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Friday June 12, 2020

Yonkers Re-Opens! Grab A Bite with Outdoor Dining



The City of Yonkers, and the rest of Westchester County, moved onto Phase II of the re-opening process and getting back to normal. Phase II means that restaurants are now open for outdoor dining, and several Yonkers restaurants have already opened their outdoor tables and are ready for your business.

Mayor Mike Spano toured a few Yonkers restaurants this week to encourage residents to come out and support their local small businesses, and enjoy a great meal. Mayor Spano is pictured above with County Legislator David Tubiolo, Councilmember John Rubbo, and McLean Merchants Board Member Henry Djonbalaj at The Heritage Restaurant.

Spano also went to Rory Dolan's, also on McLean Avenue, and Midland Pizza.

Romano Asked to Condemn 'Gun Post' by Consultant

Unconfirmed reports of protesters/rioters in my hood ready for anything.....



By Dan Murphy

A Facebook post last week by Yonkers small businessman and democratic political leader John Khader drew a harsh response from local gun safety ---organizations including Mom's Demand Action, and have now landed in the middle of the race for Yonkers City Court.

On June 2, John Khader posted a photo of a gun with bullets, and commented "unconfirmed reports of protesters/rioters in my hood ready for anything..."

One organization that spoke out against Khader's comments, was Mom's Demand Action, an organization founded after the Sandy Hook shootings working to pass stronger gun laws and work to close the loopholes that jeopardize the safety of our families. Their website also states, "We also work in our own communities and with business leaders to encourage a culture of responsible gun ownership."

Barry Graubart, a member of Mom's Demand Action in New York, responded to Khader's post, writing, "I was appalled to see this post on Facebook and Instagram today, threatening protesters with violence with what appears to be a short-barreled pistol-grip pump-action shotgun. These weapons are often referred to colloquially as a "zombie killer". "The photo was posted under the account "Johnny Limo", which belongs to John Khader, MPAC founder and owner of Top Class Limo in Yonkers. Gun violence may be a joke to John Khader, but to many of us in Westchester, it's a reality that has taken too many lives. And in the current environment, with people protesting for racial justice, with increasing domestic violence, gun violence is no laughing matter."

Graubart asked Westchester DA Anthony Scarpino to disavow Khader from his campaign and cancel a fundraiser scheduled with Khader. Scarpino issued a comment which read, "I became aware of a disturbing Facebook post by one of my supporters tonight. Upon learning about this post,

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Yonkers Speaks to Bedford at Rally for Black Lives



Peaceful protesters in Bedford at Rally for Black Lives

By Dan Murphy

On Sunday June 7, more than 1500 Westchester residents gathered in Bedford to honor the memory of George Floyd and to join together in a rally for Black Lives, organized by Sorvina Carr.

Bedford Town Board members Ellen Calves summed up the day when she wrote, "The Rally for Black Lives in Bedford Village today was a powerful event. The attendees were respectful and safe. My family and I were able to attend without coming in close contact with anyone, and everyone was wearing masks. What may have been 1500 or more people came and went in an orderly fashion and the port-a-potty didn't even look overburdened. Thankfully, those who spread the rumors of "outsiders" coming in and causing chaos did not continue their fear mongering campaign."

As I looked around at the crowds and the signs before the speakers began, most of the faces I saw were of young white women, some in high school or college, like my 18 year old daughter, who wanted to go to a rally but was afraid of what she was seeing on TV.

After a friend told me about the Bedford event, my daughter and I went together, and it was an experience that we will never forget. It reminded me of some of the rallies and concerts like Clearwater, from the 1970's that my dad used to take me to.

My dad was an NYPD officer in the 1970's and 80's. He was a progressive, Serpico-like cop at a time when it wasn't very popular to be one. My dad was honest and refused to take the bribes from drug money that were flowing through the NYPD at the time.

One of the speakers at the Bedford rally was Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins. Jenkins appeared on my WVOX radio show years ago, and we spoke about the fact that both of our fathers were NYPD cops, and served around the same time. I felt that we shared that bond, but after hearing what Jenkins told the crowd in Bedford, I realized and agreed with many of the signs that read, *I understand that I can never understand. However, I stand.*

Jenkins spoke about how during one of the turbulent times in New York City in the 1970's he was sent out by his father to get his younger brother.

He brought a stick with him for protection, but ended up getting a beating from a NYPD officer, even when Jenkins told the officer, "My dad is a cop."

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Rocah Criticized for 'Political Stunt' Over MVPD Whistleblower



DA Candidate Mimi Rocah, left and former DA candidate Tony Castro

By Dan Murphy

Westchester District Attorney candidate Mimi Rocah has been called out by attorney Tony Castro, for what he calls her 'political stunt' in trying to use a whistleblowers accusations against several Mt. Vernon Police Officers to her advantage in the democratic primary for Westchester DA. Rocah is challenging DA Anthony Scarpino in the primary June 23.

Castro, who ran two times for Westchester DA and who was endorsed by the New York Times, also challenges Rocah's record or lack thereof, of prosecuting police brutality. Earlier this month, Mt. Vernon Police Officer Murashea Bovell came forward with allegations of corruption and police brutality in the MVPD that included recorded conversations. Rocah called a press conference to claim that DA Scarpino "failed on all fronts from over-seeing an effective investigation into these allegations."

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Happy Flag Day



By Ann Muro

There is something I am proud of
 And I hope that you are too
 It is the flag of our great nation
 Colored Red and White and Blue

When we pledge allegiance
 with our right hand by our heart
 It is the love of country
 That on others we impart

One thing we must remember
 As we stand there proud and tall
 The flag of our great nation
 Represents us one and all.

Flag day is celebrated on June 14. to commemorate the adoption of the flag of the United States on June 14, 1777

Four Westchester County Pools to Open This Summer



Westchester families will be able to visit four of the county pools this summer

This summer, Westchester County will be opening four public pools. On Friday, June 26 Saxon Woods Pool in White Plains and Sprain Ridge Pool in Yonkers will open followed by Willson Woods Pool in Mount Vernon and Tibbetts Brook Pool in Yonkers on July 3 – all with some slight modifications to help ensure safety in the age of Covid-19.

Modifications include:

- No Aqua Playground at Saxon Woods Pool, and No Aqua Splash Pad at Sprain Ridge Pool
- No Waves in the Wave Pool or Aqua Playground/Splash Pad at Willson Woods Pool, and No Lazy River Tubes, Aqua Playground, Water Slides or Basketball Court at Tibbetts Brook Park Pool.

To further ensure safety, the pools will follow New York State and Westchester County Department of Health regulations of 50% maximum occupancy. The pools will be first come first serve entry with two public pool sessions throughout the day.

- Open Session 1: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.
- Clean/Disinfect: 2 p.m.-3 p.m.
- Open Session 2: 3 p.m.-6 p.m.
- Clean/Disinfect: 6 p.m.-7 p.m.

When Session 1 tickets are sold out, Session 2 tickets will go on sale to remaining patrons. When session 2 ticket are sold out no more tickets will be sold for that day. No rainchecks, re-entry, or refunds. Westchester County Department of Public Safety and Parks staff will be posted at entrances informing guests if session is sold out prior to parking. Also, Parks staff will make announcement every half hour reminding guests to use all proper social distancing guidelines and guests must wear a mask or face covering anytime they are closer than 6' from any other guest. Masks will be required to enter restrooms.

This summer the County will not be opening Playland Pool. Based on NYS guidelines, swimming pools must be closed if they are near a beach front. During this time, the County will be exploring how quickly renovations to the pool can be completed with the hope that it will be able to open in June 2021. This exact timeline is not yet known.

Learn more by visiting www.westchestergov.com

“Join me in voting for Eliot Engel for Congress in the Democratic Primary.”
 Mayor **Mike Spano**

As our Congressman, Eliot Engel is making a difference for Yonkers and Westchester.

He got **\$5 billion in health care funds** for our New York hospitals including St. John’s Riverside Hospital and Saint Joseph’s Medical Center.

He worked to get **millions** for Westchester’s **community health care centers** including for

HRHCare’s Park Care Center and Valentine Lane Health Center.

Engel fought to **stop the Coast Guard** from allowing **barges with hazardous material** to dock on the Hudson.

Year after year, he successfully worked to get **Federal Education funds** for Yonkers’ schools.

Eliot Engel’s ENDORSEMENTS for Congress in the **Democratic Primary** include



Engel is rated one of the **10 Most Effective Democratic Congress Members**

Center for Effective Lawmaking: Vanderbilt University / University of Virginia

Vote for Eliot Engel for Congress

On your Democratic Primary **Absentee Ballot** or **in-person** early or **June 23** voting



engelforcongress.com



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Yonkers NAACP Speaks Out on the Death of George Floyd

America has had a long standing history of abuse, injustices, and inequities against the African American community. We have been subjected to the wealth of America's disenfranchisement, marginalization, and social infringements since we arrived on the continent. Many atrocities have faced the black community and it has become more evident each time we have to experience the abuse that comes at the hand of law enforcement. The death of Mr. George Floyd of Minneapolis brought home to our community the imagery of lynching due to the manner of how Mr. Floyd died.

The Yonkers Branch of the NAACP is outraged because of the horrific and repugnant murder of Mr. George Floyd by Officer Derek Chauvin, the Minneapolis police officer, who unmercifully pinned him down with his knee on his neck until Mr. Floyd expired. Mr. Floyd screamed repeatedly, "I can't breathe - I can't breathe!" While his voice whispered to lifelessness, two other officers held his lower extremities down and another police officer was also just as complicit keeping civilian onlookers who were trying to intervene at bay.

This incident adds to a string of occurrences in the last few weeks and too many incidents to count in the U.S. over hundreds of years. Racism and bias coupled with policing are a lethal combination for black people in America. Racism is America's original sin and it has infected this country since its beginning. The virus of discrimination continues to seep into every aspect of American life.

As the President of this local branch, I commit that The Yonkers Branch of NAACP stands with the community of Minneapolis in solidarity that justice must be done. The Yonkers Branch of NAACP stands with the community of Yonkers to rid our own community of racism and disparities that plague our black community. The Yonkers Branch of NAACP stands with the Yonkers community to bring attention to injustices and work for resolution and reconciliation.

Our nation needs healing, but there can be no healing without repentance and justice. As one of the oldest civil rights organization on America's soil, the Yonkers Branch of NAACP will continue to work tirelessly as a local unit to address racism, inequities, oppressive policies and practices that impact the life, health, social and economic mainstay of our Yonkers black community and vicinity.

Rev. Frank Evan Coleman Jr., President NAACP 2188

YPS Superintendent Quezada Speaks to community

Dear Yonkers Public Schools Learning Community,

It is with mixed emotions that I reach out to you today. However, reach out to you I must. As your Superintendent of Schools, it compels me to share not only what is on my mind concerning our children, but also what is in my heart.

My mind is consumed with the many challenges educational leaders must face during this critical time. These include ensuring our children continue to receive quality distance learning instruction, bringing the current school year to a successful close, and creating a plan containing all the necessary precautions for our students and staff to return safely, upon the reopening of schools.

This important work, however, does not happen in a vacuum. It plays out against the backdrop of major turmoil in our country. We, as Americans, are being assaulted on two fronts: the COVID-19 Pandemic that disproportionately affects the poor and communities of color and the epidemic of violence fueled by a legacy of unresolved racial hatred and distrust. In my heart, I believe that how we as a school system, we as a city, we as a state, and we as a nation respond to these challenges will forever change the soul of America. For our children's sake, I pray it will do so for the better.

It is vital to realize that as we seek to address wrongs and reconcile differences, our children are not mere passive observers in the process.

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Some Things Just Don't Make Sense

By Eric W. schoen

I'm watching the protests for George Floyd. Yes, an important thing to do. His death never should have happened. Those involved should be locked up and as they say, throw away the key.

But was there a sense of social distancing going on during these protests. Did everyone have masks covering their noses and their mouths? Were sinks available for hand washing and hand sanitizer available for everyone to use? Don't think so!

So now we all live in fear of another Coronavirus outbreak or pocket. I sure hope those who were involved get themselves tested for free at the Westchester County Center or other locations where thousands of tests are available free of charge rapidly. A friend told me he had made an appointment for a test that will cost \$300, no insurance. I told him he can get it done for free and use the \$300 to take me out to dinner.

We have all been getting these letters from every company we do business with on the killing of George Floyd. Their messages are that all lives, black, brown, White, etc. matter. But when I got a letter from the company where I go for x-rays I thought, 'geez, these letters have gone too far discussing the X-ray companies support of the cause, even though I certainly am glad they did.'

Every year people scream they want more money for additional police officers and protection to keep us safe. Now we hear cities and states are cutting their police budgets and the money is going to programs for young people and crime prevention programs not involving the Police Department?

When are people going to make up their minds if they want police or if they want prevention services. Let's hope the powers that be come up with a combination of police services and prevention programs that will make everyone happy.

AOC, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortes has entered the race for the Congressional Seat held by long time Congressman Eliot Engel by supporting Engel's opponent. Is there any logical reason, or does she just want long time incumbents out of their jobs.

Engel uses most of the money in his Congressional office budget for staff to provide services in his district for constituents. Just ask people who have needed Federal government services like help with Medicare or social security. You see him at a public event, have a problem and he jots it down for staff to call you back.

As head of the Foreign Relations Committee Engel has a lot of clout for his district which represents all of Yonkers. Political junkies say they haven't seen Engel in his district for several months. Hello, are we in the middle of a pandemic? Senate rules allow him to have a residence in Washington. Don't like the rules, change them. With the loss of the dynamic Nita Lowey through retirement Yonkers and Westchester need all the clout they can keep in Washington.

I am Tired of politicians, particularly judges and judicial candidates some of which you have never heard of before using 'community service' activities to try to win votes. In a non-pandemic election you basically have judges run around town praising their judicial achievements and introducing themselves.

Now we have judicial candidates running around town doing community service to get their pictures in the paper running in the middle of a pandemic with a government telling people unless you need to go to the grocery store or pharmacy to stay the hell home.

People looting stores in the middle of a pandemic with so many out of work. Some rocket scientists out there saying they should be set free? Bologna! You had mostly civil protestors. I support the ability to protest and the cause they were protesting for. They got police desk tickets where they would normally show up and have the minor charge dismissed.

We have certain folks who say the charges should be dismissed, no hearing required. I say make these people do something community oriented like 2 hours cleaning Central Park or spiffing up their neighborhood pocket park. The protestors believe in a cleaner environment? Let them put their money where there mouth is.

The government releases the unemployment figures on Friday but then says on Saturday they are wrong? I'm not going to try for a minute to justify that? It's just plain damn wrong. Not that it matters to someone out of work, but if you are in such a rush to give us unemployment numbers don't release them and the next day say they are wrong.

We still have no agreement on what, if anything the baseball season will look like. This is beyond a disgrace. America needs baseball like it did sorely after 911. To think the players and the owners still haven't come up with an agreement boggles the mind. No baseball season this year will literally kill the game

continued on pg 4-

Re-Elect Tony SCARPINO

DEMOCRAT for DISTRICT ATTORNEY

- ✓ Fighting Coronavirus scams
- ✓ Prosecuting domestic violence
- ✓ Combatting hate crimes



PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF ANTHONY A. SCARPINO, JR.

Westchester Rent Guidelines Board Considers Rent Increase

The Westchester Rent Guidelines Board will hear from tenants, landlords and members of the public at public hearings on Tuesday, June 9; and Monday June 15. They will also receive data from NYS HCR on Thursday, June 11; and deliberate Tuesday June 16 before voting on Tuesday, June 23, 2020. The meetings will all be at 7:00 pm and will be held virtually at <https://m.youtube.com/channel/UCzauJQ29oxZDXiwH-cxjHTnQ>. The meeting notices are at <https://hcr.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2020/05/wrgb-june-2020-meetings-public-notice-2.pdf>.

Rocah Criticized, continued from pg 1-

Castro, in a Op-Ed disputes Rocah's assertions. "Mimi Rocah's political stunt last week in which she demanded that the New York State Attorney General investigate the Mount Vernon Police Department should be closely scrutinized.

"Her demand was based on audio tapes from a Mt. Vernon police officer who recorded conversations with his coworkers about stories they had heard about alleged misconduct and brutality in the department. Ms. Rocah seemed to believe that the content on the tapes warranted bringing criminal charges against the police officers. Concomitantly, she implied that her opponent not prosecuting the officers demonstrated his indifference. Such an assertion warrants reflection.

"Ms. Rocah did not even hear the full tapes. She based her judgement solely on a news story. At best, her press conference demonstrated opportunistic, political expediency from a political candidate. At worst, her hyperbolic statements indicated not only a disregard for facts, but also an indifference to basic principles of prosecutorial ethics. If this is any indication of how she will prosecute cases, then we need to seriously consider if we want her to be the chief law enforcement official in Westchester County.

"To bring a criminal case against an individual, whether or not he or she is a police officer, a prosecutor must rely on legally sufficient evidence. Conversations of one officer telling another about a story he heard are hearsay, even if recorded on audio tape. Unless the information can be corroborated with additional evidence or sworn testimony, the tapes alone are not enough to charge anyone with a crime.

"DA Scarpino stated that his Office, in conjunction with the FBI, conducted thorough investigations on every claim made in those tapes. As of now, no additional evidence has been uncovered to corroborate the allegations.

Whenever the facts warrant it, he does prosecute police misconduct cases and has done so about one dozen times in his first three years as DA. As a former prosecutor who has known DA Scarpino for years, I trust his word.

"The deaths of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmad Arbery at the hands of police have finally created a reckoning on racism, brutality and policing that our country desperately needs. As we rightfully examine our elected officials through the prism of how they will dismantle systemic racism, we must also do the same for their challengers. Ms. Rocah does not get to escape that scrutiny.

"A few months ago, during a Democratic committee meeting, I had an opportunity to ask Ms. Rocah how many police brutality cases she handled as an Assistant United States Attorney (AUSA) and head of the White Plains division of the United States Attorney's Office. Her answer struck me because she never directly addressed the question, simply stating that those cases were handled by the NYS Attorney General's Office. She left the impression that she never handled any police brutality cases and was deflecting the responsibility to the Attorney General.

"To be clear, police brutality cases are in fact prosecuted by the US Attorney's Office. They are based on civil rights violations and can carry significant penalties including jail time. During candidate Rocah's tenure as an AUSA there were at least three major cases involving deaths of civilians in Westchester County. They involved the deaths of off-duty Officer Christopher Ridley (2008), PACE University football player DJ Henry (2010), and retired Marine Kenneth Chamberlain (2011). Why weren't civil rights violation cases brought by the US Attorney's Office in any of those incidents?

"There are also many other types of police brutality cases that do not necessarily involve the death of civilians and there are an even greater number of cases of police misconduct. In view of that, why did Mimi Rocah refuse to answer the question about how many such cases she prosecuted? The only reasonable answer that can be discerned from her silence is that she has never prosecuted any such case.

"It's critically important that all Democratic voters in Westchester carefully consider their decisions on whom to support for Westchester County District Attorney in the June 23rd Primary. In doing so, I caution them not to be misled by political opportunism and misleading statements from a challenger, but rather to focus on the irrefutable facts and past performance of both candidates as prosecutors. Ms. Rocah appears to never have prosecuted a case of police misconduct or brutality in her career. By contrast, DA Scarpino has prosecuted about one dozen such cases based on the facts and evidence. He has a lengthy and impeccable track record of public service to Westchester County. To me, the choice is clear -- DA Scarpino," writes Castro, who is also a former prosecutor and is currently practicing law in Port Chester.

DA Scarpino responded to Rocah's press conference, stating, "Just because someone comes forward with recordings, doesn't make it a criminal case. You cannot prosecute someone on hearsay.

"This information was brought to us by Officer Murashea "Mike" Bovell and his attorney. And we have taken it very seriously. We have reviewed the audio tapes and followed through with an investigation. At this time, there is nothing but hearsay and uncorroborated information.

"No witnesses have come forward. We do not consider the investigation closed because we would certainly speak with a witness who might come forward. But as of now, there is no case against individual officers based on Bovell's recordings. These tapes, in themselves, are not admissible as evidence before a grand jury or in a court of law.

"The FBI also looked into the case and told our investigators they did not find anything to prosecute. As for disclosure to the defense -- what's known as Brady information -- We cannot provide Brady or discovery information based on rumor."

"I have spent my career upholding the law and protecting the people of Westchester. I abhor police brutality, like the killing of George Floyd, and any other corruption by public servants. Under my leadership, this office has been very aggressive about prosecuting police corruption. We have successfully prosecuted many police officers who have crossed the line and have a number of cases against police officers pending. We have zero tolerance for any police misconduct," states Scarpino.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

Have you been in Manhattan or one of the boroughs lately. It's great to hear people banging their pots and pans, playing the strains of Frank Sinatra at 7 pm every night to salute the first responders and all those risking their lives for your life? You might have noticed a New Orleans Bourbon Street like feel with the bars that serve food serving alcoholic beverages in 'to go' cups. On a nice day makes for a great feeling in the city with everyone gathering on the streets socializing while social distancing from their new found friends.

At press time I am going to get my hair cut by Sammy at Sprain Brook Barber Shop on Tuckahoe Road and look for a table where I can dine out for lunch. Yonkers and Westchester are open again. Now that makes a lot of sense!

Reach Eric Schoen at 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.

Speaker Pelosi Endorses Eliot Engel for Re-election



Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi, swearing in Rep. Eliot Engel in 2019, with Engel's wife Pat holding Bible

Solidifying his support across Democratic Congressional leadership, Congressman Eliot Engel was endorsed by Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Congresswoman Maxine Waters, both of California.

The lawmakers cited Congressman Engel's "extraordinary progressive record of service to New York and the nation" and pledged support for his reelection campaign in the 16th District, which includes parts of the Bronx and Westchester. The announcements increased the momentum among Congressman Engel's Democratic colleagues: last week, the Congressional Black Caucus endorsed his reelection.

"I firmly support Eliot Engel for Congress," said Speaker Pelosi. "I think the people of New York are very blessed to have him in the Congress. Chairman Engel is the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee. He also has unique privilege [of being both] the chairman of Foreign Affairs and a senior member of the Energy and Commerce Committee. That's a lot of power."

"Time and again, when his voice has been needed on civil rights, equality for women, gun safety legislation, the minimum wage, affordable housing, and our environment Eliot has always been there, helping to lead the way," said Congresswoman Waters. "He's a true progressive. We absolutely need to return his experience and deep commitment to Congress - particularly now as we fight to take back the White House."

Congressman Eliot Engel (D-NY) is seeking re-election in the 16th District of New York, including the north Bronx and southern Westchester. The son of an ironworker and a homemaker, born in the Bronx and raised in public housing, Rep. Engel is a major progressive Democratic leader who chairs the Foreign Affairs Committee and has fought for the rights of women, organized labor, immigrants, our minority communities, and LGBTQ Americans for three decades.

Early Voting in Yonkers Starts June 13

Governor Andrew Cuomo recently extended the deadline to return absentee ballots for school board elections and budget votes to June 16. Yonkers does not have school board elections or budget votes, but the Governor also extended the time that voters can submit their absentee ballots for the Democratic Primary until June 23, the same date as the primary across Westchester.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has changed our world, and while we are making great progress and the numbers keep going down, no New Yorker should have to choose between their health and their right to vote," Governor Cuomo said. "Extending the deadline to submit absentee ballots builds on our previous Executive Orders to make it easier for New Yorkers to vote absentee in the upcoming primary election and it will help to increase voter participation as we continue to fight this virus."

For Primary Day in New York, on June 23, voters will have the option of mailing in their absentee ballot or voting in person. If you choose to vote in person you have the choice of voting on June 23, or you can participate in early voting.

Early voting locations for the 2020 Primary in Yonkers are:

Will Library -Yonkers

Riverfront Library--Yonkers

Days and Hours as follows:

Saturday, June 13th: 12 pm to 5 pm

Sunday, June 14th: 12 pm to 5 pm

Monday, June 15th: 8 am to 4 pm

Tuesday, June 16th: 12 pm to 8 pm

Wednesday, June 17th: 8 am to 4 pm

Thursday, June 18th: 12 pm to 8 pm

Friday, June 19th: 8 am to 4 pm

Saturday, June 20th: 12 pm to 5 pm

Sunday, June 21st: 12 pm to 5 pm

We will also report on what polling locations in Yonkers will be available for those who wish to vote in person on Primary Day June 23, and print the locations next week.



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- 4 (4 oz.) Omaha Steaks Burgers
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- 4 (4 oz.) Caramel Apple Tartlets
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Council Majority Leader Pineda-Isaac: Repeal 50a and Body Cameras for the YPD



City Council Majority Leader Corazon Pineda-Isaac has renewed her call for body cameras for members of the YPD

In light of recent events following the murder of George Floyd at the hands of the Minneapolis Police Department, and the all too common occurrence of the murder of unarmed black men in this country by people in positions of power, Yonkers City Council Majority Leader Corazon Pineda-Isaac plans to introduce a series of resolutions to increase accountability within the Yonkers Police Department with the aim of giving citizens of Yonkers a better sense of protection under the law.

Majority Leader Pineda-Isaac will introduce a resolution supporting the repeal of 50-A, which would allow the public to access police personnel records. Currently, police personnel records are confidential, which makes it extremely difficult to investigate instances of police brutality. She will also introduce a resolution supporting the use of body cameras within the Yonkers Police Department, which she initially introduced in January of 2016. Although she was unsuccessful at getting that resolution passed in 2016, she is confident the current City Council will be more receptive to the idea of body cameras in Yonkers.

Majority Leader Pineda-Isaac is also proposing the creation of a Civilian Review Board within the City of Yonkers, which would serve as an independent entity and be tasked with investigating complaints of misconduct within the YPD. The Yonkers Police Department has already taken proactive steps in implementing some of the reforms listed in the "8 can't wait" policies that would restrict the use of force, such as banning chokeholds and banning shooting at moving vehicles.

In addition, YPD now requires 8 hours of implicit bias training for all new officers entering the Yonkers Police force, an initiative which was started three years ago. The new reforms being proposed by Majority Leader Pineda-Isaac would improve on those already underway.

This package of legislation will be introduced at the June 16th Rules Committee Meeting of the Yonkers City Council.

Quezada, continued from pg 3--

They are making meaning of the world around them. They are making moral choices. They are constructing a worldview. It is our responsibility, our sacred duty, to inform that view with facts and temper it with values.

To do so responsibly we must first educate ourselves, realizing there can be no bystanders. If we wish to preserve the best of America for future generations, we must muster the courage to acknowledge the pain, the trauma, the frustration and outrage that for far too long have been deeply felt by some in our communities, and totally ignored by others.

We must be agents for change modeling for this and future generations peaceful, meaningful and purposeful approaches to living in a diverse society. A society where our differences are not merely tolerated or accepted, they are celebrated as manifestations of the American ideal.

It is painful to see the justifiable outrage of tens of thousands of people of all races, to the systemic problems implicated in the deaths of individuals of color, be corrupted into excuses for violence and looting. This behavior is unacceptable and cannot be tolerated. For us as a nation to come together, to pursue that perfect union, we must teach our children that words and actions create worlds.

Our children must understand and embrace that peaceful protest, as a means of promoting societal change, is one of the key principles on which our form of government is based. Our founders contemplated peaceful protest as an outlet for anger and frustration. Peaceful protest opens the door for constructive dialogue to produce real long-term solutions for decades of injustice.

In a series of pamphlets published by philosopher Thomas Paine entitled, "The American Crisis," published from 1776 to 1783, he stated, "These are the times that try men's souls." Those prophetic words still ring true today.

How will you respond to the current crisis for the soul of America? Through education, we provide information and social emotional supports to our students and staff, which is our responsibility. To assist our parents, guardians and grandparents, I have included some resources below, which may be useful in preparing you to discuss these matters with your children. Please feel free to reach out to your principal, school psychologist and social worker for guidance in this area.

I hope and I pray that, although perhaps shaken, you will respond with compassion, with generosity, with love and a relentless commitment to promote the conditions to secure a better life for all our children. If so, you will always have a willing partner in me.

On this day in Yonkers history...

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



John D. Rockefeller, was ticketed for speeding through Yonkers in 1907

Monday, June 15th:

June 15, 1871: The Hudson River Railroad Company announced they were constructing an iron building on the Locust Street grounds. The entrance to the trains only would be through the depot as the track would be fenced in, with entrance gates at Ashburton Avenue and Locust Street.

June 15, 1931: The King of Siam lauded H. Armour Smith, noted historian and collector of Yonkers artifacts. Smith had found an article on Siam written in 1858 published in an issue of Ballou's Weekly, an illustrated pre-Civil War magazine. The article, written by a seasoned seaman, told of the ship's landing at Bangkok and the sailor's impression of the lives of the Siamese people, including mining and fishing industries. The King planned to put the article with its woodcuts on display in the Siamese National Museum.

Tuesday, June 16th:

June 16, 1914: Captain Harry Haff was appointed sailing master of Alexander Smith Cochran's cup defense sloop, The Vanitie. Haff's father had sailed three America's Cup defenders, Volunteer, Vigilant and Defender.

June 16, 1923: A band of 138 Gypsies, camping for weeks near the Saw Mill River on Nepera Park Gold Mine Company property, suddenly left the camp, gathering their members and belongings into 12 large touring cars. While camped, they bathed and washed their clothes in the Saw Mill River daily.

June 16, 1931: Otis Elevator Company Goods Manager Robert Goodwille announced the plant would operate four days a week and affect all employees in all departments. A few departments already had shortened their workday by two hours. Goodwille said he believed the change would be in force only for a short while.

Wednesday, June 17th:

June 17, 1890: The Palisade Boat Club, founded in 1866, had a "housewarming" of its new home in Glenwood. Although its location on the river changed several times over the years, the club simply moved its clubhouse. It is the oldest continuous boat club in New York State, the third oldest boat club in America, and the oldest boat club "in its original structure" in America.

June 17, 1930: Sarah Lawrence College in Yonkers awarded its first diploma to 113 women; eleven graduated with honors, while 44 completed "alpha contracts." Doris Smith, the only Yonkers resident among the graduates, received hers with honors!

June 17, 1944: Lieutenant General Millard Harmon, Commander of the US Army Forces in the South Pacific, presented the Oak Leaf Cluster to Second Lieutenant Joseph Feke of Riverdale Avenue. Feke, a bombardier serving with the 13th AAF, received the award for his meritorious achievement in "sustained combat operational missions of a hazardous nature during which enemy opposition was met."

Thursday, June 18th:

June 18, 1914: Alexander Smith Cochran's cup-defense sloop, The Vanitie, took an hour's sail on Long Island Sound. Afterwards, top Long Island skipper Captain Willis was hired as an assistant to Sailing Master Haff.

June 18, 1945: Former Yonkers Post Office employee James Wilson of Palisade Avenue wrote to The Herald Statesman. Serving as Mailman Third Class on a cruiser somewhere in the South Pacific, he said, was a lot of work, but he liked nothing better than distributing huge amounts of mail. The reactions of servicemen receiving mail after weeks of sea duty in dangerous territory were just plain morale boosting; reactions from those who received no mail were disheartening. His recommendation for the people of Yonkers? "Write every chance you get."

Friday, June 19th:

June 19, 1906: The Common Council adopted a resolution prohibiting the election of a Second Ward Alderman until the November vote, with one "No" vote cast against the measure by Alderman Cashin. The reasoning against a summer election was there was no money to pay for it and too many people were away during the summer to make it feasible to hold the election. Cashin stated the "If officials really wanted an election there, they could have raised the money in the recent tax levy."

June 19, 1926: Saying he was "sick and tired of the deal we get from public officials and city commissioners," area resident George McGovern announced he would head up the fight against making the part of Hawthorne Avenue from Vark to St. Mary's Street a play street. He felt play streets detracted from property values, even though Yonkers raised assessments annually.

June 19, 1927: Newly appointed City of Yonkers Psychiatrist Dr. William Dougherty stated 75% of criminals that wanted no punishment for their crimes by claiming insanity or neurotic disorders were faking!

continued on pg 7--

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SUNY Empire State College and Construction Trades Offer Virtual Training

SUNY Empire State College and the Construction Trades License Training Corporation (CTLTC) have announced a renewed partnership to provide CTLTC's members the training they need for certification and licensure in New York City. For the first time, the trainings will be conducted entirely online due to ongoing public health concerns related to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ability to continue offering these courses virtually – thanks in large part to SUNY Empire's expertise in online education – means critical training and certification for professionals who safeguard public health and safety infrastructure will not lapse during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Under the agreement, SUNY Empire's Harry Van Arsdale Jr. Center for Labor Studies, based in New York City, will provide a seven-hour training course for licensed Master Plumber (LMP) and licensed Fire Suppression Contractor (LFSC) certificate or license holder seeking renewal that meets the standards of the New York City Department of Buildings. Students who successfully complete the course will be issued a certificate of completion. The agreement takes effect immediately and courses will be offered monthly starting in June.

CTLTC offers training to approximately 1,800 LMPs and LFSCs in New York City, and expects hundreds of individuals to take advantage of this course in 2020 alone.

visit <https://nyconstructiontrades.org/pr>, or visit www.esc.edu for more information.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) #2020-04

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR YARDI CONSULTANT FOR 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 Yardi Consultant Services for MHACY 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 June 10, 2020 at www.mhacy.org.

The RFP questions deadline is June 16, 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 23, 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

Notice of Formation of Limited Liability Company

MIND UNDER BRIDGE PUBLISHING, LLC
FIRST: The name of the Limited Liability Company is MIND UNDER BRIDGE PUBLISHING, LLC. (hereinafter referred to as the "company"). SECOND: The Articles of Organization of the Company were filed with the Secretary of State of New York on April 23, 2020. THIRD: The county within New York in which the office of the Company is to be located is Westchester FOURTH: The Secretary of State has been designated as agent upon whom process against the Company may be served. The address to which the Secretary of State shall mail process to is 722 Frost Avenue, Apt. 1, Peekskill, NY 10566. FIFTH: The purpose of the Company is to engage in any lawful activity under the laws of the State of New York. The Articles of Organization of MIND UNDER BRIDGE PUBLISHING, LLC were subscribed to by THE KLEISTER LAW GROUP, LLC, 85 East Main Street, Washingtonville NY 10992.

Notice of Formation of Generation Liberte, LLC which is managed by one or more members. Liberte means Liberty in French. LegalZoom filed with NYS Department of State on 3/16/2020. Office location: Westchester County. Secretary of State-NY (SSNY) designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Generation Liberte, LLC at 3 Sadore Lane Apt 2M, Yonkers, NY 10710. The LLC designates the following registered agent whom process may be served: United States Corporation Agents, Inc. at 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful act or activity."

Notice of Formation of A&A MOBILE RECONDITIONING LLC. Articles of Organization Filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 05/18/2020. Office Location: Westchester County, New York. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: Agustin Sierra 838 Nepperhan Avenue, Yonkers NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful act.

Craftdbyhand LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 5/14/20. Office: Westchester County. Eridania Morillo designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Eridania Morillo at 70 Virginia Road, white Plains, NY 10603. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

RACHELE E. KHADJEHTURIAN, NP IN FAMILY HEALTH, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on May 14th, 2020. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 316 Bishop Pl., Mamaroneck, NY 10543. Purpose: to provide any medical services for which licensed family health nurse practitioners are authorized.-6/26

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 Sweet Pea Hospitality LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/06/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her to: 315 East Grand Street, Mount Vernon, NY 10552. Purpose: any lawful act or activity--07/10

Notice of App. of Authority of Smart D2 Playrooms LLC (LLC), filed with NY Secy of State (SSNY) on 5/8/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as LLC's agent for service of process, and shall mail process to: LLC, C/O P.O. Box 67, Rye, NY 10580. Formed in Delaware (DE) on 10/2/2019. Cert. of Formation filed with, and copy can be obtained from: DE Secy of State, Corporations Div., 401 Federal St #4, Dover, DE 19901. DE registered agent/office: Agents for Delaware Corporations, Inc., 310 Alder Rd PO Box 841, Dover, DE 19904. Purpose: residential and commercial playrooms.-6/26

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This date in Yonkers history, continued from pg 5-**Saturday, June 20th**

June 20, 1926: The St. John's Hospital Board scheduled a hearing for suspended intern Dr. Emanuel Kotsos. Kotsos had announced to the press he brought a suicide patient back to life by administering a shot of adrenalin after the patient's heart had stopped beating. The board declared it was impossible, stated Kotsos was "carried away by his enthusiasm to make public announcement of his discovery," and the intern had no right to release the story without verification or permission from his superiors at the hospital.

June 20, 1934: A sailor, racing to the City Pier, attracted amused attention; he had no shoes, no hat and was holding a glass of beer! He called the sailor manning the helm of the shoreboat leaving for the USS Salt Lake City; it was the last boat to return to the cruiser before it sailed off. Three feet away from the pier, the sailor had to make it or be left behind. Holding on tightly to his glass, the seaman jumped the three feet, not spilling a drop, and happily finished his brew on the way to his ship.

Sunday, June 21st

June 21, 1907: John D. Rockefeller was fined \$25 for speeding in Yonkers. The arresting officer, using a stopwatch to time the millionaire, found he was traveling 30 miles an hour. The officer stopped Rockefeller by stretching a rope across the road.

June 21, 1937: For the first time since 1931, the City of Yonkers was able to pay teachers and other Board of Education employees their full "vacation pay;" nearly 1,000 employees were paid \$708,000 according to Comptroller James Hushion.

For more information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and our upcoming events, visit our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/YonkersHistoricalSociety. For information on membership in the Yonkers Historical Society, please call 914-961-8940

Bedford rally for black lives continued from pg 1 --

When you say those words to a police officer, *my dad is a cop*, they should result in protection and even special treatment. I have used that phrase several times in my life. But for Jenkins it got him nowhere, and when he came home and told his father, Jenkins told the crowd that his dad was heartbroken to see the bruises handed out by a fellow NYPD officer.

"There are good police officers, and we need to stand up with them to get rid of the bad police officers. When you have 18 complaints made against you, somebody is not doing their job. Be vigilant and do not let this moment pass us by," said Jenkins.

Another speech from County Legislator Christopher Johnson at the rally made me think. Johnson spoke honestly, as did all the speakers, to a crowd which was 95% white, who at times were told uncomfortable truths. Johnson said that the enthusiasm at this event will shortly fade away. "Hold onto one issue that will help me, help a black woman and black child. And keep working on it."

Johnson and many other speakers called for a repeal of the 50a law in New York State, which shields law enforcement officers' records of past excessive force complaints from evidence in a current complaint. This makes it difficult to show if an officer has a history of discrimination and racially motivated violence.

In the past, the 50a law had made me uncomfortable. I was not in the business of protecting bad cops and I knew that my father would not have supported such a law. But I kept quiet and didn't write about it enough. That will change

And that is another takeaway from the Bedford rally. That the apathy that we hear about so much from our younger generations was nowhere to be seen. It struck me how this next generation of Americans will not stand by and allow the racism that we have seen with three incidents in the last month, resulting in the deaths of Ahmaud Arbery and George Floyd.

Arbery was killed for jogging in the wrong neighborhood. Floyd was killed by a Minneapolis Police Officer. But even here at home, a black man had the police called upon him for bird watching in Central Park, for the "crime" of asking her to put a leash on her dog.

Yonkers City Councilwoman Shanae Williams also spoke at the rally, but due to technical troubles with the outdoor speakers, I could only hear a small portion. Next week, Yonkers Rising will highlight Councilwoman Williams comments and also the thoughts and recent comments from State Senator and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

I appreciated several signs which read *How Many Aren't Filmed?* There was no video for Chamberlin's death, as there was no video for DJ Henry, a young black man killed by a Westchester police officer in 2010 for no reason.

Our host for the rally, Sorvina Carr said, "A majority of white people have been silent. We need you to speak out. You have a sense of privilege growing up in Westchester. You are never too old to change."

The appreciation to Carr was overflowing. "Thank you for organizing this. Who would have thought a sea of white residents in Bedford would be chanting "Black Lives Matter?" You did. And you made it happen. Naysayers had nothing to fear or object to. Maybe when they hear that rally attendees were respectful, listened to you and your guests, acknowledged implicit bias, acknowledged systemic racism, and acknowledged white privilege, maybe it might make them pause and think," said one attendee.

Another said, "Thank you for organizing. It opened the important conversation with my children." And there were many young children, with their parents, and there were fathers with their 18 years old daughters, including my daughter, and this reporter.

Thank you Deputy County Executive Jenkins, County Legislator Johnson and Councilwoman Williams, for telling your story, pointing us in the right direction to help, and for giving all in attendance hope for the future.

Free to Roam the Park and Smell the Flowers

A pleasant cheery Tibbetts Brook Park. Children examine the blossoms on a tree blooming in Tibbetts Brook Park as summer approaches. Photo (c) Robert Kalfus

Romano, Gun Post, continued from pg 1--

I immediately cancelled an upcoming event that this individual had planned in support of my campaign. In no uncertain terms, I condemn this post and the message it sends, particularly in this painful time. I stand strongly in support of those protesting against systemic racism and police brutality and commit the full force of my office to fight for positive change on behalf of people of color in Westchester."

Shortly after Scarpino condemned the post, the same call was made to Yonkers City Court candidate Dan Romano to do the same. Romano, who is running in a Democratic Primary June 23, is seen photographed on Facebook with John Khader. Last week, Delfim Heusler, Editor of the online media site Yonkers Insider, posted information he found at the Board of Elections that Khader was paid \$2,500 from the Romano campaign.

Now, more than 10 days after the incident, and still no comment from the Romano campaign.

Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier, said, "We have a responsibility to be careful about what we post and what we say. I tell my friends and family that all the time. What you post online will be there forever. But it doesn't make us bad people.

We spoke to John Khader, and reiterated what we now write in this story. He is a political figure in the City of Yonkers, not because of his family relations, but because of the fact that he founded a political organization, MPAC, the Mediterranean Political Action Committee, MPAC, which has given a voice to those who didn't have one. He is also active in Democratic politics not only in Yonkers but across Westchester. People will listen and take note of what he says, and posts.

John Khader said, "My post was in no way intended to promote violence. I overacted when I heard that there might be looting going close to my neighborhood. But I did it to protect myself and my family."

Catherine Schowalter, a member of Mom's Demand Action in Westchester, said that, "It was the wrong thing to post. The 2nd Amendment gives the right to have a licensed gun in your house, but it shouldn't be used as a threat to others."

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