again!

By Eric Wolf Schoen



I guess Annie Lennox, Dave Stewart and the Eurythmics got it right this summer. Heavens it hasn’t stopped raining out there with a possible break in the storms this weekend. What do we do when the meteorologists put that threat of rain in the forecast. Carry a raincoat ?

No. WITH temps in the morning. at. 79 degree’s reaching 90’s carrying a raincoat as the day goes by can be an awesome task. Try to find a light rain jacket that is easier to carry.

I see it every year and it happens to one of my friends. Just like you should not take cover under a tree in the rain, if you store your bathing suit in mothballs carefully. Wash it before you put it on. If you don’t, you will have the possibility of burning your skin. wash the suit well before you put it away for the winter. Right now is the way perfect time for ladies and gentlemen and children to pick up suits for next tear at a discount.

Water safety should be practiced every time you go swimming. Look at what happened to Stew Leonard’s child. Before you go swimming go over the video Stew Leonard has on the company website about fave swimming practices. Parents make sure to stay with your swimmers as much as you can. We want everyone to be safe all the time but particularly as summer comes to close.

If you are out gardening use an unscented soap. Scented soaps tends to attract bugs, the last thing you need is a bug night while enjoying the beautiful weather.

Moiturize your skin often and make sure drink plenty of liquids. The sun takes the moisture out of your body and can be very dangerous.

Don’t use cell phones or any electrical device in the water. That includes iPads. You can get seriously hurt using any device either plugged in or with a battery in it.

Don’t skimp on sunscreen at the pool. You want to use a good brand, check to make it’s fresh. Don’t use sunscreen from the dollar tree. Cover all exposed parts of the body. Eat half an hour to an hour before and after swimming.

Follow these tips for a wonderful outdoor experience!

If you see Purple Rain, you have had too much to fun on your hands!

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Letter to the Editor: Obviously

Anyone who has ever listened to Rep. Lawler's commentary knows that he begins nearly every statement with the word "obviously"—as if the devastating consequences of his priorities are self-evident and beyond debate. Yet, for the millions of Americans whose lives will be upended by the reconciliation bill, nothing could be further from obvious or acceptable.

Rep. Lawler's repeated use of the word "obviously" subtly undermines honest debate and dismisses legitimate concerns as if only his view makes sense. But let's not allow that rhetoric to obscure the ugly reality: the One Big Beautiful Bill (OBBBA) is a direct assault on some of our country's most vulnerable populations, and Lawler proudly supports it.

Here's what the OBBBA will truly mean for individuals and families across the nation:

Cuts and restrictions to Medicaid causing millions to lose healthcare coverage.

SNAP (Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) cutbacks resulting in food insecurity, poorer health outcomes, and economic hardship.

Clean energy tax credits are gutted, meaning fewer green jobs, higher household energy costs, and worse pollution.

Massively expanded immigration enforcement with quotas resulting in illegal kidnapping and the blatant disregard for the rule of law.

Tax provisions that overwhelmingly favor the wealthy, adding to income inequality while potentially exploding the national debt.

The elimination of investments in education, public health, and infrastructure.

Congressman Lawler's mantra—"obviously"—highlights a refusal to acknowledge facts and the widespread harm this bill will inflict. I urge our community to see through the superficial rhetoric and demand accountability for a lawmaker who uses language to conceal the true human cost of their policies.

Mark A. Lieberman
Yorktown

Schumer and Jeffries must go **By Jon Hochschartner**

In this historical moment, as President Donald Trump and his fascist allies are dismantling American democracy, I'm frequently unsure what the best progressive strategy moving forward is. One thing of which I'm certain, though, is Democratic congressional leadership, in Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer and House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, must be replaced.

They've proven themselves to be wildly out of step with their party's base. The pair are more interested in fighting leftists in their own ranks than the right-wing authoritarian menace engulfing this country and setting us back generations. It's a particularly shameful state of affairs, given both of these conservative Democrats are from New York, which should be a progressive powerhouse.

For instance, both Schumer and Jeffries have so far refused to endorse the winner of the New York City Democratic mayoral primary, Zohran Mamdani, a democratic socialist. The Big Apple, of course, is home to a massive number of people who voted for them and their party. The pair's Mamdani snub is a betrayal of these voters, who have clearly expressed their preference in the contest.

Vice President Kamala Harris was to my right on just about every issue. Still, I voted for her in the 2024 presidential race, and urged others to do the same, in the name of unity against a looming fascist threat. How will Schumer and Jeffries have any credibility urging leftists to rally behind a centrist primary winner, at any level, if they won't back Mamdani, when the shoe is on the other foot?

More recently, Schumer voted against a resolution put forward by Senator Bernie Sanders, blocking the sale of bombs to Israel. I'm by no means an expert on foreign policy or the precise scholarly definition of genocide, but how can you see what's happening in Gaza as anything less than a deliberate effort to exterminate an unwanted ethnic group or force them to move elsewhere?

Beyond the profound moral emptiness of Schumer's stance, from a political perspective, he's completely out of step with the mainstream of the party he nominally leads. Poll after poll show Democratic voters are opposed to Israel's one-sided 'war.' I have no reason to believe Jeffries — a longtime, unquestioning supporter of Israel — would have taken a different position from Schumer.

The Democratic Party's progressive base has a wide variety of policy goals. For example, as an animal activist, I'd like to see a massive infusion of state and federal funding into cultivated-meat research. The new protein is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter. However, none of our goals can be achieved under fascist rule, which Trump and his gang of criminals is trying to establish.

Unfortunately, Schumer and Jeffries are willing to sacrifice party unity and political effectiveness in order to retain their vision of a conservative Democratic Party. They have shown themselves fundamentally incapable of standing up to right-wing authoritarianism, perhaps because they view leftists as a greater threat. We have to replace these two so-called leaders of the opposition.

Jon Hochschartner lives in Connecticut. He is the author of a number of books, including *The Animals' Freedom Fighter: A Biography of Ronnie Lee*, *Founder of the Animal Liberation Front*.

Yonkers Man Pleads Guilty to Brutal Murder of Great Grandmother, For What?



***Because Her Relatives
Disrespected Him?***

Deshawn Nunez

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that Deshawn Nunez, 24, of Yonkers, pleaded guilty to Murder in the Second Degree, a class A felony, for killing 68-year-old Renee Spencer in 2022.

Nunez is expected to be sentenced to 25 years to life in prison, the maximum possible sentence for this charge, on Sept. 25.

DA Cacace said: "Our hearts break for the family of Renee Spencer, who was a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. The defendant has permanently robbed this grieving family of her warmth and companionship. This guilty plea now provides closure for a terrible chapter in their lives and will ensure that Mr. Nunez is held accountable for his depraved conduct."

In the late-night hours of Aug. 9, 2022, Nunez stabbed the victim 17 times inside her Nepperhan Ave. apartment, killing her.

The case was investigated by the Yonkers Police Department. On Thursday, August 11th, 2022, at approximately 1:19 PM, members of the Yonkers Police Department responded to an apartment inside 289 Nepperhan Avenue on a report of a deceased female. Upon arrival First Responders located an elderly female down on the floor in a lifeless state in the presence of blood splatter; upon examination the female victim was found with multiple stab wounds. No other persons were present in the apartment. Police cordoned off the scene and initiated a criminal investigation.

Detectives from the Major Case Squad and Crime Scene Unit responded to the scene and interviewed subjects and witnesses, recovered surveillance video, and processed forensic evidence. Investigation yielded that the victim and a male suspect entered the building together on the night of August 9th, with the suspect leaving the building alone approximately 90 minutes later. On August 11th, a family member of the victim called building management to check on her welfare after not hearing from the same, leading to the discovery of the crime scene. Investigators developed information identifying the suspect as Deshawn NUNEZ.

During the evening of August 10th, a day after the murder but before its discovery, 3rd Precinct Patrol Officers observed Deshawn NUNEZ loitering in the area of 372 Riverdale Avenue; NUNEZ was known to the officers and they had information that he had multiple active warrants and that he was violating a stay-away order of protection at the location. Officers placed NUNEZ into custody without incident.

Investigators believe that NUNEZ and the victim were known to each other, and he allegedly stabbed her multiple times in the torso with a kitchen knife that was recovered at scene. NUNEZ made spontaneous statements implicating himself in the murder. Detectives further believe that NUNEZ's motivation may have been retaliation for perceived past incidents involving relatives of the victim; the case remains under active investigation.

Commissioner Chris Sapienza stated, "This most heinous of crimes, perpetrated upon a defenseless older woman, is horrific and unimaginable. People who commit extreme acts of violence must be met with extreme acts of justice under the law — alleged criminals like Deshawn Nunez, when found guilty, must never be allowed to harm anyone else again. I applaud the excellent work by our Police Officers and Detectives in removing this violent individual from our community."

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Westchester BOL Approves \$158 Million WCC Budget, Boosting Funding by More than 10%

Latimer Votes Against Cutting Big-Bird-PBS, Wants Answers on Amtrak Metro-North Bronx Delay



Westchester Community College President Dr. Belinda Miles

Investment to Expand Access, Enhance Student Services and Upgrade Campus Facilities

The Westchester County Board of Legislators today approved a significant investment in higher education, adopting the SUNY Westchester Community College (WCC) 2025–26 budget which includes \$158.8 million in total funding—a more than 10% increase over the prior year, to strengthen student services, academic offerings, and campus facilities.

The budget includes \$127.5 million in operating funds and \$31.3 million in capital investments, with a notable increase in the County Sponsor Contribution to \$26.2 million, up \$350,000 from last year. This enhanced County support will help maintain WCC’s affordable tuition and high-quality academic programs, while directly funding critical upgrades in technology, infrastructure, and student-facing services.

Board Chairman Vedat Gashi (D- New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, “This budget represents our commitment to making quality higher education accessible and affordable for all Westchester residents. The increased funding will help WCC continue to provide excellent academic programs and student services, which keeping tuition costs manageable for families. It’s a smart investment that meets the college’s critical needs, maximizes value for taxpayers, and fuels opportunity, innovation, and workforce development across the region.”

Key Budget Highlights:

\$158.8 million total investment (\$127.5M operating + \$31.3M capital) – up from \$144.1 million in 2024–25

\$26.2 million County contribution – a \$350,000 increase from last year

\$31.3 million in capital improvements – up from \$21.6 million

Support for 571 full-time positions to ensure robust instruction and student services

Funding is supported by student tuition (\$51.9M), state aid (\$30.5M), County sponsor contribution (\$26.2M). Additional revenue sources include departmental income, chargebacks, fund balance, and investment interest totaling approximately \$18.9M.

The increased capital funding will allow for facility upgrades and technology enhancements that benefit both students and the broader Westchester community. The operating funds support academic programming, student advisement, and essential campus services that help students succeed whether they are transferring to four-year institutions or entering the workforce directly.

Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson (D- Elmsford, Greenburgh, Tarrytown, White Plains) Chair of the Board’s Budget & Appropriations Committee, said, “I’m proud to represent the district with the most enrolled students at Westchester Community College, and I remain deeply committed to the success of its students, faculty, staff, and more than appreciate President Belinda Miles. This fiscally responsible and forward-looking budget strengthens WCC’s ability to remain one of the most affordable and impactful institutions in our region. With increased support for both operations and capital improvements, we are ensuring that WCC continues to grow, adapt, and serve as a vital educational and economic engine for Westchester County.”

Westchester Community College is public two-year institution that serves 13,000 students across more than 70 degree and certificate programs each year. The College plays a vital role in regional workforce development through partnerships with local businesses and training programs aligned with emerging industry needs. WCC offers transfer programs, career training, continuing education, and workforce development for students across Westchester County and the surrounding region.

Dr. Belinda Miles, President of SUNY Westchester Community College said of the budget approval, “The SUNY WCC community appreciates the support of the County Legislature for the college’s mission of ensuring accessible, high quality, and affordable education to meet the myriad needs of our dynamic and evolving student population. By passing this budget, the County affirms its commitment to student success, academic excellence, workforce development, economic mobility, and lifelong learning.” The 2025–26 fiscal year begins September 1, 2025, through August 31, 2026.



Rep. George Latimer

Congressman George Latimer released the following statement after he voted against rescinding funding, that is already law, for public broadcasting and life-saving foreign aid: “This rescissions package reflects the extreme and out-of-touch DOGE agenda. It slashes civilian aid to Ukraine and Eastern European allies, strips access to basic family planning for 48 million women worldwide and eliminates the U.S. contribution to UNICEF. It even eliminates funding for public broadcasting, jeopardizing PBS Kids, local public TV and radio, and the emergency alert systems communities rely on during natural disasters.

“Republicans call these cuts ‘savings,’ but this is funding they voted for in the bipartisan Continuing Resolution. This isn’t about fiscal responsibility. It’s about imposing a harmful, ideological agenda at home and abroad. It is an agenda that will destroy America.”

“The rescissions bill pulls back \$9 billion in funding Congress already voted on and President Trump signed into law this year. This package codifies cuts that Elon Musk and the so-called Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) recommended that will destroy the government and weaken U.S. power and standing in the world,” said Latimer, who also recently joined with other elected officials in the Bronx to ask Amtrak for answers after it was reported that four new Bronx Metro North stations will not be opened until 2028 at the earliest. The project will extend Metro North access to Penn Station. This is the third time this project has been delayed since breaking ground in 2022.

“This is an incredibly frustrating setback for many of my constituents who will greatly benefit from access to these stations. East side Metro North access will cut work commutes, open up new job opportunities, and increase economic development in the Bronx,” said Rep. Latimer. “Many of us who commute on Amtrak through Penn Station understand these benefits and how a new world would open up if Metro North ran to Penn Station. This project needs to get done.”

In the letter Rep. Latimer sent to Amtrak, he requests additional information for yet another delay to this critical project and what it will mean for the project’s future. When the project broke ground in 2022, Amtrak contributed \$500 million to the project while also committing to pay delay costs if Amtrak was unable to meet its labor and outage commitments. In the letter Rep. Latimer cites that President Trump’s proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2026 cuts Amtrak’s budget by 25%, so any subsequent delay could have compounding consequences for the future of this project.

“I thank Congressman Latimer for his focus on this critical issue. The Penn Station Access project is one of the most transformational infrastructure investments our region has seen in decades. Residents along Westchester’s Sound Shore have waited far too long for equitable, efficient transit access. This delay is deeply disappointing, and I urge all partners—especially Amtrak and the MTA—to work together to accelerate the timeline. Establishing a one-seat ride into Penn Station is essential. The economic opportunity, improved healthcare access, and enhanced quality of life this project promises are simply too important to delay any further,” said Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins.

“Many New Rochelle residents commute on Metro North and will benefit from direct access to Penn Station. Each delay means lost time at work or with their families. I urge Amtrak and the MTA to work together to expedite the work needed and get this project back on track,” said New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert.

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NOTICE OF SERVICE OF PROCESS BY PUBLICATION

STATE OF NEW YORK WESTCHESTER COUNTY

In the District Court

25CV005296-400 Child Custody Proceeding To against Andre Peart:

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled Child Custody proceeding. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

Child Custody Complaint in Guilford County, North Carolina

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than August 23, 2025 and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 28th day of July, 2025

Kelley Brosky, Atty. for the Plaintiff

122 N. Elm St., Suite 900, Greensboro, NC 27401

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 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 SteenShotz 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.

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THE CITY OF YONKERS/YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BUREAU OF PURCHASING, One Larkin Center, 3RD Floor, Yonkers, New York 10701 (Located in the Yonkers Riverfront Library Building across from the Metro-North train station) will receive sealed Bids and Proposals for the following projects until 2:00 PM, on the dates below.

Sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read at the address above in the 3rd Floor Finance Conference Room.

The building is open from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM for receiving packages via courier services and in person. If delivering bids in person, individuals must see the Public Safety Officer in the library atrium, who will contact Purchasing to meet the individual at the 3rd floor elevator.

Those interested in listening to the Sealed Bids opening and the reading of bids can dial Conference Call number 1-701-802-5221 and enter Access Code 1354203 when prompted.

Solicitation documents are available for downloading from the Empire State Purchasing Group website at <http://www.empirestatebidsystem.com/>. The City welcomes and encourages participation by local and minority and women owned business enterprises.

1) Bid No. RFB-7501 – Opening date: 08/22/2025: Twelve-month contract to purchase up to 60 HAPCO TB1-20 Transformer Bases (or Yonkers Approved Equal) (FB).

2) Bid No. IFB-7506 – Opening Date: 09/05/2025: Contract valid until completion for Asbestos Abatement at City Hall outside of Room 109 (TN).

3) Bid No. RFB-7504 – Opening Date: 08/29/2025: Twelve-month contract with an option to extend for the purchase of ½” crush stone as needed (TN).

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.

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.

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 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.

Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

County Executive Jenkins Announces Nearly \$400k in Funding for TeamBirth Program



\$384K for TeamBirth Program at St. John's Riverside Hospital is Part of the Westchester County Maternal Mortality Initiative

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins has announced \$384,311 in funding for the TeamBirth Program at St. John's Riverside Hospital in Yonkers. The TeamBirth Program, which is funded by Westchester County's Maternal Mortality Initiative, was created to improve the safety, quality of care, and experience of childbirth by enhancing communication and teamwork between expectant mothers, their clinical care professionals, and their family members. St. John's Riverside Hospital is the first hospital in Westchester County to provide the TeamBirth Program.

Jenkins said: "Westchester County is proud to partner with St. John's Riverside Hospital in providing the first opportunity for expectant mothers to participate in the TeamBirth Maternity Program in Westchester. By funding this Program as part of the County's Maternal Mortality Initiative, we are sending a clear message to the many mothers who may be facing disparities in their care. In Westchester County, we are committed to breaking down those barriers and ensuring that every mother, regardless of race or zip code, receives the support and quality care she deserves. This initiative is a vital step towards building a healthier, more equitable future for our families and our communities."

New York's Medicaid Spending Rate Remains the Highest of Any State

By Bill Hammon, Empire Center NY

New York's Medicaid program remained a spending outlier in 2024, with per-resident outlays that were 24 percent higher than those of any other state and 77 percent above the national average, according to a federal report released on Thursday.

The report provides timely context for the current discussion about how state leaders should respond to looming cutbacks in federal health funding. Its data suggest that New York has the capacity to absorb billions of dollars in reduced federal aid while continuing to operate a generous and well-funded Medicaid program by national standards.

Medicaid is a safety-net health plan for the low-income and disabled that is jointly financed by the federal government and the states. Friday's report from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services summarizes almost \$1 trillion in nationwide spending on the program for the fiscal year ending in September 2024.

Although New York represents less than 6 percent of the U.S. population, its \$98 billion Medicaid budget accounted for more than 10 percent of national spending on the program.

New York's Medicaid spending per resident, at \$4,942, was by far the highest among the 50 states. The second-highest state was Kentucky at \$3,989 per resident, and the national average was \$2,791 per resident.

New York's No. 1 status reflects a combination of factors, including

continued on pg 10-

Yorktown Inaugurates Renovated Pickleball Courts



Members of the Yorktown Town Board with residents and town staff at the renovated pickleball courts on August 4, 2025. Courtesy of the Town of Yorktown.

Yorktown inaugurated a renovated pickleball facility on Monday at Tom Diana Park at the Granite Knolls Recreation & Sports Complex.

The pickleball facility includes six courts with new, high-quality court surfaces, fresh painting, durable 8-foot-high fencing, and overhead lighting that allows for night games.

"We have reclaimed the ground here so that there will no longer be any cracks," said parks Superintendent James Martorano, Jr. "We've always led the way with pickleball, and we are continuing to lead the way with the best pickleball courts in Westchester County."

Crucially, the project also incorporated a new drainage system designed to prevent future damage and extend the lifespan of the surfaces, ensuring sustained enjoyment.

"It's wonderful to see the progression of this park, and it's wonderful to see the new pickleball courts with all these upgrades," said Supervisor Ed Lachterman. "This comes down to a bunch of dedicated pickleball players who really helped to not only give advice, but they volunteer, fund raise, help run the courts and make sure that people have their permits."

Martorano said that the former pickleball courts developed cracks because they sat atop cracked tennis courts that eventually destabilized the pickleball courts. The scope of the renovation work included digging up the damaged tennis courts and laying a stable subsurface for the pickleball courts.

"It might be pickleball, but it's passion. It's not only the pickleball community, but how they pay it forward. Kids are playing with their parents, they're getting off their iPads and they're getting outside," said Councilwoman Luciana Haughwout.

Residents must have a permit to use the pickleball courts. The permits are valid from April 1 to November 30.

"I want to congratulate the pickleball community. This is Yorktown offering another recreational opportunity for our constituents," said Councilman Patrick Murphy.

The pickleball courts are open every day from sunrise to 10 p.m. "The place looks absolutely beautiful," said deputy Supervisor Sergio Esposito. "Come on down and enjoy Yorktown because Yorktown is the best place to live."

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WPF Removes Over 7,200 Pounds of Invasive Water Chestnut from Tibbetts Brook Park Lake



The Westchester Parks Foundation (WPF), the only organization dedicated exclusively to promoting and supporting Westchester County Parks, has reached a major milestone in its multi-year Lake Revitalization Project at Tibbetts Brook Park in Yonkers.

During the month of June, over 7,218 pounds of invasive water chestnut and other aquatic species were removed from the park's ten-acre lake as part of the ongoing effort to restore its ecological balance and recreational potential. A remote-control harvester called the Waterbug was deployed this year to tackle both open water and hard-to-reach areas. Since the project's launch in July 2018, more than 52 acres of invasive plants have been cleared, including over 121,000 pounds pulled by hand.

The Lake Revitalization Project is supported by long-time partner Xylem Inc. Among the many contributors to this initiative, Gus Bova has emerged as a standout leader and driving force. A recent graduate of Mamaroneck High School and a three-year summer intern with WPF, Gus has made remarkable contributions to the project through both hands-on work and scientific research. He provided educational workshops to new interns as well as impromptu lessons for curious park visitors who would pass the Waterbug launch site throughout the season. His commitment to improving the lake's ecology earned him the prestigious Stockholm Junior Water Prize at the Westchester Science and Engineering Fair (WESEF) for his studies on water health and aquatic ecosystems.

"Gus has been an inspiration to our team and a shining example of how young people can have a real impact on the environment and our parks," said Mary Benjamin, Director of Volunteer Programs. "His dedication, knowledge, and passion for ecological restoration have elevated this project and given us a glimpse of the environmental leaders of tomorrow."

Gus will attend the University of Vermont this fall to study Forestry, continuing his journey toward a career in environmental science.

Westchester Parks Foundation is deeply grateful for the support of Xylem and for the dedication of individuals like Gus, who help bring lasting change to Westchester's parks and natural spaces.

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Scarsdale Celebrates First Municipal Electric Garbage Truck in Westchester County!



The Village of Scarsdale recently celebrated its first-ever electric truck—and the first municipal electric truck in Westchester County, under the environmental leadership of Mayor Justin Arest and Deputy Mayor Dara Broxmeyer Gruenberg, and with the guidance from the Scarsdale Conservation Advisory Council (CAC), an advisory body to the Village Board of Trustees. The Council studies issues affecting the local environment and also maintenance of the Village's "natural" character. Issues may include open space, trees, waste reduction, energy conservation, and other sustainability issues.

Over the last 6 years the CAC has helped the Village of Scarsdale implement a growing EV fleet of pool cars and trucks.

Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

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Yonkers Chapter, Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus Presents

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A Summer Soirée
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Beczak Center
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The New York Air Show Returns to Orange County Aug. 23-24



Show will be held on August 23rd and 24th and will feature the world's fastest, most agile jet

Get ready for a terrific thrill when the New York Air Show roars across the skies over Orange County Airport on Aug. 23rd and 24th. Last year's Air Show drew more than 26,000 spectators over two days, many traveling from all around the county to Orange County to witness the excitement. This year's heart-thumping spectacle will showcase the dazzling speed and maneuvers of the latest military jets, displays of historic aircraft, the daring feats of award-winning parachutists, and a one-of-a-kind air-vs-land race.

"The New York Air Show is one of the premier events of the summer here in Orange County, drawing visitors from across the Hudson Valley and beyond," said Neuhaus. "This event not only highlights our strong connection to the military but also showcases our beautiful County as a destination. I encourage everyone to come out and experience this world-class display of aviation excellence."

Leading the high-flying spectacle is the F-22 Raptor Demo Team, showcasing breathtaking aerobatics and jaw-dropping maneuvers from the world's fastest, most agile fighter jet.

This year's lineup will also include:

MV-22 Osprey tiltrotor aircraft demonstrations

P-51 Mustang, the legendary World War II and Korean War fighter plane

The West Point Parachute Team, one of the oldest continually operating parachute teams in the U.S. military

An air-versus-land race pitting the P-51 Mustang against the CyberBeast "Nighthawk," a specially enhanced Tesla Cybertruck

Aerobatics by Mark Meredith, retired U.S. Navy Captain, flying his meticulously restored 1951 de Havilland DHC-1 Super Chipmunk, "Chippy"

"It is not only a thrill to welcome the New York Air Show for its 11th year in Orange County, it is an honor to host this showcase of the amazing power and capabilities of the nation's military aircraft," said Amanda Dana, Director of Orange County Tourism and Film.

While enjoying the show, grab a bite and a drink at the food and beverage stands. Enjoy lawn boxes or preferred seating. Or take advantage of a catered lunch and all-day beverage bar as a member of the VIP Flight Line Club.

The New York Air Show is open both days from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Orange County Airport, 500 Dunn Road, Montgomery, N.Y. Tickets are \$32.25 to \$179.

Learn more at <https://www.pickocny.com/new-york-air-show>

Purchase tickets at <https://air.show/ny-purchase-tickets>

Westchester Jewish Council Music & Arts Festival Aug. 17-Kensico Dam



Expect dancing, kosher food and over 40 vendors.

It's almost time to shop, nosh and celebrate. The 49th Annual Jewish Music & Arts Festival will bring a full day of spirited fun to Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla on Sunday, August 17, from 12 noon to 6 p.m.

Headlining this year's event is TLV Band, North America's premier Israeli music cover band. Also taking the stage: the harmony-driven folk duo the Levins; the high-energy Westchester Klezmer Reshtl; Kol Hazzanim-Westchester Community of Cantors; Israeli dancing with Leng; and juggler Ned Gelfars.

Kids can laugh along with the WonderSparks' puppet show, sponsored by PJ Library, while adults can browse over 40 vendors offering crafts, jewelry and community resources. Kosher food vendors will serve up bites all day.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "The Jewish Music & Arts Festival is a cornerstone of our county's summer season and a beautiful reminder of the rich variety of religions that defines our County. From music and dancing to delicious food and a neighborly spirit, it's a celebration for everyone to enjoy."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Kathy O'Connor said: "We're proud to host this vibrant event at Kensico Dam Plaza year after year. It's a day filled with gaiety, creativity and connection. We welcome people from Westchester and beyond to come out and be part of the fun."

Admission and parking are free. Please bring a blanket or folding chair for lawn seating. The event is rain or shine. Coolers are not permitted, and overflow parking is available at the Valhalla and North White Plains Metro-North stations.

Pre-registration is suggested, but not required for entry, at www.wjcouncil.org.

The final 2025 cultural festival is Muslim Heritage, Sunday, Aug. 24 from 12 noon to 6 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla.

Kensico Dam Plaza is at the north end of the Bronx River Parkway in Valhalla.



Mayor Mike Spano's BACKPACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE supplies list



Please Donate the Following Supplies
through August 18th

- backpacks
- crayons
- colored pencils
- washable markers
- glue sticks
- Elmer's Glue
- rulers
- pink erasers
- #2 pencils
- pencil sharpeners
- loose leaf paper
- composition books
- pencil pouches
- pocket folders
- hand sanitizer
- tissue packets
- masks/face coverings

Mayor Spano has officially launched the 14th Annual Yonkers "Backpack to School" Drive! Through August 18, you can donate new backpacks and school supplies at the following drop-off locations:

- Yonkers City Hall (40 S Broadway)
- Riverfront Library (1 Larkin Center)
- Grinton I. Will Library (1500 Central Park Ave)
- Crestwood Library (16 Thompson St)
- Police Precinct 1 – 730 E. Grassy Sprain Rd
- Police Precinct 2 – 441 Central Park Ave
- Police Precinct 3 – 435 Riverdale Ave
- Police Precinct 4 – 53 Shonnard Pl

Let's help every Yonkers student start the school year strong!
More info: yonkersny.gov/backpackdrive

Westchester Rallies Around Buddy White's Back-to-School Giveaway



By Dennis Richmond, Jr.

On Saturday, August 2nd, The Jewel of Westchester pulsed with unity, generosity, and joy as residents gathered at The Doles Center in Mount Vernon for the Buddy White Project's annual Back-to-School Backpack and School Supply Giveaway.

A beloved tradition, the event brought together families, nonprofit organizations, elected officials, celebrities, and local influencers for a day dedicated to school readiness, celebration, and community spirit.

Free backpacks were distributed to children of all ages, helping ensure students across the region are prepared to return to school with confidence. The festive atmosphere featured a bouncy house with a water slide, resource tables hosted by local organizations, and a crowd favorite—mascot Kletis 2 Kool—who posed for photos and kept spirits high.

Dignitaries in support and attendance included New York State Assemblymember J. Gary Pretlow, Westchester County Legislator Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, Mount Vernon Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard, and many others.

"I think it's great to see the community come together," said Penika Anderson of the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau.

In addition to civic leaders, several celebrities with ties to Mount Vernon surprised attendees by mingling with guests, taking photos, and offering words of encouragement to both students and parents.

For Buddy White, founder of the national Buddy White Project, the event was another step in his ongoing mission. "There's a void," he said. "I'm filling that void by showing up... I'm not stopping."

White has hosted similar giveaways across the country, but there's always a lot of love in Mount Vernon. "Come on out. Enjoy yourself," he said, smiling as families lined up to meet him and enjoy the day's offerings.

Saturday's event was more than a school supply drive—it was a powerful testament to what can happen when a community unites around its youth. The Mount Vernon Police and Fire Departments, Youth Bureau, and other local entities showed their support throughout the day.

As some children played basketball across the street, others made bracelets with Tia Williams of the Mount Vernon Youth Bureau. Lloyd Shields, also of the Youth Bureau, was in attendance as well. Both Williams and Shields are pillars of the Mount Vernon community. The Buddy White Project's annual Back-to-School Backpack and School Supply Giveaway is proof that when people come together with purpose, everyone wins.

above-average enrollment (currently 35 percent of the population, including 47 percent of New York City residents), a broad array of covered benefits and relatively high payments to providers.

New York also operates the Essential Plan, an optional benefit under the Affordable Care Act that was exercised by only two other states, Minnesota and Oregon. New York's version is offered to people with incomes above the cut-off for Medicaid, from 138 percent to 250 percent of the poverty level, and covers 1.7 million enrollees, or 9 percent of the population.

The federal government currently foots the bill for the Essential Plan's entire \$13.7 billion budget, an amount not included in Friday's report.

Recently enacted federal budget legislation – known as the One Big Beautiful Bill Act – would scale back federal funding for both Medicaid and the Essential Plan. State officials have estimated that the changes will ultimately displace 1.5 million New Yorkers from coverage and cost the state \$13 billion in lost revenue or added expenses.

In the shorter term, the Budget Division has put the direct cost to the state health budget at \$3 billion to \$4 billion annually.

Significant as those amounts are, they are still smaller than the spending gaps between New York and neighboring states as documented in Thursday's CMS report.

If, for example, New York lowered its per-resident outlays to match the No. 2 state, Kentucky, its overall Medicaid spending would be \$19 billion less and the state government's share of those savings would be about \$8 billion.

If New York matched the spending rate of Massachusetts, its total Medicaid savings would be \$25 billion and the state-share savings would be \$11 billion.

And if New York matched the per-resident rate of New Jersey, the total savings would be \$48 billion and the state-share savings would be \$20 billion.

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

-Pete Seeger-

Op-Ed: Pattern Police Misconduct Listed In NYS AG Letitia James' Report Ignored By District Attorney & Top Judges

"The State Admitted My Arresting Officer Lied—So Why Is No One Doing Anything About It?"

A Call for Justice: Advocates Ask Lawmakers to Stop Ignoring Law Enforcers' Proven Misconduct

Marc Fishman, a disabled father and award-winning New York advocate joins a growing roster of disability and civil rights organizations calling State Leaders to act on a quietly published police misconduct report from NYS Attorney General Letitia James confirming his arresting officer is now flagged by the State for a "Pattern of Misconduct"—yet his case, and countless others, remain untouched.

Fishman, a disability rights activist and recipient of the NY State Senate Commendation Award, has been separated from his children for over 1,500 days after a 2018 misdemeanor arrest in New Rochelle.

His arresting officer, Lane Schlesinger, is one of dozens of officers named in the 2024 Attorney General's Law Enforcement Misconduct Investigative Office (LEMIO) report for falsifying records, excessive force, and over 40 verified civilian complaints.

"The AG's report should've changed everything," said Fishman. "Instead, it was buried. There's no media coverage, and no cases have been reopened."

On the contrary, a motion to dismiss charges against Fishman was just denied, and DA Susan Cacace, who oversaw the prosecution, has refused to comment on the AG's findings. Meanwhile, district attorneys in Brooklyn and Manhattan have taken action to reverse hundreds of convictions linked to officers cited in the same misconduct report.

The Bigger Problem: Rising Police Abuse, No Reform

Fishman's ordeal is not unique. Since 2020:

Civilian complaints against NY police departments have jumped 33%, according to NYCLU.

The Legal Aid Society reports a 27% rise in arrests involving falsified evidence or questionable testimony.

Despite these numbers, fewer than 5% of misconduct allegations result in reopened cases.

The LEMIO office, created in 2021 to investigate statewide patterns of abuse, named multiple officers across New York with long records of dishonesty and violence.

Yet not a single case named in its 2024 report has been formally reopened, and officers remain on the job or escape consequences altogether.

"The AG confirmed my arresting officer has a history of lying. We now have proof I committed no crime. Yet I'm still being prosecuted," said Fishman. "What else is this system protecting?"

The broader issue is that LEMIO has no prosecutorial power, experts say. Though it monitors over 500 police departments statewide, it cannot reopen cases or compel local DAs to act.

Its findings—while damning—are only advisory.

"If the state admits the officer who arrested me has a record of lying and violence, what are we waiting for?" Fishman asked. "This shouldn't be optional."

No Justice in New Rochelle

The problem is especially visible in New Rochelle, where Fishman was arrested. In 2023, Jarrell Garris, an unarmed Black man in the middle of a mental health crisis, was shot and killed by Officer Steven Conn in broad daylight. No

continued on pg 13-

Alzheimer's Study, continued from pg 2-

managing high blood pressure, quitting smoking and avoiding social isolation.

People with a higher genetic risk for Alzheimer's disease may benefit the most from healthy lifestyle interventions like walking, according to a decade of data from three large international studies. Older adults who carry the Alzheimer's risk gene known as APOE4 had higher cognitive benefits from non-drug interventions like exercise, diet and cognitive training than non-carriers. In this study, walking was found to be the most effective healthy habit for slowing down cognitive damage. Like many healthy lifestyle changes, the key was making it a habit, as the study showed that sticking with it for at least two years produced cognitive benefits up to seven years later.

While newly available anti-amyloid Alzheimer's disease drugs have shown effectiveness in tightly controlled clinical trials, they have not been tested in real-world settings until now. Dozens of abstracts reported at AAIC 2025 showed that real world experience with the drugs lecanemab and donanemab produced comparable or better safety to large clinical trials, and patients were satisfied with the results.

People who participated in the U.S. Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) had slower cognitive decline over 10 years than non-participants, according to new research reported at AAIC 2025. Scientists compared participants in SNAP, which helps low-income individuals and families buy food, to those who were eligible for the program but didn't participate. They found that SNAP participants had a 0.10% slower decline in overall cognitive function, adding up to an estimated two to three additional years of cognitive health over the study's 10-year period.

New research announced at AAIC 2025 shed light on crucial differences between men and women in risk for Alzheimer's and other diseases that cause dementia. One study found that traumatic brain injuries (TBIs, a well-known risk factor for dementia) were more likely to shrink dementia-related areas of the brain in women than men. Another looked closer at "chemobrain" — declines in thinking and memory reported by about one-third of women receiving breast cancer chemotherapy. Women make up nearly two-thirds of the more than 7 million Americans living with Alzheimer's. The chemobrain study is the first to show that brain changes, inflammation and shrinkage related to the cancer treatment are connected to symptoms like memory lapses and trouble focusing or finding words. The study adds to growing evidence that chemotherapy impacts brain health.

Open Door Family Medical Center Receives \$50K Grant from Delta Dental Community Center Foundation to Support Oral Health Care for Uninsured and Low-Income Families

School Bus Camera Fines, continued from pg 1-



Open Door Family Medical Center has been awarded a \$50,000 grant from the Delta Dental Community Care Foundation. The grant will support Open Door’s mission to provide essential oral health care services to uninsured and low-income families in the community.

Open Door Family Medical Center, as a Federally Qualified Health Center, is committed to addressing racial and ethnic disparities in health outcomes. Open Door rigorously tracks performance measures aimed specifically at addressing these disparities.

“Reducing health disparities for various chronic diseases, including diabetes and hypertension, has long been at the heart of our mission,” said Lindsay Farrell, President and CEO. “We are proud to be consistently ranked as a high performer in reducing disparities. This recognition from Delta Dental reflects our dedication to pursuing health equity and ensuring that all members of our community receive the care they need.”

The grant from Delta Dental Community Care Foundation will enable Open Door to expand its oral health care services, making a significant impact on the health and well-being of uninsured and low-income families. With this support, Open Door will continue to provide comprehensive, high-quality care to those who need it most.

“We thank Delta Dental Community Care Foundation for their generous and continued support,” said Naida Henriquez, Open Door’s Chief Dental Officer. “This will allow us to continue our mission of providing accessible, equitable health care and addressing the oral health needs of our community.”

About Open Door Family Medical Center

Every person deserves quality, affordable health care and support in their communities. At the Open Door Family Medical Center, we value people and prevention. For 50 years, we’ve set the standard for people-centered care by offering families and individuals across Westchester and the Hudson Valley access to excellent health care and supportive services — from primary care and dental to mental health and so much more.

Our innovative care delivery network focuses on long-term, healthy outcomes. Everyone pays according to their ability, and our comprehensive network of services aims to prevent health challenges before they start. We provide cancer screenings, nutrition services, and we also address social barriers to a person’s well-being, like access to health insurance. Through our integrated care system, we strive to help all people flourish and lead healthy lives in their communities.

About Delta Dental Community Care Foundation:

The Delta Dental Community Care Foundation is committed to improving oral health and supporting organizations that provide care to underserved communities. Through grants and partnerships, the Foundation works to increase access to dental care and promote overall health and well-being.

Visit opendoormedical.org for more information.

more set to participate by next school year. By leveraging public awareness and utilizing smart enforcement tools like this new school bus safety camera system, we’re not only holding reckless drivers accountable – we’re creating safer streets and peace of mind for families throughout our County.”

Videos of motorists caught on camera illegally passing stopped school buses in Westchester County – as captured by BusPatrol – can be viewed here.

Westchester school districts currently participating in the safety program are:

- Blind Brook-Rye Union Free School District
- Croton-Harmon Schools
- Eastchester Union Free School District
- Greenburgh Central School District
- Harrison Central School District
- Hendrick Hudson Central School District
- Katonah-Lewisboro School District
- Lakeland Central School District
- Mamaroneck Schools
- Ossining Union Free School District
- Tarrytown Union Free School District

Seven additional school districts in the county are set to opt-in to the program for the 2025-26 school year. They are:

- Ardsley Union Free School District
- Bedford Central School District
- Bronxville Union Free School District
- Irvington Union Free School District
- Pelham Union Free School District
- Rye Neck Union Free School District
- Yorktown Central School District

BusPatrol CEO Karoon Monfared said: “Our program is proven to significantly decrease the occurrence of illegal school bus passings and change driver behavior to safeguard children. While the initiative is just getting started in Westchester County, the small number of repeat offenders shows that our approach is effective in that drivers learn and modify their behavior after being held accountable for their actions.”

As part of the safety initiative, all school buses in the participating districts’ fleet are equipped with BusPatrol’s AI-powered stop-arm cameras to detect the license plates of vehicles that illegally pass stopped school buses with their red lights flashing and stop-arm extended, endangering children. The video evidence is then shared with law enforcement for review before a summons is issued.

New York State law requires motorists to stop at least 20 feet away from a stopped school bus with its red lights flashing and stop-arm deployed. The penalty for breaking the law as captured by the school bus stop-arm camera is assigned to the vehicle owner, and it comes with a minimum civil penalty of \$250. Driver’s license points or insurance rates cannot be affected through the stop-arm camera civil enforcement.

Clothing Insecurity Up, continued from pg 3-

A survey conducted in the Fall by The Sharing Shelf revealed the views of more than 120 individuals from the schools, social service agencies, and other nonprofit organizations served. It found that the most needed items of clothing are as follows: sneakers, 85% cited; coats, 81%; shirts, 80%; jeans/pants, 61%; underwear or diapers, 57%; sweatshirts or sweaters, 45%; sweatpants or leggings, 43%; shoes, 34%; socks, 20%.

It’s especially notable that underwear or diapers were cited more than half the time. That’s why, this year alone The Sharing Shelf has already distributed 157,000 diapers.

What then can residents of Westchester do to make a difference? First, one can donate seasonally appropriate, new or gently used clothing to a nonprofit Clothing Bank like The Sharing Shelf, where the clothes will go directly to children in need. Donating clothing to nonprofits that resell the clothes to benefit their missions may support other wonderful causes, but they won’t ensure that the clothing reaches the children who need it most.

Second, one can make a financial contribution to a nonprofit Clothing Bank such as The Sharing Shelf. Financial support is crucial to maintaining and growing their essential work. That includes buying things like underwear and socks that must be new, and sneakers that are rarely reusable.

Third, one can volunteer. In the first half of 2025, The Sharing Shelf had to fill 1,625 individual volunteer slots, compared to 1,042 volunteer slots in the first half of 2024, an increase of 60%.

The rapid growth of clothing insecurity in Westchester should be the focus of public discussion – not only in the county but statewide and nationally. If it’s happening here, it’s likely to be happening in less prosperous communities. We shouldn’t wait for the next census to tell us what we already know.

The author is Founder and Executive Director of The Sharing Shelf, the nonprofit Clothing Bank serving Westchester County, NY.

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Westchester Roots Celebrates Ecuadorian Community with Outdoor Festival

ArtsWestchester will celebrate the rich cultural heritage of Ecuador with a full-day outdoor festival on August 17 as part of its Westchester Roots series.

Dia de la Cultura Ecuatoriana, or A Day of Ecuadorian Culture, is an afternoon of music, dance, food, and family-friendly presentations that celebrates the diverse traditions of one of Westchester's largest immigrant communities. The event runs from 3 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Barnhart Park, 25 Andrews Lane in Sleepy Hollow.

The event includes

Participatory workshops for all ages in traditional Ecuadorian social dance

Costume demonstrations and presentations on indigenous Kichwa language

Traditional Ecuadorian foods and drinks prepared by local Ecuadorian-owned businesses

Guests will also be invited to build a Chakana, a sacred Andean symbol representing balance and harmony, made from all natural materials

The festival, which is a collaboration between ArtsWestchester and the Village of Sleepy Hollow, will notably feature live music and dance performances intended to connect all members of the community, especially younger generations, to their ancestral traditions and cultural heritage.

Sleepy Hollow Community Liaison Diana Loja explains: "Events like these are an opportunity to empower the next generation, especially those born here or who arrived at a young age, to take pride in where they come from. They get to see their heritage valued in a public, joyful and respectful way. It's a powerful representation of immigrant communities in the county."

The Westchester Roots summer series produced by ArtsWestchester aims to represent and celebrate diverse communities across the county. Now in its fifth year, the series has successfully collaborated with Jamaican, Dominican, Mexican, Irish, Afghan, Chinese, Korean and Ghanaian artists and community groups, among others.

The final Westchester Roots event following the Ecuadorian festival brings visitors into ArtsWestchester's building for a September 20 Mooncake festival, which



Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Miss Earth USA Water, continued from pg 1-

said Nero, an Armonk native who spent time living in Yonkers with her grandmother. "Those of us who finished in the top 12 spent the next six months engaged in advocacy such as attending New York Fashion Week, doing photo shoots and living our best lives as Miss Earth USA national finalists. In May, we reconvened to film 'Miss Pretty Down to Earth' at Sylvan Beach during which we competed in everything from photo and bikini shoots to interviews to runway at the Utica train station."

After nearly taking the crown this year, Nero isn't standing still. She plans to compete again next year for Miss Earth USA, stay connected with the public and even dabble in the world of public policy.

"I work with youth through my environmental platform Metamorphosis with Madison, where I bring a modern twist to what it means to be eco conscious," she said. "That could be showing videos of me thrifting or hosting the series I have through Citizens Climate Lobby called Legislation 101, where I break down climate policy so people can understand what is going on and be civically engaged."

On track to graduate in December, Nero is majoring in advertising management at Michigan State University and hopes to become a pageant coach and work in social media.

"I love it at MSU, especially in my role as president of Citizens Climate Lobby, a nonpartisan nonprofit grassroots climate change organization that pushes congress to implement climate policy," Nero said. "In that role, I have lobbied Sen. Elissa Slotkin of Michigan and recently spent time on Capitol Hill."

Follow Madison on Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/maddie_nero.

DSS Shakedown continued from pg 1-

Audit Clerk was arrested Tuesday and charged as part of an alleged shakedown scheme involving daycare providers that serve underprivileged residents.

Cheryl Spencer, 61, of Mount Vernon, was arraigned Tuesday afternoon in White Plains City Court on five counts each of Bribe Receiving in the Third Degree, a class D felony, Criminal Solicitation in the Fourth Degree, a class A misdemeanor, and Official Misconduct, a class A misdemeanor.

Judge Eric Press released the defendant on her own recognizance, as none of the charges are bail-eligible. Judge Press provided temporary orders of protection to each of the victims in this case and ordered the defendant to surrender all of her firearms.

DSS has placed Spencer on administrative leave, without pay, pending disciplinary charges or any further action by the county.

She is due back in court on Aug. 26.

DA Cacace said: "The brazenness of this defendant's alleged conduct is particularly outrageous. As alleged, Ms. Spencer preyed on daycare providers serving financially struggling families, placing their facilities at serious risk of closure.

"Not only is she accused of a serious breach of public trust, but she allegedly exploited a vulnerable population in order to line her own pockets.

"I am grateful for the work of the New York State Inspector General's Office and IG Lucy Lang, whose partnership was instrumental in today's arrest."

IG Lucy Lang said: "Affordable child care is mission critical for many New Yorkers, but particularly for struggling families. It is shocking that a public servant responsible for supporting the daycare programs that enable parents and other caregivers to remain in the workforce or attend school would abuse the public trust. Thank you to DA Cacace, her team and my team at the Offices of the New York State Inspector General, who share a commitment to ensuring accountability for public corruption so that child care providers can do the hard work of caring for New York's children without being exploited by those who would seek to use their positions of power to enrich themselves."

As part of the Child Day Care Assistance program, the county provides financial assistance for daycare expenses to eligible families. This assistance is transmitted from DSS directly to the daycare provider.

Between June 1, 2024, and April 4, 2025, Spencer received complaints from five daycare providers located in Westchester regarding late or missing reimbursement checks, according to a felony complaint.

As a DSS Senior Audit Clerk in the Daycare Payment Processing Unit, Spencer was responsible for processing these checks and their associated paperwork.

In September 2024, Spencer received a complaint from the owner of a daycare provider (Daycare Provider 1) regarding late or missing reimbursement checks. Daycare Provider 1 explained that these late payments were causing a significant amount of anxiety and that without timely payments, her daycare facility may not be able to continue operating.

In response, Spencer told Daycare Provider 1 that she would have to pay Spencer money in order for the paperwork to be processed, the felony complaint alleges.

On Oct. 2, 2024, Daycare Provider 1 paid Spencer \$200 in cash, according to the felony complaint. Daycare Provider 1 received her DSS reimbursement check in the mail several days later.

Over the ensuing months, Daycare Provider 1 paid Spencer over \$1,000 to continue receiving timely reimbursement checks, the felony complaint alleges.

At least four other daycare providers in Westchester County are alleged to have been victimized in a similar fashion.

During the execution of a search warrant Tuesday morning, investigators recovered a loaded, unsecured .380 caliber Smith & Wesson from the defendant's vehicle. Spencer is a licensed gun owner, and this weapon was on her pistol permit.

Upon executing another warrant at a second car registered to the defendant, investigators recovered a loaded .45 caliber Star semi-automatic pistol. The defendant's husband, a convicted felon, was subsequently arrested and charged with Second-Degree Criminal Possession of a Weapon.

The Westchester County District Attorney and New York State Inspector General encourage anyone with information related to this scheme, including daycare providers, to contact the DA's tip line at (914) 995-TIPS (8477).

County Executive Ken Jenkins said, "The allegations against Cheryl Spencer, a Department of Social Services employee accused of accepting bribes related to the administration of daycare payment assistance, are deeply troubling and egregious. The integrity of our public assistance programs is critical to the families who rely on them, and any breach of that trust is completely unacceptable. While this matter is now in the hands of the New York State Inspector General's Office and the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, Westchester County intends to fully cooperate with the investigation, and will continue to review our internal procedures to ensure accountability and transparency. Westchester County remains committed to serving our residents with fairness, integrity, and the highest ethical standards."

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Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, AUG. 9

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

Tastings in the Field, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Come with us into our field to use your taste to note the similarities and differences within the family, genus and species of one of our crops. Each class in this series will highlight a different seasonal crop and explore how and why tastes vary and the benefits of these distinctions. For ages 6 and up. \$10 per person. Also: Sept. 13.

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tastings-in-the-field-tickets-1374759415419?aff=oddtcreator>

Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson: (914) 862-5290

Beach Is Open, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Weekends through Monday, Sept. 1; weather permitting. No admittance after 6 p.m. Parking and admission fees apply. Westchester County residency is not required for admission. Get details: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/swim>

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

DJ Day, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Come for a 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>

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

Ecotherapy: The Benefits of Nature, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Master naturalist Bruce Rosenberg will lead a guided "ecotherapy" walk to explore different areas of Lasdon and experience the benefits of nature up close. Meet at the garden entrance. Also: Sept. 13.

Register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/echotherapy-the-benefits-of-nature-5/>

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-2-2/2025-08-09/>

SUNDAY, AUG. 10

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/markets/>

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

Gardening Sundays and Tuesdays, Weekly, 10 a.m. - noon

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, Aug. 12.

Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/gardening-sundays-2/2025-08-10/>

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

Curator's Tour of the Westchester County Veterans Museum, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Curator Mark Tolf leads a free guided tour of "The American Civil War: A War of Firsts" exhibition.

Registration required: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/curators-tour-of-the-westchester-county-veterans-museum-2/>

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

Animal Interactions, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Enter one of Muscote Farm's enclosures, where you will see, touch and learn more about one of our animals! For those ages 8 and older (adult supervision required). \$25 for child and adult. Also: Sept. 21.

Get details and register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/animal-interactions-tickets-1394922503759?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Marc Fishman, continued from pg 10-

charges were filed. No AG review was launched. Conn remains on the force. Fishman believes the public deserves more than silence.

A Call for Action

Fishman and a large coalition of advocates are calling on:

Attorney General Letitia James

Westchester DA Susan Cacace

District Attorneys across New York State

...to immediately review arrests involving officers named in the LEMIO report, and to urge the Legislature to expand LEMIO's powers beyond paper.

"Justice delayed is justice denied. The names are there. The evidence is there. But until something changes, LEMIO is just there for positive press"

About Marc

Marc Fishman is a father of four, a disability rights advocate, whose service has earned him a New York State Senate Commendation Award. After sustaining cognitive and auditory disabilities in multiple car accidents, Marc has fought to gain ADA protections in New York's family courts, and championed justice all the way up to U.S. Supreme Court.

Yeonsoo Go is Free, continued from pg 1-

The explanation from the Department of Homeland Security was, “Yeonsoo Go, an illegal alien from South Korea, overstayed her visa that expired more than two years ago,” said DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin. “President Trump and Secretary Noem are committed to restoring integrity to the visa program and ensuring it is not abused to allow aliens a permanent one-way ticket to remain in the U.S. ICE arrested her on July 31 and placed her in expedited removal proceedings.”

That explanation appears to be unfounded, because Soo was released 5 days after being detained, and after an outcry from religious leaders, elected officials, and the Scarsdale community.

DHS gave no reason why Soo was released. Soo’s visa was valid through December 2025.

We have questions for ICE:

I- What mechanisms in the review of immigration cases flagged Soo’s case? Who in ICE was responsible for initially signing off on her detention?

II- Why didn’t a supervisor, or a superior ICE officer, review and reject the detention of Soo? What are the operational procedures at ICE to review cases that might not warrant detention and removal?

III- The fact that Soo and her mother are here on a religious Visa, and that Soo’s mother is an Episcopal minister, should have been a flag NOT to detain Soo.

IV- The fact that Soo is a graduate of Scarsdale High School and is attending Purdue University should have been another flag NOT to detain Soo.

What this error by ICE does harm to is the original intent of ICE and DHS, which is to detain and deport criminal, illegal residents.

And in January, ICE claimed that they were only deporting criminal illegal residents. But that mission has been changed now to, when ICE enters a home to deport a criminal illegal, any other illegal residents in that home will also be removed.

But Soo is not a criminal. She lives in a religious home with her mother in Scarsdale, not a hotbed of illegal resident activity because of the cost of housing. And no criminal illegals were living with Soo and her mother.

So what happened? While we are glad that Soo was released, we would like to know the process by which she was identified for removal.

Scarsdale resident and Assemblywoman Amy Paulin led the public outcry to have Soo released. She had planned a rally in Scarsdale to keep the pressure on ICE to release her.

“I am overwhelmed with gratitude and relief. After five long days, Yeonsoo Go has been released from ICE custody and is back with her family. She is home, she is safe, and she is so grateful for the outpouring of love and support from this incredible community.

“The pain, fear, and uncertainty she and her family endured over the past five days should never have happened—but tonight we celebrate her freedom and the strength of a community that refused to stay silent.

“I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to Senator Chuck Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, Congressman George Latimer, Congresswoman Grace Meng, and Congressman Mike Lawler for their swift efforts to help secure Yeonsoo’s release.

“Let this moment remind us of the power we have when we come together, and of the work we must continue to ensure that no one is unjustly detained in this country,” said Paulin.

Go was sent to federal immigration detention in Louisiana. Her lawyer says ICE has not explained why. Her case made national news on the Rachel Maddow show on MSNBC.

“Yeonsoo Go is the daughter of an Episcopal priest who is here legally with what’s known as an R2 Visa. Yeonsoo went to Scarsdale HS and was accepted into Purdue. She was abducted by 5 ICE agents. Nobody knows where she is located. My eyes teared as I watched this on the Maddow show. I can’t imagine the horror this beautiful young woman is going through. I look at her and think this could happen to many innocent granddaughters,” said a viewer.

Senator Shelley Mayer said, “I am deeply relieved that Yeonsoo has been released from ICE custody and has been reunited with her family. While I am grateful for the swift actions of my colleagues Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, Congressman George Latimer, Congressman Michael Lawler, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand, and Senator Chuck Schumer, the Episcopal Diocese of New York, and the advocacy of so many in our community, we must not forget that Yeonsoo should have never been detained. Based on the information provided by her lawyer, Yeonsoo is a lawful, law-abiding resident of the United States and has not been accused or convicted of any crime.

“ICE’s actions against Yeonsoo, like their actions against thousands of others across this country, were unconstitutional and unacceptable. There is no justification for detaining law-abiding individuals who are residing lawfully in the United States and attending immigration hearings as required,” said Mayer.

To Mayer’s credit, she has previously stated that, “Those who have been convicted of major criminal wrongdoing are rightly subject to deportation. What is not acceptable is the seizure and detention of thousands of people who are not violent criminals, or criminals at all, but simply those seeking a better life here in America.”

We agree that criminal illegal residents should be deported, but not hard-working illegal residents who have lived here for years and have no criminal record. As a country, we have not had that debate; we are not there yet.

But one thing we can agree on is that Soo and her mother are welcome here in the United States of America. “I always had faith that [I’d] be out soon,” Go said. “I wish for everyone to be safe, everyone that supports me to be safe, and have hopes to be told and heard.”

My Brother’s Keeper Yonkers Celebrates Graduating Seniors at Annual Sendoff



MBK Program Coordinator Greg Joyner, graduating seniors, U.S. Naval Academy Midshipman Treat Williams, Yonkers Superintendent Anibal Soler Jr., and MBK Yonkers Executive Director Dr. Jason Baez.

A Powerful Gathering Honoring Legacy, Reflection, and Encouragement as Students Prepare for Their Next Chapter

My Brother’s Keeper (MBK) Yonkers proudly hosted its Annual Senior Sendoff on June 24, honoring 25 graduating MBK seniors from Yonkers Public Schools. The powerful celebration of accomplishment, reflection, and future aspirations was led by the voices and presence of the students themselves. The event brought together students, families, educators, and community leaders for a meaningful gathering focused on legacy and next steps.

Yonkers Public Schools Superintendent Anibal Soler, Jr. reflected on the importance of celebrating the graduates’ growth and leadership. “Our MBK graduates have consistently shown what focus, leadership, and unwavering support can achieve,” he said. “We’re immensely proud of the young men they’ve become and incredibly excited to witness the impact they’ll continue to make as they step into college, careers, and leadership roles within their communities.”

Executive Director of MBK Yonkers Dr. Jason Baez added: “It is truly inspiring to witness these young men transition into their next phase of life with such promise and determination. Their journey embodies the core mission of MBK Yonkers, fostering growth, leadership, and a profound sense of brotherhood, and we are incredibly proud of their achievements and the bright futures they are building.”

The ceremony featured a symbolic Libation Ceremony led by MBK Program Coordinator Mr. Greg Joyner and the 2025 MBK Fellows. Fellows poured water into the “Plant of Life” to honor mentors, family, and personal milestones, offering gratitude and reflection throughout the affirmation “Ashe,” a Yoruba word meaning “we agree” and symbolizing strength in brotherhood.

MBK Yonkers alumnus and U.S. Naval Academy Midshipman Treat Williams spoke about how the program gave him the mindset and foundation to pursue high-level goals, including Navy SEAL training. He credited MBK Yonkers with instilling a sense of purpose and self-discipline, and encouraged graduates to carry that same focus into their next chapter.

The Senior Sendoff concluded with the MBK Pledge, recited by the graduates in unison as a declaration of commitment to brotherhood, purpose, and leadership: “I am My Brother’s Keeper.”

This celebration is part of MBK Yonkers’ ongoing commitment to supporting students through the six milestones of the My Brother’s Keeper framework, with the Senior Sendoff specifically aligned with Milestones 3 and 4: graduating from high school and completing post-secondary education or training. Yonkers Public Schools remains one of only four MBK Model Communities recognized by the Obama Foundation for its leadership in improving outcomes for young men of color — and proudly holds the highest on-time graduation rate for young men of color in New York State.

About My Brother’s Keeper (MBK) Yonkers

My Brother’s Keeper (MBK) Yonkers empowers young men of color by providing mentorship, educational support, and leadership opportunities. In partnership with Yonkers Public Schools and local organizations, MBK Yonkers has helped the district achieve the highest on-time graduation rate for young men of color in New York State. This commitment has earned MBK Yonkers the distinction of being one of only four MBK Model Communities nationwide recognized by the Obama Foundation.

MBK Yonkers helps students reach six key milestones from early education to career readiness. Through its MBK Fellows and mentorship programs, MBK Yonkers fosters equity and opportunity, ensuring all young people can succeed.

For more information, visit yonkerspublicschools.org/mbk.

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County Executive Jenkins Seeks Nominations for the Westchester Senior Citizens Hall of Fame

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins has opened nominations for the 43rd Annual Westchester County Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. Celebrate a senior who has made a positive difference in Westchester County through their contributions by nominating them for this year's Westchester County Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

Jenkins said: "It's a great honor to kick off the nomination process for the 43rd Annual Westchester County Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. This treasured tradition allows us to recognize the remarkable seniors who continue to make a lasting impact across our communities."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services Mae Carpenter said: "The Senior Hall of Fame shines a light on the individuals whose dedication has helped build a better Westchester. It's one of our most inspiring events, and I'm excited to join in honoring the incredible contributions of our older adults."

To be nominated, a person must:

Be at least 60 years old or older, live in Westchester, and not be a past Hall of Fame inductee (a list of past honorees may be found online at: <https://seniorcitizens.westchestergov.com>);

Have made significant contributions to improving life in Westchester County;

Be an outstanding leader or advocate;

Have done professional work that reflects innovative solutions to fulfill unmet community needs (if a nomination is based on paid professional work).

Nominations are due by Wednesday, September 10, 2025, and will be reviewed by a judging committee. A nomination should be submitted for each person, with organizations and individuals to be allowed one nomination only. To download and complete your nomination, please visit www.westchestergov.com/seniors. If you have questions about the nomination process, please contact Angelique Morelli at (914) 218-3968 or email AngeliqueM@EventsRemember.com.

This year's Senior Citizens Hall of Fame will be held on Friday, December 5, 2025, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the Westchester Marriott Hotel in Tarrytown, NY. The Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services (DSPS), Westchester County Parks, Recreation, and Conservation, and the Westchester Public/Private Partnership for Aging Services will be hosting this celebration, which will include an induction ceremony and a festive luncheon. Sponsorships and congratulatory journal ad opportunities are available for purchase. For more details or to make a purchase, please visit www.westchesterpartnership.org/hall-of-fame/.

For additional information about this year's Senior Hall of Fame, please call (914) 813-6300 or visit www.westchestergov.com/seniors.

Doxxing Lawler, continued from pg 1-

many homes have property taxes north of \$40,000.

This is good news for homeowners across the region, whether they support of hate Trump. And for those protestors who want to tax the rich, the SALT cap was not lifted for any millionaires in Westchester.

U.S. Senate leader Chuck Schumer couldn't get the SALT deduction increased, nor could House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries. Nor could Senator Gillibrand or any elected NY democrat, who asked for and even demanded the SALT cap be increased, but didn't get it done, under a Democratic trifecta government of President Biden, the Senate, and the House.

President Trump did get the SALT Cap raised fourfold, thanks in part to Congressman Lawler, who Trump called "Mr. SALT," for his work in getting the cap lifted, and delivered tax relief to thousands of Westchester homeowners.

Last week, Lawler planned an event at a family's home in Yorktown to tout the SALT increase and for the homeowners to thank Lawler and President Trump and explain what it will mean to them in tax savings.

The homeowners are a teacher and a police officer. Somehow, the address was leaked to the public. A "Media Advisory" was sent out only to members of the press in advance, for planning purposes only.

Nobody else had access to the address of the home, which meant that some member of the media leaked the address to anti-Lawler protest groups, the most notable being Fight Lawler. Who that journalist is, nobody knows, but most have the same guess.

Once Fight Lawler got the address, they sent out an alert to their members to show up and protest Lawler. According to Lawler's staff, the family who was hosting the event got Doxxed (the intentional revelation of a person's private information online without their consent).

After concerns about the family's safety were discussed with law enforcement, the event was changed to another location. And the Fight Lawler crowd did everything in their power to find out where the new location was so they could show up and do their thing.

Free speech is a constitutionally protected right, but does that right extend to releasing the names and addresses of a teacher and police officer who live in Yorktown? And harassing that couple to the point where they didn't want to be involved for fear of their children?

Congressman Lawler and his family have also faced threats of violence and, yes, even death threats as a result of his votes in support of the Trump agenda.

On the National Stage, they call this Trump Derangement Syndrome (TDS), which describes negative reactions all the time to Trump, with little regard to his actual policy positions.

Here in Westchester, we now call it Lawler Derangement Syndrome, which is the same theory, only on a local, congressional level.

SALT is the best example of Lawler derangement syndrome. Nobody worked harder than Lawler to get the SALT tax deduction increased, and he succeeded.

Now every Westchester homeowner will benefit from its passage. But nobody on the opposite side of the aisle will even acknowledge his practical work to get its passage.

And to make it worse, the Fight Lawler crowd made a point to Doxx the couple that wanted to say thanks for increasing SALT Mike!

"Doxxing the home address of a police officer and a teacher, two public servants committed to protecting and educating our community, is despicable," stated Congressman Lawler.

"What's more despicable is making them targets simply for supporting the lifting of the SALT cap, a measure broadly supported by Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. Far-left activists and their allies in local media should be ashamed for engaging in this targeted harassment," concluded Congressman Lawler.

Several middle-of-the-road journalists have come out against Trump Derangement syndrome, six months into Trump's second term. You can insert the name Lawler into every place they say Trump.

Mark Halperin said, "This is not to be nice to Trump -this is to be living on planet earth. Voters have eyes, and plenty don't like Trump, but they like the policies, and Democrats, to their detriment, are treating everything Trump does as a criminal offense."

Michael Smerconish said on CNN, "Not everything that Trump does is bad. To the extent there's a common thread among Democrats thus far, it has been to strenuously object to any and everything that Trump does. It might sound counterintuitive, but maybe what's in the party's best interest is to, dare I say, agree with Trump from time to time. Americans will listen to Democrats when they propose better solutions to common problems, not when they openly root for the administration to fail."

Brett Stephens, a rabid Never Trumper, wrote in the NY Times, "Widespread fears of a recession haven't materialized... But if Trump's opponents want to be someday effective — and let's face it, we haven't been — then we have to come to grips with realities that have so far eluded us. Such as: Not everything Trump does is bad."

Even Bill Maher said on his Club Random podcast, "Just to take an example. Tariffs. Now, I remember that, along with most people, I was saying at the beginning, "Oh, you know, by the 4th of July, somebody had to think about how the country was." The economy was going to be tanked by then. And I was like, well, that seems right to me. But that didn't happen.

"So let's work first from the reality of that, not from I just hate Donald Trump because that's boring and doesn't get us anywhere and leads you to dishonesty."

Among the more prominent members of Fight Lawler at this event was a woman whom we will call Judy. This is not her real name. We will not print her real name or her profession, because we will not stoop to their level and Dox her.

Outside of the event, Judy wore an outfit that featured the words "Epstein Files" near her private parts. Inside, Judy let the chants against Trump and Lawler while banging a drum. Everyone else in attendance who was not from Fight Lawler said they "were horrified by their behavior during the event."

After the event, she came up to Lawler, and he spoke with her for 5 minutes. Instead of slipping out the back door, Lawler listened while Judy called all Trump voters "stupid." When Lawler responded with, "So half the country is stupid?" Judy said yes.

Kevin Byrnes, candidate for Westchester County Legislator District 1, said, "Congressman Lawler has been dealing with radical protestors for months, even years now, but he understands that it comes with the territory of being an elected official. Now, these protesters have crossed a line by attempting to disrupt an entire residential neighborhood and doxxing a private citizen's home. Due to many recent violent events, particularly the most recent shooting in New York City, the local family (whose only motivation was to share how the SALT deduction increase is offering significant financial relief to their family) was left fearing for their safety, no longer wanting to participate in the press conference. Despite moving the event to Yorktown Town Hall, several protesters still showed up right outside of their home, causing unnecessary suffering for the family and their neighbors.

"Once the press conference began at town hall, the protesters exhibited their usual disruptive behavior, repeatedly interrupting the congressman and denying those who wanted to hear him speak the opportunity to do so. Voters are growing tired of this abhorrent behavior. I would urge those who organized the protest and shared the address of a private citizen to stop and think of the unnecessary pain and suffering their actions cause."

Realtors in Westchester also welcomed the SALT deduction increase. Crystal Hawkins-Syska, from Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors (HGAR), joined with Lawler and said, "Here in Westchester, the average property tax bill exceeds \$17,000. We already pay our local taxes, and we were being forced to pay them again on our Federal tax returns. This affected middle-class homeowners and people who work in real estate. This is a big win for our communities and could mean thousands of dollars in the pockets of homeowners. HGAR has consistently advocated for the benefits of equitable home ownership and the long-term health of our housing market. So we thank Congressman Lawler for his leadership and commitment to this critical issue."

I repeat what I have said to many of my progressive friends who, like me, live in NY-17. The nasty attacks against Lawler do not help achieve your goal of defeating Lawler next year. And just opposing anything Trump, or anything Lawler does, isn't going to work again. Certainly, doxxing a school teacher and police officer for wanting to say thanks for the SALT deduction quadrupling will have the opposite effect.

Free Concert-West Point Band

Congressman Lawler Accepting Service Academy Nominations



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Then, we return home to Trophy Point, where you can take in sweeping Hudson Valley views and a night of unforgettable music.

Friday, August 8, 7:00 p.m.Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla, NY

Saturday, August 9, 7:30 p.m.Trophy Point, West Point, NY

Free parking and admission.

Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

CONGRESSMAN
MIKE LAWLER
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Congressional Service Academy Nominations

Rep. Lawler’s service academy nomination application is now live on the website!

To be considered for a nomination to West Point, Annapolis, the Air Force Academy, or the Merchant Marine Academy, you must complete this application and interview process.

Apply at the link below.

Deadline to apply: September 26, 2025

Now Open: Congressman Lawler’s 2025 Service Academy Nomination Application!

If you’re a high school senior or eligible candidate living in New York’s 17th Congressional District and hoping to enter a U.S. Service Academy in 2026, this is your first step toward serving our nation.

Deadline to apply: September 26, 2025

Our service academies produce the next generation of military leaders, just as so many veterans in our community once answered the call. I’m proud to support young people ready to do the same.

Application form can be found at the link below:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdAdJEmUGqPv6lzWk3uNoTa0iiSrDLmcFx80Cgxcd8aPL0nQ/viewform>.



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