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Friday January 29, 2021

Khader Launches Re-Election Campaign for Council President



Yonkers City Council President Mike Khader

By Dan Murphy

Yonkers City Council President Mike Khader launched his re-election campaign on Jan. 25 with a video announcement, kicking off his second city-wide campaign with a look back at his first three years in office, and offering a preview of his case to Yonkers voters in the coming race.

"I am proud to be running on my record," said Council President Khader. "Four years ago, I campaigned on my ability to bring meaningful change to our city. While there is still much work to do, I am incredibly proud of what we have been able to achieve during my first term in office, and I look forward to the campaign as an opportunity to continue to engage with Yonkers residents and share my vision for our great city."

In his first three years as Council President, Khader positioned himself as a pragmatic, independent voice on the Yonkers City Council. Khader's legislative program has included measures to freeze out of control water rates paid by Yonkers residents, increase affordable housing options, and increase local government transparency.

Council President Khader has also successfully passed a variety of changes to the Yonkers City Code to bolster local quality of life by taking action against vacant lots and buildings, and expand local parking options. As Council President, Khader opposed the 2018 extension of term limits, and voted against property tax increases in 2019. Throughout the pandemic, Khader has worked on the front lines of delivering relief to struggling neighborhoods, and successfully advocated to deliver one million dollars to Yonkers Public Schools students for technology needed for distance learning.

"COVID-19 has exacerbated many problems in our city, and has laid bare fundamental inequalities in our community," added Khader. "In the coming years, our city will be forced to confront the lingering damage to our community caused by this pandemic. My platform in the coming election is one

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YPS Multi-Student Families Don't Get Multiple Devices



Some families with more than one student don't have enough devices

By Dan Murphy

'Show Me a Hero' attorney Michael Sussman has penned another letter to Mayor Mike Spano and Yonkers Public Schools, (YPS) Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada, on behalf of Yonkers Parents Seeking Solutions, (YPSS), claiming ongoing educational disparities in the YPS.

"There is no doubt that Covid-19 continues to exacerbate systemic educational issues already in place in the City of Yonkers. As usual, the brunt of this falls on the most oppressed communities: undocumented, Black, Latinx, POC, indigenous, poor, LBGTO, and people with disabilities. Consequently, students from oppressed communities are losing out on the proper education they deserve. Students from these communities are well into this academic year without the proper support and resources they need, denying them an equal access to education," said Sussman, who addresses five different concerns in his letter, the most urgent in our view is the lack of online devices (tablets, laptops) for many YPS students.

This issue continues to be under dispute, with parents and Sussman claiming that every student does not have a device, while the YPS claims that every student who needs a device can contact the school district and they will get one.

Sussman's letter continues, "students who choose to attend school in-person only do so two days per week and must work remotely the other three days. This means that every student in YPS needs access to reliable, appropriate technology to join their classes and complete their assigned work. Despite this reality and the fact that many families have more than one child in school, YPS has distributed only one laptop per family. Since 75% of the district's families live below the poverty level and many are likely unable to

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Downtown Takeout Week \$40 Dinner Specials-Packages



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The Yonkers Downtown/Waterfront Business Improvement District is bringing a new, COVID friendly restaurant week option to the community this year. From January 25th to February 6th, eleven unique restaurants will be partaking in Yonkers Downtown Takeout Week offering customized takeout packages and special menu items from an array of cultural cuisines. Local foodies can explore dishes ranging from classic Italian cuisine and casual pizza, to bold Mediterranean dishes for the more adventurous eater. Each purchase will support and foster the sustainability of small businesses in Downtown Yonkers, which is needed now more than ever in the nation's current climate.

"With COVID cases still on the rise and with the goal of supporting our local restaurants and keeping patrons safe in mind, we have created a brand-new kind of restaurant week – Yonkers Downtown Takeout Week. This is one of the first restaurant week programs of its kind to provide an alternative takeout only option to enjoy the delicious deals," said Sara Brody, Executive Director of the YBID. "Purchasing takeout from these restaurants is a

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Quezada Denies Sussman's Claims of "Educational Inequities"



"In your letter, you allege failings by the District with broad accusations. Your claims are the antithesis of our data and NYSED approved practices. If you have concrete situations, examples or data please share,"
YPS Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada

Yonkers Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada issued a six-page response to accusations made by Yonkers Parents Seeking Solutions, YPSS, and their attorney Michael Sussman, concerning their claim of educational inequities, special education students falling through the cracks and large disparities in learning between teachers and substitutes.

Quezada writes, "Fortunately, in Yonkers inaction has not been the norm. Since March, our work has been characterized by a collaborative commitment among the Trustees, the Mayor, our City Council and a supportive Yonkers Council of PTA. This collaborative approach resulted in our district being recognized by The Education Trust New York in their October 12, 2020 press release, Analysis finds that schools with the greatest shares of students of color and students from low-income backgrounds are more likely to rely on remote learning.

"Among the findings: In the State's Big 4 school districts, ... 82% of all students are remote, with only Yonkers reporting significant hybrid learning during this period." This organization focuses on equity and access for all students and families in educational settings

"In your letter, you allege failings by the District with broad accusations. Your claims are the antithesis of our data and NYSED approved practices. If you have concrete situations, examples or data please share them. Our staff has and will appropriately, to the best of our ability, address every

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Councilman Merante: Sprain Lake Will Be Full of Water This Summer



City Councilman Anthony Merante, right, with City Engineer Paul Summerfeld, in the water tower at Sprain Lake.

Residents have been wondering what happened to the water in Sprain Lake. Repairs to the dam controls were started 18 months ago to make the dam system functional again, in order to meet NYS DEC safety requirements to be able to drain the dam within 14-days. This renovation project would restore the banks of the reservoir, the spillway and spillway channel that feeds into Grassy Sprain Brook; remove the existing non-functioning 48" diameter drain valve below the dam embankment and install a new valve; replace 5 cast iron gates housed in the stone gatehouse in the reservoir; and restore the valve house and gatehouse.

The dam and associated structures were built in stages between the late 1800's and early 1900's so the aged gates and the valve needed to be custom fabricated - a lengthy process. The valve itself was lowered 30 feet down into the valve chamber and assembled in place. The dam system also prevents excess water from spilling on to Tuckahoe Rd. The \$1.6m project was funded largely by a grant from NYS Department of Environmental Conservation. The reservoir supplied drinking water to much of Yonkers before it was decommissioned in the 1970's. Yonkers now obtains its water from the NYC reservoir system in the Catskills.

Sixth District Councilmember Anthony Merante visited the job site with City Engineer Paul Summerfield to check on the project progress. Councilman Merante stated "It's welcome news that Sprain Lake is expected to be back and full of water later this year. Its natural beauty will be ready to be enjoyed by everyone from golfers at Sprain Lake Golf course, to fishermen or just travelers on the adjacent parkway enjoying a water view."

Parking Plan Puts JFK Marina Park in Danger



Rendering of proposed parking plan at JFK Marina Park

By Camryn Sanchez

An upcoming zoom meeting with developers will include a discussion about utilizing the JFK Marina as the site of a parking structure. The Lela Goren Group is developing the PowerPlant- formerly known as the Glenwood Power Plant- at 45A Water Grant Street where there is currently limited parking. The Lela Goren Group plans to build a parking structure in the area. Initially the group proposed building the structure in Trevor Park, but after heavy pushback from the community, they turned to the JFK Marina. The change in plans was announced in a zoom meeting with developers and members of the Yonkers community on December 29.

Community members, including those in the group "Friends of Trevor Park" were unhappy with the development's original plan as it would have involved destroying one of the largest green spaces in District 1. However, the proposal of using the waterfront marina park for this purpose met with similar, if not more heated, resistance.

The JFK Marina park, while smaller than Trevor Park, is also valued as a green space in the District 1 community. Yonkers resident Nortrud Spero pointed out that multiple parks and green spaces have disappeared from this area in the recent past and stated in the meeting's chat that the community "cannot afford" to lose the JFK Marina. Moreover, it is one of the only publicly accessible waterfront access areas in all of Yonkers. The Lela Goren Group noted that Yonkers residents will be able to pay for parking at a lower rate than visitors.

Downtown Yonkers currently suffers from traffic congestion and lack of parking, however it also suffers from a lack of public parks. Additionally, the parking area that currently exists at the JFK Marina is free for both residents and non residents, and the absence of a parking structure creates a clear view of the Hudson River. The Lela Goren Group guaranteed that the proposed parking structure will not obstruct the river view from the Hudson River Museum at the top of the hill, but did not ensure that the river view remain visible for park-goers on the eastern side of the hill.

Goren Group CEO Lela Goren urged community members to note that she listened to their concerns about Trevor park, "We heard you about Trevor. We ourselves were in pain about Trevor. We're not the kind of folks that want to take away anything, we just want to give," she said. Given that the last meeting had limited time, concerns about the JFK Marina were not fully addressed.

In an upcoming follow-up meeting on January 21 hosted by Councilmember Shanae Williams, the Lela Goren Group will again meet virtually with Yonkers community members and local officials. The location and design of the parking structure will likely be discussed.

Editor's Note: This email went out from the Hudson River Community Association, HRCA. "After many meetings with city officials it's clear that the developer of the Glenwood Power Plant wants to build on our parks. The Hudson River Community Association (HRCA), the River Communities Coalition of Yonkers (RCCY), The Friends of Trevor Park (FoTP), and Yonkers Committee for Smart Development (YCSD) have joined together in opposing the City of Yonkers' plan to allow a private developer to build their parking facility in the middle of JFK Marina (rendering attached).

The developer should be required to place their parking on their own land - not ours. The City needs to hear from you on this now. Voice your opposition by signing our petition - just use this link: <https://www.ipetitions.com/petition/respect-our-communities>." end of email.

Another meeting was held with concerned residents and Councilmember Williams on Jan. 21.

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Assemblyman Sayegh: Let Restarants & Bars Close Late for Super Bowl



The Big Game Won't Be Over Until 10:30 pm

Yonkers State Assemblyman Nader Sayegh is calling on New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to extend Super Bowl Sunday restaurant and all applicable venues IE. bars and lounges etc. closings from 10 pm until midnight. By Executive Order, New York's COVID-19 restrictions require restaurants and all applicable venues to end in person dining and alcohol service at 10 p.m.

"Football is a major sport, and the Super Bowl in the most anticipated game of the season in American culture. A typical Super Bowl Game lasts 4 hours, so the event will not be over by 10 p.m." said Assemblyman Sayegh. "Our Yonkers establishments that have managed to stay open are struggling financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic and desperately need the financial help they would receive if closing times were extended.."

Sadly, New York State will not be represented in the big game but the Buffalo Bills did make it all the way to the American Conference championship game and are to be congratulated for an exciting season. Congratulations also go to the Kansas City Chiefs and Tampa Bay Buccaneers, the two teams that will face off in the Super Bowl Sunday, February, 7 at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa Bay, Florida.

Assemblyman Sayegh has invited his fellow State Assembly members and State Senators to sign on to his letter to Governor Andrew Cuomo, urging him to extend the venue moratorium on closing time for this one night.

The photo you see above is of TB Bucs QB Tom Brady, who you should recognize. The other is Hastings native Ali Marpet is the left guard for the Tampa Bay Buccaneers. After playing high school football for Hasting High School, not known for its football program, he attended Hobart College in upstate New York. He gained 70 pounds and became a standout player and NFL prospect. In 2015 he was invited to the Senior bowl, where he drew the attention of several NFL teams. In the NFL draft Tampa Bay traded up to pick him hin the 2nd round.

He was the first Division III player selected in the second round. Marpet immediately became a starter and played right guard, center, and left guard. In 2018, before Brady joined the team, Marpet signed a 5 year contract extension for \$54.125 million, making him one of the highest-paid left guards in the league. The team said Marpet has a combination of physicality, versatility, consistency, intelligence and communication skills. "It feels really good knowing that I've proven myself in the NFL," said Marpet, who now stands at 6-foot-4 and weighs 307 pounds. "It's a difficult thing to do, especially coming from a Division III school. I'm always happy to represent Division III players everywhere. It's possible for them to succeed at the next level."

Where's The Vaccinations? Empty Store Fronts!



By Eric Schoen

You are bombarded on the radio and television with commercials encouraging you to get the Covid-19 Vaccination as soon as you can. The President, former President, Dr. Fauci, celebrities, elected officials and other folks getting the vaccination at press conferences in the hope that it will encourage you to get vaccinated.

It's your turn, you are computer savvy and you go on the website to schedule an appointment. The closest appointment is in Potsdam, New York. Potsdam, where people put toilets on their lawns and fill them with plastic flowers. Six hours away from Yonkers. Close to the border of New York and Canada.

You better dress warm. Maybe Senator Bernie Sanders will lend you his warm coat and beautiful, toasty mittens he wore at the Inauguration so that you can keep warm. Or maybe put some lotion on your fingers and hands that have been busy typing away on the computer trying to get an appointment for a vaccine to loosen them up and cover them with the mittens so the lotion soaks in and they feel better.

Operation Warp Speed? It's warped. At the highest levels of government people haven't a clue as to how many vials of vaccine are out there or how many vials of vaccine states, counties, vaccine centers and pharmacies will receive on a weekly basis. Companies put dosages of vaccines in bottles and those administering the vaccines say they are getting an extra dose out of the vial. I have no problem with the extra dose, but vaccine makers don't how much vaccine they are putting in a uniform size vial?

Who do you have to know to get a COVID-19 vaccine. I have a relative whose doctor told her because of her health condition as soon as she can she must get the vaccine. A friend with cancer whose doctor told her to get the vaccine ASAP. And the Governor of New Jersey prioritizes people who smoke to get the vaccine over these people. That was the straw that broke the camels back.

When the vaccine first came out they published a list of pharmacies that were distributing it. I called at least a half a dozen of the pharmacies and they had no vaccines. I finally got through to a pharmacy on Allerton Avenue in the Bronx that was keeping 2 lists, one for group A and one for group B. I put my relatives name on the group B list (she is over 65) and haven't heard a peep. My guess is that pharmacies that got the vaccines are vaccinating their customers before they vaccinate the general public. Makes sense!

New York City Mayor on television saying that Yankee Stadium and Citi Field (Shea Stadium) will open up mass vaccination centers that to date haven't materialized due to shortage of doses. Why make these announcements making people hopeful only to have their dreams of a shot in their arm to protect them dashed!

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News in Yonkers and around Westchester

Trump Pardons Pirro



Jeanine Pirro with former President Donald Trump

By Dan Murphy

As we all waited to see who was on President Donald Trump's pardon list in the final hours of his presidency, I hadn't heard of, or thought of, a possible pardon for Al Pirro.

But the last minute decision by Trump to pardon the ex-husband of former Westchester DA and current Fox News host Jeanine Pirro was issued on the morning of January 20, just 45 minutes before Trump left the White House and President Joe Biden took the oath of office.

The headlines referred to Mr. Pirro as 'Tax Cheat' Al Pirro, who received a full pardon for his crimes of conspiracy and tax evasion back in 2000. A. Pirro illegally claimed \$1.2 Million in business deductions that were personal expenses instead.

At his sentencing, Al confessed, saying "I clearly did not fulfill my responsibilities to make a diligent enough effort to disclose my tax returns." He was sentenced to 29 months in federal prison, and served 17 months at a 'Club Fed.'

Pirro's pass was a part of 74 total pardons handed out by Trump, who also commuted the sentences of 70 other criminals. Rapper Lil Wayne and former Trump campaign chairman Stephen Bannon, were among the notable pardons with Pirro. Jared Kushner father, Trump campaign manager Paul Manafort and friend-advisor Roger Stone had their sentences commuted.

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Vaccine Hesitancy Among Communities of Color

Submitted by Open Door Medical Center

According to a December survey by the Pew Research Center, nearly 40 percent of Americans say they will definitely not or probably not get the COVID-19 vaccine when it becomes available to them.

This is a significant finding, yet it is the overwhelming number of people of color living in underserved communities that most concerns health care providers like Open Door Family Medical Center.

"Communities of color have been hit hardest by the pandemic and are the same communities where vaccine hesitancy is most prevalent," said Dr. Daren Wu, chief medical officer at Open Door, a Federally Qualified Health Center with sites throughout the Lower Hudson Valley Region. "We tell our patients that the COVID-19 vaccines are safe – and critical for building the herd immunity necessary to end the pandemic."

According to Dr. Anthony Fauci, the Director of the Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases and the nation's leading infectious disease specialist, as many as 80 percent of Americans need to be vaccinated so the virus can't find enough new hosts.

Mistrust in Communities of Color

According to research conducted this fall by Langer Research Associates, Unidos U.S., the NAACP and the COVID Collaborative, only 14 percent of Black respondents and 34 percent of Latino participants believe in the safety of a COVID-19 vaccine. A more recent poll released by the Kaiser Family Foundation found that Black Americans continue to remain skeptical about the vaccine with only 35 percent saying they definitely or probably would not get vaccinated, citing concerns about side effects and the newness of the vaccine.

"These findings are not surprising, said Dr. Wu. "They are due to a history of racial bias, mistrust of the American health care system, and access inequities. This skepticism certainly seems justified given the exploitation of communities of color by the medical establishment over the years."

History plays a role in this. Examples include such incidents as the Tuskegee experiment, where black men with syphilis were invited to gain free medical care, but were not treated so medical professionals could study them; and the sterilization of women in Puerto Rico, where as many as one-third of the female population was sterilized by the government with the goal to reduce poverty and unemployment.

In hopes of alleviating this gap, President Joe Biden has made vaccine access for communities of color a key feature of his \$1.9 trillion plan to confront the pandemic. The plan calls for creating more vaccination sites, such as mobile clinics, to get vaccine to hard-to-reach, marginalized communities in underserved areas.

Even prior to the pandemic, Open Door has worked closely with local clergy, elected officials and business leaders to improve public health outcomes with safety as a priority.

"We want the community to feel secure knowing that producers of these vaccines have strictly adhered to the necessary research, protocols and testing," said Dr. Wu. "The vaccines have been brought to market in record time because of massive funding and collaboration across the globe between private and government funders. They have not been rushed to the detriment of their safety or efficacy."

Decades of work, first years ago on the corresponding HIV spike protein and more recently on its counterparts from other viruses, including SARS, MERS, and seasonal coronaviruses, showed how best to design and produce the SARS-CoV-2 (i.e. Covid-19 version). Sophisticated methods to image the spike proteins via recent advances in electron microscopy allowed researchers and vaccine makers rapidly to study what they were making and gain assurances they were on the right track.

Dr. Wu stressed the importance of overcoming vaccine hesitancy at a time when a record number of Americans are being hospitalized and dying daily (an average of over 4,000). Westchester County has been hit hard, reporting the third highest rate of coronavirus infections in New York State.

Open Door has seen the surge in infections among its own patients. The positivity rate jumped to 29% in the final weeks of December, and Open Door is currently providing more than 1,000 tests per week.

"The Pfizer and Moderna vaccines have gone through all phases of clinical trials," said Dr. Wu. "This means that they first had to be given to tens of thousands of volunteers during these trials to make sure they were safe. Since receiving the FDA's EUA (emergency use authorization) a little over a month ago, they have already been given to more than ten million Americans, with excellent safety reported to date."

Bottom line, he added, "The vaccines are super safe, super effective and the best way to protect yourself and your loved ones."

Letters to the Editor:

Dear Yonkers Rising,

I feel lucky but have some questions. Under the NY 1b covid allocation my wife and I received our first moderna vaccine and in a few days we will receive our second shot. From what I have read within a week or two the vaccine will form antibodies against the covid-19 virus and in theory we can leave this horrible year behind us. The question I pose that nobody in government seems to have an answer to is, can we now go back to normal?

As a family we have done everything asked of us, testing regularly, limiting contact with our friends and family, keeping our daughter home with remote learning and of course masking up everywhere we go. I have heard "experts" say that even after the vaccination that we can still spread the corona virus,

I don't understand the science on this assertion however, If covid is transmitted via respiratory droplets from an infected person, then how can a fully vaccinated individual transmit when they won't be infected?

Perhaps someone with a science background in Yonkers can explain it to us because we would like to get back into the world without a mask.

Scott Dennis, Yonkers, NY

Quezada responds continued on pg 1-

concern brought to our attention. In less than a year's time and with extremely limited funding, we have managed to realize resources for students and staff as well as facility improvements. It is because of this that we often state with pride that Yonkers Public Schools is the best urban district in America. The data is clear. Yonkers was one of two Big 5 City School Districts to begin Hybrid Instruction in October. In 2020, Yonkers was the first and only Big 5 district in New York State to achieve a 90% graduation rate, surpassing the graduation rate of many districts in Westchester County," writes Quezada.

Included in Quezada's response letter were the following details:

8,340 devices have been distributed for home use to date. They include 5,146 laptops, 278 iPads and 2,916 Chromebooks. 436 of these devices have free Wi-Fi through a collaboration with Altice.

There is no waitlist for devices, as of this date, and the majority of new device requests are for students new to the District, parents whose personal device is no longer working and they are unable to get it repaired, as well as District devices that are no longer functioning.

The Mayor working with Altice provided Internet hotspots in high need communities.

School staff reach out to every family whose children were not engaged in remote instruction to ascertain why and try to resolve the issue.

When available, families with multiple children received additional devices. Tech Help Desk, 914-376-8637 or helpdesk@yonkerpublicschools.org, is available daily, 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM.

On Several Occasions, Quezada challenged Sussman and YPSS to provide evidence and specific proof "The District refutes the assertion that students in Special Education are facing worsening conditions, and the claim that the District has failed to revise policies and procedures leading to students with disabilities falling further behind, runs counter to the facts, and is inaccurate."

"If Yonkers Parents Seeking Solution (YPSS) is aware of specific teachers, please provide their names so that our Infrastructure Technology team and principals can resolve their concerns....If you have concrete situations, examples or data please share them."

"Once again, the District refutes your allegation that "a substantial number of qualified and certified teachers are not providing services to children, replaced by less qualified substitute teachers... every effort should be made to employ their skills virtually..." According to the City of Yonkers Human Resources Department, less than 3% of Yonkers teachers are on leave related to underlying conditions. If a teacher has selected to take a leave of absence, that is a personal decision. Therefore, substitute teachers must provide instruction. For teachers who received ADA accommodations and provide remote instruction, the District must employ a substitute teacher to supervise the students in school during Hybrid Instruction. For teachers who are quarantined due to COVID-19 related conditions and are permitted to work from home to provide remote instruction, the District must employ a substitute teacher to supervise the students in school. For teachers who are absent, the District must employ a substitute teacher to supervise the students in school."

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Former Byram Hills High School Student Arrested for Capitol Raid

On This Day in Yonkers History...



Philipse Manor Hall, the oldest building in Yonkers

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

Monday, February 1st

February 1, 1893: The Board of Health of the Town of East Chester pulled down the dam on the Bronx River between Yonkers and Bronxville. The Yonkers Board of Health had ordered the dam removed January that year because the water stagnated, causing illness to our residents; owner H. Duden of Bronxville Road immediately got an injunction restraining Yonkers from destroying it. Duden, however, forgot to file for an injunction against East Chester. Plans for the dam's destruction were kept secret until men arrived at the dam. Duden arrived a few hours later to find much of the dam already was down; a portion of the dam on the Yonkers side was left standing because of the injunction. The little left was pulled down several days later.

February 1, 1947: Louis Gelbinman of Pelton Street received a patent for a new way of making concrete; his new process created lightweight fireproof concrete to construct buildings, made from the residue left from burning pulverized coal. Gelbman, VP of Concrete Units Corporation in the Bronx, held 15 other patents for concrete manufacturing machinery.

Tuesday, February 2nd

February 2, 1928: The Yonkers Statesman offered every Subscriber an Accident and Pedestrian Insurance Policy; the policies, an announced additional service to their readers, were for any person between the ages of 15 and 70 who were not "totally blind, deaf or crippled to the extent the could not travel safely in public places." Subscribers had to subscribe for one year and pay a \$1 Registration fee. If a subscription was cancelled, the policy was cancelled. Policies could be given to multiple family members, such as husband, wife or any other member of the family meeting the restrictions, without individual subscriptions.

February 2, 1942: The City of Yonkers formally paid tribute to the parents of the first two Yonkers boys killed in World War II. City Manager Raymond Whitney, at a ceremony in City Hall, presented certificates to Mr. and Mrs. Julius Urban of Jackson Street, parents of the late John J. Urban, and Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Menzenski of Croton Terrace, parents of the late Stephen Menzenski.

Wednesday, February 3rd

February 3, 1933: Mayor Joseph Loehr took definitive steps to reorganized city government. His first action was to consolidate the Treasurer and the Comptroller's Offices into the Department of Finance, with bureaus of Audit and Treasury.

February 3, 1944: The Guinea Gold, a publication for the men serving in New Guinea, ran an article about the "strikeless City of Yonkers, NY," praising Yonkers' national record in wartime labor harmony. Corporal John Crowley, serving with the Corps of Engineers there, sent the paper back to The Herald Statesman, with the note he was sending it to let them know that "our fair city had made the news even in this God-forsaken outpost."

Thursday, February 4th

February 4, 1916: The Yonkers Chamber of Commerce not only recommended that a public dock be built in South Yonkers, but also drivers of horse-drawn carriages be required to obtain licenses.

February 4, 1944: Thomas H. Everett of Miller Place, Assistant Director of Horticulture and Senior Curator of Education at NY Botanical Gardens, was interviewed by radio personality Bob Hawk. Asked for professional advice for Victory Gardeners, Everett told Hawk to, "Start Early. Keep after it. And work hard." Later in the interview, Hawk asked him what the biggest mystery of the Botanical Gardens was. The answer? Everett once found a camel in the cactus house, but never got a reasonable explanation of how the dromedary got in! Everett, who worked for NYBG for 55 years, was considered one of the world's leading horticultural authorities.

Friday, February 5th

February 5, 1908: A bill was introduced in the Assembly for an appropriation of \$50,000 to purchase the Manor Hall.

February 5, 1923: New York State State Industrial Commissioner Bernard L. Shientag appointed Sara McPike of Elinor Place, Secretary of the State Department of Labor. McPike, formerly the executive secretary in the advertising department of our electric works, was well known as an orga-

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Brian Gundersen

By Dan Murphy

In the days following the attack on the Capitol in Washington DC on Jan. 6, several Westchester residents identified a Byram Hills High School jacket among those attacking Capitol Police and forcing their way into the halls of Congress.

Calls were made to the FBI, who had been seeking information. Brian Gundersen, 26, a 2012 graduate of BHHS, was identified as a person of interest based on the #70 that was on the jacket in Washington was the same number that he played football with.

According to an FBI report, "On or about January 12, 2021, a police chief in North Castle, called the New York Operations Center (NYOC) of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) stating that he had information related to the Capitol Building breach and riot. The police chief informed the FBI that the Superintendent of Byram Hills High School in Armonk, and multiple individuals of the community near Byram Hills High School, had determined that an individual at the riot was wearing a Byram Hills jacket. This determination was based upon photographs and videos of an individual appearing at the entrance to the Capitol Building.

Later that day, the police chief called the FBI again and stated the individual was believed to be Brian Gundersen. On January 18, 2021, FBI personnel requested a Digital Media review on Brian Gundersen. That review includes a search through the database that the FBI maintains on the many tips that the FBI has received from the public about the riots at the U.S. Capitol on January 6, 2021. That search returned a number of tips related to Gundersen.

On or about January 19, 2021, FBI Special Agents interviewed a witness with a close personal relationship with Gundersen, who advised that Gundersen was an avid supporter of former President Trump and a follower of commentator Nick Fuentes.

The witness told agents that on the evening of January 5, 2021, he and Gundersen departed Pennsylvania for Washington D.C. to attend a January 6, 2021 rally for President Trump. The two became separated on the morning of January 6, 2021, due to logistical issues. Later that day, a second witness said that he was contacted by Gundersen who told him that he was in the Capitol building.

That night, the first witness met with Gundersen to return to PA, and was told by Gundersen that he had been in a large group by the Capitol Building steps. That group was disarming police officers of their riot shields, and Gundersen told the witness that when everyone else stormed into the Capitol Building, he followed everyone inside. Gundersen said that he walked around the halls but was never violent while inside the Capitol.

Gundersen sat down with FBI agents the day before President Biden was inaugurated. He initially claimed that he had never been to the US Capitol but later admitted he was there, claiming that he was pushed into the building by the mob. He agreed to the discovery of his phone, which gave a message in which he mentioned a photo covering members of Congress during the attack on the Capitol, which is "petrified."

In a message sent two days after the attack, Gundersen acknowledged his role in the attack. He wrote, (incoherent message with cursing that included "We tried to take over the government, and "They may have found me.)

Gundersen, according to court documents, told the FBI that he was pushed into the Capitol building by the crowd and that he was inside the building for about 10 minutes. He faces charges of knowingly entering or remaining in any restricted grounds without lawful authority; Knowingly, with intent to impede government business or official functions, Engaging in disorderly conduct on Capitol grounds; Engaging in disorderly or disruptive conduct on the Capitol buildings or grounds; Parading, demonstrating or picketing in the Capitol buildings.

Gundersen's father, and many in Armonk and the Town of North Castle, were both disappointed and embarrassed by Brian's behavior. The father told News 12 that, "politics is his religion. Brian Gundersen is currently in his mother's custody in Pennsylvania.

Khader re-election, continued from pg 1-

of relief, recovery, and reform. At City Hall, we must do everything we can to deliver sustained economic relief to residents; that means tightening our belts while maintaining essential services and not raising taxes on already strained families. Local government has a huge part to play in our recovery from the pandemic, and we must do everything we can to help students return to school, workers return to jobs, and businesses return to storefronts."

Khader has said for some time that he expects an opponent, either from within the democratic party or a republican challenger in November. Yonkers Democrats will meet on Jan 27 to select their endorsed nominees, and set the stage for upcoming democratic primaries on June 22.

"I look forward to an active, issues-focused campaign in the days ahead. I truly believe that the best days for our city lay ahead of us, and I look forward to a robust discussion in our community as to how best to move our city forward."

Khader was a first time candidate who was elected Council President in 2017, defeating incumbent Liam McLaughlin.

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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.

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 Sergio Carpentry LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/07/2021. 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, 336 Bellevue Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Trump Pardons Pirro , continued from pg 4-

The Pirro's divorced in 2013, but during the 1990's were Westchester's power couple. Jeanine was elected District Attorney three times, in 1993, 1997 and 2001. Her victory in 2001 happened while Al was in jail.

Al was the top lobbyist and attorney for developers who wanted their projects built in the county. His clients included the Cappelli's and yes, then New York City developer Donald Trump.

Trump and the Pirro's became friends, with Trump attending parties at the Pirro's Harrison home, and Trump allowing Jeanine to hold a masquerade ball at his Seven Springs estate in North Castle as a fund raiser for her failed bid for NY Attorney General.

One Trump development plan that failed in Westchester under Al's stewardship was the plan to develop Davids Island in New Rochelle into a luxury home enclave. Opposition grew against the plan and Trump had to forfeit a \$500,000 deposit.

The Seven Spring development plan was another Trump-Pirro bust. Trump wanted to build an exclusive country club on the vast property but the fact that it sits in three different towns, New Castle, Bedford and North Castle, and a shrinking real estate market, meant that the plan was never approved.

Trump National golf course in Briarcliff Manor was a success of both Pirro and Trump

Republicans ruled Westchester during they heyday of the Pirro's in the 1990's. Many who live in Westchester now know nothing about the Pirro's except that they see Jeanine ranting on Fox News once week.

Pirro has been one of Trump's biggest supporters and has sold the Trump brand on Fox during the past four years. She was also able to secure a couple of interviews with the President, and in September of 2020, J. Pirro appeared at a Back the Blue Rally in Eastchester where she urged support for Trump's re-election.

Either J. Pirro, or A. Pirro, or both, must have requested the pardon. Jeanine claimed that she did not review the fraudulent tax returns that she signed with Al.

Al's brother, Anthony, an accountant, was thrown under the bus during the trial and had to take the wrap with his brother. Anthony did not receive a pardon from President Trump, nor did Julian Assange, who many had hoped would get one.

Yonkers Rising

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Daniel J. Murphy, Publisher/Editor
dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com
Legal notices to risinglegalnotice@gmail.com

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.

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

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

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

1. Bid 6580 - opening date 2/26/2021: Twelve month contract to purchase Hymax clamps and couplings as needed for the Water Bureau (DNC).
2. Bid 6581 – opening date 2/26/2021: Twenty-four month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to purchase 150-pound cylinders of liquid chlorine as needed (AC).
3. Bid 6582 – opening date 2/26/2021: Twenty-four month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide maintenance and repair services to overhead doors as needed (KS).
4. Bid 6583 - opening date 3/5/2021: Interior Renovations, Doors, Security & Site Work at Riverside High School (565 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701), YPS #10874, (FB).
5. Bid 6584 - opening date 3/5/2021: Integrated Pest Management for Yonkers Public Schools. Twelve month contract, with option to renew for two 12-month periods (rebid of Bid 6563) (SR).
6. Bid 6554 – opening date 3/5/2021: Fire Station 12 Rehabilitation (67 Fortfield Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701). Works consists of repointing brick and stone masonry, repairing masonry cracks, sealing existing stone joints, installing scaffolding and pedestrian protection, installing temporary shoring, bracing, miscellaneous construction supports and weather protection measures, and providing professional engineering services for shop and erection drawings (KS).
7. Bid 6585 – opening date 3/5/2021: Twelve month contract to provide large tree removal services on an as needed emergency basis in various locations throughout the City (DNC).

AGENDA FOR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE: THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2021 AT 5:00 P.M. WILL BE CONDUCTED IN A MANNER PURSUANT TO GOVERNOR CUOMO'S EXECUTIVE ORDER 202.1; IN-PERSON ATTENDANCE AT THIS MEETING WILL NOT BE PERMITTED.

PLEASE CHECK THE WEBSITE WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV, THE DAY OF THE MEETING FOR LOG-IN AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

CONTINUED HEARINGS

5715 – Area Variance – Tom F. Abillama, R.A., on behalf of 1969 Central Park Avenue LLC, owner, on premises known as 1969 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4385, Lot: 206, Zone: BR (B19994)

#5716 – Improvement and Intensification of a Non-Conforming Use – Gibbons Engineering, PC, on behalf of 687 Nepperhan Corp, owner, on premises known as 687 Nepperhan Avenue, Block: 2420, Lot: 12, Zone: I (B22644)

5725 – Non-Conforming Use & Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of St. Casimir Realty LLC, owner, on premises known as 10 St. Casimir Avenue, Block: 2040, Lot: 16, Zone: I (B23471)

5727 – Area Variance – Andrew Maniglia of Ginsburg Development, on behalf of Pier LLC 70, owner, on premises known as 70 Pier Street, Block: 146, Lot: 1.4, Zone: M (B24085)

5728 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Anthony Flower, owner, on premises known as 722 Yonkers Avenue, Block: 6102, Lot: 6, Zone: B (B21839)

5730 – Area Variance – James J. Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of 2700 Central Park Avenue Partners LLC, owner, on premises known as 2592 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4877, Lot: 60, Zone: BR (B24536)

NEW HEARINGS

5726 – Area Variance – Thomas Lee, on behalf of KCT Inc., owner, on premises known as 1050 Nepperhan Avenue, Block: 3092, Lot: 11, Zone: I (B23963)

5732 – Area Variance – Shahin Badaly, P.E., on behalf of Oluwatosin Shokeye, owner, on premises known as 45 Elizabeth Place, Block: 3075, Lot: 104, Zone: T (B22555)

JOSEPH CIANCIULLI , CHAIRMAN, ZBA
FOR FULL AGENDA, PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE:
<https://www.yonkersny.gov/government/meetings-agendas/-selcat-97/-toggle-all>

Takeout Week , continued from pg 1-

perfect way to do your part for the community and you get a tasty night in out of the deal too!”

Most restaurants are open for in-person dining. Each restaurant continues to follow CDC guidelines and precautions including social distancing and mandated mask use. However, this new restaurant week program will be a great alternative for those that may not be comfortable sitting indoors just yet. The specials being offered include either \$40.00 or \$20.00 takeout options that include packages catering to as large as a family of four. These deals are available to order by phone only and will not be available to order on any apps. Make sure to mention you would like the Yonkers Downtown Takeout Week offering when placing your order.

The restaurants participating in this restaurant week include:

Dolphin Restaurant
 Dos Marias
 Guapo Restaurant
 Francey Brady's
 Giovanni's Pizza
 La Bella Havana
 Metate Yonkers
 Singas Pizza
 X2O
 Yonkers Brewing
 Zuppa Restaurant

To explore the full list of restaurants and learn more about special menu promotions being offered visit www.yonkersdowntown.com/takeoutweek

Multi-Student Families , continued from pg 1-

purchase their own technology, this policy has left thousands of students unable to access the free and appropriate education to which they are entitled. I understand that Mayor Spano has promised that each student would receive a laptop so as to properly access education. But this has not happened with serious consequences.

“Members of the Yonkers Parents Seeking Solutions (YPSS) have advised that their effort to obtain precise information has been thwarted, but the district has represented that 8,000 laptops have been distributed. In this context, some families have resorted to their cellular devices to participate in remote learning. ... Yonkers has powerful allies in Albany...the provision of equal education opportunity remains the legal responsibility of the state and the city,” writes Sussman, in letter dated January 18.

In his first letter to YPS in October 2020, Sussman estimated that between “4,500 and 10,000 of the school district’s nearly 28,000 students are unable to participate in their virtual classrooms.”

Last October, the response from YPS was that 1,900 students needed a device, and 5,300 laptops had already been given out, with another 4,000 on the way for delivery. Due to a high demand for laptops across the county, the district was still waiting for those devices to come in last December.

Now, in January of 2021, the same concerns have been raised by parents, Sussman and YPSS. “We never received an answer to the questions in Mr. Sussman’s first letter, and children are unable to fully access their education online, because of a lack of devices,” said Christine Peters, a parent and member of YPSS.

“We have tried to get information from the school district about how many students need a device and how many multiple student homes are present. In those homes, additional devices are essential, but the policy is to give out one device per family.” Said Peters, who added that in prior conversations with the district and the Superintendent, “they claim that they were under no affirmative obligation to provide a device (tablet or chrome-book) to every student because they are not a 1:1 district. But what we still don’t know is do they (YPS) have an analysis of how many students need a device. How many are working on mobile devices and inadequate devices for full educational access? This information has never been released to YPSS or to the public. Do they even have this information?”

Another YPS parent, Zafiro Acevedo, has been spending the past 10 months helping other YPS parents, some of whom are undocumented and don’t have the knowledge about how to navigate the educational system.

“The majority of the immigrant and undocumented families are very noble, and they will not argue if told they can only have one device per family. But if there are 3 or 4 students in a household, the oldest child will use the device, the 2nd oldest child will use a cell phone and any other children do not get to go to school online for that day.

“These people are the backbone of our community, but they are vulnerable because the parents must go to work during COVID, they have no choice. They are getting the virus and bringing it home to their children. And their children have to go to school and can’t learn from home because there is nobody to teach them how to learn online and they don’t have enough devices.

“The parents tell their teachers that they don’t have enough devices for their children and the teachers go to the Principal or Assistant Principal and that’s it, nothing gets done. That’s why they have to come in for hybrid.

“In many cases, the grandparents stay with the children while the parents go to work. And the grandparents don’t know how to help with online learning. It is difficult enough for these students to learn even if they had a device.”

“And I understand that the Superintendent wants the students to come back to school, but the hybrid plan calls for two days a week or three days a week in class. My question to the Superintendent is what about the thousands of students who don’t have a device for the other 2 or 3 days a week when there is no in class learning? What are they supposed to do?”

“In the State of Connecticut, they got enough devices for all low-income students, so it’s not about money, it’s about the decisions made by this Superintendent. He is the one who is in charge, and we all knew about this pandemic, and the schools were closed in March. He had the whole summer to figure this out and order enough devices for everyone. He didn’t get it done. Why not? I can’t answer that,” said Acevedo, who had an “angel” come forward to donate 10 laptops to students who needed them. She handed out the devices in less than a day.

“There is a need for laptops in the community of Southwest Yonkers. If I had 100 laptops right now, I would give them to families who need another one, and they would be gone.”

Another parent and YPSS member Carolyn Solieri, said that students and parents “do not have the devices they need, and parents have to decide which of their children gets to learn today. It’s a horrible choice. The only politicians who have done anything about this are our county legislators from Yonkers, they have earmarked \$9,000 to purchase laptops.

“Who can we hold accountable? The Superintendent? The Mayor? We spoke to the Mayor on a Zoom call last year and he said that every student who needs one will get a device. That hasn’t happened, and we still don’t have an accurate accounting of how many students really need one. I want the Mayor to hold the Superintendent accountable., said Carolyn.

Peters and YPSS wanted to start a fund-raising drive to raise money and donations for new laptops and Chromebooks. But that effort never got off the ground because the district was telling everyone they have enough devices.

But several ‘Angels’ in Yonkers have stepped forward. Nancy Maldonado, who recently lost her son, Jonathan, donated 6 laptops in his memory. Maddie Deemarie Cheatham Walker, of Pamela’s Big Heart Foundation in partnership with Loyalty Foundation—has also been raising funds and collecting laptops and recently ran out.

But more devices are needed, and that is the quandary that Peters, Solieri and Acevedo face. Anyone who wants to help or donate can contact YCAP.org. Donations can be made online, or mail a check to YCAP, 20 South Broadway, Yonkers NY 10701. Or Email me at dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com and I will put you in touch with Peters and Solieri.

Yonkers History , continued from pg 5-

nizer, speaker, Democrat, and a proponent of women’s suffrage and social legislation in New York State.

February 5, 1924: Plans were submitted by the New York Telephone Company for the erection of a new central office building at 40, 42, and 44 Main Street. The building was to connect with the old building on Riverdale Avenue, creating an L-shaped building when finished.

Saturday, February 6th

February 6, 1932: Six armed gangsters, fleeing in a high-powered automobile, waged a running battle with Yonkers police through the streets of Yonkers. The chase started in Riverdale and ended at New Main and Herriot Streets, where authorities lost the trail of the fleeing criminals.

February 6, 1942: President Roosevelt selected Major General Joseph Stilwell, USA, to go to China on a special mission designed to coordinate the war efforts of the United Nations.

Sunday, February 7th

February 7, 1908: Representatives of the Federation of Labor protested awarding a contract to an out-of-town company that bid \$20 less than Yonkers manufacturer David F. Allen. The board agreed to hold a hearing on the contract the next day.

February 7, 1925: Hundreds of gypsies, representing 48 tribes throughout the United States, wound through the walkways of Oakland Cemetery in Yonkers to attend the funeral of Nicholas John, the King of the Gypsies. The procession included: women of the tribes, dressed in colorful garments, beads and earrings, wailing their sorrow: men chanting prayers; a spokesman reading the gypsy ritual for the dead; and a band playing gypsy funeral airs. John, born in Russia 65 years earlier, came to the US with his dad, whom he succeeded as ruler of the tribe many years earlier. It was rumored the John’s brother Ritraera Jurka of 72 Riverdale Avenue would succeed him as King of the Gypsies.

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.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

When Westchester County Executive George Latimer took office in 2018, he pledged to find solutions to some of the most pressing challenges at the Westchester County Airport.

To that end, Latimer will be announcing that the upgrading of all the permanent airport noise monitors have been completed and integrated with the complaint handling system. These fixed noise monitors are in addition to the portable noise monitors that had previously been added based on where the majority of the noise complaints had been originated from. Latimer will also be announcing the Board of Legislators authorization of his request for a \$3.75M bond act to complete remediation measures at Outfall No. 7 as part of the County’s Storm Drain Replacement project at the airport. This project is in accordance with the consent order issued by the State’s Department of Environmental Conservation.

Latimer said: “The Westchester County Airport is a major economic driver for our region and it is imperative that we as the County make efforts to ensure its surrounding neighbors are protected from its environmental. Yes the Trump Administration is largely to blame for this mess. Somehow they feel that if you put the duties of running these programs in some General’s hands all will go well. But don’t put all the blame on this mess on Washington. The State of New York puts out these websites with names of small pharmacies all over the state that have haven’t received the vaccines nor the super cold refrigerators to store them in.

Let’s cut the crap with all these commercials encouraging us to take the vaccine when there aren’t sufficient doses available. There are enough people out there who want the vaccine but can’t register on the computer to get it. If the goal of these commercials is to make people crazy they are certainly doing a good job.

I would love to know how many elected officials and their family members have gotten the vaccines and are not sitting at the computer all day looking for an open slot. Can someone please tell me how my family member and my friend with cancer can get vaccinated?

Empty Store Fronts!

The Galleria Mall in White Plains. Opened in 1980 together with Galleria Malls in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and Sherman Oaks, California. On Sunday, Sears which had been J.C. Penney when the mall opened marked down all remaining items in the store 90% going out of business. Macy’s, the other flagship store which was Abraham and Strauss (A&S) and then Sterns before taking on the Macy’s name is currently conducting going out of business sales. When Macy’s closes The Galleria will have no flagship store!

Vernon Hill Shopping Center in Scarsdale. Lord and Taylor flagship store particularly after the closing of their New York City location. ‘Going Out Of Business’ sale chock full of merchandise from categories (rugs, housewares) they never featured prominently before. Still clothing, their signature item left for all members of the family. Even a box of \$1 single women and men’s shoes for the dog to play with.

Same mall Brooks Brothers, the oldest clothing retailer in the United States, seller of luxury clothing, accessories and furnishings shuttered. Papyrus quality cards and gift items no more. Talbots, ladies clothing for all figures which was spread out among two stores now consolidated into one. Fig and Olive Restaurant with signs in the window that they are closed.

Godiva luxury chocolates in crisp gold packaging will close its doors after Valentine’s Day at the Westchester Mall. I guess people aren’t indulging in the freshly chocolate dipped strawberries in the window anymore. Want Godiva? You’ll find it in CVS or Walgreens.

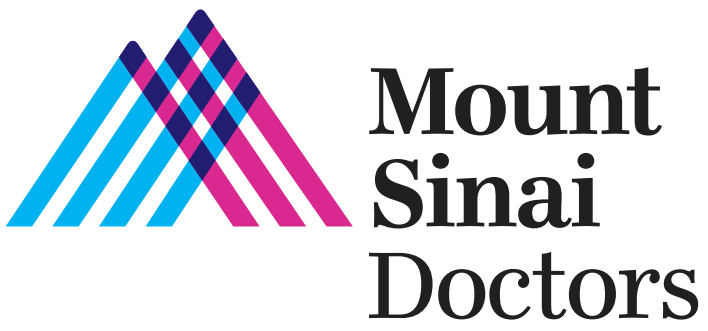
Head south to Ridge Hill in Yonkers. Lord and Taylor which was supposed to be the flagship store in the outdoor mall closed at the beginning of the year. I was truly surprised it stayed open as long as it did with few people shopping in the store whenever I was there. REI sporting goods, camping equipment and clothing scheduled to close this year. Papyrus closed. Sur La Table items for the kitchen, door shuttered. Rumors that Ridge Hill will become an outlet mall, so desperately needed in the coming years.

Alamo Movie Theater looks sad all boarded up on Central Avenue in Yonkers. Design Within Reach factory outlet closed within a year. Wrong place for a store where clearance prices were insanely high. Bowtie Movie Theater in Bronxville with a phone recording that lists the movies that were playing there on March 14 of last year. Very few cars in the Showcase DeLuxe Movie Theater at Cross County. I haven’t been upstairs at Ridge Hill.

What’s the reason. Changing tastes. People order everything on line on Amazon. First run movies on your Home Screen. The Pandemic? People are afraid to go out shopping because of COVID-19?

We need to get Covid shots in people’s arms. But sadly it’s going to take a lot to fill these many empty store fronts. If we collectively think together, maybe we can come up with a solution. It’s so sad looking at all these empty storefronts! Maybe the folks at Target coming into the old Sears/Wanamaker’s at Cross County Mall have the answer. Let’s hope so!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisyonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericnyonkers. 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.



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