

U.S. POSTAGE PAID White Plains, NY Permit #7164 WESTCHESTER'S OLDEST AND MOST RESPECTED NEWSPAPERS

# Yonkers Rising

### Yonkerstimes.com

Friday September 11, 2020

## Yonkers to Hold Remote 9/11 Ceremony, But Will Never Forget



A Yonkers police officer salutes the American flag while another officer plays her bugle at the dedication of the Yonkers 9-11 Memorial, on September 11, 2012, Yonkers, McLean Ave. Photo © 2012 Robert Kalfus

## 9/11 Anniversary Submission-By Mary Turchi

There was a time when 9/11 wasn't shorthand for tragedy.

There was a time when we oriented ourselves in Manhattan by the sight of the twin towers, shimmering in the distance.

There was a time when we weren't urged to be on the lookout for suspicious backpacks left behind...when uniformed personnel with large guns did not guard airline terminals and train stations.

That was all before terrorists hijacked planes on a clear September morning in 2001 and set a collision course for the Twin Towers.

When the first plane hit the North Tower, there was universal disbelief. How could this happen? Visibility was good... Then the second plane came a few minutes later, hitting the South Tower, confirming the impossible that this was a purposeful attack.

Almost 3,000 regular folk had gone to work at the World Trade Center that day and died at their desks or as they fled down the stairways. When some were trapped on the fiery floors, they chose to die quickly by jumping out of the windows rather than stay and be burnt slowly.

About 400 firemen, police and Port Authority cops did their job, running into the buildings to save and protect, only to die themselves.

The unreality doubled when both buildings collapsed an hour later and sent giant toxic clouds down the streets.

# Back to School in Yonkers Teachers, PTA, and Superintendent All Opine



Remote instruction from School 21, first day of school Sept. 8

#### By Dan Murphy

The Yonkers Public Schools held their first day of classes on September 8, with students learning remotely and teachers in their schools and classrooms. YPS Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada updated the community on the new safety guidelines now in effect in all schools. With teachers, 10-month clerical and school-based staff returning to schools as of September 1, all staff is required to complete a daily COVID-19 Questionnaire attestation form as well as wear a face covering and follow social distancing requirements while in schools. Schools have appropriate barriers, hand sanitizing and cleaning protocols follow New York State Education Department and Department of Health guidance.

On Saturday, September 5, 2020, the District was notified by a staff member from School 17 that the individual tested positive for COVID-19. The District followed with fidelity all appropriate guidelines from the CDC and is working directly with the Westchester County Health Department regarding the protocols for contact tracing. All known close contacts as identified by the staff member were notified by the staff member as well as by the District's medical staff. In this case, exposure could have occurred September 1. On Sunday, September 6, all School 17 staff members were notified by the District via phone call and email. In the correspondence, staff was instructed if they had any COVID symptoms to immediately contact their physician, email the District's Chief Physician over the weekend or contact District's Health Services on Tuesday. Although, no students have been in school and will not be returning for Hybrid Instruction until October 5, the principal notified the parents.

Out of an abundance of caution, Dr. Quezada delayed the start of Online Remote Instruction for School 17 students until Wednesday, September 9 and

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## Council Pres. Khader Hosts School Supply Drive in Memory of Nephew

All these images were broadcasted as they happened on the TV most Americans were glued to. Horrific sights never to be forgotten.

## Why I Support President Trump



#### **By Frank Spotorno**

I'm supporting President Donald Trump for re-election. I know that my opinion may not be popular in the City of Yonkers where I live, or in Westchester County, but here are my reasons for four more years. 25 years ago I created an organization called Bring Our Jobs Home, to highlight the millions of jobs lost overseas and especially to China, by our American corporations.

I have watched as Presidents Clinton, Bush and Obama worked out trade agreements with China which did nothing but benefit China, the American corporations, and the stock market.

So if you have a 401k, you have watched it grow massively over the past 25 yeras because of our trade agreements with China, and many in Westchester have been fortunate enough to build their wealth and 401k.

But more than 75% of Americans have no retirement account and can barely make ends meet. For those Americans, I ask you, are they better off from our trade deals with China, that closed 55,000 factories? I think we can all agree that President Trump was the first President to

I think we can all agree that President Trump was the first President to stand up to China, and in my opinion, for all the right reasons. Isn't it time we hold our American corporations accountable? Should Apple be making

#### continued on pg 4-



Council President Mike Khader hands out bookbags at Chavez Elementary School with Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada and BOE President Rev. Steve Lopez looking on

City Council President Mike Khader along with PCNY In the Streets donated more than 200 supply-stuffed backpacks to students at Cesar Chavez elementary school. This is the council president's third annual school supply drive, created to honor the memory of his late nephew Jonathan Maldonado.

On Thursday, in accordance with social distancing guidelines, Council President Khader distributed a handful of bags to students at the school. The rest will be given out once students return to the classroom in October.

"Though things look a bit different this year, the impact is still the same," said Council President Khader. "Being able to help students and families in need, especially when many have suffered because of this pandemic, fills me with great joy and gratitude. With this supply drive, we are alleviating some of the financial burden families face at the beginning of each school year. We owe this to the hardworking people of Yonkers. Big thanks to the Yonkers BOE and PCNY In the Streets for their support year after year."

"During times such as we are facing today, Yonkers opens their hearts for our students," noted Board of Education President Rev. Steve Lopez. "President Khader's annual drive not only provides supplies and a new backpack, it offers an uplifting start to an unprecedented beginning for the school year."

Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of Schools, added, "Our students and families are doing their best to cope during these extraordinarily challenging times. Today's event is one more way that President Khader demonstrates his commitment to education, our students and the families in Yonkers."

"Nothing gives me more joy than helping struggling families here in Yonkers," said Wayne Schneider of PCNY In the Streets. "I feel blessed to be in this position and look forward to working with the City to help as many people as we can together."

### **September 11-Yonkers Will Never Forget** photos by Donna Davis









#### **By Dan Murphy**

Most of us cannot believe that it was 19 years ago when the attacks on the World Trade Center happened on September 11. We can all remember where we were that fateful day.

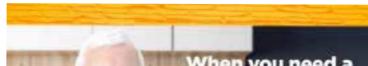
For 18 years, this reporter has covered the somber occassion at Yonkers two 9/11 Memorials, at Conor Park and on the Waterfront.

This year, the 9/11 ceremonies will be held remotely, so all of us will have to watch it on our computers or sit and reflect or pray for those lost, and especially for the families of those names that are on the waterfront memorial, photo to the left.

A steel beam from the World Trade Center is located at the memorial at Conor Park, photo top right.

It is important for all Americans never to forget, and also to educate our younger generation, some of who were not even born on that day, so that they understand what happened. The family of Christopher Duffy, lost on 9/11 is pictured top left

with members of the Yonkers Fire Department.





#### Fourth Precinct Community Council

Fourth Precinct Community Council 53 Shonnard Place Yonkers, NY 10703

Because of COVID, the Fourth Precinct Community Council will hold its monthly meeting this by a ZOOM telephone meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday September 17. You can attend the meeting from home on your telephone. Please be aware this is an open meeting, and there is no agenda. If you want to say something, just find and opening, and say it.

To participate in the ZOOM meeting, Call (646) 876-9923 and Enter Meeting ID 445-678-6822, and identify yourself. Happy Rosh Hashanah!

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#### **Yonkers Rising**

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#### **Eagle Project Addresses Food Insecurity**



Joseph Barca, in expanded food pantry at Sacred Heart

Life Rank Boy Scout, Joseph Barca, with the assistance of 14 volunteers, recently moved the Food Pantry at Sacred Heart into a new expanded space for his Eagle Project. The move included installing shelving into the new location, sorting over 50 cases of donated food and stocking the shelves. The project is the final step for Barca to complete to receive the highly coveted rank of Eagle Scout.

Joseph Barca, a resident of Yonkers, is the son of Dave and Melissa Barca. He is a member of Boy Scout Troop 12 Yonkers and an entering freshman at Sacred Heart High School. Barca expects to receive his new rank of Eagle in the Fall.

The fact that a boy is an Eagle Scout has always carried with it a special significance, not only in Scouting but also for the young man as he enters higher education, business, and community service. Only about four percent of all Boy Scouts earn the rank of Eagle Scout.

Boy Scout Troop 12 is an active, scout led troop that meets on Tuesday nights September to June in the Sacred Heart Church Hall. The troop camps and hikes monthly. Troop 12 Yonkers will hold an open house and recruitment drive soon.

To learn more about scouting and Troop 12 email Troop12Yonkers@ gmail.com or call 914-374-3320.

### Welcome to Yonkers Rising Camryn Sanchez



Please welcome to the Yonkers Rising family, Camryn Sanchez, a

#### Lord and Taylor-Another One Bites the Dust



#### **By Eric Schoen**

The place to go for that special occasion dress. For that men's suit, perfectly fit matched with shirt, tie, shoes and pocket hankie. The Bar Mitzvah suit or the Christening dress. Clothes that fit well, wore well, and though a tad more expensive worth every penny. The Santa Claus dolls, Caucasian and African American, a new doll added to the collection each year. And a special store featuring F.O. Schwartz toys.

Yes, iconic Lord and Taylor where every item of clothing was special and fit just right has gone bankrupt. A sign of the times, the store is competing with larger discount chains with prices to good to match. It was bought last year by a company that specializes in rental clothing. Like the company the store couldn't make it any more. Pocketbooks on the first floor with jewelry behind it. A wonderful

Restaurant, The Birdcage on the main Floor. The Birdcage was special. It had a real live bird cage at its entrance. The store encouraged men and little boys like me to join their their wife or mom by offering 2 desserts with your meal. The afternoon featured tea service, teas from all over the world accompanied by scones with clotted cream, small sandwiches to nibble on and dainty pastries offering some thing sweet served off a a silver platter or cart. We were living the dream.,

Oh back in the good old days when department stores had restaurants. Wanamaker's with the restaurant on the third floor, where you would follow a counter with your tray and pick up what you cared to eat. Mom loved their vegetable platter, a choice of 4 or 5 vegetables. B. Altman's restaurant with delicious club sandwiches and a variety of hot items. Bloomingdales in White Plains restaurant with a salad bar featuring those oh so good pop-

The Lord and Taylor on 34th street with those very special Christmas windows every year. And beautifully polished wood counters where they would display items for sale. It was all an experience, unlike the racks of unsorted merchandise one finds in most discount stores today.

Lord and Taylor had departments to fit petites to full sized woman, and men's clothes from husky boys to fathers that had a few too many desserts. They key to Lord and Taylor's was service. Someone would help you select everything you needed to look good, with tailoring service at no or a very little charge. They would fo their best to fit your time schedule if you needed your outfit tailored at the last minute.

The company was once a mainstay of high-end fashion. Lord & Taylor opened its first store in New York in 1826, created by English immigrants Samuel Lord and George Washington Taylor when they opened their first store on the Lower East Side of Manhattan nearly 200 years ago. The store would grow and relocate six times over its first 80 years led by Dorothy Shaver, the first woman to lead a major retailer. Under Shaver it launched its first suburban branch stores and introduced the concept of personal shoppers.

I was truly surprised when Lord and Taylor announced that they were opening a store at Ridge Hill. It seemed so out of character and out of line. The facade of the store with its gleaming glass was gorgeous. But at least during the times I was there the store seemed empty. You would go up to the second floor and be hard pressed to find someone to assist you in the men's or woman's department. In cosmetics and departments downstairs including jewelry assistance could readily be found. But this is not the Lord and Taylor I remember as a child.

reporter based in Yonkers, who is currently studying journalism at NYU Her work has appeared in the East Bay Express, the Phoenix, Oakland Magazine, the Mycophile, and the East Bay Monthly.

Camryn lives with her two guinea pigs Pierogi and Froot Loop and is passionate about ethical reporting, Oxford commas, and french fries from the Argonaut diner.

We are lucky to have Camryn for the near future, and if you see her in and about Yonkers say hello. More info on how to reach Camryn next week and look for her weekly column also starting September 18.





After the Manhattan store closed the Eastchester store became the de facto main store. It was always busy and did quite well. Initially the plan was to keep some stores open including Eastchester but the financing was not there in these difficult times. The store still is seeking buyers for several stores but it doesn't look like that will happen

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But as is always the case in retail, fierce competition from lower-priced rivals continued to grow. A series of acquisitions took place, May Department Stores in 1986, private equity firm NRDC Equity Partners in the '90's, Hudson's Bay Company acquired Lord & Taylor in 2012 before its acquisi-tion in 2019 by Le Tote, Inc., a fashion rental subscription service, for \$75 million. Le Tote tried reviving the brand with a pop-up store in New York City and remodeling its remaining stores with a focus on technology.

Le Tote was famous for lending trendy fashion to trendy consumers, and right before the pandemic hit Lattended a cocktail party introducing Le Tote

to Westchester at the Yonkers store. Beautiful party, sadly few people there. Good concept guess we will save it for another day. We all have great memories of Lord and Taylor just like we have so many memories of the stores that have left us. As my sister reminds me when I was 4 years old Lord and Taylor was a sight word for me. continued on pg 6-

# Saving a Life EVERY 11 MINUTES



#### **Yonkers Democrats Decry Racism and Police**

#### **Brutality - Support Reforms & Empowerment**

The Yonkers City Democratic Committee announced that we stand in solidarity with our elected leaders including Congressman Elliott Engel, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins, Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblyman J. Gary Pretlow, Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, County Executive George Latimer, Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, County Legislator Majority Whip Chris Johnson, County Legislator David Tubiolo, County Legislator Ruth Walter and County Legislator Jose Alvarado, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, Yonkers City Council President Mike Khader, Majority Leader Councilwoman Corazon Pineda Isaacs, Councilwoman Shanae Williams, Councilwoman Tasha Diaz and Councilman John Rubbo in supporting the #BLACK LIVES MATTER principles of racial justice, criminal justice reform and fighting police brutality.

The truth is if you are Black in this country, you have faced racism. We support Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins 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.

We thank Governor Cuomo for signing the historic passage of the antiracism, anti-police violence bills passed this week by the NYS legislature.

The horrific murder of George Floyd has shed more light on what being black in America means. 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.

Our Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano is closing in on an agreement that would bring police body cameras to the city after residents staged protests over police brutality and George Floyd's death. He said Yonkers is working on some last-minute details with the police union and the U.S. Department of Justice. Spano said. "The public wants reform and it's our obligation to make sure that happens and that's what we are doing." The program is expected to start with a 90-day trial that would outfit the city's approximately 400 patrol officers with body cameras.

As Democrats, we believe in fighting for a better, fairer, and brighter future for every American by rolling up our sleeves, empowering grassroots voters, staying united while calling for change. We commit to using our influence and power to actively support qualified candidates who view society through the lens of equity to ensure we undo systemic racism.

We will continue to participate in Black Lives Matter rallies, and stand alongside elected leaders of all races and backgrounds to take action to fight racism and curb police brutality. These are first steps towards acknowledging this problem. We commit to a focus on self-reflection, and active engagement with communities of color, in order to bring more people into decision making positions. By these actions we become a more vibrant party that helps eradicate injustice out of our justice system, and put us on the path to equality.

#### DO YOU VOTE?

One of the many conversations I had with my (late) husband Michael Muro centered around politics, and yes, even philosophy. Michael majored in history and political season in college and he also knew about the sentiment expressed by the philosopher Plato with regard to politics. It was that the penalty for wise men not participating in government is for them to be ruled by unwise men.

However, there are many variations with regard to the wording and verbiage of that phrase. Ralph Waldo Emerson stated "Plato says that the punishment which the wise suffer who refuse to take part in the government is to live under the government of worse men..."

My degree is in behavioral psychology but I also took and enjoyed philosophical psychology. We learned about Plato and other Greek philosophers and that Plato had been a student of Socrates and later when Plato went on to teach political philosophy he had Aristotle as his student.

It is so ironic that here we are centuries later with the same message or warning whether it be from the political arena, the media or others. It is true today as it was back then. VOTING IS IMPORTANT!!! Often someone will complain to me about politics and then I will ask "Do you vote?" and their answer is NO.

I always say forewarned is forearmed. GO VOTE!!!

#### **Manhattanville College Opens Nursing School**



Manhattanville College officially marked the opening of its new nursing school at a ceremony attended by state and local officials, healthcare leaders and the college community. The school's new nursing students participated in a traditional white coat ceremony, in which they took an oath to service and received a white coat.

"This is an exciting day for Manhattanville as we officially open our new School of Nursing and Health Sciences," said Manhattanville President Michael Geisler, Ph.D. "This is literally a dream come true." Geisler spoke of the pandemic and the urgent need for highly skilled

Geisler spoke of the pandemic and the urgent need for highly skilled nurses. "Opening a School of Nursing and Health Sciences during the time of COVID-19 is a testimonial that Manhattanville College has been ready to supply the academic expertise and skilled workforce that is so needed in Westchester County and the tristate area."

A total of 72 nursing students have enrolled in the new nursing school and will be taking classes on campus this fall. The school received approval to launch degree programs from the New York State Education Department in January. Manhattanville offers two degrees in nursing: Bachelor of Science in Nursing for traditional 4-year and transfer students as well as a Bachelor of Science in Nursing for second-degree students who already hold a bachelor's degree. The second-degree program welcomed 11 students this summer who began classes remotely and another 42 began classes Monday. Another 19 traditional undergraduate students also began their studies at the new school this week.

President Geisler recognized the assistance of community partners and elected officials who helped make the school's opening possible. He specifically thanked New York State Senator Shelley Mayer, New York State Assemblyman David Buchwald, County Executive George Latimer, President and CEO of the Business Council of Westchester, Marsha Gordon, and others. "The need for trained healthcare workers is now more urgent than ever," said Geisler. "Before the pandemic struck, we were looking at estimates by the Bureau of Labor that projected the need for 649,100 replacement nurses in the workforce." An estimated one million registered nurses will retire by 2030, creating a consistently high demand for a trained workforce.

Senator Shelley Mayer said, "The coronavirus pandemic has laid bare the reality of how essential healthcare workers are to public health and our communities. Congratulations to Manhattanville College for establishing the School of Nursing and Health Sciences to offer more students an opportunity to build fulfilling careers in the healthcare industry. I look forward to continuing to work with President Michael Geisler and Dean Debra Simons as they build on this initiative."

Dean Simons said she was proud of the students who took the oath as they embark upon their nursing careers. "Starting a nursing program during a global health crisis is not new to nursing," said Simons. "Nurses have always been at the forefront of patient care. Nursing care was critical in the battle against the influenza in 1918 and it remains critical during the CO-VID pandemic. Whether in hospitals or among the community, nurses were on the front lines administering care. That truly makes the nurse a 'Superhero.'"

As she spoke to the new students being cloaked at the white coat ceremony for the inaugural class, Simons highlighted the philosophy of the new nursing program at Manhattanville. "The world in which you are about to immerse yourself hungers for new ideas and solutions," said Simons. We need a more complete understanding of the caring science that can only come through a holistic education that includes the Caritas process. We need to implement evidence-based practice that alleviates suffering and achievement of meaningful social justice. With the support of your faculty, you will tackle this important work at Manhattanville College. The experiences you have here will shape the rest of your lives." Caritas refers to Dr. Jean Watson's caring science or human caring theory. The new nursing school already has an endowed scholarship in honor of alumna Titsa Pelzman '49 who is a graduate of Manhattanville's original nursing school, the Aloysia Hardey School of Nursing. Alumna Simone Lutz '73 donated to establish the scholarship in honor of her mother. Students will apply and a recipient will be chosen in the spring. To learn more, visit www.mville.edu.

Ann Muro, Yonkers

## **Apply Now For Absentee Ballot**

The New York State Board of Elections has launched an online Absentee Ballot Application Portal, through which registered voters can apply now for an absentee ballot.

The Portal can be found at https://absenteeballot.elections.ny.gov/. Voters may click through the web form to request an absentee ballot, which will be sent to them in the mail.

Voters may vote by absentee ballot for several reasons including temporary illness -- which includes being unable to appear at the polls due to risk of contracting or spreading a communicable disease like COVID-19.

Remember, besides the new online portal, you also may apply for an absentee ballot in any of the following ways:

By sending an email request to BOE-WestAbsentee@westchestergov. com. By sending a fax request to (914) 995-7753 or (914) 995-3190. By going in-person to the Westchester County Board of Elections, 25 Quarropas Street, White Plains, NY 1060. By mailing a paper absentee ballot application to the Westchester County Board of Elections, 25 Quarropas Street, White Plains, NY 10601. By phoning the Westchester County Board of Elections at (914) 995-5285

For more absentee ballot information visit https://citizenparticipation. westchestergov.com/voting/absentee-ballots.





#### Supporting Trump, continued from pg 1-

their IPhones that we all use with slave labor from China?

One million muslim Chinese Uighurs are working in those slaves camps, and all religions in China are persecuted, including Christians and Buddists, just ask the Dali Lama.

Also realize that the President's dispute is with the Chinese Communist Party, CCP, and not the Chinese people, who are hard working, family oriented and are being held captive by their own government.

For those who seek a New Green Deal, I ask you, what about the environmental abuses in China, and the unwillingness of the CCP to abide by worldwide standards, and continue to pollute?

And I have yet to talk about the Coronavirus. The CCP has yet to allow any credible health organization to come in and determine how this virus was transmitted, and more important, what is the genetic code that will help us find a vaccine.

Six months later and we still don't have cooperation from China on curing the virus, or a sharing of information? Where aren't American outraged over this?

Another reason for changing the way we need to make it here in the USA: the need for medicines and protective equipment. When China was closed for three months, all supply lines stopped. Fortunately, your pills at CVS were still available, but we may not be lucky next time.

We didn't mention the theft by China of our intellectual property, which will hurt our grandchildren and future generations. Let this current crisis be a lesson to us that there are some things that need to be made here again. Let's Bring Our Jobs Home, and re-elect President Donald Trump.

Next week, is President Trump an Environmentalist?

Frank Spotorno is a resident of Yonkers. He is the owner of Park Avenue Elevators and was a candidate for Congress in the 14th District of NY in 2016. He is the co-founder of YonkersTimes.com

Editor's Note: We are sure that this column will spark a debate in Yonkers over the upcoming election. Send your comments, including opposing views to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com. We will give equal coverage to different viewpoints. One of the reasons we ran this column is to offer alternative viewpoints, and to respect all opinions. We have read some unfortunate comments, which do not respect the right for all to voice their opinion, on some Yonkers websites, including 'Fake News' about Mr. Spotorno and this reporter, concerning a former associate of the President. More on that story if it becomes necessary to set the record straight, or to proceed with legal action.

# **Serve on Sept 11 by Feeding** the Hungry in Westchester



Westchester County will never forget the county residents who died on September 11, 2001 and whose names are memorialized at 'The Rising' memorial in Valhalla. This year, in honor of those county residents whose lives were lost or forever changed by the tragic events that day, volunteers will be asked to help address feeding the hungry in Westchester.

"Food insecurity has always been a serious concern here in Westchester. Due to Covid-19 and its deleterious impact on our community, the issue has reached new heights. Our pantries - and volunteers - are stretched thin and efforts like those taken here by Volunteer New York! aim to combat this rising tide.'

The volunteer efforts can and will continue after 9/11 with Do-it-yourself volunteer opportunities that can be done from home including making protective face masks for those in need, writing letters to our troops overseas and making no-sew fleece blankets for children's hospitals.

Volunteer New York has been helping Westchester residents volunteer on Sepetmeber 11 for the past 10 years as a way to commemorate those lost. VNY, Executive Director Jeanette Gisbert said: "Every volunteer on September 11, 2001 risked something by showing up to help. On this #911DAY we call on all New Yorkers to show up in this same spirit of resilience and community once again ready to give in whatever way they can. You don't have to go it alone either, consider getting your family, office or friends to join you. We're stronger together." Visit, volunteernewyork.org/service, for more information.

This year as we are limited in how we can volunteer together, we call on all New Yorkers to join us for our most important day of service ever -- as we focus the power of community and volunteering on a single goal: fighting food insecurity.

Feeding Westchester has reported that the Covid-19 pandemic has caused an unprecedented 40% spike in food insecurity in our community, some local pantries have seen a 300-900% increase in people requesting food, which has been shown to be disproportionately devastating to our Latino and African-American community members. The following food pantries have joined to support a community-wide Covid-19 relief healthy food drive to help alleviate this intense and timely need:

#### WESTCHESTER

Caring for the Hungry and Homeless of Peekskill (CHHOP)/ Fred's Pantry - Peekskill

- Hope Community Services New Rochelle Community Food Pantry of Tarrytown and Sleepy Hollow Tarrytown
- Mount Kisco Interfaith Food Pantry Mount Kisco
- Don Bosco Community Center Port Chester

## **On This Day In Yonkers History....**



Park Hill Country Club

By Mary Hoar, President Untermyer Performing Arts Council, Landmarks Preservation Board member, President Emerita, Yonkers Historical Society

#### Monday, September 14th:

September 14, 1927: The cornerstone of the new million-dollar Federal Post Office was raised into place at a ceremony attended by Mayor Walsh, Congressmen Fairchild and Fitzpatrick. This ended thirty years of tribulations for a new Yonkers facility.

September 14, 1945: Trustees of the Yonkers Board of Education won praise after appointing William Williams Superintendent of Schools. Williams had shown himself to be an excellent educator and administrator, as well as a friendly and thoughtful person. May Henry, Yonkers Teachers Association President, commented, "It is a glad day for all of us."

#### Tuesday, September 15th

September 15, 1944: The editor of the Herald Statesman received a newspaper clipping of a Yonkers serviceman from Private Charles Panicali. Panicali, who at one time worked for cousins owning "a fleet of buses in Yonkers," saw the article while at Fort Ord. He hoped the editor would send the clipping to New Main Street's Private First Class Joseph De Freitoc's parents. What was De Freitoc doing that was photo worthy? Making a snack dressed in a camouflage suit, between battles in a French Village! Panicali commented his brother had been killed in battle; he knew his own family would have loved a picture like the one he sent.

September 15, 1946: Jailer James Buckley foiled an attempted jailbreak from Yonkers City Jail. Twenty-year old Charles Richard of Boston hatched the plot to escape with forty-two-year-old Bronx native John Orach. Richards slugged and beat Buckley, who still managed the thwart the attempt.

#### Wednesday, September 16th

September 16, 1945: Representatives of all CIO unions in Westchester met with Congressman Gwinn, New Rochelle's Mayor Church, and Yonkers' Mayor Frank's representative at Sokol Hall on Yonkers Avenue to discuss security of peacetime employment. Although it a short time since the war ended, Maurice Cesarotti, President of the Westchester Industrial Council, announced millions of war workers already were laid off or received wage cuts. Cesarotti added, "Our returning veterans have a right to peacetime jobs. Congress must pass measures at once guaranteeing maintenance of America's buying power and protecting the interests of labor and industry in the transition period." They asked for \$25 a week unemployment benefits for 26-weeks, a 65-cent minimum hourly wage, improved GI Bill of Rights, and enforcement of price control.

September 16, 1946: For the first time since the US entered World War II, the Westchester County Canoeing Championships were held at Tibbetts Brook Park. The Yonkers Canoe Club, 1946 National Champions, swept the

- United Community Center of Westchester New Rochelle
- Thomas H. Slater Center White Plains
- Life Progressive Services Group, Inc. Mt. Vernon
- **Ossining Food Pantry Ossining**

The effort of helping to feed those who need help in Westchester goes well past September 11. For ways that you can help, volunteer, or make a donation, visit FeedingWestchester.org.







competition.

#### Thursday, September 17th

September 17, 1908: President of the American Real Estate Company Edwin Martin announced his retirement. An organizer of the Park Hill Country Club, he was credited by many to be responsible for the development of Park Hill.

September 17, 1947: City Manager Montgomery and City Comptroller Kennedy announced their decision to withdraw from the merger of Yonkers Laboratory with the County Laboratory. Elsie Hochgraf, chair of the Laboratory Board of Managers, was credited with revealing the county was getting 'extraordinary benefits" by using the Yonkers equipment at Yonkers' taxpayers' expense. The county rent for the space in the Health Center was low—50 cents a square foot. To make it worse, the county used less than half of the equipment they insisted Yonkers buy for the lab. The Common Council fully supported the decision.

#### Friday, September 18th

September 18, 1942: Yonkers Republicans officially launched their campaign against Proportional Representation. At a meeting held at 20 Pelton Street, many speakers condemned the system, claiming it prevented voters from "the proper exercise of their franchise."

September 18, 1946: Trustees of the Village of Tuckahoe were in the midst of preparing to thank Yankee announcers Mel Allen and Russ Hodges for their words praising Yankee Infielder George Stirnweiss of Tuckahoe, and enhancing the image of their village. The whole thing was stopped dead in its track when Village Trustee George Whyte investigated and discovered Stirnweiss actually lived in the Crestwood section of Yonkers!

#### Saturday, September 19th

September 19. 1928: Less than twenty minutes after the airplane Roma took off from Old Orchard Beach, Maine, attempting a non-stop flight to Rome, it was forced to return with engine trouble. On board was medical observer Dr. Leon Pisculli of Park Hill Avenue. When the flight finally was made a few weeks later, it took off without Pisculli.

September 19, 1942: Editors of the yearbook "We The People" notified well known traveler and lecturer Howard McDonald of Ravine Avenue his letter submitted to a New York newspaper was selected as one of their outstanding newspaper letters of the year, and would be reprinted in their 1943 edi-tion. The topic of the letter? Good use of time spent riding on trolleys and subways with lights dimmed! McDonald said he used the time for rest and meditation, especially in subways, and explained he sat quietly, closed his eyes, and thought of a beautiful or inspiring topic.

#### Sunday, September 20th

September 20, 1918: Yonkers designated this day to be "Clean the Furnace Day." All homeowners were urged to clean their furnaces to prevent wasting coal!

continued on pg 6-

## MGM Casino to Reopen Sept. 21

Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts ("Empire City") announced that it will reopen in a limited capacity to the public at 10:00am on Monday, September 21st, following closure earlier this year amidst the COVID-19 crisis. Hosted, invitation-only access will be available to certain MLife members ahead of September 21st. Upon re-opening, there will be restrictions on capacity and food and beverage availability, per state regulation.

"This has been an unimaginably difficult and challenging time, and as we reopen our doors and welcome back team members and guests, we owe our gratitude to all healthcare and essential workers and those providing resources to the community," said Bill Hornbuckle, CEO and President of MGM Resorts. "It's been several months since we were forced to close, so it is with strong emotion that we welcome our team members back to work. Health and safety remain our first priority, and our commitment to New York has never been stronger."

**Health & Safety:** MGM Resorts' comprehensive "Seven-Point Safety Plan" is a multi-layered set of protocols and procedures designed in conjunction with medical and scientific experts to mitigate the spread of the virus, protect customers and employees and rapidly respond to potential new COVID-19 cases. As time passes, the company will continue to evaluate and evolve its safety protocols.

Per the New York State Gaming Commission, Empire City will initially reopen at 25% capacity of the first-floor public spaces, inclusive of employees and guests. Empire City's gaming floor of slots and electronic table games will be open. To promote physical distancing, numerous machines have been disabled and chairs have been removed.

The Pub, Empire City Chophouse, and The Big Kitchen international food court will be open for dining. Food and beverage are prohibited on the gaming floor. Bars are closed and the Raceway is open.

Visit empirecitycasino.com, for more information.

## Classifieds

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#### Back to School, continued from pg 1-

closed the school to staff on Tuesday. The COVID-19 period of exposure will be beyond eight days by Wednesday. The one-day closure will allow additional time for the District to continue contact tracing and conduct supplementary cleaning of the building. No staff except for the custodial team and approved contractors will be in the school on Tuesday.

The message to School 17 staff noted, "It is important to note that when all staff returns to school on Wednesday, September 9, 2020, everyone must strictly adhere to all CDC COVID-19 guidelines Follow the CDC 3 Ws – wear a face covering, wash your hands and watch out for large crowds. It is everyone's responsibility to respect and do our best to protect each other's health."

On Sunday, September 6, Dr. Quezada emailed all school administrators reminding them to follow CDC and New York State workplace guidelines. These included face covering to be worn at all times, large meetings are strictly prohibited and at all in-person meetings face covering and social distancing are required; ensure sanitizers are in the classrooms and offices and bathrooms are appropriately stocked, as well as instructing staff to address those who are not observing COVID-19 protocols. The Superintendent's correspondence closed with, "Vigilance is essential. We are in a fight for public education and all of us must work collaboratively to ensure that we are safe as well as those whom we supervise."

<sup>1</sup> Before the first day of school, the Yonkers Federation of Teachers, YFT, issued a memo outlining continued concerns about returning to school. — This week, the YFT Executive Board addressed hundreds of questions and concerns about the opening of schools for synchronous remote instruction, the frustratingly inadequate training, and the persistent technological challenges we experienced. Our members faced these challenges with impressive persistence, professional-ism, patience, and fortitude. For that we sincerely thank you.

On Friday, September 4, 2020 the YFT Executive Board met with the district to continue negotiations for remote instruction working conditions. The fact that these working conditions are not in place prior to our members returning to work this week and beginning remote instruction on Tuesday, September 8, is unacceptable. Although slow and untimely, we did make some progress in our negotiations and we hope to reach an agreement soon. Please be aware that all provisions of the YFT/BOE Collective Bargaining Agreement remain in place until otherwise negotiated.

At the meeting, we also took the opportunity to convey the following list of issues and concerns we collected from you, our members, this week:

Some of the remote issues identified by the YFT include: Student rosters have not been populated in the Teams platform. Internet continues to crash or slow down frequently.

Trainings have been subpar at best. Schools report that the training consisted of videos that show what the platforms can do, not how to execute them.ENL teachers are not connected with students. IEPs are not available.

Parents and students have not been informed who their teachers are, nor do they know what to do. Tuesday morning. Teachers asked to call all families without knowledge of plan for next week.

District issued equipment not working properly (laptops, microphones, speakers, cameras). Not enough sanitizing stations throughout the buildings or cleaning supplies.

Administrators are not promoting mask wearing or social distancing in the buildings.

Multiple teachers to a room create feedback issues on computers.Multiple teachers assigned to offices/rooms does not allow for proper social distancing. Teachers split between multiple buildings creates more opportunity for exposure. Teachers without classrooms and assigned to work remotely from hallways. Recommendations from the YFT include:

• YFT and the District shall continue to negotiate any necessary changes to teachers' APPR. YFT proposed that teachers shall not be evaluated on their ability/ skillset to use technology and will not be held accountable in any way for technological malfunctions or non-functioning devices and shall not be required to "make up" or post lessons missed due to technological or device malfunctions unless provided with time (not prep or lunch) during the work day or paid the contractual rate to voluntarily do so outside the work day.

• Agreed as of now: Instructional videos shall not be used to supplant teachers or reduce staffing positions. Nor will these videos be used by the District to generate revenue.

• Agreed as of now: Teachers may communicate through Class Dojo, Remind, Bloomz, Edmodo, and Band. These platforms may be used for the purpose of communication only and not for delivery of instruction.

• YFT and the District shall continue to negotiate how student attendance and engagement must be recorded in PowerSchool for students not attending during synchronous remote instruction but completing the work offline or outside class time.

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#### Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

Lord and Taylor. This, Too is Westchester, Eastchester and Yonkers!

Reach Eric Schoen at 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 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 JMINS, LLC, filed with SSNY on June 23, 2020. Location: Westchester County.. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy process to 65 Homecrest Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of FoodCure by Eve, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/05/2020. 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, 49 Larrimore Road, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful purpose. 10/16

Notice of formation of OztheBarber LLC filed with the SSNY on 6/17/2020. 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, 15 Verona Ave., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of RIVERTON WARBURDALE LLC Footwear & Apparel. Filed with the SSNY on 07/31/2020 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, 353 Warburton Ave, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any Lawful Purpose.-09/11

Notice of Formation of Eva Phillips-Rogers LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 2/14/20. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Eva PhillipsRogers, 16 Lehman Terrace, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 09/11

• YFT and the District shall continue to negotiate expectations for synchronous instruction and flexibility regarding camera/face time, pre-recorded lessons not being required, presentation, and privacy issues.

• Health and Safety measures: YFT proposed and strongly emphasized the need for mask breaks for those sharing spaces; mandatory 14-day building closure for COVID-related cases; teachers not assigned or volunteer to take temperatures of students or other adults; need to address teachers sent home due to suspected contact or exposure; remote learning from home in cases of building closure; air flow reports for classroom and public spaces; all staff in building to be notified of any COVID-positive case in that building and the measures taken to address it.

The Yonkers Council of PTA's also issued a statement expressing their "extreme frustration" at the YFT for releasing their "memo with general details, and no specifics as to which schools have the issues, is released the Saturday before school starts and on a holiday weekend.

"The YCPTA has toured buildings (see below) and found that while work remains in progress, it did not view it as unsafe for teachers, who will be teaching in their individualized classrooms, and wearing masks in the schools where children will not be present. All are expected to wear face masks, failure to do so is not only inconsiderate, but against this State's Order and should be enforced by the administrators and districts. No exception.

"YCPTA understands that training was limited to 4 days, since teachers first reported to school on September 1. We also understand that a decision to bring them in sooner for training, with extremely limited funds to pay them, was also not an option.

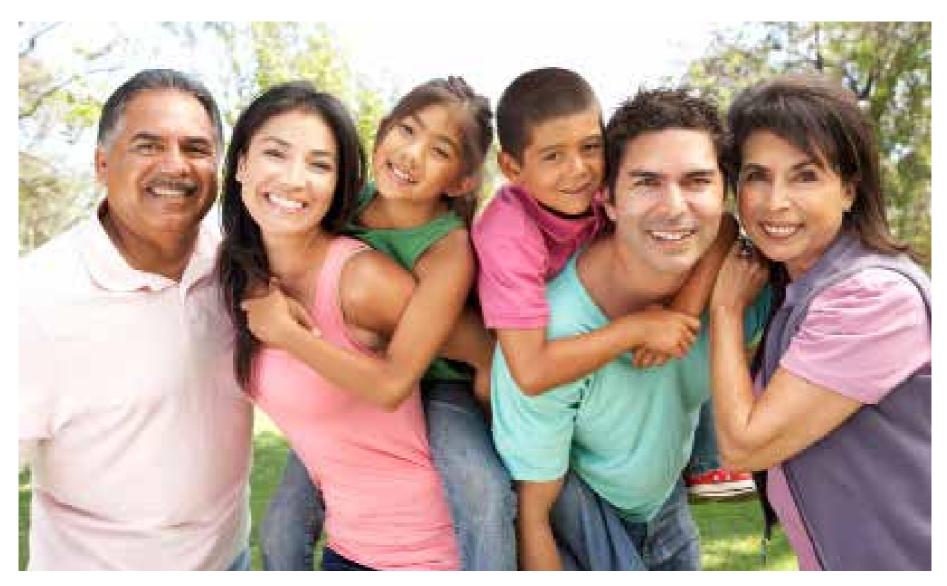
"We get it, it is stressful. But we want to remind everyone that administrators, teachers, and staff have stepped up to the plate. Teachers have been trained and will continue to train to make remote learning a success. They have faced challenges this past week, and despite these challenges, are passionate and committed to teach our children. Likewise, parents have sat in several Town Hall Meetings, attended workshops, purchased electronics, picked up laptops, re-arranged their work schedule, and prepared their children to begin remote instruction on September 8, 2020. While parents do not expect Tuesday to be a perfect first day of school, we also strongly believe that we will not be able to get into a well-oiled routine, unless we hit those bumpy roads, tweak as we go along, and carry on," writes the YCPTA to its members.

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

September 20, 1939: Sara McPike, a Yonkers' leading proponent for women's suffrage, President of the St. Catherine Welfare Association, and member of the Women Investors in America, urged Yonkers women to support the latter organization's efforts to keep America out of war. WIA had organized a committee to reach out to every woman in the US to aid their mission. According to McPike, "The women of American must understand they cannot save their husbands, sons and brother from being blown to bits on European battlefields if they do not strive to prevent American from taking part in a war that would undoubtedly destroy our American form of government."

For more information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and our upcoming events, visit our Facebook page at 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

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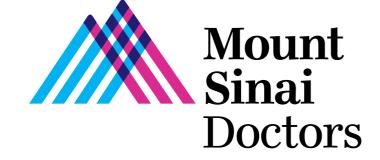
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