

NYPD Cop Suspended, Arrested for Road Rage Incident with a Gun in Somers



On Sept. 2, Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that a New York City Police Department Warrant Squad detective was arrested and charged with multiple offenses for allegedly menacing three 16-year-olds in a road rage incident last week.

John O'Connell, 36, of Patterson, N.Y., was charged with one count of Menacing in the Second Degree, three counts of Endangering the Welfare of a Child and one count of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Fourth Degree, all class A misdemeanors.

He was arraigned on the charges in Somers Town Court, where he pleaded not guilty. He was released on his own recognizance as none of the charges are bail-eligible. Justice Michael McDermott provided temporary orders of protection on behalf of the victims.

O'Connell was off duty at the time of the incident. He has been temporarily suspended from the force.

DA Cacace said: "It is unacceptable for anyone to turn a traffic grievance into a lethal threat. My office will now hold this defendant accountable for his outrageous behavior, as we have outlined to the court. The teenage victims in this case demonstrated a laudable measure of composure in navigating a dangerous situation to safety, and I commend them for their courage."

As alleged in a misdemeanor information and supporting depositions filed with the court, on Thursday at approximately 8:30 p.m., three 16-year-old Westches

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Gun Control is Suicide Prevention



By Assemblywoman Amy Paulin

September is Suicide Prevention Month. What many people don't realize is that firearms are the leading cause of suicide in the United States. More than half of all gun deaths each year are suicides. This reality underscores why we must address suicide prevention and gun control together.

We hear about shootings so often it's almost numbing — in supermarkets, office buildings, churches, schools, synagogues. My heart breaks

for the innocent victims and their families in the most recent tragedies at the 345 Park Avenue office building in New York and Annunciation Catholic Church in Minnesota. No one and nowhere is immune.

What we know is that when we limit gun access, we limit gun deaths. Japan proves this point. A nation of more than 120 million people, it sees roughly 10 gun deaths in an entire year. By comparison, the United States, with a population of 340 million, suffers nearly 40,000 gun deaths annually. Ten versus forty thousand. And suicides represent the majority of those deaths. Between 2018 and 2024, approximately 57% of gun deaths in the U.S. were suicides.

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Why Is Robert Kennedy Acting Like My COVID Big Brother?



HHS Secretary

Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

By Michael Gold

Robert Kennedy's restrictions on access to the new Covid vaccine for anyone not over the age of 65 or who has an underlying health condition is Big Brother at its worst.

The vaccines were developed by two private companies — Pfizer and Moderna, to help people protect themselves from this vicious illness. The government of the United States authorized the development and use of these vaccines.

So, why is a government official now taking away American citizens' ability to decide for themselves what is the right thing to do for their own health?

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United Healthcare Proposes 18% Medicaid Supplement Premium Increase -See Story on Page 3

State Senator Harckham Announces Reelect One Year Early... Why



By Dan Murphy

State Senator Pete Harckham has represented the 40th Senate District since he was elected in 2018, when he defeated Republican State Senator Terrence Murphy by a 52%-48% margin. He then defeated Rob Astorino in 2020, by a 51%-49% margin, and has defeated Gina Arena in 2022 and 2024 by a 54%-46% margin.

Senator Harckham is a proven winner, as a democrat, in a senate district that is about as evenly drawn up as they come.

Several months ago, we heard loud rumors from both sides of the aisle that Harckham was going to an-

nounce at the end of the year that he was stepping down from his senate post, to take a position in Westchester County government. Sources from both parties discussed what they were hearing with us, as well as people inside Westchester County government. All confirmed that Harckham was not happy with

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Social Media Influencer Shot to Death on The Cross County Parkway



By Dan Murphy

A murder investigation is underway after 33-year-old Ariela Mejia-Polanco, a social media influencer and mother of two, was found shot dead in her car on the eastbound Cross County Parkway in Mount Vernon on August 18.

But more than 3 weeks after her death, there have been no updates or announcements of arrests made in the case.

On Aug. 18, the Westchester County Police Department posted, "The woman found deceased in her car on the Cross County Parkway on Sunday died as a result of gunshot wounds, the Westchester County Medical Examiner's Office confirmed today.

"Ariela Mejia-Polanco, 33, who has addresses in Westchester and Rockland

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A Tough Summer at Playland Meior Que Nada?



By Dan Murphy

With the summer season over, Rye Playland will close on September 14. And while the park, owned and operated by Westchester County and paid for by the taxpayers of Westchester was open for the summer, many families

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Senator Mayer and Colleagues Oppose United Healthcare's 18% Premium Increase Proposal for Supplemental Medicare Plans



On September 4, State Senator Shelley B. Mayer and 25 of her State Senate colleagues sent a letter to Superintendent Adrienne Harris, New York State Department of Financial Services, to express their strong opposition to United Healthcare's proposed 18% premium increase on supplemental plans for Medicare.

"I have heard from seniors and families, who rely on Part B Supplemental Plan specifically, who are concerned they will no longer be able to afford healthcare and medication they need to lead healthy, independent lives," said Senator Mayer.

"An 18% premium increase – five times the current inflation rate in New York – is completely unacceptable. New Yorkers are seeing their bills go up – food, housing, healthcare. All the while their social security checks are staying the same. If this proposed increase is approved, New Yorkers will suffer and not receive the healthcare they need and deserve."

United Healthcare states this increase is necessary in order to "maintain the financial integrity of these plans" and to offset the increased cost of providing benefits to its members, including the cost for medical services, medicare deductibles, medical equipment and services, and more. If approved, new monthly premium rates will begin January 1, 2026 and will affect 400,000 New Yorkers that hold Standardized or Pre-Standardized Medicare Supplement plans.

"We believe such steep increases are unreasonable and excessive under New York Insurance Law § 3231, and we urge the Superintendent to disapprove or substantially reduce the requested rate hikes. We also note that other insurers across New York have filed for similarly significant hikes, which would compound the burden on seniors and further undermine the affordability of essential coverage," the Senators said in the letter.

The Department of Financial Services has a duty to all New Yorkers to ensure that rates are not "unreasonable, excessive, inadequate, or unfairly discriminatory." The requested 18% increase in all UnitedHealthcare Supplement Plans exceeds inflationary trends and is more than five times the current inflation rate of approximately 3.2% in New York, and more than six times the national average of around 2.7%.

The letter continued, "Many older New Yorkers already wrestle with the rising cost of housing, utilities, food, and prescription medications. Excessive increases in supplemental coverage could force them into untenable choices—potentially sacrificing care and risking worse health outcomes.

"Our constituents who rely on supplemental Medicare coverage are often seniors on fixed incomes. They carefully budget their Social Security checks and modest retirement savings to cover daily expenses. An abrupt 18% increase by United Healthcare in its supplemental insurance premiums would impose a severe financial hardship that could force many to choose between paying for needed medical coverage and covering other essentials such as food, rent, and heating costs.

"We also point out that supplemental coverage is not a luxury. It is essential to protect older adults from the 20% coinsurance under Medicare Part B, which has no out-of-pocket maximum. Without reasonably priced supplemental coverage, seniors will be exposed to unpredictable and potentially catastrophic medical bills, undermining the very purpose of our state's commitment to affordable and accessible health care.

"In light of the statutory criteria, this proposed increase appears neither justified nor equitable. We respectfully – but strongly – urge DFS to exercise its authority to deny or substantially reduce this filing, ensuring that premiums remain fair, actuarially sound, and affordable for those who need this protection most," the Senators concluded in the letter.

Summer is Over, But Bargains Continue!

By Eric Wolf Schoen



The calendar says September 1, which means for most of us summer is over. This was a good summer, with ample amounts of food such as chicken, meat, fresh produce and fruits available at your local supermarkets. You can thank the good weather in most areas of the country.

Plus price reductions promised by Trump never came about. Many stores I visited during the summer reduced the prices on items with a few days until expiration. Items like bagged, dressed salads have several good days to expiration. So the consumer gets a good bargain, and the store is not throwing away good edible products.

You will see more of this which benefits supermarkets and shoppers in the coming months as tariffs increase and stores look for ways to increase the bottom line with minimal impact on their cherished guests.

In the meantime be like my sister. She knows the managers of many of the departments in the supermarket so when she shops she will ask the boss to select the best items for her!

Reach Eric Schoen at

No, the Republican and Democratic Parties are not One Big Happy Family, quite the Opposite!

To the Editor:

I write in response to Eric Wolf Schoen's column appearing in Westchester Rising (9/5/2025).

While I empathize with his frustration over career politicians felt by many people, I believe he misses the mark about this year's race for Mayor of New York City.

Before residing in Westchester County over 20 years ago, I grew up in Brooklyn, New York. Most of my career was spent in managerial and executive positions in four Mayoral administrations (Koch, Dinkins, Giuliani and Bloomberg), so I have a unique perspective on the demands and limitations placed on the occupant of that office, where there are no "heirs apparent" and there is no "throne."

The City of New York's authority comes from a municipal charter granted by New York State, so the Mayor cannot unilaterally raise property, income and sales taxes without Albany's blessing. A mayor might be able to make changes to the NYPD, but that would depend on the political climate next year, which is not a guarantee. Also, NYC currently receives 16% of its operating budget from Albany. If Mr. Mamdani prevails this fall, a reality check will set in on him by New Year's Day.

Our two major parties cater in large part to the populist/hard right in the GOP and the progressive/quasi-socialist flank among Democrats, so moderate-minded voters are hard pressed come election day. Independent/moderate voters now account for 43% of the electorate, with both major parties receiving 28% each.

Here are some reforms that need to be passed that would make our elections more democratic and saner:

1. Rank choice voting (RCV)
2. Open up party primaries for public offices to all registered voters, thus giving independents a greater voice in primaries which would enable more moderate

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Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

Teatown Announces \$26 Million Campus Transformation



Aerial rendering of Teatown's upcoming Education Center. Courtesy nARCHITECTS

Teatown Lake Reservation, a nonprofit environmental education center and nature preserve whose mission is to inspire its community to lifelong environmental stewardship, announces a 22,000-square-foot, \$26 million transformative development that will break ground in October 2025. With Starr Whitehouse as the landscape architect for the project, the development will create an accessible and ecologically enhanced pedestrian campus with reconfigured access and operations. As the focal point of the redevelopment, Teatown will debut a brand new 5,400-square-foot Education Center, designed by award-winning nARCHITECTS, that will feature teaching and education spaces in its interior, exterior deck, and green roof.

“For more than 60 years, Teatown has been one of the Hudson Valley’s most cherished community resources and environmental education center, providing the region with our team’s expert knowledge in land protection and conservation. Visitors can also experience 15 miles of bucolic hiking trails open 365 days a year from dawn to dusk, a two-acre island refuge for more than 230 species of native wildflowers, wildlife exhibits, science and stewardship projects, nature classes and camps, and so much more,” said Kevin Carter, Teatown Lake Reservation’s Executive Director. “As we look towards the future and inspiring the next generations of environmental stewards, we are thrilled to announce our partnership with nARCHITECTS to create a more accessible and pedestrian-friendly campus and to debut a new Education Center – where students from elementary to graduate school, as well as members of the community, will learn ways to protect our environment and advance conservation.”

“The people at Teatown Lake Reservation and their exciting mission make for a dream client and project for nARCHITECTS – one that is very much aligned with our convictions. We look forward to leading the transformation of their campus into an immersive, accessible, and pedestrian-friendly space that intertwines education with nature, and history with future opportunity,” said Eric Bunge, FAIA, Co-Founding Partner, nARCHITECTS.

Inspired by the foliage of Teatown’s 1,000 acres, the upcoming Education Center will create a new focal point and amenity resource for the reconfigured campus. In the shape of a leaf, this one-story building will provide teaching and educational spaces in the interior, along the deck, and on the green roof. Built with Accoya wood, a high-performing and sustainable material, the Education Center will be wrapped by a ramp to guide visitors from the forest floor to the roof deck, immersing visitors in Teatown’s natural landscape, while revealing expansive views of the campus, lake and beyond.

In addition, the campus will also be anchored by a renovated historic Nature Center, housed within a 15,000-square-foot, 1920s Tudor-style building that once served the original estate as stables. The three-story building will accommodate gallery spaces, a nature store, offices, and an animal care center that will be the new home to Teatown’s existing animal ambassadors, who are all non-releasable wildlife including porcupines, rabbits, owls, crows and vultures.

For more information, visit www.teatown.org.

Senator Mayer Grants \$20,000 to The Community Fund of Bronxville, Eastchester, and Tuckahoe to Launch Human Services Finder Website



L to r: Darla Silva, Shannon McDonough, Sen. Shelley B. Mayer, and Justin Griffin.

At a time when access to human services and programs is ever-evolving, smoothing the path for residents to get the help they need quickly is critical. During the 2025 Legislative Session, NY State Senator Shelley B. Mayer earmarked \$20,000 for the development of a “human services finder” website by The Community Fund of Bronxville, Eastchester, and Tuckahoe.

Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins facilitated the availability of these funds. The Community Fund’s Executive Director, Shannon McDonough, MLIS who has led digital initiatives for national nonprofits, universities, and global media companies, will oversee the project.

“Despite the fact that so much information is available online, understanding how to access food pantries, physical and mental health services, socially-engaging programming for older adults, or grief and legal support, for instance, can be daunting for individuals, families, and caregivers. This website will guide visitors using plain language and feature welcome messages from some of the professionals they may encounter along the way,” said McDonough. Information will be published in English with featured content also available in Spanish.

State Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, “I am pleased to secure \$20,000 in state funding for The Community Fund of Bronxville, Eastchester, and Tuckahoe to support the development of a new website that will better connect our neighbors with services and resources. The Community Fund does tremendous work to ensure our neighbors can access the help they need, and this new platform will make sure people can find and service them more easily. I thank Executive Director Shannon McDonough, President Chris Bush, and their dedicated board for their continued commitment to our community. I also extend my sincere thanks to Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins for her support in making this funding possible.”

Third Precinct Police Community Council Meeting

Wed., Sept. 17th – 7:30 PM.

Chema Community Center, 435 Riverdale Avenue, Yonkers, NY
Special Guest Speaker: Hon. Mayor Michael Spano And Ms. Kelly Chiarella, Director of the Yonkers Office Of The Aging
Please Join Us In Welcoming Our Newly Appointed Captain Jamie Dumser!
Usual Quality Of Life Issues Will Be Discussed.

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For Further Information Please Contact Either:
Lucy M. Casanova, Vice President At 914 426-6668 Or
Captain Jamie Dumser At 914 377-7427.

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Notice of Formation of Beautifully Hauled LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 07/15/2025. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC 28 Chestnut Street, Yonkers NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

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

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

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

Notice of Formation of 155 ROUTE 202 LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 07/10/2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 401 Broadway, Suit 1111, NY, NY 10013. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Create With Vero LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 06/06/2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 16 Forster Ave, Mt. Vernon, NY 10552. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

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

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

Notice of formation of IT TAKES ALL KINDS PICTURES, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/21/2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, Republic Registered Agent Services Inc. 54 State Street Suite 804 Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful

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

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

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

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

Notice of formation of BLUEPRINTS AND BEYOND LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on February 4th, 2025. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 70 Ashburton Avenue, Apt. 7H, Yonkers, New York, 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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

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

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

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

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

1) Bid No. RFB-7522 – Opening date: 09/26/2025: Twelve-Month Contract for the purchase of up to One-Thousand (1,000) Cisco DUO Hardware Tokens and Subscriptions (or Yonkers Approved Equal) (NG).

2) Bid No. RFB-7519 – Opening date: 09/26/2025: Twelve-Month Contract for the initial purchase of Stryker Lucas 3 v3.1 Chest Compression systems/accessories and trade ins, for Fire and YPD (or Yonkers Approved Equal) (VB).

3) Bid No. RFB-7521 – Opening date: 09/26/2025: Twenty-Four (24) Month Contract with option to exercise for an additional Twelve (12) Months for the purchase of Ferrara Fire Apparatus Parts and subsequent repairs (FB).

4) Bid No. RFB-7524 – Opening date: 09/26/2025: Purchase of assorted pumps, generators and hose kits for Yonkers Fire (VB)

5) Bid No. RFB-7525 - Opening date: 09/26/2025: Twenty-Four (24) Month Contract with option to renew for Twelve (12) Months for Maintenance and Repair Services of US Pipe Travel Cutter and Mueller CL-12 Machine, as needed (KS).

6) Bid No. RFB-7518 – Opening date: 09/26/2025: Station 14 generator removal-replacement (FB).

7) Bid No. RFB-7528 – Opening Date: 09/26/2025: Vehicle Rentals for Yonkers Police Department (VB).

8) Bid No. RFB-7502A – Opening Date: 10/10/2025: Twelve-month contract for Universal & Hazardous Waste Removal & Disposal (KAS).

9) Bid No. RFB-7514A – Opening Date: 09/26/2025: 12-Month contract with an additional 12-Month option to provide parts, repairs, truck and car springs for the City of Yonkers Department of Public Works (FB).

10) Bid No. IFB-7527 – Opening Date: 10/03/2025; Thurton Place Sanitary Sewer Replacement Project (MM).

11) Bid No. IFB-7526 – Opening Date: 9/26/2025; General Construction Contract; Classroom Floor Repair and Asbestos Tile Abatement” at Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School (KAS).

Letters to the Editor:

End Solitary Confinement and Decarcerate Now

Solitary confinement is torture. Every day in New York, people are locked away in isolation for up to 24 hours a day, often for months or years at a time. The devastating mental and physical harm of solitary confinement is well-documented—leading to extreme trauma, self-harm, and higher rates of death post-release. It does nothing to improve safety and instead perpetuates cycles of violence and harm.

New York has taken steps to limit this practice through the HALT Solitary Confinement Law, but the reality is that solitary—under different names—remains rampant in state prisons and local jails. Now because of the illegal work stoppage, thousands of people have been locked down in solitary confinement in life threatening conditions for weeks, all to try to distract from the brutal killing of Robert Brooks at Marcy Correctional Facility and Messiah Nantwi at Mid-State Correctional Facility.

We need real accountability, full enforcement of the HALT Solitary Confinement Law, and bold action to decarcerate. The only way to stop this inhumanity is to stop locking people away.

Lena Dal Santo, Shenorock

No, the Republican and Democratic Parties are not One Big Happy Family, quite the Opposite, continued from pg 3-

candidates to be nominated. Currently, 19 states – including Colorado, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin and Washington - permit some form of an open primary. New York would be wise to adopt open primaries.

3. Allow more parties and candidates to run in general elections. In last year’s Presidential election, only 4 parties (GOP, Democrat, Conservative and Working Families) appeared on the New York ballot – the first time since 1946.

4. Mandate restrictions on the amount of funds candidates can raise and spend in elections. In my view, the 2010 Citizens United decision of the U.S. Supreme Court was wrongly decided.

As voters we naturally get disappointed if our candidate doesn’t get elected. But it does not mean that we take our marbles and go home, in this case don’t vote – this is a sacred right which our forebears fought for many years ago, and we should take voting seriously.

Stephen R. Rolandi, Larchmont

(Mr. Rolandi is currently an Adjunct Professor of Public Administration at Pace University and City University of New York and active with Principles First and Our Republican Legacy).

Westchester County Proclaims September 8 as 988 Awareness Day-Suicide Prevention Month



County Executive Ken Jenkins is recognizing the month of September as Suicide Prevention and Awareness Month in Westchester, and proclaiming September 8 as 988 Awareness Day. Every September, Westchester County comes together as one community help stop the stigma associated with suicide and mental illness, and highlight the many resources and services that are available to residents who may be struggling. This year, Jenkins is highlighting the success of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, which provides 24/7 support to individuals experiencing crisis, emotional distress, or thoughts of suicide.

Jenkins said: “Having the 988 Call Center here in Westchester has proven to be a significant help to thousands of people. Nearly 18,000 individuals accessed this free and confidential service in 2024, and I thank St. Vincent’s Hospital, a division of Saint Joseph’s Medical Center, for running the program in partnership with our Department of Community Mental Health. Today, as we declare 988 Awareness Day, we want to educate our residents about the Lifeline and ensure those in crisis take advantage of it. We are bringing together our business community, education leaders, non-profit partners along with County Departments to find ways to expand our current efforts, and inform our residents of the importance of seeking help when needed.”

The 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline offers immediate crisis intervention, emotional support, and information about local resources. In Westchester County, callers are connected to trained professionals who can provide confidential support, local to them. The 988 Lifeline is open to everyone facing a crisis regardless of age, background or circumstance. Whether it is you or a loved one struggling with thoughts of suicide, dealing with addiction, or feeling overwhelmed, 988 is available. The Lifeline also provides support to LGBTQ+ individuals and veterans by connecting them to professionals trained in these areas.

Commissioner of the Department of Community Mental Health Michael Orth said: “I want to thank our County Executive for providing funding to the 988 Lifeline, which allows calls to be answered by professionals right here in Westchester. With language translation services providing help in more than 150 languages, we have seen the growth year by year of the number of calls 988 is receiving. Using 988 means you reach a mental health professional who can provide compassionate response for any emotional distress one may be experiencing, and it is encouraging to see so many people reaching out for help.”

Senior Vice President of Behavioral Health Services at Saint Joseph’s Medical Center Bernadette Kingham-Bez said: “The importance of being able to simply dial 988 to get support during a behavioral health crisis, or to help avoid a crisis, cannot be underestimated. We are deeply grateful for the County’s partnership and funding which has made our Westchester 988 call-center available 24/7.”

For more information about the Department of Community Mental Health’s programs and services, call 914-995-5220 or visit our website.

<https://mentalhealth.westchestergov.com/>

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TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2025 AT 6:00PM

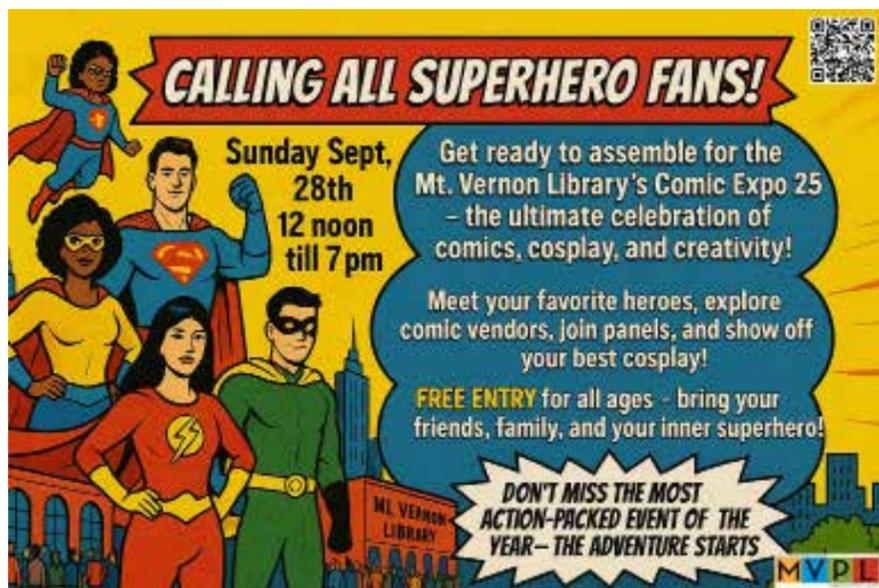
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EMPIRE CITY CASINO
BY MGM RESORTS

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

Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

Mt Vernon Comic Expo-September 28 at the Mt. Vernon Public Library



CALLING ALL SUPERHERO FANS!

Get ready to assemble for the Mt. Vernon Library's Comic Expo 25 – the ultimate celebration of comics, cosplay, and creativity!

Date: Sunday Sept, 28th 12 noon till 7pm- Location: Mt. Vernon Library..... 28 S 1st Ave, Mt Vernon, NY 10550

Meet your favorite heroes, explore comic vendors, join panels, and show off your best cosplay! FREE ENTRY for all ages – bring your friends, family, and your inner superhero! Share your moments using #MVComicExpo25 for a chance to be featured! Don't miss the most action-packed event of the year – the adventure starts HERE!

Westchester County Health Department Distributes Farmer's Market Coupons to Families



Throughout the growing season, the Westchester County Health Department's WIC Program will distribute seasonal Farmer's Market Coupon booklets to help eligible families purchase farm fresh fruits and vegetables from local farmer's markets. More than 1,600 of the \$25 booklets, provided by the New York State Department of Health, have been distributed to WIC families served by the County's Port Chester and Yonkers WIC offices, and there are more available to be distributed through the end of September. To learn more about eligibility, contact WIC in Yonkers at (914) 231-2510 or Port Chester at (914) 813-7244. The coupons can be used at farmer's markets in Bronxville, Hastings, Irvington, Larchmont, Katonah, Mount Vernon, Ossining, Pelham, Pleasantville, Rye, Scarsdale, Sleepy Hollow, Yonkers and Yorktown.

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Untermeyer Performing Arts Council Presents

“REV FEST 250” To Bring Revolutionary War History to Life at Croton Point Park Sept. 27–28

As the finale to celebration of their 50th season, the Untermeyer Performing Arts Council is pleased to

Arts Council
 Samuel Untermeyer Memorial Park
 945 North Broadway, Yonkers
 Presents...
The KEYpers
 13 September, 2025 5:00 PM
 In case of rain, please call 914-375-3435 or check our website www.untermeyerperformingarts.org after 2 pm the day of the performance.
 Our rain site this year is Saunders High School, 183 Palmer Road, Yonkers.
 Our events are admission free and open to the public. Please bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets, as we do not provide seating.
 This program is done in cooperation with Mayor Mike Spano, and the Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. Funding for our programs is received from Arts Westchester with support from Westchester County Government, the City of Yonkers, Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins, Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblymember Nader Sayegh, Empire City Casino by MGM and our loyal arts patrons.



Westchester County announced details for REV FEST 250, a free, two-day outdoor festival commemorating the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution, to be held Saturday–Sunday, Sept. 27–28, 2025, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. at Croton Point Park in Croton-on-Hudson.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: “We’re proud to welcome visitors and residents to experience the living legacy of Westchester’s pivotal role in America’s founding. REV FEST 250 is an immersive large-scale festival that’s great fun for the whole family – which kicks off a multi-year commemoration, connecting our County’s roots to the modern day, showcasing how Westchester is a place where history lives on.”

Programming will feature live battle reenactments, musical performances and historical storytelling on two stages, hands-on demonstrations, children’s activities and crafts and local food vendors including Grey’s Donuts and Captain Lawrence Brewery. Thousands of attendees from across the tri-state area are expected as well as more than 50 reenactors alongside two dozen exhibitors. Highlights include a Hamilton sing-along, Westchester Symphonic Winds, Daisy Jopling with Indigenous Enterprise, storyteller Jonathan Kruk and the Sankofa Drum & Dance Ensemble.

Croton Point Park – known as Teller’s Point during the Revolution – holds special significance. On Sept. 22, 1780, American forces fired on the British sloop Vulture from the point, precipitating British officer John André’s overland flight and capture that exposed Benedict Arnold’s treason.

Director of Westchester County Tourism & Film Natasha Caputo said: “As

As the finale to celebration of their 50th season, the Untermeyer Performing Arts Council is pleased to present The KEYpers September 13th at 5:00 pm on the Untermeyer Performing Arts Council’s stage at Untermeyer Park, 945 North Broadway, Yonkers. A five piece band from Westchester County, the KEYpers are veteran musicians drawn together by their shared love of music, and their desire to share that joy with others. The KEYpers play an eclectic mix of recognizable hits from the sixties into the 2000’s, blending Pop, Classic Rock, R & B, Country, American Standards, and Blues. The band’s goal at every gig is to engage the audience and

continued on pg 14-

continued on pg 15-



Ana Androne, MD
 Primary Care – Internal Medicine

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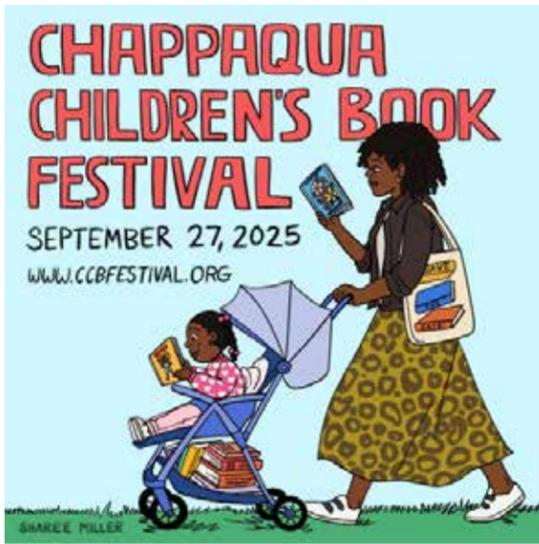
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The 2025 Chappaqua Children's Book Festival Sept 27**With 165 Award-Winning Authors and Illustrators**

The beloved Chappaqua Children's Book Festival (CCBF) will return for its 12th year on Saturday, September 27, 2025, from 10am–4pm at the Chappaqua Train Station. This year's festival will welcome over 165 bestselling and award-winning authors and illustrators, including a mix of returning favorites and exciting first-time participants, and will feature story times, author talks, illustration demos, food trucks and more!

A celebration of literacy and community supporting reading programs in schools, Chappaqua Children's Book Festival is a grassroots, all-volunteer non-profit connecting readers of all ages with the authors and illustrators behind their favorite stories. Since its inception in 2013, the festival has grown from 65 authors and 4,000 visitors to over 165 authors and 10,000 attendees from across the tri-state area, making it one of the largest children's book festivals in the U.S.

New authors joining the 2025 Chappaqua Children's Book Festival include Elana K. Arnold, author of the A Boy Called Bat series; James Bird, author of The Brave, No Place Like Home, and the forthcoming Wolf Club; Leyla Brittan, a Horace Greeley High School graduate and author of the YA novel Ros Demir Is Not The One; Antwan Eady and London Ladd, author and illustrator of The Gathering Table; John Patrick Green, creator of the InvestiGators graphic novels; Lynda Mullaly Hunt, author of Fish In A Tree and her new picture book Wish In A Tree, illustrated by Nancy Carpenter who will also be at the festival; Barbara McClintock, illustrator of WHERE ARE YOU, BRONTË!, the last complete manuscript written by Tomie dePaola; Rex Ogle, author of Free Lunch; Ellen Oh, author of The House Next Door; Ibi Zoboi, author of American Street and Punching the Air; and many more authors.

Some of the festival's most beloved returning authors this year include Tracey Baptiste, author of the Jumbies series and her forthcoming Super Goat Girl, Winsome Bingham, author of The Walk, The Table, and the upcoming Fish Fry Friday; Nick Bruel, creator of the Bad Kitty series; MacKenzie Cadenhead, author of Marvel Super Hero Adventures; Jen Calonita, known for her Disney retellings and her latest book Isle of Ever; Barbara Dee, author many middle grade novels including her newest, Tear This Down; Josh Funk, author of the Lady Pancake & Sir French Toast series including the newest, WHODONUT? A HOLIDAY MYSTERY; and Alan Katz, author of funny books for kids including the Funniest Joke Book Ever for Kids. Among the many others returning are fan favorites Victoria Kann, author of Pinkalicious; Dan Gutman, author of My Weird School series; Alyssa Capucilli and Pat Schories, the author and illustrator duo behind the Biscuit books; Nidhi Chanani, creator of the Super Boba Cafe graphic novels; Charnaie Gordon, author of Black Joy and founder of @hereweeread; Sayantani DasGupta, known for the Kiranmala and the Kingdom Beyond series and Secrets of the Sky; Chris Grabenstein, author of the Mr. Lemoncello's Library series and the STINKY'S STORIES series which he coauthored with his wife J.J. who will also be at the festival; Kyle Lukoff, author of Newbery Honor Too Bright To See, Stonewall winning When Aidan Became A Brother, and his new MG novel A WORLD WORTH SAVING; and many more.

In addition to book signings and author meet-and-greets, the day will feature:

A Bubble Bus & Family Fun Zone

Kids Activity Area by Title Sponsor Kiwi Country Day Camp

Hands-on Programming from Sponsor and beloved children's publication Highlights Magazine

Story Time with ASL interpretation

Live Author Interviews by KidLitTV

Nonprofit Book Fairies

Food Trucks serving festival goers an array of local bites, including Leila's Crepes, Three Little Pigs, Mobile Pie, Wrappers Delight, Topsy Taco, Road Grub Mobile, and Melt Mobile

The 2025 festival poster was created by award winning author and illustrator Sharee Miller. She is known for her graphic novel series Curlfriends and Don't Touch My Hair, Princess Hair, and Michelle's Garden: How the First Lady planted seeds of Change. She is also the illustrator of the graphic novel adaptation of One Crazy Summer by Rita Williams-Garcia.

The event is free to attend, with free parking, and will take place rain or shine. Follow the festival on Instagram and Facebook for updates, and visit www.ccbf-festival.org to learn more.

Girl Scouts Love State Parks @ Rockefeller**State Park Preserve 9/14/25 10:00 AM**

Every year, Girl Scouts explore the natural wonders found across our country during the Girl Scouts Love State Parks weekend. On September 13, 2025 and September 14, 2025, Girl Scouts nationwide, along with their troops, friends, and family, will celebrate our shared love of the outdoors. This is a rain or shine event.

This is a special invitation for membership year 2026 registered girls and adults! Join us for our 7th Annual Girl Scouts Love State Parks event!

There is a \$6.00 per vehicle parking fee, which we request you pay in advance. Additionally, 4th graders can use the Every Kid in a Park pass, see <https://parks.ny.gov/environment/connect-kids.aspx>

This event will be held at Rockefeller State Park on Sunday, September 14, 2025 from 10:00am-2:00pm.

Girl Scouts participating in Girl Scouts Love State Parks will receive GSLSP '25 fun patch. By attending the event and participating in the self guided tours, Girl Scouts will also complete objectives for Girl Scouts Love the Outdoor Challenge. This patch is separate from the GSLSP's patch and is available for purchase.

Activities include: self-guided tours, Leave No Trace activities, Girl Scout Stations, scavenger hunt — and much more!

This event is for all Girl Scouts and their families. Girl Scout adult-to-girl ratios apply. Troop Leaders or Caregivers must stay with their Girl Scouts for the duration of the program.

To register, visit:

https://mygs.girlscouts.org/event-detail?id=155-09142025-GE-CK-01&gl=12v6f0f_gaMTAzNDM4NjEwMi4xNzU3Mjg2Mzg3_ga_5158YSHZTM*c zE3NTc0MTk1NjEkbz MkZzEkdDE3NTc0MjE5NjAkajYwJGwwJGgw

Harckham reelect, continued from pg 1-

the commute and that he wanted his time in Albany to come to an end.

Harckham and Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins served together on the Westchester Board of Legislators 10 years ago and remain close.

We decided not to run this story, but we were surprised to read a post on Facebook from Harckham which reads, "To quell any speculation about my future plans, I will be running for re-election to the State Senate next year. Simply, the challenges ahead are too great for me to walk away from this important responsibility, and I look forward to a meaningful political discussion next year."

Harckham made the post on September 2, a full 14 months before his next re-election, in November 2026.

Some in Albany were scratching their heads wondering why Harckham would feel the need to make such an early announcement. They also wondered what any speculation about my future plans means.

NY Senate Democrats currently hold a supermajority of 41-22, so they don't technically need to hold onto Harckham's seat. But it is obviously a big deal for State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins to hold onto this seat, and all democratic state senate seats in the NY suburbs.

Hackham's seat is always one of only a few that are considered in play every two years because it includes Republican-Trump Putnam County, and it was held by a republican before Harckham.

One of our Albany insiders told us, "Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins doesn't want to lose this seat. So, if there was speculation that Pete was getting out of the senate, that may be the reason why he appears to have changed his mind. He was told to run again."

We also heard about several democrats in the district, "putting out feelers" to gauge support if Harckham got out. And while some of those democratic names could have had a good chance at winning next year, the lack of a great democratic candidate to replace him is another reason why Harckham is staying in the race.

Since defeating Senator Murphy, Harckham has been able to use his incumbency to keep any bigger name republicans in the district from challenging him. Namely, Assemblyman Matt Slater and Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne.

And we hear Arena, who has built up support from republicans in the district, wants to run one more time for Hackham's senate seat. But it is not Arena that worries democrats about this senate seat.

The Yorktown GOP recently held its re-org meeting and its leadership included former Senator Terrence Murphy and Assemblyman Matt Slater.

Slater's name keeps coming up as an obvious candidate, but only if Harckham were to step down. Nobody thinks that Murphy is making a comeback, but there are many out there who would like to see it happen.

Senator Harckham has become a go-to member of the State Senate on Environmental issues. As Chair of the Senate's Environmental Conservation Committee, Harckham has been at the forefront in warning Westchester residents and all New Yorkers about the fact that we "Are Drowning in Plastics," and how our bird population has significantly declined.

Harckham recently led a rally against proposals to build two gas pipelines in New York State. And he is running for re-election...in 14 months.

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

-Pete Seeger-

Westchester Rising

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Playland, continued from pg 1-

expressed disappointment that many of the rides were not open this year.

And once the negative vibe about Playland circulated across social media, it likely led to decreased attendance. Final figures are not yet out about attendance this year.

So who is to blame for Playland's dismal season? Republicans are blaming County Executive Ken Jenkins, but the actual blame goes all the way back to Republican County Executive Rob Astorino.

In 2018, Astorino and the County Board of Legislators approved a privatization plan for Playland. Standard Amusements was awarded the contract, and most in Westchester view the idea as a failure.

Standard Amusements bailed out of its agreement with Westchester County when they found out that they could not generate enough money for their investors, while at the same time creating a safe and attractive atmosphere at the park.

And Standard left Playland in a shambles, and did not keep rides up to date or up to code. A lawsuit between Westchester County and Standard continues, but the end result was a double whammy for Westchester County Government and its taxpayers, who had to invest millions into Playland to get it up and running in time for its Memorial Day opening, but was unable to open all of the rides.

Christine Sculti, republican candidate for County Executive, blasted Jenkins for the summer of 2025 at Playland.

"A Once-Magical Place—Now A \$50 Million Failure. I grew up just steps from Playland but now thanks to Ken Jenkins, it's a ghost town. Ken spent \$50 million of your money on Playland—and this is what we got? No crowds. No laughter. No magic. Playland survived the Great Depression, WWII, and COVID lockdowns but it couldn't survive Ken Jenkins' mismanagement. On November 4th, let's show Ken Jenkins the exit—and bring responsible leadership back to Westchester.

"Playland is "a shell of a once iconic park that I grew up right up the street working at and enjoying kiddyland. It was empty in August when there should have been thousands of people here," said Sculti.

There were some positive reviews of Playland this summer. Christina Pagano posted on Facebook, "I spent 5 hours there this afternoon and was pleasantly surprised at how well everything went. Yes, rides are closed. There are signs everywhere that show you which ones will not be operating. You can also get this info online before heading to the park. The workers were absolutely wonderful (with the exception of one at the water balloon race game). The lines moved very quickly. They had a pizza stand, Nathan's, burger truck, funnel cake and ice cream stand all open. Not sure what more you can ask for. Thank you for a wonderful day Playland Park."

Another Facebook post stated, "Standard amusements ran in the park into the ground over the past three years previous to this year. George Latimer, County executive at the time, tried to get them out of their contract four years ago. He was successful, but then a judge ruled against the county and gave the contract back to standard amusements. They left the park in the shambles, the rides in terrible shape. The worst was the dragon coaster so much of the wood has to be done and the tracks worked on.

"This was a transition year when they opened up and had what rides they could available to the public. The truth is the county has been doing a good job running the park for many decades. Everything will get fixed up and all the rides will be open next year, and Playland will be celebrating his hundredth year 100 years in 2028."

Kurt Van Kuller, republican candidate for Westchester Board of Legislators, said, "

HOW MUCH IS PLAYLAND COSTING TAXPAYERS? With major rides shuttered and obviously weak attendance this season, LOSSES ARE MOUNTING. THIS IS NOT ABOUT WHETHER THE COUNTY OR STANDARD AMUSEMENTS (PRIOR OPERATOR) IS TO BLAME. The more pressing question is: HOW DO WE STEM THE FINANCIAL HEMORRHAGING AT PLAYLAND?

OPERATING LOSSES BALLOON: The 2025 County budget (adopted BEFORE THE COUNTY RESUMED CONTROL) projected \$3.1 million revenues and \$17.3 million expenses for a NET LOSS of \$14.2 MILLION. This net loss was attributable to \$14.9 million for debt service on bonds for Playland (a self-supporting enterprise should pay its debt). Then in May, the County awarded a \$1.2 million "no-bid" emergency contract to Zamperla restore rides. In June, the County authorized a NEW \$12 million bond appropriation for OUTSIDE CONSULTANTS to "reconstruct and rehabilitate and make operational various rides" over the next 8 months. **SINCE WE KNOW THAT MUCH LOWER ATTENDANCE AND REDUCED FEES occurred since the 2025 budget was devised, TAXPAYERS MAY BE PAYING \$20 - \$25 MILLION IN OPERATING LOSSES in 2025. Where are projections for future years?**

HUGE PLAYLAND CAPITAL COSTS: County Executive Jenkins disclosed on one of my earlier posts that the County recently reimbursed Standard Amusements \$24 million for capital improvements. That brought cumulative County capital expenditures to \$150 million. The adopted 2025 County Capital Budget calls for AN ADDITIONAL \$131.3 MILLION FOR PLAYLAND between 2025 and 2029. (See project list below.) This could (at today's higher interest rates) INCREASE PLAYLAND's OPERATING LOSS (aka County tax subsidy) BY ANOTHER \$10 -14 MILLION.

We hear talk of economic benefits to the local economy, but past surveys indicated that only 30% of Playland customers are from Westchester County. Moreover, the City of Rye bears unreimbursed expense for police and other services, and has been denied property taxes or payments in lieu from the County. **LET'S HAVE TRANSPARENCY ON PLAYLAND SO TAXPAYERS CAN SEE WHAT THE COSTS AND BENEFITS ARE,"** said Van Kuller.

This reporter had a look at the Playland website, and it does tell you what rides are open and which are closed.

Earlier this year, Jenkins said, Westchester County Government, and the taxpayers of Westchester, have paid \$141 Million in capital improvements at Playland over the past several years. Part of that \$141 Million was to meet contractual obligations with Standard Amusements, who was selected by then County Executive Rob Astorino and the County Board of Legislators to operate Playland under a 30-year agreement.

continued on pg 12-

Obituary: Reverend Monsignor Hugh J. Corrigan



Monsignor Corrigan served at St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Church, Yonkers, for 31 years, as pastor from 1987 to 2013 and administrator from 2013 to 2018

Reverend Monsignor Hugh J. Corrigan entered eternal life on September 7, 2025, at Calvary Hospital at the age of 86.

He entered eternal life in the Bronx, where he was born on December 24, 1938. He was raised by his Irish immigrant parents, Hugh Corrigan, born in County Longford, and his mother, Anne Higgins, born in County Leitrim, who predeceased him. He had three younger sisters: Joan, Maureen (who died in 1966), and Peggy. He grew up in the parish of St. Nicholas of Tolentine, listening to the radio, playing stickball and basketball, reading, selling newspapers after Sunday Mass, and hiking with his father and sister. He graduated from St. Nicholas of Tolentine Elementary School in 1952.

Drawn to the priesthood from a young age, he attended the Cathedral College, the archdiocesan minor seminary in Manhattan. He graduated in 1958 and completed college at St. Joseph's Seminary and College in Dunwoodie, Yonkers. In 1960, he was sent to Rome, residing at the North American College and attending classes at the Pontifical Gregorian University. This was the time of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council and the pontificates of Pope John XXIII and Paul VI. On December 18, 1963, he was ordained a priest in the church of St. Ignatius in Rome, and in June 1964, he was granted a licentiate in theology.

He was assigned as assistant chaplain to Willowbrook State School, Staten Island, in 1964. He was parochial vicar of St. Charles Borromeo, Harlem, from 1964 to 1973. This was during the 1960s: the era of civil rights marches, the beginning of anti-poverty programs, the Vietnam War, peace marches, and assassinations. He met the Reverend Martin Luther King Jr. at Brown's Chapel in Montgomery, Alabama, and marched with him the next day, March 17. It was a time when everything seemed possible, and his passion for social justice grew.

He also held a master's degree in sociology from the New School for Social Research. He was chairman of the sociology department at Cathedral College, Douglaston, Queens, where he also served on the faculty from 1973 to 1987.

He was at St. Mary's Immaculate Conception Church, Yonkers, for 31 years. He served as pastor from 1987 to 2013 and administrator from 2013 to 2018. He was president of the Interfaith Clergy of Yonkers from 1991 to 1993 and regional vicar of the Catholic churches in Yonkers from 1993 to 2010. He was named monsignor in 1995.

His love for gardening started in the early 1980s at his sister's home in Connecticut. His first official garden was at St. Mary's Immaculate Conception. He retired from St. Mary's Immaculate Conception in 2018 to the Cardinal Egan Residence in the Bronx, where he continued to create and maintain beautiful gardens, enjoy his love of reading and learning, and explore his newfound interest in the cosmos.

Reverend Monsignor Hugh J. Corrigan is survived by his sisters Joan McGhee of Nanuet and Peggy Maher (Peter) of Alexandria, Virginia; his eight nieces and nephews, Maureen, Peggy Anne, Stephen, Kristina, Francis, Peter, Hugh, and John; and his 15 great-nieces and great-nephews.

RECEPTION OF THE BODY AND WAKE LYING IN REPOSE

Friday, September 12, 2025 2-6 p.m.

Church of the Immaculate Conception

103 South Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701, 914-963-0156

Entrusted to the care of the Flynn Memorial Home, Yonkers

Saturday, September 13, 2025 10 a.m.

Church of the Immaculate Conception

103 South Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701, 914-963-0156

His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, principal celebrant

Reverend Edward Byrne, homilist

INTERMENT-St. Mary Cemetery, Yonkers

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said, "Saddened to learn of the passing of Rev. Msgr. Hugh Corrigan. He served as regional vicar of Yonkers as well as pastor of St. Mary's, where he was an administrator for many years. He held a Master's Degree in sociology from the New School for Social Research and taught the subject for 13 years at Cathedral College in Douglaston, Queens, before arriving at St. Mary's. He was so dedicated to our beloved St. Mary's, he wrote and published a book about its history in 2016. Our sincerest condolences to those who knew him. May we continue to support St. Mary's now and always."

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To participate in this ONLINE ONLY auction, please visit our website and complete the "Online Bidder Registration Packet". Originals must be received at our office no later than 4pm on Monday, September 22, 2025.

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"Selling Surplus Assets 7 Days a Week Online"

Taxpayers Paid \$1.2 Billion in Improper Medicaid Payments Made for People Who Moved Out of NY

RFK Jr., continued from pg 1-

NYS Comptroller Tom DiNapoli issued the following report

Objective

To determine if the Department of Health (DOH) improperly paid Medicaid managed care premiums on behalf of members who resided outside of New York. The audit covered the period from July 2017 through October 2024.

About the Program

DOH administers New York State's Medicaid program. Medicaid members must be residents of New York to receive benefits. Individuals enroll in Medicaid through the NY State of Health (NYSOH, the State's online health insurance marketplace) or through Local Departments of Social Services (Local Districts). Medicaid eligibility determination systems are required to routinely provide data to be sent through the federal Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS). PARIS is a service that conducts matches on the enrollment data of public assistance programs—including Medicaid—across all 50 states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico to determine if an individual is receiving duplicate benefits in more than one location. PARIS uses a beneficiary's Social Security number (SSN) as the unique identifier for matches.

Most of the State's Medicaid members are enrolled in managed care plans, which are responsible for ensuring members have access to a range of health care services and reimbursing providers for those services. In exchange, DOH pays the plans a monthly premium for each enrolled member. If a member who is enrolled in a managed care plan no longer resides in New York, they should be disenrolled from their plan and the plan must return premiums paid for periods when the member was not a resident.

Key Findings

We found various issues with the State's identification of members who resided outside of New York, some of which DOH rectified during the audit. Among the issues, we identified additional data sources DOH could use to complement the PARIS match and certain review processes for PARIS matches that needed improvement. Together, these indicated Medicaid paid almost \$1.2 billion in managed care premiums for Medicaid members who may have resided outside of New York. Additionally, most Medicaid members are enrolled through NYSOH, yet we found DOH did not start submitting NYSOH-enrolled member data for PARIS matching until May 2017 (nearly 3 years after NYSOH started). Then, DOH did not start reviews of the NYSOH PARIS match results until more than 2 years later in October 2019 and, as a result, \$1.5 billion in premiums was paid from 2017 to 2019 on behalf of unreviewed members. Overall, Florida, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania represented the other state residencies for 35% of the premium payments in our total audit results. Following is a breakdown of the \$1.2 billion in findings:

\$509 million represented premiums paid for 155,181 members who may have resided outside of New York according to data sources other than PARIS, such as the U.S. Postal Service's National Change of Address (NCOA) information.

For example, a member appeared on a May 2020 NCOA report with a forwarding address in Florida. The member had no Medicaid services since February 7, 2020, but Medicaid made 45 monthly premium payments totaling \$100,859 on behalf of the member from June 2020 through February 2024. The member was still active and enrolled in managed care as of the end of the audit fieldwork.

In response to the audit findings, DOH agreed to explore the use of other data sources, including NCOA, to identify out-of-state members. We further suggest DOH engage with the federal government about its willingness to incorporate other data that helps establish residency into the PARIS matching process at the federal level.

\$375 million represented premiums paid for NYSOH-enrolled members who were identified on a PARIS match but were not reviewed by DOH to confirm residency because of flaws in NYSOH's processing of PARIS matches that caused the omissions. Also, 631,514 NYSOH-enrolled members were not submitted for a PARIS match because their SSNs were incorrectly logged in NYSOH as unverified. As a result of the audit, DOH identified the cause of the NYSOH error and officials stated a solution was implemented in March 2024.

\$299 million represented premiums paid for members whose eligibility was ended due to PARIS matches but the improper premiums were not recovered (\$234 million), or the member's eligibility was flagged to be closed but was not officially ended and premiums continued to be made (\$65 million).

While all states, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico participate in the PARIS match, not all of them participate every quarter, which can impact the effectiveness of the identification of out-of-state members.

Key Recommendations

Verify the residency of members identified by a PARIS match who were not reviewed, as well as members identified as potentially residing outside of the State by data sources other than PARIS, and recover improper premium payments, as appropriate.

Review the \$299 million in premium payments for members whose eligibility was closed or not properly closed, and make recoveries, as appropriate.

Enhance processes used to identify members living outside of the State and recover improper premium payments.

The entire report can be read at: <https://www.osc.ny.gov/files/state-agencies/audits/pdf/sga-2025-22s42.pdf>

Conservatives should be screaming in the halls of Congress and on the airwaves about the Federal government's usurpation of an individual's right to decide on their own what is and is not in their best interests.

Back in the 1990s, I remember extreme right-wingers who were paranoid that the Clinton Administration would let the United Nations take over the country. We heard a lot about black helicopters invading and taking away Americans' rights.

Well, at least one black helicopter has finally arrived, and Robert Kennedy is the pilot.

I'm over the age of 65, so Kennedy, in all his beneficence, has decided I can get the vaccine. But my wife, who is younger and healthier, cannot. The same goes for my daughter.

There is a huge contradictory hole here, through which I can drive a school bus. Kennedy has said, without any evidence of course, that the COVID-19 vaccine is the "deadliest vaccine ever made." If that's true, why are seniors and vulnerable people allowed to get the deadliest vaccine ever made? Won't it kill us?

I've gotten COVID-19 vaccines multiple times and I'm still alive and as healthy as it's possible for me to be. Why are hundreds of millions of Americans who got the vaccine still walking around? Shouldn't we all be dead?

Before the vaccine came along, my entire family contracted COVID. This illness was like nothing any of us ever suffered before. I was once hospitalized with pneumonia, and it wasn't as bad as COVID.

COVID had so thoroughly penetrated my lungs that I felt as if I could never get enough breath, like I had been a two-pack a day smoker for 30 years.

My teenage daughter was flattened. She was in so much pain she couldn't sleep. She asked me to sit up with her one night on our living room couch, as we were relentlessly assaulted by fever and the raw body aches of the disease.

I would rather have been forced to watch the "Mean Girls" musical on Broadway twenty times in a row before getting COVID again. It took three days for us to shake it off. It wasn't until I was prescribed Paxlovid that I started to feel better.

Other people around me were not as fortunate. A former work colleague and friend died from COVID. Her daughter told me Alison had literally turned blue. She went to the hospital, but the doctors couldn't save her.

A friend of my parents died from COVID. My sister-in-law's father, who was suffering from Parkinson's, caught COVID and died. We heard from friends who lost relatives.

The New York City public school where I taught shut down, as did every other school around the country.

We conducted classes and assigned homework over Zoom. I'm not sure much real learning actually occurred during those last five months of the school year. The mother of one of my students told me on the phone that her little daughter used to run around their apartment singing, "No school, no school."

The TV news was filled wall to wall with images of hospitals overwhelmed with patients, some of whom had piles of the dead enclosed in body bags stored in refrigerated units.

And the economy crashed, with 22 million jobs lost.

So, yes, I was one of the first people on line to get the COVID vaccine. There were hundreds of people with me at Westchester Medical Center ready to get a needle in our arms. I didn't want to get COVID ever again. I've gotten an updated vaccine several times since. My wife and daughter have also received the vaccine and multiple boosters.

The country recovered, thanks to the vaccines, a program President Trump initiated.

What did Robert Kennedy do at the time? He filed a petition to stop the Food and Drug Administration from approving and licensing the COVID vaccine.

And now, here he is, somehow voted in by the U.S. Senate to be the Health and Human Services Secretary, telling us we cannot protect our families from this awful disease.

My daughter is in college now, with thousands of other kids, huddled together in classrooms both large and small, ripe locations in colder weather for contracting all manner of illnesses. And Kennedy is saying she can't get the current vaccine. He has no credible evidence establishing that the COVID vaccine will harm people.

As Secretary for Health and Human Services, Kennedy is supposed to be in charge of the physical health and general welfare of the nation. Right now, he's providing neither.

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.

Playland, continued from pg 11-

Standard Amusements operated Playland for less than 5 years, and in January of this year (2025), informed the county that it was walking away from its agreement.

Jenkins said: "The condition Standard Amusements left Playland in is deeply disappointing, and reflects the consequences of a poorly structured agreement made during a prior administration. The deal, negotiated under then-County Executive Rob Astorino, prioritized privatization over prudent fiscal management and left the County responsible for significant financial liabilities — including the return of 100% of Standard Amusements' investment. As a member of the Board of Legislators in 2016, I voted against this agreement because I believed it did not serve the best interests of Westchester County's taxpayers or families."

One of my favorite Spanish phrases is MeJOR Que Nada, or better than nothing. That is my view on what happened at Playland this summer. Thousands of families were able to enjoy the park. But we all should realize now that it costs a pretty penny to own and operate an amusement park. But if you look at Playland as just another Westchester County Park, (you can walk the boardwalk and around the amusement park without spending any money just like any other county park) then we should compare the cost to any other Westchester Park.

Does anyone know if we the taxpayers make money or lose money on the county pools? How about the county golf courses? As a reporter in Westchester for 20 years, I have never heard our elected officials have that conversation. And I don't think that there is any widespread support for closing Playland. I think what everyone wants is minimal losses at Playland. There are individuals who have worked for the county and at Playland, who could inform us. I have always wanted to keep Playland open in part because of the summer jobs it provides young people, most from Westchester. And overall, I do applaud the County Executive for opening Playland this summer, it was indeed better than nothing

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Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, SEPT. 13

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

Low-Tide Hike, 9 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Explore Croton Point's shoreline with the park naturalist and learn about estuarine ecology, glacial geology and the deep history of this beautiful Hudson River promontory. Meet at the RV Park entrance. Ages six and up; some difficult terrain.

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720

Fall Bird Migration Exploration and Observation, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.. Observe our feathered friends as they prepare to head southward. Please bring binoculars.

Merestead Estate, Mount Kisco: (914) 864-7958

Mosses of Merestead, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Come appreciate Merestead's beautiful mosses during a gentle walk through the forest and along the stream. Meet at the carriage house parking area on the south side of 455 Byram Lake Road in Mount Kisco. The program will run in light rain, but worse weather will cancel.

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

Muscoot Farm's 50th Celebration Weekend, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. Celebrate with us! Join us today and tomorrow for live music, hayrides, entertainment, kids' activities and a lot more! Also: Sept. 14. Get details: <https://www.muscootfarm.org/programs-events/50th-celebration-gala-and-weekend.html>

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

Garage Sale, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Browse second-hand treasures such as clothing, household items, furniture, toys, sports equipment, books and more. Admission is free. Rain date: Sept. 14, at the same time and location. Get details <https://parks.westchestergov.com/saxon-woods-garage-sale>

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

Tastings in the Field, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Come with us into our field to use your taste to note the similarities and differences within the family, genus and species of one of our crops. Each class in this series will highlight a different seasonal crop and explore how and why tastes vary and the benefits of these distinctions. For ages 6 and up. \$10 per person. Register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tastings-in-the-field-tickets-1374759415419?aff=oddtcreator>

Miller House, White Plains: (914) 428-1005

Open House, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Drop in to visit the former home of the Ann and Elijah Miller family, an average colonial Westchester family whose lives were changed forever when George Washington and his army fought for American independence. Located at 140 Virginia Road in White Plains.

Saxon Woods Park, White Plains: (914) 995-4480; Sprain Ridge Park, Yonkers: (914) 231-3450. Pools Are Open, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. Also: Sunday, Sept. 14. Weather permitting. No admittance after 6 p.m. Parking and admission fees apply. Westchester County residency is required for admission, with a County Park Pass, a valid New York State driver's license or a valid New York State ID with a Westchester County address. Get details: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/pools-and-beaches>

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

"The ABCs of Muscoot Farm," 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Celebrate Muscoot's rich legacy and community spirit. The exhibit is on display in the Main House on weekends in September.

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

Ecotherapy: The Benefits of Nature, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Master naturalist Bruce Rosenberg will lead a guided "ecotherapy" walk to explore different areas of Lasdon and experience the benefits of nature up close. Meet at the garden entrance. Register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/echotherapy-the-benefits-of-nature-6/>

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720. Monarchs and Other Matriarchs in Flight, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Observe the fall migration of monarchs and other insects in flight. Please bring binoculars. All other tools will be provided.

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466

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

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851

Invasive Removal Volunteer Day, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Ages 12 and older can pitch in to protect Lenoir from the spread of invasive plants. We will learn simple plant identification and work to cut and pull invasives to give native plants a fighting chance! Bring gloves if you have them; all tools will be provided. A signed waiver is required.

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

Fall Open Art Studio, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. In this workshop for ages 4 and up, children will follow their own creative path, working in a variety of different materials with an art educator guiding them along the way. \$5. Get details and pay: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/fall-open-art-studio/2025-09-13/>

continued on pg 14-

**Read it all Online
at Yonkers Times.com**

Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks, continued from pg 13-

Lasdon Park, Arboretum & Veterans Memorial, Katonah: (914) 864-7268
Lasdon Green Squad, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Every Saturday from April to November join the Lasdon Green Squad to keep Lasdon, Westchester's Public Garden looking beautiful. Volunteers will work with Lasdon staff on tasks such as invasive species removal, planting, watering, weeding, trail maintenance, mulching, trash clean up, and other tasks. For those age 14 and older. Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/lasdon-green-squad-2-2/2025-09-13/>

Lasdon Park, Arboretum & Veterans Memorial, Katonah: (914) 864-7268
Sip, Nibble and Learn: Lasdon BC (Before It Was A County Park), 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

In celebration of Lasdon's 40th anniversary, learn its story before it became a county park as you sip and nibble. 21 years and older. \$10.

Register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/sip-nibble-and-learn-lasdon-bc-before-it-was-a-county-park/>

SUNDAY, SEPT. 14

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7282
Farmers Market, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. The market supports farmers and sustainable efforts in our area, featuring over 30 local vendors every Sunday until Nov. 16. Get details: <https://www.muscotefarm.org/markets/>

Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial, Katonah: (914) 864-7268
Yoga in the Gardens, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. - \$25.
Pre-registration required: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/yoga-in-the-gardens/2025-09-14/>

Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Museum, Katonah: (914) 864-7263
Gardening Sundays and Tuesdays, Weekly, 10 a.m. - noon. Enhance your gardening skills and plant knowledge by working side by side with the gardeners at Lasdon Park. Tasks include planting, watering, weeding, pruning, staking, deadheading, potting up and more! Through November. Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/gardening-sundays-2/2025-09-14/>

The Bronx River Parkway
Bicycle Sunday, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
A 13.1-mile loop from Westchester County Center south to Scarsdale Road in Yonkers is closed to cars. Open to non-motorized bicyclists, scooters and inline skaters, e-bike class 1 only, plus walkers and joggers. Many points of entry and exit are along the way. Admission is free. Also: Sept. 21; Oct. 5 Get details: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/bicycle-sundays>

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005
Naturalist Choice Hike, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Let's take a two-mile hike! Hiking shoes are recommended.

Gun Control is Suicide Prevention, continued from pg 1-

New York has some of the most stringent gun control laws in the country, but we must do better when it comes to preventing suicide. And it comes down to one thing: access.

I've introduced two bills to restrict gun access. A.1210 would establish a mandatory ten-day waiting period for all firearm purchases. This "cooling-off period" would give people time to reconsider impulsive actions, including suicide. Research shows most suicide attempts are made within hours of the decision, and states with waiting period laws have significantly lower suicide rates.

I've also introduced A.198, which would establish a voluntary waiver of the right to purchase a firearm. This approach, already in place in states like Washington, has proven highly effective in reducing suicides by allowing individuals to impose a self-selected pause. By delaying access to guns, we save lives.

As Chair of the Assembly Health Committee, I'll keep fighting for stronger state gun laws, and I'm confident New York will continue to lead. But we face a Congress that prioritizes gun manufacturers over people. Blood is on the hands of those in Washington who block meaningful federal gun control laws and limit what we can do in Albany.

How many times can we send "thoughts and prayers" while innocent people are killed? In honor of Suicide Prevention Month, let's hold accountable those in elected office who allow easy access to guns — and demand real solutions instead of empty words.

Assemblywoman Amy Paulin represents New York's 88th Assembly District.

Cop Suspended, continued from pg 1-

ter and Putnam residents were traveling east on Rte. 6 in the Town of Somers when they came to a sudden halt due to changing traffic patterns.

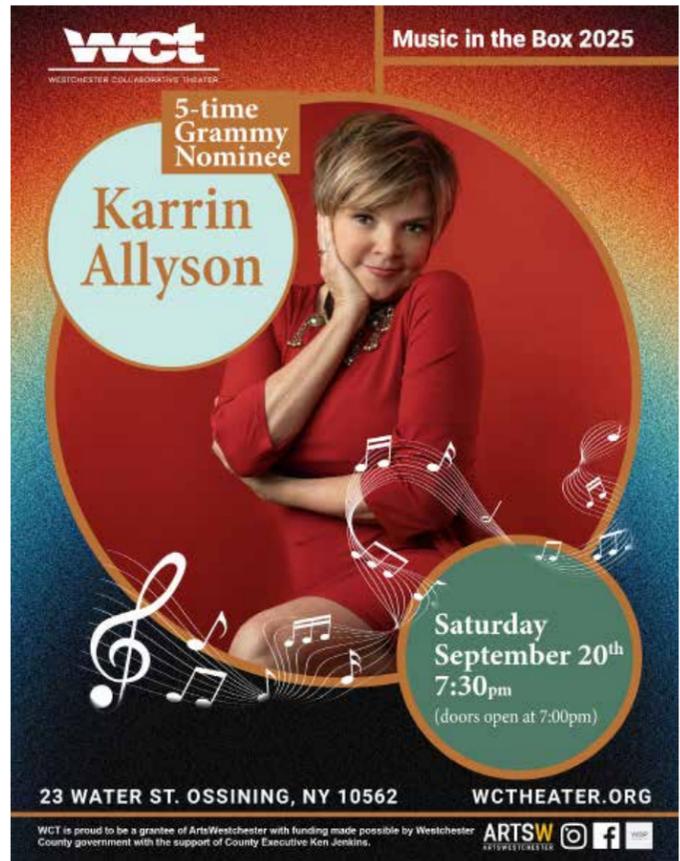
O'Connell, operating a 2024 Honda that had been driving behind the teens and had also been forced to brake suddenly, then pulled up alongside them and rolled down his passenger-side window. The defendant then yelled, "I have a gun" and pointed a loaded Glock 19 pistol at the victim-driver, according to court records.

The defendant continued to drive in an aggressive manner toward the teens before they were able to break off and call the police, their depositions allege.

The case is being investigated by the New York State Police.

The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Brittany Rios of the Northern Westchester Branch and Branch Chief Stephen Ronco.

**Read it all Online
at Yonkers Times.com**

**Five-Time Grammy Nominee Karrin Allyson
Makes A Special Appearance At WCT-Sept. 20**

On Saturday, September 20, Westchester Collaborative Theater (WCT), located at 23 Water St., Ossining NY, will present a performance by the internationally renowned jazz vocalist Karrin Allyson. The New York Times called Karrin "a singer with a feline touch and impeccable intonation." Her WCT appearance will be followed by a singing date at NYC's long-time jazz venue Birdland the following Tuesday.

Allyson has delved into bop and blues, Great American standards, and written her own songs. Her highly regarded 2001 album *Ballads: Remembering John Coltrane* was a beautiful rendering of the songs on Trane's 1963 classic, plus three other numbers associated with him. Her 2004 album, *Wild for You*, is a collection of singer-songwriter pop tunes—by the likes of Joni Mitchell, Yusuf Islam (Cat Stevens), Carole King, and Carly Simon. On 2015's *Many a New Day*, she paid tribute to Rodgers and Hammerstein in the distinguished company of pianist Kenny Barron. More recently, she was the star of the ambitious 2019 concept recording, *Shoulder to Shoulder*.

Allyson sings in English, French, Portuguese, Italian, and Spanish. The songs she performs are drawn from a variety of genres. She has recorded 12 original studio albums for the Concord Jazz label, and in 2009 she released a career-spanning "best of" collection. Five of Allyson's albums have received Grammy nominations for Best Jazz Vocal.

Allyson will be joined by the legendary guitarist Joe Cohn. Son of legendary tenor saxophonist Al Cohn and vocalist Marilyn Moore, Cohn is one of the most inventive and sought after guitarists in jazz today. He has performed at major jazz festivals and clubs around the world and recorded countless CDs as sideman along with several as leader and co-leader. In 1982, he joined the revived Artie Shaw Orchestra and after a six-year tenure went on to play with the bands of many other notable musicians. He has performed with Tony Bennett, Bob Hope, Mel Tormé, Joe Williams, Rosemary Clooney, Dizzy Gillespie, Vic Damone, Hank Jones, Freddie Hubbard, Clark Terry, Warne Marsh, Wynton Marsalis, Dave McKenna, Lee Konitz, Tommy Flanagan, James Moody, and Eddie Daniels among others.

Tickets, \$30 per set, can be purchased online at: <https://wct-presents-karrin-allyson-sept-20.eventbrite.com>.

UPAC, continued from pg 9-

give them a great time.

The driving musical force of the group is the dynamic interplay between the supporting instrumentals and the vocal stylings of the singers, Shari, Pete and Mike. From high energy to soulful renderings, rich duets and solid background harmonies, the KEYpers are your KEY to an enjoyable time.

All Untermyer Performing Arts Council's performances are free and open to the public. We do not provide seating at the park, so please bring your chairs or blankets.

In case of rain, this performance will be held at Saunders High School, 183 Palmer Road, Yonkers. If the weather looks bad, please call the Untermyer Performing Arts Council's Arts Line (914-375-3435) or check (www.untermyerperformingarts.org) our website after 3 pm the day of the performance to determine where the performance will be held.

This program is made possible by Arts Westchester with support from County Executive Ken Jenkins, the Westchester County Government, Mayor Mike Spano, the City of Yonkers, Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins, Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, and our many supporters.

For further information, please visit our website untermyerperformingarts.org or call the Untermyer Performing Arts Council Arts Line at 914-375-3435.

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

Who is Buying Weed, continued from pg 1-

counties, was found deceased about 8 a.m. behind the wheel of her car on the eastbound Cross County Parkway near the Broad Street exit in Mount Vernon. Preliminary investigation determined that the woman was likely targeted for violence, and her death was not a random act.

“The homicide remains under investigation by detectives from the General Investigations Unit. Assistance has been provided by other local, state and federal law enforcement agencies during the continuing investigation. Due to that ongoing investigation, additional details are not being disclosed at this time.”

Timeline:

Polanco was driving alone in her Mercedes SUV in the morning of Aug. 18. She left her job at Ikon New York, a cocktail lounge in Washington Heights on Sunday morning around 4:30 a.m.

Westchester County Police were notified that her car was pulled over on the Cross County a few feet from the Broad Street Exit in Mt. Veron. She was found slumped over the driver’s side of the car, with gunshot shells in the car and in the street.

Because Polanco was found on the Cross County Parkway, Westchester County Police are taking the lead for local law enforcement and are working with the FBI on the case.

Successful Businesswoman:

Ariela Mejia-Polanco, 33, a social media influencer and nightlife personality-hostess. She had over 550,000 followers on Instagram. Each one of her posts generated \$10,000 in income for her, and combined with her nightlife work and other enterprises, made Ariela the Lobster, and ariella.lalangosta, her screen names, a multi-millionaire.

Her final Instagram post was at 117 AM from ikon where she posted she was “happy and blessed.”

She was one of the more popular Dominican-born influencers known for her daring personality, modeling, and dance content. She joined Instagram in 2018, around the same time she became a rising star in hip-hop circles and was a close friend of the rapper Tekashi 6ix9ine.

According to the social media site True Crime Unravelled, during her friendship or relationship with Tekashi, Mejia-Polanco was kidnapped by the 9 Trey Ganster Blood gang, who was entangled in a violent feud with Tekashi.

Released on the same day, Ariela later testified in Federal racketeering case against the gang members who kidnapped her. This courageous decision has some wondering if, 7 years later, her shooting was somehow linked to her testimony.

Five years after her kidnapping, Ariela appeared in a Tekashi video in 2023.

Questions Remain:

After leaving ikon at 403am, she was found dead on the Cross County parkway at 8am. How long was she on the side of the road? Did she go somewhere else after ikon or was she driving directly to Mt. Vernon?

Most of the focus of the media is on the guess that Ariela was killed as part of a gang feud. Most believe that it was a hit, but by who and for who?

Others say that because of her fame, and notoriety and wealth, that this was a robbery gone bad. If that was the case, how much money and jewelry could she have had on her at the time of her death?

Are there robbery gangs working in Westchester? Or did they follow her from Washington Heights if this was a robbery?

Mejia-Polanco leaves behind two children, ages 13 and 14. She was looking forward to celebrating her daughter’s quinceañera birthday celebration.

What we take away from the life of Ariela Majia-Polanco is that we celebrate her success in living the American Dream. She was a Dominican immigrant mother of two who built an empire from nothing. She was a true 21st century capitalist.

But with the millions she earned, one question we ask is that when she leaves the NYC nightclubs at 4am, why didn’t she have a driver-security-bodyguard protecting her?

She had the money to do so. Perhaps she wanted to live like a girl from the streets to earn credibility to her half a million followers.

So why is it taking so long for law enforcement to find her killers? One of our law enforcement friends say that it may be a good thing that it’s taking so long, and that we have heard nothing from law enforcement in 3 weeks.

They don’t want to tip off their suspects. Be patient. But we also want to report on an unsolved murder in Westchester, which are few a far between.

“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

Free Rabies Clinic for Westchester Residents and their Dogs, Cats and Ferrets-September 14

FREE
Rabies Clinic
for Dogs, Cats and Ferrets
of Westchester County residents



Sunday, September 14, 2025

10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Stamen Animal Hospital
61 Quaker Ridge Road
New Rochelle, NY 10804

Please Call (914) 632-1269 to reserve vaccine for your pet at this walk-in clinic.

- All Westchester County residents can bring their dogs, cats and ferrets in for rabies vaccinations FREE of charge.
- No examination will be given.
- Cats and ferrets must be brought in carriers.
- Dogs must be on a leash.
- Aggressive dogs MUST BE MUZZLED.
- All pets must be supervised by an adult.

Westchester County residents can bring their dogs, cats and ferrets for free rabies vaccinations on Sunday, September 14 or Sunday, November 9 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Stamen Animal Hospital, 61 Quaker Ridge Road, New Rochelle. To reserve a vaccination, call (914) 632-1269. Pets will be seen on a first-come, first-served basis. An adult must supervise each pet. Owners should bring proof of prior rabies vaccinations. Cats and ferrets must be in carriers, dogs must be leashed, and aggressive dogs must be muzzled. No exams will be given. New York State law requires a first rabies shot for dogs and cats by four months of age; a second shot within one year of the first, and boosters every one or three years, depending on the vaccine. Owners who fail to comply could face fines of up to \$2,000.

A pet that is up-to-date with its rabies vaccinations would only need a booster dose of vaccine within five days of the pet’s exposure to a known or suspect rabid animal. Animals not up-to-date with rabies vaccinations would be quarantined or euthanized following contact with a rabid or suspect-rabid animal. A change in an animal’s behavior is often the first sign of rabies. A rabid animal may be unusually aggressive, surprisingly tame or simply “off.” It may lose its fear of people, become docile and weak or excited and irritable. Infected animals sometimes stagger, spit and foam at the mouth.

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we commemorate the 250th, we’re excited to offer new ways for travelers and locals to connect with history and explore the beauty of Westchester. Our mission is to create programming that extends well beyond 2026 and delivers lasting impact.”

RW250 President Constance Kehoe said: “REV FEST 250 is a unique opportunity to bring the history of the American Revolution to life in Westchester—engaging people of all ages and interests through immersive experiences, dynamic storytelling, and a deeper appreciation of our nation’s roots.”

Rooted in Westchester is a dynamic digital collection of resources and itineraries designed to highlight Westchester’s historical significance, amplify diverse stories and enhance the visitor experience at historic sites across the County.

Support for the 250th anniversary commemoration events is provided through a Market New York grant from Empire State Development and I LOVE NY, New York State’s Division of Tourism.

ABOUT REV FEST 250:

What: REV FEST 250 – living-history festival commemorating America’s 250th

When: Sept. 27–28, 2025, 11 a.m.–5 p.m. daily

Where: Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson, N.Y.

Admission: Free; families encouraged to bring chairs/blankets, dogs permitted

Hotel Partner: Windrose on Hudson

Transportation: Free shuttle service from the Croton-Harmon Metro North Station.

More info, lodging and dining: visitwestchesterny.com/250

REV FEST 250 is part of a multi-year commemoration that will culminate with a large-scale Battle of White Plains reenactment Oct. 24–25, 2026, at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, in cooperation with RW250 and leading reenactment organizations.

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Puppy Yoga Selling Out in Westchester!



County Executive Ken Jenkins posted, “My wife Deborah represented us both at this weekend’s puppy yoga event at the Kensico Dam, and came home with nothing but good things to say. Special thanks to our Westchester County Parks staff for putting together such a relaxing and fun community event.”

Puppy yoga is a type of yoga class where participants practice yoga poses while interacting with puppies. The puppies are typically from local shelters or rescue organizations, and the classes aim to provide socialization for the puppies and a fun and relaxing experience for the participants.

The benefits are stress reduction and relaxation, Physical activity and movement, Social interaction and bonding with other participants, and Opportunity to socialize and play with puppies.

The first, Puppy Yoga, was a one-hour yoga class held at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla. It featured eight French bulldog puppies freely interacting with participants during the session, followed by a 45-minute play period. Praised for its physical and mental wellness benefits, the program continues with the next one scheduled for Sept. 22 SOLD OUT. The cost is \$50.

Westchester County Police Officer Eddie Ramirez Honored for Keeping Our Kids Safe



Congratulations to Westchester County Police Officer Eddie Ramirez on his selection as the 2025 Youth Officer of the Year by the State of New York Police Juvenile Officers Association. The award recognizes PO Ramirez for his expertise and longtime dedication to youth in the communities where he has served.

Among his assignments during his 19-year career, PO Ramirez has been a patrol officer and Community Resource Officer in Mount Kisco, a School Resource Officer in the Hendrick Hudson School District in Cortlandt and an Advisor of the WCPD Cadet Program.

He began his career with the Mount Kisco Police Department and worked regularly with local youth, including through Neighbors Link and the Boys & Girls Club, under the village’s Police and Community Together program. He became a member of the WCPD in 2015 when the MKPD was consolidated into our Department.

In announcing the award, the Albany-based association organization wrote: “This prestigious award recognizes an officer who has demonstrated outstanding dedication, leadership and innovation in serving the youth of our communities. Officer Ramirez’s commitment to building positive relationships, mentoring young people and implementing impactful youth programs has made a lasting difference in the lives of countless individuals. His work exemplifies the highest ideals of community policing and the mission of SNYPJOA.”

The association also recognized Officer Ramirez for serving as an instructor at its training conferences. “We are honored to count Officer Ramirez among the exceptional youth officers in New York State,” Association Executive Director Brian K. Forte wrote.

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