

Shrub Oak Man, Retired YFD Captain Arrested for Possession of Child Sex Material



SHRUB OAK MAN CHARGED WITH POSSESSION AND PROMOTION OF CHILD SEX ABUSE MATERIAL

The defendant is a retired captain with the Yonkers Fire Department. Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced today that Scott Denet, 57, of Shrub Oak, was charged with two felonies in relation to his alleged possession and promotion of child sexual abuse material.

Denet was arraigned Tuesday on a felony complaint charging him with Promoting an Obscene Sexual Performance by a Child, a class D felony, and Possessing an Obscene Sexual Performance by a Child, a class E felony. The defendant was released on his own recognizance pending further proceedings.

He is due back in court on June 30.

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Sen. Mayer Announces Induction of Bronze Star Recipient Joseph Hunt to NYS Senate Veterans Hall of Fame



Senator Shelley Mayer is honored to announce Bronze Star Awardee First Lieutenant Joseph Hunt as her nominee for the 2026 New York State Senate Veterans Hall of Fame. First Lt. Hunt was honored during a ceremony in Albany on Tuesday, May 26.

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The National Debt Is Now \$39 Trillion – When Will It Be Time To Pay Up?



By Michael Gold

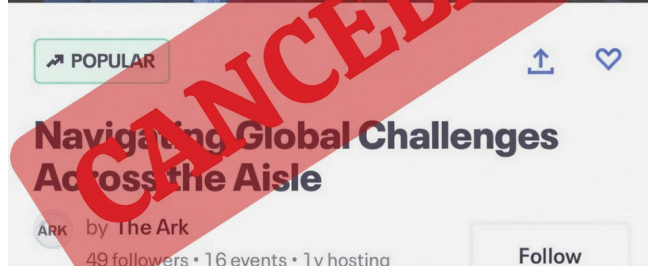
Grandma and Grandpa Jones are running up our national credit card bill. And there are more of them every day.

I recently took a look at why our Federal debt is so high. Social Security and Medicare costs are two of the major drivers of our increasing budget deficits.

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Latimer Cancel's Appearance- Forum with Lawler After Pressure From Progressives

By Dan Murphy



Westchester's two congressmen, Rep. George Latimer NY-16 and Rep. Mike Lawler NY-17, are set to appear at an event organized by Shames JCC on the Hudson, a non-sectarian community center, that enriches the greater community through social, recreational, educational, social action, supportive service, wellness, and cultural programs and resources guided by Jewish values.

On Sunday, June 7. Titled "Navigating Global Challenges Across the Aisle,"

The overview reads: Come hear Congressman George Latimer and Mike Lawler share their views on foreign policy challenges.

Congress faces unprecedented challenges-from navigating complex alliances to responding to emergency threats. Political leaders are negotiating US involvement in global affairs from diverse perspectives. Come hear an in-depth conversation with Rep. Latimer and Rep. Lawler as they share their perspectives on the state of U S foreign policy, how Congress is addressing the international landscape, and their views

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Summer Starts Now! Playland is Open for the 2026 Season



See Story on Page 6

NY Just Taxed Nicotine Pouches Will Go To Connecticut to Avoid It

Editor's Note: The NY State Budget includes a tax on nicotine pouches, which is a mistake, in my view



New York set to give Connecticut yet another bump with bad budget package?

OP-ED by Liz Mair

With potentially just days to go until lawmakers lock New York's 2027 budget, state leaders might

manage to pass a rare measure that doesn't double down on the state's recent trend of hostility to taxpayers. If they do, pity those of us in neighboring states who have long benefited from attracting would-be New Yorkers who simply cannot stomach high tax rates, more of whom would undoubtedly flock to our terrain were even higher

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Westchester County to Purchase Historic Ward House in Tuckahoe



WESTCHESTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE KEN JENKINS INVITES YOU TO JOIN US

OPENING THE DOOR

Thursday, June 4 | 10 a.m.

The Ward House
230 White Plains Road
Tuckahoe, New York

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins will announce the official purchase of the historic Ward House in Tuckahoe during a ceremonial "Opening the Door" event and first public viewing of the property, marking an important step in preserving the County's rich history while creating a future home and gathering space for the Lenape people.




Join us on Thursday June 4 at 10 a.m. – Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins will announce the official purchase of the historic Ward House in Tuckahoe during a ceremonial “Opening the Door” event and first public viewing of the property, marking an important step in preserving the County’s rich history while creating a future home and gathering space for the Lenape people.

Pride Month Celebrations Are Continuing To Divide America



Dennis Richmond Jr, center, with Fatha Freddie Elixir, from Pride in Manhattan in 2025

By Dennis Richmond, Jr.

Yonkers celebrates Pride Month every June. In fact, most of America celebrates Pride Month. When the Month is celebrated, you’ll see parades, concerts, and community events recognizing LGBTQ+ folx, identity, and history. Supporters view the month as an important celebration of visibility, equality, and freedom. Many critics, however, argue that some Pride events have become too explicit or inappropriate for public spaces — especially when kids are there.

For many LGBTQ+ Americans, Pride Month remains deeply meaningful. Supporters say the celebrations honor decades of activism and struggle, particularly following the 1969 Stonewall Riots in New York City. The Riot was started by Marsha P. Johnson, a Black trans woman. At a time when many LGBTQ+ individuals faced discrimination, police harassment, family rejection, or job loss, Pride events became public demonstrations demanding equal rights and dignity.

Today, supporters argue that Pride celebrations still matter because many LGBTQ+ folx continue to experience bullying, harassment, homelessness, mental health struggles, and violence. They believe Pride creates a sense of belonging and allows young people to see others openly living as themselves without fear.

Many also say Pride Month helps educate the public about LGBTQ+ history and encourages acceptance in workplaces, schools, and communities. Businesses, schools, and local governments often participate in Pride events to show support for diversity and inclusion.

At the same time, many critics argue that some modern Pride parades have shifted far away from their original civil rights focus. People look at public behavior at certain events that they believe is too sexualized if kids are present. Videos shared online from some parades have shown revealing outfits, public twerking, and of course, wild dancing. And it wouldn’t be Pride without strangers kissing. This shouldn’t be happening in front of kids.

Some critics say they would have fewer concerns if Pride events focused more heavily on history, equality, and community service rather than adult-themed entertainment. Others argue that public nudity or sexually suggestive performances should not take place at events advertised as, “family-friendly.”

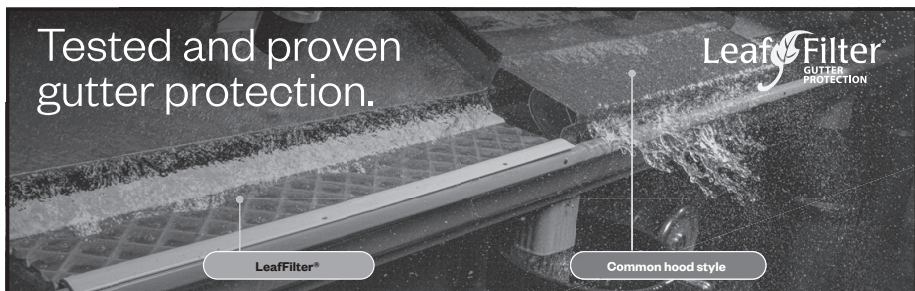
Religious objections also remain a major factor in the debate. Huge actually. Certain faith groups believe Pride celebrations conflict with their religious teachings and values. Even though many folx battle with religious views and sexuality. Some Americans who support LGBTQ+ rights still express discomfort with over the top explicit behavior being displayed in public settings. Even if they are very religious.

Supporters of Pride often respond to criticism by saying controversial videos online do not represent every parade or event. Many Pride celebrations include cultural performances, health resources, nonprofit organizations, and educational programs. They argue that critics sometimes focus only on the most extreme clips circulating online.

As Pride Month continues to evolve, so do the folx curating it. For some Americans, Pride symbolizes freedom, visibility, and progress. For others, concerns about public decency, politics, and children being exposed to things that they shouldn’t continue fueling criticism. The conversation reflects one thing. America.

Dennis Richmond, Jr. (@NewYorkStakz) is a journalist, historian, and educator from Yonkers, NY. He writes to uplift unheard voices, honor history, and inspire change.

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3 From Yonkers Charged In \$15 Million, Fraudulent Licence Plate Scheme



United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York Jay Clayton, and Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”), James C. Barnacle, Jr., announced the arrests of eleven defendants in connection with a multimillion-dollar scheme to evade tolls and parking and traffic tickets using fraudulently obtained temporary license plates. The defendants are charged in a five-count indictment with offenses including wire fraud and access device fraud. All eleven defendants were arrested between May 19, 2026 and May 20, 2026.

“For over five years, the defendants allegedly conspired to use fraudulently obtained temporary license plates, or ‘temp tags,’ to avoid fees, tolls, and parking traffic tickets,” said U.S. Attorney Jay Clayton. “Their schemes deprived New York State and New York City of millions of dollars in revenue. Hard-working, honest New Yorkers were footing their bills. This Office and our law enforcement partners are committed to protecting New Yorkers from fraud, waste, and abuse. The defendants allegedly spent years scheming to avoid tolls and tickets. Their bill has now come due.”

“These individuals allegedly turned temporary tags into tools for evading accountability, allowing drivers to dodge tolls, and lawful traffic penalties,” said FBI Assistant Director in Charge James C. Barnacle. “Investigations found approximately a total of \$15 million in unpaid parking violations, tolls, and vehicle registrations. Not only were millions of dollars in unpaid violations uncovered, but investigators also found that certain temporary registrations and license plates were linked to multiple criminal offenses. The FBI will not tolerate bad actors violating government rules.”

As alleged in the Indictments filed on May 13, 2026, in White Plains federal court: [Licensed auto dealerships may issue temporary motor vehicle registrations (“temp tags” or “paper tags”) in connection with bona fide sales or leases of vehicles. In recent years, individuals have abused this system by setting up sham auto dealerships to generate fraudulent temp tags—unconnected to bona fide sales or leases of cars—that are then sold in, among other places, the Southern District of New York.

From at least in or about June 2017 through at least in or about March 2024, defendants participated in a scheme to defraud New York State and New York City of revenue from vehicle registration fees, tolls, parking enforcement, and traffic enforcement, through the use of fraudulent temp tags. **As part of the scheme, the defendants created a series of companies for which they obtained used motor vehicle dealer licenses in the States of New Jersey and Georgia (the “Dealerships”).** The defendants and their co-conspirators used those Dealerships to generate a total of more than **100,000 temp tags**, a significant portion of which were registered to addresses in the Southern District of New York, and which they sold in the Southern District of New York and elsewhere at prices ranging from approximately \$50 to \$250 per tag, producing millions of dollars in profits. In selling temp tags, certain defendants represented at times, in sum and substance, that, by using a temp tag generated by a Dealership, customers would avoid having to pay tolls and/or tickets. Since at least in or around 2017, temp tags issued by the Dealerships have incurred at least approximately \$11,800,000 in unpaid parking and traffic tickets in New York City and at least approximately \$3,100,000 in unpaid E-ZPass tolls in New York **The three defendants from Yonkers are SAMMY RODRIGUEZ FRANCISCO, age 25, CLARISA RODRIGUEZ FRANCISCO, age 27, and JEFREY RAPHEL HERRERA ESPINAL, age 26, of Yonkers**

They are each charged with one count of conspiracy to commit wire fraud, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years’ imprisonment, two counts of wire fraud, each of which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years’ imprisonment, one count of conspiracy to commit access device fraud, and one count of access device fraud.

Newly Married White Plains Couple Have Different Political Views, But Share Concern for Human Rights



Milder Belalcazar and John Vorperian, pictured above with former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, have different political views but share the same concern for supporting human rights.

Recently, the married White Plains couple went to Capitol Hill and met with legislators to advocate for the release of Armenian hostages being held in Baku since 2023 due to the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

They met with Westchester’s representatives George Latimer and Mike Lawler to thank them for being sponsors of key legislation. The duo also personally met Senator Ed Markey and Representative Jim McGovern of Massachusetts.

A surprise meeting happened in the halls of Congress when the White Plains denizens saw former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi (D-CA).

“She kindly gave us a few minutes and we thanked her for her years of backing Armenian issues,” said Milder Belalcazar.

The couple plans to do lobbying next April during Armenian Advocacy Day.

In advance of U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio’s visit to Armenia, the Armenian Assembly of America (Assembly) welcomes the continued strengthening of U.S.-Armenia relations and sustained high-level engagement between the two countries. At the same time, the Assembly remains deeply concerned by Baku’s continued refusal to release all Christian Armenian hostages wrongfully imprisoned in Azerbaijan and urges their immediate and unconditional release.

Letter to the Editor: Beating Lawler Ain’t Going to Be Easy

Whoever the democratic candidate for Congress in NY-17 may be, it will be difficult to defeat Congressman Mike Lawler. I voted for Lawler twice, but might be inclined to vote for the democratic candidate, probably either Beth Davidson or Cait Conley.

But the democratic candidate will have to make the case of how they will be able to impact and improve my life and the life of my family.

I find it interesting that Davidson was endorsed by two former candidates, Peter Chatzky, and John Sullivan, while Conley got the endorsement from the Westchester Democratic Chair. And yes, Mr. Murphy, I have also been receiving way too many political mailings, and it’s only May!

--Peter Reynolds, North Salem

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Westchester Resident Celebrates 10 Year Anniversary of Hearts for Homes, Nonprofit She Founded



left, Mary McCombe

By Dan Murphy

Hearts to Homes, an innovative charity supporting young people aging out of foster care across New York City, Westchester, Putnam, Rockland, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties, announced that it has achieved the joint milestone of more than 1,000 young people helped and its first decade of service. Hearts to Homes provides young adults (typically 18-21) moving out of foster care into their first independent homes with new furnishings, apparel, gift cards, and other key home goods. These vital offerings help to make their transition into independent living easier and more stable, with a stronger foundation for success. Since its origins in 2016, Hearts to Homes has contributed nearly \$2 million in furnishings to its more than 1,000 alums – empowering them to make home a place they can truly call their own.

Hearts to Homes was founded in 2016 by Yonkers resident Mary Theresa McCombe, who recognized that young people transitioning from foster care to independent living often lacked basic needs, including bedding, kitchenware, and bathroom supplies. Hearts to Homes first provides young people with wish lists, enabling them to select from options their choices of furnishings and other home goods, which the organization then supplies. Hearts to Homes also supports young people aging out of foster care caring for children of their own, with key furnishings and supplies for young children.

“Young people aging out of foster care often have the deck stacked against them, with unforeseen financial expenses as they begin to build their new lives,” said Mary Theresa McCombe, co-founder and outgoing Executive Director of Hearts to Homes. “Home goods like beds, chairs, tables, and cooking supplies aren’t optional; they’re absolutely fundamental to well-being. Hearts to Homes is so proud to have supported more than 1,000 people to date, and we are so excited for the organization’s future and continued growth.

Led and operated in its first ten years by McCombe with the assistance of volunteers, Hearts to Homes welcomed Anthony Sabia this January as the organization’s new Executive Director. Sabia brings broad experience in New York social services, including leadership and programmatic roles at The Bridge Fund of New York, Covenant House New York, and Catholic Charities in the Diocese of Brooklyn.

“I am honored to have joined Hearts to Homes in the organization’s tenth-anniversary year,” said Anthony Sabia, Executive Director of Hearts to Homes. “Throughout my career, I have seen just how many obstacles there are for young adults aging out of foster care and bravely starting their new lives. The resources Hearts to Homes provides to lift up these young people are so critical to their thriving and happiness. As we celebrate more than 1,000 young people helped, we also look to expand on the supports Hearts to Homes can offer in the coming years.”

According to one Hearts to Homes alum, “What makes Hearts to Homes special is how personal and thoughtful their support is. They don’t just provide furniture or items—they listen to your situation, understand what you actually need, and help make your space feel like home. Their approach isn’t one-size-fits-all, and you can feel that they genuinely care about your comfort and well-being, not just checking a box.”

Another young person shared, “Hearts to Homes gives young people who are already struggling with embarking into ‘adulthood’ the breathing room to establish what they want their home to look or feel like without all the stress of affordability.”

Hearts to Homes works with partner agencies across New York for referrals to young people in need of the organization’s assistance. Hearts to Homes gratefully acknowledges the many volunteers, partners, and donors that make its work possible. The organization acknowledged Mary Theresa and John McCombe for their decade of service at its 10th-anniversary Open Hearts dinner in Manhattan on April 30.

Visit heartstohomes.org for more information.

Gianna’s House Opens New Yonkers Office, Expanding Pro-Life Pregnancy Services



By: Steven Schwankert

Named for St. Gianna Beretta Molla, the organization now serves expectant mothers in need with two locations and a mobile unit

Father Richard Gill (left), CEO of Gianna’s House and pastor of the parish of St. Lawrence O’Toole and Sacred Heart in Brewster, and Nicole Moore, center director of Gianna’s House Yonkers, pose at the new Tilma Care office in Yonkers at its opening on May 13, 2026. Photo by Steven Schwankert/The Good Newsroom.

Almost three years to the day after it opened its first facility in the Archdiocese of New York, pro-life pregnancy counseling organization Gianna’s House welcomed more than 75 guests to its new Yonkers office on Wednesday, May 13, 2026.

Following the opening of its initial location in Brewster in 2023, and the launch of its mobile unit in late 2024, the organization, named for St. Gianna Beretta Molla, saw Yonkers as its next site due to the number of calls that staffers received from the area.

“We were getting a large number of inquiries from Yonkers and nearby,” said Father Richard Gill, CEO of Gianna’s House and pastor of the parish of St. Lawrence O’Toole and Sacred Heart in Brewster. “About a year ago, we started looking for a suitable site in the area,” he told The Good Newsroom.

The new office of Tilma Care, Gianna’s House’s clinical arm, is located in a medical office complex. Like its Brewster sister site, the Yonkers office will offer limited ultrasound imaging, pregnancy testing, spiritual help, and counseling, along with “loving care and support,” Father Gill said.

Nurse practitioner Dana Inzeo, who walked visitors through the ultrasound process, explained that, unlike some facilities, Tilma Care allows expectant mothers to hear their baby’s heartbeat and see the ultrasound images. “The most powerful moment is when you really see the Holy Spirit at work,” she said.

“There is no other pregnancy center in the Yonkers area like this one,” said Nicole Moore, the center director of Gianna’s House Yonkers.

Attendees of the opening included representatives of the Franciscan Friars of the Renewal, the Sisters of Life, and local pastors and priests from nearby parishes.

St. Gianna Beretta Molla died days after giving birth in 1962 at age 39, rather than allow doctors to terminate her pregnancy to save her own life.

The Yonkers office joins Brewster, which also has a baby boutique in addition to ultrasound and counseling facilities, and the mobile ultrasound van, which was blessed by Cardinal Timothy Dolan following the annual Right-to-Life Mass on January 26, 2025.

Gianna’s House, together with Colorado-based pro-life organization Save The Storks, raised more than \$280,000 to make the purchase and outfit the vehicle, in order to serve women in need of its services in Dutchess, Putnam, and Westchester counties, and even parts of the Bronx.

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Albanian Heritage Day June 7 Kicks Off
Westchester Heritage Festivals This Summer



Albanian heritage day will be on June 7 at Ridge Road Park in Hardsdale.

This festival will feature Albanian cuisine, beverages, dancing and a variety of sports including soccer. The event will also include live performances by Vjollca Luka, Gjovani Gjonaj, Alfred Popaj, DJ Geni Hotaj, Rozafati Group, Albanian School of Our Lady of Shkodra Parish, Albanian American Cultural Center Struga and Albanian Roots will perform traditional Albanian music and dances from all regions.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "Immersing yourself in Westchester's rich cultural diversity fosters broader perspectives and a deeper appreciation for the many traditions, lifestyles and viewpoints that shape our County. Cultural festivals serve as powerful bridges between communities, cultivating empathy, understanding and mutual respect. They remind us that while our customs may differ, the values of family, heritage and shared human experience connect us all."

The festival will be held rain or shine. Seating is informal; bring blankets or folding chairs for seating on the lawn. Coolers aren't allowed. Admission and parking are free.*

The Heritage Festivals are from noon to 6 p.m.; the 2026 schedule is as follows:

Irish, Saturday, June 27, Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale

*Admission: \$5 adults; free for ages 14 and under

African-American, Sunday, June 28, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

Hispanic, Sunday, July 12, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

Italian, Sunday, July 26, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

Heritage of India, Sunday, Aug. 2, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

Jewish, Sunday, Aug. 16, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

Muslim Heritage, Sunday, Aug. 23, Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

Arab-American, Sunday, Sept. 13, Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale

Please be advised that on June 7, the Bronx River Parkway will be closed for Bicycle Sundays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Protect the Elderly! Croton Police Arrest
Man for \$20,000 Fake Printer Scam



The Croton-on-Hudson Police Department announces the arrest of Rongyu Cheng, 33, of Flushing, New York.

This arrest was the culmination of a year-long investigation related to crimes committed on May 9, 2025, by Cheng and another suspect, Dengjin Chen, who was previously arrested by detectives on May 10, 2025.

Last year, a Village resident reported that he was having issues with his printer and called what he believed to be Hewlett-Packard customer support. The individual that answered convinced the victim to obtain \$20,000 from the bank for someone to pick up later.

At approximately 2 p.m. that day, an unknown male (later identified as Chen) arrived at his residence to collect the money. He was accompanied by a driver (later identified as Cheng). After the pickup, the victim was contacted by the same individual he spoke with previously on the phone, who stated that the victim needed to give another \$20,000.

The victim advised the caller that the bank was closed and he would get the money the next day. The victim later discovered he was scammed and contacted the police.

Croton-on-Hudson detectives continued to investigate this case and gather evidence to identify and charge the driver involved in this crime. On May 20, 2026, an alert was issued through the Real Time Crime Center and Cheng was detained by the Westchester County Police Department and turned over to the Croton-on-Hudson Police Department.

He was placed under arrest and charged with one count of Attempted Grand Larceny in the 3rd degree, a class E felony. He was arraigned on May 21, 2026, in the Village Justice Court and released on his own recognizance.

The charges in the complaint are merely an allegation. All defendants are presumed innocent until proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt in a court of law.

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Playland is Open for the 2026 Season



The park is open Saturday, Sunday and Monday of Memorial Day Weekend, each day from 12 p.m. to 10 p.m. Beginning Wednesday, June 3, the park will be open Wednesday through Sunday through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 7 and closing out the season on Saturday and Sunday, Sept. 12 and 13.

From adrenaline-pumping thrills to pint-sized adventures, there are rides for everyone in the family. Visit PlaylandPark.org for the current list of open rides, which will be updated throughout the season as more rides open.

Fourth of July Fireworks will return this year, along with weekly Friday night fireworks thereafter that will light up the shoreline through Labor Day Weekend.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "For generations, Playland Park has been woven into the fabric of summers in Westchester County, creating cherished memories for families and visitors alike. As we welcome guests back for another exciting season, we are proud to continue the legacy of this historic and iconic destination while ensuring it remains a place where residents of all ages can come together to experience the joy, nostalgia and traditions that have defined Playland for nearly a century."

Playland's beach is also open on Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 23, 24 and 25, from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., weather permitting. The beach will then operate on weekends and holidays through Sunday, June 21, before both the beach and pool begin daily operations on Friday, June 26, and continue through Labor Day, weather permitting. Parking and admission fees apply. Season Passes are available to purchase online only and daily rider wristbands are available to purchase online or at the park. Playland Park is located at 1 Playland Parkway in Rye, NY.

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Cost sharing and deductibles may vary based on the level of Medicaid & Extra Help that the beneficiary receives. Food & produce (grocery items), gas-at-the-pump, utilities, rent/mortgage assistance, pest control products, indoor air quality products, ride share, public transportation, transportation for non-medical needs are part of Special Supplemental Benefits for the Chronically Ill (SSBCI). In order to be eligible to receive SSBCI benefits, enrollees must be determined to be chronically ill, have a chronic condition (e.g., diabetes, chronic heart failure, cardiovascular disorder, chronic and disabling mental health conditions, stroke, or other eligible conditions), and meet coverage criteria. Not all Members enrolled in the VillageCareMAX Medicare Health Advantage or Medicare Select Advantage plans may qualify. Members enrolled in the VillageCareMAX Medicare Total Advantage plan will qualify. Some dental service limits and prior authorization requirements apply. VillageCareMAX is an HMO plan with Medicare and New York State Medicaid contracts. Enrollment in VillageCareMAX depends on contract renewal. For accommodations of persons with special needs at meetings, call 1-855-296-8800 (TTY: 711). VillageCareMAX complies with Federal civil rights laws and does not exclude people or treat them differently because of race, color, national origin, age, disability, or sex. ATTENTION: If you speak English, free language assistance services are available to you. Appropriate auxiliary aids and services to provide information in accessible formats are also available free of charge. Call 1-855-296-8800 (TTY: 711) or speak to your provider. ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-855-296-8800 (TTY: 711). 注意: 如果您使用繁體中文, 您可以免費獲得語言援助服務。請致電 1-855-296-8800 (TTY: 711).

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"Were it left to me to decide if we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter -Thomas Jefferson

Phoebe Xu, Horace Greeley High School Wins NY-17 Congressional Art Competition!



Congratulations to Phoebe Xu of Horace Greeley High School on winning this year's NY-17 Congressional Art Competition!

This year's theme celebrating America's 250th birthday inspired so many creative and thoughtful submissions from talented students across the district. Thank you again to everyone who participated and shared their incredible artwork.

I look forward to seeing Phoebe's outstanding piece displayed in the halls of Congress-From Congressman Mike Lawler



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Man Arrested for Fleeing Police on Saw Mill Parkway, Crashing Car with Three Kids Inside

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced today that Joseph Columbus, 41, of Manhattan, was charged with leading the police on a dangerous motor vehicle pursuit while his multiple children were in the car. Columbus was arraigned last Wednesday on a superseding felony complaint charging him with one count of Reckless Endangerment in the First Degree, a class D felony, three counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a class A misdemeanor, one count of Reckless Driving, a class A misdemeanor, one count of Unlawful Fleeing a Police Officer in a Motor Vehicle in the Third Degree, a class A misdemeanor, and one count of Resisting Arrest, a class A misdemeanor.

At a subsequent bail hearing Friday, Judge Erin McGoey set bail at \$5,000 cash/\$10,000 bond/\$25,000 partially secured bond. He is due back in court on June 3. DA Cacace said: "The indifference shown by Mr. Columbus as he allegedly endangered the lives of multiple people, including his own minor children, is difficult to fathom. I am only relieved that no one was killed during the defendant's reckless spree on the Saw Mill and that the police managed to apprehend him without further incident. We must ensure that the public roadways remain safe for all of us to use, which necessitates removing the most dangerous, reckless motorists from the streets and holding them accountable."

According to a felony complaint, on May 2, at approximately 8:05 p.m., the defendant evinced a depraved indifference to human life by recklessly engaging in conduct which created a grave risk of death to another person when he operated a 2007 BMW on the Saw Mill River Parkway at a high rate of speed, swerving in and out of the two lanes of the highway.

While he was operating the vehicle, the defendant nearly struck a police vehicle and a civilian vehicle and drove straight through a red light, the felony complaint alleges, without slowing down or stopping. After being directed to stop by a police vehicle using lights and sirens, the defendant began to flee with his three minor children in the car, accelerating the BMW to speeds in excess of 25 mph above the posted speed limit, according to the felony complaint.

The defendant ultimately crashed the BMW and disregarded multiple orders to exit the vehicle, the felony complaint alleges. This case was investigated by the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Greenburgh Branch Chief Jamie Fair and Assistant District Attorney Isabella Oppedisano.

Con Edison Invests \$3.9 Billion in System Upgrades for Summer 2026

- Con Edison is investing a record \$3.9 billion in its electric delivery system across New York City and Westchester County to keep service reliable for customers this summer, as extreme heat becomes more frequent and severe.

The company made targeted investments to prepare for rising summer demand. Con Edison forecasts peak demand could exceed 2025 levels, driven by intense heat and humidity that increases air-conditioning use in homes and businesses.

These investments are designed to meet future weather conditions and deliver value to customers for decades. Research from Con Edison and Columbia University shows New York could see 17 days a year above 95 degrees by 2030 and 27 such days by 2040, compared with just four historically.

"Our ongoing investments help deliver safe, reliable service, even as summers grow hotter and the demand for power increases," said Matthew Ketschke, the president of Con Edison. "We build advanced technology into our grid to increase efficiency and capacity. We use data to identify the upgrades that will have the greatest benefit for our customers."

The company's investments include 88 new underground transformers; 142 new overhead transformers; 123 spans of underground and aerial cable; and 381 spans of open cable. Con Edison crews have also installed 180 new poles.

Westchester: Upgrades to the county's overhead delivery system will limit outages, as will the installation of additional switching and isolation equipment.

Save Energy and Money

As temperatures rise, customers use more air conditioning to stay comfortable, especially as extreme heat and humidity become more common. Higher usage during hot weather leads to higher monthly bills.

Conserving energy during heat waves - even with small actions - can help reduce usage when costs are highest. Conservation also helps Con Edison keep service reliable for customers.

Conservation Tips

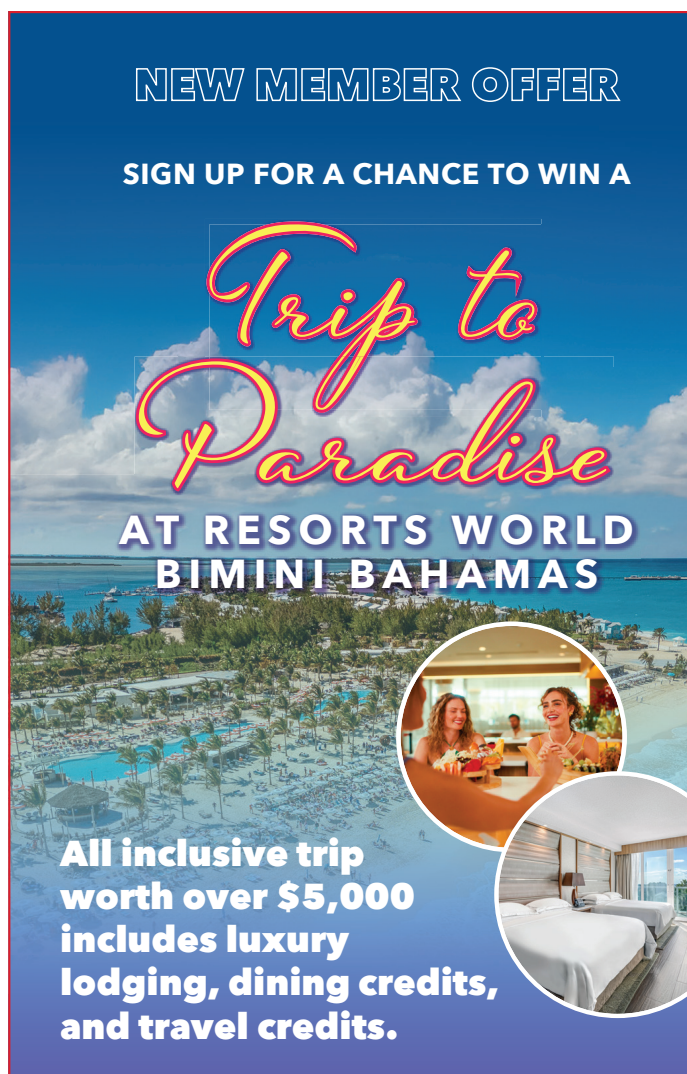
- Keep shades, blinds and curtains closed. Heat from windows can represent up to 40 percent of the energy used for cooling.
- Set your thermostat at the highest comfortable temperature.
- Clean or replace AC air filters regularly.
- Use ceiling fans to circulate cool air.
- Shift major appliance use such as dishwashers, washing machines and charging EVs to off-peak hours to conserve energy and money.
- Seal air leaks to keep cool air in, and warm air out.

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The Schedule

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- 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm**
CEO Opening & Grant Presentation
- 1:00 pm - 2:00 pm**
Lender Presentations
- 2:00 pm - 2:30 pm**
Fair Housing & Know Your Rights Presentation

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Latimer, Lawler, continued from pg 1-

on the best way forward on issues including international trade and economy, the wars in Iran and Ukraine, relations with China, and more.

In years past, this type of event would have happened without discussion. But in today's hyper-partisan climate, even such a civil dialogue between Westchester's two House representatives cannot go unchallenged.

We received texts and emails last week from some of our friends in Indivisible Westchester about the event, criticizing Latimer for attending it with Lawler. "Big mistake on George's part to do this. On the eve of the Democratic Primary in NY-17, no less."

Rep. Latimer was invited by JCC-Shames in Tarrytown to speak at this event more than a month ago. Rep. Lawler was also invited and accepted. One rationale for inviting both Congressmen (although no rationale is really needed; if you can get both to your event, it's a win) is that Tarrytown is the only jurisdiction that both Latimer and Lawler share.

In May of 2025, Latimer and Lawler attended a Business Council of Westchester event where both discussed issues affecting the business community, federal budget cuts, tariffs, Medicaid, and energy policy.

Some democrats have raised objections to Latimer attending an event with Lawler.

The Orangetown Democratic Committee posted, "Please call George Latimer's office today to urge him to cancel his joint appearance on Sunday with Mike Lawler. Trump is helicoptering into Rockland on Friday to boost Lawler's reelection chances, and we should all be leaning in on equating Mike with MAGA. Latimer has made strong statements about wanting to win back the House, but this joint appearance normalizes Lawler, who will definitely manipulate it for his campaign. Ask George why he is contributing to Lawler's claim to be "moderate"!"

Another comment, which is clearly an across-the-board attempt to get Latimer to cancel, reads, "Rep. George Latimer hasn't had a town hall but is having an event with MAGA Republican Mike Lawler. Tell him to cancel and focus on taking back the House."

Many other Westchester democrats we spoke to didn't see a problem with Latimer attending an event with Lawler. "I have watched George Latimer debate Rob Astorino and Jamaal Bowman over the past 30 years. He is second to none. Lawler is also a great communicator, and both will clearly point out issues where they disagree. Why would progressives want to give Lawler the stage to himself? How does that help our democratic party cause, which is to beat Lawler in November and take back the House," said Westchester Democrat Mitchell Tarnopal.

"There is a silent majority of democrats who are not afraid of George debating Lawler. In fact, they want to see it and hear George stand up for the democratic values we are fighting for, and the values we will work on in November to defeat Lawler."

We spoke to Congressman Latimer, who said, "I've accepted literally hundreds of requests to attend community organizations and speak on a variety of issues. I saw this one no differently; we may agree on some things and disagree on others, and I would always make my case forcefully but with respect.

However, I did not intend to get roped into a political firestorm. I'll be in contact with the event organizers in the next few days and will advise all of the results of that conversation."

We see our Westchester readers split on this issue. There are those on the left, Indivisible, who don't want Latimer to attend. But there are also Westchester democrats who want Latimer to have the discussion.

But there are also those of us who want the discussion, primarily to hear both views and to hear these articulate politicians express theirs.

The real question for all democrats in NY-16 and NY-17 is: Would having Latimer sit down and discuss issues with Lawler benefit Lawler in his reelection bid in NY-17?

Lawler has said it best again and again recently, and in the days before Trump came to Rockland County last week. "If Trump is your #1 issue, then you are not voting for me."

1300 have already registered to attend the now SOLD OUT event.

Editor's Note: On May 27, Congressman Latimer wrote, "Friends, it is clear that the climate for an informed and serious discussion on matters of Federal policy is not possible in the current moment; we can have a more substantive conversation after this year's elections are complete.

I am cancelling my planned attendance at the June Forum and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause your organization.

**Warmest wishes,
George Latimer**

Notice of formation of Digital Infrastructure Services LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 10/22/25. Office: Westchester County. NY DOS designated as agent for service of process; DOS shall mail copy of process to 7 Ridgeway Cir White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of METROMEN MUSIC LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/26/2026. 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 Entity Protect Registered Agent Services LLC. 447 Broadway, 2nd Fl. - #3000, New York, NY 10013, the designated registered agent of METROMEN MUSIC LLC. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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\$39 Trillion Debt, continued from pg 1-

Paying interest on the Federal debt is the third.

The number of people aged 65 and older is growing, as the Baby Boomers have retired, or will soon. In 2025, seniors were almost 19 percent of the American population. By 2035, they'll be almost 22 percent of the country, according to the Peterson Foundation, an organization dedicated to helping put America on a sustainable fiscal path. It was founded by Pete Peterson, former Secretary of Commerce in the Nixon Administration and chairman of the New York Federal Reserve Bank from 2000 to 2004.

The other end of this problem is that women are having fewer children. It's no wonder why. Raising a child is expensive, particularly when the Federal government is spending far more on seniors than kids.

"For every \$1 it spends on a child, the federal government spends \$6 or more on a retiree, despite the child poverty rate being more than double the senior poverty rate," writes Maya McGuinness, president of The Committee For A Responsible Federal Budget (CRFB), another prominent fiscal watchdog.

Social Security spending is 22 percent of the Federal budget, more than any other category. Medicare is 14 percent and Medicaid is 10 percent. In comparison, the defense budget is 13 percent.

The Social Security and Medicare trust funds are on target to become depleted in 2033, the Peterson Foundation states. That's when the fun will really begin. Either the government will have to cut benefits or figure out a way to raise revenues to pay for seniors' monthly checks. In my brightest of hopes, Congress and the President will figure out a way to engineer a decent solution in a rational way. That sentence almost made me laugh.

The Social Security and Medicare tax on income in 2026 tops out at \$184,500, according to the Social Security Administration (SSA). The SSA raises the taxable income limit every year to "keep pace with increases in average wages," it states on its website.

It would make sense to designate a much higher ceiling on taxable income to pay for Social Security and Medicare. Why should people who make fabulous amounts of money get a free ride on income they earn over \$184,500, while everyone else dutifully pays their usual 7.65 percent on each paycheck, along with their employer? We have here a profound issue of fairness in terms of bearing the burden, in which the middle class and working poor usually lose out.

In terms of defense, 13 percent of the budget, is it too much to ask that our lawmakers start looking critically at how we spend the money for our weapons and warships? For example, both Ukraine and Iran have demonstrated that building and deploying drones is far less expensive and often more effective than tanks and planes in wartime? Of course, we need all these things, but maybe we can balance it out more evenly, by allocating more to drones than battleships?

The interest on the debt is currently 14 percent of the Federal budget and growing. This is shameful and dangerous. The nation's debt is currently \$39 trillion.

As the Peterson Foundation points out, the massive debt the U.S. government holds crowds out private investment, which could be used by the private sector, to invest in researching and creating new innovative products to help benefit public health and material gains and grow our economy.

The other problem is that someone has to pay off this debt. By borrowing increasing amounts of money to fund the government, we are tossing the debt load to our children, grandchildren and future generations, so they can pay it off, which is horribly irresponsible.

Good parents try to teach our children to save money, in order to plan for the future. Because the future always comes. I remember in that ancient movie, Saturday Night Fever, John Travolta's character says, "Forget the future!" (He used a much stronger word than forget.) His employer told him that's wrong, that the future doesn't forget you – it does something much worse to you (Again, a much stronger word was used in the dialogue.)

What we're doing right now is what Travolta's character in the movie wanted to do. We are forgetting the future.

What is the message we are sending to the younger generations when we let the Federal government spend so carelessly? Seniors are having a very long, drunken party at the expense of our children and grandchildren. We're giving young Americans, our descendants, a very poor education in managing money and being responsible.

The funding shortfalls in both Social Security and Medicare are a problem that will almost certainly fester until the situation becomes a real emergency.

New York City came right to the edge of the cliff of bankruptcy in the 1970s before it was saved by a complete reorganization of the city's finances, under the authority of New York State.

The state's Municipal Assistance Corporation (MAC) froze city employees' wages, laid off municipal workers, raised subway fares and directed the city to start charging students to pay tuition at all City University colleges, among other moves. The Federal government is much bigger than New York City was in 1975. Our debt stands at \$39 trillion. When I first wrote a column about this in January, the debt was \$38 trillion. We've run through \$1 trillion in new debt in four months.

I recently saw a movie on Netflix, called Send Help. The main character, played by Rachel McAdams said at the end, "No help is coming, so you'd better start saving yourself."

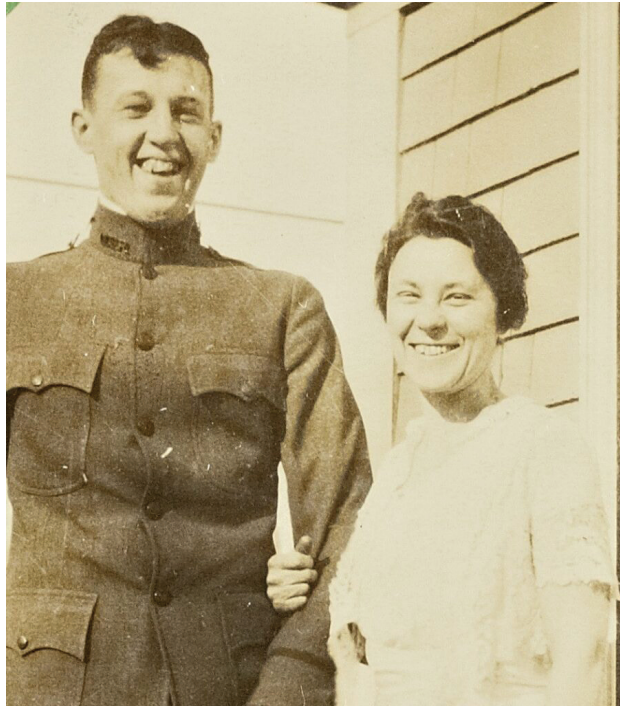
There is no Superman or giant bank in the sky that will solve our breathtakingly awful debt. We need to do it ourselves. Part of the problem is that our lawmakers are not even talking about this stuff. Somebody with a profile bigger than the Peterson Foundation and the CFRB needs to start a conversation about how we're going to get out from under this debt boulder under which we're trapped.

We've got to somehow break through all the media clutter and get our representatives to pay attention. We need to start paying for this party.

Michael Gold is a Westchester based reporter whose work has been published in *The New York Daily News*, *The Albany Times-Union*, *The Hartford Courant* and other newspapers. He's a volunteer trustee with the Putnam County Land Trust.

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**Global Recovery Legacy of Bill W. & Lois W. Celebrated
June 4–7 with Stepping Stones, Katonah Classic Stage, &
Bedford Playhouse Performances and Events**



*Wedding photo of
Bill and Lois Wilson*

The Wilsons – Americans with a Global Legacy – Part of Bedford REV UP 250

A weekend celebrating the enduring worldwide legacy of Bill Wilson (“Bill W.”), co-founder of Alcoholics Anonymous, and Lois Wilson (“Lois W.”), co-founder of Al-Anon Family Groups – longtime Town of Bedford NY residents – features theater, film, and community events Thursday to Sunday, June 4–7, 2026. Rare theatrical presentations of “Bill & Lois Wilson: In Their Own Words” by Katonah Classic Stage and directed by Trent Dawson are daily and made possible, in part, through a grant from THRIVE Bedford | Lewisboro | Pound Ridge drug abuse prevention and mental health alliance. Recognizing the Wilsons’ role in American and world history, the play is part of Bedford’s REV UP 250 observance of the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. The Hybrid 75th Annual Stepping Stones Lois’ Family Groups Picnic is Saturday, June 6. On Sunday, June 7 Bedford Playhouse offers “Movie & Meditation” —a screening of the award-winning new film “Bill W. Conscious Contact” with special guests, Q&A and book signing. Details and ticket information for the weekend are available at <https://www.stepsstones.org/events>

In 1951, Bill and Lois Wilson launched an annual family celebration of recovery at their Westchester, NY, home, Stepping Stones. Their vision was to bring people together to recognize the joys of recovery, family restoration, community and newfound freedom.

Bill Wilson began drinking in 1918 while in Army training for World War I. He struggled with alcoholism for 17 years before embracing a path to recovery in 1934 grounded in service to others and a belief in something greater than himself. In the 1930s, he wrote the 12 Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous—principles that have since been adapted by organizations around the world to help individuals and families facing a wide range of challenges. Today, A.A. reaches nearly every country, and the book “Alcoholics Anonymous” has been printed more than forty-two million times in English and translated into more than seventy languages according to Alcoholics Anonymous World Services.

The Wilsons’ home, Stepping Stones, received a New York historical marker in the 1980s during Lois’ life. The site is on NY and US registries of historic places. It was designated a National Historic Landmark in 2012 by the U.S. Secretary of the Interior. Recognizing Lois’ contributions, the home is on the NY Women’s Heritage Trail along with homes of notables: Harriet Tubman, Eleanor Roosevelt, Susan B. Anthony, Alice Austen and Lucille Ball.

Calendar listings for weekend events follow. Details also found online at <https://www.stepsstones.org/events>

Theatrical Performance: Bill & Lois Wilson: In Their Own Words (Play is 111 minutes plus intermission.) Thursday June 4–Saturday June 6, 7 p.m.; Sunday June 7, 1 p.m. Bedford Hills Community House, 74 Main St., Bedford Hills, NY 10507. Tickets: <https://stepsstones.givecloud.co/75> (Thursday is Preview / Discount Night. For a scholarship ticket, email office@stepsstones.org for availability.) Produced by Katonah Classic Stage in collaboration with Stepping Stones – Historic Home of Bill & Lois Wilson. Directed by Trent Dawson, Artistic Director, Katonah Classic Stage. Presented with in kind support from Town of Bedford and a grant from THRIVE Bedford | Lewisboro | Pound Ridge drug abuse prevention and mental health alliance.

Film Screening, Q&A, & Book Signing: Movie & Meditation: “Bill W. Conscious Contact” (Film is 68 minutes.) Sunday, June 7, 9:30 a.m.

Bedford Playhouse, 633 Old Post Rd, Bedford, NY 10506 Tickets: <https://bedfordplayhouse.org/movies/bill-w-conscious-contact/> Since premiering last year, the documentary has earned eight awards! Producer Jay Stinnett will lead a meditation prior to the screening, Q&A, and sneak preview book signing of the “film in a book.” Part of the Bedford Playhouse “Let’s Talk” mental health series.

Hybrid Picnic with Speakers: Hybrid 75th Annual Stepping Stones Lois’ Family Groups Picnic Saturday, June 6 Free with advance registration (donations welcomed) In-Person Picnic 11 a.m.–5 p.m., rain or shine, tent provided. Parking and shuttles provided from Bedford Hills Train Station, off of 1 Railroad Ave., Bedford Hills, NY 10507. Register: <https://stepsstones.givecloud.co/in-person75>

The traditional picnic event features history, updates from Stepping Stones, and speakers from Alcoholics Anonymous, Alateen, and Al-Anon Family Groups. Volunteer opportunities for the 75th anniversary weekend are available for adults by going to https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSecv4PyTvWtk4bdKayn-vKYeux3d-jPDR6u_QXYscnHC25iQ/viewform?usp=preview

Hudson River Museum Thanks Docent Volunteers



L-R-Carolyn Berkeley, Annette Candido, Kate Waters, Mimi Pressman

The HRM held its annual Docent Volunteer Breakfast on May 18, recognizing our volunteers for sharing their enthusiasm and expertise with the HRM, and for dedicating their time and effort to guiding the public on tours of our exhibitions. Each docent received a certificate of appreciation highlighting the number of hours they contributed this year, a total of 1,800 hours volunteering at the HRM! This year’s winner was Annette Candido with 142 hours, followed by Carolyn Berkeley with 94 hours, Mimi Pressman with 82 hours, and Kate Waters with 81 hours. No matter the number of hours, we are grateful to each and every docent for their dedication to the HRM. Interested in becoming a Museum docent? Learn more at hrm.org/docent-program.

Pouches, continued from pg 1-

rates pushed through. But never underestimate Albany’s ability to deliver up a last-minute bad result. While income tax hikes may be off the table, members of the General Assembly are still weighing one tax hike that history suggests will do little or indeed nothing to improve the state’s fiscal picture, and indeed might worsen it.

This is not the much-remarked upon “pied-a-terre” tax targeting city pads with a value of over \$5 million (there seems to be agreement on including this one, despite its flaws). Rather, the legislature still has not ruled out a 75 percent tax on nicotine pouches like ZYN, Velo, Rogue and On!.

Governor Hochul thinks the tax is needed to dissuade “youth” from using these products even though the latest National Youth Tobacco Survey shows that only about 1.6 percent of minors used products like these in the last 30 days—a drop of close to 20 percent year over year.

But everyone else, and in particular, the state’s budget director, is no doubt counting on the \$18 million the tax is supposed to bring in, to ensure the budget balances. The tax is a dubious way of accomplishing that goal. Among other things, New York has a huge nicotine product smuggling problem, and no state collects the requisite taxes on contraband trucked in from lower tax jurisdictions.

Back in 2020, the Mackinac Center for Public Policy found that more than 53 percent of cigarettes sold in New York had been smuggled in. Furthermore, New York had a bigger cigarette smuggling problem from 2011 right up until that year than every other state in the nation.

New York’s high tax rates have long made it a magnet for tobacco products smuggled in from lower-tax states like New Hampshire and Maine, especially. But it’s also worth remembering that anyone living in reach of Connecticut—so, depending on how you define “in reach,” residents of at least five New York counties and potentially seven—can automatically knock off at least \$1 per pack for simply driving across the state line to purchase smokes.

This is bad enough. However, of particular note, Connecticut does not have a nicotine pouch tax; New York introducing one at the 75 percent rate would mean an eye-popping differential that would make Westchester and Bronx residents, at a minimum, stocking up in cities like my own current abode of Stamford simply too good an opportunity to skip. That is, unless the Connecticut legislature similarly intervenes, which it could, but thus far has declined to do. For now, New York lawmakers would do well to remember that Connecticut has an Exxon, fully equipped with a Tiger Mart, a literal 50 feet away from the state border in Byram; it is, in fact, walkable from Port Chester—even for a great-grandma using two canes.

For those who don’t want to walk, or hop in the car for five or ten minutes, Downtown Stamford is a quick 50-minute train ride from Grand Central. People who want to work in New York but dodge their top rate of income tax—10.9 percent, plus New York City taxes for those unfortunates—have long been moving just a few miles East to knock off close to four percent from the top tax rate. The more working-class consumers of nicotine pouches may not actually uproot themselves to hedge against punitive rates, but they’re plenty acclimated to taking advantage of lower taxes where they can—and are especially likely to do so as New York faces an ongoing affordability crisis. This explains why Black and Latino convenience store owners in counties like Westchester have been fretting the budget.

An alternative proposal is being mooted as part of all the haggling: Institute a nicotine pouch tax at a per can, as opposed to ad valorem, rate. While this would still involve some price differential, the gap between New York prices and Connecticut prices would be slimmer— which helps explain why Black and Brown Westchester retailers prefer it. It will still be anathema to anti-taxers (and rightly so), but it could also prevent New York from passing a budget predicated upon tax revenue that will never materialize, potentially creating an ongoing deficit snowball that gets worse and worse as the overall economy looks like it could easily sour.

Will New York dodge this particular bullet this year? We’ll know in a few days—probably. Until then, the proposal currently on the table looks like bad math in the service of supposed “virtue.” Lawmakers should be looking at other ways of balancing the budget that do not double down on the problem of big cost-of-living discrepancies between the Empire and the Constitution States.

Liz Mair is a longtime tobacco harm reduction advocate and policy expert who quit smoking by vaping (and then quit that). She lives in Stamford, Connecticut.




NY-17 CANDIDATE FORUM

Wednesday, June 3rd | 7pm

Moderated by the LWV of Rockland County
and LWV of Westchester County

Join us to hear directly from all 5 Democratic candidates seeking to represent NY-17 in Congress!



Scan the QR code or visit the link in the caption to register for the forum!

JOHN CAPPELLO
CAIT CONLEY
BETH DAVIDSON
EFFIE PHILLIPS-STALEY
MIKE SACKS



Veterans Hall of Fame, continued from pg 1-

First Lt. Hunt began his military service in 1966 as an enlisted Soldier in the United States Army. At just 18 years old, First Lt. Hunt was stationed in Heidelberg Germany. In 1967, he was selected for the Armor Officers Candidate School, where he was commissioned as a First Lieutenant.

In 1968, First Lt. Hunt was selected for training at the Special Warfare School at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where officers and specialized personnel were prepared in cultural competence, language, and counterinsurgency operations in support of the Vietnam War.

First Lt. Hunt was subsequently assigned as an Infantry Advisor on a seven-man Military Assistance Command, Vietnam (MACV) team, working directly with Vietnamese Regional Forces in the Mekong Delta. During his service in Vietnam, he was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, the Combat Infantryman Badge, the Republic of Vietnam Armed Forces Honor Medal (First Class), along with campaign ribbons recognizing his service. After a year of deployment, he returned to the United States and continued his education, pursuing his college degree.

After college, First Lt. Hunt built a distinguished 30+ year career in marketing, advertising, and strategic communications, serving as a principal at two successful agencies. First Lt. Hunt has remained committed to service and has held key roles in the veteran community, including: Director of the Veterans Mental Health Coalition of New York City, Director of the New York Outdoor Rx Coalition, Senior Advisor at the Project for Return and Opportunity in Veterans Education (PROVE), Co-Coordinator and mentor in the Westchester Veterans Treatment Court, and Veterans Outreach Specialist for Guardian Revival.

First Lt. Hunt, through his tireless work, has been instrumental in strengthening the veteran community, promoting the well-being of service members, veterans, and their families, and improving access to critical veterans' resources. He is also a member of Senator Mayer's Veterans Advisory Council.

Senator Shelley Mayer said, "I am profoundly honored to induct Bronze Star Awardee, First Lieutenant Joseph Hunt into the New York State Senate 2026 Veterans Hall of Fame. First Lt. Hunt has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to serving both our nation and our community, and his dedication has made a meaningful difference in the lives of veterans as they return home and transition from military service. Through his leadership, compassion, and tireless advocacy, he has strengthened support for those who have sacrificed so much on behalf of our country. I am proud to recognize First Lt. Hunt with this well-deserved honor, and I thank him for his extraordinary service."

The New York State Veterans Hall of Fame was created to recognize and honor distinguished veterans from across New York State for their military service and ongoing dedication to their communities. Each year, one veteran from every Senate district is nominated to the Hall of Fame and celebrated for their extraordinary commitment to country and community.

First Lieutenant Hunt was joined for the ceremony by his wife, Ellen Hunt. Photos Courtesy of New York State Senate Photography



"The key to the future of the world, is finding the optimistic stories and letting them be known."
— Pete Seeger

Child Sex Material Arrest, continued from pg 1-

DA Cacace said: "Those who possess and share child sexual abuse material are not merely engaging in legally prohibited conduct, they are retraumatizing the victims depicted in those videos who still bear the scars of their abuse. My office works diligently with our partners at the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children to detect all forms of child sexual abuse on the internet and track down the individuals responsible for creating and promoting such material. If anyone in Westchester County endeavors to access these images, or tries to conceal their attempts to do so, we will find out, and we will hold you to account."

As alleged in a felony complaint, on or about July 31, 2025, the defendant, a retired captain with the Yonkers Fire Department, promoted an obscene sexual performance by a child by sharing a photograph depicting a nude female child on an application called "Thundr." On April 24, 2026, the defendant allegedly possessed a video file of a nude female child engaging in sexual activity.

NB: The defendant retired from service in April 2023, and the offense conduct described above is alleged to have been committed after his retirement.

This case was investigated by the Hi-Tech Unit within the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and the New York State Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force.

The case is being prosecuted by Cyber Crimes Bureau Chief Michael Delohery.

Notice of formation of Hardcore In The 914 LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/5/2026. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Hardcore In The 914 8 Arden Drive, Hartsdale New York 10530. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Monte Builders Group, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/18/2026. 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, 23 Bronxville Ln Yonkers, NY 10708. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Notice of formation of Rat Attack Snacks, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 3/2/2026. 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, 516 Park Avenue Yonkers NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Notice of formation of W4J9R1 Holdings, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/23/2026. 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, 2 Gedney Park Drive, White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Notice of formation of Senara & Co, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/29/2026. NY office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served is 455 Tarrytown Road, Suite 1307, White Plains, NY 10607. Purpose/character of LLC: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Pure Body Lab, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/06/2026. With an existence date of 03/27/2026. 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, 2040 White Plains Rd #1082, Bronx NY 10462 USA. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Notice of formation of M.C.K. VENTURES LLC of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/31/2026. 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 MCK VENTURES LLC 465 TUCKAHOE ROAD, #1304 YONKERS, NY, 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Notice of Formation of Infinity Strategies Group LLC. Arts of Org. Filed with SSNY on September 1, 2025. Office location: Westchester County, New York. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 255 Huguenot Street, Apt 913, New Rochelle, NY 10801. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Digital Infrastructure Services LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 10/22/25. Office: Westchester County. NY DOS designated as agent for service of process; DOS shall mail copy of process to 7 Ridgeway Cir White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of 660 SAW MILL LCC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/20/2026. Office: 4 Amawalk Point Road, Amawalk NY 10501 Westchester County. SSNY designated Brian O'Neill as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 4 Amawalk Point Rd, Amawalk NY 10501. Purpose: Real Estate

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