

Yonkers Rising

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Friday December 10, 2021

Santa Has Arrived in Yonkers



above: Santa reading a Christmas story to Charlotte Bennett at the Armour Villa Neighborhood Association's Holiday lights.

below: Santa walks down the holiday runway at Cross County Center



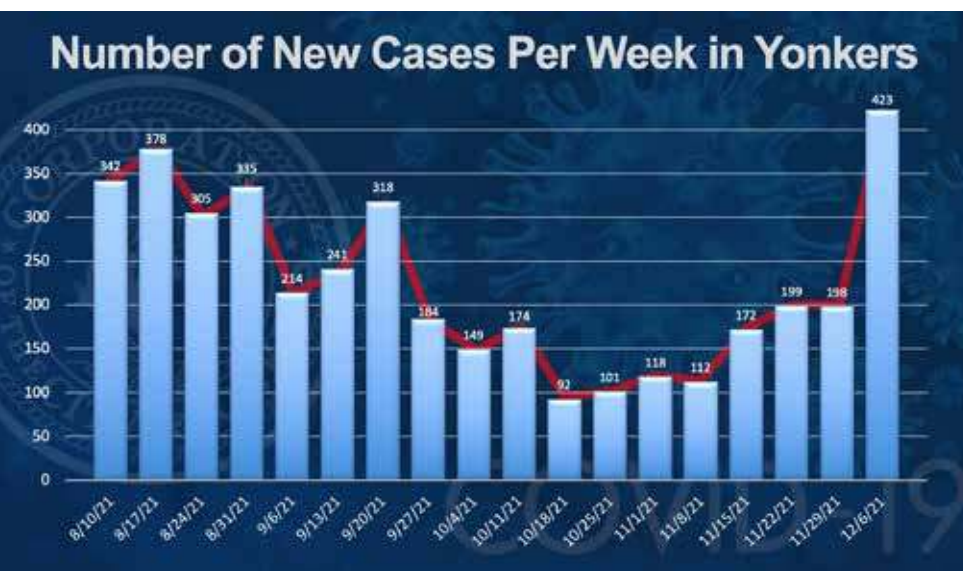
It's that time of year and Santa Claus is back in the City of Yonkers, to try and spread a little of Holiday Cheer. While he is busy attending one tree lighting event after another, he always seems to have time to listen to every girl and boys gift request that they hope to find under the tree on Christmas.

Tree lightings and Santa sighting so far in Yonkers include the Untermyer Performing Arts Center tree at Untermyer Park, the Getty Square Tree Lighting celebration, and more to come.

Give Santa our best if you see him, and if you can, spread a little bit of Christmas cheer by making a donation to the Salvation Army outside of your store, or helping your church help someone in need.

Get Boosted Yonkers!

First Omicron Case in Westchester Found; COVID Cases Begin to Rise Again in Yonkers



By Dan Murphy

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano issued a warning to the people of Yonkers that, "The holiday season is here, and we are experiencing a spike in new #COVID19 cases. The numbers are telling -- we have started to let our guard down. Make smart choices. Our actions today will determine new cases. Get vaccinated. Get boosted. Mask up."

Mayor Spano's warning comes after, on December 7, Westchester County Executive George Latimer stated, "Earlier this afternoon we were informed that there is a confirmed case of the COVID-19 Omicron variant in Westchester County. The positive case is in a 13-year-old Westchester County resident. We are concerned about this discovery, and are closely monitoring the situation. With the new variant circulating, the best way we can protect our families and ourselves is by being vaccinated, and by getting a booster shot if you are eligible."

"Additionally, I have officially signed the State of Emergency Executive Order for Westchester County. I am taking this action to combat the Delta and

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Yonkers Takes Care of Its Own: Families from Ash Street Fire Need Your Help for the Holidays



On Nov. 14, a four alarm fire ripped through Yonkers apartment buildings at two 70 and 72 Ash Street in Yonkers. The blaze left 40 people, and 19 children homeless and it took more than 100 firefighters to control the blaze.

YFD Deputy Chief Joe Citrone explained, "The weather is starting to get a little cold, this being on a hill, there was some challenges to set up...and the gasoline siding on both buildings were a contributing factor to the fire spread." Gasoline siding is a term that is used by firefighters to describe highly flammable house siding.

Thankfully, nobody was seriously injured and only one person had to be rescued from the basement. Thanks to the Yonker Fire Department for keeping the fire from spreading down Ash Street.

While the The Red Cross is helping the families who lost their homes and almost everything with temporary shelter, these Yonkers residents could use your help this holiday season. And while Yonkers Rising usually identifies a few good charities that you can make a donation to, we offer a few ways to help these families.

Thanks to City Council Majority Leader Corazon Pineda-Isaac, the public has been kept updated about what they can do and who has already stepped up to help. "Kingdom Christian Cultural Center and Pastor Loni, working in partnership with 914 Cares of Westchester, provided the victims of the Ash Street fire with clothes, blankets, sheets, sleeping bags, pampers, and even baby carriages. They were deliberate with their bagging, and had everything ready for each individual family. Many community organizations and private individuals have stepped up to provide assistance to the displaced families from Sunday's fire on Ash Street," said Pineda-Isaac.

"My office has been working to coordinate these efforts. Thank you to Catholic Charities for finding housing for one of the undocumented individuals since DSS is limited in what they can do for them. Thank you to MHACY for working expeditiously in processing applications for emergency housing. Thank you to Solid Rock Christian Center and the Norman family for providing \$1000 in gift cards to the displaced families. Thank you to Jim Killoran and the Fuller Center for providing clothing and additional support. Thank you to Kingdom Baptist Church and Pastor Loni for coordinating a distribution of diapers this coming Saturday to the families with babies and for coordinating with 914 Cares to give all the children under 18 years old clothing and other basic necessities. Thank you to MaryAnn Watkins and Deeper Truth Ministries for calling to offer necessities that will be needed once the displaced families are settled into their new homes, including blankets, pillows and bedsheets. *continued on pg 5-*

Mount Sinai's Dr. Gitig Provides Heart Healthy Holiday Tips



Dr. Alon Gitig,
Director of
Cardiology,
Mount Sinai Doctors
Westchester, left

#1-Control your Holiday meals and treats

#2-Find time to exercise

#3-Your Mind Plays a Large Role in Heart Health

Be Happy and Laugh from the Belly Like Santa!

By Dan Murphy

As all of us enjoy the holiday season in different ways, we should also be aware of how the celebrations can lead to over-eating, stress and falling away from the healthy routines you may have established in 2021. Alon Gitig, MD, Director of Cardiology at Mount Sinai Doctors-Scarsdale and Mount Sinai Doctors-Yonkers, shared with us some helpful thoughts and tips to avoid some common heart health pitfalls during the holidays.

1: Controlling Your Holiday Meals and Treats

"A lot of people are working hard at this time of the year to stay on the right track with their eating habits. Some of my patients started in September to redouble their efforts to eat healthier and now come the holidays, where the temptation to overeat and have a drink or two and then enjoy dessert, are all around us. And then comes our New Year's resolution to be healthier in 2022," said Dr. Gitig. "But there are ways to stop this cycle and still enjoy the holidays. You can never be too prepared, and if you want to eat healthy you must understand that our world is set up in a way to make it easy for you to eat unhealthily, and if you don't prepare, there is little chance for success."

"A lot of meals made in stores and restaurants are not healthy. If you are going out, be aware that in social settings, having a drink or two makes it easier for you

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Yonkers Student Publishes Sci-Fi Book to Spark Environmental Activism



Matilde Steck, with a copy of her book *The Call*

By Mara der Hovanesian

Ever since grammar school, Matilde Steck has been worried about our planet. Like the rest of her generation, the 17-year-old Yonkers student has been bombarded by news of extreme weather, fires and drought, melting icecaps and loss of biodiversity. What could be in store besides a catastrophic and bleak future? “I’ve had panic attacks since the fifth grade,” said Steck. “I had a very strong sense of not doing enough, and it’s really overwhelming. It feels like we are facing an inevitable dystopia and the people who can change it aren’t doing anything about it.”

The connection between climate change and eco-anxiety in youth is today the subject of rigorous academic study and has caught the attention of mental health professionals all over the world. Most kids simply feel powerless to influence policy or make an impact—but that’s where Matilde stands apart.

The Yonkers Middle High School senior and Sci-Fi buff has harnessed both her concern and creativity to write her first book: *The Call*, a futuristic novel about environmental activism, and the first in a series of three. Steck has self-published and self-marketed the book on social media platforms such as TikTok and Instagram and sold over 100 copies in its debut week on Amazon.com.

The Call is set in a theoretical world 160 years in the future after earth has experienced “a full environmental collapse.”

For 90 years, the world lived in what Steck describes as “The Crisis” during which scientists were sequestered to come up with solutions for human existence, including other planets to colonize. By the book’s opening scene, it is already common to live in other planets. One such planet, Janus, is home to the first alien species with human level intelligence. Unfortunately, the native inhabitants are still in a so-called Stone Age phase and are weak against exploitation by stronger forces. Steck’s protagonist, Arthur Keene, was raised on Janus oblivious to the oppression, but at 19 years old is thrust into social and political conflict with the local mining company, corrupt government officials and even his own father. A counter movement rises after Keene brings his concerns into the public eye.

“This isn’t typical YA revolution,” she explains. “This is found family meets honest activism. Young people are a huge demographic. We have a voice and an impact. If we choose to thrift or not use single-use plastic, that will signal to companies what they should do. We can have an impact as a consumer and as a citizen.”

Steck’s father got her hooked on the science fiction genre in 9th grade when he gave her an out-of-print paperback called *Great Stories of Space Travel*. The 1970’s dime store collection included a short story from the late science fiction writer Lester Del Rey called *On the Wings of Night*; its characters decide not to exploit an alien species. “But what if they did,” Matilde Steck wondered. “That question hit me at the right time of my life, and I got stuck on it, in a good way. That’s where it started.”

Setting out to write a short story of 20 pages, Steck “just kind of kept going and that turned into 50 pages,” and eventually she wound up with two 70,000-word books; the third installment is in the works. The characters, Steck says, “took on a life of their own” and she was often surprised at what they said or how they dealt with situations.

A volunteer at the Bronx Botanical Gardens, Steck’s college goals are to study environmental science or law, with a possible minor in journalism. Practical skills will help support her science fiction writing, she says. While a lot of the themes in her first novel are futuristic, they are also highly relevant today: “There is a very clear message of corporate accountability. I hope to make people see that this is how change can happen by young people,” she says.

The book is available on Amazon.com as a paperback or digital download. For more about the book, follow Matilde on Instagram at @mquinns_ or on Tick Tock at @mquinns.

Palisade Prep Boys Basketball Team Hopes to Compete for Class B Championship



The 2021-22 Palisade Prep Boys Basketball Team

By Phil Foley

The Palisade Prep Boys Basketball team is eagerly awaiting the start of the 2021- 2022 season. This week I met with Coach Stahn and coach Stelzner from Palisade Prep to discuss the upcoming winter season. The boys over at Palisade Prep have been working hard all off-season, with a goal of competing for a class B Championship this winter.

The team is led by senior guard Deneli McIntosh, who averaged 12 points per game last season before suffering a sprained wrist and missing the last six games of the shortened ten game season. The team also returns juniors Xavier Merrill, Jalen Brown and sophomore Miguel Gonzalez who all contributed off the bench last year.

The Phoenix also bring back juniors Louis Martinez and Yashua Martin opted out of playing last year during the shortened covid season last February but played as freshman. Newcomers to the program at Palisade Prep include senior Alexis Agyeman and juniors Jose Martinez and Steven Armonia.

While not having a lot of depth or experience, the coaching staff feels they have the talent to compete for a league championship and Yonkers City Championship. Coach Stahn hopes a rigorous non-league schedule will prepare the team for the sectional playoffs in February.

The team opens their season on Monday December 6th at Hastings High School of the favorites to win the class B sectional title. Then they travel to Port Chester on December 10th and 11th to participate in the 1st Annual Lou Larizza Memorial Basketball Tournament. Best of Luck to the Phoenix!

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Yonkers Rising

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Judge Rules Council President Khader Investigation has Merit, New Subpoenas Issued

“Bringing in an outside law firm was to remove even the appearance of any conflict in the investigation. Randolph McLaughlin should know the difference. My office did not initiate this investigation. Additionally, it was requested by six members of the city council,”

-Yonkers Inspector General Liam McLaughlin

By Dan Murphy

Last week, we reported on claims by Randy McLaughlin, attorney for City Council President Mike Khader, concerning allegations made against Khader earlier this year. The allegations surround claims that Khader violated ethics laws by not paying rent for his law office and then hiring attorney Jeff Buss as counsel in the office of council president, and additional allegations including a written letter and complaint from a former female staff member in Khader’s council president’s office.

Once the allegations became public in May of 2021, six members of the Yonkers City Council requested that Yonkers Inspector General Liam McLaughlin conduct an investigation into the allegations against Khader. IG McLaughlin served as city council president before losing his re-election to Khader in 2017.

McLaughlin hired an outside law firm to conduct the investigation and subpoenas for Khader’s records related to his law office were requested from Khader and attorney Jeff Buss.

Khader’s attorney petitioned the court to have the investigation halted and the subpoena quashed. State Supreme Court Judge Joan Lefkowitz ruled that the case could continue and that there was no conflict of interest from IG McLaughlin. But Lefkowitz did quash the subpoena against Khader, allowing AG McLaughlin to reissue the subpoena.

The investigation into Khader was delayed pending Lefkowitz’s decision, but according to Inspector General McLaughlin, the probe continues. “While I cannot comment on the ongoing investigation, I’m pleased to see that the court has recognized this investigation has merit, unlike Randolph McLaughlin’s contentions,” said IG McLaughlin, (no relation between the two McLaughlin’s).

“The court also ruled that the Inspector General has the authority to conduct this investigation and I will issue a full report at the conclusion of the investigation, and it will be as transparent, what is what we would expect from all of our city officials,” said IG McLaughlin.

Another question asked by Randy McLaughlin in last week’s story was why did IG Liam McLaughlin appoint a law firm to oversee the investigation into Khader. “Bringing in an outside law firm was to remove even the appearance of any conflict in the investigation. Randolph McLaughlin should know the difference. My office did not initiate this investigation. Additionally, it was requested by six members of the city council and it has been standard practice if the IG gets a directive from the council or the Mayor to look into it, so we started moving forward,” said IG McLaughlin.

Sources tell Yonkers Rising that a new subpoena has been issued and the new subpoena is already being challenged by Randy McLaughlin on behalf of Khader. The required information sought by the IG surrounds financial records, or a lease payment, concerning Khader’s Law office at 733 Yonkers Avenue, Suite 200, which is the same address as the law firm of Smith, Buss & Jacobs.

This is the crux of the allegations made against Khader, which requested the investigation by the City Council. What rent was Khader paying to Smith, Buss & Jacobs, and did those payments change when Buss was hired at a salary of \$70,000 per year to serve as Khader’s counsel to the Council President, a taxpayer paid position.

In a Journal news story dated Nov. 29, IG McLaughlin asked, “Why not just provide that information? If you did nothing wrong, then what are you hiding from?”

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99 Cents or \$3.49 for Cream Cheese?



By Eric W. Schoen

A study came out on Monday that said blood pressure measurements of nearly half-million adults showed a significant rise in 2020 versus 2019. Let’s face it. Last year was not a fun year.

Americans dealt with a global pandemic, the loss of loved ones, lockdowns that splintered social networks, stress, unemployment and depression.

So it should be no surprise to you or me that the nation’s blood pressure shot up. Thank god my pressure has been good. But if you could have seen my reaction when picking up a bar of cream cheese, the 1/3 less fat or Neufchâtel kind at Target Monday night and saw the signs I did, for a moment I think my blood pressure went through the roof.

Now for a quick lesson. According to what I have read online, Neufchâtel is a soft, slightly crumbly, mold-ripened cheese made in the Neufchâtel-en-Bray, French region of Normandy. One of the oldest kinds of cheese in France, its production is believed to date back to the 6th century. But friends, if you believe the cream cheese you schmear on the fresh bagels you get from places like Goldberg’s Bagels on Central Avenue across from Cross County Center or Highridge Bagels in the Highridge Shopping Center on Central Avenue is coming from France, you are dreaming. The cream cheese is simply low fat.

Time for another lesson. You see I know about bagels because when I was a little kid I worked at the H&R Bialy bagel shop in the Quaker Ridge Shopping Center in New Rochelle. We are talking about close to 50 years ago, and the shop is still owned by the same family today. Dad on his day off Saturday would work in the Appetizing counter (think sophisticated deli selling high quality smoked fish) at H&R. He was in the grocery business before becoming a Manufactures Representative for some of the largest health and beauty aid companies in this country. His firm was one of the first to sell condoms when pharmacists took them from behind the counter where you had to ask for them and put them on display in the pharmacy (gasp!) prior to the giant displays you have at your Walmart or Target today.

In the traditional sense, a schmear is a generous slathering of cream cheese on a bagel. The word itself has Yiddish origins, derived from the root for spread or smear. Years ago at bagel shops you could buy a bagel with a schmear which was less expensive than a bagel with cream cheese. The bagel with cream cheese had more cream cheese than the bagel with a schmear. This may seem complicated to some but those of you of a certain age get my drift.

By the way, before real bagels are put in the oven to be baked, they must be boiled in very hot water. That’s why the bagel you buy in Dunkin Donuts tastes different from the bagel you buy at Goldberg’s or H&R Bialy. Time for another lesson for you hipsters reading this column. What is a bialy?

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Westchester Building & Realty Institute Files Lawsuit Challenging NY Eviction Moratorium

On November 30, 2021, the Building and Realty Institute of Westchester and the Mid-Hudson Region (BRI) and several multifamily apartment landlords filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the extension of the New York State eviction moratorium that was signed into law on September 2, 2021.

"This law is a clear violation of due process and our rights as property owners," said Alana Ciuffetelli, Chair of the AOAC, which represents hundreds of landlords in Westchester County. "It isn't fair that tenants can simply file a hardship claim that doesn't need to be validated yet property owners must jump through hoops in order to challenge these claims or receive compensation for our hardships."

New York Governor Kathy Hochul signed the new moratorium on COVID-related residential and commercial evictions for New York State which is in effect until January 15, 2022. Under the new law, all protections of the Tenant Safe Harbor Act for residential tenants who are suffering financial hardship as a result of the pandemic will remain in place, along with new protections on commercial evictions.

The BRI filed the lawsuit in the U.S. District Court, Southern District of N.Y., in White Plains. The White Plains law firm of Finger & Finger, A Professional Corporation, Chief Counsel to the BRI and its affiliate organizations, is representing the BRI and the accompanying plaintiffs in the litigation.

The plaintiff charges that the new moratorium has not meaningfully improved upon the previous version of the NYS eviction moratorium, which the United States Supreme Court enjoined on August 12, 2021. In that case, the Court found that a tenant's self-attestation of hardship declarations without either presenting evidence of the hardship being claimed or even by indicating which of the many hardships listed on the form applied to the tenant's case to allow for some measure of independent verification meant that, "[the moratorium] violates the Court's longstanding teaching that ordinarily 'no man can be a judge in his own case' consistent with the Due Process Clause."

Although the new moratorium did add the possibility of a landlord-initiated evidentiary hearing to challenge the validity of a tenant's hardship declaration, the plaintiffs maintain that this still does not provide them with their right to due process. The hardship form still merely requires the tenant to indicate that their case corresponds to one of several categories of hardship without indicating which one they are claiming. To challenge the hardship, the landlord must make a good faith attestation and offer proof that the tenant is not suffering the hardship, despite no knowledge of which hardship is being claimed.

As a consequence, the plaintiffs claim that this denial of due process eviscerates the rights of property owners by denying them prompt access to the courts, denying them a meaningful ability to challenge tenant claims of hardships, vacating long standing judgments against tenant for an indeterminate period of time, and rendering it impossible for the owners to reinstate the judgments or even to restore the cases to the calendar for further proceedings.

"It is extremely crucial for property owners to stand together and show their support for this case," Lisa DeRosa, BRI President and White Plains landlord said. "Landlords have endured enough with the pandemic and the eviction moratorium and now it is time that we make sure our rights are no longer being violated. If we can't evict non-paying tenants and we can't challenge their hardship claims, where does that leave us?"

Although there have been a number of lawsuits brought against the New York State eviction moratorium, this Westchester-based case in unique in incorporating the perspective of commercial landlords, who are now subject to the same hardship declaration as residential landlords, and housing cooperatives which, although they do not have a traditional rental agreement with the owner shareholders who reside in the building, must also rely on housing court to deal with residents who fail to pay their required building maintenance fees and other financial obligations over a protracted period of time, and therefore are also subject to the eviction moratorium.

The lawsuit claims that the members of the BRI in total have suffered millions of dollars in losses as a result of the moratorium. These losses include rents not paid by commercial tenants who have remained operational throughout the pandemic, residential tenants who receive rent subsidies or whose rents decreased with any reduction in income, and other tenants who may not actually have sustained a hardship, but all of whom have seen fit to merely sign an unsworn statement that they had a hardship. Importantly, even cases where the tenants did not appear for court have now not only been delayed until January 2022, but in some instances have been delayed indefinitely unless the tenant involved requests that the case proceed.

The Building and Realty Institute of Westchester and the Mid-Hudson Region (BRI), based in Armonk, has more than 1,800 members in 14 counties of New York State. For additional information, please visit <https://www.buildersinstitute.org>.

Notice of formation of Thomas Family Taste LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as the agent of the LCC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 268 Van Cortlandt Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

The Oxford School Shooting - Holding Neglectful Parents, or School Officials Accountable?

OP-ED- by Jerry Longarzo, Yonkers

Too many school systems have had crucial authority to maintain the safety of the learning environment severely undermined if not taken away entirely as the needs of disruptive students and the wonton negligence, if not blatant antagonism, of dysfunctional parents to school authority take precedence over the rights of cooperative students who want to learn. Couched in the school as wiping boy, faulty concept of the "school to prison pipe line" in which schools were vilified for not being the solution to all of society's ills was a frontal assault on the legitimate authority of school officials and the empowerment of disruptive, disrespectful and/or even violent students. Supposedly, the alleged murderous student, apart from the heart rendering tragedy of inflicting fatal harm upon four classmates and wounding others, did not present with a history of anti-social behaviors. In any system where red flags are not sufficient, where the flags have to be on fire, where parents are empowered to thumb their nose at school authority the question is not how this one particular tragedy occurred but rather why it isn't far more commonplace than it already is? How pathetic and absolutely sad is it that we become desensitized to this senseless brutality?! Since using schools as wiping boys in the absence of responsible parenting has been shown to have tragic results, perhaps demanding, mandating parental concern and responsible co-operation with school authority needs to be implemented for the greater good of the specific community and society in general. Maybe, just maybe if irresponsible, authority antagonistic parents actually faced significant consequences for their actions and/or inactions our nation's schools would be both safer and more effective. Wouldn't that benefit our nation?

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Mr. Murphy,

Your story "Shoplifting in Southwest Yonkers Out of Control" (Dec. 3) is certainly disturbing. Those doing this are criminals. They need to be arrested and held in jail if repeat offenders. The "woke" crowd has somehow convinced politicians and most of the media that arresting criminals is an issue of race and equality. Meanwhile, the rest of us - the law abiding citizens - pay the price, both literally and figuratively. Unfortunately, the majority of the voting public probably does not even know who represents them in Albany. As long as we keep voting in the same people from the same party every two years, nothing will change. Now is the time to find out who represents you in Albany and tell them to change the bail "reform" laws now. If not, time for new representation, from the governor on down.

John W. Farrell, Yonkers,

Editor's Note: We contacted several other Police Departments in Westchester, but did not find the same problem.



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Yonkers Police Cadets Graduation



Above, YPD Commissioner John Mueller, with Cadet Asther Fernandez and family; below Mueller with Cadet Saul Hernandez and family



On Nov. 30, Yonkers Police Commissioner John Mueller congratulated the latest class of 13 Yonkers Police Cadets on completion of the six month program at a ceremony at Yonkers City Hall with parents and friends of the cadets on hand, with Councilmembers John Rubbo, Tasha Diaz and Majority Leader Corazon Pineda-Isaac in attendance.

"Congratulations to all the Yonkers Police Cadets on their graduation from the program today! You have proven that you are truly the finest! And special thanks to the parents for giving us time in your children's lives and helping us to make a difference," said Mueller.

About the Yonkers Police Cadet Program: Yonkers Police Cadet Program – Young adult residents between the ages of 14 – 18 who are interested in law enforcement may apply to become a member of this group which is administered by our Community Affairs Division. The goal is to engage Yonkers youth in a way that is thought provoking and cultivates critical thinking skills.

This program allows greater opportunities to build positive relationships between the Yonkers Police Department and the City's many diverse communities; and is meant to lay the foundation for future success of the youth in our city as we help them develop Life Skills, such as: Discipline, Commitment to Service, Resilience, Leadership Experience, High integrity, interpersonal communication skills and Responsibility and Accountability; to teach youth about law enforcement and possible future career options in the field of law enforcement. Youth Cadet Members receive introductory training in various units and divisions within the Police Department (i.e. ESU, K-9, Patrol, Traffic, Marine, C.S.U). Youth cadets also receive course training in NYS penal and traffic law. The youth in the Cadet Program play a major role in determining their activities and make suggestions for and help execute events, learning teamwork and leadership skills.

Interested applicants may contact the Community Affairs Unit at (914) 377-7375 or email police@ypd.yonkersny.gov

Families lost everything in Ash Street fire continued from pg 1-

I have no doubt in my mind that our Yonkers community will continue to step up for our neighbors from Ash Street. With the holidays approaching, it's a particularly difficult time to find yourself without your home and all of your possessions. I will be partnering with Kingdom Christian Cultural Center to throw a Christmas party for the affected families on Friday, December 17th.

There are a total of 24 adults and 19 children. Ideally, we'd like to provide toys for the kids (which Kingdom Christian Cultural Center is taking care of, but if you have new toys to donate, we'll take them too). However, I'd like to focus on the parents as well. Some of them have found new apartments. Some are still in transition. If you can donate any gift cards (i.e. to supermarkets, Amazon, stores that sell household items, etc), it would be very appreciated. New basic household items would also be appreciated, such as plates, cups, utensils, bedding, etc. Please reach out to me if you can help in any way. Also, if you have any used furniture still in good condition, we can make sure it goes to one of these families in need," said Majority Leader Pineda-Isaac.

If you want to help or make a donation, call Pineda-Isaac's office at 914-377-6312, or call the KCCC at 914-375-1110. This is the best way to help out some people who by no fault of their own, need your help this Christmas.

On This Day in Yonkers History...



Booker T. Washington Spoke in Yonkers in 1908

By Mary Hoar, President Emerita, Yonkers Historical Society, recipient of the 2004 Key to History and President Untermeyer Performing Arts Council

Monday, December 13th

December 13, 1908: Tuskegee Institute's Booker T. Washington spoke in Philipsburgh Hall for the YMCA; Washington address, "Up From Slavery," was warmly received by the Yonkers audience.

December 13, 1915: Van Cortlandt Park Avenue resident William Anderson, head of the New York Anti-Saloon League, asked New York City Mayor John Mitchel to order all night clubs to close at 1 a.m. on January 1st. He objected to the "orgies and dissipation" which resulted from all night liquor permits

December 13, 1947: The "Westchester 35 and Under Group" of Alcoholics Anonymous began meeting at the Yonkers YWCA on South Broadway on Thursday evenings; it was hoped that young people whose lives had become "unmanageable due to alcohol," this "Junior AA" would be truly valuable.

Tuesday, December 14th

December 14, 1943: Alex Beckett of Yonkers sent a letter praising his Boy Scout experience, stating how it made his US Army instruction much easier. While training with US Engineers at Fort Belvoir in Virginia, the battalion had classes in knot tying on its second day. He was so experienced, he ended up assisting to teach the class. Other classes covered topics right out of the Boy Scout Training Manual, such as rope splicing, map making, and tent pitching. He said, "Any Scout, if he was a good one, could hold his own in any of the classes."

December 14, 1944: Ora Duffenback, Director of Research for North American Phillips Company, addressed the annual Yonkers Chamber of Commerce Dinner held at the Hudson River Country Club. Duffenback, best known for his work in the field of electric conduction through gases, spoke on the "Future of Electronics in Industry." Director of Research for the National Defense Research Committee and Professor of Physics at the University of Michigan for twenty years, he earned degrees at Princeton and the University of Chicago.

Wednesday, December 15th

December 15, 1901: Supreme Court Justice Keogh granted an alternative writ of Mandamus directing the Yonkers Board of Police Commissioners to reinstate James McLaughlin as Captain of the Yonkers Police Department immediately. The dispute centered on McLaughlin's age; one side claimed he was 62 and McLaughlin insisted he was 58.

December 15, 1941: US Attorney General Francis Biddle announced Yonkers German and Italian aliens who filed for their papers before December 1939 could proceed with naturalization, as well as anyone with a petition pending in Naturalization Court. Husbands or wives of American citizens also were entitled to apply for citizenship without taking out first papers. All other Germans and Italians had to wait for investigation as enemy aliens to obtain "sanction of the President" since war had been declared. Non-citizens, according to Biddle, would not be "interfered with as long as they conducted themselves in accordance with the law."

December 15, 1942: After enlisting together eleven months earlier, four Yonkers men met up in Hawaii! Staff Sergeant Robert Clark, Corporal Oscar Downs, Corporal-Technician Tyler Jackson and Private First Class Frank Holst all reported they were well and very grateful for the letters from Yonkers they were receiving five thousand miles away.

Thursday, December 16th:

December 16, 1911: The Yonkers Lodge of Elks laid the cornerstone for its new building at South Broadway and Kellinger Street, now the western end of Park Hill Avenue. Edward Leach, Grand Treasurer of the Order, Mayor Lennon and other city officials spoke.

December 16, 1946: Former New York City Police Commissioner Lewis Valentine died. The only public official who openly asserted some of the biggest gamblers and gambling rings not only flourished in Yonkers, they had total freedom in our city. The Mayor, City Manager, Police Chief and Westchester District Attorney all denied the allegations made in 1942.

Friday, December 17th:

December 17, 1917: Yonkers contractor Frederick Gross was appointed the New York Chapter's American Red Cross Representative to reconstruct areas of France devastated by the Germans.

December 17, 1931: Yonkers Superintendent of Parks Louis Milliot announced we would use electric lights on city park Christmas trees at a cost of \$650.

December 17, 1937: Five members of one family filed damage claims of \$140,000 with the Common Council; the damage they claimed resulted from the Nodine Hill Water Tower collapse several weeks earlier. Saturday, December 18th:

continued on pg 6-

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Legal Notices

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER DYNASTY, LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST CGSRE ACQUISITION CORP, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered 10-22-2021 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, Courtroom 200, White Plains, NY on December 23, 2021 at 10:30AM, premises known as 68 Runyon Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester and State of New York, Section: 3 Block: 3112 Lot: 59+60. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,792,943.78 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #50855/2019. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the Westchester County COVID-19 Protocols located on the Office of Court Administration (OCA) website (<https://ww2.nycourts.gov/Admin/oca.shtml>) and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. Anthony J. Centone, Esq., Referee CLAIR GJERTSEN & WEATHERS PLLC 4 New King Street, Suite 140 White Plains, NY 10604 70260

AGENDA FOR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
 THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021 AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN THE AUDITORIUM at SAUNDERS HIGH SCHOOL (183 Palmer Road, Yonkers, NY 10701).
 PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV .
 CURRENT CDC GUIDELINES SHALL CONTINUE TO BE OBSERVED REGARDING ATTENDANCE BY THE PUBLIC.

NEW HEARINGS

5769 – Improvement and Intensification to a Non-Conforming Use & Area Variance – Shahin Badaly, P.E., on behalf of Ghassem Khorassani, owner, on premises known as 527 aka 531 Van Cortlandt Park Avenue, Block: 39, Lot: 59.60, Zone: A (B22793)

5770 – Area Variance – Diane B. Kolev, Esq., on behalf of Macquesten Development LLC, owner, on premises known as 36-38, & 32 Main Street; 1-3 Riverdale Avenue, Block: 501, Lot: 18, 19, 20, 22, 23 Zone: DWD (B28828)

5771 – Improvement to a Non-Conforming Use & Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Suahuil Valerio, owner, on premises known as 46 aka 48 Ridge Drive, Block: 95, Lot: 44, Zone: S-50 (B28271)

5772 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Joseph Weiburg, owner, on premises known as 453 Bronxville Road, Block: 5603, Lot: 7, Zone: S-60 (A206)

JOSEPH CIANCIULLI
 CHAIRMAN, ZBA

FOR FULL AGENDA, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
<https://www.yonkersny.gov/government/meetings-agendas/-selcat-97/-toggle-all>

Classifieds:

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Notice of Formation of InnerRoot Wellness, LLC filed with SSNY on 01-19-21. Office: WESTCHESTER County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to LLC: 24 LORRAINE AVE 1 MT VERNON, NY 10553. Purpose: any lawful act or activity

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

Round with a depressed middle filled with cooked onions and sometimes poppy seeds, it is simply baked. Real bagels are boiled, then baked. Its outside is dull and flat, not shiny, and it doesn't have that pull-away crust. Large puffy bubbles characterize the bialy's innards. Yes it can be schmearred with butter or cream cheese (and topped with cured/smoked fish), but purists prefer them straight up, preferably no more than five hours after being pulled from the oven. If they sit out too long without being eaten, their texture can get hard like a hockey puck. Many people keep them in a plastic bag (those supporting a plastic bag ban please don't throw stones at me!) and when they have cooled down put any uneaten extras in the freezer.

Ray's New York Bagels sells frozen bialys in many supermarkets, but there is nothing better than a fresh bialy. They are hard to find, but Kossar's on Grand Street in Manhattan still makes them. Now yet again another lesson for those of you who go into the the bagel shop and ask 'Which bagels just came out of the oven?' or 'Which bagels are freshest?'

All bagels in a good bagel shop are fresh, made that morning or if they have a fast turnover within minutes of your arrival. Never put those hot bagels you crave into a plastic bag while they are hot. If you do, don't be surprised if you wake up the next day and the bagels have turned green mold. Always wait for the bagels to cool down before you put them in a plastic bag.

I don't know if they do it now because I enjoy the occasional bagel I eat un-Schmearred right out of the paper bag but years ago shops that sold fresh baked bagels would give you a plastic bag that you could put the hot bagels in after they cooled down. I could never understand this as most people have Ziploc or some other types of bags in their cupboard to pack up the bagels. By the way, a cupboard is a cabinet or small recess with a door and typically shelves, used for storage. Your kitchen cabinets where you store non perishable foods use to be called cupboards.

So now you wonder why the heading of this column is 99 Cents vs. \$3.49 for Cream Cheese. Over the weekend there was a story in the New York Times about the shortage of cream cheese at delis and bagel shops around Manhattan. Supply chain issues have plagued the United States for months, causing shortages of everything from cars to running shoes. In Alaska apparently residents are struggling to acquire winter coats. Now that's a problem!

New York's bagel shops are feeling the supply chain effects in a sudden and surprising development that has left them scrambling to find and hoard as much cream cheese as they can. The recipe for cream cheese is simple: lactic acid, pasteurized milk and cream. Many shops start their mixes with Philadelphia cream cheese, a product of the Kraft Heinz brand, which arrives on huge pallets. They then mix in the things you want in the cream cheese on your bagel: chives, cinnamon and raisin, walnuts, anchovies, lox shreds I could go on and on. Some add secret ingredients to make the final products taste better and creamier.

These stores buy a different type of cream cheese than you or I would buy at the supermarket. But most of us buy cream cheese in the little silver packages usually called Philadelphia or the store brand for consumption with the bagels quite often also purchased at the supermarket. I'm in the dairy aisle at Target and I see a sign next to the Philadelphia Cream Cheese that says 'New Low Price \$3.49.' \$3.49 for an 8 ounce package of Philadelphia cream cheese. That is insane! Next to it is the Target brand of cream cheese, as I have had both I can say pretty much the same thing for 99 cents. I was shocked.

OK, maybe I had one too many latkes or potato pancakes for Chanukah. Or a bit too much Manischewitz wine to drink. So I go to the target website. They have workers that pick your orders for you. And yes, an 8 ounce bar of Philadelphia Cream Cheese was \$3.49. They had plenty of them but that's not the point. Who would ever pay \$3.49 for a bar of plain or Neufchâtel (definitely not imported from France) cream cheese.

What is going on in this country at the grocery store. And Target usually has the best prices even though they don't have the biggest selection of items. I went to look for my box of frozen high protein pancakes and all they had was a plastic bag (!) with 10 packages of frozen regular pancakes from a brand I am not familiar with.

They had a good choice of waffles but no Kodiak brand frozen pancakes. Not even the Target brand of frozen pancakes. Are people not eating pancakes anymore?

Did I miss the train? Or the boat. You know your writer bought the 99 cents Target Neufchâtel cream cheese made in America. But can someone explain to me what's going on here?

Reach Eric Schoen at thistoosyonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen and Dan Murphy on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

Yonkers History continued from pg 5-

December 18, 1914: Yonkers contributed \$3,298 to the Red Cross hospital ship, by far the largest amount raised in any other municipality in Westchester County. It was, in fact, \$3,000 more than the combined total of Bronxville and Tuckahoe.

December 18, 1935: Nearly 1,500 Yonkers residents of all ages joined together to sing Christmas carols at the dedication of the Yonkers Merchants' Association Christmas tree in Getty Square!

December 18, 1945: Harold Garrity, Chair of the Yonkers War Finance Committee, dubbed Walter Haskett, VP of Yonkers First National Bank, as "Yonkers' Leading Bond Salesman!" Haskett personally was credited with selling War Bonds totaling \$1,256,025.

Sunday, December 19th:
 December 19, 1939: Yonkers native Colonel Joseph Stilwell, the military attaché at the US Embassy in Pieping, directed the evaluation of American nationals from areas of conflict to the Shensi province.

December 19, 1947: Congress named Yonkers native Gerald Brophy to the Congressional Aviation Policy Board.

December 19, 1950: NY corporation lawyer Gerald Brophy of Bronxville Road was named as Special Consultant to Secretary of State Dean Acheson. Brophy was brought in as an assistant on general policy questions. The 49-year-old Yonkers native was Senior Partner at Chadbourne, Parke, Whiteside, Wolfe & Brophy, a Director of North American Aviation, Inc., and General Analine and Film Corporation. When Colonel Brophy returned to civilian life, he received the Legion of Merit for his outstanding service during WWII.

Questions or comments? Email YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com. For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, please visit our website www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org, call 914-961-8940 or email yhsociety@aol.com.



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Third Precinct Police Community Council

The Third Precinct Police Community Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, December 15, 2021 at 7:30 PM at the Chema Community Center, 435 Riverdale Avenue. Residents and merchants of the south west Yonkers area are strongly urged to attend this important community meeting. Usual quality of life concerns will be discussed. The council will also be collecting unwrapped toys which will be distributed to the Yonkers Salvation Army. For further information please contact either Bob Stauff, President at 914 476-2284 or Captain Mike Mulvey of the Third Precinct at 914 37-7427.

Holiday Heart Health, continued from pg 1-

to overeat and get off track. You need to keep in mind your goals of weight loss and eating healthy during these festive times.

“If you are at a restaurant or a holiday party, try to hold off on having a drink until the end of your meal, and have that drink instead of dessert. Try to have a clear mind when making your diet choices,” said Dr. Gitig.

“If you are hosting a holiday gathering, almost all of us want to make sure there is enough for everyone, and we overcook, and there are leftovers in our fridge for days, which becomes a clear temptation to continue to stray from your healthy choices. Try to send your guests away with some leftovers, and a little bit for each guest so that your holiday meal becomes a one-time indulgence for you. And if you and your partner are preparing the meal for all, make sure that your input includes health dishes that are still in the holiday spirit.

“If you have a holiday party at your workplace, several co-workers usually bring in their treat, like a box of chocolate or cookies, for everyone to enjoy. I used to have a hard time with this, but now I insist on keeping those items out of sight, so I won’t be tempted to take one every day until the box is gone. Perhaps you can also give these treats to coworkers who have kids at home who could enjoy them.

“The realistic thought on Holiday eating is that it is ok to indulge here and there, but don’t put yourself in a position where you have constant access to unhealthy foods, because it turns into an unconscious decision to overeat,” said Dr. Gitig.

II: Find time to Exercise:

“We have to stay on top of finding time during the holidays for exercise and continue to keep our appointments with ourselves to exercise. When our regiments get derailed, and the kids are off from school, or when we go on vacation, it’s easy for exercise to go by the wayside,” explained Dr. Gitig.

“First, don’t get demoralized if you lapse off for a brief period, but try not to make it more than a week because then you lose the work that you made, and you might be feeling weak again after gaining back a few pounds. Don’t let the holidays go on for months.

“Next, schedule time during the holidays to exercise and plan your week around it. If you are going away, find a way to prepare for exercise and a time in the day for it by thinking about ways on your vacation to exercise, like using a step counter when you go out with your family exploring the place of your visit. Or do something that involves exercise that the kids will enjoy, like taking a hike, or visiting an outdoor place that requires walking.

Dr. Gitig said that he likes patients to think about the ‘80-20 rule’ during the holidays. “One way to consider your holiday eating and exercising is to think that if you can stay on target 80% of the time, its ok to go out and have one unhealthy meal and that its not the end of the world. And just like small steady progress is usually the best way to eat healthy and stay fit, resist the urge to let everything go for two months and think that you can make a New Year’s resolution to get it all back. Those resolutions don’t always work out but taking small concrete steps to improve your health add up to permanent good habits.”

III-Your Mind Plays a Larger Role in your Heart Health than you think:

“The holidays can be a time of stress for many, over buying gifts, or family conflict, or sadness over the loss of a loved one, or the stress about dealing with COVID for the past 18 months. And this stress directly affects our arteries and our heart. Your heart health relies on your mental health and being in a positive frame of mind,” said Dr. Gitig.

“We all need to sit down with ourselves and ask how we can connect in a positive way. The obvious way is to socialize with our friends and loved ones. Studies have shown the importance of spending time with family, bonding with friends, tapping into spirituality, and connecting to humanity.

“While this may sound Kindergarten and basic Sesame Street, the research is overwhelming that it works. Sometimes a pill, or medication, isn’t the best answer. It’s good for your health to be happy, but how can we be happy? Laughter is one way to lower your markers of stress. A good, deep, belly laugh affects your nervous system and impacts your heart, and has wide ranging, positive impacts on your body.

“COVID has made us lose many of our personal connections to our friends, family and co-workers. But even if you don’t want to go out and socialize, there are other ways to connect. You can invite a friend over and have a movie marathon with your partner, and watch comedies, and do something that will make you happy,” said Dr. Gitig.

“If you wake up in the morning and feel nervous or know that bad feelings are coming, you need to consciously think of the things in your life that you are grateful for. And everyone can identify something that they are grateful for.

“It can be as simple as having a meal with your family, or appreciating your home, your education, your job, or a sunset or a chocolate chip cookie, but only one cookie please. Try to write down 2 or 3 things that you are grateful for and understand that all these positive thoughts contribute to a healthy, mind-heart connection.

“Spirituality is also very healthy for your heart and can come from formal religion but can also be any kind of spiritual relationship with the world, and to feel more connected to the earth, or your community or a social group. These types of connections help lower heart disease,” said Dr. Gitig.

“If that connection is through prayer and attending services, or to focus on nature, or by meditating, it will help you focus on the things that you and connected to, instead of the strife and craziness in the world. There are research studies that monitor your basic involuntary responses that find slowed breathing patterns and slower heart rates, through meditation and spirituality.

“There is clear evidence that shows our body reverts to a rhythmic flexibility associated with good health when we focus on meditation. People tend to feel in a relaxed state, and lower the biological process triggered by stress. And slowed breathing patters result in lower heart rates and better health.

Dr. Gitig also reiterated his thoughts to our readers earlier this year about how deep breathing exercises can also reduce stress. “Usually, we are not conscious about how we are breathing during our day. But slow, abdominal breathing, and taking six breaths per minute, is a major stress reliever.

“There is good evidence that breathing this way, 10 minutes a day, in through the nose and out through your mouth, will lower your blood pressure hours later. When you feel stress coming into your life, if you breathe this way even for a few minutes, it will help your heart health.

“When you start out your day in the morning, focus on your body, and close your eyes and scan your body for where you feel the most tension. Most of us feel tension pressure knots in the neck, or chest or belly. Then focus on your deep breathing and after a handful of times you should notice a difference. All of these ideas can help you have a healthier, heart happy holiday.”

Alon Gitig, MD, is Director of Cardiology at Mount Sinai Doctors-Scarsdale and Mount Sinai Doctors-Yonkers. He is also an Assistant Professor of Cardiology, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and Medical Director of the Heart Failure Management Program for the Mount Sinai Health Network. To make an appointment, visit <https://www.mountsinai.org/locations/westchester>.

Yonkers Police Arrest 17-Year Old High School Student for Making Terroristic Threats-To Shoot up the School

On Dec. 7, Yonkers Police Detectives effected the arrest of a 17-year-old Yonkers Public Schools high school student, He will be charged with Making a Terroristic Threat, a Class D Felony in the New York State Penal Law. Due to his age, he will be processed as an Adolescent Offender and no identifying information will be released.

It is alleged the student made overt threats to shoot-up the school. Other students came forward and reported the comments to the school administration. Yonkers Police were notified and an investigation was initiated by our Intelligence Division, yielding probable cause to charge the student. No physical acts were carried out in support of the threats. The investigation is on-going, and additional information may be released as it becomes available.

The City of Yonkers, Yonkers Police, and Yonkers Public Schools places the highest priority on student safety, and commends the actions of those students who came forward.

State of Emergency, continued from pg 1-

Omicron COVID variants. There is currently a public health threat, I know it has been many months, I know you are tired but we – together - must take action to be better prepared to fight COVID and the new variants.”

On Dec. 6, Latimer, outlined data that the county was monitoring the health risk based on four metrics; active cases, hospitalizations, deaths, and hospital beds available. As of Dec. 6 the data found, Active Cases: 2,867; Recent tests given 11,624-with 388 positive-3.3% positivity rate. Hospitalizations: 84, -2700 total beds available in Westchester’s 11 hospitals ; Deaths-1 per week.

“Where we are today is nowhere near yet what we saw at the pre vaccination peak, and that tells me that how these four indicators move in the days to come will be the determining factor of what actions we take as a government. We are not there yet to go to any extreme measures, but we are moving in the wrong direction

“We are taking no specific mandate or action at this point, but before the government takes action I would ask every individual, business, and non-profit to understand that our numbers are rising and to do what we can do voluntarily,” said Latimer.

Westchester County government also released a “Get Boosted Campaign” on Dec. 6. The campaign will consist of a video Public Service Announcement to be released later this week, a social media campaign highlighting the necessity of “getting boosted” and a paid advertising campaign. The goal of this campaign is to reach as many Westchester residents as possible through a variety of mediums to underscore the importance of getting your COVID-19 booster shot.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: “We want Westchester County to emerge on the other side of the COVID-19 pandemic, and getting your vaccine or booster is more important now than ever with the Omicron Variant making its way into our region. One thing that we do know is that the vaccinations are working, and it is the best way to help prevent the spread of this disease. We know that nearly all of Westchester County’s population has received at least one dose of the vaccine, and we appreciate everyone doing their part to keep our communities healthy and safe. But – if you have not yet gotten the vaccine or your booster, please make an appointment to do so. Help us turn the corner on this deadly disease.”

Westchester County is hosting multiple COVID-19 vaccine and booster clinics at locations throughout the County. Visit the County Health Department Website to schedule an appointment today.

The Department of Health is holding vaccine booster clinics for eligible individuals by appointment only, at 134 Court Street in White Plains. Schedule a Pfizer, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson Booster shot [HERE](#).

The New York State Vaccination Clinic for anyone ages five and up has moved from the Westchester County Center in White Plains, to Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla. Appointments are required. Make an appointment [HERE](#).

The COVID-19 vaccine is free, and everyone five years of age and older is eligible to receive it. To locate pharmacies and other community sites offering the COVID-19 vaccine, use the Vaccine Finder Tool.

Westchester County, in partnership with New York State, has established an in-home vaccination program to help those who are homebound due to physical limitations, cognitive impairment or other chronic conditions, a lack of transportation, and/or visual impairments, and who do not have access to supports that may help them physically go to an existing vaccination provider. Find out more about the in-home vaccination program [HERE](#).

County Executive Latimer is offering senior and disabled constituents, including those who are not registered with ParaTransit, free transportation to receive their COVID-19 vaccines. Call ParaTransit reservations at (914) 995-7272, 24 hours prior to your vaccination date to schedule your ride. For additional questions, email Evan Latainer, Director of the Office for People with Disabilities at ehl2@westchestergov.com.

Khader Investigation, continued from pg 3-

& Jacobs, and did those payments change when Buss was hired at a salary of \$70,000 per year to serve as Khader’s counsel to the Council President, a taxpayer paid position.

In a Journal news story dated Nov. 29, IG McLaughlin asked, “Why not just provide that information? If you did nothing wrong, then what are you hiding from?”

That comment got a stern rebuke from Randy McLaughlin, who claimed that the subpoena requesting the information was quashed. But now with a new subpoena for the same records, IG McLaughlin’s question is also being asked by our readers.

A leader in the Yonkers Democratic Party contacted us about our story last week. “I am no fan of the politics of Liam McLaughlin, but I do agree with something that he said in the LoHud.com story on his investigation into Council President Khader. If Khader was indeed paying rent to Mr. Buss for his law office, then why not hand over the lease or cancelled checks, or some form of payment? I’m not an attorney but that to me seems simple, and if that can’t be handed over, it doesn’t look good for Mr. Khader.”

Yonkers resident Stephen Leone wrote to us, asking, “As an accountant and a Yonkers taxpayer, I would like to know if Mike Khader operated his own private practice, who was answering his phones? Who was collecting his mail? Where did he meet with his clients? Did he use a conference room? What was the real benefit of the office that he allegedly rented out? And what was the fair market value of that office space?”

Another response to IG McLaughlin’s investigation by Khader attorney Randy McLaughlin last week was that the probe of his client should end because Khader is leaving office “in a few weeks.”

Another reader asked, “Mr. Murphy, while I understand that council president Khader is leaving office, I would still like to know what really happened and if both Khader and Mr. Buss, engaged or exchanged in a trade of sorts of free rent or reduced rent for a City job,” writes Chris Fillipelli.

Dennis Zigfreid emails us saying, “I find it ludicrous for Randolph McLaughlin to ask that IG McLaughlin drop all of his investigation when Council President Khader leaves office. As he knows, the investigation into Khader will continue until it is completed, and a report comes from the IG.”

Once the IG’s report is issued, if possible ethical or criminal violations are found, they would be sent to the Westchester District Attorney, who would make the final determination on whether a crime had been committed and whether Khader will be prosecuted. IG McLaughlin cannot prosecute or charge Council President Khader, it is not under the purview of the Inspector General.

Notice of Formation of Jovanna Realty LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 5/14/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Jovanna Realty LLC, 100 Riverdale Ave., Apt. 8C., Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.





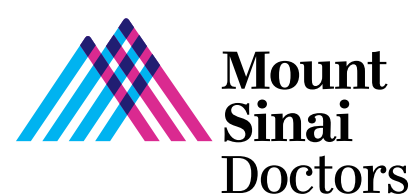
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