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# **Yonkers Rising**

#### YonkersTimes.com

Friday May 24, 2024

# **Barack Obama School for Social Justice** Celebrates Valedictorian, Salutatorian



Obama School Valedictorian Kristine Awuah and Salutatorian Yaretzi Naiera Betanzos

#### By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to Barack Obama High School Valedictorian Kristine Awuah and Salutatorian Yaretzi Najera Betanzos. Valedictorian Kristine Awuah will graduate with a 98% GPA.

One of her favorite teachers was US History & Psychology teacher Gregg Susman."I had Mr. Sussman for both US History and Psychology. Both classes were interactive and fun. He made us feel comfortable. It was a great experience."

Kristine also has a love for Art, so Art Teacher Amig Stamatello was also a favorite teacher. "It was a fun and lively class, where we were able to express ourselves.

One of her favorite classes was creative writing. "The poetry part of the class helped me see other parts of myself I didn't know about."

Kristine served her community by volunteering with Lifting Up Westches-

Continued on pg 13-

# Yonkers Public Schools Celebrates Teachers of the Year



# Mayor Spano, Council President **Collins-Bellamy Endorse Latimer for Congress**



Congressional candidate George Latimer, with L-R-County Legislator Jose Alvarado, Mayor Mike Spano, Councilman John Rubbo and Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy

Democrat George Latimer, Congressional Candidate for the 16th District in New York was joined today by Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, Yonkers City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, Yonkers City Council Member John Rubbo, and County Legislator Jose Alvarado to announce the support of elected leaders across the city of Yonkers, which is New York's third largest city and the largest city in Westchester County. Latimer continues to make inroads across the Bronx and Westchester, building a robust grassroots campaign ahead of the Democratic primary.

"I am humbled to receive the support of my colleague and friend Mayor Mike Spano and this incredible delegation of Yonkers Democrats. Together we will ensure every family in Yonkers, across Westchester and the Bronx have the support and resources to succeed and thrive," said NY-16 Congressional Candidate George Latimer. "I am running because we deserve competent leadership focused on results. From increases in health funding for lower income residents, free bus service, and completing capital projects in the county including Memorial Field in Mt. Vernon and Sprain Ridge Pool in Yonkers, we have achieved great progress in Yonkers and will do even more when I go to Washington."

Latimer's growing support among Yonkers elected leaders also includes Yonkers Council Members Corazon Pineda-Isaac and Tasha Diaz as well as County Legislator David Tubiolo, which is indicative of his commitment to all working families across Westchester and Bronx as well as his results-driven approach to public service.

'George Latimer is a class act who truly leads with the interest of Westchester working families in mind. I am confident that he will fight to improve our continued on pg 6-

> YFT Speaks Out Against Proposed Budget Cuts \$14 Hole in YPS Budget Results in 142 Staff Cuts

By Dan Murphy

Elementary Teacher of the Year-Ms. Lisa Egan

Lisa Egan is a dedicated and innovative third-grade teacher at Cross Hill Academy. A lifelong resident of Yonkers and a product of the Yonkers Public School system, Ms. Egan's educational journey began at School 29, followed by Emerson Middle School, Pearls Hawthorne School, and Roosevelt High School. She earned her Associate's Degree in Human Services and a Certificate in Early Childhood Education from Westchester Community College. Subsequently, she obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology with a minor in Elementary Education and a Master's Degree in Special Education from Manhattanville College.

Ms. Egan began teaching at The Angelo Patri School in New York City before joining Yonkers Public Schools in 1999. Her teaching experience spans various grades and schools within the district, including Yonkers Middle/High School, Barack Obama School for Social Justice, Rosemarie Ann Siragusa School, and her current position at Cross Hill Academy.

Ms. Egan is committed to enhancing student literacy and math skills through innovative partnerships and instructional

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Yonkers teachers, parents, students and staff spoke out to the City Council at a budget hearing on May 22 at Saunders High School. Over the past week, details about the budget for the Yonkers Public Schools became public after YPS officials testified at a City Council budget hearing, and then at a Board of Education meeting. At both meetings, the BOE decided to us \$40 Million in its fund balance to reduce their budget hole to \$14 Million. As a result of the \$14 Million hole, the BOE passed a budget with 142 staff position cuts.

Those cuts include 22 Elementary school teachers, 14 Art teachers, 17 teaching assistants, and 45 CSEA positions.

The Yonkers Federation of Teachers, YFT, rallied the public to attend the budget hearing and let their voice be heard.

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Westchester Single-Family Home Prices Increase 4.6% in One Month

# Westchester County Beaches to Open for Memorial Day Weekend

# Mega Investors Are Not Buying All the Homes



Media Sale Price: March-\$620,000- April -\$648,500- Increase -4.6%

OneKey® MLS is the one source real estate marketplace for monthly statistics for residential real estate transactions from Montauk to Manhattan, north through the Hudson Valley and the Catskill Mountains. For April 2024, OneKey MLS reported a regional, single-family closed median sale price of \$670,000, an 8.9% increase over the price of \$615,000 in April 2023. For condominiums, OneKey MLS reported a closed median sale price of \$507,000, a 3.5% increase over last April's \$490,000 price. The closed median sale price of co-ops was \$290,000, representing a slight increase over the \$289,000 price reported in April 2024.

In April, single-family closed sales activity saw a 1.9% increase with 2,488 transactions, compared to 2,442 transactions in the same month last year. There were 501 condo closed sales transactions reported, representing an 8.9% year-over-year increase in activity. OneKey MLS reported 556 co-op closed sales transactions in April 2024 compared to 575 transactions the previous year, representing a 3.3% decrease in sales.

A positive indicator in April was the increase in the number of new listings added to the MLS database. OneKey MLS reported 7,636 new listings, which represents the total of single-family, condo, and co-ops, in April 2024 compared to 6,791 reported the prior year. With more available inventory, consumers have more choices.

OneKey MLS, the largest MLS in New York, aggregates the real estate transactional data from 12 counties making up the regional MLS service area, and reports individually on each county therein. To find more detailed regional and county-based statistics about residential, condo, and co-op sales transactions, please visit marketstats.onekeymls.com.



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POOLS TO OPEN FRIDAY, JUNE 28

Put on your bathing suits, grab your sunscreen and head to the beach Memorial Day Weekend as Croton Point Beach in Croton-on-Hudson and Glen Island Beach in New Rochelle will open on a pre-season basis, Saturday, Sunday and Monday, May 25, 26 and 27, weather permitting.

The beaches will be open weekends and holidays only through Sunday, June 23, then Glen Island Beach will open daily beginning Saturday, June 29 and Croton Point Beach will be open Wednesday through Sunday, also beginning Saturday, June 29, through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 2. Hours are 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., with last entry at 6 p.m.; proof of Westchester County residency is required at Glen Island. Entry and parking fees apply.

Beginning Friday, June 28, all four County-owned pools: Saxon Woods in White Plains, Sprain Ridge and Tibbetts in Yonkers and Willson's Woods in Mt. Vernon, will open daily through Labor Day, from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m., with last entry at 6 p.m.; entry fees apply and parking fees apply at Tibbetts Brook Park. Proof of residency is required at all pools.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "Westchester County Beaches are a beautiful local destination for residents to relax and enjoy the summer with family and friends. I'm excited to welcome everyone back to the beaches, and to the pools in June, to experience everything Westchester County Parks has to offer."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, Kathy O'Connor said, "Summer is peak-season for the Westchester County Parks Department with pools and beaches open, and a variety of activities and programs available County-wide. I'm looking forward to sharing another season full of fun events with our park-goers."

Westchester County residency is required at Glen Island Park and all pools. Proof of residency must be shown with either a Westchester County Park Pass or a New York State driver's license showing a valid Westchester County address. Admission fees apply at all of the beach and pool facilities and parking fees apply at Tibbetts Brook Park, Croton Point and Glen Island. Park Passes also offer discounted admission and parking and are available at a variety of locations.

There's even more fun-in-the-sun to be had at our pools and beaches this season as Family Fun Days and DJ Days return along with the Sand Art Contest at Glen Island. Full schedule is available at www.parks.westchestergov.com/ family-fun-days.



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# It's Time for Albany To Get Back On Track To Create Casino Gaming Revenue



By Assemblyman Gary Pretlow

We in the State Legislature made a promise to New Yorkers two years ago that the approval process for downstate casinos would be an efficient one. Now, however, we are instead far behind where we committed to be in giving the green light to three properties. Instead of generating new revenue without lifting taxes on middle-class families, we have been repeatedly told "wait 'til next year."

Those of us sworn to deliver for the people of New York are not waiting. That's why Sen. Joseph Addabbo and I introduced a bill this week to get this process back on track. More than ever, we need checks and balances to ensure we don't let perfection be the enemy of a generational opportunity for the Empire State. Our commitment is to see these guardrails enacted before we conclude the people's business this June.

We must get this done because New Yorkers are counting on much more than blackjack or roulette tables. Black and Brown families are leaving the downstate region in droves because few career opportunities exist. School administrators barely scrape by on shoestring budgets. Commuters inch forward on long commutes marred by aging infrastructure.

Expanded downstate gaming will return New York to its mantle as the greatest state in the union. I've said right here in the Yonkers Times that the revenue created by these casinos will be a game changer for our communities. Consider the fact that each license comes at an upfront cost of \$500 million a piece, or a minimum of \$1.5 billion total. We aren't talking about a drop in the bucket — it's a major shot in the arm for a state staring down a \$9.5 billion gap next fiscal year.

What's as important is the consistent revenue this will create every single year. Genting already pledged to add \$1 billion in new, incremental revenue on top of the average \$700 million in taxes Resorts World New York City already pays. MGM here in Yonkers has been just as reliable operating its facility, and can expect the same level of commitment from them or anyone else entrusted to run a casino.

But first we need to actually start flipping cards. New York State committed to speeding up the process as part of the budget two years ago. The intent was for bidding to start in 2023, but the goal posts continue to move. The Gaming Commission's announcement this spring to push back license awards until the end of 2025. That means the tens of thousands of constructionand permanent jobs promised by every bidder will not materialize for another two years — at best. Other communities might not see those jobs until the end of the decade, at which point one has to wonder who will even still be there to fill them.

Our bill will get us back on course with a few simple stopgaps in the process. First, New York State would set July as the deadline to submit bids. Then, decision makers would have to commence the community advisory committee process for bids it deems sufficient, which would thus ensure we don't delay what should be a thorough, thoughtful process. New York would then have to make decisions by March 2025, giving any winner two years to resolve any land use

## Summertime...Will the Living be Easy?



**By Eric Wolf Schoen** 

Can you believe this weekend is Memorial Day Weekend? The official start of summer. Did you get your swim suit out of the mothballs? Your beach towel so you can lay in the sun and absorb the rays and get that summer glow?

By the way, if by chance you stored your bathing suit in moth balls, make sure you wash it thoroughly before you put it on, washing all the mothball fragrance and any sentiment away. If you don't do this, you will have a burning sensation when you hit a chlorinated pool over the areas that your bathing suit covers. Mothballs and chlorinated water do not mix, and take it from personal experience it's not the most comfortable feeling. It's happened to many of us, so be thankful if it hasn't happened to you.

If you are going to hit the water whether it be your own pool or a public pool, make sure you know how to swim. Many of the county pools have swim classes available for adults and children, so take advantage of them. Always keep young children in shallow water close to you if they don't know how to swim, and adults keep your eyes on young children. We want you around to keep reading these papers! Make sure there is a lifeguard present at the pool or beach, and if the signs say no swimming don't be a big shot and try to swim without one. Stew Leonard's website has some good information to prepare for your water excursion. Check it out!

As this column goes to press the Yonkers City Council is holding hearings on the proposed city and school budget. Tuesday night I got numbers on some of the proposed staffing cuts and the picture is not good. 95 teachers and teaching assistants, 39 10-month civil service, 6 12 month Civil Service including the Locksmith (didn't know the district had one but fully understand the need) and 2 Central Office Administrators. This is probably a best case scenario if the City Council breaks the tax cap. Don't know if there are 4 votes to do that, and if the Mayor who has higher aspirations would agree to it. No one wants to vote to break the tax cap, particularly a Mayor who may run countywide where the citizenry will always remember his actions.

These layoffs are of surprise to no one. Don't let our officials tell you they are shocked. THE CITY OF YONKERS BUDGET TANGO, what I have called it for years is caused by in large part the number of positions added to the budget using pandemic funding. The funding ended but no one planned for its replacement.

I visited a wonderful exhibit at Yonkers Middle/High School this week where our students displayed their studies of our great city and the many things they have done to make Yonkers a better place for those in need and how they imagine what Yonkers will look like in the future. The student projects were displayed in the school arena. My visit brought back memories of my high school days at Yonkers High School (1974-1978) and the yearly budget drama students and staff went through. Over 40 years later and the district is still having the same financial woes.

Don't blame the fiscal mess on the New Superintendent of Schools Anibal Soler, Jr. who I had the pleasure to meet at the Yonkers Middle/High School event. He was truly engaged in the student projects. He was probably brought onboard by the Trustees in May as opposed to over the summer to take an active role in the budget process for 2024-2025 that he will be charged with

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issues.

These metrics keep us on target, level the playing field for all bidders of the three licenses, and ensure New Yorkers feel the benefit of the revenue this decade. While we may be in the final weeks of this legislative session, we should strive to pass this bill and live up to the commitments many of us made years ago.

Pretlow serves as the Chairman of the Assembly Committee on Racing and Wagering.



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#### Cross County Center Celebrates 70 Years



L-R: Kayli Tarcy Marketing Manager, Cross County Center; NY State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins; Carl Calabro, Senior Property Manager, Cross County Center; Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano; Yonkers City Councilmember Anthony Mercante; Justin Tubiolo, in representation of Westchester County Legislator David J. Tubiolo; Westchester County Legislator James Nolan. Photograph by Luis Ruiz

Marx Realty (MNPP), a New York-based owner, developer and manager of office, retail and multifamily properties across the United States, began a summer-long commemoration of the decades-long evolution at Cross County Center, the nation's first open-air shopping center. Cross County Center celebrated the significant milestone with a grand kick-off event on Saturday, May 18th. Honoring its historic 70-year legacy and, in a nod to the placemaking power of real estate, Marx Realty welcomed the Mayor of Yonkers, Mike Spano, NY State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, as well as various city officials, business leaders, and members of the community, for an event held on The Green, Cross County Center's vibrant green space. As part of the celebration, State Senator Stewart-Cousins declared it Cross County Center Day in all of New York while Mayor Spano declared it for Yonkers.

"Growing up in Yonkers, we always knew it was a treat when my mother would say we're going to Cross County Center," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. "This is more than a mall, it's a real destination for people to come with their families, have a great time and, of course, get your shopping done as well."

Seventy years ago, Cross County Center revolutionized the retail landscape opening as the nation's first and only open-air shopping destination. Originally housing approximately 30 stores, the center expanded to nearly 100 stores across multiple buildings. Since its official opening on April 28, 1954, Cross County Center has continued to evolve, attracting cutting-edge retailers, and fostering a dynamic community atmosphere that essentially put Yonkers, NY on the map.

The center has long been committed to fostering a sense of community and resilience, particularly during challenging times. Throughout various economic cycles – from the recession and gas crisis of the 1980s to defying the challenges posed by the growth of online shopping, and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic – the center has remained steadfast in its dedication to serving as a welcoming space for visitors whether they come to shop or to simply unwind with family, friends, and friends. The continual evolution of Cross County Center, even through the most challenging cycles has established its unwavering commitment to supporting the vitality of the region.

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YPS Names Dr. Jason Baez as Next Exe. Director of My Brother's Keeper Program



On May 21, Yonkers Public Schools introduced Dr. Jason Baez as the next Executive Director of its nationally recognized My Brother's Keeper program, turning to an educator with a long track record of supporting young men of color.

Dr. Baez most recently served as Assistant Principal at Charles E. Gorton High School in Yonkers, where he led the school's MBK chapter and initiated the school's MBK Leadership Showcase Event. His career has been marked by a commitment to serving young men of color.

Dr. Baez's transition into the role comes as new Superintendent Aníbal Soler, Jr. took the helm of the district earlier this month. Superintendent Soler also brings a deep dedication to serving young men of color; he was very involved in the MBK chapter in his previous school district and was honored by the Obama administration as a Latino educator serving as a Champion of Change.

"With the highest on-time graduation rate in the state, our My Brother's Keeper program is a point of pride for Yonkers, and we're excited to have Dr. Baez further our work of improving life outcomes for boys and young men of color," Soler said. "This work is absolutely critical to the school district, the city, and, most significantly, the individuals that we are serving, and Dr. Baez and the MBK program have my full support."

Before joining Yonkers Public Schools, Dr. Baez served as an Assistant Principal in New York City Public Schools, leading an MBK initiative that developed and promoted leadership, citizenship, scholarship, and character in young men of color. While as a teacher, he mentored early-career male teachers of color throughout NYC public schools while ensuring they succeed as teachers. He assisted multiple teachers in navigating the various aspects of their new careers. Dr. Baez strived to keep these educators in the classroom so students would have diverse role models, teachers, and mentors representing their schools.

As an Adjunct Professor at CUNY City College of New York and Monroe College, Dr. Baez prepares the next generation of teachers. His educational background includes an Ed.D. in Administration and Supervision from St. John's University, a Master of Science in Educational Leadership from CUNY Hunter College, and a Master of Science in Students with Disabilities in Childhood Education and a Bachelor of Science in Childhood Education, both from CUNY City College of New York.

"My whole career has helped prepare me to lead My Brother's Keeper in Yonkers," Dr. Baez said. "I'm very aware of the success our district has had with young men of color graduating high school on time, and I'm focused on broadening that progress both earlier – so, for example, students are reading at grade level by third grade – and later – so graduates are finding jobs that allow them to support themselves and their families. I'm grateful for this opportunity."

Yonkers Public Schools is a MBK Model Community, one of four selected by the Obama Foundation from across the country. Yonkers Public Schools was selected in recognition of its on-time graduation rate for young men of color, which is the highest in New York State. As a Model Community, Yonkers receives additional support to help its students achieve six milestones that range from school readiness to post-graduate employment.



Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

# Woman Caught on Video Driving Car with **Boyfriend on Hood Gets 6 Months Jail**



**Miguel Pena** 

A 2001 incident, caught on video near the Eugenia Hostos School in Yonkers, where a woman was caught driving a car with her boyfriend on the hood has been resolved, with the driver, Mercedes Vargas, 45, agreeing to a 6 month jail sentence and 5 years probation for the 2nd degree Manslaughter death of Miguel Pena.

The facts from the Yonkers Police Department are below. Opinions are mixed as to whether the sentence was too light. The Yonkers Police Department released a video of a vehicle traveling at a high rate of speed which crashes into a gate outside of the Hostos School in Yonkers. The link to the video is below

https://www.facebook.com/YonkersPD/videos/890124204937724

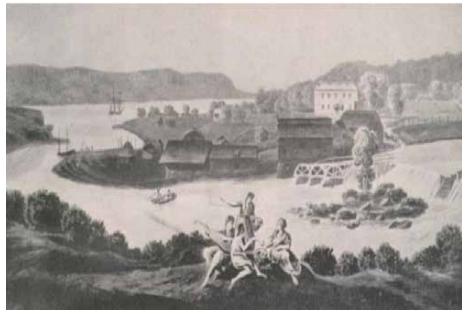
On Saturday, September 4th, 2021, at approximately 1:24 AM, members of the Yonkers Police Department responded to the north side of the Eugenia Maria De Hostos Microsociety School off Stanley Place on a report of a motor vehicle accident with injuries. Upon arrival First Responders discovered that a 2012 Subaru Forrester had crashed through the Stanley Place access gate to the school property and struck a concrete barrier before impacting the north wall of the school building. A male accident victim was located on the ground adjacent to the barrier; a female accident victim was in the operator's seat of the Forrester. First Responders rendered medical aid to both parties, including CPR to the male accident victim, but he was pronounced deceased at scene. The female accident victim was taken to a local area hospital. There were no other injured parties at scene. Police cordoned off the area and initiated accident and criminal investigations.

Detectives from the Major Case Squad, Crime Scene Unit, and Digital Forensics Unit, along with Accident Investigators, responded to the scene and interviewed subjects and witnesses, recovered surveillance video, processed forensic evidence, and reconstructed the accident events.

Investigation yielded that the male victim and female operator were in a domestic relationship, and allegedly prior to the accident were drinking at a residence on Stanley Avenue. An argument ensued between the couple, and the female operator attempted to leave in the Forrester. The male victim, either through his actions or hers, or a combination of both, ended up on the hood the Forrester; investigators believe that the male victim may have been trying to prevent the female operator from driving in her inebriated condition. The female operator then drove south on Stanley Avenue at high rate of speed with her partner still on the hood - crossed Ludlow Street onto Stanley Place and crashed through the access gate before striking the barrier and school wall - a total distance of approximately 260 yards. As a result, the male victim suffered fatal traumatic injuries to his head and body, and the female operator suffered injuries consistent with a vehicle collision; she is expected to recover. Responding police officers further detected evidence and indicators of alcohol consumption by the female operator; she did possess a valid NYS driver's license. Investigators continue to actively develop information and enhance the case.

The female operator was placed under arrest and charged with one count of Vehicular Manslaughter 2 – DWI, a Class D Felony in the New York State Penal Law. She is identified as Mercedes VARGAS, a 43-year-old resident of Stanley Avenue this City. VARGAS was arraigned in Yonkers Criminal Court yesterday and remanded into the custody of the Westchester County Department of Corrections; her next court date is scheduled for September 10th. The case is being prosecuted by the Westchester County District Attorney's Office. Additional information may be released as it becomes available. The male victim is identified as Martires SUSANA-PENA, a 42-year-old resident of Stanley Avenues this City. The City of Yonkers and Yonkers Police Department offers its sincere condolences to his family and friends.Miguel Pena's family in the Dominican Republic "wanted justice" for his death and raised \$3,600 on a GoFundMePage.

# **On This Day in Yonkers History...**



The earliest known sketch of Philipse Manor Hall.

By Mary Hoar, City of Yonkers Historian, President Emerita Yonkers Historical Society, Revolutionary Yonkers 250 Chair, recipient of the 2004 Key to History, Member of the Yonkers Landmarks Preservation Board, and President Untermyer Performing Arts Council

#### Monday, May 27th

May 27, 1862: John Kendrick Bangs was born in Yonkers; this author, satirist and humorist ran unsuccessfully for Mayor of Yonkers against John Peene in 1894. After losing the election, he wrote "Three Weeks in Politics," a thinly disguised recounting of his run for Mayor.

May 27, 1941: Campbell Hat Company, Stanley Avenue, received a \$67,000 contract from the Army Quartermaster's depot in Philadelphia to manufacture 24,000 olive drab hats. The company's fifth defense contract; its contracts totaled just under \$350,000.

May 27, 1942: Cameo Curtains on John Street was awarded a large government contract to manufacture mosquito bars for the Army. The company hired 100 more employees and worked in two shifts for the remainder of the year to fulfill this contract.

#### Tuesday, May 28th

May 28, 1945: A scroll honoring the 32 Yonkers Boy Scouts who died in the service of their country was updated and hung in Scout Headquarters.

May 28, 1965: Dr. Martin Luther King addressed the Negro American Labor Council at their fifth annual convention held at the Westchester Town House on Tuckahoe Road, now Royal Regency Hotel. The convention, whose theme was "Economic Freedom and Security for the Black and White Poor," was attended by labor leaders from all over the country.

May 28, 1965: On his way to the airport, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., stopped at Temple Emanu-El on Rumsey Road; he spent forty-five minutes viewing their display of African themed painting and sculpture at the Temple's annual art exhibit.

#### May 29th

May 29, 1779: Sir Henry Clinton made his headquarters in the Manor House to plan attacks on Verplank and Stony Point

May 29, 1932: More than 1,500 people attended an unveiling ceremony at Frederick Stilwell Park in southeast Yonkers. The tablet, commemorating the men of McLean Heights and Wakefield Park who served in the various wars, stood six-feet high and was located near the McLean Avenue entrance to the park.

May 29, 1937: Police Chief Edward Quirk announced Yonkers residents could wear shorts on city streets any time they wanted during Memorial Day continued on pg 10-

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#### CORPORATION NOTICE CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, May 28, 2024 at 5:00pm, Mayor's Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

#### A LOCAL LAW TO OVERRIDE THE TAX LEVY LIMIT ESTAB-LISHED IN GENERAL MUNICIPAL LAW SECTION 3-c

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

MIKE SPANO Mayor

Date: May 15, 2024

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

#### A GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING PART IV: BUSINESS REGULATIONS, LICENSING AND CONSUMER PROTECTION OF THE CODE BY ADDING CHAPTER 40 TO THE CODE, EN-TITLED "REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS FOR EXPEDITORS"

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Yonkers has adopted the abovementioned legislation that amends the City Code to create a registration requirement for persons who act as expeditors in various City departments. A registration requirement for expeditors will allow for greater transparency and efficiency throughout the permitting process in various City departments. Furthermore, this registration requirement will also allow the City of Yonkers to hold expeditors accountable and suspend or revoke the registration of expediters where there is a finding of misconduct as defined in the legislation.

The penalties for violation of this ordinance are as follows:

A violation of any provision of this chapter shall constitute a Class II offense. Any person who provides expediting services without first obtaining a registration certificate from the City of Yonkers or who shall continue to provide expediting services after having had his/her registration suspended or revoked shall be deemed to have violated the provisions of this chapter. Each expediting service performed by a person without a valid registration certificate shall be deemed a separate offense.

The complete text of the ordinance is on file and may be examined at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 40 S. Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701.

Dated: May 3, 2024 Vincent Spano City Clerk



# Yonkers Public Library Branch Adminstrator Gets National Recognition



Tara Somersall

YPL Staff Tara Somersall Gets National Recognition! We are thrilled to announce that Grinton I. Will Library Administrator Tara Somersall has been named one of Library Journal's "Movers & Shakers" for 2024!

Tara is one of only 40 Movers & Shakers this year, and joins an esteemed group of over 1,000 librarian professionals across the nation and world that have been inducted over the last 22 years. You can read Tara's profile and her incredible contributions to YPL and the Yonkers community here: https://www.libraryjournal.com/.../Tara-Somersall-movers...

#### Budget Hole, continued from pg 1-

"Yonkers Federation of Teachers is urging parents, educators, advocates and community members to show up in full force at the Yonkers City Council's public budget hearing to oppose cuts that would harm our public schools and students. The Yonkers Board of Education has adopted a budget that includes 142 staff layoffs. The affected positions span the entire district, from elementary school to high school, including guidance counselors, social workers, art and music teachers. Montessori instructors and vital staff who keep our schools running. These austerity measures would have a devastating impact on students, risk widening educational inequities and impede significant progress Yonkers public schools have made in recent years. The diverse district serves large highneeds and high-poverty populations, and its graduation rate of 90 percent still exceeds that of any other Big 5 district and of the state average. Thanks, in part, to stable levels of state and federal funding in recent years, Yonkers has been able to invest in community schools, which include essential wraparound healthcare and social services for students and their families. It supports nationally and internationally recognized programs, innovative career and technical education opportunities, and apprenticeships that are propelling students toward fulfilling jobs in the global economy. Now, loss of federal COVID relief funding and smaller increases from the state have opened a budget shortfall that threatens to push our students and these opportunities aside. We cannot return to the chaos of perpetual crisis. Strong schools mean strong neighborhoods, and that is what attracts and keeps families and businesses in our community. Join Yonkers educators in urging the Yonkers City Council to use all available avenues to close the \$14 million budget shortfall without risking our students' futures."

More on this story next week.



# Read it all Online at

Yonkerstimes.com

# Letter to the Editor: Biden's War on Fossil Fuels

Fossil fuels have been around, according to scientific studies,

for millions of years, they are responsible for maintaining our very existence, if they were so harmful to our atmosphere, by now we should be gagging and slowly expiring-instead, we are extremely healthy, and with the help of trees and plants, our oxygen levels are normal.

Biden's war on one of these fuels- is Gasoline.

His plan of attack is simple-stop all production of this fuel in this countryimport gasoline from enemy countries –Iran, in particular,

until he can influence the general public to "buy into his "EV" scheme,

purchasing "EV's" and, gradually forcing auto manufacturers to slowly eliminate gas powered vehicles, until the public is 100% sold on owning these vehicles—then, stop all gasoline purchases from foreign markets, and Presto!-we are all electric!

However, he fails to understand that, fossil fuels are plentiful, reliable, and CHEAP!

Biden's other fancy is focused on (A)-Solar energy, and (B)-Wind,

They are expensive and intermediate and have some drawbacks as well.

In order to increase the affluence of a society, we must have more energy (no matter where it comes from), China & India at this moment, are building hundreds of coal burning power plants.

From 1980 to 2020, fossil fuel energy has increased 80 percent, despite the fact that countries have spent millions on solar and windmills, and atmospheric Co2' has increased 25 %, but climate related deaths decreased 98 %. To believe that Co'2 is the sole controlling factor is incorrect. Cheap, plentiful energy benefits those in poorer circumstances, rather those "in the upper classes".

More Co'2 in our atmosphere delivers and spurs more plant growth, such as corn, wheat, soybeans, etc.

Fossil fuels are abundant in this country, and to eliminate them would be a catastrophic mistake!

Joe Pettit, Yorktown

administering.

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

The question this year as in years going back to the 70's is? Who will be the Mighty Mouse to save the day and bring Yonkers the funds it needs. My bet this year is on the State with Senators and Assemblymen up for re-election. The sad thing is that those staff members who are in the district the shortest period of time are usually the first ones affected. Working in a district which hands out pink slips every year is humiliating. All I can say to those who might be terminated? Look at other .districts for openings in your field, and take them job. No one should have to suffer the humiliation Yonkers School Employees have gone through with the announcement of layoffs, a process that has occurred most years since my days in high school.

The Democratic Primary featuring incumbent Jamaal Bowman and County Executive George Latimer will be in the headlines everyday. Do people want a Congressman, former Principal who should know better than endanger the lives of people by pulling Fire Alarms censured by his peers shortly thereafter, or do they want a Congressman with a track record 99% of Democrats support. Remember the Primary is June 25 and you can register to vote until June 15. MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD WESTCHESTER AND BRONX RESIDENTS!

Congestion Pricing, scheduled to take effect at the end of June in New York City will affect every citizen in this region. Cheer on those who are fighting it. It's just another tax that will hurt New York City, a city that needs all the help it can get. In response to my column several weeks ago 1 person, a friend supported Congestion Pricing, and most had choice words to describe an exorbitant fee where monies collected will support public transportation with not a nickel to improve the roads our cars go over getting flat tires. Most of the people who are against congestion pricing don't trust the Metropolitan Transit Agency and the highly paid officials responsible for its implementation. Who can blame them. MTA facilities receive more and more money and things never change.

People are unhappy with both Presidential candidates as we head up to the political conventions. RFK, Jr. Is a sad alternative not even supported by his family. It's going to come down to the economy. People feel good if they have a job that allows them to provide for their family. People don't feel good paying \$5 for a four pack of Jello gelatins in the dairy case. Will the fights going on in our campuses across the world regarding the Middle East and Israel go from the campus to our streets? It's something we have to keep our eyes on, as will law enforcement. And we have to keep our eyes on those who steal from our supermarkets to stores selling high end fashions. The thievery is partly responsible for the high prices we pay for Jello to McDonald's or for a suit of clothes at Macy's! Will more restaurants fail like Red Lobster and Applebees. To be honest, who can afford to dine out now anyway?

#### Cross County, continued from pg 4-

"Cross County stands as an enduring symbol of excellence and community spirit, captivating multiple generations of shoppers since its inception 70 years ago," said Craig Deitelzweig, president and CEO of Marx Realty. "We are immensely proud to celebrate this historic milestone and reaffirm our commitment to providing a space that not only enriches the day-to-day lives of all who visit but continues to foster a strong community bond over its 70-year history."

Cross County Center has been a beacon of innovation and remarkable growth since its inception. From the opening of the iconic John Wanamaker department store to the arrival of Gimbels, the center quickly established itself as a premier retail destination, effectively cementing Yonkers position as a thriving community hub in the larger Tri-State region.

"I'm excited to be here because Cross County Center has always been a destination; we would go to Gimbles to get that very special dress or to John Wannamaker's – there was always something to do, but I knew it was a special occasion when I got here," added NY State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins. "Cross County Center continues to transform – it continues to be a destination for so many people from so many places. We now celebrate 70 years making sure Cross County is part of the community. Not only are there great stores and food options but the Westchester Community College is here, so you can get an education while you're eating and shopping, there's just so many things to do."

Over the years, it has seen many transformations, including the conversion of the Cross County Hospital into office space in 1977, which now houses the Hyatt Place Hotel. Marx Realty took over operations at the Center in 2020 and rose to the challenge presented by Sears' demise by securing a long term lease with Target (which opened in October 2023 in the former Sears space) and by bringing SUNY Westchester to that space for its new lab spaces and design school, adding to the robust mix of uses. Full timeline is included below.

"We have long been committed to activating the spaces at Cross County and this summer will be truly special as we celebrate its storied past and the incredible potential for future growth while remaining committed to providing a vibrant and engaging experience for everyone," continued Deitelzweig.

The 1,150,000-square-foot Cross County Center is jointly owned by Marx Realty and Benenson Capital Management. The outdoor lifestyle center is located at the intersection of Cross County Parkway and I-87, attracting over 11 million visitors annually from New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Cross County Center has attracted many of the top names in retail and dining including the first Shake Shack and Zara in the county as well as a growing Westchester Community College location. Marx Realty is currently in talks with the City of Yonkers to formalize the next phase of evolution at Cross County Center.



The Trump trials, the fentanyl crisis, and the way people drive like animals on our roadways will all be a big part of this summer.

The only one who seems to be making money is former President Obama at \$1 million a speech.

Will the Living be easy this summer, or is there just too much going on? Unfortunately we will have to wait for that answer until the temperatures cool down, the bathing suits are put away and it's time to go back to school for our bright students. Keep your fingers crossed and pray that the Summer of 2024 will be filled with sunshine for you and your families and Peace in the world!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisyonkers@aol.com, or friend him on Facebook Eric Schoen...just look for him in the picture with Joan Rivers! Landon Pepe, Somers High School, Named A Con Edison Scholar-Athlete of the Week



Landon Pepe

#### By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to Landon Pepe, a Senior at Somers High School, for being named a Con Edison Scholar-Athlete of the week. Landon has been a 4 -year player on the Somers Varsity Lacrosse Team, and is the team's captain and goalie. This year Landon has 131 saves in 14 games. And in his sophomore year, he was moved up to Varsity mid-season for our New York State Championship Football team.

Landon has volunteered since 2021 with Able Athletics, providing inclusive lacrosse experiences for players with diverse disabilities. He also helped raise over \$2000 for Able last year. Pepe also volunteers for United for the Troops, which sends food and other items to US Troops overseas. Landon has a 98.75 GPA and is a member of the National Honor Society, National Math Honor Society, National Science Honor Society, National English Honor and has scored in the high honor roll for all marking periods all 4 years of High School.

"Academically, Landon has few peers. I am fascinated by the constant opportunity he sees in the everyday. I am fascinated by the overt, wild success he has worked so hard to achieve both in academics and athletics. And I am fascinated even more so by all the subtle, unseen interests and passions that he so actively pursues without any intent to earn external praise," said Somers HS Principal Mark Bayer.

# SUNY Westchester Community College Celebrats Nurse Pinning Ceremony



graduating students from WCC's two year nursing program

SUNY Westchester Community College celebrated its Nurse Pinning Ceremony in which 19 students completed their nursing studies and received their SUNY WCC nursing pins.. May has been designated National Nurses Month, and May 8 is National Student Nurse Day. This year's nursing students completed the two-year Nursing A.A.S. Program, which is designed to prepare students for careers as Registered Nurses. Graduates of the program can transfer almost anywhere, in-state or out-of-state. New York State residents are also guaranteed admission to a SUNY four-year campus. "Our nursing graduates will soon be serving our community in this noble profession. As was evident during the recent pandemic, the U.S. has a critical shortage of registered nurses, a shortage that might top 1 million by the end of this decade. In response to this shortage, SUNY WCC expanded its nursing program in January 2024 to provide more students with the training and education they need to help fill this need."





**Remembering Veterans Who Died for Our** Freedom This Memorial Day



Young students from Yonkers hold up their American Flags to honor those who died defening our freedoms. This event at the 7th Ward War Memorial commemorates the 49 people who are etched in stone. It was dedicated in 1959. Thank you, Sam Riti and Armando A. Ruso AMVETS Post 40, Yonkers Parks and City of Yonkers Department of Veteran Services for a moving ceremony. Riti is pictured above at the ceremony.

Many of us have a relative who died serving our nation. My great grandfather died in World War I, and is buried in France. His daughter, my grandmother was born shortly after his death. My grandma never got to meet her dad. So enjoy your Memorial Day wekeend, but remember what the true meaning of Memorial Day is all about. And thank any Veteran you see and say thanks for your service.

# Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

Education, Sports and Political Leaders Honored at Yonkers Charter School Gala





L to R: Michael DeSimone, athletic director of the CSEE; Sobeida Cruz, co-founder of the CSEE; Joseph Durney of STEER; Westchester County Legislator Shanae Williams; Betsy Stern, president of the FSEE; and Eduardo LaGuerre, co-founder of the CSEE. Photo courtesy of the FSEE.

The Foundation in Support of Educational Excellence (FSEE) recently honored Betsy May Stern, president of the FSEE; Westchester County Legislator Shanae Williams; and Dr. Joseph Durney, CEO of STEER for Student Athletes, Inc. at its annual gala.

"Our three honorees represent the financial, moral and professional support that has been critical to our school's tremendous success," said Sobeida Cruz, vice-chair and treasurer of the FSEE at the group's May 16 gala benefitting the Charter School of Educational Excellence.

Stern-a Westchester philanthropist who supports educational causescalled on the gala attendees to get involved in education." Everybody here in the room has something to offer, so if you have not done something for this fantastic little school, what's wrong with you?" Stern said to laughter and applause.

Williams represents District 16 at the Westchester County Board of Legislators. She told the gala attendees that early in her political career, she was warned about showing too much support for charter schools.

"There are a lot of people who are very much anti-charter schools in the state. I am not one of those people. I believe that it is important for parents to have options for their child," said Williams.





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Durney is a former Deputy Superintendent of Schools for the Port Chester-Rye Union Free School District. Through the STEER program he helps identify students, provides mentorship, connects them to services and monitors their progress.

"STEER's mission is to change the world one student at a time we see sports as a vehicle to empower young people to achieve their potential by providing individualized services to those students that is very specifically tailored to their needs," Durney said of his work with the school.



#### WEEKEND EVENTS IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY PARKS

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

SATURDAY, MAY 25

Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson: (914) 862-5290 Beach Opening Day, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The beach will be open weekends and May 27 and June 19 in May and June. The beach will be open Wednesday through Sunday, from Friday, June 28 through Monday, Sept. 2; weather permitting; no admittance after 6 p.m.; parking and beach fees apply; Westchester residency is not required.

Glen Island Park, New Rochelle: (914) 813-6720

Beach Opening Day, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

The beach will be open weekends and on Monday, May 27 and June 19, through Sunday, June 23; weather permitting; no admittance after 6 p.m.; parking and beach admission fees apply. Westchester County residency is required for admission, with a County Park Pass, a valid NYS driver's license or a valid NYS ID with a Westchester County address.

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851

Let's BEE Friends, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Join us for a look inside the incredible world of bees. From the queen to the drone, these amazing creatures work hard at pollinating our favorite plants. All ages. Indoor/outdoor program.

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466

Beneficial Bug Hotel, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Wild meadows and home gardens need a variety of insects to be productive and healthy. Learn about them and support beneficial insects by helping us build a hotel for our meadow.

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268

Lasdon Green Squad, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

Every Saturday through November.

Get details and register at https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/lasdon-greensquad/2024-05-25/

#### SUNDAY, MAY 26

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268.

Rain Gardens: A Beautiful Solution, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Visit Lasdon's rain garden to find out where and how to create one in your own landscape. Free.

Get details at https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/rain-gardens-a-beautifulsolution-2/

Alfred B. DelBello Muscoot Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7282 Farmers Market, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Our market, which supports farmers and sustainable efforts in our area, fea-

tures more than 25 local vendors every Sunday until Nov. 17.

https://www.muscootfarm.org/programs-events/ Get details at event/2024/05/26/1716733800/farmers-market/479750

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268

Gardening Sundays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Get details and register at https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/gardening-sundays/2024-05-26/



weekend or at any other time! The Court of Appeals had killed Alderman William Slater's ordinance banning them.

Thursday, May 30th

May 30, 1872: Thomas Ludlow, leader of opposition to incorporation of Yonkers as a city, presented a protest petition to NYS Governor Hoffman. According to Ludlow, most people who lived outside the boundaries of the Village of Yonkers were opposed to becoming a city. That section, about 16 square miles, was chiefly farmland with few buildings.

They resented this being considered without consultation, stating this was "against the spirit of our institutions that any portion of the people of this State shall be subjected to an entire change in the form of their municipal government without some authorized expression of the will of the people to be affected thereby on that subject."

Richard Lawrence, H. Schefflen, John Taylor, Thomas Radford, Thomas Knowlton, B. Weeks, G. Rollins and J. Henry Williams signed Ludlow's petition. Others expressing displeasure were well-known residents Shonnard and Saunders, with the latter claiming the incorporation was the scheme of just three men and did not reflect the opinion of the majority of Yonkers people.

Ludlow and Shonnard also had led opposition to incorporation of the Village of Yonkers in 1854; then the men proposing the status change left out Ludlow's property to the south and Shonnard's property to the north of the incorporated village.

#### Friday, May 31st

May 31, 1943: For the first time, the Yonkers Memorial Day Parade took place without a Civil War Veteran. Ninety-seven-year-old Charles Frazee of Douglas Avenue, Yonkers only remaining GAR veteran, had a minor illness, so missed being Honorary Grand Marshall and riding at the front of the parade.

Speakers at the post parade program presented a variety of messages. Lieutenant Iva Lindstrom, US Army Nurse Corp, told the crowd about the urgent need for nurses for wounded or sick servicemen overseas. YMCA General Secretary Horace Shepherd stated all were there "to honor our fellow Americans who died in the interest of human liberty, freedom and democracy." Mayor Barnes called on everyone to "preserve our way of life," continuing, "To those looking down from above, we can hold our heads high and not be ashamed of what we are doing for those in the service."

#### Saturday, June 1st

June 1, 1872: New York State Governor John Hoffman signed the charter establishing Yonkers as a city.

June 1, 1943: The Yonkers National Bank and Trust Company's short-term loan of half a million dollars enabled Yonkers to meet the \$929,500 bond maturities falling due and prevent what could have been Yonkers' most drastic financial crisis in history!

#### Sunday, June 2nd

June 2, 1914: His yacht rail almost awash as it heeled to a fresh northwest breeze, Alexander Smith Cochran's bronze sloop-yacht Vanitie crossed the finish line first off Parsonage Point, the initial race in a series of 35 trials for the America's Cup defense yachts. It took place on a thirty-mile course on Long Island Sound and was managed by the New York Yacht Club.

June 2, 1945: Captain Reynolds Hayden, USN, commander of the Naval Hospital at Pearl Harbor when Japan attacked, and a resident of the Hampshire House on Bronx River Road, addressed the first public meeting on Red Cross first aid at a meeting at the Knights of Columbus on South Broadway. Also speaking were Health Commissioner Eugene McGillian and Justin Mc-Carthy, new Yonkers Chapter Chairman.

Questions or comments on this column? Email YonkersHistory1646@ gmail.com.

For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, please visit our website www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org, call 914-961-8940 or email info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org





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Yonkers Designated as an American World War II Heritage City



Yonkers is the only city in New York State to be given the designation

The City of Yonkers has been officially designated as an American World War II Heritage City by National Park Service's American World War II Heritage Cities program. The prestigious designation recognizes Yonkers' significant contributions to the war effort during World War II and its commitment to preserving the history of this pivotal period in American history. The City of Yonkers is the only city in New York State to be given the designation.

During World War II, Yonkers played a crucial role in supporting the war effort. Some of the highlights include:

Ø Home to over 75 companies that had defense contracts and manufactured 95% of the cable that sent fuel from England to France under the English Channel.

Ø Trained an estimated 10,000 men and women for "war work" at the Yonkers School of Aeronautical Manufacturing alone.

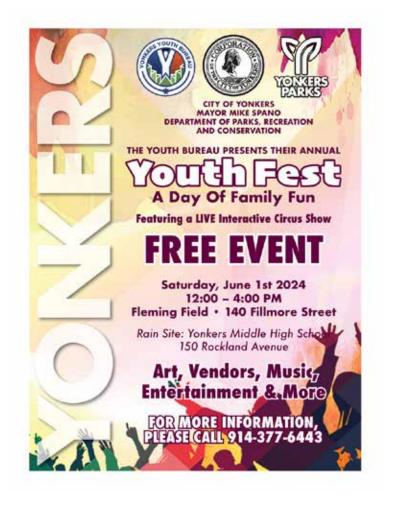
Ø Produced five World War II generals, four of whom were Yonkers High graduates.

"We are honored to receive this recognition in Yonkers as an American World War II Heritage City," said Mayor Spano. "This designation is a testament to the City's deep respect for its history and its commitment to preserving the memory of World War II for future generations. We are deeply moved by this recognition and pledge to continue our work in preserving and honoring the legacy of our World War II veterans. Their courage and sacrifice will forever be a part of Yonkers' rich history."

Director of Veterans Services Rev. William E. Norman, Sr. added, "Today is a proud day for Yonkers and for all of us at the Veterans Service. The designation of Yonkers as an American World War II Heritage City is not just an honor, but a tribute to the enduring spirit and valor of our city and its people."

Yonkers will continue to honor this legacy through its preservation of historic sites, commemorative events, and educational programs.

About the National Park Service's American World War II Heritage Cities Program: The American World War II Heritage Cities program recognizes cities across the United States that made significant contributions to the World War II effort and are committed to preserving the history of this important period. The program is administered by the National Park Service.



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#### **Obituary Robert Engels Sr.**

Robert Engels Sr. (Bob) passed way on May 17, 2024, at 84 years young. He was born in Yonkers, NY, resided in New Jersey, and moved to Illinois in 1978.

A childhood polio survivor, Bob dealt with the effects the rest of his life, but he refused to let it define him. The wonderful people at the Sister Kenny Institute told young Bob that giving up was not an option and that his effort would determine the life he'd live.

Ultimately, Bob lived a great life. He earned his bachelor's degree from Rutgers University in 1961 and his master's from Aurora University in 1991. He was employed with the Internal Revenue Service for 34 years. After his retirement, he enjoyed teaching both undergraduate and graduate-level students as an adjunct professor at Lewis University.

Bob also had many lifelong friends — a testament to his character and the value of his friendship — and was always making new ones, like his friends at the Moose Lodge.

A faithful husband and devoted family man, Bob was preceded in death by his loving soulmate of 42 years, Joy (Roesh) Engels. He is survived by his sons Robert (Virginia Hamill) and James (Gia McElligott), his daughter Kimberly (Clint Burrell), and his grandson, Pop Pop's pal, Hunter Burrell. Bob also leaves behind his brother-in-law Don Roesh and two nephews, Eric and Max Roesh.

The family would like to thank his "brother" Joe Cianciulli, his other "brother" and polio survivor Billy Mangold (preceded in death), and the Hillman family for their support through the years.

Additionally, the family would like to thank the staff of Good Samaritan Hospital, Alta Rehab Center, and Elmhurst Memorial Hospital.

Vistation will be held on Saturday, May 25, 2024, from 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. at St. Alphonsus Catholic Church in Lemont, IL. Funeral Mass will start promptly at 10:00 a.m. Interment is private.

Bob's wish was that in lieu of flowers a donation be made to: Moose Charities, Inc. 155 S. International Dr. Mooseheart, IL 60539-1100 https://www. moosecharities.org

Bob says, "Do not cry. I join my God and my dear wife Joy, so I rejoice, but I will miss you all."



#### Teachers of the Year, continued from pg 1-

strategies. She has collaborated with experts from Teaching Matters and CKingEducation to implement tailored activities and assessments that have led to significant improvements in her students' performance. Her dedication to supporting Multi-Language Learners is evident in her professional development efforts and classroom co-teaching strategies.

Ms. Egan is deeply involved in the total school program at Cross Hill Academy, participating in various committees, leading initiatives, and collaborating with community partners to enhance learning experiences. Her innovative teaching integrates technology, project-based learning, and social-emotional learning into her classroom practices.

Outside of school, Ms. Egan is an active community member in Yonkers, participating in the Colonial Heights Association of Taxpayers, Annunciation Church, Yonkers Teachers Bowling League, and other local organizations. She is also a dedicated marathon runner and supports local education and community programs.

Ms. Egan's teaching philosophy centers around building positive relationships and creating a supportive "class family." She is committed to fostering an environment where students are empowered, engaged, and motivated to succeed. Her efforts have led to remarkable improvements in student achievement levels in ELA and Math, reflecting her passion and skill as an educator.

Lisa and her husband, Patrick, are celebrating twenty years of marriage. They have two children: Jack, a student at The College of the Holy Cross, and Grace, who attends The Ursuline School in New Rochelle.

#### Middle School Teacher of the Year-Mr. Julio Veras

Julio Veras is a seventh and eighth-grade Mathematics teacher who began his career at Yonkers Public Schools in 2008 at Enrico Fermi School. Mr. Veras was born and raised in Rockland County to Dominican immigrant parents and has lived in Yonkers for over seven years. He graduated from Dominican College with a Bachelor of Arts in Education in 2002 and later obtained a Master of Arts in Mathematics Education from Lehman College in 2006.

In his teaching career, Mr. Veras has demonstrated a strong dedication to his students' growth and development, notably achieving a 100% passing rate on the Algebra I Regents exam. He has initiated and facilitated various programs at Enrico Fermi School, including the My Brother's Keeper (MBK) chapter, the After-School Math Program, and innovative activities like Workout Wednesdays and Nature Walks.

Outside of his classroom duties, Julio actively participates in the total school program, serving as the Math Chair, a Data Professional Learning Community (PLC) Teacher Leader, and a Network of School Improvement (NSI) Member hosted by Bank Street College of Education, among other roles. His community involvement extends to participating in events such as the AIDS Walk and the YO DIGO NO MAS Walk.

Mr. Veras's educational philosophy centers around creating a student-focused environment that fosters curiosity, confidence, and critical thinking. He has integrated finance education into his curriculum to make mathematical concepts more relevant and enhance student understanding and retention through real-world examples. This approach has led to improved test scores and a deeper grasp of the subject matter among his students – tools they will need in their lives.

Julio and his partner, Candy Mojica, a Special Education Bilingual teacher, live in Yonkers. Candy has significantly influenced Julio, encouraging him to view students through various learning lenses and pushing him to excel as an educator. They share a deep commitment to education and believe it opens doors to more opportunities.

#### High Scholl Teacher of the Year Coach Sean Stahn

Sean Stahn is a Physical Education teacher at the Barack Obama School for Social Justice, where he has significantly impacted his students and the broader Yonkers community. Mr. Stahn began his teaching career in the Yonkers Public Schools in 2008, spending time at Barack Obama School, Yonkers Middle/High School, Khalil Gibran School, Montessori School 31, and Paideia School 24. He has dedicated the last sixteen years to nurturing his students' physical, emotional, and academic growth.

Mr. Stahn, a graduate of Ardsley High School and former college basketball player and captain at Ithaca College, earned his Bachelor's degree in Health and Physical Education and his Master's in Health Education from the same institution. He further expanded his expertise by earning a Master's in School Building and School District Leadership from Mercy College. His journey through education and athletics has shaped his innovative approach to teaching and coaching. Throughout his career, Mr. Stahn has been a transformative figure in Physical Education, developing a sports education curriculum that focuses on active engagement and learning through roles like coach, timekeeper, official, and player. His leadership extends beyond the classroom as he serves as the Physical Education and Health Department Chair at his school. His tenure as Boys Varsity Basketball Coach at the Barack Obama School for Social Justice has been marked by impressive achievements, including a Section One Tournament "Gold Ball" victory and significant success in nurturing students who have gone on to play college basketball and earn degrees. Sean's community involvement is extensive, including initiatives like the MLK Day Showcase and Friends vs. Cancer Tournament, which he initiated to raise funds for cancer research and support local families. His work with the STEER for student-athletes program is a testament to his commitment to mentoring and supporting "at-promise" student-athletes, guiding them toward fulfilling their potential both on and off the court. Sean's personal life is as fulfilling as his professional one. He is married to Jenny, his college sweetheart from Ithaca College, and they are the proud parents of two children, Charlotte, age 10, and Sean Jr. "SJ", age 6. Together, they reside in Yonkers, where Sean continues to be a pivotal figure in education and community engagement, deeply invested in the success and well-being of his students and athletes.



#### Obama School Val-Sal, continued from pg 1-

ter. "We held a homeless shelter drive in our school and donated care packages." She also completed an internship with the S.I.C. Film School, "We participated in different workshops with film companies and learned about AI," and is active in her church, the Center of Hope Assembly of God.

Awuah has narrowed down her college search to SUNY Stony Brook and NYU. She has been placed on the waiting list at NYU. "I like both schools and their modern and up to date programs."

She plans on majoring in Biology and hopes to become a pediatrician. "I used to take care of my brothers and sisters growing up. And while I was babysitting a grew fond of children."

"When I was young, I got hit by a car and spent a lot of time in the hospital. The Doctors and Nurses took care of me and helped me, and I am drawn to that for my career. I enjoy having conversations with kids."

Kristine came to America from Ghana six years ago. "It was a challenging adjustment. The education system is different here."

Who helped you get to this point of academic achievement? "My family. They have always been there and encouraged me. They taught me that better things happen if I tried my best. And my church community also helped me and supported me to get to where I am today."

When did you realize your class ranking? "I first found out in the 10th grade. I was #2 and then moved up to #1 last year. I was pretty proud of myself when I found out, and I kept working hard."

Any advice to future Valedictorians? "It's OK to make mistakes. Taking risks is better that regretting it later. Make fun memories and don't procrastinate."

Salutatorian Yaretzi Najera Betanzos Will graduate with a 97.6% GPA. Her favorite teacher was Math teacher Mr. Mumim. "I don't think a lot of students appreciate him enough. I had him all four years, and he has made my grow to love math."

Yaretzi also enjoyed creative writing. "I was never a big fan of writing poems, but our teacher made it fun. And then I learned that I could write a good poem." She also enjoys Art and drawing.

Yaretzi was on the Girls Softball team for her junior and senior years. "It's a really fun sport and we had a great team. We made each other laugh. I hope to continue in college."

For the last two years, Yaretzi volunteered with the Family Service Society. "We would go to the library every week and would interact with younger students. Some could read on their own but others needed more help. This year I volunteered with one student at the Chavez School and helped her improve her reading skills. We worked on getting her to pay attention and get to a love for reading."

Yaretzi will be attending SUNY Delhi in the fall. "The Veterinarian Tech program caught my eye. And I can choose to get a 2-year or 4-year degree. I wanted to try out a 2-year program to make sure that I what I wanted to do. Or they have multiple other majors."

A love for animals is what draws Yaretzi to a Vet. Tech program in the hopes that she will become a veterinarian. "I have a kitten, four fish and a dog. My dog is 12 and I love her, she was my first pet. I love helping other animals and nothing about them freaks me out."

Who helped you achieve academic excellence? "My family and my parents. They always pushed me to do well and now I can say that I am a Salutatorian. They always supported me and gave me what I need to succeed, even when I didn't ask for it."

Last year, Yaretzi found out she was #2 and moved up to #2 this year. Any advice for younger students? "Don't be nervous and don't stress yourself. And don't do too much so that you don't enjoy high school. Always try and support your fellow students."

#### Latimer endorsements, continued from pg 1-

quality of life and bring critical resources back to the community so that we can thrive," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. "From keeping guns off our streets to providing access to childcare, investing in our infrastructures, creating a more inclusive society and championing a true path to citizenship for our immigrants and migrants can thrive, George has devoted his career in public service, he fights for all of us and will deliver real progressive results."

"George Latimer is the man for the job because he has been committed to not only to the City of Yonkers, but to the entire county," said Yonkers City

# Westchester DA Candidate Cacace Backs New Legislation to Aid Sex Assault Victims



Susan Cacace

#### Cacace Pledges Vigorous Prosecution of Sex Crimes if Elected

Susan Cacace, the endorsed Democratic candidate for Westchester District Attorney who spent 14 years presiding over Sex Offense Court as a County Court Judge, supports legislative efforts designed to make it easier for victims of sexual assault to find justice. Recently introduced legislation by Senator Michael Gianaris and Assemblywoman Amy Paulin would allow New York State Courts to make evidence of prior sexual offenses admissible at trial.

This legislative move follows the reversal of Harvey Weinstein's 2020 rape conviction by New York's highest court. The conviction was overturned because the judge in Weinstein's trial admitted testimony based on allegations unrelated to the case. Despite this setback, the Manhattan District Attorney's office has announced plans to retry Weinstein.

Cacace emphasized the importance of this legislative change, stating, "Evidence of other sexual assaults by the abuser should be admissible in court as long as it doesn't create an unfair bias. Victims should not be silenced. Our legal system must evolve to better support survivors and hold perpetrators accountable. This legislation is a step in that direction."

Cacace, if elected as District Attorney, pledges to prioritize the prosecution of sex crimes and ensure that victims are supported. She said, "If elected DA, I will do everything in my power to make sure that sex crimes are vigorously prosecuted and that survivors of these heinous crimes get the justice they deserve."



Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy. George has delivered for us time and time again because he is a man of integrity and we support him wholeheartedly in this race for Congress. George not only speaks about results over rhetoric, he lives it."

"George is about results not distractions and he walks the streets like one of us," said County Legislator Jose Alvarado. "It is my pleasure to endorse George Latimer for Congress and we are going to make sure you win!"



#### Letter to the Editor:

#### VIVA NY for Election Integrity

What do voters need? Assurance that we can mark a ballot privately and inde- District. So, you ask why am I writing? pendently, that we can verify our votes as we marked them and know that those votes will be counted accurately. We need to trust the integrity of the system that public school in Mount Vernon. He has devoted 30+ years to building comallows all this.

Integrity must be built into the election system before the election begins. It doesn't work as an afterthought. Board of Elections procedures and voting machinery must be chosen for their trustworthiness to prevent endless claims of fraud or theft after elections. VIVA NY would build integrity into our election system.

on paper ballots will be counted from the marks they made, not from barcodes assigned by machines. The marked ballots, as the voter last saw them, will be available for recounts and audits. This paper ballot system has integrity. We have used it for at least a decade. We know it. We need VIVA NY to keep it.

Built-in integrity: good government groups in New York such as Let NY Vote, interests of all communities and who will continue to work for everyone in SmartElections.us, and Indivisibles like CCoHOPE Indivisible have helped develop and build pro-democracy legislators' support for VIVA NY (S6169B/A5934B), currently before the NY legislature.

VIVA NY has strong support, but needs even more to be passed this session. Ask your Assembly representative and Governor Hochul for elections with built-in integrity. Ask them to make VIVA NY law this session.

Then, go with confidence to the polls, and bring your friends!

Catherine Ray, Ossining

#### To the Editor:

I am writing to ask Democratic voters in Congressional District 16 to support George Latimer in the June 25th Democratic primary. I believe that George is by far the best person to represent our District.

Most of the media attention on this race has portrayed the contest as a microcosm of a split within the Democratic Party over support for Israel in the war in Gaza. In reality, most people are concerned about who can best serve the needs of the District's many diverse communities and work with local governments and organizations to solve problems.

It doesn't diminish the importance of U.S. foreign policy to acknowledge that people want their congressman to be focused on issues that concern their daily lives. In District 16 these issues include a housing shortage, especially of affordable housing, flooding, gun control and safety, access to medical care, the environment and climate change. George has worked on these issues in Westchester luded to counter arguments WTP just argued in court as "FRIVOLOUS ARin many capacities over multiple decades. Especially noteworthy to me are his immediate ban on gun shows at the County Center after he was elected County Executive and his role in enacting Westchester County's safe passage law for access to reproductive health care facilities.

changed. When Mr. Bowman ran against former Congressman Eliot Engel in the 2020 Democratic primary, the District was primarily in the Bronx with a small extension north into Westchester. In 2022 the District became a mainly Westchester district with a small bit of the Bronx included. Those lines have since been ularly noteworthy and should be of concern to state residents; as the federal tweaked slightly to incorporate a different section of the Bronx, but it is still mainly a southern Westchester district.

I do not believe that Congressman Bowman has made a significant effort to get to know the communities in Westchester. In contrast, George Latimer already knows Westchester inside and out. He is working hard to build relationships with local residents in the Bronx portion of District 16. He will be able to step right into a new role working with local Westchester and Bronx leaders as a member of Congress. is not a right." There is a reason why 11 local Democratic Committees have endorsed George while Bowman has been endorsed by none.

Voters like to know that their congressman is securing discretionary funds to be used for projects in their district. According to his campaign literature, Congressman Bowman claims to have brought a billion dollars in federal money to District 16. This simply isn't possible. Even Hakeem Jeffries, the House minority leader, has brought only \$22 million dollars to his district.

Unfortunately, Congressman Bowman has a pattern of distorting the truth in his campaigns. In 2020 he tried to portray Eliot Engel as a conservative when, in fact, Eliot Engel was one of the most progressive members of Congress. In 2022, with no evidence, he accused one of the other candidates in the primary of sending out a racist postcard. The Bowman campaign is now making absurd claims about George Latimer. It's hard to believe that anyone would fall for the nonsense his campaign is sending out but it does reflect on Congressman Bowman's integrity. Indeed, Westchester voters won't be fooled by the accusations because they already know George well. George Latimer is pragmatic, dedicated to the public good, and works incredibly hard to improve the lives of Westchester residents. I urge Democratic voters in Westchester and the Bronx to vote for George in the June 25th primary. Early voting and absentee ballots are also available for those who can't get to the polls on June 25th.

#### Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I am one of independent mind and do not live in the 16th Congressional

George Latimer is a most worthy candidate who grew up and attended munity and making Westchester a better place for everyone to live. He is currently the Westchester County Executive where he tirelessly works while attending meetings and events of the local chambers of commerce and other community minded organizations.

While others make promises, George Latimer has tackled and succeeded With VIVA NY, voters will continue to use paper ballots. Their votes marked in many areas including affordable housing, job training, minority and women owned businesses, and children's services. As a board member of a local Chamber of Commerce, I have found George to be a caring person who is a good listener with a practical approach to achieving fair results.

> We need George Latimer in Congress, a real person, who holds dear the the 16th Congressional district.

Most sincerely, Tammi Ecker, Business Owner, Armonk

#### Letter to the editor

On February 22, 2006, We The People (WTP) filed an appellants brief at the US Court of Appeals, for the District of Columbia (Case No 5-6359). Stating in part: "because this is a case of first impression, where plaintiffs provided a detailed review of the history, meaning, effect, and the significance of the "right to petition,"; the last 10 words of the first amendment of New York State's constitution, which is a capstone right of the 50 states constitutions.

Oral arguments were heard by the court on October 6, 2006.

However, after oral arguments, on December 22, 2006, Congress posted the voluminous Tax Relief and Health Care Reform Act of 2006, which, in its division A Title IV, Section 407 authorized the Treasury Secretary to prescribe a list of "Specified, frivolous positions".

In March 2007, the Treasury Secretary issued Treasury Notice 2007-30 which included a list of "specified frivolous positions" and declared that any person who relied on a "specified frivolous position" in any proceeding before the Internal Revenue Service would be fined \$5000.

Department heads cannot make law and Congress never completely reads these voluminous bills if at all".

Strong evidence suggests the COURT, IRS and TREASURY DEPT. col-GUMENTS" (before the court's decision was rendered.)

The court did not issue its decision for seven months, not until May 8, 2007, by Judge Brett Kavanaugh.

By its Treasury Notice 2007-30, the government has in effect responded The media has also generally ignored the way the boundaries of District 16 have to We The People's petition for "redress of grievance," by summarily and without explanation, documentary, evidence, or argument declared WTP's questions to be "frivolous."

> Number (9)(B) on treasury's list of specified frivolous positions is particgovernment intentionally and judicially removed the enforceability of the people's First Amendment petition clause of the United States Constitution!

> We no longer have a constitutional republican form of government of by and for the people, governed by state Constitution's. We now have a government of ruling class that ignores the people!!!

"With every right there is a remedy and any right that is not enforceable

Anthony Futia N. White Plains.



#### Sincerely,

Betsy Harding

Bronxville Village Democratic District Leader and former Bronxville Village Democratic Committee Chair

#### Yonkers Rising

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#### FRIDAY, MAY 24, 2024 - YONKERS RISING - PAGE 15

## Multi- Million Ad Campaign for Latimer-Bowman Race for Congress Begins

Bowman Continues to Play the MAGA Card against Latimer; New Ad Highlights Bowman NO Votes on Infrastructure Bill

#### By Dan Murphy

The democratic primary for Congress in Westchester's 16th district, between Congressman Jamaal Bowman and County Executive George Latimer, will only intensify in the last 30 days before the June 25 primary.

Both campaigns, and their supporters are beginning to run TV and digital ads. One ad criticized Bowman for his no vote on President Biden's Infrastructure Bill.

"Jamaal Bowman has his own agenda and refuses to compromise even with President Biden. Bowman voted against the president's infrastructure act, against rebuilding roads and bridges in New York, against replacing lead pipes and Jamaal Bowman voted against President Biden's debt limit deal putting Social Security and Medicare payments at risk along with our entire economy. Jamal Bowman has his own agenda and he's hurting New York," states the ad, which most Westchester residents have seen or will shortly. The ad was paid for by the United Democracy Project.

What it interesting about this ad is that it does not mention or criticize Bowman for his comments about Israel and the war in Gaza.

Instead, it reminds Westchester democrats that Bowman did not support President Biden and the infrastructure bill, which was only opposed by 6 House Democrats, including Bowman, and Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, AOC, and four others (Talib, Pressley, Bush, Omar).

Bowman ran his first own ad touting his life experience and includes testimonials from supporters.

"[Congressman Bowman] is a principal," says a former student in the video. "A leader," says another.

"My dad," says Congressman Bowman's daughter.

"I know what's at stake," says Congressman Bowman. "I've lived it. Public housing. Underfunded schools. And career politicians who don't give a damn," in reference to Latimer.

Bowman did not attempt to try and link Latimer to MAGA Extremists, as has been Bowman's usual refrain.

But, members of the Sunrise Movement, did protest outside of a fundraiser held for Latimer in Armonk.

Video from the protest shows some walking in saying they supported former President Trump, but others did not support Trump. Those who attended were there to support George Latimer, not to support or write a check to Trump. A few attendees did not appreciate the protests and expressed their disapproval.

The protestors held signs which read "MAGA Funds Latimer." This is one of the central accusations of the Bowman campaign and his supporters against Latimer.

But those Westchester democrats who know Latimer, and his record of public service for more than four decades, understand that he is not MAGA, nor sympathetic to their cause. In her letter to the editor, Betsy Harding called these claims "absurd."

Several independent groups are moving forward with their plans to encourage Jewish voters in the district to cast an early ballot.

According to data from Westchester Unites Coalition, (www.westchesterunitescoalition.org) 32.34% of the early mail ballots have been requested by likely Jewish voters (our target audience), while likely Jewish voters make up only 9.33% of the population. And likely Jewish voters are requesting early mail ballots at a rate nearly 5 times likely non-Jewish voters (4.65x).

Both Bowman and Latimer have collected endorsements from local unions, with Latimer picking up four endorsements from Firefighters unions, while Bowman got endorsements from SEIU 1199, DC37, UAW, NYSNA, and CIR.

Latimer also picked up the endorsement from the Stonewall Democrats, the progressive voice of the LGBTQIA+ community for nearly 40 years.

"George Latimer has been a staunch ally of the LGBTQ community throughout his distinguished career. From his early support of marriage equality to his work banning conversion therapy in Westchester, to his support of trans rights and protections, George has proven his unwavering commitment to the dignity, respect, and equality of LGBTQ people," said President of the Stonewall Democratic Club of NYC Gabriel Lewenstein.

We also encourage our readers to watch the recent News 12 debate between Bowman and Latimer, which can be found at www.youtube.com/ watch?v=3ayXJIhhUV4.



Above: TV ad highlights Bowman's No Vote on President Biden's infrastructure bill; Below protestors outside of Latimer fundraiser in Armonk



# SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB. NOT IN ITS INDIVID-UAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR CASCADE FUNDING MORTGAGE TRUST HB5,

-against-

MILES MYERS, IF LIVING, AND IF SHE/HE BE DEAD, ET AL.

#### NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Westchester on March 01, 2024, wherein WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB. NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR CASCADE FUNDING MORTGAGE TRUST HB5 is the Plaintiff and MILES MYERS, IF LIVING, AND IF SHE/HE BE DEAD, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the WESTCHESTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE, LOBBY, 111 DR. MAR-TIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD., WHITE PLAINS, NY 10601, on June 26, 2024 at 9:30AM, premises known as 263 LOCUST AVENUE, CORTLANDT MANOR, NY 10567; and the following tax map identification, 23.11-3-5.

ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE TOWN OF CORTANDT, COUNTY OF WEST-

Notice of formation of Lee & Mazie's LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 04/02/2024 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : Lee & Mazie's LLC 1 Sherwood Terrace Apt 5D Yonkers, NY 10704 Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date.

Notice of Formation of KW Services NY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 3/30/24. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 875 King Street Chappaqua NY 10514. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of Northern Lights Massage Therapy PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 8/21/23. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 409 North Broadway Apt 38 Yonkers NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

#### CHESTER AND STATE OF NEW YORK

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No.: 62983/2021. Melanie Finkel, Esq. - Referee. Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, social distancing and mask wearing. \*LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIRECTIVES.

Send us your letters, announcements,

opinions, photos and story ideas to

dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

# JOIN NEW YORK LABOR UNIONS IN OPPOSING THE BIGGER BOTTLE BILL

# The Bigger Bottle Bill will cost more than just our wallets It will cost us jobs, too

Labor unions and working families across New York oppose the Bigger Bottle Bill because it will cost us jobs and raise prices when too many are already struggling.

At a time when New Yorkers need relief from inflation, it makes no sense for politicians to double out-of-pocket costs on beverages for hard working families.

# **OPPOSITION** FROM BUSINESSES **P**

THE TIMES UNION

# There is a better way

# TELL NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATORS TO OPPOSE THE BIGGER BOTTLE BILL



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