

# Yonkers Rising

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## New York State Holds Back \$19 Million Payment

Hoping for a President Biden



**Governor Andrew Cuomo, is hoping that Joe Biden will be elected President in November.**

Governor Andrew Cuomo and State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli have been sounding the alarm about the State's finances, budget holes, and the lack of assistance coming from Washington DC. That warning has now turned into a temporary cut in State Aid to the City of Yonkers.

A planned summer payment of \$97 Million to the City of Yonkers in AIM funding (Aid to Municipal Governments) has been cut by 20% to \$77 Million. According to the State Budget Division, the reduction, or temporary cut, is just that for the time being.

"We are not reducing support for AIM at this time and instead are holding back 20% of the funding as the State contends with a cash crunch caused by a 14% drop in revenue due entirely to the pandemic, the federal decision to delay income tax filings to July, and awaits clarity on federal assistance to offset this revenue loss," said Freeman Klopott, spokesman, NY State Budget Division.

NY Comptroller Tom DiNapoli reported that state revenues for the month of May were down by \$767 Million, or 19.7% from the previous year. "With an economy still suffocated by a global pandemic, the state's finances took another serious hit in the month of May," DiNapoli said.

"We are now clearly seeing the recession's impact on tax receipts. As we continue to slowly re-open the economy, it's critical that Washington act on our call for more federal aid."

Other items of note in the report: Personal income tax withholding revenues were \$291.8 million below May 2019, a decline of more than 9 percent reflecting both depressed economic activity and timing factors. The Department of Education made \$4 billion in general aid payments to school districts.

"New York is facing an unprecedented public health and fiscal crisis that

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## Voting Troubles Abound in Yonkers on Primary Day

County Board to Take a Look



**Two voters wait to vote in Yonkers on Primary Day. Photo by Robert Kalfus**

**By Dan Murphy**

After getting an earful from thousands of Westchester residents who voted, or tried to vote in person on Primary Day June 23 and faced long lines and aggravation, the County Board of Legislators will meet with election commissioners to try and find ways to avoid what some have called last month's primary-a disaster and one candidate for Congress, Allison Fine, called for Westchester's two Commissioners to resign.

BOL Chairman Ben Boykin said, "The Board of Legislators has no authority over how the Board of Elections conducts elections. The BOE is an independent body that reports to the State Board of Elections. But it is imperative that voters in Westchester have confidence in the way elections are held in our County, and as representatives of the people of Westchester, we must do what we can to ensure that.

"The June 23 primaries were conducted under a perfect storm of difficult conditions because of the COVID-19 pandemic. The unprecedented process for and volume of absentee voting, the difficulty in recruiting and training poll workers in the face of the pandemic, and the challenges of locating a sufficient number of suitable voting places presented challenging circumstances.

"Unfortunately, as a result, confusion about absentee voting was widespread and Election Day lines were unacceptably long. It is imperative that

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## Stay Cool This Summer Yonkers! Summer Movies and Pools Open



Mayor Mike Spano today announced the schedule for the City's 2020 Summer Film Series that will run during July and August at several Yonkers parks. The family-friendly series is FREE of charge and open to Yonkers residents.

"Our Summer Film Series in Yonkers has been a hit with residents and back by popular demand, we're excited that it's returning again this summer," said Mayor Spano. "Although new safety measures due to COVID-19 will be implemented, there is no better way to spend your summer nights than to enjoy an outdoor movie with family and friends at your local neighborhood park."

Movies will be screened on Thursday evenings in July and August and begin at dusk at various locations throughout the City for residents only. Due to restrictions, movies are by reservation only and residents must reserve their spot by calling (914) 377-6441 a week prior to each movie. Repeat attendees will be placed on a waiting list. For R-rated movies, children 17 and under must be accompanied by an adult or guardian.

According to COVID-19 guidelines, residents should stay at home if they are sick, exhibiting or feeling any COVID-19 symptoms such as fever, coughing and/or trouble breathing. During each movie screening, Yonkers residents must agree to the following rules: Practice social distancing at least 6 feet (about 2 arms' length) from other residents and personnel, and Wear a mask or cloth face covering.

Movie screenings are subject to change and residents are strongly encouraged to bring their own seating. In case of rain, residents should call the City of Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation at (914) 377-6441/(914) 377-6450 or visit @CityofYonkers on Facebook and Twitter to confirm cancellations.

The complete Summer Film Series schedule is as follows:

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## Jamaal Bowman's Historic Win: A Vote for Progressive Change



**Democratic Primary winner Jamaal Bowman**

**By Bill Gaston**

No one saw it coming. Except for a few of us, that is. Those of us who had met Jamaal Bowman and had heard his life story knew it was coming. Those of us who had canvassed for him on Mount Vernon street corners knew it was coming.

Bowman's historic upset primary victory over 30-year Congressional incumbent, Eliot Engel was no fluke. Across the country, a wave of younger, multiracial, progressive candidates won races against establishment Democrats on a platform of transformative and generational change.

It was a David beats Goliath moment: Jamaal Bowman, a former middle school principal from Yonkers, and a political unknown in the 16th Congressional district, had never run for office. His opponent had the backing of nearly the entire Democratic Party establishment, including Hillary Clinton, as well as scores of Westchester County elected officials.

Bowman was outspent 2-1 in the campaign, overcoming a \$5 million blitz by several super PACs in the final week that failed to salvage Engel's seat. Bowman won handily with 60% of the "in person" votes (absentee ballots have not yet been counted). Early tallies showed he carried all major demographic groups across the district.

How could Congressman Engel lose this election -- and so decisively -- after 16 terms in office? The simple answer: he lost touch with his voters.

The demographic face of his district had also shifted. While Engel had risen to the top ranks of House leadership, becoming chair of the powerful House Foreign Affairs Committee, his district had become majority-minority. He had grown aloof from many of his own constituents, particularly in underserved neighborhoods in the Bronx and Westchester who hungered for new representation.

Jamaal Bowman, an educator and community activist, had cultivated grass roots networks with communities of color as well as multi-racial social justice coalitions. Bowman's success mirrored that of Congresswoman

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## Spano Appoints Collins-Bellamy to Yonkers Board of Education



Mayor Spano with BOE Trustee Lakisha Collins-Bellamy

Mayor Mike Spano swore in Lakisha Collins-Bellamy as his newest appointment to the Yonkers Board of Education. As trustee of the Yonkers Board of Education, Collins-Bellamy will join eight other members of the Board, which is the official policy making body of the School District. The new trustee appointment comes as Dr. Edward Fergus' term expires. Collins-Bellamy's term is effective immediately.

"As we work toward providing our students with the best education possible, I am proud to appoint Lakisha Collins-Bellamy to the Board of Education as she brings a unique perspective as a parent and an alumna. Lakisha is passionate about education in Yonkers and her experiences and knowledge will be valuable assets to our District and our students," said Mayor Spano.

A lifelong resident of Yonkers, Lakisha Collins-Bellamy currently serves as legal counsel for the Municipal Housing Authority of Yonkers (MHACY) and operates her own law practice, focusing in family law and real estate. In her work with MHACY, Collins-Bellamy administers procurement and contract management processes. During her tenure, Collins-Bellamy also served as the Director of Housing Programs and was the Compliance Director and Contracts Officer.

Collins-Bellamy is a graduate of Yonkers' Roosevelt High School and is a parent to a Yonkers Public Schools student. Collins-Bellamy holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from State University of New York at New Paltz, a Master's degree in Public Administration from Marist College and Juris Doctor from New York Law School.

Lakisha Collins-Bellamy commented, "I am honored to join the other members of the Board of Education in their commitment to promote opportunity and equal access to all Yonkers students in their pursuit of academic excellence. I am most appreciative to Mayor Spano for his faith in me as we collectively strive for the very best for our Yonkers children."

"The Trustees and I welcome Mrs. Collins-Bellamy. As a parent and former student, her personal experiences will be welcomed in her new role as a Trustee. On behalf of the Trustees, I would like to thank Dr. Edward Fergus for his contributions to the Board during his term," said Reverend Steve Lopez, Yonkers Board of Education President.

Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of Schools added, "As we continue moving our students and district on a positive trajectory there is significant collaborative work before the Trustees and the District employees. I look forward to the contributions Mrs. Collins-Bellamy will provide. Mrs. Collins-Bellamy knowledge, skills and experiences will support and further inform the progressive work the Board has been doing. Thank you Dr. Fergus for always offering valuable perspectives and support."

Collins-Bellamy will serve a new five year term that runs through June 2025.

## Aquehung Women's Democratic Club Comments on BLM

The Aquehung Women's Democratic Club supports and stands shoulder to shoulder with our elected officials on the federal, state, county, and local levels in supporting the Black Lives Matter movement. Many thanks to our Senate Majority Leader in advancing major policing reforms including the repeal of 50-A and other important bills to help implement real improvements to law enforcement efforts in New York State.

We are shocked and saddened at the horrific murder of George Floyd as it highlights what being black in America means. We trust that the implementation of these policing reforms will help the healing process for minority communities that have been disproportionately targeted and will facilitate better partnerships between law enforcement and the New Yorkers they serve.

The Aquehung Women's Democratic Club believes in using our influence and power to actively support qualified candidates who view society through the lens of equality to ensure we undo systemic racism. We commit to strong active engagement with communities of color in order to bring more people into decision making positions.

## Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins to Provide Masks for Community



State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, recently sent out the following email blast to her constituents in the 35th District, which includes Yonkers.

Dear Friends,

As businesses and offices continue to re-open in our county, it is important they have the necessary equipment to keep everyone safe. To fulfill that need, I am pleased to announce that my office is now distributing masks in bulk to local community organizations, nonprofits, religious organizations, and businesses in the 35th Senate District. We especially want to ensure we reach organizations that serve vulnerable populations such as nursing homes, assisted living facilities, and groups that serve people with disabilities. These masks are not for medical use; they are washable, reusable, and made out of cotton.

If your organization (or if you know of one) would like to request masks, please click on this form with your preferred pick-up date and time and the number of masks you are requesting. Each box contains 500 but you may request more or less. Masks come packaged in groups of 5. A member of my staff will follow up to coordinate pick up at my district office in Yonkers. We will try to fulfill every order but may have to limit amounts given out.

I am hopeful that our mask distribution effort will help others stay healthy. It is precisely because we continue to practice social distancing and wearing masks that Westchester's (and the State's) active COVID cases have seen a decline.

I thank the Governor's Office for their assistance in procuring these masks. As always, if there are other issues that my office can assist with, please don't hesitate to call us at 914-423-4031 or email us, [scousins@nysenate.gov](mailto:scousins@nysenate.gov).

## Attorney Verris Shako & Judicial Candidates Await Primary Results



Attorney Verris Shako and the other candidates for Yonkers City Court Judge are awaiting the canvass of the absentee ballots for a final determination of who will move forward to the November 3, 2020 General Election as the three Democratic candidates for Yonkers City Court Judge.

Verris Shako is an experienced attorney who has practiced in Yonkers City Court for close to 15 years. She also has over 10 years of family court experience in Yonkers City Court and family courts throughout Westchester County.

Verris Shako has consistently worked to protect the rights of Yonkers residents and will ensure residents are treated fairly, respectfully and have their matters resolved in a timely manner.

Yonkers City Court Judges serve 10 year terms and hear matters involving criminal, civil, traffic, housing, small claims and domestic violence.



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## Popular Maria Regina HS Principal Fired and Parents Want Answers



**Rosemarie Decker**

By Dan Murphy

Parents of students at Maria Regina High School, in Hartsdale, are confused and upset over the recent termination of popular Principal Rosemarie Decker. Decker, who worked at the school for 18 years, working her way up the ladder to Principal, was terminated June 30.

Parents found out through an email from the high school which reads, "The Board of Trustees writes to advise you that Rosemarie Decker will not be returning as Principal of Maria Regina for the 2020-2021 academic year and that her active service as Principal ends today. The Board thanks Mrs. Decker for her 18 years of service at our school, and wishes her the very best of everything in the future."

"The Board is committed to excellence in all things at Maria Regina. Our first priority has and always will be the academic success, as well as the spiritual and physical well being of your daughters. We strive every day to make Maria Regina a stronghold in the educational community, and we constantly keep in mind our school's motto of scholarship, service and spirit. With these goals in mind, we will immediately begin the search for a new Principal. Our President Anna Parra will communicate with you this summer to discuss plans for the next academic year, including the enhancement of our distance learning program and safely re-opening our school," wrote the Board of Trustees at MRHS.

Parents were not satisfied with the letter for several reasons. First and foremost, Principal Decker was a well respected educator, and through her years at the school, became one of the reasons that parents sent their daughters to the all girls High School.

"I completely trusted my daughter's education and time at the school, in the hands of Rosemarie Decker. When the Coronavirus hit Westchester in March, we all began remote learning, and Principal Decker was part of that. There was no indication from her, or the school that she was going to leave," said one parent, who wanted to remain anonymous because her daughter is preparing to return in the fall.

Students and parents held a rally outside the school for Decker, with signs that read, "Doing This for Decker." The emotion and support at the rally for Decker is just one indication that students and parents will not accept the non-explanation of the administration for her departure, and some are calling for and demanding her return.

A petition, on Change.org, has received more than 2,000 signatures, in support of Decker. It reads, "As of Tuesday, June 30th, Mrs. Rosemarie Decker was fired from her position as Principal of Maria Regina High School. I, as a parent of an alumni and current student, do not agree with this decision. Mrs. Decker has been with the school for 18 years and has held just about every position at Maria. The role that she was most successful at was Principal. The definition of a Principal is as follows. The person with the

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## Board of Elections? Or Rejections?

By Eric W. Schoen

I have voted in elections since I turned 18 in 1978. Dad died three days before Election Day. We were still sitting shiva but I knew that no matter the circumstances dad would have wanted me to vote.

I supported Richard Ottinger for re-election to Congress. That's a name not too many of you are familiar with. Richard was a powerful Congressperson, and I'll never forget the beautiful note Richard wrote to me when my dad died. The letter was handwritten, and it was so meaningful to me that a giant in Congress would send a handwritten letter to an 18 year old voting in his first election who had suddenly lost his father.

So let's just say I have voted in 42 elections and countless primaries over the years. I have never observed a disgraceful election as I observed on Primary Day this year at Yonkers Middle High School.

Don't blame it on social distancing. Don't blame it on the pandemic. Don't blame it on making sure voting sites were handicapped accessible. And for once, this was not a case of just the the poor people in South Yonkers getting mistreated. As I would learn the day after the Primary from County Executive George Latimer, the people at a polling location in Mamaroneck also got shafted.

This was a case of incompetent people being led by incompetent supervisors. Simple.

300 people waiting in the hot sun for 2-3 hours to vote on Primary Day. I got to the school just by chance going through from South Yonkers to my apartment. Folks sitting in beach chairs. Parents with kids in tow wanting out. Senior citizens leaning on the hot school walls with no place to sit. No Water. No food.

And all they had to do was let the people wait inside the comfortably air conditioned school. This is not rocket science.

I tried to find out who was in charge of this mess and fortunately an old high school classmate pointed her out to me. I asked her if she had alerted the Board of Elections a to what was going on. Senator Shelly Mayor graciously provided the election workers with pizza. I got no answer from the Supervisor.

I called Reginald Lafayette, Democratic Board of Elections Commissioner. He told me he would send someone down to the site to see what could be done. Some man in a county car showed up. He told me he had never seen anything like this all day in Westchester. He called another man who I later learned was the Democratic Official in charge of Voting Site selection.

He seemed reasonable. We thought the gym was air conditioned and the 300+ people could wait there. There was construction going on so that was out of the question. Next we looked at the auditorium. I played Officer Krupke in the 1978 Yonkers High School production of West Side Story in that auditorium, so let's just say I know the facility. The Board of Elections Site guy was afraid that people would cut the line and not socially distance. When I heard that I knew the games were beginning. He said it wasn't fully handicapped accessible.

Third solution: line the people in the hallways. 300 people could have been in air conditioned comfort. The Site guy was on the phone with Lafayette and a host of others. Lafayette and the Site guy killed a simple plan to make people comfortable during their 2-3 hour wait. It was close to 11 p.m. when voting finished at the polling site.

Lafayette blamed the mess on the County Board of Legislators refusal to buy more machines for the Voting. Oh my, I forgot to tell you the County Legislator Jose Alvarado was waiting on the line. He told me Lafayette was incorrect.

300 people waiting in the hot sun to vote? To vote on two machines. This should Not occur in 2020. This should never occur in a civilized society. Reginald Lafayette and his assistants couldn't give a dam for the public, the people who pay their salaries.

Are we to expect this nonsense for the General Election in November. I sent a letter to the County Executive the day after the Primary calling for a committee to review the Primary debacle and plan for November. Lafayette yelled at me that neither the County Executive nor the County Legislature could set up such committee.

As we went to press they did. Granted I would like to have seen members of the public on the Commission but I'll take County Legislators. We can't have this chaos in November.

After Lafayette killed the plan to make people comfortable, I went up and down the voter line telling those waiting the whole miserable saga. And who was responsible. Give them credit, the people on line were patient and simply wanted their right to vote.

Some of the other stories that the powers that be brought up are people could vote in advance or by mail. This is true, but if you are going to allow people to vote by machine either you better be prepared or change the laws to allow mail voting and early voting only.

This country is going through difficult times. When we have a simple situation like this those in charge have to go the extra mile to make think not about themselves but of others. If they can't do the job resign.

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# Letters to the Editor:

## Was There a Democratic Primary Because of Liam McLaughlin?

Mr. Murphy, I appreciate your work keeping the people of Yonkers informed with Yonkers Rising. You and I have had discussions on the phone over the content that you choose to publish.

Our latest squabble has been over my desire to write about what many people have speculated in the Yonkers Democratic Party, and the decisions made about who democrats to endorse for City Court Judge. It is my belief and understanding that the decisions made about City Court Judge were surrounded around former City Council President Liam McLaughlin, a republican.

After losing his bid for re-election, three years ago, McLaughlin made it clear to anyone who would listen that he wanted to become a City Court Judge. However, the political winds in Yonkers, made it impossible for Mayor Spano to appoint a republican to the City Court.

So McLaughlin agreed to become Yonkers Inspector General. But that position was held by Brendan McGrath, who by all accounts, was happy in that job and didn't want to leave.

McGrath was enticed to leave his IG's post and take an appointment to the Yonkers City Court. He was appointed by Mayor Spano last year, but had to run for a 10 year term this year. And while votes are still being counted, it appears that McGrath came in 5th place out of 5 candidates for 3 seats on the City Court.

This appears to be one of the 'Backroom Political Deals' that we have heard about in the past. And what angers me the most is that it appears that Judge Tom Daly, who has served on the court with distinction for 20 years, maybe the victim of this strange scenario that benefits who? Liam McLaughlin?

I will only concede that McLaughlin is qualified to serve both on the Yonkers City Court and as Inspector General. And I know that you have supported McLaughlin in the past, Mr. Murphy. And most of us inside Yonkers politics know that McLaughlin was going to become the next Mayor, before the Blue Wave hit Yonkers and Westchester in 2019.

After that, when McLaughlin lost to Council President Mike Khader, all deals should have been cancelled, and McLaughlin should have been told sorry, but we are appointing democrats now to the City Court and for IG.

What also happened as a result of the primary for City Court was that it turned into an ugly, negative contest, which we have not seen before in Yonkers for a Judge's race. And that negativity also hurt Judge Daly, in my view, because there were many democrats that I spoke to who wanted to vote for Dan Romano and for Daly, but because of the negativity on both sides, they only voted for Romano.

I hope that you print this letter, Mr. Murphy, regardless of where your friendships and alliances may be. You are required to print any letter that does not slander someone, and this political tale certainly does not.

Valerie Watkins, A Proud Democrat, Yonkers

*Editor's Note: Ms. Watkins thanks for your letter and for our conversations. My only thought about your scenario is that even if McGrath had stayed IG, there would still have been four democratic candidates for City Court this year seeking three seats. Karen Best is the fourth candidate that you do not mention in your letter, and currently she is currently in second place and appears to be headed toward a seat on the Yonkers bench.*

## Political Redemption for All:

Now that it appears like Dan Romano will become a Yonkers City Court Judge, perhaps it is time for all of Yonkers to forgive Zehy Jereis for his past transgressions and acknowledge his skills in electing candidates. In addition to Romano's campaign, Jereis has recently worked on the campaigns on Councilwomen Tasha Diaz and Shanae Williams, both of who recently won their elections.

The other question that many Yonkers Democrats seem to have with Mr. Jereis is that he is a former republican, and they have concerns about his supposed takeover of the Yonkers Democratic Party. To that point, I would like to point out that Mayor Mike Spano, Councilman John Rubbo and County Legislator David Tubiolo, all have switched from the republican party to the democratic party. If its good for the goose, shouldn't it be good for the gander?

Still others are hostile towards Jereis because of his past criminal transgressions, which he has paid his debt to society for. Need I remind all in Yonkers, of former State Senator Nick Spano, who also paid his price to society and served his time, as did Jereis, and the Senator has made quite a career as a lobbyist, post-conviction. Let's give everyone a chance please.

Gene Tierney, Yonkers

### To the Editor:

COVID-19 is wreaking havoc on our families, our economy, and our elections. But Congress has the power to intervene right now.

In response to safety concerns and pressure from constituents like me, Congress has already passed limited funds to expand absentee voting, on-line registration, and in-person early voting, but it's simply not enough.

Without \$4 billion in total funding for election assistance, voters may not be able to make their voices heard during one of the most important elections of our lifetime. We need our leaders to prevent a situation where any voter is forced to choose between protecting their health and casting their ballot.

While these policies are critical as we recover from this national crisis, voting reforms like expanding no-excuse absentee voting and online voter registration are common-sense changes that will help voters participate in the political process. Multiple states have already adopted vote-by-mail, and their models could be implemented across the country.

I expect Congress to provide more economic relief, but the next bill also needs to include expanded funding for mail-in voting, more early voting at safe polling places, and other options to make voting as safe as possible this November.

If voting by mail is good enough for Donald Trump, it should be good enough for all of us. Congress needs to make it possible for every eligible American to vote by mail if they choose to do so.

Regards, Victoria Dolan, Yonkers

## Yonkers Police Make Fireworks Arrests and Seize 28 Cases



A 34-year-old Yonkers man was arrested by Yonkers Police Detectives yesterday evening for selling illegal fireworks from the trunk of his vehicle; subsequent search of his home resulted in the seizure of 28 cases valued at about \$10,000!

Fireworks are illegal in the City of Yonkers and Westchester County - they can cause serious physical injury or even death when mishandled, pose a fire hazard to our densely populated residential neighborhoods, and impact the quality-of-life of our residents and pets.

Active complaints should be called in to our dispatch center at (914) 377-7900. If you have information regarding the sale or storage of fireworks in the City of Yonkers, you can also communicate with us via our anonymous tip line by texting the key word YPD plus the tip to 847411. Anonymous tips can also be sent to us directly through the Yonkers PD Tips app which can be downloaded for free to any Apple or Android device.

## Yonkers Police Officers Pursue, Arrest Suspect in Fatal Shooting Incident

On Friday, June 26th, 2020, at approximately 6:10 PM, members of the Yonkers Police Department responded to the front entrance of the Whitney Young Manor Apartments at 354 Nepperhan Avenue on multiple reports of a male shot. Upon arrival First Responders located an unresponsive male victim down on the ground with apparent multiple gunshots to his body; emergency care was rendered at scene and he was immediately removed to a local area hospital where he was pronounced deceased. At the same time, police officers at scene pursued and apprehended a suspect a short distance away.

The area was cordoned off and a criminal investigation was initiated. Detectives from the Major Case Squad and Crime Scene Unit responded to the scene to interview subjects and witnesses, review and recover surveillance video, and process forensic and ballistic evidence. Investigation has yielded that several individuals were engaged in a dispute in front of 354 Nepperhan Avenue including the victim and suspect; the dispute then escalated to violence when the suspect displayed a handgun and allegedly fired multiple shots in the direction of the victim, striking him multiple times. The victim collapsed at scene and the suspect fled the area on foot. Responding police officers quickly located the suspect and pursued him on foot as the suspect attempted to evade capture by fleeing into the Saw Mill River in the area of Stefanik Park; he was apprehended therein without incident.

A handgun – a .38 caliber revolver – was located along his escape route and recovered as evidence. Detectives are continuing to actively investigate this incident presently.

Police Commissioner John J. Mueller stated, "Senseless acts of violence cannot and will not be tolerated in our communities. Today a Yonkers family is dealing with an unimaginable and profound loss due to gun violence and the heinous acts of one individual. Because of the professional efforts of our Yonkers Police Officers, that individual was arrested and will be delivered into the Criminal Justice System where he

The suspect is identified as Terrence GONZALEZ, a 28-year-old resident of Yonkers, New York. GONZALEZ is charged with one count of Murder 2', a Class A-I Violent Felony in the New York State Penal Law; and one count of Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2', a Class C Violent Felony in the New York State Penal Law. GONZALEZ was lodged overnight in the Yonkers City Jail and is expected to be arraigned later today. The case is being prosecuted by the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

The victim is identified as Lateef BUTLER, a 23-year-old resident of Yonkers, New York. The City of Yonkers and Yonkers Police Department of-

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## On this day in Yonkers history...

By Mary Hoar, President Untermyer Performing Arts Council, President Emerita, Yonkers Historical Society



Lieutenant William Douglas Mulcahy

Monday, July 6th

July 6, 1914: The upper wooden portion of the Bryn Mawr Park passenger train station was destroyed by fire. The lower part of the two-story building, at Palmer Road near Mile Square Road, was built of stone. Damage was estimated to be \$5,000.

July 6, 1929: Military salutes from veterans of three wars, three volleys of rifle fire and taps honored the late Major Abraham H. Tompkins, Commander of the Kitching Post, GAR, at his interment. His funeral, held at the Central Methodist Episcopal Church on Morris Street, was attended by many dignitaries, including congressmen, mayors, alderman, judges and famed sculptor Isadore Konti.

Tuesday, July 7th

July 2, 1902: More complaints were received at Police Headquarters about boys and men swimming in the Hudson "without proper clothing." Captain Woodruff ordered his men to "stop the nuisance."

July 7, 1911: Noted emotional actress Clara Morris, living in her estate on Riverdale Avenue, suddenly recovered her eyesight after being blind for six months.

July 7, 1931: The Common Council adopted a resolution introduced by Seventh Ward Alderman Felix Sarubbi to post speed limit signs on all main Yonkers thoroughfares. Sarubbi believed motorists should know how fast they could drive on Yonkers highways.

Wednesday, July 8th

July 8, 1916: Charles Philip Easton, President of the Yonkers Board of Education, announced postponement of all summer classes because of the polio epidemic.

July 8, 1917: Mabel Bennett organized and directed a Shakespearean festival and pageant at her home on Park Hill Avenue to benefit the Stage Women's War Relief. Well-known stage stars attending were Mr. and Mrs. William Favershaw, Ethel Barrymore, Shelley Hull and Billie Burke.

July 8, 1944: Lieutenant William Douglas Mulcahy, USN, of Kingston Avenue, US Naval Reserve and a member of the Pacific Task Force, shot down one of enemy planes headed for the task force; this was the fifth enemy plane his blazing machineguns had taken down, making him officially an "ace." Mulcahy was flight leader of two four-plane divisions of Hellcat fighters on combat air patrol when the group of nine enemy Zero fighters was detected. Although outnumbered, the first division led by the Yonkers officer went after the Japanese planes, shooting down five other planes. The second division "polished off" the three other enemy craft. Mulcahy, holder of the Air Medal, was with "Fighting 31" on the USS Cabot. Later that year, his gallantry in action was so outstanding, he not only earned two Gold Stars added to his DFC, he also was awarded the Silver Star.

Thursday, July 9th

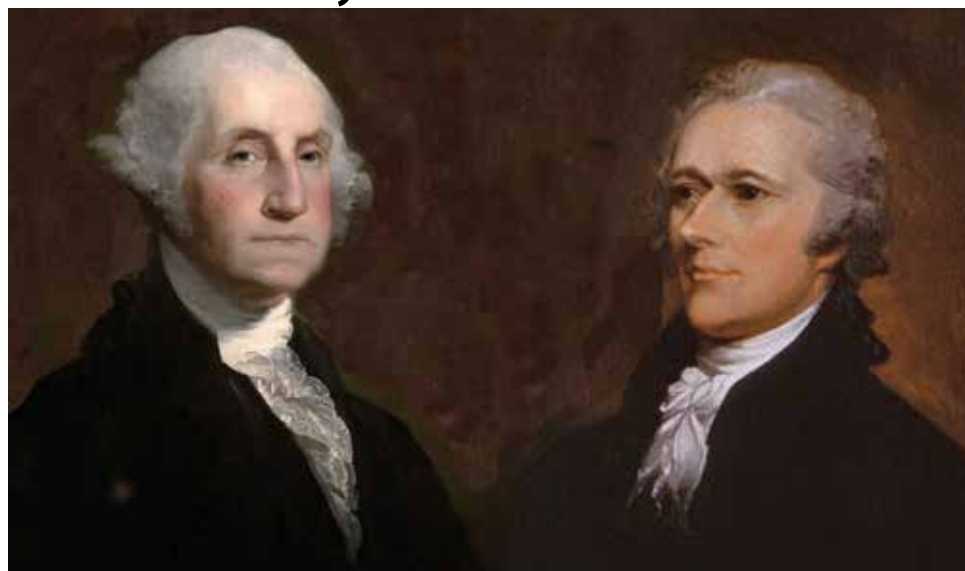
July 9, 1904: Work on the inside of the new public library neared completion; by the end of the week, lights in the children's room, reading room and stock room were installed. The floors were in condition for business and there was enough furniture for library work.

July 9, 1918: The first people arrested under the Anti-Loafing Law appeared in Yonkers City Court; City Judge William Bleakley ordered them to find a job within 5 days. The judge advised their parents not to support idle, loafing sons, and told the defendants to, "Get a job or engage in some occupation that will help the United States win the war."

July 9, 1930: Marion Cook was awarded the title of "Miss Yonkers" and a trip to Atlantic City as a result of a popularity contest held by the Park Hill Theater; she received 199,890 votes. Miss Cook, who lived at the YMCA, left Yonkers in a car provided by the Yonkers Nash Corporation,

continued on pg 6-

## Hamilton and Washington on a Hudson Valley Mobile Audio Tour



### Learn about George Washington, left and Alexander Hamilton, and their travels in the Hudson Valley

Nowhere in the colonies did General George Washington spend more time during the American Revolution than in New York's Hudson Valley. For much of that time he was accompanied by his trusted aide-to-camp, Alexander Hamilton.

In celebration of Independence Day, on July 3rd, Disney+ will launch live streaming of the film of the original smash hit Broadway production of "Hamilton," created by and starring Lin-Manuel Miranda. Just in time for this event and the 4th of July, Historic Hudson River Towns, an association of sixteen towns just north of New York City, has launched a geo-located audio tour, featuring many Revolutionary War sites and stories, which can be enjoyed while driving through the region or remotely at home.

Developed by Historic Hudson River Towns and TravelStoryGPS, the new tour will entertain travelers and virtual travelers with stories from early days, through the Revolutionary War to today. The tour can be used safely hands-free, as travelers explore this beautiful and famous region while driving. The tour can also be enjoyed remotely from home or from almost anywhere in the world.

Alexander Hamilton frequently traveled through the Hudson Valley during the Revolutionary War and afterwards as congressman and US Secretary of Treasury. Many significant Revolutionary War sites that he visited are presented on the audio tour. On the east side of the river, Washington and Hamilton encamped at Dobb's Ferry with the American and French armies. From there, they began their famous march south to Virginia, where their victory at the Battle of Yorktown secured the surrender of British forces and the end of the Revolutionary War.

In Irvington, a Historic Hudson River Town, visitors can see the stately mansion that Hamilton's son James owned and named "Nevis" in honor of his father's birthplace in the British West Indies.

Other Revolutionary War sites found on the new tour include Philipse Manor Hall in Yonkers, the oldest building in Westchester County. The Manor Hall, along with its 52,000 acre estate, was forfeited by Frederick Philipse II, a wealthy landholder who backed the Crown and had to flee to England.

These and many other stories highlight significant historic, cultural, and recreational sites through the towns on both sides of the Hudson River from Yonkers north to the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge and the Bear Mountain Bridge. Historic Hudson River Towns' new audio tour guides travelers and virtual travelers through these places, as well as to downtowns, parks and recreational sites for peaceful walks and hikes, all just minutes north of New York City.

The new free audio tours of Historic Hudson River Towns can be enjoyed remotely at home at [www.hudsonriver.com](http://www.hudsonriver.com) or from any APP store.

## Free Virtual Summer Reading Buddies Program from JCY-West.

The program was developed to continue JCY-Westchester Community Partner's long tradition of providing children with summer learning opportunities to maximize their academic success. Studies have shown that children with summer learning opportunities ultimately have better grades and graduation rates than those without such opportunities.

According to Anietra Guzmán-Santana, Senior Director of JCY-WCP, "this year's program will provide hundreds of students with the opportunity to obtain one-on-one attention from caring reading mentors who will assist with comprehension, pronunciation and vocabulary, as well as share their own experiences. The goal is to increase literacy skills and boost the students' self-confidence, simultaneously providing meaningful volunteer opportunities. Although we miss being on site at Yonkers Public Library, we are pleased to be able to seamlessly transition to virtual programming during the pandemic and continue to provide this academic support during the summer."

In addition to reading opportunities, students will participate in weekly workshops funded by conEdison on STEM and other topics. "Summer Reading Buddies is essential to summer in Yonkers," noted Jesse Montero, Yonkers Public Library Director. "Although social distancing precautions mean we can't pack in our children's rooms this summer, YPL is proud to continue its partnership with JCY-WCP to facilitate intergenerational mentorship, summer reading, STEM education, and to help prevent the 'summer slide' through virtual programming."

JCY-WCP is also collecting new or gently used computers and tablets for students and distributing them to families that apply who do not have the necessary equipment to effectively access distance learning materials at home. Contact Madeline Finesmith at [mfinesmith@jcy-wcp.com](mailto:mfinesmith@jcy-wcp.com) to donate equipment. JCY-WCP gratefully accepts monetary donations to support its programming at [www.jcy-wcp.com](http://www.jcy-wcp.com).

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AGENDA FOR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS July 8, 2020  
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:  
THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, JULY 21, 2020 AT 5:00 P.M. WILL BE CONDUCTED IN A MANNER PURSUANT TO GOVERNOR CUOMO'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 202.1; IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.  
PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE [WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV](http://WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV), THE DAY OF THE MEETING FOR LOG-IN AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

#### CONTINUED HEARINGS

# 5697 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, Esq., on behalf of Point and Ravine LLC, owner, on premises known as 56 Ravine Avenue, Block: 2115, Lot: 5, Zone: A

# 5698 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, Esq., on behalf of Point and Ravine LLC, owner, on premises known as 69 Ravine Avenue, Block: 2114, Lot: 42, Zone: A

# 5699 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, Esq., on behalf of Point and Ravine LLC, owner, on premises known as 76 Point Street, Block: 2114, Lot: 17, Zone: A

# 5707 – Area Variance – Gibbons Engineering, PC, on behalf of Global Equities, LLC, owner, on premises known as 961 Nepperhan Avenue, Block: 3091, Lot: 58.63, Zone: I

#### NEW HEARINGS

# 5708 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Yonkers Holdings LLC, owner, on premises known as 52 Yonkers Avenue, Block: 451, Lot: 1, Zone: M

# 5709 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, Esq., on behalf of Point and Ravine LLC, owner, on premises known as 78 Ravine Avenue, Block: 2115, Lot: 16, Zone: MG

# 5710 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, Esq., on behalf of Point and Ravine LLC, owner, on premises known as 50 Point Street, Block: 2115, Lot: 24, Zone: A

# 5711 – Area Variance – Stephen A. Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of Russa Realty, owner, and 1 Pondfield Rd. Realty dba Pondfield Café, lessee, on premises known as 25/1 Pondfield Road, Block: 5650, Lot: 20, Zone: BA

# 5712 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, Esq., on behalf of Westhab Inc., owner, on premises known as 76 Locust Hill Avenue, Block: 2027, Lot: 101, Zone: M

# 5713 – Area Variance – Lucia Chiochio, Esq., Cuddy & Feder LLP, on behalf of Dutchman Realty LLC, owner, and T.M. Crowley & Associates, applicant, on premises known as 372 Riverdale Avenue aka 13 Culver Street, Block: 129, Lot: 26, Zone: BA

# 5714 – Area Variance – Tom F. Abillama, R.A., on behalf of 1969 Central Park Avenue LLC, owner, on premises known as 1969 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4385, Lot: 206, Zone: BR

JOSEPH CIANCIULLI, CHAIRMAN, ZBA

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

## Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3--

In this situation Black, Brown, White and Yellow lives, in fact all lives matter. Make sure to vote on Election Day. If anyone gives you a hard time don't let them turn you away. Just pull out articles 14 and 15 of the constitution! And request a paper. No one can take your right to vote away from you!

Reach Eric Schoen at [thistooisyonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistooisyonkers@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](http://WVOX.com) and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

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."

## This Date in Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

accompanied by her employer's wife, Mrs. Harris Riefe. The pair spent two weeks at the Traymore Hotel.

Friday, July 10th

July 10, 1907: Yonkers declared itself "the healthiest place to live in." Statistics released by the State Board of Health showed our death rate was much lower than "health-gaining" places such as Saratoga Springs and Niagara Falls.

July 10, 1933: Joseph Urban passed away. Urban, an internationally known architect, illustrator and theater set designer, emigrated to the United States in 1911 to become the Art Director of the Boston Opera Company. He was the originator of the American Art Deco style, and was best known for creating the interior and exterior designs of Mar-A-Lago. He lived at 93 Hudson Terrace and had his studio at 217 South Waverly Street.

Saturday, July 11th

July 11, 1922: A statue was unearthed at Greystone by plumbers repairing a pipe on the estate. Believing the statue, representing the draped figure of Cere, to be ancient, photographer Rudolf Eickemeyer and sculptor Isidore Konti both declared it an amazing discovery.

July 11, 1945: Acting City Manager Norman Henderson sold forty-eight acres of city land on Central Avenue, formerly part of Grassy Sprain golf course, to Herman Binseil and a New York City real estate syndicate; they planned to use the land for real estate development. Yonkers was holding several more acres of the old golf grounds to give gratis to New York State as a location for a proposed technical college.

Sunday, July 12th

July 12, 1934: Supreme Court Justice Raymond Aldrich ordered Mayor Joseph Loehr to reinstate Mary Hallenback and Florence Reinhardt to positions in the Department of Charities abolished six months earlier. The women claimed six temporary employees were doing work they had done. Justice Aldrich ruled this violated both the spirit and letter of the Civil Service Law.

July 12, 1938: Captain Andrew McLean, former Assistant US Attorney and holder of the Distinguished Service Cross for "extraordinary heroism" in France during World War One, was notified he had been cited once again for his gallantry in action in 1918. He would receive the coveted Silver Star with Oak Leaf Cluster because of his actions when an enemy shell struck his battalion headquarters on the Aisne River. At the time, he had been commissioned a second lieutenant on the field for his gallantry in action.

For more information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and our upcoming events, visit our Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/YonkersHistoricalSociety](http://www.facebook.com/YonkersHistoricalSociety). For information on membership in the Yonkers Historical Society, please call 914-961-8940 or email [yhsociety@aol.com](mailto:yhsociety@aol.com).

## Yonkers Summer Fun, continued from pg 1-

July 9-Grease -PG--EJ Murray Skating Center Tuckahoe Road

July 16-Frozen II-PG-Kinsley Park-Park Avenue

July 23-Coco-PG-Fleming Field -Prescott Street

July 30-Adams Family (animated)-PG-Redmond Field-Cook Avenue

August 6-Toy Story 4-G- War Memorial -Copcutt Lane

August 13-Lion King-PG-Bregano Field-Rigby Street

August 20-Aladdin -PG-Trevor Park-Warburton Avenue

August 27-Bird Cage-R-Andrus Park-Central Park Avenue -minors must be accompanied by an adult.

You MUST make a reservation in order to attend any of the movies by calling 914-377-6441 to reserve your spot. Yonkers residents only. Repeat attendees will be placed on a waiting list so that everyone can attend at least one movie. Reservations can be made one week prior to each movie date. Bring your own seating, food vendors will be at each location.

Both county pools located in Yonkers, Tibbetts Brook Pool and Sprain Lake Pool, are already open for you and your family to cool off. This summer, Westchester County will be opening four public pools. On Friday, July 3 the County will open Willson's Woods Pool in Mount Vernon, and Tibbetts Brook Pool in Yonkers. Last Friday, June 26 the County opened Saxon Woods Pool in White Plains and Sprain Ridge Pool in Yonkers. All will be open to Westchester County residents with some slight modifications to help ensure safety in the wake of COVID-19.

Modifications include:

- No Aqua Playground at Saxon Woods Pool
- No Aqua Splash Pad at Sprain Ridge Pool
- No Waves in the Wave Pool or Aqua Playground/Splash Pad at Willson's Woods Pool
- 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 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.

County Executive George Latimer recently made the decision to close Playland amusement park for the entire summer. Playland's beach is open to Westchester residents, Tuesdays through Sundays. The pool is closed.

Latimer said: "As we've gone through the spread of the contagion and we started going through phase 1, and phase 2, and phase 3 – which is what we're in now, there was not enough significant improvement to justify what happens when 8,000 people go to one place at one time. It's analogous to what we face at the Kensico Dam Plaza with the ethnic festivals. So with that thought in mind, we delayed this decision. We lost Memorial Day Weekend as a revenue, we announced originally that it would stay closed to mid-July hoping that things would get better and knowing that the Governor's Executive Order still kept in closed, but you know if things got better we'd reach out and make a case for why it should open, but realistically we're at a point right now where we couldn't make that case any further."

**Budget troubles, President Biden, continued from pg 1--**

could dramatically change our landscape for years to come. Now we need help from Washington that comes without strings to protect New Yorkers from seeing essential services decimated," said DiNapoli.

Westchester County government has also seen a large revenue hole blown in their budget from COVID-19. County Executive George Latimer has estimated a deficit in the current budget of more than \$100 Million. Latimer offered an early retirement incentive to county employees to help close the expected budget gaps for 2021.

In Yonkers, Mayor Mike Spano proposed a budget, which was approved by the City Council with minor modifications, for the fiscal 2021 year which began July 1. The adopted budget did not include the \$20 Million cut in State Aid.

In order to close the \$20 hole in the City of Yonkers budget, Spano will have to make cuts. Those cuts will have to include lay offs of City personnel. Spano cannot raise taxes any higher than the budget that was passed with the Council, which was 2%.

Spano must also decide whether to spread the layoffs to the Yonkers Public Schools. In the current City budget, the YPS was forced to layoff xxx staff to balance a \$22 Million hole. The question now becomes if the YPS will be asked to cut more positions.

The other, short term option will be for Mayor Spano to wait, and see if the \$20 Million cut from Albany is in need, short term.

What Governor Cuomo, County Executive Latimer, and Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, are waiting and hoping for is a 4th stimulus- bailout from Washington DC, which includes a bailout of State governments and most important to our readers, a bailout of New York State government. What that requires is the approval of US Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, who has previously said NO to any Blue Bailouts. President Donald Trump could also intervene and agree to a bailout package for NY, which is also unlikely.

If neither McConnell or Trump agree to help the Empire State, a final alternative to avoid serious cuts would be to wait until the November elections to see if Joe Biden is elected President. A Biden presidency would be more agreeable to helping states like New York through their financial troubles for a year or more.

That is why the Governor is slow to move on any significant cuts, calling them for now a temporary cut, or holding back of revenues the state usually provides Yonkers and White Plains. With short term borrowing, New York State and Yonkers, could delay their doomsday cuts until after November and possibly into 2021.

But even with a President Biden in the oval office, Democrats would also have to take control of the US Senate, so that Senator Charles Schumer from NY becomes Senate Majority Leader. If McConnell retains his post, and republicans still hold onto the senate, don't look for any NY bailouts coming from DC.

Democrats will have to pick up four seats in November, in Arizona, Colorado, North Carolina and Maine. If Democrats have control over both houses of Congress and the Presidency, then not only will bailout funds become available for New York, but the federal cap of State and Local deduction, (SALT), could also be repealed. This would give Westchester residents the ability to deduct all of their property taxes instead of just the first \$10,000.

The City of Yonkers could continue to issue short term bonds to help cover the cost of expenses through the summer. But if that practice continues into the fall, the danger is that it is possible that a 4th bailout will never come, or that it will come without funding to help state governments hardest hit by the Coronavirus, like New York, and Yonkers.

**Jamaal Bowman, continued from pg 1--**

Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, whose own stunning primary upset in 2018 over a 10-term incumbent in a neighboring district tapped into the same progressive energies. In a major boost to his campaign, AOC would endorse Bowman, as would Bernie Sanders and Elizabeth Warren.

A second reason for Engel's defeat: he was caught flat-footed by twin catastrophes. The first was the coronavirus, whose deadly epicenter has ravaged the district, disproportionately affecting African Americans. The second was the police killing of George Floyd, which sparked nationwide protests against police brutality, and a surging Black Lives Matter movement. Bowman was a fixture at many of these gatherings in the Bronx and Westchester, including one in Bronxville where he spoke eloquently about his mistreatment at the hands of the police, as well as the evils of militarism and systemic racism.

Meanwhile, during this unprecedented turmoil, a reporter discovered Engel holed up in his home in suburban Maryland, far from his district. Adding insult to injury, on a trip back to speak in the Bronx, Engel was captured on a hot mic uttering words that ultimately sealed his defeat: "If I didn't have a primary, I wouldn't care."

Congressman Engel might have escaped the damage of these unforced errors had not the political earth beneath his feet undergone a seismic shift. Progressives, after years of frustration and defeats to play-it-safe establishment Democrats, successfully flipped the script, and chalked up a big win.

In delivering an early retirement to Congressman Engel, primary voters demanded change. In doing so, the voters punched Jamaal Bowman's ticket to the general election in November where he will be the clear favorite to be our next Representative. Our party and nation are headed in the right direction as a result of Bowman's historic win.

*Bill Gaston is a District Leader for the Bronxville Democratic Party*

**Principal Decker, continued from pg 3-**

with the highest authority or most important position in an organization, institution or group. Mrs. Decker is and was that person. She was always readily available for a call or a meeting. She was always seen in and out of the hallways. Engaged in everyone of her students emotionally, spiritually and educationally. Sporting events, she was front and center in the Tiger Zone. Mrs. Decker was always there to support her girls. She was not only our biggest cheerleader, she was our leader. Academically, spiritually and educationally, she was our leader."

"Now, in the middle of a pandemic, our leader is no more. Our girls have had a rough couple of months and the uncertainty of the upcoming school year already has our girls nervous. The Board has decided with all that is going on now is the time to remove the most stable structure of our beloved Maria Regina. We need our leader now more than ever, we need our leader to navigate these troubled times, our girls need their Principal, Mrs. Rosemarie Decker. Please join me in signing this petition to have her reinstated as our leader and our Principal. Maria Regina pray for us!"

One thing we heard from parents again and again was that they would need an answer, or an explanation, as to why Decker was let go. "You can't get rid of a principal who is this trusted and this beloved, without telling us what happened. Many of us will not accept this, either they tell us what happened, or bring her back, or else a lot of us will be looking for another school for our daughters to attend," said another MRHS parent.

Maria Regina High School opened in 1959, and for the past 60 years, has been Westchester oldest Girls Catholic High School. A large portion of the student population comes from Yonkers.

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.

**Volpe: Election Reform Requires Leadership, Not Partisanship**

The SAM Party of New York has been advocating and fighting for, among other things, real reform to elections in our state. In the state committee elections conducted on Tuesday, poll workers may have mistakenly permitted non-SAM voters to vote in some primary elections for seats on the SAM State Committee. These issues will be addressed in the coming days.

While this pandemic has presented unprecedented events and chaos for many, the recent problems highlight why real reform of our systems of electing officials is necessary. Our democracy must do better. We need to debate and address open primaries, ranked choice voting and other reforms and allow independent, democracy minded voices to be heard. The voices of individual voters cannot be silenced any longer.

More immediately, specific administrative reforms to improve our elections could be implemented easily. In New York State, each Board of Election has a Democrat and a Republican commissioner. They are appointed by political power brokers. The commissioners control the boards, and, in turn, the manner and way information is or is not shared with the public, the decisions regarding hiring of full-time staffers, the training of part-time poll workers, and, importantly, the administration of elections. This system needs to change. Problems with transparency at BOEs, the enforcement of the election law, the abilities and knowledge of poll workers as to processes and procedures and the conduct of elections, etc. have been presenting problems for years.

Real change in New York can happen. Democrats and Republicans could make all BOEs non-partisan; they could take away patronage jobs; provide funding for voter reforms such as poll worker training, easy access to early voting, and continued voting by mail. Importantly, easy reform could include one form of ballot for the entire state instead of the current jumbled mess.

To have real reform SAM NY recognizes that our state needs leadership and not partisanship. Election reform seems to be an easy area to start.

Michael J. Volpe  
SAM Party of New York, Chair

*Volpe is a resident of Pelham and the former Mayor of the Pelham. For more information on the SAM Party of NY, visit [joinsamny.org](http://joinsamny.org).*

**Primary voting troubles continued from pg 1--**

we examine what happened and understand quickly what steps need to be taken to make sure that things will be better in November."

The Board of Legislators is planning a COW for the week of July 20 (specific date to be determined) with County Board of Elections Commissioners and staff. In future meetings, the BOL is also planning to speak with voters, advocates, State Board of Elections representatives and others to help ensure that clear and pro-active steps are taken before November.

In particular, Legislators are interested in hearing about improvements in the following areas: Early voting, Communications, Poll worker recruitment and training, Poll sites, PPE and safety supplies, Physical and absentee voting logistics.

Majority Leader MaryJane Shimsky, said, "Our voting system had to deal with numerous shocks during the June primary, the result of the coronavirus pandemic and the largest primary voting turnout in decades. Westchester County's election system cannot be caught by surprise again. We need to make sure we are ready for what will likely be record-setting turnout for the general election in November. We look forward to working together with the Board of Elections, advocates, State officials and others to make sure our County is prepared for November."

The Board of Legislators would like to hear first-hand experiences from those who voted this June as well. We are asking voters to share their experiences, as specifically as possible, by email at [BOLPublicComments@westchesterlegislators.com](mailto:BOLPublicComments@westchesterlegislators.com).

Rising newspapers has also received several letters from our readers across Westchester about voting in the primary last month. Robert Kalfus from Yonkers, wrote the following letter to the BOE Commissioners.

"I applied for an Absentee Ballot to vote in the June 23 Primary election and received same. Numerous websites, newspapers, radio and TV broadcast the information that in order for the Absentee Ballot to be valid and counted, regulations required that it be postmarked "before or on the day of the Primary Election", June 23, 2020.

On Tuesday morning, June 23, after finishing researching the latest information on the candidates, I prepared to properly mark my Absentee Ballot and mail it at the Yonkers Avenue Post Office branch.

But then I saw, written on the Absentee Ballot envelope: "The Board of Elections must receive the ballot not later than the close of polls on election day or have a Postal cancellation mark not later than the day before the election and received by such board of elections not later than seven days following the day of election..."

Requiring a cancellation date to be postmarked the day before the election is contrary to ALL information broadcast and disseminated by the Westchester Board of Elections, and reported by numerous media. The information printed on the envelope, contrary to all other information, caused me, a high-risk 68 year old individual, to stand on line for more than TWO HOURS in pain from my arthritic knee, and from my four hip replacement surgeries, unable to sit, and unable to leave to use a bathroom.

A link is provided below to NY Daily News articles, which reported the same information as did ALL other media that the envelope needed only to be postmarked by the Primary Election date, June 23 - not the day before. Please tell me which version was correct. And which info was NOT correct," wrote Kalfus, who added what happened to him on primary evening. "When I guided my pieces of paper into the sole ballot scanner, I saw the number 750 appear. The Election worker explained that because each person voted using two pieces of paper, I was the 325th person to vote at 9:16 PM. When I exited the building, the line of people waiting to vote was as long as when I started, going from from the single HS entrance north on Kneeland Avenue, at 9:22 pm.

"A campaign worker gave free 4 oz bottles of water to people waiting on line, outside on the Kneeland Avenue sidewalk, labelled "Dan Romano for City Court Judge". The election workers, who worked past the 9 pm cutoff time and admitted all those on line at 9 pm, deserve huge kudos for their extra-long day into night of service devoted to preserving democracy and people's rights to a secure vote."

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