

Yonkers Rising

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Friday September 18, 2020

Yonkers Fire Dept. Gets \$11.5M Federal Grant to Fund 30 Positions



U.S. Senator Charles Schumer and U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand announced \$11,580,930 in federal funding for the City of Yonkers Fire Department to hire 30 additional firefighters. The funding was allocated through the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) Staffing for Adequate Fire and Emergency Response (SAFER) Program.

Specifically, the Senators explained, Yonkers Fire Department will fill 20 currently vacant positions and staff an additional 10 positions left open due to long term medical leave. This federal funding will help to relieve some of the financial stress that Yonkers has experienced due to additional overtime costs resulting from staffing shortages, vacant positions, and long term medical leaves.

"From the peak of the pandemic to normal times, our brave Yonkers firefighters are always on the front lines, risking their lives to protect their community," said Senator Schumer. "These courageous first responders deserve all the federal support possible to help them do their jobs. I've fought my whole career to bring more federal resources to support our heroic firefighters, and I'm proud to deliver this funding so Yonkers Fire Department can hire 30 new desperately needed firefighters without bearing the financial stress."

"New York's first responders have worked tirelessly to keep our communities safe throughout the COVID-19 outbreak," said Senator Gillibrand. "As we enter fire season amidst a global pandemic, we must ensure our fire departments in Westchester have the resources needed to hire and retain firefighters. I will always fight to secure the funding our fire departments need to stay safe as they enter the line of duty."

"Many thanks to Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and the Department of Homeland Security for their commitment and advocacy of our Yonkers Fire Department," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. "This SAFER grant will support the hiring of 30 new firefighters over the next three years, saving Yonkers taxpayers \$3 million a year. Now more than ever, we need to invest in our essential workers who are on the frontlines and this funding assures our City can support them as well as our current firefighters," said Mayor Mike Spano.

"We are grateful that Senate Majority Leader Schumer and Senator Gillibrand were able to secure this critical funding for the Yonkers Firefighters. These federal dollars will help keep the Yonkers Fire Department whole and allow us to continue to provide the citizens of Yonkers with the premier fire and emergency response they deserve," said Barry McGoey, President Yonkers Firefighters IAFF Local 628.

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Yonkers HS Sports Seasons Have Changed!

**Football, Volleyball and
Cheerleading Postponed Until
March. Basketball Delayed Until
2021**

By By Phil Foley

The New York State Public High School Athletic Association has announced that football, volleyball and competitive cheerleading have been postponed till March to address concerns associated with the novel corona virus. This is due to the closeness of contact with the way each game and competition is played.

It looks like soccer and cross country are a go for this Fall. It looks like Boys and Girls Basketball will take place in January and February. In March and April we will have football, volleyball and cheerleading. In May and June we can see baseball, softball, lacrosse and track and field. It will be interesting to see when the swim teams will be allowed to compete if at all.

When it comes to Yonkers High School football I have been in contact with both Yonkers Athletic Director Jim Rose and Yonkers Force coach Dan DeMatteo. Jim is waiting to see how District One will lay out the season. (Number of games etc.) Since football is such a high risk sport many new protocols could come down from Section One for added protections. Dan DeMatteo has been and will be waiting patiently for the new season. I asked what he thought and he said "We weren't even cleared to fully practice on September 21st and there was no plan for playing games. I think this move gives us the best chance for having as close to a normal season as possible!". Good luck to all those involved with Yonkers HS sports. You surely have your work cut out with this awful virus and it's after effects.

At the County Center in White Plains this week, more than 100 high school student athletes, parents, and coaches joined at a "Let Them Play" rally calling on New York State to apply equal treatment to Fall high school sports.

Colleges and youth leagues in New York state are allowed to play all sports, demonstrating jarring inconsistencies in State rules. All sports are allowed in neighboring states with higher Covid rates, including New Jersey and Pennsylvania. Those in attendance were urged to contact their state legislators and call the governor today and tell them to "Let them play" and allow high school football, volleyball and cheerleading to continue.

City Council to Bond for More Tablets--Budget Cuts from State Already Taking its Toll



Remote Instruction: Roosevelt High School Early College Studies

By Dan Murphy

The Yonkers City Council will consider bonding funds to help pay for additional tablets and laptops for Yonkers Public School students who are learning online--remote learning. The bonding would take several weeks to pass and sell the bonds, resulting in three months before YPS students have access to the new tablets and laptops, if the current shortage of portable computers ends by then.

YPS Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada appeared before the City Council's Budget Committee this week to discuss budgetary concerns and layoffs in the school district. Quezada said that YPS student attendance during remote learning is between 85%-90%.

If this figure is an accurate account of YPS students checking into classes remotely, then the remaining 10%-15% of students are not attending online classes. One reason for that could be a lack of a tablet or laptop, and that is why the Council will consider bonding to purchase additional laptops.

Quezada told the council that the district continues to hand out tablets and Chromebooks to students who need them. 400 devices were not returned to the district from the spring semester of remote learning post-COVID.

As great of a concern for Dr. Quezada and the YPS are the possible budget cuts that could come from NY State government holding back education aid. Governor Andrew Cuomo has been forced to withhold \$21 Million to the City of Yonkers because of a \$13 Billion hole that he has in the state budget as a result of COVID, and the lack of a bailout coming from the Federal government.

Mayor Mike Spano and City government were able to take the \$21 Million hit by using all of its fund balance (surplus). That leaves the City government with no 'rainy day' funds for the upcoming year. "The rubber finally has met the road when it comes to the lack of aid to local municipalities," said Mayor Spano. "The effects from Washington's political jockeying and the lack of stimulus packages from the federal government and the state now have hit us. Big cities across the state, including Yonkers, have no recourse but to make severe expenditure cuts."

Spano warned that in the near future, reductions in Yonkers' costs likely will come from a combination of programs and an estimated cut to 220 positions, both vacant and filled.

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'Back the Blue' Rally to Support Police Held



Yonkers Councilman Mike Breen, with Fox TV Host Jeanine Pirro

By Dan Murphy

Supporters of law enforcement across the tri-state area came to Eastchester last weekend for a "Back the Blue" rally to support their police officers and police departments. Other "Back the Blue" rallies have occurred recently in Tarrytown and Mahopac.

The event was organized by a committee of local residents and community members in Town. -- Tonight.. We backed the Blue. We showed our support for law enforcement across our state! A special thank you to the committee for pulling this event together in two weeks and absolutely rocking it! A big shout out to our speakers ... Keith Olson, (Yonkers PBA) Pat Lynch from NYC Police Benevolent Association, Judge Jeanine Pirro, Rob Astorino, Tunnel to Towers Foundation and Eastchester

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Pat Quinn Annual Softball Tournament



photos by Donna Davis, above, The Ice Buckets, winning Mens team. Below, the winning Co-Ed team, aptly named The Co-Ed Team.



The 3rd Annual #Quinn4theWin Softball Tournament is in the books!! It was another great event at Cook Field in Yonkers. A day filled with highly competitive softball surrounded by the best people!! Congratulations to The Ice Buckets for taking down the men's championship and the appropriately named The Co-Ed Team for winning the co-ed championship. Thanks to all the volunteers who made this day possible, especially Nick Bottone Mike Olivier and my dad Patrick Liam Quinn.

Thanks to have the delicious Giulio's Italian Kitchen running the food!! The best sausage and peppers around!! Check out this food truck for your next event!! Thanks to our constant supporters Danny Porcelli for providing the burgers & dogs, John Rubbo for making sure everything is good to go with the city, Burke's Restaurant & Bar & Tryon Public House for always donating beer, and Danny Monge for getting the umpires & volunteering all day!! God Bless You Pat Quinn!

Letter to the Editor Thanks Mayor for Appointing Councilwoman Williams

Editor's Note: We received a letter from Yonkers resident Judith Bauer, who commended Mayor Spano for his efforts to support the BLM Mural in the downtown, and his efforts while Mayor to support African-American and female employees in his administration and in public office. This letter is in contrast to a story we ran in June on Councilwoman Shanae Williams. Councilwoman Williams made comments at a BLM rally in Bedford that we attended and interviewed her about. During the interview, Williams said that she was passed over for promotion in the Mayor's office where she worked for five years, citing "systemic racism." The letter below contrasts Councilwoman Williams version of her time working for the Mayor and eventually, her election to the City Council.

Letter to the Editor:

Mr. Murphy, First I would like to thank you for Yonkers Rising. It is both an interesting and informative read about what is happening in our City. I'm writing to thank Mayor Mike Spano for his recent support of the Black Lives Matter mural on South Broadway. I also agree with his comments about how the location of the mural is an appropriate location, next to the Veterans Memorial.

As I read the discussion, both on Social Media and in Yonkers Rising about the mural, I also recalled that Mayor Spano has promoted African-Americans, and women, in his administration.

Our new Veterans Affairs Director is Rev. William Norman. City Councilwoman Shanae Williams was also appointed by the Mayor to the council and then won election with the help of the Mayor in a democratic primary.

I read a story in Yonkers Rising a few months ago where Councilwoman Williams did not thank the Mayor, but claimed that she did not move up to a higher position on the Mayor's staff because of institutional racism.

It is my understanding that Williams served as a intern in Albany for Spano in 2011. She then was hired in the Mayor's office in 2012, where she served as Assistant to the Mayor for 4 years, and then took another job as Secretary to the Human Rights Commissioner, before returning as an Assistant to the Mayor.

Her salary increased, as does every civil servant, in her five years working in City Hall. In fact her salary almost doubled from 2012-2017. I would ask you to FOIL those records if you wish to verify.

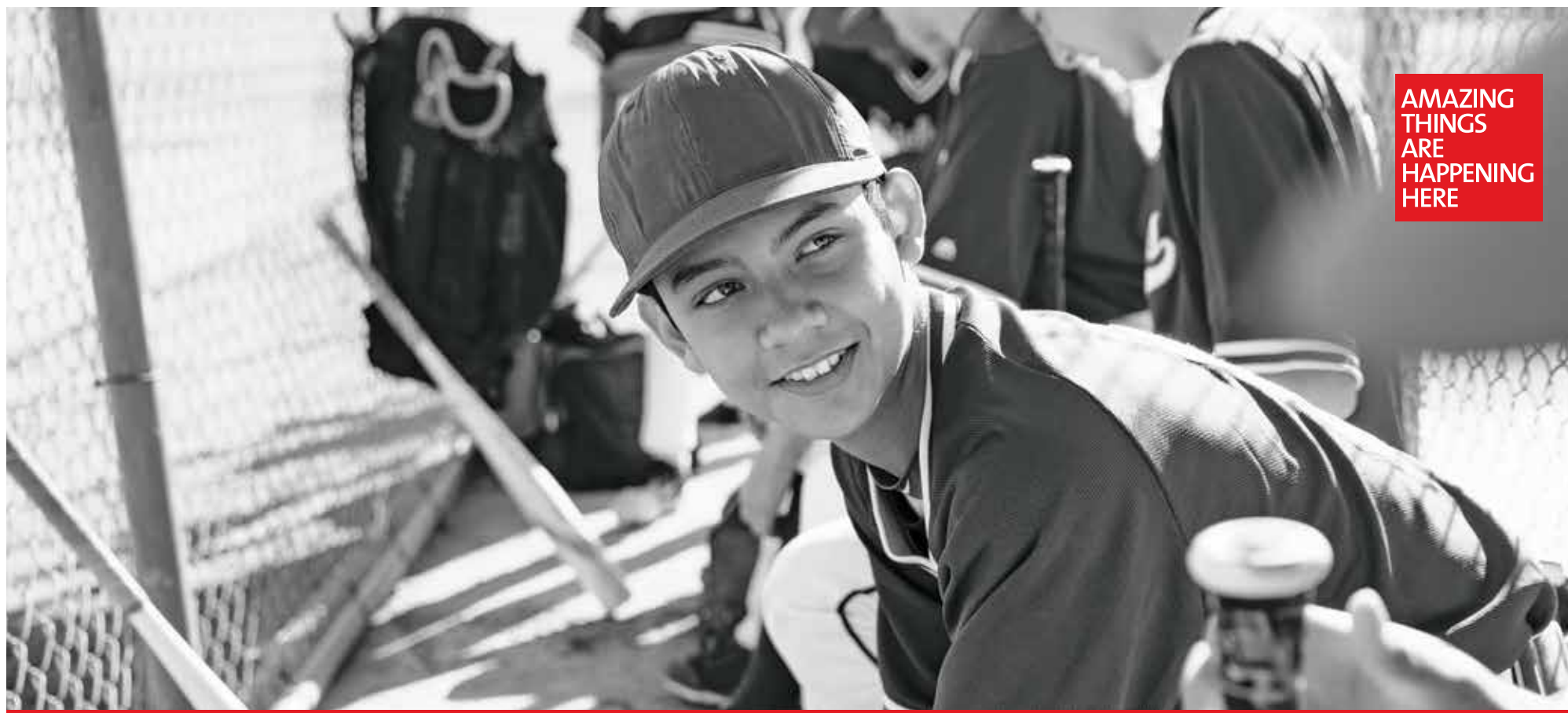
Williams was then selected from a number of qualified and experienced Yonkers democrats who wanted to serve as the next councilmember after Councilman Christopher Johnson was elected to the County Board of Legislators in 2017.

At that time, there was opposition to the appointment of Williams to the council seat, but the Mayor had trust in her faith and her ability to serve the 1st District, and the City. After her appointment in 2018, Councilwoman Williams had to run for election to the seat in 2019.

She faced opposition in the democratic primary and was not endorsed by the Yonkers Democratic Party. Williams faced a very difficult primary and was endorsed and supported by Mayor Spano. Many democratic friends of mine from Yonkers do not believe that Williams would have won the primary without the support from the Mayor.

In your story from this summer, Councilwoman Williams does not mention the specific individuals in the Mayor's office who she claims was promoted in front of her, so I cannot be sure who those person may be. But after

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Mount Sinai Doctors Opens New Comprehensive Location in Scarsdale



Mount Sinai Doctors-Scarsdale staff, L-R- Mary Hassoun – Echo Technician, Kiana Jones – Practice Manager, Barbara Schirripa, RN, John Schirripa, MD, Izamar Manzuetta, Lead Medical Assistant

Mount Sinai Doctors has opened a new location in Scarsdale, New York, that includes a team of highly skilled physicians and nurses, and services that include primary care, cardiology, gastroenterology, orthopedics, gynecology, and many others. The new, state-of-the-art facility is 15,000 square feet and located at 341 Central Park Avenue, Scarsdale, NY.

With the recent closing of Mount Sinai Doctor offices located at 750 Kimball Avenue, Yonkers, NY; 2422 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY; and 280 North Central Avenue, Hartsdale, NY; the new Mount Sinai Doctors-Scarsdale location offers patients onsite cardiology tests, imaging services such as X-rays, laboratory services, and physical therapy. Additionally, Mount Sinai Doctors-Scarsdale is offering same-day appointments, extended hours, easy scheduling, ample parking, and welcoming waiting areas.

“Residents of Westchester communities will now have access to the same high quality multi-specialty ambulatory services for which Mount Sinai is nationally and internationally recognized as an academic medical system and leading medical school,” said Arthur A. Klein, MD, President of the Mount Sinai Health Network. “With this new Scarsdale practice, we are meeting a real need in this community while also providing families in Westchester with an extended health care network that they can trust and believe in.”

- Services offered at Mount Sinai Doctors-Scarsdale include:
- Preventive care and general medical exams, vaccinations, immunizations, and yearly physicals
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 - Women’s health, including routine gynecologic exams and cervical cancer screenings.
 - Dedicated onsite laboratory and radiology services such as X-ray, ultrasound, and fluoroscopy, and Pediatric Sports Medicine and physical therapy services

Dr. Klein explained that “Our new, expansive location, centrally located in Westchester, offers us the space needed so that we can appropriately social distance. We are very confident that this will be a very safe place for patients and our staff.”

“This new space also allows Doctors from Manhattan to come up and provide services here. We have a total of 26-doctors in this office, and 6 from Mt Sinai Hospital, including some of our better known Doctors.

“In the age of Covid, our patients want it local, and we are able to bring our doctors to them in Westchester. This is the first of many sites we have planned in Westchester, including future locations in West Yonkers and Pelham,” said Dr. Klein. Visit MountsinaiDoctors.org/westchester for more information.

Letter to the Editor, and to all Yonkers teachers

Dear Teachers,

There is no question that the praise received by medical professionals over the past six months has been well deserved. However, educators like yourself were required to go back to the drawing board in March to re-invent education as we used to know it. You had to continue to deliver instruction as you were learning new delivery methods while still being held accountable for maintaining records and creating relationship with your students. How did you do it?

We just wanted you to know that your efforts have not gone unnoticed and how greatly you are appreciated in our community. Every new school year brings new challenges and now you are truly redefining the meaning of ‘new beginnings’. We wish to recognize you for what has already been a difficult opening and will surely continue to be a difficult year. We salute you every step of the way. Welcome back and good luck!

Respectfully yours,

Nancy Shaw, East Yonkers Kiwanis

Happy ZOOM Year!



By Eric Schoen

On the first night of Passover we ask why is this night different than all other nights? As we prepare to celebrate Rosh Hashanah in 2020 in a Covid 19 world, we substitute night and say: Why is this Rosh Hashanah different from all other Rosh Hashanahs?

On most Rosh Hashanah’s we would go to the store and buy brisket of beef, chickens, fresh vegetables, potato pudding, a round Challah bread with raisins and plenty of dessert to feed our family, relatives and friends. On this Rosh Hashanah we buy much smaller amounts of food as travel restrictions imposed by COVID-19 prevent large gatherings.

Guests Quarantining from most parts of the country turn the holiday into a month long affair. Those of us with elderly relatives worry that spending time with them could expose us or them to the virus and it’s numerous consequences. FaceTime and phone calls take the place of actual in person visits.

Most Rosh Hashanah’s would find us dressed in our very best preparing to spend time in the synagogue praying. Some women wear traditional white. I would take my place at the synagogue door, greeting members and guests with a handshake or a kiss. I enjoy this tradition as do other congregants. But we will not be gathering en mass in the sanctuary this year.

Prayer books must be picked up in advance, in a socially distanced way. Kindle versions of the prayer books are available for those whose schedules do not allow them to visit the synagogue prior to the holidays to pick up books. To make this a sweet New Year, together with picking up our prayer books we pick up a bag containing holiday instructions and things we will need for a joyous celebration. The bags are even filled with a special treat for the family to share and enjoy.

Rules only allow 50 people to gather at one time, so we rely on this magic invention, ZOOM to bring the services into our homes. ZOOM is like the opening and closing segments of the Brady Bunch or Hollywood Squares on steroids. This allows the whole congregation and guests to ‘participate’ in services. Very impersonal, but there is no other way so many people can take part. Folks that are not computer geeks are learning very quickly how to use their computers or those lent to them by children and grandchildren to participate.

If we receive an honor or aliyah, a portion of the service where we are

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Groundwork HV Online Gala September 24



Yonkers Rising photographer, Donna Davis RN, pictured with "Abe Lincoln" will be honored by Groundwork HV on Sept. 24

Join Groundwork Hudson Valley in an interactive virtual experience as we celebrate those who are making our communities more vibrant, healthy, and sustainable, on September 24 from 7-8pm. Register online: <https://gala.groundworkhv.org/>. High visibility sponsorship and journal ad opportunities are available. Please contact Hospitality Resource Group | events@hrginc.net

This year's honorees including Yonkers Rising photographer Donna Davis. Ms. Davis, also a Registered Nurse, has become an invaluable part of the Yonkers community in both of her roles, and as an unofficial ambassador and watchdog for the City. Brian Carroll, who was instrumental in negotiating the acquisition of the Science Barge in 2016 and assisted with its drydocking and renewable energy upgrades, and Madeline and Stephen Anbinder, who have dedicated their time, energy and resources to public service and philanthropy in support of education, medical research, and organizations that address the needs of vulnerable communities, and have provided consistent and significant financial support to Groundwork, enabling the organization to transform into a pivotal partner in Yonkers' revitalization, are the other honorees, along with State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and Yonkers Police Commissioner John Mueller.

Please consider making a donation to this wonderful organization, and congratulations Donna Davis!

Letter to the Editor: Mr. Murphy,

Good afternoon. I just read the Yonkers Times opinion piece by Frank Spotorno and I felt compelled to respond.

Mr. Spotorno seemed to be particularly concerned with US dealings with China. I think that is a fair point but I am baffled by his lack of self (United States) reflection in discussing his gripes. He starts by mentioning jobs "lost overseas and especially to China." Is he not aware that this is how capitalism works? The very foundation of America is wholly propped up by the exploitation of labor for capital gain. Corporations are out for profit and moving factories to China where labor is orders of magnitude less costly than in the US makes for larger profit margins. Corporations then turn around and lobby with the money they make for less restrictions, less oversight and even more profit. For me, the argument isn't about China so much as it is about the nature of Capitalism and its role in this country.

He then says that "we can all agree that President Trump was the first President to stand up to China." No, I do not agree. Inciting a fruitless trade war with China is a misdirection. As just covered in the Financial Times, corporations are IGNORING Trump and have absolutely no plans of moving factories and jobs back to the US. There is also a great piece on Netflix called History 101. In episode 3, they discuss the rise of China as a global superpower and it seems to me that Trump wants to BE China. They produce just about everything, have an authoritarian government with a wildly capitalistic economy, and are on course to surpass the US in the next 5 to 10 years at the rate that their economic power is growing. US corporate greed made its bed a long long time ago and, as usual, they are now trying to make the problem somebody else's fault.

"Whataboutism" has always been a thing but now we have this funny word for it and a much lower tolerance for it. Mr. Spotorno says, if you want a Green New Deal; what about China and their pollution for the sake of capitalism? Man, you can't be serious! Classic whataboutism with no grounding in reality. Oil spills, pipeline leaks, lead water, lead paint, asbestos, overuse of plastic, smog, beef, etc. We could go on and on about the environmental impact that American culture has on the health and wellness of its citizens and the global impact on climate change. Again, do we really need to explain how corporations lobby so that they can, as Mr. Spotorno put it, "pollute at all costs to benefit their economy?" We are in no position to be pointing the finger at China.

If you support Trump, that's fine. Different strokes for different folks. However, don't try to pretend that you have some sort of moral high ground to stand on. The real markers are policy and legislation.

Sincerely,
Rox Fontaine, Yonkers

Student Refuses to Pay Covid-19 Testing Fee in Mount Vernon



AppleMed Urgent Care in Mount Vernon

By Camryn Sanchez

Twenty year old college student Lauren Ashby refused to pay a fifty dollar Covid-19 testing fee in Mount Vernon this month. In August, Ashby traveled from Syracuse to Yonkers to attend her senior year at Sarah Lawrence College, and she intended to be tested by AppleMed Urgent Care at 504 Gramatan Avenue in Mount Vernon. At the reception desk, Ashby was asked whether she had previously been tested with her health insurance, which she had. The receptionist at AppleMed then told Ashby that her insurance would only cover the cost of testing, but not the cost of an AppleMed appointment for fifty dollars.

All New York state testing facilities offer free Covid-19 tests, however private companies such as AppleMed can charge any price for testing, and they do.

An employee at AppleMed stated that the price of a Covid-19 test is \$185, which is a price set by their testing laboratory. "Some insurance says they don't cover [Covid-19 tests], because they cover only for the first time, but for the second time they don't cover."

Contrary to that statement, Ashby was able to get a free Covid-19 test the same day -with the same insurance- at a different private urgent care facility in Mount Vernon called American Family Care (AFC). Her negative test results from AFC arrived within two days, the same window of time AppleMed offers to their Covid-19 testing clients.

AFC confirmed that they do not charge patients for Covid-19 tests, whether or not they have health insurance or have been previously tested.

College students like Ashby have returned to their university towns for the fall semester, and in many cases come into contact with people in other towns, counties, and even states. At Sarah Lawrence College for example, a high percentage of students come from California. When traveling students are not tested, contact tracing cases of Covid-19 is almost impossible. "Testing is a baseline that you can use to gauge how much community spread of the disease there has been," says Dr. Peter Mercurio, President of Westchester Health, and member of Northwell Health Physician Partners. "The more testing you do the easier it is to get a handle on how much disease is prevalent in your community, how much tracking you have to do, and... you get a better sense of what you can or can't do in the business community."

Dr. Mercurio is concerned that schools reopening will create a spike in Covid-19 cases, especially at colleges, "Test the teachers, the staff, and the students, and be prepared to understand that you're going to get some positives somewhere down the line, because you're testing more frequently. You're prepared to then track down those people, who they've been exposed to, and if necessary to shut down that school."

Although Ashby refused to be tested at AppleMed, and was able to locate a free testing site, she is concerned that other people unaware of free facilities may endanger their community by avoiding testing altogether.

"You don't want price to be a barrier to people getting tested," says Ashby, "It's not really fair that some places are trying to charge for Covid tests when that's not common procedure, because people may not know that it's not common procedure. It shouldn't be something that you have to pay for in the middle of a pandemic to make sure that everyone is healthy."
You can reach Camryn at camrynsanchez@gmail.com.

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Mobile Shredder Available for Yonkers Residents Sept 26 at Murray's Skating Rink

Yonkers Mayor Spano announced the City's Department of Public Works will provide a mobile paper shredder for Yonkers residents 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, September 26th from 8AM – 12PM.

"The City of Yonkers encourages our residents to take advantage of this free shredding service," said Mayor Spano. "Shredding personal documents serves as an opportunity to not only recycle paper but also serves to protect sensitive information against identity theft, which is the fastest growing crime in the nation."

Residents can bring only one file-size (10"x12"x15") box of confidential papers per household to the skating rink for shredding. All large binder clips and covers must be removed from the documents (no 3 ring binders/plastic). Papers from businesses, institutions or commercial enterprises are not acceptable and will be rejected, as well as junk mail or newspapers.

Mayor Spano, Councilwoman Williams, continued from pg 2-

reviewing the announcements from the Mayor's office about promotion of existing employees, I found two employees who worked in similar positions with Williams.

Both of those individuals, had prior work experience, or served in Yonkers City Hall for a longer period of time. Williams was hired in 2012 as her first job after college.

I think that Mayor Spano made an excellent choice in appointing Shanae Williams to the Council. She has proven to be a strong advocate for the residents in the First District.

But I also believe that Mayor Spano helped Williams in her career, and did not exhibit institutional racism. The recent efforts of the Mayor to support the BLM Mural, and promote people of color in his administration, is evidence to me that the Mayor should be applauded, and not condemned.

Judith Bauer, Yonkers

Back the Blue, continued from pg 1-

To Supervisor Tony Colavita for supporting our Police! We love our police. We love our town and we will support both proudly!, " posted Karen Cee on Facebook.

NYC PBA President Pat Lynch urged the crowd to be louder than the radicals who are trying to tear down our society.

"We must stand up for our police now more than ever," said former County Executive and State Senate candidate Rob Astorino.

"I'm here supporting the Blue," said Yonkers Councilman Mike Breen.

Yonkers PBA President Keith Olson pointed out, "I see many people defending BLM for not being responsible for some reprehensible things that happen at their protests but I have NEVER seen them denounce acts like this one," said Olson, referencing the recent shooting of two Los Angeles Sherriff's deputies who were sitting in their police car.

Former Westchester DA and Fox New host Jeanine Pirro said, "You have states in this country that have no cash bail, and allow criminals to commit crimes again and again. You have prosecutors beign elected by democratic socialists who don't believe in incarceration. I'm here to tell you one thing—America needs you—America thanks you."

On this day in Yonkers history...



Celine Baekeland

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

Monday, September 21st:

September 21, 1944: Kingston Avenue's Lieutenant Douglas Mulcahy's actions in battle this day were so outstanding, he was awarded a Silver Star. According to the Silver Star Award Citation, it was presented "For conspicuous gallantry and intrepidity as Pilot of a Fighter Plane... in action against enemy Japanese forces in the vicinity of the Philippine Islands, September 21, 1944. Encountering a formation of five enemy planes, he attacked fearlessly and with deadly accuracy to shoot down three of them without damaging his own plane. Flying his own plane with skill and courage, he damaged and drove another enemy off the tail of one of our planes and assisted in shooting down a fifth hostile plane. His expert airmanship, inspiring leadership and conscientious devotion to duty were in keeping with the highest traditions of the United States Naval Service."

September 21, 1947: After Cook Post of the American Legion withdrew from a county bowling tournament that excluded African American veterans, refusing to be a part of any "anti-Negro" discrimination, two Yonkers clergymen saluted them in their Sunday sermons, Reverend David Sheldon and Reverend H. Otheman Smith.

Tuesday, September 22nd Celine Baekeland

September 22, 1918: Celine Baekeland, wife of innovative inventor Dr. Leo Baekeland and Chairman of the Americanization Committee of the Woman's Council, announced the entire week would be celebrated as Americanization Week, dedicated to activities helping immigrants. Born in Belgium, and her husband were immigrants!

September 22, 1949: The Yonkers Chamber of Commerce received a letter from eleven-year old Suzy Agnew of Corpus Christi, Texas, asking for some "Yonkers dirt!" Suzy generously enclosed some Texas soil in her letter, saying she collected dirt from each state in the Union, and asked, "Will you please send me some dirt from your wonderful state?"

Wednesday, September 23rd

September 23, 1907: The Yonkers Board of Education resolution to establish a State Normal School in Yonkers was adopted by the Common Council. Schools Superintendent Charles Gorton asserted it "not only would be a great advantage to the city, but also to all who desiring to prepare for the work of teachers." Established at School 18, the first class of the Yonkers Training School for Teachers two-year course graduated in 1911.

September 23, 1908: While swearing in twenty-three men from seven volunteer fire companies, Public Safety Commissioner Hermance predicted Yonkers volunteer fire companies would "go out of existence" in just a few years.

September 23, 1927: More than 100 people in cars and on foot searched Yonkers for four missing boys. After a seven-hour search, the boys were found asleep in the Monastery of the Sacred Heart on Shonnard Place, just a few hundred feet from their homes.

Thursday, September 24th

September 24, 1935: A Canadian farmer came to Yonkers to find his fortune in America. He did very well, and wrote a lovely letter to his family to tell them Yonkers people were very kind, and the city was nice and quiet. He then tried to mail his letter in a fire alarm box, and immediately was arrested.

September 24, 1943: The Herald Statesman received another letter from a serviceman. PFC Raymond Vallely, serving someplace in Europe with the US Army, sat down to eat shortly after the Allies had taken Sicily. The meal came with "lump sugar," wrapped nicely in paper. He was surprised to read the printing on the paper to find "Golden Glow, Yonkers N.Y." The Golden Glow was a South Broadway restaurant!

Friday, September 25th

September 25, 1933: After getting many complaints about "unbearable noise" coming from the Hudson River, the Shonnard Place Station sent Patrolman William Kolb out to investigate. He found Herbert St. Laurent of Hastings racing his boat off Greystone Yacht Club. St. Laurent told the officer the boat did not have a muffler, so he could not stop the noise, then told Kolb he was practicing for an

continued on pg 6-

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This Date in Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

upcoming race. Kolb told him of all the complaints, and strongly suggested he move to another part of the river. St. Laurent did.

September 25, 1940: Yonkers Public School Superintendent Ankenbrand proposed using School Ten on Clinton Street for Yonkers new aviation mechanics' school as the quickest and most efficient means of launching the defense program in Yonkers.

Saturday, September 26th
September 26, 1919: A mass meeting of Yonkers residents to discuss the United States' position in the League of Nations was held in the Philipsburgh Hall. Discussing the various pros and cons were Homer Folks, Frank E. Xavier, Dr. Elmer A. Sheets and Ralph E. Prime, Jr.

September 26, 1926: Yonkers Electric Light and Power Company announced it would put all wires around the new Plaza underground at a cost of \$200,000. When questioned on the high cost, the company answered the work included the heavy-duty power supply cables Otis Elevator needed.

September 26, 1942: Selected churches and public buildings in Getty Square area were designated as "shelters" for any people caught in the area during an alert or blackout.

Sunday, September 27th
September 27, 1942: Former Yonkers resident Constance Bennett and actor Bruce Cabot promoted the sale of war bonds at a Larkin Plaza rally attended by more than 10,000 people. The total sold that day was \$134,450.

September 27, 1943: After reviewing the records of the Civil Service Commission at City Hall, Yonkers announced one hundred fifty-eight city employees had asked for leaves of absence for military service in the war. Of the one hundred fifty-eight, four were women; DPW topped the list, with 46 men in the service. The Police Department came in second with 32 people serving, and the Fire Department was third with 27 in the armed forces. Ten other city workers served, but were discharged. Two other men had been on the city payroll but were not listed in any department. Former Councilman Al Richter who was serving as Chief War-rant Officer in the Naval Reserve, and William Arthur, a former member of the Examining Board of Plumbers, who also was in the Navy.

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

Tablets, Budget Cuts, continued from pg 1-

Republican City Councilmembers Minority Leader Mike Breen and Councilman Anthony Merante, issued a statment criticizing both NY State government and state elected officials from Yonkers. "With drastic cuts in state aid to municipalities and significant decreases in economically sensitive revenues, the City of Yonkers is preparing to reduce costs by \$21.6 million. These cuts could negatively impact city programs, services and personnel. Governor Cuomo has withheld \$21.6 million in Aid and Incentives to Municipalities (AIM) and the economically sensitive revenues that Yonkers relies upon are forecasted to be \$45-50 million dollars lower this current fiscal year due to the pandemic,"states the release.

Minority Leader Mike Breen said "our State leaders continue to fail us. The latest budgetary gimmick Governor Cuomo is using is delaying \$21.6 million in aid that the City had been told was forth coming and budgeted for. Governor Cuomo knows that in order to amend the New York State budget, and decrease the already woefully low funding Yonkers is expected to receive, a vote of the NYS Legislature is required. However, a "delayed" payment does not need legislative approval."

Breen continued, "This unexpected shortfall caused by Governor Cuomo and the consistent lack of advocacy from Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Yonkers finds itself in a position to layoff over 200 employees. I am committed to working with my colleagues in government to minimize the impact these funding reductions will have on our City's residents."

Council Budget Chairman Anthony Merante expressed his outrage at this latest ploy by NYS to shortchange Yonkers. Merante said "This is becoming an all too familiar, ugly pattern. In the last 5 years the City of Yonkers has been shortchanged by the State for over \$ 300 million. We send our sales tax and state income tax revenue to Albany and when it's time to get our fair share back, they stick it to us. This underhanded move of a \$ 21.6 million "delayed payment hurts the City and the 220 City employees that will need to be laid off. These are employees with families and children who will be suffering by losing their livelihood in the midst of a pandemic. This is unconscionable! I urge our State representatives Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Senator Shelley Mayer to stand up and do right by Yonkers and urge the Governor to rescind this delay."

Even more concerning for the City and the YPS is another round of cuts, or reductions in State aid from Albany. The \$21.6 Million referenced above is for City aid, and those cuts will come from City services and employees, like Fire, Police and DPW workers. The next 20% cut in State Aid will come in education and could total \$60 million less for the YPS. NY State government, and the City of Yonkers and the YPS are waiting to see if those cuts can be avoided if a bailout can be passed in Washington to help NY government, or if Joe Biden is elected President in November.

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.09/25

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

Notice of formation of LoveUp11 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 9/1/2020. 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, 48 Caryl Avenue. Yonkers, NY 10705 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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 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 Sale

Supreme Court: Westchester County T11 Funding v Manuel Pereira et al. Defits 51986/2019 Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale filed and entered January 24, 2020, I will sell at public auction at the Westchester County Courthouse 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd White Plains NY 10601, on October 19, 2020 at 9:30 a.m. premises located in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester, State of New York known as Section 1, Block 463 Lot(s) 25. Sold subject to the terms of sale and filed judgment of foreclosure. Bank Checks Only, must be payable to the Referee for 25% of Bid Price, No Cash Accepted. Leticia Arzu, Esq. Referee

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

called on to recite a prayer or blessing, the Rabbi or Cantor unmutes our Zoom feed so we can recite it for all to hear. We won't be standing before the ark that holds the Torah scrolls to participate in this ritual or standing before the microphone on the bima or raised platform where all activity normally takes place.

We won't hear in person the beautiful music sung by the Cantor and Choir, so rich and part of the 'tradition' every year. Their glorious sounds will come through the speakers on our computers or iPads.

Schmooze Rooms allow us to communicate with those in the specific category we fit in. Categories include Religious School families, Empty Nesters, the Men and Women of the congregation, families of our littlest children and New and Prospective members. We might not be gathered together but these rooms allow us to communicate with those we know so well as well as those we simply say good morning to dropping the children off for Religious School.

New traditions are added this year. Yes, 50 congregants will gather to watch the sun rise and have a prayer service ,socially distanced outside on Rosh Hashanah morning at a location in the community. This reminds me of a beautiful service I attended on the first sunrise in the year 2000 at one of the highest points in Puerto Rico filled with dance and music with the Governor at the time and her husband, a New Yorker joining in. The shofar or rams horn will be blown outdoors, with groups of 50 people invited at a time to welcome the New Year.

Some things won't change. We will eat apples dipped in honey with our families, and round Challah Bread will be served at our dining room tables. Chopped liver will adorn our appetizer plates, matzah ball soup filling the bowls of those gathering at our homes. All the traditional prayers will be recited, candles will be lit making the holiday table however small in number of participants that much more beautiful.

What is our obligation to do this year as we have often done in years past? Make sure that those who cannot participate, the elderly and infirm can take part in the beauty and holiness of Rosh Hashanah. Whether that means dropping off a challah or honey or sponge cake or simply calling those 'at a distance' and reciting traditional prayers or simply saying hello and wishing them Shana Tova or a good year! And don't forget to share a 'taste' of Rosh Hashanah with a non-Jewish friend. There is nothing more beautiful than that!

We pray that all Jews around the world follow guidelines set up by our various governmental agencies so that there is no further transmission of COVID-19 during this most special time of year.

And most importantly we pray for the the scientists working to create a vaccine and for all those on the front lines protecting us. Wash your hands frequently, wear masks when required, socially distant yourselves from others and get medical treatment when needed.

We hope and pray that next year we will be able to gather as we and our forefathers have for many generations and together celebrate the New Year. Happy, healthy New Year in a world of Shalom, Peace!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisonyorkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericnyorkers. 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.

Mayor Spano's Backpack to School Drive



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano was joined last week at School 23 by Board of Education Trustee President Rev. Steve Lopez, School Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Edwin Quezada, Yonkers City Councilmember John Rubbo, School 23 Principal Michael Walpole, and event sponsors to distribute over 400 backpacks filled with school supplies to School 23 students as part of the Mayor's annual "Backpack to School" Drive.

Through donations from Yonkers residents, city employees, along with local corporate and nonprofit sponsors including Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts, Heavenly Productions Foundation, Rock & Rod's Collector Car Club, Castle Royale, MRP Lawrence Marketing, Precision Concierge and Ridge Hill. Mayor Spano's annual donation drive has now distributed nearly 10,000 backpacks and school supplies to public school students, non-profit organizations, churches and clients of the Westchester County Department of Social Services in the City of Yonkers over the past nine years.

"As always, the continued success of our "Backpack to School" Drive speaks volumes to the strength of our community and sponsors," Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said. "Although this year is rather unique, we were able to still collect over 1,000 backpacks and over 3,000 supplies. This is in addition to the City allocating \$1 million to Yonkers Board of Education towards the purchase of Chromebooks for remote learning. Together with the City Council, I am proud of the positive impact our city can provide for our students."

Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of Schools added, "Welcome back to school has new meaning as we began, once again, with Online Remote Instruction. Although our students are home, our teachers and administrators are in schools working hard to connect with students and families. We are moving towards students returning to their schools. These supplies offer optimism that soon everyone will be back in school learning together. In the meantime, this community's caring gesture reminds our children to stay focused on their education."

Empire City Casino President and Chief Operating Officer added, "Even though their entry into the physical classroom may be delayed this year, we know that having the essential tools is instrumental to a child's learning success," "That's why we are proud to continue our annual support of the Backpack to School Drive with a donation of 300 backpacks to support Yonkers students."

Chairwoman of Heavenly Productions Foundation, Dr. Kathy Reilly Fallon added, "We are thrilled to help support Yonkers Public School students through Mayor Mike Spano's Annual Backpack Outreach. We wish every student the best of luck for this academic year."

Dan Romano Vows to Serve in John Romano Sr.'s Example if Elected



City Court candidate Dan Romano, left, brother Joe right, with father and community icon John N. Romano at the 2019 Enrico Fermi Educational Fund Scholarship Breakfast.

One of the great members of the Yonkers community was John Romano, Sr. He came from nothing to become a respected attorney and a generous member of the City he called home for most of his life. Dan Romano recently wrote about his father.

"My father John Romano Sr. is my hero. As an attorney and member of the community, he set a superb example for all of his children, and inspired me to pursue the law and public service. My Dad practiced law altruistically, and never allowed a client's financial circumstances to stand in the way of meeting their needs. He taught me the difference that our courts make in the lives of families and businesses, and the need for fairness, honesty, and compassion in our legal system. As your next City Court Judge, I plan to emulate my father's example, and bring integrity and compassion to our City Court," writes Romano, who won the democratic primary in June for City Court, with Karen Best and Verris Shako. All three are on the democratic party line on November 3.

YFD Grant, continued from pg 1-

The funding comes as Yonkers Fire Department faces staffing vacancies from attrition, long term sick or injury leave, and absences due to COVID-19 collectively creating additional unexpected overtime costs over \$6,500,000.00. The senators said that the federal funding announced today will be used to offset the need for additional overtime funding by expanding the Department to better serve the City of Yonkers.

After hearing from the city and the department in June, both senators asked DHS Secretary Chad Wolf and FEMA Acting Administrator Peter Gaynor to fully fund Yonkers' \$11.5M proposal to hire 30 additional firefighters. The senators emphasized the devastating financial impacts of COVID-19 in Yonkers, New York's fourth-largest city and one of the nation's first hot spots for the virus.

The grant could not come at a better time, as the City faces budget and job cuts.

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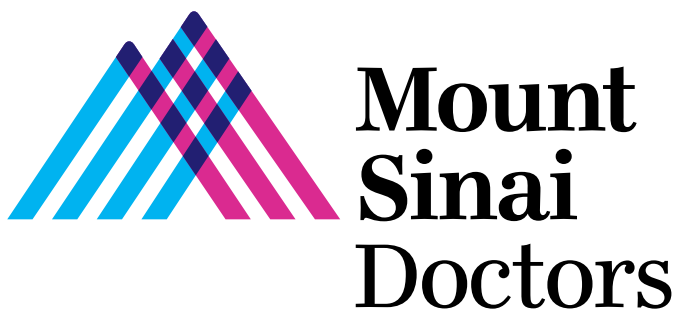
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