

# Yonkers Rising

PRESORT-STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
White Plains, NY  
Permit #7164

Yonkerstimes.com

www.RisingMediaGroup.com

Friday December 3, 2021

## Happy Chanukah Yonkers



(L-R) Chuck Lesnick; Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz, and Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, who lit the leader "shammash" at the Cross County second night Chanukah celebration. Photo (c) Robert Kalfus and story by Robert Kalfus

The first night of Chanukah, the Festival of Light, started this past Sunday night (Nov.28) and will continue for 8 days, with the last candle lit on Sunday night, December 5th leaving a magnificent event to experience. Chanukah remembers the miracles of a small outnumbered band of Jewish partisan fighters who fought for 25 years, refusing to accept defeat by the better armed, more numerous and overwhelming Syrian-Greek forces, sent to crush their culture, religion, and entire way of life. The Maccabees liberated the oppressed Jewish nation, bestowing independence, and were inspired by the miracle of the single cruce of undefiled oil, sufficient for only one day of kindling the lights in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, yet it lasting for eight days, the length of time necessary until new pure olive oil could be pressed.

Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz of Chabad of Yonkers/Greystone Jewish Center welcomed almost a hundred people who came out despite the cold weather on Sunday, Nov. 28th to witness "spreading the light", who saw the first candle of Chanukah lit at the Ridge Hill Shopping Center. Introducing Yonkers Firefighter Donavan McKenzie to light the shammash, Rabbi Mendy noted that "Mr. McKenzie is far better at putting out fires than what he is about to do."

The Yonkers Fire Dept. assisted, lending the use of their Tower Ladder to raise Rabbi Mendy to recite the blessings as Yonkers firefighter Donavan McKenzie lit the shammash, and Howard Spielman lit the first candle on the 18 foot tall chanukiah. The Tower Ladder bucket again lifted Firefighter McKenzie, Ridge Hill General Manager Meghann Hongach, Yonkers Councilwoman Tasha Diaz, and Assembly Member Nader Sayegh to toss Chanukah chocolate "gelt" candy onto the crowd below of children and adults, followed by a generous distribution of jelly and custard donuts, and hot latkes, as the "Mr. Shabbas" band's music led people in dancing and celebrating Chanukah.

Rabbi Hurwitz noted "Judaism is not a religion to be practiced just in the synagogue. Judaism is a way of life, a religion which informs all your actions wherever you are", and Chanukah's celebration, inspiration, food, and joy was shared.

Chanukah's second night party moved to Yonkers' Cross County Shopping Center, where the "WhatsUp" band entertained with great music, causing much danc

continued on pg 7-

## Facebook Neighborhoods Comes to Yonkers



A new App called Facebook Neighborhoods, launched in a few trial communities in May 2021 has now been expanded to include the City of Yonkers, New York's third largest City. Facebook Neighborhoods is an app within the main Facebook app that lets you connect with, message, join groups, ask for recommendations, and even create po Today, we're beginning to test Facebook Neighborhoods, a single destination to build and strengthen local communities on Facebook.

Facebook Neighborhoods is a dedicated space within the Facebook app that lets you connect to people based on their location, and find neighbors who share the same interests, or may know of a great new restaurant nearby, or who can help you serve residents in your community who need some help during the holidays.

Reid Patton, Product Manager for Facebook Neighborhoods, explained how "through the pandemic our Facebook connections became a crucial part of staying together and keeping in touch with the people closest to us, who we were unable to see in person during COVID."

"We love to see how Yonkers has leveraged what Facebook already has available to strengthen their relationships between each other during the pandemic. And we look forward to seeing what the people of Yonkers will do with Facebook neighborhoods, which was designed to build and strengthen local communities," said Patton.

Facebook Neighborhoods is now rolling out to 132 American cities, including Yonkers. It's available only through your mobile device, and Facebook users from Yonkers will have 39 neighborhoods to chose from. Once you input your location, (you need to be 18 or older), you will be able to see groups and posts from your

## Shoplifting in Southwest Yonkers 'Out of Control' is it 'Organized Retail Crime?'



some Yonkers pharmacies have empty shelves due to "Organized Retail Crime"

By Dan Murphy

Yonkers Police Commissioner John Mueller told the Yonkers City Council at their meeting on Nov. 23 that shoplifting in the major retail drug stores in the southwest portion of the City, (Walgreens, Rite Aid, CVS) has become "a considerable problem and a big time, repeat offender, recidivist crime," and that because of bail reform, Judges cannot keep repeat offenders behind bars and they are released, only to commit the same shoplifting crime at the same drug store, the next day and week and month.

"The vast majority of shoplifters in Yonkers are repeat offenders, and in our three area pharmacies the bi product is the shelves are becoming empty and the elderly can't find the items they need to purchase to live," said Mueller, who said that overall, shoplifting arrests are the same as last year, but that repeat offender arrests are on the rise,.

"We believe that a multi-faceted solution is required that would include changes to the existing bail reform and how we can hard target some of the affected areas. The vast majority of shoplifters are a small subset of the criminal population. The same person goes into a pharmacy, steals, gets arrested and then is released, and the judge has no latitude to hold them. And when we have to repeatedly arrest the same person for shoplifting, we have limited resources and can't be spending time somewhere else," said Mueller, who also asked the retail pharmacies to step up their security and enforcement in their stores.

Also at the council meeting, the heads of the South Broadway and Downtown Waterfront Business Improvement districts told the council that the shoplifting in their members businesses have become a serious problem.

Doug Horsting, head of Rite Aid's Asset Protection Program, gave the council a bleak assessment of how bad the problem has become. Calling it "organized retail crime", he said "I have never seen this amount of shoplifting in my career. Customers are asking are you going out of business because there are no items on the shelves. Employees are afraid to go to work because they are assaulted and spit on. Shoplifters are coming in with large bags and the items are re-sold at a lower cost. We now have to hire additional security and lock up many items and install more cameras, but shoplifting is still rampant in

continued on pg 4-

## Tis the Season Yonkers

### Yonkers Downtown BID's Winter Market Festival Saturday, Dec. 4



Yonkers Downtown Business Improvement District, is inviting everyone to skate (for free!) and shop at the first-ever Winter Market hosted in Yonkers Downtown. Perfectly timed to ring in the holiday season, this festive, one-day special market is taking place on Saturday, December 4 from 11am to 4pm. This fun-filled event is perfect for the whole family, with an ice-skating rink, local artisan vendors, and festive music from live DJ, Ultra Violet.

"This holiday season we want to welcome everyone to visit Yonkers Downtown and what better way than with a festive holiday market," said Sara Brody, Executive Director, Yonkers Downtown BID. "We are thrilled to have the support of our sponsors, AMS Acquisitions and Webster Bank, who have helped us to bring free ice skating to the Yonkers Downtown community at this special holiday event. BIRD, our market sponsor, will be at the market ready to demonstrate how you can use the BIRD scooter to get around downtown during this holiday season. With shopping, skating and live music, we hope this event will soon become an annual holiday favorite!"

The heart of the Winter Market is the wide variety of local artisan vendors. Gifts for anyone and everyone can be found among the artwork, jewelry, fashion, crafts, and more. Once it is time to warm up, head to any of the nearby restaurants in the downtown for a delicious me

The holiday market has FREE entry and will take place at Van Der Donck Park (1 Larkin Plaza, Yonkers NY 10701). The ice-skating rink is sponsored by AMS Acquisitions and Webster Bank along with BIRD as a general market sponsor. More information and updates for the winter market can be found on yonkersdowntown.com and on social media @yonkersdowntown.

## Assemblyman Nader Sayegh Delivers \$100k State Grant for YPD De-Escalating Training



Assemblyman Nader Sayegh has obtained a \$100,000 State funding grant to support a proven police training program that provides them with a set of tools to make sure everyone is safer when there are conflict encounters with the public.

The Integrating Communications, Assessment, and Tactics, (ITAC) Course was developed by an outside consulting agency and is anchored by a critical decision making model that helps police assess situations, make safe and effective decisions and helps them learn from their actions. It is especially useful for situations involving persons unarmed or armed with weapons other than guns, and who may be experiencing a mental health or other crisis.

Assemblyman Nader Sayegh said: "De-escalating situations that could end in lives lost and injuries to police and civilians alike will make our city safer for all, which is why I pursued obtaining this grant for the Yonkers Police Department. The training has resulted in dramatic reductions in citizen and officer injuries in other cities and will further build on the positive police- community relations efforts underway in the Yonkers Police Department."

Mayor Mike Spano said: "Thanks to Assemblyman Sayegh's advocacy, the Yonkers Police Department makes another positive step forward in its ongoing police reform efforts," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. "ITAC will provide the Department an opportunity to compliment the numerous crisis intervention policies already put in place so to enhance the department's community engagement."

Yonkers Police Commissioner John J. Mueller said: "When the Yonkers Police Department is called to respond to a person in crisis, in the critical first few minutes, often it is up to the responding patrol officer or officers to manage the situation. Integrating Communications and Tactics (ICAT) is designed to provide those officers with more options and additional tactical and communications skills to safely and effectively manage those situations and resolve conflicts peacefully whenever possible. In many instances, the goal is to buy enough time until additional, specialized resources can get to the scene. The Yonkers Police Department will train officers on how to use those options and tools safely and effectively. When agencies focus on increasing options and providing training, both the officers and the communities they serve are safer."

The training of all 611 Yonkers Police Officers will commence at the Precinct level this coming January. The funds are part of a NYS Crime Reduction Initiative directed by the Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS).

## Yonkers Rotarian Bina Ahmad Honored as "Rotarian of the Year"



It is a proud day for Yonkers. Yonkers Rotary VP and Rotary District Assistant Governor Bina Ahmad, was awarded the Rotary District's highest recognition - the Rotarian of the Year Award.

In awarding this honor to Bina, 2020-21 District Governor Mary Shackleton cited Bina's dedication, innovation, development of new Clubs, involvement in service activities of many of her area clubs, social media activities and her support for the District's goals as the main factors for selecting her for this award. In receiving the award, Bina said she was humbled and honored to be selected for this award. In an emotionally choked voice, she said she believed teamwork was the key ingredient for success. She expressed her gratitude to DG Mary and thanked her for her leadership.

In a later development, Bina was also honored by the Rotary Zone, which includes all of Canada and North-eastern U.S., receiving the Individual Membership Innovation Award for her championing 3 new Rotary Clubs in the District.

Bina joined the White Plains Rotary Club in June 2011 and transferred to the then East Yonkers Club July 2012. With the merger of the two Yonkers Rotary Clubs in July 2013, she has continued her membership in the Club. She was Club Rotary Foundation Chair for 4 years from 2015-16 and became Vice-President in 2019. She is a Major Donor to the Rotary Foundation and a member of the Paul Harris Society.

At the District level, she has been Assistant Governor for 2020-21 and 2021-22, and was co-Chair of the District Conference Committee for 2018-19. She was District First Lady during 2019-20 and had the privilege of visiting all 44 Clubs in Rotary District 7230, which comprises Westchester, Bronx, Manhattan, Staten Island and Bermuda. She has been pro-actively promoting Grow Rotary initiatives and was instrumental in the creation of the first new club in the District in a decade in January 2019. Since then, she has driven the formation of three other Clubs in 2020 and 2021.

Bina joined the then Dime Savings Bank in 1988 and transitioned to JP Morgan Chase via mergers. As Branch Manager and Vice-President since 1998, she gained broad experience in business and consumer banking sales and operations as well as management, earning many high-performance awards. She retired as Vice-President

*continued on pg 4-*

**White Plains**

**Scarsdale**

**Yonkers**

**Mt Vernon**

**Bronx**

**NewYork-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital**  
55 Palmer Avenue, Bronxville

## New York's #1 hospital is right here in Westchester.

NewYork-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital, located in Bronxville, is powered by top doctors from Columbia, bringing advanced levels of care and expertise close to you. We are here to serve your healthcare needs safely and conveniently with the quality care you expect from NewYork-Presbyterian Hospital, New York's #1 hospital. With the nation's top doctors, latest medical technology and advanced treatments, you'll find amazing care – right here in Westchester.

Learn more at [nyp.org/lawrence](http://nyp.org/lawrence)

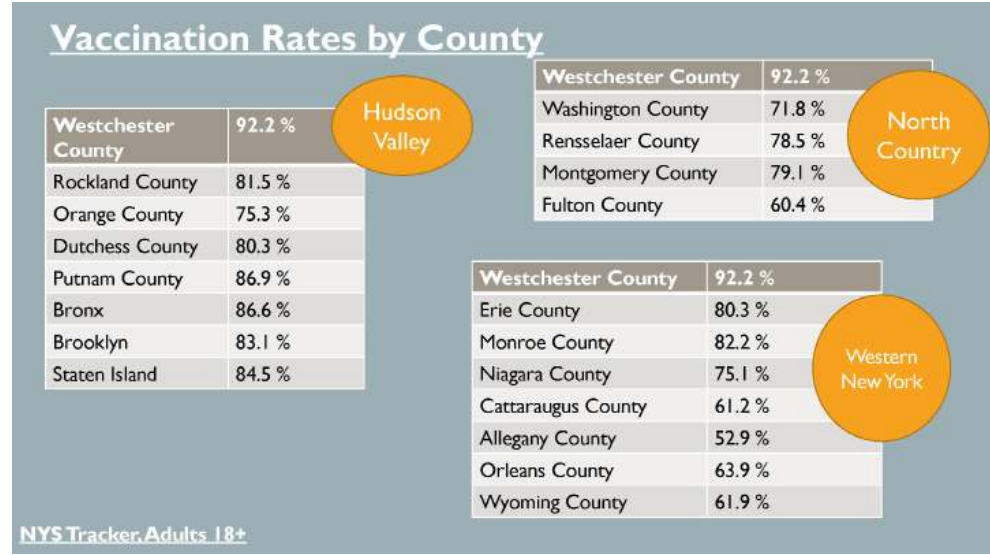
**NewYork-Presbyterian Lawrence Hospital**

With **Columbia** doctors right where you live

As ranked by U.S. News & World Report 2021-2022

# Westchester County 92.2% Vaccinated, "We are Monitoring Omicron But No Crisis Yet" Latimer

# Stop Calling, Lady from the Auto Warranty Department!



By Eric W. Schoen

By Dan Murphy

Westchester County Executive George Latimer gave residents an important update on Nov. 29 regarding COVID vaccination rates, booster shots, immunizing students and the new Omicron variant that has yet to be detected in Westchester, New York state or the USA as of Nov. 30.

"Omicron has generated real concern. We can't overreact to bad news or good news; we have to keep a steady hand. The single most important reason to fight COVID is to prevent people from dying. We have had 2356 total deaths in Westchester, but 2 fatalities over the past two weeks and 3 fatalities over the past three weeks," said Latimer who also added that hospitalizations from COVID stand at 52, compared to a peak of 108 a few months ago during the Delta Variant and 244 hospitalizations in Nov. of 2020 before a vaccine was available. "We have had a low level of fatalities and hospitalizations even though we have had an increase in infections."

Both Latimer and Westchester County Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler attribute the fact that hospitalizations and fatalities are low to the fact that 92.2% of eligible Westchester residents over the age of 18 are vaccinated. And both Latimer and Dr. Amler continued to push for more county residents to get vaccinated and for residents to get their third booster shot if they can.

"When someone tells me we are in a crisis situation and need to react, we have 52 people hospitalized, a year ago we have 244 hospitalizations, and now we have vaccines, a key tool," said Latimer, who said that Westchester's 92.2% vaccination rate, for adults 18 years and older, is "dramatically different than in other parts of the state." With COVID's vaccination rates in neighboring counties, Putnam, 86.9%, the Bronx 86.6%, and Rockland 81.5%, and with vaccination rates in update and western NY at lower levels, Westchester County is one of the safest places to be, and much of the reason is for the successful outreach by your county government to make sure that 9 out of 10 residents care vaccinated, and that vaccines are readily available across the county.

"We have a total capacity of 2700 hospital beds. With only 52 COVID hospitalizations, we are in a much better position than other areas of the state and of our neighboring counties," said Latimer, who urged Westchester residents to "calm down when you turn on the TV and hear the latest news. We have been at this for almost two years, and we don't know how long its going to be. Don't take extreme measures until we know that they are necessary. We have been getting good solid compliance in the county," said Latimer.

Dr. Amler said "there are many unknowns about the Omicron variant and there is still a lot that we don't know. Our concerns are, is it going to be more

continued on pg 5-

Chanukah continued from pg 1-

causing much dancing and singing, keeping warm, until Chabad of Yonkers/ Greystone Jewish Center Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz welcomed Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano who lit the "leader" shammash candle, and former City Council President Chuck Lesnick lit both the first and second night's candles. All present, including those passing and shopping, enjoyed Jelly and custard donuts, and hot latkes.

All are welcome and invited Sunday, December 5th at 4:15 pm on Chanukah's eighth night to see a giant menorah lit with all eight Chanukah lights overlooking the sun setting over the Hudson River, at majestic Untermyer Park, 945 North Broadway. However you prefer to spell the many transliterated names of the holiday, Rabbi Hurwitz asks for volunteers to climb the ladder to light the menorah's Tiki torches, to publicize the miracle of Hanukkah and to spread the light. Singing Maor Tzur and traditional Hanukkah tunes, and spinning dreidls, all will enjoy a large variety of jelly donuts and chocolate gelt. Please contact Rabbi@JewishYonkers.com

So the big question this week? Did you have a turkey on your Thanksgiving table. Were you able to buy it from the Stop and Shop, or did you have to capture a wild turkey on one of our regions roadways? Well, the latter is probably illegal, and from what I hear the meat from wild turkeys is tough and inedible. So the big turkey shortage of 2021 was a farce.

I assume you were able to find a turkey and enjoy it with your family. Fresh whole cranberries were abundant and actually on sale at many stores. I hope either you made cranberry sauce or got the can of Ocean Spray whole berry cranberry sauce. I heard the cans of whole berry were hard to find, but as long as u didn't serve the jelly cranberry sauce plopped out of the can on your holiday table you are OK in my book. I can't believe rumors that some people plopped the jelly cranberry sauce on to a plate, don't chop it up and serve it so you can see the indentations from the metal can it came in. What can I say!

It was so nice to once again spend Thanksgiving with family. I sincerely hope you were able to. My sister and I went to our cousins the Meyerowitz's, he a long time dentist in Yonkers Manor House Square before moving up to North Broadway.

Cousin Georgette, Dr. Meyerowitz's wife, his daughter Sharon and Daughter-in-Law Nancy from Georgia were the chefs. From the soup to the homemade cole slaw to the moist, delicious Turkey to Nancy's corn pudding to Sharon's gluten free chocolate cake and everything in between the feast was spectacular. The corn pudding is the most recent addition, the recipe that comes from Nancy's southern upbringing. A couple of spoonfuls of this delicious side dish equal a week at the gym if you know what I mean. But it was so good to see everyone after almost 2 years of no family gatherings caused by Covid.

Speaking of Covid, yes we have a new variant. Sadly there will probably be many more. Is there anything you can do about it. Unless you are a top scientist, the answer is probably no. The only things you can do is wash your hands, getting vaccinated, get the booster shot if enough time has lapsed and mask when needed. Since it's out of your hands you have to go with advice of the top experts in the country and the world.

Covid is nothing but a big guessing game. A mystery. You never know what's going to happen in the world of Covid when you go to bed at night. It seems like something happens that affects our lives everyday. You have to keep your chin up, your mouth and nose covered as appropriate, and through the power of prayer we will get through this.

If the pressures of Covid are getting you down, contact your insurance provider for referral for professional help. That's what you pay those high insurance premiums for. Contact the Westchester County Health Department at 914-813-5000. Contact your Rabbi, Priest or respective clergyman. Last resort call 911.

Covid is affecting even the strongest among us, and you should not be afraid to seek help if you need it. There are resources out there for you and you should have no shame taking advantage of them! This, too shall hopefully pass, but until it does just remember if Covid wasn't upsetting you that's something you really should worry about!

Now onto the topic of the week. I'm tired of receiving calls on my cell phone and home phone from 'Mary from the Auto Warranty Department' who just magically heard that the warranty on my car is expiring. Friends I know who don't even own cars are getting this same call. The calls can come at 9 a.m. on a Saturday morning, 6 p.m. during dinner time or 8:30 p.m when you are getting ready to go to sleep. Whenever the call comes, it's always at the wrong time.

How does 'Mary' know my car warranty is expiring? If someone is giving her a list that person should be put in jail. 'Mary' should be put in jail. For most people their car warranties expired years ago, that is if they even own a car. These calls come in two, three times a day, and if you don't answer quite often the 'robocall' making these calls will leave a message that cuts off after a few seconds leaving you equally as frustrated when you go to retrieve your voicemails. Something has gotten to be done about it. Time to act now Federal and State

continued on pg 6-

**WE SPECIALIZE IN STAINLESS STEEL LINING SYSTEMS**

**Always Affordable Chimney Inc.**

*Much more than sweeping chimneys!*

— 24 Hour Emergency Service —

- Stainless-Steel Chimney Linings/Caps
- Expedient Repairs
- Level, 45 and 90 Degree Inspections
- Chimney Cap Supply/Installation
- Wet/Dry Sweeps

**10% OFF ALL BRICK WORK ON CHIMNEY HOUSING**

**BOILER FLUE CLEANING** Starting at \$99 for residential; call for commercial quotes.

**FIREPLACE CLEANING** Starting at \$299

800-344-8880 • 914-420-0111

www.alwaysaffordablechimney.com

Upgrade Your Home with a

## NEW METAL ROOF

Guaranteed to Last a Lifetime!

**LIMITED TIME OFFER**

**60% off** YOUR INSTALLATION

+ TAKE AN ADDITIONAL **10% off**

Install for Military, Health Workers and First Responders

**ERIC Metal Roofs**

**STRONG AS STEEL WITH THE ATTRACTIVE LOOK OF VARIOUS ROOF STYLES**

From Charismatic Shingles to sleek, shiny, sophisticated Color Shingles and Spanish Tile, an individual roofing system by Eric Metal Roofs can enhance the beauty of your home while protecting your family and property for a lifetime.

Call today to schedule your **FREE ESTIMATE** 1-855-492-6084

**ERIC Metal Roofs**

Made in the USA

See orders only. Does not include materials costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Eric Metal Roofs, 88 West Hill, York, NY. Other terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in some areas. Offer expires December 31st, 2021. If you call the number you did, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS and/or email, and I, pre-recorded messages by Eric or its affiliates and its service providers using automated technology. Understanding if you are on a Do Not Call list or register. Please see our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use at [www.ericmetalroofs.com](http://www.ericmetalroofs.com). All rights reserved.

**OPERATION SANTA CLAUS IS BACK**

Honorary Chair Senator Nick Spano  
Chair Tom Meier  
Co-chair Gail Burns

Cordially invite you to

**Operation Santa Claus Holiday Party Brunch**

Honoring

**William Mooney Sr. | Community Leader Award**  
**Al & Joe Ciuffetelli & Megan Hartnett | Community Partner Award**  
**Kristy Piacente | Parent Advocate Award**

**Sunday December 5, 2021 from 10AM to Noon**  
**Castle Royale | 92 Waverly Street | Yonkers NY 10701**

**\$2,500 Champion - \$1,700 Advocate - \$1,300 Friend**  
**\$750 Supporter (includes table of 10) - \$60 Individual Ticket**

For more information, please contact Gail Burns at 914-469-4835 or by email at [gmb927@gmail.com](mailto:gmb927@gmail.com)

We will comply with all CDC, State and Local Covid guidelines to ensure everyone's safety.

Notice of Formation of SHINE SIGNINGS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/26/2021. 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, 27 Ravine Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

## Council President Khader "Kneecapped" On the Way Out Of Office, Attorney Says

By Dan Murphy

The front page of the Journal News on Nov. 29 featured a story on the continuation of an investigation into Yonkers City Council President Mike Khader. The story, which appeared above the fold in the feature story location, provided little new in details about the allegations made against Khader, who lost the democratic primary in June and will be leaving office on Dec. 31.

The story did include the fact that Judge Joan Lefkowitz ruled that the investigation into Khader by Yonkers Inspector General Liam McLaughlin could continue. But Lefkowitz cancelled subpoenas issued for Khader's income tax records and bank records, after Khader's attorney, Randolph McLaughlin, (no relation to the IG) filed a motion to squash them.

We spoke to Randolph McLaughlin, attorney for Council President Khader, who was annoyed at the Journal News story, but also the fact that an investigation which he believes has little merit is continuing, as Khader is about to leave office in four weeks.

Randolph McLaughlin's harshest words were for Inspector General Liam McLaughlin "The Inspector General is operating on rumor, suspicion and innuendo. The Judge squashed the subpoenas and there is no basis to continue. He's on a fishing expedition and my client is leaving office in a few weeks., but has a long career ahead of him. This continued effort to kneecap my client is nothing for raw, naked politics in Yonkers. There is no cloud over Mr. Khader, just backroom suspicion."

The accusations against Khader, which came out a few weeks before the democratic primary for council president, between Khader and Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, focused on two accusations: One that Khader benefitted improperly from an agreement to rent office space from attorney Jeffrey Buss, who was later appointed counsel for the City Council; and that Khader had improperly treated female staff members, specifically an accusation from Karen Schullere.

Khader ended up losing the democratic primary to Collins-Bellamy, and IG McLaughlin decided to hire outside counsel to proceed with an investigation of Khader, because of a conflict between IG McLaughlin and Khader based on the fact that Khader defeated McLaughlin in 2017 for City Council President.

But Randolph McLaughlin thought that IG McLaughlin's recusing himself from the Khader investigation was odd and wanted more information. "The IG removed himself because of a conflict. What is that conflict? Is there something that we don't know? Was it some smoke filled room where someone had a beef with Mr. Khader? We would like the IG to sit for a deposition so we can ask him why are you spending tax payer monies to fight us and continue with an investigation that has no subpoena power and is based on a council president that will be out of office in a few

In the Journal News story, IG McLaughlin confirmed that his office was proceeding with the investigation. "We need to be diligent on these things. If someone did do that, they need to be held accountable and if he didn't, then fair enough and that should come out as well," said McLaughlin in the LoHud.com story, adding about the requested, subpoenaed information, "Why not just provide that&nbsp;information, if you did nothing wrong, then what are you hiding from."

Randolph McLaughlin responded to IG McLaughlin's request for records by saying "There is no longer a subpoena for Mr. Khader to produce records because the Judge threw it out, and we are not going to cooperate with a baseless and meritless investigation. The Inspector General, or the law firm that he hired at taxpayers expense to handle this case, could have issued another subpoena, but they never did. I wonder why?"

"How much money is this costing the taxpayers about an official that is leaving office in a few weeks? We have yet to see a report, or statements from anyone in Yonkers government about what they are investigating. Now this is about pursuing an elected official out of office. This is the political kneecapping of someone who was the IG's political opponent. This is Yonkers politics at its worst," said Randolph McLaughlin.

Usually, the Inspector General issues a report based on their investigation and findings. That report has yet to come.

The only piece of new information in the Journal News story was that Khader had contacted the Yonkers Democratic Party and Chair Tom Meier to inquire about running for City Court Judge next year. We spoke to Meier, who said that while Khader has inquired about the race for City Court Judge, he later withdrew his name from consideration. Meier also said that 14 other Yonkers democrats are interested in filling the vacancy to replace Judge Tom Quinones, who was elected to State Supreme Court.

One Yonkers democrat who read the Journal News story about Khader, McLaughlin and McLaughlin said, "this could backfire and make Khader look sympathetic. He is out of the picture in three weeks." Others believe that Khader will try and make a return to political life soon. He has \$117,000 remaining in his campaign account.

### Facebook neighborhoods, continued from pg 1-

neighbors.

Other advantages will include the ability to search for items on Facebook Marketplace that are in your community, and you can leave your own neighborhood and check out other neighborhoods any time you want. Facebook's Community Standards will still apply when using Neighborhoods and are only available to Facebook account holders in good standing. And any comments that don't relate to your neighborhood should be kept for your regular Facebook account.

Facebook will also let you create a separate profile specifically for Neighborhoods. Anyone in your local neighborhood can see your profile, and they don't have to be Facebook friends with you in order to interact with them on Facebook Neighborhoods. Another good use of Facebook Neighborhoods will be the ability to help serve those in your community or neighborhood that needs a helping hand. Facebook will be testing a new Giving Exchange feature on Facebook Neighborhoods that allows people to share items with others in their neighborhood. "

"Facebook Neighborhoods will help Yonkers residents strengthen their connection to each other and support their neighbors by creating a single destination and make it easier to give back to their community," said Patton.

## Larchmont Home that Sells for \$11.3 Million Has a Yearly Property Tax Bill of \$176,000!



By Dan Murphy

The waterfront Larchmont mansion pictured above, is located in one of Westchester's most desired neighborhoods with views of the Long Island Sound, Located at 25 Park Avenue in Larchmont, the 1.6 acre home sold for \$11.3 Million, which reports claim was the highest grossing residential sale in the Village of Larchmont, Town of Mamaroneck, Westchester County.

The 8,000+ square foot home has everything you would expect, designed by Frank Ashburton Moore in 1898. The last owners paid \$10.4 Million in 2006, just before the great recession and financial crisis his in 2008. But like most real estate holdings in Westchester, if you can wait long enough you can make a tidy profit.

The home was sold by Lisa Collins from Julia B. Fee-Sotheby's Realty, and the listing was held by Mimi Magarelli of the same company. Magarelli said that the owners got their asking price and that the home was listed, sold and signed into contract within two weeks of being placed on the market. This points to a red hot Westchester real estate market, especially for high end properties.

What brought sticker shock to this reporter's eyes was not the sale price, but the property taxes that the new owners didn't think twice about in quickly snatching up the listing. At \$178,000 per year for property taxes, which include Larchmont School taxes, Town of Mamaroneck taxes, and Westchester County taxes, the total is a number that most Westchester residents could not afford to pay by itself, without considering the mortgage costs which are probably around \$25,000.

One real estate agent from the sound shore told us last year that on average, every Westchester home that has a \$1 Million sales price tag has about \$30,000 per year in property taxes. So for a \$3 Million home in Scarsdale, the property taxes are between \$75,000-\$90,000 per year.

Anyone with the financial resources to do so are moving to the suburbs since COVID. Nothing is staying on the market very long. For every house, there are 10 people bidding on it.

*continued on pg 8-*

### Supreme Court of the State of New York County of Westchester Summons: Index No. 2016-21

Plaintiff designates Westchester County as the place of trial. The basis of venue is plaintiff's residence Plaintiff resides at: 380 McLean Ave #2H Yonkers, NY 10705

Melissa Rose Selian vs. Matthew John Ramalho  
Action for a Divorce - No ancillary relief requested  
The relief sought is a judgment of absolute divorce in favor of the Plaintiff dissolving the marriage between the parties in this action.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer on the q Plaintiff OR q Plaintiff's Attorney(s) within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the state, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

### Rotarian of the Year, continued from pg 2-

of a commercial bank, in 2014.

Since then, she has dedicated herself to many service projects of many Rotary Clubs in the District, as well as projects carried out in a number of countries in Africa and South Asia, benefitting many children and adults in need, from helping build sanitary toilets, clean cook stoves, providing computer equipment to rural schools.

Bina and her husband, fellow Rotarian Mahbub Ahmad are long-time Westchester residents, now living in Yonkers. Yonkers Rotary has been serving Yonkers as well as the international community for over 100 years. It's projects include, the new basketball court at Barton Park, the school playground in School 9, as well as numerous local projects including feeding seniors and destitute families during the pandemic, and delivering masks to local philanthropic organizations.

To participate in a Club project or to join the Yonkers-East Yonkers Rotary Club, contact membership chair, George John (join@yonkersrotary.org).

**Regain Your Independence!**

**200 OFF**  
on every lift

**ALBANY Lift Company**

Stairlifts • Elevators • Wheelchair Lifts • Ramps

747 Pierce Road, Clifton Park, NY 12065  
(518) 535-2274 • (888) 558-1177

www.thealbanyliftcompany.com

Locally Owned & Operated

New and Remanufactured Lifts

• Sales • Rentals • Service • Buybacks

Visit Our Display Center at 747 Pierce Road, Clifton Park, NY, 12065

**GENERAC**

**Prepare for power outages with a Generac home standby generator**

**REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!**  
**877-516-1160**

**FREE**  
7-Year Extended Warranty\*  
A \$695 Value!

Limited Time Offer - Call for Details

**Special Financing Available**  
Subject to Credit Approval

\*To qualify, consumers must request a quote, purchase, install and activate the generator with a participating dealer. Call for a full list of terms and conditions.

**Prepare for Power Outages & Save Money**

**POWERCELL**

POWERCELL, Generac's fully-integrated solar + battery storage system, stores solar energy that can power your whole home during utility power outages and save you money on your electric bill.

**REQUEST A FREE QUOTE!**

**ACT NOW TO RECEIVE A \$300 SPECIAL OFFER!\***

| (888) 871-0194

**90 DOWN FINANCING OPTIONS\*\***

\*Offer valid while supplies last. \*\*Financing available through authorized Generac partner. Solar panels sold separately.

**Letter to the Editor: To Congressman Bowman,**

My name is Jerry Longarzo and I am one of your constituents. I have been attempting to get some information from both your Mount Vernon and Co op city offices since October 5. Specifically, I heard rumors that in the second trillion dollar build back better bill there was funding to the tune of many billions of dollars to empower the federal government to run roughshod over local one family zoning throughout the nation. Rather than listening to rumors I wanted to see if the office of my congressman could verify whether or not such wording in the intended bill existed. On October 5 I spoke to Brandon in the Mount Vernon office. On October 20 I spoke to Jesse in the Co op City office. On October 29 I left messages at both the Mount Vernon and Co op City offices. Finally on November 5 I called your Mount Vernon office again and spoke to a representative by the name of Edili Espailat. She told me that she was going to pass on my request for information to some other members of your office. I told her that I had heard that line before and that I was no longer going to be wasting my time calling your New York based offices. Therefore, let me give you and your staff members a bit of information that I was able to research. Please check out bostonherald.com date 5-20 4-21. Furthermore, please check USA today news 4-14- 21. As an educator perhaps you would find it beneficial to instruct your staff as to the meaning of the phrase, "Patience is NOT stupidity.". As I have received no information from your offices, the contents of these articles explain to me clearly why the information I sought was not forthcoming. Transparency is a very nice term. Perhaps you should have your staff members look up its meaning. To those people who have worked their behinds off into powder in order to be able to afford to move into a one family housing zone area, maintain their homes and pay numerous taxes, the idea of having the federal government trash local zoning as it heavily subsidizes the building of multi-family units in these zones and thereby aiding and abetting increased air pollution, noise pollution, traffic congestion, the overwhelming of infrastructure and the overcrowding of schools is most concerning as is the plummeting home values of homes adjacent and/or nearby such construction. Is that part of what some people call equity and/or wealth redistribution? I would conclude by saying that I look forward to hearing from you but I am confident that I will not. Have a great day! **Jerry Longarzo, Yonkers**

**Westchester, 92% Vaccinated, continued from pg 1-**

transmissible than Delta, and can this new variant evade or escape the vaccines that most of us have taken.

Dr. Amler said that the symptoms for Omicron are the same as other COVID variants, fatigue, headache, and pain, and she encouraged Westchester residents to get vaccinated and if your second vaccination has been more than six months ago, to get a booster, and for children ages 5-11 to get vaccinated.

"The best thing we can do is the same thing we have been doing for the past two years; social distance, wear masks and wash our hands. All these things need to be done to keep our population as safe as possible," said Amler.

While Westchester County's major vaccination site, at the County Center in White Plains, has closed, the County Department of Health has opened satellite vaccination centers, and local pharmacies and medical offices are now providing vaccines and booster shots. The County DOH is also providing vaccinations at pop up locations in school districts across the county. For more information on satellite vaccine locations visit Westchestergov.com.

Latimer said that Westchester County "will do all of the things that have to be done and will adjust depending on the numbers." Indoor mask mandates, vaccination requirements, a partial shutdown and a complete shutdown are all steps that may or may not be taken. Other counties in New York State, including Erie County in Western NY, have begun to mandate masks.

"These more extreme steps, if the crisis is so clear and present that it justifies it, we will look at it and assess our next steps." Latimer added that of the 52 people who are hospitalized due to COVID, two-thirds are either unvaccinated or unknown if they are vaccinated.

"This is a matter of prudent risk. We continue to take an active, aggressive role in making vaccinations available to anyone eligible. 8% of Westchester residents are not vaccinated at any level."

Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins said, "The best way to keep us safe is for everyone to get vaccinated and to get a booster."

Upcoming vaccination dates include: Dec 4-at 134 Court Street, White Plains, from 10am-2pm, and Monday Dec. 6, at 134 Court Street. You can walk in or make an appointment by visiting. <https://health.westchestergov.com/>.

**BUYING OLD COMICS!**

Looking for 1960s-1990s. I PAY CASH!

Please contact 914-646-1718. Located in Yonkers

**On This Day in Yonkers History...****Yonkers resident Art Carney**

**By Mary Hoar, 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, December 6th

December 6, 1917: After complaints about ashes and trash not being collected, people of Yonkers were told it was the fault of the Commissioner of Public Works John Brady. Shortly after elections the previous month, he dismissed all laborers in his department. Why? He claimed his budget was not sufficient to pay them for the rest of the year.

December 6, 1943: Private First Class Frank Marsh of Dunston Avenue wrote to The Herald Statesman from "somewhere in Alaska." Marsh filled us in on all the outdoor sports he had "taken advantage of," fishing, camera-hunting, and boating; he even landed "two ferocious barracudas!" According to PFC Marsh, besides being away from Yonkers, the hardest part was dealing with the harsh weather.

Tuesday, December 7th

December 7, 1905: The main attraction of "Yonkers Amusements" held at the Yonkers Music Hall was James O'Neill's impersonation of "The Count of Monte Christo," his claim to fame. O'Neill, by the way, was father of the up and coming young writer, Eugene O'Neill.

December 7, 1930: A nervous person sent in what turned out to be a false alarm; six trucks responded to a fire on the City Dock, as well as Fire Chief James Mulcahey, police officers and an exceptionally large crowd. Four thousand-five hundred feet of rubber hose removed by federal agents, tubing that carried bootleg beer through the sewers of Yonkers, was being destroyed by the G-men! The estimated value of the hose was \$25,000.

December 7, 1934: Yonkers author and lecturer Willard Vander Veer, who also happened to be the official photographer on Admiral Richard Byrd's first expedition, spoke to the Yonkers People's Society at the Calvary Baptist Church on "Polar Regions." Vander Veer had won an Oscar for Cinematography in 1930 for the film With Byrd at the South Pole.

Wednesday, December 8th:

December 8, 1945: The War Department announced Colonel Oliver Troster of Franklin Avenue was awarded the Legion of Merit for his services during World War II as Chief of the Movement Branch, Headquarters, Army Services Forces.

December 8, 1955: A poem written by local author Henry Walsh about a little boy's fear of the dark was set to music and recorded by fellow Yonkers resident Art Carney!

Thursday, December 9th:

December 9, 1930: Mayor John Fogarty, Health Commissioner Dr. Clarence Buckmaster and President of the Yonkers Academy of Medicine Eugene McGillian, wielded shovels at the ground-breaking ceremonies for Yonkers new \$425,000 innovative Health Center in Washington Park.

December 9, 1944: The War Department awarded a Bronze Star Medal to Staff Sergeant Harold Bennett of Linden Street for "meritorious service" for his part in the "military operations against an enemy of the United States in France." Bennett served with the Medical Battalion of First Army in France from the time the US first invaded France on June 6th.

Friday, December 10th:

December 10, 1953: Fifth Ward Councilmember Aloysius Moczydlowski tabled his resolution asking Butch, an ailing hero dog from his ward, be buried in Hollow Memorial Park as requested by the members of the Hollows Athletic Club. Moczydlowski wanted a ruling from the Corporation Council about any potential conflicts with health laws. Not only was Butch the mascot of the club, he had saved a man's life. John Fusiak had fallen down a stairway on Center Street; although nine families lived nearby, only Butch heard him and responded. Butch ran home, woke owner John Kubilus and insisted John follow him to the badly injured man. Kubilus immediately called an ambulance while Butch stood guard over the injured man; Fusiak had fractured his leg and was profusely bleeding. Because of his heroism, the Yonkers SPCA, awarded Butch their very first medal as the Outstanding Heroic Animal in 1948.

Born in 1939, Butch was almost blind and had difficulty walking. He passed away the following May and is buried in the Hartsdale Canine Cemetery. The Hollows AC long time mascot, hero and friend no longer would guard their Walnut Street home.

Saturday, December 11th:

December 11, 1929: Based on investigations done by new Yonkers Patrolman Stanley Figura, YPD arrested fourteen shop and restaurant owners in a series of afternoon slot machine raids. An injunction had been obtained preventing police from seizing slot machines unless they had solid evidence the machines were used for gambling. Because Figura was unknown in those circles, he was able to visit the establishments to get needed evidence. All the defendants pleaded not guilty the next day before Judge Charles Boote.

December 11, 1955: Yonkers soon would have its first bank office in a railroad station! The First National Bank announced it would open a branch in the New York Central Railroad's Yonkers Station west of Larkin Plaza.

*continued on pg 7-*

**Saving a Life EVERY 11 MINUTES**

*I'm never alone*

**Life Alert® is always here for me.**

One touch of a button sends help fast, 24/7.

Help at Home | Help On-the-Go

**Life Alert®** Batteries Never Need Charging.

For a FREE brochure call:

**1-800-404-9776**

**HOMEOWNER FUNDING**

When you need a new roof, windows or doors and need help paying for them, call us.

Please Help!

**800-736-9629**

**NYImprovementFund.com**

PROGRAMS AVAILABLE RIGHT NOW FOR NEW YORK RESIDENTS

Roofing | Windows | Siding | Insulation | Walk-In Tubs

**COMPUTER PROBLEMS?**

Friendly Certified Computer Repair Experts

Simply mention coupon code 42513 and get **\$20 OFF** any service you need!

**Geeks on Site**

Call Now for a FREE Diagnosis

**1-866-848-0045**

## Legal Notices

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Plaintiff AGAINST Rosetta Silvestro as heir at law and next of kin of Luigia Silvestro a/k/a Luisa Silvestro; et al., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated July 8, 2021 I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction at Courtroom 200 of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, NY 10601 on December 10, 2021 at 10:30 AM, premises known as 147 Florence Street, Yonkers, NY 10704. 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, State of NY, Section 5 Block 5235 Lot 34 & 35. Approximate amount of judgment \$101,787.83 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 69552/2016. The auction will be conducted pursuant to the COVID-19 Policies Concerning Public Auctions of Foreclosed Property established by the Ninth Judicial District. John Gifford Molloy, Esq., Referee LOGS Legal Group LLP f/k/a Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s) for the Plaintiff 175 Mile Crossing Boulevard Rochester, New York 14624 (877) 430-4792 Dated: October 5, 2021 For sale information, please visit [www.Auction.com](http://www.Auction.com) or call (800) 280-2832 70078

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

## CORPORATION NOTICE CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers, New York will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, December 14, 2021 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 GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING GENERAL ORDINANCE 4-2000, ALSO KNOWN AS CHAPTER 43 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, MAKING "AUTOMOBILE RENTAL ESTABLISHMENTS" A PERMITTED USE (WITH SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIREMENTS) IN THE B "RESTRICTED BUSINESS AND APARTMENT HOUSES MEDIUM-DENSITY" DISTRICT OF THE CITY.

VINCENT SPANO, City Clerk

Notice of formation of youRmore LLC LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/09/2020 . 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, 10 Dassen Drive Apt I Dobbsferry NY 10522 . Purpose: Any lawful activity.

## Classifieds

Attorney: DIVORCE \$389 - Uncontested divorce papers prepared. Only one signature required. Poor person Application included if applicable. Separation agreements. Custody and support petitions. 518-274-0380

Auto Donations: Drive Out Breast Cancer: Donate a car today! The benefits of donating your car or boat: Fast Free Pickup - 24hr Response Tax Deduction - Easy To Do! Call 24/7: 855-905-4755

Buying / Selling: Buying diamonds, gold, silver, all fine jewelry and watches, coins, paintings, better furs, complete estates. We simply pay more! Call Barry 914-260-8783 or e-mail [Americabuying@aol.com](mailto:Americabuying@aol.com)

Education / Career Training: TRAIN AT HOME TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 855-543-6440. The Mission, Program Information and Tuition is located at [CareerTechnical.edu/consumer-information](http://CareerTechnical.edu/consumer-information). (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

Education / Career Training: COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM! Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer & Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain programs for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! (844) 947-0192 (M-F 8am-6pm ET)

Health: VIAGRA & CIALIS! 60 pills for \$99. 100 pills for \$150. FREE shipping. Money back guaranteed! 1-855-579-8907

Health: ATTENTION MEDICARE RECIPIENTS! Open Enrollment for Medicare health plans is here! Call our licensed insurance agents for an affordable quote for your needed coverage. Call for a no obligation free quote now! 844-808-9374 (TTY: 711)

Home Improvement: Never Pay For Covered Home Repairs Again! Complete Care Home Warranty COVERS ALL MAJOR SYSTEMS AND APPLIANCES. 30 DAY RISK FREE. \$200.00 OFF + 2 FREE Months! 866-440-6501

Home Improvement: The Generac PWRcell, a solar plus battery storage system. SAVE money, reduce your reliance on the grid, prepare for power outages and power your home. Full installation services available. \$0 Down Financing Option. Request a FREE, no obligation, quote today. Call 1-888-871-0194

Home Improvement: Eliminate gutter cleaning forever! LeafFilter, the most advanced debris-blocking gutter protection. Schedule a FREE LeafFilter estimate today. 15% off and 0% financing for those who qualify. PLUS Senior & Military Discounts. Call 1-877-763-2379

Miscellaneous: BEST SATELLITE TV with 2 Year Price Guarantee! \$59.99/mo with 190 channels and 3 months free premium movie channels! Free next day installation! Call 888-508-5313.

TV Internet Phone: DISH TV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 1/21/22. 1-888-609-9405

Get DIRECTV! ONLY \$69.99/month! 155 Channels & 1000s of Shows/Movies On Demand (w/SELECT All Included Package.) PLUS Stream on Up to FIVE Screens Simultaneously at No Additional Cost. Call DIRECTV 1-888-534-6918

## Shoplifting Out of Control, continued from pg 1-

Yonkers, and across the country. The support we have received from the Yonkers Police is second to none."

Councilmember Tasha Diaz sponsored the resolution and spoke about the problem in her 3rd council district. "This is a real problem. I do food distribution and more people are in need because they can't find items at the drug store to buy. We are providing essentials because they are not available. The seniors in my district are afraid to pick up their prescriptions. I have witnessed theft at Walgreens in my district. We need to get to the problem and work with our state delegation. It's happening the most in districts 1,2, and 3."

Council Minority Leader Mike Breen said, "We see shoplifting nationally but now its also happening here in Yonkers, and it is organized retail crime. It our job to talk to our state officials about changes to bail reform, which is not working properly. We don't want to see stores pack up and leave Yonkers."

Council President Mike Khader said, "Some of these businesses have an internal policy of letting theft go and not reporting it. They call it loss prevention and the word gets out. They need to change those policies and once you crack down the word will get out."

The council resolution, which calls on "Mayor Spano and his administration to recognize and address the problem occurring within the city of Yonkers and to engage retailers to help fashion methods to reduce or eliminate shoplifting in their business," and that the "New York State Senate and Assembly recognize and address the problem of shoplifting and create stronger laws to deter such actions with respect to arrest, bail prosecution and sentencing," was passed unanimously.

Yonkers Police Commissioner John Mueller recently appeared on Fox News, where he discussed the recent rash of repeat offenders and shoplifters, in Yonkers but also across the country, that were emptying the shelves of many retail stores and pharmacies.

The police are doing the best they can but there is an issue about the lack of consequences and a lack of accountability," said Mueller, appearing on NewsNation Now's "On Balance" with Leland Vittert, Nov. 26.

"The messaging that we have had from progressive lawmakers is that we should not have any consequences (for committing crimes) and this is what you get. When people feel that there are not going to be negative consequences for their actions, some will say why not and go out and steal. There should be consequences for their actions," said Mueller.

On Fox news, Mueller renewed his call for changes to bail reform which would allow judges to punish and send to prison repeat offenders or recidivist persons who commit the same crime again and again.

"In New York there is a willingness to look at some changes to bail reform. If you believe in recidivism, and I do, the vast majority of crime is committed by a small group of people and they deserve to be put in jail."

Mueller told both Fox News and the Yonkers City Council that in Yonkers, crime is down overall despite the overall number of arrests dropping significantly from 7,000 last year to 3,000 this year. How was this accomplished?

"By arresting and asking for prison time for a small subset of our criminal population. We don't need to lock up the whole world and mass incarcerate. But if you engage and go after the small subset that get arrested and continue to shoplift at the same store, and never come back for their court date, crime goes down."

Mueller said that he is working with his fellow Police Commissioners across New York State to propose changing bail reform drastically. "We are asking for an abolishment of all cash bail. We don't need cash bail. Our founding fathers didn't intend on rich person staying out of jail while a poor person has to stay in jail."

"We want to go to a dangerousness metric, where a person is sentenced based on how many times they have been arrested and how many times they fail to appear. If someone is arrested 10 times for shoplifting and never returns for their court date, there should be consequences. If we make these minor modifications, and allow the Judge to have some latitude to consider the criminal history and the number of arrests, then the communities of color, who are suffering the most, will get the help the most," said Mueller.

To watch Mueller's video visit,

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=429848225362528>

## Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

legislators. And about the robocalls from the Police Chiefs and Fire Chiefs Associations that collect money not to help those in need but to enrich their benefactors. Putting your name on all these DO NOT CALL lists rarely helps because the companies who make these calls always find ways to get around the laws.

By the way, studies have shown that the auto warranty plans these companies sell are worthless and just a waste of your money. Let's say you miss the call and really do want one of these plans. Try calling back the CALLER ID number that popped up in your phone. You will probably get a message that either the number doesn't accept incoming calls or to push a number on your phone if you want your phone number permanently taken out of their call systems. An additional sign that the call is a fraud. And the number never leaves the system.

While we are talking about these frauds, let's talk a little bit about Giving Tuesday that occurred this week. Giving Tuesday should be everyday, not just one day. If you can afford to give money to a reputable charity you don't have to wait until Giving Tuesday to make your donation. Same goes for these days when you are called upon to do community service. If you can help a child read, help a senior citizen do daily tasks or get to the doctor or other appointment or buy groceries, don't wait until our leaders proclaim a special day.

There are many good charities out there but before you give, check to make sure that the soliciting charity is legitimate and uses its donations to help those in need, not for big bureaucratic salaries. Contact the Better Business Bureau or the State of New Charities Registration Bureau, part of the Attorney General's Office at (212) 416-8400. A lot of this information can be obtained online.

We have so many charities locally and throughout the country that do great work. Make sure you are donating to the legitimate ones!

HOT TOPICS: Black Friday and Cyber Monday spending by consumers was down. But if you walked into Macy's at Cross County Center on the day after Black Friday to take advantage of continuing Black Friday specials, you would see why. The joint was, as they say jumping! My feeling is that people want to get out of the house and shop after the long Covid hibernation, even though the weather outside is a bit chilly.

Many long time Yonkersites remember Rabbi Abraham J. Klausner and his dear wife Judy from Temple Emanu-El on Rumsey Road in Yonkers. If you mention Temple Emanu-El in Yonkers, the first thing people will remember is Rabbi and his wife Judy. It's always sad to me when one of my once avid readers dies. Rabbi died a number of years ago. Judy, his wife just passed this week. She was a talented artist creating many objects of art for the Temple. And a reader from Sante Fe, New Mexico!

Want to read a fun book. See if you can find a copy of a book Judy wrote in 2011, MY CUP RUNNETH OVER AND STAINETH THE CARPET available in paperback. Trust me, it will bring back memories and you will enjoy it!

Reach Eric Schoen at [thistooisonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistooisonkers@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 Rising

PO Box 705, Yonkers NY 10702-914-815-1388.

Proudly serving the City of Yonkers as the official weekly newspaper with hyperlocal news. Member NY Press Association.

Legal notice inquiries to: [risinglegalnotice@gmail.com](mailto:risinglegalnotice@gmail.com).

Daniel Murphy, Publisher & Editor in Chief, [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com).

Bayan Baker, Assistant to the Editor in Chief [risingmediagroup@gmail.com](mailto:risingmediagroup@gmail.com).

Advertising requests to the Editor: [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com)

## We Miss You Pat!



Yonkers lost Pat Quinn one year ago. Quinn was diagnosed with the amyotrophic lateral sclerosis disease (Lou Gehrig 's disease) in 2013, and fought it until he passed in Nov. 2020. Quinn is best known as the co-founder the Ice Bucket Challenge against ALS, was 37. During his advocacy work to find a cure for ALS, millions was raised for research.

*Yonkers History , continued from pg 5-*

Sunday, December 12th

December 12, 1934: Alois Fuchs, President of the newly formed Yonkers Chapter of the American League of Friends of New Germany, issued a strong statement vigorously opposing the boycott of German-manufactured goods Samuel Untermyer declared at the World Non-Sectarian Anti-Nazi Council to Champion Human Rights two weeks earlier. Fuchs claimed it would "harmful to the recovery plan of our President, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and the American people." According to Fuchs, the Yonkers branch had more than 100 members who would do everything in their power to "further the friendly relations between the old fatherland and the new homeland."

December 12, 1934: Abraham Cohen got a bill for a telegram he sent to Senator Huey Long! As NYU's Fourth Estate Club Secretary, Highland Avenue's Abraham Cohen sent a telegram to the Senator protesting censorship of the press at Louisiana State University. Although Long received it, read it and kept it... he refused to pay for it! Cohen and the Club protested suspension or expulsion of 30 students on the staff of the Reveille (school paper) for their courageous stand upholding freedom of speech and the press. The Club paid the bill.

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

### 2021 HOLIDAY TREE & MENORAH LIGHTINGS

MAYOR MIKE SPANO

12/1	5:00 - 5:30 PM	City Hall Menorah Lighting
12/2	4:30 - 5:00 PM	Downtown Waterfront BID at Getty Square
	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Girl Scouts Heart of Hudson/Crestwood at American Legion Plaza
12/3	5:00 - 8:00 PM	Untermyer Performing Arts Council /Cola Center
	7:00 - 9:00 PM	CHAT Tree Lighting at St. George Parkway
12/5	3:00 - 5:00 PM	Cedar Knolls Colony at Darcy Park
12/8	7:00 - 8:00 PM	The Luther Burbank Club at Rumsey Road
12/9	6:00 - 8:00 PM	McLean Avenue Merchants at Conor Park
12/10	5:30 - 8:00 PM	Untermyer Conservancy at Untermyer Park/Walled Garden
	6:00 - 8:00 PM	South Broadway BID at Lincoln Park



### Holiday EVENTS IN THE CATSKILLS



- 12/4 Candy Cane Christmas Festival | **Cairo**
- 12/5 Christmas by the River | **Coxsackie**
- 12/11 Victorian Stroll | **Athens**
- 12/18 Holiday Centerpiece Making | **Tannersville**
- 12/21 Cultivate Catskills Solstice Stroll | **Catskill**

See more at [greatnortherncatskills.com/events](http://greatnortherncatskills.com/events)

**The Highlighted Gift**

- 4 Burger's Old Top Steaks (\$12 ea.)
- 4 Flat Mignon Burgers (\$5.99 ea.)
- 4 Boneless Chicken Breasts (1 lb. pkg.)
- 4 Gourmet Avocado Fries (\$9 ea.)
- 4 Individual Gouged Potatoes (\$3.99 ea.)
- 4 Gourmet Apple Turnovers (\$1 ea.)
- 1 Jar Signature Seasoning (\$1 ea. jar)
- 1 1/2 lbs Flat Mignon Burgers (\$15 ea.)

GET A FREE FILET MIGNON BURGERS

Order Now! 1.844.615.2744 ask for 6566BPTN  
OmahaSteaks.com/TheGift1246

# WESTCHESTER COUNTY HOLIDAY Gift Drive

It's that time of year...  
Brighten a child's holiday by donating a new, unwrapped gift by **December 17**

### DROP OFF:

- Westchester County Michaelson Office Building**  
143 Martine Avenue, White Plains
- Dept. of Social Services Central Office**  
112 East Post Road, White Plains
- Mt. Vernon District Office**  
100 East First St.
- Peekskill District Office**  
790 Washington St.
- White Plains District Office**  
85 Court St.
- Yonkers District Office**  
131 Warburton Ave.



1. Please donate for babies through age 24 (No Stuffed Animals Please)
2. Monetary donations are graciously accepted in the form of gift cards, cash or checks made payable to: "Westchester Child Welfare Holiday Fund."

DONATIONS MAY BE MAILED TO  
Barbara Sabater

113 East Post Road, Room 637, White Plains, New York 10601

FOR ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT: [bws7@westchester.gov](mailto:bws7@westchester.gov) or call 914-965-1517



## Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy 's Grand Holiday Illumination Opens December 10



Inaugurated in 2015, the Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy's Grand Holiday Illumination has quickly become a Yonkers tradition, and thousands of visitors come to enjoy the spectacle. Come and see the Walled Garden lit with more than 100,000 lights and listen to holiday music from many traditions.

This holiday treat is free thanks to our generous sponsors. The Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy is proud to be a grantee of ArtsWestchester with funding made possible by Westchester County Government with the support of County Executive George Latimer.

Be a Part of the Celebration! Would your community group like to be a part of the Grand Holiday Illumination this year?

If you have volunteered for Illumination before, or attended as a visitor, you know that it is a magical event. Visitors meander through the garden and experience the wonder and joy of the season. Every night brings smiles and laughter!

Each evening, a community group hosts the Welcome Table. Volunteers from the group welcome visitors to the garden, encourage them to sign up for our email newsletter and perhaps make a donation, and give out FREE hot chocolate provided by the Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy. We ask for at least 4 people to staff the Welcome Table at all times, and many groups find it convenient to organize their group to take two shifts 4:15-6:15 p.m. and 6:15-8:15 p.m. or sometimes take only one of the shifts for the evening. Email Trish Lindemann at [tlindemann@untermyergardens.org](mailto:tlindemann@untermyergardens.org) if your group would like to participate, and visit [untermyergardens.org](http://untermyergardens.org) for more information to prepare for your visit.

### \$176,000 in Property Taxes, continued from pg 4-

COVID has also been very good for stock holders, and the people who could afford to buy these properties have done exceptionally well over the past 18 months, so they have the money to buy the home of their dreams. And if they have \$11 Million to buy a house, or \$6 Million to put down on an \$11 Million house, they don't even care that the property taxes are \$178,000 per year.

The cost of real estate in Westchester and the property taxes paid by homeowners in Westchester is the highest in the country, and so the debate in Washington over making changes to the current \$10,000 limit on deductions for State and Local Income Taxes, SALT, is important. Two plans are working their way through Congress regarding SALT deductions. One piece of the Build Back Better bill would increase the cap from \$10,000 to \$80,000 for all American homeowners, giving most homeowners in Westchester the ability to deduct all of their property taxes from their federal taxes. But another plan, sponsored by US Senator Bernie Sanders, who is also the senate budget chair, and NJ Sen. Menendez, would entirely eliminate the SALT cap for anyone with incomes of less than \$400,000, and restore SALT caps on higher income earners.

## Yonkers Municipal Housing Authority Delivers X-Giving Meals to 350 Senior Residents

Dinners Prepared by Chef Peter Kelly of X2O and Donated by Def Jam Recordings and other sponsors



L-R: Charlene Thomas, VP Marketing Def Jam Recordings, Wilson Kimball, President and CEO of MHACY and Chef Peter Kelly of X-20 on the Hudson.

It was a happy X-Giving for more than 350 senior residents of affordable housing run by the Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (MHACY) who received special Thanksgiving meals thanks to the generosity of donors including Def Jam Recordings who donated in memory of the late rapper "DMX."

The dinners, which were prepared by renowned Restaurateur Peter Kelly of X2O on Hudson Restaurant, consisted of sliced turkey, apple and sausage stuffing, potato puree, giblet gravy, French string beans with shallots, cranberry sauce and a slice of homemade pumpkin nut bread.

The meals were underwritten by Def Jam Recordings, The Fresnel Group, Sean Gann of Touchstone Builders and Richard Chen of Kiska Solutions Inc. and Kiska Fire Systems

On November 24 the day before Thanksgiving, MHACY President and CEO Wilson Kimball and Def Jam Recordings Vice President of Marketing Charlene Thomas joined Peter Kelly at his restaurant to help pack the meals for delivery. MHACY staff loaded the meals in vans and delivered them to senior housing sites throughout Yonkers.

Kimball said that X-Giving (named after two main donors DMX and X-20) was part of a larger partnership that has formed between Def Jam records since the death of "DMX" Earl Simmons, who lived at 80 School Street. A mural dedicated to him was unveiled at the MHACY property in August.

"We wanted to make sure that our seniors had a wonderful meal this Thanksgiving," said Kimball. "We are so grateful to Def Jam Records and to Peter Kelly, a success story who grew up in municipal housing in Yonkers, and our development partners for their on-going support of our residents."

Thomas said, "On behalf of Def Jam Recordings and the family of Earl "DMX" Simmons, we wanted to continue the tradition he had started years ago after his grandmother's passing to give meals to the less fortunate and to those who would not have a meal otherwise. Together with Peter and Wilson we provided meals to the families in Yonkers. It's an honor."

Chef Kelly said, "The holidays are a special time and we are happy to make these holidays brighter for seniors who may not be able to be with family and friends," said Chef Kelly. "We at X20 hope they enjoy what we've prepared and thank MHACY and Def Jam Recordings for making this happen."

**RUN AGAIN**

*"Right out of surgery, I had no need for pain medication. I felt like a new man!"*

- Chris W., MAKOplasty® knee replacement patient

**LIVE AGAIN**

## PERFECTING JOINT REPLACEMENTS

The Team at St. John's Westchester Orthopedic Center in Dobbs Ferry is providing you with the most advanced joint replacements available in your neighborhood.

### RENOWNED ORTHOPEDIC TEAM

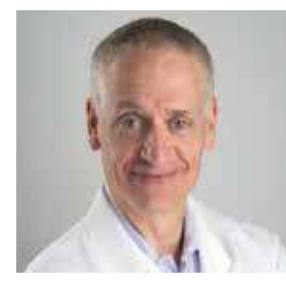
- Comprehensive skeletal clinical and radiological diagnostics
- Muscle sparing surgery
- Precise robotic-assisted implant alignment
- Joints that work in harmony with your entire body
- 99% patient satisfaction\*

\*Source: Based on WOC follow-up survey

**914.964.4DOC**  
WestchesterOrthoCenter.com



**David Lent, MD**  
Orthopedic Surgeon  
Tri-State Leader in MAKOplasty Robotic-Assisted Surgeries



**Howard J. Luks, MD**  
Orthopedic Surgeon  
Leading Sports Medicine Specialist  
Shoulder, Knee & Sport Injuries



NOT SHOWN: Evan Gaines, MD; Vishal A. Mehta, MD; Patrick Murray, MD; Paul S. Ragusa, MD; Daniel Shein, MD; David Shein, MD; Eric Spencer, MD; Mario Voloshin, DPM, FAFAS