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# Westchester Rising

YonkersTimes.com

Friday April 26, 2024

## Somers & Mahopac Residents Speak Out Against "Massive" Lithium Battery Farm Plan



*95-Acres-116 Megawatts -200 feet from residential neighborhoods in Westchester & Putnam*

*By Dan Murphy*

A plan to construct a 116-megawatt Lithium Battery storage facility on a 95-acre property on the Somers-Mahopac border has drawn opposition from residents in nearby neighborhoods, some as close as 200 feet from the proposed battery farm.

East Point Energy, based in Charlottesville, Virginia, has proposed constructing the facility on Miller Road in Mahopac, next to Baldwin Place in Somers,

*continued on pg 12-*

## Latimer Questions Bowman's No Votes Against Israel and On Stopping Fentanyl



*George Latimer*

*Congressman Jamaal Bowman*

On April 21, the U.S. The House of Representatives passed a \$95 billion package of bi-partisan foreign aid bills that provide supplemental appropriations for defense assistance to allies and partners in need. Westchester Congressman Jamaal Bowman voted against two priorities supported by President Biden, voting no on the Israel Security Supplemental Appropriations Act providing support to Israel, humanitarian aid to Gaza, as well as the 21st Century Peace through Strength Act.

Rep. Bowman also voted no on a resolution condemning Iran's recent attacks against Israel. Bowman's opponent in the June democratic primary, Congressional candidate and Westchester County Executive George Latimer said Bowman voted "with MAGA extremists" on one bill.

"Today, the US took a crucial step to advance a global security package, sending a clear message to our allies in the fight against terror and international drug cartels that we stand with them and will support them in their time of need.

"Our current representative, Jamaal Bowman, wrongly stood against over 80% of Congressional Democrats and President Biden, voting no on two of four critical bills. I am running for this seat because we – and our allies around the world – deserve better.

*continued on pg 13-*

## Bopwman Criticizes Latimer for "Fundraising with "MAGA Republicans" See Story on Page 14-

## Two Westchester Natives in the Rock N Roll HOF Congratulations Mary J. Blige & Dave Matthews



*Mary J. Blige*



*Dave Matthews*

*See story on pg 13-*

## RFK Jr. Attempts to Get on the Ballot in NY Why Not Give Voters More Choices?



*Robert F. Kennedy Jr. with his running mate, Nicole Shanahan*

*See story on pg 15-*

## DA Rocah Gets Jail Time for Sex Offenders; Parents Beware as Incidents Continue

*By Dan Murphy*

"My Office is committed to bringing sexual predators to justice, and ask everyone to speak up and report any suspected abuse."

**-DA Rocah**

We commend Westchester District Attorney Mimi Rocah for aggressively indicting and seeking stiff jail sentences for sexual predators.

Rocah announced this week that a Peekskill cabdriver was sentenced to 16 years in state prison for engaging in sexual conduct with a child for nearly a year. The repeated sexual abuse of the child that started when the victim was 10 years old

After a three-week trial, a jury on March 19 found the defendant, Luis Urgiles, 46, guilty of Course of Sexual Conduct Against a Child in the First Degree, a felony, and Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a misdemeanor. The defendant, who

*continued on pg 14-*

## Ken Jenkins Endorses George Latimer for Congress--NY-16



George Latimer, left, with Ken Jenkins,

By Dan Muirphy

Democrat George Latimer, Congressional Candidate for the 16th District in New York, has been endorsed by Community Leader Ken Jenkins, adding to his roster of supporters and growing coalition ahead of the democratic primary. Jenkins, who currently serves as Deputy County Executive in Westchester County, has been a pillar in Westchester for decades serving as a County Legislator representing Yonkers for four terms, Chairman of the County Board of Legislators from 2010-2013, in addition to President of the Yonkers Branch of the NAACP.

Ken has long been active in the Democratic Party in Westchester, having served as Chairman of the Yonkers Democratic Committee and Chairman of the Black Democrats of Westchester. He also served as Secretary of the Westchester County Democratic Committee, as well as on its Executive Committee.

"I am humbled to receive the support of my dear friend and colleague Ken Jenkins, a staunch leader in our community who has dedicated his life to public service, and I look forward to continuing our work together to bring critical resources and opportunities to Westchester and Bronx families," said NY-16 Congressional Candidate George Latimer.

"I am proud of the grassroots campaign we are building – voters are tired of rhetoric and performative politics – they want a representative in Washington who will bring common sense solutions and fight for families across the district."

"George is an exceptional leader who has dedicated more than three decades to fighting for working New Yorkers," said Westchester Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins. "From protecting women's reproductive rights to investing in our infrastructure, fighting MAGA extremists, supporting small business and creating safer communities, we need a leader who will safeguard our human rights, protect our democracy and ensure local programs and initiatives get fully funded. It has been an incredible honor to work alongside George for 7 years and experiencing his commitment to public service first hand. I am confident that George will be a unifier in Congress who puts people ahead of politics and drives real common sense solutions."

The political observations on Jenkins endorsement of Latimer are mixed. Some believe that Jenkins endorsement was "expected," due to Latimer and Jenkins serving together in county government as County Executive and Deputy County Executive.

Other Westchester democrats saw it another way. "The endorsement by Ken for George is more about the respect that both have for each other and the work that they do. This also solidifies Latimer's endorsements in Westchester," said one Yonkers democrat."

Editors Note: As the slugfest continues between Bowman and Latimer, the winning of the democratic primary on June 25 may come down to the City of Yonkers, with Latimer estimated to win most of the rest of Westchester, and Bowman winning the part of the Bronx in the district.

Turnout is expected to be high across the district in a Presidential year with the name Trump on the ballot. But how many democrats come out and vote in the primary is not known.

## Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins Leads Passage of State Budget



By State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins

Under the leadership of Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the New York State Senate passed a state budget Saturday for the 2024-25 fiscal year which keeps key promises to New Yorkers on important topics including education, infrastructure, and housing.

The budget reflects Sen. Stewart-Cousins' commitment to hard working New York families, children and seniors, tackling pressing issues from affordability to health care, and advancing Sen. Stewart-Cousins' vision for a fairer, more prosperous New York for all.

"I am proud of this state budget, which prioritizes the needs of working families and invests in critical areas such as affordability, education, housing, health-care and the environment. Together, we have enacted a budget which delivers real progress for New Yorkers," Sen. Stewart-Cousins said. "I thank my Senate colleagues, Speaker Heastie and our legislative partners in the Assembly, and Governor Kathy Hochul for their collaboration and dedication to this crucial process."

The FY 2025 budget continues the state's commitment to our public schools by ensuring no cuts to school funding and rejecting proposed changes to Foundation Aid. The budget provides an additional \$100 million for Universal Pre-K and more than \$120 million for SUNY colleges and universities. It will also expand the Tuition Assistance Program by more than \$50 million while increasing the household income threshold for the first time since 2000.

"A solid education is the key to a long and productive career. Continuing to fully fund Foundation Aid is crucial to fulfilling our commitment to New York families who demand a quality education for their children," Sen. Stewart-Cousins said. "Through this budget, we kept that promise and expanded access to Universal Pre-K and to higher education, to help more New Yorkers meet their education goals."

For the first time in more than a decade, the FY 2025 budget increases Aid and Incentives for Municipalities (AIM) funding, providing an additional \$50 million for a total of \$765.2 million to help municipalities fund crucial local infrastructure projects.

"This budget makes smart investments in our roads, bridges, sewer systems and other infrastructure that get us where we need to go," Sen. Stewart-Cousins said. "It includes record support for infrastructure, including an extra \$60 million for CHIPS, for a total of nearly \$600 million and additional \$10 million in additional funds Upstate public transit funding."

Amidst the ongoing housing crisis, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins secured a transformative housing deal aimed at addressing both affordability and supply issues plaguing the current market. This historic deal includes a comprehensive set of measures to protect tenants, support homeowners, and incentivize the creation of affordable housing across the state.

"Ensuring affordable housing is essential for renters to build their lives with security in our state. This deal provides crucial protections against unfair hikes and evictions," said Sen. Stewart-Cousins.

For homeowners, the FY 2025 budget offers vital safeguards against foreclosure, addresses the crime of deed theft, and codifies the distinction between tenants and squatters to make prosecution easier, securing their homes and futures.

"We cannot expect people to make their lives from start to finish in our great *continued on pg 15-*

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## Personalized Education Plans: Empowering Students with Autism



Mike Khader

By Mike Khader

As a parent, I've walked the intricate path of navigating my son's journey with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). In this journey, one beacon of hope has been the implementation of the Individualized Education Plans (IEPs). These plans have not only shaped my son's educational trajectory but have also empowered him to navigate the challenges of ASD with confidence and resilience.

When I asked my son what his IEP means to him, his response was profound. He described it as his 'way to be a success,' a sentiment that has a transformative impact on his educational journey. This insight highlights the significance of personalized education plans in fostering a sense of collaboration and empowerment among students, teachers and parents that work with autism.

As we commemorate Autism Awareness Month, it's imperative that we reaffirm our commitment to creating an inclusive and supportive environment for individuals on the autism spectrum. IEPs, play a pivotal role in achieving this goal. By tailoring learning strategies and accommodations to suit the unique needs of each student, we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to reach their fullest potential.

In the most basic description an IEP is a contract that provides students with disabilities a FREE, APPROPRIATE, PUBLIC EDUCATION (FAPE) that emphasizes special education and related services DESIGNED TO MEET THEIR UNIQUE NEEDS and prepare them for further education, employment and independent living.

Many times parents are unaware of the significance of the IEP and the Federal and State Laws that protect children. The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, (IDEA), allows for the child the absolute right to be evaluated, at public expense, to determine eligibility for special education, The right of parents to participate in the development of the IEP along with members of the school districts members of the Committee for Special Education (CSE). Parents have the right to contest an IEP or the decisions made by the CSE

Autism Spectrum Disorder presents a diverse array of challenges, ranging from cognitive and social difficulties to sensory sensitivities. It's crucial that our educational approach acknowledges and addresses these challenges in a holistic individual manner. Effective IEPs encompass assessment-driven objectives, interdisciplinary collaboration among specialists, environmental adjustments, social integration techniques, and continuous evaluation and flexibility. These key elements ensure that the educational experience is tailored to meet the individual needs of students with autism.

New York State Education Law and binding regulations of the Commissioner of Education are laws that must be enforced. I urge parents to familiarize themselves with these laws and regulations to protect their child.

Moreover, it's essential to recognize the legal framework that underpins the implementation of IEPs. IDEA ensures that children with disabilities, including autism, receive FAPE in the least restrictive environment possible. This legal framework emphasizes the importance of personalized educational approaches in fostering academic and social success among students with autism.

As we strive to create a more inclusive educational landscape, it's crucial to consider global perspectives and cultural considerations. Exploring how different countries and cultures address the educational needs of individuals with autism provides valuable insights into effective practices and approaches.

Real-world success stories serve as a testament to the transformative impact of personalized education plans. These stories not only inspire but also offer practical guidance for parents, educators, and policymakers. By sharing these narratives, we can amplify the voices of individuals with autism and advocate for a more inclusive and supportive educational system.

Parents must be proactive participants in personalized education plans because it empowers parents and uplifts students with autism that allows them to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. As we continue to commemorate Autism Awareness Month and beyond, let's reaffirm our commitment to creating a more inclusive and supportive world for individuals on the autism spectrum. Through personalized education plans and unwavering support, we can ensure that every child has the opportunity to reach their fullest potential.

Mike Khader served as Yonkers City Council President from 2017-2021.

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## Some Advice for Yonkers New Schools Chief



By Eric Wolf Schoen

May 1 will be a day that Yonkers has not experienced since the 1990's. A new Superintendent of Schools will take the helm running the 24,000 plus student district. His name is Mr. Anibal Soler, Jr. To borrow a question from the Passover Seder, you ask 'Why is this Superintendent different from other Yonkers Public School Superintendents?' The answer? This is the first Superintendent of the Yonkers Public Schools who was appointed from outside the district since the 1990's.


We welcome Anibal Soler to Yonkers and wish him nothing but the best. As the official weekly paper for Yonkers under the leadership of Editor Dan Murphy, rest assured this paper will do the superb job covering the district that school staff, parents, students and the community rely on to know what is going on.

The daily paper for Yonkers, the Journal News won't give you stories about the Valedictorian and Salutatorian from each of our high schools you get here. News 12, the cable television station broadcasting news does give you more YPS content, but their format is more regional. Your communications team must daily provide News 12, the Journal News and this newspaper with information about the exciting plans you have for Yonkers as well as school based events going on including everything from Flag Day to Thanksgiving celebrations and everything in between. We like to showcase the positive as long as we know about it.

I particularly want you to succeed. My grandmother graduated from Yonkers High School when it was on South Broadway in 1918. My mother graduated from the South Broadway building, my sister graduated from Yonkers High School when it was in the current Enrico Fermi Building, and I was a student in the first class to spend a full 4 years in the Yonkers High School building at its current location graduating in 1978. The Schoen-Roth families received excellent education in Yonkers Public Schools, and the diversity of the student body made our learning experiences richer.

After a career with the New York City Board of Education, Yonkers City Hall and various Yonkers agencies, I was called on to serve the District as Press Secretary for 10 years. I walked in with not only a good knowledge of the district but worked for Joe Farmer, my High School Principal and with

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**02 NEW ROCHELLE Thursday, May 2: 7 PM – 9 PM**  
Trinity St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 311 Huguenot St., New Rochelle, NY 10807

**07 YONKERS Tuesday, May 7: 7 PM – 9 PM**  
St. John's Episcopal Church - 100 Underhill St., Yonkers, NY 10710

**09 VIRTUAL MEETING Thursday, May 9: 6 PM – 8 PM**

In-person venues are ADA, transit, and parking accessible.


Thoughts? Questions? Comments?  
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## Yorktown Stays Red: Ed Lachterman Elected Town Supervisor:



By Dan Murphy

The Town of Yorktown remains in Republican control after Ed Lachterman was elected Town Supervisor. Lachterman received 55% of the vote, defeating democrat Jan Mirchandani, with 45%.

A special election was held on April 16 to elect a replacement to Supervisor Tom Diana, who passed away in January.

Lachterman has served on the Town Board since 2015. "Last Night Was A Great Night! I want to thank all of those who supported me throughout this election campaign. From those in the community who donated to my fundraisers, the volunteers who came in every day to help, the people who walked through the streets, knocking on doors and spreading the word about the special election, and especially to my wife Carol for her quarterbacking my whole campaign while I took care of town business.

"I also want to thank my fellow public service and former public servants that endorse me for this run. Those are the people what the job entails and what you have to sacrifice to do a good job," said Lachterman on Facebook.

Mirchandani said, "While I'm obviously disappointed in the results, I'm proud of the campaign I ran and the integrity with which my team and I conducted ourselves. I'm grateful for the support of community members and encouraged by the turnout for this election," Mirchandani said. "Democracy very much depends on everyday people getting involved and making their voices heard. And if this campaign has inspired others to get involved, it's a win."

Mirchandani lost to Diana last November 54%-46%. All seats on the Town Board are held by republicans in Yorktown by Councilman Sergio Esposito, Partick Murphy and Councilwoman Luciana Haughwout.

Lachterman's victory creates a vacancy on the Town Board.

Yorktown remains one of four republican strongholds in Westchester, along with Eastchester, Harrison and Mount Pleasant.

## Letter to the Editor: Latimer -Bowman Race for Congress

One Sound View democrat wrote to us, "When I read and hear Jamaal Bowman's insinuations that supporters of George Latimer in the June 25 Democratic Congressional Primary are just DINO's (Democrats In Name Only) or worse, MAGA Trumpers, do they really think George Latimer would have mounted a primary challenge against a 'non-Squad' Black Democrat in the mold of Barack Obama, New Jersey Senator Corey Booker, or former Congressman Mondaire Jones?"

"Latimer wouldn't have attempted it, and even if he did, many of his most fervent advocates would not have supported him.

"The Democrats who oppose Jamaal Bowman have had plenty of time and opportunity to leave the party over the last decade. The fact they haven't done so is testimony to their commitment to traditional Democratic party values.

"In his famous "I Have A Dream" speech, Martin Luther King yearned for the day his children...and, indeed, all Black people...would be judged not by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character.

"Democratic primary voters...who four years ago selected Jamaal Bowman over a White incumbent with decades of experience and seniority...will have the opportunity again to assess the content of his character.

"And if they reject him based on his actions over the past four years, it will demonstrate that the color of his skin was irrelevant. As it was in the past. And always should be.

Name Withheld

## Field Hall Foundation Accept Grant Letters

Field Hall Foundation is accepting Letters of Inquiry for our Fall 2024 grant cycle. The deadline to submit is May 31st and grantees will be notified of grant decisions at the end of September.

The Foundation supports programs and projects that directly improve the lives of low-income OLDER ADULTS and their CAREGIVERS. Priority is given to programs that address their most basic needs, including:

- Food insecurity
- Home based care and aging-in-place services, including those that address social isolation
- Respite and support services for nonpaid caregivers
- Safety, security, and elder abuse
- Social work/case management, including emergency relief funding
- Transportation for older adults, caregivers, and home health aides
- Funding requests can range from \$5,000 to \$50,000+; requests for small capital projects can be for up to \$15,000.

Visit our website for eligibility requirements and recent grants: [www.field-hallfoundation.org](http://www.field-hallfoundation.org).

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## Creating a 21st Century Transmission System is Vital to New York

Submitted by Ellie Zhong on behalf of NY Propel Energy

In 1940, New Yorkers listened to President Franklin D. Roosevelt on the radio with the biggest energy user in a typical home humming in the background – a refrigerator. Its power was supported by what was a brand-new underground transmission system. To the credit of engineers and maintenance workers at that time, elements of that grid are still in use today. However, it's a challenge for the grid to keep up with electrical demands of the 21st Century.

Our electric transmission system is essential infrastructure that is relied upon 24/7 and is the underpinning of our economy and environment. Yet, major reconstruction of large parts of New York's transmission grid has not occurred in more than 50 years. With demands for electricity ever increasing and the transition to cleaner energy sources a priority, the state's grid operator – the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) – is at the forefront of ensuring supply is ready for the demand and that electricity can be efficiently and cost-effectively delivered to homes and businesses throughout the state. What does this mean in our local towns, cities and neighborhoods? Upgrades, modernization, and new electric transmission facilities are needed to ensure we have reliable power flowing when consumers need it.

In 2023, the NYISO selected the New York Power Authority and New York Transco to deliver Propel NY Energy (Propel NY), a project that will install nearly 90 miles of new transmission to improve system reliability, and address the expanding needs of energy consumers now, and far into the future.

Meeting the Energy Needs of our Regions

Propel NY is an underground and submarine transmission project through parts of Westchester, the Bronx, Queens, Nassau, and Suffolk Counties. When completed, Propel NY will improve system operability, expandability, and transfer load carrying capability where it is needed most. The project is engineered to create a 345kV backbone to improve reliability and resiliency, allowing for increased flows of clean power.

With the project's transmission line being entirely underground and/or submarine, it serves a critical role in an era of climate change in areas historically battered by hurricanes, tropical storms, and nor'easters. Propel NY significantly strengthens the electric grid, making key transmission resources far less vulnerable to the increased cycles of severe weather, while also relieving bottlenecks currently confronting existing transmission lines that prevent efficient and effective power to flow where it is needed and when it is required.

The project has been strategically designed, keeping both environmental and local community considerations a top priority. From concepts on paper to our anticipated May 2030 power flow, Propel NY's effort will span nine years of rigorous environmental, engineering, construction development and refinement, regulatory review, community input, and regular communication to make it successful.

Engineering Ingenuity – It's a NY thing!

The heart and soul of Propel NY is embodied by the engineering that makes our region world renowned. New York has always led the way in innovation and engineering success – from the Empire State Building to the 1881 lighting of 51 blocks in Manhattan with electric streetlights. One might wonder what our electrical pioneers Thomas Edison, George Westinghouse, or Nikola Tesla would think of today's Propel NY Energy project. Surely, they would be proud that early electrical engineering discoveries are being further leveraged and improved upon to strengthen a vital, dynamic energy highway that will ensure a reliable, resilient grid across New York State.

A Project Priority - Community Education and Engagement

As we advance into various phases of the project, ensuring our community is educated about and engaged is just as important as engineering the right solution. Propel NY is focused on connecting with residents, businesses, and organizations along the proposed project route. We prioritize respecting the quality of life for all those who may be touched by its construction, making sure local leaders and their residents have information, can ask questions, and can affect the outcomes of the project to best incorporate community priorities. We hope you'll join us at Westchester open houses to learn more about Propel NY – 5/2 in New Rochelle, 5/7 in Yonkers and 5/9 via Zoom; visit [PropelNYEnergy.com](http://PropelNYEnergy.com) for more information and to register.

About New York Power Authority (NYPA)

NYPA is the largest state public power organization in the nation, operating 16 generating facilities and more than 1,400 circuit-miles of transmission lines. More than 80 percent of the electricity NYPA produces is clean renewable hydropower. NYPA finances its operations through the sale of bonds and revenues earned in large part through sales of electricity. For more information visit [www.nypa.gov](http://www.nypa.gov) and follow us on Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, Tumblr and LinkedIn.

About New York Transco (NYT)

New York Transco is a New York-based owner and developer of bulk power transmission facilities in New York State. Our mission is to safely and efficiently deliver innovative electric transmission solutions that advance clean energy to best serve customers, communities, and the environment. We have many assets in operation and several projects in various stages of construction and development. Our efforts are focused on improving the long-term viability of New York's transmission infrastructure, reducing network congestion, and advancing the State's public policy objectives which include increasing the amount of renewables and promoting economic development.

### Westchester Rising

PO Box 705, Yonkers NY 10702-914-815-1388. Proudly serving the the people of Westchester with hyperlocal news. Member NY Press Association. Legal notice inquiries to: [risinglegalnotice@gmail.com](mailto:risinglegalnotice@gmail.com). Daniel Murphy, Publisher & Editor in Chief, [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com). Bayan Baker, Assistant to the Editor in Chief [risingmediagroup@gmail.com](mailto:risingmediagroup@gmail.com).

## Letter to the Editor, Government Fraud and Corruption

As James Madison once wrote, "A popular government without popular information, or the means of acquiring it is a prologue to a farce or a tragedy or perhaps both. Knowledge will forever govern ignorance, and a people who mean to be their own governors, must arm themselves with the power knowledge gives."

There is NO LAW that requires most individuals of the 50 states to pay a personal federal income tax on their labor, unless they work for the federal government or reside within a federal possession, such as Washington DC.

A typical foil request anyone can make to which the U.S. Treasury, IRS, Congress and the courts have fallen silent, is for a certified list of all statutes, which create a specific liability for taxes imposed by subtitle A of the IRC.

A professional review of the past 111 years of the IRS code reveals deliberate, distortion, fraud, and corruption.

Through the years, the mention of "constitutional" restrictions of taxes were removed from the IRS code and the word "Constitution" was replaced by the word "Fundamental law." Then, after a period of time, "Fundamental Law", was replaced by "The law." (Deliberately no mention of constitutional mandated restrictions.) Also, many footnote explanations were removed to make it more difficult to understand and less difficult to misrepresent the legal limits of the federal tax code.

The courts refuse to show the law, have taken more than \$100,000 of my retirement and Social Security and deny me my constitutional right of a trial by jury.

The IRS is aware that if I go to trial, with the evidence that I've accumulated over the past 25 years, they will be out of business!

God bless the former United States of America, and to the REPUBLIC for which it stood.

Anthony Futia Jr., No. White Plains, NY

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Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com)

Notice of Formation of THE NAVIE THERAPY GROUP L.L.C., LLC filed with SSNY on 08/29/23. Office: WESTCHESTER County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to LLC: 200 Bloomingdale Road, Suite 1A, White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of MYLILWRKSHOP.COM, LLC. Arts. of Org. Filed with NY Secy. Of State on 3/6/2024. Office located in Yonkers, NY. Hector Jimenez has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The LLC, 237 Roberts avenue, Yonkers NY 10703, principal business location of the LLC, purpose: any lawful business activity.

Notice of Formation of Northern Lights Massage Therapy PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 8/21/23. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 409 North Broadway Apt 38 Yonkers NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Bosco Home Improvements LLC, . Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/15/2024. 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 716 Loomis Ave Peekskill, NY 10566. Purpose: Any lawful activity

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Intentional Journey Psychotherapy, LCSW, PLLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/8/24. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against PLLC to 1374 Midland Ave, Suite 410, Bronxville, NY 10708. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of formation of Lee & Mazie's LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 04/02/2024 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 process to : Lee & Mazie's LLC 1 Sherwood Terrace Apt 5D Yonkers, NY 10704 Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date.

Notice of Formation of KW Services NY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 3/30/24. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 875 King Street Chappaqua NY 10514. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Studio Elise LLC filed with the SSNY on 04/05/2024. 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.

TOWN OF EASTCHESTER  
LEGAL NOTICE

2024 STREET RESURFACING WITHIN THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER AND THE VILLAGES OF TUCKAHOE AND BRONXVILLE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that SEALED BIDS will be received via MAIL OR delivered to the Office of Town Clerk, Town of Eastchester, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, NY 10709 by 2:15 p.m. TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024. Bid documents can be obtained at NO CHARGE online at the Town Clerks page on the Eastchester website (www.eastchester.org) OR bids can be picked-up at the Office of the Town Clerk between 8:30am-4:00pm as of FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024.

All Questions regarding this bid shall be addressed to 914-961-8540 or via email- highway@eastchester.org

THE Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

BY THE ORDER OF THE SUPERVISOR AND THE THE TOWN BOARD OF THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER, NEW YORK

JOSEPH D. DOOLEY, TOWN CLERK

LEGAL NOTICE  
YONKERS MUNICIPAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on May 9, 2024 5p.m. in the office of the Civil Service Commission located at 1 Larkin Center, Riverfront Library – 2nd floor Community Center room on the matters of amending the Appendices of the Yonkers Municipal Civil Service Rules.

Such proposed changes are available for inspection during business hours in the office of the Yonkers Civil Service Commission located at 1 Larkin Center – 2nd floor Yonkers, N.Y. 10701.

Notice of formation of D & E Guest Reality Management, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/15/2023. 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, D & E Guest Reality Management LLC, 79-81 Main Street, P.O. Box 1100, Yonkers, NY 10702. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

VEE'S CONSULTING LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 05/29/2023. Office: WESTCHESTER COUNTY. SSNY designated as agent of LLC for process and shall mail process to R/A: US CORP AGENTS, INC., 7014 13TH AVE, #202, BKLYN, NY, 11228. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

EATZTOUR LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 05/23/2023. Office: WESTCHESTER COUNTY. SSNY designated as agent of LLC for process and shall mail copy to R/A: US CORP AGENTS, INC., 7014 13TH AVE, #202, BKLYN, NY, 11228. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of EM SLEEP CONSULTING LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/08/2024. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 53 Windsor Place, Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Washy LLC. filed with the SSNY on 12/24/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY 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, 224 Hawthorne Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

TRUSTEES NOTICE TO BENEFICIARY **MARIE K. (GEORGETTE) MOORE**

Trustee Kathy Whately, of the HARRIET C. WHATELY IRREVOCABLE INSURANCE TRUST and of the HARRIET C. WHATELY IRREVOCABLE INSURANCE TRUST, II, has identified MARIE K. MOORE a/k/a MARIE GEORGETTE K. MOORE a/k/a MARIA GEORGETTE KOUMLIKIS MOORE, born on or about April 30, 1947, Daughter of Rosa Lee Whately Koumlikis and George James Koumlikis, mother of Cheryl Marie Moore, as a Beneficiary of the Trusts entitled: HARRIET C. WHATELY IRREVOCABLE INSURANCE TRUST and HARRIET C. WHATELY IRREVOCABLE INSURANCE TRUST, II. The said Trustee has used diligent efforts to locate the Beneficiary with last known addresses being in Yonkers, NY and Bronxville, NY. This Notice shall serve as the last measure by the Trustee to locate the Beneficiary, or her heirs, and demands that she contact the Trustee's attorney at the below address on or before July 8th, 2024, or Beneficiary shall be deemed to have waived her interest under the Trust and the Trustee shall proceed in disbursement of the Beneficiary's interest in accordance with the Trust terms or pursuant to Virginia Law.

**MARIE K. MOORE, or her heirs, Contact:**

Whitaker R. Johnston, Esq.  
Attorney for Kathy Whately, Trustee  
20580 Timberlake Rd.  
Lynchburg, VA 24502  
1 (434) 237-6458

TOWN OF EASTCHESTER  
LEGAL NOTICE

2024 SIDEWALK AND CURB REPLACEMENT WITHIN THE TOWN OF EASTCHESTER & VILLAGE OF TUCKAHOE

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that SEALED BIDS will be received via MAIL OR delivered to the Office of Town Clerk, Town of Eastchester, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, NY 10709 by 2:00 p.m. TUESDAY, MAY 14, 2024. Bid documents can be obtained at NO CHARGE online at the Town Clerks page on the Eastchester website (www.eastchester.org) OR bids can be picked-up at the Office of the Town Clerk between 8:30am-4:00pm as of FRIDAY, APRIL 26, 2024.

All Questions regarding this bid shall be addressed to 914-961-8540 or via email -highway@eastchester.org

THE Town reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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# Letters to the Editor:

## Passover and Easter are Connected by God's Deliverance

In this area we have a long break for Easter and Passover. Usually Passover is in the same week as Easter, a few days before or a few days after. But because our calendar is based on the phases of the moon and the Hebrew calendar is lunisolar (based on both moon and sun cycles), sometimes they don't sync. Our calendar adds a day every four years, the Hebrew calendar adds a leap month every two to three years to keep the calendar in sync with the astronomical seasons and to keep the major holidays at the same time of year.

Whatever the distance between the celebrations, the core values of Passover and Easter (more accurately, Resurrection day), are spiritually linked. Passover is an eight day celebration remembering the deliverance of the children of Israel from 400 years of slavery in Egypt. When the sons of Israel first moved to Egypt during a worldwide famine, they started off as honored guests, the family of Joseph. Joseph's brothers had sold him into slavery but he did his job as though he were doing it for God and had become second in command behind Pharaoh. But when a new administration came in, jealousy and the love of power and money led the Egyptian to make the children of Israel slaves until Moses (almost murdered at birth by Pharaoh's order) rose up to deliver them. (Read the book of Exodus.) This record not only inspired conductors on the Underground railroad such as Harriet Tubman, whose code name was Moses, but several of the spirituals that sang out information and instructions for those escaping slavery in the American South.

Joseph's life showed that with God, one could prosper and deliver others, even though he was legally a slave.

Jesus Christ changed the world, even though he lived in a country with a corrupt and unbelieving religious hierarchy, who had forgotten God's deliverance and who were as hard on their people as the pagan Romans that occupied their country. Jesus Christ taught men and women how to be free regardless of their circumstances.

In the first Epistle to the Corinthians, the Apostle Paul tells Christians that "Jesus Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us." Christians do not celebrate Passover, but communion as a memorial commemorating Christ's fully accomplished deliverance from the consequences of Adam's sin and for our healing. (1 Peter 2:24 (KJV) Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed.)

The religious authorities of Christ's time were legalistic, harshly enforcing the letter of law that no man except Jesus Christ could live up to. But they displayed no power of God. Caught in their legalism and lust for power, neither could they bring loving deliverance. They wanted to stone a woman accused of adultery. Jesus Christ showed her how to change.

Because of Christ's perfect fulfillment of the Old Testament law, Christians no longer have to struggle to obey the extensive details of the Old Testament law—he did it for them once and for all.

So, what slavery do we need to be delivered from today? Story after story in print and other media notes high rates of depression, fear, mental illness, including gender dysphoria and confusion brought on and exacerbated by the systems and ideologies of the world. Church attendance is down as churches more and more conform to the world around them, rather than teaching the Word of God with power. But there are answers. God does not change, but when people forsake Him, the fountain of living waters and hew out for themselves broken cisterns (or more accurately in many cases, septic tanks) that can hold no water, they are enslaved. The imagery emphasizes the constant life giving refreshment of God's eternal principles versus the unreliable and destructive systems of the world that bring at best illusion or short term results, but ultimately weakness and destruction.

So, let's not diminish the deliverance from political and economic slavery that Passover celebrates to rote words and rituals, nor the price paid by Jesus Christ who that year was the Passover lamb, but seek the day to day application that will deliver us from the confusion and fear and oppression of the world. The truths of Passover: look to God for deliverance from what seems overwhelming and impossible, continue in simpler memorial and remembrance, the communion ceremony of bread and wine instituted by the Lamb of God. There is deliverance in communion when one believes what it means: shed blood to pay for sins and broken body for physical, emotional and mental healing. Whichever holyday you celebrate, claim that healing and deliverance.

Judith Niewiadomski, Yonkers

## America is "a sick society" as Dr. King said and America is NOT a nation of immigrants

By Clifford Jackson

Thomas Jefferson said "I tremble for my country! When I reflect our God is a just God and his justice will not remain silent forever". Anyone reading this statement knows that Jefferson was talking about the crimes that he and his fellow so-called founding fathers were committing. Namely the enslavement of more people than any other country by the time of the civil war as well as the murder, rape and genocide of the indigenous people. He was also pointing out how his famous "Louisiana Purchase" was predicated on slaughtering indigenous people living there at that time. This statement by Jefferson as well as the many crimes that he committed brings home how evil American History is. His crime points to the fact that this is NOT a nation of immigrants. Jefferson and many others were settler colonialist that wreaked havoc everywhere they went in the western hemisphere. John F. Kennedys book "a nation of immigrants" is a fairytale description of how immigrants have always come to this shore and enriched this nation. The United States was founded on a principle of settler colonialism. What that means is that the white anglo saxons from Europe invaded and killed the native Americans and robbed them of their land. The so-called immigrants from Scotland, Ireland, German and the Dutch Netherlands became an extension of that invading force and were also settler colonialist not immigrants. For these groups to be immigrants they would have to have been integrated into a land occupied by native Americans and settled here peacefully. Instead these groups as well as others became a part of state militias in almost every state that was in existence and helped to drive off and killed the indigenous population. This was glaring for the Irish and Ulster Scots who when they immigrated here in the 1840s through the 1860s were part of racist gangs that were employed by the state to slaughter native Americans especially with the United States moving west across the "Great Plains". They were indoctrinated into Anglo Saxon racism and in essence became white!. This offset the blatant discrimination that Irish immigrants dealt with and allowed them to be integrated into whiteness. The same thing applied to Italians who faced similar discrimination but being integrated into Anglo Saxon racism and anti black values integrated them into America. One of many examples of this racism and evil indoctrination was the "New Orleans Massacre" in 1866 where more than 40 freed black men were slaughtered and 130 were injured by whites many of them Irish who had become a part of the newly formed klan because they resented the fact that these black people had the audacity to demonstrate against racism. This was exhibited across the country where Scottish, German, ulster Scottish, and Irish were a part of state militias in every area of the country that Native American land was taken. Leading to the "trail of tears" attempted genocide of the choctaws, Chickasaw, creek, and Seminole Indians.

Not just the state militias of Georgia, Mississippi and Florida where these so called immigrants were killing indigenous populations but in Ny where the racism and violence especially from those who were Irish was at its apex. Ny was the leading slave holding state in the north. Where the financing and insuring of the slave trade and the banks that financed it were concentrated. Where the racism was also at highest

and Irish and Italian so called immigrants were indoctrinated into the racism and violence that would become a part of their history for decades into the future. The Irish gangs that were prevalent at that time especially in Ny in their hatred for Lincoln's conscription act

brutalized and killed hundreds of black people in the Bronx and burned the colored orphan asylum to the ground. The enclaves and violence of South Boston and the ferocious hate that many south Boston Irish had for black people and for the federal enforcement of bussing, and the goal of integration are the progeny of this racist history of America that the history books prefabricate and try to convey this false narrative of an "American quilt". The late Dr. Donna Perone who was Italian and a 1968 graduate of Mamaroneck high school was an exception. Her multiple accreditations as a counselor at South Boston high school and co-chair of the committee to promote diversity, inclusion and integration fought the racist evil of the south Boston Irish in the mid 1970's battling the KKK who had come to support those racist forces attempting to prevent the integration of South Boston High school. Mayor Eric Adam's ignorance was glaring when at the st Patrick's day parade recently talking about how immigrants have helped create the greatness of nyc in particular citing the Irish impact on nyc. Ignoring the violence of the nypd for generations as well as this racist history of Irish and other groups towards black people and people of color specifically in NYC. This history explains in part how most white communities are lily white and how the systemic racism and economic and physical violence have kept these communities lily white. Bensonhurst Brooklyn, simi valley, Cicero Illinois, Long Island, westchester county, sandy Utah are all now or at one time white enclaves that were not based upon the hard Work myth of this nations white immigrants. But based upon the history I just delineated that is only the tip of the iceberg of White pathological violence that has created so many problems. Dr. King was the most hated man in America "bearing the cross" like Jesus of Nazareth. That hatred mainly was coming from these same so called immigrants. The hatred that Dr. king faced when he protested the racist and barbaric conditions and housing discrimination in 1966 in Chicago, Cicero and Skokie Illinois were comprised of German, Scottish and Irish immigrants throwing rocks and attacking protesters with baseball bats. Where Dr. king said "the hatred of my sick white brothers here in Illinois is worse than Mississippi".

I think we all need to understand that this level of white violence and entitlement has been with us from the nations inception. Much of what we have been taught about the greatness of American history is based upon a lie.

What we are seeing in terms of the so-called border crisis, crime, the racial reckoning of the last several years, housing and the "not in my backyard" mantra of these racially homogeneous communities stem from the white privilege and concomitant violence that has been a part of that history. Many black brown and even some poor whites have fought against this sense of entitlement and rapine of white America. The code terms "victimization", "race hustlers", "good people", "good families", "race card", "bleeding hearts" are all an expression of the pathological racist foundation of the power and privilege of white America and why the chickens are coming home to roost with the death, misery and Opioid crisis that has become a daily occurrence in this sick society. All of these malaises we are seeing in this depraved culture that Thomas Jefferson understood from its inception.

Clifford Jackson, Larchmont

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## Eagle Scout Brings Joy to United Preschool Playground



*Above Siddhant Sawant with Scout Leader of Troop #73 and students from the United Preschool with the movable abacus. Below Siddhant Sawant with Executive Director of Cerebral Palsy of Westchester Linda Kuck. Photo Credit Joan Colangelo. Photos by Marcy Weintraub.*



– On Friday, April 19, 2024, Cerebral Palsy of Westchester’s (CPW) United Preschool Center (UPC) welcomed White Plains High School Junior Siddhant Sawant to campus to unveil his Eagle Scout project at the UPC playground: a movable music wall, movable abacus, hanging blackboards, and planter boxes.

Sawant is currently working to attain the Eagle Scout rank with his Boy Scout Troop, the highest rank a young person can reach in Scouting (only 5% of all Scouts who join ever reach the Eagle rank). Looking to design an Eagle Scout service project that would contribute to his hometown of White Plains, he identified CPW’s United Preschool Center. According to Sawant, he “recognized Cerebral Palsy of Westchester’s history of enabling young leaders to serve the community and consulted with volunteer and internship placement manager Joan Colangelo and Preschool Director Marcy Weintraub to identify a viable and advantageous sensory project for the children at the United Preschool in White Plains.” The resulting playground structures that he designed, engineered, and built will attract children to play as well as help them to acquire essential developmental skills.

Sawant received sponsorship from Campanella Fences in Mahopac, NY, with whom he worked in close partnership to bring his project to completion.

United Preschool Director Marcy Weintraub commented, “Sid worked so hard to create age-appropriate toys for our playground. We’re all so excited for the new addition and to give the children something new to explore.”

The United Preschool Center (UPC), located at 456 North Street in White Plains, offers an integrated learning experience for children with and without disabilities. The United Preschool Center is a division of Cerebral Palsy of Westchester. Visit [cpwestchester.org](http://cpwestchester.org) for more information.

## Artwork Inspired by Cranberry Lake Preserve Displayed at The Nature Center



Award-winning poet and artist Dave Donelson, above, will read and discuss his graphic poem, “Sestina of the Quarrymen,” Saturday, April 27, 1 p.m. at Cranberry Lake Preserve in North White Plains, which inspired the poem and art.

The 50 sq. ft. mural is made from eight enlarged pages of Donelson’s poem, from his book, *Visions of a Certain Age*, and will be on display in the nature center at Cranberry Lake Preserve. The piece is a 39-line poem laid over collages based on the artist’s photos and paintings of scenes in the preserve. The work was honored by an ArtsAlive! grant from ArtsWestchester in 2023.

Participants will be able to purchase his book at the event. All proceeds from the sales will be donated to Westchester Parks Foundation and will be used to re-build the Cranberry Lake South Pond Boardwalk.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, “Westchester County Parks boast over 18,000 acres of stunning parkland, and nestled within this natural bounty lies Cranberry Lake Preserve, a true hidden gem. Donelson’s artwork and unique take on the Preserve is a testament to the park’s charm.”

About the author: Dave Donelson is a resident of West Harrison and writes and creates images as he explores the world around him. He is a freelance writer, artist and photographer. Donelson has strong roots in Westchester and the Greater New York area as previous roles of his include president of the Westchester (NY) Library System, the Harrison (NY) Public Library and its foundations, and the Metropolitan Golf Writers Association.

Parking and event are free. Cranberry Lake Preserve is located at 1609 Old Orchard Street, North White Plains, NY 10604.

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## Arc Raises More than \$450,000 Honoring Civil Rights Activist and Other Advocates



*From left: Fran Higgins, Deputy Executive Director, The Arc Westchester Foundation; Ann Nehrbauer, Lifetime Advocate Award recipient and Tibi Guzman, CEO, The Arc Westchester.*

The Arc Westchester Foundation, dedicated to enriching the lives of individuals with developmental disabilities and their families, hosted its annual gala, “A Matter of Taste,” on April 10th at the beautiful Glen Island Harbour Club in New Rochelle. This was the 18th year for this popular event, which brought together more than 20 area restaurants for a spectacular culinary evening for over 360 attendees. The event was a huge success, raising more than \$450,000 for The Foundation. 2024 also marked the 75th Anniversary of The Arc Westchester. This year The Arc Westchester Foundation honored New York-Presbyterian Westchester Behavioral Health with the The Corporate Partner Award, The Glucksman Lieber Family with the The Family Partner Award and Ann Nehrbauer with The Lifetime Advocate Award.

Nehrbauer, who is 95 years old, and was instrumental in the landmark lawsuit that ultimately led to the shuttering of Willowbrook State School, a facility in which people with developmental disabilities were subjected to poor treatment and inhumane living conditions for decades. Ann’s disabled son spent 16 years as a resident at Willowbrook. Upon seeing the horrid situation there, she and her husband began a lifelong advocacy effort that ultimately helped bring about a historic civil rights lawsuit to close down Willowbrook and bring about positive change.

## Maria Regina High School Holds Community Blood Drive



Maria Regina students Sofia Mora-Permalee left, and Mary-claire Wissner, right were among the 45 donors in the school’s spring Blood Drive.

Continuing a tradition of helping to address the shortage of life-saving blood in the region, Maria Regina High School recently hosted a community blood drive to support the New York Blood Center (NYBC).

Students, members of administration, faculty and staff as well as supporters from the community answered the call by donating 45 pints were donated that will potentially help save the lives of 135 area hospital patients (the NYBC notes that each donated pint can save three lives). The drive was held in the gymnasium of the renowned all-girls Catholic high school.

To make a blood donation and learn more about the New York Blood Center, nonprofit organization that is one of the largest independent, community-based blood centers in the world, visit [www.nybc.org](http://www.nybc.org).

To learn more about Maria Regina High School, visit [www.mariaregina.org](http://www.mariaregina.org).

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*Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-*

Principals and Central Office administrators many of whom were my teachers in High School. I started as a columnist for the Rising Media Group newspapers covering Westchester and in particular Yonkers the week after I retired.

Bottom line is that my background to write this particular column is a lot different than a cub reporter writing on his first day on the job. My news colleagues upstate spoke well of you, as did my educational colleagues who are familiar with your work.

I won't mention his name, but let's just say the last Superintendent appointed from outside the district ended up not on the parallel bars in the gym but behind bars in jail. People in Yonkers remember this sad affair. And they have concerns about a Superintendent coming from outside the district. There are some in Yonkers who believe a Superintendent from outside the district won't work. These people need to learn about leadership in schools in America. As Dolly Levi sang in Hello Dolly about our fair city, 'Out there there is a world outside of Yonkers!'

So now for my advice as you assume the leadership of a district that has gone through a lot including yearly budget problems that I refer to as the 'Budget Tango' to a Federal desegregation lawsuit that involved massive bussing to achieve its' goals. I am sure that you are aware of the \$87 Million budget deficit for 2024-2025, the latest Budget Tango.

The yearly budget tango is humiliating to students, parents and staff. It is bad when staff receive layoff notices which are usually rescinded when the 'Night in Shining Armor' comes through to save the day. With rare exceptions the cuts are reversed, but the damage and humiliation never go away. Particularly when staff go through this more than once. You will be everyone's hero if you can prevent this disgusting process from occurring.

Parents unhappy with the school assignment for their child often will go to the Superintendent or other internal sources for change. If you do this for the child of someone in power, don't forget the poor child living on Elm Street or School Street who asks for the same thing. He/she should be treated no differently than the rich and powerful.

In your office you have dedicated long term employees like Claire Calvi and Johanna DePierro who will be key resources for you to help you learn about the district and know the players. Don't shake things up by bringing new people in. These ladies have vast institutional knowledge.

At the start of the year have all staff go over with parents the procedures for bringing problems to the attention of the appropriate District personnel. The chain starts with the classroom teacher flowing to the Assistant Principal, the Principal, the Central Office administrator responsible for the school, your Assistant Superintendents and anyone you add to the chain of command. Broader issues like \$86 million deficits need your attention

Only in America do we speak one language. The population of the district who speak Spanish is growing. It is important that all staff have a basic knowledge of Spanish. It will greatly help in communication, and is extremely important in 2024.

You must have in place the tools to provide training to teachers and administrators so they are afforded the opportunity to move up within the district

I once had a chat with Mayor Spano who had the same concern I had that students living outside of Yonkers were attending district schools using resources allocated for Yonkers students who reside in the city. A system for residency checks for all students is critical. If mail is sent by the district to a family and is returned, this is a perfect way to commence residency checks!

I have seen a dedicated safety officer on Spruce Street by the entrance to Yonkers Middle High School go above and beyond directing traffic at this busy intersection for years. If the city can't provide a police presence, this Safety Officer should frankly be paid a Police Officers salary. You are fortunate to have dedicated employees like this at other schools in the district!

With more schools being built on the West Side of town, let's hope that bussing will decrease. Certain times in the morning and afternoon drivers have to avoid traveling in Yonkers. This is not good for residents nor for commerce. You had to bus in the days when 70% of your students lived on the West side of town where only 30% of your schools were. Busing is costly, kids don't learn on a bus and residents fume when they are stuck in bus traffic. Kudos to the Mayor for putting cameras on busses to catch those who illegally pass. On the other hand parents need to be reminded to have students out and ready on the right side for the bus, not across the street. I see it way too often

Every district in Westchester with the exception of Yonkers puts on a musical at the end of the year. Still folks around who remember my star turn as Officer Krumpke in West Side Story at Yonkers High School in 1978. We must let our talented students perform in musicals. It is embarrassing and humiliating to them when the Journal News reviews and honors talented students and performers from throughout the region and they are not included.

Parents must be reminded that Disneyland and other vacation locations are for summer time enjoyment and when schools are not in session. When school is in session students belong in school.

Politicians love to take students out of school as they beg for more money and everyone has there picture taken on the Grand Staircase in Albany. This has gone on since I was in high school. Maybe it's time for something different considering the head of the State Senate and the Chairman of the Senate Education Committee represent and have offices here at home.

Students should be taken out of their classes only when the activity provides a significant learning opportunity. We want our students to achieve and test scores continue to rise.

In closing, you have a big job ahead of you. Yonkers is a diverse city where the only meals some students receive are while they are in school. You are the Boss. There are some politicians in Yonkers who believe they know everything including how to solve the problems in the Middle East. Don't let them interfere with your good work.

Good Luck. Buena Suerte! Welcome to Yonkers!

Reach Eric Schoen at [thistooisyonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistooisyonkers@aol.com), or friend him on Facebook Eric Schoen...just look for him in the picture with Joan Rivers!

STATE OF NEW YORK SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

BANK OF AMERICA, N.A.

Plaintiff,

vs.

DANIEL C. PETRE, PROPOSED EXECUTOR OF THE ESTATE OF HEATHER PETRE A/K/A HEATHER L. PETRE A/K/A HEATHER LOUISE PETRE AND INDIVIDUALLY; Any unknown heirs to the Estate of HEATHER PETRE A/K/A HEATHER L. PETRE A/K/A HEATHER LOUISE PETRE next of kin, devisees, legatees, distributees, grantees, assignees, creditors, lienors, trustees, executors, administrators or successors in interest, as well as the respective heirs at law, next of kin, devisees, legatees, distributees, grantees, assignees, lienors, trustees, executors, administrators or successors in interest of the aforesaid classes of persons, if they or any of them be dead, all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to the plaintiff; ALLAN B. PETRE, JR.; ROBERT E. PETRE; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA O/B/O INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE; and "JOHN DOE" and "MARY DOE," (Said names being fictitious, it being the intention of plaintiff to designate any and all occupants, tenants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises being foreclosed herein.)

Defendants.

Filed: September 28, 2023

Index No.: 67861/2023

SUMMONS

Mortgaged Premises: 4 Whittier Hills Drive a/k/a 4 Whittier Hills Road North Salem, (Town of North Salem) NY 10560

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action and to serve a copy of your Answer on Plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner than by personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a Defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service hereof. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT THE OBJECT of the above captioned action is for the foreclosure of: Mortgage bearing the date of March 9, 2016, executed by Heather Petre to Bank of America, NA to secure the sum of \$140,000.00, and interest, and recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Westchester County on March 22, 2016 in Control Number: 560823249. The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the Mortgaged Premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above. Plaintiff designates Westchester County as the place of trial.

The basis of venue is the County in which the Mortgaged Premises is situated. Section: 40 Block: 1356 Lot: 54 DATED: September 26, 2023 Rochester, New York NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the Mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your Mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT. ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE. SCHEDULE A LEGAL DESCRIPTION

All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the on the Northerly side of Whittier Hills Drive in the Town of North Salem, County of Westchester and State of New York, more particularly bounded and described as follows: Beginning at a point on the northerly side of Whittier Hills Drive, said point being where the easterly line of the land of Michael Zilinsky and Minnie Zilinsky intersects said northerly side of Whittier Hills Drive; running thence along the land of Zilinsky and along lands now or formerly of Joseph A. Moran the following courses and distances: North 30 degrees 06 minutes 40 seconds East 169.49 feet; running thence South 83 degrees 13 minutes 30 seconds East 81.13 feet; thence South 85 degrees 19 minutes 20 seconds East 90.97 feet; thence South 84 degrees 55 minutes 40 seconds East 38.16 feet to land now or formerly of Charles and Caroline Edmiston; running thence along land of Edmiston South 19 degrees 40 minutes 10 seconds West 223.21 feet to the northerly side of Whittier Hills Drive; running thence along the northerly side of Whittier Hills Drive the following course and distances: North 70 degrees 19 minutes 50 seconds West 92.33 feet; thence on a curve to the right having a radius of 1,925 feet and a central angle of 4 degrees 14 minutes 19 seconds a distance of 142.41 feet to a point or place of beginning. Subject to restrictions, reservations, easements, covenants, oil, gas or mineral rights of record, if any.

Read it all Online at  
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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

INDEX NO: 63831/2023

D/O/F: 07/18/2023

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Property Address: 120 First Street, Yonkers, New York 10704

Plaintiff designates Westchester County as place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the property is situated.

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE FOR RELIANT TRUST, SERIES HPP,

Plaintiff,

-against-

Unknown heirs at law of MARY MACAGNONE, her next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors, and successors in interest, and generally all persons having or claiming, under, by or through said defendant who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise, any right title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to the plaintiff and cannot after diligent inquiry be ascertained; NICHOLAS MACAGNONE A/K/A NICHOLAS P. MACAGNONE A/K/A NICOLAS P. MACAGNONE A/K/A NICK P. MACAGNONE AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE FOR THE ESTATE OF MARY MACAGNONE, FRANK MACAGNONE A/K/A FRANK V. MACAGNONE A/K/A FRANCIS V. MACAGNONE A/K/A FRANK MACAFNONE AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE FOR THE ESTATE OF MARY MACAGNONE, GAIL BRUNO A/K/A GAIL M. BRUNO, SR. AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE FOR THE ESTATE OF MARY MACAGNONE, DONNA BORRELL A/K/A DONNA M. BORRELL A/K/A DONNA M. MACAGNONE A/K/A DONA M. BORELL AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE FOR THE ESTATE OF MARY MACAGNONE, VINCENT

RASCONA A/K/A VINCENT ROBERT RASCONA, SR. A/K/A VINCENT A. RASCONA AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE FOR THE ESTATE OF MARY MACAGNONE, ANTHONY RASCONA A/K/A ANTHONY RASCONA, SR. A/K/A ANTHONY V. RASCONA A/K/A ANTHONY V. RASCONA III A/K/A ANTHONY R. RASCONA A/K/A ANTHONY C. RASCONA A/K/A ANTHONY RASCONS A/K/A ANTHONY V. RASOUNA A/K/A ANTHONY V. RASCONA JUNIOR A/K/A ANTHONY S. RASCONA AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE FOR THE ESTATE OF MARY MACAGNONE, SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, WESTCHESTER COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE;

“JOHN DOES” and “JANE DOES”, said names being fictitious, parties intended being possible tenants or occupants of premises, and corporations, other entities or persons who claim, or may claim, a lien against the premises,  
Defendant(s).

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorneys within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the State, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

NOTICE

YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.

Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

The following notice is intended only for the defendants who are owners of the premises sought to be foreclosed or who are liable upon the debt for which the mortgage stands as security.

YOU ARE HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

PLEASE BE AWARE:

(1) that debt collectors, in accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., are prohibited from engaging in abusive, deceptive, an unfair debt collection efforts, including, but not limited to:

- i. the use or threat of violence;
- ii. the use of obscene or profane language; and
- iii. repeated phone calls made with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass.

(2) If a creditor or debt collector receives a money judgment against you in court, state and federal laws may prevent the following types of income from being taken to pay the debt:

1. Supplemental security income, (SSI);
2. Social security;
3. Public assistance (welfare);
4. Spousal support, maintenance (alimony) or child support;
5. Unemployment benefits;
6. Disability benefits;
7. Workers' compensation benefits;
8. Public or private pensions;
9. Veterans' benefits;
10. Federal student loans, federal student grants, and federal work study funds; and
11. Ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty days.

TO THE ABOVE NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. Paul I. Marx, a Justice of the Supreme Court, Westchester County, entered March 26, 2024 and filed with the complaint and other papers in the Westchester County Clerk's Office.

THE OBJECT OF THE ACTION is to foreclose a mortgage recorded in the Westchester County Clerk's Office on Nov. 10, 2004 in Control No. 442650041, covering premises k/a 120 First Street, Yonkers, NY 10704 a/k/a Section 6, Block 6252, Lot 60.

TO THE DEFENDANTS: The Plaintiff makes no personal claim against you in this action.

TO THE DEFENDANTS: If you have obtained an order of discharge from the Bankruptcy court, which includes this debt, and you have not reaffirmed your liability for this debt, this law firm is not alleging that you have any personal liability for this debt and does not seek a money judgment against you. Even if a discharge has been obtained, this lawsuit to foreclose the mortgage will continue and we will seek a judgment authorizing the sale of the mortgaged premises.

Dated:

Sandy J. Stolar, Esq.  
Margolin, Weinreb & Nierer, LLP  
Attorneys for Plaintiff  
165 Eileen Way, Suite 101 Syosset, New York 11791  
516-921-3838  
#101295

*Battery Farm, continued from pg 1-*

on the Westchester County-Putnam County border. The facility would consist of battery enclosures, substations and two transformers.

A petition with more than 2100 signatures has been created by a group Stop the LITHIUM Battery Farm in our Backyards in Mahopac NY!! “There is a proposed lithium battery farm on Miller Road in Mahopac, NY. This project threatens to disrupt our peaceful neighborhood and poses significant risks to us all. Lithium batteries are known to pose fire risks due to their high energy density and the flammable electrolytes they contain (source: National Fire Protection Association). A fire at this proposed facility could have disastrous consequences for our homes and families. Furthermore, there’s a risk of contamination of local reservoirs and sewers from potential leaks or spills during manufacturing or storage processes (source: U.S Environmental Protection Agency). We urge local authorities in Putnam County to reconsider this proposal in light of these serious concerns. Our health should not be compromised for industrial progress. Please sign this petition if you stand with us against the proposed lithium battery farm on Miller Avenue,” end of petition, (change.org/p/stop-the-proposed-at-24-miller-road-mahopac-ny?source\_location=search)

The proposal is currently before the Town of Carmel Planning Board. Because the property is located in Putnam County, it is the Town of Carmel that has lead agency status. Currently, the Town of Somers plays no formal role in the approval of this project.

But Somers Supervisor Robert Scorrano wrote a letter that the Town and the Somers Fire Department are “strongly opposed” to the project. “The project has sparked significant opposition and apprehension among the residents of Somers and Carmel...“As the neighboring town’s supervisor, the safety and well-being of the residents of Somers and Carmel must take precedence. The people’s questions, fears, and concerns must be addressed, and transparency must be provided to those seeking an understanding of why this project makes sense for the area.”

“The proposed facility is an enormous 116-megawatt battery storage system that will be one of the largest in the area if approved. The project site is situated in the Muscoot Reservoir drainage basin of New York City’s water supply, which means that any water quality impacts resulting from pollutant-laden runoff must be prevented or mitigated.

“One of the most significant concerns is the need for more adequate training available to firefighters when dealing with Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) fires,” he said. “The current approach is to let the fire burn while keeping the other units cool with water, as seen in the Warwick, N.Y., incident in 2023. This approach led to the fire smoldering for weeks, a worrying prospect for any community.”

What is troubling to some is the lack of public notification to a project of this size and impact on the community. East Coast went to the Carmel Town Board in September of 2023, but the public awareness to it did not begin until February of this year, when residents from Mahopac in Putnam County, and Somers in Westchester County, became aware of the project and began to inform the public.

This project would be 116 Megawatts. There are currently three other battery storage facilities in New York State. In Warwick, Lyme and East Hampton. According to published reports, there have been fires at all three facilities. And the battery size at the Mahopac location, 116 Megawatts, is 20 times larger than the East Hampton, (5 Megawatts), and 10 times larger than Warwick, (12 Megawatts). Another comparison is the 1 World Trade Center’s backup generator uses 8 megawatts of total power.

Many residents have been going to the Town of Carmel Board meetings. Carmel Supervisor Mike Cazzari said that the matter is currently before the Planning Board. But the Planning Board is reviewing the project and not taking public comment. The first chance for the public to comment will be at a hearing in May, TBD.

We spoke to three residents who have organized the opposition to the project and who live near the proposed battery farm. “The first thing we want to do is raise awareness. We were completely unaware of this project, which would be on our own block,” said Lauren Rosolen, whose property abuts the proposed battery farm in Mahopac.

“The company is out there making it seem that this is best for the community, but it doesn’t benefit the community in the least. The energy stored would not be provided to us. To say that it’s beneficial to us is insanity. The more we look into this, the more we are finding an attempt to get this done before the community was made aware of it.

At this point, the question is how do you fight a multi-million-dollar corporation. They are waiting for us to go away. But you can’t put this size of a project in the middle of a residential community.”

Somers resident Kevin O’Keefe lives on the Somers side of the proposed battery farm. “We have to focus on the facts and why the placement of this 116-Megawatt facility is the wrong place. If you put this out in the desert somewhere, ok. But not this close to a residential community.

O’Keefe raised several concerns.

1-The threat of fire and explosion. According to a consultant hired by East Coast, the best thing to do in case of a fire is to let it burn out, and do not attempt to douse it with water. “If the Somers Fire Department raised their concerns, why hasn’t the Mahopac Fire Department?”

2-Water contamination. “This property sits on top of a wetland. Where is the runoff water going to go? Will it run into the wetlands and streams and reservoirs? All of us have wells, how will this affect our well water?”

3-Who will pay if our homes are contaminated from the smoke if there is a fire? Which insurance company will pay and who will get rid of the contamination in my house?

4-Depreciation of real estate values. “I wouldn’t buy my house if this project is built next to us. This is going to depreciate the values of our homes.”

“We are not looking to manipulate the planning board but to convince the planning board that this is just not the right place for it to be. Our group is very coordinated—most of us come from the 200-foot radius next door. We have created a Facebook page (facebook.com/groups/7723647000979958/) and we will be rallying on the Corner of Route 118 and Route 6-Olympic Diner. We want to make the residents aware. We are not going to stop until the Planning Board makes their decision,” said O’Keefe.

Somers resident Stephanie Azadian lives on Lounsbury Drive. “This project is 200 feet off my back yard. As a young mom, I don’t like to get involved in politics, but because this is a health and safety risk for my family, so I had to speak up.

“I found out about this in February and began sharing with my neighbors this proposal. In my opinion this has been kept under the rug and I am very upset with the lack of notification to the affected residents.

“We have two communities affected. I am in Somers and I’m relying on my friends in Mahopac to speak up. We are trying to figure out a way to stop this. It’s not a matter of if this will catch on fire but when. Smoke doesn’t discriminate, and everyone in this area will be affected. The facility in Warwick is much smaller, 12 Megawatts, and it burned for days. This has no place in a residential community.”

“The claim that the batteries are located in the middle of the property are not true. The batteries are 200 feet away from a major residential community and many popular surrounding businesses. We would encourage the community to become educated and get involved. If you have children in the Mahopac schools, they will be affected. Get educated and do your research,” said Azadian.

The group is in the process of hiring an attorney to determine their options, and are raising funds for that effort.

Currently, the proposal is before the Planning Board for site plan approval. It then has to go through approvals from the State Department of Environmental Conservation, DEC, and a number of local fire departments and highway departments.

The concept of Battery farms is to store electricity in the batteries collected during off peak hours, and then use the electricity during peak usage. Companies like East Coast want to buy the energy off peak and sell it back during peak hours. The goal is to make the grid cleaner, more reliable, resilient, and affordable. This battery farm would be connected to NYSEG.

While the concept is a good one, the size of this project, and its location, in between two large residential communities in Mahopac and Somers, raises concerns.

The project falls within the current zoning code in the Town of Carmel. The Town has not updated its Master Plan, which could have included limitations on battery farms like this.

Mahopac and Somers residents will be meeting at the corner of the Olympic Diner/ Route 6 Saturday, April 27th 9:00am-10:00am to raise awareness.

yellow signs-

## Two Westchester Natives in the Rock N Roll HOF Congratulations Mary J. Blige & Dave Matthews

*Latimer Bowman, continued from pg 1-*

*By Dan Murphy*

Congratulations to Westchester natives Dave Matthews and Mary J. Blige for their upcoming inductions into the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame. Matthews grew up in Yorktown for his early years in elementary school and Blige lived in Yonkers for more than a decade.

Here are the bios for both from the Rock & Roll Hall of Fame:

### **Mary J. Blige**

Blige signed with Uptown Records in 1989, becoming the label's youngest and first female artist. Her debut singlehandedly kick-started the hip-hop soul genre and produced Number One R&B hits "Real Love" and "You Remind Me." Her image – oversized jerseys, backwards baseball hats, and combat boots – introduced a new look to R&B music, and her lyrics embraced an authenticity that resonated with fans – especially women. Her mid-1990s hits with the Notorious B.I.G., Method Man, and JAY-Z created the blueprint for R&B/hip-hop collaborations for decades to follow.

Blige emerged as a songwriter with hits "Be Happy" and "My Life" from her sophomore effort *My Life*, while her song "Not Gon' Cry" showcased the emotional ache of Blige's affecting vocals. The 2000s ushered in more success with Number One hits "Family Affair" and Grammy-winning "Be Without You." Blige continues to craft hits, including her ode to unapologetic happiness "Just Fine," critically acclaimed *London Sessions*, and collaborations with Inductees Ray Charles, Smokey Robinson, and Missy Elliott. In 2018, she received two Oscar nominations for the film *Mudbound* and became the first person nominated for acting and original song in the same year. In 2022, Blige co-headlined the Super Bowl halftime show alongside Dr. Dre, Snoop Dogg, and Eminem – earning her an Emmy.

Blige's music echoes our experiences with love and life. She helps us move on, move out, and move up. She's the much-needed soundtrack to our heartache, vulnerability, and courage to refuse to accept anything less than we deserve. Long Live Queen Mary J!

### **Dave Matthews Band**

Supported by a communal fanbase, Dave Matthews Band harnessed an eclectic sound and relentless touring schedule to become one of the biggest bands in the world – and they have continued to pick up new generations of fans along the way. Dave Matthews Band are one of the top-selling live acts of all time, and they are the only band with seven consecutive albums debuting at Number One.

They have been called a jam band, a college band, a pop band – and to their devoted fans, they are simply "DMB." Hailing from Charlottesville, Virginia, the band formed in 1991 and cultivated a trademark sound that includes long, intricate solos, non-traditional rock & roll instruments, unique time signatures, and an electric live show. The airy jazz of LeRoi Moore's saxophone blends with the animated bluegrass of Boyd Tinsley's violin, while drummer Carter Beauford's in-the-pocket grooves and bassist Stefan Lessard's melodic lines create a powerful rhythm section. Dave Matthews fronts the band with captivating vocals, imaginative lyrics, and percussive guitar strumming.

The band quickly generated strong word of mouth thanks to endless live shows and an active tape sharing community. The 1993 independent-label debut *Remember Two Things* was popular in the local scene, but their major label debut, 1994's *Under the Table and Dreaming*, landed them mainstream hits like "What Would You Say," "Satellite," and "Ants Marching." 1996's *Crash* went seven-times Platinum, earned the band its first Grammy award ("So Much to Say") and yielded another hit, "Crash Into Me." Live albums like *Live at Red Rocks '95* capture the band's onstage energy and feature longtime collaborator Tim Reynolds on electric guitar. Musically, the band has influenced a generation of acoustic-driven singer-songwriters like John Mayer, Jason Mraz, and O.A.R.

In 2019, the United Nations designated Dave Matthews Band as Environmental Goodwill Ambassadors, and Matthews has served on Farm Aid's Board of Directors since 2001. The band's advocacy and activism has improved our world and inspired fans to think and act in new ways.

When Matthews was 2 years old, his family moved to the New York suburb of Yorktown Heights, where Matthews' father, a physicist, worked for IBM. In 1977, Matthews' father died of lung cancer, and the family returned to Johannesburg to be with relatives. Matthews attended Brookside Elementary School and Crompond Middle School. He still keeps in touch with some of his old Yorktown friends.

Blige was born in 1971 in Yonkers. Her parents divorced when she was 4, and she lived with her mother and sister in the Schlobohm Housing project in Yonkers.

Blige has recalled having a difficult childhood, and was bullied in school and at home, where she witnessed domestic violence. She established the Mary J. Blige Center for Women in Yonkers, providing resources and support to women and girls facing adversity.

Another Yonkers musical legend, Styles P, The Lox, said Blige helped him get a record deal and called her the best R&B singer Ever.

Blige grew up in the Scholbaum Public Housing project in Yonkers

She received two Oscar nominations in 2018 for the film *Mudbound*

In 2022 she earned an emmy for her performance in the Super Bowl in 2022.

Other inductees include Foreigner, Peter Frampton, Kool & The Gang, Ozzy Osbourne, and A Tribe Called Quest. The 2024 Rock & Roll Hall of Fame Induction will be live on Saturday, October 19th at the Rocket Mortgage Fieldhouse in Cleveland, Ohio. The 2024 ceremony will once again stream live on Disney+ with a special airing on ABC at a later date and available on Hulu the next day.

"Mr. Bowman voted against Iron Dome funding, which was vital in repelling Iran's unprecedented attack against Israel this week. Earlier this week, he voted against terminating the tax-exempt status of terrorist-supporting organizations. And even as Iranian militants took to the streets to chant "Death to America," he voted against condemning Iran's attack.

"Now he has gone even further, voting with MAGA extremists against fighting global fentanyl trafficking, voting against sanctions on Russia, China, and Iran, and against protecting Americans' data from foreign adversaries.

"These bills were all supported by President Biden and over 80% of Congressional Democrats. And with each vote, Bowman once more shows that he is more interested in making a statement than supporting our President or his colleagues when it matters most.

"We need to build unity and find common ground to deliver good foreign policy. We need leadership to support bi-partisan solutions to challenges facing the safety and security of our nation's closest allies. We need to defend democracy."

In a statement, Bowman said he "unequivocally" condemns Iran's recent attack, just as he also condemns a suspected earlier attack by Israel, which is "why" he "voted against the resolution."

"President Biden has made it clear that he does not support escalating violence in the Middle East, which this resolution will contribute to by supporting further military action," Bowman continued in his statement. "We must do everything in our power to end the ongoing violence, pursue a lasting ceasefire, and save civilian lives. Instead of pushing resolutions that fan the flames of war, Congress should recognize all of the lives that have been lost, both Palestinian and Israeli. We have a moral responsibility to govern in a way that centers those most impacted and nurtures humanity instead of succumbing to more warmongering and violence."

Bowman voted yes on two appropriations bills. One for aid to Ukraine and another for aid to Taiwan. "Our government has a moral obligation to protect peace, dignity, and our shared humanity in everything we do," said Congressman Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D. "I was proud to vote in support of Ukraine and Taiwan's efforts to uphold democracy. Thanks in large part to the advocacy of progressives in Congress, who did not want to see aid to protect democracies tied to Netanyahu's indiscriminate assault on civilians, we were able to register our unwavering support for Ukraine and Taiwan with separate bills. The nearly \$70 billion in assistance to these nations is a critical step towards preserving democracy at home and abroad."

"I am also inspired to see 36 of my Democratic colleagues join our movement for peace by refusing to send billions more in weapons to support Netanyahu's killing of innocent civilians. Since day one, we have said that our approach to the conflict in the Middle East must be rooted in peace and deescalation, including an immediate and permanent ceasefire and release of all hostages. This is the only solution that can truly save civilian lives. As the calls for deescalation of violence and lasting peace grow louder and stronger, we must continue our push for an immediate ceasefire and lasting peace that centers the dignity and humanity of Israeli and Palestinian civilians alike."

### **Classifieds**

#### **Attorney**

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#### **Events**

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Send us your letters, announcements,  
opinions, photos and story ideas to  
[dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com)

*Tough Sentences for Sex Offenders, continued from pg 1-*

has a prior felony conviction, was also sentenced to 20 years of post-release supervision and is required to register as a sex offender.

As detailed during the trial, the defendant, a cab driver in Peekskill, met the victim's family while they were passengers in his cab. The defendant befriended the family and began grooming the then 10-year-old victim in order to sexually abuse and assault her.

The defendant repeatedly subjected the victim to multiple sexual acts between October 2021 and July 2022. The Peekskill Police Department arrested the defendant on Oct. 30, 2022, following a police investigation that ensued when the child reported the abuse.

DA Rocah said: "The survivor in this case, just a young child, demonstrated remarkable resilience and courage in coming forward. Sexual abusers often prey upon their victims by exploiting their role as a person in a position of trust. As we commemorate Child Abuse and Sexual Assault Awareness and Prevention Month during April, I remind Westchester residents that my Office is fully committed to bringing sexual predators to justice, as we have done today, and ask everyone to speak up and report any suspected abuse."

Anyone who may have been victimized or may have information about other possible victims of the defendant can contact the DA's Office Special Prosecutions Division directly at (914) 995-3000. Language assistance is available.

This case is an example of the successful efforts under DA Rocah of seeking long sentences for sex offenders.

Earlier this month, Rocah announced the sentencing of Jason Ricketts, to 21 years in state prison for sexual acts involving three children in Westchester County, as well as for the possession and creation of images and videos of children engaged in sexual acts, between 2019 and 2023.

Two recent cases of inappropriate sexual activity include:

On Thursday April 18th, 2024, at about 4:00pm, New Rochelle Detectives concluded an investigation with the arrest of one Hussain A. Haider, a 23-year-old male, of New Rochelle.

On March 8th, 2024, Haider is alleged to have approached a woman wearing a Niqab (a long garment worn by some Muslim women that covers the entire body and face, excluding their eyes) and took a photograph under the Niqab and further exposed himself to her before fleeing the area. The victim's young child was also present during the incident.

Detectives were able to develop leads and with the help of the Westchester County Police Real Time Crime Center and New York State Probation, were able to arrest Haider, who is charged with unlawful Surveillance 2nd Degree, an E Felony; Forcible Touching – A Misdemeanor, and Endangering the Welfare of a Child – A Misdemeanor.

And in Putnam County, a Mahopac man was arrested for taping children in a Putnam County Park bathroom. John Towers, 54, was charged with sexual exploitation of a minor and possession of child pornography.

From at least on or about July 24, 2018, up to and including at least on or about December 9, 2019, TOWERS placed hidden cameras in a bathroom in a privately owned, public park in Putnam County, New York, to surreptitiously record prepubescent minors in order to capture sexually explicit images of the minors. TOWERS then transferred the recordings to a hard drive.

Following the execution of a search warrant at TOWERS's residence, law enforcement recovered a hard drive that was found to contain over 800 videos of females, including prepubescent females, using a bathroom. Approximately 78 of the videos had file names that included the term "yung."

On or about March 29, 2024, TOWERS, while in Putnam County, New York, possessed DVDs containing video files he downloaded from the internet depicting prepubescent minors engaging in sexually explicit activity.

On March 29, 2024, TOWERS was arrested and charged in Carmel Town Court in Putnam Valley with two counts of promoting a sexual performance by a child less than 17 years old, three counts of possessing an obscene sexual performance by a child, and one count of endangering the welfare of a child. He was on bail at the time of today's arrest.

Anyone who may have relevant information regarding JOHN TOWERS is asked to contact the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324).

Parents need to be more vigilant now than ever, about the safety of their children.

## Bowman Criticizes Latimer for "Fundraising with MAGA Republicans"

*By Dan Murphy*

Congressman Jamaal Bowman recently called out his democratic opponent, George Latimer, for an upcoming fundraiser to be hosted by two republicans.

Steve Louro, CEO of a Long Island insurance company, is co-hosting the event at an Armonk home of another republican on May 16.

Louro has already donated \$5,000 to Latimer. In his invite. Louro writes, "Help me defeat the squad. Fundraiser to support George Latimer for Congress. I am an American first, a republican second, and I cross political party lines when it is in the best interests of our country."

"I respectfully ask for you to support and attend a fundraiser in Armonk on May 16 at the home of name withheld, who is also a republican, to support Westchester County Executive George Latimer, in his democratic congressional primary race, District 16, against Congressional incumbent, squad member and radical Jamaal Bowman." -end of invite

We have withheld the name of the republican who will be hosting the fundraiser, because he had told others in the media that he has been getting "violent threats."

Bowman posted on Instagram, "This is what we've been saying. Republicans are bankrolling my opponent to buy this seat from the people of New York-16. The latest republican is Steve Louro, a top republican donor to Donald Trump and a top republican donor to Lee Zeldin, two people who want to end Roe v. Wade and have said it out loud. Two people who are racist MAGA Republicans who supported the insurrection and the attack on the US Capitol."

"Racist MAGA republicans is who my opponent is partnering with. In Steve Louro's email he says vote George Latimer on June 25. No shame, no dignity, no integrity, no character. Partnering with AIPAC and racists MAGA republicans. running as a Trump democrat, as a MAGA democrat. Shame! Are we going to let them buy this seat? Absolutely not. We are fighting to save democracy and we are not going to let racist, MAGA republicans buy this seat," said Bowman. Similar accusations were made against the Latimer campaign when Larchmont resident and republican Alex Dubitsky and his wife co-hosted a fundraiser at their home.

The Latimer campaign recently posted in response to the Louro invitation, "Louro may be attending, we don't know beyond what he has posted here, and we have no control over who our hosts invite."

### Classifieds

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*Stewart-Cousins, State budget continued from pg 2-*

state if average homes cost luxury prices. It was beyond time to reach a housing deal that addressed head-on the realities that families on the ground are facing," said Sen. Stewart-Cousins.

Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins also secured critical support for local print media through a new Newspaper and Broadcast Media Jobs Program, which includes key measures to support and promote local print media, such as a tax credit for qualifying independently-owned print media or broadcasting businesses.

"News media is America's 'fourth branch of government,' but small newspapers and news organizations can struggle to compete and reach audiences with crucial local news that affects our daily lives," Sen. Stewart-Cousins said. "Thanks to the Senate's efforts, the enacted budget includes a tax incentive which will work to directly support the employment and retention of local journalism and media jobs."

Furthering Sen. Stewart-Cousins' commitment to keep New York communities safe, the FY 2025 budget takes action to empower law enforcement to curtail retail theft by bolstering protections for small businesses and elevating assaults on retail workers to a felony, protecting workers and punishing offenders for this serious offense.

"Allowing prosecutors to aggregate stolen goods for higher larceny charges will strengthen efforts to combat retail theft," Sen. Stewart-Cousins said. "With dedicated Retail Theft Teams and tax credits for small businesses investing in security measures, we're taking comprehensive action to safeguard our communities and support our local businesses."

Additional FY 2025 enacted budget highlights include:

Revitalizing Housing for All New Yorkers

Hard fought Senate Majority proposals in final package:

Housing Opportunities for the Future – a new \$150 million program to build affordable homes and rentals across New York State.

A new opt-in construction or commercial conversion tax exemption for affordable housing outside the City of New York.

Authorization for municipalities to adopt a local tax exemption to make it easier for individuals to build accessory dwelling units.

Historic Tenant and Homeowner Protections:

Some of the state's strongest tenant protections with the enactment of "Good Cause" protections:

Immediately effective in New York City, and localities outside of New York City may opt in and provide for flexibility in defining the small landlord and high-rent exemptions.

A rent increase is presumptively unreasonable if it is greater than the annual change in CPI plus 5%, or 10%, whichever is lower.

A lease can only be terminated for one of the good causes outlined within the bill.

Crucial funding towards affordable housing and homeowner protections, such as:

\$75 million to support public housing authorities outside of New York City.

\$40 million in the Homeowner Protection Program (HOPP)

\$40 million in Eviction Protection Funding outside of New York City

Restoration of Public Education Funding and Supporting SUNY/CUNY

Rejecting the Executive's proposal to eliminate Hold Harmless and also increasing Foundation Aid for the poorest 63 districts in the State.

\$180 million to continue our historic commitment to providing universal school meals for thousands of New York children.

An additional \$100 million for Universal Pre-K to allow school districts throughout the state to serve at least 90% of eligible four-year-olds.

\$60 million for SUNY Operating Aid, and \$40 million for CUNY Operating Aid

Increases the Tuition Assistance Program—for the first time since 2000—by \$53 million to make college more affordable.

Supporting Working Families and Making Daily Life More Affordable

\$350 million for a new tax credit to provide support to working families, and the lowest Middle-Class Tax rate in over 70 years, saving New Yorkers millions of dollars.

Children ages 0-6 can be continuously enrolled in Medicaid or Child Health Plus, to ensure stable and affordable health insurance for their first years.

\$1.78 billion for the New York State Child Care Block Grant, which will provide subsidies for 119,000 children.

\$280 million in federal pandemic funds for the Workforce Retention Grant program.

Spurring Economic Growth and Supporting New York Small Businesses

Retail Security Tax Credit to help small businesses keep employees safe.

\$1 million in funding for the Minority and Women-Owned Business Development lending program.

Increased enforcement powers for the Office of Cannabis Management (OCM) to enable cities and counties to crack down on illegal cannabis shops.

Investing in Mental Health Services and Access to Quality and Affordable Healthcare

\$7.5 billion invested in New York's health care system to promote health equity, diminish health disparities, and enhance access to primary and behavioral health care.

\$800 million in support for distressed and safety-net hospitals.

Continuing to increase the minimum wage for home care workers.

Eliminating cost-sharing for insulin for thousands of New Yorkers.

\$55 million to establish 200 new inpatient psychiatric beds at State-run facilities.

\$19 million for mental health services for school-aged children.

\$75.8 million increase for Crisis Services.

More on this story at [Yonkerstimes.com](https://www.yonkerstimes.com)

## ***RFK Jr. Attempts to Get on the Ballot in NY***

### ***Why Not Give Voters More Choices?***

***By Dan Murphy***

News anchor Chris Cuomo, now a host on News Nation, has been vocal about what he sees as the mistake made by members of the Kennedy family in coming out and endorsing Joe Biden, over their brother and cousin Robert F. Kennedy Jr. "I don't get how the Kennedy's think they are helping. I don't know if Bobby can win, I don't even know if he is qualified to win. But that's not the point. I have him on here (Cuomo's Newsmax show) because the (political) parties are poison and they have to stop having a stranglehold on our democracy. The parties aren't helping. That's my former sister in law, (Kerry Kennedy). But does this help Biden? Or does this show that even the Kennedy's are not immune from the division that our politics has created. It's weird that its her brother that she is campaigning against. You can't think that coming out against your brother is going to help undecided voters think that Biden is a better choice. I don't get it."

What is interesting is that Chris Cuomo's brother Andrew, was once married to Kerry Kennedy, and both lived in Westchester. RFK Jr. has been ignored by most of the major media, but has worked around that by being interviewed by almost every podcast on YouTube.

And it is hard to ignore a Kennedy running for President. The name still has magic left in the tank. And a large portion of Americans don't want to vote for Trump or Biden. RFK Jr. is polling around 13%, and he is taking away votes from both Biden and Trump. If he gets to 15% he will be on the debate stage in October with Trump and Biden, if there is a Presidential debate this year.

Now the battle is to get RFK Jr. on the ballot in New York State. New York is one of the three hardest states in the country to get on the ballot, with Texas and California.

The reason why it is so hard for Kennedy, and the Libertarian Party, Green Party and others to get on the ballot statewide in New York goes back to former Governor Andrew Cuomo. The NY Libertarian Party explained it well in a recent release. "The Libertarian Party in New York has placed a presidential candidate on statewide election ballots every presidential year since 1976. According to Andrew Kolstee, Chair of the Libertarian Party of New York (LPNY), the new requirement of 45,000 valid petition signatures during the six-week petition period from April 16–May 28 will be hard to attain.

"According to LPNY Chair, Andrew Kolstee, the 45,000 petition signature requirement in New York for independents over a six-week period represents the highest number of signatures per day required of any state. "It used to be 15,000 signatures and we had been able to get that every time, but Governor Cuomo tripled the requirements in part ZZZ of the 2020-2021 budget," said Kolstee.

"The new requirements also set a precedent in 2022, which was the first time there were only two choices for Governor in New York since 1946," said Kolstee. "As long as strenuous ballot access requirements remain in effect, New Yorkers will be stuck with two parties. We don't want to see that happen, especially when Americans are more and more dissatisfied with the two major parties, and their respective presumptive nominees."

Former Governor Cuomo's decision to make it tougher for smaller parties to get on the ballot for Governor and President in NY dates back to 2018. Cuomo was running for re-election. The NY Working Families Party decided to support actress Cynthia Nixon for Governor.

This enraged Cuomo who forced the NY legislature to increase the thresholds for minor parties to get on the ballot statewide by including it in the state budget. Ironically, Cuomo's intentions, to harm the WFP backfired. The WFP is one of only four political parties left in New York, with the democrats, republicans and conservatives.

So RFK Jr.'s campaign is in the process of getting 45,000 signatures to get on the ballot for President in NY. He actually needs around 75,000 signatures to be safe.

We have always advocated that the more voices involved in our democratic process, the better. And we would certainly like the alternative of RFK on the ballot in NY on November 5.

For those who agree, why not sign Kennedy's petition, which will just get him on the ballot? Anyone interested in doing so can contact us at [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com).

California Governor Gavin Newsome, who is seen by some as a backup plan to Biden, said "It's real... Bobby Kennedy Jr., if he gets on [the ballot] in more than just that one critical swing state of Michigan, and gets on the ballot in some of these others, I think you have to take that very, very serious."

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