

Yonkers Rising

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Friday December 11, 2020

Happy Chanukah Yonkers!



Bar Mitzvah young man Chaim Hurwitz and his sister Zeesy, age 10, build a chanukiah supplied by Yonkers Home Depot for Chabad of Yonkers/Greystone Jewish Center. photo © 2020 Robert Kalfus

By Robert Kalfus

Our world often feels overwhelmed by darkness, the physical darkness of winter, Daylight Savings Time, and especially now the spiritual darkness of the Covid-19 pandemic isolating each of us, keeping us in the safety of our homes, but isolating and preventing us from feeling each other's community and supported.

Chabad reaches out to each precious soul to help them ignite their spark and make them feel the joy and warmth of Judaism. The holiday of Chanukah is especially well suited to accomplish spreading the light and joy of the miracle. Numerous upcoming Chanukah events welcome the public to increase and spread the light of Chanukah to all corners of Yonkers.

Chanukah, the Festival of Light, remembers the miracles of a small outnumbered band of Jewish guerrilla fighters defeating the overwhelming Syrian-Greek forces, liberating the Jewish nation and bestowing independence, and the miracle of the single cruze of undefiled oil, sufficient for only one day of kindling the lights in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, lasting for eight days, the length of time necessary until new pure and kosher olive oil could be pressed.

Chanukah activities this year begin at sunset on the first night of Chanukah, Thursday night, December 10th. The 8 day long holiday continues with the final, 8th candle lit after sunset on Thursday night, December 17th, and the holiday continues through the following Friday, December 18th, ending just before sunset.

Yonkers Home Depot manager Trevor Meinke donated to Chabad of Yonkers Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz 50 kits for people to build their own chanukiah to celebrate the upcoming holiday of Chanukah, a wonderful project for children working together with adults. Each kit comes complete with PVC pipes and couplings with all pieces needed to build your own chanukiah to celebrate all eight days of the Festival of Light, and can be lit with

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Sen. Stewart-Cousins Now Majority Leader of Supermajority in Albany



NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, from Westchester

By Dan Murphy

For the first time since the 1840's, Democrats in the New York State Senate have a supermajority, and their leader will be Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, from Westchester. This week, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins was unanimously re-elected by her Democratic Conference colleagues as Senate President Pro Tempore and Majority Leader.

Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins is being praised by the media, and by her colleagues for her ability to keep her democratic caucus on track. "We really wanted to break what people thought of our leadership ... We had to be able to present a united front, a pragmatic front, a progressive front, and all of the things that New Yorkers expected from us as leaders," said Leader Stewart-Cousins.

Not only has Stewart-Cousins presided over a unified democratic state senate that has passed progressive legislation, but has now increased her caucus to 43 members, out of 63 Senators, giving her a supermajority of democrats that can now override a veto from Governor Andrew Cuomo.

The victories of several democratic candidates for State Senate, including Sen. Pete Harckham here in Westchester, are a testament to Stewart-Cousins leadership, and the confidence that democratic voters across the state have in her leadership.

"I am honored and humbled to be re-elected by my Democratic colleagues to continue my service as Majority Leader of the New York State

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We "Need A Little Christmas" Lights in Yonkers



Yonkers homes in the Holiday Spirit include 812 North Broadway, above, and 534 Kimball Avenue, below, photo © 2020 Robert Kalfus



By Dan Murphy

As all of us deal with a "COVID Holiday Season" for the first time, one great, safe way for the family to get out of the house and enjoy the holidays is to take a drive around Westchester, turn on the radio to a Christmas station, and enjoy the Holiday light displays presented by families across the county. I'm sure that I missed a lot of good places, please email them to me and I will print them next week, dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

A great website to find out where to visit is christmaslightfinder.com/displays. You can plug in your zip code and how far you want to travel.

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Mount Sinai Doctors Opens Third Westchester Location, in Yonkers



L-R-Jane Nigro, Office Supervisor, Ashok Chopra, MD, Internal Medicine, Alon Gitig, MD, Cardiology, Brijesh Malkani, MD, Neurology, Kathy Aguirre, lead Medical Assistant

Mount Sinai Doctors has opened a new location in Yonkers, New York, with services that include primary care, cardiology, neurology, and gastroenterology. The new, state-of-the-art facility is 6,000 square feet and located on the ground floor of the historic Boyce Thompson Center at 1086 North Broadway.

The Mount Sinai Doctors-Yonkers office will offer patients onsite cardiology tests such as cardiac stress tests and echocardiograms, and neurological tests that include electromyography (EMG), a diagnostic procedure to assess the health of muscles and the nerve cells that control them; electroencephalogram (EEG), a test used to evaluate the electrical activity in the brain; and NeuroTrax BrainCare, a cloud-based computer application for brain wellness which includes a series of tests and associated reports for clinicians to monitor brain fitness, as well as data-driven recommendations for brain training.

Mount Sinai Doctors-Yonkers is the third Mount Sinai Doctors practice to open in Westchester County and represents the consolidation of the former office located at 1010 North Broadway, Yonkers. Other practices in

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Operation Santa Claus: Tradition of Assisting Worthy Groups Continues



Santa will be back for next year's Operation Santa Claus

Even Through COVID, \$20,000 Raised for Local Organizations

One of the nice holiday traditions in Yonkers is the annual Operation Santa Claus breakfast, held at Dunwoodie, where Senator Nick Spano awards funds to assist developmentally disabled children and adults. This year, due to COVID, the breakfast had to be cancelled but the tradition of giving continues on, as \$20,000 was raised and given to four worthy Westchester organizations.

“Operation Santa Claus is a Yonkers tradition that began more than twenty years ago” said Senator Nick Spano, Operation Santa Claus Honorary Chairman. “The money fundraised from the generosity of our residents and businesses show their vested interest in building our community and commitment to our city.”

The four worth organizations that serve persons with developmental disabilities that were awarded grants were:

- ACDS Westchester
- Sail at Ferncliff Manor
- Richmond Community Services
- Westchester School for Special Children

“ACDS Westchester is honored to again be a recipient of funding from Operation Santa Claus,” stated Michael M. Smith, Executive Director, ACDS. “We are all tremendously grateful to Senator Nicholas Spano and his team for supporting the more than 120 children ACDS Westchester represents with disabilities. These critical funds could not have come at a better time considering the unprecedented challenges caused by the coronavirus.”

“Across the country, not-for-profits have been hit the hardest, resulting in less funding – at a time when those who we represent need it the most,” said Paca Lipovac, President/CEO, Richmond Childrens Center. “I thank Senator Spano for his steadfast support of over 20 years helping those who have often been overlooked.”

“With the support of Operation Santa Claus, we can expand the level of services we provide for those we support,” said Leonard Spano, Executive Director, Westchester School for Special Children. “These funds will be put to good use – transforming childrens futures and helping them reach their full potential.”

“For years, the support from Operation Santa Claus has provided learning and recreational equipment to assist us in teaching our students to thrive beyond expectation,” said Patrica Saich, Sail at Ferncliff. “Their valued partnership is an important part of our efforts to provide every student with the superior, individualized programs and services that build a lifelong foundation for personal independence, well-being, and self-esteem. Thank you, Operation Santa Claus, for your continued commitment.”

The organizations will use the funds to purchase equipment and enhance programs that are not otherwise funded for their residents and clients with developmental disabilities.

Longtime Operation Santa co-Chair Ann Neville, who recently passed away, was honored for her service to Yonkers at the ceremony which was streamed to Facebook and can be viewed at www.facebook.com/nick.spano.35.

CSEE Students Sing Carols at Saint Joseph's Medical Center



On Wednesday, December 9th students and student-athletes from the Charter School of Educational Excellence led St. Joseph's Medical Center in Christmas Carols prior to the annual lighting of the hospital's Christmas tree. Hospital front line workers, patients, and community members were able to enjoy the caroling. This has been a part of an ongoing partnership that the school and hospital has put together since the pandemic hit home back in March.

Student-athletes have committed to helping during the hospital's monthly food pantry, as well as volunteer in different departments within the hospital. The hospital has been gracious enough to the school and athletic program by providing them full access to their state of the art Family Health Center in order to provide physicals, vaccines, check-ins, mental health programs, and much more.

Athletic Director, Mike DeSimone said, “This is what it's all about. Our student and student-athletes are active members within their community and there is nothing more important than community service and helping those in need. We look forward to continuing to provide these opportunities to our students, as well as taking advantage of the programs that the hospital has been supporting the school with.”

Visit charterschoolofeducationalexcellence.org for more information.

Santa Sightings in Yonkers

Come visit Santa at Ridge Hill Shopping Center in Yonkers. This holiday season, safety is his number one priority! All visits will be contactless and reservations are strongly encouraged. For more information on hours, registration and other guidelines, visit- www.ridgehill.com/.../Santa-Visits.../2145546129

Yonkers Rising

Serving the City of Yonkers as the official weekly newspaper. Member New York PresAssociation.

USPS Permit #7164. Published weekly by Rising Media Group,LLC. PO Box 705, Yonkers NY 10702. (914)-815-1388.

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Legal notices to risinglegalnotice@gmail.com

Lack of Special Education Funding in Yonkers Goes Unacknowledged

By Camryn Sanchez

At the beginning of the school year, families of students with disabilities were desperate for funding for the Yonkers Special Education Department. Now at the end of the semester: they are angry.

Yonkers activist Nnenna Akoma-Ononaji created a petition in August addressed to Governor Cuomo and other local officials requesting 20 million dollars to aid the Yonkers Special Education Department. As of now, Akoma-Ononaji has received no response.

As a person with a disability and the parent of a child with a disability, Akoma-Ononaji works hard to ensure that the Yonkers community has the resources it needs for the good of its students. "We don't want to continue to hear there is not enough funding or resources to provide for the needs of our community," she says. "We appreciated our legislators but there is so much work to be done especially now during this pandemic... If you don't advocate you won't get the proper services."

Yonkers mother Beatrice says that this is a problem that has been on-going for her child's entire life. "My son is 19 years old. He was only 18 months when he was diagnosed with autism. We've been having the same problems," however she adds that the COVID-19 pandemic has made special education much more difficult. "For our children it's very hard especially right now with the kids at home learning from the computer. It is really hard for them and hard for the parents. That's why we are trying to get help. The government needs to know that we are really struggling with our kids."

In-person resources for special education students typically include speech therapists, counselors, aids, and much more. Virtual learning and a general underfunding of the special education program has left parents in the lurch.

Mariaelena Perez is an administrator of Milestones With Love, a Yonkers charity designed to support families with children who have disabilities and founded by Akoma-Ononaji. Perez is also a former special education student and the aunt of a child with a disability. "With the pandemic things have gotten so much worse for parents with kids with disabilities," says Perez. Her sister Adda also lives with a disability, and is now in charge of her eight year old daughter Sarah's online learning. Perez says that her niece requires the aid of an adult who can assist her with her schoolwork as she does in in-person school. Adda Perez says she is worried by the city's lack of response to Nnenna's petition. Her daughter is not used to online learning and does not understand why she cannot see her friends and teachers. Adda says she wants a teacher for her daughter who can meet with her in-person. "A special teacher who could sit down and explain to them how it is how it's supposed to be going on now, to explain it to her how she understands because I explain it to her, and in ten minutes she'll be forgetting about it."

At school Sarah had an aid she was adjusted to: "She [Sarah] lost the ability of being able to speak her way through and having someone to come back to when she doesn't understand things because my sister doesn't have the education to be able to teach her child. It's literally two people who can't read or speak well teaching each other therefore Sarah is having no progress," says Mariaelena Perez. "Not being able to have all these different programs that she's used to having and just being locked in the house all day long as well it's just changed her completely."

Akoma-Ononaji explains that students can actually regress without adequate services. "Now with COVID we are seeing the rise in students facing the potential to regress, and lose the skills they have gained during in-person service provided education." Akoma-Ononaji is also the parent of a student with a disability. "As a parent having to be that teacher at home, I love my children, but we weren't trained to be teachers. Now we've got to follow through on the IEP [Individualized Education Program] at home, do all of the things that are required in the school. But we don't have the staff for that, trained personnel in the house, in the apartment to assist us."

Issues that the entire Yonkers student community has been facing such as lack of computers, lack of internet access, and the stress of isolation are magnified in the disability community. "You really need a village to help you with the child, and when COVID hit your village disappeared. Now you're left with your child that you can't communicate with and don't really understand and it's really difficult," says Perez.

Beatrice talks about another Yonkers mother with five children -three of whom have disabilities: "She only has one computer. And the computers that they offer at the Yonkers public schools they are limited with one per family. You can imagine it's hard for parents. Who have not just two kids but more than two kids. I requested the computer for my daughter and I'm still waiting since September."

Perez and Akoma-Ononaji work hard through Milestones With Love to make other parents aware of resources available to them. Although Akoma-Ononaji credits the Yonkers special education department with doing a "marvelous job getting up to speed and getting up to compliance with state guidelines," the fundamental lack of funding in the program concerns her. "The special education department is not financially where it's supposed to be. I am pleading to the governor, to the mayor, to the senators, legislators, and to the community to please not sell our special needs children short... and to allow our special needs children to receive the best education they can."

Note: one name in this article was changed to protect the anonymity of a child

Holiday Bargain Shopping, Covid 2020 Edition



By Eric W. Schoen

Normally in December I present you with a list of gifts you can get for your friends and loved ones at bargain or reduced prices for the holidays. Like everything else in our lives, the list has been upended by COVID-19, the pandemic before us.

First and most important. We see the stores, malls and other shopping venues without shoppers rushing home with their treasures. A lot of people are staying home this holiday season and ordering from catalogs and online. This will likely overburden the United States Postal Service, United Parcel Service and FEDEX.

Bottom line: to get guaranteed delivery for December 25 Christmas Day your online order should be placed by December 18 or a week before the holidays. We are dealing in uncharted territory here in terms of above normal packages for delivery in the system, and you don't want anyone to be disappointed.

Many people feel that packages being delivered should be cleaned off outside of the house before they are brought in to spread germs and Covid-19. If that is your situation, through signage on your door alert your carriers as to where packages should be dropped off and set up a location, protected from rain and snow that can be easily accessed. The area should also afford you space where you can put disposable gloves on and use the product of your choice for disinfect your packages.

It goes without saying that if you see packages at your neighbors house that you should take a Napkin or tissue and ring his or her bell. If the package fits into a plastic bag and your neighbor is not going to me home for several days put the plastic bag over the package, scoop it up and put a twist tie around it to keep it closed and bring it in your house.

Covid-19 or no Covid-19, package thieves are on the lookout so be safe with your packages. The Amazon drop boxes are another safe way for delivery. Believe it or not many of the drop boxes have been named by Amazon. The one at the 7-11 on McClean Ave in Yonkers has been named 'Amour.' Enough said.

One of the best bargains if you are near a Panera store is their unlimited iced or hot coffee packages. \$25 for 3 months of unlimited coffee is a steal. If you have one \$3 iced coffee with tax for 8 days you are already ahead of the game with over 80 days of free coffee to enjoy. It sounds crazy but it's the greatest deal for coffee lovers out there. And Panera unlike Starbucks allows you for the time being to sit and enjoy your beverage in their cafes.

Starbucks also has their unlimited brewed coffee or tea mug for \$40 but it is for one month, January and most seating at Starbucks locations has been closed off. So if you are one of those people who enjoy their coffee in the cafe this deal might not work for you. If you take away your beverage to drink and you must have your Starbucks the unlimited mug is a good deal for you!

Many shoppers link their credit cards to companies like Rakuten where every time you use your card you get cash back in a periodic check on the purchases you buy. The amounts vary but if you shop at the merchants affiliated with Rakuten your checks can be up to 10% of your purchase. There are other companies that offer a similar service. Just make sure you check them out before you give them your card numbers.

Hopefully by the 2nd quarter of 2021 we will be able to dine in restaurants without any percentage of seats open restrictions. When buying restaurant gift card most restaurants give you a bonus \$10 gift card with a \$50 purchase. Cheesecake Factory was recently offering 2 slices of their famous, high in calories cheesecake with a \$25-\$50 gift card purchase. With the cost of cheesecake \$8 plus per slice your were almost getting the gift card for free. restaurant.com gift cards which usually required dine in now offers many restaurants that allow you to use the certificates on take away purchases.

Bed, Bath and Beyond customers on their email and mailing lists all of a sudden are getting new coupons almost daily. Remember, the coupons can also be used at Harmon stores. My individual Think high protein bars, \$2.59 at CVS but in bulk can cost less than a \$1 at Harmon when I use coupons. The \$5 off \$15 and \$10 off \$30 coupons are the best unless you are buying an expensive item where the 20% off works best. Remember that the coupons never expire. In the spirit of the holidays if you see someone without a coupon and have an extra one share it!

With people spending so much time at home, old fashioned games like Monopoly and playing cards and even crossword puzzles are making a comeback. They allow the family to play together and offer hours of enjoyment. Discounters like TJMAXX and Marshall's offer good prices on these games. Quality toys like educational Melissa and Doug and old fashioned F.A.O. Schwarz train sets and toys can also be found at the discount retailers.

Cold weather will always bring discounts on temperature appropriate clothing and when combined with Macy's or JC Penney coupons can be a steal. Monday, December 14 is free shipping day when retailers waive the shipping charges for your purchase. That is going to be a busy day this year with people ordering online and not going to department stores. Always try to meet the minimum required for free shipping as those shipping charges can be quite hefty.

Food preparation items like FROZEN pancake makers and character waffle makers are always fun. The kids stir the batter and the adults handle the hot machines. Many of you enjoy the egg bites at Starbucks which are 2 for \$4. One small appliance for \$20 (less the 20% Bed Bath Coupon bringing it to \$16) allows you to make the egg bites at home. Make 5 sets of 2 egg bites and you are already saving money.

Local merchants have been hit particularly hard during the pandemic so try to

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Fourth Precinct Community Council

Because of COVID, the Fourth Precinct Community Council will hold its monthly meeting by a ZOOM telephone meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday December 17. You can attend the meeting from home on your telephone. Please be aware this is an open meeting, and there is no agenda. If you want to say something, just find an opening, and say it. To participate in the ZOOM meeting, Call (646) 876-9923 and Enter Meeting ID 445-678-6822, and identify yourself. If the line drops, and you get disconnected during the meeting, just hang up and call again. Please don't use the "speaker phone" option as it causes "feedback."

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Help Lift the Spirit of Westchester's Nearly 500 Foster Children



As many of our families gear up for the holiday season, Westchester County Executive George Latimer and the Department of Social Services (DSS) is asking for your help to lift the spirits of the County's foster children. DSS is announcing that they are soliciting Gift Card donations this year as a part of the annual DSS Holiday Gift Drive for Westchester's foster children.

This year's modification to gift cards - in lieu of shopping for, handling and distribution of boxed toys - is meant to ensure the least possible contact with others for both the donor and the donee while still allowing for the drive to go on.

County Executive George Latimer said: "While we face a holiday season like no other in our lifetimes, it is important to still take time to remember those less fortunate in our community while still ensuring safety protocols are followed. This holiday gift drive provides that opportunity. I once again thank DSS for their tireless efforts on behalf of Westchester's foster children."

The Holiday Gift Drive has provided gifts for the children DSS serves for the last 15 years and - this year is the most difficult. Each donation goes a long way to bringing some holiday cheer to children in our neighborhoods.

Currently, Westchester County has over 500 children in foster care, ranging from infants to 21 years old.

Department of Social Services Commissioner Kevin McGuire said: "Westchester's foster families are eternally grateful to those who have supported the drive over the last 15 years. We look forward to another successful - albeit different - effort."

Gift cards to local Westchester businesses are preferred but all age appropriate gift cards are welcomed. The drive is also accepting monetary donations - check can be made payable to: "Westchester Child Welfare Holiday Fund"

Gift Cards and questions can be directed to:
Barbara M. Sabater, Program Coordinator of Constituent Affairs
Department of Social Services, 112 East Post Road White Plains, New York 10994--(914) 995-1937--BMS7@WESTCHESTERGOV.COM

Stewart-Cousins, continued from pg 1-

Senate," Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said. "During our first session as the Democratic Majority, we enacted historic legislation to protect and expand New Yorkers' rights and build a stronger and fairer state for all residents. The voters clearly supported our efforts and agenda as they elected the largest majority in Senate history and the first modern Democratic supermajority. We will use this mandate to help lead New York State forward as we address the ongoing pandemic and rebuild from this economic crisis."

Stewart-Cousins has moved the democratic senate conference away from the divisiveness and splits in their membership, including the breakaway Independent Democratic Conference, and has provided leadership that has won the loyalty and appreciation of every democratic state senator.

Senator Stewart-Cousins has served as Leader of the Senate Democratic Conference since December 2012, and was the first woman and African American woman to be elected as a Conference Leader in New York State history. Following the 2018 Elections and the strong Democratic Majority elected by New York voters, Andrea Stewart-Cousins became the first woman and African American woman to lead a New York State Legislative Majority.

She presided over the return of democratic senators who had defected back to the conference and did so without any sign of retribution. "Andrea's the only one who actually thinks the way you get things done is to treat people as equals, listen to them, respect them, and see if you can get them to come along to an agreement," said Senator Liz Kruger.

Senator Shelley Mayer, also from Yonkers said that Stewart-Cousins, "has the skills of bringing diverse people to the table and making them feel heard, and they are heard by her. Yonkers is a good place to learn how to hear from different views and try to find common ground and encourage people to let go of their egos and personal preferences with the goal of the common good."

Leader Stewart-Cousins has also been able to balance the interests of democratic state senators from New York City, with those of the suburbs and upstate. Simply put, everyone in the NYS Senate Democratic conference is happy. The political drama is gone, and in its place has come meaningful legislation on issues like immigration, criminal justice reform a living wage, and gun tougher gun laws.

"I'm the first woman leader, we have more women in our conference than ever, we have more geographic diversity, more ethnic diversity.. I believe we have an opportunity — and even a responsibility — to prove this can work," Stewart-Cousins told Politico, in a feature story by reporter Bill Mahoney that is evidence of the praise she is receiving from all over Albany. That same praise is certainly as great in Westchester, and Yonkers, and in the 35th Senate District that she represents.

That praise and respect given to Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins cannot be overlooked by Governor Andrew Cuomo, and now with a supermajority of 43 Senators, some political observers in the Capitol are saying that ASC could now be the most powerful leader in New York State.

Yonkers Commission on Human Rights Celebrates International Human Rights Day

International Human Rights Day is observed every year to commemorate the ratification of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the United Nations on December 10, 1948. 72 years later on December 10, 2020 the City of Yonkers Commission on Human Rights will join many people from around the globe to celebrate the standard that "All human beings are born with equal and inalienable rights and fundamental freedoms."

"Where, after all, do universal human rights begin? In small places, close to home -- so close and so small that they cannot be seen on any maps of the world. [...] Unless these rights have meaning there, they have little meaning anywhere. Without concerted citizen action to uphold them close to home, we shall look in vain for progress in the larger world," said Eleanor Roosevelt.

In 2021, Human Rights must be at the centre of the post COVID-19 world. The COVID-19 crisis has been fueled by deepening poverty, rising inequalities, structural and entrenched discrimination and other gaps in human rights protection. Only measures to close these gaps and advance human rights can ensure we fully recover and build back a world that is better, more resilient, just and sustainable.

* End discrimination of any kind: Structural discrimination and racism have fueled the COVID-19 crisis. Equality and non-discrimination are core requirements for a post-COVID world.

* Address inequalities: To recover from the crisis, we must also address the inequality pandemic. For that, we need to promote and protect economic, social, and cultural rights. We need a new social contract for a new era.

* Encourage participation and solidarity: We are all in this together. From individuals to governments, from civil society and grass-roots communities to the private sector, everyone has a role in building a post-COVID world that is better for present and future generations. We need to ensure the voices of the most affected and vulnerable inform the recovery efforts.

* Promote sustainable development: We need sustainable development for people and planet. Human Rights, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement are the cornerstone of a recovery that leaves no one behind.

* To view the Preamble to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, visit, www.un.org/en/universal-declaration-human-rights/

Alzheimer's Association Offers Tips for a Safe and Happy Holiday Season During COVID 19

As COVID-19 surges, families are struggling with decisions about the holiday season — weighing concerns about the safety of traveling with the desire to spend time with friends and relatives. For families who have a loved one with Alzheimer's or another dementia, these decisions are even harder, especially since many have forgone visits since COVID-19 began. The emotional pull to spend time with these loved ones during the holidays is felt very keenly.

"Holidays may look different this year due to COVID, but as we find new ways to connect with loved ones while staying safe, it's important to think about the person with dementia. We can help you figure out what some common behaviors might mean, how they might be triggered, and how to respond so everyone can enjoy the holidays and avoid stress," said Eileen Hendriksen, LMSW, Care Consultant & Director of Early Stage Services for the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter.

The Alzheimer's Association offers the following tips for families with loved ones living with dementia:

- Schedule a family Zoom to talk about holiday celebrations and visiting a loved one with dementia, including the primary caregiver for the loved one with dementia.
- Check the CDC website — cdc.gov — for COVID19 guidelines on visits with individuals deemed higher risk/vulnerable.
- Think about what is best for the person with dementia and assess the risks of various options for family gatherings and in-person visits.
- Reach a consensus and make decisions for the holidays that everyone supports.
- Map out how you'll celebrate the season and divide up responsibilities to make it happen.
- If you decide on a virtual celebration, learn what kind of device is being used by the person with the disease and their caregiver. It may be necessary for the family to consider purchasing a new, updated device to make participation in virtual activities enjoyable
- To ensure the person with the disease and their caregiver can participate in virtual events, arrange for training. For instance, seniorplanet.org offers free videos and classes for seniors to learn technology.
- Identify one or two family members who can serve as the point people to coordinate the details and logistics of various virtual activities.

Tips for safe in-person visits:

- Avoid or minimize any type of travel for the person with. Even car trips present risks, such as rest stops and restaurants.
- Restrict the number of individuals who visit during the holidays.
- Be sure any visitors fully commit to following the guidelines — both pre-visit and during the visit — such as quarantining for the appropriate time period before visiting, wearing a mask and maintaining safe social distancing during the visit.

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MWBE and SDVOB SOLICITATION AD

MDG Design + Construction LLC is currently seeking contractors for moderate rehabilitation project, Kingsley House located in White Plains, NY.

New York State certified MBE, WBE and SDVOB contractors and suppliers are invited to participate in bidding the work in the following trades:

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Window Replacement
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Masonry Restoration
Roofing

Work is to be performed in Westchester County under Davis Bacon Act (prevailing wage) requirements. These obligations are described at the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division webpage - <http://www.dol.gov/whd/>.

Eligible businesses may need to demonstrate that they are responsible and have the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of proposed contracts.

If you would like to receive the Bid Package, please identify trade you would like to bid for and email to Jennifer Monaghan at jmonaghan@mdgny.com. Requests for bid package shall be submitted no later than on Monday December 28, 2020. Bids are due noon on January 20, 2021. Please see the Bid Package Documents for more information.

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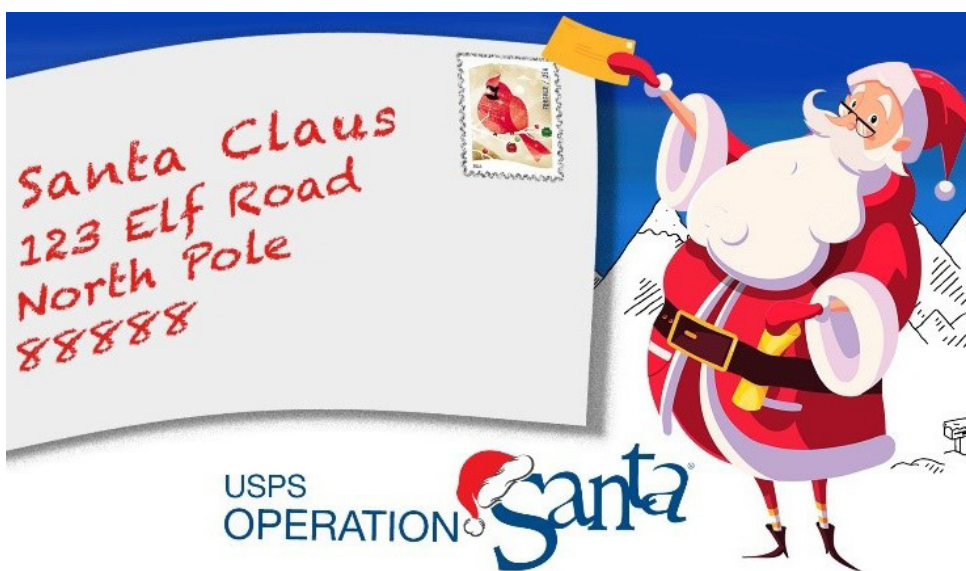
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Westchester Postmasters are helping raise public awareness that the USPSOperationSanta.com website is active and ready to welcome potential letter adopters to help make the holiday season special for deserving children and their families.

Thousands of letters are written to the USPS Operation Santa program every year in hopes of being adopted by kind and generous people across the country. These letters are opened by Santa's Elves and, for safety reasons, all personally identifiable information of the letter writer is removed (i.e. last names, addresses, ZIP Codes) and uploaded to USPSOperationSanta.com for adoption through Dec 15.

Potential adopters can visit USPSOperationSanta.com, read through the letters, pick one or more wishes that they'd like to fulfill, and follow the directions on how to grant that special wish for a child. For security reasons, potential adopters must be vetted by going through a short registration and ID verification process before being allowed to adopt any letter.

To participate in USPS Operation Santa as a possible recipient of holiday gifts, write a letter, put it in a stamped envelope with a return address, and send it to Santa's official workshop address:

Santa Claus, 123 Elf Road,
North Pole, 88888

Extensive USPS holiday information, including shipping deadlines and the history of USPS Operation Santa, can be found at usps.com.

Mt Sinai Doctors, continued from pg 1-

Westchester are Mount Sinai Doctors-Scarsdale, at 341 Central Park Avenue, and Mount Sinai Doctors-Pelham, at 116 Fifth Avenue

"We are extremely excited to have launched all three Mount Sinai Doctors practices in the Westchester communities and to be providing individuals and families living in these neighborhoods with excellent access to the same high-quality multi-specialty ambulatory services for which Mount Sinai is nationally and internationally recognized as an academic medical system and leading medical school," says Arthur A. Klein, MD, President of the Mount Sinai Health Network.

Services offered at Mount Sinai Doctors-Yonkers also include preventive care and general medical exams, vaccinations, immunizations, sonograms, and yearly physicals. Patients can also expect same-day appointments, extended hours, easy scheduling, ample parking, a highly skilled team of physicians and nurses, and a friendly, welcoming waiting area.

Dr. Klein explained that while Mount Sinai "always had a long standing group of physicians in Westchester, the new offices and locations in Pelham, Scarsdale and now Yonkers, give our patients a more convenient, world class facility. We can now give them the total medical experience that they want and deserve. We are delighted to expand into Westchester, and our proud of the Mount Sinai name and the services that comes with it."

Dr. Klein said that Mount Sinai Doctors "will continue to grow in Westchester," and that the new office locations provides "more space for growth in cancer treatment and ambulatory surgery. Our overall strategy is to continue to grow where our patients reside. That is the future of health care delivery. COVID has underscored that, but we also recognize the convenience and high quality service we can provide in an ambulatory setting."

For more information or to make an appointment at Mount Sinai Doctors-Yonkers call (914) 370 - 5000 or go to www.mountsinadoctors.org/westchester.

On This Day in Yonkers History...



Yonkers most tragic fire, in 1965, at the JCC, killing 12

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

Monday, December 14th

December 14, 1888: The Statesman kicked off its anti-saloon campaign by publishing the Anti-Saloon Republican National Committee's platform. Liquor traffic was condemned as a commerce of iniquity that not only served no good purpose, it destroyed the drinker and degraded the distiller and the dealer. The platform further stated every saloon established would turn into a "preparatory school for the asylum and the almshouse, the jail and the gibbet."

December 14, 1888: The efforts of the new management of the Yonkers Street Railroad Company to improve service led them to institute "two horse service" on the Warburton Avenue line as well as repairing the tracks. Management said two horses pulling the cars insured better time as well as the cars running on time.

December 14, 1931: Yonkers Avenue resident Mario Costasino was cleared of responsibility for hitting Winston Churchill with his car... by Churchill! His car knocked down the British Statesman as he tried to cross Fifth Avenue in NYC; Churchill admitted he tried to cross the street against the lights... and in the middle of the block. Police did not hold Constasino after Churchill told them the accident was unavoidable.

Tuesday, December 15th

December 15, 1934: After hearing from the Yonkers Railroad Company they had won the right to charge higher fares, the Public Service Commission went into special session to study this amazing claim.

December 15, 1937: Lawrence Street's Clara Shindlman prevented an attempted robbery at the Hope Newman Company's clothing store on North Broadway. She grappled with the armed bandit, relieving him of his coat before he ran from the store!

December 15, 1947: Ted Worner, manager of the 1946 Yonkers Tercentennial office, received letters from our special guests from Yonkers, Oklahoma. They shared that, because of the construction of the Fort Gibson dam, the townspeople "might have to move from Yonkers before long," making us the only Yonkers in the US. In fact, several of the eleven Oklahoma people who visited our fair city already had moved, including the village's postmistress. Life of the little town, founded by George Lowerre of Yonkers, officially ended when officials filled Fort Gibson Lake and flooded the town a few years later.

Wednesday December 16th:

December 16, 1917: Yonkers began two "lightless nights" a week to save fuel. Yonkers "white ways," and all electric signs were to be darkened. Only necessary streetlights were used.

December 16, 1925: Federal agents dumped hundreds of gallons of beer into the Nepperhan River at the request of the Bittersweet Products Corporation of Chicken Island. The company had a permit to "dealcoholize" the liquor, but felt the final product was unusable.

December 16, 1932: Federal agents, wanting to "dry up Yonkers" before the Christmas holidays, raided six taverns and arrested six bartenders; they also planned to use padlocks to keep the establishments closed.

Thursday, December 17th:

December 17, 1912: Irwin Cobb, nationally known author and humorist, gave a party for daughter Elizabeth at the family home on Edgecliff Terrace; more than 35 guests attended.

December 17, 1942: Billy Lohrfink, while on night guard duty in New Jersey, heard someone coming. He called out, "Halt! Who goes there?" The answer came quickly, "Officer of the Day." Billy responded, "Advance to be recognized!" Lohrfink quickly presented arms and was returned with a salute. There was no problem recognizing the officer of the day because it was Second Lieutenant Clark Gable!

December 17, 1943: The Yonkers Academy of Medicine adopted a resolution supporting the policy of Health Commissioner Eugene McGillian putting a "gag rule" on the names and locations of children and adults who were diagnosed with polio, typhoid and meningitis in our city; surprisingly State Health Commis-

continued on pg 6-

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Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

sioner, Dr. Edward Godfrey, supported the decision. This contradicted the policy of transparency set by the late local Health Commissioner Dr. Buckmaster, one that let the public know where the locations of people with contagious diseases were.

Friday, December 18th:

December 18, 1915: The Common Council voted to continue placing ornamental lights in front of homes of former Mayors of Yonkers.

December 18, 1917: The Yonkers Bureau of Municipal Research announced if Yonkers continued to grow at its current rate, it would double its population by 1935. Our city possibly could be on the verge of merging with New York City... or feasibly already be a part of NYC!

December 18, 1937: Yonkers taxpayers examining the proposed 1938 budget were upset to learn 158 jobs had been added to the city payroll since the 1937 budget had been adopted, increasing the cost of our government by \$134,800.

Saturday, December 19th:

December 19, 1911: Supreme Court Justice Keogh today signed an order directing James Ball, Jr., of Yonkers be reinstated as foreman in the Department of Public Works at his former salary of \$31.50 per week, and be paid retroactively from the date he was "removed from his position illegally."

December 19, 1931: On recommendation of School Trustee Dr. John Faiella, the Board of Education approved tuberculin testing as a way to help combat the spread of TB.

December 19, 1937: More than 400 property owners loudly protested Yonkers real estate taxation, and demanded relief at the Common Council meeting. The meeting finally was adjourned at 1 a.m.

Sunday, December 20th

December 20, 1927: Mayor William Walsh, in the last few days in office, recommended the Common Council carry on improvements he began making for our city. He suggested: replacing wooden lighting poles with ornamental poles; completing enclosure of the Nepperhan River and building a highway on top of it; building a stadium in Glen Park; and making a comprehensive study of the Yonkers waterfront.

December 20, 1937: Six unnamed witnesses were called before the Westchester Grand Jury to testify about allegations of fraud in the Yonkers general election.

December 20, 1965: Nine children and three adults were killed in a fire that swept through the Jewish Community Center; this is considered by many to be the most tragic fire in Yonkers history.

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

Holiday Bargain , continued from pg 3-

patronize them as much as you can. They offer quality, often unique gifts tastefully gift wrapped at no charge for you. Some of these merchants are on the brink of closing due lackluster sales and desperately need your support.

Our beautiful Century 21 store in Yonkers is now a memory, but Lord and Taylor at Ridge Hill and Eastchester remain open. They are not just selling stock on hand but have brought new merchandise into the stores. Watch out for the new merchandise. It might not be the same quality you would always expect from Lord and Taylor and there are no returns or exchanges.

Sears in White Plains is going out of business. I visited the other day and didn't find any drastic bargains so early in the closing sale process. What I did notice is the lack of fitting rooms coupled with a no return or exchange policy. This is simply not fair to consumers. How can you buy an item with no returns without trying it on. They gave the old 'the fitting rooms are closed due to COVID-19' which is a lot of baloney. There are no rules, laws or regulations on the books that prohibit fitting rooms from being open during the pandemic. Same goes for bathrooms. Find a quiet area in the store and discreetly attempt to try on your items.

As Black Friday sales were lackluster, merchants will be offering specials and deals throughout the remainder of the holiday season and right up til New Years Eve. We won't have a lot to do between now and then so bargain shopping should be on your agenda. Lottery tickets always a good gift. Play the big games and if you win the big prize you can become a millionaire any day of the week.

The nicest gift this holiday season. Pick up the phone and call a friend or loved one you have not been in touch with. There's no greater gift than that!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisyonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @eric-yonkers. 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.

Legal Notices

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 6571 - Opening date: 1/8/2021: Twelve-month contract to provide mobile mix concrete deliveries for sidewalk repairs, as needed, at various locations Citywide (NG).
2. Bid 6572 - Opening date: 1/8/2021: Twenty-four month contract, with two options to renew for 12-months, to provide motor-cycle repairs for the YPD as needed (SR).
3. Bid 6573 - Opening date: 1/8/2021: Citywide tree planting for spring 2021 to replace damaged and diseased trees (KS).
4. Bid 6534A- Opening date: 1/8/2021: Purchase of Axon 3 Police Body Worn Cameras and related products, or Yonkers approved equals (TC).
5. Bid 6574 - Opening date: 1/8/2021: Multi-Prime Site Construction, General Construction, HVAC, Plumbing, and Electrical Contracts for the "Restoration of Building Envelope, Interiors, Security and Site" at School 16, 759 North Broadway, Yonkers, NY (YPS # 10845 (AS).

Notice of Formation of Rella Electric, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 12/1/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Christian Farella at 186 Stone Ave., Yonkers, NY, 10701 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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 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 of Formation of AJK Productions, LLC. filed with SSNY on 10/23/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to AJ K. 337 Upland Ave. Yonkers, NY 10703 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of Livest Media, LLC filed with SSNY on 10/28/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to AJ K. 337 Upland Ave. Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of One Step At A Time Organizing, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/19/2020. 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, 1116 Warburton Ave., Apt. 2Q, Yonkers, NY 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 is hereby given that a license, number "Westchester OP 1329923", for beer, liquor and wine, has been applied for by KIRBY HOSPITALITY LLC D/B/A BURKE'S BAR to sell beer, liquor and wine at retail in a restaurant under Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 645 Bronx River Road, Yonkers NY 10704 for on premises consumption.

Yonkers Christmas Lights, continued from pg 1-

The interest in getting out and doing something safe and enjoyable is larger than ever because of COVID 2020. My best example of how interested folks are in getting out and seeing a little holiday cheer is the recent Town of Yorktown's drive-thru holiday lights attraction at FDR Park.

Originally set for Sat. Dec 5, my daughter and I showed up only to find a State Trooper saying that because of the rains, the event was moved to Sun. Dec 6.

We showed up Dec. 6 and found hundreds of cars lined up on the Taconic Parkway to get into FDR Park. We waited a half-hour only to be told that the event was now over. Thousands of cars were already in the park and hundreds, like us, got turned away. All wishing to see the holiday floats and get a little Christmas cheer. There are many homes in our county that can give you that same feeling--enjoy!

Some of the houses in Yonkers that our friends have told us about include: 812 North Broadway--733 Kimball Avenue--534 Kimball Avenue, and many more next week.

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If County Jail Has 38% Fewer Inmates, Should We Cut Officers?

“We do need to prudently cut back in overstuffed and overfunded departments and, as I have pointed out, the County jail is the prime example.”--County Legislator Damon Maher-

“To bring this up in the midst of a pandemic could be kindly called short sighted at best. Does Legislator Maher even care about the health and safety of the inmate population, correctional, or civilian staff?”-Neil Pellone, West. COBA

By Dan Murphy

Rising newspapers recently received a letter to the editor from Neil Pellone, President of the Westchester Corrections Officers Benevolent Association, (COBA), asking for Hazzard Pay for his members.

In the letter on pg 6, Pellone criticizes County Legislator Damon Maher for his suggestions, in this budget cycle and in the past, to review and evaluate the number of inmates at the Westchester County Jail in Valhalla and the number of corrections officers employed at the same.

The inmate population at the Westchester County Jail has dropped by 38% in two years, according to data from the county’s Comprehensive Annual Financial Review (CARF). Last year, 2019, the average inmate population was 923; this year it was 580, a significant reduction which happened for a number of reasons, including COVID, but also the recent criminal reforms implemented in New York State which have reduced inmate populations, not only here in Westchester but across the state.

In an email to his constituents, Legislator Maher wrote, “Granted the pandemic had an effect in reducing incarcerations, but the numbers had already trended downward on the basis of the long downward trend in the crime rate in our local municipalities, Raise the Age legislation of two years ago with respect to 16 and 17 year-olds, bail reform and reduced prosecution of low level drug offenses, the latter two of which developments had already been largely foreshadowed by policies the Westchester DA’s office in advance of actual legislation, and were calculable based on historic demographics at the jail,” said Maher, who highlighted a recent audit report by the Ulster County NY which evaluated lower prison populations in their jail and resulted in Ulster County petitioning NY State to reduce minimum requirements of corrections officers in state prisons.

Maher brought up the report at a recent County Budget committee meeting, as part of a larger conversation that he wants to have about the county budget and its priorities. “And in these difficult times it is good to keep property taxes flat for low- and middle-income homeowners but we still need to discuss eventual adoption of a fairer tax structure, asking more of those with higher incomes and high-end properties who have enjoyed such great success due in part to things that Government makes possible,” said Maher.

“Meanwhile, especially during this pandemic, it is all the more important to make long-term investments in human capital, by better funding daycare and other early childhood education, helping to stave off the predicted tsunami of evictions, and filling budgeted positions left vacant in the recent buy-out plan for social service and mental health employees. We shouldn’t be balancing the budget by failing to fill positions set up to help people now truly in need, and we should do better by underfunded nonprofit organizations that partner with government to help the most vulnerable.”

“Whether or not we get the additional State or federal aid we so fervently wish for, we do need to prudently cut back in overstuffed and overfunded departments and, as I have pointed out, the County jail is the prime example. In this past year we have come close to having a two-to-one ratio of Corrections staff to inmates, while a perfectly good staffing level would appear to be a two- or three-to-one level in the other direction; that is, inmates to staff. There has been a steady reduction in the inmate population over the past five years at least, with no reduction in staffing levels (as funding went up) and no pro rata downward adjustment, that I can find in the budget lines, on contracts with outside vendors for medical and food services,” stated Maher.

Maher’s suggestions have resulted in a backlash from law enforcement supporters. Below is Neil Pellone’s letter on behalf of his corrections officers.

COVID and Corrections

By Neil Pellone, President, Westchester C.O.B.A.

Earlier this year I had written an Op-Ed entitled “A new world of public safety is upon us.” Little did I realize what would be upon us; this initial Op-Ed focused on the changes in bail reform, these changes lowered the jail population significantly. This reduction in population brought on the knee jerk reaction to question minimum staffing levels from certain Westchester County Legislators.

No one could have predicted the life altering changes that would come in March and April of 2020. Since the start of this COVID-19 pandemic Westchester COBA has continued to work together with the Department, the County Executive; his team, and the Department of Health to implement safety measures, ensure the use of PPE, and minimize the spread of this disease so we can keep our officers, their families, and the inmate population as safe as possible. Some of these additional safety measures include increasing cleaning crews to decontaminate, social distancing the inmate population, and altering new admission protocols and housing locations to minimize the introduction and spread of this highly contagious disease into the petri-dish environment known as jail.

As recent as October, 2020, County Legislator Damon Maher, during a Budget Committee-Capital Projects meeting, brought up an audit report that was done recently in Ulster County to evaluate the lower population number and petition the state to reduce requirements. Legislator Maher, as he has done in the past, has harped on lowering the minimum staffing standards, with his main focus of the inquiries solely on saving money.

To bring this up in the midst of a pandemic could be kindly called short sighted at best. Does Legislator Maher, and any of the other legislators asking for decreased staffing levels, even care about the health and safety of the inmate population, correctional, or civilian staff? While many other correctional facilities have had fatalities to all of the aforementioned staff and population, due to the safety measures based upon the current staffing levels, fortunately we have not. COVID-19 has negatively affected not only my members but their loved ones as well.

Our children are learning from laptops in make shift “living room classrooms” while many of us are being forced to work overtime and safely protect the jail. As recent as October 15th, 2020, the federal government ended an agreement with the Westchester County Jail, stating that the jail had met conditions to improve the treatment of inmates. In a public statement the officers of the Westchester County Jail were commended along with Commissioner Joseph K. Spano and his staff by County Executive George Latimer “No one is forgotten in our County, and this work is just more proof,” Latimer said in a statement.

On November 5, 2020, Commissioner Spano stated after the department earned its fifth re-accreditation. “The successful ACA reaccreditation audit combined with the Department’s other unique national certifications is part of what contributes to our reputation as a national leader in the correctional space-something we are very proud of.”

These accolades are great to hear, but as the backbone of the Westchester County Jail our Corrections Officers deserve hazard pay! We have worked through COVID, contracted COVID, and returned back to work from COVID. We put our safety and that of our families at risk on a daily basis. We continue to work through these unique challenges in an enclosed jail setting.

Despite these risks, as essential employees, Westchester County Correction Officers proudly remain on the front lines of this battle, working in close quarters, continuing to ensure public safety on a 24/7 basis,” end of Pellone’s letter.

Many see the arguments from Maher and Pellone as the beginning of a discussion about defunding the police on one side, and support for law enforcement on the other side.

“The new laws in New York State are working and our prison populations in our state are declining greatly,” said Patricia Kenny, a Westchester democrat. “Legislator Maher is now taking the next logical step, by proposing that we use our tax dollars for other means than incarceration. I applaud his efforts.”

County Executive George Latimer’s proposed county budget for 2021 shows that 21 vacant positions in the correction department will be subtracted from their current level of 877. Maher has made the following suggestions,

“By my calculations, we could forgo the planned Academy class this coming year, could have continuing attrition and a new buy-out proposal (like in Social Services, Mental Health and Public Health earlier this year), saving enough money to help struggling early childhood education/day care places and parents, and still have enough to cut the county property tax by about \$4M. Add that to the County Executive’s \$1M cut and you have \$5M, which is almost a full percentage point cut.”

We find Legislator Maher’s suggestions, and that is all that they are at this point, at the least worthy of discussion. We find it interesting -or ironic—that if a republican had suggested cutting property taxes, perhaps they would have received more attention or support.

As another progressive Westchester democrat told us, “We have a 16-1 supermajority on the county board. Let’s take that supermajority out for a ride and test it. Many democrats, and all politicians, are afraid to stand up to the unions. At least one isn’t.”

Other Westchester residents support law enforcement and are concerned that the safety of both officers and inmates could be at risk. “I don’t want Damon Maher determining how many corrections officers we need for how many inmates we may have at the time,” said Donald Hawkins. “What about the mentally ill inmates, who require more than one officer to keep safe? Aren’t there other parts of

rections officers risking their lives in our country jail? This is just the first step, next come cuts to the Westchester County Police and then how about cuts to the New Rochelle Police, where Legislator Maher lives?” xx

ArtsWestchester Offers 9 Ways for Holiday Family Togetherness Time

Local artists, arts groups and libraries are brightening the holiday season by offering virtual activities designed to give families more togetherness time.

ArtsWestchester and its partners are presenting dozens of performances, events and demonstrations online through the end of the month. One program, the ArtsMobile, publishes a new pre-recorded art-making activity featuring a professional teaching artist every Wednesday.

“The goal is to help families release stress amid remote learning and travel restrictions,” said Janet Langsam, ArtsWestchester’s CEO. “Art making—or any kind of participatory family activity—can help parents and children cope with the isolation of social distancing. With virtual programs, even if you miss the time it was webcast, they are still available for enjoyment because they are posted online.”

The full library of ArtsMobile’s art making workshops are posted on ArtsWestchester’ YouTube page.

ArtsWestchester’s Teen Tuesdays & Thursdays also offer free art-making online activities for children 12 to 16 years old. Teens can learn, participate and share their work using the hashtag #AWTeenTuesdays. These virtual art workshops are available on ArtsWestchester’s web page or via their YouTube channel.

Upcoming ArtsWestchester holiday arts programs include:

Dec. 9: Doodling. Join artist Donna Mikkelsen from 4:00–4:45 pm for a workshop teaching how to focus and use both hands to draw simultaneously and symmetrically. The workshop is for youth 7-12 years old and no drawing experience is necessary to participate. To register email Jessica Cioffoletti at jcioffoletti@artswestchester.org. Zoom log-in info will be sent upon registration.

Dec. 15: Holiday Card Making. Richela Fabian will lead a 45-minute Zoom program from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. The artist will guide participants in a card-making session using ordinary materials found around the home. The workshop is for youth 7-12 years old and no drawing experience is necessary to participate. To register email Jessica Cioffoletti at jcioffoletti@artswestchester.org. Zoom log-in info will be sent to upon registration.

Dec. 22: Body Art Lettering. In this Teen Tuesdays program, Evan Bishop and Katori Walker paint inspirational and celebratory words on hands and arms. The pre-recorded program will be posted Dec. 22 on the Teen Tuesdays website and no registration is required.

Dec. 22: Story Time. The White Plains Public Library’s Trove staff will present a story time from 11 a.m. to 11:35 a.m. for children from 2 to 6 years old on Zoom. To join, click the Zoom link, or alternatively, enter the following ID into Zoom: 897 5818 5711.

Dec. 23: Gingerbread Cookies. Get the whole family involved in the kitchen from 4 to 5 p.m. The Rye Free Reading Room has posted a gingerbread cookie recipe on its website so that families can gather and prepare a holiday favorite. Parents must fill out an online registration form.

Dec. 23: Paper Quilting. The ArtsMobile presents a paper arts activity with Vicky Youngman. Participants will create a fun holiday gift for a friend or family member. The program will be posted Dec. 23 on the ArtsMobile’s website and no registration is required.

Dec. 28: Belly Dancing. The Yonkers Public Library’s Crestwood Branch will host a belly dancing workshop from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Zoom for adults and older children. All skill levels are welcome. Join the Zoom Meeting at <https://zoom.us/j/92119894504> Meeting ID: 921 1989 4504

Dec. 28: Paper Arts. Teen Tuesdays presents a recycling program with Dara Kane, who will lead participants in a fun paper art activity using leftover holiday wrapping paper and envelopes. The program will be posted Dec. 28 on the Teen Tuesdays website and no registration is required.--Visit ArtsWestchester.org, for more information.

We “Need A Little Christmas” Lights in Westchester



Check out the Christmas lights on 21 N. Kensico Ave., White Plains for the last time

By Dan Murphy

As all of us deal with a “COVID Holiday Season” for the first time, one great, safe way for the family to get out of the house and enjoy the holidays is to take a drive around Westchester, turn on the radio to a Christmas station, and enjoy the Holiday light displays presented by families across the county.

I spent about an hour online searching for a set of homes with light shows that deserve your drive-by. Let’s start with four homes in White Plains at 21 North Kensico Ave.

“We believe that we have the best Christmas light display in New York. Come on out and enjoy our 2020 Computerized Christmas light and music display and discover it for yourself and your family. COVID-19 safety precautions will be in place to protect you and your family for 2020. We were already safe for your family by having it possible to enjoy the show from the safety of your family’s car radio broadcasting on 107.7 FM. It will be unlikely to practice proper social distancing while visiting our backyard so we ask that all family members wear masks while outside of your vehicles. Hot Chocolate will once again be offered in the Winter Village and be assured that we prepare the pre-measured cups of powdered mix while wearing masks and gloves for your safety. Christmas 2020 will be our thirteenth and final year of our show. We’ve been blessed that many children have grown up with families that have made our show part of their family’s traditions. We’ve thoroughly enjoyed bringing smiles to everyone that has been able to see the show and how its grown since it began in 2008. The physical effort and the time commitment is not sustainable as we’ve gotten older so we must say farewell to the show. We wish you continued good health and prosperity.

“This year we have over 10,000 lights on 144 channels synchronized to music. This will be our thirteenth year of using computer controlled lights however this will be our last year. There are four homes as part of the show this year. Are you visiting Westchester’s Winter Wonderland this season? We’re only 3.1 miles and 9 minutes away. The best part is that unlike the Westchester Winter Wonderland - we’re free!

2020 Show Schedule--Sat., November 28th to Fri., January 1st--5:30pm – 11:00pm 7 days a week.

“The show is a collection of 4 single family homes on North Kensico Ave. You’re welcome to drive on our street but we recommend that you eventually get out and also walk into the backyard of 21 N. Kensico Ave so you can see the Winter Village and see Santa. We don’t do this for a trophy, cash prize, or to be in the Guinness record books. We do this for you and your family,” writes Chuck Barringer. Make this a must visit because it won’t be around next year, and combine it with Westchester Winter Wonderland, \$25 per car.

Here’s some more locations for you to drive to: Parsons Street Harrison. Roy Aletti has warmed the hearts of families for more than 40 years with his display. “The expressions are absolutely priceless, especially the young ones who are in awe and become mesmerized by the bright lights. That radiates onto the adults who share in the big smiles and joy,” said Aletti, who has become a Westchester holiday legend. Be sure to check his display out and say Merry Christmas if you see him outside.

Other stops for your drive: New Rochelle, 155 Vaneck Drive, 12 Jenkins Court, Ossining, 50 Iriquois Road, Ossining, 6 Deans Bridge Road Somers. Also go to Somerset Road just down the road in Somers. 7 Andrew Road, Eastchester. And just over the border in Putnam Valley, at 16 Luigi Road is a great display.

I’m sure that I missed a lot of good places, please email them to me and I will print them next week, dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

A great website to find out where to visit is christmaslightfinder.com/displays. You can plug in your zip code and how far you want to travel.

The interest in getting out and doing something safe and enjoyable is larger than ever because of COVID 2020. My best example of how interested folks are in getting out and seeing a little holiday cheer is the recent Town of Yorktown’s drive-thru holiday lights attraction at FDR Park.

Originally set for Sat. Dec 5, my daughter and I showed up only to find a State Trooper saying that because of the rains, the event was moved to Sun. Dec 6.

We showed up Dec. 6 and found hundreds of cars lined up on the Taconic Parkway to get into FDR Park. We waited a half-hour only to be told that the event was now over. Thousands of cars were already in the park and hundreds, like us, got turned away. All wishing to see the holiday floats and get a little Christmas cheer. There are many homes in our county that can give you that same feeling--enjoy!

Barnes & Noble Holiday Book Drive

Barnes & Noble has selected United Way of Westchester and Putnam (UWWP) to be the recipient of their 2020 Holiday Book Drive, which runs through Dec. 12. Barnes & Noble stores in Eastchester, White Plains, and Yonkers are participating. At check-out, customers are encouraged to purchase an additional book for children ages 0-10, which is then donated to the book drive. “We could not do this annual book drive without the generosity of everyone in the community,” said Barnes & Noble Store Manager Jonathan Castro. “I want to thank everyone that has donated to United Way of Westchester and Putnam through this program. We still have a few days left to make a change in a young readers life, so please come in and contribute if you can.” All the books donated will go towards United Way’s United2Read early literacy program or will be distributed as holiday presents to children in need in Westchester and Putnam. Through its United2Read program, UWWP has collected and distributed nearly 15,000 books across our region to more than 5,000 underprivileged children, from birth to age five, so far in 2020. These books kits encourage childhood literacy and interaction between caregiver and child—both of which are crucial to a child’s growth and success. If you are interested in purchasing a book to donate to United Way of Westchester and Putnam, you can visit, YONKERS BARNES & NOBLE Central Plaza 2614, Central Park Ave, Yonkers.



Roy Aletti’s Harrison display has been a must stop for 40+ yrs.



16 Luigi Road, Putnam Valley has quickly become a fan-fav

Happy Chanukah, continued from pg 1-

your own candles, or topped with a container of oil. Please contact Rabbi Hurwitz to receive, free of charge thanks to Home Depot Yonkers, your chanukiah kit, which is available at the synagogue, 600 North Broadway, Yonkers, by appointment. Contact Rabbi Hurwitz at (914) 963-8888, or email Rabbi@JewishYonkers.com, or visit their web site www.JewishYonkers.com.

On the first night of Chanukah, Thursday night December 10th, Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz invites you to the 5 pm lighting of the giant chanukiah at Yonkers’ Untermyer Gardens overlooking the Hudson River, at 945 North Broadway, publicly proclaiming the miracle of the oil, sufficient for only one day, instead lasting eight days. This celebration is open to only the first 25 people who respond, which will allow safe social distancing, as mask wearing and social distancing is required. Jelly donuts, the traditional Chanukah treat cooked in oil, will be served. Please register and receive instructions by calling Rabbi Hurwitz at (914) 963-8888 or emailing Rabbi@JewishYonkers.com.

The following week, on Tuesday, December 15th, the sixth night of Chanukah, Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz invites you to meet at 5 pm at the Chabad of Yonkers/Greystone Jewish Center at 600 North Broadway, where a large chanukiah will be lit outside the synagogue, proclaiming the miracle of Chanukah. Participants will receive traditional jelly filled sufganiot donuts. Chabad of Yonkers will make available a limited number of magnetically attached menorahs which will not damage your car. Soon after 5 pm a Chanukah car procession will leave the synagogue, forming a Chanukah procession driving north from Chabad to the Boyce Thompson Shopping Center at 1084 - 1088 North Broadway in Yonkers where at 6 pm, Rabbi Hurwitz will lead a public lighting of a giant chanukiah. People are invited to park and stay in their cars in the parking lot, where they will see the flames of the torches lit atop the chanukiah, while maintaining safe social distancing. Mask wearing is required.

As occurred last year, many cars with a Happy Chanukah sign and a menorah on top will illuminate Yonkers’ North Broadway with a wonderful parade of menorahs and music. Please register at Rabbi@JewishYonkers.com or call (914) 963-8888 to reserve a Menorah for your car top.

Alzheimer’s Association tips, continued from pg 1-

- Make sure your loved one with dementia wears a mask around visitors.
- Consider having one family member be the official holiday helper for your loved one with dementia. This should be someone who practices social distancing on a regular basis and is able to commit fully to the necessary safety precautions.

The Alzheimer’s Association has programs designed to help caregivers deal with the complexities of the season. Caring through the Holidays will be offered from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. on Monday, Dec. 14, and Caring for a Loved One During COVID-19 will be offered at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, Dec. 16. To register for these programs, call the Alzheimer’s Association Hudson Valley Chapter at 800.272.3900.

These programs are supported in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Health. To learn more about the programs and services offered locally, visit alz.org/hudsonvalley. Visit alz.org, to learn more about The Alzheimer’s Association

Untermeyer Gardens Grand Holiday Illumination Opens December 12



The Grand Holiday Illumination at Untermeyer Gardens in Yonkers, should be on everyone's holiday visit list-photo by Donna Davis

The Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy, a non-profit organization working in partnership with the City of Yonkers, announces its sixth annual Grand Holiday Illumination at the Walled Garden. The event is free nightly and open to the public from December 12-January 3 from 4:30 until 8:00 PM.

The Walled Garden will be brilliantly illuminated with nearly 100,000 festive holiday lights, highlighting the rich architectural and horticultural elements of the garden. Beautiful holiday music in the Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Zoroastrian traditions will be played.

Because of the pandemic, visitation will be strictly limited by timed entry. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED by signing up online at www.untmyergardens.org. Unfortunately, no one can be admitted without reservations.

Happy Holidays Yonkers-Stay Safe

**Merry Christmas
and Happy Hanukkah!**



Yonkers Downtown-Waterfront BID Helps Yonkers Shine a Little Brighter-Holiday Lights



The Yonkers Downtown/Waterfront Business Improvement District is helping Yonkers shine a little brighter this holiday season with their beautiful holiday lights! Over 250 businesses and thousands of residents will benefit from the cheerful lighting to our downtown. During these challenging times, it is critical that we create the environment, the quality of life and the infrastructure to foster growth and success. This will provide a motivational boost to our merchants and can add much needed foot traffic to advance their business. "This year more than ever our local businesses need all the support from the Yonkers Downtown BID in order to make the area welcoming for potential shoppers and diners. I want to especially thank our sponsors for making these holiday lights possible for this year. These festive holiday lights and decorations make the winter holiday season a celebratory one for everyone who lives, works, and visits Downtown Yonkers." Sara Brody, Executive Director of the BID. For more information on happenings in Yonkers, visit www.YonkersDowntown.com.

Santa to Visit Yonkers Brewing Co. Sunday December 13



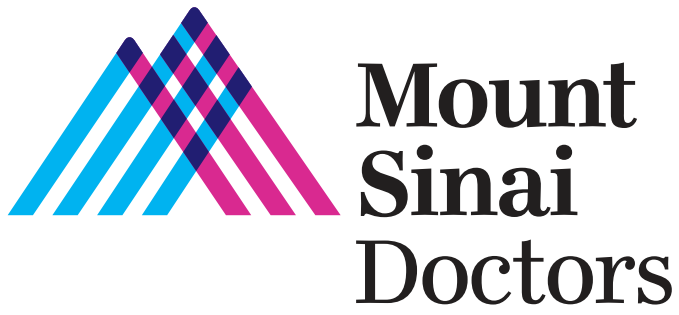
Come by and take your socially distant picture with Santa at Yonkers Brewing Co. Safe and fun for the entire family! The Yonkers Brewing Co. is located at 92 Main Street.

**I TRIED MAKING
MY FAMOUS
CHICKEN RECIPE,
BUT CONFUSED
THE STEPS.**

**KNOW
WHERE
ALZHEIMER'S
AND ALL
DEMENTIA
HIDE.**

**alzheimer's
association**

Difficulty planning and completing familiar tasks are warning signs of Alzheimer's.
Learn more at alz.org/10signs



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video, or telephone visit, call
914-370-5000

