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Khader Continues to Fight for Homeowner on Water Rates

Are residents subsidizing commercial water bills?



By Dan Murphy

On Tuesday, the Yonkers City Council passed a resolution calling for Tiered Water Rates for residential, industrial and commercial users in the City. The resolution which passed unanimously, was authored by Council President Mike Khader, who has been active in seeking to control water rates for homeowners and taxpayers since taking office three years ago.

The resolution reads, "The city of Yonkers purchases its water from New York City at rates established by the New York City Water Board. A tiered water and sewer rate structure tied to consumption levels by category would more fairly allocate the cost among users."

Khader said that after taking office three years ago, "After hearing dozens of complaints from homeowners and taxpayers about their water bills, I wanted to find out what was the cause of the increases, and sometimes large increases?"

Khader said that after a lengthy review in water rates and bills in Yonkers, his office has determined that based on the current water pricing system, "homeowners are subsidizing the water bills of large businesses in Yonkers. That is no fault of the businesses, like Domino Sugar or MGM Casino. They simply pay whatever bill they are sent from the City."

"But what has happened for years is that there has been one standard rate, and no distinction between residential use, commercial use and industrial use. Some businesses use more water than homeowners do. But instead of having that business pay for their excess water usage, that cost is spread across all water users in Yonkers.

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Help the Salvation Army Rescue Christmas



It's that time of the year again, when the weather turns chillier and every man, woman and children are waiting for the first snowflake to drop. It is the time when the beautiful sound of The Salvation Army bell is ringing to bring home the cheer of the Holiday Season.

This year, a global pandemic struck and stole Christmas from many families in our communities. The Salvation Army is asking you to help RESCUE CHRISTMAS. With the pandemic making our effort to ring the bell of hope more difficult than ever, we ask that you are encouraged to donate via our many avenues. Text XMAS20 to 71777 or visit: tinyurl.com/Yonkers20 to donate. Also, you can write a check to: The Salvation Army of Yonkers, address 110 New Main Street, Yonkers NY 10701

The Salvation Army has been helping our communities throughout the pandemic. From the beginning of the pandemic the Salvation Army of Yonkers remained opened and has served over 80,000 bags of pantry to many of our residents and provide over 100 vouchers for clothes and or furniture. The Salvation Army also helped many of our frontline workers at both St. John's Riverside Hospital and St. Joseph's Hospital. The Salvation Army's main mission in our community is to continue to meet human needs.

The coronavirus pandemic may force our town to quarantine and stay inside and mask up; the need to feed our community, the need to cloth and furnish our community and the need to bring holiday cheers via our toys programs can not be quarantine. Please we are asking that you please help us #RescueChristmas.

If you need more information on how to donate please contact Lieutenant Neekenson Fils-Aime at (914) 963-1222 or email at neekenson.fils-aime@use.salvationarmy.org

Last Chance to Apply for Toys: The Salvation Army is reminding the community that the toy's registration is this coming Friday November 20, 2020. Please come and request an application. This is for parents who need help with providing their children with a Christmas toy this season.

Also this week, The Salvation Army's Red Kettle Campaign will continue for another season. Every year, the sight and sound of the bells are part of the Christmas experience, an opportunity to give back during the hustle and bustle of holiday preparations, and this year will be no different.

Some Veterans Boycott Ceremony Next to BLM Mural



Three Yonkers Veterans in attendance at Veterans Day ceremony on South Broadway, next to BLM Mural. Photo by Donna Davis

By Dan Murphy

Hundreds of Yonkers Veterans were missing from the traditional Veterans Day Ceremony held every year at the Yonkers War Memorial on South Broadway. This was the first Veterans Day in which the ceremony was held after a Black Lives Matter mural was painted directly in front of the memorial. Several TV news crews were in attendance, which made some believe that the "Boycott" against the ceremony was because of the BLM Mural and was organized enough to alert the media.

Several African-American Yonkers veterans did participate in the ceremony as they have for decades. Mayor Mike Spano made comments and AMVETS Commander Sam Riti led the pledge of allegiance.

We congratulate Riti, who has been outspoken in his concerns about the BLM mural and its location next to the Yonkers War Memorial, for showing up and celebrating Veterans Day.

The mural was painted in August 2020, with private funds and volunteers providing the resources and labor to create the BLM message in Westchester largest City. In August, Mayor Mike Spano supported the decision to place the mural on South Broadway and next to the Yonkers War Memorial.

"There is no more of an appropriate place that this should be then next to City Hall and our Veterans Memorial. Our Veterans died, so that we can put this statement here. It's moments like these that make me proud to be Mayor of a city that promotes our diversity. A city filled with over 100 different ethnicities and over 60 spoken languages – spoke in one unifying voice today. Thank you to Yonkers Arts and over 65 volunteers who painted this powerful

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Councilwoman Williams Still Wants a 20% Affordable Housing Ordinance



Yonkers City Councilwoman Shanae Williams has renewed her call to revisit the City's Affordable Housing Ordinance (AHO) and revised the law to increase the percentage of affordable units that developers must build from the current 10% to 20%.

Williams has taken to social media to force the issue, and to try and get her revised AHO out of the Council Real Estate Committee, chaired by Councilman John Rubbo. "Several residents have contacted my office for updates on the Affordable Housing Ordinance (AHO). I am happy to provide a full summary and update to all. The City of Yonkers current AHO requires 10% of market rate housing to be affordable, based on the Westchester County's area median income (AMI). The proposed AHO that I introduced with Council President Khader in February 2020 calls for 20% affordable housing and changes to the AMI so more Yonkers residents can qualify for affordable housing.

"Over my objection, the proposed legislation was placed in the Real Estate Committee, chaired by Councilman Rubbo. After several meetings held by the Real Estate Committee, the majority of the members decided it was best to hold the item in committee at the end of the session. My colleagues and I agreed to work on the legislation over the summer break and pick it back up in September. Unfortunately, we are at the end of October and have yet to discuss the proposed legislation in the Real Estate Committee.

"Nonetheless, the Majority Democratic Caucus met with Mayor Spano and his administration last week. The Mayor has publicly stated that he does not support 20% affordable housing. However, he has expressed that he is willing to work with us to increase the percentage of affordable housing. Since we cannot agree on all the changes in the proposed ordinance, the administration suggests that we conduct a study on affordable housing. This study is expected to take about 3-4 months to complete.

"That said, Westchester County has already completed a thorough housing need assessment which can be found here. The assessment states that every municipality in the county has a gap in affordability when looking at market rents. It states that 49.9% of renters in the City of Yonkers are living in severely cost burdened and unaffordable housing. It also states that there are 1,355 total severely overcrowded households in Yonkers. A snapshot of Yonkers affordable data begins on page 29. It is clear that there is a need for real affordable housing.

"Some of my colleagues are in agreement with the administration that conducting a Yonkers study is the best route to take at this time. I believe this is an effort to delay the vote on the proposed ordinance, since we already have data from the County's study, previously mentioned," said

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Meet Westchester's Version of "The Squad" New Democrats, Bowman, Jones and Rocah



newly elected Westchester Democrats, Congressman-elect, Jamaal Bowman, left, Congress member elect Mondaire Jones, middle and District Attorney elect Mimi Rocah, left, have become the new face of the Westchester Democratic Party. Bowman will represent Yonkers in Washington.

By Dan Murphy

The election of 2020 marks the end of two legendary Westchester political careers that spanned 4 decades, with the retirements of Westchester congressmembers Nita Lowey and Eliot Engel. Both "retired" in different ways: Lowey declined to run for a 17th term, while Engel was defeated in a democratic primary.

Replacing Rep. Lowey is Mondaire Jones, who first defeated seven other democrats in the June 23 primary, and then on Nov 3., defeated three other candidates to become the first openly gay African-American member of the House of Representatives, representing the 17th Congressional district, which includes mid-northern Westchester and Rockland County.

Jamaal Bowman also won the democratic primary and then easily won election on Nov. 3, in the 16th District, which includes most of Westchester County and the Bronx.

Both Jones and Bowman are already being referred to, and welcomed into "The Squad" of four democratic, progressive members of Congress, led by "AOC" Congresswoman Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez.

"The Squad has doubled in size. These congressional candidates won by not accepting corporate donations, promoting universal healthcare, and fighting for a Green New Deal. We are glad to support Jamaal Bowman in his historic upset victory," said Justice Democrats.

"We are growing the squad", "we have doubled the squad" and "meet the new squad," have all been promoted and posted by liberal and progressive democratic organizations welcoming Bowman to Washington DC next month. "Jamaal Bowman is Ready to Join the Squad," wrote the Atlantic.

"The wealthy elite, the 1/10 of 1%, needs to pay their fair share in taxes. We need to tax capital gains and Wall Street and its transactions more than we currently do. And large corporations also need to pay their fair share of taxes as well," said Bowman.

Mondaire Jones told the people of Westchester after his election, "Growing up, I never imagined someone like me could run for Congress, let alone get elected. To grow up poor, Black, and gay is to not see yourself anywhere. Now, I am humbled by the trust voters in Westchester and Rockland have placed in me, and grateful for the opportunity to serve the community that raised me in the United States Congress.

"The need to dream big has never been more urgent. We must secure our right to a livable future. A future where everyone is paid a living wage for their labor, and no one goes hungry or homeless because they can't afford to live is a future worth fighting for. A future where everyone has quality health care, where we save the planet from climate catastrophe, and where a quality public education is a right guaranteed to all. A future where racial justice is, once and for all, obtained for communities of color throughout this nation."

"Together, let's recommit to that fight — but first take a moment to celebrate the movement that brought us here. This victory is for the people of Westchester and Rockland Counties, whose stories energized me every day of this campaign. This victory is also for the many hundreds of volunteers who worked tirelessly for months to elect someone the political establishment counted out. Together, we organized our community, in the truest sense of the word, to fight for the better world that we know is possible.

I am so humbled to have earned your trust, and I do not take it lightly. We've got so many more fights to win. And I'm ready to get to work," said Jones, who has also been welcomed to "The Squad" in DC, by grassroots movements including Our Revolution.

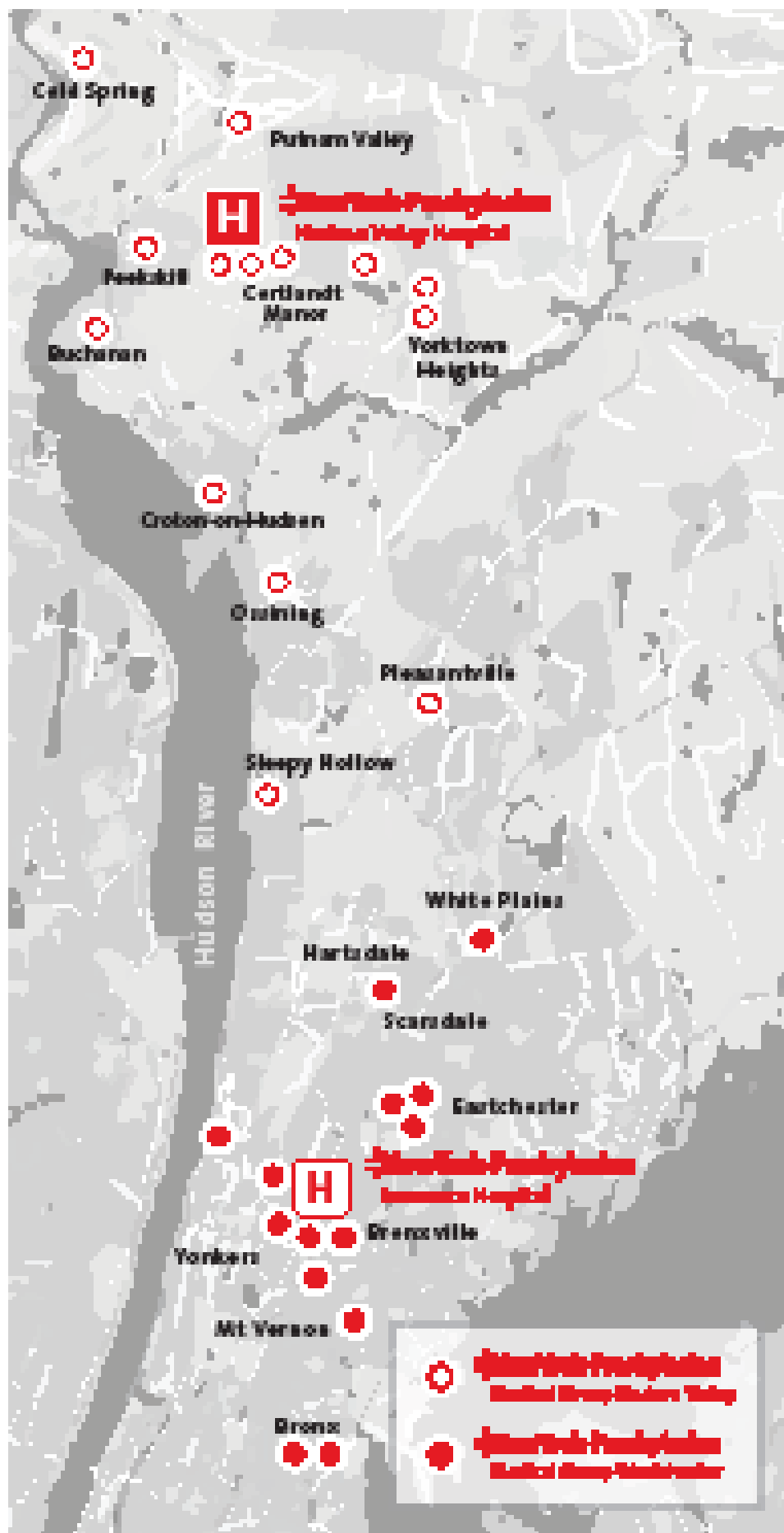
One Westchester democrat told Rising newspapers that Westchester residents should expect Bowman and Jones to push Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi in the same way that AOC has. "Nita and Eliot were more team players, and spent the past 30 years with Nancy Pelosi. Bowman and Jones have no loyalty to the Speaker. Their Speaker of the House is AOC. Also remember that Lowey and Engel had very progressive voting records, so it may not be that much of a tangible difference. But look for both to be more outspoken."

The third elected, progressive democrat in Westchester on Nov. 3 was Mimi Rocah, who was elected to serve as Westchester District Attorney with 64% of the vote.

Rocah's progressivism could become apparent in matters of crime, policing and the BLM movement. "I know that this is an unsettling time, and will continue to be until every vote is counted in every race. But, in Westchester, the voters have spoken and I am honored and humbled to let you know that, thanks to your support, I am now Westchester County's District Attorney-Elect. While there are still absentee ballots to be counted, our strong margin of victory is insurmountable, and we now begin the important phase of setting up a transition and bringing real reform to this vital office.

"To that end, I want you to be the first to know that two widely-respected, veteran law enforcement leaders in New York, and Westchester residents, have agreed to serve as Co-Chairs of my Transition Team: Zachary Carter, former U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York; and Leroy Frazer, former Senior Executive for several District Attorneys. I will be announcing the rest of our exciting Transition Team in the coming days.

"This has been a difficult year for many of us -- we have battled the coronavirus pandemic, economic recession, faced a reckoning on racial injustice, and acknowledged a loss of faith in many of our public institutions. The importance of transparent leadership at the local level that is focused on integrity and fairness has never been more clear," said Rocah.



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Mayor & Yonkers Police Unveil New Anti-Gang Violence Initiative

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano joined Yonkers Police Commissioner John Mueller and local community leaders announcing the deployment of the City's new Anti-Group Violence Initiative to combat a recent increase in group, or gang-related, activity in the city.

During recent months, the City has experienced several group violence disputes resulting in shootings and a homicide in the Ashburton Avenue corridor. In an effort to suppress gun violence and reduce crime, the Yonkers Police Department has identified a geographical priority area to roll out a series of anti-group violence tactics including the deployment of the Yonkers Police Department's Mobile Command Center, engagement in increased law enforcement presence, increased surveillance and enhancement of its collaboration with local and federal law enforcement partners.

"After recent acts of violence in pockets of the city, I've asked our police department to organize a comprehensive approach to target the crime that have led to vicious acts," said Yonkers Mayor Spano. "We will laser focus on these wayward individuals who inflict harm on each other and our community. We will not tolerate senseless acts of violence in our neighborhoods where responsible and hard-working individuals are trying to raise their families in a safe environment."

Yonkers Police tactics to counter group violence will include:

- Increase uniformed patrol and presence with additional foot posts (i.e. park and walks) in the focus area, including the Nepperhan and Ashburton Avenue corridors.

- Support Units including Emergency Service Unit, K9, Traffic and all 4th Precinct sector cars mandated to patrol the focus area when not on assignment.

- Deploy additional overt surveillance equipment within the focus area and enhanced existing equipment to increase reliability and quality.

- The Yonkers Police Gang Unit will engage in a task-force coalition with local and federal authorities, including the Westchester County Police Department, the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, Departments of Probation and Parole, and the FBI and ATF.

- Utilize the resources of the newly established Crime Control Strategies Division, including two full-time crime analysts and precision policing data analysis.

- 24-hour recall of a Gang Unit detective to all confirmed shooting incidents involving a group-violence member to provide intelligence and centralize information gathering.

- The Yonkers Police Community Affairs Division will conduct outreach with local community-based organizations and clergy to explore violence-interruption initiatives including mediation and youth resource options.

- Increased collaboration with the Yonkers Public Schools system to identify and intervene in youth group-violence issues prior to escalation.

Yonkers Police Commissioner John J. Mueller stated, "Gun violence and gang activity has no place in our communities, and I want our residents to know that the Yonkers Police Department is committed to deploying every resource, new technologies and strategies to stop those who perpetrate these crimes. With the support of Mayor Spano, our law enforcement partners, and our community members, we will work together to bring an end to this violence. The residents of Whitney Young deserve better."

To date, in 2020, group violence has accounted for 57% of shootings in Yonkers, with a 30% increase in group violence shootings year over year. Overall, violent crimes are down 7% in Yonkers and down 12% compared to a three-year average. Compared to New York State's other Big 5 Cities, Yonkers has the least amount of bullet to body shootings in 2020.

Affordable Housing, continued from pg 1-

Councilwoman Williams.

Councilman and Real Estate Chair John Rubbo responded, telling Yonkers Rising, John Rubbo, "I am completely for additional affordable housing in the city. There is a desperate need for it. But we need to understand the economics of what we are passing, and I haven't seen the economic impact of the ordinance in committee now."

"Remember, all future affordable housing is on the backs of developers and market rate housing. If they decide they don't want to build in Yonkers, then we don't get affordable housing. That is my concern.

"The council is not an expert in the field, lets bring in the experts to help us write the best affordable housing ordinance in the country. Yonkers could be a model for the country. Until we do that I don't feel comfortable passing anything.

"I'm afraid there will be a downturn in the economy, and if we double to required percentage of affordable housing from 10% to 20% it doesn't double the number of affordable units, it risks all of it.

"We are putting out an RFP for a new study and I will commit that it will be done well before the election season. This should not be a political issue," said Rubbo, who held a Real Estate Committee meeting this week.

After the meeting, Councilwoman Williams added. "We are finally getting to the heart of the issue and trying to find some consensus. We are now having meetings and discussions but only after my public comments and posts to the public.

Currently, the council breakdown of votes for Affordable Housing are: Three votes in favor of 20%: Councilwoman Williams, Councilwoman Tasha Diaz, and Council President Mike Khader.

Majority Leader Corazon Pineda-Isaac has indicated a willingness to support a 15% AFO, which could be the compromise number that Mayor Spano may also be willing to support and sign into law. If Spano vetoes, then 5 council votes are required for passage.

Other parts of the AHO debate include using the Westchester AMI, (area median income) or the Yonkers AMI, to determine eligibility. Williams wants to use the Yonkers AMI. And finally, whether the revised AHO should require developers to build their affordable housing units as part of their projects, or be allowed to pay for affordable housing to be built elsewhere, is also part of the debate.

Yes Florida. You Will Have Air Conditioning !



By Eric W. Schoen

I knew it was over when President Donald Trump, speaking to a group of Florida Senior citizens told them that because of then Presidential candidate Joe Biden's extreme energy policies they would not have air conditioning if Biden was elected President.

What makes someone say something as nutty as that? It made me think of the television shows I watched as a child where T.V. Host Art Linkletter interviewed adults and kids and they would say the most outrageous things. Did Trump really think he was going to scare senior citizens into voting for him over air conditioning?

This year many of us voted by absentee ballot due to our concern over COVID-19. Many voted during the early voting process. When absentee ballots are counted or when you vote at the polls either through early voting or on Election Day, there are at least one Democrat and one Republican election official observing and running the operation.

Even before votes started to be cast President Trump had concerns about how votes were going to be tallied and whether election results would be counted fairly. If you have such concerns bring them to the attention of political leaders and bring your own people in.

The people who work the polls on Election Day put in a long day, 5 a.m. to 10 p.m. or later. Do you think they appreciate being criticized before the process begins. Bad enough the conditions they work in are not always the greatest. Same goes for those processing absentee ballots. Did you view the warehouses that the ballots were being processed in on television? Not exactly the Taj Mahal. Add the threat of COVID-19 to the picture, and you see why election officials in Westchester were advertising up until the last minute for people to work the polls for early voting and on Election Day.

Elections have been taking place in this country without problems for many years. Did Trump really think there was going to be such massive fraud? Again he should have had his people either specially train poll workers or have political leaders appoint his supporters to work through the election process.

Don't claim there is fraud without backing it up. He has been publicly told this by some of his key supporters throughout the country. And as this column goes to press there have been no specific incidents of fraud uncovered by Trump supporters. I guess that is why the Department of Justice official charged with investigating fraud in the elections process resigned earlier this week.

Look at all the rallies President Trump had in the days leading up to Election Day in big arenas with people not socially distanced and not wearing face coverings. Does this show leadership. On Election Night the President had some of his supporters to the White House for what they thought was going to be a celebration. And now we find out that one of Trump's Cabinet Secretaries has the coronavirus.

Earlier this week Pfizer right here in neighboring Rockland County announced that they have produced a vaccine that during clinical trials has proven 90% effective. And one of the Trump boys had the audacity to call the timing of the result, a week after Election Day in question. Does anyone really think that a company who is being paid big dollars by the current administration in the White House is going to hold off the announcement of positive test results because of an election. Let's start talking sense her folks.

Before I bring this column to a close and while we are talking about masks, face coverings and COVID-19 I have to share with you 2 things that I witnessed in Rockland County while shopping last week. I went to a new supermarket that just opened in April and saw an elderly man not wearing a mask shopping with his family. His family members had masks on. I went up to a supervisor at the store who went over to the man and told him he needed to have a mask on in the store. He pulls the mask right out of his shopping cart and puts it on. Nuts?

A little later I stopped in Target and they have an announcement over the loud speaker clear as can be that if you are shopping in the store you must have a mask on covering your nose and your mouth. I see not one, not two but three young ladies shopping together in the store with masks on just covering just their mouth and not their nose. After my earlier escapade I took it upon myself to tell the young ladies they needed to cover their noses which they promptly did.

Are the man and the young ladies so oblivious to the news reports that say that masks and face coverings are not only the law but are affective in stopping the spread of the COVID-19? I'll let you draw your own conclusions.

Back to the election. Voters waiting in line hours to vote is not acceptable. Election officials need to bring in more machines to polling places to speed the process. For a Presidential Election year more early voting locations need to be set up and more machines have to be used. Many polling

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Westchester County Household Recycling Day at Playland Nov. 14 9am-3pm

Westchester County's Department of Environmental Facilities (DEF) will be conducting a Household Recycling Day (HRD) event on Saturday, November 14th from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Playland Park in Rye. New COVID-19 precautions are in place to allow DEF to once again host these events for County residents. Residents are asked to place items in their trunk or hatchback, remain in their vehicles, and wear masks while in the drop-off area.

In 2019, DEF hosted four HRD Events throughout the County and residents delivered more than 307,000 pounds of household waste and 91,000 pounds of documents for shredding.

In addition to properly labelled household chemicals, tires, scrap metal, electronics, appliances, and other special wastes found in a typical household, residents can bring documents for shredding and expired or unwanted medications for disposal to the November 14th HRD Event.

Visit www.westchestergov.com/recycling or call (914) 813-5425, to find out what items are accepted.

The City of Rye will simultaneously be hosting its annual Zero Waste Day. Several non-profit and charity organizations will be on hand to collect additional items from residents:

- Furniture Sharehouse: gently-used furniture- please see details on their website

- Mount Vernon Animal Shelter: pet food, bedding and towels

- Linking Handlebars: gently-used bicycles

- Rye Kicks It Forward: soccer gear

- Rye City Lions Club: prescription eyeglasses

For more information on what to bring to this event, visit www.westchestergov.com/recycling or call (914) 813-5425. If you are unable to attend the HRD Event, you can still dispose of your hard-to-get-rid-of household waste by making a convenient appointment for the County's Household-Material Recycling Facility (H-MRF), 15 Woods Road, Valhalla. The H-MRF is open Tuesday through Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. by appointment, and accepts the same items that are accepted at the HRD events. For more information about the H-MRF or to make an appointment, visit <https://environment.westchestergov.com/facilities/h-mrf> or call (914) 813-5425.

Westchester Golf Courses Pre-Registration for 2021 E-Z Reserve Now Open

Golfers can now pre-register for next season's Golf Westchester E-Z Reserve program available at all six 18-hole County golf courses. During the pre-registration period, Sunday, November 1, through Monday, November 30, E-Z Reserve holders from 2020 can reserve the same tee time/day for the 2021 season. If the holder is not interested in keeping the specific time and day, the time will be made available to all golfers in December.

From Tuesday, December 1 through Friday, March 5, all remaining E-Z Reserve tee times will be available to new golfers or past golfers who may want a new time or day. These E-Z Reserve times will be available on a first-come, first-served basis and are limited to one tee time per weekend day.

County Executive George Latimer said: "Though it's still October, we're excited to already be able to talk about the 2021 season at our beautiful golf courses, which remained open throughout the pandemic and broke attendance records, we're proud to say. Golf Westchester's E-Z Reserve program is popular with players because they can enjoy the luxury of up to 30 weeks of their desired tee times."

The E-Z Reserve program enables golfers with a valid Westchester County Park Pass to book a starting tee time for a series of weeks. A non-refundable fee of \$350 per player is due at pre-registration and payable by cash, check, Visa, MasterCard or American Express. As a bonus for pre-registering, the 2021 E-Z Reserve season will be increased from 25 weeks to 30 weeks.

The 30-week period begins on Saturday, March 27 and ends on Sunday, October 17. The 25-week period begins on Saturday, April 10 and ends on Sunday, September 26.

After the pre-registration period ends on March 5, remaining E-Z Reserve tee times will be available only at golf courses starting on the first day of play in 2021. These tee times will be sold for a \$300 per player fee for 25 weeks of play. The County golf courses open for the 2021 season on March 10.

E-Z Reserve applications will be available at all courses. Applications, along with complete rules and regulations, are also available at golf.westchestergov.com

Water Rates, continued from pg 1-

Last year, the City installed water meters so that each home, residence, or businesses' water use could be more accurately determined. Khader said that the water meters were a first good step in making sure that "those who are using the most water should pay the highest water bills. To me this is a simple example of fairness."

Khader said that all of the businesses he has spoken to about water rates and his proposal, "all are in agreement. They didn't realize how the rates were calculated and they understand that this is not a punitive measure. But now more than ever, homeowners who are struggling cannot absorb the cost of higher water rates when they are, in fact, subsidizing larger corporations and their water bills. If I'm using 1000 gallons of water and you are using 10000 gallons who should pay more?"

Khader said that if implemented by City Hall, "the immediate affect would be a freeze on Water rates for homeowners. I can't promise a reduction in water rates and bills for homeowners and taxpayers right now."

Last week, DPW Commissioner Tom Meier discussed Water Bills, usage and rates with the City Council. The resolution passed by the council doesn't set water rates, but urges the Yonkers Water Department to set the rates with different classifications.

Before the unanimous vote, there was little discussion over Khader's plan. Council Minority Leader Mike Breen said that he "supports the resolution and the concept, but I do have concerns that I think can be resolved."

Yonkers Rising continues to get letters to editor from homeowners complaining about their water bills. Now, look for more of these letters to come "pouring" in.

Saving Money Vs. Saving Lives

By Christiana Silva

The health and safety of American citizens is as precarious as ever. The appointment of Amy Coney Barrett as Justice Ginsburg's replacement puts the future of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) at risk. In response to Democratic fears about the pending Supreme Court challenge to the ACA, Barrett suggested during her nomination hearings "I am not here on a mission to destroy the ACA." However, the Supreme Court may do just that if it (with Barrett as a likely critical vote) strikes down the law by deciding in California v. Texas that the ACA's individual mandate is unconstitutional. Without the mandate, the ACA will be unable to exist, and millions of Americans will suffer the consequences.

One of the policy pillars of the ACA, the individual mandate requires individuals to purchase health insurance or pay a monetary penalty. This incentivizes young, healthy adults to buy insurance, to cover the cost of the older and sicker population. Congress repealed the monetary penalty when it passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Acts in 2017, however the repeal of the penalty further complicates the ACA's fate because although the federal government no longer enforces the penalty, the mandate remains in effect and many of the other ACA provisions are reliant on it.

Without the ACA, the nation's health care system will take a massive toll, the individual market will be disturbed, costs will increase, and millions of Americans will lose coverage. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation, an estimated 54 million people with pre-existing conditions would be denied coverage if the ACA were not in effect. In addition, all of the provisions that are enforced by the ACA including protections for people with preexisting conditions, essential health services, family coverage for young adults until the age of 26, and preventive services will likely disappear. Many Americans will be left vulnerable and unprotected without them.

The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office predicts that insurance premiums will increase by ten percent over the next ten years if the ACA were struck down. For those who use health care services the most, prices will skyrocket and leave many paying astronomical amounts to receive necessary care. Young and healthy Americans might opt out of their insurance if there is no incentive to have it, risking the potential of paying for expensive care if they were to get sick. According to the American Medical Association, eliminating even certain provisions, not just the entire ACA, would have a devastating impact on doctors, patients, and the American health care system in normal times.

The Trump administration and many Republican-led states insist on repealing the ACA in its entirety. They argue that repealing the act will save the country money and reduce federal deficits by as much as \$338 billion. This is where we have to make a choice: is it more important to save millions of dollars or to save millions of lives?

Repealing the ACA means the absence of free preventive services. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services estimates that approximately 137 million people have received preventive services gratis since the implementation of the policy. Without free preventive services, many Americans will forgo necessary screenings and will be unable to treat disease and illness in its early stages.

Critics of the ACA strongly believe that being required to purchase health insurance violates their constitutional rights. However, they fail to acknowledge that the individual mandate allows for more freedom in the sense that it provides health security and in turn, financial security. Republicans continue to disparage the ACA but offer no valid replacement. Since his initial campaign in 2016, President Trump has continued to promise Americans a less expensive alternative to the ACA, but prices have continued to rise during his administration and he has failed to introduce, let alone implement, his health care reform. During his campaign he stated, "you'll have great health care at a fraction, a fraction of the cost and it'll be great". But without a clearly articulated alternative, millions of Americans stand to lose the health and financial security offered by the ACA.

Although the ACA has its flaws, it has changed American lives for the better by ensuring that millions of Americans have access to affordable, high quality health care. According to the National Bureau of Economic Research, since the ACA's passage, 20 million uninsured Americans gained coverage and seniors saved over 20 billion dollars on prescription drugs. The Trump administration must be stopped from sabotaging the future of health care for millions. The appointment of Amy Coney Barrett to the Supreme Court could be detrimental to health care as we know it, unless she votes to uphold the ACA or at a minimum, sever the question of the constitutionality of the mandate from the ACA itself. When asked to clarify her stance on severability, Barrett stated that judges can presume that a larger part of a law can be saved even when part of it is constitutional: "I think the doctrine of severability serves a valuable function of trying not to undo your work when you wouldn't want a court to undo your work." Our country will be watching to see if she stands by her words, or whether she will vote in a partisan fashion to gut the ACA and change American health care for the worse.

Christiana Silva, a resident of Pelham, New York, is a junior health policy and management major at Providence College.

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This Date in Yonkers History...

**Artist Talk
with Fares Rizk**

Celebrated painter and drag queen Sultana will be discussing his artistic work and life's exciting trajectory. We will also take a tour of the gallery and our newest exhibit, From New York to Amman: Fares Rizk.

Saturday, November 14

2 pm, in-person and virtual
Facebook live virtual event LIVE

Email haifa@ypl.org for in-person reservations with social distancing



YONKERS RIVERFRONT LIBRARY
One Larkin Center • www.ypl.org

Curated by
Haifa Bint-Kadi
and co-curated
by RoliKuluz



An early postcard of Larkin Plaza Park

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

Monday, November 16th:

November 16, 1933: Frank Frish, manager of the St. Louis baseball team, was the keynote speaker a dinner held by the Yonkers Baseball League in honor of the championship winning Irwin Post nine.

November 16, 1942: Former Yonkers resident George Lowerre received a medal for distinguished service in Citizenship! Several times a week, eighty-seven-year-old George took the Oglethorpe trolley to the Veterans Hospital in Atlanta to visit hospitalized WWI veterans. The original Lowerre family homestead was on the east side of Broadway between Post and Randolph Streets, with the estate encompassing Van Cortlandt Park, Caryl, Park Hill Avenues, South Broadway, and all streets in-between.

Tuesday, November 17th:

November 17, 1924: The Common Council passed a resolution to open a psychopathic hospital here in Yonkers.

November 17, 1926: Health Commissioner Clarence Buckmaster condemned the city dump on Nepperhan Avenue by Roberts Avenue as unsightly and unsanitary. A new dump would be created on Saw Mill River Road near Brandt's Farm.

November 17, 1953: The Yonkers Chamber of Commerce honored native son Howard T. Brinton, President of Phelps Dodge Copper Products Corporation at its 60th annual dinner; Phelps Dodge was the parent company of Habirshaw Cable and Wire Corporation of Yonkers. Toastmaster for the celebration was US District Court Referee Arthur J. Doran, who served with Brinton on the St. Joseph's Hospital Board of Trustees.

Wednesday November 18th:

November 18, 1902: Observers from other cities pointed out the number of serious accidents would be cut drastically if they followed Yonkers example. Apparently, Yonkers was a city that drivers who liked speeding dreaded. We strictly enforced our laws concerning automobiles, bicycles and "reckless speed of loose-limbed horses."

November 18, 1916: Thirteen-year-old Lowerre tennis phenomena Vincent Richards of Van Cortlandt Park Avenue also excelled in basketball! He made twelve field goals in a game in the St. Denis' Church gym.

November 18, 1952: George Reyes, one of two men indicted for second degree murder of Yonkers war veteran John Pondixter of Runyon Avenue, pleaded guilty in County Court to the reduced charge of first degree manslaughter. Because the other man, Aurio De Jesus, dealt the fatal blow, ADA John Marbach accepted the lesser plea. A month later, Reyes was sentenced to serve seven to fourteen years in Sing Sing Prison. De Jesus was judged insane and committed to the Matteawan State Prison for the Criminally Insane.

Thursday, November 19th:

November 19, 1916: Much of the Hollywood Inn was destroyed by fire, with damage totaling \$100,000; only the gymnasium escaped damage. The Hollywood Inn Association later appealed to Alexander Cochran to rebuild the Inn on a bigger and better scale; his father William F. Cochran had funded the original building costing \$500,000 to give young men an alternative to going to saloons to drink.

November 19, 1932: The Hollywood Inn, long a staple of downtown life for the Yonkers workingman, was demolished before a crowd of more than 100 people. The Inn, a six-story building at the corner of South Broadway and Hudson Street, had been closed the previous year due to a lack of membership, and an inability to fund operations.

continued on pg 7-

Vets Boycott, BLM, continued from pg 1-

message," said Spano.

We spoke to Riti after the ceremony, in which he told those in attendance that the salute to our flag "is not a fist or a knee." Many Yonkers Veterans are upset over the BLM painting. I also had concerns and expressed my concerns to those who painted the mural and to the Mayor. But I am here today because it is Veterans Day and I'm a Veteran. Nothing will change that.

But I have heard from other Yonkers Veterans and Veterans groups that they will never participate in another City Veterans event ever again. People are entitled to their opinions," said Riti.

There was no organized Veterans group in Yonkers that publicly called for the boycott, nor any Yonekrs Veterans that we could find on social media talking about any such idea.

But the fact that news crews from Channel 4-WNBC, Channel-7 WABC, and News 12 were all in attendace, and apparently waiting for something other than the regular Veterans Day ceremonies to happens, was an indication to many that something was amiss.

Earlier on Veterans Day, MGM Casino held its first Veterans Day ceremony to dedicate a new Flagpole and a donation from Rolling Thunder, a nationwide Veterans Group., This event had nothing to do with the boycott going on in Yonkers, and we will highlight the MGM Veterans event in next week's paper.

Yonkers Rising has been covering the Veterans Day ceremony on South Broadway for more than 20 years. Usually, hundreds of Veterans are in attendace and their service and our country, are proudly celebrated.

Riti added that the Coronavirus may be another reason why so few veterans attended.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

sites are School buildings. Years ago schools were closed on Election Day. Now school districts use the day for staff training. At least for the Presidential Election schools need to be free of students and staff so there is plenty of space for the poll workers and the voting equipment to be spread out in the building.,

After the first Presidential Debate things got a lot better. But I still question the need for these debates and what they accomplish. There were no people in the venues where the debates were being held. I like it that way. No need for the clapping and howling people we always see and hear when the citizenry is invited to in person view the debates.

Absentee ballots that are postmarked by Election Day should started to be counted in the days following Election Day and not have a week waiting period for them to be returned by the Post Office to the Board of Elections. Way too much time given the long leeway people have to request an absentee ballot.

New York should allow voting by mail as they did This year even if no crisis or pandemic occurs. Boards of Elections, long operated by political leaders have to be professionalized and money has to be allocated for sufficient training of poll workers. Politicians should not cry on Election Day when things go wrong but should chart out a course for election success.

Every vote counts on Election Day. We need to make some changes bringing the system up to date and fine tune what has been put in place. We've been voting so many years without the problems we currently see and updating an out of date system should benefit everyone.

Mr. Trump. It's time to realize that Joe Biden is going to be President of these great United States come January. Let the transition begin! And enjoy your air conditioning Floridians!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistoosyonkers@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.

YONKERS seniors



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NURSING HOME VS ASSISTED LIVING VS SENIOR HOUSING**
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Notice of Public Real Estate Auction--City of Yonkers, New York

Notice is hereby given by the City of Yonkers (the "City") of the public auction of the surplus City properties listed below (the "Properties"). All Properties are located in Yonkers, NY.

The public auction will be held Friday, December 11th, 2020 beginning at 10:00 am in Auditorium of the Yonkers Riverfront Library located at One Larkin Center, 1st Floor, Yonkers, NY.

The auction and sale of the Properties will be conducted in accordance with certain terms and conditions (the "Terms and Conditions"); by participating in the auction, participants agree to be bound to the Terms and Conditions. The Properties may be offered for sale subject to certain express terms, conditions or restrictions imposed by the City, which will be disclosed prior to the auction. The Terms and Conditions will be available prior to the auction at www.williamsauction.com/Yonkers.

THE PROPERTIES

SECTION	BLOCK	LOT	ADDRESS
1	133	3	94 St. Andrews Pl
1	451	10	70 Yonkers Ave
1	511	13	17 Hawthorne Ave
2	2060	31	409 Prescott St
2	2062	29	15 Mulberry St
2	2062	30	13 Mulberry St
2	2079	18.19	11 Orchard St
2	2116	7	230 Woodworth Ave
2	2116	12	242 Woodworth Ave
2	2116	13	242 Woodworth Ave
2	2116	39	293 Warburton Ave
2	2116	40	289 Warburton Ave
2	2118	39	110 Ravine Ave
2	2121	15	409 Warburton Ave
2	2121	30	27 Glenwood Ave
2	2121	31	25 Glenwood Ave
3	3036	3	46 Chase Ave
3	3140	1	65 Chelsea Pl
3	3157	16	33 Drake Pl
3	3157	17	35 Drake Pl
3	3157	18	37 Drake Pl
3	3215	23	21 Suffolk Trl
3	3215	25	17 Suffolk Trl
3	3215	27	13 Suffolk Trl
3	3270	192	1212 Saw Mill River Rd
5	5071	44	86 University Ave
5	5071	46	90 University Ave
6	6050	65	78 Sweetfield Cir
6	6050	371	70 Sweetfield Cir
6	6250	28	189 Scott Ave

The following property owned by the Yonkers Community Development Agency will also be offered for sale at the public auction:

1	511	12	15 Hawthorne Ave
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For online bidding, the Terms and Conditions, and more information, please visit: williamsauction.com/Yonkers or call 800.801.8003.

Philip R. Heiliger RE Lic 10301207074, Williams & Williams RE Lic 109911428

Notice of Formation of Art. Of Org. for HEAL HERRR LLC Filed with SSNY on 9/8/2020. Office location: 600 Broadway STE 200 #2144 Albany, NY 12207 SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail the process to 77 locust hill avenue Yonkers ny apt 603 10701. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of LE TRIBOULET, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/24/2020. Location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 76 Morningside, Apt 2S, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Excelsior LTL, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/05/2020. 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, 1 Sadore Ln 4K, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice is hereby given that a license, NUMBER PENDING, for liquor, beer, cider and wine has been applied for by the undersigned to sell liquor, beer, cider, and wine at retail in a club under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 523 S Fulton Ave, Mount Vernon NY 10550 in Westchester County for on premises consumption. Fulton Lounge Inc.

Legal Notices

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP 2020-19)

PROVISION OF A HOUSING AREA RESIDENT WIRELESS (WI-FI) NETWORK FOR THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers ("MHACY") hereby solicits proposals from qualified firms to provide a housing area resident wireless (Wi-Fi) network at various locations all as specified in this Request for Proposals ("RFP").

This RFP package contains submission requirements and terms and conditions and other pertinent information for submitting a proper and responsive proposal. This RFP is the only information provided to prospective bidders (hereinafter "Responders") and is available online starting November 9, 2020 at www.mhacy.org.

There will be a Site Tour leaving from 8 Schroeder Street on November 23, 2020 at 11:00 a.m. The RFP questions deadline is December 3 at 4:00PM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions must be emailed to Juaquin Padilla at bids@mhacy.org by the deadline. No telephone calls and/or written communication sent via mail will be accepted.

The contract is a non-exclusive contract for the services described. Selection may be made of one (1) or more Respondents deemed to be fully qualified and best suited among those submitting proposal. Proposals must reach MHACY no later than 3:00 PM (EST) on December 14, 2020. Late submissions will be handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B.

Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria stated in the RFP. Negotiations may be conducted with contractors who have a reasonable chance of being selected for the award. After evaluation of the proposal revision, if any, the contract will be awarded to the responsible firm(s) whose qualifications, price and other factors are considered to be the most advantageous to MHACY.

MHACY reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any irregularities or informalities if it is in MHACY's best interest to do so. MHACY reserves the right to cancel this RFP or to reject, in whole or in part, any and all proposals received in response to this RFP, upon its determination that such cancellation or rejection is in the best interest of MHACY.

MHACY is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or family status. MHACY solicits and encourages the participation of minorities and small businesses in procurement. Contact, related to this procurement, with members of the MHACY's Board of Commissioners, or MHACY's officers and/or employees other than the contact person show above, during the procurement process could result in disqualification of a proposal.

Wilson Kimball, President & CEO
Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers
1511 Central Park Avenue
Yonkers, New York 10710
Project No. 2020-19

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

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

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

1. Bid 6559 – Opening date: 12/2/2020: Twenty-four month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide fire extinguisher maintenance, repairs, and purchases as needed (AS).
2. Bid 6565 – Opening date: 12/2/2020: Purchase of 2,000 Kidde model P4010DCSCO-W, or equal, smoke/carbon monoxide alarms and 500 Gentex mode 7139LS, or equal, photoelectric smoke alarms. (KS).
3. Bid 6566 – Opening date: 12/2/2020: Purchase of 12,600 3M model 1860 N95 Respirator Masks, or equal (KS).
4. Bid 6567 – Opening date: 12/2/2020: Purchase of 12,600 DuPont Tyvek model 400 coveralls, or equal (AC).
5. Bid 6560 - Opening date: 12/2/2020: Twelve-month contract for the purchase of various tires and related services as needed (AS).
6. Bid 6568 - Opening date: 12/2/2020: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to purchase Kennedy fire hydrant repair parts as needed (AC).
7. Bid 6564 - Opening date: 12/2/2020: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to purchase Mueller/Kennedy water distribution products as needed (AC).
8. Bid 6562 - Opening date: 12/11/2020: Thirty-six month contract to provide preventive maintenance services on Siemens motor control panels, transformers, and switchboards at the Hillview and Tuckahoe Road pump stations (AS).
9. Bid 6563 - Opening date: 12/11/2020: Twelve month contract, two 12-month options to renew, to provide Integrated Pest Management for Yonkers Public Schools (SR).
10. Bid 6561 - Opening date: 12/11/2020: Twenty-four month contract, with option to renew for 24-months, to provide on-call emergency building demolition services (AS).
11. Bid 6569 - Opening date: 12/11/2020: School 9 (53 Fairview Street, Yonkers, NY 10703) building renovations and site work – 5 prime contracts – 1) GC site, 2) GC building, 3) HVAC, 4) Plumbing, and 5) electrical YPS # 10901 (SR).

Saint Joseph's Opens Primary & Specialty Care Medical Practice



Mayor Mike Spano joined Michael J. Spicer, President and CEO of Saint Joseph's Medical Center, and his executive team for a ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate the Grand Opening on October 22 of the Saint Joseph's Medical Practice for Primary and Specialty Care office at 909 Midland Avenue, Yonkers, (pictured above).

The new medical office offers cardiology, primary care, gastroenterology, internal medicine and gynecology. The practice observes all CDC safety protocols while offering personalized healthcare that's close to home.

"With today's Grand Opening celebration, we continue our long-standing commitment to providing high quality and compassionate health care to the communities we serve. This investment in a new state-of-the-art primary and specialty care office is especially significant in today's challenging health care environment," said Michael Spicer, President and CEO of Saint Joseph's Medical Center.

"I congratulate Saint Joseph's Medical Center on the grand opening of its newest Medical Practice office on Midland Avenue in Yonkers. I commend the hospital for its dedication to making top quality health care easily accessible to the residents of our city," said Mayor Spano.

The staff of highly trained physicians, board certified in family medicine and internal medicine, provide diagnosis, preventive, education and treatment for a wide range of illnesses and conditions. Family medicine physicians see all ages, and internists treat adults. To schedule an appointment call (914) 623-7600. Visit saintjosephs.org for more information.

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

Friday, November 20th:

November 20, 1942: The latest story circulating around Yonkers was the Greystone mansion would be used for an Army hospital for wounded soldiers. The rumors actually named the company surveying the property for use, Poirier and McLane Corporation, who quickly denied the rumors!

November 20, 1942: The Yonkers War Council asked housewives and mothers to act as "block mothers" for their home blocks. The women were to visit all homes with preschool children to encourage young ones be vaccinated against diphtheria and smallpox as part of Health Commissioner Eugene McGillian's child health program; these moms made a strong contribution to Yonkers war effort by keeping our residents healthy.

November 20, 1942: Although Yonkers schools did not allow collecting funds, students in the Yonkers Schools of Aeronautical Manufacturing lobbied Assistant Principal George Schmeltz to allow them to do so "on their own time." Why was it so important? The students wanted to donate money to the Community and War Chest!

Saturday, November 21st:

November 21, 1923: Mayor Walter Taussig was found shot in his garage behind his Park Avenue home, holding a gun in his hand. Mrs. Taussig later stated if her husband had taken his own life, it was because he was so disappointed at his recent defeat by Ulrich Weisendanger. Common Council President Albert Watson temporarily took over as Mayor, serving until January 1st when Weisendanger was inaugurated.

November 21, 1944: Private First Class Peter Fugaro of the Ninth Air Force, on a short leave at home in Yonkers before heading to rehab, paid a visit to City Hall where he had worked as the bootblack before enlisting. Fugaro shared exciting news; as soon as the war was over, he would head back to Iceland to marry a girl he met while serving there.

Sunday, November 22nd:

November 22, 1927: The Yonkers Art Commission approved the design Yonkers sculptor Isidore Konti submitted for the Spanish-American War Veterans Memorial for the City Plaza, later Larkin Plaza.

November 22, 1946: Fifteen-year-old Dorothy Fagnano of Lawrence Street was notified she won first prize in a nationwide potato chip recipe contest! A junior at Gorton High School, she created "Potato Chips a la Gorton," a carrot, potato chip and onion au gratin casserole, judged the best from the more than 37,500 entries received from all 48 states. According to Theodore Sachs, President of the sponsoring National Potato Chip Association, her dish was original and "combined economy, nutrition and taste appeal." Dorothy's prize was a \$100 Victory bond.

For more information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and our upcoming events, please visit our website www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org, call 914-961-8940 or email yhsociety@aol.com.

Latimer Presents County Budget With No Tax Increase for 2021



Westchester County Executive George Latimer, right, with BOL Chair Ben Boykin, presented his proposed 2021 County Budget

In the midst of a crippling pandemic and on the heels of a listening tour around the County, Westchester County Executive George Latimer unveiled his 2021 proposed Operating Budget. The proposed 2021 Budget reduces the Westchester County tax levy by \$1 million for the second year in a row. This Budget maintains all County services. The expenditures in the proposed Budget of \$2.091 billion are \$15.7 million below the 2020 Budget.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said: "This year has been extraordinarily challenging. Despite these challenges, we as a County have remained resilient and I have no doubt that working together we will emerge from this crisis stronger than before."

The 2021 Budget includes an additional \$5 million for economic development programs, \$5 million for housing assistance programs and \$2 million for food insecurity.

Feeding Westchester President & CEO Karen C. Erren said: "We are so grateful to County Executive Latimer for continuing to recognize the need to lift our neighbors up during these challenging times. More than 300,000 county residents are currently relying on us each month, including many individuals who are facing food insecurity for the first time. Allocating \$2 million to address food insecurity in Westchester is a critical investment and one that will both nourish and strengthen our communities."

Child Care Council of Westchester, Inc. Executive Director Kathleen Halas said: "The Child Care Council is very grateful to the county that during a time of extreme financial duress they recognize the centrality of child care to the well-being of families and our economic recovery."

Before entering 2021, the 2020 budget year is slated to end with no layoffs, no furloughs, no service cuts and no borrowing for pension costs.

Latimer said: "At the onset of the pandemic our revenue projections were revised downward by nearly \$200 million and we took immediate actions to address the financial downturn. We submitted legislation, passed by the County Board of Legislators, allowing the county to borrow for tax certs as well as pension payments and we amended the Budget to reverse the \$10 million budgeted addition to fund balance. We implemented a voluntary separation incentive that resulted in 226 employees leaving county service effective August 1. We also held vacant a large number of County positions to generate needed savings."

Additionally, due to our strong relationship with our Federal Delegation in Washington, the County was able to secure direct Federal assistance under both the Families First and CARES Acts. This has allowed the county to fund the additional costs that have arisen due to the pandemic as well as maintain essential County services.

Latimer said: "All of us didn't get dealt the hand we wanted, but as a result of swift and aggressive action, a little help and a little luck we will end 2020 in a stronger position than we anticipated earlier in the year."

This 2021 proposed Budget does not assume any additional extraordinary federal assistance and also anticipates a 20% reduction in our state aid. As a result, this Budget must rely on drawing all of our projected increase in 2020 reserves.

Latimer said: "While the economy has rebounded, we are still not back to the level of economic activity we experienced prior to the pandemic. Sales tax, the single largest revenue source for the county, has improved, however, collections for this year are anticipated to be \$662 million or \$80 million below the \$742 million budgeted."

For 2021 the County has projected that sales tax will grow to \$695 million, which is \$46 million below the 2020 Budget. The County also anticipates reduced revenues in some of our parks in 2021 as certain facilities are still being utilized for COVID purposes. However, the 2021 Budget fully funds each of our County parks and recreational facilities which have remained open and available to our residents during the pandemic. This Budget does not raise any fees for our parks since it is important that they remain accessible to all residents of Westchester.



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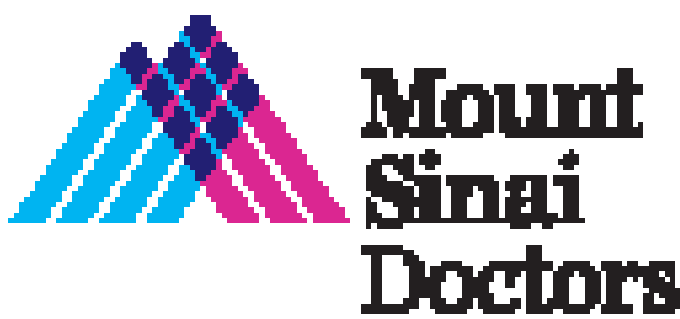
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