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Friday October 30, 2020

Yonkers Halloween Curfew & Safe Events to Attend



Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins handing out candy safely at the Matthew Wallace Foundation trunk or treat event.

By Camryn Sanchez and Dan Murphy

In order to provide for a safe and enjoyable holiday, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today announced that the Yonkers Police Department will issue a citywide curfew for children 16 years of age and younger on Halloween night – Saturday, October 31. In addition, Mayor Spano urges Yonkers residents to follow New York State’s guidance for Halloween this year, avoiding traditional door-to-door trick-or-treating and adopting COVID-19 safe practices starting with social distancing and wearing a face covering.

“Halloween is a spooky holiday meant to be enjoyed by all, which is why we are taking a proactive approach in providing a safe fun-filled night for our communities,” said Mayor Spano. “While COVID-19 cases are on the rise in the region, we can still make Halloween a fun event, but we need to be smart about it. The City will impose its traditional late-night curfew on young people, but will not impose any other mandatory measures other than to urge adherence to the State’s guidelines.”

“I am wishing everyone a very happy, fun, and healthy Halloween,” said John Mueller, Yonkers Police Commissioner. “Kindly review the safety/curfew guidelines. Your Yonkers Police Department will do all that it can to ensure that everyone has a very safe holiday but in order to do that, we need our communities cooperation. Let’s all do our part to follow the guidelines so that we can all have an enjoyable holiday.”

As part of the curfew, the Yonkers Police Department advises:

- Children ages 11 and younger must be home by 10PM
- Children ages 12 to 13 must be home by 10:30PM

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Are YPS Students Without Laptops Using Phones to Try and Learn?



Christine Peters, with her daughter Eden, is leading an effort to raise funds and collect laptops and Chromebooks for YPS students in need

By Dan Murphy

A parents group and the Yonkers Superintendent continue to disagree as to whether most of the YPS’ 28,000 students have a laptop, computer or chromebook to use at home so that they can participate and continue their education online through COVID.

YPS Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada recently commented in a Journal News story that 1,900 students were in need of a device, and the district was waiting for a shipment of 3,700 chromebooks that have been ordered and paid for.

Carolyn Solieri and Christine Peters, from Yonkers Parents Seeking Solutions, YPSS, question Quezada’s figures and still want more information, including how many students that the district identified as attending class are doing so on a phone and not a computer, how many families with multiple children-students are sharing a computer while classes are in session, and how many students and families have no internet service.

The goal of YPSS is to raise awareness of the need for devices and internet in the hopes that the Yonkers Community and corporations and foundations across Westchester will come forward with donations.

Based on recently released figures from the YPS to the City Council, over 90% of YPS students are attending school with hybrid or all remote instruction. Peters and YPSS claims that many students are logging into school with a phone and doing little else, because they don’t have a computer.

Shortly after YPSS hired noted Civil Rights attorney Michael Sussman to write a letter to both Superintendent Quezada and Mayor Mike Spano about the inability for many YPS students to learn online, members of the City Council received information on estimates from the school district on who has computers, who needs computers and who is attending classes.

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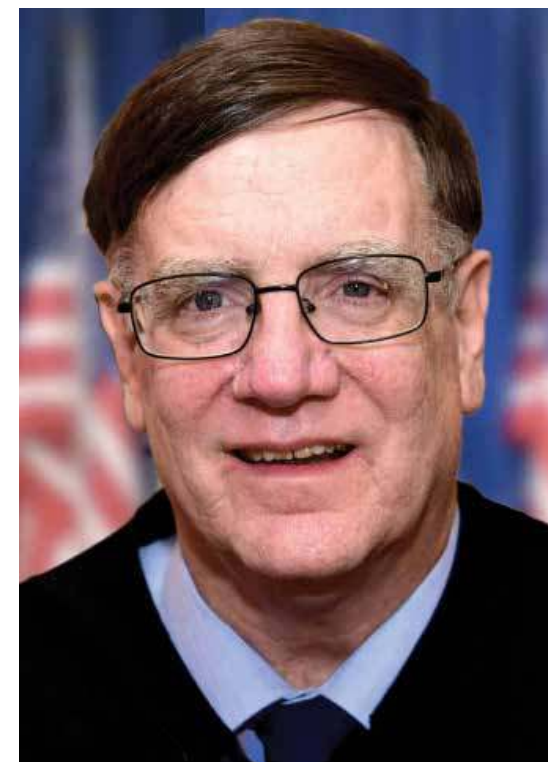
We Endorse: Dan Romano, Verris Shako & Tom Daly For City Court



Dan Romano



Verris Shako



Tom Daly

This year in Yonkers the hottest local election is for Yonkers City Court. Three seats are up this year, and five candidates are seeking your vote on Nov. 3. They are -Brendan McGrath, Verris Shako, Tom Daly, Dan Romano and Karen Best.

McGrath is currently a City Court Judge but lost the democratic primary and is only on the conservative party line and is not actively campaigning. That leaves Shako, Romano, Daly and Best for the voters to realistically choose from.

Yonkers Rising endorses Verris Shako, Dan Romano and Tom Daly to serve as Judges in the Yonkers City Court. Verris Shako is highly qualified and an active member of the Yonkers community. In her campaign for City Court, she has submitted stories and ideas on how to improve the community and has not sunk into the mud with some other candidates for Yonkers judge. We are looking forward to Shako becoming the first female, African American Judge in Yonkers history.

Dan Romano has also conducted himself above the fray and the accusations and negative attacks that have been flying around in this race. Romano, who won the democratic primary and who has decades of experience as an attorney in the Yonkers courts representing a wide ranging, diverse group of clients, comes from a family of well respected attorneys who has put the Yonkers community first in their lives. Serving on the City Court would be a natural progression for Romano, and we endorse his candidacy for Yonkers Judge.

The last seat on the Yonkers City Court from a political view is between Karen Best and Judge Tom Daly. Best won the democratic primary for Judge, while Daly lost the primary by a few hundred votes. Daly is still running on the Republican and Conservative lines.

In a Presidential year in Yonkers, usually the democratic nominee for any office is heavily favored to win, because of the large voter enrollment edge that democrats have in the City. But the way in which Karen Best has run her campaign, and according to residents in the city, “lied and bullied” does not fit the demeanor of a City Court Judge. After winning the democratic primary, Best inconceivably attacked Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier, in essence, biting the hand of someone who can help you become a judge. Information revealed from the Yonkers Insider and Delfim Heusler show that Best has not voted in Yonkers, or anywhere, on a regular basis.

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Thousands of Westchester Voters Cast Early or Absentee Ballots



Westchester voters Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds, right, voted by absentee ballot above, while long lines for early voting in Yonkers had some bringing a chair along for the 2 hour wait. Photo by Robert Kalfus

By Dan Murphy

Early voting started here in Westchester County on October 24. Prior to that, registered voters in Westchester could vote by absentee ballot. On October 23, Westchester’s Hollywood power couple, Blake Lively and Ryan Reynolds voted by absentee ballot in their home town of Pound Ridge.

Reynolds, who was born in Canada, cast his first vote in the USA in 2002. His wife, Blake Lively joked on Instagram, “It was Ryan’s first time. He was understandably scared. It all happened so fast. Like, REALLY fast. He wept. I pretended to weep. Then he called all his friend, #voteearly.”

Reynolds also posted on Instagram, “This is my first time voting in America. I’d like to thank my wife Blake for making my first time so gentle and loving. It was super scary at first, then exciting and now I’m a little tired. But proud. #VoteEarly”

The couple used their voting to underscore the ease in which Westchester voters can cast their vote this year by absentee ballot, and either drop off the ballots at the Board of Elections or mail them in, or drop them off at the two Yonkers Early Voting locations,

Grinton I. Will Library, 1500 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710
Riverfront Library, One Larkin Center, Yonkers, NY 1070

Let us repeat that for everyone who doesn’t want to mail in their ballot for fear that the post office won’t deliver it in time. You can drop off your completed absentee ballot to ANY local early voting location listed below.

Another important fact is that any Westchester registered voter can vote at any early polling location listed below. County Executive George Latimer underscored that fact by voting in Pound Ridge on October 24. You do not have to vote early in your home town or city.

Remaining early voting dates and locations in Westchester County are
Saturday, October 31: 12 p.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday, November 1: 12 p.m. – 5 p.m.

Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner came up with another good idea for this election season. A live stream video link to see how long the line is for early voting. “We created a new link to our live stream video camera of the entrance of Greenburgh Town Hall so voters can view the number of people who are voting at the Greenburgh Town Hall location. In addition to being able to view the lobby you can view the parking area and entrance to lobby and lobby. This will enable you to see the lines. Any resident of Westchester County can vote at Greenburgh Town Hall early voting site or any other early voting site. To my knowledge, we are the first to live stream the locations. I am trying to persuade other communities to do the same. It’s not expensive and easy,” writes Feiner, who has also worked to get food trucks to be on location to feed those waiting to vote.

If you have any other questions, please visit the Westchester County Board of Elections on the web at <https://citizenparticipation.westchestergov.com> or call (914) 995-5700.

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins commented on the early voting and absentee voting process in New York this year. “Last year, the new Senate Democratic Majority took historic action to break down barriers and protect all New Yorkers’ rights. The first legislation we advanced was a major election reform package, including an Early Voting system. We see many thousands of New Yorkers now lining up at polling sites throughout the State to have their voices heard. I urge New Yorkers to take advantage of early voting opportunities in their respective counties, or to apply for an absentee ballot by October 27. With Election Day just over a week away, I hope every eligible New York voter will step up and exercise their Constitutional Right to vote.”



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We Endorse: Senator Shelley Mayer



State Senator Shelley Mayer

State Senator Shelley Mayer has moved beyond her representation of Yonkers to become one of Westchester's most most respected, and effective elected officials, and we proudly endorse her for re-election to State Senate in the 37th District on November 3.

Prior to her election to the State Senate, Mayer served in the Assembly representing Yonkers. She was not well known outside of Westchester's largest City until her first election for State Senate three years ago in the 37th district, where she campaigned across the Sound Shore, Eastchester, and North Castle to become as one Westchester democrat described her "a rock star."

In addition to serving her constituents and always being present at meetings across the district and responsive to their needs, Senator Mayer serves as the powerful education Chair in the Senate, and has worked with Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins to form a team as a pair of Senators from Westchester who are serving the needs of their community better than anyone else could.

We appreciate Senator Mayer's opponent, Dr. Liviu Saimovici, for stepping forward to run and to make sure that the issues important to the district are discussed. We have far too many state legislators representing Westchester who do not get challenged for re-election.

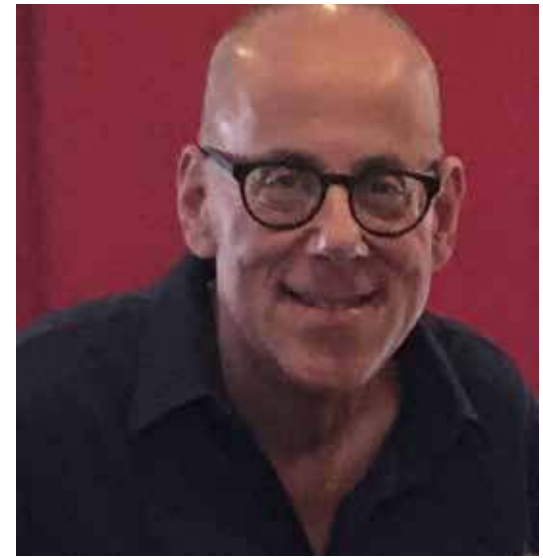
Dr. Liv is a good, decent man, serving our community during COVID as a medical professional. He also has a compelling life story of coming to this country from Romania for the American Dream, which he is now living.

But we find Mayer's unique talent of being thoughtful, articulate and knowledgeable of both the issues affecting her district, and the way in which Albany works so that she can deliver for her communities, as a benefit to the 37th District.

Thank you for your service, Sen. Mayer, we look forward to seeing it continue.

Working together, under the leadership of State Senator, and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, and Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, Yonkers has perhaps, the best leadership and representation in Albany.

Vote Early and Vote Often



By Eric W. Schoen

The tongue-in-cheek phrase 'Vote early and vote often' was often uttered in relation to elections and the voting process. Though rarely considered a serious suggestion, the phrase encourages corrupt electoral activity, but is used mostly to suggest the occurrence of such corruption.

The phrase had its origins in the United States in the mid-19th century, and had an early appearance in Britain when a newspaper reprinted correspondence from an American solicitor. The phrase did not find widespread use until the early 1900s when it was used in relation to the activities of organized crime figures in the city of Chicago.

Elections in Chicago are still quite often thought to be 'tainted' but the widespread system of checks and balances in place we like to hope prevents one person from having more than one vote. And also prevents the dead rising from their graves to cast votes at local polling sites.

With panic over the influence of other countries on our elections and the wide use of mail in ballots and early voting, a candidate or political party that encouraged people to 'Vote Early and Vote Often' would probably be arrested in this day and age. Particularly after the 'hanging chads' Bush vs. Gore Election earlier this century, people have come to question the security of the voting process.

Hence we see lines like we saw last weekend with people throughout the country and right here in Westchester County waiting 2-4 plus hours to cast their votes. Kind of surprising when we can simply vote by mail at the cost of a forever stamp to make our voice heard. Friends of my sister waited on those lines in Yonkers and New York City.

When my sister heard of this she asked me if maybe we too should have gotten on those massive lines to cast our votes. Taken the summer beach chairs out of the closet and sit on Central Avenue in Yonkers taking in the car fumes from below. Lining up at the Riverfront library in downtown Yonkers watching the trains go by. The once beautiful view of the majestic Hudson River has been diminished by the various luxury housing projects that block it for the most part from public view.

The sun was not shining so chances of getting that 'glow' that makes you look good during the summer, filled with Vitamin D was not happening. In terms of the Riverfront library, on a chilly day standing or sitting waiting for the ability to perform your civic duty with brisk winds from the Hudson might give you a wind burn but not much else.

By the way for either of these options the Board Of Elections was not to the best of my knowledge providing socially distanced seating for your wait.

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Letters to the Editor-Election 2020

Vote for Trump and Re-elect the President

Hunter Biden-The Elephant in the room

As a proud union member and a republican, I support President Donald Trump and his re-election November 3. For more than 25 years, my number 1 issue has been highlighting the millions of American jobs that have been lost to China.

Those jobs, and the 55,000 American factories that have closed since NAFTA, are the cause of our American corporations betraying our country and moving to China for additional profit for their shareholders. These same corporations turned the other cheek as the Chinese Communist Party, CCP, stole our technology secrets, used slave labor to deliver product to the USA, polluted our environment and pushed any opposition, and crushed freedom of speech and freedom of religion.

Donald Trump is the first American President to stand up to the CCP and try to level the playing field. We all learned first hand how important it is to make some products in the USA during the continuing COVID Pandemic.

Now there are reports that Hunter Biden, the son of Joe Biden, the democratic nominee for President, made millions from the CCP. Anyone who doesn't see this as a bribe by the CCP to try and influence Biden if he becomes President, is misinformed.

And the former vice-president hasn't answered any questions about his son, and that is a mistake. The very few undecided voters left in the Presidential election would like Biden to answer honestly.

Most of the media has ignored the Hunter Biden story, and that is also a mistake. Kimberly Strassel, from the Wall Street Journal, suggested that if he wants to be elected President answer the following: Are you "big guy"? While Chinese money never materialized, were u at one point--via a Hunter--in line to have an equity share? Did you meet with Hunter's partner? How does any this comport with your claims to not talk business with Hunter?

It was also a mistake for Twitter to block the Hunter Biden story because the American people wanted to read it even more after that. George Stephanopolis didn't ask Uncle Joe this question during a 90 minute Town Hall, and that was a mistake.

Why didn't any of the democratic candidates for President ask Joe Biden about his son and his business dealings with Russia, China, Ukraine, etc.?

Many believe that the Chinese have dumped this material out there --but aren't the Chinese against Trump? You can be sure that if Biden is elected, the Chinese Communist Party, CCP, will use the damaging "laptop from hell" against President Biden.

This matter has gotten so serious, even without any coverage from most of the media, that some are speculating that Biden will have to leave office very early, for health reasons or for Hunter Biden reasons, and that Kamala Harris will become our President.

Yes we have a Coronavirus, and yes it is a disaster for our country, our economy and our people. But I ask you, and you can look this letter up in March of 2021 if we have President Biden. Are we any better off during COVID with Biden over Trump? I don't think so.

My bottom line is I want our millions of manufacturing jobs back and I want to make it in the USA again. There may not be many workers here in our area who want a good paying job in a factory with benefits, but there are millions of Americans across the middle of our country who do want that job, and want our jobs back from China.

I can tell you this, there are millions of Americans here on the East Coast and on the West Coast who would prefer to buy Made in American products once again, especially masks, and medicines.

And that's why I'm voting for Trump again for President. Bring Our Jobs Home and stand up to China!

Frank Spotorno is the co-founder of BringOurJobsHome.com and co-founder of YonkersTimes.com. He was a candidate for Congress in NY-14 in 2016.

Letter to the Editor: DUMP TRUMP !

By Robert Kalfus, Op-Ed

Donald Trump has portrayed and described himself as a "successful businessman", as a "self-made billionaire", and a real estate developer. Trump falsely described and hid his origins and sources of family funds. Millions of people actually know and experience him as a swindler, a con man, a grifter, a fraud, and as someone who lies, almost continually. Trump lies so often, that when Trump looks into a mirror, even his mirror lies to him.

Since Trump swore on January 20, 2017, to "execute the office of President of the United States, and will to the best of my ability, preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States," Donald Trump has lied more than 20,000 times. Trump has not "preserved, protected and defended the Constitution of the United States", but has worked tirelessly to promote business deals that line the pockets of himself and his family, and his business cronies and political contributors. Trump serves himself.

Yes, Trump donates and deducts his annual salary, \$100,000 each quarter to four different government agencies, and for that receives a charitable deduction, while Trump charged taxpayers nearly \$500,000 for Secret Service protection at his resorts. Since becoming President, Trump has golfed more than 283 days, and spent more than 376 times at one of his own Trump properties, at a cost of @ \$142,000,000. That's 142 Million dollars. (https://presidentialgolftracker.com/) Not begrudging Trump an occasional round of golf, but Trump favoring ONLY His own resorts forces US, the US taxpayer, to shovel money into Trump's failing businesses. (https://www.trumpgolfcount.com/)

We learned Tuesday that in 2018 Trump's private Mar-a-Lago club charged taxpayers \$3 for each glass of water served for a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Shonzo Abe, \$13,700 for rooms, \$16,500 for food and wine, and \$6,000 for flowers. Trump charges the US Treasury for every Secret Service agent staying at his clubs. Trump charged the Treasury \$650 per day for each and every Secret Service agent to stay at his Bedminster NJ club, and at Mar-a-Lago, even on days when no agent was on premises. Trump charged US for every golf cart used to ferry himself and the agents around the golf course, according to Congressional Oversight committees.

Trump's lies have caused Americans to become sick, to acquire

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Letter to the Editor:

As a life long resident of Yonkers I hope that Judge Tom Daly is re-elected to the Yonkers City Court as it's Chief Justice! With over 21 years as a Yonkers Judge he has tremendous experience and know how to keep the system fair and balanced.

With the Covid-19 pandemic it is important to have a judge like Tom on the Court with his vast experience during these challenging uncharted times ahead!

His work in the Family Court and the Intergraded Domestic Violence Court (15 years) is un-parelled and trend setting especially when he looks out for the rights of battered wives and woman and families!

I urge all residents of Yonkers to vote for Tom Daly! Come out and vote! This is a real important election We must have law and order at all times!

If we do not have law and order we sadly do not have a society. I think Judge Daly is up for this task and that is why we need him on the bench for years to come! Vote for Judge Daly on Tuesday November 3rd and of course in all early voting too! Thank You.

Phil Foley
Member Yonkers Conservative Party
Contributor to the Yonkers Rising.

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*On this day in Yonkers history...***YPD Investigate Fatal Shooting on Ashburton Avenue**

On Tuesday, October 27th, 2020, at approximately 9:35 PM, members of the Yonkers Police Department responded to the Triangle Deli at 286 Ashburton Avenue on a report of a person shot inside the store. Upon arrival officers located an unresponsive male victim down inside the store with an apparent gunshot wound to the chest. First Responders rendered emergency medical aid to the victim; he was transported to a local area hospital where he subsequently died from his injuries. Officers cordoned-off the area and initiated a criminal investigation.

Detectives from the Major Case Squad and Crime Scene Unit responded to the scene, interviewing subjects and witnesses, recovering surveillance video, and processing forensic and ballistic evidence. Investigation thus far has yielded that the victim was exiting the deli when he was approached by two suspects outside; one of the suspects produced a handgun and fired at least one time in the direction of the victim, striking him the chest. The victim collapsed at scene and the two suspects fled the area. Investigators are actively working to identify the perpetrators and effect their arrests. Additional information may be released as it becomes available.

The victim is identified as Javon Merrill, a 27-year-old resident of this City. The City of Yonkers and Yonkers Police Department offers its sincere condolences to his family and friends.

Anyone with information regarding this incident is encouraged to contact the Yonkers Police Detective Division at (914) 377-7724 – all calls may remain confidential. 100% anonymous tips can be sent by texting the key word YPD plus the tip to 847411.

Kids Learning on the phone, continued from pg 1-

That information was shared with YPPS and they shared it with Yonkers Rising.

Before COVID, YPS overall attendance was 93.7%. During the first week of class in 2020 during COVID, YPS attendance was between 85%-90%, and during the same time, (Sept. 8-15), more than 6,000 students were absent at least once, and only 360 students have had no activity at all. Less than 58 students have been absent for 20 days in a row or have not logged in at all.

Out of the 6,002 students who were absent, 45% requested a tech device, and 41% of those students received one, leaving 1,714 students in need of a device, according to YPS records. The district also cited data which found that most students are using Microsoft team and logging into class, with 97% of K-8 students, more than 23,000, logging in.

The district ordered 4,000 new devices on July 20 and has received on 300 of them, due to a nationwide shortage as every school district across the country seeks more for their students.

Both Peters and Solieri either dispute the information cited by Dr. Quezada, or want more information, specifically about students forced to use cell phones for online learning.

"This week, Dr. Quezada was asking the Council to bond another \$2 Million for more devices. Why do the taxpayers need to pay for another \$2 Million in devices if there are only 1,900 students who need one and 3,000 more devices already purchased that we are waiting for? That doesn't make sense," said Peters.

"These figures are not credible when we are getting calls from parents, some of who have 4 or 5 students in their family and one device isn't enough. How is each child supposed to attend their class and learn?" said Solieri.

Peters said that information on how many students are using cell phones for online learning is still needed. "My daughter, who is in the 2nd grade, cannot learn on a cell phone and no one should be in the circumstance. The screen is way too small to see and to complete some of the assignments from their teachers. I know that we have families using one cell phone to log in for attendance but the learning part isn't happening. And the district has provided no breakdown of how many students are forced to use a cell phone. We want those numbers because just logging in for attendance isn't enough."

Also unresolved is the issue of families without Internet. Both Peters and Solieri believe that more than one thousand families do not have internet in their homes to help their children learn online. Internet provider Altice is said to have offered a reduced rate of \$7 per month for families in need, but there has been no conclusion.

Peters also wants to go to foundations and corporations to ask for devices but explains that she can't without a documented need. And with Superintendent Quezada now on the record that the district doesn't need any devices, it's back to square one.

Editor's Note: We understand the difficulty of educating during COVID, and the financial constraints on the Yonkers Public Schools. What we had hoped for was an effort to ask the public, and corporate america, and community organizations and non-profits to help and step up and contribute funding or refurbished devices, to make sure that every student who needs a laptop or Chromebook has one.

The only people doing this are Christine Peters, Carolyn Solieri and other members of YPSS, including Declan Dorian, Gail Baxter and Zafiro Acevedo. We applaud their efforts and will continue to report on their progress.

Anyone who wants to help or donate can contact YCAP.org. Donations can be made online, or if you want to mail a check please send to YCAP, 20 South Broadway, Yonkers NY 10701.

Or please write to Yonkers Rising and we will put you in touch with Peters and Solieri. Email us at dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Sen. Stewart-Cousins and Assemblyman Sayegh Running Unopposed

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assemblyman Nader Sayegh are both running unopposed on Nov. 3. Both are serving Yonkers in Albany with results, and we look forward to their continued public service.



Yonkers City Hall

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

Monday, November 2nd

November 2, 1923: Residents of the Park Hill neighborhood were shocked to find a burning cross in their community, with the letters KKK written on a nearby rock

November 2, 1934: Yonkers residents came together in a city-wide protest to officially protest against Board of Education's plans to close schools the entire month of December.

November 2, 1944: While presenting a check to a local tobacco company to send 9,000 packs of cigarettes to our overseas service members, Yonkers Restaurant Liquor Dealers Association President Edward Wands read part of a letter he had just received from Yeoman Second Class Harry Brooks, USN. While at sail in the South Pacific, Brooks had received packages of cigarettes with the seal of the Yonkers organization on them! Brooks wrote, "Seeing Yonkers on that stamp brought fond memories of home. Let's hope Victory is not far off, and we will soon be back enjoying that cigarette at home!"

Tuesday, November 3rd

November 3, 1932: Thousands of Yonkers residents witnessed the US Navy dirigible Axron flying at 2,000 feet over the Hudson River as it head north.

November 3, 1936: Yonkers resident and Republican gubernatorial candidate William F. Bleakley cast his ballot at 6:16 am at Gorton High School. Dozens of photographers, newsreel cameras and cheers of friends and onlookers witnessed and recorded Mr. and Mrs. Bleakley performing their civic duty. Bleakley suffered a defeat in his run for governor; a record shattering New York vote for President Roosevelt swept Governor Herbert Lehman back into office.

Wednesday, November 4th

November 4, 1911: City Engineer Samuel Cooper nixed building a proposed tunnel from City Hall to South Broadway, claiming no contractor could guarantee the stability of the building if the passageway was built.

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Dump Trump, continued from pg 4-

COVID-19, and hundreds of thousands have DIED because of his lies. Despite who we elect President on Tuesday, we have a tough road to travel. The damage Trump has done to US is his and will continue. Trump's plans and policies have failed and will continue to fail to keep US healthy. Choosing former Vice President Biden, who already experienced managing pandemics, offers us a far better outcome of health and life returning to normal.

The United States maintained an office and lab in China for 30 years prior to 2019. Imagine that!!! China allowed a foreign country, US, to maintain our own staff, our handpicked employees, and conduct tests on possible biological problems developing in their country, since the 1980s. But Donald Trump cut the funding and dismissed 33 of the 47 employees, and in July 2019, cut the remaining US employee -- just four months before the COVID-19 problem started.

Trump was first notified of the emerging problem in Wuhan, China, in November, 2019. But the US had no eyes on the ground and no access in China due to Trump's short-sighted cuts. But Trump did nothing. Trump saved a few thousand dollars, but cost hundreds of thousands of lives. Trump was again alerted several times in December, 2019 to the developing problem in Wuhan. Trump did nothing.

Senior staff again alerted Trump several more times in January 2020 to a growing pandemic, but Trump did nothing, until January 30th, when Trump called for partial travel restrictions. It was not a "travel ban" as some want you to believe. It exempted Americans, their family members, and Trump's deep pocketed donors and business people who wanted to move themselves, their families and friends.

Trump said Democrats "loudly criticized and protested" his announced travel restrictions, and falsely claimed they "called me a racist because I made that decision." None of the Democratic Party's congressional leaders and none of the Democratic candidates then running for president had directly criticized Trump's decision, and no one called him a "racist". Only Trump referred to himself as a "Racist." Trump announced that his travel restrictions would not take place for three more days, until February 2nd.

Trump's announced travel restrictions had gaping loopholes, big enough to allow 40,000 Chinese to arrive in America the month after his ineffective travel restrictions were announced.

A confirmed Coronavirus case arrived in the US and South Korea at about the same time in January 2020. South Korea, with its population of 55 million, to date has had less than 500 deaths, while the US, which has six times the population of South Korea, has suffered almost 9 million infections and 231,045 deaths. (South Korea had 460 deaths and 26,043 infections as of Monday, October 26).

Why?

The major differences were responsible, caring leaders and effective leadership, unlike Trump, who resisted allowing and funding a national test and trace program. Friday, October 23, more than 83,000 NEW Covid cases were recorded, the most ever, yet Trump falsely claimed again that the US is "rounding the turn" on the pandemic, which Trump has said 37 of the last 55 days.

Instead of taking effective health and isolation measures, Trump decided on no plan. The actual average Covid-19 death rate across all ages and comorbidities is now 2.7%, meaning @ 3% of 325 million Americans will die, unless a vaccine declared both safe and effective is administered very soon. However, best estimates are that a vaccine will not be available until next summer. How much time and effort will be required to vaccinate at least 200 million Americans, some of whom are unwilling to take a vaccine after Trump has fulfilled his selfish mission of casting doubt?

Other countries whose leadership mandated widespread mask wearing have already reopened their economies, with a careful eye on infection rates. Trump's arrogance prevented him from learning.

Trump's MAGA slogan: Make America GRAVE Again.

Please, understand that even Donald Trump knew he was in way over his head in running for President. Numerous published reports cite friends and advisors saying that Trump ran for President only as an inexpensive way to get free publicity to promote himself and his "brand". Trump never truly wanted to be President but desperately and pathetically needs to hear people cheering him

I hope that Americans realize that this experiment of the majority being ruled by the minority, and this National Adventure of hiring a bully, a racist, a lying self-promoter who is unfortunately an arrogant, ignorant and uneducated man – and proud of it – is over. Giving the incompetent a chance with such an important and critical responsibility was not a wise idea.

Electing someone other than Trump will cause new paths to be taken resulting in better outcomes. A majority of primary voters selected Joe Biden as the candidate most trusted to pull US from this national nightmare.

VOTE on Tuesday November 3, or earlier. Place our country above party, place our country ahead of our selfish interests, and VOTE as if your life depends on it- because your life, your health, and the health and well-being of your loved ones, family and friends depend upon it.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS (RFP) 2020-18 FOR RENT REASONABLENESS AND UTILITY ALLOWANCE CONSULTING SERVICES 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 for Rent Reasonableness and Utility Allowance Consulting for MHACY on an on-call / as-needed basis 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 2, 2020 at www.mhacy.org.

THE CONTRACT IS A NON-EXCLUSIVBE CONTRACT FOR THE SERVICES DESBCRIBED. Selection may be made of one (1) or more Respondents deemed to be fully qualified and best suited among those submitting proposal. The RFP questions deadline is November 19 at 4:00PM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions must be emailed to Marcie Ciuffetelli at bids@mhacy.org by the deadline. No telephone calls and/or written communication sent via mail will be accepted.

Proposals must reach MHACY no later than 4:00 PM (EST) on December 8, 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 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. 2020-18



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We Endorse Romano, Shako, Daly continued from pg 1-

Now fellow democrats are worried about Best’s demeanor to sit on the City Court. A number of Yonkers democrats and former elected officials, including City Council President Chuck Lesnick and Councilmembers Pat McDow, Sandi Annabi, Wilson Soto, and Joe Farmer, joined in a letter supporting Tom Daly for Judge.

There are many reasons to vote for Tom Daly on November 3. Daly has served on the City Court for 20 years without controversy or incident. A good judge should be seen and not heard nor remembered, but just to adjudicate the proceedings before him or her and do it fairly and so both parties at the end of the hearing that they got a fair review. Judge Tom Daly has delivered that fairness and that is the primary reason we endorse his re-election. Daly will also serve as the Chief Judge of the Yonkers Court if elected and we want his experience serving as Chief Judge, especially when new judges are coming onto the court.

In their letter, former democratic councilmembers wrote, “Unfortunately, there are those who are behind an overt politicization of this 50 year tradition of removing partisan politics out of campaigns for the bench, in a possible violation of judicial ethics.”

The person alluded to is Karen Best. After a story that ran in Yonkers Rising last week about Best’s behavior towards Tom Meier and Jeni Wallace, Best did what she does best—lash out at anyone who she perceives has slighted her.

In her public comments to Meier, Best wrote- “The establishment did not expect me to win the primary because, as usual, Democratic Party Leader Tom Meier was arrogant. Like many Department of Public Works (DPW) employees know, Tom Meier is a bully, coward, and a liar. The week before the start of early voting he is finally choosing to show you his lack of support for my campaign.”

As we wrote in our story last week, Meier, acting as Democratic Chair, was supporting all the party’s candidates, including Best. That is until Best attacked Meier, and did it again this week.

What really resulted in a number of democrats supporting Daly and opposing Best was an incident concerning the Wallace Foundation and longtime Yonkers resident Jeni Wallace. Wallace lost her son in a tragedy and has continued to serve her community in his memory. Karen Best tried to use a Halloween Giveaway to claim that Jeni Wallace and Verris Shako should quarantine because of fears over COVID. Both were contacted traced and tested negative for COVID.

Best’s post on the Yonkers Tribune, which included her name and then didn’t include her name and then included her name again, is evidence in our view that this is not what the people of Yonkers want or deserve in their City Court Judge. Honesty, integrity and the assurance that your case will be heard by an impartial judge should be the number 1 concern of the Yonkers voter. Karen Best has not proven that she will sit on the bench with those important attributes.

For these reasons, we endorse Verris Shako, Dan Romano and Tom Daly for Yonkers City Court on Nov. 3.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

Hence, those who braved the lines last weekend were left to stand tall throughout the whole voting ordeal. As I told my sister it’s not happening for us.

Did we ever have such chaos when we voted via the old fashioned election lever machines for some every 4 years and others like me every year for whatever election was on our respective ballots? We would go in to our polling place, maybe wait a little bit in a Presidential election year and cast our votes.

I did it for the first time 2 days after my father had died and I was 18 and old enough to vote. I went into the polling place which was the old Police Precinct on Radford Street. Signed the big book. Went into the lever machine, pulled the handle to close the curtain. Pulled the lever for friends Dick Ottinger and Tom McInerney though our family was close with Dr. Shirley Werthaimer who tragically lost her daughter in the JCC fire and had gone to college with my mom. Used the handle to open the curtains, my vote was counted and I walked out proud to be an American.

A Note: Shirley was the spoiler in the election of 1978 splitting the votes which allowed Nick Spano (you know that name) to become the State Assemblyman for the 87th Assembly District. Hard to believe it was over 40 years ago!

For many years before they had the bright idea to move the polling place into Police Precinct it was located in the firehouse next store. The move was made into the Police station because workers and the public were inhaling the noxious fumes every time the fire engine and ladder were called out. And when the big doors to the firehouse would open and close the poor poll workers would shiver if it was a chilly November day, all bundled up watching the firefighters slide down the poles to attend the alarm at hand.

When I look back, the Firehouse voting was handicapped accessible with no steps while the voting in the Police Precinct was not. Things kind of went backwards, but I guess someone in power made the decision that the inhalation of the fumes was worse than the location not being handicap accessible.

When we were kid my parents always took my sister and I to vote with them when the machines were inside the firehouse. We went as a family and marched out proud of this great country we live in. Many families would do this, folks dressed to the nines performing this important duty.

Things ran so smoothly back in the good old days. The worse thing that could happen was in a close vote the candidates aides would take flashlights into an old musty warehouse where the machines were stored and double check the counts called in on Election Night. There were no 1000’s of attorneys across the country looking for the simplest mistakes.

When I saw folks standing on long lines in cold weather over the weekend and earlier this week, I harked for the good old days when things went so smoothly and voting was a joy.

So my friends, Vote Early and Vote Often! But most importantly, Vote!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisonkers@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 History, continued from pg 5-

November 4, 1912: The American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society gave a room in Manor Hall to the Keskeskick Chapter, DAR, to be used as its headquarters. Fourteen charter members founded the chapter in 1895; the chapter was named after the area of Yonkers known as Keskeskick, the Algonquin word for stony place.

November 4, 1919: Detective Lieutenant Dennis Cooper announced because women were at Yonkers’ polling booths and Prohibition was in force... the “tendency to rowdyism” during the election pretty much was eliminated.

Thursday, November 5th

November 5, 1904: Several thousand people witnessed Frank Croker break an automobile racing record at Empire City Track on Election Day. Driving a Ford racer, Crocker set the amateur track record, covering twelve miles in 11 minutes and 32 seconds.

The son of former Tammany Hall boss Richard Croker, Frank’s racing career was cut short after a terrible accident the following January while practicing for the Ormond-Daytona Beach tournament. He passed away the following morning at the age of 27, his life cut much too short by his love of speed.

November 5, 1928: The “voice of the sky” was heard for the first time over Yonkers when a tri-motor airplane, equipped with giant speakers and amplifiers, flew over Yonkers to broadcast campaign information for Mayor John J. Fogarty. Fogarty won.

Friday, November 6th

November 6, 1905: Mrs. J. N. Cuneo, one of the foremost women drivers in the country, gave an exhibition of driving skills during a two-mile race at Empire City Track.

November 6, 1932: Complaining that business was being destroyed by “urchin competition,” Yonkers bootblacks organized their own union to regulate the shoe shining business here. Apparently, the members were finding it difficult to collect their standard 10-cent fees for a shine, when the younger boys using homemade materials were charging anywhere from three to five cents per shine.

November 6, 1942: Mrs. Mary Weige, one of the first seven women hired by Otis Elevator Company, was commended for her long and faithful service. She joined Otis shortly after the sudden death of her husband, when the company announced they were going to hire women. Her first job was winding, a job done by hand in those days. She went home the first day with a huge blister, but powered through; never absent, she was late just once in all her years working for Otis. Because of her faithful service to a company she considered family, she was dubbed the real Miss Otis!

Saturday, November 7th

November 7, 1902: Employees of the Otis Elevators Company raised a flag to the top of their waterfront building to celebrate the election of Norton P. Otis to the US Congress.

November 7, 1924: Lu Chow, head of the notorious Hip Sing Tong, was arraigned before Judge Boote on a charge of illegal gun possession. The good judge suspended the charge pending the outcome of more serious charges against Chow in the Big Apple. Yonkers Homicide Squad detectives then took Chow, arrested in a raid at the Tong hideaway at 8 Herriot Street, to Manhattan to face the charge of murdering the owner of a Corona tearoom with a hatchet. Trailing and guarding the Yonkers Police car were five Hip Sing Tong men in a car; they afraid a rival gang would try to assassinate Chow to avenge the murder. They all arrived at the New York Court without incident.

Sunday, November 8th:

November 8, 1930: Yonkers Police Department Chief Edward Quirk announced that all future applicants for revolver permits would be required to be fingerprinted and photographed, enabling police to have a complete record of their identities.

November 8, 1933: William Raymond Gill, Communist candidate for Mayor, was stabbed by a friend he was entertaining at home. Gill, not hurt seriously, declined to make a complaint against his assailant.

November 8, 1939: Alderman William Slater, creator of Yonkers nationally known “Slater Anti-Shorts legislation,” was swept out of office; Republicans carried eight of the city’s twelve wards.

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.

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Yonkers Halloween, continued from pg 1-

- Children ages 14 to 16 must be home by 11PM
- Exceptions include:
 - Accompanied by parent or guardian.
 - On an errand with parental permission, with prior notice to YPD Community Affairs Division – 914-377-7375 -
 - ½ hour after end of school, religious and volunteer public entertainment -- no later than 12:30AM unless police are notified by host organization 24 hours in advance
 - ½ hour after work -- with proof from Employer
 - All youngsters 16 and under not subject to curfew if on or immediately next to their home (and if neighbor does not object)

Violators of the curfew will be taken to the nearest Yonkers Police Precinct, and parent/guardian will be notified. For more information about the Halloween curfew, contact the Yonkers Police Department at 914-377-7375.

Despite the curfew, and COVID, there are a number of safe ways to have fun this Halloween. Please remember to respect social-distancing and mask wearing guidelines, and check your town's curfew rules this Halloween! Note that some events require reservations and/or have limited available spots.

City Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Isaac is hosting a Mobile Halloween Candy Giveaway on the big day Oct. 31. Look out for the decorated candy mobile in the 2nd District.

The Yonkers South Broadway BID will host a Halloween Day of the Dead Virtual Costume Contest Visit southbroadwaybid.org for more information.

Westchester County legislators David Tubiolo, Ruth Walter, Jose Alvarado and Christopher Johnson are joining with County Executive George Latimer and Assemblyman Nader Saygeh to host an All Hallows Eve Fright Fest at Tibbets Brook Park on October 30-3pm-530 pm. Go to Eventbrite to reserve a spot.

The Cross County Center will host a Halloween Drive in Movie on October 31, but you must register first. Visit crosscountycenter.com

The Westchester School, located on 45 Park Ave. will hold a Trick or Treat Safe Zone on October 31 from 1-3pm. Wear a costume and wear a COVID mask.

At the Hudson River Museum, start off your Halloween weekend with some storytelling and skytalk and a glass of cider on Friday night, then bring the kids for pumpkin decorating and a Costume Parade on Halloween! Visit HRM.org for more information.

“For close to fifty years Yonkers City Court judges who have served with distinction for their full term have been cross endorsed by the Democratic and Republican parties, since judicial ethics prohibit them from taking an active role in party politics except during the year in which they run.

For City Judicial races, the parties have been mostly successful in removing partisan politics out of the local bench and all had endorsed Democrat Judge Tom Daly for re-election this year. Unfortunately, there are those who are behind an overt politicization of this 50-year tradition in a possible violation of judicial ethics.

Although Tom is a lifelong Democrat he will only appear on the Republican and Conservative lines. Please join us in voting for him there (you can still vote for one or two of your favorite Democrats too) - we would be grateful. **Yonkers Voters are intelligent enough to vote for the most qualified Judge - someone who will be Chief Justice next year, if re-elected.**





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Find JUDGE DALY on the ballot at: 12B & 12C

Get Out and Vote-Yonkers

YoFi Fest Returns for 8th Year as a Virtual Film Festival

142 Films from 15 Countries Celebrating Filmmakers and Film Lovers Around the World



This year, as a result of the Coronavirus pandemic, many movie theaters were forced to shut down, including all the theaters in the Westchester area. Film festivals around the world, large and small, had to make difficult decisions; Some chose to postpone, some to downsize and some to cancel entirely.

YoFiFest chose to pivot and adapt. Eight years ago we started with a mission to showcase the work of filmmakers, from around the world and right here in our own backyard, and to provide educational and cultural opportunities that otherwise would not exist in our community. This year, we are more committed than ever to continuing that mission, so we're very excited to announce that the Eighth Annual YoFiFest Film Festival is happening with on-demand films starting in October and live online events running from November 7th through 22nd!

The festival provides an amazing opportunity for audiences to watch films that they might not see anywhere else. "The safety of our audience and filmmakers is a top priority," said Dave Steck, YoFi's Executive Director and co-founder, "After careful consideration of the guidance provided by the State, County and City, we've made the decision to have this year's festival be a "virtual" one, with all of our films, talkbacks, workshops, and events being held online."

The festival moved to an entirely online format back in March and have been steadily improving on it since then to deliver the best possible film festival experience. With this year's virtual festival, audiences have the flexibility of watching the films "on demand" to fit their own schedule, on their choice of device, and from the convenience, comfort and safety of their homes.

"One of the great parts about having the festival online this year is we are able to reach nearly every corner of the planet," said Patty Schumann, the festival's co-founder and programming director, "The filmmaker talkbacks are one of the best parts of the film festival and this year almost every one of our filmmakers will attend their film's Q&A! Of course we'll miss seeing everyone's faces and watching the movies together, but being able to include filmmakers and film fans from around the globe is very exciting for us!"

This year, the festival is offering 51 programs. They are divided into 42 screenings (consisting of a feature film or a block of shorts), 6 workshops, and 3 social events (The Meet The Filmmakers Party, The Trailer Party, and The Audience Choice Awards Ceremony). Being an international festival (we're presenting 142 films from 15 countries this year), it's not always possible for filmmakers to travel to us to attend their screenings, but we're thrilled to announce that almost all of this year's films will have representatives taking part in the live, online conversations about their films.

Visit YoFiFest.com to purchase your online tickets.

Letter to the Editor: Afraid to put up Trump signs in Westchester



Mr. Murphy, I heard the following on the radio and was wondering if you thought it was true. It would be more popular to put up a sign for Chinese President Xi than to put up a lawn sign for President Trump in Westchester.

I read your story a while back and took a trip up to Carmel, to the Trump tent, and saw all of the signs and banners for sale. But down here in Westchester I can't find any. I will be voting for the President in person November 3, sincerely Dorris Delaney, Croton.

Editor's Note: Dorris, thanks for the note. I have seen Trump signs and banners in northern Westchester, but I would agree that in my travels across the rest of the county, I have not seen any Trump signs. Your thought about putting up a Chinese Community Party-President Xi sign is a funny one, I haven't seen any of those signs in Westchester either.

I print the following Trump photo highlighting his efforts to promote a Buy American program, which all Americans should support. Be safe when you cast your vote.

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