

Yonkers Rising

YonkersTimes.com

Friday December 13, 2024

Home Depot Hosts Dreidel Making Party, In Preparation for Chanukah



Left:
Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz
with dad David Moster
and his son Jonah, 6
and daughter Hannah
Beth, 8. Photo © 2024
Robert Kalfus.

**SEE STORY ON PG
12**

Below: Levy Fox, 8,
hands a paintbrush to
his sister, Willow, 3,
Photo © 2024 Robert
Kalfus.

Tis the Season-Yonkers!



Above: Mayor Mike Spano, Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, and Councilwoman Tasha Diaz and Deana Robison joined with Yonkers Girls Scouts and Santa at City Hall



© 2024 Robert Kalfus



Left: Mayor Spano, Council President Collins-Bellamy Councilwoman Diaz Councilwoman Robison and County Legislator James Nolan join with Joseph Simone, President, Simone Development Companies, Patricia Simone, Principal & President of Simone Management Group, for tree lighting at Boyce Thompson Center.

Send us your holiday events & pics to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Yonkers Parks Holiday Events!

BREAKFAST WITH THE GRINCH SATURDAY, DECEMBER 14

The Grinch is coming to Yonkers! You and your family have an opportunity to have Breakfast with the Grinch! Children of all ages are invited for breakfast, story times, cookie decorating, and mischievous times with the Grinch.

Nodine Hill Community Center | 140 Fillmore Street
9:00 AM | \$10.00 Per person (our littlest who-ville residents aged 3 and under are free, but registration is still required)



BREAKFAST ON THE POLAR EXPRESS SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15

HOTI HOTI HOTI Hot Chocolate!
Conductor James Edward DeSantis from the Polar Express is stopping by Yonkers this Holiday season!
Join us for breakfast, cookie decorating, and meet the conductor who is on a quick stop on his way to the North Pole!

Spreckman Community Center | 777 McLean Avenue
9:00 AM | \$10.00 Per person
(our littlest guests aged 3 and under are free, but registration is still required)



Register Now – Space is limited! Festive Pajamas Encouraged!
For further information or to register, call 914.377.6444



A Holiday Message from Departing Congressman Bowman- To All White People

All we are trying to say y'all is we should not be cool with white supremacy. Whether you're Black, Latino, White, Asian, Arab or other, we should not be cool with white supremacy. That's who Trump is and that is what Trump represents. Sure there are many factors, but at its core, a vote for him is a vote for white supremacy. White supremacy is patriarchy.

from
Rep.
Jamaal
Bowman

See
Story
on page
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“UNLICENSED SMOKE SHOPS NOT WELCOME IN YONKERS”



*left-illegal
THC products
seized by YPD*

**Mayor
Spano
is correct
to ask why
are there
SIX
LEGAL
Cannabis
stores, all
on Central
Avenue?**

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano called on New York State for immediate regulation of smoke shops selling marijuana and vape products without a state issued license.

This comes after the Yonkers Smoke Shop Task Force has seized 4,000 illegal products being sold across the city.

“The spread of unregulated cannabis dispensaries undermines our City’s efforts to foster a safe, lawful, and sustainable industry,” said Mayor Spano. “This is a direct result of inadequate oversight. I am calling on New York State to take swift and decisive action to shut down these illegal operations and create a regulatory framework that prioritizes accountability, equity, and community well-being.”

On November 26, 2024, Yonkers Police inspected 148 McLean Avenue and found the business did not possess a New York State Dispensary License. Cannabis was seized from the premises and three summonses were given to the business owner.

Earlier this year, on July 1, the same location was identified and inspected for the illegal sale of cannabis, hemp and vape products. Nine summonses

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At Neighbors Link Event, Hillary Clinton Talks Immigration & Impact Under Trump Act II



Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton with Neighbors Link Executive Director Carola Otero Bracco

On Tuesday, December 3rd, Secretary Hillary Rodham Clinton joined Neighbors Link Executive Director Carola Otero Bracco before an audience of more than 400 attendees at the VIP Country Club for a candid conversation about the anticipated consequences for thousands of Westchester immigrants under a new Trump administration. With approximately one-quarter of Westchester County's population comprised of foreign-born residents who help power the economy, contribute to the tax base and enrich the social fabric of our communities, Secretary Clinton's advice was especially prescient.

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United Way & Westchester Library System Collect 680 Coats in Winter Coat Drive



The United Way of Westchester and Putnam (UWWP) and Westchester Library System (WLS) announced that their inaugural Winter Coat and Accessories Drive collected an impressive 680 coats and 537 accessories, totaling

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Are you raising a grandchild, young relative or child of a family friend in the absence of the biological parents?

Then you're a Kinship Caregiver!

Want to keep your family healthy and safer? NYS Kinship Navigator can help.

NYS Kinship Navigator provides information, referral and assistance with financial needs, legal options, school enrollment, kinship law and other resources. Help is just a phone call away.

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nynavigator.org

NY State Teachers Union: Its Time to Ban Cellphone Use During the School Day



By Dan Murphy

Now that NYSUT President Melinda Person and the thousands of teachers that make up her membership have called on Governor Kathy Hochul and the State legislator "to provide consistent, statewide restrictions on cellphone use during the school day," the question now becomes how quickly can Albany pass such a ban?

On Dec. 9 at the state Capitol, NYSUT gathered a coalition of partners in education, healthcare, child and family advocacy, and law enforcement who support safeguarding students' authentic learning and mental health through distraction-free schools.

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Fourth Precinct Community Council Meeting

The Fourth Precinct's Community Council will hold its monthly meeting at 7:00 PM on December 19, 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 thank everyone for attending these meetings and look forward to seeing you in future meetings.

Merry Christmas to all and have a safe holiday.

If you have any concerns, please don't hesitate to contact the non-emergency department at (914-377-7900). For anything emergency-related, please call 911.

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Yonkers Democratic Committee Endorses Ken Jenkins for County Executive



Deputy County Executive
Ken Jenkins

The Yonkers Democratic Committee has officially endorsed Ken Jenkins in his campaign for Westchester County Executive. Currently serving as Deputy County Executive, Jenkins has been a steadfast advocate for economic development, affordable housing, and holding the line on taxes across Westchester County.

Jenkins said: "I am deeply honored to receive the endorsement of the Yonkers Democratic Committee. Yonkers holds a special place in my heart, and I am committed to building on our progress to ensure Westchester thrives for all families and businesses."

Yonkers Democratic Committee Chair Tom Meier said: "Ken Jenkins is a proven leader who has consistently delivered for Yonkers and all of Westchester County. His deep roots in our community and commitment to Democratic values make him the ideal candidate to continue our progress over the past several years. We proudly endorse him and look forward to his leadership as County Executive."

Jenkins has been pivotal in shaping and executing County Executive George Latimer's vision for Westchester, serving as his Deputy since 2018. His leadership has been instrumental in advancing key initiatives that support middle-class families, protect the environment, and expand access to affordable housing.

As the former Yonkers NAACP president, Chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, and current Deputy County Executive, Jenkins brings decades of experience and a track record of collaboration and results. His candidacy emphasizes continuity and growth, ensuring that Westchester remains a model for effective, inclusive governance.

Westchester County Board of Legislators Passes 2025 County Budget by a 15-2 Vote

The Westchester County Board of Legislators has passed by overwhelming majority its \$2.8 billion budget outlining the county's priorities for the upcoming fiscal year.

The 2025 County Budget maintains the same County property tax rate as 2024, marking the sixth consecutive year without a tax levy increase. The plan prioritizes funding for childcare, affordable housing and public safety. The Board weighed community recommendations through a series of public engagement sessions.

Chairman Vedat Gashi (D - New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said: "We've listened to County residents and responded with a budget that prioritizes vital services for those most in need. This budget supports our most vulnerable residents while protecting taxpayers and our fiscal future."

Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson (D - Elmsford, Greenburgh, Tarrytown, White Plains) said: "As Chair of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, I'm proud to present a sound and balanced 2025 County Budget. Despite the challenges of a tight fiscal environment, we've succeeded in keeping a property tax increase for the general operating budget at bay for the sixth consecutive

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Busy Side Walks, City Sidewalks

By Eric Wolf Schoen



As we start to bring 2024 to a close, everyone is busy, everyone is tired, we just want to relax and be left alone. So I thought I would share some good year ending information with you. And I'll conclude by telling you why I may be missing inaction as Santa's sled comes to Westchester and we start to light the candles of the Menorah or the Kinara.

We are all tired of those 9:00 a.m. calls everyday including Sunday from medical supply companies trying to send, not even sell some device to make our lives better, or ask a personal question such as do we have high blood pressure or diabetes. By 9:30 in the morning a week or so ago I had received call #3, and said to myself there has to be a way to stop these calls. Call #3 came in, I answered it, and after the women asked me about my conditions, I said to her I was wondering if her company had a machine, device or product that would make my private part grow larger.

The caller said sir, I am going to make a note that the next time we make these calls we should not call you. I said that's a really good idea. Thank you very much. And you have a wonderful day! Try that next time when you receive calls from these people, some legit and many not. Hopefully they will get the message.

By the way any materials a company sends you and you did not order or request become your Property. You are under no obligation to return them.

At the end of the year companies want to close out their books and as happened to me send 2 or 3 bills which you have already paid for either because they did not book the payment you made or their computer system is screwed up. It happened to me, the call coming from one of our hospitals in Yonkers. Bottom line, keep track of every bill you pay and make sure the bill is legit.

If you get a bill such as a medical bill with a copay make sure the copay is legit by calling your insurance company. With one medical appointment generating numerous bills, make sure you are paying the ones you have to at the correct amount.

Pay with credit cards so someone will back you up if there is a problem with your purchase. Even if you have cash on hand. But never spend cash you don't have. Interest rates on credit cards are high, there are so many available, do your homework so if you have to pay on credit you are paying the lowest interest rate you qualify for.

End of the year means end of your insurance benefit year. Make sure you have taken advantage of all your policy offers. So many people don't go to the doctor when they are not feeling well even though the appointment is covered and their copay is small. If you have insurance benefits use them! You pay a lot of money for insurance so use it.

Many people don't have the benefits you have!

Let's hop over the grocery store fence for a few minutes. At this time of year many types of fruit are on their last leg. Strawberries, blueberries plums, many types of grapes are almost done. My sister taught me a trick when selecting fruit. Find the produce manager, become friends with him Or her and ask them if the fruit is worth the price. \$8.99 is a lot for strawberries, but the fruit manager said they were worth it and she was very Happy with them. If you are unhappy with fruit you buy, bring it back with your receipt within a reasonable time and they should give you your money back. You are paying a lot for fruit so make sure you get your monies worth. Thank you Simroy from Stop and Shop.

No one says you can't have the best!

If a store doesn't Have the product on sale you want ask for a substitution. Try

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Westchester NYS Supreme Court Judge Lewis Lubell Admonished by Judicial Commission



NYS Supreme Court Judge Lewis Lubell

Westchester State Supreme Court Justice Lewis Lubell agreed to a decision from the NYS Commission on Judicial Misconduct to be admonished for actions he took that benefited his friend and partner Mitchell Lieberman, in the law firm of Lieberman & Lieberman.

In a unanimous, 10-0 decision, the Commission found that Lubell tried to influence Supreme Court Justice Thomas Quinones in 2022 in a matrimonial case.

The Commission report reads, "Charge I of the Complaint alleged on August 19, 2022, after having spoken with his friend Mitchell P. Lieberman about a pending matrimonial case that Mr. Lieberman, an attorney, had before Supreme Court Justice Thomas Quinones (Westchester County), respondent initiated an ex parte conversation about that case with Judge Quinones and gave him advice on an issue Mr. Lieberman had raised. The Complaint further alleged that on September 16, 2022, respondent had another ex parte conversation with Judge Quinones about Mr. Lieberman's case, inter alia asking if Judge Quinones had considered firing his court attorney over the matter raised by Mr. Lieberman.

"Respondent and Judge Quinones socialized together and with mutual acquaintances, their Supreme Court chambers were near to each other in 2022, and from time to time, respondent gave Judge Quinones professional advice.

"On August 17, 2022, Edit Shkreli, who at the time was Judge Quinones' court attorney, conducted a case conference in Allison Cooper Cohen v Jacques Cohen ("Cohen"), a contested matrimonial matter.

"Respondent has been contrite and cooperative throughout the Commission's inquiry, and forthrightly acknowledged the impropriety of his conversations with Judge Quinones.

"Respondent violated Sections 100.1, 100.2(A), 100.2(B), 100.2(C), and 100.3(B)(6) of the Rules Governing Judicial Conduct ("Rules") and should be disciplined for cause, pursuant to Article VI, Section 22, subdivision a, of the New York State Constitution and Section 44, subdivision 1, of the Judiciary Law.

"Charge I of the Formal Written Complaint is sustained. Respondent's conduct was inconsistent with his obligations to maintain high standards of conduct and to "act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary."

"The Rules, with limited exceptions not applicable here, prohibit a judge from initiating, permitting or considering ex parte communications about a Judge Quinones's Court Attorney Edit Shkreli,

"Respondent violated his ethical obligations when he engaged in improper, undisclosed communications regarding the Cohen matter with attorney Lieberman and with his co-judge.

The entire determination can be found at <https://cjc.ny.gov/Determinations/L/Lubell.Lewis.J.2024.11.07.DET.pdf>

Lubell accepted the commission's public sanction after admitting to an agreed-on statement of facts.

Judge Lubell has been a Justice of the Supreme Court since 2006. He previously served as an Acting Justice of the Ardsley Village Court from 2003 to 2005. His current term expires on December 31, 2033.

Energy Affordability Program Reduces Bills Up to \$173 a Month for Low-Income Customers

Con Edison customers who receive qualifying government assistance benefits can receive a discount of up to \$173 per month on their energy bills, through the Energy Affordability Program (EAP).

Customers receiving Medicaid, Veterans Disability or Survivors Pension, Federal Public Housing Assistance, or Lifeline Telephone Service Program benefits among others can enroll online or apply via email, fax, mail, or in person at one of Con Edison's walk-in centers.

Most customers receiving certain benefits, like Supplemental Security Income, Home Energy Assistance Program, and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits, are automatically enrolled in the EAP.

The company encourages customers to visit coned.com/billhelp for more information on eligibility and how to apply, and to learn more about additional assistance programs, like HEAP and EnergyShare.

This year, Con Edison has applied more than \$201 million in discounts for electric and \$40 million in gas discounts to low-income customers' bills.

"Keeping energy affordable is a focus of our work," said Kelsey Berger, section manager in Customer Operations. "We want customers to reach out to us if they have trouble paying their energy bill. We're here to help. In addition to tips and tools for lowering energy bills, Con Edison offers a one-stop-shop for information and links to programs on its website designed to help our most economically vulnerable customers. We're also working together with other organizations and agencies to connect our customers to the resources they need."

The company continues to reach out to vulnerable customers via emails, newsletters, bill messaging, social media posts, and print, radio and digital advertising to encourage participation.

Con Edison also refers customers to NYSEDA's EmPower+ program. This program provides no-cost energy efficiency services up to \$10,000 for home energy upgrades for low-income customers. It also provides incentives of up to \$5,000 with a 50 percent customer match required for moderate-income customers.

Con Edison continues to work to make sure that the move away from fossil fuels to a clean energy future does not disproportionately burden low-income customers.

The company also offers special protections and payment programs for seniors, people with disabilities, customers experiencing medical emergencies, and domestic violence.

Visit www.coned.com/en/accounts-billing/payment-plans-assistance/help-paying-your-bill, to enroll.

Third Precinct Police Community Council

The Third Precinct Police Community Council will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, December 18 - 7:30 PM at the Chema Community Center, 435 Riverdale Avenue. Usual quality of life issues and concerns will be addressed. Residents and merchants of the southwest Yonkers area are strongly encouraged to attend this important community meeting. For further information contact either Bob Stauf, President at 914 476-2284 or Captain Mike Mulvey at 914 377-7247.

Yonkers Rising

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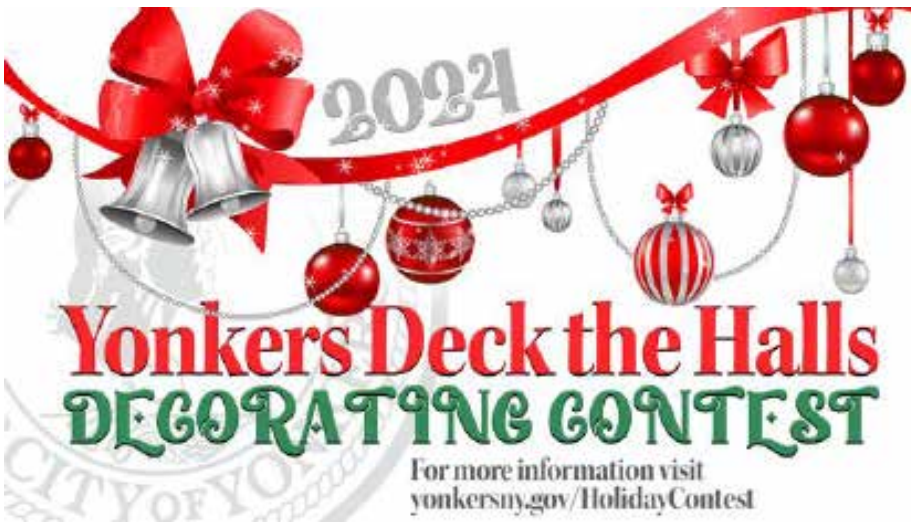
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“YONKERS DECK THE HALLS” Decorating Contest -Submissions Due December 18



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced the launch of the "Yonkers Deck the Halls" Holiday Decorating Contest. Residents and businesses are invited to showcase their holiday spirit by decorating their properties and submitting entries for a chance to win the grand prize of a \$250 Visa gift card and a custom "Yonkers Deck the Halls" lawn sign. The contest runs from Monday, December 2 to Wednesday, December 18 at 5PM.

"This contest highlights the creativity and pride of Yonkers residents," said Mayor Mike Spano. "I encourage everyone to participate and help make Yonkers shine this holiday season."

Contest Details:

Participants can submit photos or videos of exterior or interior holiday decorations. Submissions can include homes, apartments, businesses, schools/classrooms, or community spaces. Entries will be judged on creativity, holiday spirit, use of lights and decor, and Yonkers pride. Participants can submit photos or videos of their decorated properties on social media using the hashtag #YonkersDeckTheHalls and tagging @CityofYonkers. Submissions will be judged on creativity, holiday spirit, use of lights and decor, and Yonkers pride.

Key Dates:

- Contest opens: Monday, December 2, 2024
- Submission deadline: Wednesday, December 18, 2024
- Winners announced: Friday, December 20, 2024

The City will feature select entries on its social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, X and TikTok, during the contest.

For information about the "Yonkers Deck the Halls" Holiday Decorating Contest, visit yonkersny.gov/HolidayContest.

Westchester Hanukkah Events

- Dec. 26: Cross County Center menorah lighting at the Cross County Center, 8000 Mall Walk in Yonkers, from 6-8 p.m.
- Dec. 29: Ridge Hill menorah lighting at the Ridge Hill Shopping Center, One Ridge Hill Boulevard in Yonkers, from 4-6 p.m.
- Dec. 25: Build a giant LEGO menorah at the Chabad of the Rivertowns, 303 Broadway in Dobbs Ferry, at 3 p.m.
- Dec. 26: Town of Mamaroneck menorah lighting at the Hommocks Park Ice Rink, 140 Hommocks Rd. in Larchmont, from 4-6 p.m.
- Dec. 26: Light Up Westchester Bronxville menorah lighting at Leonard Morange Square between Bronxville train station and Palmer Avenue in Bronxville at 5 p.m.
- Dec. 26: Light Up Westchester Tuckahoe menorah lighting at Depot Square, Main Street in Tuckahoe at 7 p.m.
- Dec. 26: Gateway Port Chester menorah lighting at the Gateway Shopping Center, 421 Boston Post Rd. in Port Chester, at 5:30 p.m.
- Dec. 29: Chabad of Yorktown menorah lighting at the Jack DeVito Veterans Memorial Track & Field, 208 Veterans Road in Yorktown, at 4 p.m.
- Jan. 1: Full Blaze Hanukkah menorah lighting at the Bedford Village Green, 14 Pound Ridge Road in Bedford, at 4 p.m.
- Jan. 1: Full Blaze Hanukkah menorah lighting at the Pound Ridge Village Green, 77 Westchester Avenue in Pound Ridge, at 5 p.m.

On This Day in Yonkers History...



Jinx Falkenburg in 1945; Army photo was in Yank, the Army Weekly

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

Monday, December 16th

December 16, 1917: Yonkers began two "lightless nights" a week to save fuel. All of Yonkers "white ways" and electric signs would be darkened, and only necessary streetlights were lit.

December 16, 1932: While on early morning patrol, Yonkers Police Department Sergeant Pasquale Ciliberti called in when he heard fire alarms. The desk lieutenant stated a building on Maple Street was on fire, the building where the Ciliberti family lived!

Fortunately, the dense smoke had woken the sergeant's son Frank, an off duty YPD Patrolman, who got everyone out.

Tuesday, December 17th

December 17, 1942: William "Billy" Lohrfink, on guard duty in New Jersey, heard someone coming. He called out, "Halt! Who goes there?" The answer came quickly, "Officer of the Day." Billy responded, "Advance to be recognized!" Lohrfink quickly presented arms and was returned with a salute. There was no problem recognizing the officer of the day; it was Second Lieutenant Clark Gable!

December 17, 1946: Learning a baby was born to Janet and John Auresto at Yonkers General Hospital just before she broadcast her show from Yonkers as part of Yonkers' Tercentennial celebration, radio star Jinx Falkenburg visited the new mom!

Wednesday, December 18th

December 18, 1931: Mayor-elect Joseph Loehr announced he would urge the sale of city owned property adjacent to the Habirshaw Cable and Wire Corporation at Glenwood to allow company expansion.

December 18, 1946: At 12:01 am, "Operation Tercentennial" officially kicked off Yonkers Permanent Peace Day; Yonkers "hams" sent messages urging permanent world peace to fifty amateur radio operators around the world... including NY governor Thomas Dewey!

The message also was broadcast over radio station WFAS from a ceremony held at the High School of Commerce; UN Representative G. Van Dissel of Holland was the keynote speaker. Another feature of Yonkers Permanent Peace Day was release of 200 homing pigeons carrying messages of peace

Thursday, December 19th

December 19, 1929: Using his off-duty training as a runner with the Hollywood Inn track team, Patrolman Thomas Flynn caught a burglar trying to escape from the Yonkers Avenue gas station he had just robbed.

December 19, 1930: Yonkers aviator John Capobianco of Mile Square Road was injured while attempting a forced landing he was rushed to St. John's Riverside Hospital. His passenger, Michael Pallo of Gunther Avenue, was unhurt

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Notice of formation of GCMA2 Real Estate Group LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/29/2024. 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, 66 Hutchinson Blvd, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

OnPoint Home Designs LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 8/28/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 14 Crosby Court, Cortlandt Manor NY 10567. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Hampton Estate Care LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/17/2024. 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, 35 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Schmoose Pack Projects LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/20/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Bruce Wong 10 Station Square Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of 130 FRANKLIN AVE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 10/15/2024. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Brian Caldwell at 68 North Steet, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of David A. Langner, Esq., PLLC filed Arts. of Org. with NY Sec. of State (NYSS) on 11/18/2024. Office: Westchester County. NYSS was designated PLLC's agent for service of process, and shall mail process to 87 Hawkes Ave., #2104, Ossining, NY 10562. Purpose: Practice of Law.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

new products. I tried a SOLA BRAND of bagels and bread at Stop and Shop. 100 calories a bagel, but a whopping 24 grams of fiber. As they say it wasn't a bagel shop bagel, but it was fairly good. And the fiber always helps digestion.

So here you have some 20 or so things to live a better and help you close the year in positive fashion!

Speaking of leading a better life, I will be missing in action. Next Tuesday, I'll be having neck surgery to relieve some of the pain I have in my shoulders, back, legs basically all my body. Caused by my scoliosis and aggravated by my Parkinson's.

Say a prayer for me and for peace in world! See you soon!

Reach ERIC WOLF Schoen at thistooisyonkers@aol.com.

In Trouble with the IRS or the NYS Tax Department?

In trouble with the IRS or the New York State Tax Department? I can help. My name is Gerald Snyder, and I am an enrolled agent and a former IRS Group Manager. I have successfully represented clients before the IRA and the NYS Tax Department for over 25 years. I resolve liens, levies, seizures, income tax and sales audits, and penalties and trust fund recovery issues. I also handle unfiled tax returns.

I operate from convenient offices at 73 Market Street in Ridge Hill, Yonkers, NY. My fees are reasonable and I offer a free initial consultation. I offer in person meetings. Why deal with an unknown person online when you can meet with me in person?

For more information, call me at 914-793-5654 or email me at thasnyder1@verizon.net.

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Index No. 61446/2024,
SUMMONS:

US Bank as custodian for Actlien Holding Inc.,

Plaintiff,

vs.

The Unknown Heirs, Legatees, Devisees and/or Representative of Right W. Howley, And All Persons That May Claim An Interest In The Property Referred To In The Complaint By, Through Or Under Any Of The Foregoing (The Aforesaid Unknown Heirs, Legatees, Devisees and/or Representatives Being All Such Heirs, Legatees, Devisees and/or Representatives Of Their Than Those Specifically Named As A Defendant Herein – The Identity And Addresses Of All The Foregoing Not Being Known To Plaintiff), Judy Howley Galligan, Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Thomas Fitzgerald, Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Sharon Tufo Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Kathy Howley Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Richard Howley Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Mary Jane Brown Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Ruth Morrison Dee Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Robert Howley Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Joan Howley Jackowiak Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, T11 Funding Point 62, LLC, Credit Solutions Of America, New York State Department of Taxation And Finance, CSA Corp, “John Does” And “Jane Does”, Same being fictitious and unknown to the Plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the fee Owners, occupants, tenants, persons or entities, if any, having Or claiming an interest in or lien upon the liened premises if the aforesaid individual defendants if living, or if said individual defendants are dead, their respective heirs-at-law, next-of-kin, distributes, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by, through, or against the said defendants named as a class, of any right, title, or interest in or lien upon the premises described in the verified complaint,

Defendants.

Location of property to be foreclosed: 92 Vineyard Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10703.

SBL# 2- 2174-10.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

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

Westchester County is designated as the place of trial. The basis of venue is the location of the mortgaged/liened premises.

NOTICE: YOU MAY BE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME.

If you do not respond to this Summons and Complaint by serving a copy of the Answer on the attorney for the tax lien company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you for non-payment of City of Yonkers, New York taxes for the tax year 2016, and filing the Answer with the Court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your property. Speak to an attorney or go to the Court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the Summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to the City of Yonkers may not stop this foreclosure action.

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

DATED: November 20, 2024, JASON BERTUNA, ESQ.

Bee Ready Law Group, LLC,

Attorneys for Plaintiff

Office and Post Office Address

170 Old Country Road, Suite 200

Mineola, NY 11501

Telephone: (516) 746-5599

NATURE AND OBJECT OF ACTION: The object of the above action is to foreclose on a tax lien(s) held by Plaintiff bearing the date(s) the 10th day of May, 2017, executed by the City of Yonkers at auction on the 10th day of May, 2017, to Plaintiff to secure the sum of \$4,235.47, plus any applicable interest and fees, and recorded by the City of Yonkers on the 10th day of May, 2017 as Tax Lien Certificate No. 190168.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. Paul I. Marx, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, dated October 28, 2024, and filed along with the supporting papers in the Westchester County Clerk's Office. This is an action to foreclose the property for an unpaid tax lien.

The premises are described as follows: All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester, State of New York, and designated and shown upon the tax map of the City of Yonkers as follows: Section: 2 Block: 2174 Lot: 10. Upon information and belief premises known and designated by the records of the City of Yonkers Tax Assessor as 92 Vineyard Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10703.

APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED FOR SEASONAL PARK RANGERS

Deadline to apply is Feb. 23

The Westchester County Department of Public Safety is accepting applications for seasonal park rangers to patrol County parks next summer. Applications are due by February 23 and are available online at the Department of Public Safety's web pages: http://publicsafety.westchestergov.com.

Uniformed park rangers work under the supervision of County Police officers to maintain a safe and enjoyable atmosphere in the County's parks. They assist park users, provide information on park rules and procedures, help in searches for lost children, perform basic first aid on occasion and make regular security checks of buildings and facilities.

First-time park rangers are paid \$17 hourly. Salaries are higher for those who have worked as a ranger for the County before.

To qualify, applicants must be a high school graduate, at least 18 years of age, a U.S. citizen, and possess a valid New York State driver's license by the time of appointment. Preference in hiring may be shown to Westchester residents. The application form may be found in the Employment: Seasonal Park Rangers section of the Department website.

Accepted candidates must complete a 162-hour peace officer training program at the Westchester County Police Academy. Park rangers are paid during this Academy training.

Public Safety Commissioner Terrence Raynor said persons interested in law enforcement careers often benefit greatly from the experience gained by working as summer park rangers.

"By working under the supervision of Westchester County Police officers, park rangers get a unique view into the law enforcement field and the potential career opportunities that exist," Raynor said.

Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

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New York Surrogate's Court OCA Official Form Form C 17-A Guardianship Citation [SCP]

SURROGATE'S COURT - DELAWARE COUNTY File No. 92-097/A

SUPPLEMENTAL 17-A GUARDIANSHIP CITATION [SCPA 1757]

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK By the Grace of God Free and Independent

To: Edward T. Magenheimer, and if he be deceased, to the heirs and distributes of Edward T. Mag purported brother of EUGENE F. MAGENHEIMER, and I said distributes be dead, their legal representatives, disitrbutees and successors in interest, and all of whom are unknown and whos names and addresses are unknown and whose names and addresses cannot be found with reasonable diligence.

A petition having been duly filed by Donnamarie C. Giannone who is domiciled at 37 Baldwin C Berkeley Heights, New Jersey 07922

YOU ARE HEREBY CITED TO SHOW CAUSE before the Surrogate's Court, Delaware County, Court Street, Delhi, New York, on January 7, 2025, at 9:00 o'clock in the fore/afternoon c day, why letter of guardianship of the

- [] person [] property [X] person and property [] limited guardianship of the property

of Eugene F. Magenheimer should not be granted to Donnamarie C. Giannone;

Why the appointment of as Alternate Standby Guardian of the

- [] person [] property [] person and property [] limited guardianship of the property

of Eugene F. Magenheimer should not be granted;

Why the appointment of as Second Alternate Standby Guardian

- [] person [] property [] person and property [] limited guardianship of the property

of Eugene F. Magenheimer should not be granted;

Why the appointment of as Third Alternate Standby Guardian of

- [] person [] property [] person and property [] limited guardianship of the property

of Eugene F. Magenheimer should not be granted;

and why a hearing [X] should be held [] should not be held;

and why the appearance of Respondent [] should be [X] should not be required at the hearing; and wh guardian of the person should not be authorized and empowered to make all decisions with respect to t

New York Surrogate's Court Forms CSMD-4 (4/2018) -1- © 2024 Matthew Bender & Company, Inc., a member of L

medical and dental needs of the Respondent and to render consent to any medical procedures which are necessary to the health and welfare of the Respondent, unless the court directs otherwise. A health care decision may include a decision to withhold or withdraw life-sustaining treatment as defined in subdivision (j) of 81.03 of the Mental Hygiene Law.

Further relief requested:

Dated, Attested, and Sealed, November 19, 2024 (Seal)



HON. JOHN L. HUBBARD

Surrogate Rebecca G. Roman Chief Clerk

Andrea L. Gellen Name of Attorney for Petitioner(s)

Gellen Law PLLC Firm Name

271 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603 Address

(845) 204-8673 Telephone

andrea@andreagellenlaw.com Email (optional)

NOTE: This citation is served upon you as required by law. You are not required to appear. However, if you fail to appear it will be assumed by the court that you do not object to the relief requested. You have a right to have an attorney appear for you.

Audubon Christmas Bird Count



Tufted Titmouse. Photo: Michele Black/Great Backyard Bird Count

The nation's longest-running community science bird project fuels Audubon's work throughout the year. The Christmas Bird Count occurs December 14 to January 5 every season. Sign up to receive information and results about all of Audubon's community science programs through American Birds, our email newsletter.

It's the 125th year for Christmas Bird Counts! Wow! You can find out all the details at link below.

Here's the website with everything about Christmas Bird Counts: <https://www.audubon.org/community-science/christmas-bird-count>
New York State CBC Calendar-<https://nybirds.org/ProjCBC.htm>

Map of CBC circles <https://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org/circles>

Visit [sawmillriveraudubon.org](https://www.sawmillriveraudubon.org), for more information.

Historic Hudson Valley Presents Dickens's 'Christmas Carol'



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This limited run is from December 7–22, weekends only at the Old Dutch Church, Sleepy Hollow. Don't miss this magical experience that captures the heart of the season. historic hudson valley

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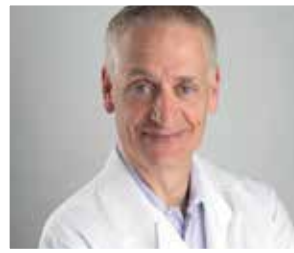
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Patrick Murray, MD; Paul S. Ragusa, MD; Thomas Schmicker, MD
Eric Spencer, MD; Mario Voloshin, DPM, FACFAS



Yonkers 13-Year-Old Caleb Sangster Named Honorary Knicks Coach Through Make-A-Wish and Garden of Dreams

Happy Holidays

LOCAL 456

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We will be accepting New Clothing donations for the homeless.
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Left-Caleb Sangster in the Knicks Media Room



Left: Caleb with NY Knicks Captain Jalen Brunson

On Dec. 5, the NY Knicks named 13-year old Yonkers native Caleb Sangster as an Honorary Coach for the night as a part of the Garden of Dreams Week initiative. At the game he was able to meet Knicks captain Jalen Brunson and the coaching staff, sit courtside during the pre-game shootaround, stand with the team during the Anthem, as well as be announced to the crowd along with the starting lineup.

Caleb, affiliated with Make-A-Wish Hudson Valley, has chronic granulomatous, disease primary immune deficiency disorder and had a stem cell transplant. While he was in recovery, watching the Knicks play helped him get through the recovery process.

Also featured at the game were an honorary PA Announcer, Musician, DJ, and game elements such as the halftime performance by young people of Garden of Dreams partner organizations.

Throughout Garden of Dreams Week, the Foundation continues to host various programming and events daily, raise awareness and raise funds in support of Garden of Dreams mission to provide life-changing opportunities to young people facing obstacles. For more information on the Garden of Dreams Foundation please visit www.GardenofDreamsFoundation.org.

2024 CHRISTMAS TREE & HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS

12/1	4:00 - 5:30 PM	Cedar Knolls Colony • Darcy Park
12/5	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Crestwood/Girl Scouts • American Legion Plaza
12/6	4:30 - 5:30 PM	Downtown/Waterfront BID • Getty Square
12/6	5:00 - 8:00 PM	UPAC • Untermyer Gardens
12/6	6:00 - 8:00 PM	Pre-Kwanzaa Gospel Concert • Yonkers Riverfront Library
12/6	6:00 - 8:00 PM	South Broadway BID • Lincoln Park
12/6	7:00 - 9:00 PM	CHAT • St. George/Longvue Terrace
12/7	5:30 - 8:00 PM	Untermyer Conservancy • Untermyer Gardens
12/11	6:00 - 7:00 PM	MAMA • Conor Park
12/11	7:00 - 8:00 PM	The Luther Burbank Club • Rumsey Road
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Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

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Pet Advocacy Network Files Lawsuit Against New Puppy Pet Store Ban

On Monday (Dec. 9), the Pet Advocacy Network, which advocates for the responsible pet care community at all levels of government, announced the filing of a lawsuit seeking an injunction against an upcoming New York law that will put local pet stores across the state out of business during the holiday season.

The law, slated to take effect Dec. 15, prohibits pet stores from selling dogs and cats sourced from professional, licensed and inspected breeders, despite pet stores already providing warranties to protect consumers. The law will make it harder for New Yorkers to get a puppy from a good breeder and put local pet stores out of business—a boon to unlicensed “puppy mills” that sell on the black market. In the years since California enacted a similar pet sale ban, reported puppy scams have surged by 350%, consumer protections have been lost, and veterinarians have seen an increase in sick puppies acquired from unregulated sources.

Mike Bober, CEO of the Pet Advocacy Network, said: “Pet sale bans hurt pets, families and small businesses. The so-called ‘Puppy Mill Pipeline Law’ takes away longstanding protections for pet owners and leaves New Yorkers more vulnerable to fraudulent sellers on the unregulated black market, while doing nothing to stop bad breeders. The effects are already being seen, as beloved small businesses that have served New York communities for decades are closing across the state.

Despite our best efforts to warn legislators of the consequences of this law, they refused to work with local businesses. Now we’re forced to ask the court to put a stop to this before more consumers, animals, and local businesses are seriously harmed.”

Pet Advocacy Network joins six New York businesses as plaintiffs. The lawsuit was filed in the Supreme Court of Suffolk County.

Since 1971, Pet Advocacy Network has worked to promote animal well-being and responsible pet ownership, foster environmental stewardship, and ensure access to healthy pets, including small animals, cats, dogs, fish, reptiles, and birds. Pet Advocacy Network members include retailers, companion animal suppliers, manufacturers, wholesale distributors, manufacturers’ representatives, pet hobbyists, and other trade organizations. To learn more, visit www.PetAdvocacy.org.

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

although thrown 15-feet clear. Capobianco had made another forced landed two months earlier on the Saw Mill River Parkway near Yonkers Avenue, and held up traffic a couple of hours until he gassed up his plane and flew off!

Friday, December 20th

December 20, 1952: Yonkers resident Jose Duarte was arrested for acquiring arms for a Cuban revolution Mamaroneck Police and Westchester County officers raided a vacant gas station in Mamaroneck where the weapons and ammunition were stored. Duarte “would not deny he was robbed of \$240,000 two months earlier in Fort Worth,” money he was to use to purchase more firearms.

The weapons were awaiting shipment to Cuba to support reinstatement of former Cuban President Carlos Prío Socarrás, deposed by General Batista in 1952.

December 20, 1954: In the effort to ensure Yonkers families had a safe Christmas, Yonkers Fire Department Chief William Garvin and Captain Joseph Treacy made inspection tours of all Yonkers stores. Garvin visited H. L. Green and found imported miniature carousels which he suspected were flammable.

After testing one of the toys, he found they were “highly inflammable and were completely destroyed by a match in four seconds.” Green’s manager quickly grabbed the 15 toys on the counter, brought them outside and destroyed them by burning them!

Saturday, December 21st

December 21, 1908: Yonkers Dr. Frederick Knowles condemned the fad of long-distance foot races. The physician said only harm can result from them, adding “the boys are only digging their graves.”

December 21, 1921: The Yonkers Statesman and Daily News, the name adopted when the Statesman merged with the Yonkers Daily News, put into operation the speediest and most modern printing press in Westchester County, printing the paper with a degree of speed never before achieved by a Yonkers newspaper. The new press was capable of printing 30,000 copies an hour.

Sunday, December 22nd

December 22, 1924: Two men, one of whom was captured in Van Cortlandt Park at the point of an empty revolver, engaged in pistol battles with Patrolman James Hollis. Hollis stepped into the Park Hill Lunch at 232 South Broadway as a car was left running outside the café; once inside, he found the duo trying to rob the night man. The patrolman was ordered at gunpoint to a backroom; about halfway there, Hollis whirled around and fired five shots with his service revolver. The robbers returned fire and ran out of the restaurant to their car... which stalled. They carjacked a passing taxi. Thirty shots were fired in the gun battle, destroying windows in the area. The cab driver managed to start their car, and Hollis and the cabbie followed the robbers toward Van Cortlandt Park where they abandoned the cab and ran off. Hollis cornered one in the park and arrested him. Named Sheppard, the burglar admitted his part when questioned at NYPD’s 26th Precinct.

December 22, 1942: The Yonkers Electric Light & Power Company and the Westchester Lighting Company donated twenty-six trophies company employees had won since 1926 were donated to the Yonkers War Salvage Committee as part of the company’s contribution to the scrap metal drive for the war effort.

Questions or comments on this column? Email YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com. For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, please visit our website www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org,

Congressman Bowman, To All White People, By Dan Murphy

Westchester Congressman Jamaal Bowman has been largely silent for the past few months after losing his Congressional seat to George Latimer in a Democratic Primary in June.

But Rep. Bowman, with less than a month left in office, took to Twitter after a jury exonerated Daniel Penny in the choking death of Jordan Neely on Dec. 9.

Titled :”A Message to all White People” Bowman in a series of Tweets writes, Dear White People,

I don’t know why I feel the need to keep talking to you. I don’t know why part of me still has hope for you and for us. Some of you are too far gone. But maybe enough of you aren’t and will join us in fighting to end white supremacy.

“I just wanna call out the hypocrisy and evil of it all and just continue to hope. I won’t rely completely on you because I know what’s most important is to work with my community and other like minded allies in the fight for justice. But I guess I’ll just offer this:

“I am 48 years old and I have seen countless incidents of brutal police violence and killings in my lifetime. The first Black man I saw violently attacked on camera was Rodney King. Those officers were acquitted.

“Next was Eric Garner’s murder and his cries of “I can’t breathe.” All he was doing was trying to sell a few cigarettes to survive an economy that failed him, and he was jumped and killed by police.

“The next video burned into my memory is the murder of Philando Castile, shot and bled to death by police on live stream, with his child in the backseat and his girlfriend next to him. How will that child heal from the trauma that will live in his body for the rest of his life?

“I didn’t see videos of Trayvon Martin or Breonna Taylor, but their murders and the trauma from their murders lives in my bones. I felt it then and I feel it now. And it is compounded with every new video I see.

“The world saw George Floyd murdered. His murderer knelt on his neck for 8 minutes and 46 seconds. I cried. And couldn’t stop crying. I saw five Black Memphis police officers beating a Black man to death on camera. White supremacy is not skin color. It’s a state of mind.

“Jordan Neely is the latest. He was sick. He was not a threat. He was subdued. Still not a threat. Daniel Penny choked him for 6 minutes. And killed him. We all watched it on camera, and he was still acquitted.

“I’ve left out probably another hundred instances of this trauma in my life. For comparison, I ask white people, how many times have you seen a white man killed in cold blood on camera on your newsfeed? How many times have you even heard about this?

“The answer is never. You never have. And whenever you feel discomfort from your whiteness, Black people are harmed or killed. And there is never accountability or justice. This is the evil of white supremacy. It spans across geography and political parties and sickens us all.

“I wish I didn’t have to live with all of this trauma deep in my bones. I wish I could just be free to be me. I marvel at the beauty and greatness of my people in spite of white supremacy. It’s extraordinary. That is what I will continue to lean on.

“RIP Jordan Neely. The justice system failed you. Kyle Rittenhouse and Daniel Penny are free. You’re gone. We must still fight,” writes Bowman.

Editor’s Notes: In the case of Rodney King, 2 of 4 officers were convicted. Officer Powell was acquitted for excess force & false report, but hung jury for assault. CA dropped charge when federal case filed. Convicted on federal charges, went to prison. Officer Koon was acquitted on CA charges; convicted on fed charges, went to prison.

Jordan Neely was arrested 43 times in New York City, mostly on the subway. As part of a plea agreement after punching a 67-year old woman, Neely was given free access to housing and healthcare. Neely abandoned the center after two weeks.

The NY Working Families Party stated after Penny’s acquittal, In response to breaking news that Daniel Penny was acquitted of criminally negligent homicide NYWFP Co-Directors, Jasmine Gripper and Ana María Archila released the following statement: “Eric Adams and his administration failed to call Neely’s death what it was: a modern-day lynching. Today’s news that Daniel Penny was found not guilty of murdering Jordan Neely underscores that our criminal justice system is still beyond broken. This ruling fails to recognize that Jordan Neely’s life mattered. New Yorkers deserve leaders who will protect and support people experiencing mental illness and invest in resources that create stability and safety for all.”



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Illegal Cannabis, continued from pg 1-

were given to the business.

From March 2024 to November 2024, the City’s Smoke Shop Task Force, comprised of Yonkers Police, Yonkers Fire and members of the Department of Housing and Buildings along with the City’s Consumer Protection Bureau, have confiscated more than \$60,000 worth of unregulated products.

Many of these shops remain open.

“We try to manage and close down these shops by enforcing building codes,” said Mayor Spano. “It’s not enough. We need the State to tighten the laws, give us better enforcement measures so they cannot re-open. They need to reconsider any location known for selling these products illegally and prohibit those businesses from being granted licenses in the future.”

“Some of these products are being targeted toward children and a lot of it is in plain sight. That’s reckless disregard for public safety and the community at large,” said Yonkers Police Commissioner Christopher Sapienza. “It is crucial to ensure our children are not being marketed these products. We also want to ensure what our residents are purchasing is regulated, so they know what they are buying.”

Mayor Spano also is raising concern about the over-saturation of legalized shops in parts of the City. According to the Yonkers Department of Housing and Buildings, there are six smoke shops located along the same corridor of Central Park Avenue within a 7 miles distance.

“Granting licenses to shops in such close proximity to each other is irresponsible. The Office of Cannabis Management needs to partner with local governments so we can create a market that operates responsibly and protects the integrity of the City,” Mayor Spano said.

YONKERS DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING & BUILDINGS ISSUES HEAT HOTLINE & HEATING REGULATIONS FOR WINTER SEASON

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today announced the Yonkers Department of Housing and Buildings is issuing its annual heat complaint hotline and heating regulations for the season for all tenant-occupied residential buildings.

"As the cold weather sets in this season, it's crucial to ensure our homes are safe and warm," said Mayor Spano. "I urge residents to reach out to the City heat hotline if their homes don't meet the building standards so we can take prompt action. I also ask everyone to check on their senior neighbors and offer assistance, as good neighbors should."

The City’s Heat Emergency telephone number, receives calls 24-hours a day, seven days a week, for all residences within the City of Yonkers at 914-965-3331. The Yonkers Housing and Buildings Department also fields calls at 914-377-6879 Mondays through Fridays from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

The New York State Property Maintenance Code Section 602.3 mandates during the period from September 15th to May 31st, that every person, firm or corporation in the City of Yonkers is required to maintain a temperature of no less than 68°F (20°C) in all habitable rooms, bathrooms and toilet rooms. At all other times whenever the outside temperature falls below 55° the inside temperature is to be supplied as follows:

- Between 6:00 AM and 11:00 PM 68°F
- Between 11:00PM and 6:00AM 65°F

Note: Hot water is to be maintained at a minimum temperature of 120°F at all times. All heating regulations are instituted by the City of Yonkers Housing and Buildings Maintenance Code, Chapter 58-22 Heat Regulations.

Westchester County Students Need To Attend An HBCU

By Dennis Richmond, Jr.

As someone who has spent nearly a decade advocating for historically Black colleges and universities (HBCUs), I’m sounding the alarm: Black students in Westchester County, NY, are barely considering these transformative institutions. This bothers me, and I am compelled to address it directly.

When I founded the New York-New Jersey HBCU Initiative, my goal was simple yet critical: educate students across New York about the unparalleled opportunities HBCUs provide. Having graduated from Claflin University—a place that nurtured me, challenged me, and equipped me with tools for success—I know firsthand the power of these schools. Yet, year after year, I see too many students from Westchester County take the well-trodden paths to New York’s public universities and community colleges, overlooking the vibrant, history-rich HBCUs that could elevate their lives and careers in unique ways.

The Numbers Don’t Lie

Despite New York having a robust Black student population, data shows that only a fraction of these students choose HBCUs. Instead, they overwhelmingly attend institutions like SUNY, CUNY, or local community colleges. While these schools serve their purpose, they cannot replicate the cultural affirmation, deep mentorship, and network of Black excellence that HBCUs offer. The tri-state area’s lack of HBCUs compounds the issue; students here often don’t learn about these institutions unless someone deliberately introduces them.

The Problem Isn’t Awareness Alone

Some people argue that students avoid HBCUs because of geography or costs, but this doesn’t hold up under scrutiny. Many HBCUs are just a short flight or drive away and often provide scholarships, grants, and competitive tuition rates. The real issue is systemic: Black students here often don’t see HBCUs as viable options because they haven’t been told about their benefits. There’s a persistent narrative—one I work tirelessly to dismantle—that HBCUs are less prestigious or relevant. This couldn’t be further from the truth.

As I’ve said before, “my HBCU changed my life.” These institutions have been shaping leaders, artists, educators, and entrepreneurs for over 150 years. From the Harlem Renaissance to the Civil Rights Movement, HBCUs have consistently been at the forefront of Black progress in America. They remain just as relevant today, especially in a post-affirmative action world where predominantly white institutions might become even less welcoming to Black students.

A Call to Action

It’s time for change. Parents, educators, and community leaders in Westchester County must actively promote HBCUs as real options for their students. Guidance counselors should not treat HBCUs as an afterthought but as a premier choice for those seeking an empowering, culturally enriching education. Black students deserve to know they can thrive at institutions specifically designed with their success in mind.

HBCUs need support, too. Just as funding increased during the Civil Rights Movement, we must push for greater investment in these schools today. I believe this moment could spark a resurgence in HBCU enrollment if we do our part.

To the students reading this: Look beyond your immediate surroundings. HBCUs are waiting for you, ready to welcome you into a legacy of excellence.

Roughly a decade later— I’m still beating the drum for HBCUs.

Dennis Richmond, Jr., an educator, historian, and writer, illuminates the experiences of Black, Latinx, and LGBTQ+ communities in Yonkers and NYC through his journalism. Stay connected with him by following @NewYork-Stakz on social media.

Coat drive, continued from pg 1-

over 1,200 items to help keep community members warm this winter.

The donation drive, which ran for three weeks in October, engaged libraries across Westchester County as collection points, making it convenient for community members to participate. Donors contributed both new and gently used coats for all ages, along with new winter accessories including hats, gloves, and socks. Volunteers from Regeneron, through a partnership with Volunteer New York, lent their time and effort to sort the collected coats as part of their eighth annual Day for Doing Good.

“United Way’s inaugural Winter Coat and Accessory Drive with our member libraries highlights the incredible impact of our library network and patrons coming together. Thanks to their generosity, we’re able to make a real difference in our communities this winter,” added Terry Kirchner, Executive Director at Westchester Library System.

The collected items will be distributed to individuals and families in need throughout Westchester County through UWWP’s network of nonprofit partners, ensuring these essential winter items reach those who need them most.

“The overwhelming response to our first winter coat drive demonstrates the incredible generosity of our community,” said Avery Zuvic, Director of Community Impact at UWWP. Through our partnership with the Westchester Library System and our nonprofit partners, we can ensure these 1,217 items will help keep our neighbors warm this winter season.”For more information about United Way of Westchester and Putnam’s community initiatives, visit www.uwwp.org.

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Sister Helps Jailed Brother Extort Victim of Sex Crimes for \$\$\$-You Can't Make This UP!

BOL Passes County Budget, continued from pg 3-

Damian Williams, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York; and James E. Dennehy, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), announced the unsealing of a Complaint charging FRED MASTROIANNI and DOREEN MASTROIANNI with cyberstalking, extortion, and conspiracy to commit extortion. DOREEN MASTROIANNI and FRED MASTROIANNI will be presented in White Plains federal court before U.S. Magistrate Judge Victoria Reznik on December 11, 2024, at 3:00 p.m.

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said: "As alleged, Fred and Doreen Mastroianni have cyberstalked and conspired to extort victims by threatening to release compromising images of them to the public, allegedly engaging in this conduct even though Fred is already serving a 35-year prison sentence for receiving, distributing, and producing child pornography. This Office will continue to protect the community from those who repeatedly try to harm and exploit vulnerable citizens."

FBI Assistant Director in Charge James E. Dennehy said: "The Mastroianni siblings allegedly preyed on individuals who were victimized by Fred Mastroianni; stalking and conspiring to extort them for the siblings' financial benefit. Victimization by sexual exploitation is beyond appalling and will not be tolerated. FBI New York will work tirelessly to hold accountable anyone attempting to utilize stalking and extortion for financial gain."

As alleged in the Complaint unsealed today:[1]

FRED MASTROIANNI ("FRED") is currently serving a 35-year sentence imposed by the Honorable Philip M. Halpern, U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of New York, on August 15, 2024, for receiving and distributing child pornography and for the sexual exploitation of a minor. DOREEN MASTROIANNI ("DOREEN") is FRED's sister.

Since at least October 2024, FRED and DOREEN have engaged in a plot to extort victims by threatening to release sexually explicit images and videos of the victims that FRED has saved. The extortion attempts are designed to compel victims to contribute money to FRED's commissary account in prison and to fund the purchase of an insurance policy against DOREEN's life for the benefit of FRED. FRED has used another inmate's email account to send DOREEN draft extortion threats in furtherance of this scheme. At FRED's direction, DOREEN has forwarded those extortion threats to victims on FRED's behalf.

There may be more victims of this alleged conduct. If you have information to report, contact the FBI through its toll-free Tip Line at 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324) or <https://tips.fbi.gov>.

FRED, 54, formerly of White Plains, New York, and DOREEN, 69, of Yorktown Heights, New York, are each charged with one count of cyberstalking, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison; one count of interstate extortion, which carries a maximum sentence of two years in prison; and one count of conspiracy to commit interstate extortion, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

The maximum potential sentences in this case are prescribed by Congress and are provided here for informational purposes only, as any sentencing of the defendants will be determined by a judge.

Mr. Williams praised the work of the FBI's Westchester Safe Streets Task Force.

This case is being handled by the Office's White Plains Division. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Ryan W. Allison, Margaret N. Vasu, and Courtney Heavey are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

According to the complaint, "Fred directed Doreen to set up an account that would allow him to send text messages from prison. Fred explained that he wanted to use this text message application to get victim 1 to pay this F*&%@ life insurance."

The two had planned to extort another victim of Fred's sex crimes, Vic-2.

The conversations described in the complaint come from recorded phone calls made by Fred from prison to his sister Doreen on the same phone number listed on her Realtor.com page.

Doreen also maintained Fred's cache of pornography according to the complaint. Her son "saw things he never wanted to see."

Reminding our readers that Fred was convicted of possessing thousands of images and videos, sharing those images with others over the internet, and for years extorting another person ("Individual-1") to force Individual-1 repeatedly to capture and send to FRED sexually explicit images and videos of Individual-1's prepubescent son.

After that history with Individual 1-Fred attempts to extort Ind 1 to participate in this life insurance policy idea. After Ind 1 refuses the first request, Fred emails Vic 1 through Doreen, "I would never do anything to embarrass you or cause you discomfort on purpose unless I was pushed to the breaking point (which is where I currently am). I have friends in the adult entertainment business. One is the owner of a company which is the largest male porn management company in the country and the other is the owner of a lounge in NYC. Both had a lot of connections and are helping shop my library of 3000 videos and 200,000++ photos. I can sell then my ENTIRE library or I can have certain files left out. Or I don't have to sell anything."

Doreen responds to Fred's emails with "I find it hard to believe you put it in writing," and "I find its content repugnant."

Fred also owed victim 1 -\$25,000 which was never repaid.

Fred's videos of victim-1 occurred when Fred was 30 and Vic-1 was 15-years old. Fred took photos of Vic-1 while he masturbated.

Eventually, Vic-1 called Doreen to say he was not interested, and that he was "sorry that things were so bad that you ("Fred) had to sink that low to write that."

Doreen should have gone to the FBI when Fred asked her to copy his folder of illegal porn and to extort Vic-1. Now she is facing 12 years in prison.

Board weighed community recommendations through a series of public engagement sessions.

Chairman Vedat Gashi (D - New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said: "We've listened to County residents and responded with a budget that prioritizes vital services for those most in need. This budget supports our most vulnerable residents while protecting taxpayers and our fiscal future."

Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson (D - Elmsford, Greenburgh, Tarrytown, White Plains) said: "As Chair of the Budget and Appropriations Committee, I'm proud to present a sound and balanced 2025 County Budget. Despite the challenges of a tight fiscal environment, we've succeeded in keeping a property tax increase for the general operating budget at bay for the sixth consecutive year. This budget sustains critical funding for the childcare scholarship program at the same level as last year while prioritizing new affordable housing projects and flood mitigation projects. It reflects our unwavering commitment to quality of life issues and to making Westchester a safe, more affordable, and more livable county for all residents."

Majority Leader Tyrae Woodson-Samuels (D - Mount Vernon) said: "This budget reflects our focus on protecting taxpayers, supporting our most vulnerable residents and maintaining fiscal responsibility to ensure all Westchester residents are being served fairly, sustainably and equitably. I'm proud that, at a time of economic challenges, we crafted a balanced budget and preserved a zero percent increase to the County property tax levy."

County Legislators James Nolan and Margaret Cunzio voted no on the budget. Nolan stated, "I cast a no vote on the Westchester County Budget at our meeting Monday because of my two primary concerns: the increase in special district (sewers) taxes and a rise in overall spending. Special districts are independent government units created to perform specific functions and can levy taxes. An increase in these taxes directly impact residents. My aim as a legislator is to explore implementation of cost-saving measures to maintain fiscal balance."

Yonkers three other County Legislators, Shanae Williams, David Tubiolo and Jose Alvarado, voted yes on the county budget, which was signed by County Executive George Latimer after the BOL vote.

Home Depot Dreidel Making Workshop

By Robert Kalfus

On Dec. 8, the Home Depot on Sprain Road in Yonkers hosted an enjoyable dreidel making workshop for children – and their parents – with Chabad of Yonkers Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz with children from Yonkers and other Westchester communities. Home Depot provided free "workers' aprons", hammers, nails, glue, paint, and instructions. From 2 to 4 pm, children assembled a pre-made Dreidl frame, which included two wooden side pieces and two end pieces; a bottom base, 12 nails, fine sandpaper, wood glue, paint to decorate, and a sticker to place inside on which the dreidel can be spun.

Instructions included an explanation for the four letters: Nun, Gimel, Hey, and Shin, their value, and how to play the game. These four Hebrew letters form an acronym for the phrase Nes Gadol Haya Sham, "A great Miracle happened there", referring to the miracle of the cruse of unspoiled sacred oil on which the holiday of Hanukah is centered burning for eight days longer than expected in the holy Temple in Jerusalem.

The Dreidel Game is made exclusively in the USA for Home Depot by Houseworks Ltd in Atlanta, Georgia, with all its parts, including a handsome wooden dreidel, were provided free.

Chanukah this year begins at sundown on Wednesday evening, December 25, nearly coinciding with Christmas, and ends eight days later on January 2, 2025.

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Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

FRIDAY, DEC. 13

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

Holiday Lights on the Farm, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.. Get into the holiday spirit and see the farm in a new light! Visit our animals inside of the decorated barns, participate in holiday-themed activities, listen to music and enjoy delicious eats from food trucks! \$7.77 for ages 3 and older. Rain or shine; no refunds. Also: Dec. 14, 20, 21.

Registration required https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-lights-on-the-farm-tickets-1073461896429?aff=efbevent&fbclid=IwY2xjawGZ-15leHRuA2FbQIx-MAABHRaoH7FkwzNWLvUSPqIpYKkhk0v1bhd1JnviPaGbCqWIZpbZ6CdZH-KHOA_aem_JCE3IKgmVkmCyg-zOh5k1Q

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Stargazing Picnic, 8 p.m. - 9:30 p.m.. Bring a blanket and pack a picnic as we gaze up at the winter sky and look for the Geminid meteor shower. \$5 suggested donation per group. Register your group <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/stargazing-picnic-hilltop-hanover-farm-tickets-1078159547229?aff=oddtcreator>

SATURDAY, DEC. 14

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005. Winter Wildlife Survival, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Learn all about Westchester's wildlife in winter through hands-on activities!

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Quilltop: A Literary Club, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Bring your own book or writing while enjoying the picturesque hills of the farm. For all ages and abilities. Rain or shine. Get details <https://hilltophanoverfarm.org/events/event/2024/12/14/1734188400/quilltop-a-literary-club/499884>

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

Book Buddies, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. Come into one of our animal enclosures and encourage your child to read in a unique atmosphere. Bring your favorite books or pick from our collection! \$11.98 fee for a 30-minute time slot; rain or shine. Also: Dec. 28. Pre-register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/book-buddies-program-at-muscote-farm-tickets-1010582548607?aff=ebsdoporgprofile>

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851 Beginner's Birdwatching, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Join us for this indoor/outdoor program for all ages. Learn to identify some of the common birds in our area.

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Harvesting Hot Cocoa, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Learn about the farming and making of hot chocolate while sipping on homemade cocoa and taking part in the process! \$23.18 per person. Pre-registration is required <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/harvesting-hot-cocoa-tickets-1078178473839?aff=oddtcreator>

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466. Winter Wildflower Arrangements, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Make a festive centerpiece for the holidays. Bring your own vase, and we'll help you make a beautiful winter bouquet using dried plants and natural objects from the field and forest. Donation: \$5.

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

Second Photography and Art Exhibit Opening Reception, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

View people's talents and love for wildlife and nature through photography and artwork. Refreshments will be provided. The exhibit will be on display Saturdays and Sundays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Jan. 25.

Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River: (914) 864-7322. All About Animal Survival, 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Do you ever wonder how certain animals survive the winter? Learn about how common species beat the cold, and join us for some hibernation-themed arts and crafts.

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

The Lox and Friends Experience II, 8 p.m. - 10:30 p.m. See The Lox, Cam'ron, Rakim, Rhapsody, Benny the Butcher and many more special friends.

Get tickets <https://www.ticketmaster.com/event/0000615FCC823C62>

SUNDAY, DEC. 15

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

Gardening Sundays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Get details and register <https://www.lasdon-park.org/event/gardening-sundays/2024-12-15/>

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

Winter Feeders, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Come into the nature center to make feeders for winter birds.

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LI Man Sentenced up to 29 Years for Robberies Burglaries & Anti-Asian Hate Crime in Westchester

cellphones in schools ban , continued from pg 2-



Video screenshot of Michael Bagley

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah, New Rochelle Police Commissioner Robert Gazzola and White Plains Public Safety Commissioner David Chong announced today that a Suffolk County man was sentenced to an indeterminate term of 14½ to 29 years in state prison for two robberies and a burglary involving multiple victims in New Rochelle and White Plains including a hate-fueled violent assault of an Asian store owner.

DA Rocah said: "This case demonstrates our commitment to combatting violence and hate crimes on the streets of our communities. I am grateful to our police partners in New Rochelle and White Plains for their assistance in bringing this defendant to justice."

The defendant, Michael Bagley, 34, of Coram, New York, was sentenced before New York State Supreme Court Justice James McCarty in Westchester County Court following his July 17 guilty plea to felony charges of Robbery in the Third Degree as a Hate Crime, two counts of Robbery in the Third Degree, and Burglary in the Third Degree.

Commissioner Gazzola said: "The individual responsible for this violent crime spree faces significant consequences for their actions. We remain dedicated to holding offenders accountable and ensuring that our streets remain secure."

Commissioner Chong said: "White Plains Public Safety, working in conjunction with our law enforcement partners in New Rochelle and the District Attorney's Office, was successful in tracking down a dangerous career criminal preying on the residents and businesses of Westchester County. This joint effort should be a message to all who think they can commit violent crimes in Westchester that all law enforcement agencies will work together and bring dangerous criminals to face the justice they deserve."

At approximately 3:45 p.m. on March 16, 2023, the defendant entered a business on Main Street in New Rochelle and stole money, an iPhone and an iPad while wielding a knife and yelling anti-Asian and gender-based slurs at the store owner. During the robbery, the defendant pushed the store owner to the ground and against merchandise, dragged her across the floor, and hit her in the head with a door, causing her a concussion, broken ribs, a spinal injury and multiple lacerations.

The victim, who was treated at a nearby hospital, continues to rehabilitate from her injuries. The defendant fled on foot toward the nearby vicinity of Woodland Avenue and Elm Street in New Rochelle where he stole \$1,800 in cash from an elderly couple on the street before entering an occupied home on Laurel Place where he refused to leave after confronting the homeowner.

The homeowner, while stalling the defendant, texted a neighbor who called the police. The New Rochelle Police Department responded to the scene and arrested the defendant. Following an investigation by New Rochelle and White Plains police, the defendant was linked to a robbery in White Plains that occurred just before the New Rochelle incidents.

At approximately 12:28 p.m. that day, the defendant followed a White Plains victim into a stairwell of a commercial building on Maple Avenue and stole the victim's wallet, phone and headphones at knifepoint and fled.

Dickens, continued from pg 8-

Performing in Dickensian garb, the storyteller creates gripping vignettes with dynamic dialogue. Kruk employs his legendary eloquence, and wit, quickly transforming into Scrooge, Cratchit, Marley, Tiny Tim, and all the spirits. This singular show takes you from Humbug to hope for redemption and joy."

Mr. Kruk's theatrical storytelling has been featured on CBS Sunday Morning, The Today Show, The Travel Channel, and at countless schools, libraries festivals, and historic sites. He was selected "Best Storyteller in the Hudson Valley."

Tickets are on sale now—secure your spot today! <https://tickets.hudsonvalley.org/events?view=calendar...>

Visit Hudsonvalley.org for more information.

"Research has shown that adopting a phone-free school policy is one of the most impactful steps you can take to enhance student educational outcomes, behavior and well-being," said NYSUT President Melinda Person. "We have an opportunity to provide children with an average of seven hours each school day to be fully present and free from the pressures and harms of phones and social media. Now is the time to act on it."

"If students are distracted in the classroom, they're not learning," said Assemblymember Patricia Fahy, Chair of the Assembly's Higher Education Committee. "As we strive to help every New York student reach their full potential, seriously reducing the use of and access to cell phones in classrooms is a critical and overdue step. Firm and sensible cellphone restrictions are essential to creating learning environments where students can focus and ultimately, thrive. A powerful coalition of parents, teachers, school staff, doctors, law enforcement and so many more all agree; we need a plan now to address this growing problem in our schools."

"Parents, teachers, doctors and students themselves are all on the same page about this: smartphones in school are an addictive distraction that makes kids more anxious, isolated and depressed," said state Senator Andrew Gounardes. "If Big Tech companies refuse to prioritize children's mental health above their profits, then we need to heed the call and take action ourselves. Restrictions on smartphones during the school day helps ensure young people have the school experience they deserve, where their health, safety and well-being come first."

"It's going to make your school safer," said Albany County Sheriff Craig Apple. "This is legislation that should be a no-brainer. We want our kids to go to school and thrive."

"Students are attached to devices and using them in place of human connection," said Lysa Mullady, President of the New York State School Counselor Association. "There's a false sense of belonging coupled with a craving to view, post, repost, like and comment as part of a number of 'followers.' The constant fluctuation of inclusion and exclusion creates tremendous anxiety. In order to reverse this trend, it is imperative to limit cellphone use in schools."

"The mental health impacts of cellphone use on students can be disastrous," said Blanca Gonzalez-Parker, Guilderland School Board President. "Cellphones have increased bullying and a new level of despair and anxiety among bullying victims who are without respite, due to the fact that photos and videos taken by their peers can live on social media indefinitely"

"It's urgent that we address the problem of cell phones in schools," said David Monahan, campaign director for Fairplay. "Schools that have adopted robust cell phone restrictions are success stories — students are fully engaged again, with their teachers and with one another, when they're not distracted by the lure of TikTok and Snapchat at their fingertips. Governor Hochul and the Legislature can make New York schools the thriving places of education and inspiration that young people deserve if they take action in 2025 to ban phones from schools."

"Kids' personal devices have no place in the classroom. We should have never allowed that to happen," said Julie Scelfo, Founder and Executive Director of MAMA – Mothers Against Media Addiction. "They're being deprived of the real-life experiences and interactions they need with their classmates, with teachers, and with other trusted adults in the school that are critical for their wellbeing and development both as learners and as human beings."

"We'd like to see that this is a uniform policy throughout the state of New York and that it's applied fairly, particularly to communities of colors," Anthony Harmon, NAACP New York Branch President. "We want to create safe, nurturing environments where our students can learn and grow and become all that they can be."

Educators and administrators in districts where phone restrictions have been put in place shared the incredible transformation they've seen in their classrooms, halls and cafeterias where students are reconnecting with their peers and teachers.

"I've been teaching for 30 years and one of my favorite things was to stand in the hallway and just talk to kids as they walk by—until cellphones became popular. Then all I saw was the top of their heads," David Rounds, Bethlehem Central Teachers Association President. "But that's not the case anymore. Our halls are lively again, conversation has come back, and it's like the old days where I see their smiles, I see their eyes, and I have witnessed firsthand their engagement improve almost immediately."

"Cell phones in schools can be a major distraction, pulling students away from learning and real-life connections," said Natalie McKay, Schoharie Teachers Association President. "Without phones, we see students engaging more in social activities, building friendships, and fully participating in their school community."

"Three years ago, Schoharie banned cellphones ... and it made a much more positive school environment for students," said Dave Blanchard, Schoharie Central School District Superintendent. "On day one, our teachers noticed students engaged with each other, talking through problems, going into our school counseling office, working out issues rather than trying to solve issues on a cellphone."

"I transferred to Schoharie from a school that allowed virtually unrestricted access to cellphones," said Schoharie High School senior Jax. "I had been scared out of my mind to be in a new school where I didn't know anyone. But

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Newsweek Names The Osborn One of America's Best Continuing Care Retirement Communities

Clinton, Immigration, continued from pg 2-

Secretary Clinton emphasized the importance of secure borders and immigration reform, including finalizing DACA (Deferred Action for Child Arrivals) and providing legal pathways to citizenship. "There is no master list of undocumented immigrants," she pointed out, "which means the in-coming administration could implement massive dragnets, including unannounced raids on businesses, farms, construction sites, and restaurants to round up undocumented workers — an act that would have catastrophic effects on families, businesses, and the community."

As a result, she warned, people need to be prepared. "Figure out who your allies are. Collect all your paperwork — pay stubs, green cards, rental agreements, tax records; renew DACA documents. And realize that you have due process rights. If you've been in this country for more than two years, you can appear before a judge."

Clinton reminded the audience that immigration reform was close to being enacted several times since 2000 on a bi-partisan basis and stressed the need for law that is humane and effective. She advised that we need to be reminded that we are a nation of immigrants but acknowledged that getting the message through can sometimes be difficult.

"Today's environment is volatile with people being whipped up into a frenzy. We are living in an era of entertainment politics..." She cited the issues in Springfield, Ohio, brought up during the recent presidential campaign. "What happened in Springfield, Ohio was terrible — baseless claims about people eating cats and dogs. In fact, those Haitian immigrants were solicited by businesses. But speaking in reasonable tones is [considered] totally boring. Yet, immigrants pay tax — sales tax, social security, but the message doesn't get through; reality is not in fashion."

Ms. Bracco raised concerns about the lack of options for vulnerable immigrants. "These measures will tear families apart. Immigrants need allies. We are advising our clients to seek legal assistance through us or other viable means. Be sure to renew your DACA status and have your documents ready." She also reminded the audience of the role they have to play in the coming days. "I am hopeful that all of the people who came to listen to this and the people that work at Neighbors Link and the organizations that we partner with are dedicated to making a difference."

Monies raised at the event will go to support vital Neighbors Link programs, including immigration legal services. Neighbors Link provides free legal immigration services to thousands of immigrants across the lower Hudson Valley annually.

For help and more information, visit Neighbors Link at neighborslink.org.

The Neighbors Link mission is to strengthen the whole community through the healthy integration of immigrants. Our mission is achieved by filling a service gap for new immigrant families, offering education and empowerment programs, involving longer-term residents in volunteer opportunities, and creating substantive partnerships with other local organizations. Our strategies to educate, empower and employ families include a Worker Center, English language education, digital inclusion programming, legal services and advocacy, workforce development, parent education, early childhood programs and academic support for school-age children of immigrants.

Neighbors Link is headquartered in Mount Kisco, has three locations in Westchester County and offers services throughout the Mid-Hudson Valley. For more information on locations or programs, please call us at 914-666-3410.



The Osborn in Rye is the only community in Westchester County to receive this honor

The Osborn in Rye has once again been named as one of the nation's "Best Continuing Care Retirement Communities" (CCRCs) by Newsweek. It is the only CCRC in Westchester County and one of just ten communities in New York State to be awarded this honor.

"It is exciting to receive such prestigious recognition as one of the finest Continuing Care Retirement Communities in the nation based on Newsweek's comprehensive rating process," said Matthew G. Anderson, President and CEO of The Osborn. "The outstanding dedication of our staff, the wonderful programs, the nurturing sense of community, the elegance of our residences, and the natural beauty of our campus all contribute to our ability to provide an optimal lifestyle for older adults."

According to Newsweek, today's older Americans lead more active lifestyles than the previous generation and CCRCs are an increasingly attractive option for engagement. As the country's population ages, the number of CCRCs has doubled in the past decade to well over 2,000. For the second consecutive year, Newsweek and global data research firm Statista have partnered to rank America's Best Continuing Care Retirement Communities in 2025.

The Osborn has been honored for excellence with many other accolades. The Osborn Pavilion skilled nursing center was named as a "Best Nursing Home" for 2025 by U.S. News & World Report. Westchester magazine readers selected The Osborn as "Best of Westchester" in the Senior Residence category in 2024. The Osborn was also awarded its fifth consecutive five-year accreditation by CARF International, which is widely regarded as the highest standard in senior living excellence.

The Osborn is a private, non-profit, continuum of care community, founded in 1908 and based in Rye, New York. It offers Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care, and Skilled Nursing, as well as Inpatient and Outpatient Rehabilitation. In addition to residential and health care services on its 56-acre campus, the organization provides home care and companion services in Westchester and Fairfield Counties through Osborn Home Care. For more information call 888-9-OSBORN or visit www.theosborn.org.

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