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## Council President Khader Listens to Residents Complaints About Quality of Life in Yonkers



### Should Yonkers Bring Back Public Trash Cans?

By Dan Murphy

Yonkers City Council President Mike Khader recently responded to complaints made to his office from residents concerns about quality of life issues across the city but specifically in the downtown-getty square areas. Khader, who is in the middle of his third year as Council President, responded by walking through the neighborhoods, and then commented about his findings on Social Media.

"After receiving numerous calls and emails I met with some residents today, they wanted me to walk through their neighborhood. Litter is a huge problem in our city, it is important residents take pride, and do their part by properly disposing their trash. It is evident we need more effective trash Receptacles throughout the city," said Khader.

Most garbage cans in Yonkers were removed in October 2018. The decision was designed to stop illegal dumping in trash bins by businesses and others. "The city has several-hundred litter baskets, which are emptied daily and are intended for pedestrian litter only. Instead, our crews regularly respond to overflowing litter baskets, which are filled with commercial and household refuse. For these reasons, the city will be implementing the removal of public litter baskets," said Meier two years ago.

Council President Khader has questioned the decision to remove the garbage cans in 2018, and renewed his request, along with many other residents, to bring back the public garbage bins. But Khader's concerns were more about the quality of life issues that affect many Yonkers residents in the downtown.

"Just drove through Getty Square and Downtown Yonkers. We still have a garbage/dumping problem, rat problem, homeless problem, drug dealing/use problem. This amazing city will never succeed so long as these issues are not addressed properly. I had enough, we need real action and accountability to keep this city safe and clean. If left ignored it will effect our entire City's quality of life."

Khader's comments, which most of the residents viewed as an honor—  
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## 23 Days Later, the Primary Results are in



Karen Best, left, and Dan Romano, won the Democratic Primary for Yonkers City Court Judge

By Dan Murphy

Twenty three days after a number of Democratic Primaries in Westchester on June 23, the Board of Elections was able to certify the results of several important contests for county, state and federal offices. Many Westchester residents have complained about waiting on long lines to vote on primary day, and the long delay in receiving the official vote totals.

Jamaal Bowman defeated 30 year Congressman Eliot Engel in the 16th District, with 56% of the vote. Engel conceded after waiting for all of the absentee ballots to be counted.

"We have made so much progress together, and faced so many challenges. Throughout those years, I have always worked as hard as humanly possible to represent my constituents as a progressive Democrat in Washington and as an involved, informed and present public servant in New York. I  
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## 'Handcuffing the Police'

Yonkers Law Enforcement Won't Go Into NYC Because of New Chokehold-Knee Law



Yonkers Police Commissioner John Mueller appearing on cable news last week

By Dan Murphy

A New York City law that calls for the jailing and fining of any police officer that puts a knee on a person's back or chest during the course of an arrest has resulted in several Westchester law enforcement agencies from ordering their officers not to pursue suspects into New York City.

Yonkers Police Commissioner John Mueller made the announcement last week, prohibiting officers under his command from taking enforcement actions in the City of New York effective immediately.

Mueller explained that while he supports banning any chokeholds of persons under arrest, in certain situations placing a knee on a suspect who is resisting or is mentally ill, may be necessary. "The New York City law is calling for perfection. I am in 100% agreement that chokeholds should be banned. But police officers need some tools to place persons who are resisting under arrest."

Yonkers has long banned the use of chokeholds by its Police Department except in life or death struggles, and has engaged in a variety of practices to minimize the use of force during arrests. As a result, complaints of excessive force by Yonkers Police have dropped dramatically in recent years. Only six such complaints were made last year.

"Despite our best efforts to minimize the use of force, it remains well possible that a police officer's knee may end up on the chest or back of a violent suspect during a scuffle or arrest, especially during a one-on-one situation," said Mueller, "We will not subject our officers to the threat of a year in jail every time they have to deal with a violent or mentally ill subject resisting arrest. New York City's new law goes beyond effective policing. It jeopardizes the safety of both police officers and the public."

Mueller added that it was important to note that this was in no way a reflection on the NYPD: "The Yonkers Police Department has and will continue to have the utmost respect and admiration for the men and women of the NYPD. The NYPD has been placed in a nearly impossible position by its legislative body to deliver measured, thoughtful, and appropriate policing strategies for residents who need them most. Our brothers and sisters of the  
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## Yonkers Basketball Courts & Untermyer Gardens Re-Open



Two good signs this week that Yonkers is slowly getting back to normal came with the announcement that Untermyer Gardens, pictured above, is open for visitors, and that three Yonkers outdoor basketball courts opened on Monday.

"This past weekend we welcomed visitors back to the gardens using free timed admission; it was such a joy to be able to share the July gardens with people. We hope you will sign up to visit soon. We are also bringing back our weekend tours: sign up for a Sunday morning tour focused on the history of the gardens and Samuel Untermyer," wrote Untermyer Gardens Conservancy President Stephen Byrns. Visit untermyergardens.org to order tickets and for hours of operation.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced that three city outdoor basketball courts will reopen, effective Monday, July 20th, Andrus (Central Park Avenue and Arlington Street), Pelton (McLean and Van Cortlandt Park Avenue), and Joseph Cerrato (Riverdale Avenue and Vark Street ). Residents are asked to adhere to the guidelines set forth by the New York State Department of Health to ensure the safety of all who use the outdoor basketball courts. City outdoor basketball courts were previously closed in March to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

"COVID-19 was one of the most difficult challenges in our city's history and residents are overcoming it in a way that has been respectful and thoughtful of others," said Mayor Mike Spano. "I have no doubt with summer in full swing residents will continue follow the safety guidelines while enjoying the outdoor courts to ensure the safety and well-being of  
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# Yonkers Summer Film Nights in the Park Continue



Addams Family animated is the next Yonkers summer film night July 30

The City's 2020 Summer Film Series that will run during July and August at several Yonkers parks continues. The family-friendly series is FREE of charge and open to Yonkers residents. 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.

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 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.

July 30--Adams Family-Animated--PG-Redmond Field, Cook Avenue

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

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

Aug 20-Aladdin --PG--Trevor Park -Warburton Ave.

## Mobile Paper Shredder Aug. 8 at EJ Murray's Rink

The Department of Public Works will provide a mobile paper shredder for Yonkers residents to use to help them fight back against fraud and protect them from identity theft by shredding sensitive personal documents. The mobile shredder will be stationed at E.J. Murray's Skating Rink, located at 348 Tuckahoe Road, on Saturday, August 8th from 8AM - 12PM.

Residents can bring only one file-size (10"x12"x15") box of confidential papers per household to the skating rink for shredding.

Documents that are suitable for shredding before thrown away or recycled include, expired credit card statements and receipts, old tax returns or any other personal documents containing names, addresses or other identifying information, pre-approved credit card applications, licenses. All shredding materials must be placed in the trunk of one's vehicle and remain in the car while in the service queue. For more information, residents can contact the Mayor's Help Line at 914-377-HELP (4357).

# Merante Leads Protests Against UPS Expansion on Tuckahoe Road



City Councilman Anthony Merante organized a car rally for neighborhood residents to let their voices be heard against UPS expansion plans. The event was attended by nearly 100 people and 44 vehicles. UPS plans call for a massive above ground gas tank, a huge increase in the number of delivery and trailer trucks that would operate there now for 24 hours. Councilman Merante stated

"This is only the first of several actions that are planned to let UPS and the Yonkers Planning Board know that residents will not stand by and have their neighborhood quality of life destroyed by this expansion. We all are happy that UPS is here but we are not happy about these plans. UPS should consider our residents' concerns and I will stand with them in this fight to protect our neighborhoods," said Merante, pictured above at the car rally.

A group called StopUPS.org, is leading the opposition, and states, "The UPS business model is based on on-site refueling depots at their distribution centers. So, without a site plan approval for on-site refueling, why is UPS spending millions of dollars at the 555 Tuckahoe Rd. site before the Yonkers Planning Board has issued a site plan approval?"

There is a recent Yonkers video that states that the 555 Tuckahoe Rd. site will be the largest UPS distribution center in Westchester and Bronx. <https://youtu.be/Jt-RAKV-R5w>

Yet, UPS does not feel an Environmental Impact Statement is needed to review impacts of the facility on the surrounding residential communities. The Yonkers Planning Board seems to agree with UPS that there are no significant impacts. Although a refueling depot is not a listed permitted use in the city code, the Zoning Board is allowing that use at 555 Tuckahoe Rd. site.

Are we to believe that the fix is not in? It appears that the Yonkers Planning Board, appointed by the Mayor, is now under too much political pressure to do anything but approve the site plan and to issue a Negative Declaration, thereby avoiding the requirement to have UPS prepare Environmental Impact Statement in accordance with state law.

Residents, we need to push back; join the push, fund the push! <https://www.gofundme.com/f/stopupsorg>

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## St. John's Riverside Hospital & St. Joseph's Medical Center Explore Integrations

The Boards of Trustees and Administration of St. John's Riverside Hospital and Saint Joseph's Medical Center announced today that they have decided to enter into discussions to explore opportunities for integration between the two facilities.

The goal in this exploration is to determine how best to improve the delivery of health care services, potentially achieve economic efficiencies, and expand services resulting in the improved health of Yonkers and southern Westchester communities.

As we begin this process of exploration, we will be meeting with, and welcome the opportunity to work with members of the community, as well as State and local regulatory agencies and other interested parties. Information regarding the process will be made available as we learn more.

"In the 150 years of St. John's Riverside Hospital's service to the community, high quality patient care has always been our top priority. In keeping with that mission, we have identified this unique opportunity to innovate and expand healthcare," said Ronald J. Corti, President & CEO of St. John's Riverside Hospital. "We believe that the residents of the City of Yonkers and southern Westchester will potentially benefit from a streamlined health care delivery system and we are looking forward to learning about the possibilities."

"Since 1888 Saint Joseph's Medical Center has provided Yonkers and the surrounding communities with high quality, compassionate, patient-centered care. As the care of our patients and the communities we serve has always been our top priority, we are excited to explore the opportunity and potential benefits of streamlining to enhance the delivery of healthcare in a collaborative effort," said Saint Joseph's Medical Center President and CEO, Michael J. Spicer.

## NY Creates NY-COVID Rent Relief Program

A new New York State COVID Rent Relief Program is now available to help households experiencing an increase in their rent burden due to a loss of income during the COVID-19 crisis.

The program will provide eligible households with a one-time rental subsidy that will be sent directly to the household's landlord. Applicants will not need to repay this assistance. Applications must be postmarked no later than July 30, 2020.

The COVID Rent Relief Program is not first come, first served. Priority will be given to eligible households with "greatest economic and social need" accounting for income, rent burden, percent of income lost and risk of homelessness.

The rental assistance payment will cover the difference between the household's rent burden on March 1, 2020 and the increase in rent burden for the months the households is applying for assistance. Households can apply for up to four months in rental assistance. Your rent burden is the percentage of your gross household income that that you spend on your contractual rent.

For more information about the program and about eligibility require and to download applications, visit <https://hcr.ny.gov/RRP>. New York State Homes and Community Renewal (HCR) also has created a dedicated call center to provide residents with help Monday through Saturday, 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. Call the COVID Rent Relief Program Call Center at 1-833-499-0318 or email at [covidrentrelief@hcr.ny.gov](mailto:covidrentrelief@hcr.ny.gov).

## 28TH ANNUAL YONKERS RIVERFEST CANCELLED

AFTER THOUGHTFUL CONSIDERATION, THE YONKERS DOWNTOWN/WATERFRONT BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT, IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE CITY OF YONKERS, MUST REGRETFULLY ANNOUNCE THAT THE 28TH ANNUAL YONKERS RIVERFEST HAS BEEN CANCELLED. THE ANNUAL FESTIVAL, HELD ALONG THE MAJESTIC HUDSON RIVER, HAS ALWAYS BEEN A FREE EVENT THAT ATTRACTS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE FROM ACROSS THE COUNTY AND HAS BEEN A WESTCHESTER STAPLE SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 1992.

"RIVERFEST IS MORE THAN JUST A FESTIVAL, IT IS TRULY A CELEBRATION OF COMMUNITY, WHICH IS WHY THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF EVERYONE FROM ATTENDEES TO SPONSORS AND VENDORS IS OF THE UTMOST IMPORTANCE TO US. WHILE THE DECISION TO CANCEL THE EVENT WAS DIFFICULT, WE KNOW THIS IS THE RIGHT DECISION TO KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE," SAID SARA A. BRODY, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, YONKERS DOWNTOWN/WATERFRONT BID. "WE ARE HOPEFUL THAT WE WILL COME TOGETHER ONCE AGAIN FOR A CELEBRATION IN SEPTEMBER 2021."

THE YONKERS DOWNTOWN/WATERFRONT BID HAS TENTATIVELY SCHEDULED THE YONKERS RIVERFEST FOR SATURDAY, SEPT 11, 2021.

## Welcome Jamaal, Goodbye Eliot

By Eric Schoen

On a return trip from Ireland with Congressman Eliot Engel, my friend Bob Stauf said to me, 'When they make a movie about Eliot Engel, Woody Allen is going to play Engel. And so my friends in film production, get those cameras ready!'

Big doings in Yonkers and the North Bronx on Primary Day. Despite the inability for the Westchester County Board of Elections to run a Primary that had people waiting on long lines in the heat, sometimes 300 at a time to vote, the 16th Congressional District in New York State has a new Congressman after 30 years, Jamaal Bowman. All of the residents of his district, the state and this country wish him well.

I knew change was on the horizon. I drove around a little on Primary Day and as I have told you before, was appalled when I saw 300 people in line in the heat of summer waiting to vote at Yonkers Middle High School. We don't allow that crap to happen in Westchester County, or at least in the rest of the county other than Yonkers. Good old Yonkers always gets treated like a third world country, even though it is the 4th largest city in New York State, 3rd or 4th depending on who you ask.

Some people were upset about having to wait in the heat but people were taking it in stride. They were there for a purpose. That purpose was to retire Eliot Engel from Congress and elect Jamaal Bowman. I guess the voters knew what to expect, and some waited until 11 p.m. at night after the polls closed at 9 p.m. to exercise their civic duty. The comedian Red Buttons would have called the wait a 'dirty rotten shame.'

I took it upon myself to call the Democratic Elections Commissioner, Reginald Lafayette to see if he was aware of the long line in the hot heat. He sent members of his crew down, they told me they never saw this many people waiting at a polling place anywhere in the county that day, and did absolutely nothing.

But now I think I understand what happened. They must have been privy to polls showing Eliot was going down, and as partisan workers did nothing to solve a relatively easy problem other than give lip service. They did this on their own because knowing Eliot for 30 years like I do he is a fighter, a smart guy but would go ballistic if he heard senior Citizens were waiting in the heat 2-3 hour to vote.

Now the Lafayette Board of Elections (he gets paid \$190,000 plus benefits, a car and pension) would probably say, 'Eric. The People were not complaining so why should you be upset?' I was upset because people in 2020 should not be treated the way they were on Primary Day.

As previously reported to you this writer and others called for a hearing on the Primary Day fiasco. The County Board had it. In record time County Executive Latimer put together a plan that he presented to the Board of Elections so that this disaster will not occur on Election Day. A sound plan. Assistance with additional polling place inspectors, replacement polling sites, additional temporary staff for absentee ballot counting and early voting. Thank you George for responding to the community!

So why did Eliot lose? In 30 years the district has changed. Even though people saw him on television discussing foreign affairs every day managing a House Committee, the people in the 16th district hit so hard by Covid 19 and the Coronavirus are worried about their pocketbooks and wallets. Support for Israel is very important to 16th district residents, but having a job, food on the table, a place to live and money in their pocket takes precedence. Without all these things you can't unfortunately expect people to forget everything and March and support Israel. In fact support any foreign country who supports us..

A Congressperson should live in his district, not the outskirts of Washington, D.C. I can see your family living out of district if you were in Washington 7 days a week without a break, but most Congressman arrive in Washington Monday night and leave Thursday morning. You want to be a Congressman you have to expect to be away from your family with 2 homes. A law should be passed that Congressman have to reside with their family in the district they represent with the exception of the time they are on official legislative duties.

Eliot's comments about being in a primary and if he wasn't he would not have wanted to talk at a rally were wrong. Cost him a lot of votes. But he is no youngster. The CDC says that people like Eliot should be quarantined at home, not in the middle of the confusion of a rally. He is healthy but he should not have been running around the district at rallies. It's not his fault that we are in the midst of a pandemic.

Though I am sure he will miss Congress, Eliot will do very well in Congressional retirement with a pension, health benefits, and use of a swimming pool, pandemic or no pandemic. Unlike my gym and pool which are closed because of the pandemic! He will sit on corporate boards, get lobbying contracts, and let's just say keep very busy.

As for Mr. Bowman. I was shocked that he didn't list membership in any community organizations. We've solved that problem. A generous anonymous donor of Friends of the Yonkers Public Library (of which I am President) will be paying the membership fee for Mr. Bowman to be a member of our organization. Eliot attended many of our events. I hope I will be able to say the same about Jamaal. Congressional library budgets are always so small. Maybe he can convince his colleagues to increase expenditures to our nations libraries. They serve people with no computer or access to the internet which is the case with so many people in the 16th

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## A Three Way Race for Congress? Mr. Smith Wants to go to Washington



SAM NY Congressional candidate Scott Smith

By Dan Murphy

A recent Gallop poll found 40% of Americans identifying themselves as Independents, with 31% as Democrats and 25% as Republicans. Usually, these independent voters are forced to make a choice, as they will in November, between President Donald Trump and former Vice-President Joe Biden.

What if there were a third option when voters go to the polls in November? A new political party in NY, the SAM Party, is seeking to give moderate, independent minded voters another choice, instead of the hyper-partisanship we now see in Washington.

But how can any third party candidate get any traction, or notice, in the middle of an election cycle where the President sucks up most of the oxygen and attention, with the remaining attention span of Americans consumed by progressive opposition to Trump? And throw into the mix a pandemic and an important discussion on racism and law enforcement?

That is the challenge facing Scott Smith, the SAM-NY Party candidate for Congress in the 18th District, which includes several Northern Westchester Towns and the Hudson Valley. Smith is running against incumbent Congressman Sean Patrick Maloney, and republican candidate Chele Farley.

Smith recently polled 340 likely voters in the 18th District, taken between March 12 and April 5. 38% of voters supported Rep. Maloney, with 32% for Farley, and 13% for Smith.

Nearly 1 in 3 voters (31%) believe that we need less Republicans and Democrats in government, and 41% of voters polled identified special interest groups as the leading factor contributing to their dissatisfaction with government, followed by the influence of the major parties at 30%.

Smith was hopeful with the results of the poll, which he conducted himself, in an honest and non partisan manner. The polling data was filed with the FEC and is available upon request.

"I'm starting this race at 13%, with no name recognition and in the middle of a pandemic. I'm confident that there is fertile ground for a third candidate, that a coalition of voters can be rallied from across the political spectrum and that we in the 18th District deserve an honest, competitive three way race. I think voters are open to voting for a different type of candidate, and another party instead of the same, democrat and republican failed choices." In the Campaign's polling 71% of respondents indicated they would either consider voting for an independent/3rd party candidate (33%) or are unsure and would need to know more (38%).

Smith is a school teacher who has lived in Orange County NY for all of his life. He believes its important to point out that Congressman Maloney moved into the district just before running for Congress several years ago and that Chele Farley also recently moved into the district to establish a residence immediately prior to announcing her candidacy.

Smith, whose website, [mrsmithforcongress.com](http://mrsmithforcongress.com), alludes to the iconic Frank Capra movie Mr. Smith Goes to Washington, wants to bring common sense solutions, and an independent voice to the House of Representatives, much like Jimmy Stewart's character in the movie.

Smith, a middle school teacher, soccer and basketball coach, is running against the two-party monopoly in Washington that he believes no longer solves the problems of the people. "The political establishment has worked very hard to convince us that we have to choose between Republican or Democrat. The time has come to move away from both parties and begin a new day" said Smith.

"My philosophy of governing is simple. I believe in public service above self-interest. I believe that honesty, openness, and trust are essential to good governance. For me, the good of our country will always come first," said Smith, who served two terms on the Middletown City Council, representing the Second Ward.

Michael Volpe is the SAM-NY Chairman, Westchester resident and the former Mayor of Pelham. In 2018, Volpe ran for Lt. Governor on a bi-partisan ticket with Syracuse Mayor Stephanie Miner.

"Scott Smith understands what more and more New Yorkers are coming to realize: that there is a need for a third party, and for representatives who support transparent and accountable government, and solving problems with facts and data. SAM believes in endorsing candidates who will make decisions based on the needs of citizens and not the needs of party bosses. We encourage all residents in the 18-NY Congressional district to vote for Scott Smith on the SAM Party line on November 3," said Volpe.

To learn more about the SAM Party of NY visit [joinsamny.org](http://joinsamny.org).

## Obituary-Hannah Schorr



Hannah Schorr died peacefully on Saturday, July 11, at her home in Flushing, New York, two days shy of her 92nd birthday.

Hannah was born in Brooklyn, NY, in 1928, the second of five daughters (Ray Ruth, Belle, Norma and Shirley), to Jewish immigrant parents, Isidor and Ester Schwartz. In addition to the five sisters, their household included her cousin, Sammy, who escaped the Holocaust. She attended Eastern District High School in Brooklyn and received her Bachelors of Arts degree in Education, Psychology and Sociology from Brooklyn College. She earned a Master's degree and a PhD in Education from New York University. A lifelong educator, she initially worked as an elementary school teacher and then as an Adjunct Professor of Education at Hunter College, and later ran the Nursing Home Administration Program at CW Post College at Long Island University. Her two academic interests, the Ocean Hill-Brownsville desegregation conflict and effects of family visitations on the functioning of nursing home residents, remain relevant in this moment. Later in life, she joined her husband, Philip Schorr at his property management company, Rental & Management Associates (RMA), where she spearheaded tenant education and was Vice President.

As a young woman, Hannah was a Social Hostess at Grossinger's, the legendary Catskills Resort, and met her husband of 64 years, Philip Schorr, on a ski trip at Lake Placid, NY. Together they raised two children, Brian and Beth. She was active in the PS 21 PTA and was President of the Hunter College High School PTA.

While working, raising a family, and managing to entertain and host her many relatives at multiple family celebrations, she displayed a fierce devotion to family and fostered a sense of togetherness that will never be forgotten.

Hannah was never afraid to try new things later in life. She taught swimming before she learned to swim. She learned to ride a bicycle in her 40s. She had an adult Bat Mitzvah and learned to play the harp in her 70s. She took numerous painting and drawing classes well into her 80's, which culminated with an exhibition of one of her paintings at Flushing Town Hall.

Hannah was a devoted wife, mother and grandmother who raised her children to be strong, independent minded adults like herself. Over the years, she enjoyed music, theater, travel and particularly enjoyed spending time in her country home in Litchfield County, CT where she and Phil were founding members of the Sherman JCC.

Hannah is survived by her 94 year old husband, Philip; their children Brian (Amy) and Beth (Chuck Lesnick) and their grandchildren Caryn, Matthew, Emily (Jamila Humphrie), and Ariel (Anna Sarneso); and three of her sisters.

Contributions can be made in her memory to the Sherman Chamber Ensemble in Sherman, CT and Temple Gates of Prayer in Flushing, NY where she was an active member for nearly sixty years.

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## Cars Ticketed by Yonkers & State Police For Speeding 100MPH!



The Yonkers Police Department's commitment to reducing instances of speeding, reckless driving, and vehicle / motorcycle noise pollution continued this past weekend with a targeted enforcement detail working together with the New York State Police in the areas of Central Park Avenue, the Sprain Brook Parkway, and the New York State Thruway. 128 summonses were issued for various offenses including speeding and modified exhaust systems, and three vehicles were impounded. Two separate violators were cited for speed in excess of 100 MPH.

These enforcement details are a direct result of community feedback and law enforcement's mission to ensure the safety of our roads and preserve the quality-of-life for our residents and will be continuing. Community members are encouraged to contact the Yonkers Police Department at (914) 377-7900 to report in-progress traffic violations; emergencies dial 9-1-1. Community members may also forward information to [police@ypd.yonkersny.gov](mailto:police@ypd.yonkersny.gov).

Anonymous tips can be sent 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.

## WCA Survey: Disparity in Learning at Home

The Westchester Children's Association (WCA) has released the findings from two online surveys the group conducted this past May to determine how parents and their children and school districts were faring with learning at home. The Superintendents Survey received responses from 28 school districts (there are 40 districts in the county). The response to the Parents Survey, which was released in English and Spanish, was overwhelming with a total of 969 responses submitted by the time the survey closed.

Together these two surveys revealed that, although school administrators are doing their best to address the issues that have arisen due to the sudden switch to remote learning, there are challenges that still need to be addressed. Additionally, the Parent Survey was conducted online for efficiency and safety reasons, but it most likely reduced participation from families who do not have internet access at all.

### Key findings:

Families in City Districts were almost 3 times as likely to request a computer for their families (31%) as opposed to families in non-city districts (11%).

Families in City districts (43%) were more likely to wait for a requested computer for their child as compared to families from non-City districts (10%).

In the Superintendent Survey, school districts were asked what else families needed at this time. Four (4) of the eight (8) school districts that responded focused on the need to provide mental health services for the parents and the children.

Westchester Children's Association has had its finger on the pulse of children's issues that are heightened due to the Coronavirus pandemic such as disparities in education and homelessness. In late summer of 2019, WCA released their report, "Making the Invisible Visible: Westchester's Hidden Homeless Children and Youth."

In this report, WCA was able to determine the disparity that exists in defining what homelessness is at local, state, and federal agencies. During the lockdown, WCA demanded that Westchester County use the broadest definition of homelessness possible to provide safe housing for families who live in overcrowded homes where families are double and tripled-up because children will be more vulnerable to contracting COVID-19 and cannot safely quarantine from infectious people in the home. The issue of overcrowded households also creates a barrier to learning due to lack of space, computer hardware, and internet access.

You can read about the survey results and the homelessness report by visiting [www.wca4kids.org/blog](http://www.wca4kids.org/blog). Westchester Children's Association is a multi-issue child advocacy non-profit that seeks to ensure that every child is healthy, safe, and prepared for life's challenges regardless of race, gender or zip code. (WCA4kids.org)

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Notice of formation of Allegiant Professional Services, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 7/10/2020. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 25 Lorri Lane, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

## On this day in Yonkers history...

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



1920's Hollywood star Gloria Swanson filmed Zaza in Yonkers at Greystone and also owned a home in Crestwood

### Monday, July 27th

July 27, 1924: After Building Inspector J. Simms Bartley surveyed Yonkers, he announced the geographic center of Yonkers was at Halliday Avenue and Palmer Road.

July 27, 1927: Although repeatedly denying he would run again, after speaking to Public Safety Commissioner William Cameron and Corporation Counsel Arthur Hume, Mayor William Walsh announced his candidacy for Mayor.

July 27, 1928: Because of a similar case in Albany, Yonkers Republicans and Democrats realized there may have to be a Mayoral election in November. Mayor Thomas Larkin had died suddenly two days earlier, just a few months after he was inaugurated. Common Council President John Fogarty, according to Yonkers' line of succession, became Mayor. In those days, a mayor served for two years.

### Tuesday, July 28th

July 28, 1924: The hottest topic of discussion at the New Main Street Merchants Association meeting was overhead wires on their street. Protests of the 40+ attendees were so strong, the Association Secretary was instructed to contact the Yonkers Electric Light and Power Company to convey the group's concerns.

July 28, 1928: Five-year-old Guerino Talli became the harmonica champion of Columbus Park! His talent was developed and encouraged by Hubertine Wilke, the chairman of the Community Service Commission Music Committee and Anne Chinnery, Play Supervisor at the park.

July 28, 1992: Lea Loveless won a bronze Olympic medal in the 100-meter backstroke.

### Wednesday, July 29th

July 29, 1905: The Yonkers League of the Colored Cooperators of America formally opened five new building on its property at Riverdale Avenue and Culver Street. Welcoming speeches were made by Mayor John Andrus, Reverend Henry Booker, entrepreneur F. J. Moultrie, and Reverend Smyer.

July 29, 1923: Filming began at Greystone, Samuel Untermyer's estate, with the mansion utilized for the exterior shots of the Parisian home of the Duc de Brissac in the Paramount film "Zaza." Gloria Swanson played the title role.

July 29, 1928: After leaving their police car parked on Nepperhan Avenue near Elm Street in the early morning hours, Sergeant Thomas Morrissey and Patrolman Thomas Whalen were shocked when they returned a few minutes later and found the car gone! Needless to say, the "jokers" who stole the car were being sought.

### Thursday, July 30th

July 30, 1908: Dr. Oscar Rogers, Educational Chairman of the Sanitary League announced the group would use a phonograph to educate people on how to prevent tuberculosis; they would play recordings in public parks throughout Yonkers.

July 30, 1916: Although across the Hudson in Jersey City, blasts on Black Tom Island shattered Yonkers windows and alarmed our residents. A barge of explosives docked at the National Storage Company dock there blew up, killing three people and causing more than \$20,000,000 in damages in the metropolitan area.

July 30, 1943: Employees at the Cameo Curtain plant on John Street, with 90% of their work being war production, posted large signs in their workrooms. What did the signs read? "We will be closed the day of Hitler's funeral."

### Friday, July 31st

July 31, 1913: The New York Central Railroad Company installed a new automatic clock in front of the main depot at the foot of Dock Street. The face of the clock was made of marble, set in terra cotta quite similar to the station trimmings. The hands of the clock moved automatically every 30 seconds, operated by magnets.

July 31, 1920: After uncovering four cases of old Kentucky whiskey in a wooden shed on Brook Street, Detective Lieutenant Dennis Cooper and his staff tried to find the owner.

July 31, 1944: The day after the family of Staff Sergeant William J. Moore, Jr. of Van Cortlandt Park Avenue received a letter from the War Department announcing he had been wounded in Italy on July 12th; the very next day they received a letter telling them he was recovered and back in the fighting lines. What happened? He had been walking through an enemy occupied town carrying a big gun, when a piece of shrapnel hit his gun; the kickback from the

continued on pg 7-

Notice of formation of Core Cleaning Solutions, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/08/2020. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 7 Odell Plz Ste 130 #562 Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 08/21

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**THE CITY OF YONKERS/YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BUREAU OF PURCHASING,** One Larkin Center, 3RD Floor, Yonkers, New York 10701 (Located in the Yonkers Riverfront Library Building across from the Metro-North train station) will receive sealed Bids for the following projects until 2:00 PM, on the dates below.

However, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and in line with the directives issued by the Mayor of Yonkers regarding public safety, there is limited access to One Larkin Center. The building is open from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM for receiving packages via courier services and in person. If delivering bids in person, individuals must wear face coverings and see the Public Safety Officer in the library atrium who will clock in the bid and then contact Purchasing to pick up the bid. Sealed Bids will continue to be opened and read on the dates below, however, there will not be a public opening of bids. Those interested in listening to the bid opening and the reading of bids can dial Conference Call number 1-701-802-5221 and enter Access Code 1354203 when prompted.

Solicitation documents are available for downloading from the Empire State Purchasing Group website at <http://www.empirestatebidsystem.com/>. The City welcomes and encourages participation by local and minority and women owned business enterprises.

1-Bid 6529- Opening date: 8/14/2020: Mill Street Fencing (AS)

2- Bid 6522A - Opening date 8/7/2020: Twelve-month contract to purchase various Megalug water distribution products as needed (AC)

3-Bid 6530- Opening date: 8/7/2020: Provide on-call exterminating of City lots and catch basins. (SR)

4-Bid 6531- Opening date: 8/7/2020: Service and repairs for Vehicle Maintenance shop air compressors (AC)

5- RFP-429 – Opening date: 7/29/20: Provide Senior Citizen Meals (SR)

6-Bid 6532 – Opening date: 8/14/2020: General Construction contract for miscellaneous pool repair work at Yonkers Montessori Academy, 160 Woodlawn Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10704 (KS).

7-Bid 6533 – Opening date: 8/14/2020: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for two 12-month periods, for on-call plumbing repairs for lead in water remediation throughout the Yonkers School District (FB)

8-Bid 6528 – Opening date: 8/9/2020: Thirty-six-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide parts and repair services as needed for Ferrara Fire Apparatus (SR).

9-Bid 6496A – Opening date: 8/21/2020: Phase 2 Dredging of Tibbetts Brook at Redmond Park, 115 Cook Avenue, Yonkers, NY (FB).

## Basketball & Untermeyer con't from pg 1-

all who participate."

"Our city parks, playgrounds, and basketball courts serve as hubs for recreation activities, and we're excited to welcome residents back," said Yonkers Parks Commissioner Anthony Landi. "The soft reopening of these three basketball courts will determine how soon other city outdoor courts will be able to reopen. We are asking residents to comply with the safety guidelines posted at each city park, playground, and open basketball court. Safety guidelines will be enforced and if not followed, the city will strongly consider closing the courts while the others remain closed as well."

Effective Monday, July 20th, three city outdoor basketball courts will be opened under the following New York State guideline:

Participants in higher-risk sports and recreation activities may only partake in individual or distanced group training and organized no/low-contact group training.

For example: Individual shooting, skills and drills are allowed, but no full-contact games/group training is permitted.

While enjoying the city's parks, playgrounds, and courts residents should maintain social distancing, wear a face covering when possible and wash their hands frequently.

## Latimer Signs Term Limits Law



Westchester County Executive George Latimer's proposal for Executive Term Limits – imposing a restriction on himself as the chief executive of one of the State's largest Counties – was approved by the Board of Legislators by a vote of 12-4 on Monday, July 13. The law was then signed by Latimer, which would reduce the existing three term limit (12 years) for County Executives enacted in 2011 in Westchester, down to two terms (eight years).

"This move not only limits my own power but sends the message that no executive should deem themselves infallible. If eight years is enough for the Chief Elected of our Country – it very well is for our County. While many in power seek to hold on and never let go, this move – at a time when our Country is shifting toward progress – flies in the face of that notion, said Latimer, who is now mid-way through the third year of his four-year term as County Executive. A committee report on the law outlines the reasons for its passage.

"[...] term limits prevent government officials from serving for more than a specified number of terms to bring fresh perspectives to government and ensure responsiveness to voter demands. [...] Longtime office holders can often become more interested in serving their own reelection interests than serving the interests of the people they represent and challengers with new ideas are at an unfair advantage when running against incumbents with higher name recognition. Your Committee believes that restricting the service of lawmakers through term limits prevents politicians from amassing too much power and removes the intense focus on politics and places it back on policy. Term limits encourage younger, minority and other aspirants to run for office as the hurdle to defeat a well-entrenched and senior incumbent is lowered. In addition, term limits result in greater voter turnout particularly in local elections if people feel there is a real race going on and their votes can count. Your Committee believes that implementation of term limits keeps a steady, fresh supply of leaders to serve in elected offices. Many talented potential leaders will simply not run for a particular office because of the challenges and battles of running against an incumbent."

When Latimer first proposed the law, he said, "All of our local governments follow that Revolutionary Era philosophy; restricting the reach of government. I have been a student of government as well as a practitioner these many years, serving on three different levels: city, county and state. Now, as I complete my second year as County Executive, I see the authority granted this position - and I strongly believe it should be further limited to ensure a balance of interests are better served."

The new law only affects the office of County Executive, and not members of the County Board of Legislators, who are limited to 12 years and six terms in office. Latimer will finish his first, four-year term next year, in 2021. He is then permitted to run for re-election, as he is expected to do.

Again, at the time of introduction, Latimer said: "I have included my tenure as covered within the law. Oftentimes, incumbents are "grandfathered" in, meaning the restrictions apply to the next occupant of the seat. But, they will apply to me as well. Eight years is a period of time most common where Executive term limits apply, and I think it is a defensible change. The length of my tenure is up to the voters, but to limit the total years to eight makes good sense, and ensures the proper check and balance."

Right now, its anybody's guess who the republican candidate to run for County Executive will be in 2021.

## Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

District.

Jaamal's district contains Yonkers. He proposes a new deal for .education. Welcome to the Yonkers Public Schools. Shortchanged every year from Albany and Washington. Green New Deal? Mr. Bowman will be proud of me. I have been using compact fluorescents since they came out and just put a new powerful one in the light fixture in my bedroom. So much better light than the ones from years ago!

A New Deal for Housing. The rent in Westchester is simply 'Too Damn High!' In communities like Yonkers the housing stock is old and as we saw during 4th of July season we lost 2 Yonkers homes to fireworks.

The health system in this country is in shambles. Yes Obamacare helped many but folks are still suffering. Addressing Anti Semitism and supporting the state of Israel? Given for the district he represents.

So many issues i could go on and on. Right now Congressman Bowman's phone is probably wringing off the hook with people who want to meet with him for their pet cause. People will say, 'Oh, I knew you would win as Engel was out of touch, (god forbid) old, and I represent the hypothetical Bagels for America Organization that will help you win a second term. We've seen this game all before.

But one thing Congressman Bowman or Jamaal if I can call you that as you introduced yourself to me at an event at a hotel in White Plains, never forget those 300 people who waited in the hot sun Primary Day to vote for you. Their support is why you will receive the oath of office in January and how you will win a second term in Washington.

Good Luck Congressman. God Bless America! BTW I hear you are my neighbor in Park HILL!

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.

## Yonkers Rising

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**Handcuffing the Police, continued from pg 1--**

NYPD have contributed countless innovative and transformational policing strategies that have greatly benefited citizens and policing alike, throughout the entire world."

The opposition from law enforcement in Westchester to the actions of Mayor Bill de Blasio and the New York City Council, "The New York City law was obviously not written by anyone who has ever had to put handcuffs on a violent individual resisting arrest. The Yonkers Police does not use chokeholds or engage in other actions that endanger a subject's life, but nor can we endanger an officer's own life; and we're certainly not going to ask them to risk going to jail just for doing their job," said Commissioner Mueller, who explained that Yonkers Police, even when engaged in an active pursuit, will halt at the New York City line in the future absent extreme circumstances, or an emergency.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said he supported Commissioner Mueller's order. "Here in Yonkers our Police Department works closely with the community, and the low number of complaints is the result of that. We don't use chokeholds, and we don't use more force than absolutely necessary, even when dealing with individuals who are extremely violent or suffering mental distress."

The New York State Sheriff's Association has also begun to push back against "the atmosphere of disrespect for law enforcement being promoted or tolerated in so many quarters today," by proposing state laws which would discourage harassment and physical attacks against the police and encourage compliance with the lawful orders of the police engaged in enforcing the criminal laws of New York.

"Unfortunately, many politicians and community activists, and some in the media, have fostered an attitude toward the police which excuses, or even glamorizes, resistance to lawful authority. It should be readily apparent to everyone that, with some notable exceptions, most of the recent tragic incidents which resulted in the injury or death of an individual at the hands of the police have begun with refusal by that individual to comply with a lawful order. When an individual refuses to comply with a lawful order, the police officer is faced with a choice between walking away from the wrongdoer or taking some action.

Action often leads to reaction, and escalation begins. Officers are trained in deescalation, but that requires some cooperation on both sides. When escalation begets escalation, tragedy can result. An officer's split-second reaction to a perceived threat may perhaps later be thought to be all wrong by those sitting in their arm chairs, under no pressure or stress, but police officers do not often have the luxury of cool reflection before taking action.

Commissioner Mueller appeared on Fox News last weekend. "It's a very sad day. I never thought we'd see this in my time in policing." You're seeing a lot of different agencies that surround the five boroughs following suit." When asked about the City Council's decision to pass this law, Mueller said, "I would characterize it as nothing short of reckless and irresponsible."

NYPD Commissioner Dermot Shea said on CNN that the six police reform bills signed by New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio Wednesday are "handcuffing the police."

**Primary results, continued from pg 1-**

never for a minute thought of this as my seat," he said. "It's the people's seat, and it is a true honor that you put your trust in me to represent you in the greatest legislative body in the world," said Rep. Engel.

Westchester District Attorney Anthony Scarpino also conceded last week to Mimi Rocah after counting absentee ballots. "I called Mimi Rocah to congratulate her on winning the Democratic nomination for Westchester County District Attorney. I look forward to supporting her and Democrats up and down the ballot in November. It has been my distinct honor to serve as District Attorney and I am grateful to the people of Westchester for affording me the opportunity to do so since 2017. I am extraordinarily proud of the public servants in the District Attorney's Office who dedicate every day to create a safer, more just County for all. I look forward to completing my term as District Attorney, a role which has been an integral part of my four decade-long career in service to the community that I love."

In Yonkers, the big primary was for Yonkers City Court Judge. After all of the absentee ballots were counted, Verris Shako, Karen Best and Dan Romano won the primary for three seats on the City bench.

Shako received the most votes, 9902, with Best second, 8100, and Romano third with 6977 votes. Romano narrowly defeated Judge Tom Daly by 163 votes. Now that the primary is over, we congratulate Shako, Best and Romano, who most likely will become Yonkers City Court Judges in November.

Despite recent efforts by the County Board of Legislators and County Executive George Latimer to improve the Board of Elections, Yonkers residents may have to get used to waiting for the outcome of close elections this November, if tens of thousands of absentee ballots will have to be counted again.

**Quality of life, continued from pg 1-**

est conversation about the realities of what is happening in some parts of Yonkers, drew a number of responses and comments on social media. The overwhelming majority of comments were in support of Khader bringing the issues to light, and having a public discussion about them.

Longtime downtown Yonkers resident and artist Haifa Bint-Kadi wrote, Mike, thank you so much. Getty Square looks like a landfill. Broken lights, garbage everywhere, etc. I pay very high rent and the quality of life in the square is at the lowest point ever. The rats abound and the building owners just don't care because they don't live here. The broken street lights have been that way for months. There is dogfighting, outdoor concerts until 4:00 am in the empty lot and all the garbage is in the landfill. The empty lot at 14 N. Broadway is overgrown with heaps of garbage...it's getting worse."

Tara James wrote, "I'm on the waterfront, it's here too. I walk with my son and am horrified by the open drug dealing, drug taking and the garbage left behind that we wade through. It's been here for a long time but seems to be worse now. Since the shelter was closed people who are homeless are on the streets because they have nowhere to go. I know it's not easy but there are solutions."

DPW Commissioner Tom Meier, also engaged Khader on Facebook, writing, "More litter baskets will not give us a cleaner downtown or a cleaner city. Rodents come from the homeowners garbage stored in the basement of these apartment buildings and then put out for curbside pickup in plastic bags that the rats just eat through, - pass legislation that requires these building to properly manage garbage within the building and instal compactors that contains the food waste and odor and has private carting companies take the garbage straight from the basement of these luxury apartments to the dump. The homeless problem as you well know is a county issue. Stop walking and start doing something. You have a vote in the budget but rarely vote on it- can't provide services if you don't even vote on a budget. Get your colleagues in county government to walk with you and ask them to do something about the homeless, where are social services, where are the mental health services from Westchester County Government! We have DPW, Parks and the downtown BID - all picking up litter, picking up dog waste, picking up dumped items and yet the people who live there continue to litter, dump and leave their dog waste!"

Two residents responded to Meier. Maeve Scott wrote, "Your experiment with garbage bins elimination is a complete failure. Where's the proof? Put the garbage bins back, we need more than sanitation with a growing city, not less! And we need DPW crews working on street for clean ups every day! Instead of excuses. I want results for my tax dollars!"

Carolyn Elizabeth Marie wrote, "If we have areas that have increased human activity where there are more condensed residential units then we should have more frequent pick up! Clearly, there will be more garbage created by the sheer volume of individuals in that area."

Council President Khader, acknowledged that the homeless issue was the responsibility of county government, but added "quality of life issues affects everyone, regardless of political party. There have been no cuts to DPW services under my leadership of the City Council. We need to take pride in our neighborhoods but there should be trash cans in our neighborhoods. Credibility is important, and I'm talking about what other people are saying. I can't legislate garbage cans, its an operational decision."

**Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-**

strike injured his hand. With his infantry division in Italy for nine months, the Saunders graduate was awarded the Expert Infantryman's Badge and a Purple Heart.

*Saturday, August 1st*

August 1, 1908: The Order of True Brother, a Yonkers Jewish organization, purchased the Central Methodist Church property on Hudson Street, just west of Riverdale Avenue.

August 1, 1918: Twenty-five African Americans marched down Main Street to the Yonkers Train Station; they on their way to Camp Upton at Yaphank, LI, to join the National Army.

August 1, 1942: Colonel Oliver Troster, who gave up his Wall Street position and his Yonkers job as our Chief Air Raid Warden, reported to Washington DC for active war duty for the US Army in the Munitions Building. What happened the first day he reported to duty? DC went on active alert, sirens shrieking loudly while air raid wardens rushed to their posts. For the first time hearing the alarms, the good Colonel did not have to rush to a Report Center!

*Sunday, August 2nd*

August 2, 1924: South Yonkers tennis star Vincent Richards arrived back in New York on the Aquitania with his wife, the former Claremont Gushee. Crowds on the Cunard pier quickly mobbed the young couple, greeting the Yonkers native with cheers. Richards had won three Olympic medals, gold for the Men's Singles and Doubles, and silver in the Mixed Doubles.

August 2, 1927: Mayor William Walsh, originally saying he would not run for mayor but then threw his hat into the ring to rerun for the office just a few days earlier, again reversed his position. He announced he would decline nomination and support Thomas Larkin, the Democratic Party official nominee.

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). We also are on LinkedIn and Twitter @YonkersHistoric. For information on membership in the Yonkers Historical Society, please call 914-961-8940 or email [yhsociety@aol.com](mailto:yhsociety@aol.com).

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## American Irish Association Awards Scholarships



scholarship recipients Catherine Graham, left, and Ryan McLaughlin

The American Irish Association of Westchester County proudly announces that despite this year's interruption of the corona virus pandemic the association held to their tradition and recently awarded their annual scholarships.

The recipient of the Mary Patricia Mannion 8th Grade Memorial Scholarship was Ryan McLaughlin. Ryan is the son of Hon. Liam and Debbie McLaughlin of Yonkers. Ryan graduated from Saint John the Baptist School, Yonkers where he is a parish alter server. Ryan expects to attend Fordham Prep School in September.

Catherine Graham is the winner of the James G. McGinty College Memorial Scholarship. Catherine attended Franklin Delano Roosevelt High School in Hyde Park and will be attending Indiana University studying Secondary Education and hopes to be a Biology Teacher. She is the granddaughter of Mary Keehan who serves as financial secretary for the American Irish Association.

Keira Accostupa was awarded the annual dance scholarship. She is the daughter of Margaret Accostupa and granddaughter of long time member of the AIA Kenny O'Brien.

The American Irish Association of Westchester has been in existence for over forty years and celebrates and preserves Irish heritage and culture in Westchester County. Joe Smith a vice president of the association serves as chairman of the Scholarship Committee and was assisted this year by Bob Stauf also a vice president and Mary Hoar a board member. Carol M. Daly is the president and Cathy Marshall serves as the chair of the board of directors of the association.

## Chabad Yonkers Drive Thru BBQ



Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz and family celebrated his 37th birthday with their daughters by serving a BBQ to the community who drove through. Photo (c) Robert Kalfus 2020 and story by Robert Kalfus

Chabad of Yonkers/Greystone Jewish Center Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz celebrates his birthday in July, and for the past decade, has invited the community to enjoy a lavish BBQ at the synagogue at which Yonkers residents, synagogue members, elected officials and those running for office attended, meeting and greeting, and pressing the flesh – a practice now known to spread and infectious disease. Safety has become the overriding concern for all gatherings and all social interactions due to the need to prevent transmission of the COVID-19 virus.

Adapting and rising to the need, Rabbi Hurwitz literally served the community and celebrated his 37th Birthday on Sunday, July 19th, with a Grand BBQ celebration, delivering an extensive menu of kosher hot dogs and hamburgers in buns, French fries, watermelon, cotton candy, a bottle of water, and birthday cake for dessert, to the more than 100 people in more than 40 cars to people driving in and through the synagogue's driveway, for three hours on Sunday, July 19th. Determined to not let the COVID-19 virus interfere with his welcoming and serving the community, Rabbi Hurwitz devised the BBQ Drive thru to meet, greet, and feed, old friends and make new friends.

Rabbi Hurwitz sweated over a hot grill cooking the fresh and tasty meals on one of the hottest days of this summer, and enlisted the assistance of his wife, Rebbetzin Chanie, and his daughters, who helped prepare and wrap the food, and deliver bags of fresh cooked food to the steady stream of friends celebrating his birthday.

Rabbi Hurwitz spoke about how we should best manage difficult times and experiences by quoting the Lubavitcher Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem Mendel Schneerson, who said, "We need to recognize what brought about sad times was lack of kindness to one another. The best way to reverse that is to exhibit kindness to all!"

Noting his latest birthday, Rabbi Hurwitz said "As you age and get older, you need to continue your education and acquire knowledge and wisdom. You also do not lessen your activities, but you instead increase all the good that you can do and accomplish, and you never stop helping others"

In addition to Rabbi Hurwitz' regular Thursday night Torah discussion and learning class on ZOOM, the synagogue is adding additional activities and classes on ZOOM. Please contact the Chabad of Yonkers/Greystone Jewish Center for info on upcoming activities, religious services and dinners, Hebrew school and Bar Mitzvah preparation, Shabbat morning and the upcoming High Holiday services, at (914) 963-8888, or [www.JewishYonkers.com](http://www.JewishYonkers.com).



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