

# Yonkers Rising

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Friday February 12, 2021

## 2021 Black History Month Series: The Black Renaissance of Yonkers



*Clockwise: Mariah Cameron, Shanequa Benitez, Hector Santiago, Jonathan Alvarez*

**Black History Month Series, By: Dennis Richmond, Jr. (@NewYorkStakz)**

During the 1920s, a Black cultural phenomenon filled with art, music, activism, literature, and self-awareness took place in New York. This beautiful event in history has come to be known as the Harlem Renaissance. Augusta Savage, A. Philip Randolph, Dorothy Dandridge, and Arturo Schomburg represented Black Brilliance during the 1920s. A century later, activists Mariah Cameron, Shanequa Benitez, Hector Santiago, and Jonathan Alvarez define a new renaissance. One that I call, The BROÿ: The Black Renaissance of Yonkers.

**The Singer:** She's a triple threat. She sings, dances, and she acts. Mariah Cameron (@M.E\_Cameron) is Afro-Latinx, Queer, and Non-Binary. When she's not singing or filming, she passionately works around equity, specifically through environmentalism. She's a business owner who runs Trash Treasure Chest, a thrift and repair jewelry shop. Through her business, she's "actively seeking not to throw people away." She told me, "just like I'm not trying to throw the jewelry away; I'm not trying to throw the people away." She's also currently co-leading Yonkers Assembled.

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## Yonkers Organizations Unite To Prevent Parking Garage at JFK Marina



*Interpretive rendering based upon the developer's "Plan A" © Friends of Trevor Park 2021*

**By Dan Murphy**

A consortium of Yonkers community groups has joined forces to prevent a private developer from building a parking garage in JFK Marina, the sole remaining expanse of open public parkland along the Hudson River waterfront in Yonkers. The Marina, with its unimpeded, panoramic views of the Palisades, is considered by many to be one of Yonkers' greatest public assets. The park provides small boat access to the river, lawn at water-level with benches and grass for picnicking, lounging and ball playing, fishing piers, and a pavilion with grills and electricity that is leased for parties and which, before the pandemic, was in demand all summer long.

While the condition of the parkland has been left wanting in the past, recently the City of Yonkers gave the Marina a facelift, reinforcing the shoreline, building new piers and planting grass. "Consuming the Marina with a parking garage for a private development eliminates the possibility that it can ultimately live up to its potential as one of Yonkers's great public spaces," says Yonkers resident Elliot Scott.

The parking garage proposed for the Marina is a project of the Lela Goren Group (LGG), the developer planning an adaptive reuse of the long-abandoned Glenwood Power Plant, which abuts the Marina's south end. The footprint for their garage, which LGG asserts is the smallest they can possibly go to satisfy their parking needs, stretches nearly 1,100 feet long, running across a large swath of the Marina.

"Some members of the Yonkers community think the renovation and

*continued on pg 6-*

## Two Young Republicans Step Up to Run for County Legislator



*Yonkers republicans James Nolan, left and Brandon Neider, right*

**By Dan Murphy**

After months of announcements and candidacies of Yonkers democrats for elected office, the Yonkers Republican Party has responded, and stepped up, with two young republicans stepping forward to run for two seats on the county board of legislators.

Brandon Neider has announced his candidacy for County Board in the 14th District, and James Nolan has announced for County Board in the 15th District. Both seats are currently held by democrats seeking re-election; Legislator David Tubiolo in the 14th and Ruth Walter in the 15th.

"For my whole life, Yonkers has invested in me and now is the time for me to invest back home! Our communities in both Mt. Vernon and Yonkers, once again, deserve a forceful voice and I plan to deliver just that. Today, I gladly announce that I am running to represent Westchester County's 14th Legislative District to give our home a deservedly strong voice," said Neider, who has vowed to donate his salary to "desperately underfunded community projects and long-neglected senior centers within the 14th district."

As a life-long Yonkers resident, Brandon J. Neider was and continues to be an active member of many different organizations and charities. He works with various community and neighborhood groups to improve the quality of life for all residents. As a private citizen, he has personally sponsored food drives during the COVID-19 pandemic for those in need. Brandon prides himself on always being available to assist. Neider graduated from Lincoln High School and attended Westchester Community College with a degree in Human Services, and is the owner of Yonkers Auto Detailers. Brandon has also been proudly employed by the City of Yonkers as an IT Administrator for over 7 years.

Nolan--James Nolan, a Community Activist and President & Founder of the Michael Nolan Foundation, said, "Sometimes the mission is bigger than yourself. It is about what is best for the people around you. I consider myself very lucky to have the opportunity to provide a voice for so many great

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## Yonkers Begins to Get Vaccinated Pop Up Location Opened



*Eduviges Aquinio, a resident of Flynn Manor senior housing, was the first Yonkers senior to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.*

Progress is being made in the efforts to vaccinate Yonkers residents and residents throughout Westchester, with the COVID-19 vaccine. Pictured above is Eduviges Aquinio, a resident of Flynn Manor, was the first senior to receive the COVID-19 vaccine. The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (MHACY) held a special vaccination program on February 4th for seniors who reside at MHACY properties. The program, which was held at the Nodine Hill Community Center, vaccinated more than 250 seniors.

The Nodine Hill Community Center was designated by the state as one of three pop up vaccination sites in Westchester. This is part of a continued progress, and good news, in the fight against COVID-19, and the efforts of both our health care officials and are local elected officials to set up and deliver the vaccine to Yonkers residents.

WMCHHealth has taken the lead for Westchester, and the Hudson Valley to ensure the safe, equitable and efficient distribution of the COVID-19. Working with a broad group of nearly 320 hospitals, healthcare organizations and agencies, community organizations and many other stakeholders, WMCHHealth is supporting the historical allocation of more than 169,000 COVID-19 vaccination doses across the region to date, including directly administering more than 55,000 vaccinations at WMCHHealth campuses and the Westchester County Center Mass Vaccination Center.

"WMCHHealth has managed vaccine redistribution across the Hudson

*continued on pg 7-*

## SLC Presents: Our Yonkers, Our Youth, Our Stories

### SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE THEATRE CIVIC ENGAGEMENT Our Yonkers, Our Youth, Our Stories

A Sunday Series with Annie Lanzillotto

Special Guests:

2/14 - Kwame Johnson Founder, YTI (Youth Theatre Interactions)

3/14 - Marcus C. John and Tyreek Kidd Spoken Word, Music and Youth

4/11 - Lisa Scott Director, WJCS Center Lane, LGBTQ+ Youth Programs

Allen Lang - SLC Faculty, SLC Theatre and Civic Engagement Director

William Catanzaro - SLC Faculty, Series Musician/Composer

All events at 6pm ET • Run time 50 minutes

• FREE •

• Registration through Eventbrite •



The Sarah Lawrence College Theatre & Civic Engagement program, in partnership with the Yonkers Public Library, is pleased to present “Our Yonkers, Our Youth, Our Stories” - a virtual event series that explores essential youth programs in Yonkers, along with the amazing people who develop, create, and run them. The first production is scheduled for Sunday, February 14, 2021 at 6 p.m. and will highlight Sarah Lawrence alumnus Paul Kwame Johnson '74, co-founder of Youth Theater Interactions, a youth performing arts studio and education center in Yonkers. Alumna and Yonkers resident Annie Lanzillotto MFA '90 - a poet and storyteller - will host the virtual event series.

“Our Yonkers, Our Youth, Our Stories explores the role of the seer, the doer, the visionary who makes a difference in our community by creating, leading, developing essential and innovative programming that involves youth,” said Allen Lang, director of the Sarah Lawrence College Theatre Civic Engagement program. “Our Yonkers Our Youth Our Stories is an opportunity to hear, to make connections, and to share our own stories.”

“Our Yonkers, Our Youth, Our Stories” is supported by the Mellon Foundation, which awarded Sarah Lawrence College a \$1.2 million five-year grant in 2019 to advance and support civic engagement through the arts and humanities in Westchester County. The award is the largest programmatic grant in Sarah Lawrence history and seeks to cultivate collaboration across the many cultural hubs of Yonkers and Westchester County, like the Yonkers Public Library, the Hudson River Museum, Warburton, and Yonkers Public Schools. Registration is available for Feb 14 through Eventbrite.

### Letter to the Editor, Dan Murphy: Additional Concerns About COVID

I have had some concerning discussions on social media about what happens next as we hopefully move into a post COVID-19 world. This year has been tough on us emotionally and fiscally and you would think that the amazingly rapid response of pharmaceutical companies in providing us a vaccine would make everyone happy. Yet I see good people conflating articles on immunology to drive a narrative about how the onerous Covid protocols should be continued even when we are fully immunized, citing some “chance” that we could “still infect others” despite an ever-growing community with antibodies.

The idea that citizens who have dutifully followed all regulations and then navigated hours of red tape to get vaccinated, that they should want to go into society without a mask is villainized, as dangerous behavior. Even beginning a conversation with the premise that normal life is one without social distancing and masks can upset these individuals shouting on-line. This mindset is all too often reinforced by the media and it gives me pause to think about what the motivation is to be so hesitant to move forward from the pandemic.

It harkens back to a sociological experiment in the early sixties, social psychologist Stanley Milgram researched the effect of authority on obedience. He concluded people obey authority figures either out of fear or out of a desire to appear cooperative--even when acting against their own better judgment and desires. Conclusions from the Milgram experiment can be seen now embodied in shaming of friends and neighbors who want to move ahead with life.

In New York we have seen businesses boarded up and people we know out of work and even experiencing food insecurity for the first time. Life is full of pitfalls but a civil society does what is can to ameliorate risk, we travel down a highway at sixty miles an hour with seat belts and a host of safety features so we can get where we need to go. With the corona virus we have been driving in the dark for a year, but our safety measure is here now, a vaccine which like a seat belt cannot be 100% effective, but what in life is?

Scott Dennis, Yonkers

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## Rent a Movie Theater for Your Valentine or Family



Here's a great idea for a couple on Valentine's Day weekend, or for a family looking to get out of the house. If you are looking for a unique way to spend some time with family and friends while being safe you can now rent out a whole movie theater.

Showcase Cinema de Lux in Ridge Hill, Yonkers and in White Plains, is renting out a movie theater for groups from 1-20 persons. “Love is in the air and on the big screen at Showcase Cinemas! Make a new movie memory starting at just \$99 this Valentine's Day, on your next girls' night out, or any time you want to celebrate love. And don't forget the snacks – add a concession value package for the perfect romantic treat. Big romance was made for the big screen. Movies for a date night and GNO include titles such as Star is Born (2018), The Great Gatsby (2013), The Notebook, Crazy Rich Asians, Sex and the City, and Magic Mike,” states the Movie Theater in a press release.

While Hollywood has been unable to keep up with the demand of Americans wanting more, quality, new movies, classic movies are available to watch for your movie rental. If you prefer a new release, the cost will be more but at \$199, you can combine your rental with 10 family members to make is cost effective.

Concessions are also available, and for most of us, movie theater popcorn is required to get us back into a theater. Going back to the movies is another way to help your local economy, and keep the movie theater open.

Finally, a movie theater rental is a way to have the “movie experience” safely. The success of local, “Drive-in Movie Theaters” helped over the summer to get us out of the house, but now that winter is here, there is still a need for many of us to get out of the house.

Other movie theater chains are allowing renters to bring in their own movie on DVD or Blu Ray to show, or even to use the big screen to play video games for 2 hours.

Masks and social distancing is still required, but the theaters are big enough to accomodate groups up to 20 and still have social distancing measures intact, and cleanings are completed after every showing.

Movie theaters across the region closed on March 16, 2020. Some have tried to re-open, while others have closed. For some movie operators the private rentals are getting them by in the hopes of a true re-opening this summer.

Even during COVID, there will always be movies that you want to see on a huge screen. It's part of the American culture, and a good date night out.

Visit Ridgehill.com for more information.

## Yonkers Rising

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Notice of formation of FICKLE WORLD LLC. Arts of Org. Filed with the SSNY on 1/26/2021. Office Westchester County. SSNY designed as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC: 33 Darwood Place, Mount Vernon, NY 10553. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

**The 5th Annual AN INTRO TO HBCUS**

Wednesday, FEB 17TH, 2021  
1:00 PM EST - 4:00 PM EST

**Pamela's Big Heart Foundation, Inc.**  
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All HBCU materials must go!

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## Off Duty YPD Sergeant Involved In Fatal Auto Accident



On Monday, February 8th, 2021, at approximately 1:06 PM, members of the Yonkers Police Department responded to the area of Kimball Avenue at Fox Avenue on a report of a motor vehicle accident: an off-duty Yonkers Police Sergeant called 911 to report that she was involved in an accident where a pedestrian was struck. First Responders arrived at scene and immediately rendered medical aid to the 80-year-old male victim; he was transported to a local area trauma center where he later died from his injuries. Police cordoned-off the area and initiated an investigation.

Detectives from the Major Case Squad, Crime Scene Unit, and Digital Forensics Unit, along with Accident Investigators from the Traffic Unit, responded to the scene to interview subjects and witnesses, recover surveillance video, and reconstruct the accident scene. Preliminary investigation has yielded that the off-duty Sergeant was travelling southbound on Kimball Avenue in her 2005 Toyota Corolla when she struck the elderly male pedestrian who started to cross Kimball Avenue north of Fox Avenue; the off-duty Sergeant remained at scene with the victim until First Responders arrived and is cooperating with investigators.

Detectives are in the process of recovering surveillance video from the area, and Accident Investigators are working to reconstruct the physics of the incident. At this time, no violations or criminal charges have been filed and investigators are continuing to develop information. Additional information may be released as it becomes available.

The victim is identified as Albert Farina, a resident of Midland Avenue this City. The City of Yonkers and Yonkers Police Department offers its sincere condolences to his family and friends.

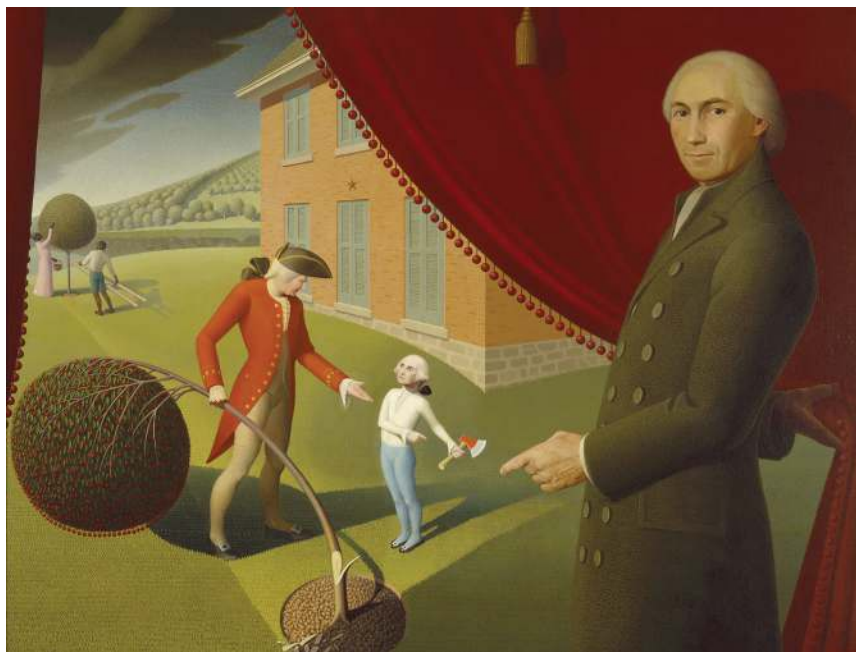
The off-duty Sergeant is a 13-year veteran of the Department and is assigned to the 2nd Precinct, but has yet to be identified.

## Third Precinct Police Council

The next meeting of the Third Precinct Police Council is scheduled for Wednesday, February 17 at 7:30 pm. The information to connect on to the zoom call to participate in the meeting is as follows: Phone (929) 205-6099, Meeting ID Number 8186787 and Passcode 061344.

Captain Michael Mulvey will be presiding along with Bob Stauff, Third Precinct Police Council President.

## George Washington: Truth and Lies Editorial:



When I was a kid growing up in Far Rockaway, I was inquisitive, or so I'm told. Even in my stroller days I would ask each person who stopped to chat: "Who you?" One gentleman had the audacity to say he was George Washington, to which I replied: "Aren't you dead?" I remember that story as a beacon because we were taught to revere our first president not for all his bravery, but for always telling the truth.

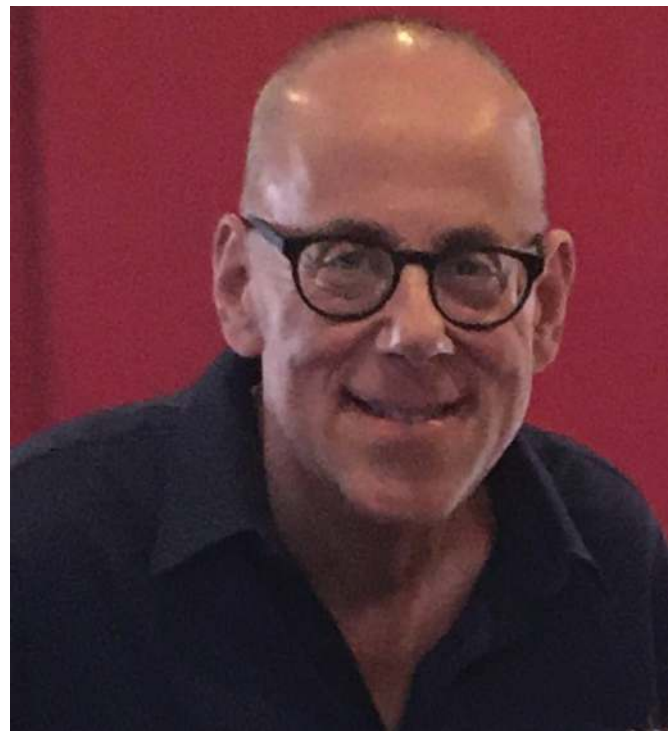
We were told that he chopped down a cherry tree, as ridiculous as that sounds, and when asked about it he owned up to it, saying: "I cannot tell a lie." You might say that was the gold standard for behavior. This story was so ingrained in us kids that in art class we all drew hatchets and cherry trees to celebrate him. Well, George Washington really is dead and so are many of the principles he embodied, including the strict adherence to truth.

There were no alternative facts. In today's world, we have allowed the normalization of lies, and it has been to our peril. How we go forward now to restore truth and dignity in our civic dialogue is in question. And, while it is the sworn oath of all of our presidents, it is really up to all of us to elevate truth-telling to its rightful honor.

If George could do it, we can too.

Janet Langsam, CEO, ArtsWestchester

## Stop in the Name of Love!



By Eric W. Schoen

Is it me or is something wrong with this picture? As of Sunday, ten million New Yorkers will be fighting to obtain one of the 300,000 Covid-19 vaccinations that are available every week state wide. The number was 7 million before the Governor announced 3 million additional people with serious health issues would be eligible for signing up for the vaccine as of Sunday.

People are on pins and needles to begin with. And now we add 3 million people to the mix. Have you tried going on the New York State website to get a vaccine. Either its broken as I file this column or someone is playing a game.

Sites from Westchester County Center up to Potsdam were listed with appointments available if you met eligibility criteria. This was at 9:30 p.m. Monday night and 8:30 a.m. Tuesday the morning I file my column. But when you attempted to book an appointment at Westchester County Center, Jones Beach, Aqueduct Racetrack, the Javits Center, Stony Brook Albany even our old friend Potsdam where people have toilet bowl planters on their front yards growing plants you got bubkis. That's the Yiddish word for nothing.

Popup sites like the one at the Nodine Hill Community Center in Yonkers are being run by organizations we never heard of, don't know how to contact and their appointments are filled up. I went to visit the site at Nodine Hill at 7 p.m. last Friday night to see what was going on. There was one of these big recreational vehicles with its lights on and a security guard in a pickup up truck in the parking lot. There was a man in the pickup truck who told me the site was busy all morning and a few people there in the late afternoon.

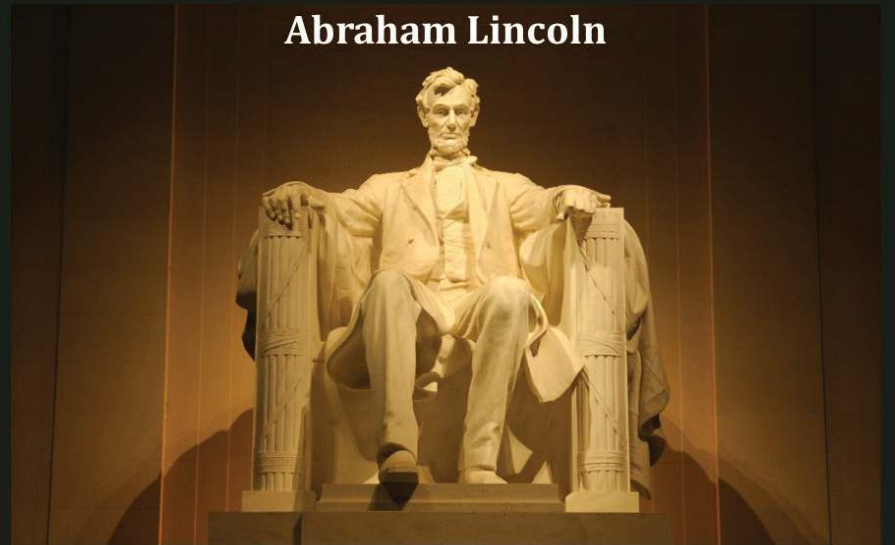
I was trying to arrange a shot for a relative and learned the next day that all the slots were filled up at the Nodine Hill pop-up. So much for that. But the mystery still lingers as to how the people scheduled for the Covid shot got on the list. Where were these people coming from? I thought the purpose of the popup locations was to serve the community were they are located?

We have Dr. Anthony Fauci all over television and radio saying that the way to stop the virus and the spread is to get vaccinated which we should do as quickly as possible. The same message coming from President Biden and Governor Cuomo. Have they tried to log on to the states website to schedule an appointment?

Friends, I really think we need to take a pause in this vaccine debacle. The President of the United States has got to muster every available company and resource in this country to produce Covid-19 vaccinations. Forget

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## Yonkers Republicans Celebrate Our Party's Founder Abraham Lincoln



"America will never be destroyed from the outside .  
If we falter and lose our freedoms, it will be because we destroyed ourselves"

As the author of the **Emancipation Proclamation**, Lincoln's **integrity and belief in core principles** held this nation together during its most divisive time. And, it's what we, the Yonkers Republican Party still stands for today!

- \* Respect for Individuals and Law Enforcement Alike
- \* Efficient & Responsible Government
- \* Safe Communities
- \* Strong Support for the US Constitution and All its Amendments
- \* Strong Support for Our Nation's Military

To learn more about the Yonkers Republican Party-please email us at:  
[yonkersgop@gmail.com](mailto:yonkersgop@gmail.com)

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## Good News for Westchester Homeowners: Rep. Jones Sponsors SALT Cap Repeal



*Rep. Mondaire Jones*

Westchester Congressman Mondaire Jones, who represents northern Westchester and Rockland County in the 17th District, is an original co-sponsor of the SALT Deductibility Act, which would remove cap on State and Local Tax Deduction instituted by Donald Trump and the republican congress in 2017 as part of a larger tax cut plan.

The State and Local Tax Deduction limits the amount of property taxes and state income taxes that Westchester residents and homeowners can deduct on their federal income taxes to \$10,000 total. Congressman Jones in introduced the bill with Long Island Congressman Tom Suozzi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.

Residents of New York's 17th Congressional District pay the highest property taxes of any Congressional District in the country. The average property tax bill in NY-17 is \$11,389. 45% of individuals (roughly 330,000 people) in NY-17 use the SALT deduction. The average deduction taken in NY-17 prior to the cap was \$26,243.

"Donald Trump cut taxes for billionaires and big corporations and paid for it on the backs of hardworking families in Westchester and Rockland Counties, where we pay the highest property taxes in the entire nation," said Rep. Jones. "That must change. Restoring the SALT deduction is a necessary first step to creating an equitable tax system – one where we put money back in the pockets of working people."

The SALT Deductibility Act would remove the cap on the SALT deduction instituted in 2017 as part of Donald Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. It would allow New Yorkers to fully deduct their state and local taxes from their federal taxes.

Westchester County homeowners pay the highest propert taxes in the country, and Rockland homeowners pay the 2nd highest. "When it comes to SALT, if you think Westchester and Rockland families needed and deserved this money before the coronavirus took hold, the stakes are even higher now because the cap is costing this community tens-of-thousands of dollars they could be using amid the crisis," said U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer.

"That is why I am proud to work with Congressman Jones to restore our full SALT deduction in this Congress. Double taxing hardworking homeowners is plainly unfair; We need to bring our federal dollars back home to the to cushion the blow this virus—and this harmful SALT cap—has dealt so many homeowners and families locally."

"I am proud to join my colleagues to introduce legislation to repeal the cap on the State and Local Tax deduction, a cynical policy passed by Republicans as a way to repay wealthy donors and lobbyists with big corporate tax cuts," said U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.

"New York needs the full SALT deduction restored to offer hard working middle class families tax relief," said NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. "Savings from deductions could mean the difference between having enough for food or medicine during this pandemic. I have called on Congressional partners and supported restoring the full SALT Deduction, and I applaud Congressman Mondaire Jones and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer for taking up the bill."

"I want to thank US Congressman Mondaire Jones for his work, in conjunction with US Senator Chuck Schumer, to restore the State and Local Tax or 'SALT' deduction," said Westchester County Executive George Latimer. "This federal tax law is not only double taxation, but it also unfairly targets communities like Westchester County – and every homeowner in this County is a victim. In Westchester, where the average home is valued at \$691,392.00, our homes are our greatest asset and this cap is a hit to our wallet."

"I urge the federal administration to reinstate the SALT deduction in full," said State Senator Shelley Mayer. "The move to cap the SALT deduction, a longstanding principle of tax law, was politically motivated and unconscionable. Since the SALT deduction was capped in 2017, families and homeowners in my district have been suffering under an added financial burden of double taxation, penalizing them for crucial state and local investments in essential services and public schools."

## Yonkers To Join Sustainable Westchester's Community Clean Energy Program



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today announced the City's plans to join Sustainable Westchester's Community Choice Aggregation program, known as Westchester Power. The 100% emission-free energy program allows municipalities like Yonkers to negotiate a fixed-rate clean energy supply and "green" the electricity grid on behalf of its residents and small businesses.

"Sustainability long has been one of the pillars of my Administration," said Mayor Spano. "Joining Westchester Power is the next step in providing clean, renewable energy to our city while ensuring residents and businesses get the best clean energy rates possible. We are proud to prepare the community today for a healthier, greener Yonkers tomorrow and Westchester Power will help get us there."

Dan Welsh, Program Director, Westchester Power; Sustainable Westchester commented, "We are very happy to be teaming with Mayor Spano, the Yonkers City Council and a wonderful range of community groups to expand access to clean energy supply to the residents and small businesses of Yonkers. Sustainable Westchester's Westchester Power Program is a tool for broad-based participation in the transition to clean energy. Westchester Power is a vetted and proven community energy program, bringing zero-emissions electricity at fixed rates secured through a competitive auction and bidding process. We are looking forward to continued engagement with Yonkers as we help the city position itself to obtain State approvals, and for the ultimate launch of the Westchester Power program which will bring considerable positive environmental benefits to the community at large."

Currently Yonkers' participation in Westchester Power is pending Yonkers City Council legislation approval. Upon approval, Yonkers will become the largest municipal member in the program that selects from qualified Energy Service Companies (ESCOs) for a renewable energy supply.

Yonkers Council Majority Leader Corazon Pineda-Isaac stated, "Yonkers continues its path to be greener, more sustainable and more energy efficient. With this Community Choice Aggregation program, Yonkers joins other leading municipalities in aggregating the purchasing power on behalf of consumers which allows for fixed-rate energy costs and increases the use of renewable energy. Environmental benefits include a reduction in our gas consumption and greenhouse emissions."

John Rubbo, Yonkers City Councilmember, 4th District, said, "This bulk, energy purchase program will allow for a fixed-rate clean energy supply that will help us move towards a more sustainable Yonkers. In speaking with many of our residents it is clear that they are proud of the great work their city is doing to protect the environment and to provide clean and competitive energy options."

Once the Yonkers City Council passes the enabling legislation, Sustainable Westchester and the City of Yonkers will conduct targeted educational outreach before submission of documentation to the New York State's Department of Public Service for approval. Sustainable Westchester and the City then will go to bid for energy suppliers to provide Yonkers residents with 100% New York State renewable energy at a competitive fixed rate. Yonkers residents and businesses can OPT OUT of the program at any time. The program applies only to those who receive their energy supply from Con Edison and will not apply to those already enrolled in an energy program with an Energy Service Company (ESCO). Delivery of energy, billing and support will continue to be provided by Con Edison.

Westchester Power currently serves 115,000 residents in 28 Westchester municipalities who have come together to address climate change through their electricity choice. Sustainable Westchester is a nonprofit, consortium of Westchester County local governments that facilitates effective collaboration on sustainability initiatives.

For more information on Westchester Power, visit <https://sustainablewestchester.org/wp/yonkers/>.

## Code Heroes

**STUDENTS IN GRADE 6-8:**

Code your own videogame to educate our community on the effects of cyberbullying.

**Tuesday, February 16  
to Friday, February 19**

11 am via Google Meet

<https://meet.google.com/vmk-pcnu-ktr>

There are four online sessions, each 90 minutes.

To register, go to [www.ypl.org](http://www.ypl.org) and click 'Virtual Events'. We will send you the link to join.



For more information, contact Christine at [cbtetti@ypl.org](mailto:cbtetti@ypl.org)

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## Yonkers High School High Risk Sports to Return



High School Basketball will return to practice this week

By Phil Foley

Yonkers HS Basketball can start practicing as of Wednesday February 10th. Football will follow with practices starting on March 8. Governor Cuomo gave the ok for "High Risk Sports" to resume a few weeks ago. Yonkers Athletic Director Jim Rose told me that in addition to basketball and football we might also see the addition of wrestling and competitive cheerleading added to the list of approved sports.

Right now Section 1 is trying to tie up all the loose ends and get the word out on schedules and health protocols. I was informed that there will be no fans allowed to attend any sports events at this time! Mr. Rose reiterated that there are no schedules out at this time. Waiting on Section 1.

I did ask coach Dan Dematteo the Head Coach of the Yonkers Force Football team how many football games will be played this season. He told me that he does not know how many games as he is waiting for clarification from Section 1 too.

It is great that Cuomo has decided to let these sports take place this year. Texas and Florida had football seasons and are now playing basketball with very little problems. These kids do need high school athletics as a way to maybe enhance their chances of getting a college scholarship. I played both football and baseball for Lincoln HS and it always gave me a great foundation for knowing the importance of working as a team. I have carried this throughout my entire life!

Our kids deserve this starting right away! Yonkers Rising looks forward to bringing you up to date on the results of games and events this Winter and Spring! We are committed to our students of Yonkers!

## City Council Approves Mayor Spano's Board Appointments

The Yonkers City Council, at their meeting on Feb. 9, approved the following appointments to City Board from Mayor Mike Spano.

Barbara O'Connell, Mark Silberblatt, William Celestino to the Landmarks Preservation Board. Ralph Battista to the Zoning Board of Appeals and Edward Murry to the Planning Board

## On This Day in Yonkers History...



Yonkers native Judge Learned Hand, "One of the most influential judges never to have served on the US Supreme Court."

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

Monday, February 15th

February 15, 1921: New York Giants star third baseman Frankie Frisch led his "Frisch's All Stars" to a 32-22 victory in a basketball game against the St. Peter's team at Columbus Hall on Waverly Street. Frisch, a former Fordham College star nicknamed "The Fordham Flash," played with a team composed of college players. He played for the Giants from 1919 to 1926, then joined the St. Louis Cardinals in 1927, eventually becoming the Cardinals' manager.

February 15, 1942: City Manager Raymond Whitney announced former NYU track star Curtis Giddings of Warburton Avenue would become Yonkers' first African American Firefighter.

Tuesday, February 16th

February 16, 1918: A nation-wide patriotic campaign swept into Yonkers when the local unit of the Women's Committee of the Council for National Defense organized the "Three Minute Women." The women made three-minute addresses on patriotic subjects at all "ready-made audiences," including theaters and entertainments. Their work was similar to the "Four Minute Men."

February 16, 1933: Judge Learned Hand of Palisade Avenue was one of the leaders of the New York Bar who attended the Committee on the Establishment of a Permanent Organization for the Improvement of Law conference, held in Washington. Hand was famous as an avid supporter of free speech and considered to be one of the "most influential American judges never to have served on the US Supreme Court."

Wednesday, February 17th

February 17, 1924: Future basketball star and union leader John Acropolis scored 26 points to lead Leake and Watts Basketball team to a 67 -10 victory over the Hebrew national Orphan Home; the game was played on the Leake and Watts court.

February 17, 1929: Dr. A. Newell Benedict, son-in-law of former Mayor and Congressman John E. Andrus, announced a home for the aged would be build on the North Broadway property adjoining the Julia Dyckman Andrus Memorial Home for Children.

February 17, 1941: The Navy Department of Supplies and Accounts awarded an additional \$23,622 contract for electric cable to the Habirshaw Cable and Wire Division of the Phelps Dodge Copper Product Corporation. This was the fourth contract awarded just in this month, for a total of \$1,058,462. The total contracts awarded to this Yonkers plant since June 1940, when large-scale national defense purchasing got underway, was \$3,838,297.07.

Thursday, February 18th

February 18, 1933: Riverdale Avenue resident and internationally known sculptor Isidore Konti was elected President of the Yonkers Art Association, replacing the late Rudolf Eickemeyer.

February 18, 1940: City Manager Raymond Whitney, Acting Public Safety Commissioner, ended the policy of giving special one-month leaves with pay to retiring police officers and firefighters.

February 18, 1944: Female employees of the Cameo Curtain Company were the first volunteer students for the lecture series given by the Nutri-

continued on pg 7-

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For more Section 3 information: <https://www.hud.gov/section3> Eligible applicants must have an active Osha 30 card. If interested in applying, please send a resume with the position desired to: Jennifer Monaghan at [JMonaghan@mdgny.com](mailto:JMonaghan@mdgny.com)

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Notice of formation of Ttress Collection, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/08/2021. 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, 27 Ravine Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

**Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-**

about repealing all the lunacy from the Trump administration for 100 days. Get the scientists, laboratories and logistics people together and come up with a plan for the prompt, efficient and effective programming for combating this virus and getting everyone inoculated as quickly as possible.

Otherwise it won't be until maybe the end of the year before we get everyone inoculated and finally get this virus under control. How many more lives are we going to have to lose before this happens. Why aren't the powers that be using all the resources at their disposal to solve this problem?

Let's not second guess whether the United States procured enough vaccinations when they were available on the market. Or if the dam virus came from Wuhan, China via person to person contact or animal to animal to person contact. We've got to expend all of our varied resources to stop the spread of this virus and get people back to work and back to school and the economy back on track.

Mary Wilson, a member of the Supremes died earlier this week. One of the groups signature songs was, 'Stop in the Name of Love.' Let's stop what we are doing in the name of love and work collectively to eradicate this virus that has caused so much death, tragedy and destruction in our country.

Now for the rest of the story: What was your favorite Super Bowl commercial? Did you even watch the Super Bowl? It's really no fun without a party and hopefully to stop a super spread of coronavirus you didn't have or attend one this year. I can't wait until next year when my friend Renee puts out her lavish spread.

It's time for candidates for office in New York State to go door to door seeking your signature to get on the ballot. Last year, a Statewide election year the Governor cut the number of signatures needed to get on the ballot. This year a local election year as of date he has not. Talk about a super spreader Governor. The time is now to deal with it before more people get sick or die.

Travel companies are offering \$99 trips to China including hotels and sightseeing (air fare not included) starting a year from now. Are you willing, even if it is refundable to take the gamble?

Loony Congresswoman Marjorie Taylor Greene has been stripped by Congress of all her Committee assignments. Isn't it nice to see Congress do something right and promptly!

Oy, another Trump impeachment trial begins this week. Should he be impeached? After stirring up the crowd of course. But I wish Congress would put this trial off to another time and focus on dealing with the coronavirus and relief for the American People.

I'm tired of politicians and other so called 'leaders' saying that there is not enough information about the coronavirus in minority communities for individuals to make decisions to get vaccinated. They are putting down a segment of the population who is educated and fully understands the pandemic we are going through. I know some of you out there are not going to be happy with what I said. But when I talk to my African American and Hispanic friends about the virus they are very well aware of what is going on. The fear is in all communities, made even worse by a vaccination distribution system that is broke. Stop putting down members of minority communities and improve the infrastructure from signing up for the vaccine to getting it in people's arms.

How terrible were the pictures from last Sunday of people black, white, Hispanic, Asian and I'm sure I missed other groups waiting in the snow at the Westchester County Center in long lines for vaccinations. There was no better way to handle it then to have people freezing out in the cold?

I outdoor dined in New York City Saturday night. It wasn't that cold, and the \$1000's of dollars in protection the restaurant owner put up with heaters kept us, dressed in winter jackets comfortably warm for the 45 minutes we spent enjoying each other's company!

Tuesday, February 9th was National Pizza Day. Did you know pizza started in the United States, not Italy. Everyone knows Yonkers has the best pizza!

A friend walked into a deli in NJ and the 7 guys behind the counter were maskless. This is probably the case in 1% of 1% of delis in America. Say something to management. Or leave!

Happy Valentine's Day to all the lovers and all you special people out there! Reach Eric Schoen at [thistoosyonkers@aol.com](mailto: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](http://WVOX.com) and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

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**JFK Marina parking lot, continued from pg 1-**

repurposing of the power plant will be a great boon to Yonkers," says Stephen Wagner, vice president of the Yonkers Committee for Smart Development (YCSD). "Our focus, though, is on the Marina, on the garage. We cannot accept the taking of a public benefit and turning it into a private benefit intended primarily to serve the interests of one developer." That is why, Wagner explains, YCSD has united with other community groups to prevent the developer from gaining approvals to build in the Marina. "We believe deeply that this is the right course for us as citizens and we believe it is also the necessary course for our elected representatives to adopt."

Since December, consortium representatives have been meeting with government officials, with the developer, and have been reaching out to the public to build awareness around the developer's plans. The groups' petition has gathered more than 700 signatures from Yonkers residents since it went online on January 20.

Notably, nearly 300 who signed also took time to voice their concerns in the comments section of the petition. "This is planning at its worst," Bob Walters writes in one entry.

In community meetings on December 29 and January 21 convened by City Council District #1 Councilwoman Shanae Williams and hosted on Zoom by the Yonkers Public Library, the developer responded to the community outcry, stating that the garage, whose footprint would occupy an existing ground-level parking area in the Marina, will actually provide additional parkland by creating a deck atop the two-story garage that will be fashioned into a park. In presenting its vision, the developer extended an intention to work with Yonkers residents to find the most desirable rooftop configuration, indicating that it could include playground structures or even a soccer field. "The developer is offering a grossly unequal tradeoff," says Wendy Scheir, co-founder of the Friends of Trevor Park, another of the core groups opposing the garage. "We will not debate which amenities they should put on the deck of their garage. Our point is that a garage in the Marina will irreparably damage the intrinsic beauty and feeling of expansiveness there, spoiling the very features that make the place so special."

The one point on which all sides of the debate agree is that there is no simple solution to LGG's parking problem. The power plant sits on a site in a neighborhood of tightly-packed apartment buildings, on the west side of Metro North's Glenwood train station, making access to the plant from the east and south difficult. West of the plant lies the Hudson River. To its north lies JFK Marina. Barbara Smith, president of the Hudson River Community Association, another anchor organization opposing the Marina garage, has an answer for that: "The developer should be required to place their parking on their own land – not ours."

Perhaps the most pressing reason for preserving the Marina's open space and unfettered public access, consortium representatives maintain, is that JFK Marina provides a critical "backyard" to hundreds of Yonkers apartment dwellers in an area where there is already a documented lack of open, green space. Area residents point to the Marina garage as "yet another instance of environmental racism." "Hey, Mayor Mike and Yonkers City Council," writes Julie Weiner on the petition. "How about showing us that green spaces and waterfront vistas in African-American and Latin-X communities matter to you?" Christine McSweeney agrees: "There are so few parks on this side of Yonkers. How unfair to the residents, especially the children who need green spaces for their mental health!"

Before setting its sights on JFK Marina, LGG had hoped to put their parking facility and to cut two long roads through the middle of Trevor Park, a popular public park just east of the Marina. A neighborhood outcry at the end of 2020 prompted the developer to abandon the Trevor Park plan. But opponents claim that the alternative, JFK Marina, is just as disastrous a site for the garage as Trevor Park, if not more so.

While the consortium's focus is on keeping the garage out of the Marina, the group is eager to work with the developer to identify and envision such a site and have conveyed this message. "There are solutions to LGG's parking needs that would not disrupt, compromise, and privatize public land," says Mike Hertz, of the River Communities Coalition of Yonkers, another anchor group in the consortium.

On the petition, Joseph Eugenio frames the choice for Yonkers officials in starker terms: "I'm totally against this garage and will not support the re-election of anyone who approves it."

"We are passionate about our neighborhood parklands," Wagner states. "We know that there are realistic options that leave our parks alone. And we will continue as a united community to make our opposition about this egregious development known. We intend to ensure that the JFK Marina is protected as public land for future generations."

There are several legal steps that would have to take place before the plan to build a parking lot at JFK Marina becomes a reality. First the City Council would have to request "Parkland alienation," which occurs when a municipality wishes to sell, lease or discontinue the use of municipal parkland. Parkland alienation can be applicable to every municipal park in New York State, whether owned by a city, county, town or village.

In order to convey parkland to a non-public entity, or to use parkland for another purpose, the municipality must receive prior authorization from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (State Parks) in the form of legislation enacted by the New York State Legislature (Legislature) and approved by the Governor. The bill by which the Legislature grants its authorization is commonly referred to as a parkland alienation bill.

After the alienation, there is usually a trade of land so that the parkland is replaced. None of those discussions have publicly taken place, nor have they yet been discussed by the coalition.

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.

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**Black History Month column, continued from pg 1-**

Advice: “You are here for a purpose... no matter who tries to tell you otherwise.”

**The Artist:** You’ve probably seen her artwork somewhere across the country. Inspired by her father and many other artists, Shanequa Benitez (@SocialIcon) has had her artwork displayed everywhere from Yonkers to Harlem. A person of color who wears her city on her back, Shanequa proudly told me, “I am Yonkers.” She represents Yonkers, and the town represents her. Her Yonkers representation was evident during her Art Exhibition Never Conform, a smash hit in the city. Despite her successes through art and her self-made clothing brand, Shanequa told me that she’s “only scratched the surface” with her work.

Advice: “Be confident and be proud of who you are.”

**The Connector:** Founder of the Stop & Shake Initiative, Hector Santiago (@PeoplesMayor), is one of the leading activists in Yonkers. Yonkers Voice described the initiative as one that “encourages members of the police department to avoid miscommunication with [the] community by reaching out and introducing themselves through a common greeting.” When asked who he is, without hesitation, Hector says, “before anything, I’m a dad. I’m a dad who became active for my kids.” Santiago is “a mediator and a consultant for the Yonkers community.”

Advice: “Save money and learn as much as possible.”

**The Mentor:** He’s a youth advocate and a motivational speaker. Founder and Director of 914United, Jonathan Alvarez (@Visionaire), is making a name for himself by mentoring young adults across Yonkers. Jonathan changed his life, so he could help change the lives of others. In an interview with me, he said that he wants to “help steer our youth into a promising future.” Jonathan’s thriving to create a full-on youth mentorship organization that supports those returning home from incarceration, amongst other things.

Advice: “Learn financial literacy to secure financial freedom.”

**Vaccination progress in Yonkers, continued from pg 1**

Valley, in collaboration with Governor Cuomo’s Vaccine Distribution and Implementation Task Force, the State Department of Health and local governments, and our healthcare and community partners,” said Josh Ratner, WMCHHealth Executive Vice President, and Hub Lead.

Ratner said that now more than 160 pharmacies have joined the Hub’s Provider Task Force, which now totals more than 210 members. Several Walgreens Pharmacies in Westchester are starting to receive and distribute the vaccine.

Earlier this month, WMCHHealth joined New York State and Westchester County in spearheading the operation of the Westchester County Center in White Plains as one of the first of 20 Mass Vaccine Distribution sites in New York, and is currently administering more than 2,000 vaccinations per day.

Nodine Hill Community Center will re-open in three weeks to administer second doses.

Johnson & Johnson’s COVID Vaccine is expected to receive FDA emergency approval at the end of February and immediately start to deliver doses across the country, and the US Government has ordered 100 million doses of the J&J Vaccine, which the company expects to be able to deliver by June.

The J&J vaccine, created with Janssen Pharmaceutical, requires only one shot per person. The Moderna and Pfizer vaccines require two doses per person. The J&J Janseen vaccine can also stay potent for up to three months at regular refrigerated temperatures.

By the time that J&J’s 100 Million doses are delivered across the US in June, there should be a fourth vaccine available as Novavax continues its work on a vaccine and could have 100 million doses available in June.

Pfizer will have delivered 200 million doses, or 100 million, two -shot vaccines by July, and Moderna’s vaccine will have 100 million doses of vaccine by the end of March and an additional 100 million by June.

There is progress, and hope, that this summer, all residents of Westchester will have been able to get a vaccine. And as more Americans get the vaccine, hopefully fewer Americans will get COVID.

That is good news—read it and share it.

Notice of formation of MASSIVE ATM LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/30/2018. 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 Glenwood Ave, apt 6D, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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.

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.

**Nolan and Neider, continued from pg 1-**

people. I promise to always fight for residents. It would be the honor of a lifetime to serve the people of Bronxville and Yonkers.”

Over the past year, James Nolan organized over 50 food and PPE drives for Westchester residents & frontline workers. One of his supporters, Bronxville Village Mayor Mary Marvin said, “James is the definition of a public servant. He has quietly and selflessly organized over 50 food and PPE drives as he steadfastly cares for his neighbors daily. His love of neighbor and all things local is an inspiration to me.”

For the past six years, Nolan has dedicated countless time advocating for the public’s safety in memory of his brother, Michael Nolan, who was murdered in 2015. James has advocated for drag racing laws across municipalities in Westchester and helped establish an illegal gun hotline in Yonkers.

Former Westchester County Legislator Gordon Burrows said, “James’ commitment to public safety is reason enough to support him. James has spent his time advocating for all the right issues: getting illegal guns off the street, cracking down on drag racing, and supporting our Law Enforcement Officers. I enthusiastically support his bid for County Legislator.”

Nolan is a lifelong Yonkers resident who graduated from Saunders Trades and Technical High School. In 2017, he graduated from Western Oklahoma State College with an Associate Degree in Applied Science, and is seeking the backing of the Republican & Conservative Parties.

Nolan’s opponent is County Legislator Ruth Walter, who defeated Burrows in 2019.

Neider’s opponent is County Legislator David Tubiolo, who switched parties in 2020 and has served on the county board since 2016.

**Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-**

tion Committee of the Yonkers War Council. Designed for war workers who also had to prepare meals for their families, the series focused on how a busy war worker could prepare could “prepare a nutritious and palatable dinner quickly and easily.” The series was repeated a few times in the Yonkers Electric Light and Power Company auditorium so all Cameo women could attend. Other demonstrations in the course were “preparing a good breakfast,” “attractive and palatable foods for lunch boxes,” soy beans and shopping for food.”

Friday, February 19th

February 19, 1916: Ant House, a new play by Park Hill’s Owen Davis and Robert H. Davis, opened at the Cort Theater in New York, with Edwin Arden and William Mack playing the leading roles. Davis later won the 1923 Pulitzer Prize for Drama for his play Icebound.

February 19, 1924: Samuel Hayward, owner of the Hayward Wholesale Paper Company, had a \$410 payroll stolen from his overcoat pocket while he was purchasing a cigar in a Getty Square store, the first payroll robbery in Yonkers in many years. Being a caring employer, he immediately withdrew the money out of his personal account so his workers would not have to wait for their pay.

Saturday, February 20th

February 20, 1885: Tapestry workers at the Smith Carpet Factory walked out in support of female workers fired for joining the Knights of Labor; the company immediately shut the factory down. Interesting side note: At the start of the strike, only two dozen workers were union members. By the end of the strike, because the unit was so enraged the “little girls” were fired, almost 100% of the tapestry workers had joined the Knights of Labor.

February 20, 1920: George Thomas, suspected leader of the policy slip racket in Yonkers, in the Yonkers courtroom to monitor how one of his henchmen fared, Thomas was recognized by the Charles Boote, the presiding judge, who had given Thomas a suspended sentence five months earlier. The judge ordered Captain Ford to arrest the man, who promptly bolted out of the court. In the hallway, Court Interpreter Henry Friedman recognized him, grabbed him, and marched the escapee back into the court by the scruff of the neck. Boote ordered the sentence to start immediately.

Sunday, February 21st

February 21, 1908: John Philip Sousa, the famous conductor and composer, performed at Blaney’s Theater. Soloists performing in the concert were soprano Lucy Allen and violinist J. Powers.

February 21, 1908: Forty guests from the Yonkers YMCA were guests of Commander Robert Peary, USN, North Pole explorer, on the “Roos-evelt,” the Commander’s ship.

February 21, 1936: George McCann considered himself an expert shot, so much so he built a shooting gallery under the McCann storage warehouse on Mill Street. He told his secretary she should learn to shoot. Her answer? “Why don’t you?” The two then went down to the gallery to “shoot it out.” At the end of the match, George wished he hadn’t—Anna Solberg, his versatile secretary, scored 93 out of a possible 100, much higher than George!

*For more information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and our upcoming events, please visit our website [www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org](http://www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org), call 914-961-8940 or email [yhsociety@aol.com](mailto:yhsociety@aol.com).*

**SALT Repeal, continued from pg 1-**

Westchester Congressman Mondaire Jones, who represents northern Westchester and Rockland County in the 17th District, is an original co-sponsor of the SALT Deductibility Act, which would remove cap on State and Local Tax Deduction instituted by Donald Trump and the republican congress in 2017 as part of a larger tax cut plan.

The State and Local Tax Deduction limits the amount of property taxes and state income taxes that Westchester residents and homeowners can deduct on their federal income taxes to \$10,000 total. Congressman Jones introduced the bill with Long Island Congressman Tom Suozzi and Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer.

Residents of New York’s 17th Congressional District pay the highest property taxes of any Congressional District in the country. The average property tax bill in NY-17 is \$11,389. 45% of individuals (roughly 330,000 people) in NY-17 use the SALT deduction. The average deduction taken in NY-17 prior to the cap was \$26,243.

“Donald Trump cut taxes for billionaires and big corporations and paid for it on the backs of hardworking families in Westchester and Rockland Counties, where we pay the highest property taxes in the entire nation,” said Rep. Jones. “That must change. Restoring the SALT deduction is a necessary first step to creating an equitable tax system – one where we put money back in the pockets of working people.”

The SALT Deductibility Act would remove the cap on the SALT deduction instituted in 2017 as part of Donald Trump’s Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. It would allow New Yorkers to fully deduct their state and local taxes from their federal taxes.

Westchester County homeowners pay the highest propert taxes in the country, and Rockland homeowners pay the 2nd highest. “When it comes to SALT, if you think Westchester and Rockland families needed and deserved this money before the coronavirus took hold, the stakes are even higher now because the cap is costing this community tens-of-thousands of dollars they could be using amid the crisis,” said U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer.

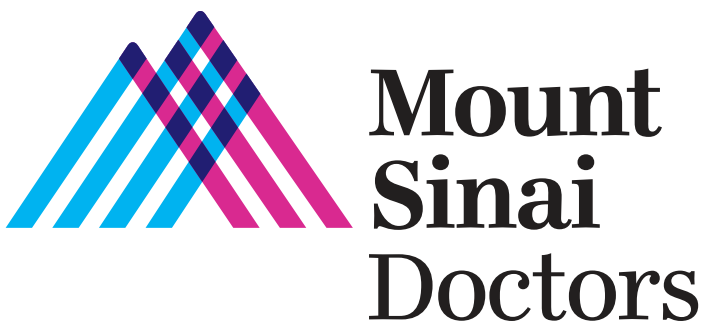
“That is why I am proud to work with Congressman Jones to restore our full SALT deduction in this Congress. Double taxing hardworking homeowners is plainly unfair; We need to bring our federal dollars back home to the to cushion the blow this virus—and this harmful SALT cap—has dealt so many homeowners and families locally.”

“I am proud to join my colleagues to introduce legislation to repeal the cap on the State and Local Tax deduction, a cynical policy passed by Republicans as a way to repay wealthy donors and lobbyists with big corporate tax cuts,” said U.S. Senator Kirsten Gillibrand.

“New York needs the full SALT deduction restored to offer hard working middle class families tax relief,” said NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. “Savings from deductions could mean the difference between having enough for food or medicine during this pandemic. I have called on Congressional partners and supported restoring the full SALT Deduction, and I applaud Congressman Mondaire Jones and U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer for taking up the bill.”

“I want to thank US Congressman Mondaire Jones for his work to restore the State and Local Tax or ‘SALT’ deduction,” said Westchester County Executive George Latimer. “This federal tax law is not only double taxation, but it also unfairly targets communities like Westchester County – and every homeowner in this County is a victim.”

“I urge the federal administration to reinstate the SALT deduction in full,” said State Senator Shelley Mayer. “The move to cap the SALT deduction, a longstanding principle of tax law, was politically motivated and unconscionable. Since the SALT deduction was capped in 2017, families and homeowners in my district have been suffering under an added financial burden of double taxation, penalizing them for crucial state and local investments in essential services and public schools.”



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