

Yonkers Rising

YonkersTimes.com

Friday January 26, 2024

Stepinac Senior David Davitt Named Con Edison's Scholar-Athlete of the Week



By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to David Davitt, a Senior at Stepinac High School, for being named Con Edison's Scholar-Athlete of the week. David, from Yonkers, is the Captain of the Stepinac a Track & Field team, running in the 300 Meters, 500 Meters, 600 Meters and the 4 x 400 Meters.

This month, David was selected for the 4 x 400 for Ireland National Team at the World U20 Championships in Peru in August and selected and participated in the Irish Training camp this past week in Ireland.

He also was selected to compete in the Millrose games for the 600 m. This all after winning 600 m last week & having #3 rd best time in Country.

Last month, David ran the #1 time in the USA in 500 Meters, winning the Jambar Coaches Hall of Fame invitational 500 at the Armory with a time of 1:04.17, It was David's best time in this event & #1 time in the nation, qualifying him for the nationals.

David was offered scholarships to attend Cornell, West Point, North Carolina and UPenn. David will run track at University of Pennsylvania next year.

Academically, David has a 98.7 GPA, and has completed 5 AP courses. He has presented to the Law Academy his research on the Opioid crisis in the United States.

David is a member of the National Honors Society, National English Honor Society, and is Vice-President of the Stepinac Student body.

He serves as a Peer Mentor and student tutor at Stepinac, and volunteers as a youth basketball coach program for Hillcrest basketball.

"David is working to his abilities in the most rigorous high school curriculum in New York State," said Lisa Capiello, Stepinac School Counselor.

Yonkers Resident Phylisha Villanueva Named Second Westchester County Poet Laureate



Westchester County Poet Laureate Phylisha Villanueva, left

Westchester County Executive George Latimer today partnered with ArtsWestchester to announce that Westchester County's new Poet Laureate will be Phylisha Villanueva of Yonkers. Villanueva was one of 14 applicants for the position and will succeed poet B.K. Fischer who served in this countywide role for 3 years. Phylisha Villanueva is slated to begin her three-year term this month and will receive a \$10K honorarium for each year of the appointment made possible with funds from Westchester County.

County Executive George Latimer said, "There is tremendous literary talent in Westchester and tremendous interest in poetry from people of all ages. The role of the Poet Laureate is to bring poetry to people and people to poetry and the County looks forward to working with Phylisha and ArtsWestchester to do just that over the next three years."

ArtsWestchester CEO Janet Langsam explained, "A lifelong lover of poetry and committed advocate for community arts development and poetry, Phylisha is a passionate artist interested in helping young people find their voices and express themselves through the written and spoken word."

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Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. In Yonkers



Dr., Martin Luther King Jr., at Temple Emanu-El in Yonkers with Yetta Colin and Rabbi Abraham Klausner. Photo in the collection of Scarsdale Synagogue Temples Tremont and Emanu-El

By Dan Murphy

August 27th, 1964. King visited Yonkers in the summer of 64 to discuss a history project that Yonkers resident Noel Marder wanted to create about Negro Heritage.

Marder, who was in the Encyclopedia business with Marder met King during an SCLC fund raising event.

Dr. King agreed to contribute his life history to the collection, titled A Martin Luther King Treasury. He was excited by the project in a letter he wrote to Marder. "The idea of a Negro Heritage Library is a tremendous one."

SCLC Director Wyatt Tee Walker joined Marder to form Educational Heritage Inc. Walker moved to Yonkers with his family and would live in Yonkers for more than 40 years.

On August 27, 1964, King visited Yonkers to promote the Negro Heritage Library. The location of Education Heritage was 733 Yonkers Avenue. King spoke to reporters about the importance of the new volume of books.

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Senator Mayer, Assemblyman Sayegh Oppose Hochul Budget, Cuts to Education Funding for YPS-page 2

Yonkers NAACP Finds "No Evidence" of Antisemitic Slurs at Roosevelt HS Girls Basketball Game

Two Different Versions of what happened at Roosevelt HS Basketball Game

By Dan Murphy

Pastor Frank Coleman, President of the Yonkers NAACP, released the following statement regarding the groups investigation into allegation of antisemitic slurs being made at a girls basketball game between Roosevelt High School and the Leffell School on Jan. 4. This statement was found on The Yonkers Ledger.

"The Yonkers NAACP was asked to look into the allegations of antisemitism surrounding the Roosevelt HS girls basketball team in Yonkers that occurred on Thursday, January 4, 2024.

"The Yonkers NAACP Branch aligns itself with our national organization in its call to action "it is now more important than ever for the African American community and the Jewish community to band together in the fight for social justice and civil rights..." rather than allow the evils of society to infect us with their hate. Therefore, we seek truth. For it is the only possible way to rid our society of the evils of hatred and bigotry."

"As many celebrated and commemorated the life and legacy of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr on this past Monday, he is quoted as saying, "All truths are easy to understand once they are discovered; the point is to discover them. Truth will ultimately prevail where there is pains to bring it to light." As the NAACP of Yonkers, this is our only motive and intention as we investigated these unsettling allegations.

"As a result of reviewing the Roosevelt/Leffell game from beginning to end (one without audio and another with key segments in audio) as well as interviews with parents, students, and the coach, we have concluded that there was absolutely no evidence of any antisemitic slurs rendered. The Roosevelt players on the bench and on the court are not found chanting "Free Palestine" or anyone retorting the ugly quote of "We support Hamas you f-ing Jew." We conclude that both are untrue and unfair accusations. As to date, there has been no evidence

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Yonkers Housing Authority CEO Wilson Kimball Elected Exec. Director of NYS Housing Advocacy Group



Yonkers Housing Authority President and CEO Wilson Kimball

Yonkers Housing Authority President and CEO Wilson Kimball has been named as Executive Director of the New York State Public Housing Authority Directors Association (NYSPHADA). NYSPHADA is New York State’s leading organization in providing information to New York State Housing Authorities by providing networking opportunities through communication, training and education.

She will serve in this new role while remaining as President and CEO of the Yonkers Housing Authority (YHA), helping to bring her experience and knowledge to the rest of New York. “I look forward to continuing my work with NYSPHADA as we grow membership while providing the premiere support services to affordable housing authorities seeking grant opportunities, RAD resources and addressing climate resiliency among other issues.”

Kimball, who has been President and CEO of YHA since 2020, has completed the renovation of the 1700 + units owned and operated by the YHA as well as began work on two senior buildings build to passive house standards. She had previously served as Commissioner of Planning and Development for the City of Yonkers since 2013. And prior to that served as Senior Vice President of Operations for the Hugh L. Carey Battery Park City Authority in New York City

To learn more about NYSPHADA, please visit <https://nysphada.org/>. And for more information on the Yonkers Housing Authority, visit www.mhacy.org.

Senator Mayer, Assemblyman Sayegh, Oppose Hochul Budget, Cuts to Education Funding for Yonkers Public Schools

Westchester’s Assembly members and State Senators are not happy with Governor Hochul’s proposed budget for fiscal year 2025 which starts on April 1, and specifically Hochul’s proposal to cut state aid for education to several Westchester school districts.

While Hochul’s budget plan increases spending overall by 4.3% to \$233 Billion, and has proposed a 2.4% increase in school aid overall, her budget plan decreases education aid and foundation aid to almost every Westchester school district.

In Yonkers, State Senator Shelley Mayer explained that the State Education Aid to the Yonkers Public Schools proposed by the Governor, which reduces the percentage of Foundation Aid coming to YPS, combined with the school districts loss of Federal COVID funds, in “unacceptable.”

“After reviewing the details of the Executive Budget Proposal and the school aid runs, it is clear to me that the Governor’s proposal for school aid falls far short of what our students, teachers, and school communities need right now.

“Our school districts are facing enormous challenges in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. Districts are tasked with helping students recover from disrupted learning, addressing the significant mental health challenges students face, and in many districts, supporting new migrant students. Having just recently traveled throughout New York State and witnessed incredible work by our schools to meet these needs, I know personally how schools are rising to the challenge of this moment. Our schools need continued investment and support from the state to meet the complex needs of students and school communities, not an austerity budget that cuts their funding.

“The Governor’s proposal to forgo holding districts harmless reverses decades of practice in the state. Under her proposal, hundreds of districts stand to receive less Foundation Aid than they did last year, including many high need districts in urban, suburban, and rural areas. Even districts slated to receive an increase will receive less of an increase per pupil than the rate of inflation over the last year. At a time when districts face rising costs, the expiration of federal COVID relief funds, and increased responsibilities, these changes are untenable.

“While New York State may face financial challenges, we are not in a recession. We cannot look to cut corners with education funding — our schools and communities deserve better. As chair of the Senate Education Committee, I will fight on behalf of our students and parents, teachers and administrators, to ensure they receive the funding they deserve,” said Mayer.

Assemblyman Nader Sayegh said, “I believe the Governor’s proposed budget falls short of meeting the present and future needs of educating the student population in school districts, especially those like Yonkers Public Schools. It is a step back from the work my colleagues in the Legislature have done in recent years to grow and sustain educational funding.

“In a preliminary analysis, the presented budget would cut over \$400 million from districts statewide. In Yonkers, that would amount to a nearly \$4 million cut when compared with last year’s enacted budget. A cut of any kind with rising costs would constitute a massive shortfall that would disproportionately afflict the approximately 25,000 students who attend Yonkers Public Schools. Yonkers, despite being a high-need school district; continues to receive less funding than other similar districts in other parts of the State. In the City of Syracuse, which has thousands of fewer students than Yonkers, their City School District already received over \$100 million more in base Foundation Aid in last year’s enacted budget. In the Governor’s proposed budget, this disparity would continue. In speaking with our stakeholders in our schools, we must sustain and build on last year’s budget so we can adequately fund our Yonkers Public Schools so that our children can continue to thrive and succeed.

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Opinion: State Legislature & Governor Need to Consider Legalization of iGaming

Legalizing Mobile Gaming Estimated to Generate \$1 Billion Per Year in Revenue for New York State Government

Neighboring states New Jersey, Connecticut, & Pennsylvania who already offer iGaming and are collecting the revenue.

Our community's resilience has been tested these past few years. We face ever-increasing costs across all industries with no sign that things will slow down. In her executive budget, Governor Hochul spoke of all kinds of legislative priorities and initiatives to improve access to housing, provide mental health services to young people and do more to address climate change. All of these ideas sound wonderful, but the reality is, we have no way to pay for them. And now, with a looming \$4 billion budget deficit in 2024, we face a real need for revenue in New York State.

Raising taxes or cutting services would be detrimental to Yonkers residents. There are so many who are still recovering from an economy that was effective in a standstill for the better part of a year and half. It's time for the State to consider more innovative revenue options that won't harm middle-class families or homeowners. One compelling proposal gaining traction is the legalization of iGaming.

We've seen the success legalized mobile sports betting has brought to our state already. \$1 billion in revenue in its first year and billions more since. By expanding gaming in New York, we can expect to inject an additional \$1 billion annually into our state providing a much-needed pool of funds that can be dedicated toward funding some of the priorities our state elected officials talk so much about.

What sets this proposal apart is its track record in neighboring states. New Jersey, Connecticut, and Pennsylvania have already reaped the benefits of legalized iGaming, reporting increased tax revenue without harming local businesses. Similarly, states like Illinois, Michigan, and New Hampshire have successfully integrated iLottery into their revenue streams.

Critically, this proposed legislation also places consumer protection at its core. Legalizing iGaming and iLottery allows us to implement robust safeguards against underage participation and extend support to those grappling with problem gaming. This commitment to responsible gaming distinguishes the legal market from its unregulated, potentially harmful counterpart.

Moreover, legalizing iGaming ensures that funds stay within New York, bolstering our local economy rather than flowing into neighboring states or questionable entities. In times of fiscal distress, seizing opportunities for economic growth and resource allocation becomes paramount.

Public opinion echoes the potential of this proposal, with a recent statewide poll revealing that 53% of voters support increasing gaming revenue. More than 60% agree that legislators should explore options like iGaming to address the budget deficit.

As we step into a new legislative session with the expiration of federal COVID-era funding, the urgency to tackle our budget deficit is evident. Legalizing iGaming and iLottery transcends a short-term fix; it's an investment in Yonkers' economic future. The time has come for a strategic move that not only eases our immediate financial challenges but also sets the stage for sustained economic growth in our community. Let's bet on a brighter future for Yonkers.

Dan Murphy,
Editor in Chief
Westchester Rising
Yonkers Rising
Yonkerstimes.com

How to Say Goodbye to Congressman Bowman on Valentine's Day

By Eric Wolf Schoen

"The deadline to change your party registration to democrat is on Valentine's Day February 14. This column tells you how to do it."

Editor's Note: In last week's paper, we made an error and did not include the second half of Eric's column titled "Enforce Handicap Parking"

That column is printed in its entirety on pg 15-



Happy Valentine's Day, Charlie Brown. Oops! I mean Happy Valentines Day Congressman Bowman!

The more people I speak with in NYS Congressional District 16, the more people I find are fed up with the representation they receive in Congress from Jamaal Bowman. He doesn't represent their values. He has brought great embarrassment to the district, formerly represented by distinguished Congressman Elliot Engel.

They want Bowman out. As the district is heavily Democratic, the Congressman from this district will probably be selected at the Democratic primary in June. So many Republicans, Conservatives, Independents and others are changing their party registration temporarily to Democrat to be able to vote against Bowman and for his opponent in the Primary this June. **THE DEADLINE TO CHANGE YOUR PARTY REGISTRATION TO DEMOCRAT TO VOTE IN THE PRIMARY is Valentine's Day, February 14.** This column tells you how to do it.

Remember, it must be postmarked by when you give your loved ones their box of Chocolates or roses, February 14, 2024.

Though the Congressional lines are far from complete, many voters realize they probably won't change much. And they don't want to continue being embarrassed by a Congressman whose colleagues censured him because he pulled a fire alarm in a U.S. Capitol Building while Congress was in session. The sponsor of the bill censuring Bowman said, "Bowman pulled the alarm to cause chaos and stop the House from doing its business" as lawmakers scrambled to pass a bill to fund the government before a shutdown deadline. Thank god there was no loss of life caused by Bowman and his wacky alarm pull.

Let's talk about the easiest ways to change your registration to Democrat. Call the Board of Elections ASAP at 914-995-5700 to get a new WESTCHESTER registration form selecting the DEMOCRAT PARTY and mailing it timely to the WESTCHESTER County Board of Elections, 25 Quarropas Street, White Plains, NY 10601. Voter registration forms can be picked up and personally dropped off at that office.

Voter Registration forms are available online at the New York State Board of Election's website or at most libraries, post offices and government offices. You may change your voter registration through the New York Department of Vehicles online resources if you have a driver's license or DMV Ikk. If none of those methods tickle your fancy or if you want further information the NYS DMV website is elections/ny.gov .

Bottom line there are many vehicles to post your registration change to. Keep track of any receipts so that you have them in case something goes wrong And if you show up and there is a pickup window with problematic Registration forms that hopefully can be remedied.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer is running against Bowman in the democratic Primary. Latimer has worked his way up politically from the local level to the county level to the state level as a Legislator and now serves

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The Old Politics vs The New: WFP & Rep. Bowman Accuse Latimer of Attending ‘MAGA’ Fundraiser in Larchmont; Sen. Shelley Mayer Endorses Latimer



County Executive and Congressional candidate George Latimer with State Senator Shelley Mayer

By Dan Murphy

The upcoming Democratic Primary between Congressman Jamaal Bowman and County Executive George Latimer has quickly evolved into a political contest between the old way of running a campaign in Westchester (Latimer) vs. the New Progressive Politics of 2024 (Bowman).

Last week, the NY Post and Daily News ran a story about Latimer attending a fund raiser at the Larchmont home of Alex and Pamela Dubitsky. Pamela Dubitsky is an attorney who is active in the democratic party in Westchester. She was a member of the Larchmont Library board and is currently Chair of Westchester County Parks, Recreation and Conservation Board, and Commissioner with NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (Taconic Region). She has contributed to Hillary Clinton and Governor Kathy Hochul. Her husband, Alex Dubitsky, is a republican who has donated to former President Donald Trump.

Those in attendance say the event included 50, current and former elected Westchester democrats and local democratic district leaders. There were a few independents and republicans but “the overwhelming number of people were involved democrats, and past or present officials in Larchmont or county government, and all democrats. Larchmont isn’t the bastion of conservatism that it once was,” said a Sound Shore democrat.

But the Working Families Party and Rep. Bowman attempted to link Latimer to Trump and MAGA. “George Latimer is now holding a fundraiser with a GOP mega-donor who has given tens of thousands of dollars to candidates like Trump and Stefanik,” and “The same donors who fund the MAGA movement are coming after Jamaal because he’s been one of the strongest advocates for democracy, abortion rights, and Black and brown communities who are so often left behind by politics as usual,” Tweeted NYWFP Co-Director Jasmine Gripper.

Bowman also tweeted, “Democrats across New York’s 16th District reject the hateful, divisive, racist politics of MAGA Republicans. It’s straight up damning that George Latimer would rather stand with Trump donors than help hard working people in our NY-16 community.”

Sound Shore Democrats believe that this attempt to discredit Latimer’s democratic and progressive bona fides backfired. “Everyone who attended this event is now emboldened to work harder for George, who is a proud Westchester democrat. To claim that there was a connection to MAGA in a room full of Westchester democrats, or that George Latimer is MAGA? Are you kidding me? Most Westchester spouses don’t agree completely in supporting political candidates. This happens all the time.”

Another Westchester democrat said, “while they were dropping social media bombs, Latimer is campaigning, meeting people, galvanizing support. I think that most of the people at that event were there to support George but without all of this nonsense. Bowman has shined the light on what, a fundraiser attended by 50 democrats?”

This week, NY State Senator Shelley Mayer endorsed Latimer for Congress in the Democratic Primary to be held on June 25th. Mayer, who succeeded

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Attorney General James Celebrate Historic \$328 Million Settlement with Uber & Lyft Drivers



On Jan. 18, New York Attorney General Letitia James joined New York Taxi Workers Alliance (NYTWA), and Uber and Lyft drivers from across New York City to announce new details of her office’s historic \$328 million settlements with Uber and Lyft for cheating drivers out of fair pay for years. They are pictured above.

More than 100,000 drivers throughout New York state stand to receive back pay and other benefits afforded to them under these settlements. Beginning March 1, 2024, drivers will be able to apply for settlement funds and will start receiving other benefits, including paid sick leave and a minimum pay rate.

In November, Attorney General James announced two landmark settlements totaling \$328 million with rideshare companies Uber and Lyft. The settlements will return \$328 million in back pay to drivers and institute a minimum driver “earnings floor,” paid sick leave, proper hiring and earnings notices, and other improvements in drivers’ working conditions. Uber will pay \$290 million and Lyft will pay \$38 million into two separate settlement funds which will be entirely distributed to current and former drivers. Drivers can access more information about the settlements on the Office of the Attorney General’s (OAG) website. Attorney General James would like to thank the New York Taxi Workers Alliance for bringing this matter to the office.

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that what the student from Leffell School wrote or alleges in an article actually occurred.

“Also, we found that the game was not played with aggression or animus by the Roosevelt players as accused. They simply played basketball. The one incident where a Leffell player was injured was on an inadvertent elbow when getting a rebound. You can clearly see it was not purposeful or aggressive. However, there was a back kick from a Leffell player on the leg of a Roosevelt player that has never been mentioned.

“It is the opinion of the Yonkers NAACP, that the Roosevelt Girls Basketball team, along with their former coach, Mr. Bryan Williams and the Roosevelt ECS community, are owed an apology for the rush to judgment. To state the long term impact these allegations have had and will have on their lives for a life span can’t be understated. A google search will be all that shall be necessary to place this story back into circulation as fact rather than the fabrication it is.

“Racism is wrong. Antisemitism is wrong. Islamophobia is wrong. Discrimination in all its forms are wrong. But what is also wrong and worse is listlessly defaming another’s character by publicly jumping to conclusions. This has caused students, parents, families, our community and a coach irreparable harm to their lives and future.

“We as the Yonkers Branch NAACP are calling for a full apology from the Governor’s office, the Yonkers Public School District, the Leffell School District and its girls basketball team, the Yonkers Mayor’s office, Westchester governmental officials, state and local representatives, stakeholders/leaders and the many news media outlets that have intentionally character assassinated and maligned these young ladies, their families and the coach.

“We advise that the Yonkers District and community join us in dispelling the evil rhetoric of the accusation of hate, and all who spoke ill against The Roosevelt ECS Community be held accountable. This will not define us as a community, but we all have to stop and stand for truth, justice, equity, and inclusion for everyone,” end of NAACP statement.

Dr. Michael Kay, Head of the Leffell School, issued the following statement after the NAACP report. “We are aware of a recent report casting doubt that antisemitic slurs were uttered during the January 4 girls varsity basketball game between Roosevelt High School and The Leffell School.

“This report was produced without any conversation with Leffell School players, coaches, or administrators. Its conclusions are contradictory not only to our students’ accounts of their experience, but also to the findings of the Yonkers Public Schools internal investigation into the matter, which determined definitively that antisemitic words and phrases were used at multiple points in the context of this game. This was noted in the January 8 joint statement released by Interim Superintendent Rodriguez and Mayor Spano, which remains prominently posted on the school district web site, and has been reaffirmed in numerous conversations with district and city officials in recent days.

“As I stated in my letter to the Leffell School community on January 5, our goal is to address this issue in accordance with our school values, without seeking to embarrass, disparage, or shame anyone, and without passing judgment on any community on the basis of the words or actions of a small number of individuals. As educators, we strongly share the stated desire to bring communities together for moments of genuine learning. We are working constructively and privately with the district leadership to craft appropriate opportunities to do so,” end of statement.

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On This Day in Yonkers History...



Sid Caesar, left, returned to his hometown of Yonkers for a benefit for the Yonkers PAL

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

Monday, January 29th

1943: Yonkers Draft Boards reported only a few men hadn’t complied with Selective Service regulations; the entire city had fewer than 20 men who couldn’t be “located” by their draft boards. Why? Selective Service had no record of them, or they registered in another locality that neglected to transfer papers to Yonkers. Other men hadn’t registered yet or gave fake addresses to escape the draft.

1943: Councilman Edith Welty introduced two laws to increase salaries of beginning firefighters and policemen. The first law increased first year salaries to \$1600, a \$100 raise; the second law increased second year salaries to \$1800, a \$200 raise. The increases were to help new department members buy their equipment and uniforms.

Tuesday, January 30th

January 30, 1947: Police Athletic League (PAL) President Lieutenant Edward O’Connor received a telegram from the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis (NFIP); they asked PAL to withdraw NFIP’s name from its “Night of Stars” show, organized to raise funds to fight polio. The telegram advised the PAL it was not their policy “to permit a benefit to be held in the name of the National Foundation for Infantile Paralysis in connection with any other group.”

Before organizing the evening, PAL representatives consulted with the National Foundation’s city and county representatives, making it clear from the start the money would be divided equally between two organizations, the NFIP and the Sister Elizabeth Kenny Foundation. After receiving the telegram, the PAL board voted to donate all proceeds to the Sister Kenny organization. They also chose to return the ticket price to anyone who asked; few holders of the 3,500+ ticket sold requested refunds.

Entertainment and commentary were to be provided by more than 80 performers, including Mel Allen, Kate Smith, Perry Como, Superman creators Jerry Siegel and Joe Schuster, Freddy Land, the Crosby Sisters and Yonkers own Sid Caesar!

Wednesday, January 31st

January 31, 1943: The Common Council passed Councilman Edith Welty’s resolution giving two-week paid vacations to long-term DPW per diem workers. The law also awarded per diem workers who served a full year and entered the armed forces vacation time or the cash equivalent.

January 31, 1956: School officials, teachers and students participated in groundbreaking ceremonies for the Southeast Yonkers Junior-Senior High School on Kneeland Avenue, now Lincoln High School. Mayor Kristen Kristensen, Schools Superintendent Stanley Wynstra, City Manager Charles Curran, School Trustees and Council members also participated.

Thursday, February 1st

February 1, 1893: The Town of Eastchester Board of Health pulled down the dam on the Bronx River between Yonkers and Bronxville! The Yonkers Board of Health had ordered the dam removed in January because the stagnant, contaminated water spread illness to Yonkers residents; dam owner H. Duden immediately got an injunction restraining Yonkers from destroying his dam. Duden, however, didn’t think to file against Eastchester. The town kept their plan to destroy the dam secret, up until men arrived there. Duden arrived a few hours afterwards to find most of the dam down; part of the dam on the Yonkers side was left because to “respect” the injunction.

continued on pg 14-

Yonkers Rising

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Notice of Real Estate Auction**By Order of the City of New Rochelle**

Notice is hereby given by the City of New Rochelle (the "City") of the public auction of the surplus City property listed below, which is in New Rochelle, NY.

The public auction will take place January 29 beginning at 10:00 AM and will end January 31 at 12:30 PM.

Bid online only at www.auctionnetwork.com.

The auction will be conducted in accordance with, and all bidders agree to be bound to, the terms and conditions of the auction and sale.

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Williams & Williams Re Lic 109911428

Formation of 25 COUNTY ROUTE 62 LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/6/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The principal business loc. and address SSNY shall mail process to is Floann and Raymond Landeck, 79 Pembroke Dr., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

Notice of formation of Jaylee's Beauty Lounge, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/29/23. 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, 55 Cole Street, Ste. 101, Yonkers, NY, 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Say Say Mwah, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/31/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY, designated as agent of the Notice of Formation of 326 PROSPECT AVE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 03/24/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Brian Caldwell at 130 Franklin Avenue, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of 66 Meserole, LLC., Articles of organization filed with the NY Secretary of State (NYSS) on 11/28/2023. Office location: Westchester County. NYSS is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail a copy of process to: 11 Bon Air Ave, New Rochelle, NY 10804. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Formation of TAQUERIA MARQUITO, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/8/2023 with formation date of 1/1/2024. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Lundy, Beldecos & Milby, P.C., 450 N. Narberth Ave., Ste. 200, Narberth, PA 19072. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Formation of EVERYBODY EATS FOOD GROUP, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/8/2023 with formation date of 1/1/2024. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Lundy, Beldecos & Milby, P.C., 450 N. Narberth Ave., Ste. 200, Narberth, PA 19072. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Calimero II, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/4/2023. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Marie H. Durif-O'Dowd, 1632 First Avenue, Apartment 326, New York, NY 10028. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

Ana Lucia Nail Lounge LLC, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 1/8/24.. Office: New York 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, 115 Chelsea Street Hawthorne, NY 10532. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

CORPORATION NOTICE
CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE OF CANCELATION

Please be advised that the Public Hearing scheduled for Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following General Ordinance, to wit:

PROPOSED GENERAL ORDINANCE

A PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 43 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, AND THE ACCOMPANYING ZONING MAP TO RECLASSIFY AND REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 900 NORTH BROADWAY ON THE TAX MAP AS BLOCK 3415, LOT 23, SECTION23, SECTION 3, FROM ITS PRESENT PEP DISTRICT DESIGNATION TO THE MG DISTRICT.

Has been cancelled until further notice.

VINCENT SPANO
City Clerk

Notice of formation of SurgeExpand, LLC. filed with the SSNY on 10/16/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 324 Palisade Ave -1F, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

A Soft Delicate Flower by Kae, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 1/3/24. Office location: Peekskill County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1840 Crompond Road Peekskill NY 10566. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of FEVER PITCH SPORTS CARDS & COLLECTIBLES LLC. Articles of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/01/24. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of the process to John Amelio, 2138 Saw Mill River Road, Yorktown Hts. NY 10598. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of D & E Guest Reality Management, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/15/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, D & E Guest Reality Management LLC, 79-81 Main Street, P.O. Box 1100, Yonkers, NY 10702. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Pachamama Vibes, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/20/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her to the company c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc. 7014 13th Ave., Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Principal business address: 762 Hoover Avenue, Peekskill NY 10566. Purpose: Any lawful acts.

Formation of TRUIH LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/15/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Lawrence Rebbecchi, 550 Green Dolphin Dr., Placida, FL 33946. Purpose: Any lawful activity.



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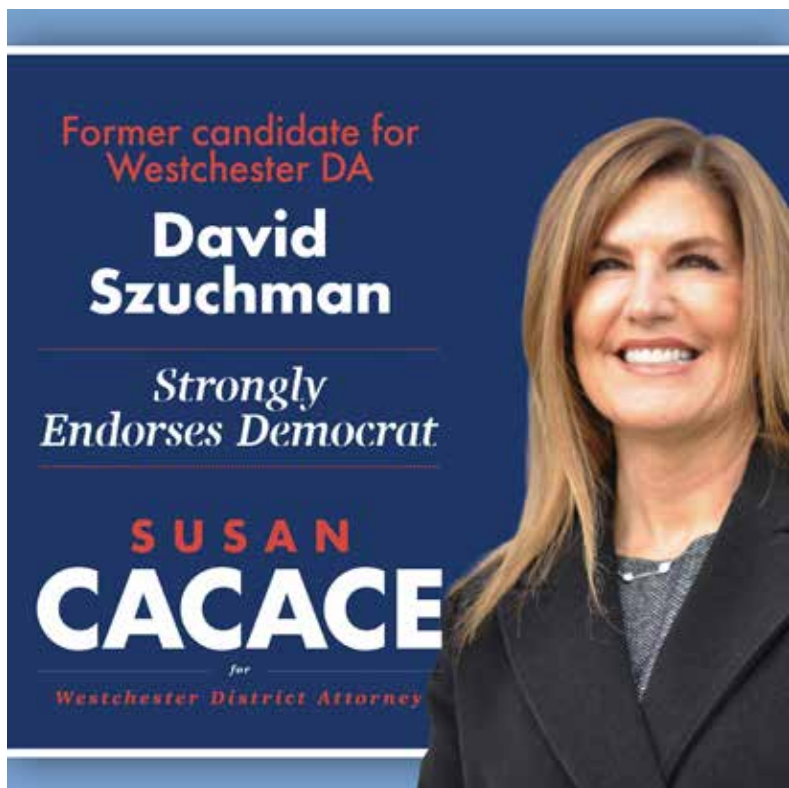
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Former Westchester DA Candidate David Szuchman Endorses Susan Cacace for DA



Democrat Susan Cacace, retired County Court Judge and candidate for Westchester County District Attorney, has been endorsed by David Szuchman, former candidate for Westchester County District Attorney.

“A commitment to public service has always been a significant part of my life, having spent 20 years investigating and prosecuting crime in order to protect survivors and communities,” said Szuchman.

He continued, “As a former prosecutor and Chief of the Manhattan District Attorney’s Investigations Division, I know firsthand the critical role the DA’s office plays in keeping our communities safe. For these reasons, I enthusiastically endorse Democrat Susan Cacace as Westchester’s next District Attorney.”

Szuchman is fully committed to the future of this county. As a lifelong New Yorker who’s called Westchester home for nearly 20 years, and the place he has chosen to raise his family, he is encouraged by the thought of Susan Cacace running the DA’s office. “I have spent time with Judge Cacace and am aware of the vision she has for the office and am inspired by it,” Szuchman says. “From continuing the important work done by District Attorney Rocah’s Conviction Review Unit, focusing on innovative alternatives to incarceration, securing advancements in terms of cyber security and sex crimes, to getting guns off the streets and developing more diversionary programs, Susan Cacace is the right leader for this job.”

At the time of her retirement, Cacace was the longest serving Westchester County Court Judge, who notably ran the Sex Offense Part of the County Court for over 14 years. She has pledged to make crimes against children and sex offenses committed against the most vulnerable victims, our children and our elderly, a major priority if elected.

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Letter to the Editor: People with Physical Disabilities Must be Represented



Regina Martinez-Estela

By Regina Martinez-Estela

In reading Governor Kathy Hochul’s 2024 State of the State, I was pleased to read that Governor Hochul noted that in striving to expand access to primary care for adults with complex needs, the State will “increase support for healthcare providers serving individuals with physical, intellectual, or developmental disabilities.” I commend the Governor’s commitment to improving access to quality care for those with physical disabilities—something that is tremendously needed in our State.

At Independence Care System (ICS), our top priority is to serve people with physical disabilities to support their health, mobility and independence and to ensure for the coordination of care they need to thrive. We applaud the Governor’s efforts to support one of the country’s most vulnerable, underserved populations. People with physical disabilities face health disparities that are exacerbated by racial, ethnic and gender health disparities as well as implicit bias barriers and challenges with securing necessary, primary care and services to live quality lives.

In 2019, ICS launched the Primary Care Program for People with Physical Disabilities with crucial funding from the New York City Council. With a dedicated team of physicians and administrators from NYC Health + Hospitals (H+H), ICS is leading a ground breaking project to improve access to disability competent primary care by working with patients with disabilities and their providers to understand the accommodation needs of patients and the training gap for providers. Disability competent primary care helps reduce utilization of emergency rooms and clinic visits, allows for comprehensive physical exams and helps address vast health disparities.

Efforts on the State level will make a difference in ensuring Medicaid members—including ICS members—are more likely to have accessible primary care, receive routine, quality health services and manage their medical issues and concerns. We need to do everything we can to reduce high rates of unmet healthcare needs and to reduce the barriers to care people with disabilities face to ensure for better health outcomes, and better overall health, for those who need it most.

The author is President and CEO of Independence Care System (ICS), the first and only Health Home program in New York providing care coordination and services to support the health, mobility and independence of people with physical disabilities.

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Yonkers Mayor Spano Announces Expansion of City's Electric Vehicle Fleet Largest Municipal Fleet of Electric Vehicles in Westchester County



Yonkers Mayor Spano joins Yonkers Department of Public Works staff to unveil the City's expanded electric vehicle fleet at Yonkers City Hall (Photo Courtesy: Maurice Mercado/City of Yonkers)

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today announced the expansion of the City of Yonkers' green fleet with the addition of 5 new full electric Ford F-150 Lightning pick-up trucks. Part of the City's green initiative and the Yonkers Climate Action Plan, the City of Yonkers maintains the largest electric vehicle fleet among Westchester County municipalities.

The City of Yonkers' green fleet now includes 118 electric and hybrid vehicles. Additional electric pick-up trucks will be added to the fleet later this year.

"These new vehicles will continue to help us navigate the future of Yonkers by reducing our carbon footprint," said Mayor Mike Spano. "We want to lead the way in Westchester and commit to a greener, more sustainable Yonkers by utilizing the innovative technology available to us."

Department of Public Works Commissioner Thomas G. Meier said, "As part of Mayor Spano's continuing efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, the Department of Public Works has continued to add electric and hybrid electric vehicles to our fleet. These five all-electric light-duty utility trucks provide another level of success towards accomplishing his goal to make Yonkers a cleaner and more sustainable City."

Director of the City of Yonkers Office for Sustainability William Serratore said, "Thanks to the leadership of Mayor Mike Spano, the City of Yonkers is advancing access along the green highway by electrifying our fleet. The Lightning F-150 trucks will increase functionality and the City's capabilities during emergencies."

The Ford F-150 Lightning trucks have an estimated range of 240 miles and can also be used to power tools and appliances, as well as provide backup power in the event of a power outage. In April 2023, Mayor Spano announced the expansion of electric vehicle charging stations in the City of Yonkers with 90 ports available at several sites including City parking lots, garages, and curbside locations. Part of the Yonkers Climate Action Plan's goal is to secure the City's path to zero emissions by 2050, which includes a 100% electric fleet.

Who's Checking the Fact Checkers?

By Dan Murphy

In a December 12, 2022, USA Today's Hannah Hudnall wrote a story with the headline -Fact check: The Constitution requires American citizens to pay income taxes.

The story focused on refuting the claim that -There are no laws requiring American citizens to pay income taxes.

Westchester resident Tony Futia disagrees with Hudnall's Fact Check. Futia has cases filed in Federal and NY State Court to argue that There is no statute or federal law that requires Americans to pay federal income taxes."

In her story, Hudnall writes, "As the end of the tax year nears, some social media users are sharing a video that claims Americans have no legal obligation to pay taxes. The video, which appears to have originated on TikTok, features interviews with three people identified as former Internal Revenue Service agents who claim that no law or statute states Americans must pay income taxes...The original Nov. 19 TikTok garnered more than 100,000 likes. Versions of the claim have been widely shared on Facebook and Instagram.

Futia Response: The video did not originate on TikTok. The video came from a movie titled, America: Freedom to Fascism (2006), by producer Aaron Russo. In the documentary, Russo expresses his concern about the federal government's refusal to answer any questions relative to the legality of federal income tax.

"As a member of the board of directors of We The People for Constitutional Education Inc, I can verify that Russo's documentary is a thoroughly researched, thought-provoking clarion call for the masses to wake up before it is too late".

Note: The videos that Hudnall refers to on TikTok and Facebook have been removed.

The Movie -America: Freedom to Fascism, can be found on YouTube at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oi7o_UCsD_g, and for purchase on Amazon at

<https://www.amazon.com/America-Freedom-Fascism-Michael-Ruppert/dp/B000JVSUSE>. For more Questions and answers go to: <http://www.supremelaw.org/sls/31answers.htm>.

II-Hudnall writes, "The 16th amendment of the constitution ratified in 1913, established Congress right to impose a federal income tax, according to the national archives and records administration."

Futia Response: If Hannah Hudnall had fact checked the archives, she would have discovered that less than 10 of the 48 states ratified the 16th Amendment in 2013. Note: Alaska and Hawaii were not yet states.

III-Hudnall writes, "Title 26 of the US code, allows Congress to delegate the enforcement of these laws(known as the internal revenue code) to the IRS

Continued on pg 13-



Tony Futia

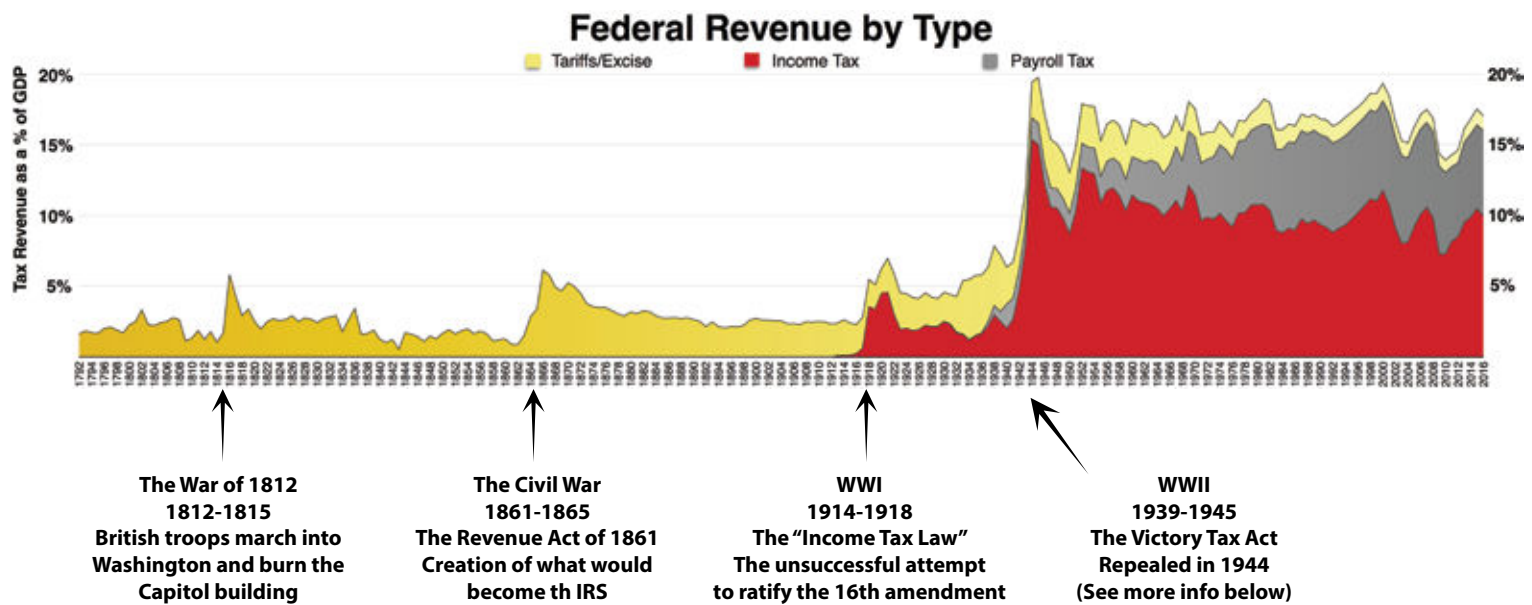
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DID YOU KNOW PAYING FEDERAL INCOME TAX IS VOLUNTARY?



Prior to World War II, no one outside the Federal government paid income tax; the people were, and understood themselves to be, immune from that tax. During WWII, Congress passed the Victory Tax ([56 Stat. 884](#)) to impose an income tax on every individual in The United States of America, something which had not been done by any previous income tax act. Excepted from that tax were those already paying income taxes per [I.R.C. 211\(a\)](#) - nonresident alien individuals with no United States business or office but living in a "[contiguous country](#)" and having income from United States sources.

Because the Victory Tax, a wartime measure, was imposed on individuals in the states of the union (and not countries such as Canada or Mexico), those already taxed by section [211\(a\)](#) had to be excepted from the Victory Tax or they would be taxed twice. This suggests that the nonresident alien individuals living in "contiguous countries" were in fact living in states such as Virginia and Maryland - being outside the United States (District of Columbia).

The Victory Tax was repealed by [section 6 of Income Tax Act of 1944](#), which in amending the I.R.C. includes the states of the union in the terms "certain foreign countries" ([section 6 \(b\)\(3\)](#)) and "foreign countries and possessions of the United States" ([section 6 \(b\)\(4\)](#)). **This restored the scope of income taxation to what it had been prior to the Victory Tax, as not including individuals in the states of the union.**

The states of the union (like New York) are then seen to be included in the terms "[contiguous countries](#)", "certain foreign countries" and "foreign countries and possessions of the United States". This shows that every state of the union is foreign to the United States. Those taxed under I.R.C. 211(a) must then be those living in a state of the union and working for Federal government or one of its agencies - drawing income from "sources within the United States".

But because Congress failed to make it generally known that the Victory Tax was no longer in effect, people did not know to discontinue the withholding begun for the Victory Tax. One was then considered as being a volunteer in paying income tax.

The Federal Income Tax- What If?

What if individuals were to stop filing and paying the income tax and employers, would stop withholding the tax from the paychecks of their employees and there was no new federal tax to take the place of the individual income tax? "Would we be able to fix the bridges and maintain a strong national Defense?" "would we be able to avoid chaos?" "would we be a stronger nation?" Is a mechanism in place that would allow a peaceful and smooth transition from a society with an individual income tax to a society without one?

The answer to each of these questions is a resounding "yes."

Here we are in the year 2023 and the federal government has to start preparing to adopt the federal budget for the next fiscal year. Let's assume that Congress will come to the conclusion that it wants \$30 trillion in tax revenue next year. Let's also assume that Congress expects \$15 trillion to come from the tax already in place and authorized by article 1, section 8 of the constitution. (excise, taxes, tariffs, duties, and imposts). and that those tax revenues were sufficient to maintain a strong defense, and to pay for the other federal programs, needed and authorized by the enumerated powers found in article 1. That leaves \$15 trillion dollars to come from someplace else to pay for everything else Congress wants to do. Assuming Congress decides not to increase the article 1. Section 8 taxes Congress would have to get the other \$15 trillion by taxing the people under the authority created by article 1, section 9 of the constitution.—i.e, by laying a direct tax, on the people, a tax that would have to be PROPORTIONED AMONG THE STATES. This means Congress would have to pass a bill, and the president would have to sign the bill into law, requiring the states to come up with the money Congress wanted. To be constitutional, the bill would have to proportion the \$15 trillion among the 50 states based on the population figures of the last census This is the mechanism that has been in place since 1787, and which could very easily work today. of course, with this approach to funding the federal government, there would be a dramatic shift in power away from the federal government to the states, and to the people. It can be safely assumed that if given the choice, the states will use their power to influence the federal government not to adopt the law, requiring the states to come up with the \$15 trillion deciding, instead, that they, the states don't need the middleman—i.e., that they the states will fund the development of communities of their states, and they will fund the education of the children of their states, without also funding the huge bureaucracies in Washington DC.

Paid for by Anthony Futia

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Letter: To the editor,

MLK in Yonkers, continued from pg 1-

Given the environmental, public health, and animal-welfare concerns associated with factory farms, our legislators should include more federal funding for cultivated-meat research in the upcoming farm bill. For those who don't know, cultivated-meat is grown from livestock cells, without slaughter.

The new protein is currently too expensive to mass produce. Further development of the nascent field of cellular agriculture will help bypass this hurdle and others. Any politician interested in reducing our greenhouse-gas emissions, pandemic risk and the suffering we inflict on animals should support the effort.

Jon Hochschartner, Granby, CT

Westchester County Parks Hiring Lifeguards for Summer 2024

Work outdoors, build your resume and make new friends as a Westchester County Parks Lifeguard this summer. Applications are now available to be considered for employment as a Westchester County Lifeguard. Applicants must be 15 years of age or older to apply. Lifeguard training courses will be announced for those who need to train to become a lifeguard.

Watch Westchester County Parks' Lifeguard Recruitment Video:
https://youtu.be/-Fz4Xv0e30?si=_JiUPbCS2Jj72EH8

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "Lifeguarding teaches teenagers and young adults a great deal of responsibility and makes for a great first job to lay the foundation of what is to be expected in the work force. I encourage those who are interested to apply and sign up for training."

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathy O'Connor said, "By becoming a Westchester County Parks Lifeguard, you will be joining an esteemed team that teaches life-long skills, while working in the beautiful Westchester County Parks system."

Applicants should possess a current American Red Cross Lifeguarding/First Aid and CPR/AED for Lifeguards certifications or equivalent, and pass the Westchester County practical skills test. County parks offers training for new guards, which includes waterfront training for the option to guard at either a pool or beach.

Those applying must be able to work at varied locations including Saxon Woods Pool in White Plains, Sprain Ridge Pool and The Brook at Tibbetts in Yonkers, Willson's Waves Pool in Mount Vernon, as well as Croton Point Park Beach in Croton-on-Hudson and Glen Island Beach in New Rochelle if waterfront certified. For more information contact the County's aquatics team at prc-aquatics@westchestercountyny.gov or (914) 231-4556.

King stayed in Yonkers and visited the Will Library for an Urban League of Westchester voter registration drive and met with volunteers.

Later in 1964, King's book, A Martin Luther King Treasury, was printed and published. There are very few photos or reports of King's visit to the library.

The Negro Heritage Library faced difficulties, and only a few volumes were published. Maybe someone in Yonkers has one of those books on your shelf.

Dr. King's second visit to Yonkers was on May 28, 1965. King was invited to Yonkers by A. Philip Randolph, who founded the Negro American Labor Council, which fought against racism in the unions.

In 1965 black workers at Lawrence Hospital went on strike. Randolph helped organize demonstrations at the Bronxville hospital. The strike made national news and a settlement was reached.

King agreed to attend Randolph's NALC convention in Yonkers, at the Town House on 165 Tuckahoe Road. King would speak on May 28.

After the NALC speech, King spoke at Messiah Baptist Church on Warburton Avenue in the evening. Yonkers police organized a 2-block perimeter around the church to protect King.

"We will not be satisfied until the last vestiges of segregation are removed from every part of our nation." And in the war on poverty, King said "we cannot afford to have any conscientious objectors...There must be a better distribution of wealth in this country for all God's children."

King also spoke out against the Vietnam War.

After the 9pm sermon, King briefly stopped at Temple Emanu-El on 306 Rumsey Road. King was invited to attend artwork by black artists. Yetta Colin had invited King, and she had sculpted a bust of Ghandi. King was able to swing by after his sermon before departing.

The best picture that we have seen of Dr. King's visit is a photo of his visit to Emanu-El. He is pictured with Yetta Colin and Rabbi Abraham Klausner, and the Ghandi sculpture.

Anyone with information, or memories of Dr. King's visit, please contact us so that we can share it with our readers to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com.

We want to again thank Andy Bass, from the Westchester County Historical Society for his work in the Westchester Historian Magazine about MLK Jrs. visits to Westchester. It is a wonderful read which you can purchase at the Westchester County Historical Society in Elmsford. Bass work is not online.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

as Westchester County Executive. He's bright, he is an excellent communicator and he won't embarrass the district like Bowman has done. You won't see him pulling fire alarms to open doors when there is no fire in an office building.

Latimer will vote for infrastructure bills to bring communities money they need to fix our area roadways. Bowman voted against the infrastructure bill to improve our roads so you and I will get flat tires and have to get our cars aligned every month.

Latimer is pro-Israel whereas Bowman, a member of the liberal AOC SQUAD has largely supported pro-Palestinian issues. Rather than aligning himself up with the pro Israel Majority and President Biden, Bowman has aligned himself up with the Anti Israel extremists. AIPAC has said "Democrats in this district deserve a representative who stands by the mainstream view, which supports the US-Israel relationship."

Bowman pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor count in the alarm escapade, and was put on three months probation. This is not the type of leader this district needs in the House of Representatives

We will talk about Bowman and Latimer a bit in the coming weeks, but the purpose of this column is to get the wheels in motion on how to go about your mission and change your party registration to Democrat and be ready for Valentine's Day.

We need a Congressman who will make us proud to be Americans once again!

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

Adoption:
Everything You Need to Know
 DOMESTIC AGENCY ADOPTION
 FREE Information Session
TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024
FREE ZOOM EVENT



Forever Families Through Adoption, Inc.

This free event is open to a small number of pre-registered guests interested in the DOMESTIC adoption process. [Se Habla Español](#)

[Learn about PRIVATE Newborn and/or foster children already freed for adoption!](#)

Learn about the domestic adoption process and meet some of the staff of Forever Families Through Adoption. FFTA is authorized in NY and CT.

Date: TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 2024
Time: 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. FREE
Location: ZOOM conference meeting
 Contact FFTA by calling or emailing for more details
Email: adopt@ForeverFamiliesThroughAdoption.org
CALL (914) 939-1180
Web: www.foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org

Pre-registration is required to receive sign in codes.

Forever Families Through Adoption welcomes all families regardless of race, religion, gender identity, gender expression, sexual orientation, marital status, age, nationality or disability.

DENTAL Insurance
 from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company
 Call to get your FREE Information Kit
1-855-225-1434
Dental50Plus.com/nypress

Product not available in all states. Includes the Participating (in GA: Designated) Providers and Preventive Benefits Rider. Acceptance guaranteed for one insurance policy/certificate of this type. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. This specific offer is not available in CO, NY; call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for similar offer. Certificate C250A (ID: C250E; PA: C250D); Insurance Policy P150 (GA: P150GA; NY: P150NY; OK: P150OK; TN: P150TN). Rider kinds: B438, B439 (GA: B439B). 6208-0721

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Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Spike in Influenza, COVID-19, and Other Respiratory Illnesses Can Lead to Cardiovascular Complications



Dr. Icilma Fergus

Mount Sinai cardiologists warn about the risk of heart problems during winter for American Heart Month

With a recent surge in influenza, COVID-19, and other respiratory viruses, it's critical to pay close attention to your heart—especially if you have heart disease or the risk factors for heart disease. That's the message from experts at Mount Sinai Fuster Heart Hospital during American Heart Month.

The recent surge can trigger cardiovascular complications from fever, dehydration, and increased inflammation, and Mount Sinai doctors are seeing a rise in these cases in all age groups, including patients in their 20s.

Patients with underlying cardiovascular disease and the associated risk factors are at increased risk. Inflammation can trigger heart attacks in people with coronary artery disease. It can also exacerbate heart failure symptoms and irregular or rapid heartbeats, leading to hospitalizations. Doctors have also seen post-viral myocarditis—inflammation around the heart that can progress to complications such as heart failure and cardiogenic shock—in otherwise healthy patients.

"If you get sick and have chest pain or are out of breath, and it's getting worse—especially if you have an underlying heart condition or risk factors such as obesity, diabetes, or a family history of heart disease—don't assume it's not serious or just a viral syndrome. Consider seeing a health care provider right away, and call 911 if the symptoms of chest pain, dizziness or shortness of breath develop," says Icilma Fergus, MD, Director of Cardiovascular Disparities for the Mount Sinai Health System. "Also, it is important to get the appropriate vaccinations to lessen severity of viral infections and inflammation. Viral syndromes are so commonplace that many people aren't taking these viruses as seriously anymore."

Heart Disease Statistics

Heart disease is the leading cause of death among men and women in the United States. Nearly half of adults—more than 121 million people—have some type of cardiovascular disease. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, nearly 700,000 people die of heart disease annually, and 80 percent of these cases are preventable.

High-Risk Groups

Anyone can get heart disease, but people are more susceptible if they have cardiovascular risk factors such as high cholesterol, high blood pressure, diabetes, being overweight, and tobacco use. Age is also a factor, specifically for menopausal women (between 45 and 55) and men older than 55, and men with a family history also are at higher risk. Getting less than six hours of sleep a night may also contribute to poor outcomes.

Certain groups, including African American and Hispanic/Latino patients as well as new immigrants, may also be at higher risk of complications from untreated viral illnesses. However, risk for cardiovascular disease in any population can be decreased by taking simple steps toward a healthier lifestyle.

Tips for Lowering Risk of Heart Disease

- Know your family history
- Be aware of five key numbers cited by the American Heart Association: blood pressure, total cholesterol, HDL (or "good") cholesterol, body mass index, and fasting glucose levels
- Maintain a healthy diet, eating nutrient-rich food and eliminating sweets
- Limit alcohol consumption to no more than one drink per day for women and men
- Quit using tobacco or other inhaled substances, including both smoking and electronic cigarettes/vapes
- Watch your weight and exercise regularly
- Learn the warning signs of heart attack and stroke, including chest discomfort; shortness of breath; pain in the arms, back, neck, or jaw; breaking out in a cold sweat; and lightheadedness
- Find practical ways to eliminate stress and focus on mental health

"Winter can raise cardiovascular risks in a number of ways, including due to flu season," says Deepak L. Bhatt, MD, MPH, Director of the Mount Sinai Fuster Heart Hospital and the Dr. Valentin Fuster Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. "People with cardiovascular disease or multiple risk factors for heart disease are particularly susceptible to developing cardiac problems if they get really sick from a respiratory infection. Identifying and controlling cardiovascular risk factors, as well as basic measures to try to prevent infections, are ways to avoid a potential double whammy of a bad infection triggering a heart attack."

For more information, visit <https://www.mountsinai.org> or find Mount Sinai on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

Mount Vernon Public Library Partners with AARP to Offer Free Tax Preparation

The Mount Vernon Public Library is partnering with the American Association of

Retired Persons (AARP) to provide free tax preparation to the community.

Beginning Wednesday, February 7, 2024, AARP volunteers will provide contact-free tax prep on Mondays

and Wednesdays from 10am until 3pm. Participants should call the Reference Desk at (914) 668-1840 ext.

219 or 220 to schedule an appointment to drop off their tax materials. Once a participant's returns have

been completed, the participant will be contacted to come and pick up their tax returns. The final day for

appointments for AARP tax assistance is Monday, April 15, 2024. The deadline to file 2023 tax returns on

time with the IRS is Monday, April 15, 2024.

Library Director Timur Davis shares, "The Library is pleased to once again present this great partnership

with the AARP Foundation Tax-Aide Program. Tax preparation services are free to the public and it allows

the library the ability to provide services that supports the community."

To register for an appointment please call the Reference Desk at 914-668-1840 ext. 219 or 220.

BID ADVERTISEMENT LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the Eastchester Public Library will receive sealed bids for RESTROOM ALTERATIONS- EASTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY, 11 Oakridge Place, Eastchester, New York 10709, in accordance with the Documents prepared by the office of Lothrop Associates D.P.C., Architects, 333 Westchester Avenue, White Plains, NY 10604.

All proposals shall be on a lump sum basis and include all Restroom Alteration work under a single Contract. Segregated proposals will not be accepted. In general, the work includes demolition, fixture replacement, new finishes and accessories.

Bid documents will be made available at 9:00 AM on January 26, 2024 and may be obtained from the Architect.

A non-mandatory pre-bid conference will be held at the site on February 7, 2024 at 10:00 AM local time.

Proposals will be received until 2:00 PM local time on February 22, 2024 at the Office of The Town Clerk, Eastchester Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York 10709, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.

All prospective bidders must register with Lothrop Associates Architects, D.P.C. via e mail in order to obtain the bid documents. The following information is required:

1. Company name, address, phone number.
2. Contact person and e mail address.
3. Fax number (optional).
4. Request access to FTP site or Drop Box to obtain bid documents.

Send the above information via e mail to: vlisanti@lothropassociates.com

Upon receipt of this information, a password will be sent to the registered prospective bidder via e-mail and prospective bidders may then download the bid documents. Bids will be accepted only from registered bidders. Only registered bidders will be notified of addenda availability via the FTP site or Drop Box.

Bid security shall be submitted with each bid in the amount of five percent (5%) of the Base Bid.

Bidders must be properly licensed under the laws governing their respective trades and be able to obtain Insurance and Bonds required for the Work.

The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish and pay for satisfactory Performance and Labor and Material Payment Bonds in the amount of one hundred percent (100%) of the total Contract Amount.

All bids shall be submitted in an opaque, sealed envelope clearly marked "RESTROOM ALTERATIONS - EASTCHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY", addressed to: Town Clerk, Eastchester Town Hall, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York 10709. Unless otherwise permitted by law, no bids may be withdrawn for a period of forty-five (45) days after the date of the bid opening.

Time of Completion: 90 calendar days from Notice to Proceed.

Bidders are informed herewith that this is a Prevailing Wage Project. The current Prevailing Wage Schedule is included in the Bidding Documents.

The Library reserves the right to reject all bids and to waive any informality or irregularity in any or all bids.

LATE BIDS - All bids received after the deadline date and time stated above will not be considered and will be returned to the bidder unopened. The bidder assumes the risk of any delay in the mail or in the handling of the mail by Owner's employees or volunteers. Whether sent by mail or by means of personal delivery, the bidder assumes all responsibility for having the bid deposited on time at the place specified.

Dated: January 26, 2024

Town of Eastchester

40 Mill Road, Eastchester, New York 10709

Historic 125th Season Begins at Iconic Yonkers Raceway



Empire City Casino at MGM Resorts Announces 2024 Racing Schedule

The world-renowned horse racing track has been the site of many iconic moments in its 125 year history.

left-Yonkers Raceway founded in 1899 as Empire City Racetrack

The historic venue has been upgraded and refurbished through investments made by MGM Resorts and harness racing fans have enjoyed the return of the International Trot after a two-year COVID-related hiatus.

A milestone season begins at the historic Yonkers Raceway on Monday, January 22 as Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts, one of the premier gaming and hospitality destinations in the country, announced the racing schedule for the upcoming 2024 season at the 125-year-old half-mile harness track.

Since opening in 1899 as Empire City Racetrack, the legendary track has been home to many memorable moments. Celebrities, notable politicians and athletes such as Frank Sinatra, Ed Sullivan, Mickey Mantle, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan frequented Yonkers Raceway. The legendary champion thoroughbred racehorse Seabiscuit won a purse of \$7,300 at the Scarsdale Handicap at the track in the 1930s when the track was briefly a thoroughbred track.

In 2021, UFC Lightweight Champion Charles Oliveira competed against Harness Hall of Famer Driver Tim Tetrick in an exhibition race and took home the win. In December 2024, two-time NBA MVP Nikola Jokic, an avid harness racing fan, made a surprise visit to the historic track, further demonstrating Yonkers Raceway as the leading destination for harness fans worldwide.

The exciting 2024 racing schedule includes 240 days of racing - more than any other track in the country. Over 80 equine athletes compete nightly, five days per week, running from Monday, January 22, 2024 through Wednesday, December 21, 2024. Season highlights include the first five legs of the Blue Chip Matchmaker Series beginning on Friday, March 15, 2024, MGM Borgata Pacing Series beginning Monday, March 18, 2024, the \$300,000 MGM Yonkers Trot and MGM Grand Messenger on Friday, June 21, 2024 with eliminations on Friday, June 28, 2024 and of course, the world famous MGM Yonkers International Trot scheduled for Saturday, September 7, 2024 with eight New York Sire Stakes finals also taking place that same day. MGM Yonkers Raceway will payout over \$50 million in purses in 2024, more than any racetrack in the world.

“For 125 years, generations of horse racing fans have visited Yonkers Raceway to enjoy a world-class sports product,” said Ed Domingo, President & COO of Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts. “As we continue to invest in Yonkers Raceway, we look forward to an exciting and historic 2024 season to celebrate not just the track’s 125th anniversary but the incredible five years since MGM Resorts became the steward of this iconic sports venue.”

MGM Resorts has invested over a million dollars in track renovations to enhance the overall racing experience. Renovations include resurfacing the track with more than six-thousand tons of recycled track material, the installation of all new-LED lighting, raising the turns by as much as a foot and a new multiple display LED infield tote board. The upgraded infield tote board’s multiple display allows racing fans at Yonkers Raceway to see broadcasts of the live action on the infield board. The most recent upgrade came over the holiday break with a near quarter million investment to upgrade the horse paddock.

MGM Resorts has also invested in its racing team members and management. At the helm of the track’s leadership are four industry veterans, including Racing Director Alex Dadoyan, Race Secretary Jonathan “Joe” Frasure Jr. and Assistant Race Secretary Rich Mattei. The trio bring many years of combined harness racing leadership experience to Yonkers Raceway. Yonkers Raceway also has a new Track Superintendent, Ed Angell, who joined in Spring 2023.

Empire Terrace, the trackside restaurant, will be available on select race days throughout the season where harness racing fans and families around the region can enjoy a night at the races.

For more information about Yonkers Raceway, the MGM Yonkers International Trot and MGM Resorts, please visit www.empirecitycasino.com.

Man Arrested for Bombing Home in Mt. Kisco; Fugitive from NC Arrested in Peekskill

Two notable crime stories recently occurred in Westchester. US Attorney Damian Williams charged two men for unlawful possession of a destructive device and one count of conspiracy to commit stalking.

DAMJAN STANIVUKOVIC and VLADAMIR RADUNOVIC were arrested for transporting a homemade bomb to a Mt. Kisco home, where it exploded. After the explosion, the victim, whose name has not been released, was sent a text, "Knock knock, show up and what do you think is next. This is your final warning."

STANIVUKOVIC, the owner of a contracting company, is involved in a long-running legal dispute with the victim. When searching STANIVUKOVIC's residence, law enforcement seized, among other things, multiple loaded firearms, items matching those used to make the destructive device, and written instructions on how to make explosives.

FBI agents were able to track both men travel from Rockland County to Mt. Kisco on the date of the explosion through video and cell phone records.

Bedford Police Chief Melvin Padilla said: "The safety and security of our residents is our primary focus, and thanks to the diligent work of our detectives and the cooperation and assistance from our federal partners, the defendants were quickly identified and apprehended."

Westchester County Department of Public Safety Acting Commissioner Terrence Raynor said: "I commend all the agencies involved for their skillful and effective collaboration in bringing this investigation to a swift conclusion. This is yet another example of the value and importance of multi-agency partnerships, which help us keep Westchester safe."

U.S. ATTORNEY DAMIAN WILLIAM SAID: "THE CAREER PROSECUTORS OF THIS OFFICE AND OUR LAW ENFORCEMENT PARTNERS STAND READY TO ACT AROUND THE CLOCK WHEN OUR COMMUNITIES ARE THREATENED. DAMJAN STANIVUKOVIC AND VLADAMIR RADUNOVIC WERE IN CUSTODY JUST TWO DAYS AFTER THEY ALLEGEDLY PLANTED A DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE IN THE DRIVEWAY OF THE VICTIM'S RESIDENCE. THIS CASE IS A TESTAMENT TO THE CRITICAL AND EFFECTIVE WORK THAT OUR INTERAGENCY COLLABORATIONS ACCOMPLISH ON A DAILY BASIS. WE HAVE NO TOLERANCE FOR VIOLENCE IN THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK."

A second incident occurred in Peekskill on Jan. 12, when the Westchester County Police Department's Warrant-Fugitive Unit, along with Peekskill Police and the US Secret Service arrest a man in a Peekskill home wanted in North Carolina for attempted murder.

From the Westchester County Police: "If you are on the run from an attempted murder charge in another state, you certainly don't want to see WCPD's Warrant-Fugitive Unit and Special Response Team show up at the house where you are hiding out.

"But that's the way it went on Jan. 12 for a North Carolina man who fled from that state and tried to lay low in Peekskill. The suspect was tracked down following an investigation by WFU detectives, with assistance from the City of Peekskill Police Department and the United States Secret Service.

"Due to the suspect's history as a gang member and his record of weapons-related offenses, SRT's tactical officers were deployed to take him into custody. When the suspect sized up the cavalry surrounding the house, he surrendered without incident.

"The 26-year-old suspect was wanted in connection with a December shooting in Greenville, N.C. Law enforcement there developed information earlier this month that he may have fled to the Peekskill area. Following investigation by WFU detectives and the other agencies, a specific house was identified, a warrant was secured through the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, and the suspect was taken into custody."

Latimer Fundraiser continued from pg 4-

Latimer as State Senator for the 37th district, cited his list of progressive accomplishments as a legislator and executive in explaining why he is the stronger choice for the 16th district.

"I'm honored to lend my strong support to George Latimer for Congress. George has been a tireless fighter when it counted most, taking tough positions, and working to deliver real results for the people I represent. George has been there on the issues we all care about, protecting our environment and addressing persistent flooding, fighting for our schools, including through the toughest days of the pandemic, standing up to hate, strongly supporting the right to abortion, making our criminal justice system fairer and stronger, getting guns off our streets and more. George does the hard work, shows up everywhere and then gets things done," said Mayer. "With Republicans working to threaten our very democracy, our district needs a Congressman who can be a unifying force, and who stands up for the values we share. That is George."

"I'm so honored to receive Senator Mayer's endorsement," said Latimer. "These are challenging times, but Shelley has always been a strong, unifying voice against the divisiveness we see every day, she's been a solid ally in government, and she's an incredibly talented and progressive legislator. The issues we face today require real work and as Democrats we need to work together to deliver real results; that's what Shelley and I have done throughout our careers in public service and it's what we will continue to do to move forward."

Read the Stories in Our Westchester Rising paper online at Yonkerstimes.com

Yonkers Man Sentenced to 12 Months Prison for Unemployment Insurance Fraud



Errol Murray, age 22, of Yonkers, New York was sentenced today to 12 months in prison for engaging in a fraudulent scheme to obtain nearly \$70,000 in unemployment insurance benefits, including benefits funded by the federal government in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The announcement was made by United States Attorney Carla B. Freedman; Matthew Scarpino, Special Agent in Charge of the Buffalo Field Office of Homeland Security Investigations (HSI); Jonathan Mellone, Special Agent in Charge, Northeast Region, United States Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General (USDOL-OIG); Ketty Larco-Ward, Inspector in Charge of the Boston Division of the United States Postal Inspection Service (USPIS); and New York State Inspector General Lucy Lang.

As part of his previously entered guilty plea, Murray admitted that he provided Jamie Johnson with his personally identifiable information (PII) and the PII of another person, which Johnson used to file false claims online with the New York State Department of Labor (NYSDOL). Murray further admitted that as a result of the two fraudulent applications submitted by Johnson, the NYSDOL paid out \$69,954 in unemployment insurance benefits.

Johnson previously pled guilty to fraudulently obtaining \$701,441 in unemployment insurance benefits as part of the scheme. Murray's co-defendants, Taliek Lanier, age 23, of Albany, and Thomas Brace, a/k/a "Justice," age 62, of Altoona, Pennsylvania, previously pled guilty to charges stemming from their roles in the scheme with Johnson. Lanier was sentenced to 12 months in prison to be followed by a 3-year term of supervised release, while Brace was sentenced to time served and 3 years of supervised release.

Senior United States District Judge Lawrence E. Kahn also imposed a 3-year term of supervised release, to begin after Murray is released from prison, and ordered him to pay \$69,954 in restitution to the State of New York.

This case was investigated by HSI, USDOL-OIG, USPIS, and the New York State Inspector General's Office, with assistance from the NYSDOL Office of Special Investigations, the Capital Region Crime Analysis Center, and the Albany County Department of Social Services. Assistant U.S. Attorneys Joshua R. Rosenthal and Joseph S. Hartunian prosecuted the case.

On May 17, 2021, the Attorney General established the COVID-19 Fraud Enforcement Task Force to marshal the resources of the Department of Justice in partnership with agencies across government to enhance efforts to combat and prevent pandemic-related fraud. The Task Force bolsters efforts to investigate and prosecute the most culpable domestic and international criminal actors and assists agencies tasked with administering relief programs to prevent fraud by, among other methods, augmenting and incorporating existing coordination mechanisms, identifying resources and techniques to uncover fraudulent actors and their schemes, and sharing and harnessing information and insights gained from prior enforcement efforts. For more information on the Department's response to the pandemic, please visit <https://www.justice.gov/coronavirus>.

Anyone with information about allegations of attempted fraud involving COVID-19 can report it by calling the Department of Justice's National Center for Disaster Fraud (NCFD) Hotline at 866-720-5721 or via the NCFD Web Complaint Form at: <https://www.justice.gov/disaster-fraud/ncdf-disaster-complaint-form>.

Fact Checking continued from pg 8-

according to a pamphlet, published by the IRS titled "why do I have to pay taxes?"

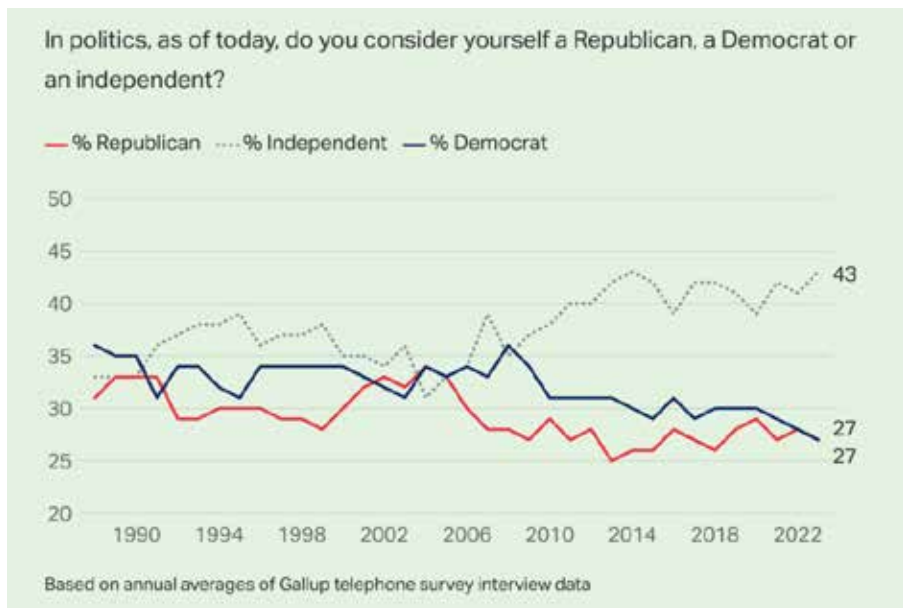
For example, section 6702 of the internal revenue code authorizes the IRS to impose a \$5000 penalty against those who have submitted "frivolous" tax documents, the pamphlet says. The term "frivolous" in this case refers to "A desire to delay or impede the administration of federal tax laws," according to the IRS.

Futia Response: Section 6702 of the Internal Revenue Code is not law. Congress cannot delegate the power to make law to a department head. A federal regulation cannot create a specific liability when no specific liability is created by the corresponding statute. The US Constitution vests all legislative power in the Congress of the United States. This means that agencies of the executive branch, and the federal courts in the judicial branch, are prohibited from making law.

Futia said that one of the federal cases, Case number 23-860, "could be a precedent setting case on the meaning of the last 10 words of the first amendment ("and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.")

"There is no statute or federal law that requires Americans to pay federal income taxes. When you file, or sign a W-4, you do so voluntarily. Only Federal employees must file and pay federal income taxes. For the rest of us, there is no law that requires us to do so," said Futia, who served our country in the Navy and worked for 45 years in the Town of North Castle, and served on the Valhalla School Board. Futia also claims that a lien placed on his pension income was improperly filed. "A notice of lien is not a lien. The county clerk's office should have rejected the lien because it was improperly filed and requires a court order from a judge."

Gallup Poll: More Americans Identify as Independents-43%, Than Democrats-27%, or Republicans-27%



43% of Americans identify themselves as Independents, according to a recent poll from Gallup. Both democratic and republican voter ID was 27%, and 27%, according to the Gallup Poll.

Independent voter ID hit 43% in 2014, and from 2021-2023 has been above 40%. Gallup asks respondents in each survey whether they identify politically as a Republican, a Democrat or an independent. The results reported here are based on combined data for each year, including interviews with more than 12,000 U.S. adults in 2023.

Independent identification was up two percentage points in 2023 compared with 2022, while there was a one-point decline in both Democratic and Republican identification. Democratic identification has now declined by one point in each of the past three years, the same three years under President Joe Biden.

Gallup also asks independent voters what party they would "lean" towards if they had no other choice., This is usually the case in Presidential elections, when, in October, many independent voters hold their nose and vote for either the democrat or republican.

Gallup has found this in polling for 6 of the last 7 presidential elections, (except 2012). "Still, even with a slight election-year drop — which has ranged from two to five points — independents will remain the largest, and arguably most persuadable, group of voters. In what is expected to be a close election contest, it is critical for each party, but especially Democrats, to nominate a candidate who can appeal to independent voters," writes Jeffrey Jones from Gallup.

Poet Lauraete, continued from pg 1-

Phylisha Villanueva is a Belizean-American poet, author, and cultural activist. She is a teaching artist for ArtsWestchester, a member of the Jazz and Poetry Choir Collective, and Tesoro, an international women's poet collective. Phylisha's written work, including productions and curations, focuses on identity, colorism, inherited trauma, resilience, women's empowerment, black culture, and mysticism. She specializes in Community Arts Development. She co-founded The Yonkers Writing Group and, as a teen, founded the first teen open mic in downtown Yonkers that lasted for five years. Currently, Phylisha is pursuing her Master of Fine Arts Degree in Poetry at Saint Francis College while serving as a Board advisor and chairperson for the Blue Door Art Center membership committee in Yonkers, NY.

As Poet Laureate, Phylisha is interested in conducting ekphrastic writing workshops, a style of writing that responds to visual art, thereby creating a unique dialogue between the two art forms, as well as offering poetry slams and other open mic events to Westchester residents and visitors.

The Westchester Poet Laureate Program embraces both written and spoken poetic traditions, and seeks to promote poetry as a medium that defies boundaries and categories, serves as a platform for underrepresented voices, and offers a space for personal reflection and healing. Through public facing programming, the Poet Laureate will mobilize poetry to connect with diverse audiences, to address topics of cultural, social, and historical importance, and to show that poetry can bring real meaning and positive social change to people's lives and communities.

ArtsWestchester is pleased to also be partnering with the Rockefeller Brothers Fund (RBF)'s Culpeper Arts & Culture Program on the Poet Laureate initiative. Over the next three years RBF will provide significant support on the initiative through public-facing programming, including at The Pocantico Center in Tarrytown, artist collaborations, and event logistics.

About Westchester County's Inaugural Poet Laureate B.K. Fischer: During B.K. Fischer's tenure as Westchester County's first Poet Laureate, among her accomplishments were receiving a prestigious Fellowship from the Academy of American Poets that supported Floodwaters, a series of writing workshops aimed towards engaging Westchester youth around climate change and the impact that recent storms and flooding around Westchester County. The Floodwaters Workshops reached 394 students around Westchester County during the 2022-2023 school year, including the two Youth Poets Laureate, and culminated in a short documentary capturing the works created by the local teens. This program was one of many public events that B.K. implemented throughout the county during her three years as Laureate.

County Clerk Idoni: Westchester County 2023

Mortgage Tax Receipts Plummet

Westchester County Mortgage Tax Receipts

2019-\$20,135,933.66

2020-\$21,763,718.89

2021-\$30,195,878.61

2022-\$27,212,223.32

2023-\$15,721,837.89

County Clerk Idoni asks, Is this an Anomaly or the New Norm?

Westchester County Clerk Timothy C. Idoni released his office's 2023 year-end mortgage taxes collection report for the county showing the second lowest amount collected in ten years. The total county mortgage tax collected in 2023 was \$ 15,721,838. Revenues year to year dropped 42.2 % from 2022's \$ 27,212,223. The high over the previous ten years was achieved in 2021 when the County collected \$ 30,198,878. The low was \$ 14,951,341.58 in 2014.

Idoni said, "We believe the lower mortgage taxes are a reflection of higher interest rates and the resultant lack of re-financings and lower inventory of homes for sale. It could also be reflecting a "back to normal" as the receipts are reflective of the five year numbers between 2014-2018 when the County averaged \$18,500,000." The two previous years' collections were also skewed upward to some extent by some larger commercial deals.

The Clerk indicated his office may have to wait until mid-year to get a better sense as the first quarter of the calendar year has been the slowest part of the real estate market sales.

The County Clerk staff can assist you with any questions or concerns. Feel free to contact them at 995-3082 on weekdays between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, or visit their website at [www.WestchesterClerk.com] for more information.

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

Friday, February 2nd

February 2, 1926: Two prominent Yonkers families merged when Colonel John Stilwell, Westchester Lighting Company executive, married Mabel Halliwell Duell, former wife of Colonel Holland Duell. The ceremony, held at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, was attended only by immediate family, including his 18-month-old daughter and mother of his late wife, who had died shortly after giving birth in 1924.

Mrs. Stilwell's first husband served both as a NYS Assemblyman and State Senator. She filed for divorce in 1925 after he eloped with her cousin Emilie Brown, who lived with the family. The couple and their blended family would live at Ardenwold, the summer estate she built ca. 1908 on North Broadway.

Saturday, February 3rd

February 3, 1926: Deputy Public Safety Commissioner Bernard Reardon resigned, the second aide to Commissioner Van Keuren to quit after serving only one month in office. Reardon issued this statement: "The safeguarding of my reputation, my dignity and my character required I sever my connections with that department." He refused to provide details; Van Keuren made no comment. Rumor was Reardon flatly refused to preside at Third Precinct Captain Charles O'Mara's trial or take part in the Commissioner's "brutal and inhuman treatment against the police force of Yonkers." According to the Yonkers Statesman, Reardon resigned because he defended O'Mara, an officer "recognized as one of the ablest policemen in the city..."

Sunday, February 4th

February 4, 1925: Bantamweight Jackie Williams knocked out Joe Dundee in his professional debut as a fighter at Columbus Hall! Born Sal Tripoli, he won a silver medal for the US at the 1924 Paris Olympics. He is in the Yonkers Sports Hall of Fame.

February 4, 1928: Clarence Chamberlin totaled a Bellanca plane owned by Yonkers' banker Alvin Martine while taking-off to break the world flying endurance record. The plane, heavy with fuel to stay aloft for more than 60 hours, hit an unfavorable wind on its take off at Byrd Field, Richmond. Up 50 feet, the right wing dipped and plunged the plane into a ditch. The landing gear snapped, the wing broke, the cabin was damaged and the oil tanks split. The runway was too short for the plane to get the momentum needed to lift the very heavy plane in the air. Pilots, Chamberlin and Roger Q. Williams escaped, with the only injury a burn on Chamberlin's hand. Martine, residing at 357 North Broadway, pledged to supply a new plane if Chamberlin and Williams continued their efforts to break the record.

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.yonkershistorical-society.org, call 914-961-8940 or email info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org.

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Two More Come Forward After Being Bit by Rabid Fox in Peekskill

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George Latimer, Westchester County Executive

Rabies Alert

Rabid Fox Found in Peekskill



Two more people who were bit by the rabid fox have come forward after the Westchester County Department of Health issued an alert to the community Wednesday, that a fox that bit two residents in Peekskill last Saturday, tested positive for rabies. The two subsequent residents who were bit were not receiving treatment for rabies, but are now under a doctor's care.

Health Commissioner Sherlita Amler, MD, said: "If you are bitten or scratched by a wild animal, you must immediately contact the Westchester County Health Department – your life depends on it. Exposure to rabies when left untreated can lead to death. In this case the two subsequent individuals saw the news reports about the rabid fox and called the Health Department. That one news report and one phone call – quite literally saved their lives."

If you came in contact with the fox in Peekskill, please call the Westchester County Department of Health at (914) 813-5000, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

People should avoid all contact with all wild animals – especially baby wild animals.

Unusual behavior in an animal may be the first sign of rabies. A rabid animal may become either abnormally aggressive or unusually tame. It may lose fear of people, become excited, irritable, or appear particularly passive and lethargic. Staggering and frothing at the mouth are sometimes noted.

Amler said: "If you see an animal that is acting aggressively, stay away from it and contact local police immediately. And if you are bitten or scratched, call the Health Department right away."

Residents should never approach or have contact with a stray or wild animal. Residents who see a stray or wild animal acting strangely should alert local authorities to avoid possible exposure to rabies. Residents are also advised to keep their trashcan lids securely sealed, remove wild bird feeders, and avoid leaving pet food outdoors.

Any physical contact with a wild or unfamiliar animal should be reported to a health care provider. All animal bites or contact with animals suspected of having rabies must be reported to the Westchester County Department of Health at (914) 813-5000, 24 hours a day.

Keeping pet rabies vaccinations up to date is also important for protection against rabies. New York State law requires dogs, cats and ferrets to be vaccinated against rabies and receive regular booster shots. For more information, go to www.westchestergov.com/health or call the RABIES INFO-LINE at (914) 813-5010.

Mayer and Sayegh, continued from pg 2-

"This is ultimately a structural problem with the Funding Formula. That is why I continue to fight for and advocate the Legislature to examine and make meaningful changes to the State's Funding Formula. Numerous pieces of legislation that I've introduced, such as A67 – the Education Funding Census Update Act – would help in part with this issue by amending the Funding Formula to use the most recent Federal census data to determine funding, as opposed to the 2000 Census still being used. Another of my bills, A103 – the School Aid Equity Act – would also change the Funding Formula based on five key variables that impact academic success: Free or Reduced Lunch, English Language Learners, Enrollment, Special Education and being located in a high-wealth ratio County. As we face a teacher shortage statewide, the Legislature has passed my legislation, A68A, the TEACH Act, aiding to reduce this by directing the State Education Commissioner to issue guidance to school districts for developing "Grow Your Own" Programs to attract underrepresented candidates into the teaching profession," said Assemblyman Sayegh.

Enforce Handicap Parking.

No Pedaling Frozen Desserts on Highways?

By Eric Wolf Schoen

The column this week will have a serious part and a not so serious, what were they thinking, did anyone in City Hall read the legislation before they approved it part. Let's start off serious.

Yonkers and WESTCHESTER County have too few handicap parking spaces particularly in areas such as Ridge Hill where parking on the streets has been taken over by many OFFICIAL USE ONLY' signs and '15 minutes only for Loading and Unloading' signs. Handicap parking must be adjacent to stores where people go shopping, not far away in parking lots making it difficult for people with mobility issues to access.

The big problem with handicap parking is people who do not have a handicap parking placard or handicap license plate using the spot. If I have seen it once I have seen it a thousand times on the streets and in the parking lots of Yonkers and WESTCHESTER. The spots cannot be used if you are running into a store quickly to get something. They can't be used by people waiting to pick up a friend or relative from the supermarket. They can't be used by the Uber or Lyft driver waiting for their fare. Nor the food delivery man running in to pick up their order.

Handicap spots are only to be used by handicapped persons with plates or placards who would otherwise find it difficult to walk to and from a regular parking place. If a non-handicap driver is in the car, he/she must be sure the handicapped person is safely where they need to be and park in a regular parking place. During Christmas and Chanukah the handicap parking spot is not for those who want a closer place to park.

The placard is to be used by the handicap person it was issued to and not by family members or friends. If someone makes a request for a street parking handicap spot on the street where they live, anyone with a handicap parking placard or license plate can use the spot at all times. The spots are not reserved exclusively for the one who initially requested the spot.

The Yonkers City Council refined the schedule of and types of fines for cars and trucks illegally parked in December. The legal notice was posted in this fine, no pun intended newspaper. For some reason the fine for illegally using a handicap spot on the street was set at \$200 and the fine for illegally using a handicap spot off street was set at \$100. There is no difference in the violation so why the different fees. And some communities in WESTCHESTER charge \$250 in fees or jail time and have severe penalties including loss of license if you do it too often, let's say 3 or more times in a year.

Yonkers likes to put the dangerous, unfair, light time uncoordinated Red Light Camera fees in full effect collecting \$50 plus a \$15 surcharge. If the handicapped parking fines are enforced at full strength, the city would make a lot more money. But thereby lies the problem. Who is going to enforce these fines and ticket the vehicles.

Is it the job of the Police? The City Parking agents who ride in their cars giving out tickets? Or as some communities do, have volunteers who take pictures of the illegally parked cars and turn them into the court who sends out a summons signed by a judge.

Remember the goal of handicap parking is to make places more accessible for people who have permanent or temporary disability. The City needs to get their act together in terms of who will be responsible for enforcing the laws.

And now to the not so serious part of the column. The part that leads me to question whether or not someone thoughtfully read the legislation before the Yonkers City Council adopted it. Do you know that it is illegal to be parked on a city highway with a speed over 35 miles per hour for the purpose of selling frozen desserts. The violation comes with a \$50 fine.

Maybe years ago Good Humor or Mr. Softee trucks would park on city roads that had speed limits over 35 miles per hour waiting for customers. That hasn't happened in a long time. Now you see these trucks travel through the streets of Yonkers selling their wares, playing their respective tunes. You might see a truck standing still if they are near a park where some activity is going on. But even that is something set up in advance with the knowledge of city officials and those running the activity.

Some of the other things that are illegal and carry fines? Parking rear to meter on street, \$50. Overtime parking, no meter, \$50. That harks back to the days when meter maids chalked tires and came back to see who had parked over the time limit posted. Haven't had that in years. Parked at theater entrance, \$50. That harks back to the days when we had theaters on south Broadway and other areas that front to the street. I think the now knocked down Kimball theater long out of business was the last one that would apply to.

Parked without lights, \$50. What could that apply to today? Parking opposite a construction site, \$50. I could see parking in front of a construction site with signs for No Parking posted but opposite? Wheels not turned to curb on hill, \$50. That's big in San Francisco, and though we have just as steep hills doubt that was ever enforced. Double parked during commuting hours, 7:00 am-10 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., \$100. Why would double parking for commuting hours be different than regular double parking, \$90? Tab improperly on a license plate, \$70. As a kid I remember my parents putting something on the license plate, but we haven't done that in years.

This list is just for starters. There are many other things in the legal notice informing the public about the passage of the law that come from another time or era. Did anyone in the Corporation Counsel's office, on the City Council or the Mayor check to see if any of these fines are outdated?

But for now, let's work on enforcement of cars parked illegally in handicap parking spaces. You see it throughout Yonkers and Westchester inconveniencing those with disabilities. Yonkers can surely use the money, but let's not forget why those spaces were created in the first place!

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

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Yonkers Soccer Coach Wins National Recognition

50 Cent Visits Stew Leonard's in Yonkers



Michael DeSimone, left, athletic director at the CSEE, with Michael Zepeda, CSEE soccer coach,

The Positive Coaching Alliance named Michael Zepeda, a soccer coach at the Charter School of Educational Excellence, a regional winner in its 2024 Coach of the Year program.

Zepeda, 26, is a former student at the charter school, where he launched the soccer program in 2014. The CSEE's high school boys' varsity soccer team won the City Schools Sports Association's league and state championships in the fall of 2023. The high school girls' varsity team won the CSSA's league championship in their past season.

Zepeda coaches the middle school boys' and high school varsity girls' teams, in addition to managing the elementary school soccer program. He said good coaching requires passion and compassion, and he called the Positive Coaching Alliance's recognition an honor. "I couldn't do it without the school leadership, the students, the parents, and the community. This is a great experience not only for me, but also for the school," Zepeda said.

The Positive Coaching Alliance received nearly 500 nominations nationwide, and Zepeda is the only coach in New York chosen as a regional winner.

"The best thing about Mike is that he's always looking at the next step, and I think that's important for a leader, to have a clear vision of where they were, where they are and how they want to take the kids to the next level," said Michael DeSimone, the charter school's athletic director. "You look at Mike, and it's more than soccer for him. The mission of the Positive Coaching Alliance is to change the culture of youth sports so that every child regardless of their social or economic circumstance, has access to a positive youth sports experience."



Legendary rapper 50 Cent paid a visit to Yonkers, and the Stew Leonard's in Yonkers, to promote his Champagne Le Chemin du Roi (The King's Path) but to also meet with his fans. The event included giveaways and bottle signings of both champagne and 50 Cent's Cognac, Branson VS Cognac Phantom.

County Legislator James Nolan from Yonkers welcomed 50 Cent to Yonkers, pictured above, and presented him with a proclamation from the county board.

The rapper, whose real name is Curtis Jackson, lived nearby in Connecticut for almost 20 years.

50 Cent grew up in Queens, NY. He has sold over 30 million albums worldwide. He survived getting shot 9 times in 2000, three years before his first major-label album, Get Rich or Die Tryin' (2003).

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



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