

## State Senator Mayer Introduces Bill Prohibiting Humanoid AI Robots in Schools



State Senator Shelley Mayer, Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, introduced legislation today, S.10671, to prohibit the use of artificial intelligence-enabled humanoid robots in instructional roles in New York's schools.

The legislation is in response to the Salamanca City Central School District's plan to introduce an AI-enabled humanoid robot into a classroom. The robot, known as "Sally," was designed to appear between 16 and 24 years old, exhibit a positive personality, and possess knowledge of the city's local history. The district proposed using the AI robot as a tutoring aide, capable of interacting with students, helping with assignments, explaining lessons, and offering personalized educational support. On July 24, the State Education

*continued on pg 9-*

## "A 10-second phone call to ICE could have saved my daughter's life"

**Lawler and Blakeman Stand with Gorman Family  
Call for End to Sanctuary Policy in NY**



*Jessica and Tom Gorman, with Congressman Mike Lawler, left, and State Senate candidate Sergio Esposito, right*

*By Dan Murphy*

The parent of Sheridan Gorman, who was murdered in Chicago on March 19, stood outside the Yorktown Police Department last week with Congressman Mike Lawler and Gubernatorial candidate Bruce Blakeman to call an end to what they called the "sanctuary policies" of Governor Kathy Hochul and New York State.

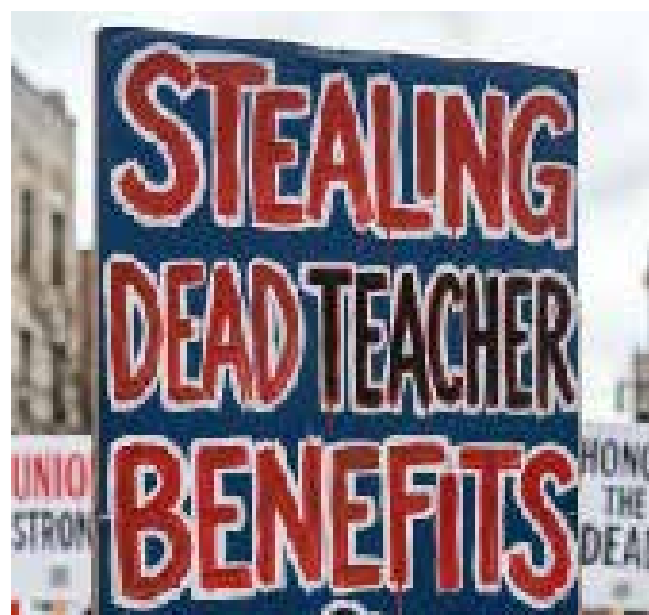
*continued on pg 8-*

## Bear Spotted Outside Dunkin Eating Rat Poison



*See story on pg 4-*

## Pelham Man Arrested for Stealing Neighbor's Teachers Pension After He Died



**Danilo Pesce Pocketed Pension Benefits from His Deceased Neighbor for Years After His Death**

New York Attorney General Letitia James today announced the arrest and arraignment of Danilo Pesce, 60, of Pelham, for stealing over \$143,000 in pension benefits issued by the New York State Teachers' Retirement System (NYSTRS) to his deceased neighbor, Jack Lee Morgan. An investigation by the Office of the Attorney

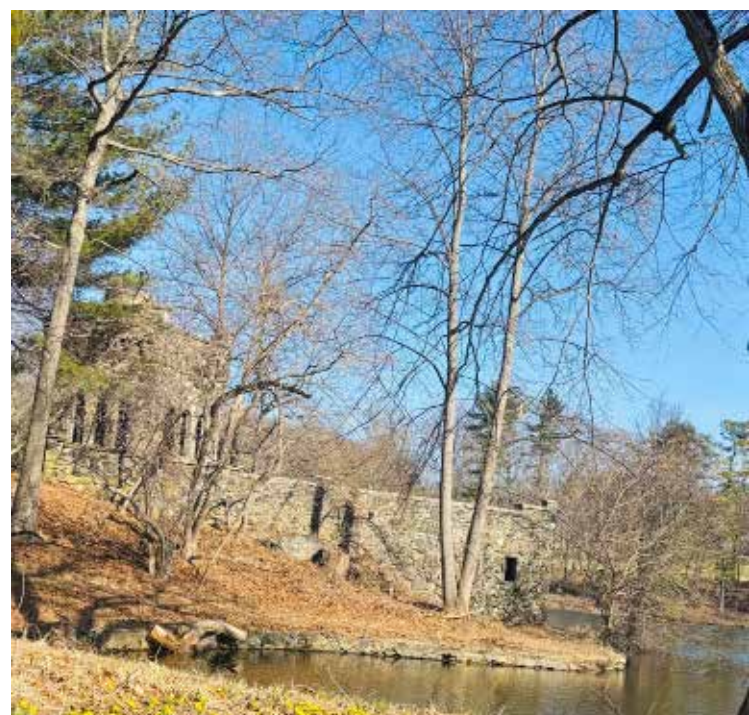
*continued on pg 10-*

## Westchester Progressives Denounce Latimer's Vote Against Amendment to Cut Aid to Israel



*See story on pg 11--*

## Racist & Anti-Semitic Graffiti found in Irvington



**Facebook Photo of Halsey Pond in Irvington**

Statement from the Mayor of Irvington, the Board of Trustees and the Chief of Police

Village of Irvington web site Posted on July 25, 2026

"The Village of Irvington is aware of the anti-Black, antisemitic and racist graffiti discovered at Halsey Pond. The Irvington Police Department is actively investigating this incident. There is no place

*continued on pg 9-*

*The American Dream No Longer  
Includes Job Security*



By: Dennis Richmond, Jr.

If you’re over the age of 55, you remember an America that younger generations never experienced. It was an America where a high school diploma or college degree opened the door to a career. You found a company, worked hard, stayed loyal, and expected to retire decades later with a pension, good health insurance, and the respect that came with years of service.

But today, that promise is over. And sorry kids, she’s never coming back.

Across nearly every industry, employees are discovering that years of education and dedication no longer guarantee stability. Companies restructure, offices become virtual, budgets are cut, departments disappear, and long-tenured workers can find themselves unemployed overnight. In an age of social media, even comments made years earlier can resurface and cost someone a career. The rules seem to change constantly, and many workers feel they’re one mistake away from starting over.

There was a time when experienced employees were viewed as a company’s greatest asset. Someone with 20 or 30 years on a job knew the business, trained younger employees, and carried institutional knowledge that couldn’t easily be replaced. Whether you walked into a school, a hospital, or a local business, chances were you’d meet people who had spent decades building their careers there.

But baby, in 2026, that kind of longevity is rare.

Education offers one of the clearest examples. New teachers enter the profession every year with passion and optimism, yet many leave within only a few years. Some leave because of burnout. Others leave because they feel unsupported, disrespected, or overwhelmed. The same story can be heard in health care, public service, retail, manufacturing, and countless other professions. More people are asking themselves a question previous generations rarely considered: Is staying worth it?

To be clear, no one should tolerate harassment, discrimination, or abuse in the workplace. But it is worth asking whether something larger has changed. Have careers become more disposable? Have employers become less invested in retaining experienced workers? Or have workers concluded that loyalty is no longer rewarded?

Recent layoffs at News 12, affecting familiar faces across the country, reminded many people that even decades of service are no guarantee of job security. Some of those employees had become trusted voices in our community, yet their years of dedication offered little protection in the long run.

I still believe in teaching. I still believe in showing up every day, working hard, *and giving my students everything I have. But every year I meet talented educators* who decide to walk away from the classroom.

America isn’t losing jobs, but she is definitely losing careers. And the question isn’t whether people still want to work. The question is whether career loyalty still means anything anymore.

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

LM Lions & Barnstone Grill Support STEM Alliance’s Co-Op Summer Enrichment Program



LM Lion President Lina Pasquale, STEM leader & LM Lion Meg Kaufer and Barnstone’s Bill Jablonski

The LM Lions teamed up with Mamaroneck’s Barnstone Grill for their “Dine to Donate” program in support of The STEM Alliance’s Co-Op Summer Enrichment program. Barnstone dedicates a full month of Mondays throughout the year in support of local charities and service groups. For the month of May, they raised \$615. Combined with the Lions support, over \$1,000 was raised for Co-Op Summer Enrichment.

Bill Jablonski, the owner of Barnstone Grill, has been strong supporter of the community, donating thousands of dollars in support of local community organizations. The Lions often team up with Bill in support of Lions supported causes.

Co-Op Summer Enrichment, a Mamaroneck School District program led by The STEM Alliance, is an essential summer program that provides five weeks of both academic and recreational experiences for 300+ students from all Mamaroneck District Schools, including employing local teens and college students. The program predominantly serves families with financial need, offering them access to quality learning opportunities and summer activities. This is particularly crucial in combating the phenomenon known as “Summer Slide,” wherein children experience a decline in academic skills and knowledge during the summer break.

The Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions mission is to support – with funding, volunteers & advocacy, local service groups by bringing community leaders together to determine needs, resources & achieve solutions. The LM Lions are part of Lions Clubs International, the world’s largest service organization of over 1.4 million members. The Lions signature cause is Vision/Blindness, along with Hunger, the Environment, Diabetes, Childhood Cancer and the future of our Youth. They are signatories of the United Nations resolutions on women’s and refugee rights, and are currently active in Afghanistan & Ukrainian refugee resettlement. In addition, affordable housing is a local Lions priority. For more information: <http://www.lmlionsclub.org/>.



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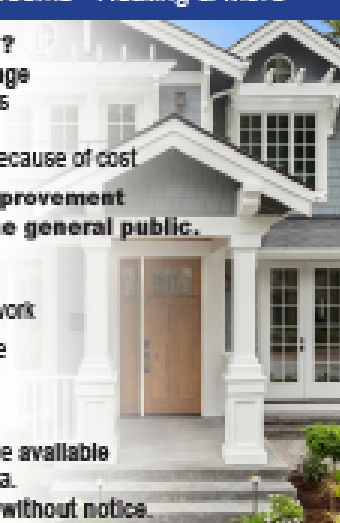
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*continued on pg 4-*

## Merante Calls for an Independent Investigation Into the Yonkers Wastewater Plant Failure



## Join the ICE bucket Challenge Aug. 9

## Let's Not Forget Pat Quinn



*See story on pg 5--*



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Bear Spotted Outside Dunkin Eating Rat Poison

By Dan Murphy

On July 22, a hungry black bear was spotted at the Dunkin Donuts on Route 6 in Mohegan Lake, breaking into a poison rat trap. The video is on Facebook, posted by Paula Miritello, who runs a great non-profit (MyBrotherVinny-my-brothervinny.org).

Paula posted, “My Volunteers saw this Bear by 202 Lexington, Yorktown. Hope it’s ok after it ate the rat trap poison.

I shared to have everyone aware Bear in the area and sent to my Town Supervisor time stamped. This seems to have happened fast I don’t even think they were aware it was until it was done. Either way, hindsight is 20/20. Maybe this will prevent other businesses for leaving them out. Say a prayer for the Bear and for humanity since we have failed daily.”

Yorktown Supervisor Ed Lachterman posted,” Once we were notified about the bear and the poison trap, I went over to the building where the fair was spotted. I went inside and spoke with the manager at the Dunkin’ Donuts to find out what poison they used and had them send me a copy of the MSDS sheet. This was sent to our police department who was already made aware of the bear sighting. We contacted DEC and sent them the sheet so they were aware of what the bear ingested. I believe he was spotted a few more times during the day over by Lake Mohegan. If it was the same bear, he was not showing any effects of the poison that he ate. Our local patrols were all updated and made aware of the situation.”

Other reports saw the bear on Route 6, so we believe that the Dunkin location on Route 6 in Mohegan Lake was where this video was taken. Other reports have the bear spotted “by the Pine Grove neighborhood near BJs since last week,” and “in Lakeside Colony and old Yorktown Village development today.”

Most of the posts were concerned about the bear’s health after eating the poison. Others explained that the size of the Bear will protect it from serious health issues after eating the rodent poison.

Watch the video at <https://www.facebook.com/reel/4324721524456404>  
<https://www.facebook.com/reel/4324721524456404>

SJRH, conintued from pg 3-

“We have to consider homeless people and those who just can’t maintain,” she says. “You have to be doing really well on methadone for the doctor to give you Suboxone, because you have to maintain it. We also have to think about questions like, ‘If I don’t have my own apartment, where am I putting this medication?’ Those are important considerations.”

In addition to MAT, SJRH offers patients support through talk therapy with individual and group options.

“At all of our sites, we do individual sessions,” says Quarless. “We have group sessions. We offer bilingual services because they are very important—especially at our Greenberg location, where there’s a significant Spanish-speaking population. So we offer group and individual sessions in English and Spanish.”

Additionally, telehealth appointments provide more options for patients. “Sometimes, professional people are mandated to get treatment, but depending on the company they work for, they may not be able to go in for inpatient care, and they need to maintain their employment. So for them, telehealth appointments are an option. They also help to maintain privacy.”

Quarless also notes that as she tried to help her mother with alcohol-related medical conditions, she learned more about the causes of addiction. “As I started this journey, I realized that people don’t just drink or they don’t just use drugs. There’s always an underlying issue, right? So then I was going through that with her and helping her to see—you know, this is why people do this.”

Quarless adds that they now have a psychiatric nurse practitioner to assist patients with dual diagnoses, which are common in addiction recovery. “I want to say about 85 percent of our patients have had some dual diagnosis for mental health. It could be depression, for example. We have a psychiatric nurse practitioner who can address dual diagnosis.”

SJRH also works with adolescents, and Quarless says they believe prevention is key. “We partnered with the schools in Yonkers to have sessions with the parents and talk about what to look for, how to know if your child is using, etc.”

Another thing Quarless has learned in her years of working in behavioral health is that relapses are common among people with substance use disorders. “First, we have to understand that relapse is a part of the process. You’ll have many relapses, but you’ll always—and I say always—can recover. Relapse will be a part of your story, but you can come out on the other side.”

More information about SJRH behavioral health services and addiction recovery treatment can be found at <https://riversidehealth.org/specialty-services/behavioral-health-services/>

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Mount Pleasant Republicans Endorse  
Gail A. Wind for Town Board



Gail A. Wind

The Mount Pleasant Republican Town Committee has endorsed Gail A. Wind (née Nicoletti) to run on the Republican line in the November 3, 2026 general election for the Town Board seat vacated in June. Wind will run for the remainder of the term, January 1, 2027 through December 31, 2027. Separately, the Town Board is expected to appoint Wind to fill the seat for the remainder of 2026 at its next regular meeting on August 11, 2026.

“Gail is exactly the kind of steady, experienced leader Mount Pleasant deserves on its Town Board,” said Helen Keating, Chair of the Mount Pleasant Republican Town Committee.

“She has spent her career managing budgets and people under pressure, and she brings a clear, independent voice to every table she sits at. Residents can trust her judgment.”

Wind spent years as an elected Fire Commissioner for the Thornwood Fire District, a taxpayer-funded entity governed much like the Town itself, where she helped maintain one of the healthiest budgets in the region through careful, hands-on oversight of public funds. That record in tax-district governance is paired with a professional background in construction and bookkeeping, giving her direct, practical experience overseeing finances, contracts, and vendors from multiple angles – experience she’s ready to bring to Town Hall.

Alongside her commissioner role, Wind has held a series of leadership positions across the fire service, including Regional Director for the Westchester, Putnam, and Dutchess region with the Association of Fire Districts of the State of New York and Chair of its Wage & Fee Committee. She currently serves as 2nd Vice President of the Association of Fire Districts of Westchester County. In a largely male-dominated industry, Wind built a reputation as a respected, no-nonsense leader. Outside of fire service, she previously led the Pleasantville Volunteer Ambulance Corps.

A lifelong Mount Pleasant resident, Wind grew up in Valhalla, raised her family in Thornwood, and now watches her grandchildren grow up in Pleasantville. Her community service has been recognized with the Westchester County “Volunteer of the Year” Award, the Pleasantville PBA Outstanding Service Award, the Rotary International Paul Harris Fellowship Award, the Mount Pleasant Italian American Association’s Outstanding Achievement Award, and, most recently, her role as Aide to the Grand Marshal of the Sleepy Hollow St. Patrick’s Day Parade in 2025.

“Residents deserve a Board member who listens carefully, does the homework, and isn’t afraid to speak up when it matters,” said Wind. “That’s how I’ve led throughout my career, and it’s what I’ll bring to the Town Board, starting now and for the full term ahead.”



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Mt. Vernon Cop Arrested for DWI, Suspended



The Mount Vernon Police Department confirms the off-duty arrest of Officer Steven Moreano, 29, by the New York City Police Department.

Moreano was arrested on July 26th on the charge of Driving While Intoxicated. The Queens County District Attorney’s Office is prosecuting the criminal case. All media inquiries or requests for comment regarding the charges should be directed to that office.

Officer Moreano has been suspended without pay. As a permanent civil service employee, any further disciplinary action will be handled in accordance with the procedures of the Mount Vernon Police Department and the City of Mount Vernon.

The Mount Vernon Police Department holds all officers and employees to high professional standards. The Department remains committed to serving the residents and visitors of the City of Mount Vernon with professionalism and integrity.

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**BY MGM RESORTS**

**SUNDAY**  
**AUGUST 9<sup>TH</sup> • 12:30PM**

**REGISTER AT:**  
**YONKERSNY.GOV/IBC**

Even in Death, Pat Quinn Gives us Lessons for Life Published May 27, 2021

Patrick Quinn '06, the late ALS Ice Bucket Challenge co-founder and proud Iona College Gael, delivered a posthumous keynote address during Iona’s 77th annual Commencement Ceremony held virtually on May 23.

Here is Quinn’s speech, God Bless Pat. “ALS has taken so much from me, however, it will never beat me. The disease will never win because I won’t allow it. It may one day take my physical life, but my fight will last forever.

“My name is Pat Quinn, I’m born and raised in Westchester. Grew up in Yonkers, lived in White Plains for a little bit. I went to Iona Prep, went to Iona College – that’s where I played rugby and met some of the best guys in my life.

“I traveled down to Baltimore, Maryland, to visit the world-renowned Johns Hopkins Hospital. On this one day, they would run me through a million tests – most of which I had already done a number of times. After all the tests, I remember sitting in the small room by myself just waiting for the doctor to come in and tell me what he was thinking. Every Google search I did, every scientific medical opinion I ever read – it was all flying around in my head. But, what I most remember was having that last bit of hope come over me. I still had hope it wasn’t ALS and boom the door opened and my head went completely blank.

“The next thing I would hear is, “Patrick, it’s conclusive that we can diagnose you with ALS.” I remember walking out of the hospital, sitting on a bench and just staring into the sky. Even though I researched my symptoms and had a feeling it was ALS, I still had this hope inside of me that the doctors would find something different. They didn’t. Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. On March 8, 2013, I was diagnosed with ALS at the age of 30.

“Okay, now what? I was just diagnosed with a disease that patients’ life expectancy is two to five years. I was diagnosed with a disease that no one has ever beaten.

“My disease is named after a baseball player, Lou Gehrig, who died over 75 years ago at the time and there is still no cure, even a treatment. It would have been really easy for me to give up. No one would have been mad at me if I decided to be quiet

continued on pg 9-

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**TUESDAY, AUGUST 4**  
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(Raindate: August 11)

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# BACK to school Supplies DRIVE

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THE 12th ANNUAL

# MATTHEW WALLACE MEMORIAL

SOFTBALL TOURNAMENT

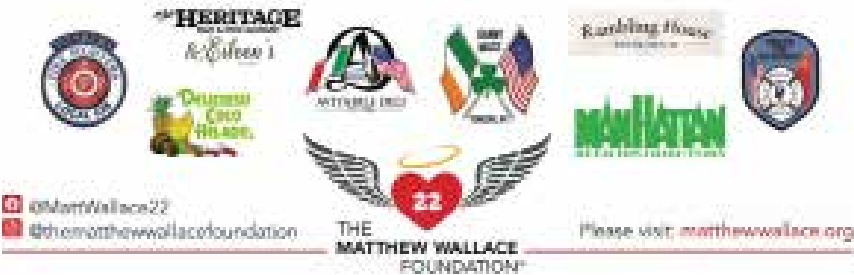
Saturday, August 8, 2026 at 11:00am  
Coyne Park, 771 McLean Ave., Yonkers, NY



**Good times. Great memories. A great cause!**

Join us as we celebrate Matt's life and honor what would have been his 30th birthday!  
Come enjoy the fun, share in the memories, and support Matt's Grab-n-Go food distribution. Every donation helps continue the impact made in our community!

THANK YOU TO OUR PARTICIPATING PARTNERS



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# UNTERMYER GARDENS FAMILY FUN DAY SEA OF WONDERS



**SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 2026**   **NOON - 4 PM**

Bring a picnic, make bubbles, pet a snake, play games, get wet, have fun!  
Pirate training and battle at 3:30pm

945 North Broadway, Yonkers, NY  
Tickets: Adults-\$20; Kids 2-10-\$10; Family Pack-\$50  
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Mayor Spano Officiates Wedding Ceremony  
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“It’s always such an honor to officiate a wedding and our beautiful Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy is always such a stunning background. Join me in congratulating our former Yonkers Youth Bureau Chair, Yecenia Moran and her husband Jhoan Montoya. May your new life together be filled with happiness and love,” said Mayor Mike Spano.

State Senator Shelley Mayer and United Way of Westchester and Putnam Counties

# BACK TO SCHOOL SUPPLY DRIVE

Thurs., July 16 – Wed., August 12

**REQUESTED (NEW) ITEMS:**

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- #2 Pencils
- Safety Scissors
- Spiral Notebooks
- Ballpoint Ink Pens
- Highlighters
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| <b>Mamaroneck Town Center</b><br>740 W Boston Post Rd<br>Mamaroneck, NY 10543 | <b>Pound Ridge Town House</b><br>179 Westchester Ave<br>Pound Ridge, NY 10576               |

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**Office of State Senator Shelley B. Mayer**

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For full eligibility requirements and COVID-19 information, visit [nybc.org/eligibility](https://nybc.org/eligibility).

“We cannot wait for another failure that creates an even greater public-health and environmental disaster,” Merante said. “Westchester residents deserve answers, accountability and action.”



Pat Quinn, continued from pg 1-

and accept what doctors were telling me was a death sentence. I want you to know that you can be great no matter what life throws your way. I want to show you goals can be achieved no matter what you are put up against. Doing something special, creating positive change, being successful, getting to where you want to be in life – none of this comes easy. Life is really difficult and I am sure many of you have gone through tough times or maybe you’re going through something right now. You need to know you can overcome these tough times, but you can’t do it alone. You need to build support. That is what I did next.

“Shortly after the shock wore off, I decided I was going to fight this thing with everything I possibly could. I needed to start somewhere so I decided to put a team together for the local ALS walk. We named our team, “Quinn for the Win.” Over 100 people would show up to support my fight. This is the first time I felt like I could really do something positive. This successful first event gave me the confidence to put myself out there and publicly fight the disease. I saw the way people responded to a young man struggling with a disease that had no hope. It inspired me to do everything I could to create that hope people needed. My belief was that creating awareness for ALS will build support and that support will lead to more funding for research. The disease that was supposed to take my strength was turning me into a pit bull. I became engulfed in ALS, putting myself out there with hopes of bringing attention to the disease. I can’t lie, I had selfish motives to start. I wanted to live. My fight started with a desire to grow old but it grew into a passion; not just a fight for myself but for everyone, and that passion would get stronger the more I got involved. Every time I met a new ALS patient, I became more inspired. My drive to fight this disease quickly became way bigger than a personal battle. This passion, this inspiration, this drive – it would all land me in the right place and right time to be a driving force behind something special, something that would make a difference and it led me to the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge.

“My message to you is that life isn’t about getting hit and hiding in a corner. Life is a challenge -it’s meant to be. The fight isn’t what I want you to think about, though, I want you to think about how you fight and what you’re going to do when the fight doesn’t go your way. You’re all going to face incredible challenges in your life; it’s about having the mental strength to see it and not be afraid. I want to light your inner fuel; I want you to know you can be a game changer. Take your life head on and be prepared to fight for everything you want in life. It’s in all of you, you just need to have the courage to let it out. This is an incredible part of your life. You’re learning about yourselves and figuring out who you want to be. See that and seize every opportunity in life. You’re not just some young college kids. The sooner you realize the time to be great is right now, the more you will accomplish along the way. You will all face difficult times but it’s up to you how you will respond when these times come around. Life will challenge you, you don’t win every battle thrown at you. There will always be ups and downs but you never give up on what you believe in. Who do you want to be? Find it and pursue it with everything you have in you. Greatness is waiting.

“When I look in the mirror every day I think, keep going and make a difference – because life is amazing.” Thanks to Iona for remembering Pat Quinn.

Banning AI Robots in Schools, continued from pg 1-

Commissioner Betty Rosa wrote to Salamanca Superintendent Mark Beehler expressing concern over the effect the humanoid robot may have. The letter stated: “The Department remains concerned about the effect that a humanoid robot may have within a high school classroom. Although you confirmed that the robot would not have any role in delivering classroom instruction, a recent presentation to the board characterized the robot as a ‘tutoring platform.’ Many parents, teachers, and stakeholders, are understandably concerned about the presence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technology in classrooms, particularly when it involves robots that resemble humans.”

Salamanca City Central School District announced later that day that the “Sally” pilot program with Realbotix was put on hold while they “work through enhanced student data privacy agreements with the New York State Education Department and continue engaging with [our] community and stakeholders.”

Senator Mayer’s legislation would require every school district, charter school, and Board of Cooperative Educational Services (BOCES) to adopt a written policy governing the use of humanoid robots in schools. This policy must prohibit the use of AI-enabled humanoid robots to perform the responsibilities of a teacher, including delivering or leading classroom instruction, providing one-on-one or small-group instruction, tutoring students, offering educational support services, assessing or evaluating student performance, grading student work, or carrying out any other duties ordinarily performed by a certified teacher.

State Senator Shelley Mayer said, “Humanoid AI robots designed to look and interact like people present unique concerns in schools, not the least of which is the impact on children. These systems have the potential to foster inappropriate emotional attachments or relationships with students, and like any technology, cannot be used to replace the human interaction that is so critical to intellectual, social and age-appropriate development. Artificial intelligence has an important place in education and can be a valuable tool. But as we begin to determine the optimal way to use AI in our schools, it can never replace the knowledge, compassion, and human connection that our educators and other staff bring to the classroom – and to the school building – every day.”

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Mayor Zohran Mamdani :  
Response to the Italian American league criticism

Op-Ed, By Clifford Jackson

The response to the leaving out of Little Italy on the nyc immigrants map has everything to do with the racism and hatred towards Zohran Mamdani and very little to do with the omission.

The omission had everything to do with the “tammany like hall” administration of Eric Adams and nothing to do with any sort of discrimination towards italian Americans. Indeed the creation and omission goes back to 2023 under Adams.

Despite conveying this the hatred and racism has been intense. The social media platforms have exhibited hate filled rallies where mamdani has been called an “evil communist that needs to go back where he came from.”

These comments have been articulated at numerous rallies and one in particular headed by Scott Lobaido, where expletives and chants of “deport Mamdani” were a constant refrain. This racism and hatred for Mayor Mamdani was expressed by the italian American Community during a virulent rally on august 25th of last year in staten Island when Mamdani was campaigning with chants of “commie go home,” and “Mamdani is an african piece of shit.

Mamdani said in response to this “I have never seen this level of hatred in my life.” What i am writing is not a rant but a factual delineation of the racism, hatred and ignorance from the italian-American community that i have seen throughout my life and certainly for 36 years living in Larchmont.

It is the kind of racism that Bruce Blakeman and Nicole Maliatakis have expressed towards Mamdani and Palestinians, where these two have also appeared at these rallies. Chris Gelardi, who is of italian decent, is a journalist who wrote a piece for the Nation recently titled “Little Italy’s fake controversy.” In the piece he mentions the Joe Colombo cosa nostra led Italian American civil rights league that joined forces with the violence and intimidation of Meheir Kahane and the jewish defense league in 1971.

Gelardi talks about how the Jewish defense league and the Colombo run organization were in a ” brotherhood” against the government and espoused far right language against palestinians and blacks. He said that the italian american leaders, who are spewing hate and disdain for Mamdani are doing the same thing. First he writes “founders of descendants of Little Italy were particularly incensed at the omission. Even though New York’s Little Italy’s haven’t housed significant numbers of Italian born residents in decades.”

He also wrote “a 2010 consensus could not find a single resident of Manhattan’s Little Italy who had been born in Italy. Yet members of the local Italian-American establishment complained that the map didn’t pay proper homage to their heritage.” “Good people and good families” are the constant racial code words from these antagonists of Mamdani and people of good will all over this city need to understand that this controversy is just another example of American racism.

Cliff Jackson, Larchmont

Graffiti, continued from pg 1-

in our community for antisemitism, racism, hate, or any act that seeks to divide us. Irvington stands firmly against all forms of hatred and discrimination. We are a community built on respect, inclusion, and mutual understanding, and we will not allow acts of hate to define who we are.

We encourage anyone with information related to this incident to contact the Irvington Police Department at 914.591.8080.”

Photos of the graffiti have not been made public or posted on Facebook. We believe that the publication of this type of hate is important and should not be hidden from the public eye.

The photo above shows some of the old, castle like structures at the pond. If we had to guess, that is where the graffiti was left.

A Facebook page named goloveny, called Halsey Pond “Westchester’s Secret Paradise.” Halsey Pond Park is one of Irvington’s best hidden gems, with quiet trails, water views, and the historic teahouse tucked into the trees.

A peaceful spot for a short walk, fresh air, and quiet views. In March of 2026, antisemitic graffiti was found at the MTA station in Irvington, and the MTA police have yet to make any arrests. We wonder if the two incidents are related.

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*Dead Neighbors benefits, continued from pg 1-*

General (OAG) found that after Morgan's death in March 2020, Pesce made numerous withdrawals from Morgan's bank account, which was funded by NYSTRS pension payments that improperly continued after his death. In total, Pesce stole \$143,385 of Morgan's pension benefits. Pesce pleaded not guilty today to Grand Larceny in the Second Degree in Albany County Court.

“Danilo Pesce undermined our retirement system by stealing pension funds that did not belong to him,” said Attorney General James. “This theft was not only heartless, but it dishonors the hardworking New Yorkers who have dedicated their lives to teaching and guiding our youth. My office will continue to prosecute those who attempt to take advantage of our retirement systems and steal from the retired New Yorkers who depend on it.”

Morgan was a NYSTRS pensioner who retired from the Pelham school district in 1991. At the time of his death in 2020, Morgan had no living beneficiary for his pension, and therefore NYSTRS payments should have ceased. However, NYSTRS was never notified of Morgan's death and continued to make monthly payments of \$3,497 to Morgan's bank account.

Prior to Morgan's death, Pesce allegedly acted as his caretaker. In his position as caretaker, Pesce was added to Morgan's bank account and the deed of Morgan's home in Pelham. The OAG's investigation found that beginning on March 17, 2020, less than a month after Morgan's death, Pesce regularly withdrew funds from Morgan's bank account which he controlled. Pesce spent the money on maintenance and renovation of Morgan's home, where Pesce and his wife were living part-time. The total amount of withdrawals from Morgan's account totaled \$143,385.

The NYSTRS became aware of Morgan's death in April 2024 and immediately ceased payments. In total, NYSTRS had mistakenly paid out \$171,879 but was able to take back \$28,594 in unspent funds from Morgan's bank account.

Pesce is charged with one count of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a Class C felony. If convicted, Pesce faces a maximum sentence of five to 15 years in prison.

Another question New Yorkers are asking is why did it take four years for the NYS Retirement system to determine that Morgan was dead?

***PUBLIC NOTICE***

A GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING PART IX, CHAPTER 100, OF THE CODE, ENTITLED PARKS AND PUBLIC PLACES, BY ADDING Article XV TO THE CODE, ENTITLED “VEHICLES IN PARKS”

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Yonkers has adopted the abovementioned legislation to amend the City Code to address vehicles in parks and explicitly penalize any vehicular activities which may cause damage to city parks.

Part IX of the Code of the City of Yonkers entitled “Parks and Public Places” is hereby amended in part by adding a new Article XV entitled “Vehicles in Parks” to read as follows:

Article XV VEHICLES IN PARKS  
§ 100-82.

A. No person shall operate, drive, propel, stand, or park any motor vehicle, including any motorized bike or scooter, all-terrain vehicle, or other off-road vehicle within any City Park except in any roadway or parking lot or area explicitly permitting vehicles or unless authorized by the Parks Commissioner.

B. No person shall operate any motor vehicle including any motorized bike or scooter, all-terrain vehicle, or other off-road vehicle, within any City Park in a manner that damages, defaces, or destroys any lawn, field, planting, tree, shrub, turf, walkway, fixture, structure, or other park property.

C. No person shall operate a motor vehicle including any motorized bike or scooter, all-terrain vehicle, or other off-road vehicle, in any manner that endangers persons or property.

## § 100-83. Penalties

Violations of this article shall constitute a class II offense, however, if such violation is determined to cause damage to property, than such violation shall constitute a class I offense.

\*\*\*\*\*

Penalties as defined in Article III: Penalties, § 1-21 Penalties for offenses; lesser included offenses:

(1) Class I offense:

(a) Criminal penalties: A Class I offense is an unclassified misdemeanor, subject to a fine of not less than \$250 nor more than \$10,000 or imprisonment of not more than one year, or both.

(b) Civil penalties: A Class I offense is subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$500 nor more than \$10,000.

(2) Class II offense:

(a) Criminal penalties: A Class II offense is a violation, subject to a fine of not less than \$100 nor more than \$5,000 or imprisonment of not more than 15 days in jail, or both.

[Amended 6-26-2012 by L.L. No. 5-2012]

(b) Civil penalties: A Class II offense is subject to a civil penalty of not less than \$250 nor more than \$5,000.

The complete text of the ordinance is on file and may be examined at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 40 S. Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701.

Dated: July 8, 2026

Vincent Spano  
City Clerk



Westchester Progressives is deeply disappointed that Representative George Latimer voted with 314 Republicans to block an amendment to the National Security and State Department appropriations bill (H.R. 8595) introduced by Rep. Thomas Massie (R-KY) that would have cut \$3.3 billion in aid to Israel. At a time when Israel is committing genocide in Gaza (1), carrying out ethnic cleansing in both Gaza and the West Bank(2), and maintaining a system of apartheid that has been documented by leading human rights organizations (3), we find it unconscionable that Representative Latimer supports sending the country billions of our taxpayer dollars. For his heinous crimes, the International Criminal Court has issued an arrest warrant for Benjamin Netanyahu (4). He is a war criminal who should be tried for his crimes—not enabled by our congressperson.

Continuing to provide military aid to Israel despite clear evidence of gross human rights violations ignores U.S. laws intended to prevent such assistance. Unconditional military support also emboldens the Israeli government to further violate international law, as it recently has by launching a war of aggression against Iran that has destabilized the Middle East and increased the risk of broader regional conflict. Although \$3.3 billion represents only a fraction of the total military assistance the United States provides to Israel, it is still a powerful source of leverage. Rather than writing another blank check, Representative Latimer should use his vote to demand compliance with international law and respect for human rights. A meaningful first step would be to cosponsor the Block the Bombs Act (H.R. 3565), which would prohibit the transfer of offensive weapons that have been repeatedly used in attacks causing mass civilian casualties and widespread destruction in Gaza.

If Representative Latimer were truly committed to human rights, he would have joined the majority of Democrats in Congress—including prominent leaders such as former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and House Minority Whip Katherine Clark (D-MA)—in voting to cut this financing of Israel’s military. Over 100 Democrats recognized that we have passed a threshold where we can no longer turn a blind eye to Israel’s violations of international law and the damage they inflict on America’s national security and our standing in the world. They also understand that a full 88 percent of Democratic voters disapprove of the war with Iran and a majority now sympathize more with Palestinians than Israelis in the conflict.

When AIPAC and affiliated groups poured almost \$15 million into George Latimer’s primary campaign, we questioned whether that unprecedented spending would influence his decisions in Congress. He insisted it would not. His vote leaves the public with two troubling possibilities: either that promise was false, or he independently believes that a genocide that includes the documented targeting of Palestinian children is consistent with American values.

Representative Latimer was elected to represent the people of Westchester and the Bronx—not the far-right government of Israel and not AIPAC. Every dollar Congress sends to Israel is a dollar unavailable to address the urgent needs of Americans struggling with housing costs, health care, education, infrastructure, and economic insecurity. We call on Representative Latimer to stop writing blank checks for horrific war crimes abroad and start fighting for the people who sent him to Washington.

Notes:

1) The UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry concluded in September 2025 that Israel has committed genocide in Gaza. The same determination has been reached by the International Association of Genocide Scholars, whose 500 members — the world’s leading genocide experts — resolved that Israel’s actions meet the legal definition of genocide; the Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention; Amnesty International (“You Feel Like You Are Subhuman,” Dec. 2024); Human Rights Watch (Extermination and Acts of Genocide, Dec. 2024); and the Israeli human rights organizations B’Tselem and Physicians for Human Rights–Israel (Our Genocide, July 2025) — as well as leading Holocaust and genocide scholars including Omer Bartov, Raz Segal, Melanie O’Brien, and William Schabas.

2) Human Rights Watch found that Israel’s forced displacement of 90 percent of Gaza’s population is a crime against humanity meeting the definition of ethnic cleansing (Hopeless, Starving, and Besieged, Nov. 2024), a conclusion echoed by Doctors Without Borders and UN experts. HRW has likewise found Israel’s forced emptying of West Bank refugee camps to be a crime against humanity.

3) The International Court of Justice found in its July 2024 advisory opinion that Israel’s policies in the occupied Palestinian territory breach the international prohibition on racial segregation and apartheid. See also Human Rights Watch (A Threshold Crossed, 2021); Amnesty International (Israel’s Apartheid Against Palestinians, 2022); and B’Tselem (This Is Apartheid, 2021).

4) International Criminal Court, “ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I Rejects the State of Israel’s Challenges to Jurisdiction and Issues Warrants of Arrest for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant,” press release, Nov. 21, 2024.

***Notice of Formation of Blossom & Spruce, LLC, a domestic LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 7/29/26. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to the LLC at 83 Grandview Ave., Dobbs Ferry, NY 10533. Purpose: Any lawful activity.***

Notice of formation of LR Project Solutions LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 3/10/2026. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of the process to the LLC, 108 Boulevard, Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful activity

***Notice of formation of CONNECTED EXPERIENCES LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 01/30/2026. Office: Westchester Co. SSNY designated agent for process and shall mail copy to LLC at 212 Colabaugh Pond Rd, Croton On Hudson, NY, 10520. Purpose: any lawful act.***

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

Notice of formation of Rat Attack Snacks, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 3/2/2026. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 516 Park Avenue Yonkers NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful activity

***Notice of formation of DVH List Services, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/05/2026. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 69 Johnson Rd, Scarsdale NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity***

Notice of formation of W4J9R1 Holdings, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/23/2026. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 2 Gedney Park Drive, White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: Any lawful activity

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

Notice of formation of M.C.K. VENTURES LLC of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/31/2026. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to MCK VENTURES LLC 465 TUCKAHOE ROAD, #1304 YONKERS, NY, 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity

***Notice of formation of Frontline Restoration Partners LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed with the SSNY on July 7, 2026. Office Location: Westchester County, New York. SSNY is designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 333 Mamaroneck Avenue, Suite 359, White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: Any lawful activity.***

***Notice of Formation of Moving Minds LCSW PLLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 06/02/2026. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Nichole Rankin, 8 Oakbrook Road, Ossining, NY 10562. Purpose: any lawful purpose.***

***Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless proposes to build a 49- foot Communications Pole/Structure at the approx. vicinity of 87 Chestnut Street, Dobbs Ferry, Westchester County, NY 10522. In accordance with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the FCC regulations implementing Section 106 review, public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted to: Trileaf Corp, Benjamin Allen, b.allen@trileaf.com, 1775 The Exchange SE, Suite 525, Atlanta, GA 30339, 678-653-8673.***

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

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

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

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

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

1. Bid No. IFB-7670 – Opening date: 08/21/2026: Repair of Yonkers/Nepperhan Ave Pedestrian Bridge (KAS).

2. Bid No. RFB-7671 – Opening date: 08/14/2026: Purchase of up to 12 2026 (or newer) Toyota Prius Prime SE Plug-In Hybrid (or Yonkers Approved Equal) vehicles (FB).

3. Bid No. RFB–7668 – Opening Date: 08/14/2026 – Purchase of LION V–Force Structural Firefighting Gloves (or Yonkers approved equal) for the Yonkers Fire Department (VB).

4. Bid No. RFB–7669 – Opening Date: 08/14/2026 – Purchase of Midmark mobile platform animal cages (or Yonkers approved equal) for the Yonkers Animal Shelter (VB).

5. Bid No. RFB–7672 – Opening Date: 08/21/2026 – 12 mo. contract, with option to renew for 12-months to provide on-call exterminating of City owned lots and catch basins (KAS).

***Notice of Formation of Cortese Collective LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on April 1, 2026. 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 any process to Cortese Collective LLC, 185 Ashford Avenue, Dobbs Ferry, NY 10533. Purpose: Any lawful activity.***

***Notice of formation of ANVIL STAFFING LLC . Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/09/2026. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 66 Hutchinson Blvd Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity***

Westchester County Unveils New Bee-Line Bus Shelters



Westchester County has unveiled the first of its new Bee-Line bus shelters, marking the start of a multi-year initiative to modernize transit amenities across the County. The shelter replacement program will provide riders with safer, cleaner and more comfortable places to wait while improving the overall appearance of streets and transit corridors. The new shelters will replace aging Bee-Line shelters with updated structures that include benches, improved lighting and protection from the elements. Depending on the location, shelters will be powered by either local electrical connections or rooftop solar panels. The replacement program will continue through 2029 as part of the County’s ongoing investment in maintaining a modern, reliable and customer-focused public transportation system.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: “Whether someone rides the Bee-Line every day or only occasionally, they deserve a safe and comfortable place to wait for the bus. These new shelters are another example of our commitment to investing in infrastructure that improves the quality of life for our residents while making public transportation more welcoming and dependable.”

Con Edison Natural Resources Scientist Shows ELOC Students About Environmental Careers



*By Marvin V Church, Associate Executive Director of Environmental Leaders of Color*

Students in Environmental Leaders of Color’s (ELOC) summer program got a first-hand look at what it means to build a career protecting and revitalizing local ecosystems when John Pavacic, a natural resources scientist with Con Edison, visited the organization’s New Rochelle site at the Booker T. Washington program on Wednesday, July 22nd. The visit was part of ELOC’s summer program curriculum, which this year centers on the theme of “Ecosystems”. Students will spend the summer exploring how plants, animals, water, and humans interact with and depend on one another in the communities where students live. Pavacic walked students through the wide range of projects he leads and supports at Con Edison, from eradicating invasive species that crowd out native plants to designing rain gardens that capture stormwater before it overwhelms local sewers and waterways to rewilding initiatives that reintroduce native species and pollinators to areas where they had previously disappeared. “Our students see environmental science in textbooks every week, but moments like this show them it’s also a real career, one where you can spend your days restoring wetlands, protecting shorelines, and bringing pollinators back to neighborhoods like theirs. When they meet someone like John, who’s doing that work at a company as large as Con Edison, it becomes tangible. They start to see themselves in that role, not just as students learning about ecosystems, but as future scientists and stewards of their own communities,” said Marvin V. Church, Associate Executive Director of Environmental Leaders of Color.

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