

Yonkers Rising

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Friday January 22, 2021

Should the Next COVID Vaccination Site in NY State Be in Yonkers?



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano called on New York State to open a COVID-19 vaccine distribution center in Yonkers to handle the thousands of local residents who are eligible to receive it.

“Since Yonkers is the 4th largest city in the state and the largest in the Hudson Valley, it is imperative that we meet the vaccine needs of our region by opening an additional center in our city,” said Mayor Spano. “Positivity and hospitalization rates continue to rise here while appointments to obtain a vaccine are increasingly difficult to schedule. We can’t expect Westchester County Center alone to mass service most of those who live in the lower Hudson Valley. We need to expedite the vaccine to the areas where it’s needed most.”

Citing that Yonkers is the most densely populated area in the County and with the most cases, Mayor Spano added, “Three Yonkers zip codes were designated Yellow Zones by the State in November, proving we need to stem the tide of more cases. Our Yellow Zone mostly impacts our lower income communities, many of whom rely on public transportation, so traveling to the County Center for the vaccine comes even more burdensome. I ask our State health officials to consider Yonkers as one of the main hubs for vaccine distribution, especially as more residents become eligible for it.”

“Our collective goal is for all of us to gain herd immunity as we vaccinate more and more Americans – let Yonkers be a means to that goal so we can once again open up our schools, businesses and homes as they should,” stated Mayor Spano.

Suggested locations for vaccine distribution centers in Yonkers include the Yonkers Police Athletic League and Yonkers Public Libraries. Since March 2020, over 17,000 Yonkers residents have contracted COVID-19.

Westchester recently opened its first state run vaccination site at the County Center in White Plains, but reservations for vaccinations quickly filled up and Cuomo announced that while over 7 million New Yorkers are now eligible for the COVID vaccine, the state only receives 300,000 doses per week from the federal government. To date, New York’s health care distribution sites have administered 75 percent of doses received from the federal government.

Due to the federal government’s limited allocation, appointments have filled up quickly. New Yorkers are being urged to call your local health department, pharmacy, doctor or hospital for additional information and to schedule appointments.

“New York is working around the clock to get needles in arms quickly and efficiently, but we are being constrained by the federal government – they increased eligibility, but never increased supply,” Governor Cuomo said. “What they did was like opening the floodgates of eligibility. Now, 7 million New Yorkers are eligible, but we are still only receiving about 300,000 doses a week. Even worse, we actually got less doses this week at about 250,000. New York has done its part and now has one of the most expansive distribution networks to actually conduct the vaccinations and it’s time for the federal government to do theirs and actually increase the supply.”

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Crosby, Nolan Step Forward To run for County board



First time candidates James Nolan, left, and Dwanita Crosby, right, will be running for Westchester County Legislator: Nolan will challenge, Legislator Ruth Walter in the 15th district, while Crosby will be challenging Legislator Christopher Johnson in the 16th District.

See Story on pg 7

Yonkers Public Schools Graduation Rates Up Again, Now at 91% on time



Congratulations to Yonkers High School students, for their academic successes through COVID-19

Data from the New York State Education Department found that 2020 graduation rates for the Yonkers Public Schools continued to grow and improve. “Yonkers achieved their highest graduation rate in decades— 90.6% - and surpassed the State graduation rate of 84.8%. Most significant for an urban school district, Yonkers continues to close the achievement gaps among all race, gender and sub groups. Under extraordinary challenging circumstances, our dropout rate remained constant at 3.4%,” said YPS Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada.

“The resilience and persistence of the Class of 2020 graduates and their families as well as the relentless commitment of Yonkers administrators and teachers resonates in the graduation data released today,” stated Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of Schools.

Over the past ten years, the District has focused significant resources into closing the achievement gap across race, gender and sub groups including English Language Learners and Students with Disabilities. In particular, intentional efforts towards male achievement with initiatives such as Yonkers My Brother’s Keeper that engage community supports for students.

Board of Education President Rev. Steve Lopez added, “Yonkers continues on a positive trajectory even under the most challenging times for our community. The first of the Large City Districts to graduate over 90%, Yonkers Class of 2020 graduation rate of 91% surpassed the State’s rate of 85% and Westchester County’s rate of 90%. These results dramatically demonstrate the outstanding work of Dr. Quezada, all of our employees, students and families.”

Yonkers on-time graduation rate continued to climb to 90.6% in 2020, a growth of 2.6% points. The graduation rate is strong across race, gender and sub groups, with 90% of Black students, 90% Latino students, 90% Male, 91% Female, 85% Multi-Lingual Learners, and 68% Students with Disabilities graduating on time.

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Stewart-Cousins Presents Voting Reform Package



State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, from Yonkers

Absentee Ballots are Here to Stay

By Dan Murphy

The election of 2020 will be known as the COVID-19 election, but also should be remembered as the election where the ability of voters to cast their ballot by absentee was expanded and the restrictions against it relaxed.

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and the democratic supermajority in Albany have proposed and presented a number of voting reforms designed to modernize the vote by mail system and increase transparency and voter turnout. The legislation passed builds on the Senate Majority’s historic election reforms passed during the 2019 and 2020 Legislative Session. The package of bills includes legislation to require absentee ballots be counted as they come in, requires absentee ballot drop boxes at voting locations to reduce long lines, and allows voters to track their absentee ballot.

“Elections matter, voting matters, and leadership matters. We have seen how fundamental change can be achieved when people exercise their Constitutional right to vote,” Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said. “The Senate Democratic Majority has started the past two Legislative Sessions with legislative packages to empower New Yorkers and reduce barriers to voting. The bills advanced by the Senate Majority continue those efforts and will help reform and modernize our electoral system. I applaud the bill sponsors for their leadership on this foundational issue, and thank my colleagues for advancing these bills and standing up for New York voters.”

The bills advanced by the Senate Majority include:
Speeding Up the Absentee Ballot Counting Process: This bill, S.1027, sponsored by Deputy Majority Leader Senator Michael Gianaris, amends

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YPD Citizen Police Academy Alumni Assoc.--Thanks for Your Service



Chief Sapienza with Migdalia Ramos



YPD Chief Sapienza with Doris Perkins

On Monday January 18, 2021, members of the Yonkes Police Department's Citizen Police Academy's Alumni Association Executive Board were sworn in to continue their service to help the YPD with their interactions with the community and with programming like Coffee with a Cop. The following members below, left to right: Cruz Lopez (Vice President), Elizabeth Hemingway (President), Phil Foley (Sgt. At Arms), Caroll Claudio (Secretary) and Anthony Jakominic (Treasurer), were sworn in by Yonkers Police Chief Chris Sapienza. The ceremony was held at the First Precinct on Grassy Sprain Road. Also honored were Migdalia Ramos and Doris Perkins for their dedication and service as the past President and Vice President.

If you are a citizen of Yonkers and would like to sign up for the next Citizens Police Academy Class please contact Captain Vincent Castelli at 914-377-7360.



Yonkers Police Investigate Fatal Fairview Street Shooting

On Sunday, January 17th, 2021, at approximately 10:05 PM, members of the Yonkers Police Department responded to 54 Fairview Street in the confines of the 4th Precinct on several reports of shots fired with a male down. Upon arrival officers discovered an unresponsive male victim down on the floor in the first-floor hallway with multiple apparent gunshot wounds to his torso. First Responders immediately rendered medical aid to the victim; he was transported to a local area trauma center where he ultimately died from his injuries. Police cordoned-off the area and a criminal investigation was initiated.

Detectives from the Major Case Squad and Crime Scene Unit responded to the scene to interview subjects and witnesses, recover surveillance video, and process forensic and ballistic evidence. Preliminary investigation thus far has yielded that a suspect approached the victim in the first-floor hallway of the building and fired multiple gunshots in his direction, striking the victim multiple times. The victim collapsed at scene and the suspect fled the location. Detectives are currently and actively working the case to develop information, identify the perpetrator, and effect an arrest; investigators believe that the victim was targeted and that this incident was not a random event.

The victim is identified as Joseph Pichardo, a 24-year-old resident of Main Street 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 will remain confidential. 100% anonymous tips can be sent by texting the key word YPD plus the tip to 847411. Anonymous tips can also be sent to us directly through the Yonkers PD Tips app which can be downloaded for free to any Apple or Android device.

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County Executive Latimer Announces Re-Election Bid Why Nobody Wants To Run Against Him



Westchester County Executive George Latimer

By Dan Murphy

Westchester County Executive George Latimer made it official on Jan. 11, that he will be seeking a second term. "I am announcing today that I am seeking a Second Term as County Executive.... with the new term limits law in place, this would be my final term if elected. We've done a lot, in a difficult time....but we have more to do. And we can accomplish these things – together," said Latimer in a short video posted online.

Latimer has served Westchester in the middle of a pandemic. This is uncharted territory, as he likes to say, and he is right, not only for county government but for all of our lives, jobs, and most important the health of our families.

So there is little time for Latimer to make a large campaign kickoff announcement, especially when the Westchester County Center becomes a COVID vaccine location and tens of thousands of county residents are ready to get their shot.

Latimer made the announcement now because the political calendar in NY State has moved all dates and deadlines up; conventions are held at the end of Jan, and candidates have to go out and get signatures in Feb. and March. The whole process is over in April and the democratic primary, which many now be the most important election in Westchester, will take place this year on June 22.

With just a few weeks left for a candidate to step forward, nobody wants to run against George Latimer. Not a progressive democrat, nor a republican.

The rumors that State Senator Alessandra Biaggi would challenge Latimer from the left are FALSE, she is not running for county executive, nor has anyone to the left of Latimer. County Clerk Tim Itoni is facing such a challenge, from Yonkers City Councilwoman Shanae Williams.

One republican had stepped forward to challenge Latimer last fall. His name is Dan Branda, a relatively unknown former staff member to the prior County Exec. Rob Astorino.

Branda, who lives in Somers, was the only republican to toss his hat out into the ring, and for several months in 2020, he had the spotlight to himself and tried to gain some traction with several press releases, (including one that backed the accuser of Gov. Andrew Cuomo for sexual assault), but nothing gained any serious media attention.

Perhaps that is why Branda is now out of the race for County Exec., according to published reports, where he stated that he was pursuing "a family opportunity," and was no longer a candidate.

This leaves no republican candidate to challenge Latimer. There are only a few republicans left in Westchester that have the Gravitas to challenge Latimer. And most believe that those few republicans have watched Latimer's service as County Executive and determined that the risk and hard work required, during a pandemic to challenge him does not equal the long-shot reward of beating him on Nov. 2.

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God Bless America



By Eric Schoen

There was no Inaugural Parade where the newly inaugurated President of the United States got out of his vehicle and strode, family members in tow down the streets of Washington, D.C. No Inaugural Balls where people and corporations paid thousands of dollars to get a glimpse of the President and his wife dancing in one of the great hotel ballrooms of our nation's Capitol.

I tried numerous times over the years to get a ticket to one of the balls. I wasn't expecting anything more than a cash bar and maybe a piece of cold, rubbery chicken on a plate with a few vegetables, potatoes and stale rolls. Never had any luck. Due to COVID-19 I knew it wasn't happening this year.

No visits by the throngs there for the occasion to the Washington Monument, Lincoln or Jefferson Memorials to honor Presidents of the past. Certainly no stopping by to greet the newly sworn in members of the House of Representatives or Senate who represent you. Add security to the myriads of issues causing these disruptions this year.

On Wednesday Joseph Robinette Biden was sworn in as the President of these great United States with Kamala Harris sworn in as his Vice President. Both of them placing their hands on the Bible sworn into office by the Supreme Court Justices of United States. The ritual we go through every four years continued, and despite impeachment attempts and so many other issues the great tradition lives on.

Nothing, no nothing will ever stop this great occasion from continuing. We are grateful for that. Our Government goes on without missing a beat as it has for so many years. We are represented by two United States Senators 11 and one Congressperson. Jamaal Bowman has replaced Eliot Engel as Congressman for many of us. Mondaire Jones has replaced Nita Lowey who decided to retire this year. We wish Jamaal and Mondaire nothing but the best as they continue allowing 'We, The People' to be represented in the halls of government.

What more can I say other than, 'God Bless America, my Home Sweet Home. God Bless America, my Home Sweet Home!'

The Journal News. Your Local Newspaper?

When mom was alive the Journal News, the local newspaper was second only to the Bible. Actually when it came to learning about local news it was her bible. The paperboy or papergirl would deliver it late in the day after school, and he/she would get paid once a week, usually on a Friday for services provided.

Mom and dad and my sister and I read the Journal News, formerly the Herald Statesman to read about local news. The minute mom opened the paper she would turn to the obituary page to find out who died. My sister would join me in asking mom, 'Who died?'

The paper was filled with all local news, everything from what was going on in the schools and city to local perspectives on national and world

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We are hoping that you will make one of your New Year's resolutions to read more books! Yonkers Public Library has programs and booklists to help you on your quest.

Beginning on January 11, Yonkers Public Library will be coordinating a Winter Escape Reading Challenge. This program is available for ages five and up! Using READsquared, our online reading program tool, you can keep track of the books that you and your child have read.

On Thursday, January 21 at 7:15 PM, the Adult Online Book Club will meet virtually to discuss Pachinko by Min Jin Lee. Extra copies of the book are available to pick up at the Yonkers Crestwood Library branch. Follow the Book Club link for the program description and information on how to join the discussion.

Stuck on where to start? Take a look at our Featured Booklists compiled by YPL staff. Whether you're looking for some of the Best eBooks of 2020 or want to grab a title from the New York Times Notable Books of 2020, our recommended reading resources will help you find plenty of options. eBooks can be borrowed with your library card number and PIN number (the last four digits of your phone number). They can be read on a smart device, kindle, or computer. If you prefer a physical copy, books can be placed on hold and picked up at one of the Yonkers Public Library branches.

Yonkers Police and Partner Agencies Target Fraudulent License Plates

On Jan. 16, members of the Yonkers Police Traffic Unit, Westchester County Department of Public Safety, and New York State Police conducted a traffic enforcement detail in the City of Yonkers targeting fraudulent and counterfeit license plates, including many out-of-state temporary license plates, paper tags, and dealer assigned plates.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of Motor Vehicles in New York and many other states reduced services in the interest of public health early last year, resulting in a delay with the assignment of registration plates. As services have gradually been restored, some individuals have taken advantage of the situation and produced fraudulent paper and temporary tags under the belief that enforcement was being deferred; they were mistaken. Many of these vehicles, unregistered, uninspected, and uninsured, pose a public safety risk to motorists and pedestrians. Over 100 summonses were issued and 27 vehicles were impounded, including one arrest for a stolen recovered vehicle; five individuals had suspended licenses.

Navigating public services during the pandemic can be complicated, however it is no excuse for illegal or unlawful behavior. Many DMV services have transitioned online and additional information about DMV Reopening Guidance can be found here: <https://dmv.ny.gov/more-info/dmv-reopening-guidance>

This enforcement detail is a result of law enforcement's commitment to ensure the safety of our roads and preserve the quality-of-life for our residents. Please report traffic violations to the Yonkers Police at (914) 377-7900 – emergencies call 9-1-1.

NY State's COVID Fiscal Crisis Could Mean Budget Blues for Yonkers

NY Governor Andrew Cuomo released his proposed budget for 2021-22, which once again, relies on a Federal bailout, this time of \$15 Billion. With President Joe Biden now in office, and NY Senator Charles Schumer, now Majority Leader Schumer, another COVID stimulus is planned and includes \$350 Billion for all 50 states and local governments. The Governor also laid out a "worst case scenario" in which New York State were given only \$6 Billion in Federal funds. Under that scenario, the state budget would have to raise taxes and cut spending by \$9 Billion, including a \$2 Billion cut to education funding.

The Yonkers Public Schools are heavily reliant on State Education Funding, and State Senator Shelley Mayer, from Yonkers and who is also the Senate Education Chair, said "we cannot balance a budget at the expense of our public schools."

Sen. Mayer's entire statement reads, Thank you to Governor Andrew Cuomo for his continued advocacy for New Yorkers. With so much uncertainty about federal aid for New York State, one thing is clear: our children cannot continue to bear the burden of the pandemic's economic impact. This past year, we have seen incredible sacrifice from students, parents, teachers, and administrators. We cannot balance a budget at the expense of our public schools. We should commit to increasing education funding by sharing the burden equitably with those who can afford it. We must also fortify other essential programs and services necessary for educational quality and equity. I look forward to working with my colleagues and the Governor's Office to find a path forward that recognizes the acute need for additional school funding—and does not rely on supplanting the state's obligation with the aid appropriated from the federal government to New York. Additionally, we must build back stronger from the scourge of the pandemic. The reconciliation of the COVID crisis must include the expansion of full day Pre-K for districts outside of New York City; free broadband for every student across the state; and ensure adequate resources for compensatory education initiatives to help students meet learning benchmarks, particularly for students with special needs."

Yonkers Vaccine Center continued from pg 1-

"New York State is rapidly expanding our networks and capabilities to get as many New Yorkers vaccinated as fast as our supply allows," Governor Cuomo said. "The new vaccine sites across the State will expedite our distribution to get our most vulnerable New Yorkers vaccinated efficiently. Our greatest hindrance continues to be federal inaction. We have come too far to be held back in our efforts by the inadequate vaccine supply from the federal government. I encourage New Yorkers to be patient throughout this process and urge our federal government to increase the supply to states."

Westchester County Executive George Latimer wrote, "Important Fact: New York State – from NYC to Buffalo to Montauk – is only receiving 300,000 doses of vaccine each week. At that rate, it would take over 60 WEEKS to vaccinate every New Yorker. There are problems with the State system... and that happens when demand far exceeds supply and thereby insufficient appointments.

But that number is staggering... 60 weeks at the current supply rate to vaccinate everybody. There's your number one problem. You get on the State website and you can't get an appointment at a site because the location doesn't have enough vaccine committed to them. The utter failure of the Federal Administration to establish a NATIONWIDE vaccine distribution plan then requires each State to set up their own plan, with obvious differences among them.

Making it harder or easier to get vaccinated, depending on the State. We failed to have a nationwide plan to identify the virus as an emergency... we failed to have a national program to regulate social distancing or mask wearing.... we failed to have a national program for COVID testing.... and now, we fail to have a national vaccine program. But it didn't have to be that way. Some people were busy worrying about other things and ignoring the most important issue of the day. So the State, and the County and the locals will do our best given the circumstances but it is rocky and bumpy.

We open the County Center today as a vaccination center and we could get up to 1,000+ people vaccinated per day once we're fully rolling. If we can get enough doses of vaccine."

Governor Cuomo added that the Federal government was sending New York State 50,000 fewer vaccines than the previous week, when the State needs hundreds of thousands more doses to keep up with demand. This resulted in Cuomo contacting Pfizer on behalf of New York, asking to purchase their vaccines directly.

That action drew a harsh response from President Joe Biden's Covid Advisory Board member Dr. Celine Gounder "I think Governor Cuomo, himself, had said back in the spring that the situation around ventilators was essentially 'one big Ebay' with all of the states bidding against one another for ventilators, and I think this kind of an approach to vaccine allocation is going to result, frankly, in the same kind of situation that he, himself, was criticizing last spring," Gounder said.

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 January 21. 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." Thank you.

Yonkers Rising

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Virtual Garden Conversation From Untermyer Gardens Conservancy



On Saturday January 31, 2021 from 2-4:30 pm (with intermission) there will be a conversation entitled Garden Elements and Styles: a Conversation with Toby Musgrave and Timothy Tilghman. They will be discussing garden elements and styles from famous gardens around the world, including Untermyer, pictured above. Cost is \$15. Tickets available at untermyergardens.com. Go to events then lectures.

Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Video Contest for YPS Students



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edwin M. Quezada today are launching the 2021 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Video Contest. This year's theme for Black History Month is "The Black Family: Representation, Identity and Diversity" as it speaks to the diverse families in Yonkers. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. came from a strong family upbringing and his dedication to his family was a motivating factor behind his drive to push for social justice and freedom for all in America.

"The COVID-19 pandemic has taught us many lessons over the last year – one being the need for strong, family support to help us weather the storm," said Mayor Mike Spano. "During this time, many families have developed even stronger bonds, so I'm excited to learn from our young people how they believe their family dynamic provides the foundation they need to stay motivated and positive during these trying times."

Mayor Spano will select one video from grades 1-4, one video from grades 5-8 and one video from grades 9-12 which asks students to submit a 3-5 minute video depicting how their family represents diversity and share how their strong family upbringing helped shape who they are today. The winning videos will be displayed on the City of Yonkers website and on all social media platforms for Yonkers residents to enjoy. Winners will be sent a certificate from Mayor Spano and their video will be shown at the City's Annual Black History Month Virtual Celebration on Thursday, February 26, 2021 at 5:30 pm.

Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of Schools stated, "Throughout 2020, our Yonkers Public Schools family grew even stronger out of our mutual necessity to continue every student's education. The bonds nurtured by our administrators, teachers and staff with both our students and their families are magnificent examples to inspire the students. Dr. King taught us by his actions to value family and education. Therefore, this year's theme for the Mayor's Martin Luther King, Jr. Video Contest is profoundly appropriate for our students."

The contest is open to all primary and secondary Yonkers students; only one video may be submitted per student. Guidelines and specifications for the contest can be found at <https://www.yonkersny.gov/mlk>. Video submissions are due Friday, February 12, 2021 and may be emailed to contest@yonkersny.gov. Winners will be selected by the Mayor's African American Advisory Board and will be notified on Friday, February 19.

On This Day in Yonkers History...



Yonkers resident Charles Steinmetz, the greatest electrical engineer of his time

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

January 25, 1937: Although strikers were warned they would be forcibly ejected, one lone striker resumed his post in the Federal Music Project office in the Sears, Roebuck building.

January 25, 1945: Yonkers learned the appreciation of local soldiers for a little reminder of home. Although many, many miles away, 1st Lieutenant Frank Cotter of Pondfield Road West broke out in a broad smile when he opened his K rations. Inside, a lump of sugar was wrapped in a paper bearing the name of a Pondfield Road West restaurant! Cotter, attached to the Army Amphibious Forces, wrote to his mom, that it was "a small world after all."

Tuesday, January 26th

January 26, 1916: The Flagg Building in Getty Square, touted as Yonkers most modern office building, held its grand opening.

January 26, 1936: Three Leake and Watts boys, Robert Twiford, William Pinkus and John Smith, rescued twelve-year old Tom Kavanagh who was caught on an ice floe and in danger of being carried downstream in the swift current of the Hudson River. The quick-thinking boys rescued Tom using a ladder. Twiford was a local basketball star and went on to Syracuse University to play; Coach Lew Andreas considered him to be one of the team's best offensive players

Wednesday, January 27th

January 27, 1943: Lieutenant Colonel Egbert White of Plymouth Avenue was featured in the New York Sun. While patrolling with American Forces in North Africa, the Yonkers man was caught in crossfire. White escaped by crawling across the desert on his stomach to a ditch and what he thought was safety. Just as he got there, the Italians began firing mortars. When the mortars stopped, he headed downhill to safety, machine gun fire ringing all around him. The company dispatch the next day stated, "... only one routine patrol activity on the Tunisian front." When Colonel White read the communiqué, his immediate reaction was, "Routine? Hell!" A WWI veteran, White established Yank Magazine a month after Pearl Harbor, accepting a commission as lieutenant colonel. General Osborn removed him from the Yank Staff in 1942 and ordered him overseas to create the North African/Mediterranean edition of Stars and Strips newspaper from its beginning in December 1942. He was sent home mid-1944; he wanted to run American newspaper article about the Presidential campaign, something army command "forbade."

January 27, 1956: Yonkers resident Joe Lapchick resigned as coach of the NY Knickerbockers.

Thursday, January 28th:

January 28, 1914: While speaking at the Electric Vehicle Association of America, Yonkers resident Charles P. Steinmetz, the greatest electrical engineer of his time, predicted the gasoline automobile craze would die out and we would turn to electric cars.

January 28, 1928: New York broker A. R. Martine of North Broadway and pilot Roger Q. Williams made a successful test of a portable radio telephone, recently installed in the "A. R. Martine" monoplane. Martine and Williams, made the test flight over Yonkers; messages broadcast while flying over our city clearly were heard at Curtiss Field in Long Island. The plane made its fourth attempt to break the world's endurance record at Richmond Virginia a few days later. Unfortunately, the plane was wrecked, but both pilots were uninjured.

Friday, January 29th

January 29, 1943: Thousands of Alexander Smith & Sons Carpet factory workers rallied to pledge to meet the challenge "to work as hard for our boys on fronts all over the world" levied by visiting Army and Navy officers visiting the plant. The military officers viewed the workers making duck, blankets and other equipment for war.

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Notice of formation of Poy Energy Solutions, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/30/2020. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 15 Roanoke St. 1st Floor, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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 Desserts by Denise, LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the Secy. of State of N.Y. on 12/30/2020. Office located in Westchester. Denise Marino is designated for service of process at 75 Pocono Rd, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Panza NY LLC filed with the SSNY on 10/13/2020. 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, 640 Van Cortlandt Pk Ave Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Byrd Enterprises, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/21/20. 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, 249 Hoover Road, Yonkers NY. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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.

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

January 29, 1946: The two hundred-fortieth and final issue of the Yonkers Home News was published. Sponsored by the Alexander Smith Memorial Foundation, it was a digest of what happened in Yonkers and mailed free to every Yonkers resident in the Armed Forces, no matter where in the world he or she was serving. The first issue was published June 17, 1941, several months before Pearl Harbor; the paper was instrumental in keeping our fighting men and women in touch with their hometown, to let them know Yonkers had not forgotten about them.

Saturday, January 30th

January 30, 1932: New Yonkers resident Jerry Elario of Halstead Avenue, owner of a Second Avenue speakeasy, was shot early in the morning at McLean Avenue and McCollum Place. Shortly after leaving his "restaurant," he realized a small coupe was following him. After being forced to the curb, he ducked behind the steering while his enemies shot three bullets into his car; one struck his left arm above the elbow and embedded behind his shoulder blade.

January 30, 1932: The President Roosevelt, one of the great passenger ships of the United States Lines, was seriously damaged when it was rammed in severe fog off New York by the Roma, an Italian deluxe ocean liner. Captained by Yonkers own hero captain George Fried, the Roosevelt was anchored and sustained damage above the water line, damage serious enough to necessitate it to head back to port for repairs. The Coast Guard sent cutters from Staten Island to assist the two ships.

Sunday, January 31st

January 31, 1906: Samuel Untermyer of Greystone, added two dogs of "unusual merit" to his kennel of high-class collies. Untermyer purchase the collies from Mr. Ainscough, one of the best-known dog-fanciers in Great Britain. He announced he would enter them in the coming show of the Westminster Kennel Club held in Madison Square Garden.

January 31, 1919: Nationally known baseball umpire William J. Klem of 610 South Broadway, declared in an interview it was only a matter of time until baseball would become "America's national game and the world's favorite sport."

Later a member of the Baseball Hall of Fame, Klem had an uncanny eye for calling balls and strikes and was known as the "Old Arbitrator."

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.

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Virtual Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 27, 2021 at 5:00pm, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

LOCAL LAW AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF A PERMANENT ACCESS EASEMENT OVER CITY RIGHT OF WAY ON MIDLAND AVENUE

Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary. Further information, including access to a copy of said proposed local law, may be obtained at the City Clerk's office, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York and on the City's Website.

To participate in the public hearing via ZOOM please join using the following information:
Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82597847342?pwd=dWRlQmklYUNPVVhDejJGa0NGS3ZTdz09>

Meeting ID: 825 9784 7342---Passcode: 328940
+19292056099,,82597847342#,,,,*328940# US (New York)

Dial by your location-- +1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

MIKE SPANO, Mayor Date: January 15, 2021

Notice of formation of ThirdByrd, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/23/2020. 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, 249 Hoover Road, Yonkers NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Miss DQ, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/19/21. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 154 Buena Vista Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

events. Mom would turn to the sports section not to find out the scores from the previous nights Mets, Yankees, Jets or Giants games but to find out the bowling league scores as she had some friends who bowled and she took great pride on posting their accomplishments on our refrigerator,

Great columnists, Eileen Campion, Jennie Tritten and Gwen Hall to name a few. Dave Hartley, a 'Yonkers boy' served as the editor of the paper for so many years. He knew the history of Yonkers. If the Editorial on the Editorial Page had a Yonkers spin on it or information on historical Yonkers within, you knew that of the members of the Editorial Board Dave Hartley had written it.

Will David, the crime reporter kept you abreast of all things criminal in Yonkers. He would produce numerous stories each day on everything from business and home break-ins to who got arrested locally the day before. He was the kind of reporter editors loved. Always walking the courtrooms of Yonkers, gathering local police reports and chock full of police contacts who would provide him with crime news both off and on the record. He would have four, five maybe even more stories in the paper everyday.

I understand that times have to change. The Herald Statesman which itself was the combination of two Yonkers newspapers, The Herald and The Statesman became the Journal News giving the paper a regional flair. Many people stopped reading the paper because they read the Herald Statesman for Yonkers news and complained there were few Yonkers stories in the newly branded paper.

Which brings us to today. Several weeks ago I raised the question to the current Editor of the Journal News, Mary Dolan as to why there was no coverage in the print edition, still sold on newsstands and home delivered of a fire in an apartment building across the street from where I grew up. One person died. I provided her with a list of media outlets that had covered it. I obtained that list by simply using Google to see if there were any stories on the fire.

Her response: 'Thanks for reading. Covered on lohud with story, photos, gallery. Holiday deadlines required preprinting print editions. Lohud is our breaking news platform.'

I wrote back to Ms. Dolan, 'So am I to get the impression that people like my sister Who do not go online should cancel their print subscription if they want breaking news.' Or want to know what occurred yesterday around town?

Four alarm fire in Yonkers last week. The building housed a supermarket, dry cleaner and a laundromat. Building reduced to rubble, currently being carted away. A story affecting many lives from those in the neighborhood who relied on the businesses to the young couple with a new born baby who owned the dry cleaner purchasing it several years ago. Not even a picture in the print paper.

A four alarm fire is a big thing. It occurred before an increasingly earlier deadline for the Journal News. I still am shocked that there was no mention in the next days Journal News print edition. And the words in Ms. Dolan's email 'Holiday Deadlines required preprinting editions.' What does that mean? The local newspaper will have no local news in it if it falls on a holiday?

Sad. Tells you the sad state of affairs of daily newspapers in 2021. Question what the purpose is in buying a print edition of the Journal News. The paper doesn't cost 25 cents anymore either. Maybe the answer is to stop selling print editions of local papers. What purpose do they serve with so many online resources?

One only hopes that after the pandemic pray god comes to an end and local events start happening the weekend section of the Journal News will list local happenings around town. Not that it did such a great job before the pandemic.

Fortunately you have this great paper to read. Local News you need to know. I am glad to be part of it. Reach Eric Schoen at thistoosyonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen and Dan Murphy on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

CORPORATION NOTICE CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers, New York will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 26, 2021 at 7:00 P.M. Please be advised that this meeting will be held "remotely" due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and will be available to the public on the following platforms:

Webex Meeting Information:
Meeting number (access code): 132 016 8918
Meeting Password: welcome
To join from a mobile device (attendees only)
+1-415-655-0002,,1320168918## United States Toll

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

TV--Optimum Channel 78--Verizon Channel 39

City of Yonkers Website--<https://www.yonkersny.gov/>

Facebook Live "The City of Yonkers"
PROPOSED GENERAL ORDINANCE

A PROPOSED GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING VARIOUS SECTIONS OF THE ZONING CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS IN REGARD TO THE USE REGULATIONS FOR SOLAR ENERGY COLLECTORS.

VINCENT SPANO City Clerk

Don't Impeach Trump-From a Westchester Democrat

I enjoy your coverage of Westchester politics and beyond. As a loyal Northern Westchester Democrat, let me give you another perspective on the impeachment of President Donald Trump for a second time.

I say don't do it. Let Trump leave office and let him continue to act as a hinderance to the republican party. Like a chain around the neck of the GOP, Trump will continue to tweet and give the advantage to democrats across the country.

We all know that the real reason for impeachment part 2 is to ensure that Trump can't run for a second term in 2024, when he will be 78 years old.

I say that republicans, and not democrats, should be calling for, and voting for impeachment because it's the best way to end his political career. If not, he will haunt this party for years to come. Any benefit that he has to the national republican brand ended in the Washington DC Capitol on January 6.

Eugene Driscoll
Northern Westchester

ASC, Voting Reforms, continued from pg 1-

various provisions of the Election Law in order to allow for expedited review and canvassing of absentee ballots without compromising the integrity of elections.

Preventing Disenfranchisement of Absentee Voters: This bill, S.253, sponsored by Senate Elections Committee Chair, Senator Zellnor Myrie, prohibits voiding absentee ballots on technicalities where intent of voters is clear and the law has been substantially complied with, including where there are stray marks or the ballot is undated but is time stamped by the Board of Elections.

Permanently Authorizing Absentee Ballot Drop Boxes: This bill, S.492, sponsored by Senator Brad Hoylman, authorizes the Board of Elections to establish absentee ballot drop-off locations or drop-boxes to provide voters with a convenient and secure option for delivering their absentee ballots.

Increasing Transparency and Information about Absentee Ballots through a Tracking System: This bill, S.1028, sponsored by Senator Leroy Comrie, ensures that all voters in the state have access to absentee ballot tracking by requiring the New York State Board of Elections to create a statewide absentee ballot tracking system for absentee voters ensure that their vote is counted in the election while allowing counties and the New York City Board of Elections to also maintain their own absentee tracking systems.

Implementing Permanent Authorization for Applying for Absentee Ballots Online: This bill, S.632, sponsored by Senator Robert Jackson, permanently allows voters to apply for absentee ballots online and allows absentee ballots postmarked through Election Day by making permanent Chapter 91 of the Laws of 2020, which sunset on December 31, 2020. Under current Election Law, applications may only be made by mail or fax.

Creating Accountability for Timely Receipt of Absentee Ballots: This bill, S.516, sponsored by Deputy Majority Leader Michael Gianaris, establishes a mandatory timeframes for processing of absentee ballot applications and ballots by Boards of Elections based on when the application was received.

Enabling Earlier Applications for Absentee Ballots: This bill, S.631, sponsored by Senator Julia Salazar, permits Boards of Elections to receive absentee ballot applications earlier than thirty days before the applicable Election Day by making permanent Chapter 138 of the Laws of 2020, which sunset on December 31, 2020.

No-Excuse Absentee Voting Constitutional Amendment: This legislation, S.360, sponsored by Senator Leroy Comrie, amends the State Constitution to allow for any voter to vote by absentee without an excuse.

Ensuring Voters Timely Receipt of Absentee Ballots: This bill, S.264, sponsored by Senator Zellnor Myrie, sets deadline for absentee ballot applications sent by mail to 15 days before the election, up from 7 days, to better allow for voters timely receiving their absentee ballots.

Jennifer Wilson, Deputy Director of the League of Women Voters of NYS, said, "The reliance on absentee voting during the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the need for several important fixes to the state's absentee voting operations. This package of bills will ensure New York State voters have adequate access to apply for, submit, and track their absentee ballot. These procedural fixes will give voters greater peace of mind when electing to vote by absentee ballot in future elections. We applaud the Senate for moving forward this package of bills and hope to see additional reforms related to the timing and transparency in reporting election results to the public."

Jarret Berg, Co-Founder of VoteEarlyNY said, "The voting reform package being advanced by the Senate Majority will help modernize New York elections by expanding access, improving administration, and enshrining a series of due process safeguards to better ensure our fundamental rights are protected and respected."

Dustin Czarny, Onondaga County Elections Commissioner and Chair Democratic Caucus of the NYS Elections Commissioners Association, said, "These legislative changes will go a long way towards fixing some of the byzantine process we have in New York. Improving our absentee and vote by mail system will not only give voters more options but will give clear direction to Boards of Elections across the state. I am happy to support these bills."

Blair Horner, NYPIRG Executive Director, said, "Thanks to the reforms enacted over the past two years, New York has dramatically improved its voter participation rate. When it comes to voting, New York, which was once among the worst, is now getting closer to the middle of the national pack. But New York's voting rate in 2020 was still below the national average. The package of bills being advanced this week, particularly the constitutional changes, will, if enacted, move New York closer to the national leader."

Susan Lerner, Executive Director of Common Cause/NY, said, "Common Cause/NY is pleased the New York State Senate is starting session the same way it has the past two years: putting New York voters first. Clearly, today's package is just the beginning. We look forward to working with the Senate and the Assembly to pass even more crucial election reforms, most particularly restoring voting rights for folks recently released, this year."

YPS Graduation Rates, continued from pg 1-

The gap in graduation rates between males and females continued to shrink, for 2020, the female to male gap is 1.5% percentage points as compared to an 8.2% percentage point gap in 2019. The dropout rate for Yonkers students remains at 3% for all students as compared to the State rate of 5%

Yonkers English Language Learners dropout rate is 9% significantly lower than the State's 25%, New York City's 23%, Buffalo's 30%, Rochester's 30% and Syracuse's 23%

Yonkers Students with Disabilities dropout rate is 5% lower than the State's 8%, New York City's 8%, Buffalo's 15%, Rochester's 20% and Syracuse's 13%

Achievement outcomes for Yonkers students receiving Regents diplomas under the NYSED waivers for 2020 was an indication of the Class of 2020's preparedness

80% of the graduates did not require any Regents waivers because the students met their Regents exams requirements before March 2020.

89% of all students earned Regents Diplomas (69%) and Regents with Advanced Designation (20%)

"Once again, Yonkers Public Schools continue to excel and beat all odds, especially this year as we all face the most challenging of times, coupled with chronic underfunding by the State," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. "Over the last nine years, the graduation rate has increased over 18% -- outperforming the State's and Big 5 city schools' rates. Congratulations to the dedicated Yonkers Board of Trustees, our talented Superintendent and the administration staff and teachers who commit themselves each day to the successes of our schools and who work tirelessly to ensure our students reach their fullest potential."

As Yonkers Rising celebrates the hard work of the Class of 2020, and all Yonkers High School students, next week we will turn to COVID related challenges that all school districts, including Yonkers are facing. Noted Civil Rights attorney Michael Sussman, has penned another letter to the school district, concerning "disparities in learning and a lack of smooth transition to online learning." Questions have been raised again by parents and education groups in Yonkers concerning how many students do not have a device to learn from home with, and how many students are using their cell phones to check in for attendance but little else.

Finally, parents are also concerned with the number of substitute teachers being used in the district because of the many teachers that will not go to school to teach because of COVID fears. Some parents have called for those teachers who have taken days off to be allowed to teach from home because substitute teachers are unable to teach through Zoom or even when everyone is in the classroom. More about this next week.

Crosby, Nolan Step Forward to Run for County Board

Two of Yonkers four seats on the Westchester Board of Legislators will have contested elections in 2021. Dwanita Crosby made her announcement for County Legislator in the 16th District on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.

"Following in the footsteps of Vice-President Kamala Harris, who announced her candidacy in 2019 on MLK Jr. Day, longtime democrat and community activist Dwanita Crosby announced today that she is running for Westchester County Legislator for District 16."

Crosby introduced herself to Yonkers democrats during a candidates night with Ward and District leaders. Crosby will also attend the Yonkers Democratic Party's virtual convention on January 27.

"Giving back to my community was instilled in me at an early age. After years of working behind the scenes in government, now is the time for me to have a seat at the table and advocate for the people of my city, community, and county.

Crosby, a single mother of a son, has 15 years of experience working in government and in Yonkers City Hall. She also has more than 20 years of experience working with non-profit organizations. She touted her work forming community partnerships between the City of Yonkers and Westchester County, and her supporters have applauded her work with the homeless community in Yonkers and the City's youth population.

Crosby has two Masters Degrees, in Public Management and Leadership, and a Dual Degree in Human Resource Management/ Management and Operation and Bachelors of Science in Psychology. She is continuing her Doctoral degree in Public Management.

She will officially launch her campaign this weekend, and if elected, would be the youngest African-American woman to serve on the County Board.

Crosby's opponent will be County Legislator Christopher Johnson, who has served for four years on the county board and six years prior to that on the Yonkers City Council. This will make an interesting democratic primary in Yonkers on June 22, where City Councilwoman Shanae Williams is already challenging Tim Itoni for County Clerk.

Another contested County Legislative race in Yonkers this year will be in the 15th District, which includes East Yonkers and Bronxville. Incumbent Democratic Legislator Ruth Walter will face a republican opponent this fall.

Who that opponent will be is unclear. Community activist James Nolan, is one republican who will also shortly that he will run for this seat. Nolan, a republican, has served Yonkers and Westchester in many different volunteer-service capacities through the Michael Nolan foundation, named after his brother, who was shot and killed in Yonkers in 2015. This would be his first run for office.

Yonkers Council Minority Leader Mike Breen will not be running against Walter. Breen told Yonkers Rising that "after serious consideration, I have decided to stay on the city council and serve the people of Yonkers. Now more than ever, bi-partisanship is needed and I want to continue the work we have accomplished."

Breen, in our view, would have given Walter her toughest challenge, but the campaign has just started, and there are other republicans interested in, and considering to run against Walter, who defeated republican Gordon Burrows in 2019, is completing her first term on the county board.

Democrats currently hold a 16-1 Super, Duper Majority on the County Board, with legislator Margaret Cunzio a conservative. There are few if any other County Board contests where republican stand a chance. "The district 15 race is the republican's Alamo this year," said one political analyst.

The other problem for republican candidates this year is that Democrats have George Latimer on the top of their ticket in November, while republicans currently don't have a candidate at this point. If anyway has information on the Westchester elections of 2021, please contact us at risingmediagroup@gmail.com.

Latimer, re-election, continued from pg 1-

President Donald Trump has cast a dark cloud over the Westchester GOP, and the recent attacks on the Capitol have made that cloud even darker. Remember that last year, the Republican candidate for District Attorney, in the middle of a countywide election, quit.

In addition to his leadership as a "wartime consigliere" during COVID, Latimer has other notable achievements to present to the voters of Westchester. The most notable is passing two county budgets that DO NOT raise property taxes, including a 2021 budget that has a 0% tax increase after lower revenues from 2020-COVID.

Latimer promised not to raise property taxes if the sales tax were increased two years ago. He could have gone back on that promise because of COVID, but he kept his word, and in doing so, has taken away the republicans best argument, that democrats can't control spending and will raise your taxes.

Latimer just did the opposite; county spending is down in the 2021 budget from 2020 and county property taxes will not be raised. He has taken the "Astorino" argument about property taxes off the table.

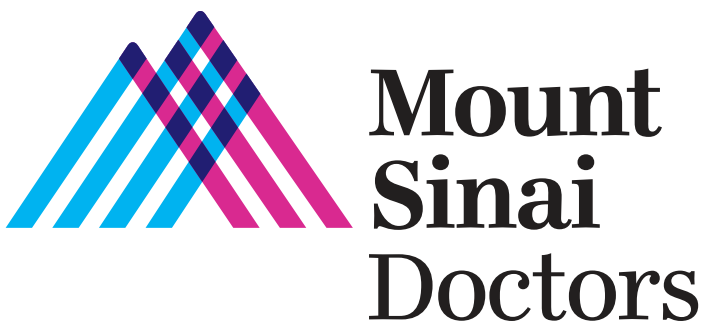
And by the way, Astorino lost his State Senate race, which was the last hope for many Westchester republicans to hold onto any viability for the GOP. "The combination of Astorino's loss, a county budget with a 0% tax increase, and Latimer's popularity, has every republican saying thanks but no thanks to this race," said one Westchester republican elected official. "I wish Doug Colety (West. GOP Chairman) good luck finding someone. At least Dan Branda was a placeholder on the ballot."

Latimer has other achievements in county government to talk about if anyone is interested. Breaking ground at Memorial Field in Mt. Vernon, re-opening Sprain Ridge Pool, a new family courthouse in New Rochelle, and banning gun shows at the county center, are just a few.

Latimer is also a great campaigner, he loves the fight, and if his opponent wants to slug it out - he's more than happy to do so. He now serves as the senior statesman for westchester democrats and has good relationships with progressive and indivisible members of his party.

Most important, he has found an effective balance during COVID of showing empathy, while calling out anyone who isn't wearing a mask or helping Westchester stay safe. I found only one political consultant in Westchester who thought that Latimer was beatable, or at least deserved an opponent. But he couldn't give me a name.

Editor's Note: We did exchange emails with Dan Branda, who told us that "to my knowledge, nobody has stated an intention to run on the republican side."



OUR NEW YONKERS LOCATION IS NOW OPEN.

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