

## Who is Buying Weed in Westchester?



*Op-Ed by Jennifer Gierum, Founder/CEO of Highlife Health, New Rochelle*

Editor's Note: New Yorkers bought over \$1 billion worth of weed in 2024, but how did that break down in New Rochelle? Highlife Health, a women-owned dispensary in New Rochelle, celebrated its one-year anniversary on August 23 and released some customer data from its first year of sales. The dispensary found:

- Largest Spend Group Ages: 21–29, Highest Spend Per Visit Ages: 50–59
- Largest Cart Size: Seniors (50+) averaging \$65.63 per customer
- Most Popular Products:
  - Vapes/Carts: 32.2%, Flower: 28.8%, Pre-Rolls: 19.1%, Edibles: 14.1%
  - Other (Concentrates, Beverages, Topicals): 5.8%

When we opened New Rochelle's first legal cannabis dispensary, HighLife Health, a year ago, we expected our customer base to skew young, and in some ways it does. The 21–29 group is the largest by volume, coming in frequently and spending collectively more than any other demographic. But what surprised us most is that our customers in their 50s are the highest spenders per visit. Seniors in particular average \$65.63 per transaction, making their cart size the largest in our store. That difference has reshaped how we think about service,

*continued on pg 15-*

## Epstein's Cellmate and Former Westchester Cop Nick Tartaglione Speaks Out



*Nick Tartaglione, left*

*By Dan Murphy*

Yonkerstimes.com and Rising Media Group have been covering the case of Nick Tartaglione for more than 20 years. Tartaglione, a former Mt. Vernon and Briarcliff Manor cop, was fired from his Briarcliff post after physically assaulting Briarcliff resident and Cable News Access host Clay Tiffany.

Tiffany, was a muckraking journalist, who was hell bent on exposing corruption in Briarcliff and in Westchester

*continued on pg 14-*

## Do Good This 9/11 Day with Volunteer NY



WESTCHESTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE KEN JENKINS JOINS VOLUNTEER NEW YORK! TO ANNOUNCE 15TH ANNUAL 9/11: SERVE & REMEMBER DAYS OF SERVICE

Annual Family-Friendly Volunteer Mobilization Effort to Benefit Numerous Local Nonprofits, and Unite Hundreds of Volunteers in Remembrance of Those Lost

*continued on pg 12-*

**TRIBUTE THROUGH SERVICE**  
**DO GOOD THIS 9/11 DAY**

Several family-friendly volunteer opportunities on September 5th and September 11th

[VOLUNTEERNEWYORK.ORG/SERVE](http://VOLUNTEERNEWYORK.ORG/SERVE)

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9/11

EMPIRE CITY CASINO BY MGM RESORTS

WMCHealth WESTCHESTER Medical Center Health Network

EVENT SPONSORS (In Formation)

## Peekskill Parking Officer from Yonkers Busted Traveling to Florida to Have Sex with 13 Yr-Old



Florida Mug Shot of Victor Ortiz

*By Dan Murphy*

Another disturbing case of a Westchester resident, who was working as a public servant, who was arrested for traveling to Florida to have sex with who he thought was a 13-year old female.

44-year old Victor Ortiz, who lives in Yonkers and who works for the Peekskill Police Department as a parking enforcement officer, was arrested by the Ocala Sheriff's office in Florida and charged with traveling to meet a minor for unlawful sexual activity.

The incident occurred on Aug. 22, and according to reports we obtained from the Ocala Sheriff's office, Ortiz got caught in an undercover sting operation, and we chatting, and then texting and calling a person who was Florida law enforcement and not a 13-year old girl.

Detective Matthew Chiang submitted an affidavit testifying that he was the undercover who caught Ortiz. Once Det. Chiang posted on the social media site Badoo that he was a 13 year old named Livi, Ortiz began the chat on Aug. 21.

The chatting quickly intensified to texting, and once Livi told Ortiz that she was not a virgin, Ortiz is accused of explicitly expressing his sexual interest in Livi. Ortiz then arranged a visit in Florida and added that he would not get her pregnant and would buy some alcohol for their rendezvous.

Ortiz was given an address in Kissimmee, Fl. to meet Livi. At midnight on

*continued on pg 12-*

## Westchester Leaders Among Honorees at Bronx Chamber of Commerce 2025 Gala



*Above: Ram Gupta; Founder Chatam Management Co. Right: Rella Fogliano; CEO MacQuesten Development,*



*GVC CEO Michael LaValli*

The Bronx Chamber of Commerce is proud to spotlight three honorees with deep Westchester County roots at its 2025 Annual Gala, Illuminating Success, to be held Thursday, September 18, 2025, at Marina del Rey in the Bronx. The celebration will recognize exceptional leadership in business, development, and civic service, with three of this year's four awards going to institutions and individuals whose work has left a significant mark on both the Bronx and Westchester.

MacQuesten Development, LLC, based in Pelham, will be honored as Developer of the Year. Under the leadership of CEO Rella Fogliano, MacQuesten has delivered transformative housing and mixed-use developments across the region. With landmark projects in the Bronx, Harlem, and Westchester, Fogliano has positioned the company as a leader in affordable housing innovation. Her career began on construction

*continued on pg 11-*

**Westchester County Loses Pro Life Suit**  
**See Story on Page 4**

## Eastchester Police to Crack Down on Reckless Electric Bicycles and Scooters



Over the past several weeks our department has received an increased number of complaints from residents and motorists regarding the reckless operation of electric bicycles and scooters.

In many cases, the operators have been found to be less than 16 years of age. We are writing to remind parents that the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law as well as Town of Eastchester Local Law prohibit the operation of E-Bikes and E-scooters by anyone under the age of 16.

Additionally, both laws provide further restriction on where they can be operated as well as the required safety equipment. We requesting the public's cooperation in ensuring that parents and guardians are not allowing their children to operate E-Bikes or E-Scooters illegally.

Parents or guardians allowing their operation illegally may be subject to a summons and fine, and bikes or scooters may be impounded.

## White Plains HS Senior Maximilian Mui Brings Renewable Energy Bench to the City



Rising White Plains High School senior Maximilian Mui has been busy promoting the benefits of renewable energy sources like the sun – which powers a high-tech bench he assembled and had installed in a prime spot outside the city's Public Library.

Maximilian was recently joined by Mayor Tom Roach, state Sen. Shelley Mayer and Rep. George Latimer for the unveiling of the bench, which he helped secure with a \$5,000 grant from Bloomberg Philanthropies.

The charging and connectivity bench, which is manufactured by SELS Solar, costs over \$5,000 but Max – as he's commonly known – used his negotiating skills to bring the price down to the amount in the grant, which he pursued independently.

"The bench is a renewable energy source. It's also a public amenity, which is a bonus," he said Thursday while sitting on his futuristic bench, which is covered with solar panels that convert sunlight to electricity using photovoltaic cells.

"People from all over White Plains can come and have a place to sit, a place to charge, free WiFi and Bluetooth," Max said, adding that it is the only such bench in the city of some 60,000 residents.

For pedestrians who wish to do more than stop for a rest and figuratively recharge, the SB1020 stainless steel bench features USB charging ports, an inductive charging pad, WiFi connectivity and Bluetooth. The various options are displayed with blue logos on either side of the armrests.

"I want to try and make a change. If I can do this with \$5,000, imagine what the city can do with a budget of \$100,000," Max said. "I want this to be a stepping stone for the city to implement more renewable energy sources."

"This is a testament for what White Plains can do," he added.

Max said he was grateful for the city and thanked its leadership, the library and Public Works crews for their roles in bringing the project to fruition.

The student, who has attended the district's schools since kindergarten, also praised WPHS and his teachers over the years.

"White Plains High School is a really good place and I love the learning atmosphere. The teachers really facilitate learning and make it more enjoyable," said Max, whose brother, Josh, is entering the 10th grade.

He is already applying to colleges with the goal of entering the field of finance after first considering a career in computers.

"I used to gravitate toward computer science but with the job market right now it's not that sustainable. So right now, finance is my go-to option," Max said confidently.

Story from White Plains School District, <https://www.whiteplainspublicschools.org/about/district-news/news-details/~board/hp-district-announcements/post/white-plains-high-school-senior-brings-renewable-energy-bench-to-the-city?>

## Free Square Dancing Fun Nights



Our group is having 2 Free Square Dancing Fun Nights on Monday, September 22nd and Monday, September 29th from 7:00-8:30pm at Katonah Methodist Church Parish Hall, 44 Edgemont Rd, Katonah, NY.

Modern Western Square dancing is a lot of fun, great exercise for both the body and mind and an opportunity to meet new people and make new friends. The attire is casual and no experience is necessary. This event is open to singles, couples and families. Our website is [www.friendlysquares.org](http://www.friendlysquares.org).

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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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# Happy 102nd Birthday Sol Finger! Democrats, Republicans, It's One Big Happy Family



“Delightful to honor Sol Finger, who turned 102 on July 4! A charming, funny veteran of World War Two, Sol has been a member of Gamblers Anonymous for more than 50 years, and is credited with turning thousands of lives around. His motto is “Make hay while the sun shines,” and he lives up to it every day. Thanks to Sol’s wonderful friends for joining us, and to the staff of BrightView Senior Living in Harrison for hosting us,” said State Senator Shelley Mayer. Sol, you look great, and a blessing to have a World War II Vet still with us. God Bless



By Eric Wolf Schoen

Well friends ,here we go again. Wheeling and dealing among American political families to keep everyone employed, getting a pay check and happy. We just had an election and some didn’t like the results so let’s change things around to make everyone a happy camper!

Can you just throw up! Andrew Cuomo loses the primary election for Mayor of New YORK CITY He loses to a newcomer, a supposed socialist who won big time. The powers that be are not happy and want to cut a deal where Curtis Sliwa who I supported last week and Eric Adams, the current Mayor get jobs in the Trump administration, support Cuomo and the three candidates knock out the Socialist who won the Primary and at this point looks like heir apparent to the Mayor’s throne.

Folks stay up late at night making this up. And they think the voters of New York City are going to follow their advice. It’s not advice, it’s the old 3 men in a room crap from the CUOMO administration rearing its ugly head. And you my friends, movers and shakers in New York can’t allow the politicians to grasp your power and put it in their ugly hands. Do I have to remind you of the politicians who were forced to ,leave office because of the games they played and in some cases the way they treated others

We have to change the way we do business in New York and take the powers out of the politicians hands and put it in our hands. Otherwise we might as well not go to vote on Election Day.

Reach Eric Schoen at

## Free Event: The Questions Every Family Should

## Ask Before Starting College Admissions Process

Curious about what you can be doing now to set your child on a path toward long-term academic success? Designed for parents of children from elementary through high school, this event features Lindsay Tanne Howe, founder and CEO of LogicPrep (and mom of five), in a thought-provoking conversation about the habits, choices, and mindsets that help children build a strong foundation from the early grades through the teenage years.

Drawing on nearly two decades of experience—and the collective insight of her team of former admissions officers from schools such as Harvard, MIT, Duke, and Cornell—Ms. Howe will share what parents of successful teens did early on to foster curiosity, independent thinking, and a strong foundation for the future. From making thoughtful academic choices to shaping a compelling narrative, attendees will leave with actionable, low-stress strategies to support their child’s growth at every stage.

Light refreshments provided.

Free.

Registration is required as space is limited.

6:30-8:30pm.

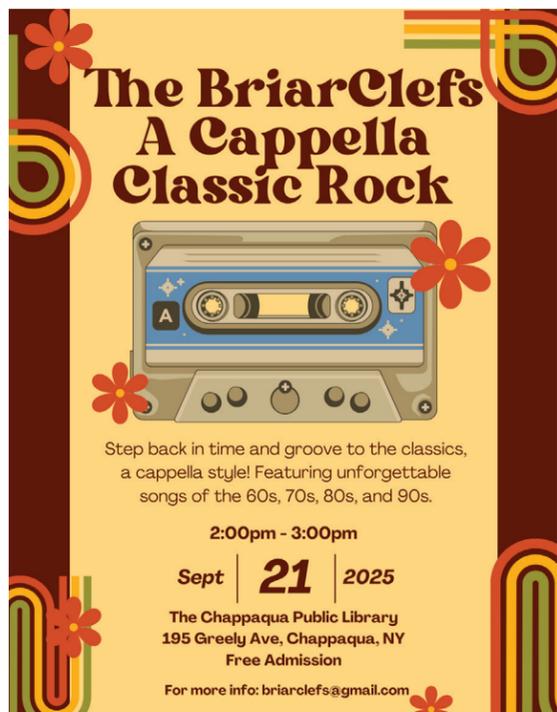
(914) 273-3280.

<https://www.logicprep.com/events>.

Athena Books, 228 Sound Beach Ave, Old Greenwich, CT 06870

Read it all Online at [Yonkerstimes.com](http://Yonkerstimes.com)

## Come Hear The BriarClefts Perform Sept 21 In Chappaqua



Come hear The BriarClefts at a performance on Sunday, September 21st!

Started in early 2024, this Westchester-based 12-voice a cappella chorus came together for the purpose of singing fun and popular classic rock songs spanning several decades. The group's next public performance is on Sunday, Sept. 21, 2025, at 2:00 pm at the Chappaqua Library, 195 So. Greeley Ave, Chappaqua, NY. Admission is free and refreshments will be served.

Included in the program will be music by Crosby, Stills & Nash, Chicago, The B-52s, The Drifters, and many others. The Briarclefts' debut concert in January 2025 was enthusiastically received by a highly entertained audience. Don't miss this opportunity to kick back, listen to some great, popular classics, and have an enjoyable time walking down Memory Lane.

Questions regarding the concert or membership: [briarclefts@gmail.com](mailto:briarclefts@gmail.com)

## Hearts & Homes for Refugees Awarded United Way Community Impact Grant

Hearts & Homes for Refugees is proud to announce that it has been awarded an \$8,250 Community Impact Grant from the United Way of Westchester and Putnam. The funding will support the expansion of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programming and the development of new initiatives for refugee children and teens in Westchester County.

The United Way Community Impact Fund supports local nonprofits that serve under-resourced populations, including ALICE households (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed). Hearts & Homes for Refugees was selected following a highly competitive process that drew more than 150 applicants.

"We are grateful to UWWP for recognizing the importance of investing in the future of refugee families in our community," said Kathie O'Callaghan, President and Founder of Hearts & Homes for Refugees. "This grant allows us to expand our specialized ESOL programs for Afghan newcomers and launch new opportunities to support refugee youth as they adjust academically, socially, and emotionally to life in a new country."

The ESOL initiative includes a virtual evening program designed specifically for Afghan adults, taught by an Afghan educator to foster trust and accelerate learning. The child and teen initiative will provide tutoring, mentorship, summer and afterschool activities, and community-building outings that nurture emotional well-being and promote school success. A key component of the program will include outings and culturally enriching activities, planned in collaboration with volunteers from Students for Refugees.

United Way's support will enable Hearts & Homes to continue creating pathways for refugees to rebuild their lives with hope, dignity, and belonging.

For more information, please visit [www.heartsandhomesforrefugees.org](http://www.heartsandhomesforrefugees.org).

## Westchester Loses Fed. Suit; Found to Violate 1st Amendment Rights of Pro Life Sidewalk Counselors

Westchester County Found Liable for Violating Free Speech of Pro-Life Sidewalk "Counselors"

Thomas More Society secures judgment of liability against County in lawsuit against pro-abortion law.

**Note: This story comes from the Thomas More Society**

A federal court has ruled that Westchester County, New York, violated the First Amendment rights of pro-life sidewalk counselors, marking a significant victory for free speech in a legal challenge brought by Thomas More Society attorneys. The decision in *Hulinsky v. County of Westchester* found the County liable for enacting an unconstitutional provision in its 2022 "Reproductive Health Care Facilities Access Act," or Chapter 425, which restricted peaceful pro-life advocacy near abortion facilities.

The decision awards plaintiffs Oksana Hulinsky and Regina Molinelli \$1 for the chilling of their life-saving sidewalk counseling for over two-and-a-half years as a result of the unconstitutional law, even though the County attempted to avoid liability by repealing the offending provision earlier this year.

This ruling builds on a March 14 decision that rejected the County's attempt to dismiss Plaintiffs' claims against part of Chapter 425 prohibiting so-called "interference" with abortion access "by deceptive means or otherwise"—a sweeping and unprecedented restriction adopted as part of the County's furor over the Supreme Court's decision in *Dobbs*. The Court rightly held the provision "criminalized large swaths of protected speech" on pain of jail, fines, and civil liability, flagrantly violating the First Amendment.

"This ruling sends a powerful message to municipalities nationwide: vague laws targeting pro-life speech will not stand," said Christopher Ferrara, Senior Counsel at Thomas More Society. "Westchester County's pro-life sidewalk counselors seek only to offer compassionate, life-affirming alternatives on public sidewalks—as is their First Amendment right. Westchester's arrogant overreach tried to silence their voices, but this decision helps reaffirm their constitutional freedom to share the pro-life message."

*Hulinsky v. County of Westchester* was filed by Thomas More Society attorneys in August 2022 after the County enacted Chapter 425, which imposed a litany of severe restrictions on speech and assembly near abortion facilities, intending to restrict pro-life sidewalk counseling ministries in public spaces. The County has since repealed or amended a number of those provisions in response to the Thomas More Society lawsuit. But the latest decision ensures that Westchester County must pay nominal damages and potentially significant attorney fees for violating Plaintiffs' First Amendment rights for nearly three years.

"Nobody should be sent to jail and forced to pay significant fines simply for handing out pro-life leaflets and talking peacefully to women about abortion alternatives on public sidewalks," said Michael McHale, Senior Counsel at Thomas More Society. "Yet, Westchester County's vague ban on so-called 'interference' with abortion access threatened to do exactly that, in blatant violation of the First Amendment, as the Court recognized."

However, Thomas More Society intends to appeal the Court's prior decision upholding Chapter 425's prohibition on "following-and-harassing," which the law vaguely defines as ignoring an "implied request to cease" on a public sidewalk.

"This decision sets a precedent that rogue governments may not recklessly trample on the fundamental rights of peaceful pro-life sidewalk counselors and then attempt to run and hide at the first sign of an adverse court judgment—a common tactic wielded against pro-lifers," McHale said. "We look forward to pursuing significant attorney fees against Westchester County for violating our clients' rights and in continuing to eradicate similarly unconstitutional restrictions on pro-life speech in courts across the country."

The opinion from U.S. District Court Judge Philip Halperin reads in part, Plaintiffs are both pro-life "advocates." Consistent with their beliefs, they have engaged in "sidewalk counseling." This practice includes approaching individuals leaving or entering a reproductive health care facility and engaging them in an "exchange [of] ideas," "opinions," and "information" about alternatives to abortion.

Plaintiffs assert that the challenged provisions, for the purpose of this Opinion and Order

limited to Section 425.31(h), in Chapter 425 have caused them to cease their sidewalk counseling.

First, both Plaintiffs testified during their depositions that they regularly engaged in "sidewalk counseling" in front of abortion clinics but stopped after the passage of Chapter 425.

Accordingly, in light of this well-established rule and the Court's prior rulings in the Summary Judgment Opinion, the Court finds that Defendant is liable under 42 U.S.C. § 1983 for violating Plaintiffs' First Amendment rights to free speech and Fourteenth Amendment rights to due process. Thus, Plaintiffs are entitled to damages.

Based on the foregoing, the Court finds that Plaintiffs are entitled to judgment in their favor

that the 2022 version of Section 425.31(h) violated their constitutional rights; and determines further that Plaintiffs are entitled to an award of one dollar (\$1.00) in nominal damages.

Because the Court also finds that Plaintiffs are "prevailing parties" within the meaning of

42 U.S.C. § 1988, they are directed to file their application for attorneys' fees and costs, including supporting records, within 30 days of the date of this Order. Defendant's opposition, if any, shall be filed within 14 days of the filing of Plaintiffs' fee application.

Philip M. Halpern, United States District Judge

Westchester County has the right to appeal the decision.

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To the Editor,

Your August 25th article regarding Tarrytowns fire truck purchase seems more of an opinion piece than an actual article based in fact. It makes faulty comments that once printed show your lack of research on the topic-rather relying on a letters from a body shop owner (who also happens to be a Tarrytown Fire Department member from another company).

Your statement that the vendor for Rosenbauer (Gabielli Mack) has “ a history of supplying Tarrytown” is flat out false. Of the 4 pumper trucks and 2 ladder trucks in TFDs fleet none are or have ever been a Rosenbauer.

Additionally, your statement that you “spoke to other people in the business of delivering firetrucks to local governments in Westchester County” by quoting “said the fire truck expert” is outright poor journalism. If you have a source to quote please name the source to ensure accuracy in your reporting. And place some accountability in who is saying what.

Finally, your statement that Stiloski has no financial stake in the fire truck purchasing of Tarrytowns fleet is also outright false. FOIL Stiloski Auto Body and see how many bills for fire truck repairs he has sent to the Village of Tarrytown over the last 5 years alone. Wouldnt this imply that if a cheaper or less efficient rigs were to be purchased by the village that their breakdowns or issues would be brought directly to his shop to be fixed. Thus, directly giving him a financial stake in suggesting which trucks to purchase.

The committee did their due diligence. They met with the village board multiple times prior to approval of this purchase.

Questions were raised by board members and the committee cognitively and thoughtfully answered their concerns before the entire village in open meetings where anyone could insert their 2 cents at public comments both at the beginning and end of each public session mutiple times before board approval.

The author of this article Dan Murphy should have researched both sides of this issue before printing anything and failing to name his sources. Instead it seems he aligns with Stiloski blindly and without informed research on the topic. This article is borderline slanderous to the committee and should be removed immediately.

Respectfully,  
 Bryan J Meade  
 Ist Lieutenant  
 Deputy Chief  
 Company President  
 Tower Ladder 78  
 Tarrytown Fire Department

Dear Editor at Rising Media Group,

Workers deserve fair pay, safe working conditions, affordable healthcare and the freedom to retire with dignity. We deserve the right to join unions that give workers a voice; an economy that works for all families, not only the wealthy; and a democracy where every voice is heard and every vote counts.

Workers and families deserve fully funded public schools that are safe, welcoming, relevant and engaging, as well as higher education that is accessible, affordable and free from political intrusion.

President Donald Trump campaigned on making life better and more affordable for working families, and I'm sad to say that his administration has not delivered on these promises. Instead, we have seen funding slashed for schools, healthcare, child care and more—while handing tax breaks to the ultra-wealthy.

Our family members and communities will be sicker, hungrier and poorer. We deserve so much better.

Whether it's peacefully protesting with our neighbors and co-workers in the streets, forming a union at our workplaces, or engaging with elected officials in Congress, let's work together to fight for the future that all workers deserve.

Sincerely,  
 BG Scott  
 Irvington

JazzFest White Plains Begins September 10



Steve Turre

JazzFest White Plains' September 14 closing event relocates this year to the heart of downtown's restaurant row. The new location on Mamaroneck Avenue between E. Post Road and Maple Avenue places the free closing event of the five-day festival on a block hosting more than a dozen bars and restaurants, many of which offer sidewalk dining. Jazz al fresco specials include a free mimosa with the purchase of a brunch entrée at the Hudson Grille and beer bucket specials like five domestic beers for \$25 at the Lazy Boy Saloon.

JazzFest White Plains begins on Sept. 10, and it offers 18 live performances over five days from emerging talent to GRAMMY Award winners. The closing Sunday event from 12:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. includes performances by the Westchester Center for Jazz & Contemporary Music (12:30 p.m.); April May Webb with Sounds of A&R (1:45 p.m.); Pete Malinerni & His Invisible Cities Quintet (3:15 p.m.); and Chembo Corniel Quintet (4:45 p.m.).

The headlining performance is by the Steve Turre Sextet (6:15 p.m.). Turre, renowned for his trombone and seashell mastery, has recorded more than 20 albums, and he is best known for playing in the Saturday Night Live band since 1985.

The relocated finale aims to capitalize on the growing popularity of a separate downtown music event—the Wednesday evening Rock the Block summer series at the same block—which is surrounded by municipal parking lots.

“Each Rock the Block dining concert gets bigger than the last, so it’s a concept that works well, and the restaurants are very enthusiastic about it,” said Jennifer Furioli, executive director of the White Plains Business Improvement District. “This block has become known for music and food, and we’re excited to bring JazzFest to the same location.”

Besides the free entertainment, there is a community-building element.

“We’re going to have lots of little conversation corners on the block with Adirondack chairs and moveable bistro tables. As our downtown residential community continues to grow, we want people to come and really get to know their new neighbors,” said Furioli.

JazzFest 2025 also boasts an exceptional lineup of five ticketed concerts featuring some of the most acclaimed names in jazz, including Wycliffe Gordon Quintet; the Jazz & Poetry Choir Collective; Kurt Elling; Immanuel Wilkins; and Kenny Barron. JazzFest 2025 is presented by Montefiore Einstein in collaboration with ArtsWestchester, the City of White Plains and the White Plains Business Improvement District. For a complete 5-day schedule, performer lineup, and ticket information, visit: <https://artswestchester.org/programs/jazzfest-whiteplains/>

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## YONKERS POLICE DEPARTMENT

## NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLE

I, Christopher Sapienza, Commissioner of the Yonkers Police Department, do hereby issue the following notice pursuant to Sections 109-144 and 109-147 of the Code of the City of Yonkers:

A black 2012 Acura ZDX identified by VIN # 2HNYB1H4XCH500638) has been lawfully impounded since 06/15/25 and to this date no owner has come forward to claim any interest in this vehicle. Any persons having a legal interest in this vehicle may seek recovery of said vehicle by contacting Lt. Gregory Forshy no later than 10/03/25. If such person has a legal right to the vehicle, they shall be responsible for all costs incurred by the City to remove and store said vehicle and for the cost to publish any notice.

If this vehicle is not claimed by 10/03/25, the vehicle shall be deemed abandoned and title shall vest with the City on 10/03/25, (20 business days from the date of publication).

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

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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.

## September is Gynecologic and Prostate Cancer Awareness Month

Free and Affordable Cancer Screenings, Education Treatment and Support Groups Available

The Westchester County Department of Health and the Westchester County Office for Women encourage residents to take time this month to discuss cancer screenings and other prevention strategies with their healthcare providers.

In 2023, the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) found breast cancer was the second leading cause of death in women, while uterine and ovarian cancers were the fifth and sixth leading causes of cancer deaths in women.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer among men, aside from non-melanoma skin cancer, and was the second leading cause of cancer death in men in 2023, according to the CDC. African-American men are more likely to have prostate cancer, and are twice as likely to die of it, according to the CDC. Ashkenazi Jewish men also have an elevated risk due to genetic factors.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "I strongly encourage women and men to make their health a priority by scheduling routine cancer screenings. Early detection saves lives, so please don't procrastinate with your healthcare."

Westchester County Department of Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler said: "Some cancers can be present with few or no symptoms, so if you do experience unusual symptoms, tell your healthcare provider. Early detection is key to the many new treatments now available. We strongly encourage regular screenings for breast, gynecological and prostate cancers."

Westchester County Office for Women Director Robi Schlaff said: "Cancer screenings can save your life. Ask your doctor which preventive cancer screenings are right for you given your risk factors and family history, and learn ways to reduce your risks through lifestyle changes."

Important screenings for women include a pap test for cervical cancer, a mammogram (often recommended with an ultrasound) for breast cancer, and a pelvic ultrasound for ovarian cancer (upon recommendation by your doctor if you have symptoms, family history or other risk factors.) Men ages 55 to 69 should consult their doctor to determine if a Prostate Specific Antigen test is recommended.

Both women and men should consider genetic testing if they have a family history of breast, ovarian or prostate cancer, and some may consider an HPV test. The HPV test screens for the Human Papillomavirus which causes six types of cancer, including cervical cancer and cancer of the genitals in males and females. It can also cause cancer in the back of the throat (called oropharyngeal cancer). The HPV vaccine prevents transmission of the virus. Free HPV vaccines are available for eligible adults and children, starting at age nine, at the County Health Department vaccination clinics in White Plains and Yonkers. Call (914) 995-5800 to learn if you qualify.

Below are upcoming cancer education/support groups, screenings and events:

September 2 at 4 p.m. – Cancer Support Team's After Treatment Support Group is facilitated by a CST nurse and social worker and meets monthly via Zoom. This free group helps patients with cancer who have completed treatment within the last year. Contact Patty Vaughn, RN at (914) 777-2777 or email [cst@cancersupportteam.org](mailto:cst@cancersupportteam.org).

September 3 at 1 p.m. – Cancer Support Community Greater NY & CT's Living with Cancer Group meets via Zoom. This free group helps patients with cancer. Go to <https://cancersupportcommunitynyc.org/join-our-community/> to join and call (914) 644-8844 to participate.

September 3, 10 and 24 at 7 p.m. – Cancer Support Team's Breast, Ovarian and Gynecological Cancer Post-Treatment Support Group meets on Zoom. Call (914) 962-6402 to register or email [info@supportconnection.org](mailto:info@supportconnection.org).

September 18 at 6 p.m. –David Pogue of CBS Sunday Morning will speak on Artificial Intelligence and Healthcare in a benefit for Support Connection's free and confidential services for women with breast, ovarian and other gynecological cancers at The DRIPBaR Rye, 20 Purchase St., Rye. Tickets are \$35 each or \$50 for two. For more information, call Support Connection at (914) 962-6402.

September 24 at 4 p.m. – Cancer Support Team's The Anxiety and Cancer Support Group is facilitated by a CST nurse and meets monthly via Zoom. This free group includes men and women with cancer and caregivers for discussions about managing the stresses of a cancer diagnosis and learning coping skills. Contact Patty Vaughn, RN at (914) 777-2777 or email [cst@cancersupportteam.org](mailto:cst@cancersupportteam.org).

October 1 at 4 p.m. – Cancer Support Team's Ovarian Cancer Support Group is facilitated by a CST nurse and meets monthly via Zoom. This free group is for anyone with ovarian, fallopian, or peritoneal cancer. Contact Patty Vaughn, RN at (914) 777-2777 or email [cst@cancersupportteam.org](mailto:cst@cancersupportteam.org).

For more health tips and cancer resources, go to [www.westchestergov.com/health](http://www.westchestergov.com/health). The Health Department can be reached at (914) 813-5000.

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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 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.

## Westchester DA Cacace Offers Tips for Parents and Students to Stay Safe This School Year

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

1. BE PROACTIVE IN DISCUSSING ISSUES SUCH AS CYBERBULLYING AND HARASSMENT WITH YOUR CHILD
2. ENSURE YOUR CHILD HAS A WAY TO REACH YOU IN AN EMERGENCY
3. REVIEW YOUR CHILD'S MEDICAL NEEDS, INCLUDING ALLERGIES, WITH YOUR SCHOOL IN ADVANCE. ENSURE THAT THE NURSE HAS A SUPPLY OF YOUR CHILD'S MEDICATION ON HAND
4. ONE PILL CAN KILL. TALK TO YOUR CHILD ABOUT AVOIDING ILLEGAL SUBSTANCES
5. TAKE AN ACTIVE ROLE IN YOUR CHILD'S SOCIAL MEDIA PRESENCE. MONITOR THEIR PHONE USAGE TO ENCOURAGE HEALTHY HABITS

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace is reminding families to take simple precautions to ensure the safety of their students as the 2025-2026 school year gets underway.

As regular bus routes resume and traffic patterns change, parents are encouraged to discuss safety practices with their children to keep them out of harm's way. Motorists are reminded to take special care when driving in or near school zones.

Here are some tips for staying safe on the road:

Drive cautiously near school zones and obey all signage; don't text and drive.

Ensure students are standing six feet from the curb when waiting for the bus in the morning.

Do not pass school buses when the "stop" arm is deployed.

The new school year is also an opportune time for parents to discuss various issues their students may encounter at school, such as drugs and bullying.

Here are some suggestions for broaching these subjects with your children:

Be proactive in discussing issues such as cyberbullying and harassment with your child.

Review your child's medical needs, including allergies, with your school in advance. Ensure that the nurse has a supply of your child's medication on hand.

One pill can kill. Talk to your child about avoiding illegal substances.

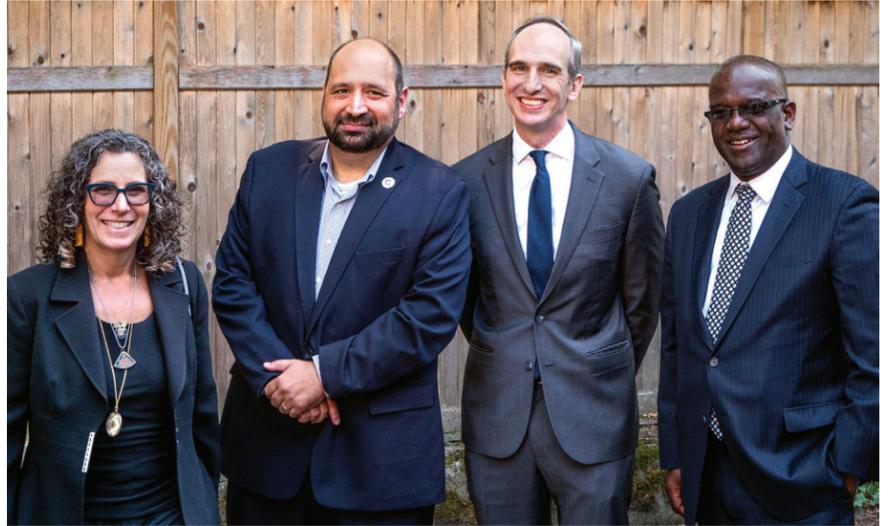
Take an active role in your child's social media presence. Monitor their phone usage to encourage healthy habits.

DA Cacace said: "Our children are our most precious resource, and we must take every precaution to ensure they remain safe at school. I hope these tips provide a helpful springboard for parents to begin having tough but necessary conversations with their children about school safety."

## Habitat NYC & Westchester Breaks Ground on First Standalone ADU in Croton-on-Hudson



Above: homeowners Walter and Lynn; Below L-R-Assembly member Dana Levenberg, Croton Mayor Brian Hugh, Building & Realty Institute of Westchester & the Mid-Hudson Region Timothy Foley, County Executive Ken Jenkins. Photos by Tyler O'Toole



Habitat for Humanity New York City and Westchester County, in collaboration with the Village of Croton-on-Hudson, hosted a groundbreaking ceremony to celebrate the construction of its first standalone accessory dwelling unit (ADU) under New York State's Plus One ADU Program. The event took place at 2 Lounsbury Road, Croton-on-Hudson, on Sept. 3

This milestone project is being built on the property of homeowners Walter and Lynn, who are creating a rental unit that will provide much-needed housing in their community while also supporting their family's long-term financial goals.

"In the face of our unprecedented housing affordability crisis, the advancement of accessory dwelling units is a beacon of hope for New Yorkers," said Sabrina Lippman, CEO of Habitat NYC and Westchester. "These units provide

*continued on pg 11-*

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## Muscoot Farm's Annual Fairy Walk Sept. 6



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# Annual Fairy Walk

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12:00PM-3:00PM

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Our annual Fairy Walk is coming up on Saturday September 6th! Join us in your most magical fairy costume anytime from 12pm-3pm for a walk through a fairy filled forest. Afterwards, take part in a fairy themed craft. No registration is required, and we can't wait to see you there!

## Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins Receives St. Elizabeth Seton Legacy Award



Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins with Elizabeth Seton CEO Pat Tursi, Board Chair Frank Oswald, and Stephanie

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins was honored Friday with the St. Elizabeth Seton Legacy Award by the Elizabeth Seton Children's Rehabilitation Center, in recognition of her unwavering commitment to advancing care for medically complex children and young adults across New York State.

The St. Elizabeth Seton Legacy Award specifically acknowledges Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins' decades-long advocacy for the patients, families, medical staff, and administrators at Elizabeth Seton Children's. The award reads in part: "you lifted us in our time of need and guided us through unfamiliar paths with fortitude, wisdom and grace – offering your gifts with a loving and open heart."

Said Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins: "In my eyes, the doctors, staff and administrators of Elizabeth Seton Children's are real-life angels, providing care, dignity and hope to countless children and young adults with complex and life-threatening medical conditions. It's been my honor to support these heroes in their mission, and it is incredibly humbling to receive this award honoring the legacy of St. Elizabeth Seton."

Said Elizabeth Seton Children's CEO Pat Tursi: "This award is presented to those who embody Mother Seton's deep faith, tender compassion and benevolent spirit who serve our children and young adults – who are the most vulnerable in society – with grace and humility. Senator Stewart-Cousins not only embodies the essence of this award, but she brings it to life every day with her courageous leadership, bold action and unwavering devotion to those in need."

The award was presented during the Ground Blessing ceremony for Elizabeth Seton Children's new state-of-the-art Young Adult Center in White Plains. This transformative project was made possible through the Majority Leader's decisive legislative action to address a critical gap in health care for medically complex young adults over age 21 who previously faced life-threatening risks after "aging out" of pediatric care. In 2021, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Assembly-member Nader Sayegh sponsored landmark legislation which designated Elizabeth Seton Children's as the demonstration program for a first-of-its-kind Young Adult Center. In 2022, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins secured \$2 million in State and Municipal (SAM) Grant funding to support the project. Once it opens, the new Young Adult Center will provide round-the-clock specialized medical, rehabilitative, and residential support to serve nearly 100 individuals over age 21.

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Leslie Bramlett portraying a woman of the Continental Army



Philipse Manor Hall Hosts Free Revolutionary War Festival Sept. 13

Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall, and Revolutionary Westchester 250 are pleased to present "Revolutionary Harvest Festival" on Saturday, September 13, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. in-person

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UPAC's World Fest Presents The Gus Hayes Band Sept. 6

Untermyer Performing Arts Council  
 Mayor Mike Spano  
 Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation  
 present  
**World Fest 2025**  
 Celebrating Our 50<sup>th</sup> Season in Song At Untermyer Park!  
 Another free Untermyer Performing Arts Council program!

**The Guss Hayes Band**  
 6:30 pm Saturday, September 6<sup>th</sup>

Samuel Untermyer Memorial Park ★ 945 North Broadway ★ Yonkers  
 In case of rain, please call 914-375-3435 or check our website  
[www.untermyerperformingarts.org](http://www.untermyerperformingarts.org)  
 after 3 pm the day of the performance.  
 Our rain site 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 cannot provide seating.

This program is one in cooperation with Mayor Mike Spano, and the Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. Funding for our programs and classes 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.

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To continue to celebrate their 50th season, on September 6th the Untermyer Performing Arts Council is pleased to present the Guss Hayes Band at 6:30 pm on the Untermyer Performing Arts Council's stage at Untermyer Park, 945 North Broadway, Yonkers.

Magical music provided by County Clare native Guss Hayes and his band has been a part of the fabric of the City of Yonkers, Westchester and beyond for more than three decades! Hayes, a native of County Clare, Ireland, and a longtime Yonkers resident, is both Irish strong

continued on pg 13-



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 Paul S. Ragusa, MD; Thomas Schmicker, MD; Mario Voloshin, DPM, FACFAS



# Revitalizing Homeownership: A Call to Action for Sustainable Property Tax Reform

By Frank Spotorno

The escalating property tax burden is prompting working families and seniors to sell their homes, underscoring the need for a transformative shift in how government agencies operate. As municipalities grapple with financial crises, it's clear that innovative solutions are imperative. By streamlining government services, embracing private sector efficiency, and promoting transparency, we can unlock a brighter future for homeowners.

### The Property Tax Burden: A National Issue

- Property taxes vary significantly across states. For instance:
  - New Jersey: 2.23% effective property tax rate, with a median home value of \$300,000 and a property tax bill of \$6,690
  - Illinois: 2.08% effective property tax rate
  - Connecticut: 1.79% effective property tax rate

In contrast, states like:

- Hawaii: 0.27% effective property tax rate, with a median home value of \$808,200 and a median real estate tax paid of \$2,183
- Alabama: 0.38% effective property tax rate
- Colorado: 0.49% effective property tax rate

• In New York City, property taxes are determined by the property's classification, with different tax rates applying to different classes:

- Class 1 Properties: One- to three-unit residential properties, taxed at 20.085%.
- Class 2 Properties: Residential properties with more than three units, taxed at 12.500%.
- Class 3 Properties: Utility company equipment and special franchise property, taxed at 11.181%.
- Class 4 Properties: Commercial and industrial properties, taxed at 10.762%.

### Unlocking a Brighter Future

To alleviate the property tax burden, we must:

- Streamline government services: Reduce bureaucracy and inefficiency in local, state, and federal agencies
- Introduce private sector competition: Allow private companies to bid on services like sanitation and inspection, promoting efficiency and cost-effectiveness
- Implement Request for Bid (RFB) process: Ensure transparency and accountability in government contracting

### New York State's Property Tax Cap

New York State law places a cap on the annual growth of the property tax levy for local governments and school districts, with some exceptions. The cap is calculated as the lesser of 2% or the rate of inflation. However, the cap can be overridden with a 60% supermajority vote, and some jurisdictions are exempt from the cap, including New York City.

### A Call to Action

It's time to reimagine our approach to property tax reform. By embracing innovative solutions and collaborative governance, we can create a more sustainable and equitable system. As we move forward, let's prioritize transparency, efficiency, and the well-being of our communities. I'm considering a run for Governor to ensure that our taxes will never increase by more than 2% and to find additional revenue by turning our state and local governments into a business that thrives on efficiency and cost-effectiveness.

*Frank Spotorno was the Republican candidate for Congress in NY-14 in 2016. He is the founder of Bringourjobshome.com and lives in Yonkers.*

# Op-Ed: Pray More, Not Less.

Crisis doesn't create character—it reveals it. In a crisis some people step up and help, while others think only of their own advantage and trample over others.

Last week an evil and delusional man murdered young children as they began their school year acknowledging God. Making it worse, babblers who lie for a living and politicians who refused to provide the public safety their jobs exist for, used virtually identical words to sneer at millions of kindhearted Americans who reached out to intercede for the grieving and traumatized. On national TV democrat talkers and politicians attacked the kind who reached out in support, sneered at them for praying in support of the grieving, and promoted their power-grabbing, criminal enabling policies that enabled the murderer, daring to use their propaganda media platforms to spit in God's face, and fostering the doubt that grief brings, by broadcasting the devilish lie that prayer does not work.

The book of Job, the first book written, reveals Satan as the source of all evil, and God's will for us as abundance and peace. Job was a godly man, and protected by God, until obsessive and constant fear about his children, built in his mind from what he saw around him, opened the door for evil to attack. Job 1:10 Hast not thou made an hedge about him, and about his house, and about all that he hath on every side? thou hast blessed the work of his hands, and his substance is increased in the land.“ That was Job's life as God blessed him. But when fear festered in his mind, Satan struck with full force. Job 3:25, 26 For the thing which I greatly feared is come upon me, and that which I was afraid of is come unto me. I was not in safety, neither had I rest, neither was I quiet...” Job's struggle with his grief and with “miserable comforters” who insisted that he must have done something wrong shows the depth of his love for God despite their discouraging words and his circumstances. Ultimately, God tells them to shut up and have Job pray for them. Job 42:10. And the Lord turned the captivity of Job when he prayed for his friends. Also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.” We also benefit when we pray for others. When we pray for others, our minds stop focusing on our problems and focus on God's ability to deliver, which enables Him to help us as well.

King David wrote many Psalms that were prayers to God in critical situations of his life: the death of his first son with Bathsheba, enemies trying to steal the kingdom God ordained him to lead, and betrayals, including by one of his own sons. Prayers are in the moment communications pouring out one's heart to God, acknowledging His greatness (Jeremiah 31:17: “I am the Lord God of all flesh. Is there anything too hard for me?”) and asking His aid for things that are too hard for us. God is always willing and able to deliver, but each person, in each situation, has to permit Him to act in their lives. To get results, every time you think about your situation, thank God that your deliverance, promised (Matthew 21:22) by Him Who never lies and never fails, is coming to pass. Don't allow doubt or fear to linger and break a hole in the hedge of protection He would give you. When you pray believe. Hebrews 11:6 But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him. To get your prayers answered, believe that God is both willing and able to do what needs to be done. A tepid acquiescence that God exists is not enough. Our minds and hearts need to be focused on the promises He made to meet all our needs. (Philippians 4:19).

Support and strengthen others by prayer, upholding, comforting and encouraging them where their believing falls short. Matthew 18:19 “Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven.”

The babblers and politicians who disparaged millions of men and women of faith, who have blatantly lied that prayer is useless, need to apologize, then sit down and shut up and stop sowing salt in the wounds. Who are you going to believe: Jesus Christ, or the professional liar Psaki and the mayor and governor who were forewarned about security needs at non public schools and refused to do the job the taxpayers (including the parents who pay for two schools) pay them for?

Judith Niewiadomski, Yonkers



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## An Evening at the Opera, Gala Fundraiser Concert

*Westchester Leaders Honored, continued from pg 1-*



*Dr. Sandor Szabo*

On Saturday, September 27, 8 pm, at Sacred Heart Church, 417 Broadway, Dobbs Ferry NY, the newly formed nonprofit organization, Szabo Chamber Music Society will present a tour de force Gala Concert, “A Night at the Opera” featuring world-renowned opera singers. All proceeds going toward funding SCMS’s 2025-2026, its second concert season. Dr. Sandor Szabo, Artistic Director, has 20 years of experience leading premier chamber and choral music series throughout Canada and the United States and is thrilled to launch his new series at Union Congregational Church. Dr. Szabo’s schedule includes active engagement as conductor, organist, pianist and harpsichordist throughout Europe, Asia, Canada and the United States. He is Music Director of the Oratorio Society of New Jersey, Organist at Temple B’nai Abraham in Livingston, NJ and Music Director at Sacred Heart Church in Dobbs Ferry, NY. The Gala Concert program will include both instrumental and vocal musical selections featuring, Eunjoo Lee-Hulls, mezzo-soprano, Elizabeth Perryman and Elizabeth Honer, sopranos, Edward Hall, bass, Christopher Lucier, tenor, Cathy Yang, violin, and Dr. Sandor Szabo, piano and organ. The program will include exhilarating selections from the most beloved operas. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 seniors and \$5 students; donations gratefully accepted and are tax deductible. For more information visit [szabochambermusicsociety.com](http://szabochambermusicsociety.com).

### *First ADU, continued from pg 7-*

much-needed additional housing while enabling homeowners to generate supplemental income, build generational wealth, and support family members in need. This partnership with Croton-on-Hudson is a significant step toward a more equitable and sustainable future for all.”

The ADU at 2 Lounsbury Road is the first new construction unit underway from Round 2 of the Plus One ADU Program, and the first standalone ADU built by Habitat NYC and Westchester. The initiative reflects a substantial homeowner investment alongside funding provided by NYS Homes and Community Renewal, supported by Habitat’s technical and financial assistance.

“We really couldn’t have done this without Habitat’s support,” said Walter and Lynn. “The property lends itself perfectly to an ADU, and this will provide much needed housing here in Croton.”

The Plus One ADU Program, administered by New York State Homes and Community Renewal, provides grants to municipalities and nonprofit organizations to help low- and moderate-income homeowners build or legalize accessory dwelling units. Habitat NYC and Westchester works directly with homeowners of Dobbs Ferry, Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington, Cortlandt, Croton-on-Hudson and Yorktown to guide them through the design, permitting, and construction process, ensuring that each ADU is safe, high-quality, and tailored to the homeowner’s needs.

Mayor, Village of Croton-on-Hudson Brian Pugh said, “We are facing a generational housing crisis and the only solution is to broaden the housing options available in our community. Accessory dwelling units (ADUs) provide a powerful tool. ADUs offer a way for seniors to remain in their homes and for young people to return to the place they call home, all while giving homeowners an opportunity to be part of the solution. Thanks to Habitat for Humanity and the Plus One ADU Program, more families can now participate. Together, we are building a stronger community, one new home at a time.”

New York State Homes and Community Renewal Commissioner RuthAnne Viskus said, “HCR is proud to partner with Habitat for Humanity New York City and Westchester County and the city of Croton-on-Hudson to advance our Plus One ADU program. Governor Hochul’s \$85 million initiative addresses the housing crisis by creating multi-dimensional living spaces that bring much-needed new homes to communities, while helping homeowners optimize their property’s footprint. With 84 towns awarded funding thus far, more homeowners like Walter and Lynn will be able to take advantage of this innovative tool to meet their financial goals while also expanding the supply of affordable homes.”

New York State Senator Pete Harckham said, “Accessory Dwelling Units are a win-win for our communities, which is why I introduced legislation to incentivize local governments to allow homeowners to build ADUs and supported funding for the Plus One ADU program in the State Budget. At a time when we are facing a severe shortage of affordable housing, this is a low-density solution that also lets seniors on fixed incomes stay in place and people with unique abilities live close by to loved ones. Congratulations to the Village of Croton-on-Hudson and Habitat for Humanity on the groundbreaking for this new ADU initiative.”

Assemblymember Dana Levenberg (Assembly District 95) said, “We have an urgent need to build more housing in New York State. I applaud Habitat for Humanity of New York City and Westchester, the Village of Croton, and my constituents who are taking advantage of New York State’s Plus One ADU program for being part of the solution. Through partnerships like this, we will continue to help more New Yorkers find an affordable place to call home.”

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said, “Today’s groundbreaking is more than just the start of construction – it’s the beginning of new housing opportunities here in Croton and across Westchester, it’s innovation that required dedicated planning and teamwork to achieve. Through the Plus One ADU program, and in partnership with Habitat NYC and Westchester and our local leaders, we’re showing how collaborative, community-driven solutions can help families, support homeowners and strengthen our neighborhoods for generations to come.”

sites in Westchester alongside her father, general contractor Sabino Fogliano. From that foundation, she built an integrated development and construction firm that today exemplifies community-centered design and development excellence. “The Bronx is where I planted my flag, but Westchester is where my story began,” said Fogliano. “I’m deeply honored to receive this recognition and proud to continue building neighborhoods of opportunity on both sides of the county line.”

The Joseph P. Kelleher Award of Excellence, named in memory of the Chamber’s longtime Board Chair, will be presented posthumously to Ram P. Gupta, founder of Chatam Management Co., Inc., a longtime Westchester-based real estate firm. After immigrating to New York from India in 1970, Gupta founded Chatam Management and expanded his holdings to include mixed-use, multi-family, and retail properties across Westchester, the Bronx, and multiple states. He was a respected civic leader as well, serving with the Bronx-Manhattan Association of Realtors, Rotary Club of the Bronx, American Red Cross Bronx Chapter, and others. “This award honors my father’s vision, not only in owning and managing properties, but in building community, opportunity, and hope,” said Anita Gupta, President of Chatam Management Co. “It’s more than recognition. It’s a reminder that one person’s dedication can help turn dreams into reality for an entire community.”

GVC Transportation (GVC LTD), a transportation firm serving both Bronx and Westchester suburban school districts, will receive the Business of the Year Award. Founded in 1991, GVC is known for its exceptional safety record and commitment to student well-being. With a 98%+ NYS DOT Safety Rating for the last three years and a strong track record of NYC DOE-certified service, GVC serves as a vital connector for Bronx and Westchester families. “Every parent’s deepest concern is their child’s safety,” said Michael Townsend, spokesperson at GVC. “At GVC, we’re committed to providing peace of mind and reliable service every single day.”

Rounding out the honorees is Janet A. Peguero, former Bronx Deputy Borough President and current Chief Operating Officer of Constantinople & Vallone Consulting, who will be recognized as the 2025 Champion in Government. Peguero made history as the first Dominican-American woman to serve in the Deputy BP role and led major revitalization efforts including the \$200 million reinvestment in the Kingsbridge Armory and a \$20 million small business loan fund for the South Bronx. “Being recognized by the Bronx Chamber is a profound honor,” said Peguero. “This award reflects the power of partnership and the belief that we can build a Bronx—and a region—that works for all.”

“The 2025 Gala honorees highlight the deep economic and community ties that bind the Bronx and Westchester,” said Lisa Sorin, President of the Bronx Chamber of Commerce. “From housing to transportation to entrepreneurship, these leaders demonstrate how regional collaboration drives progress. We’re thrilled to shine a spotlight on their outstanding contributions.”

The 2025 Gala is the Chamber’s signature celebration of civic and business excellence, attracting more than 600 executives, elected officials, and community leaders each year. The evening will also feature performances by Frank Sinatra vocalist Steve Maglio, Bronx comedian and actress Tara Cannistraci, and Grammy-nominated Latin pop singer Brenda K. Starr.

Tickets and sponsorship packages are now available. To reserve your seat or support this premier celebration of Bronx leadership and success, visit [www.bronxchamber.org](http://www.bronxchamber.org).

### *Rev. 250, continued from pg 9*

at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site (29 Warburton Ave. Yonkers, NY). This program is free and open to everyone.

Step back in time to celebrate the fall harvest season and learn about the Revolutionary War in Westchester County and New York. Meet military and civilian reenactors and interact with historical people including General George Washington (on his horse Nelson), French General le Comte de Rochambeau, Mary Philipse Morris, and Ann Fisher Miller. Revolutionary War soldiers like the First Rhode Island Regiment and Black Loyalists will interpret the lives of ordinary soldiers in camp. See live demonstrations of historic crafts like spinning, fiber arts, woodworking and joinery, explore the lives of camp followers, 18th century food preservation techniques, 18th century medicine, and more.

Enjoy live music and try your hand at 18th century country dancing, grinding grain in a portable stone mill, operating a cider press, and playing 18th century-style children’s games. Explore the history of Philipse Manor Hall and colonial New York with free admission to the museum, and don’t miss the special traveling exhibit “Treason of the Blackest Dye: The True Story of Arnold, André, and Three Honest Militiamen.” History buffs of all ages can also enjoy our special espionage activity, as you explore the grounds and meet historical people and booths of local history organizations to decipher your mission, using our special code book!

This festival coincides with Yonkers RiverFest, which features live music, vendors, and food throughout the downtown Yonkers area.

“Revolutionary Harvest Festival” is supported by the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall, Revolutionary Westchester 250, Westchester County, and Revolutionary Yonkers 250.

For the full schedule and more information, including directions and parking, visit <https://www.phipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events/revolutionary-harvest-festival-2025>



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## Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

*Ortiz Arrested, continued from pg 1-*

SATURDAY, SEPT. 6

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

Monarch Meadow Bio Blitz, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

What's the buzz in the garden? Learn about late-season pollinators. Participants will help document plants, insects and animals using iNaturalist to create a snapshot of Lasdon's ecosystem. Free. Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/monarch-meadow-bioblitz/>

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

Medicinal Plant and Tree Tour, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Urban naturalist Bruce Rosenberg leads a free tour that examines over 20 plants and trees in the Arboretum that have medicinal qualities and are used to treat some ailments. Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/memorial-plant-and-tree-tour/>

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

Tea with the Animals, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Adults and kids 6 and older can join us for a mid-morning "cuppa" while they meet and learn about the animals on the farm. \$15. Get details and pre-register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tea-with-the-animals-tickets-1374334434289?aff=oddtcreator>

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466

Birding for Beginners, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

For anyone interested in bird watching, this is a great way to learn some basics. Bring binoculars, your questions and your love of birds! Led by Chris Mignone of Central Westchester Audubon.

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851

Naturalist's Choice Hike, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Go on a one-mile hike that the naturalist decides on. Sometimes steep; hiking shoes recommended; rain or shine.

Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla: (914) 231-4033

Pop-Up Market on the Plaza, 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Shop from a variety of local vendors and enjoy a day at Kensico Dam Park.

Get details: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/pop-ups-market-on-the-plaza>

Saxon Woods Park, White Plains: (914) 995-4480 and Sprain Ridge Park, Yonkers: (914) 231-3450

Pools Are Open, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m. 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. Also: Sept. 7, 13 and 14. Get details: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/pools-and-beaches>

Hilltop Hanover Farm & Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Old Time Music Jam, 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. This monthly gathering of local, acoustic musicians plays traditional Appalachian fiddle music. Play or listen to enjoy the community that music can create! Musicians of all levels are welcome.

Get details: <https://hilltophanoverfarm.org/events/event-calendar.html/event/2025/09/06/1757176200/old-time-music-jam/472028>

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

Fairy Walk, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Explore the wonders of the forest! Don your best pair of wings and discover the many dwellings of Muscote's fairies, then participate in a fairy-themed craft! Guests of the fairies may come anytime from 12 p.m. to 3 p.m.

Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla: (914) 231-4033

Cornhole Tournament, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Fun social doubles and competitive doubles. Check in a 12 p.m.; bags fly at 1 p.m. Rain date: Sept. 7.

Get details and register: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/cornhole-tournament>

Playland Park, Rye: (914) 813-7010

Playland Amusement Park is open, 12 noon - 7 p.m.

Rides, strolling entertainment, a lively DJ, Coaster meet and greets. Refreshments are available for purchase from food stands and food trucks. Free admission; \$15 rides all-day wristband; \$10 parking. Also: Sept. 7, 13 and 14.

Get details and the list of open rides: <https://playlandpark.org/>

Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River: (914) 864-7322

Fall Foliage Arts &amp; Crafts, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Learn how to make beautiful autumn arts and crafts that you can then take home. Refreshments will be served.

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

Volunteer Work Project: Spreading of Wood Chips Along Hiking Trails, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Get details: <https://friendsofreadwildlifesanctuary.org/event/volunteer-work-project-spreading-woodchips-along-hiking-trails/>

Lasdon Park, Arboretum &amp; 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.

Aug. 22. Ortiz was arrested.

More disturbing details from the charging affidavit. On August 21, 2025, Detective Chiang from the Orange County Sheriff's Office participated in an undercover chat operation conducted by the Osceola County Sheriff's Office for the purpose of identifying and apprehending individuals using the internet to meet and exploit juveniles for sexual activity.

On August 21, 2025, Victor Ortiz initiated conversation with Detective Chiang, who was posing as 13-year-old "Livi" through an application called "Badoo."

After chatting on Badoo, Victor and Livi continued their conversation via text. Victor began texting Livi from 914-xxx. Additionally, they had conversations over the phone. Victor told Livi he was going to "f\*% the shit out of you [Livi]" when she said she was not a virgin. He additionally said he would not get her pregnant. Victor purchased alcohol to bring to Livi at her request. Victor was given an address of apredetermined location. This information and probable cause were provided to me, Detective S. Rios, by Detective Chiang.

He began his head against the table and told deputies they would have to use excessive force, and he would kill himself. Victor said he has now lost everything because he did something stupid and he wanted to die. Due to Victor's statements, it was determined that without care or treatment, there is a substantial likelihood that Victor will cause serious bodily harm to himself or others. Victor met the criteria for a baker act. Ortiz was charged with FSS 847.0135(4)(A) Traveling to meet a minor for unlawful sexual activity, FSS 934.215 Unlawful use of 2-way communication device, FSS 847.0135(3)(A) Solicitation of a minor, and FSS 827.04(1)(A) Contributing to the delinquency of a minor.

We are concerned that based on Ortiz's brazen behavior in this matter, there may be other victims of his criminal sexual behavior. We also have not yet confirmed if Ortiz had traveled from Yonkers to Florida on the night of Aug 21, or whether he was already in Florida, or whether he has been fired from his position with the PPD.

He has worked as a Parking Authority officer since 2018. The Peekskill Herald was the first media outlet that reported on this.

***Do Good, continued from pg 1-***

honor the lives lost and forever changed by the events of September 11, 2001, Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins and Volunteer New York! will host the 15th annual 9/11: Serve & Remember community-wide days of service in New Rochelle and White Plains on Friday, September 5, and Thursday, September 11.

Jenkins said: "As the anniversary of 9/11 brings us together to remember those lost and the many selfless first-responders, we are proud to join Volunteer New York! in presenting this meaningful way to take action in remembrance. In addition to the mobilization of hundreds of volunteers benefiting our local nonprofits, volunteering alongside our neighbors helps us foster unity, empathy and brings our community closer together."

Registration is now open at [volunteernewyork.org/serve](http://volunteernewyork.org/serve) for volunteer opportunities that address local needs, from food insecurity to a blood drive with the New York Blood Center. Activities include writing letters to deployed military personnel, packing 50,000 meals, preparing sandwiches with One Sandwich at a Time, and a hands-only CPR workshop with the Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps, among other projects hosted at the Westchester County Center on Thursday, September 11.

Volunteer New York! Executive Director Polly Lagana said: "9/11 Day is a call to action. It's a day for our community to show up for our neighbors and transform remembrance into impact. Whether we are working together to pack meals or giving time in another way, every act of service helps build a stronger, more connected community. This is how Volunteer New York! and our partners honor the past and shape the future."

Robison Oil is the lead sponsor of this event, with additional support from Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts and WMCHHealth.

Robison Oil President Dan Singer said: "For the 11th year in a row, Robison is proud to support '9/11 Serve + Remember' day of service in honor of those whose lives were changed forever by this tragic event. Amidst the catastrophic loss of life, we witnessed heroism and a unified spirit that strengthened our communities and brought out the best in all of us. Service to community is a value at the core of our business, and we thank Westchester County for allowing us to join with Volunteer New York! in supporting this important remembrance."

**TAKE ACTION:**

Online registration is now open for individuals, groups, schools and families at [volunteernewyork.org/serve](http://volunteernewyork.org/serve). Several family-friendly volunteer opportunities are available. Advanced registration is required to participate.

Projects will be hosted on Friday, September 5, and Thursday, September 11.

2025 9/11: SERVE & REMEMBER

EVENT SCHEDULE – DAY 1-[www.volunteernewyork.org/serve](http://www.volunteernewyork.org/serve)

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

NEW ROCHELLE HUB: Monroe University

Pack 50,000 Meals with Monroe University

11:00 AM – 12:30 PM / 1 PM – 2:30 PM

2025 9/11: SERVE & REMEMBER

EVENT SCHEDULE – DAY 2-[www.volunteernewyork.org/serve](http://www.volunteernewyork.org/serve)

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 11

COUNTY CENTER HUB:

Create Blankets for Children in Hospitals with Westchester-Putnam Project

Linus

12 PM – 1:30 PM / 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM / 4:30 PM – 6 PM

Create Cards for the Troops with United for the Troops

12 PM – 1:30 PM / 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM / 4:30 PM – 6 PM

Create Laundry Sachets with YWCA of White Plains & Central Westchester

12 PM – 1:30 PM / 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM / 4:30 PM – 6 PM

Create The Feelings Book Literacy Kit with Westchester Jewish Community

Services

12 PM – 1:30 PM / 2:30 PM – 3:30 PM / 4:30 PM – 6 PM

Make Sandwiches with One Sandwich at a Time

12 PM – 1:30 PM

Donate Blood with the New York Blood Center

§ 12 PM – 6 PM

Learn Hands Only CPR with Ossining Volunteer Ambulance Corps

12 PM – 1:30 PM / 2:30 PM – 3:30

*Continued on pg 13--*

## Classifieds

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## Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

SUNDAY, SEPT. 7

Westchester County Center, White Plains: (914) 995-4050

New York Metro Reptile Expo, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Check out more than 250 vendor tables full of reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, supplies and more!

Get details: <https://countycenter.biz/event/new-york-metro-reptile-expo-3/>

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

Yoga in the Gardens, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Take a yoga class in the Conservatory or Gardens (weather dependent). Class will include meditation, poses, movement with the breath (Vinyasa). For beginner or advanced. \$25 per person.

Pre-registration required: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/yoga-in-the-gardens/2025-09-07/>

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

Muscote Farmers Market and Barnyard Beets, 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/>

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005

Bird Walk, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Join us for a one-mile hike to observe birds at some of the preserve's hotspots. Hiking shoes are recommended.

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

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

Enhance your gardening skills and plant knowledge by working side by side with the gardeners at Lasdon Park. Tasks include planting, watering, weeding, pruning, staking, deadheading, potting up and more! Through November. Also: Tuesday, Sept. 9.

Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/gardening-sundays-2/2025-09-07/>

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 in-line 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. 14, 21; Oct. 5.

Get details: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/bicycle-sundays>

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

Special Guided Tour of "The American Civil War: A War of Firsts" Exhibition, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Curator Mark Tolf will lead a special, free guided tour in the Veterans Museum.

Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/curators-tour-of-the-westchester-county-veterans-museum-3/>

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

Guided Farm Tour, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Join one of our tour guides on a tour around the farm to visit to learn about our animals and a few of our historic buildings.

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/guided-farm-tours-tickets-1395304686879?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

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

Geese Guardians of the Wetlands, 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

We will discuss biology, habitat, distribution, behavior and social structures of geese, followed by a hike to the wetland areas to observe them.

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### *Gus Hayes Band, continued from pg 9-*

and Yonkers proud. He began his early career as a roof repairman, but quickly discovered his passion was performing under them. One day, while singing on the job, Hayes was approached by a homeowner about joining a band. A few months later, he started his own group, which has performed across the United States, Ireland and Scotland.

Named the first—and only—house band at Empire City, the group has a repertoire sure to please everyone. The Guss Hayes Band continues to delight crowds with songs from multiple genres and generations, seamlessly transitioning from contemporary to classic, Celtic classics to today's Top 40 to American Songbook. His music is guaranteed to start hands clapping, toes tapping and put a smile on your face.

Not only does Guss' group sing and play like angels, but his sense of humor will uplift all our spirits bringing us the joy we all need in our lives.

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 our Arts Line (914-375-3435) or check ([www.untermyerperformingarts.org](http://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 Westchester County Government, the City of Yonkers, Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins, Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, and our many supporters.

For further information, please call the Untermyer Performing Arts Council at 914-375-3435

County. When he started to expose Tartaglione for alleged wrongdoing, it annoyed Tartaglione to the point of assaulting Tiffany, one time putting him in the hospital. Tartaglione went on to open a farm in upstate New York for abused animals. But he is better known for his arrest and conviction in the death of four men in a drug deal gone bad.

During his time awaiting trial, Tartaglione was infamously known as being the cellmate of Jeffrey Epstein. Yes THAT Jeffrey Epstein. Tartaglione was the last cellmate with Epstein before he allegedly committed suicide, but was not his cellmate at the time of his death. This reported lived in Briarcliff at the time of Tiffany and Tartaglione, and we have always viewed Tartaglione in a negative light. But we recently came up the reporting of Jessica Reed Kraus, and subscribed to her Substack page, House Inhabit (<https://jessicareedkraus.substack.com/>). Kraus has written extensively about Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, and penned several stories on Tartaglione, including two phone interviews with Tartaglione in prison. The interviews offer fascinating insight into Tartaglione, and his belief that he is innocent of the quadruple murders that he is presently serving a life sentence for. And, he claims he has the evidence to prove it. He also talks about his brief relationship and interactions with Epstein.

Kraus, has uploaded two of her phone interviews with Tartaglione to YouTube.

Interview one focuses on Tartaglione and his case, in which he is currently serving a life sentence for the murder of 4 men. (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7Tf8ckxkQvQ>)

Speaker 1: My name is Nick. Nick Tartaglione. Uh, some of you might know me better as, uh, the killer cop, or even more infamously, as the, uh, the guy who shared a cell with Jeffrey Epstein before he committed suicide. But what you don't know about me is I'm innocent.

I've been in prison for eight years now, and I'm innocent. I have all the evidence to prove it. The jury never, never saw any of it. Not a shred of it. The case was investigated and handled by crooked FBI agents. These guys planted evidence. They tampered with evidence. They spliced videos together, and they intimidated witnesses.

One of these witnesses was a Mexican man named Marcos Cruz, who was in the country illegally. Marcos Cruz was involved with the cartel. I had no idea what Marcos Cruz was into or involved with, but I hired him to work on my animal rescue farm. I rescued mostly dogs, horses, cats.

Uh, Marcos Cruz actually confessed to these murders. He even led the FBI to where he buried the bodies. But they beat him into retracting his confession. They threatened to deport his wife and put his kids in foster care. After they did that, Marcos pointed the finger at me. I have the video evidence of this. Marcos withdrew his confession and then said whatever the FBI wanted him to say.

Every day I wake up behind bars knowing the truth. But most of the world only knows the lies. It's funny. Even Marcus's own brother, Miguel Velazquez, told the FBI that I wasn't involved. He said it was all Marcos and that Marcos had fallen in with some bad people. They offered his brother a visa to point the finger at me. The brother refused, saying that wasn't the truth. What did the FBI do? They deported him.

The prosecutor in this case was a woman named Maureen Comey. Back in 2016, when this case was being investigated and when I was arrested, she was fresh out of law school. And the head of the FBI at that time was her father, James Comey. Given the proof of corruption that I now have that we've uncovered, it's hard to see this as anything other than it's set up.

It's the same way she set it up Maxwell, once Epstein was dead and out of the way, Maxwell was an easy win for her. Uh, the jury never saw any of this. Truth didn't fit their agenda. And everybody listening out there, you know, why should you guys care about this?

Why should you give a damn about me or about any of this? Well, because what happened to me could happen to you. Could happen to your family. Could happen to your husband, your son, your brother, your daughter, anybody that stands in their way.

Um. And look what they're doing to Donald Trump. The guy was the president of the United States and going after him with a vengeance. They're using the FBI and the Justice Department as a weapon. This isn't, you know, just my story. This is a warning. You know, right now it's me. Tomorrow, it could be you. It's definitely going to be somebody else.

**Note: Tartaglione says, "The guy (Trump) was President," meaning that the conversation took place in 2024 before he was reelected.**

Interview #2-is when Kraus asks Tartaglione about Epstein. ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVEgiuzzHn0](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVEgiuzzHn0)).

Speaker 1: What was your first impression of Epstein when he landed in your jail cell? Did you know who he was? Um. Were you aware?

Speaker 2: I didn't. I didn't know very much. I mean, I knew he was a wealthy man because, uh, you heard the guards, you know, talking about it. Um, when they put him in my cell, they said, you know, you're going to get company. And I said, why? And they said, well, we know you're the only guy that won't shake him down or beat the hell out of him. And I thought that was funny because I'm charged with quadruple homicide, yet they're putting the the nation's, you know, highest profile case and with me, because they knew I wouldn't hurt him. Um, he was terrified when he first came in the cell. He, uh, they closed the door behind him, and his back was against the wall, and he said. He said, you know, they told me you're a good guy, and you know you won't hurt me. I said, yeah, I'm not going to hurt you. And then he came over. He stuck his hand out. He said, I'm Jeff. I said, I'm Nick. He said, what are you in here for, Nick? I said, quadruple homicide. He then went back against the wall and started yelling for the guards. I told him, I said, look.

Speaker 3: This call is from a federal prison.

Speaker 2: I said, look, Jeff, you know I didn't kill anybody. Believe it or not, you want to leave? Leave? I said, but you're fine. I'm not going to touch you. After that, in the weeks, you know, following that, he. He knew I wasn't going to hurt him. He actually tried paying me. I was supposed to return the population soon. He offered to pay me to stay in that cell with him. And I told him I couldn't do that. I had to start, you know, preparing for my trial. Um, and then the one day he left in the morning, and the guard guy was like five in the morning, and the guard's banging on my cell door, and he says, Epstein court, Epstein court. Epstein says I don't have court today. And I laughed. I explained that to him, and I said, Epstein guards a say in court so the other inmates don't know you're actually going to talk with prosecutors. So he got up and got dressed. He left. He was gone all day. He came back later that night. Hey, man, he just climbed on the bunk. He didn't say a word. I was reading a book, wasn't my business. And finally he asks, he said, um, you know, you were a cop. What do you know about, uh, proffers and cooperating? I told him, I said, Jeff, it's pretty simple that the cooperators, I mean, the prosecutors, you know, they caught a fish. You know, they're not going to let that fish off the hook unless you give them a bigger fish. He said, yeah, well, that's what they said. I said, well, what do you mean? He said, uh, they told me they'll let me plead out to something small, and I'll do just a couple of years in a camp if I can give them something on, uh, Trump, get him impeached. And, uh, I said, well, do you know Trump? He says, well, I know you know, I know him. I met him, but we don't like each other. I laughed, I said, why? He said, uh, Trump threw me out of a party at his place in Florida. I said, why did he throw you out? He said, oh, he got mad. I was talking to some girl, and by now I got wind of, you know, of what he was in there for. So I said, well, how old was the girl, judge? He said, oh, about 18, 19. So that was a cop. I said, Jeff, that means probably 1415. Well, he threw me out. And, you know, I haven't talked to him since, blah, blah, blah. And then, uh, He said, I don't know anything. So okay, he says, but the government told me I don't have to prove what I say about Trump, as long as Trump's people can't disprove it. I said, yes, I said he's the president of the United States. His people are the FBI. He said, that's what I said. And they said, no, the FBI is our people, not his people. And at that point, then it was pretty obvious what he was contemplating. Just, you know, making up stuff, looking to just say stuff to throw at Trump. And that aggravated the hell out of me because I was in there at that point for three years because people did the same thing to me. So I jumped off the bunk and I said, listen, I said, if you're going to pull that shit, get the hell out.

Speaker 3: This call is from a federal prison.

Speaker 2: I said, you know, I'm in here because guys like you are lying to save their own ass. I said, so, are you going to do that? Get out of this cell. And he got quiet for a while. Then he said, all right, I have a hypothetical for you. I said, okay, Jeff, go ahead with your Hypothetical. He said, give me a name of somebody you love more than anything. I didn't want to give, you know, Jeffrey Epstein, anybody? Name in my family. So I said my dog. Wink. Wink, wink. Because he only has one eye. I rescued him some piece of garbage. Poked his eye out before I got to him. So I said wink. He said okay. He said the government's going to take wink and put him in a cage for the rest of his life, unless you helped him. I said, well, wink didn't do anything wrong, so they couldn't do that. He said, well, neither did she. I said, who? She says, my old girlfriend. He said she had nothing to do with any of this, any of my girl stuff. She actually hated it. He said, but they're going to go after her unless I help them. I said, Jeff, listen, I said I would die before I let anybody use me as a weapon to hurt somebody in my family. And, um, you know, he got quiet again. And that was the last we really talked about that. So I don't know, you know, I don't know what personal decisions he made as far as coming up with stuff or whatever, but I never heard of it again," end of interview.

Most people in Briarcliff, and in Westchester County, believe that Nick Tartaglione should spend every one of his remaining days in prison for the quadruple homicide he was convicted of, and for his abuse of Clay Tiffany. The NY Post labeled Tartaglione, the Killer Cop. We agreed with this assumption, until now, and until reading Jessica Kraus's Substack stories on Tartaglione, Epstein, Comey and Maxwell.

After listening to Tartaglione's phone call again and again, and after reading more of Straus's dozen or so stories on Tartaglione, Epstein, Comey and Maxwell, this thought came to my mind. Yes, Tartaglione abused and attacked Clay Tiffany, who was my acquaintance in Briarcliff. But does that assault correlate to Tartaglione committing four murders upstate? I don't think so. In fact, based on the reporting and documentation we are reading about regarding the misinformation about the Russiagate hoax, and how federal law enforcement and the intelligence community in DC lied about President Donald Trump, I am inclined to listen to Tartaglione and review his evidence.

It's also interesting to note that the media tends to overlook Tartaglione's work in rescuing abused animals on his farm upstate.

And why would Tartaglione bury the bodies of four men he killed on his own farm? Wouldn't he find a more secluded location?

In an attempt to balance this story, I would remind my readers that I did write a story about Epstein's last attorney, David Schoen, who recalled Epstein telling him about the alleged suicide. "What he said happened was that this other inmate (Tartaglione) had tied something around his neck as part of some kind of experiment that Jeffrey didn't feel he was in a position to say no to. And the guy pulled the thing, and it left a mark on his neck, and that was the end of it, he didn't pass out, but it was a scary episode for him... But it was not an attempted suicide. He explained it to me in some detail," said Schoen. When asked what Epstein was afraid of, Schoen said "retaliation from the inmate," (Tartaglione).

Schoen added that Epstein did not want to kill himself but was working on his defense and his upcoming application for bail.

We encourage you to subscribe to Kraus's Substack as we have at

<https://jessicareedkraus.substack.com/>

She wants someone to delve into the Tartaglione case and his alleged proof of his innocence.

Documentarians are still in search of Tiffany's recording of his cable access shows. We continue to receive email inquiries. There is one individual who claims he has the tapes and has posted a few on YouTube. Let us know when you are willing to share some more.

*Who is Buying Weed, continued from pg 1-*

inventory, and the role our dispensary plays in the community.

The numbers make it clear. Younger shoppers are driving traffic, while older shoppers are making bigger, more deliberate purchases. Among product categories, inhalables dominate. Vapes and cartridges account for 32.2 percent of sales, followed by flower at 28.8 percent. Pre-rolls make up 19.1 percent, edibles 14.1 percent, and everything else, concentrates, beverages, topicals, rounds out the final 5.8 percent. The split reflects both experimentation and comfort zones. Younger customers often move quickly, chasing potency and price, while older shoppers tend to invest in a variety of products that address specific needs.

Our personal customer interactions reveal even more. Customers who are new to consuming legal cannabis will ask about how strong a product is, or what makes an edible different from a tincture, pre-roll, or topical. Topicals in particular raise questions about whether they might show up on a drug test, and we explain that regulated topical products are designed for localized relief, not systemic absorption. Many customers come in searching for strains from their past (many have asked about Panama Red is a common request) and we take the time to explain how today's regulated, tested products are both safer and more consistent, even if the names have changed.

Sleep is another frequent topic, and one that requires nuance. We ask whether the struggle is falling asleep or staying asleep, since each calls for different cannabinoid profiles and delivery methods. These conversations are where education becomes as important as the product itself.

Some of our most powerful learnings come from our regulars. We have one customer who visits HighLife Health almost daily. For him, the dispensary is more than a retail stop, it is a social anchor and a place where familiar faces matter. The story of his loyalty says more about community than any metric could.

When two neighbors voiced opposition to our opening on Facebook, we held back from arguing. Instead, our broader community spoke up for us, offering public support that proved far louder than the criticism. That moment reinforced the idea that trust is earned through consistent service and openness, not by chasing down every detractor.

The wider community has also embraced us in meaningful ways. The Chamber of Commerce welcomed us as members, allowing us to participate in local initiatives and give back through donations. The city's Buildings Department has worked with us to address the realities of overdevelopment and the unique challenges of applying cannabis regulations designed for dense urban blocks to the suburban grid of New Rochelle.

What all of this means for New Rochelle is simple: the cannabis consumer here is not just one thing. The younger crowd brings energy, volume, and experimentation. The older crowd brings thoughtful purchases, loyalty, and a focus on health and lifestyle. Both are essential. Our role is to meet each customer where they are, whether that means explaining dosing to a first-time buyer, recommending a vape to a value-driven twenty-something, or guiding a senior through the options for better sleep.

HighLife is more than a dispensary; it is part of the fabric of this city. We are here for the questions, the stories, the quick stops, and the long conversations. Whether you come to us for relief, recreation, or routine, we will always treat education as part of the purchase and community as part of the business.

Visit <https://highlifehealth.com>, for more information.

## Mayor Spano Instructs Yonkers Police Department to Increase Patrols and Safety Drills for School Yr.



In Wake of Recent Minnesota School Shooting, YPD to Dispatch Coordinated Drills and Patrols at Local Schools and Houses of Worship

In preparation for the start of the new school year this week, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced on Sept. 3 that he is instructing the Yonkers Police Department (YPD) to increase direct patrols and safety drills at local schools and houses of worship. The directive comes in the wake of the recent school/church shooting in Minnesota, killing two children and injuring dozens.

"Our country should never fall numb to these senseless shootings, preying on innocent children and worshippers," said Mayor Spano. "We must remain vigilant and ensure our children and residents continue to feel safe as they attend school and practice their faith. While our police are always attentive to the potential threats that plague so many communities, our Police Commissioner and his top brass are coordinating a multi-pronged plan to prevent and deter any incidents so our city remains safe and secure."

Today, the Yonkers Police Department is attending and presenting at the Yonkers Schools Safety Officer Retreat and Training Day. Yonkers Police Commissioner Sapienza is expected to deliver a keynote speech, followed by commanding officer introductions, a Mobile Crisis Response Team presentation, and training by the Gang Unit, Intelligence Unit, Emergency Service Unit, and Training Unit.

In addition to routine Yonkers Police Intel Unit trainings with school security staff, Yonkers Police Department has outlined the following tactics for the start of the 2025-26 school year:

### **YPD School Safety Drills**

dispatch units to random schools as a "drill" to familiarize Officers with response routes and building layouts.

"Park & Walk" patrol on the grounds of the school (if closed), and a walk inside if the school is in session, with advance notice to YPS School Safety Director and school administrators

**YPD Directed Patrols** (routinely practiced at sensitive sites, and will be enhanced due to recent events)

patrol checks on each Yonkers Public School, private and religious schools and identify sensitive locations (house of worship, etc.) during tours of duty.

school checks kept during school hours, while houses of worship will be focused on holy days and services

"As a new school year gets underway, the Yonkers Police Department is keeping a closer watch over our community," said Yonkers Police Commissioner Christopher Sapienza. "The recent tragedy in Minnesota is a reminder that we can never take safety for granted, so we've increased our presence around schools, houses of worship, and other sensitive sites. Our partnership in safety with Yonkers Public Schools is a longstanding one, and we thank Mayor Spano for providing us with the resources to implement these measures. Protecting our children, families, and faith communities has always been, and will remain, our highest priority."

Superintendent of Schools, Anibal Soler, Jr. commented, "As we prepare to welcome our students back this week, we are mindful of the recent tragedy in Minnesota. Our thoughts are with that community. Here in Yonkers, we remain committed to protecting our most precious assets, our children. I want to commend Mayor Mike Spano for his proactive leadership in prioritizing the safety of all who live and learn in our city. Together, we will continue to ensure Yonkers Public Schools students enter the school year safe, supported, and ready to learn."

Yonkers Police's Intelligence Unit continues to review intel and work with federal partners to monitor possible threats that would dictate a larger response from necessary units. Currently, there are no credible threats within the City's jurisdiction.

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-Thomas Jefferson*

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## Westchester County to Host Interfaith Prayer Vigil & 9/11 Memorial Service



Westchester County will host two commemorative events to honor the memory of those who perished in the tragic events of September 11, 2001, and those who later died from 9/11-related illnesses. The events will feature an Interfaith Prayer Vigil on September 10, and a September 11th Memorial Service on September 11.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: “Nearly a quarter-century later, the pain of September 11 remains deeply felt in Westchester. We gather each year to ensure the names, stories and sacrifices of our residents are never forgotten. This vigil and memorial service are moments for reflection and support for the families whose lives were forever changed.”

Interfaith Prayer Vigil- September 10, 2025-5 p.m- Kensico Dam Plaza  
The Rising & 9/11 First Responders Memorial

Faith leaders from Christian, Jewish, Hindu, and Muslim communities will lead prayers, followed by candle lighting and a wreath-laying ceremony at the steel beam from the Twin Towers. The vigil will honor all Westchester residents who lost their lives on 9/11 or from related illnesses.

September 11th Memorial Service-3 p.m-Kensico Dam Plaza

The memorial service will honor all Westchester County residents who died on 9/11 and from 9/11-related illnesses. The ceremony will include remarks, music, and the reading of the names of all who are memorialized. If you are a family member of someone who died on 9/11 or of a 9/11 related illness and would like to be involved in these two memorial events, please contact [Communications@westchestercountyny.gov](mailto:Communications@westchestercountyny.gov). These events are open to the public, and all are encouraged to attend and participate in honoring the lives lost and those affected by 9/11.

## 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.

## Thanks for supporting your community’s clean energy program: Westchester Power

### Program Update

To ensure the availability of a reliable fixed rate option for clean energy in these uncertain times, program electric supply for the next term has been bid out and awarded. The opt-out period for Peekskill is Oct 16 to Nov 15, White Plains is Oct 17 to Nov 16, Larchmont and Mamaroneck are Oct 23 to Nov 22 and , Rye is Oct 24 to Nov 23. Opt out letters will be mailed out in October.

### About Westchester Power

Westchester Power is a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program administered by local non-profit Sustainable Westchester on behalf of participating municipalities. The program offers fixed, competitive rates for clean energy as an alternative to the utility’s fossil-fuel-based supply.

Westchester Power is an opt-out program - eligible customers must opt out if they don’t want to participate. You can change your supply option or opt out any time with no fees or penalties .

To opt in/out or change supply, visit [sustainablewestchester.org/wp/energy-choices](http://sustainablewestchester.org/wp/energy-choices)  
email [wp@sustainablewestchester.org](mailto:wp@sustainablewestchester.org)  
or call 914-242-4725



### Westchester Power Rates and Terms Starting December

Supply Option % Renewable	Effective 12/1/2025-11/30/2027	
	Residential Rate, c/kWh	Small Business Rate, c/kWh
50%	11.810	11.700
100%	12.260	12.150

### Con Edison’s average rate from July 2024 through June 2025

Zone	Residential	Small Business
H	10.768	10.195
I	10.888	10.336

Please note Con Edison averages are not indicative of future pricing, as utility rates vary from month to month.

Peekskill is in Zone H. White Plains, Larchmonth, Mamaroneck and Rye are in I

- There are two supply options - 100% and 50% renewable. Default supply for these communities is 100% renewable
- Current supplier, Constellation, has won the contract for the new term starting December 1st.
- Customers will pay a premium for renewable supply services. This additional cost helps support New York State’s clean energy goals and a more sustainable energy future.



SustainableWestchester.Org/wp/conedterritory  
Email: [wp@sustainablewestchester.org](mailto:wp@sustainablewestchester.org)  
Call: 914-242-4725