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Friday May 24, 2024

Multi- Million Ad Campaign for Latimer-Bowman Race for Congress Begins
Bowman Continues to Play the MAGA Card against Latimer
New Ad Highlights Bowman NO Votes on Infrastructure Bill



Above: TV ad highlights Bowman's No Vote on President Biden's infrastructure bill; Below protestors outside of Latimer fundraiser in Armonk



See story on pg 15-

MSLT-STEM Academy Charter School Proposed for New Rochelle



Pushback from New Rochelle School Board & Teachers Union. Same Old Argument Against School Choice

By Dan Murphy

Most school districts in Westchester County do not presently have the apparent need, nor the apparent interest, in a public charter school in their community. That is because most of the school districts in Westchester are in affluent communities where student achievement is well-funded and supported by

continued on pg 11-

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38-Year Old Shot After Attacking North Castle PD with Knife -Has History of Odd Behavior



above: drone photo of 14 Hallock Place
left: social media photo of Joseph Spennato

By Dan Murphy

Hallock Place in Armonk is a cul-de-sac in one of the most prestigious zip codes in Westchester County. Very few incidents of crime, or 911 calls to North Castle Police, occur in this neighborhood.

But on May 20, that changed, when North Castle Police were called to the home of 14 Hallock Place just after 12 noon, to respond to a call for medical assistance for a 78-year old female. According to the North Castle Police Department, "North Castle Officers responded along with Armonk Ambulance and a WEMS paramedic. The woman was treated and taken by ambulance to a local hospital."

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Commissioner Files Lawsuit Filed Against City of Mt. Vernon for Wrongful Termination;

Alleges Criminal Activity in Falsifying Timesheets; Mt. Vernon Also Agrees to Pay Tennis Bubble \$9 M Verdict

By Dan Murphy

A Former Mount Vernon Commissioner of Management Services has sued the City of Mt. Vernon and Mayor Shawyn Patterson-Howard for wrongful termination. Helen Adesuwa Uzamere, was hired in 2020 but was fired in March of 2023.

Adesuwa-Uzamere alleges that crimes involving the falsification of employee timesheets were thrust upon her by City Hall staff. The lawsuit states, "Notwithstanding Plaintiff's professional success at Mount Vernon, she was subjected to retaliatory conduct, ultimately leading to her illegal retaliatory termination by Defendants. This retaliatory backlash began when Plaintiff opposed and refused to participate in what she reasonably believed were Defendants' unethical, improper, and illegal activities.

These unlawful actions included, but were not limited to, the following. Shortly after Plaintiff was hired, Mount Vernon, through the Mayor, began routinely demanding that Plaintiff partici-



Mt. Vernon Commissioner of Management Services Helen Adesuwa Uzamere

Story continued on pg 13-

Westchester Single-Family Home Prices Increase 4.6% in One Month



Media Sale Price: March-\$620,000- April -\$648,500- Increase -4.6%

OneKey® MLS is the one source real estate marketplace for monthly statistics for residential real estate transactions from Montauk to Manhattan, north through the Hudson Valley and the Catskill Mountains. For April 2024, OneKey MLS reported a regional, single-family closed median sale price of \$670,000, an 8.9% increase over the price of \$615,000 in April 2023. For condominiums, OneKey MLS reported a closed median sale price of \$507,000, a 3.5% increase over last April's \$490,000 price. The closed median sale price of co-ops was \$290,000, representing a slight increase over the \$289,000 price reported in April 2024.

In April, single-family closed sales activity saw a 1.9% increase with 2,488 transactions, compared to 2,442 transactions in the same month last year. There were 501 condo closed sales transactions reported, representing an 8.9% year-over-year increase in activity. OneKey MLS reported 556 co-op closed sales transactions in April 2024 compared to 575 transactions the previous year, representing a 3.3% decrease in sales.

A positive indicator in April was the increase in the number of new listings added to the MLS database. OneKey MLS reported 7,636 new listings, which represents the total of single-family, condo, and co-ops, in April 2024 compared to 6,791 reported the prior year. With more available inventory, consumers have more choices.

OneKey MLS, the largest MLS in New York, aggregates the real estate transactional data from 12 counties making up the regional MLS service area, and reports individually on each county therein. To find more detailed regional and county-based statistics about residential, condo, and co-op sales transactions, please visit marketstats.onekeymls.com.

Westchester County Beaches to Open for Memorial Day Weekend



POOLS TO OPEN FRIDAY, JUNE 28

Put on your bathing suits, grab your sunscreen and head to the beach Memorial Day Weekend as Croton Point Beach in Croton-on-Hudson and Glen Island Beach in New Rochelle will open on a pre-season basis, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 25, 26 and 27, weather permitting.

The beaches will be open weekends and holidays only through Sunday, June 23, then Glen Island Beach will open daily beginning Saturday, June 29 and Croton Point Beach will be open Wednesday through Sunday, also beginning Saturday, June 29, through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 2. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., with last entry at 6 p.m.; proof of Westchester County residency is required at Glen Island. Entry and parking fees apply.

Beginning Friday, June 28, all four County-owned pools: Saxon Woods in White Plains, Sprain Ridge and Tibbetts in Yonkers and Willson's Woods in Mt. Vernon, will open daily through Labor Day, from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., with last entry at 6 p.m.; entry fees apply and parking fees apply at Tibbetts Brook Park. Proof of residency is required at all pools.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "Westchester County Beaches are a beautiful local destination for residents to relax and enjoy the summer with family and friends. I'm excited to welcome everyone back to the beaches, and to the pools in June, to experience everything Westchester County Parks has to offer."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, Kathy O'Connor said, "Summer is peak-season for the Westchester County Parks Department with pools and beaches open, and a variety of activities and programs available County-wide. I'm looking forward to sharing another season full of fun events with our park-goers."

Westchester County residency is required at Glen Island Park and all pools. Proof of residency must be shown with either a Westchester County Park Pass or a New York State driver's license showing a valid Westchester County address. Admission fees apply at all of the beach and pool facilities and parking fees apply at Tibbetts Brook Park, Croton Point and Glen Island. Park Passes also offer discounted admission and parking and are available at a variety of locations.

There's even more fun-in-the-sun to be had at our pools and beaches this season as Family Fun Days and DJ Days return along with the Sand Art Contest at Glen Island. Full schedule is available at www.parks.westchestergov.com/family-fun-days.

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GENERAC

It's Time for Albany To Get Back On Track To Create Casino Gaming Revenue



By Assemblyman Gary Pretlow

We in the State Legislature made a promise to New Yorkers two years ago that the approval process for downstate casinos would be an efficient one. Now, however, we are instead far behind where we committed to be in giving the green light to three properties. Instead of generating new revenue without lifting taxes on middle-class families, we have been repeatedly told “wait ‘til next year.”

Those of us sworn to deliver for the people of New York are not waiting. That’s why Sen. Joseph Addabbo and I introduced a bill this week to get this process back on track. More than ever, we need checks and balances to ensure we don’t let perfection be the enemy of a generational opportunity for the Empire State. Our commitment is to see these guardrails enacted before we conclude the people’s business this June.

We must get this done because New Yorkers are counting on much more than blackjack or roulette tables. Black and Brown families are leaving the downstate region in droves because few career opportunities exist. School administrators barely scrape by on shoestring budgets. Commuters inch forward on long commutes marred by aging infrastructure.

Expanded downstate gaming will return New York to its mantle as the greatest state in the union. I’ve said right here in the Yonkers Times that the revenue created by these casinos will be a game changer for our communities. Consider the fact that each license comes at an upfront cost of \$500 million a piece, or a minimum of \$1.5 billion total. We aren’t talking about a drop in the bucket — it’s a major shot in the arm for a state staring down a \$9.5 billion gap next fiscal year.

What’s as important is the consistent revenue this will create every single year. Genting already pledged to add \$1 billion in new, incremental revenue on top of the average \$700 million in taxes Resorts World New York City already pays. MGM here in Yonkers has been just as reliable operating its facility, and can expect the same level of commitment from them or anyone else entrusted to run a casino.

But first we need to actually start flipping cards. New York State committed to speeding up the process as part of the budget two years ago. The intent was for bidding to start in 2023, but the goal posts continue to move. The Gaming Commission’s announcement this spring to push back license awards until the end of 2025. That means the tens of thousands of construction and permanent jobs promised by every bidder will not materialize for another two years — at best. Other communities might not see those jobs until the end of the decade, at which point one has to wonder who will even still be there to fill them.

Our bill will get us back on course with a few simple stopgaps in the process. First, New York State would set July as the deadline to submit bids. Then, decision makers would have to commence the community advisory committee process for bids it deems sufficient, which would thus ensure we don’t delay what should be a thorough, thoughtful process. New York would then have to make decisions by March 2025, giving any winner two years to resolve any land use issues.

These metrics keep us on target, level the playing field for all bidders of the three licenses, and ensure New Yorkers feel the benefit of the revenue this decade. While we may be in the final weeks of this legislative session, we should strive to pass this bill and live up to the commitments many of us made years ago.

Pretlow serves as the Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Racing and Wagering.

Summertime... Will the Living be Easy?



By Eric Wolf Schoen

Can you believe this weekend is Memorial Day Weekend? The official start of summer. Did you get your swim suit out of the mothballs? Your beach towel so you can lay in the sun and absorb the rays and get that summer glow?

By the way, if by chance you stored your bathing suit in moth balls, make sure you wash it thoroughly before you put it on, washing all the mothball fragrance and any sentiment away. If you don’t do this, you will have a burning sensation when you hit a chlorinated pool over the areas that your bathing suit covers. Mothballs and chlorinated water do not mix, and take it from personal experience it’s not the most comfortable feeling. It’s happened to many of us, so be thankful if it hasn’t happened to you.

If you are going to hit the water whether it be your own pool or a public pool, make sure you know how to swim. Many of the county pools have swim classes available for adults and children, so take advantage of them. Always keep young children in shallow water close to you if they don’t know how to swim, and adults keep your eyes on young children. We want you around to keep reading these papers! Make sure there is a lifeguard present at the pool or beach, and if the signs say no swimming don’t be a big shot and try to swim without one. Stew Leonard’s website has some good information to prepare for your water excursion. Check it out!

As this column goes to press the Yonkers City Council is holding hearings on the proposed city and school budget. Tuesday night I got numbers on some of the proposed staffing cuts and the picture is not good. 95 teachers and teaching assistants, 39 10-month civil service, 6 12 month Civil Service including the Locksmith (didn’t know the district had one but fully understand the need) and 2 Central Office Administrators. This is probably a best case scenario if the City Council breaks the tax cap. Don’t know if there are 4 votes to do that, and if the Mayor who has higher aspirations would agree to it. No one wants to vote to break the tax cap, particularly a Mayor who may run countywide where the citizenry will always remember his actions.

These layoffs are of surprise to no one. Don’t let our officials tell you they are shocked. THE CITY OF YONKERS BUDGET TANGO, what I have called it for years is caused by in large part the number of positions added to the budget using pandemic funding. The funding ended but no one planned for its replacement.

I visited a wonderful exhibit at Yonkers Middle/High School this week where our students displayed their studies of our great city and the many things they have done to make Yonkers a better place for those in need and how they imagine what Yonkers will look like in the future. The student projects were displayed in the school arena. My visit brought back memories of my high school days at Yonkers High School (1974-1978) and the yearly budget drama students and staff went through. Over 40 years later and the district is still having the same financial woes.

Don’t blame the fiscal mess on the New Superintendent of Schools Anibal Soler, Jr. who I had the pleasure to meet at the Yonkers Middle/High School event. He was truly engaged in the student projects. He was probably brought onboard by the Trustees in May as opposed to over the summer to take an active role in the budget process for 2024-2025 that he will be charged with

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Cross County Center Celebrates 70 Years



L-R: Kayli Tarcy Marketing Manager, Cross County Center; NY State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins; Carl Calabro, Senior Property Manager, Cross County Center; Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano; Yonkers City Councilmember Anthony Mercante; Justin Tubiolo, in representation of Westchester County Legislator David J. Tubiolo; Westchester County Legislator James Nolan. Photograph by Luis Ruiz

Marx Realty (MNPP), a New York-based owner, developer and manager of office, retail and multifamily properties across the United States, began a summer-long commemoration of the decades-long evolution at Cross County Center, the nation's first open-air shopping center. Cross County Center celebrated the significant milestone with a grand kick-off event on Saturday, May 18th. Honoring its historic 70-year legacy and, in a nod to the placemaking power of real estate, Marx Realty welcomed the Mayor of Yonkers, Mike Spano, NY State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, as well as various city officials, business leaders, and members of the community, for an event held on The Green, Cross County Center's vibrant green space. As part of the celebration, State Senator Stewart-Cousins declared it Cross County Center Day in all of New York while Mayor Spano declared it for Yonkers.

"Growing up in Yonkers, we always knew it was a treat when my mother would say we're going to Cross County Center," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. "This is more than a mall, it's a real destination for people to come with their families, have a great time and, of course, get your shopping done as well."

Seventy years ago, Cross County Center revolutionized the retail landscape opening as the nation's first and only open-air shopping destination. Originally housing approximately 30 stores, the center expanded to nearly 100 stores across multiple buildings. Since its official opening on April 28, 1954, Cross County Center has continued to evolve, attracting cutting-edge retailers, and fostering a dynamic community atmosphere that essentially put Yonkers, NY on the map.

The center has long been committed to fostering a sense of community and resilience, particularly during challenging times. Throughout various economic cycles – from the recession and gas crisis of the 1980s to defying the challenges posed by the growth of online shopping, and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic – the center has remained steadfast in its dedication to serving as a welcoming space for visitors whether they come to shop or to simply unwind with family, friends, and friends. The continual evolution of Cross County Center, even through the most challenging cycles has established its unwavering commitment to supporting the vitality of the region.

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Two Westchester District Attorney's Honored for Jewish American History Month



During Jewish American Heritage Month, we are proud to honor Jewish American history at the Westchester County DA's Office. Elected in 2020, DA Miriam Rocah became Westchester County's first Jewish American woman District Attorney, making her the second Jewish American to lead the DA's Office and one of just two currently sitting Jewish D.A.s in the state of New York.

Westchester County's first Jewish American DA was Leonard Rubinfeld, who served from 1962 to 1967. A graduate of Peekskill High School, the University of Alabama, and Fordham Law School, Mr. Rubinfeld served in WWII in the Army Combat Infantry in the Pacific Theatre of Operations, 81st Infantry Division, before serving in the New York State Attorney General's Office as an Assistant AG and then as an Assistant DA in this Office before his election to DA. He ascended to the bench following his term as DA, becoming a Westchester County Court Judge, Justice to the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Associate Justice to the Appellate Term of the Supreme Court for the Ninth and Tenth Judicial Districts, and Acting Deputy Administrator of the Ninth Judicial District. He was also a volunteer Fireman in Peekskill, President of the New York State District Attorneys' Association, and Past Commander of the Westchester County Council of the Jewish War Veterans. He passed at the age of 97 in December 2009 in Peekskill.

Dear Yonkers Times,

I'm a person of faith who feels called to care for people and steward the earth.

I urge you to report on NY bill A8866/S8357, which would bans fracking for natural gas using carbon dioxide (CO2).

The legislature passed this bill on a bipartisan basis in response to a gas industry proposal to skirt our state's fracking ban by using CO2 instead of water. The bill now awaits the governor's signature.

Most impacts associated with fracking occur whether water or CO2 is used. The NY departments of Environment Conservation and Health concluded in 2014 that fracking poses significant risks to people's health, air quality, drinking water, and the environment and it was banned.

High pressure CO2 is dangerous, and ruptured pipelines can result in asphyxiation and convulsions. This was tragically illustrated in Satartia, Mississippi in 2020 when a CO2 pipeline exploded, leaving 45 people hospitalized. High pressure CO2 injection underground poses risk of earthquakes, corrosion of well casings, and groundwater acidification.

Thank you for covering this important issue.
Sincerely, Judith Zingher, Elmsford, New York

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Woman Caught on Video Driving Car with Boyfriend on Hood Gets 6 Months Jail



Miguel Pena

A 2001 incident, caught on video near the Eugenia Hostos School in Yonkers, where a woman was caught driving a car with her boyfriend on the hood has been resolved, with the driver, Mercedes Vargas, 45, agreeing to a 6 month jail sentence and 5 years probation for the 2nd degree Manslaughter death of Miguel Pena.

The facts from the Yonkers Police Department are below. Opinions are mixed as to whether the sentence was too light. The Yonkers Police Department released a video of a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed which crashes into a gate outside of the Hostos School in Yonkers. The link to the video is below

<https://www.facebook.com/YonkersPD/videos/890124204937724>

On Saturday, September 4th, 2021, at approximately 1:24 AM, members of the Yonkers Police Department responded to the north side of the Eugenia Maria De Hostos Microsociety School off Stanley Place on a report of a motor vehicle accident with injuries. Upon arrival First Responders discovered that a 2012 Subaru Forrester had crashed through the Stanley Place access gate to the school property and struck a concrete barrier before impacting the north wall of the school building. A male accident victim was located on the ground adjacent to the barrier; a female accident victim was in the operator's seat of the Forrester. First Responders rendered medical aid to both parties, including CPR to the male accident victim, but he was pronounced deceased at scene. The female accident victim was taken to a local area hospital. There were no other injured parties at scene. Police cordoned off the area and initiated accident and criminal investigations.

Detectives from the Major Case Squad, Crime Scene Unit, and Digital Forensics Unit, along with Accident Investigators, responded to the scene and interviewed subjects and witnesses, recovered surveillance video, processed forensic evidence, and reconstructed the accident events.

Investigation yielded that the male victim and female operator were in a domestic relationship, and allegedly prior to the accident were drinking at a residence on Stanley Avenue. An argument ensued between the couple, and the female operator attempted to leave in the Forrester. The male victim, either through his actions or hers, or a combination of both, ended up on the hood of the Forrester; investigators believe that the male victim may have been trying to prevent the female operator from driving in her inebriated condition. The female operator then drove south on Stanley Avenue at high rate of speed – with her partner still on the hood – crossed Ludlow Street onto Stanley Place and crashed through the access gate before striking the barrier and school wall – a total distance of approximately 260 yards. As a result, the male victim suffered fatal traumatic injuries to his head and body, and the female operator suffered injuries consistent with a vehicle collision; she is expected to recover. Responding police officers further detected evidence and indicators of alcohol consumption by the female operator; she did possess a valid NYS driver's license. Investigators continue to actively develop information and enhance the case.

The female operator was placed under arrest and charged with one count of Vehicular Manslaughter 2 – DWI, a Class D Felony in the New York State Penal Law. She is identified as Mercedes VARGAS, a 43-year-old resident of Stanley Avenue this City. VARGAS was arraigned in Yonkers Criminal Court yesterday and remanded into the custody of the Westchester County Department of Corrections; her next court date is scheduled for September 10th. The case is being prosecuted by the Westchester County District Attorney's Office. Additional information may be released as it becomes available.

The male victim is identified as Martires SUSANA-PENA, a 42-year-old resident of Stanley Avenues this City. The City of Yonkers and Yonkers Police Department offers its sincere condolences to his family and friends. Miguel Pena's family in the Dominican Republic "wanted justice" for his death and raised \$3,600 on a GoFundMePage.

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Westchester County Youth Bureau Director Confirmed as NYS OCFS Commissioner



Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden

Under the leadership of Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the New York State Senate confirmed the appointment Wednesday of Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden as the new Commissioner of the New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS).

Dr. Harris-Madden previously served as Executive Director of the Westchester County Youth Bureau from 2018 until her appointment. Governor Kathy Hochul nominated her to the OCFS post earlier this month, and on Wednesday, Sen. Stewart-Cousins brought a confirmation vote to the State Senate floor, with Dr. Harris-Madden and her family in attendance.

"As a Westchester resident and as somebody who has known Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden for years, I'm so pleased that the governor has selected her for this position," Sen. Stewart-Cousins said. "As Director of the Westchester County Youth Bureau, Dr. Harris-Madden kept a focus on the youth of our county by developing and implementing more than 200 youth-centered programs each year to support and nurture children, including implementing the OCFS Youth Development Program and the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act program in Westchester. She is an exceptional leader, and the Office of Children and Family Services will be an even better organization under her leadership."

Sen. Stewart-Cousins' comments were echoed by Bernie Dean, the Acting Executive Director of the Westchester County Youth Bureau, who thanked Dr. Harris-Madden for her excellent work in Westchester and wished her the best in her new role.

The OCFS is an agency of the New York State Department of Family Assistance, and provides families and youth with services and resources across a broad spectrum, helping families find childcare, working to prevent child abuse, overseeing the state's foster system for children and parents, providing health care and disability services, and a host of other functions.

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North Castle Police, continued from pg 1-

“While on scene, Officers became aware of a 38-year old male who was also present at the residence. The two officers were aware that this male had two outstanding arrest warrants from this jurisdiction. In an effort to detain and arrest the male subject, a physical confrontation ensued during the male subject obtained a knife and attacked one of the officers with it. The second officer fired two shots with his duty pistol, striking the male subject twice.”

“Both the male subject, and Officers were transported to area hospital for treatment. At this time, the injuries for the suspect are believed to be non life-threatening. The Westchester DA’s office and the Westchester County Police are investigating, and the NYS Attorney General’s office has been notified.” end of NCPD statement.

According to online data reports, the 78 year old woman taken to the hospital was Alice Spennato, who lives at 14 Hallock Place, and the 38-year old male who attacked North Castle police and was then shot was Joseph Spennato, also of 14 Hallock Place.

In a CBS NY TV interview, a resident of Hallock Place said “they had a reputation for strange behavior, but nobody had seen anything to this degree.”

Several Police blotter reports about Joseph Spennato include:

On Jan 28, 2023: Broadway North Pizza caller reported to request assistance in obtaining payment for a food delivery they made to incident location. The caller reported the delivery driver is now back at the restaurant. Sgt. Ahrenberg responded to Broadway Pizza and spoke to the caller and the delivery driver. Sgt. Ahrenberg reports he made contact with the resident at location, Joseph Spennato, and payment was made to Broadway North Pizza.

On February 18, 2023: Police Received a phone call at the desk from Alice Spennato asking for the number to the hospital where her son was being held.

Even more concerning were the social media posts we found from Joseph Spennato. Spennato identified himself as a candidate for President in 2028, with the hashtag, Friends of Five9 Democrat for President.

Several Facebook videos, while not showing any violence or the use of a weapon, do show erratic behavior. And this erratic behavior finally manifested into the attack on a North Castle Police officer.

The home where the Spennato’s live is an 8,000 square foot mansion, on a 2.5 acre lot. The property taxes are \$56,000 per year and the home’s value is estimated at \$3.5 Million.

No word yet on what Spennato will be charged with.

Fordham REI Hosts Leading Real Estate, Hospitality Experts for ‘Developing Strong and Equitable Communities’



L-R Robert Morgenstern, director, REI; Anthony R. Davidson, dean of Fordham’s School of Professional and Continuing Studies; Allison Reid, former Chief Global Growth Officer, Aimbridge Hospitality; MaryAnne Gilmartin, founder and CEO of MAG Partners and special adviser to REI’s Executive Advisory Council; and Joshua Harris, Executive Director, REI.

Real estate professionals and students gathered at Fordham Real Estate Institute’s (REI) Lincoln Center campus recently for a discussion on creating mixed-use developments comprising hospitality and entertainment venues to help transform downtowns. The conversation highlighted the importance of adaptability, stakeholder alignment and innovative solutions in creating vibrant urban environments to accommodate diverse needs and preferences.

“Live, Work, and Play: Developing Strong and Equitable Communities” was part of REI’s “She Builds” series, and featured MaryAnne Gilmartin, Founder and CEO of MAG Partners and special adviser to REI’s Executive Advisory Council and Allison Reid, former Chief Global Growth Officer of Aimbridge Hospitality. The discussion was moderated by Joshua Harris, executive director of REI.

“I’m very honored to have two industry powerhouses, MaryAnne and Allison, join us today. Our ‘She Builds’ series showcases the innovative women who are transforming the real estate landscape, and also brings to the forefront the trends and issues shaping the industry,” said Anthony R. Davidson, dean of Fordham’s School of Professional and Continuing Studies.

Davidson also announced Fordham PCS has just received approvals from the New York State Education Department to offer a master’s degree program and related graduate certificates in hospitality this fall. The Hospitality Institute will be headed by Harris and offer aspiring students a pathway to roles in hospitality management, asset management, and entrepreneurship.

Harris kicked off the discussion with the role entertainment and hospitality enterprises play in urban and mixed-use developments.

“Hospitality and entertainment are playing a bigger role than ever in the built environment,” said Gilmartin. She cited a University of Toronto School of Cities study that found most cities have struggled to achieve 80% of the downtown activity they had pre-pandemic. “Yet cities like Charlotte, Houston, Jacksonville, are over 100% of where they were pre-pandemic, and a lot of it has to do with hospitality and entertainment,” Gilmartin said.

“Hotels are good for cities—they bring both inbound visitors and help the local community,” said Reid. She noted that when she lived in Los Angeles, “LA Live” was built featuring hotels, sports, music and cultural venues. “That solved a need because it got people from Los Angeles to go downtown, and then it allowed developers to locate housing downtown. LA Live is kind of a model – it met the housing needs and economic needs, creating jobs.”

Gilmartin cited another example of retail entertainment that transformed a neighborhood—Barclays Center in Brooklyn, which she helped develop: “It took 10 years of my life, 35 lawsuits and 638 public meetings to get the ability to build an arena as part of Pacific Park and bring hoops, jobs and housing to my hometown borough. It was a big deal, because there were people who just nostalgically wanted a sports team to come back to Brooklyn, people who wanted the jobs, and people who wanted the 2,432 units of affordable housing.”

The panel discussed other ways to recover downtowns and strengthen New York as a tourist destination, and cited high rents and work-from-home trends that are still keeping people away from New York City.

“For a city or a community to thrive, you need to figure out who is going to live there, who is going to work there and how they are going to play there,” said Reid. “Consider the model of work—whether remote or in the office or hybrid—people don’t just sit at a desk or in a cube. Things are evolving and we need to consider how things change over time.

To watch the “She Builds” discussion visit https://drive.google.com/file/d/1iOjpfKWFxGUQEaki8V1q_ERifCuJrZ5/view

Notice of formation of WIT SOCCER LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/18/2024. 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, 390 Heritage Hls, Unit D, Somers, NY 10589-1989. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Resonance Interactive LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 5/14/2024. 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, 17 Arlington Road, Scarsdale NY, 10583. Purpose: Any lawful 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.

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 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 Northern Lights Massage Therapy PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 8/21/23. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC 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.

Letter to the Editor:**Biden's War on Fossil Fuels**

Fossil fuels have been around, according to scientific studies, for millions of years, they are responsible for maintaining our very existence, if they were so harmful to our atmosphere, by now we should be gagging and slowly expiring—instead, we are extremely healthy, and with the help of trees and plants, our oxygen levels are normal.

Biden's war on one of these fuels— is Gasoline.

His plan of attack is simple—stop all production of this fuel in this country—import gasoline from enemy countries—Iran, in particular,

until he can influence the general public to “buy into his “EV” scheme , purchasing “EV’s” and, gradually forcing auto manufacturers to slowly eliminate gas powered vehicles, until the public is 100% sold on owning these vehicles—then, stop all gasoline purchases from foreign markets, and Presto!—we are all electric!

However, he fails to understand that, fossil fuels are plentiful, reliable, and CHEAP!

Biden's other fancy is focused on (A)-Solar energy, and (B)-Wind,

They are expensive and intermediate and have some drawbacks as well.

In order to increase the affluence of a society, we must have more energy (no matter where it comes from), China & India at this moment, are building hundreds of coal burning power plants.

From 1980 to 2020, fossil fuel energy has increased 80 percent, despite the fact that countries have spent millions on solar and windmills, and atmospheric Co2' has increased 25 %, but climate related deaths decreased 98 %. To believe that Co'2 is the sole controlling factor is incorrect. Cheap, plentiful energy benefits those in poorer circumstances, rather those “in the upper classes”.

More Co'2 in our atmosphere delivers and spurs more plant growth, such as corn, wheat, soybeans, etc.

Fossil fuels are abundant in this country, and to eliminate them would be a catastrophic mistake!

Joe Pettit, Yorktown

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

administering.

The question this year as in years going back to the 70's is? Who will be the Mighty Mouse to save the day and bring Yonkers the funds it needs. My bet this year is on the State with Senators and Assemblymen up for re-election. The sad thing is that those staff members who are in the district the shortest period of time are usually the first ones affected. Working in a district which hands out pink slips every year is humiliating. All I can say to those who might be terminated? Look at other .districts for openings in your field, and take them job. No one should have to suffer the humiliation Yonkers School Employees have gone through with the announcement of layoffs, a process that has occurred most years since my days in high school.

The Democratic Primary featuring incumbent Jamaal Bowman and County Executive George Latimer will be in the headlines everyday. Do people want a Congressman, former Principal who should know better than endanger the lives of people by pulling Fire Alarms censured by his peers shortly thereafter, or do they want a Congressman with a track record 99% of Democrats support. Remember the Primary is June 25 and you can register to vote until June 15. MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD WESTCHESTER AND BRONX RESIDENTS!

Congestion Pricing, scheduled to take effect at the end of June in New York City will affect every citizen in this region. Cheer on those who are fighting it. It's just another tax that will hurt New York City, a city that needs all the help it can get. In response to my column several weeks ago 1 person, a friend supported Congestion Pricing, and most had choice words to describe an exorbitant fee where monies collected will support public transportation with not a nickel to improve the roads our cars go over getting flat tires. Most of the people who are against congestion pricing don't trust the Metropolitan Transit Agency and the highly paid officials responsible for its implementation. Who can blame them. MTA facilities receive more and more money and things never change.

People are unhappy with both Presidential candidates as we head up to the political conventions. RFK, Jr. Is a sad alternative not even supported by his family. It's going to come down to the economy. People feel good if they have a job that allows them to provide for their family. People don't feel good paying \$5 for a four pack of Jello gelatins in the dairy case.

Will the fights going on in our campuses across the world regarding the Middle East and Israel go from the campus to our streets? It's something we have to keep our eyes on, as will law enforcement.

And we have to keep our eyes on those who steal from our supermarkets to stores selling high end fashions. The thievery is partly responsible for the high prices we pay for Jello to McDonald's or for a suit of clothes at Macy's!

Will more restaurants fail like Red Lobster and Applebees. To be honest, who can afford to dine out now anyway?

The Trump trials, the fentanyl crisis, and the way people drive like animals on our roadways will all be a big part of this summer.

The only one who seems to be making money is former President Obama at \$1 million a speech.

Will the Living be easy this summer, or is there just too much going on? Unfortunately we will have to wait for that answer until the temperatures cool down, the bathing suits are put away and it's time to go back to school for our bright students. Keep your fingers crossed and pray that the Summer of 2024 will be filled with sunshine for you and your families and Peace in the world!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistoosyonkers@aol.com, or friend him on Facebook Eric Schoen...just look for him in the picture with Joan Rivers!

Cross County, continued from pg 4-

“Cross County stands as an enduring symbol of excellence and community spirit, captivating multiple generations of shoppers since its inception 70 years ago,” said Craig Deitelzweig, president and CEO of Marx Realty. “We are immensely proud to celebrate this historic milestone and reaffirm our commitment to providing a space that not only enriches the day-to-day lives of all who visit but continues to foster a strong community bond over its 70-year history.”

Cross County Center has been a beacon of innovation and remarkable growth since its inception. From the opening of the iconic John Wanamaker department store to the arrival of Gimbels, the center quickly established itself as a premier retail destination, effectively cementing Yonkers position as a thriving community hub in the larger Tri-State region.

“I'm excited to be here because Cross County Center has always been a destination; we would go to Gimbels to get that very special dress or to John Wannamaker's – there was always something to do, but I knew it was a special occasion when I got here,” added NY State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins. “Cross County Center continues to transform – it continues to be a destination for so many people from so many places. We now celebrate 70 years making sure Cross County is part of the community. Not only are there great stores and food options but the Westchester Community College is here, so you can get an education while you're eating and shopping, there's just so many things to do.”

Over the years, it has seen many transformations, including the conversion of the Cross County Hospital into office space in 1977, which now houses the Hyatt Place Hotel. Marx Realty took over operations at the Center in 2020 and rose to the challenge presented by Sears' demise by securing a long term lease with Target (which opened in October 2023 in the former Sears space) and by bringing SUNY Westchester to that space for its new lab spaces and design school, adding to the robust mix of uses. Full timeline is included below.

“We have long been committed to activating the spaces at Cross County and this summer will be truly special as we celebrate its storied past and the incredible potential for future growth while remaining committed to providing a vibrant and engaging experience for everyone,” continued Deitelzweig.

The 1,150,000-square-foot Cross County Center is jointly owned by Marx Realty and Benenson Capital Management. The outdoor lifestyle center is located at the intersection of Cross County Parkway and I-87, attracting over 11 million visitors annually from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Cross County Center has attracted many of the top names in retail and dining including the first Shake Shack and Zara in the county as well as a growing Westchester Community College location. Marx Realty is currently in talks with the City of Yonkers to formalize the next phase of evolution at Cross County Center.

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Landon Pepe, Somers High School, Named A Con Edison Scholar-Athlete of the Week



Landon Pepe

By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to Landon Pepe, a Senior at Somers High School, for being named a Con Edison Scholar-Athlete of the week. Landon has been a 4-year player on the Somers Varsity Lacrosse Team, and is the team's captain and goalie. This year Landon has 131 saves in 14 games. And in his sophomore year, he was moved up to Varsity mid-season for our New York State Championship Football team.

Landon has volunteered since 2021 with Able Athletics, providing inclusive lacrosse experiences for players with diverse disabilities. He also helped raise over \$2000 for Able last year. Pepe also volunteers for United for the Troops, which sends food and other items to US Troops overseas. Landon has a 98.75 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society, National Math Honor Society, National Science Honor Society, National English Honor and has scored in the high honor roll for all marking periods all 4 years of High School.

"Academically, Landon has few peers. I am fascinated by the constant opportunity he sees in the everyday. I am fascinated by the overt, wild success he has worked so hard to achieve both in academics and athletics. And I am fascinated even more so by all the subtle, unseen interests and passions that he so actively pursues without any intent to earn external praise," said Somers HS Principal Mark Bayer.

SUNY Westchester Community College Celebrats Nurse Pinning Ceremony



graduating students from WCC's two year nursing program

SUNY Westchester Community College celebrated its Nurse Pinning Ceremony in which 19 students completed their nursing studies and received their SUNY WCC nursing pins. May has been designated National Nurses Month, and May 8 is National Student Nurse Day. This year's nursing students completed the two-year Nursing A.A.S. Program, which is designed to prepare students for careers as Registered Nurses. Graduates of the program can transfer almost anywhere, in-state or out-of-state. New York State residents are also guaranteed admission to a SUNY four-year campus. "Our nursing graduates will soon be serving our community in this noble profession. As was evident during the recent pandemic, the U.S. has a critical shortage of registered nurses, a shortage that might top 1 million by the end of this decade. In response to this shortage, SUNY WCC expanded its nursing program in January 2024 to provide more students with the training and education they need to help fill this need."

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Women of Distinction Celebrated Across Westchester



State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins with Nancy Kaboolian



Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Senator Shelly Mayer with Joan Grangeniois-Thomas
By Dan Murphy



State Sen. Pete Harckham with Barbara Wilkens

Remembering Veterans Who Died for Our Freedom This Memorial Day



Young students from Yonkers hold up their American flags to honor those who died defending our freedoms. This event at the 7th Ward War Memorial commemorates the 49 people who are etched in stone. It was dedicated in 1959. Thank you, Sam Riti and Armando A. Ruso AMVETS Post 40, Yonkers Parks and City of Yonkers Department of Veteran Services for a moving ceremony.

Many of us have a relative who died serving our nation. My great grandfather died in World War I, and is buried in France. His daughter, my grandmother was born shortly after his death. My grandma never got to meet her dad. So enjoy your Memorial Day weekend, but remember what the true meaning of Memorial Day is all about. And thank any Veteran you see and say thanks for your service.

Westchester State Senators Shelley Mayer, Pete Harckham, and State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins named three Westchester women as their nominees for 2024 Women of Distinction.

Senator Shelley Mayer is pleased to announce Joan Grangeniois-Thomas as her nominee for the 2024 Woman of Distinction award. Ms. Grangeniois-Thomas is recognized for her dedication and service to the Senate District 37 community.

Grangeniois-Thomas has made powerful contributions to Westchester County and her home of Port Chester personally and professionally through her years of activism and advocacy. She has lived in the Village of Port Chester for 31 years and raised her family there. She serves as Village Trustee and previously served as Village Deputy Mayor. In all of her work, Grangeniois-Thomas strives to uplift those around her and empower them to be seen, heard, and valued, with a special emphasis on women and younger individuals.

Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, "I am honored to name Joan as a NYS Senate Woman of Distinction. For over three decades, she has made tremendous contributions to the Village of Port Chester and to Westchester County. Her advocacy on behalf of women and children and her commitment to equality and equity are unmatched. I am proud that our district is home to people like Joan, who aspire to help and uplift others in every way possible."

Joan Grangeniois-Thomas said, "I am very grateful to Senator Mayer for this honor. I greatly admire the Senator for her strong advocacy on behalf of all the constituents of Senate District 37 and for Port Chester residents specifically. Those of us who are advocates and activists don't do what we do for the glory, we do it to improve the lives of our neighbors and our community, and if my contribution and this recognition provides any incentive for others to participate where they live, then it will have all been worth the effort."

Having lived in Port Chester for over three decades and raising her family there, Grangeniois-Thomas was elected the first Black woman to serve as a Village Trustee in 2019.

Grangeniois-Thomas is a lifelong community activist. She is a member of the Executive Committee of the Port Chester-Rye Branch of the N.A.A.C.P. and past president. In 2014, she received a proclamation from the County's Human Rights Commission for her swift response to racially charged flyers distributed in town meant to divide the Black and Hispanic communities. From 2016 to 2020, Grangeniois-Thomas was the Volunteer Executive Director of Sustainable Port Chester Alliance, dedicated to safeguarding human and civil rights, affordable housing, good jobs, workers' rights, and more. Grangeniois-Thomas also leads Read, Talk, Act (RTA), an interfaith, social justice book club that began following the horrific mass shooting at Mother Emanuel A.M.E Church in Charleston, South Carolina in 2015. The RTA reads books dedicated to helping people understand the ways racism and discrimination have taken root and how we can make change.

Continued on pg 12-



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WEEKEND EVENTS IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY PARKS

SATURDAY, MAY 25

Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson: (914) 862-5290
 Beach Opening Day, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The beach will be open weekends and May 27 and June 19 in May and June. The beach will be open Wednesday through Sunday, from Friday, June 28 through Monday, Sept. 2; weather permitting; no admittance after 6 p.m.; parking and beach fees apply; Westchester residency is not required.

Glen Island Park, New Rochelle: (914) 813-6720
 Beach Opening Day, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The beach will be open weekends and on Monday, May 27 and June 19, through Sunday, June 23; weather permitting; no admittance after 6 p.m.; parking and beach admission fees apply. Westchester County residency is required for admission, with a County Park Pass, a valid NYS driver's license or a valid NYS ID with a Westchester County address.

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851
 Let's BEE Friends, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Join us for a look inside the incredible world of bees. From the queen to the drone, these amazing creatures work hard at pollinating our favorite plants. All ages. Indoor/outdoor program.

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466
 Beneficial Bug Hotel, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Wild meadows and home gardens need a variety of insects to be productive and healthy. Learn about them and support beneficial insects by helping us build a hotel for our meadow.

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268
 Lasdon Green Squad, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Every Saturday through November. Get details and register at <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/lasdon-green-squad/2024-05-25/>

SUNDAY, MAY 26

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268.
 Rain Gardens: A Beautiful Solution, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Visit Lasdon's rain garden to find out where and how to create one in your own landscape. Free. Get details at <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/rain-gardens-a-beautiful-solution-2/>

Alfred B. DeIBello Muscote Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7282
 Farmers Market, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Our market, which supports farmers and sustainable efforts in our area, features more than 25 local vendors every Sunday until Nov. 17. Get details at <https://www.muscotefarm.org/programs-events/event/2024/05/26/1716733800/farmers-market/479750>

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268
 Gardening Sundays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Get details and register at <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/gardening-sundays/2024-05-26/>

Lakeland School District Settles Lawsuit Filed by Former Assistant Superintendent



By Dan Murphy

The Lakeland School District has resolved a lawsuit filed by a former Assistant Superintendent for Business alleging wrongful termination. Joy Myke, was hired in 2021, but fired in 2022. Myke alleged in her suit that her termination was due to "nepotism."

The Lakeland School Board was split, but approved, by a 5-4 vote, to rescind the termination of Myke and agreed that she was on a leave of absence without pay for a part of 2023. No other terms of the settlement were released.

Myke has an impressive professional career before coming to Lakeland that included working for IBM and in the Tarrytown School District, BOCES, and Chappaqua school district. Her lawsuit claimed that Superintendent Karen Gagliardi fired many top administrators and replaced them with "personal friends of Gagliardi and the Board of Education trustees."

According to court documents, "After Respondent Gagliardi took over as District Superintendent, she quickly began a process of forcing out all previous executive level cabinet members and replacing them with friends and former colleagues

"On or about October 25, 2021, Dr. Steven Rappelyea, the Assistant Superintendent for Pupil Personnel Services resigned after pressure from the BOE.... Upon information and belief of Petitioner, Dr. Rappelyea's replacement is Dr. Joe Spatola, a friend and former colleague of Respondent Gagliardi for more than nine years."

"On or about December 31, 2021, Tammy Cosgrove, the Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources, retired. Ms. Cosgrove's placement is Dr. Joe Mosey, a friend and former colleague of Respondent Gagliardi.

"On or about October 25, 2022, District Treasurer Jose Guevarra resigned. Pamela DellaDonna was hired as the new District Treasurer, who, upon information and belief of Petitioner, is a close personal friend of Diane Kness, the BOE Vice-President. Notably, Ms. DellaDonna has no prior school district treasurer experience and was hired in lieu of a candidate with over ten years of school district financial experience.

Lakeland Rise commented on the strange settlement agreement. "The Board of Education recently rescinded its termination of former business administrator Joy Myke in settlement of her wrongful termination lawsuit, which raised disturbing allegations of mismanagement and nepotism in the district's central office. As the article points out, nearly 18 months after

continued pg 12-

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Classifieds*Charter School continued from pg 1-***Attorney**

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parents and staff in ordinary local neighborhood schools.

But in some Westchester communities where academic achievement is below par, the debate over charter schools continues. Charter schools have opened in Yonkers and Mt. Vernon. The Charter School for Educational Excellence, CSEE, in Yonkers, continues to have a waiting list of more than 300 parents who want their children to attend. CSEE recently opened a high school in Yonkers.

Westchester's third largest city is New Rochelle, which does not currently have a public charter school. A group of educators, parents and residents has applied to the NYS Department of Education to create the MSLT Academy Public Charter school in New Rochelle.

Should the submission succeed, the school would open at the location of the former Holy Family School, 85 Clove Road in the fall of 2025, after negotiations for the facility are done.

The proposed charter school in New Rochelle has been met with opposition from CSDNR (the New Rochelle school district), the teachers' union and other interest groups that oppose the idea of public charter schools across the state. A recent public information meeting was held at the New Rochelle Library after a permit for the auditorium and unhampered access for attendees was issued to the MSLT group. Several protestors held commercially printed signs which read "Charters are Not Accountable," and attempted to disrupt the meeting. After MSLT attorneys and staff reported the disorderly conduct to NRPD (the New Rochelle Police Department) and the breach of the priorly paid rental-agreement to library management, the interlopers were cleared from the building.

The founder of the proposed MSLT Academy (Math, Science, Language and Technology) is Ivan Green, an adjunct professor at Iona University, and principal of St. Stanislaus Kostka Catholic Academy in Brooklyn.

Green began the process of applying for a Charter from NYSED when he began to see a decline in student performance in the New Rochelle school district, and specifically, in the STEM learning categories.

"Graduates of our K-12 primary and secondary schools face sharp competition for college placement and career-employment from the nation's finest talent and that of Asia, Africa, Europe and the rest of the world," says Prof. Green.

"After notable past success, our city school system is currently facing widespread student desertions and departures."

Others have cited a decline in performance on competitive test results and disciplinary challenges in the NR school district as examples of a need for a charter school.

Dr. Green's new educational model, with a comprehensive and doctrinal emphasis on math, technology, science, and the arts, will "actualize individual student dreams and inspire public school success as well." In addition, MSLT will support all students, including those with special needs, by exposure to hands-on introductory courses in art, mechanics, cuisine and meal catering, architecture, and technical drawing at the middle school level.

Asked what motivated him to bring this new public teaching model to New Rochelle, Professor Green was emphatic: "Everybody in education today exalts student achievement, instructional excellence and fostering equity among minority students with access to resources at all levels of their educational journey. Well, I do too. Two years ago, I decided to do something about it; something new to New Rochelle and much of Westchester County: primary and secondary instruction regularly and concretely monitored and compared to the founders' established objectives of the smallest measurable entity or teaching subject: school, grade, classroom, or individual student."

"I think we have found it; A public charter school operating within an existing district; offering to parents and kids more specialized teaching, focused on the individual student's needs. It may be viewed as educationally competitive - but it is cooperative-competition, moderated and modulated by a devoted school team; competition with a heart," he said.

A public charter school also has the benefit of directing our state educational expenditures to where the consumers - client-customer parents, and students - want it. Stated Professor Green, "It is the best example of public-school choice available in New York: 'The money follows the student'."

He concluded, "As a society, consumer-choice has become a true expression of democratic-republican values. We accept it as a regular feature of our cultural and commercial lives. 'Choice' is offered by those bidding for our patronage, from consumer goods and automobiles, to university education and online instruction. Why should New Rochelle K-12 education be any different?"

At inception, MSLT will provide a more concentrated curriculum in STEM (science, technology, engineering, math) subjects than available presently, along with appropriate instruction in languages, the arts and physical fitness.

District families will be able to apply to a lottery for eligibility for the school's first classes. The only determinant will be "chance": Student-family private influence and lobbying to school administrators will have no consequence. The average class size is proposed to contain 25 students - totaling approximately 300 to 400 seats.

MSLT Academy Public Charter School will be held to similar, yet even stricter standards governing the New Rochelle school district, set forth by the New York State Department of Education.

Dr. Green has recruited an eclectic array of institutional advisors and mentors to MSLT. His team can boast of a combined 180+ years' experience, training and "plainwisdom!" (he emphasized) in science, languages, special needs, and mechanical and craft arts, school administration, commerce and industry, community activism, charitable enterprise and pedagogical theory and practice.

A list of the Board and advisors for MSLT can be found at MSLTAcademy.org. Parents and students interested in applying to MSLT Academy Public Charter School's first classes are invited to contact Dr. Green. Email info@msltacademy.org

Some clarifications about Charter schools include:

I-Charter schools are "accountable": The application process for a Charter school is thorough and conducted by the NYS Education Department. Charters are given by NYSED for five years, after which the schools must undergo another comprehensive review by NYSED resulting in: a rating of "succeeded," a detailed menu of corrections required, or; possibility of recommended facility closure.

II-Charter School are not anti-union. The teaching body will be free to vote for any collective bargaining unit of their choice, and many existing charter school have unions representing their teachers.

III-Charter schools are not private schools: Charter schools in New York State are funded with the tax dollars from the school district in which the public charter school is located. Charter schools cannot be "for profit" and are prohibited from any form of private ownership by the New York State legislation that created them in 1998 (Incidentally, former Governor George Pataki and a bi-partisan group of legislators, educators and parents and families recently observed the 25th anniversary of the law's passage).

One of the arguments against public charter schools is that they take money away from ordinary, neighborhood public schools - in this case the New Rochelle school district.

But the reality is that public charter schools do more for less. The per-student allocations of tax dollars are less than for neighborhood public schools, while overall, in test results and general student measures, charter schools exceed the regular local schools in academic achievement.

This has always been the central theme for our interest, and support of public charter schools. It makes sense for the taxpayer, and it provides parents with a choice. We wonder what parents in other school districts would want if their children went to an underperforming school. Wouldn't you want the same choice to go to a public charter school? This is the choice that Dr. Green and the MSLT Academy are trying to provide in New Rochelle. There are currently 94 public charter schools in the Bronx. Westchester currently has four charter institutions.

Obituary Robert Engels Sr.

Robert Engels Sr. (Bob) passed way on May 17, 2024, at 84 years young. He was born in Yonkers, NY, resided in New Jersey, and moved to Illinois in 1978.

A childhood polio survivor, Bob dealt with the effects the rest of his life, but he refused to let it define him. The wonderful people at the Sister Kenny Institute told young Bob that giving up was not an option and that his effort would determine the life he'd live.

Ultimately, Bob lived a great life. He earned his bachelor's degree from Rutgers University in 1961 and his master's from Aurora University in 1991. He was employed with the Internal Revenue Service for 34 years. After his retirement, he enjoyed teaching both undergraduate and graduate-level students as an adjunct professor at Lewis University.

Bob also had many lifelong friends — a testament to his character and the value of his friendship — and was always making new ones, like his friends at the Moose Lodge.

A faithful husband and devoted family man, Bob was preceded in death by his loving soulmate of 42 years, Joy (Roesh) Engels. He is survived by his sons Robert (Virginia Hamill) and James (Gia McElligott), his daughter Kimberly (Clint Burrell), and his grandson, Pop Pop's pal, Hunter Burrell. Bob also leaves behind his brother-in-law Don Roesh and two nephews, Eric and Max Roesh.

The family would like to thank his "brother" Joe Cianciulli, his other "brother" and polio survivor Billy Mangold (preceded in death), and the Hillman family for their support through the years.

Additionally, the family would like to thank the staff of Good Samaritan Hospital, Alta Rehab Center, and Elmhurst Memorial Hospital.

Vistation will be held on Saturday, May 25, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Lemont, IL. Funeral Mass will start promptly at 10:00 a.m. Interment is private.

Bob's wish was that in lieu of flowers a donation be made to: Moose Charities, Inc. 155 S. International Dr. Mooseheart, IL 60539-1100 <https://www.mooscharities.org>

Bob says, "Do not cry. I join my God and my dear wife Joy, so I rejoice, but I will miss you all."

Lakeland Schools settlement, continued from pg 10-

Ms. Myke's departure, the district still does not have a permanent business administrator, and we wonder whether the district's ability to hire qualified professionals for leadership positions has been impaired by the BOE's actions. Management and oversight of the district's finances are critical, especially as the district seeks voter approval of a \$190+ million budget. Residents and taxpayers deserve an explanation."

Myke now works in the New Rochelle School District as School Business Administrator.

She is also the principal of her public relations firm, JGT Public Relations, since 2014 to help nonprofits and social enterprise organizations amplify their message. From 2021 to 2023, Grangenois-Thomas served as District Director for Congressman Mondaire Jones.

New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins honored Ardsley Mayor Nancy Kaboolian, selecting her for her exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment to civil and human rights, diversity, and community advocacy.

"Nancy Kaboolian embodies what it means to be a Woman of Distinction," said Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. "Her dedication to fostering an inclusive, diverse, and supportive community in Ardsley is truly inspiring. Mayor Kaboolian's leadership has not only enhanced the quality of life for Ardsley residents but has also set an example for communities across New York State. I am thrilled to honor her outstanding contributions and unwavering dedication to public service."

Mayor Kaboolian has been a pillar of leadership in the Village of Ardsley since 2002. She served on the Board of Architectural Review and the Zoning Board of Appeals before becoming a trustee in 2012 and Deputy Mayor from 2014 to 2017. Since her election as Mayor in 2017, she has been re-elected three times.

"I am honored to be named a 2024 NY Senate Woman of Distinction," said Mayor Nancy Kaboolian. "This recognition is a testament to the collective efforts of the entire Ardsley community, and our commitment to promoting diversity, inclusivity, and unity. I am incredibly proud of what we have achieved in Ardsley—from establishing the Multicultural, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee to implementing significant police reforms and welcoming asylum seekers. I thank Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins for this recognition and for her support of our shared values."

Mayor Kaboolian has championed civil and human rights for all residents, advocating for marginalized groups and leading significant reforms. Under her leadership, Ardsley established the Multicultural, Diversity, and Inclusion Committee, celebrating cultural diversity through various community events. She also spearheaded a comprehensive review of police policies, resulting in important reforms like implicit bias training and increased transparency.

Recently, under Mayor Kaboolian's leadership, Ardsley has welcomed asylum seekers and collaborated with community organizations to support their resettlement. Ardsley has been recognized by NICHE as one of the best places to live in the United States and was named the #1 place to live in Westchester County this year.

State Senator Pete Harckham recognized Barbara Wilkens, a dedicated community leader, local farmer and founding member of the Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

"Barbara Wilkens has dedicated her entire adult life to public service and bettering the community of Yorktown—and beyond," said Harckham. "Through her lead-by-example attitude and tireless efforts, she has transcended her responsibilities and roles with various organizations to show us all just how much you can do in a day. Barbara is truly a 'woman of distinction,' and I congratulate her on being honored as such."

A Yorktown native, Wilkens graduated as valedictorian from Yorktown High School in 1949. The following year she learned to fly as a member of the United States Civil Air Patrol. After receiving her bachelor's degree in architecture and design from the University of Michigan, Wilkens then returned to Yorktown and taught art in the public schools.

Beginning in the late-1950s, Wilkens and her husband Johnny owned and operated Wilkens Fruit & Fir Farm in Yorktown. In 1968, they expanded to include a "pick-your-own" operation in the orchard; and in the early-1970s planted the first Christmas trees for a "cut-your-own" operation at the farm. School tours in the fall were added as well to provide a farm experience for thousands of children in the area. The farm has since celebrated its 107th anniversary and provides food donations to many local pantries.

Wilkens was a founding member of the Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corps in 1963, and served as a Red Cross first aid volunteer on the first ambulance and eventually was trained as one of the first emergency medical technicians for the corps. She retired from active service as a life member after 44 years.

As a member of the Yorktown Town Board from 1978 through 1989, the last four as Deputy Town Supervisor, Wilkens was an instrumental participant on many local projects, including the construction of the Town Court, expansion of the John C. Hart Memorial Library, construction of the Jefferson Valley Mall and purchase of the property for what is now the Albert A. Capellini Community & Cultural Center. Wilkens chaired the town's Bicentennial Committee in 1988 and served on the New York City Watershed Agricultural Council for 17 years. She also was founding chair of the Westchester County Agricultural and Farmland Protection Board, formed to protect the watershed through environmentally sound practices. Additionally, she served on the Board of Directors of the Yorktown Land Trust and as a board member of the Christmas Tree Farmers Association of New York.

Formerly one of the ruling elders of the First Presbyterian Church of Yorktown, Wilkens has been an active congregant at the church since 1941.

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*Mount Vernon lawsuits, continued from pg 1-***THE MALAISE CALLED COLONIALISM AND ERIC ADAMS & CONGRESSMAN RITCHIE TORRES ARE A DISGRACE****OPED by Clifford Jackson**

pate in the falsification of employees' timesheets by inflating the number of hours worked.

On several occasions, Mount Vernon, through the Mayor, improperly added employees to the headcount of Plaintiff's department, namely, the Management Services Department, when such employees did not report to Plaintiff. These employees were unqualified and not formally onboarded into the Management Services Department.

It was apparent that their hiring was done as a quid pro quo favor to constituents and in exchange for their votes. In one instance, former Mount Vernon spokesperson Daniel Terry was added to the headcount of Plaintiff's department, even though he reported directly to the Mayor, so Plaintiff had no managerial capacity over Terry, and was unaware of his true working hours.

As such, on multiple occasions Plaintiff complained about and refused to participate in the approval of Terry's timesheets, as she could not accurately attest to his hours. Plaintiff was aware that Terry's attendance was sporadic, with many no-shows and persistent tardiness, yet his timesheets reflected otherwise, which was false and would have resulted in overpayment.

Plaintiff complained about this illegal practice several times, both verbally and in writing. On or about October 26, 2021, Plaintiff complained to Darren Morton, Mount Vernon's then-Chief of Staff, about being compelled to approve Terry's hours. The complaint stated, "I am uncomfortable with certifying his hours when I know nothing of his schedule."

On or about December 9, 2021, Plaintiff further opposed this improper certification attempt in another email to Morton, which stated, "...I am not comfortable with entering hours after the fact."

On December 22, 2021, Plaintiff emailed Morton again, copying the Mayor, complaining about the Mayor's insistence that Plaintiff improperly certify hours of the Communication team's employees who did not report to her.

Plaintiff stated, "[a]s I cannot attest to the hours worked for any in the Communications team, I suggest moving the department under the Mayor's office for the 2022 budget. It is unethical for me to certify hours for a team that I do not manage."

Plaintiff also refused the Mayor's demand that she provide attestations to sickness and vacation accruals of the Communications team, called "green sheets."

Plaintiff never met these new hires, they never reported to her, and she had no knowledge of their accruals.

The Mayor further demanded that Plaintiff deceptively write off expenses under false pretenses, such as demanding that she illegally pass off funds that were clearly ineligible expenses under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 ("ARPA") as tax deductible ARPA funds.

In March 2022, the Mayor attempted to add Daniel Terry, who was no longer an employee of Mount Vernon, into the Premium Pay Roster. The Premium Pay Roster provided relief, pursuant to ARPA, of up to \$5,000 to staff who worked in the office during the height of the pandemic.

Plaintiff opposed other improper procurement practices that were rampant at Mount Vernon. The department heads bypassed the proper process of channeling all purchases through the Management Services Department, and instead awarded contracts outside of the guidelines.

Plaintiff refused to sign the Request for Personnel Change form ("RPC") regarding Keith Eversley, a close personal friend of the Mayor, who was hired by the Mayor as the Purchasing Agent in Plaintiff's department, despite his obvious lack of qualifications for the position.

Upon Eversley's hiring, Plaintiff, as his department head, also refused to approve a proposed increase in his salary above the approved budget for the position he shouldn't have had.

The Mayor wrongfully opined, "[t]his does not harm taxpayers as it is only a couple

hundred dollars. I don't see the big deal."

Plaintiff disclosed the falsification of timesheets to the Westchester District Attorney," end of lawsuit.

In another legal matter in Mount Vernon, the City has agreed to pay a \$9.3 Million settlement involving a Tennis Bubble that was operating in the city before being taken down by city employees in 2018.

The Tennis Bubble was located next to a dilapidated Memorial Field. Then Mayor Richard Thomas was looking to renovate the field and wanted the bubble to be burstburst. The owners refused but late one evening the bubble was poppedpopped.

Since then, the owners have sued the City. Represented by the Oxman Law Group, a jury found the City liable for \$9.3 Million plus interest, putting the total bill at \$11.8 million.

Instead of appealing the verdict, the City has decided to settle, settle with taxpayer dollars.

Tennis Bubble owner Kela Simunyola is now located in Mamaroneck.

Great reporting by Mounby Mount Vernon News Center on Facebook.

Malcolm X at a speech in Selma Alabama, per the invitation of students at Tuskegee and SNCC on February 4, 1965, talked about "the house negro and the field negro". This invitation included Coretta Scott King appearing. Dr. King was in jail in Selma, at the time of Malcolm X's speech, for fighting American apartheid.

What Malcolm X expressed in reference to that statement was a profound sense of understanding the impact of colonialism. The "House negro" was a slave who because of the total obliteration and destruction of his or her humanity would hate him or herself and love their master no matter how evil and inhumane the master was. What he was talking about was the destruction of a people where their history, language, culture, and identity has been destroyed. That has happened to African Americans and people of color around the world from centuries of slavery and colonialism by the white western world.

Organized religion, especially the foisting of white Christianity, has had an effect that cannot be overstated as far as making white supremacy the unwritten law and subconscious rule that governs people in this country and around the world. On the slave plantations in America, as Malcolm X articulated, "the house negro would love his master more than the master loved himself". He would have a level of self-hatred that was inflicted upon his fellow slaves, many times being the overseer of other slaves for his master.

The field negro was treated the worst. These were African American slaves that were raped relentlessly by their white masters. They were forced to breed with other slaves on breeding plantations. They as, Malcolm X stated, "hated the master". They were more frequently whipped, had branding irons barbarically applied to their face and genitalia.

Malcolm X, James Baldwin, Fannie Lou Hamer, Paul Robeson, Lorraine Hansberry, Medgar Evers and many others were Field Negroes who were a demonstration of the best of black people.

"House Negroes" have a long history in this depraved culture and have aided and abetted white supremacy. Carl Rowan was a glaring example attacking Martin Luther King, Paul Robeson and saying that "Malcolm X" was mentally ill. The lawyer Gloria Tooté was another as well as Pearl Bailey, Fernando Lamas and many other people of color of my parents generation.

Thomas Sowell is an extreme product of the self-hating malaise from colonialism that to this day denies systemic racism exists. Examples of this malaise in a different way from a social psychological perspective were Anita Bryant and Phyllis Schaffly. These were conservative white women who said overtly that "a woman's place was in the home". Schaffly's attack on passage of the ERA (Equal Rights Amendment) was an expression of how she and Anita Bryant, with her perverted white Christianity, were white women who were conditioned to think like white men.

That type of sickness is ubiquitous today in the black and communities of color as far as mayors, doctors, judges as well as the criminal elements in black and brown communities. That house negro mentality is what Malcolm X understood that the black man and people of color around the world have had their indigenous culture and identity destroyed by western civilization which has indeed, along with white pathological violence that has been economic as well as physical, has created crime dens in Chicago, Camden, New Orleans as well as many other places because of generations of segregation and dehumanization of these communities.

Frantz Fanon, the Martinique psychiatrist, who fought against brutal French colonial domination in the 1950's wrote two books that point to what Malcolm X understood about the pathology of colonialism: "The wretched of the earth" and "black skin white masks" which dealt with the domination of white people over people of color world wide and all of the psychological and subliminal conditioning that foster white supremacy.

As well as the right of colonized African, Asian and Latin American people to fight colonialism by any means necessary. Eric Adams and Congressman Ritchie Torres are a disgrace to the legacies of Malcolm X and Frantz Fanon and are glaring examples of modern day "House Negroes". Adams perverts the legacies of John Lindsay and certainly the honorable David Dinkins with his searing ignorance as well as ingratiating demeanor to the white wealthy class in NY, that Adams says "they pay most of the taxes" which is a lie in proportion to their asset base vis a vis black and brown people living in NYC who pay a higher portion of their incomes in taxes.

As well as the white wealthy elite that he is a sycophant to that have been raping NYC for generations. He is too ignorant to understand what Tammany Hall did for 150 years in NYC which laid the foundation for the Astors, Rockefellers, and the racist impact of Robert Moses that created the poverty rate of 50 percent of children living in NYC that still exists today. He is a disgrace to the legacies of John Lindsay and certainly David Dinkins, who knew who he was. Adams certainly does not.

Adam's disgusting and prefabricated image of the greatness of the NYPD, ignoring the history of violence especially from Irish and Italian officers that Frank Serpico talked about, shows that he is the poster boy for colonialism.

Ritchie Torres is also a pathetic display of the effects of white supremacy and colonialism with his ingratiating and pecuniary priorities when it comes to AIPAC, as well as his racist and despicable ignorance concerning the genocide of Palestinians. His racism, or should I say self-hatred, as Malcolm X understood, denies the slaughter of Palestinians daily by the Israelis while he explodes with disdain for people attacking Israel, in his ignorance, and he labels it "antisemitism".

He is certainly a perversion of the legacy of James Baldwin, and he is a whore and not representative of the human rights activism of thousands of people in the LGBTQ plus community. The consequences from this is like many other aspects of the domination of the white world. How we treat each other interracially and intracracially has been stewarded by this pathological behavior. White males reading this, including the editor, notwithstanding instances of hatred and disdain from women of color, should ask yourselves why more often than not women of color ingratiate, and in many cases give you more respect than your black, brown or Asian counterparts?

Clifford Jackson, Larchmont

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Letter to the Editor:

VIVA NY for Election Integrity

What do voters need? Assurance that we can mark a ballot privately and independently, that we can verify our votes as we marked them and know that those votes will be counted accurately. We need to trust the integrity of the system that allows all this.

Integrity must be built into the election system before the election begins. It doesn't work as an afterthought. Board of Elections procedures and voting machinery must be chosen for their trustworthiness to prevent endless claims of fraud or theft after elections. VIVA NY would build integrity into our election system.

With VIVA NY, voters will continue to use paper ballots. Their votes marked on paper ballots will be counted from the marks they made, not from barcodes assigned by machines. The marked ballots, as the voter last saw them, will be available for recounts and audits. This paper ballot system has integrity. We have used it for at least a decade. We know it. We need VIVA NY to keep it.

Built-in integrity: good government groups in New York such as Let NY Vote, SmartElections.us, and Indivisibles like CCoHOPE Indivisible have helped develop and build pro-democracy legislators' support for VIVA NY (S6169B/A5934B), currently before the NY legislature.

VIVA NY has strong support, but needs even more to be passed this session. Ask your Assembly representative and Governor Hochul for elections with built-in integrity. Ask them to make VIVA NY law this session.

Then, go with confidence to the polls, and bring your friends!

Catherine Ray, Ossining

To the Editor:

I am writing to ask Democratic voters in Congressional District 16 to support George Latimer in the June 25th Democratic primary. I believe that George is by far the best person to represent our District.

Most of the media attention on this race has portrayed the contest as a microcosm of a split within the Democratic Party over support for Israel in the war in Gaza. In reality, most people are concerned about who can best serve the needs of the District's many diverse communities and work with local governments and organizations to solve problems.

It doesn't diminish the importance of U.S. foreign policy to acknowledge that people want their congressman to be focused on issues that concern their daily lives. In District 16 these issues include a housing shortage, especially of affordable housing, flooding, gun control and safety, access to medical care, the environment and climate change. George has worked on these issues in Westchester in many capacities over multiple decades. Especially noteworthy to me are his immediate ban on gun shows at the County Center after he was elected County Executive and his role in enacting Westchester County's safe passage law for access to reproductive health care facilities.

The media has also generally ignored the way the boundaries of District 16 have changed. When Mr. Bowman ran against former Congressman Eliot Engel in the 2020 Democratic primary, the District was primarily in the Bronx with a small extension north into Westchester. In 2022 the District became a mainly Westchester district with a small bit of the Bronx included. Those lines have since been tweaked slightly to incorporate a different section of the Bronx, but it is still mainly a southern Westchester district.

I do not believe that Congressman Bowman has made a significant effort to get to know the communities in Westchester. In contrast, George Latimer already knows Westchester inside and out. He is working hard to build relationships with local residents in the Bronx portion of District 16. He will be able to step right into a new role working with local Westchester and Bronx leaders as a member of Congress. There is a reason why 11 local Democratic Committees have endorsed George – while Bowman has been endorsed by none.

Voters like to know that their congressman is securing discretionary funds to be used for projects in their district. According to his campaign literature, Congressman Bowman claims to have brought a billion dollars in federal money to District 16. This simply isn't possible. Even Hakeem Jeffries, the House minority leader, has brought only \$22 million dollars to his district.

Unfortunately, Congressman Bowman has a pattern of distorting the truth in his campaigns. In 2020 he tried to portray Eliot Engel as a conservative when, in fact, Eliot Engel was one of the most progressive members of Congress. In 2022, with no evidence, he accused one of the other candidates in the primary of sending out a racist postcard. The Bowman campaign is now making absurd claims about George Latimer. It's hard to believe that anyone would fall for the nonsense his campaign is sending out but it does reflect on Congressman Bowman's integrity. Indeed, Westchester voters won't be fooled by the accusations because they already know George well.

George Latimer is pragmatic, dedicated to the public good, and works incredibly hard to improve the lives of Westchester residents. I urge Democratic voters in Westchester and the Bronx to vote for George in the June 25th primary. Early voting and absentee ballots are also available for those who can't get to the polls on June 25th.

Sincerely,

Betsy Harding

Bronxville Village Democratic District Leader and former Bronxville Village Democratic Committee Chair

Westchester Rising

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Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am one of independent mind and do not live in the 16th Congressional District. So, you ask why am I writing?

George Latimer is a most worthy candidate who grew up and attended public school in Mount Vernon. He has devoted 30+ years to building community and making Westchester a better place for everyone to live. He is currently the Westchester County Executive where he tirelessly works while attending meetings and events of the local chambers of commerce and other community minded organizations.

While others make promises, George Latimer has tackled and succeeded in many areas including affordable housing, job training, minority and women owned businesses, and children's services. As a board member of a local Chamber of Commerce, I have found George to be a caring person who is a good listener with a practical approach to achieving fair results.

We need George Latimer in Congress, a real person, who holds dear the interests of all communities and who will continue to work for everyone in the 16th Congressional district.

Most sincerely, Tammi Ecker, Business Owner, Armonk

Letter to the editor

On February 22, 2006, We The People (WTP) filed an appellants brief at the US Court of Appeals, for the District of Columbia (Case No 5-6359). Stating in part: "because this is a case of first impression, where plaintiffs provided a detailed review of the history, meaning, effect, and the significance of the "right to petition,"; the last 10 words of the first amendment of New York State's constitution, which is a capstone right of the 50 states constitutions.

Oral arguments were heard by the court on October 6, 2006.

However, after oral arguments, on December 22, 2006, Congress posted the voluminous Tax Relief and Health Care Reform Act of 2006, which, in its division A Title IV, Section 407 authorized the Treasury Secretary to prescribe a list of "Specified, frivolous positions".

In March 2007, the Treasury Secretary issued Treasury Notice 2007-30 which included a list of "specified frivolous positions" and declared that any person who relied on a "specified frivolous position" in any proceeding before the Internal Revenue Service would be fined \$5000.

Department heads cannot make law and Congress never completely reads these voluminous bills if at all".

Strong evidence suggests the COURT, IRS and TREASURY DEPT. colluded to counter arguments WTP just argued in court as "FRIVOLOUS ARGUMENTS" (before the court's decision was rendered.)

The court did not issue its decision for seven months, not until May 8, 2007, by Judge Brett Kavanaugh.

By its Treasury Notice 2007-30, the government has in effect responded to We The People's petition for "redress of grievance," by summarily and without explanation, documentary, evidence, or argument declared WTP's questions to be "frivolous."

Number (9)(B) on treasury's list of specified frivolous positions is particularly noteworthy and should be of concern to state residents; as the federal government intentionally and judicially removed the enforceability of the people's First Amendment petition clause of the United States Constitution!

We no longer have a constitutional republican form of government of by and for the people, governed by state Constitution's. We now have a government of ruling class that ignores the people!!!

"With every right there is a remedy and any right that is not enforceable is not a right."

Anthony Futia N. White Plains.

ASSESSOR'S NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that the Assessor for the Town of Eastchester, Westchester County, New York has completed the tentative assessment roll of the real property for the year 2024 and that a copy has been left at the office of the Town Clerk, Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York, where the same may be seen and examined daily except Saturdays and Sundays, between the hours of 9:00 AM and 3:00 PM by any persons interested therein, until the third Tuesday, June 18, 2024.

THE ASSESSOR WILL BE IN ATTENDANCE WITH THE ASSESSMENT ROLL BY APPOINTMENT ONLY:

| | | |
|------------------|---------|--------------------------|
| <u>Saturday</u> | June 8 | from 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM |
| <u>Tuesday</u> | June 11 | from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM |
| <u>Wednesday</u> | June 13 | from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM |

THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW WILL MEET IN THE COMMUNITY ROOM OF TOWN HALL BY APPOINTMENT ON:

| | | |
|----------------|---------|---|
| <u>Tuesday</u> | June 18 | from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM & 6:00 to 8:00 PM |
|----------------|---------|---|

To receive protests and to hear and examine all complaints in relation to any and all assessments on the application of any person conceiving himself aggrieved. The said roll is the official roll for the following taxes, for the year 2025, County, Town and School Taxes, Union Free School Districts Nos. 1 & 2, the Bronx Valley & the Hutchinson Valley Sewer Assessments. Forms upon which complaints may be made and a publication containing the procedures for contesting an assessment can be obtained at the office of the Town Assessor.

Michelle Liscio
Assessor
Town of Eastchester

Multi- Million Ad Campaign for Latimer-Bowman Race for Congress Begins

By Dan Murphy

The democratic primary for Congress in Westchester's 16th district, between Congressman Jamaal Bowman and County Executive George Latimer, will only intensify in the last 30 days before the June 25 primary.

Both campaigns, and their supporters are beginning to run TV and digital ads. One ad criticized Bowman for his no vote on President Biden's Infrastructure Bill.

"Jamaal Bowman has his own agenda and refuses to compromise even with President Biden. Bowman voted against the president's infrastructure act, against rebuilding roads and bridges in New York, against replacing lead pipes and Jamaal Bowman voted against President Biden's debt limit deal putting Social Security and Medicare payments at risk along with our entire economy. Jamal Bowman has his own agenda and he's hurting New York," states the ad, which most Westchester residents have seen or will shortly. The ad was paid for by the United Democracy Project.

What is interesting about this ad is that it does not mention or criticize Bowman for his comments about Israel and the war in Gaza.

Instead, it reminds Westchester democrats that Bowman did not support President Biden and the infrastructure bill, which was only opposed by 6 House Democrats, including Bowman, and Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, AOC, and four others (Talib, Pressley, Bush, Omar).

Bowman ran his first own ad touting his life experience and includes testimonials from supporters.

"[Congressman Bowman] is a principal," says a former student in the video.

"A leader," says another.

"My dad," says Congressman Bowman's daughter.

"I know what's at stake," says Congressman Bowman. "I've lived it. Public housing. Underfunded schools. And career politicians who don't give a damn," in reference to Latimer.

Bowman did not attempt to try and link Latimer to MAGA Extremists, as has been Bowman's usual refrain.

But, members of the Sunrise Movement, did protest outside of a fundraiser held for Latimer in Armonk.

Video from the protest shows some walking in saying they supported former President Trump, but others did not support Trump. Those who attended were there to support George Latimer, not to support or write a check to Trump. A few attendees did not appreciate the protests and expressed their disapproval.

The protestors held signs which read "MAGA Funds Latimer." This is one of the central accusations of the Bowman campaign and his supporters against Latimer.

But those Westchester democrats who know Latimer, and his record of public service for more than four decades, understand that he is not MAGA, nor sympathetic to their cause. In her letter to the editor, Betsy Harding called these claims "absurd."

Several independent groups are moving forward with their plans to encourage Jewish voters in the district to cast an early ballot.

According to data from Westchester Unites Coalition, (www.westchesterunitescoalition.org) 32.34% of the early mail ballots have been requested by likely Jewish voters (our target audience), while likely Jewish voters make up only 9.33% of the population. And likely Jewish voters are requesting early mail ballots at a rate nearly 5 times likely non-Jewish voters (4.65x).

Both Bowman and Latimer have collected endorsements from local unions, with Latimer picking up four endorsements from Firefighters unions, while Bowman got endorsements from SEIU 1199, DC37, UAW, NYSNA, and CIR.

Latimer also picked up the endorsement from the Stonewall Democrats, the progressive voice of the LGBTQIA+ community for nearly 40 years.

"George Latimer has been a staunch ally of the LGBTQ community throughout his distinguished career. From his early support of marriage equality to his work banning conversion therapy in Westchester, to his support of trans rights and protections, George has proven his unwavering commitment to the dignity, respect, and equality of LGBTQ people," said President of the Stonewall Democratic Club of NYC Gabriel Lewenstein.

We also encourage our readers to watch the recent News 12 debate between Bowman and Latimer, which can be found at www.youtube.com/watch?v=3ayXJIhhUV4.

Education, Sports and Political Leaders Honored at Yonkers Charter School Gala



L to R: Michael DeSimone, athletic director of the CSEE; Sobeida Cruz, co-founder of the CSEE; Joseph Durney of STEER; Westchester County Legislator Shanae Williams; Betsy Stern, president of the FSEE; and Eduardo LaGuerre, co-founder of the CSEE. Photo courtesy of the FSEE.

The Foundation in Support of Educational Excellence (FSEE) recently honored Betsy May Stern, president of the FSEE; Westchester County Legislator Shanae Williams; and Dr. Joseph Durney, CEO of STEER for Student Athletes, Inc. at its annual gala.

"Our three honorees represent the financial, moral and professional support that has been critical to our school's tremendous success," said Sobeida Cruz, vice-chair and treasurer of the FSEE at the group's May 16 gala benefitting the Charter School of Educational Excellence.

Stern—a Westchester philanthropist who supports educational causes—called on the gala attendees to get involved in education. "Everybody here in the room has something to offer, so if you have not done something for this fantastic little school, what's wrong with you?" Stern said to laughter and applause.

Williams represents District 16 at the Westchester County Board of Legislators. She told the gala attendees that early in her political career, she was warned about showing too much support for charter schools.

"There are a lot of people who are very much anti-charter schools in the state. I am not one of those people. I believe that it is important for parents to have options for their child," said Williams.

Durney is a former Deputy Superintendent of Schools for the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District. Through the STEER program he helps identify students, provides mentorship, connects them to services and monitors their progress.

"STEER's mission is to change the world one student at a time we see sports as a vehicle to empower young people to achieve their potential by providing individualized services to those students that is very specifically tailored to their needs," Durney said of his work with the school.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB. NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR CASCADE FUNDING MORTGAGE TRUST HB5,

-against-

MILES MYERS, IF LIVING, AND IF SHE/HE BE DEAD, ET AL.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Westchester on March 01, 2024, wherein WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB. NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR CASCADE FUNDING MORTGAGE TRUST HB5 is the Plaintiff and MILES MYERS, IF LIVING, AND IF SHE/HE BE DEAD, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the WESTCHESTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LOBBY, 111 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD., WHITE PLAINS, NY 10601, on June 26, 2024 at 9:30AM, premises known as 263 LOCUST AVENUE, CORTLANDT MANOR, NY 10567; and the following tax map identification, 23.11-3-5.

ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE TOWN OF CORTANDT, COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER AND STATE OF NEW YORK

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No.: 62983/2021. Melanie Finkel, Esq. - Referee. Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, social distancing and mask wearing. *LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIRECTIVES.

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At a time when New Yorkers need relief from inflation, it makes no sense for politicians to double out-of-pocket costs on beverages for hard working families.

“ OPPOSITION FROM BUSINESSES AND LABOR UNIONS ”

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