

# Westchester Rising

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## Democratic & Republican Primaries in Westchester on June 28 and in Early Voting



**Governor Kathy Hochul, left, and Harry Wilson, right**

Westchester democrats and republicans are heading to the polls, during early voting this week, and for the upcoming primary on June 28 for Governor and Assembly. Due to court cases and the redistricting of congressional lines in NY, another primary will be held in August for Congress and State Senate?

For the first time in decades, both major parties have competitive primaries for Governor. On the democratic side, Governor Kathy Hochul is running for the first time as Governor, after taking the position upon the resignation of Andrew Cuomo.

Hochul's two opponents in the democratic primary are Congressman Tom Suozzi and NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams. Suozzi has occupied the moderate lane of the NY democratic party, while Williams occupies the far left, progressive wing. Neither candidate has distinguished himself, nor given a rationale while they should be the NY Dems candidate for Governor.

This is despite a lot of bad news for NY State and for the Country, most notably crime, inflation, and gas prices. Hochul shouldn't be blamed for inflation and gas prices but the problems of the party in charge in Washington DC trickles down to NY.

But Williams and Suozzi have not been able to land a knockout blow to Hochul's campaign on either subject. Suozzi had the campaign cash, and experience, to stand toe to toe with Hochul, but he seems unable to connect with enough NY democrats to get close enough in the polls to stand a chance at victory.

Suozzi's biggest mistake, in our view, was saying that he would accept the endorsement of Andrew Cuomo. Agreeing to accept an endorsement that will never come only annoyed or angered the many NY democrats who called on Cuomo to resign, and his victims of sexual harassment.

The other issue that Suozzi has tried to tarnish Hochul with is her prior support of gun rights and the NRA. We believe that it is OK for elected officials to change their minds, and "evolve" as Governor Hochul has on this issue. We like what we have seen from Governor Hochul and endorse her in the democratic primary June 28.

The republican primary for Governor is more complicated, with four candidates running to face off against the democratic nominee in November. Congressman Lee Zeldin, former Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, Businessman Harry

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## Abinanti vs Shimsky, One of Three Assembly Democratic Primaries in Westchester



**left, Assemblyman Tom Abinanti, and County Legislator MaryJane Shimsky**



Westchester democrats in three Assembly districts will be voting on who they want to represent them in the November election, and in Albany.

The most talked about Assembly primary is in the 92nd district, (Greenburgh and parts of Yonkers), where incumbent Assemblyman Tom Abinanti is facing a serious challenge from County Legislator MaryJane Shimsky.

The challenge to Abinanti, who has served for the past 12 years in the Assembly, by Shimsky caught a lot of political watchers by surprise when she made her announcement, citing Abinanti's stances on vaccination and her support for progres-

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## If You Commit the Crime, do the Time! Especially Sex Abuse



**Patrick Patierno, photo from Facebook**

**By Dan Murphy**

Last month, Westchester DA Mimi Rocah announced that her office had successfully prosecuted the case of Patrick Patierno. Patierno, 54, of Yorktown, had been charged with sex abuse of a young, female employee. We wanted to learn more about this case, so we FOIL'd the records from the Ossining Police Department.

Here are the details: On Jan. 14, 2021, a man walked into the Ossining Police department stating that a co-worker was sexually assaulted at Villarina's in Ossining. According to the witness, Patierno came into his place of business complaining that a young, female employee told him she was going to quit. We later find out why this young woman did quit, but more on that later.

When the victim got to work she texted her co-worker what happened between her at Patierno. "He looked for me and I just thought he wanted to talk to me. Force me, did bad things. cnmg. He is a morbid old man. Forced me, ended up on top of my shorts. He's crazy," according to the police report.

After breaking down what his friend and co-worker had told him, "he realized that Pat had noconsensual sexual contact...and ejaculated on her shorts."

The victims shorts were collected by the OPD, but they had been washed and were inconclusive for DNA. Eventually the victim came into the police department and gave the same statement to the OPD. The following day, Patierno was arrested for Sex Abuse in the First Degree.

According to the police report, "the suspect in this case had again made contact with the victim at her residence.

The victim added that she had been sexually harassed by Patierno for months before this incident, and stated that on two occasions, "Patrick called her into the office and forcibly pressed his body on to her and pinned her against a wall in the office."

The victim, "explicitly and emphatically would refuse Patrick's unwanted advances and tell him no she did not want him to touch her. It got to the point where she told Patrick that she was quitting and leaving as a result of the harassment."

On the date of the incident, at 930 am, "Patrick stopped by her house to drop off a chess set. She allowed him inside at which point Patrick began questioning

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## Spend Your Summer Vacation in Upstate New York



**The Sagamore, on Lake George in Bolton Landing, NY**

**By Dan Murphy**

It has been three years since Westchester families have had the green light to head away this summer for vacation. And with everyone wanting to go away, the airlines are filled, and many flights have to be cancelled at the last minute because of a lack of employees.

That is why you should consider staying local and traveling by car for your summer vacation. Before COVID, my family enjoyed staying at The Sagamore in Bolton Landing, 10 miles north of Lake George.

We recently returned for the first time since 2019 and were happy to find The Sagamore "the same as it ever was," with excellent accommodations, service, dining and entertainment all offered by an accommodating staff.

The Sagamore is a landmark hotel, located on a private 70-acre island. The resort offers elegant lakeside accommodations, award-winning dining and an unmatched selection of family friendly water and land activities ideal for family vacations, weekend getaways and one-of-a-kind events.

The Sagamore opened its doors in 1883 and catered to the wealthy northeasterners who turned the Lake George region into the favorite vacation spot of its time. A fire destroyed the property on two occasions and was restored to its present-day glory and now sits on the National Register of Historic Places and is a prestigious AAA-Four Diamond resort.

The historic main hotel on Lake George features 137 rooms, 54 of which are suites, all designed with Adirondack inspired décor. The main hotel sits above both indoor and outdoor heated swimming pools with breathtaking views of Lake George. Spanning 10,000 square feet, our outdoor terraced pool deck sits next to our impressive 95,000-gallon swimming pool.

Other room options include suites the line the rest of the property. We always

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## Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra to Perform July 8 at Hudson River Museum Amphitheater



Two of the great cultural institutions—Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra (YPO) and the Hudson River Museum—come together to present a lively evening of classical music for the opening night of our 2022 Summer Series. Celebrating its 60th anniversary this year, the YPO is known for its inclusive performances with selections chosen to appeal to the widest variety of music lovers. What better way to spend a summer evening than with a little bit of Bach, jazz, and show tunes?

Throw in some dance music and you have the perfect sampler of music under the stars. It's a smorgasbord of fun and entertainment with a taste for everyone. The Guest Conductor for this special evening is Peter Szep, founder of the New York Opera Alliance and the New York Opera Fest that showcases the breadth and diversity of opera in New York City.

Doors open at 7:30pm. No reservations required. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. Free parking is available.

This program is part of the 2022 Summer Amphitheater Series. Learn more about the free series by visiting HRM.org.

## New York Opera Conservatory Free July 2022 Concert Series at Croton Library



*Suor Angelica*

The Taconic Opera summer program for emerging opera singers, New York Opera Conservatory (NYOC), offers you an opportunity to hear the upcoming generation of professional singers as they gain valuable experience perfecting their craft. Established in 2018, the NYOC helps to fill an unmet need among trained singers to gain valuable hands-on experience through actual performance.

Each event in the series listed below will have a different cast, making every performance completely unique from all the others - an all-opera version of America's Got Talent! Each performance includes the complete opera and is semi-staged (costumes, props). Casting information: [www.TaconicOpera.org/tickets/](http://www.TaconicOpera.org/tickets/)

July Opera: Suor Angelica & Il Tabarro (2 Puccini one-act masterpieces) Suor Angelica is about a nun's sad secret. Il Tabarro depicts the lives of impoverished river boat workers and the tragic consequences of jealousy, and features The Anvil Chorus.

Dates: Tuesday, July 5  
Thursday, July 7  
Friday, July 8  
Saturday, July 9

Location: Croton Free Library, 171 Cleveland Drive, Croton-on-Hudson, NY  
Time: 7:00 pm  
Fee: Free

Tickets: Tickets are free but must be reserved due to limited space  
Phone: (855) 886-7372  
On-line: <https://taconicopera.org/Tickets/>

## 36th Annual African-American Heritage Festival Returns to Kensico Dam Plaza June 26

Join us to celebrate African-American Culture and honor essential workers at the African-American Heritage Festival on Sunday, June 26, from noon to 6 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla.

County Executive George Latimer said, "African-American culture focuses on values emphasizing the closeness of family and the importance of community. I applaud the organizers of this festival for honoring our essential workers. These dedicated and selfless employees held the frontline while serving the greater community and helping all of us navigate through the pandemic."

Parks Commissioner Kathleen O'Connor said, "We are excited to be able to come together in person at the Kensico Dam Plaza and celebrate African-American heritage and culture. Gather with friends and family to enjoy this majestic park and the live entertainment."

The African-American Heritage Festival takes place from Noon until 6 p.m. There will be live entertainment, music, dance, drama, poetry, ethnic foods, line dancing, cultural arts and crafts, health vendors, educational vendors and much more!

The festival will be held rain or shine. Seating is informal; bring blankets or folding chairs for seating on the lawn. No coolers will be allowed. Admission and parking are free. Carpooling or taking mass transit is encouraged. A free shuttle service will be offered (by Accredited Limousine Service) to and from Valhalla and North White Plains Train Stations from 1:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.

The other heritage festivals, all being held at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla, are:

Hispanic	Sunday, July 10	Noon – 6 p.m.
Italian	Sunday, July 24	Noon – 6 p.m.
India	Sunday, Aug. 7	Noon – 6 p.m.
Jewish	Sunday, Aug. 21	Noon – 6 p.m.
Muslim Heritage	Sunday, Aug. 28	Noon – 6 p.m.

The African-American Heritage Festival is co-sponsored by Westchester County Parks and the Coalition of African American Organizations.

Kensico Dam Plaza is located at 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla. For more information, call 914-864-PARK or visit [parks.westchestergov.com](http://parks.westchestergov.com).

Please be advised that on June 26 the Bronx River Parkway will be closed for Bicycle Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. between Scarsdale Road in Yonkers and the Westchester County Center in White Plains. The park can be accessed via Route 22, from the north or south.

## Latimer Invites Job Seekers to Transportation Career Job Fair June 30

Westchester County Executive George Latimer is encouraging prospective employees to participate in the County's transportation careers job fair. The day-long event will feature a morning session from 10am to 12pm open to Minority and Women Owned Businesses (MWBs) and Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Businesses. The afternoon session will offer information on careers in transportation.

Date: Thursday, June 30, 1pm to 4pm. Location: New York Power Authority, 123 Main Street, White Plains, New York 10601.

Latimer said: "Transportation keeps this County moving forward and allows potential employees to develop and amplify skills needed to work at our airport or transportation hubs, even in the private sector. We are pleased to partner with the MTA to offer this kind of opportunity to Westchester job seekers."

Director of the Westchester County Office of Economic Development Bridget Gibbons said: "Our job fairs are continuing to be a successful pipeline to building a strong workforce and creating a collaborative partnership between Westchester County and employers like the MTA. We know we have talented people looking for the right opportunity and we hope to strengthen economic opportunities for our neighbors by providing a link to their career development."

Exhibitors include the New York State Department of Transportation, Hudson Valley Region, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, New York State; Westchester County Airport, The Bee-Line bus, school and private bus companies, car limousine services such as Red Oak Transportation, and more. Participants are encouraged to be prepared for on-the-spot interviews. Prospective employees are also advised to bring multiple copies of their resume and a picture ID.

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## Sayegh Diapers Sales Tax Relief Gets Unanimous Support

## A \$75 Tank of Gas



Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, right, with State Senator Jamaal Bailey

By Eric Wolf Schoen

Yonkers Assemblyman Nader Sayegh's drive to exempt all diapers from local sales taxes succeeded during the final hours of the Legislative Session when the Assembly voted 146-0 to pass the Sayegh DIAPER Sales Tax Exemption Legislation. Earlier the State Senate approved the legislation 63-0.

Assemblyman Nader Sayegh said: "With inflation impacting family budgets, I passed statewide legislation to exempt diapers from local sales taxes, making them more affordable for families struggling to buy enough diapers for their babies and making incontinence products more affordable for Seniors. Diapers are a necessity and adding a sales tax on top of the purchase price is just wrong. I thank the National Diaper Bank Network and the volunteers from the State's diaper banks including the Junior League of Central Westchester, for coming to the State Capitol to lobby for passage of my Diaper Act."

Senate Sponsor Jamaal T. Bailey said: "One in three American families struggled to afford diapers even before the pandemic. Diaper need has only increased during the pandemic and New York's diaper banks are struggling to pay for the supplies themselves. This legislation is critical to addressing diaper need and alleviating costs for families and diaper banks across the state by exempting adult and children's diapers from sales and use taxes. Thank you Assemblyman Sayegh for sponsoring and championing in the Assembly, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Carl E. Heastie, and the advocates and diaper bank organizations - Every Bottom Covered, the National Diaper Bank Network, CNY Diaper Bank, Junior League of Central Westchester, and Baby Steps Baby Pantry Diaper Bank - for their tireless work on this critically important issue."

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie said: "Diapers are an item essential to the health and wellbeing of our youngest New Yorkers, yet too many families struggle to afford them." Speaker Carl Heastie said. "By exempting them from local taxes, this legislation will help ease the financial burden on New Yorkers, and make diapers and incontinence products more affordable at a time where we are seeing the cost of necessities rise."

The National Diaper Bank Network's Lacey Gero said: "We applaud New York State Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, the primary sponsor of the DIAPER Act, and Senator Jamaal Bailey who sponsored the DIAPER Act in the Senate for passing legislation that will end local sales taxes on diapers. Eliminating this regressive tax will make diapers, a material basic necessity for all babies, more affordable for New York families. It will also relieve the tax burden on numerous nonprofit diaper banks working to support the 1 in 3 families who struggle with diaper need," said Lacey Gero, policy and coalition coordinator, National Diaper Bank Network. "NDBN member diaper banks throughout the state have worked with elected officials and fellow advocates to make this happen and respectfully request Governor Hochul's signature on this important bill."

Michelle Memolil, President of the Junior League of Central Westchester said: "Through the Westchester County Diaper Bank, JLCW has leveraged our resources to yield sustainable impact for people by combatting diaper deprivation for babies, easing the financial burden for families, and increasing access to a basic need. We are proud to add to that positive impact by supporting Assemblyman Sayegh and Senator Bailey in their successful advocacy efforts to eliminate local sales taxes on diapers."

The DIAPER Act now goes to the office of Governor Kathy Hochul for review. Assemblyman Sayegh's office received no memorandums in opposition to the legislation from county or local government.

I knew it was coming. I would go to fill my car up with gas. Correction. I go to a station that provides full service. My tank was 1/8 full. I said 'fill it up, Regular please.' And the bill came to \$75. For many of you I am sure the fill-up is higher.

Normally I would tip the guy, but you want a tip you wash my windows. No window wash, no tip. I don't care that the price is so high and they don't wash windows. Want a tip wash my windows like you did when gas was \$2 a gallon. And the higher price should incentivize full service to please their customers by washing the windows because we all know the price will ultimately come down.

So Biden at press time is waiting to decide if he will suspend the federal gas tax. What's his big question? People can't afford \$5 gas. He better do something. We all can't ride our bikes like he does to get where we need to go. And restart drilling that he stopped when he came in office. People can't afford to go anywhere.

Planes. Last weekend 2 of 3 friends got their planes cancelled. And the third had a two hour delay as the captain abruptly stopped the plane as the brakes were not working. They were screeching. Doesn't someone like a mechanic check out the brakes on the plane before it is put into service? The friendly skies really aren't friendly anymore. Remember the days when flying was fun?

Who would want to be a flight attendant or pilot and get abused by passengers? Everyone wants to fly now that the threat of Covid is lessening. It seems like the airlines are booking flights for which they don't have pilots or flight attendants for. And let's not even talk about the costs for these flights that will never fly!

Have you been to Ridge Hill lately. No more Orvis, Lord and Taylor, REI, Brooks Brothers, and many other little stores. Closed tight. During the pandemic they discontinued the parking fee when all those stores were open. Now with \$75 gas fill ups they are 'attempting' to reintroduce the parking fees.

I say attempting because they have removed the machines that let you pay with cash or card. Now you are supposed to pay via your cell phone. Text a number, capture one of those squares with lines with the camera on your iPhone. Are they kidding? Do the realize that many people don't have cellular phones. Or maybe their cellular phones don't work and they are on the way to the Apple Store. Or that they haven't a clue how to do what they are being asked to do.

Or are Senior citizens unfamiliar with the technology? When I go to Ridge Hill they have a man there to explain the new way of paying for parking and most people laugh at him. I asked what are people to do if they can't pay using the new technology. The answer I got was 'park outside.'

Where is one supposed to 'park outside' I asked the ignorant jerk who offered that as an alternative to parking in the garage. You remember when they first opened they had parking meters and it was determined they were illegal. There is an insufficient number of handicapped parking spaces and numerous 10 minute spaces for quick pickups and drop offs at various stores. There is no where to 'park outside.' And the garage is such a hazardous nightmare to begin with I am surprised with drivers going crazy speeding in that lot that there aren't more accidents. At least one set of the elevators by the movie theaters is always out of service.

If Ridge Hill needs parking fees so badly given the fewer stores that exist, things must be pretty bad. The only way we will stop these fees is if consumers put pressure on merchants to put pressure on Ridge Hill Management to put an end to the fees or to reintroduce the machines that they had in the past.

I went to vote in the primary and got to the Will Library before the polls opened at noon. I walk in the door, inquire about the primary (I thought they started voting at 10:00 a.m.) and the man said to me 'wait a minute you have to put a mask on.' I could not vote, wanted to pick up something at the library where masks are not required so I did not put on a mask. Wasn't the purpose of early voting where you have for the Primary the choice of one person to avoid the mask nonsense. If masks are so important, I suggest people vote by absentee ballot giving Covid exposure as their reason for a ballot to be mailed to them.

How come every time Apple introduces a new operating system there are problems. This time, my iPad clock is on Military Time and my iPhone speakerphone stopped working. What do they do there in Cupertino, California? Don't they test out these operating systems before they automatically download on your iPhone or iPad?

I ran into reader Joe Cianciulli when I stopped to pick up some wake up wraps at Dunkin Donuts. I showed him my receipt that listed the tax on my purchase as 'City of Yonkers' and we both agreed that the sales tax on our purchases was not just Yonkers but a combined city, county and state sales tax. Something for the Mayor and his aides to correct.

Food prices are out of control. My box of 5 Think energy bars which 2 months ago was \$5.50-\$6 is now \$8.69. Where could an almost 50% increase be coming from? Boats stuck at sea? Price of production going up? Or are companies just getting damn greedy with their prices. I cannot believe the increases in so many products we purchase. Start reading those sales flyers to get some ideas of the products that are discounted.

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## Brooklyn Man Sentenced to 10 Years in Prison for Armed Attack at Greenburgh Bus Depot

Westchester County District Attorney Mimi Rocah announced that Brooklyn resident Tony Mauro was sentenced to 10 years in state prison for an armed attack on a group of workers, including school bus drivers, employed by Royal Coach Lines at the company's Greenburgh bus depot in 2018.

Mauro, 41, was sentenced as a Second Violent Felony Offender on June 17, 2022, to 10 years in state prison, with five years of post-release supervision. Mauro pled guilty to Criminal Use of a Firearm in the First Degree, a violent felony.

"Gun violence in our community will have consequences," DA Rocah said. "No one should have to face the barrel of a gun while doing their job, let alone our transportation workers. We are grateful to all of the law enforcement who helped ensure the victims were physically unharmed."

On November 16, 2018, at approximately 4 a.m., Mauro ordered three victims at gunpoint onto a bus that was parked at the depot. He then fired a shot that struck the car of a fourth employee whom he had ordered out of the car. During the incident, which occurred during a blizzard, one of the victims was able to send a text for help, and Mauro fled the scene on foot as Greenburgh Police arrived.

The Greenburgh Police Department arrested Mauro following a pursuit and investigation, with assistance from the Greenburgh Towns and Villages SWAT Team and the Westchester County Department of Public Safety.

The case was before Judge Robert Neary in Westchester County Court, and was prosecuted by the Trials and Investigations Division of the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

## Westchester Elected Democrats Support Levenberg for Assembly



Former Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey, with Assembly candidate Dana Levenberg

The campaign of Assembly candidate Dana Levenberg submitted dozens of letters to the editor from current and former elected officials in Westchester supporting her candidacy to replace Sandy Galef in the 95th Assembly District, which includes Ossining, Cortlandt Manor, Peekskill and parts of Putnam County.

Endorsements for Levenberg included: Former Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey, who wrote, "In order to fill your (Galef's) shoes, we want somebody who's going to have that same energy, that same respect, that same commitment to the people, and of course that same drive to make positive change.... For that reason, I'm giving my unwavering support and endorsement to Dana Levenberg to take this 95th Assembly seat."

Westchester County Board of Legislators Chair Catherine Borgia, who wrote, "Peekskill Mayor Vivian McKenzie--Of all the candidates in this race, Dana has the most substantial history of accomplishments."

Assemblymember Amy Paulin, "I want Dana as my colleague in the Capitol so that we can continue to advance the shared interests of our Westchester delegaton."

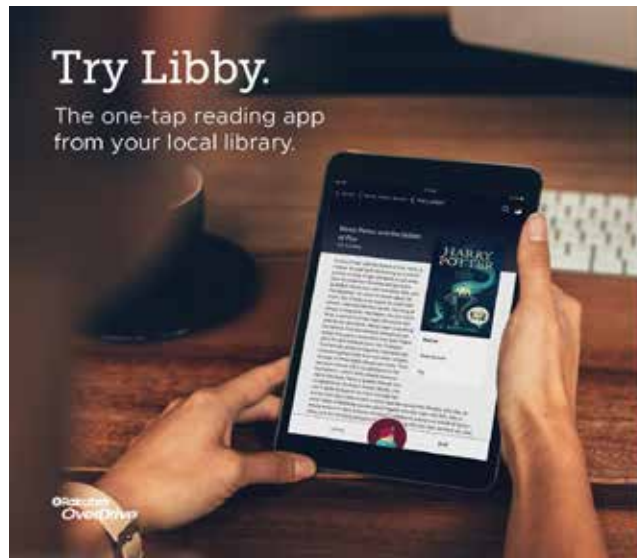
Assemblymember Chris Burdick, "I have had the opportunity to see first-hand her keen intelligence and her rare ability to identify and unpack thorny issues. Most importantly, Dana serves the community with compassion and a genuine, heartfelt desire to help everyone."

Assemblymember Sandy Galef, "I know and respect all of the candidates running for this seat. But I also know no one else will work as hard or as effectively for the 95th Assembly District as Dana. I know this because I've seen her do it. She knows this district and the Assembly, and she will be able to hit the ground running on day one."

Levenberg is running in a democratic primary currently underway with early voting. Former Peekskill City Councilwoman Vanessa Agudelo and County Legislator Colin Smith are her two opponents. The primary is on June 28.

All three campaigns are confident of victory, with the Smith campaign pointing to a number of union endorsements, and the Agudelo campaign highlighting their campaign on the ground, and the support from the Working Families Party, and from Cynthia Nixon and AOC.

## Libby Reading App Available With Your Westchester Library Card



Many Westchester residents may not know that your local library card entitles you to access thousands of books, magazines and other material through an app called Libby. Libby is the Westchester Library Systems biggest and most widely-used digital resource.

Libby is the mobile app for OverDrive-- your local libraries main content library for borrowable library E-books and E-audiobooks. You can download the app onto your iPhone, iPad or Android device -- or whatever you'd like to use for reading or listening to books. Your local library card gets you access to:

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Visit your local library to learn how to start using Libby, or Download Libby app from the Apple App Store, Google Play, or Microsoft Store onto your mobile device. Next, Open the Libby app and select "Search for a Library" to add Yonkers Public Library. The Select "Enter Library Account Details" and enter your 14-digit library card number and PIN (if you don't know it, try the last 4 digits of your phone number). You can then browse your library's collection on the Library App or at westchester.overdrive.com. Tap Borrow to borrow a title.

Dear Editor,

The January 6 hearings have demonstrated how the normalization of lies in political communication has eroded our faith in government and in the validity of elections. Valid elections are the foundation of democracy, and we are on the precipice of losing our democracy. Volunteers are desperately needed to serve at the polls and ensure that no eligible voter is turned away. I urge every American to listen to the hearings, and volunteer to work at the polls or monitor the polls. Register to volunteer for Election Protection to make sure we protect the results of the 2022 election at cmnca.us/jan6ep. Sincerely, Helen Meltzer, Scarsdale.

Dear Editor,

I support the January 6 hearing and think that there should be arrests for the people who tried to stop the vote and keep Trump in office illegally.

Sincerely,

Laraine Wallen, Fleetwood

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## The NY Taxpayers Legal Argument Against Paying for a New Buffalo Bills Stadium

A lawsuit filed by four New York state residents against the proposed taxpayer funding of a new stadium for the Buffalo Bills football team continues to move through NYS Supreme Court, in Albany County.

The cost for the \$1.4 Billion New Era stadium's total pricetag includes \$850 Million in public funds, with the State funding \$600 Million in construction costs, and Erie County government funding \$250 Million. The NFL will give the Bills owner, Terry Pegula, a \$200 million loan, and Pegula will fund \$350 of the remaining costs.

The NY State funding for the new stadium was included in the state budget passed by the legislature and signed by the Governor in April. Hochul, who comes from Western NY, was instrumental in including the stadium funding in the budget deal.

The lawsuit against the deal, filed in State Supreme Court last month, asked the court to declare the public funding plan "null and void" based on "Article VII-Section 8.1 and Article VIII, Section 1, of the New York State Constitution." The State of NY, the defendants in the case, have filed a motion to dismiss the suit.

The latest papers, filed by New Yorkers Bob Schulz, Westchester resident Tony Futia, Joshua Trost and William James, argue that in prior case law, the courts "give deference to public funding programs essential to addressing the problems of modern life, unless such programs are patently illegal." Schulz v State of New York, 84 N.Y.2d 231, 241 (1994).

"Clearly, and without doubt, the New York State Constitution prohibits the giving or lending of State and County money "in aid of any... private corporation... or private undertaking..." Article VII, Section 8.1 and Article VIII, Section 1. There are no exceptions. No State or County money can be appropriated for any project or undertaking if any part of that appropriation will aid - i.e., help, a private corporation. A private corporation is, by definition, a corporation organized for the profit of its members or in which the entire interest is not held by the state," states the Memorandum of Law filed by the four New Yorkers.

The legal papers also point out that "the public funds are to be used in aid of a private corporation in the non-essential business of entertainment, including entertaining people from states other than New York."

Bob Schulz, one of the plaintiffs in the lawsuit said, "The State of New York is a Constitutional Republic. The power of elected officials is limited by the will of the People as expressed in the State Constitution. Elected officials often step outside the boundaries drawn around their power. By appropriating \$600M in state funds, and authorizing \$250M in county funds to aid the Buffalo Bills, Gov. Hochul and the Legislature have violated provisions of the Constitution that prohibit the use of public funds in aid of private undertakings. We are asking the Court to invalidate those appropriations."

Westchester resident Tony Futia said, "New York state has been deliberately not teaching generations of children civic education as required by section 801 of the NY State Education Law."

A recent Sienna Poll found 63% of New Yorkers disapprove the public spending of \$600 Million for the new stadium, and opinion columns have largely criticized the expenditure.

Opposition to the public funding of the stadium has come from both sides of the political aisle, with fiscal conservatives like Schulz and Futia, and progressive democrats, opposing the expenditure.

State Senate Finance Committee Chair Liz Krueger said, "I'm sorry, this is a terrible way, a terrible way to use the taxpayers' money." Assemblyman Ron Kim said that 40 years of data show that public funding of stadiums is "one giant scam in economics."

The owner of the Buffalo Bills, Terry Pegula is currently worth \$5.1 billion. The estimated cost of renovating the existing stadium was \$350 Million.

## Feds Charge Elmsford Nurse in \$10 Million Loan Fraud Scam



**Catherine Seemer, left, was arrested on June 15 for orchestrating a \$10.5 Million loan fraud scheme that included stealing physicians identities and falsifying disabilities.**

On June 15, US Attorney Damian Williams announced today the unsealing of a criminal complaint charging Catherine Seemer, 42, of Elmsford, with wire fraud, federal financial aid fraud, and aggravated identity theft in connection with a scheme that resulted in the fraudulent discharge of over \$10.5 million worth of student loans on the basis of falsified medical certifications of permanent disabilities.

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said: "The Total and Permanent Disability Discharge Program is designed to help ease the financial burden of those who suffer from permanent physical or mental disabilities, including military veterans who endure service-related disabilities, by relieving them of their student loan obligations. As alleged, the defendant defrauded this program for her own benefit. She stole the identities of more than a dozen medical doctors and falsified the disabilities of more than 100 borrowers in order to profit from the multi-year scheme, which resulted in the fraudulent discharge of over \$10.5 million in loans. This Office, along with our law enforcement partners, will continue to vigilantly protect the integrity of critical programs that exist to help those who are most in need."

FBI Assistant Director-in-Charge Michael J. Driscoll said: "As alleged, Ms. Seemer fraudulently orchestrated the discharge of student loans in excess of \$10 million on behalf of more than 100 borrowers she led to believe were eligible for various forms of student-loan relief. She ultimately reaped more than \$1 million in ill-gotten gains by charging borrowers fees in exchange for her "services." The action we have taken today is yet another example of the FBI's commitment to protecting government programs from fraudsters who seek to undermine them for their own selfish purposes."

As alleged in the Complaint filed in White Plains federal court: From June 2017 through March 2022, Seemer orchestrated a scheme to cause the fraudulent discharge of millions of dollars' worth of student loans for borrowers who did not qualify for relief under the federal Total and Permanent Disability Discharge Program and its private analogue. As part of the scheme, SEEMER deceived over 100 borrowers into believing they qualified for various forms of student loan relief and charged them fees—often between 10% and 20% of the loan amount—to facilitate their loan discharge process.

She then used the personal identifying information of the unsuspecting borrowers to submit fraudulent applications for student loan discharge on the basis of non-existent permanent physical and mental disabilities. In support of these applications, Seemer used the stolen identities, medical license numbers, and forged signatures of over a dozen medical doctors to falsify medical diagnoses and disability certifications. The scheme resulted in the wrongful discharge of over approximately \$10.5 million in loans under the disability-based relief programs. It is estimated that Seemer earned at least approximately \$1 million as a result of the scheme.

Seemer is charged with one count of wire fraud, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison; one count of federal financial aid fraud, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison; and one count of aggravated identity theft, which carries a mandatory consecutive sentence of two years in prison.

The case is being prosecuted by the Office's White Plains Division. Assistant U.S. Attorney Qais Ghafary is in charge of the prosecution.

## Scheduled July 4 Fireworks in Westchester



**Other scheduled fireworks for July 4, unless otherwise noted, in Westchester, with websites for more information, include:**

- \* **Yonkers Pier-Yonkersny.gov**
- \* **Harbor Island Park, Mamaroneck -village.mamaroneck.ny.us**
- \* **Town of Pound Ridge, July 2 -townofpoundridge.com**
- \* **Rye Playland -playland.com**
- \* **Pierson Park, Tarrytown -tarrytownny.gov**
- \* **New Rochelle Waterfront-newrochelleny.com**

## Letter to the Editor: Vote for Astorino and Early Voting Dates and Polling Places

Attention registered Republicans. Starting June 23, you can vote in the gubernatorial primary. Election Day is Tuesday June 28th but below are times and locations to vote early.

Please join me in voting for Rob Astorino. We must turn our state around before it's too late. Westchester was thriving when Rob was County Executive. He will do the same for our state and is the only one that can beat Kathy Hochul in November. First we need to make sure he is the Republican candidate for Governor by sending as many people to vote over the next 9 days. It will be a very low turnout so every vote will count.

New Early Voting Hours: Thursday, June 23, 2022 from noon until 8 p.m. Friday, June 24, 2022 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.; Saturday, June 25, 2022 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.; Sunday, June 26, 2022 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

Westchester County Early Voting Centers

- Eastchester Public Library, 11 Oakridge Place, Eastchester, NY 10709
- Dobbs Ferry Village Hall, 112 Main Street, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10522
- Greenburgh Town Hall, 177 Hillside Avenue, White Plains, NY 10607
- St. Gregory The Great Church, 215 Halstead Avenue, Harrison, NY 10528
- Mamaroneck Town Center, 740 W. Boston Post Road, Mamaroneck, NY 10543
- Mt. Kisco Municipal Building, 104 Main Street, Mt. Kisco, NY 10549 (New Location)
- Mt. Pleasant Community Center, 125 Lozza Drive, Valhalla, NY 10595
- Joseph G. Caputo Community Center, 95 Broadway, Ossining, NY 10562
- Pound Ridge Town House, 179 Westchester Avenue, Pound Ridge, NY 10576
- Rye Brook Firehouse, 940 King Street, Rye Brook, NY 10573
- Somers Town House, 335 Route 202, Somers, NY 10589
- Jefferson Village Annex, 3500 Hill Boulevard, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
- Yorktown Cultural Center, 1974 Commerce Street, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598
- Doles Center, 250 S. 6th Avenue, Mt. Vernon, NY 10550
- Mt. Vernon City Hall, 1 Roosevelt Square, Mt. Vernon, NY 10550
- New Rochelle City Hall Annex - 90 Beaufort Place, 90 Beaufort Place, New Rochelle, NY 10801
- New Rochelle United Methodist Church, 1200 North Avenue, New Rochelle
- Peekskill Nutrition Center - Neighborhood Center, 4 Nelson Avenue, Peekskill,
- Peekskill Lincoln Depot Museum, 10 S. Water Street, Peekskill, NY 10566
- West. County Board of Elections, 25 Quarropas Street, White Plains, 10601
- Grinton I. Will Library, 1500 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710
- Nodine Hill Community Center, 140 Fillmore Street, Yonkers, NY 10701
- Riverfront Library, One Larkin Center, Yonkers, NY 10701

*Anthony Giacobbe, Eastchester*

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Notice of formation of LaceMafia LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/20/2022. 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, 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228 . Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Articles of Organization (DOM-PROF.LLC). Komosinski Law, PLLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) 4/19/2022. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of DOM-PROF.LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail copy of process to Richard F. Komosinski, Esquire, 30 Emmett Pl., Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: The practice of Law.

Notice of Formation of INNER THEIA LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 03/01/2022. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Inner Theia LLCat 5 Aspen Road, Scarsdale NY 10581. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

**NOTICE OF SALE  
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER**

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Plaintiff

AGAINST

Rosetta Silvestro as heir at law and next of kin of Luigia Silvestro a/k/a Luisa Silvestro; et al., Defendant(s)

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated July 8, 2021 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Courtroom 200, White Plains, NY, 10601 on July 1, 2022 at 9:30AM, premises known as 147 Florence Street, Yonkers, NY 10704. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester, State of New York, Section 5 Block 5235 Lot 34 & 35. Approximate amount of judgment \$101,787.83 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 69552/2016. The auction will be conducted pursuant to the COVID-19 Policies Concerning Public Auctions of Foreclosed Property established by the Ninth Judicial District.

John Gifford Molloy, Esq.,  
Referee LOGS Legal Group LLP f/k/a Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff  
175 Mile Crossing Boulevard, Rochester, New York 14624, (877) 430-4792  
Dated: February 3, 2022  
For sale information, please visit [www.Auction.com](http://www.Auction.com) or call (800) 280-2832

**Classifieds**

Attorney  
DIVORCE \$389 - Uncontested divorce papers prepared. Only one signature required. Poor person Application included if applicable. Separation agreements. Custody and support petitions. 518-274-0380

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**NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO RELOCATE A BRANCH OFFICE**

Notice is hereby given that Citizens Bank, National Association, One Citizens Plaza, Providence, RI 02903, has filed an application with the Comptroller of the Currency on June 24, 2022, as specified in 12 CFR 5 for permission to relocate the branch at 2371 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710 to 2195 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Director for Large Bank Licensing, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 400 7th Street SW, Mail Stop 10E-2, Washington, DC 20219 within 15 days after the date of this publication.

**TOWN OF EASTCHESTER  
LEGAL NOTICE**

**2022 HIGHWAY MAINTENANCE GARAGE EXPANSION PROJECT**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE BID documents can be obtained for a \$25.00 fee in person, OR via mail from the Eastchester Town Clerks Office, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, NY 10709, (914) 771-3351 as of WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 2022. A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the site, Eastchester Highway Department, Farella Way (dead end), formerly known as Burnham Road on WEDNESDAY, JULY 6, 2022 @ 11:00am. The SEALED Bids will be received by mail or delivered to the Office of the Town Clerk, Town of Eastchester, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, NY 10709 by JULY 27, 2022 no later than 11:00am at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

All questions regarding this bid shall be addressed to 914-961-8540 or via email [rlatella@eastchester.org](mailto:rlatella@eastchester.org)

The Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids.  
BY THE ORDER OF THE SUPERVISOR AND THE  
TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER, NY  
LINDA LAIRD,  
TOWN CLERK

Notice of formation of Color It Black, LLC. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/28/2022. 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 Color It Black LLC, 33 Cliffside Drive, Yonkers, NY 10710 Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**Notice of formation of Sutton E.L.S Ent, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/18/2021. 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, 103 McLean Avenue Apt.# 3b, Yonkers NY 10467. Purpose: Any lawful activity.**

Notice of formation of J Troncoso Construction LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/29/2022. 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, P.O. Box 1434 Yonkers, NY 10702. Purpose: General Construction

Notice of formation of SECOND STAR WELLNESS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY 03/03/2022. Allison Susan Courtenay designated as registered agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Allison Susan Courtenay shall mail process to the LLC, 200 Beacon Hill Dr Apt 12E1, Dobbs Ferry NY 10522. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Attiato LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 1/7/2022. 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, 923 SAW MILL RIVER ROAD, PMB #188 ARDSLEY, NY, 10502, USA . Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of RH SOCIAL ARTS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/21/2022. 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, 139 Mamaroneck Ave., Apt. 1, Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation Juntos Group, LLC Arts of Org filed with SSNY on 02/03/2022. 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 Gramatan Ave #1023, Mount Vernon, NY 10550. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of INNER THEIA LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 03/01/2022. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Inner Theia LLCat 5 Aspen Road, Scarsdale NY 10581. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of Public Policy Professionals, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 6/2/2022. 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, 2187 White Birch Drive, Yorktown Heights, NY 10598. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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***Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-***

In Yonkers and most of Westchester we have a Congressman out of touch with the interests and philosophies of most of his constituents. The State Legislature came up with an illegal redistricting plan that a court appointed Special Master had to change. County Legislator Vedat Gashi stepped up to the plate to primary the AOC branded Jamaal Bowman, a guy who goes on television representing our district wearing a sweater versus a collared shirt most Congressman wear, many with suit and tie.

Out of the clear blue sky County Legislator Catherine Parker joined the race. She could have been a candidate throughout the whole redistricting process but chose to enter the race at the last minute. If we end up with the current out of touch Congressman in November thank Catherine Parker for being the spoiler in this most important race.

That's the city to our country today. We are off next week for the 4th of July. Make sure you fly your flag no matter how big or small it is. And God Bless America, My Home Sweet Home!

**Reach Eric Schoen at [thistoosyonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistoosyonkers@aol.com). Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show alternating Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, WVOX.com click listen or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.**

Notice of formation of Sutton E.L.S Ent, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/18/2021. 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, 103 McLean Avenue Apt.# 3b, Yonkers NY 10467. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

## The Business Council of Westchester Announces 2022 Rising Stars

The Business Council of Westchester, the county's leading business membership organization, today announced its 2022 class of Rising Stars, a diverse and highly talented group representing an impressive array of professions. "This year's nominees represent the very best and brightest of Westchester County's up and coming young professionals across organizations and industries from healthcare to finance to technology to law and banking. We're delighted to honor such an elite group," said Rising Stars Chairman Joseph McCoy, Divisional Head Commercial Loans-Hudson Valley, Valley National Bank.

The 2022 Rising Stars are:

Victoria Baldini, Manager of Development ANDRUS  
 Sophie Bird, Senior VP, York International Agency  
 Damani Bush, Commissioner DPW, City of Mount Vernon  
 Steve Cardinali, General Manager, Maier Markey & Justice LLP  
 Kevin Choo, Orthopedic Surgeon, Orthopaedic & Neurosurgery Specialists  
 Savneek Chugh, Physician, Westchester Medical Center  
 Matthew Claster, VP of Strategy & Corporate Development, Clarapath  
 Ashley De Paola, Senior Vice President, Alliant Insurance Services Inc.  
 Karen Delgado, Director of Surveillance, Empire City Casino by MGM  
 Joseph DiPalma, Principal, Jackson Lewis  
 Ryan Finch, Creative Technology Director, Corporate Audio Visual Services  
 Adam Frank, Dean of Student Life, Westchester Community College  
 Carrie Gallagher, Chief Marketing Officer, Balancing Life's Issues Inc.  
 Priscilla Harmon, Administrative Director, WPH Cares-White Plains Hospital  
 Marion Henson, Owner/Founder, Bloom Healthy  
 Tim Howe, Chief Operating Officer, Spectrum Designs  
 Brian Huff, Market Executive Director, JPMorgan Chase  
 Micaela Keane, Vice President, USI Insurance Services  
 Matus Knoblich, President & CEO, Med-Stat Consulting Services  
 Dana Lawless, Director of Development, Child Care Council of Westchester  
 Troy Lipp, Partner, Cuddy & Feder LLP  
 Melody Madera, Director of Patient Services, Lawrence Hospital  
 Jack Martinelli Director of Business Development, Westchester Magazine  
 Matt McAllister, Chief Operating Officer, Statewide Abstract Corp.  
 Rebecca Parelman, Senior Project Manager of Development, RXR Realty  
 Michelle Parinello, Director of Marketing, Lippolis Electric Inc.  
 Laura Picone, Vice President, TD Bank  
 Jared Pisapia, Physician, Westchester Medical Center Advanced Physician Services  
 Paul Presendieu, Outreach Manager, Sustainable Westchester  
 Tyre Robinson, Regional President-Senior Vice President, M&T Bank  
 Jorge Roman, Housing Supervisor, Yonkers Municipal Housing Authority  
 Keith Rosenthal, Chief Financial Officer WBP Development LLC  
 Danielle Settembre, Owner, Hair Saloon & Cafe  
 Giuseppe Siena, Associate VP of Faculty Practice Montefiore Health System  
 Joanna Simone President of Leasing Simone Development Company  
 Donald Stevens, CEO & Co-Founder, A Better Wash  
 Melissa Strauss, Senior Manager Human Resources  
 Francisco Tejada Airport Operations Supervisor, Avports LLC  
 Linnea Texin, Director, Corporate Responsibility, Regeneron  
 Jeffrey Wu, Partner, Portfolio Operations, Altium Wealth  
 Visit [www.thebcw.org](http://www.thebcw.org) for more information.

### Summer Vacation, continued from pg 1-

stay in a spacious, lodge suite, located next to the main hotel, which included enough room for my daughter and wife, and included a small kitchen and deck with lakefront views. Our room was clean and ready on time for check in.

The resort also has its own boat, The Morgan, a 72-foot vessel, which brings guests out for a 90-minute tour of the lake and the surrounding islands.

An emphasis on children's activities, including a massive recreation center complete with miniature golf, ping pong, basketball, whiffle ball, and other games and activities organized by staff provide young kids with a vacation of their own.

A bonfire with Smores and a horse drawn carriage around the property are all included amenities in your stay.

Eight restaurants on the property make it possible to throw your keys in your suitcase and stay on grounds and enjoy La Bella Vita Italian Restaurant, Pavilion, a waterfront seafood experience, Club Grill Steakhouse, Mr. Brown's Pub, and other lighter, family friendly poolside dining options.

Legendary Golf course Architect Donald Ross designed The Sagamore's golf course in 1928. Located 5 minutes away off the island.

While visiting I read this passage in a local guide to Lake George that summed up the hope of every family on summer vacation. "Long before David Geffen became a billionaire music mogul in Los Angeles, he was a kid from Brooklyn who summer vacationed camping with his family on one of the public islands of Lake George"

Geffen wrote, "If there is one thing that stands out in my mind about our yearly trips to Lake George, it's probably that my family felt like more of a unit there than any other setting. At home in Brooklyn, it seemed like we rarely sat down together in the same room; my mother worked tirelessly at running her shop, my father's job kept him very busy as well, and my brother and I behaved like typical kids, running in different directions."

"Once we arrived and had pitched our tents, we had the chance to hang out together like a traditional family and get to know each other -for better or worse! I'll always remember those camping trips as happy, wonderful, relaxing times," wrote Geffen.

Our visit to The Sagamore was a welcome return to normal, and up to the same standards that we had enjoyed pre-COVID. My wife said that the views of Lake George, the spanning poolside and waterfront dining, reminded her of the Caribbean. And my daughter enjoyed the sights, sounds, games, and activities of Lake George Village, that are only 15 minutes away.

Visit [thesagamore.com](http://thesagamore.com) for more information.

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 News in Yonkers and around Westchester

### Primaries in Westchester, continued from pg 1-

Wilson, and Andrew Giuliani are the four republicans seeking to become the first elected Governor in NY since George Pataki in 2002.

Zeldin is the endorsed candidate of the NY GOP. He has the support of most of the local GOPs across the state and should have closed the deal on a primary victory long ago. But for some reason, Zeldin has been unable to resonate, and appeal to a majority of New York republicans.

Part of the reason is that his record of serving in the NY State Senate before serving in Congress has become a major campaign issue. Harry Wilson has launched a TV ad campaign highlighting Zeldin's prior support of Andrew Cuomo, and Zeldin's own comments that Cuomo would make a good president.

We also agree with several other NY newspapers who reject Zeldin based on his vote against certifying the 2020 Presidential election of Joe Biden. Zeldin joined 146 republican members of Congress in that vote, but none of those other republicans are running for NY Governor. And in deep blue New York State, that vote, in our view disqualifies Zeldin and makes it impossible for him to win in November.

And in a year of voter anger at crime, inflation, gas prices and a lack of baby formula, a Red Wave is possible even in NY.

Rob Astorino has run another good campaign for Governor. He ran in 2014 but was stabbed in the back by his fellow republicans (including Zeldin and Chris Christie) who forged an alliance with Andrew Cuomo and did not support his campaign.

Astorino would have been the logical alternative to Zeldin for NY republicans. But Harry Wilson decided to get into the race and has taken most of the energy and republicans who don't support Zeldin.

And while Astorino has tried to distance himself from Trump and January 6, 2021, there is a playbook from 2017 that NY democrats will use against him if he wins this NY GOP primary. Westchester democrats played the Trump card against Astorino, and he lost to George Latimer in his re-election bid for Westchester County Executive by 16 points. And the photo of Astorino visiting Trump in the Oval is still out there, ready to be pounded away on TV and in the mal.

We have appreciated and respected Astorino's service to Westchester and to NY State. Andrew Giuliani has been unable to distinguish himself in any of the debates, nor present a reason why he should be elected governor.

We endorse Harry Wilson in the republican primary for Governor. Zeldin has tried to counterattack Wilson's effective ad campaign against him by highlighting two points; that Wilson did not vote for Trump in 2020 (he voted for SC governor Nikki Haley) and that he worked for former President Obama.

Wilson will have to win over republicans, independents and moderate democrats in order to win in November, and the two facts that Zeldin has used to try and harm Wilson will help him in November, in our view.

Wilson helped save General Motors after the financial collapse of 2008, saving millions of American jobs. That experience is a badge of honor, in our view, and is desperately needed in New York state.

Wilson is also detached from Trump, so that democrats can't use it. Wilson is not a career politician, and as an outsider, can truly reach out to every New Yorker. And he has the resources to make the 2022 race for Governor and real contest, something we haven't seen in 20 years.

Kathy Hochul and Harry Wilson would give New York voters the best options when they vote in November.

### Democratic Assembly primaries, continued from pg 1-

Shimsky won a mini-convention held between the two and also has the endorsement of the Working Family Party.

Abinanti has pushed back on the anti-vax accusations and has received a number of endorsements from Unions, both in Westchester and across the state.

The two have exchanged a number of endorsements, from Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner endorsing Abinanti to Shimsky's democratic colleagues on the county board supporting her campaign. Whoever turns our their supporters should win.

Another competitive race is in the 95th district, which includes Ossining, Peekskill, Cortlandt and parts of Putnam County. Longtime Assemblywoman Sandy Galef announced her retirement at the end of this term, resulting in an open seat and four democrats seeking to replace her.

They are: former Peekskill Councilmembers and activists Vanessa Agudelo, County Legislator Colin Smith, Ossining Supervisor Dana Levenberg and former Peekskill Mayor Andre Rainey. Rainey was knocked off the ballot for insufficient petitions, leaving three candidates.

Agudelo has received high profile, progressive endorsements from AOC, and Cynthia Nixon. She also has the support of the Working Families Party.

Smith is looking to move up in the middle of his second term on the Westchester County Board. Levenberg served in Galef's office before being elected in Ossining.

The third democratic primary in Westchester for Assembly is in the 89th District in Mt. Vernon and a part of Yonkers. Longtime incumbent Assemblyman Gary Pretlow is being challenged by Andrae Mitchell. Mitchell has served several non-profits focused on youth programming, and in the NYC Department of Education under former NYC Mayor Bill de Blasio, working to implement a universal Pre-K program.

### Commit the crime, continued from pg 1-

her as to why she was leaving and became incessant about it. When she told Patrick to leave he became enraged and threw himself on top of her."

She "stated that Patrick tried to open her legs numerous times and lay on top of her, but she prevented him from doing so. She told Patrick to stop but he never listened. She stated that ultimately, he forcibly restrained her with one arm while thrusting his penis onto her buttocks and touching the intimate areas of her body with his other hand over her shorts. Patrick ultimately ejaculated on her," according to the police report.

Four months later, the co-worker who the victim first told about the incident returned to the OPD to complain that Patierno was driving by his house and the victims house.

DA Rocah's conviction of Patierno, for Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, a felony, and Unlawful Imprisonment in the Second Degree, a misdemeanor, he faces a sentence range of a minimum of 10 years of Sex Offender probation to a maximum of seven years in state prison. He will also be required to register as a sex offender.

Patierno is scheduled to be sentenced this week by Judge Barry Warhit. We await the sentence, and hope for justice for the victim.

In a related case, DA Rocah announced on June 16 that Anthony Urena, 25, of New Castle, was sentenced to 10 years probation for sexually abusing a woman while she was sleeping. On July 21, 2019, at approximately 4 a.m., Urena sexually abused the victim while she was sleeping in the defendant's home in New Castle, according to the DA's statement.

After an investigation by the New Castle and Ossining police departments, Urena was arrested in Nov. of 2020. He was charged with Sexual Abuse in the First Degree, a Felony, and the same charge that Patierno was found guilty of by a jury.

Urena also rolled the dice and went for a trial by jury, who convicted him. According to Rocah's release, "The District Attorney's office recommended a term of state prison."

In a victim impact statement made to the court, the victim stated: "You have stolen something from me I will never get back. I felt violated. I felt scared... I felt betrayed. I felt embarrassed... No one should ever have the misfortune of blissfully thinking they can trust a friend who is not really a friend at all and would violate them given the opportunity. I hope this trial has aided in saving another girl from becoming a victim of sexual assault."

Will Patierno get probation, or jail time? He has wiped his social media accounts of all photographs, including a photo of Patierno with a dozen teen ages outside of his store. We want justice, and for the public to know that sometimes a sexual predator, or creep or whatever you want to call him, is in the middle of your downtown, making your sandwich, but also harassing your teen age daughter.

## Washington Irving's Sunnyside Celebrates Vote Like a Girl July 9

### YONKERS IDA A Driving Force Behind the Yonkers Renaissance.

Building on a nearly decade-long economic renaissance, the Yonkers Industrial Development Agency (YIDA) under the leadership of Mayor Mike Spano has been instrumental in providing financial incentives for development projects representing nearly \$5 billion in private investment and more than 9,100 multifamily units planned, completed, under construction and approved for development.

To learn more about the financial incentives provided by the Yonkers IDA, visit [yonkersida.com](http://yonkersida.com) or call (914) 509-8651.



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Yonkers Economic Development Corporation



photos by Tom Nycz

Pay tribute to fearless women of the past and get inspired about the future during Vote Like a Girl, a special event taking place at Washington Irving's Sunnyside on Saturday, July 9, from 10am-4pm. STEAM activities, live music, a suffrage debate, and a special tour of Sunnyside featuring the stories of the women who lived and worked there will highlight the day.

Visitors can explore suffrage and citizenship by making a radical cross-stitch project, getting some photo-ops with suffragette sashes and 19th-century clothing, and sharing the issues that matter to them with the League of Women Voters of the Rivertowns. Little scientists can test their STEAM skills while honoring female inventors with hands-on projects. History detectives will explore the cottage and learn about the lives of the women connected to the estate, including Washington Irving's niece Catharine Irving and one of the servants, Helen Lantry. Picnicking is encouraged and visitors can enjoy live, outdoor music performances from local Tarrytown musician Myco.

There will be snacks available to purchase in the museum shop and picnic tables are available. Online admission is \$16 for adults; \$12 for seniors; free for children under 17 and Historic Hudson Valley members. Vote Like a Girl is an event of the Women's History Institute, a Historic Hudson Valley initiative designed to illuminate the significant contributions made by women in our region.

More about Washington Irving's Sunnyside: America's "Founding Father of Literature" created a romantic, picturesque estate nestled along the Hudson riverbank. The house and the furnishings, many of which are original to Irving, have been restored to its 1850s character. Washington Irving's Sunnyside is at 3 W Sunnyside Lane, Irvington, one mile south of the Tappan Zee Bridge. Information: 914-366-6900, [www.hudsonvalley.org](http://www.hudsonvalley.org).

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