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# Yonkers Rising

YonkersTimes.com

Friday August 9, 2024

## Mayor Spano Launches 13th Annual Yonkers Backpack to School Drive

Mayor Mike Spano's  **BACKPACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE**  supplies list



Please Donate the Following Supplies through August 20<sup>TH</sup>

- backpacks
- crayons
- colored pencils
- washable markers
- glue sticks
- Elmer's Glue
- rulers
- pink erasers
- #2 pencils
- pencil sharpeners
- loose leaf paper
- composition books
- pencil pouches
- pocket folders
- hand sanitizer
- tissue packets
- masks/face coverings

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today announced the launch of the City's annual "Backpack to School" donation drive. The 13th annual donation drive provides backpacks and school supplies to Yonkers Public Schools students most in need. "In Yonkers, our aim is to bolster our children's education and empower them to reach their academic aspirations," said Mayor Spano. "To achieve this, we must furnish them with the necessary resources and support, recognizing that purchasing school supplies can pose financial difficulties for numerous families."

"We believe every child in Yonkers deserves the tools necessary for success in school. Providing backpacks and school supplies is more than just giving materials - it's a way to show our students and families that their city is invested in their success," noted Superintendent of Schools Anibal Soler, Jr. "We are grateful to Mayor Spano for his commitment to this tradition, which has had a significant positive impact on our students' educational journeys."

Backpacks and school supply donations may be made at the following "Backpack to School" drop-off locations until Sunday, August 18th:

*continued on pg 10-*

## Councilman Anthony Merante: FEMA Sticks Yonkers with a \$5.2 Million Bill for Hurricane IDA Emergency Repairs

YONKERS TAXPAYERS NOW MUST FOOT THE BILL

In September of 2021, Hurricane Ida devastated the lower Hudson Valley, Homeland Security's Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has now denied the City of Yonkers over \$5.2 million. These were monies required to stabilize three slopes along the Hudson River and MTA Metro North Railroad.

The concentrated water flow caused substantial damage to the slope supporting Warburton Avenue, the homes, and a residential building, washing thousands of tons of soil down onto the Metro North Hudson Line railroad track. A residential building is virtually hanging over the cliff. A retaining wall is required to stabilize the three slopes to ensure the safety of the residents living in the apartment building.

*continued on pg 10-*

## We Just Hit \$35 Trillion in Debt and Nobody Cares? Wake Up!



Op-Ed By Frank Spotorno

The United States of America now owes our creditors \$35 Trillion dollars...and nobody cares. Has anyone given their children, or grandchildren's welfare any thought?

When I ran for Congress in 2016, I said "Common Sense should tell us that we should not spend our children's and grandchildren's future by running budget deficits and a national debt approaching 20 trillion dollars. Congress can start by passing the Penny Plan, which cuts

*continued on pg 15-*

## Bronx Suspects Wanted in Murder, Transport to Yonkers in Shopping Cart to Burn Body



The NYPD are searching for this man, seen in the Bronx, transporting a body in a shopping cart to Yonkers

By Dan Murphy

The NYPD is searching for suspects caught on video in the Bronx, transporting a body in a shopping cart to Yonkers. No arrests have been made in what appears to be a strange murder and attempt to destroy the evidence.

Yonkers Police Department Investigation Into Found Body Transferred to the New York City Police Department

Just before 2:00 am on August 5, 2024, the Yonkers Police Department responded to the southern sidewalk of the Oak Street bridge, just inside of the jurisdictional border with the City of Mt. Vernon, on a report of a body found.

This call originated as a fire at that location. Upon extinguishing the flames, Westchester County Department of Public Safety Police Officers and the Mount Vernon Fire Department reported they had discovered a lifeless body.

Upon arrival, Yonkers Police Officers located a body that had been placed in a shopping cart on the sidewalk and apparently set on fire at that location.

Due to the location of where this body was found, the Yonkers Police Department initiated a death investigation as the primary investigative agency.

*continued on pg 10-*

## St. John's Riverside Hospital to Double Emergency Department Capacity



Dr. Raffaele Miliza, MD, Chair of Emergency Medicine, speaks with Denise Mananas, Associate Vice President of External Affairs & Strategic Communication on an episode of Riverside Talks

By Dan Murphy

St. John's Riverside Hospital recently announced an upcoming expansion of its Emergency Department (ED), which will double its patient capacity. The announcement was made by Dr. Raffaele Miliza, MD, Chair of Emergency Medicine and AVP of Medical Affairs at SJRH.

Dr. Milizia spoke with Denise Mananas, Associate Vice President of External Affairs at St. John's Riverside Hospital, on an episode of SJRH's Riverside Reflections ([www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RmJ1hxmyNw&t=3s](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5RmJ1hxmyNw&t=3s)).

"Working with New York State, the hospital received a grant and will begin work in the fourth quarter of this year to expand our Emergency Department. By the time this renovation is done, we will have doubled the space of our ED."

SJRH's ED at Andrus Pavilion in Yonkers was built to serve 23,000 patients annually. Once the expansion is complete, the hospital will be able to serve 55,000 patients. The Emergency Room currently has 27 beds and will add 28

*continued on pg 11-*



“The Bad Guys are Ahead of Us”- Criminals Placing Cameras in Yards of Westchester Homes

1.8 Million New Yorkers Who Claimed Empire State Child Tax to Receive One Time Supplemental Payment of up to \$330



By Dan Murphy

A Scarsdale homeowner recently found a hidden camera in their yard. While this is the first incident in Westchester, several upscale communities across the country have uncovered the same problem and may be part of a growing trend by criminals to scope out your home before a burglary. The FBI is investigating.

Here are the details from Scarsdale. “A Public Safety Message from Mayor Justin Arest, Police Chief Andrew Matturro, and Acting Village Manager Alexandra Marshall. On July 28, 2024, a resident of Bradford Road discovered a hidden surveillance camera on their property. The Scarsdale Police Department (SPD) was immediately notified and is currently investigating the matter in collaboration with other law enforcement agencies. No one was harmed and there was no indication of a burglary having occurred. The surrounding area was searched, and no further devices have been found.

“Unfortunately, the use of cameras has become a popular tactic by thieves nationwide to monitor opportunities for burglarizing homes. As a precaution,

*continued on pg 14-*

Fourth Precinct Community Council

The Fourth Precinct’s Community Council will hold its monthly meeting at 7:00 PM August 15, 2024, in the meeting room at the Fourth Police Precinct, at 53 Shonnard Terrace. Anyone who lives or works in the area served by the fourth police precinct is welcome to attend. All elected officials are also welcome. Captain Michael Messar, Precinct Commander, and Lieutenant Patrick Curtis will be available to discuss your issues and matters of interest.

We would like to thank everyone for attending these meetings and look forward to seeing you in future meetings!

If you have any concerns, please get in touch with the non-emergency department. (914-377-7900) For anything emergency-related, please call 911.



State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins

Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins: 1.8 Million New Yorkers Who Claimed Empire State Child Tax to Receive One-Time Supplemental Payment of up to \$330

New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins says Westchester families who have claimed the Empire State Child Tax Credit will automatically receive a one-time supplemental payment from the Tax Department starting August 1.

Governor Kathy Hochul announced New York State is delivering approximately \$350 million in supplemental payments to low- and moderate-income families statewide through the Empire State Child Credit program. More than 1 million families will receive this financial assistance without any need to apply, as each eligible family will receive a direct payment of up to \$330 per child.

“We’re putting money back in the pockets of more than a million New Yorkers because this administration delivers for working families,” Governor Hochul said. “Our work is far from over. From expanding tax credits to increasing access to child care assistance, I’ll never stop fighting to address the cost of living for working parents and help them create a brighter future for their kids.”

“This one-time supplemental payment under the Empire State Child Tax Credit Program comes at a vital time as many are struggling with the high cost of living, and will make a difference for so many families here in Westchester and across New York State,” Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins said.

In this year’s state budget, Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins fought hard to secure \$350 million for the Supplemental Empire State Child Credit, which will help approximately 1.8 million New Yorkers.

Sen. Stewart-Cousins also highlighted the launch of the New York State Child Care Assistance Program (CCAP) Digital Portal, a significant step forward in making child care more accessible and affordable for families in Westchester County and across the state. CCAP currently serves approximately 100,000 families statewide, with hundreds of thousands more potentially eligible. With this new portal, families in Westchester County and beyond can determine their eligibility and apply for assistance quickly and efficiently.

The CCAP Digital Portal is part of a historic \$1.8 billion investment in child care services secured in the state budget – an increase of \$754.4 million over last year’s budget. CCAP is designed to support working families whose household income is at or below 85 percent of the State Median Income, which is approximately \$108,000 for a family of four. The CCAP subsidy covers at least 90 percent of weekly market rate child care costs for most eligible families, meaning many families of four will pay no more than \$15 per week for high-quality child care.

“The launch of the CCAP Digital Portal underscores the state’s commitment to addressing the child care needs of its residents and providing the tools necessary for families to thrive. I extend my gratitude to Governor Hochul, Assembly Speaker Heastie, my Senate colleagues and all of our legislative partners in the Assembly for their partnership,” said Sen. Stewart-Cousins. “I encourage families across my district to utilize this new resource.”

Families do not have to apply. Those who qualified for the Empire State Child Tax Credit in 2023 and filed their taxes on time will automatically receive a check in the mail. Income limits are married couples making \$110,000 or less, single parents making \$75,000 or less, and married couples filing separately who make \$55,000 or less. The program is estimated to serve more than a million low- and moderate-income families.

“As New Yorkers get started with back-to-school shopping for their kids, we’re putting some money back in their pockets,” Hochul said in a statement. “My team is making sure these supplemental payments reach every eligible New Yorker – and I’m going to keep working every day to address the cost of living for working parents across our state.”

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## Median Home Sales Price in Westchester Now \$1 Million



Zillow photo of Kenneth Cole's Purchase mansion for sale at \$22 Million

Median sales prices for single-family homes continued to rise in June. Westchester County once again reached a new record high for the median single-family home price at \$1,031,500 in June—a 12.7% increase over last year's median home price of \$915,000.

Putnam County posted the highest gain of 19.2%, bringing its June 2024 median sales price to \$590,000, as compared to last year's median price of \$495,000.

Sales were down in all counties in the Hudson Gateway Association of Realtors market area, with Orange County posting the largest decline in single-family home sales at 26.9%, followed by Putnam and Sullivan counties, which posted the same 16.9% fall-off in sales activity.

Closed sales in the condo markets were down or flat for every market with the exception of the Bronx, which enjoyed a 14.3% increase in sales last month. However, the Bronx median condo price, after growing 42% in May, fell 18.7% in June to \$333,250. Westchester's condo and co-op median prices increased by about 3.3% and 15%, respectively to \$511,000 and \$215,000. In Rockland County, the median condo price rose 5.8% to \$399,000 and the co-op median rose 5.0% to \$126,000.

Inventory of single-family homes plummeted. Putnam County posted the highest for overall pending sales for all property types with a 19.5% increase in June. The only other county to post positive overall pending sales was Sullivan at 2.5%.

The report offers mixed results for the home sales market, which continues to deal with high mortgage rates, low inventory, and strong demand. Those three market forces are causing prices to continue to rise throughout the region. As the month ended, a number of positive economic reports clearly showed inflation is cooling and analysts are now expecting the Federal Reserve to begin cutting rates by as early as its sessions in September. The 30-year fixed-rate mortgage averaged 6.92% in June, according to Freddie Mac and ended the month at 6.86%.

"Limited supply and strong demand continue to be the driving forces in our markets right now, particularly for single-family homes," said HGAR CEO Lynda Fernandez. "We expect lower interest rates and higher levels of inventory to help stabilize pricing and to generate more home sales in future months." Westchester County

In a reversal from May, sales of single-family homes declined by 13.3%, and the median sales price shot up by 12.7% to a new high of \$1,031,500. In June 2023, the median price for a single-family home stood at \$915,000. In May 2024, the median price reached the previous all-time record of \$980,000. The condo market also experienced a drop in sales in June at 7.7%, and a 3.3% hike

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## Wait A Minute Mr. 73 Cents Postman



By Eric Wolf Schoen

The United States Post Office. Wasn't their slogan, 'We Deliver for You' not too long ago. Etched on the main post office in Manhattan: Neither snow nor rain nor heat nor gloom of night stays these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed routes. So what happened?

I realized last week that I had not received mail in 4-5 days. So I ran into the mailman and asked him what was going on. He told me that my mail 'had been lost.' LOST? What does that mean I asked the kind man. The indication I got from him was that my mail and my neighbors mail was floating around the country.

Now one of my neighbors has the system set up so he gets a picture early in the morning of what mail he should expect for delivery that day. This way he knows what to expect and not to expect, and if there is something he should have received he can call about it. That System seems to work out nicely for those who use it. The day I saw the mailman, my neighbor received no knowledge of any mail coming to him. So, who was I going to call to find out where in the world my mail was. Did you ever try to call the Main Post Office, 10701 in Yonkers. Calling there is like calling the moon. No one picks up the phone and if they do by chance your call quite often will get disconnected. If you call another Yonkers Post office and ask why no one is picking up at the main post office they will laugh at you and say no one ever picks up the phone.

I wasn't in the mood to personally visit the main post office so I said let's wait another day to see what happens. The following day I received 2 pieces of mail, both junk mail but it led me to believe maybe the mail service was returning to normal.

I chalk up the lousy service at 10701 post office to the fact that so many lower income people live in that zip code so the post office doesn't care much about quality of service. Also, my particular route has many hills, staircases leading to homes, homes spread apart and is simply not the carriers favorite route. So the carriers bid for easier, better routes.

The cost of a stamp in 2019 was 55 cents, in 2023 the price went up to 63 cents and recently increased to 73 Cents. Most blame problems at the post service on Postmaster Louis DeJoy. He is the businessman Trump brought in to fix the Postal Service. He and the Postal Service Board destroyed moral at the post office as well as cut back service and increased the price of a stamp to 73 cents. When Biden came into office he pledged to rid the Post Office of DeJoy as soon as he had control over the Postal board. Biden got control of the Postal Board, did not rid the service of DeJoy, and many people wonder what Biden is waiting for. He clearly is a big part of the problem.

Delays in mail service also appear to stem from a new system the Postal Service began rolling out last fall that will eventually funnel all the nation's letters and packages through a consolidated network of 60 regional distribution centers — similar to the airlines' hub-and-spoke model. The project was introduced by the DeJoy board and there have been numerous problems. Biden must get rid of DeJoy NOW,

The US. postal service has had its share of problems for many years. How many of you have received mail that is not meant for you? The pretty and meaningful Commemorative Stamps are not available at all post offices, and at 73 cents you should be able to dress your mail appropriately. I told you last week of

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## Scarsdale Man Arrested Twice for Upskirting- Photos of Women in Westchester



**Kun Cheung**

Greenburgh Police arrested a man who was caught in the Barnes & Noble for taking a picture up a woman's dress. We now know this offense to be called upskirting.

Here's the facts from the Greenburgh PD.

Subject: Felony Arrest: Unlawful Surveillance – Penal Law 250.45 Sub 4

On July 24, 2024, the Greenburgh Police Department received a report of an Unlawful Surveillance incident that occurred on July 21, 2024 at 381 N. Central Ave (Barnes & Noble store). During the incident, a female victim reported that she noticed an Asian male crouching down behind her with a cell phone in his hand under her skirt. The female victim reported that she then confronted the Asian male who fled from the store in a red Honda SUV. Greenburgh Police Officers and Detectives investigated the incident.

The suspect was identified as Kun Cheung, a 66 year old male from Scarsdale, New York. This defendant was previously arrested in May 2024 for the same offense. On July 31, 2024, Greenburgh Detectives arrested Cheung and he was held at the Greenburgh Police Department pending arraignment. Currently, the investigation is ongoing.

Any witnesses or victims that may recognize the below subject or anyone with more information, is encouraged to contact Detective Davey Jakasal at 914-989-1726.

We have also asked for information concerning the prior incident of upskirting by Cheung.

## New Rochelle Police Arrest Three Men for Possession of \$6359 in Stolen Property

On Friday August 2nd, at about 4:12pm, New Rochelle Police were alerted by the Westchester County Real Time Crime Center that a vehicle linked to a theft of a purse out of Greenburgh was in New Rochelle near Home Depot. New Rochelle Police located the vehicle parked and unoccupied in the Home Depot parking lot and set up surveillance on the car.

Greenburgh PD Detectives were notified and began to respond to New Rochelle to continue their investigation. Before Greenburgh PD Detectives arrived, three people returned to the suspect vehicle and started to drive away. New Rochelle Officers stopped the vehicle and quickly determined that all three occupants had extraditable warrants out of Delaware and had just made a fraudulent purchase out of the New Rochelle Home Depot.

Additionally, Officers observed that there were four PlayStation 5 consoles, two Nintendo Switch gaming devices and other bagged items in plain sight in the vehicle. New Rochelle Detectives quickly found out that these suspects allegedly made another fraudulent purchase at GameStop in New Rochelle before coming to Home Depot. The suspects had a total of \$6359.68 of alleged stolen property in their possession. The three suspects were placed into custody without incident by New Rochelle Police for local charges as well as the extraditable warrants out of Delaware.

Arrested were

Luis Arellano-Corrales, 31 years of age, of Paterson, NJ. Monica Cuba-Medina, 38 years of age, of Paterson, NJ. Marco Rodriguez-Perez, 58 years of age, of Paterson, NJ.

The three were charged with Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 4th Degree (2 counts) – E Felony, Grand Larceny 4th Degree – E Felony, and Fugitive from Justice – Felony Out of State

## Harckham Honors School Board Member Who Loves to Say “From the River to the Sea”



**L-R-Abi Lyons, State Senator Pete Harckham, Jim Wise**

**By Dan Murphy**

Residents in the 40th State Senate district are asking their State Senator, Pete Harckham, why he honored two controversial leaders of an anti-Israel group called Putnam for Palestine.

Harckham awarded Jim Wise and Abi Lyons last month, for their work in the LGBTQ community in Putnam. But Wise, a member of the Carmel School Board, was censured by his fellow school board members over his anti-Israeli rhetoric.

At a recent school board meeting, a two-hour debate ensued over whether Wise should continue to serve. During this debate, Wise said six times, the phrase “From the River to the Sea,” which he claims it not antisemitic.

But most residents and voters in the 40th District, and throughout Westchester, understand that “From the River to the Sea,” is antisemitic.

School Board President Melissa Orser read most of the resolution to the public. “This issue is not only divisive, but it is damaging to the fabric of our community. Over the past school year, we have witnessed an unsettling up tick of anti-Semitic incidents in our own school community. The presence of swastikas throughout our school buildings is a stark reminder of the hatred and intolerance that still exists. The Carmel School District must be at the forefront of teaching tolerance, understanding and the accurate history that dispels misinformation”....Mr. Wise’s use of ‘from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,’ has resulted in a rallying cry for the destruction of Israel and the Jewish people. This is not acceptable. It is crucial to distinguish between political discourse and anti-Semitism. As leaders we have the profound responsibility to understand between free speech and speech that targets groups of people. Free speech is the cornerstone of our democracy, but it comes with the responsibility to consider the consequences of our words.”

According to the Anti-Defamation League, ADL, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” is an antisemitic slogan commonly featured in anti-Israel campaigns and chanted at demonstrations. This rallying cry has long been used by anti-Israel voices, including supporters of terrorist organizations such as Hamas, which seek Israel’s destruction through violent means.

“It is fundamentally a call for a Palestinian state extending from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, territory that includes the State of Israel, which would mean the dismantling of the Jewish state. It is an antisemitic charge denying the Jewish right to self-determination, including through the removal of Jews from their ancestral homeland.

“Usage of this phrase has the effect of making members of the Jewish and pro-Israel community feel unsafe and ostracized,” stated ADL.

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# Letters to the Editor:

Kamila Harris speaks with “forked tongue”-

Kamala Harris-“Abuse of words has been the greatest instrument of sophistry and chicanery of party, faction, and division of society”

These words were spoken many moons ago by John Quincy Adams- and mirror a recent statement by Ms. Harris who called upon top Justice Department officials to recuse themselves from any matter related to Jeffrey Epstein-she stated that their former law firm’s work on behalf of Epstein, accused of sexual abuse ,”calls into question the integrity of our legal system”-Kirkland & Ellis(Epstein’s law firm) had negotiated a deal with federal prosecutors that allowed him to avoid a long prison term.

However, here is the ultimate in (“Abuse of words”)-Harris accepted by this same law firm, (Kirkland & Ellis) a fund raiser in her honor!!

Paul A. Ryan, an attorney for the Good Government Group “Common Cause “stated,” If any connection with Kirkland & Ellis is a stain on(senior Justice Department officials), why isn’t a connection with the law firm for the receipt of campaign contributions , a stain on her own campaign”

Joe Pettit  
Yorktown Hts, NY

Source -CBS News, Bay Area (San Francisco )

# On This Day in Yonkers History ...



Famous Yonkers comedian Jefferson DeAngelis

By Mary Hoar, City of Yonkers Historian, Chair of Revolutionary Yonkers 250, President Emerita Yonkers Historical Society, recipient of the 2004 Key to History, Member of the Yonkers Landmarks Preservation Board, and President Untermyer Performing Arts Council

Monday, August 12th

August 12, 1938: Yonkers Public Schools announced for the first time in Yonkers’ history, every Yonkers public school student would attend classes full time when schools opened in September! Some school facilities were switched. Longfellow Junior High School moved from North Broadway to Seymour Street, Commerce High School moved to North Broadway to the former Longfellow, and Roosevelt JHS would occupy part of Mark Twain School on Wakefield Avenue.

August 12, 1942: New Common Council member Thomas Sheridan, just sworn in as Al Richter’s successor, really surprised City Manager Raymond Whitney and the rest of the Common Council when his first official act was to get an indefinite postponement of the “Junk Sale” of Yonkers’ lighting fixtures. City Lighting Inspector James Delehanty said not only were they not junk, he labeled them as valuable, said they could not be purchased at any price, and would be used for replacement parts.

Sheridan had learned about the sale by reading a small ad on the back page of the Herald Statesman.

Tuesday, August 13th

August 13, 1887: A new electric locomotive invented in Yonkers by Stephen Field using Rudolph Eickmeyer’s dynamo, was placed on the tracks of the Hudson River Railroad.

August 13, 1942: City Manager Raymond Whitney’s announcement upset city employees. Whitney said the 12.5% pay cut they had suffered January 1st, 1942, would NEVER be returned. This cut had followed a 12.5% “voluntary” 1941 pay cut. Whitney stated, “The youngest employee on the city payroll will not live long enough to get back the cut.”

August 13, 1945: Alexander Smith and Sons mounted an exhibition of their mechanical war products in the First National Bank Building.

The exhibit featured samples of defense items designed, manufactured and delivered by the company, staged against a backdrop of photos showing how the products were used. The display was accompanied by a listing of the 1,600 Smith employees who served in the Armed Forces during the war. Plaques itemized products Smith produced, heralded employee volunteer work, highlighted employee purchase of more than \$4 million War Bonds, employee donations to the Red Cross Blood Bank, Smith’s four government “E” awards for high standards of plant production, and its War Production award for salvaging more than 11,000,000 pounds of scrap!

Wednesday, August 14th

August 14, 1913: The Common Council’s Committee on Public Buildings recommended to the Council a tunnel be built from South Broadway through Washington Park to City Hall.

August 14, 1942: Mayor Benjamin Barnes, referring to City Manager Whitney’s statement about City employee pay cuts, said it was ridiculous, stating, “...anybody who makes a statement like that... is certainly in my opinion, reading palms or looking in the crystal ball.

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Dear The Yonkers Times,

I’m a teacher who is angry about the lack of action on climate.I am writing to encourage you to report on the significant climate policy differences between the Biden-Harris and Trump-Pence administrations. An informed electorate is crucial for a healthy democracy, and as a leading news source, you have the power to share this essential information.

The Biden-Harris administration has promoted unprecedented federal spending and tax subsidies for clean energy through the 2021 Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act. It has also heavily invested in American-made clean energy, aiming to increase solar generation eightfold and triple wind generation by 2030. The administration is also working to provide affordable solar energy to nearly 1 million low-income homes.

In contrast, the Trump-Pence administration attempted to roll back nearly 100 environmental rules, including limits on greenhouse gases from power plants and cars. With a conservative supermajority in the Supreme Court, Trump would be in a stronger position to dismantle environmental and climate regulations if re-elected.

Reporting on these stark differences will help voters make informed decisions about the future of our nation’s climate policy.

Thank you for considering this important topic.  
Sincerely, Jen Horowitz  
New Rochelle

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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 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 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.

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-7213 – Opening date: 08/23/2024: 2024 – 2025 Highway Improvements/Repaving City Streets Contract (KS).

2. Bid No. IFB-7214 – Opening date: 08/23/2024: Fire Station 14 Rehabilitation Contract, 2187 Central Park Avenue (FB).

3. Bid No. IFB-7215 – Opening date: 08/23/2024: 2024 – 2025 Emergency Traffic Signal Repairs Contract (FB).

4. Bid No. RFB-7216 – Opening date: 08/16/2024: Purchase of one model year 2024 Chevrolet Blazer EV eAWD 4dr LT, or Yonkers Approved equal (FB).

5. Bid No. IFB-7217 – Opening date: 08/23/2024: Twelve-month contract for maintenance, service, and repairs of roof and masonry systems throughout the Yonkers School District (MM).

6. Bid No. RFB-7218 – Opening date: 08/16/2024: Purchase of 100 Frigidaire model FFRE 153 WAE, or Yonkers approved equal, 3 fan speeds, 115V, 15K BTU air conditioners (KAS).

7. Bid No. IFB-7219 – Opening date: 08/23/2024: North Yonkers Boys and Girls Club Phase I Site Improvements, 223 Ridge Avenue (MM).

8. Bid No. RFB-7220 – Opening date: 08/16/2024: Twenty-four month contract for the maintenance and repair of chlorination equipment throughout the Yonkers water distribution system (KS)

## House for Rent

2 Bedroom and 1Bath single family home for Rent Move in ready, Contact me for details and pictures at: [johnybanabas@gmail.com](mailto:johnybanabas@gmail.com)

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

### Yonkers Rising

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

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 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 Freedenfeld Impact Advisors, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/23/24. 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, 350 Ringgold St., Peekskill, NY 10566. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of RR 207 Consulting, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 03/27/24. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 603 Warburton Ave, Ste 2, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, 10706. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Toneske Management Services LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/27/2024. 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, 146 Catskill Ave., Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: Any lawful activity

## PUBLIC NOTICE

A GENERAL ORDINANCE INSTITUTING AN EIGHT-MONTH MORATORIUM ON SELF-STORAGE FACILITIES WITHIN THE CITY OF YONKERS IN ORDER TO CONDUCT A THOROUGH REVIEW OF HOW TO BETTER SERVE THE CITY'S ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Yonkers has adopted the abovementioned legislation that amends the City Code to enact a temporary moratorium on self-storage units whereby no approval for the permitting of new units may be granted by the City with the exception of those projects that have obtained zoning board or site plan approval or where amended site plan approval is sought. This moratorium is specifically determined to be necessary to provide adequate time for the City to delve into its zoning laws and land-use strategies to assess whether the City's economic goals would be better served by utilizing the space currently occupied by self-storage facilities for other purposes, including but not limited to affordable- and market-rate housing.

A person or entity with standing may appeal to the City Council for relief from the provisions of this general ordinance (the "Moratorium"). The City Council shall have the power to grant such relief or so much relief as determined by the City Council to be necessary and appropriate.

This ordinance shall be effective immediately and shall remain in effect for a period of eight months, and may be extended for an additional eight months if deemed necessary.

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: August 5, 2024 Vincent Spano

City Clerk

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF KD CONSULTANTS GROUP LLC AS AN AUTHORIZED FOREIGN LLC. APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY FILED WITH THE SSNY 07/16/24. OFFICE LOCATION - WESTCHESTER COUNTY. PRINCIPAL BUSINESS LOCATION: 208 BENNET RD, FREEHOLD, NJ 07728. THE SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS TO DOROTHY G. VASTOLA, 208 BENNET RD., FREEHOLD, NJ 07728. THE ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION WERE FILED ON 07/13/2021 WITH THE NJ SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPT OF TREASURY, PO BOX 002, TRENTON, NJ 08625 FOR ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

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## Op-Ed: Winning Your Westchester D.A. Race & Demonstrating Your Fitness for the Office:

TO: Would-Be Westchester County D.A. Susan Cacace (D)  
 Would Be Westchester County D.A. John Sarcone (R)

I am director and co-founder of the non-partisan, non-profit citizens' organization Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA), which, for several decades, has documented the collusion of all three branches of our state government in the subversion and collapse of lawful, constitutional governance. New York's 62 D.A.s, whose duty it is to enforce the state's penal laws, including against law-breaking public officers, are key participants in this.

Only five of this year's 14 D.A. races are contested, the Westchester D.A. race among them. Last week, I sent Westchester D.A. Mimi Rocah – and all 61 of New York's other D.A.s and acting D.A.s – the above three attachments by the below July 18th e-mail entitled "NOTICE & grand jury/public corruption complaint – Your D.A. salary increases, the judicial salary increases on which they are based, & the violations of NY penal laws by state legislators within your jurisdictions", requesting their answers, by August 1st, to two simple questions:

Whether they will be repudiating their state-mandated D.A. salary increases, paid from their county budgets, because they are based on three "false instrument", penal law-violating commission reports raising judicial salaries;

Cnfirmation that they will be recusing themselves from CJA's July 18, 2024 grand jury/public corruption complaint pertaining thereto and securing an independent prosecutor.

What would your answers be, if elected? Please let me hear from you so that, based on your answers, Westchester county voters can be apprised as to whether a write-in campaign must be launched for suitable D.A. candidates who will abide by their duty of enforcing New York's penal laws, without fear or favor, including by recusing themselves when compromised by self-interest and relationships.

I am available to answer questions, including as to the particulars of my communications with D.A. Rocah and predecessors D.A. Anthony Scarpino, Acting D.A. James McCarty, and D.A. Janet DiFiore.

**Elena Sassower, Director Center for Judicial Accountability, Inc. (CJA)**  
[www.judgewatch.org](http://www.judgewatch.org)

### Real Estate, continued from pg 3-

in the median sales price to \$511,000. Closed sales declined by 13.0% in the co-op market, however the median sales price grew by 15% to \$215,000.

New listings declined for all housing types—condos by 27.4% co-ops by 3.4% and 3.1% fewer single-family home listings. Overall inventory for all property types declined, with co-ops seeing the largest decrease at 27.4%,

followed by condos at 18.9% and single-family homes at 17.1%. Months of supply was down 10.3% to just 2.6 months, and pending sales dropped 9.4%.

#### Putnam County

Single-family home sales in Putnam County suffered a 16.9% decline in June, and condo transactions retreated by 8.3% as compared to activity in June 2023. The median sales price for single-family homes soared by 19.2% to \$590,000—up from \$495,000 in June of 2023. The median sale price of a condominium in Putnam County fell 3.7% in June 2024 to \$375,500 as compared to \$389,900 a year earlier. There was just one sale of a cooperative unit in Putnam County in June 2024.

Single-family home listings in June shot up 24.5% as compared to June 2023. New listings for condos increased by 10%. Months of supply for all property types was higher by 6.9%, pushing it up from 2.8 months in May to 3.1 months in June. On another positive note, pending sales in June 2024 shot up 19.5% in Putnam County, after falling by 6.3% the previous month.;

Visit HGAR.com for more information.

## White Plains Medical Device Manufacturer Showcases Innovative Voice Product



**Laronix co-founder Mousa Ahmadi discusses his company's MIRA Voice device on July 24, 2024 in White Plains**

Laronix held a showcase Wednesday to demonstrate its MIRA Voice device that uses artificial intelligence to help people with spinal cord injuries, cerebral palsy and other conditions regain the ability to speak clearly.

The event at Serendipity Labs in White Plains welcomed medical professionals and others curious about MIRA Voice and the Australia-based Laronix's rollout of the technology in the United States.

"Our story started with patients who were experiencing (voice loss from laryngectomies) reaching out to us and saying, 'We know that you have the expertise to create a new class of technology for us,'" Laronix co-founder Mousa Ahmadi told attendees. "Over time we decided to ...start innovating and create something for this group."

The MIRA Voice device uses a pressure sensing module that rests in a user's throat to monitor respiration. Like the vocal folds, these readings drive an AI-based software model of vocal folds which produces the user's voice.

As part of Laronix's effort to expand the use of its MIRA Voice technology, the company has begun a product test with the Burke Neurological Institute in White Plains, a collaboration facilitated by the Business Council of Westchester's Westchester Innovation Network. The product test will focus on patients with cerebral palsy or spinal cord injuries.

In the past 18 months, Laronix has worked with more than 30 hospitals across the country. The company is also shipping trial kits to clinicians to encourage them to try the product on their patients, with positive results so far.

"That wow moment is what clinicians and patients love," Ahmadi said of patients' discovery that they can speak again.

Laronix expects to begin a high-volume product launch in September and Ahmadi told the event attendees that it expects to quickly grow its U.S. business to 42,000 patients by 2030, with projected annual revenues of \$101 million. Ahmadi said outreach to key opinion leaders like the staff at the Burke Neurological Institute is part of the strategy to foster a growing embrace of MIRA Voice.

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## Jamaican Flag Raising at Yonkers City Hall



Mayor Mike Spano, County Legislator Shanae Williams, Councilwoman Deana Robinson welcomed the Jamaican-American community to Yonkers City Hall for a flag raising and celebration.

On August 6, 1962, Jamaica became an Independent Nation and a member of the British Commonwealth. Jamaica becoming an Independent Nation meant that Britain, no longer controlled the affairs of the country. It was now the responsibility of the newly elected Prime Minister and the locally elected Cabinet.

County Legislator Williams was the guest speaker and was born in Jamaica but was raised in Yonkers.



### SIDIKI CONDE and Friends



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PF-SPAD050511658 MPN-01045 Rev. 1



**Claire Weinstein Wins Silver Medal at Age 17  
Makes History, Swimming With Katie Ledecky**



*L-R-Erin Gemmell, Katie Ledecky, Paige Madden, Claire Weinstein, after winning the Silver Medal in the 4 x 200 meter relay*

Congratulations to Claire Weinstein for winning her first olympic medal, a silver, in the women's 4x200-meter freestyle relay. Weinstein was able to swim on the team with legend Katie Ledecky, who won her record 13th olympic medal. Claire celebrated her medal with Snoop Dogg, left. At age 17, we may see Claire again in the Olympics. She grew up in White Plains.

**Two Gold, Two Silver Medals for Kate  
Douglass at 2024 Summer Olympics**



Westchester's two female swimmers in the 2024 Summer Olympics in Paris won medals. Kate Douglass, 22, of Pelham, won four medals, including two Gold medals in the 200m breaststroke and 4x100-meter freestyle. Douglass, a 2019 graduate of Pelham High School, won two Silver medals in the 200-meter individual medley and as a member of the 4x100-meter freestyle relay team. Fans in Pelham and across Westchester rooted Kate on. Congratulations!

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**Classifieds**

*Backpack to school drive, continued from pg 1-*

**Attorney**

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Yonkers City Hall - 40 South Broadway (Lobby) [Until Friday, August 16th]  
 Riverfront Library - One Larkin Center  
 Grinton I. Will Library - 1500 Central Park Avenue  
 Crestwood Library - 16 Thompson Street  
 All four Yonkers Police Precincts- · PCT 1 - 730 E. Grassy Sprain Road  
 · PCT 2 - 441 Central Park Avenue- · PCT 3 - 435 Riverdale Avenue  
 · PCT 4 - 53 Shonnard Place

Suggested supply packages for donation include new backpacks filled with the usual school supplies. The latest survey on school supplies for 2024 from the National Retail Federation (NRF) determined that families with kids in grades K-12 expect to spend \$874.68 on clothing, shoes, school supplies and electronics. Backpacks and supplies will be distributed to a Pre-K – 8 school as selected by Yonkers Public Schools. The latest survey on school supplies for 2024 from the National Retail Federation (NRF) determined that families with kids in grades K-12 expect to spend \$874.68 on clothing, shoes, school supplies and electronics. Backpacks and supplies will be distributed to a Pre-K – 8 school as selected by Yonkers Public Schools. For more information, contact the Mayor's Office at 914-377-6300 or visit <https://yonkersny.gov/backpackdrive>.

*Merante, FEMA, continued from pg 1-*

Merante said, "Our neighbors living alongside the Warburton Avenue hills must cringe every time it rains, thinking will this be the time the building slides and collapses. We are putting hundreds of lives in jeopardy and DC turns it's back on Yonkers. I don't understand. We have Democrats up and down the entire governmental ladder, Yonkers Mayor, City Council Majority, New York State Delegation and US House and Senate. Still Yonkers taxpayers are left paying the bill for this declared Federal Disaster. This \$5.2 million will need to be bonded thereby incurring thousands of dollars more in interest charges."

Merante added, "Where is the Democratic team? They should start applying pressure on the Federal delegation to force FEMA to meet its responsibilities. After all, we are in the last quarter of a Presidential election. Yonkers Democrats should even take this plea directly to Vice President Kamala Harris."

Merante concluded, "I'm extremely disappointed our elected officials will not fight for the people of Yonkers and force FEMA to honor its obligations. They are simply willing to shrug off another debt on Yonkers taxpayers, that's unconscionable."

*Body Burned, continued from pg 1-*

Detectives from the Major Case Squad and Crime Scene Unit conducted a thorough investigation at the scene- canvassing the area, processing evidence, and establishing a foundation in the preliminary stages of this investigation.

Later in the day, investigators officially deemed the investigation to be a homicide. Evidence was discovered which determined that while the body was set on fire in the confines of the City of Yonkers, it appeared this was merely a "dump site" and the more appropriate primary investigative agency for this homicide is the New York City Police Department.

As such, this investigation has been turned over to the New York City Police Department and the Bronx County District Attorney's Office.

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## Latimer Appoints Ernest McFadden as New Westchester Youth Bureau Director

*St. John's ED, continued from pg 1-*



**Ernest McFadden**

Westchester County Executive George Latimer has appointed Ernest McFadden as the new Executive Director of the Westchester County Youth Bureau (WCYB). He will succeed Dr. DaMia Harris-Madden who served in that capacity since 2018.

McFadden who has been serving as the WCYB Program Administrator has been overseeing the organization's youth development programming, fund development and impact evaluation – also since 2018.

McFadden's career includes an executive position with the local student and career development nonprofit, Today's Student's Tomorrow's Teachers, and senior positions with the Fortune-500 ranked companies Alcoa, Inc. and PepsiCo, Inc., where he held the titles of Director of Workforce Equity and Inclusion and Director of Corporate Social Responsibility and Community Relations, respectively.

McFadden has also lead several youth programs throughout his career, including as Director of the Liberty Partnerships Program (LPP) at SUNY Purchase College, managing a team of educators and providing comprehensive year-round academic services as part of an effort to combat the rising dropout rate among New York's youth.

Latimer said: "Ernest McFadden is an accomplished leader in both the non-profit and corporate sectors that has demonstrated throughout his career a true passion for youth and community empowerment. Having worked at the intersections of government, education and nonprofits for over two decades, we believe he will serve the WCYB, Westchester's vital network of nonprofit partners and the needs of our youth, well."

McFadden said: "I am deeply honored and grateful to the County Executive for the opportunity to take on this new role at the WCYB. I look forward to working with all of our community partners to grow impact, look for new ways to drive innovation and to help meet the unique and changing needs of Westchester's youth. I have seen throughout my career that when you invest in young people, you not only change lives but you strengthen communities and create future leaders. I am excited to get started."

WCYB Youth Board Chair Dr. Alexandra Connally said: "On behalf of the Youth Board, I am thrilled to welcome Ernest McFadden as our new Executive Director. We are confident that his leadership and vision will deepen our community relationships, drive our mission forward and create a positive impact on Westchester's youth."

The Westchester County Youth Bureau is situated within the Office of the County Executive, George Latimer. Grounded in the Positive Youth Development (PYD) framework, the Youth Bureau is the County's resource for children, youth, and families. The Youth Bureau deploys financial, technical, and relevant resources that promote the social, emotional, physical, psychological, and educational well-being of young people throughout Westchester County. Using evidenced based strategies and evaluative tools, the Youth Bureau is responsible for increasing youth access to programs and initiatives that respond to the needs and problems of children and youth from birth to twenty-one, and their families. By partnering with local Youth Bureaus, educational institutions, non-profits, units of government, faith based organizations, and business, the Youth Bureau ensures that there is a cross-system approach to improving outcomes amongst young people, and in particular, special populations of youth who may be runaway or homeless, LGBTQIA, economically disadvantaged, at risk of placement, or in foster care.

With the allocation of resources through the New York State Office of Children and Family Services, the Westchester County Tax Levy, and the Department of Social Services, the Youth Bureau funds more than 115 programs annually that are offered through nonprofit organizations, municipalities, and government agencies. Learn more by visiting <https://youth.westchestergov.com/youth-bureau>.

more through the expansion.

Other improvements include creating a direct entrance from the parking lot closer to the new portion of the ED for patients arriving by car.

"Our goal for St. John's is to break ground on our new ED by the end of the year. The plans are promising and are moving along quickly. We have been planning for this for a long time," said Dr. Milizia.

Dr. Milizia explained that the mission of the SJRH's ED changed several years ago. "Seven years ago, we became an academic department where resident physicians learn emergency medicine. Becoming an academic department raises the level of care that is provided. Everything is evidence-based, and we use the most modern and effective therapy.

This change also allowed us to change our group of physicians, who now come from some of the larger hospitals and academic institutions. And they bring that level of care to our community. The residents are now a core part of the care we bring to the community."

"ER patients used to see only one physician. But now that we have introduced residents, there are more interactions with the patient during their visit. It's another person who explains to the patient what will happen and what their diagnosis is. "Adding the resident physician has been a great service to the community," said Dr. Milizia.

Another facet of care at St. John's Riverside Hospital's ED is the implementation of Fast Track. "When you get to an Emergency Department like ours that sees as many patients as we do (35,000-45,000 per year), you must separate where those patients are seen. Sick patients will go to the main ED, but ideally, patients who are coming in with less sick issues, you want to put them in a fast-paced area and have them evaluated, treated, and sent home quickly."

"Fast-Track has experienced nurses greeting patients upon their arrival. And if their reason for coming in can be taken care of in fast-track, the nurse will put them into a fast-track bed. Typically, we can see and discharge those patients within two hours," said Dr. Milizia, who added that fast-track ED patients can have "bumps and bruises or wrist and ankle sprains. And minor cuts and colds and feels similar to an urgent care experience," said Dr. Milizia.

St. John's Riverside Hospital is stroke-certified. "We have a dual certification with the American Stroke Association and the Joint Commission. Stroke care is at the forefront of medical care today and is a time-sensitive health issue," explains Dr. Milizia.

"Stroke care has made huge strides over the past five years, and St. John's has been designated a primary stroke-certified center since 2020. As a primary stroke center, if you or any of your loved ones are having any of the symptoms of a stroke, you can call 911, and they will bring the patient to St. John's. We have all the resources to diagnose and treat the stroke and determine if additional therapies are needed."

St. John's has two Emergency Departments: Yonkers (Andrus Pavilion) and Dobbs Ferry (Dobbs Ferry Pavilion). "The Dobbs Ferry ED is smaller but provides an efficient, family feeling for its patients. It's 24/7, just like our Yonkers ED; we see patients quickly. Patients don't want to spend the entire day waiting for a diagnosis if they have unexpected issues that bring them to the ED."

"The physicians in the EDs at both Andrus and Dobbs Ferry rotate between the two hospitals. "Our focus has always been quality, but now we are doing it a little faster. We always want the patient to have an excellent experience, and everything that we are doing in our ED proves that."



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## County Executive Latimer Seeks Nominations

*\$35 Trillion Debt, continued from pg 1-*

### for Westchester County Senior Citizens Hall of Fame

Westchester County Executive George Latimer has opened nominations for the 42nd Annual Westchester County Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. Celebrate a senior who has made a positive difference in Westchester County through their contributions by nominating them for this year's Westchester County Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

Latimer said: "I am excited to open the nominations for the 42nd Annual Westchester County Senior Citizens Hall of Fame. We look forward to this yearly tradition as we honor our seniors who have given their time and energy to improve the quality of life throughout Westchester County."

Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services (DSPS) Commissioner Mae Carpenter said: "Our Senior Hall of Fame is an important tradition as we recognize those who have made a difference in the lives of senior citizens throughout Westchester County through their significant contributions. The Senior Hall of Fame is one of our most empowering events and I look forward to being in attendance as we celebrate our older generation."

To be nominated, a person must:

- Be at least 60 years old or older, live in Westchester, and not be a past Hall of Fame inductee (a list of past honorees may be found online at: <https://seniorcitizens.westchestergov.com>)

- Have made significant contributions to improving life in Westchester County

- Be an outstanding leader or advocate
- Have done professional work that reflects innovative solutions to fulfill unmet community needs (if a nomination is based on paid professional work).

Nominations are due by Friday, September 13, 2024, and will be reviewed by a judging committee. A nomination should be submitted for each person, with organizations and individuals to be allowed one nomination only. To download and complete your nomination, please visit our website. If you have questions about the nomination process, please contact Amanda Seebeck at (914) 218-3968 or email [AmandaS@EventsRemember.com](mailto:AmandaS@EventsRemember.com). This year's Senior Citizens Hall of Fame will be held on Friday, December 6, 2024, from 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Westchester Marriott Hotel in Tarrytown,

### *Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-*

the Alex Trebek stamps with no picture of the man on them.

Some important information. If you are sending books and other reading materials via the mail, make sure you get the special lower rate than the 1st class rate. 24 hour machine are installed at many locations, but the machines which claim to offer most services don't work for registered and certified receipts.

When you are sending mail, make sure you have the right address including zip and apartment number on it. If the envelope is filled with holes, maybe it's time for a new envelop. Make sure depending how long the package is going to take to get where it's going that you know the price and select the appropriate service. Use online directories to be sure you have the correct information on the envelope.

Something to think about for the future. Should the 1st Class envelope to your cousins in California be the same price as the envelope to your cousins in Yonkers. If the post Office took distance into consideration, more money would be raised for Post Office operations and the system would be fairer for all.

And Please United States Postal Service, never tell me my mail is lost!

Final thought: I was sitting in my car in the thunder, lightening and pouring rain on Tuesday. I felt like I was in Noah's Ark, not my Nissan. I was was texting with Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz from the Chabad at Greystone. I asked him, 'Is there a blessing for the rain to stop? I am Sitting in a vessel covered with water!'

Rabbi told me there were blessings for Thunder and Lightening:

-Blessed are You, L-rd our G-d, King of the universe, Who performs the work of creation

-Blessed are You, G-d our L-rd, King of the universe Whose power and might fill the world

I said the blessings and the rain stopped! Could it have been a Miracle?

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



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1% of all spending across the board."

In just 8 years our debt has risen from \$20 Trillion to \$35 Trillion. Yes, during COVID, we had to borrow, but two years later, and both our members of Congress refuse to make the difficult choices.

I also discussed The Penny Plan in 2016. There are other plans in Washington DC that will reduce our debts and deficits, but they require difficult choices and pain for the American people.

And our elected officials don't want to tell us the truth about the difficult decisions we have to make because they fear their reelection.

Republicans want more tax cuts and Democrats want more spending.

We can't afford the 8 million illegal immigrants that crossed the border and now live here.

We can't afford to fund defense projects that we don't need but because they are in a powerful member of Congress' district, they are funded.

And most important, we can't afford to sit by and do nothing.

If we can't control our spending, our economy might eventually implode. Neither those vying for office nor those holding office are discussing this crucial subject. No longer is our spending out of control—it's through the roof.

Nobody cares and in fact it has gotten worse:

Us National Debt: 2008 10 Trillion, 2012 16 Trillion, 2016 19.5 Trillion  
2020 27 Trillion, 2024 35 Trillion

In 2012 President Obama and then Speaker of the House John Boehner had a deal to cut spending, or at least control it, and reduce our deficits by \$10 Trillion over 10 years.

That deal fell apart because conservative members of Congress refused to go along with the tax increases. Shame on them. But shame also on the democrats who keep wanting to pay for more spending by borrowing more.

And what happens when we borrow another Trillion? We have to print another Trillion in dollars. And when you pump more dollars into the system, the value of our dollar is less, and inflation rises. So, anyone who tells you that our debts don't affect the poor or middle class, think again.

My Congressman, Jamaal Bowman, wanted to spend another \$3 Trillion during COVID. If Bowman's plan had passed, inflation would have been worse, and more people wouldn't be able to pay for their gas, food and medicines.

When any family sits at the kitchen table and tries to figure out how to pay for their new car, or vacation, or a new roof, or college for their children, they have a decision to make. How can I make more money, and where can we cut our budget to make it happen?

That is what we need to do in Washington DC. But if you listen to President Biden or former President Trump in their debate, there was one question about the debt but no answers, just finger pointing at each other.

And the silence will continue, until what? China decides to cash in the Trillions in bonds that we owe them?

Both parties have buried their heads in the sand.

What about all of the baby boomers who are going to collect Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. Those three programs are not included in our debt.

Our federal government will soon have to pay \$1 Trillion in interest alone on our debt. That means \$1 Trillion less to pay for childcare; \$1 Trillion less to build new roads and bridges; \$1 Trillion less to build affordable housing.

And it will get worse until we do something. "The U.S. federal debt is on an unsustainable path, and has been for some time," Jerome Powell, Federal Reserve chairman

Somebody needs to stand up and have the political will, the Chutzpah, to do what is best for our country.

I like what Jim Martin recently wrote at link—"Thomas Jefferson, who died deeply in personal debt, warned that "excessive debt is a means by which governments oppress the people. No nation has a right to create debt for periods longer than the majority of citizens contracting the debt can expect to live." Jefferson and the other founding fathers are probably turning over right now in their graves. This is not the country they envisioned when they laid down their lives. We have kicked the can down the road long enough, putting our children in the difficult position of having to solve this catastrophic problem. For our children's sake, let's stop and pick up the can before our road ends, and they are left to clean up after our extravagant selfish party."

Another thoughtful Op-Ed from Steve Brawner, who writes, "What's the number that will cause lawmakers and presidential candidates to pay attention to the national debt? Apparently, not \$35 trillion. Since then, the debt has increased more than \$29 trillion in less than 24 years – the result of spending increases, tax cuts, wars, recessions and the pandemic. This has happened under two Democratic and two Republican presidents and with both Democrats and Republicans controlling Congress. Most of the spending – Social Security, Medicare, interest – is on autopilot and not even debated in Congress. We can thank our ancestors for the prosperity we enjoy. They made sacrifices for themselves and also their families. They hoped their children would live better lives than they did, and they took steps to make that happen. Let's follow their example, starting with paying for the government we have. We have not been doing that, especially these past 24 years, which is why the debt is \$35 trillion," link--

If we want to continue to be the "Shining City on the Hill" that President Reagan spoke of, we need to control ourselves. If you keep borrowing, someone is going to have to pay the bill. Who will that be? Our Children? Grandchildren? GreatGrandchildren?

What is the strategy for all of our borrowing? That the world will end someday and we won't have to pay?

Over two centuries ago, James Allen wrote in his diary, "If we fail, liberty no longer continues an inhabitant of this globe." In any case, up until now, we succeeded. We cannot fail even still. Because freedom is this generation's and all subsequent generations' duty, it cannot be the possession of a single generation. We owe it to the future generations to preserve, grow, and transmit it unaltered."

Take a look at your child or grandchild and ask yourself-do they deserve this?

**Frank Spotorno was the republican candidate for Congress in 2016 in NY-14. He is the founder of Bring our Jobs Home, which advocates for American Corporations to return manufacturing jobs back to the USA.**



## Hudson Gateway REALTOR® Foundation

## New York State's First Pension Forfeiture

## Presents \$2,500 Donation to Support Connection



*The Osborn Care Memory Support Group*

The Osborn Memory Care Support Group hit a major milestone recently, marking its one year anniversary. This support group, in partnership with the Alzheimer's Association, meets the third Wednesday of every month at 10:00 am at The Osborn (101 Theall Road in Rye) and is open to the greater local community. Facilitating the group is Jo-Ann Pinder, Resident Relations Manager, who not only has the experience but the compassion for the residents to make the support group just what families and loved ones of those affected by Alzheimer's or dementia need. For more information, please contact Jo-Ann Pinder at 914-231-8714 or at [jpinder@theosborn.org](mailto:jpinder@theosborn.org).

## Hudson Gateway REALTOR® Foundation

## Presents \$2,500 Donation to Support Connection



**Photo ID: (from left) Arianna Goggin, Support Connection; Carol Christiansen, HG Realtor Foundation; Katherine Quinn, Executive Director, Support Connection; Kathy Kane and Bob Shandly, HG Realtor Foundation.**

The Hudson Gateway REALTOR® Foundation, the charitable arm of the Hudson Gateway Association of REALTORS®, recently presented a check for \$2,500 to Support Connection, Inc. Based in Yorktown Heights, Support Connection is a not-for-profit organization that provides emotional, social, and educational support to anyone impacted by breast, ovarian, or other gynecological cancers. It serves Westchester, Putnam, and Dutchess counties, as well as people all over the country via their toll-free helpline and virtual programming.

Support Connection provides one-on-one peer counseling, breast, ovarian, and other gynecological cancer support groups, education and wellness programs, social activities with other cancer survivors, newsletters, and referral information.

"We are so grateful for the continued support of the HG REALTOR® Foundation -- it means so much to Support Connection and the people who rely on us. This donation helps fund vital peer counseling and other support services so that no one has to be alone while dealing with cancer," said Katherine Quinn, Executive Director, Support Connection, Inc.

Support Connection was founded in 1996 by Nancy Heller, a breast cancer survivor, and the late Richard Adamski, who lost his wife Myra to breast cancer. For almost 30 years, Support Connection has held its "Support-A-Walk" at FDR Park in Yorktown every October. It's one of their biggest fundraising events of the year. Visit

For more information or to apply for funding from the Hudson Gateway REALTOR® Foundation, please visit [www.hgrealtorfoundation.com](http://www.hgrealtorfoundation.com).



A former clerk-treasurer of the Village of Addison in Steuben County will be sentenced to serve three-to-nine years in state prison, pay full restitution of \$1.1 million, and forfeit her public pension after being convicted of one felony count of Corrupting the Government, New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli, Steuben County District Attorney Brooks Baker, and the New York State Police announced today.

Ursula Stone pled guilty on May 29, 2024, admitting that she abused her position to steal more than \$1 million over her 19-year career. Stone's forfeiture of her state pension as a result of her public corruption conviction will be the first pension forfeiture in New York state.

"Public service is a privilege and a duty. Those who abuse their positions and betray their communities undermine the integrity of government and risk losing their right to a public pension," DiNapoli said. "For nearly two decades, Ursula Stone took advantage of her position and the trust of Addison residents to shamelessly steal over a million dollars. Thanks to the work of my office, District Attorney Baker, and the State Police, her crimes were uncovered, and she has been brought to justice. This case should send a clear message that those who dishonor their public office will face serious consequences."

"The magnitude, scope, duration and pervasiveness of this criminal activity is absolutely stunning," Baker said. "For nearly two decades, Ursula Stone abused the trust of the people of the Village of Addison, using her position to steal from their taxes, their schools and their community. The impact of her criminal acts on this community has been and will be felt for decades. But for the dedication and expertise of the New York State Comptroller's Office it might still be going on unnoticed. This sentence sends a clear message to this defendant about the damage she caused and to anyone else who might consider such crimes about the high price that will be paid. I want to thank the New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli and the members of his office for the incredible effort they put forth in identifying and prosecuting this crime. Their hard work and cooperation with the New York State Police and my office put us in a place to bring Ursula Stone to justice, and will bring this sad chapter for the village to a close."

"The sentencing of Ms. Stone demonstrates the vital collaborative work of our law enforcement partners focused on the same goal; holding those who break our laws accountable," New York State Police Superintendent Steven G. James said. "The victims in this case are the people of New York who put their trust in this former Village of Addison employee. I commend our State Police members, our partners at the State Comptroller's Office and Steuben County District Attorney's Office for their commitment to investigating those who prey on the unsuspecting public for their own gain."

Under a 2011 law and a 2018 New York state Constitutional Amendment, certain public officials convicted of crimes related to their office may be subject to pension forfeiture. It is the responsibility of the prosecuting attorney with jurisdiction over the crime to commence an action for pension forfeiture and show the defendant knowingly and intentionally committed a crime related to public office. Here, Stone has admitted to her crimes and agreed to pension forfeiture as part of her sentence.

Stone, who retired in March 2023, will forgo her monthly pension payment of \$1,920.

DiNapoli's office began an audit of the village in 2022 and found the 56-year-old Stone had been running the financial operations of the village with no oversight. She prepared payroll, maintained manual leave records, and processed health insurance buyouts and unused leave payments with no review or approval from the mayor or any other village official.

Upon subsequent investigation, DiNapoli's office also discovered that checks from the Addison Central School District, payable to the village, were not deposited into the village's accounts. A joint investigation by DiNapoli's office, the New York State Police, and the Steuben County District Attorney's Office determined that Stone stole dozens of such checks payable to the village, which she converted to certified bank checks and cashed.

Additionally, investigators found Stone gave herself unauthorized pay raises, took time off without deducting it from her leave credits and wrote herself checks for unauthorized health insurance buyouts from village funds. Stone had also been cashing out unused vacation time since 2004, an option that was only available to employees who resigned or retired.

Before submitting her resignation letter, she wrote herself a final check for \$26,613, which was not authorized by the board. The board stopped payment on the check before she was able to cash it. In total, investigators say she stole \$1,171,362.

Stone is scheduled to be sentenced on Aug. 7 by Judge Chauncey Watches of Steuben County Court and her pension forfeiture ordered by Judge Patrick F. McAllister in Steuben County Supreme Court.

Since taking office in 2007, DiNapoli has committed to fighting public corruption and encourages the public to help fight fraud and abuse. New Yorkers can report allegations of fraud involving taxpayer money by calling the toll-free Fraud Hotline at 1-888-672-4555, by filing a complaint online at <https://www.osc.ny.gov/investigations>, or by mailing a complaint to: Office of the State Comptroller, Division of Investigations, 8th Floor, 110 State St., Albany, NY 12236

**Read it all Online at  
Yonkerstimes.com**



Thursday, August 15th

August 15, 1913: Famous Yonkers comedian Jefferson DeAngelis, won his lawsuit against the Dressler's Players for back salary and costs of transporting the company's baggage. His claims were granted as neither famed actress Marie Dressler nor her husband J. H. Dalton appeared to answer the claims.

Thomas Jefferson De Angelis of Sunnyside Drive was a 19th-20th century stage actor who specialized in comedy and acrobatic clowning. He achieved fame in vaudeville and on Broadway. He was also a stage director and producer. He began in Baltimore at age 10. Near the end of his life he appeared in the hit 1927 Broadway play "The Royal Family" by Edna Ferber, and sporadically appeared in silent films.

August 15, 1922: Former NY Assemblyman, First Ward Alderman and Yonkers Justice of the Peace George Rigby took time off from his job as Mayor of Ormond, Florida, to return to his native city to visit! Ormond had a "floating population," with an off-season population of 1200, and in season, the population swelled so much, officials divided it into three sections and hired a manager for each section. While in Yonkers, Rigby attended and spoke at Rotary weekly luncheons held in the Getty House.

Friday, August 16th

August 16, 1939: Several former Yonkers Mayors met at Greystone to honor world famous attorney Samuel Untermyer. Gathered were Leslie Sutherland, Dr. Nathan Warren, William Wallin, Alfred Watson, Ulrich Wiesendanger, William Walsh and John Fogarty.

August 16, 1939: Attorney Samuel Untermyer offered his \$5,000,000 estate on North Broadway to the City of Yonkers to use as a public park. Greystone, as the estate was called, had famed gardens and priceless statuary.

Saturday, August 17th

August 17, 1899: The first movies filmed in Yonkers were shot at the NY State Firemen's Convention. One titled "The Water Throwing Contest" between hand engines showed two volunteer fire department companies battling for the win. The "Oceans" of Greene, NY and the "Exempts" of Brooklyn competed; Greene's First Ocean Engine Company won in this short from the American Mutoscope & Biograph Company.

August 17, 1942: Vera Rushforth, who grew up on Halladay Avenue and attended Roosevelt High School, was selected as the "personification of the average American school teacher" by Look Magazine. Featured in the magazine's story, "The School Teacher in Wartime." Her typical school day was pictured in a series of 13 photos. Rushforth, according to the story, was "literally and professionally, one in a million."

Sunday, August 18th

August 18, 1918: Yonkers girls continued to enroll as "U. S. Marinettes" at the Marine Corps Recruiting Station in the Radford Building in Getty Square. Officials announced recruitment of women stenographers continued until they reached the number they needed.

August 18, 1920: Joseph Pearman of 625 South Broadway finished second to Italy's Ugo Frigero in the 10,000-meter walk at the Olympic games in Antwerp, Belgium. Our silver medal winner worked in advertising and was a member of the NYAC.

**Questions or comments on this column? Email [YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com](mailto:YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com). For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, please visit our website [www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org](http://www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org), call 914-961-8940 or email [info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org).**



Westchester Power is a municipal electricity supply program that helps residents and small businesses in the Town of Mamaroneck and 28 other municipalities in Westchester County access **renewable energy** at competitive fixed-rates. There is a new contract beginning November 1, 2024.

**Join a Westchester Power information session to learn more!**  
August 12th at 3:00pm at the Mamaroneck Public Library, 136 Prospect Ave, Mamaroneck, NY 10543

visit [bit.ly/wp-infosession](http://bit.ly/wp-infosession) to register or scan the QR code to register for this event or another one in the county.



Light refreshments will be provided.  
Question? Reach us at (914)242-4725 and select option 3 or email us at [wp@sustainablewestchester.org](mailto:wp@sustainablewestchester.org)



SPD has increased patrols throughout the community. If you come across an unidentified camera or observe any suspicious activity on your property, immediately contact the Scarsdale Police Department at 914-722-1200, or 911 in the event of an emergency.

"We understand that this situation can feel unsettling, and we want to equip residents with important information. The best offense against theft is a strong defense, which is why SPD wants to remind you of these burglary prevention tips:

- Keep all exterior doors at your residence locked, using deadbolt locks. Also, keep your garage door closed and locked, including your interior access door, and lock all windows, including second floor.
- Lock your vehicle doors and remove your keys and key fobs from inside your vehicle.
- Secure your garage door opener in a locked glovebox, as thieves may use it to enter your home to retrieve your vehicle key or steal other valuables.
- Always turn your alarm system on when you are away. It is also recommended to have your alarm system in the "stay" or "home" mode when you are home, especially while you are sleeping.
- Use motion sensing exterior lighting and keep the perimeter of your home well lit.
- Never leave your house key under doormats or in "hiding" places outside of your home.
- Consider the use of a video surveillance system to protect your property.

Media reports have highlighted three recent cases, in New Jersey, California and Massachusetts.

Local police departments have cautioned residents to "go out and check their property from time to time and make sure there's nothing unusual there. It's sad that it has come to this."

In Glendale, California, police arrested four men in what they called an "international burglary ring," where "officers recovered a Wi-Fi signal jammer, which allow individuals to unlawfully enter homes undetected. This technology disrupts home Wi-Fi systems, cutting the feed of traditional home security systems and cameras, and rendering them ineffective in alerting homeowners or law enforcement to the presence of intruders."

In Braintree, Massachusetts, police arrested three men after finding a hidden camera surveilling several homes.

The group of burglars are said to be from South America. They enter the US under the ruse of being tourists before checking out affluent communities to rob. In California, the robberies have been dubbed "Burglary tourism."

Scarsdale Police Lt. Brenden Kellaher told ABC NY that the group "are a fairly organized group of burglars and one of the tactics is placing these trail cameras or surveillance devices for maybe multiple days before committing burglaries.

How the thieves plant the devices without getting seen is unknown.

No arrests have been made in Scarsdale. The FBI is involved in the investigation, and in May warned the public.

"International theft groups are typically comprised of individuals from South American countries who travel to the United States to participate in organized theft rings and are likely responsible for select organized burglaries and thefts. These theft groups usually target homes in affluent neighborhoods when the residents are out of town, concentrating on the master or main bedroom and taking high end jewelry, accessories, and cash. Instances of the groups targeting homes include surveillance of their victims to learn their schedules.

Not only have the groups been known to target homes in affluent neighborhoods, they also are likely responsible for select distraction robberies at grocery stores and similar establishments. Methods include surreptitiously removing credit cards from victims' wallets, or the theft of the entire wallet, resulting in purchases of pre-paid gift cards at commercial retailers.

"This crime is definitely on the FBI's radar, and we are tracking identified international organized theft groups to intercept them as they move between targets and are working with our law enforcement partners to mitigate the threat," said FBI Indianapolis Special Agent in Charge Herbert J. Stapleton.

FBI tips to avoid becoming a victim include:

- Vary your daily routine
- Don't post on social media that you're on vacation
- Utilize a doorbell camera with an alarm system
- Keep inside lights on with timers
- Take photos of valuables and keep those items in a safe
- Don't leave large amounts of cash in the home

One Westchester resident posted on social media that "Everyone should have a Ring Cam Scarsdale camera hidden by South American illegal migrants is a big operation. Hidden cameras discovered over the last several weeks in California and in Boston. FBI and Homeland Security are now involved. This is only going to get worse, this is just the beginning and much is not being reported on in the media."

Anyone with information can contact the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI or online at [tips.fbi.gov](http://tips.fbi.gov).

"Were it left to me to decide if we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter."

-Thomas Jefferson



## Westchester Resident Wins US Energy Award for Ossining Home

*Harcckham, From the River to the Sea, continued from pg 1-*



Ossining home awarded. Photo by Brian Madden

Daniel Colombini, a Principal at Goldman Copeland, the New York City-based consulting engineering firm, has been honored by the US Department of Energy with a DOE Housing Innovation Award for spurring the housing industry nationally by creating his LEED Platinum “Passive House” in Ossining, NY, in the Hudson Valley. The single-family three-bedroom house with an attached garage and about 3,500 square feet of living space offers a new model for sustainable, energy-efficient, and cost-effective residences.

The Colombini house is one of just 24 houses in the nation honored with a 2024 DOE Housing Innovation Award and one of only two in New York and New England. Both are located in the Hudson Valley; the other is in Esopus, south of Kingston.

In making the award, the US Department of Energy stated, “As part of its Zero Energy Ready Home (ZERH) program, the U.S. Department of Energy recognizes leading builders who are delivering better homes to Americans across the country. The DOE Housing Innovation Awards are made to those builders who are spurring the housing industry to construct more efficient, healthy, and resilient homes certified to the DOE ZERH program requirements. The DOE ZERH program represents the federal government’s most stringent above-code voluntary program for high-performance homes. Housing Innovation Award winners are selected by a panel of industry professionals. Projects are judged on various criteria that reflect DOE decarbonization goals with respect to energy efficiency, reduced carbon emissions, resiliency, and workforce development.”

Dan Colombini, the engineer/homeowner, set out to create a new standard of suburban housing. The home is a partial tear-down and retrofit, meaning that the house that he originally purchased was torn down except for the foundation, which was retained, and 75% of the materials in the old house were reused and thereby diverted from landfill. The new house incorporates passive house principles including a high-performance thermal enclosure, airtightness and heat recovery, continuous balanced ventilation, high-performance glazing of windows and doors, shading and daylighting, and moisture control. The overall design provides an air quality that it is so high that Dan’s allergy-induced asthma disappeared.

The cost of construction was 8% higher than a traditional house. That additional cost will be paid off by energy savings within 10-15 years – with energy savings continuing to accrue thereafter.

The architect for the project is Christina Griffin of CGA Studio in Hastings-on-Hudson, NY. The contractor is Ed Nugent of Fort Montgomery, NY. The certification consultant is Integral Building + Design in New Paltz, NY. The landscape architect is Barbara Restaino of Restaino Design in Grahamsville, NY.

The house is located adjacent to the Teatown nature preserve, and all new planting and landscaping consists of native species, designed to improve storm water management and mitigate invasive species. The landscape designer was selected in part because she also works with Teatown, ensuring sensitivity in design to the landscape of the nature preserve. “Energy-efficient and green design is vital, given the challenges of climate change,” said Colombini. “This house provides the home that my family wanted, while demonstrating that the highest standards can be attained cost-effectively. I’m excited that it has been honored by the US Department of Energy and now provides a model for the nation.”

3,000 local residents have signed a petition calling for Wise’s removal, and that petition has been submitted to NYS Education Commissioner Betty Rosa. The letter along with the petition to Commissioner Rosa reads, “Trustee Wise has repeatedly uttered the antisemitic phrase ‘From the river to the sea, Palestine shall be free,’ both in public and at board meeting on 7/9/2024. When confronted, he not only doubled down but also defended his actions.

“Mr. Wise stated, “I look forward to the day and I think it will happen in our lifetime, when we will no longer claim that dropping bombs on children in refugee tents is a Jewish thing to do.” Referred and called the state of Israel “a colonist white supremacist government.”

“Wise’s behavior has not only created a hostile environment for Jewish students but has also sent a dangerous message that hate speech is tolerated in our schools. This is especially concerning given the recent incidents of swastikas being drawn on school property.

“Wise’s actions have violated Policy 5300 Code of conduct section G.-Lead by example by conducting board meetings in a professional, and do not disrupt the orderly conduct of classes, school programs, or other school activities, or intimidate, harass or discriminate against any person on the basis of race, color, creed, national origin, religion, age, gender, sexual orientation, disability or other protected categories.

“We implore you to take swift action to remove Trustee Wise from his position. His continued presence on the board undermines public trust and creates a climate of fear and intimidation for all students.

“We understand that Wise is currently under investigation by the Putnam County District Attorney, as well as investigations under DASA and Title 6 of the OCR. The school board has a responsibility to create a safe and inclusive learning environment for all students, and it cannot do so with Wise in its ranks,” writes Putnam resident Kim Zamparelli. Commissioner Rosa does have the authority to remove Wise from the Carmel BOE.

Wise and Lyons were front and center for a stop “genocide in the Middle East” rally organized by Putnam for Palestine. Several Carmel residents carrying Israeli flags also showed up -and a confrontation ensued, which was stopped by Carmel Police.

But the lack of oversight by Harckham’s office in researching who he honored is being questioned by residents in the district. “Jewish voters in the 40th Senate District are outraged that Senator Harckham would even be standing with these anti-Israel radicals, much less giving them awards,” said Westchester County resident Stacy Halper. “Israel is under existential threat, and our own state senator is promoting individuals who want the State of Israel extinguished. It’s a real wakeup call for us.”

“It is absolutely shocking that Mr. Harckham would publicly recognize two individuals who spend their days churning out anti-Israel propaganda inside the 40th State Senate District,” said Gina Arena, Harckham’s opponent and a long-time children’s advocate and mother of eight said. “Mr. Harckham clearly knows about the controversy surrounding these two individuals, yet he issued them an official government award at a recent unrelated rally. There is no place in the Hudson Valley for the kind of anti-Israel vitriol that Putnam for Palestine is spreading, and Mr. Harckham owes the public an explanation for why he’s elevating its leaders with awards.”

“Israel was brutally attacked last October, and it has every right to defend itself against Hamas terrorism,” Ms. Arena continued. “What on earth is Mr. Harckham thinking?”

Wise has used the fact that he is Jewish as a reason to permit him to continue to promote his antisemitic views. In response at the Board meeting Wise said presented several inaccurate claims and added that the resolution and debate were an attempt “to tar a Jewish man as anti-Semitic for holding a political opinion shared by a solid majority of Jews in the United States.” No data supports Wise’s claim.

“He has always been open about his views and feels that he is untouchable. The Board has condemned his actions and speech and didn’t want part of what he is doing,” said Zamparelli, who also wrote to Senator Harckham’s office. “There is freedom of speech but there are consequences, especially once he brought that into a school board meeting.”

At the meeting, Wise had his own group of supporters, many from outside the district. One man got up and spoke at the meeting saying, “Carmel is going to pay.”

“This is the concern of many parents. We don’t know if this man is serious and is going to come back when our kids are in school. We need board members who are going to be a good influence and have the backs of our kids. There is no room for this, and Jim Wise should be removed from the school board and not honored by Senator Harckham.”

Harckham defeated Arena two years ago by a 53%-47% margin, with Harckham spending more than \$1 Million, while Arena spent \$70,000. This year, with matching funds, Arena will have at least \$350,000 to spend, plus the issue of the Lithium Battery Plant on the Westchester-Putnam border makes this race the most competitive in Westchester this November.

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### Council President Collins-Bellamy to Host End of Summer Ice Cream Social-Aug 21

### Ice Bucket Challenge-10th Year a Big Success Thanks to MGM for Keeping the Tradition Alive



*its good to see elected officials from both parties get together for a great cause photos by Donna Davis*



Join us on August 21, 2024 at Lennon Park from 4-7pm for our End of Summer Ice Cream Social.

We want to celebrate the beginning of the new school year and the end to a wonderful summer here in Yonkers. Local artisan ice cream shop Lost Borough Ice Cream will be providing refreshing ice cream. Flavours for the Neighbors will be providing icees. Entertainment featuring Macaroni the Clown, sounds from Pumota Productions, face painting and more.

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