

# Yonkers Rising

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Friday May 29, 2020

## Merante Says Read My Lips...No New Taxes



City Councilman and Budget Chair Anthony Merante

By Dan Murphy

There have been several new developments in the upcoming City of Yonkers budget for the 2021 fiscal year. First, Governor Andrew Cuomo has not announced the final details of the state budget, due in part because Congress and President Trump have yet to agree on a 4th COVID bailout package that hopefully, for the people of New York, will include funds for NYS government.

Despite the lack of a state budget to determine if Yonkers will get the same amount of State Aid that it received last year, Yonkers did receive bad news from the State budget office that the City would not receive its last payment or installment of Municipal Aid, AIM, on time.

Yonkers was due an AIM funding payment of \$94 Million from NY State, but the Governor and the State Budget office are holding back on payments because they don't know how much of a deficit the State budget will have

Last month, Mayor Mike Spano presented a budget to the City Council which calls for spending \$1.2Billion and has a tax increase of 2%. The Council has been reviewing Spano's spending plan and is close to voting on an amended budget, which would raise property taxes by just under 2%, and would have no layoffs.

But if the City Council votes on Spano's budget with minor changes this week, the budget future for Yonkers is still very much up in the air without a concrete dollar amount from Albany for State Aid. And Albany is waiting to see if they get a bailout from Washington before they tell Yonkers how much state aid it will receive.

Despite the remaining questions, the City and Finance Commissioner John Lieszewski want the Council to pass a budget so that the City can issue short term bonds to borrow if needed and so that the tax bills can be

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## Yonkers Split on DA's Race Support for Scarpino & Rocah



Mimi Rocah, left, and Westchester DA Anthony Scarpino

By Dan Murphy

Democratic voters in Yonkers will play a big role in who becomes the next District Attorney of Westchester County, and so far there is a split among Yonkers Democrats between the two candidates vying to win the democratic primary on June 23: incumbent DA Anthony Scarpino and former federal prosecutor and MSNBC commentator Mimi Rocah.

With less than four weeks to go, both candidates have supporters in Yonkers. In most elections, DA Scarpino's record of achievement would have ensured him re-election. And for most democrats in Westchester, there is no disputing the fact that Scarpino has served the people of Westchester well.

Crime is down overall in Westchester during Scarpino's four years. DA Scarpino has also eliminated the prosecution of possession of small amounts of marijuana, and has supported bail reform, which eliminates bail for many criminal offenses. As one Westchester democrat who supports Scarpino said, "DA Scarpino has done a good job. There is no reason to throw him out, other than he may not look and sound like what you want. He's not flashy."

Scarpino and his campaign admit to this fact and highlight it in a TV

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## Yonkers Readies to Reopen Outdoor Dining Three Weeks Away



Yonkers City Hall is making sure that outdoor dining permits will be allowed when re-opening begins

—Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced he will issue an emergency order suspending the City's zoning and building codes which will allow restaurants to provide outdoor dining for patrons. Once New York State authorizes outdoor dining operations, restaurants will be able to use sidewalks, parking areas or other suitable areas for outdoor dining. Permit applications for outdoor dining in Yonkers are available at [www.YonkersNY.gov](http://www.YonkersNY.gov).

—Restaurants will be able to use sidewalks as long as they separate dining areas from passersby and leave four feet of sidewalk open. Establishments also can use their own parking lots if they have one and the City, through the Yonkers Parking Authority, will make City lots available for any ones adjacent to restaurants.

—Applicants must submit a \$50 fee for the sidewalk café application. Approval of any submitted outside dining permits must conform to New York State's physical distancing guidelines, and will only be authorized when the State authorizes outside dining for Westchester County. Questions can be directed to the Yonkers Small Business Center at 914-343-4113 or [SmallBiz@yonkersny.gov](mailto:SmallBiz@yonkersny.gov).

—Westchester County Executive George Latimer went over the steps toward the re-opening of the county and Yonkers. In order to begin Phase One, the Mid-Hudson Region (which encompasses Westchester, as well as Rockland, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan, Ulster, and Dutchess Counties) has meet seven separate benchmarks.

—These metrics have been established based on guidance from the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, the World Health Organization, the U.S. Department of State, and other public health experts. They include a decline in Total Hospitalizations, Deaths, and new Hospitalizations. Hospital Bed Capacity, ICU Bed Capacity, Diagnostic Testing Capacity and Contact Tracing Capacity, are also reviewed.

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## All Eyes Will Be on Absentee Ballots June 23



By Dan Murphy

This year's primary election, to be held on June 23, is confusing to voters for several reasons. The Coronavirus has made going out to the polls to vote something that many voters will just not do.

To avoid requiring voters in New York State from having to leave their home to vote, Governor Andrew Cuomo issued an order giving every voter the right to request an absentee ballot. Most voters in Yonkers should already have received their absentee ballot application.

If you want to vote in the primary on June 23, and do it by mail, you must request a ballot by filling out the application and mail it back to the Board of Elections. The BOE will then mail you back an actual ballot, and Yonkers democrats will be able to vote for Congress, District Attorney, and City Court Judge.

But if you want to vote in person, you can still do so. Your polling place may be different this year because of COVID, so your polling place will have to check with the BOE, or we will try to tell you of the polling places in Yonkers when they become available.

Some voters are worried that their ballots may never get to them because of poor post office service.

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## Healing is First Sign of Return to Normal Life

By Robert Kalfus



**Dr. Kart stretches patient Tabitha Perez, a Yonkers resident, both wearing face masks on the floor of the TherapyCare gym on Central Park Avenue in Yonkers. Photo by Robert Kalfus**

Patients resumed treatment at TherapyCare Physical Therapy of Yonkers on Monday, hopefully a sign of renewed life returning to usual. The practice reopened May 3rd on a limited basis, servicing patients Monday, Wednesday and Friday. The practice was closed since March 20, when New York State ordered social isolation to contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus. TherapyCare's owner and therapist Dr. Karthigayen Gopala Krishnan, known to all as Dr. Kart, planned the reopening to help his many patients suffering from a lack of pain management, decreased mobility, muscle weakness, and stiffness.

"We were not able to provide patients manual therapy, therapeutic massage, or stretching treatments for the past 7 week closure due to restrictions of no close contact. We now see many patients returning with weakness, stiffness and pain that was not manageable by themselves at home, especially in cases of chronic pain and post-operative care," said Dr. Kart.

"In addition to providing the very best physical therapy, our prime concern now is for the safety of patients and staff during treatment," stated Dr. Kart. "There is no close contact between patients and staff. All patients and staff must wear masks at all times, and a box of free masks greets each patient as they enter. We give a free mask to the patient entering TherapyCare if they do not have one. We are also teaching proper use of masks, as many do not know how to breathe properly with one. All patients' temperatures are checked upon arrival with an infrared thermometer, and it and all pens used are disinfected before and after use."

"Therapists wipe and disinfect any chair, table or any equipment before a patient uses it, and after use. Chairs are placed no less than 6 feet apart and are regularly disinfected, and wipes are stationed throughout the office. Therapists are double gloved and change their gloves they come in contact with patients or equipment," continued Dr. Kart. "Two shifts of cleaning services daily clean thoroughly the entire clinic with disinfectant wipes."

Mrs. Tabitha Perez was already in treatment with Dr. Kart and experiencing relief and healing, when this past summer, her car was hit and demolished by an unlicensed driver. She required spinal surgery to repair the damage. After recovering from surgery, she trusted only Dr. Kart at TherapyCare to heal her using his pain relief and physical therapy techniques. She was making good progress with TherapyCare, until Governor Andrew Cuomo required the almost complete shutdown of NYS services to isolate and quarantine the COVID-19 Coronavirus after Sunday, March 22. Mrs. Perez, a 22 year veteran NYC schoolteacher, was able to work from home teaching her first grade class during the quarantine, and continued home therapy exercises provided her by Dr. Kart. But Mrs. Perez was eager and thrilled to resume her healing with TherapyCare Physical Therapy on Monday.

Mrs. Perez wrote in a review "Kart is amazing and will address all your therapy concerns. I have complete trust in his knowledge and ability to help me recover! The entire staff at TherapyCare are welcoming and always friendly, they genuinely care about their patients." Referring to Dr. Kart's having opened the newly expanded Yonkers clinic last August, with new equipment and greatly increased capacity and staff, Mrs. Perez wrote "The newly opened facility is well kept and provides access to a variety of therapy techniques and tools, including fitness equipment. It is truly the best place to receive therapy. I highly recommend it!"-continued on pg 7-

## Yonkers Virtual Senior Law Day

Program June 1st --9:00 - 11:00 AM



## SENIOR LAW DAY COLLABORATIVE

For the 3rd year in a row, Yonkers Public Library and the Westchester Senior Law Day Collaborative are partnering to deliver advice to seniors and their families in Yonkers and beyond. The program is 100% virtual this year, with educational talks covering legal, financial and health topics – all with practical and timely information.

Seniors can access the program on the morning of Monday, June 1st in one of three convenient ways:

- Yonkers Public access TV Channels - 78 (Cablevision) and 39 (Verizon FIOS)
- Facebook Live from Yonkers Public Library - Senior Law Day
- By Toll-Free Phone: 1.408.418.9388 (Access code 712.797.297 and Password 9352663)

The program will feature six short presentations geared to issues that seniors face today. First, an attorney from the New York State Attorney General's office will explain how scammers are operating in this COVID era and how to avoid scams. Next a nurse will show how to avoid potential infection while shopping. This hands-on demo will be followed by talks on protections to renters in light of the Tenant Protection Act of 2019 and an overview of Elder Law - everything families need to know about planning to preserve assets. The program will conclude with an overview of advanced directives and an update on the New York State Medicaid changes that have just been enacted.

## Westchester County to Host Virtual Graduation for High School Seniors



A High School Graduation ceremony is a rite of passage that occurs only once in a lifetime for students, as they close the chapter on their High School years and embark upon their college careers. It is a time of accomplishment, a time of reflection, a time of hope for a promising future – and a celebration for all who have worked so hard to earn their High School diploma. Although the COVID-19 pandemic may have altered High School graduations as we know them, Westchester County Government wants to make sure that all hopes are not dashed for a 2020 graduation ceremony for Westchester County's seniors.

We are asking all community leaders, teachers, parents, grandparents and siblings to record a short video on your smart phone to say congratulations and best of luck to the High School Senior in your life. The video does not have to be long, and it is an easy way to get the entire community involved in a "virtual" graduation ceremony. Our High School seniors deserve to hear your words of praise, and know you are proud of all they have achieved.

If you would like to participate, send your video to [Communications@WestchesterGov.com](mailto:Communications@WestchesterGov.com). Eventually, we will have a string of congratulatory messages from citizens all over the County, in honor of Westchester County's graduating class of 2020. The deadline to submit a video is June 6.

### CORPORATION NOTICE CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

### PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Virtual Public Hearing on Thursday, June 4, 2020 at 5:00pm, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING PARTS OF ARTICLE IV OF CHAPTER 15 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS ENTITLED "SALES AND USE TAX" TO CONFORM TO THE 2020 AMENDMENTS OF THE NEW YORK STATE TAX LAW.

Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary. Further information, including access to a copy of said proposed local law, may be obtained at the City Clerk's office, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York and on the City's Website.

To participate in the public hearing via ZOOM please join using the following information:

Meeting ID: 914 377 6301:

Password: 060420  
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## Senator Mayer to Host Virtual Town Hall on Education June 2



Please join State Senator Shelley Mayer on Tuesday, June 2, at 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM, when she will host her first in a series Education Virtual Town Hall.

This event will feature special guests: Dr. Betty Rosa, Chancellor of the NYS Board of Regents; Dr. Frances Wills, Regent for the 9th Judicial District; Dr. Robert Glass, Superintendent of the Eastchester Union Free School District; Beth Sniffen, Region Director for the Westchester-East Putnam PTA; Joe Liberti, AP Government Teacher, Mamaroneck Public Schools; and Rev. Stephen Lopez, President of the Board of Trustees, Yonkers Public Schools.

It will be an opportunity to hear about plans for the future of schooling, and to hear your concerns and opinions. You can join us for the event live on my Facebook Page: State Senator Shelley Mayer

## Yonkers Man Arrested for Anti-Semitic Graffiti Incident Near Scout Field

Westchester County Police have charged two men with spray-painting the racist and anti-Semitic graffiti that was found spray-painted on May 25 on County-owned property on the Bronxville-Yonkers border.

The graffiti, including a swastika and racist language targeting African-Americans and Mexican-Americans, was found on the back of a dugout at Scout Field and along a pathway north of the ballfield. It has since been covered over by County public works personnel.

The vandalism was reported to Westchester County Police about 10 a.m. when a woman approached an officer who had arrived to conduct an inspection of the area, which is off Midland Avenue. The Bronxville Police Department and Westchester County parks personnel also responded and assisted in documenting the scene.

"Hateful acts of this kind have no place in Westchester County, ever," County Executive George Latimer said. "But this is particularly a time when we all need to stand together as we face the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic."

Public Safety Commissioner Thomas A. Gleason thanked the Bronxville Police Department and Westchester County District Attorney's Office for its assistance in the investigation.

Arrested were: Nodar Kikvisize, 22, of Bronxville and Thomas Hasselt, 23, of Yonkers. Both were charged with Criminal Mischief 3rd Degree as a Hate Crime and Aggravated Harassment 1st Degree, felonies; and Making Graffiti, a misdemeanor.

"We share a responsibility to come together and support each other especially in this time of a public health crisis and speak out against racism, anti-Semitism and all acts of hatred in our community. Please contact the Westchester County Human Rights Commission at (914) 995-7710 or by email at [humanrights@westchestergov.com](mailto:humanrights@westchestergov.com) if you are aware of any instances of hate or bias in the County." Executive Director Tejash Sanchala said.

## Looks Like We Made It!

By Eric Schoen

“There you are  
Looking just the same as you did last time I ‘saw’ you  
And here I am  
Close to getting tangled up inside the thought of you...  
Looks like we made it  
Left each other on the way  
Looks like we made it  
I truly think so today  
Now Thank God You are there, everywhere  
And all I could think was yes, we made it! “

We borrow a little touch of the great Barry Manilow this week as we get ready to open Westchester and the Hudson Valley. Will we act like the idiots who invaded the Lake of the Ozarks last weekend and played on top of each other like some weird kind of orgy?

Will we stand on line on top of each other on a cloudy day? When it's cold outside in the month of May on the Jersey Shore just to score a beach pass? What will make us feel this way?

Will we violate all the rules that got us to this point? Social Distancing, staying 6 feet away from others. Wearing those stupid annoying masks that help us and those around us stay safe. Washing our hands constantly with soap and water. Using that ‘icky’ hand sanitizer when we can’t get to the sink. You can wear plastic gloves but remember touching numerous surfaces with the same gloves just spreads the virus to other surfaces.

Speaking of other surfaces, why is it taking the CDC so long to determine how long the Coronavirus can live on the surfaces we touch? Or how long the virus is in the air and lives with droplets coming from our mouths?

Eating foods that help keep our immunity system strong. Following the advice of our doctors to drink plenty of liquids with a particular interest in drinking hot and warm beverages that work to kill the virus in our throats as the virus hates heat. The list of vitamins and supplements to take is there: C, D, E, Zinc, Probiotics. I’m no doctor and you don’t have to be one either.

Not falling to ‘quackery’ by consuming large quantities of sauerkraut, kimchi, medications our government tells us do not work or can cause serious medical reaction including death. And certainly not consuming Lysol or other disinfectants that can cause serious injuries to our bodies and death.

We eagerly wait for our elected officials to get together and let the health authorities lead the way and tell us what to. Sadly it’s all about politics when it should be about people. The camera ops with elected officials handing out food to those in need have become obnoxious. There are plenty of community based people that would do a better job distributing donations. The electeds should be trying to get us more food and money to help us.

The first phase of recovery is more symbolic than substantive and unless you are intimately involved you won’t realize it. Startup of Construction, so critical to the economy; manufacturing to bring more product on the market and restart of the wholesale supply chain.

The last item in the first phase is select retail, mainly curbside pickup. What this means for you and me I don’t know. Can we order beauty products from let’s say Ulta and pick them up at the store? Slinky gowns from Victoria’s Secret for store pickup? Order jeans from Macy’s and pick them up at the store. We will wait for our great retailers to define this.

It doesn’t mean hair cutting but with use of masks, gloves, capes and sanitized utensils I hope this is on the horizon. I still won’t be able to enter Burlington Coat Factory or Marshall’s to snag a bargain. But when we can, I hear from around the country sales are going to be big.

As I told you last week and the nose swabbed Governor showed you, there is plenty of testing for Covid 19 available. Westchesterites need to take advantage of it. That was the main request all along from our electeds, we need more testing! it’s free of charge and in the case of antibodies simple to do. Though not Hollywood style, you get a ‘swag’ bag with protein bar, bottle of water and important information.

So friends, our local world as we knew it is finally getting back to normal. It will still take some time and whether we like it or not some work on our part. We don’t want to screw it up and go back to square 1. Please, please don’t be like the jackasses throughout the country who didn’t follow some basic, simple rules, some like hand washing that we should have been doing since 1st. or 2nd grade.

Yes, we’ve got the whole world in our hands!

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




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## Best vs. Golaith: Open Letter to Voters in the City of Yonkers



**Karen Best**

Dear Yonkers Voters:

What do you do when someone tells you that you have to wait to follow your dream? Consider that person is viewed as the gatekeeper to that dream. Do you “wait your turn”? Do you “get in line”? Do you “play the game”? Or do you persist? I was in that position when I decided that I wanted to become a Yonkers City Court Judge.

In the January issue of the Yonkers Rising, Yonkers Democratic Chairman Thomas Meier stated, “You don’t just wake up one morning and say, ‘I want to be a judge.’” My first thought when I read that quote was, “Why not?” He may have been referring to me when he made that statement because I chose to run in a manner he considers to be the wrong way. I did not become a district leader, I did not pay to attend numerous Yonkers Democratic Party events, I did not work for other candidates, nor did I “bow down and kiss his ring.” I chose to keep my money, my dignity, my integrity, and my respect. I chose to fight a battle that has been deemed impossible, which is winning a Yonkers election without the establishment leaders’ approval.

In the aforementioned issue of the Yonkers Rising, Meier also stated, “Most Yonkers Democrats don’t want a primary...” Fortunately, the Chairman cannot speak for most of Yonkers Democrats; they will speak for themselves when they cast their votes next month in the primary we have a right to hold. I hope Yonkers Democrats will cast a vote for me, for someone that dared to face a mountain and climb it; because by voting for me, that is the kind of person you can expect to ensure justice in this city.

I cannot say that forging ahead towards the Democratic primary on June 23rd has been easy. I have spent a lot of my own money and I have faced opposition from various people along the way. However, I continue to look forward to the primary because my campaign has become bigger than me. For me the Best 4 Yonkers City Court Judge Campaign has become a symbol of what I have done for other people throughout my career in Yonkers. I spent years of my career in Yonkers City Court advocating for the rights of others; advocating for the underdog.

Now, the underdog is me. I hope you join me in this movement for real social and economic justice in this city we call home.

Best regards,  
Judge Karen Best

**Editor’s Note:**

We recently spoke to Yonkers Democratic Chairman Tom Meier about Karen Best and this letter, which has been printed in other media outlets. Meier told Yonkers Rising, “Karen Best attended the Yonkers Democratic convention earlier this year. I explained to her that she could not compete in the nominatoin process for City Judge unless she was nominated by a Yonkers democrat in attendance.”

Best could not get a Yonkers democrat in attendance to nominate her resulting in her receiving 0% of the vote at the convention. Judge Tom Daly, Judge Brendan McGrath and attorney Verris Shako were nominated at the convention to be the nominees of the Yonkers Democratic Party for the democratic primary June 23.

Karen Best, and attorney Dan Romano round out the field of five democrats running for three seats on the Yonkers City Court.

## Parking Regulations Update



Alternate side of the street parking is suspended until Sunday, June 7th. Parking Meter Regulations are still in effect. However, shortened parking meter hours will still be from 10AM-6PM during New York State’s PAUSE.

## Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra at Home Concert May 31

Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra, YPO, will host a community event, and an ‘At Home Concert’ on May 31, 2020, at 3pm.

YPO @ Home: [LIVE] concerts w/The Yonkers Philharmonic Orchestra

(YPO)/2nd & 4th Sundays @3PM

The Winners Circle

May 31, 2020 at 3pm

WQXR radio personality - Robert Sherman

YPO Music Director - Tong Chen

Honor the winners of FAOS 44th Annual Young Artists Concerto Competition

Link: <https://yonkersphilharmonic.com/athome>

Find a hard copy of Yonkers Rising at a Supermarket or Pharmacy in the City. Or read us online at [YonkersTimes.com](http://YonkersTimes.com)

**CORPORATION NOTICE  
CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK**

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Virtual Public Hearing on Thursday, June 4th, 2020 at 5:15pm, Mayor’s Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

**A LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 15-141 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, IN RELATION TO EXTENDING THE CITY OF YONKERS MORTGAGE RECORDING TAX**

Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary. Further information, including access to a copy of said proposed local law, may be obtained at the City Clerk’s office, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York and on the City’s Website.

To participate in the public hearing via ZOOM please join using the following information:  
Meeting ID: 914 377 6301:

Password: 060420  
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Dial by your location: +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

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## Jamaal Bowman for Congress A Leader with Energy, Passion & Purpose

Letter to the Editor By: Bill Gaston

Representative Eliot Engel, who faces a primary challenge on June 23rd, has been in Congress for more than 30 years. I believe it is time for a change. In 2020, amidst a global pandemic whose epicenter is in our district, we need a Congressman who will bring energy and structural change to the challenges we face. I am supporting Jamaal Bowman as the best candidate to bring about that transformative change. I encourage you to support his candidacy.

The English poet Matthew Arnold once remarked "genius is mainly an affair of energy." As an educator of 20 years, and a middle school principal, Jamaal Bowman brings energy, passion and purpose. Whether he's talking about ending "forever wars," or reining in the overuse of standardized testing in the classroom, or ridding our democracy of special interest money, he exudes commitment. He also advocates a Green New Deal and Medicare for All.

Progressives have long endorsed these causes; however, when it comes to foreign policy, Congressman Engel's resume has been anything but progressive. A top recipient of defense industry contributions, Engel has, throughout his career, routinely supported the most bellicose foreign policy prescriptions. The most disastrous, of course, was his full-throated support of the Iraq War Resolution, which ushered in one of the worst, most costly foreign policy fiascoes in American history. He has since apologized for that vote, but his hawkishness continued through the Obama administration when he was one of only a few Democrats to oppose the Iran anti-nuclear agreement. To make matters worse, as the bloody Saudi-led war in Yemen dragged on, Congressman Engel was one of only 16 House Democrats in 2016 to vote against an amendment that would have blocked the transfer of cluster bombs to Saudi Arabia, bombs which have killed thousands of civilians, and led millions of Yemenis to the brink of starvation.

Nowhere is Mr. Engel more out of step with the progressive base of the Democratic party than on Israel-Palestine. In public gatherings, he is quick to pay lip service to a 2-state solution. However, for years, he has been silent as the most extreme right wing forces in the state of Israel have perpetuated its harsh occupation and dispossession of Palestinian lands, thus rendering a two state solution impracticable if not impossible. Indeed, Mr. Engel takes pride in his annual ritual attendance at the right-wing AIPAC convention, a gathering which even many Democratic candidates for president in 2020 steered away from this year because of the group's support of Israel's illegal settlement policy.

Now serving as chair of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, a perch which permits him to act as the most prominent Democratic Party figure for US foreign policy, Mr. Engel has shown no signs of easing up on his neoconservative foreign policy views. As Professor Stephen Zunes has noted, "it was nothing short of a betrayal of the Democratic leadership to turn the [Committee] over to someone so far to the right." Indeed, his views resemble more closely those of Republicans than the majority of his fellow Democrats.

Jamaal Bowman, by contrast, believes we need a truly progressive foreign policy that is marked by humanitarian values, and diplomacy. He wants to put a stop to the trillions in dollars we waste on senseless overseas conflicts. Unlike Mr. Engel, Mr. Bowman advocates a lasting peace in the Middle East that not only recognizes Israel's right to exist but also the Palestinian people's right to self determination, free from land grabs, state-sponsored violence, home demolitions and myriad human rights abuses.

Congressman Engel accepts thousands of dollars in contributions from well connected defense manufacturers such as Northrop Grumman, Lockheed Martin and Raytheon. Bowman's grass-roots movement is fueled by small individual contributions and donors; he is not beholden to neoconservative --or neoliberal -- interest groups.

On June 23rd, I will vote for Jamaal Bowman for Congress (CD-16). If you believe our district deserves renewed energy, progressive purpose, and transformative change, I urge you to cast your vote for Mr. Bowman too.

*Bill Gaston is a Democratic Party District Leader in Bronxville. Editors note "the views expressed are my own, and do not represent the views of the Bronxville Democratic Committee, which has not endorsed any candidate in the race."*

## On This Day In Yonkers History...



**NY Governor John Hoffman signed the Charter for the City of Yonkers in 1872**

**By Mary Hoar, President of the Untermeyer Performing Arts Council, Yonkers Historical Society President Emerita**

Monday, June 1st

June 1, 1872: New York State Governor John Hoffman signed the Charter establishing Yonkers as a city.

June 1, 1929: Teams of Yonkers detectives, led by Lieutenant George Ford, simultaneously raided a saloon and two soft drink parlors, arresting four men in the process. The team seized 700 bottles of beer, more than 100 gallons of whiskey and gin, and large quantities of wine.

June 1, 1936: Chief and Edward Quirk received a report of vandalism to a Somerville Place home, and openly confessed he did not know what to do about it! Blackbirds were attacking the house, pulling off one shingle after another.

Tuesday, June 2nd

June 2, 1932: Lester Carter, brought to Yonkers by the Yonkers Scottsboro Action Committee, addressed a gathering at the Messiah Baptist Church, swearing to the innocence of the Scottsboro boys. The slim blonde youth had ridden the same freight train as the nine Scottsboro boys; these African-American boys faced death in the electric chair because they were accused and convicted of raping two white women. Their defense team, aided by the Communist Party USA and the NAACP, brought the case to the US Supreme Court; the court found irregularities in their trials, including a poor defense, and sent the cases back to the original court to be retried.

June 2, 1943: Fourth Precinct Patrolman Steven Kaputa won his fight for reclassification by his draft board. Each time he enlisted previously, they put him in a deferred class, denying him the opportunity to serve. Finally, he was reclassified as 1-A, ready for military duty.

Wednesday, June 3rd

June 3, 1933: City employees, waiting for their deferred paychecks, were told they had to wait another 24 hours. Yonkers needed \$350,000 to pay the usual first of the month salaries, and owed another \$30,000 for the weekly laborers.

June 3, 1942: Otis elevators were used to raise aircraft planes during the Battle of Midway.

June 3, 1943: Yonkers Salvage Committee Block Leaders made national news with this headline from the New York State Salvage Committee release: "Black Leaders Getting Fat!" Joseph Ringwalt had reported to the State Salvage Committee that our Block Leaders had done such a great job promoting the salvage of waste fats in Yonkers homes, Yonkers had a 33% increase in fat collections during the month of March.

Thursday, June 4th

June 4, 1746: Nepperhan Harbor was used for the embarkation of British troops during the war between England and France.

June 4, 1943: Lieutenant H. B. Ressler of Yonkers and team were driving over a bridge on a dark night in Africa. Stopped by an Arabic soldier who demanded they "Halt," Ressler tried to speak to him in French. Another member of the party addressed the soldier in Spanish, both to no avail. Finally, they showed the officer their War Department identification; he scanned them for a moment, and then said, "OK. You can go on!" The gentleman, whose English was perfect, had lived for many years in Brooklyn!.

Friday, June 5th

June 5, 1916: The Recreation Commission asked Yonkers Police to assign officers to Glen Park on weekends to break up the regular gambling.

June 5, 1923: The New York Central Railroad offered a reward of \$500 for any information that would lead to the arrest and conviction of those responsible for the wreck of a Putnam Division train days earlier at the Yonkers city line. The train engineer was killed and eight passengers were injured.

June 5, 1943: The Federal Statutory Court upheld the Interstate Commerce Commission's order permitting the New York Central to abandon the Getty Square branch of the Putnam Division. The only recourse left to the City of Yonkers, the Public Service Commission, the Committee of South Yonkers Commuters and the people of Yonkers in their fight to save the branch was to appeal to the US Supreme Court.

Saturday, June 6th

June 6, 1931: The League of Struggle for Negro rights and the International Labor Defense of Yonkers appealed to all labor unions and fraternal workers organizations to send delegates to their conference at the Workers Cooperative Center, 252 Warburton Avenue. The conference was called to protest lynchings and race discrimination as a new wave of terrorism against African-Americans, with lynchings in the south increasing dramatically, was sweeping into many areas of the country. Southern mill owners were charged with inciting hatred, setting white workers against black workers. The appeal stated it was "the duty of all workers' organizations and individuals, white and Negro, native and foreign born, to rally in the struggle against lynchings and race discrimination."

June 6, 1945: After not seeing each other for more than four years, brothers Lansing and Frederick Hallock of Morsemere Place finally met up in Glessen, Germany! Brother Lansing, the Corporal who raised the first American flag over Werther, Germany, got permission to visit his brother, and found him at 1 AM in bed. By the way, German civilians made the flag Hallock raised, using material from German flags the Americans had captured.

Saturday, June 7th

June 7, 1928: Yonkers schools Superintendent Lamont Hodge announced the new \$625,000 addition to Saunders Trades Schools on South Broadway would allow an additional 300 students to attend when it opened in September, almost doubling the student body to 700 learners.

June 7, 1930: Workers missed capturing 50 white perch while preparing to clean out the Fortfield reservoir on Palmer Avenue. Instead, the fish swam into the city's water system and clogged several water mains, effectively cutting off the Yonkers water supply. Water Superintendent Oscar Barker stopped the work at Fortfield to have the fish removed.

*For more information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and our upcoming events, please visit our Facebook pages. For information on membership in the Yonkers Historical Society, please call 914-961-8940 or email yhsociety@aol.com.*

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## Yonkers Rising

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Notice of Formation of Creatorsapes Productions, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with NYS Dept. of State (SSNY) on 1/1/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to: 47 Rockland Ave, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.-06/26

Notice of Formation of Prime Snacks LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on (04/15/2020). Location: (Westchester County). SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: (1437 Nepperhan Avenue Yonkers, NY 10703). Purpose: Any lawful purpose.--05/29/20

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) #2020-02  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROVISION OF  
LANDSCAPING SERVICES  
AT PROPERTIES MANAGED BY  
THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (the "Authority" or "MHACY"), is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to provide landscaping services for the MHACY at various sites on an as-needed basis in Yonkers, New York, as specified in this Request for Proposals ("RFP"). This RFP package contains submission requirements and terms and conditions and other pertinent information for submitting a proper and responsive proposal. This RFP is the only information provided to prospective bidders (hereinafter "Responders") and is available online starting May 26, 2020 at www.mhacy.org under the "About" section.

The RFP questions deadline is June 5, 2020 at 4:00PM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions must be emailed to Lakisha Collins- Bellamy, Esq. at procurement@mhacy.org by the deadline. No telephone calls and/or written communication sent via mail will be accepted.

Proposals must reach MHACY no later than 3:00 PM (EST) on June 19, 2020. Late submissions will be handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B. Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria stated in the RFP. Negotiations may be conducted with contractors who have a reasonable chance of being selected for the award. After evaluation of the proposal revision, if any, the contract will be awarded to the responsible firm(s) whose qualifications, price and other factors are considered to be the most advantageous to MHACY. MHACY reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any irregularities or informalities if it is in MHACY's best interest to do so. MHACY reserves the right to cancel this RFP or to reject, in whole or in part, any and all proposals received in response to this RFP, upon its determination that such cancellation or rejection is in the best interest of MHACY.

MHACY is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or family status. MHACY solicits and encourages the participation of minorities and small businesses in procurement.

Contact, related to this procurement, with members of MHACY's Board of Commissioners, or MHACY's officers and/or employees other than the contact person show above, during the procurement process could result in disqualification of a proposal.

Wilson Kimball  
President, CEO  
Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers  
1511 Central Park Avenue  
Yonkers, New York 10710

## Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) #2020-01  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR  
TOWING SERVICES  
AT PROPERTIES MANAGED BY  
THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (the "Authority" or "MHACY"), is soliciting proposals from qualified firms for Towing Services for the MHACY at various sites as specified in this Request for Proposals ("RFP").

This RFP package contains submission requirements and terms and conditions and other pertinent information for submitting a proper and responsive proposal. This RFP is the only information provided to prospective bidders (hereinafter "Responders") and is available online starting May 26, 2020 at www.mhacy.org under the "About" section.

The RFP questions deadline is June 5, 2020 at 4:00PM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions must be emailed to Lakisha Collins- Bellamy, Esq. at procurement@mhacy.org by the deadline. No telephone calls and/or written communication sent via mail will be accepted.

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Wilson Kimball  
President, CEO  
Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers  
1511 Central Park Avenue  
Yonkers, New York 10710

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) # 2020-03  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PROVISION OF  
TREE SERVICES

AT PROPERTIES MANAGED BY  
THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (the "Authority" or "MHACY"), is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to provide tree services for the MHACY at various sites on an as-needed basis in Yonkers, New York, as specified in this Request for Proposals ("RFP").

This RFP package contains submission requirements and terms and conditions and other pertinent information for submitting a proper and responsive proposal. This RFP is the only information provided to prospective bidders (hereinafter "Responders") and is available online starting May 26, 2020 at www.mhacy.org under the "About" section.

The RFP questions deadline is June 5, 2020 at 4:00PM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions must be emailed to Lakisha Collins- Bellamy, Esq. at procurement@mhacy.org by the deadline. No telephone calls and/or written communication sent via mail will be accepted.

Proposals must reach MHACY no later than 3:00 PM (EST) on June 19, 2020. Late submissions will be handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B. Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria stated in the RFP. Negotiations may be conducted with

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Wilson Kimball  
President, CEO  
Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers  
1511 Central Park Avenue  
Yonkers, New York 10710

Notice of formation of Experiments in Wellness, LLC. Arts.of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/28/2020. 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, 300 Manville Rd, Pleasantville, NY 10570. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.--05/29/20



**Merante, City Budget continued from pg 1--**

mailed to property owners next month.

The other tidbit of budget information is that if the council as expected, adopts a budget similar to Mayor Spano's spending plan, and the Mayor signs it, what happens if Yonkers then gets bad news from Albany that state aid will be cut by another \$10 Million or \$20 Million immediately?

The responsibility will then fall on Mayor Spano to make the appropriate budget spending cuts. The only way the Mayor will be able to balance the budget will be through spending cuts, he cannot increase taxes beyond what the council approved in the budget now under review. That is why if Congress and the President doesn't bail out New York State, Yonkers could be facing layoffs.

Before any of the COVID 19 cuts come next month, the Yonkers Public Schools faces a \$22 Million shortfall for its budget for the upcoming 2020-21 school year right now. The Mayor and City Council have agreed to bond the cost of books and supplies, which will save the YPS \$5 Million and reduce the budget hole to \$17 Million.

The Yonkers Federation of Teachers, and its 1634 members, are due a contracted salary increase this upcoming school year, which will cost the city and taxpayers \$15 Million. If the YFT and its teachers agree to delay that salary increase, it will close the YPS budget gap and avoid teacher layoffs.

Councilman Anthony Merante, who is also the Chair of the Council's Budget Committee, told Yonkers Rising that he will not vote for any budget that has any property tax increase.

"I have voted for two tax increases in the past two budgets, and there is plenty of money at this point. With all of the uncertainty out there, we don't need to be raising taxes on homeowners," said Merante.

"The people have paid enough, we are letting the state off the hook. We have not had an increase in AIM funding for years, and now the state is holding back there last AIM payment due to us. Now we have to issue short term bonds in case the AIM funds don't come here in time. We send \$50 Million more up to Albany every year and now we need that money back."

When asked if all of the other councilmembers vote yes on the budget, would he be comfortable being the only no vote, and that no vote coming from the Budget Chair? "I will absolutely be ok being the lone no vote. Any tax increase is an insult to the taxpayers. We just found out that NYC will not be raising its water rates, so Yonkers doesn't have to raise its water rates. That is a savings in the budget that we can use, along with using some fund balance and reduce other expenses, to cover the budget without a tax increase.

"I want to give the taxpayers some hope and give them confidence, so that they will go out and start spending money again. I want to show the people that we are acting in good faith and trying to squeeze everything out of the taxes they already pay. But before I ask our homeowners for more money, I want our Monday from Albany and I want it now," said Merante.

Council President Mike Khader told Yonkers Rising that he is still reviewing the budget and is looking for "legislative reforms to the budget process before I can vote yes on this budget."

Khader said that while he is happy that there will be no water rate increase this year, "water rates have gone up by 300% in recent years. I will be calling for a tiered system of water rates, where homeowners and businesses pay a different tiers, so that homeowners can be protected."

Khader added that he will be seeking other items of negotiations, which may extend a council vote on the budget into next week.

**Absentee Ballots continued from pg 1--**

Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner is worried about just that, and has complained about poor post office service for some time.

Other voters are worried that somehow, someone else will be able to get their ballot and use it to vote for a candidate that they want to elect. Adding to this fear is President Donald Trump, who has Tweeted against mail in voting, despite the fact that as a resident of Florida, (he changed his residence from New York last year) he will be casting a vote by mail, or absentee.

"Mail in ballots substantially increase the risk of crime and voter fraud," and "There is no way that mail in ballots will be anything less than substantially fraudulent, This will be a rigged election," Tweeted the President this week, after the States of Michigan and Nevada moved towards making mail in voting easier.

The President's Tweets may make some voters in Yonkers nervous because most voters have never voted by Absentee ballot because in New York, you are required to give a reason why you can't go to the polls and why you are requesting an absentee ballot.

For the upcoming June 23 Primary, you still have to check a box for a reason why you want an absentee ballot. But you can check, Temporary Illness, as a reason this year, due to COVID.

Yonkers democrats will also be voting for a Presidential candidate, after a Judge ordered that the NY State Democratic Party conduct a Presidential Primary even though everyone except for Joe Biden dropped out. This will give you the chance to vote for Bernie or Bloomberg or Yang, or one of the others if you want to, or for Biden.

There are rumblings in Yonkers that someone may try to influence the outcome of the election by collecting absentee ballots and marking them for the candidate of their choice. This is called ballot harvesting or ballot collection and it is illegal in New York.

If you fill out your absentee ballot, seal it in an envelope, and then give it to someone else to deliver or mail to the Board of Elections, that is Ballot Harvesting, because the person collecting your ballot is harvesting a number of ballots in the hopes of electing the candidate of their choice.

You also cannot be paid to cast your vote, either in person or by absentee ballot. That includes getting paid in cash or by Gift Card, its against the law.

We have been told that the most ballots that anyone can turn in at a time is three, but we will confirm this with the Board of Elections. One friend at the BOE told us, "If someone comes in with a bunch of ballots we will be taking a good look at them. We never want any fraud in our elections but especially this year."

One other election reminder, early voting will be happening again this year in New York and in Yonkers, 10 days before the June 23 Primary. We will verify the polling locations for early voting and for voting on Primary Day and will report back.

**Physical Therapy Returns, continued from pg 2-**

Dr. Kart notes the new expanded Yonkers facility, in addition to all the current therapy services, has a senior fitness center as an integral part of his physical therapy center. "Our focus is on delivering exceptional results and services, learning new techniques, advancing our capabilities, and of course, having an exceptional team environment," said Kart. "We have many different types of therapies, all designed to improve patient's movement, increase strength and functioning, and relieve pain without the use of medication. We utilize the Mulligan Concept and others, seeking to improve patient's movement with the application of pain-free hands-on techniques.

Dr. Kart began his academic career at Pondicherry University where he received a Bachelors in Physical therapy (First Class). He has a Masters in Physical Therapy and a Masters in Business Administration (Health Care) which allows him to manage the patient care for his patients' best outcomes.

TherapyCare is located at a new and expanded street level Yonkers location, for easy wheelchair and handicapped access. Free parking is available in the parking lot. Visit the website at [www.TherapyCares.net](http://www.TherapyCares.net) or call (914) 294-0080, to make an appointment for care on Monday, Wednesday or Friday, at 1254 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers or at 3163 Bainbridge Avenue,

**Scarpino-Rocah, continued from pg 1--**

ad: He is someone who doesn't seek the spotlight, but just goes to work and gets results. Scarpino has touched on that image of being nerdy, and someone who does not seek the spotlight, but just enjoys doing the work and getting results.

In a recent TV ad, Scarpino says as much. "While I may not be the flashiest person you've ever met, everyone agrees that my experience and leadership are what we need right now. I am devoted to keeping this county safe and continuing to enact my progressive vision for the DA's office. No DA in history has had to lead the office through a crisis like this. But I've ensured that justice continues, by fighting scams, hate crimes and domestic violence."

That will be the message that Scarpino hopes to get across to democratic voters: that experience matters, especially in the middle of a pandemic. Scarpino has kept the office running and working, and he is running on his record.

But many democrats are wondering if Scarpino's record, experience and incumbency will be enough to defeat Mimi Rocah. Rocah received 48% of the vote from Westchester democrats at the county convention earlier this year and pre-COVID.

Rocah, an MSNBC commentator, brings the star power and the wealthy donors to her campaign (some of it from outside of Westchester) that Scarpino does not. On a recent zoom-podcast with Rosie O'Donnell, Hillary Clinton made an appearance and told Westchester Democrats to "get out and vote for Mimi."

Rocah also received the endorsement from the Hudson Valley Stonewall Democrats, who work to elect pro-LGBTQ Democrats, aiming to address LGBTQ governmental issues. "As the June primaries rapidly approach, we are excited to be able to endorse Mimi Rocah. Mimi represents the values of our organization and we are confident she will help protect the LGBTQ community," said organization President Anthony Nicodemo.

Scarpino recently released his list of "Women for Scarpino" which included, Yonkers City Councilmember Corazon Pineda and State Senator Shelley Mayer. "As a mother, a young Democrat and a tireless advocate for women and my community, I am pleased to endorse District Attorney Scarpino for reelection. DA Scarpino has been a true advocate for the people of Yonkers and all of Westchester. His strong progressive record has helped advance the causes of criminal justice reform, alternatives to incarceration and public safety among many others. I hope Westchester Democrats will join me in voting for him in the primary election on June 23rd," said Yonkers City Council Majority Leader Corazon Pineda-Isaac.

Other support in Yonkers for Scarpino comes from Mayor Mike Spano, Council President Mike Khader, Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, and County Legislator Jose Alvarado. Scarpino also received the endorsement from the Yonkers Democratic Committee.

Yonkers Democrats supporting Mimi Rocah include City Councilwomen Shanae Williams and Tasha Diaz. "During a time when we are suffering as a nation, poor leadership does not go unnoticed. It is very important that we have sound leaders here in Westchester at every level of government. The District Attorney must lead with strength and protect our communities, especially the most vulnerable. I believe Mimi Rocah is the strong leader Westchester deserves and I am committed to helping elect her as our next District Attorney," said Councilwoman Shanae Williams.

"Fighting Trump's dangerous policies starts here at home, in our communities. By electing Mimi Rocah as our next DA, we can work to ensure criminal justice reforms are done right, and that all members of our community feel safe and respected," said Councilwoman Tasha Diaz.

"Every day, support for our campaign grows because leaders like Shanae Williams and Tasha Diaz recognize we need change to be truly effective in combating Trump's hateful agenda and attacks on our justice system. We need to work together at the local level to reduce gun violence and rebuild trust between law enforcement and the communities we serve," said Rocah.

**Yonkers prepares for Re-Opening, continued from pg 1**

In order to move on to the next phase, each region must wait a minimum of two weeks. Westchester County, and Yonkers, are currently in phase one which began this week. Outdoor dining falls under Phase 3, which would be four weeks away, or in late June, at the earliest.

In order to re-open, businesses must document a detailed plan for a safe reopening, and must read the detailed Guidance provided by NYS and submit an affirmation.

Phase One includes Construction, Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting, Retail (Limited to curbside or in-store pickup or drop off), Manufacturing, Wholesale Trade.

Phase Two includes Professional Services, Retail, Administrative Support, Real Estate / Rental & Leasing

Phase Three includes Restaurants / Food Services

Phase Four includes Arts / Entertainment / Recreation, Education.

During his weekly online update, Mayor Spano said "It will come back very slowly, but this is an extraordinary first step and we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel. But we still have to practice social distancing and stay home if we can. Practice proper hygiene and wash your hands or we run the risk of having the numbers go the other way. We don't want that to happen. Be smart when the weather gets nice and protect yourselves and protect others. We can control what happens next to some extent," said Spano.

Yonkers Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada said, "we are working towards a plan to re-open the schools in September." He added that the YPS will have summer school for some students through distance learning.

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