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# Yonkers Rising

YonkersTimes.com

Friday May 3, 2024

## Gorton Valedictorian & Salutatorian Celebrate Academic Excellence



**Gorton Valedictorian Abigail Garcia, left, and Salutatorian Rania Khan**

**By Dan Murphy**

Congratulations to Gorton High School's 2024. Valedictorian Abigail Garcia and Salutatorian Rania Khan

Valedictorian Abigail Garcia will graduate with a 102.17 GPA. One of her favorite teachers is Medical Assisting-Clinical teacher Dr. Mike Wszolik. "He gets us really involved with the class and I learned a lot about the medical field, which I am interested in pursuing as a career."

As for her favorite course, it's hands down medical-assisting, clinical. Her favorite course is medical-assisting, clinical.

One of Abigail's many extra-curricular activities is her work with YPIE, Yonkers Partners in Education. "I have been a YPIE scholar since my freshman year, I heard about it from my brother. They help you with choosing a major and it was fun to hang out with other students and get the help you need for AP."

Garcia has completed 12 AP and College Link courses. She applied and was accepted to more than a dozen colleges and universities, and has narrowed it down to three: Vassar College, Skidmore College and the University of Connecticut.

She plans on pursuing a career in the medical field. "I'm not sure if I want to go to medical school but once I am in College I will decide."

Garcia said that she has known for some time that she wanted to work in the medical field. "That is one of the reasons I went to Gorton. They have a

*continued on pg 10-*

## City Places Temporary Barricade Around Veterans War Memorial



\* see right

\* see left

Above is a photo of the Yonkers Veterans War Memorial on South Broadway at the bottom of City Hall. A recent drawing of a Palestinian Flag was etched, resulting in Mayor Mike Spano announcing "Here at City Hall, we are aware of demonstrations taking place across the country concerning the conflict in the Middle East. Out of an abundance of caution, I have directed our @YonkersPD to place barricades around our Veterans War Memorial and close the stairwell to keep its integrity intact and prevent potential vandalism"

## Mayor Spano Presents 2025 Budget With 5.51% Property Tax Increase

**Yonkers Public Schools Loses \$31 Million in COVID Funds**

**YPS Enrollment down 10% , Big Hole Still Remaining,**

**No Cuts to Municipal Services and Active Workforce**

On April 24, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano released his Fiscal Year 2025 (FY25) Executive Budget proposal, which contains no cuts to municipal services or active workforce and reaffirms the Administration's commitment to Yonkers Public Schools.

"The City will continue to remain successful and we have a lot on the horizon, but to get there, we need to be fiscally responsible and reimagine how we navigate this cost-effective journey," said Mayor Spano. "Together, despite the tight dollars, we will move forward by making the right financial decisions to benefit our taxpayers and our kids."

Mayor Spano added, "This year's Executive Budget is based on New York State's adopted budget, which was passed over the weekend by the State Legislature. This Executive Budget is honest and lean, maintaining our workforce and services while reaffirming our commitment to education."

The Executive Budget for the Fiscal Year 2025 for the combined City and Board of Education (BOE) Operating Funds is \$1.46 billion, an increase of \$32.7 million or 2.28%.

**Yonkers Board of Education**

The Executive Budget includes a record \$298.5 million appropriation for the Board of Education, the largest-ever budgeted by an Administration.

*continued on pg 13-*

## Yonkers Arts Weekend is Here -May 3 & 4 YOHO Arts Studio and YOFI Among the Fun



**YonkersArtsWeekend.com**

**See pages 2, 7 and 9 for complete coverage**

## Yonkers Celebrates the Unveiling of "Together," Mary J. Blige Mural



In recognition of local talent that has come out of the City of Yonkers and its public housing, a new mural tribute to singer, songwriter Mary J. Blige was unveiled at Palisade Towers.

The mural called "Together" is a tribute to Blige, a local legend and international phenomenon who came from humble beginnings in Yonkers. Blige was recently tapped to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

## YoFi FREE events on Yonkers Arts Weekend May 4th & 5th



*Yonkers  
Native  
Lola Menthol*



*Hope  
Hollinsworth  
Coaxum*

**YAW BASH 2024!**  
Saturday, May 4th 5pm to 8pm

Join us for a Yonkers Arts Weekend celebration! After spending the day checking out all the art that Yonkers has to offer, stop by YoFi Fest's year-round home at its Digital Media Art Center to check out a curated collection of short films with local connections, have some refreshments and mingle with other artists and art lovers at our casual end-of-day reception. Enjoy complimentary YAWPunch Signature Cocktail, Yonkers Brewing Company Craft Beer and Light Bites!

**YoFi Artist Talk: LAURA PERDRIZET**  
Sunday, May 5th at 1pm

Contemporary Artist & Filmmaker Laura Perdrizet will share her current body of artwork as well as insights into her artistic process. Uniquely working across the visual, performing, and media arts, Laura's artwork and methods of making are inventive and multi sensory. Utilizing both fine art mediums and new media technologies, Laura's research-based practice takes a contemporary approach to materiality, form, and interdisciplinarity.

**YoFi Artist Talk: HOPE HOLLINSWORTH COAXUM**  
Sunday, May 5th at 2pm

Hope Hollinsworth Coaxum is a long time resident of Yonkers, a member of Community Baptist Church, and a novelist with several self-published books. In addition, she is also a playwright, screenwriter, producer and director of various theatrical works and short films significant to social causes. Hope has been instrumental in organizing and creating various programs, writing workshops and events relative to homelessness, domestic abuse and child abuse. In this talk, Hope will share what has motivated her artistic journey, the milestones along the way and why her work is designed to encourage all with courage, spirit and hope.

**YoFi Artist Talk: LOLA MENTHOL**  
Sunday, May 5th at 3pm

Lola Menthol is a Filipino American DJ, singer/songwriter, producer and illustrator born and raised in Yonkers, New York. She's created animated projects for the Los Angeles Civil/Human Rights and Equity Department, various music labels, and renowned companies like Boba Guys. She's also worked in animated film/television production for companies like Viacom, DNEG, and Netflix. Lola is also a creator and thought leader in the NFT/Web3 space curating live music, fine art, and film events. She has been invited to participate on numerous panels speaking about the new technology and business model behind NFTs. In this talk, Lola will share what inspires her as a creator and curator, how she approaches her work as a musician and visual artist, and what ties it all together.

Visit [www.yofifest.com](http://www.yofifest.com) for more information.

## Pinkster Festival at Philipse Manor Hall May 11



Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall, and partner organizations are excited to announce the return of the annual Pinkster festival on Saturday, May 11, 2024. This vibrant celebration of culture and history will take place from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, located at 29 Warburton Ave., Yonkers, NY. The event is free and open to the public.

Pinkster was the first truly African-American holiday in the United States. "Pinkster" comes from "pinksteren," the Dutch word for Pentecost, and began as a Dutch religious holiday and a celebration of spring. In the Dutch colony of New Netherland, enslaved Africans combined the Christian traditions of Pentecost with elements of African celebrations to create the unique festival known as Pinkster. Today, the Pinkster Festival honors this rich history with music, dance, food, vendors, and more, fostering a sense of community and celebrating the resilience of African culture.

Michael Lord, Site Manager of Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site shared his excitement for the event, "We're so pleased to be hosting our second annual Pinkster Festival at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, which brings the community together to celebrate the African roots of our shared American heritage."

The Pinkster Festival at Philipse Manor Hall will feature captivating performances by The Pinkster Players, led by the esteemed Chief Baba Neil Clarke, as well as musical delights from Carla & Keyes. Attendees will also enjoy free admission to the museum, a variety of activities including children's games, storytelling, history talks, and opportunities to engage with partner organizations such as the Yonkers Public Library. Throughout the day, musicians will roam the grounds and museum, providing a dynamic and immersive experience for all attendees.

"We are really looking forward to hosting families with all the fun programs and activities we have planned including scavenger hunts, an activity booklet, and historical games plus the interactive live performances," said Sarah Wasberg Johnson, Education and Programs Manager of Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site. "It's going to be a wonderful day."

Highlighted performances include "Colonial Crossroads" with Carla & Keyes, where attendees can explore the intersections of European and West African music in Colonial America. This engaging program combines live music, history, and audience participation to bring the sounds of early New York to life. Additionally, "The Story of Pinkster" with the Pinkster Players offers a captivating exploration of what Pinkster meant to enslaved people in the Colonial period, illustrating how they expressed themselves, maintained relationships, and kept their African cultures alive. This performance, geared toward the general public and families, includes elements of audience participation.

The festival will also feature a reading of "The Pinkster Ode," published in 1803, which chronicles the happenings of the annual Pinkster festival in Albany. Members of the public are invited to participate by reading selected stanzas, adding to the immersive experience of the event.

For more information, including schedule of events and vendor list, visit <https://www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events/pinkster-festival-2024>



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## Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins & Senator Mayer Announce New Laws in State Budget to Stop Retail Theft & Illegal Cannabis Shops



### Retail Theft and Cannabis Enforcement

- Created new crime of assaulting a retail worker.
- Allowed aggregation of value of multiple larcenies to hold repeat offenders accountable.
- Created new crime of fostering the sale of stolen goods.
- Added tax credit for small retailers for additional security costs.
- Expanded power of local law enforcement to padlock illegal cannabis stores.

*Pictured above, L-R: County Executive George Latimer, President of the Retail Council of New York, Melissa O'Connor, State Senator Shelley Mayer, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Mayor Mike Spano, Deputy County Exec. Ken Jenkins outside of Best Buy Yonkers*

New York State Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Senator Shelley B. Mayer announced today that the FY 2024-2025 New York State Budget provides resources to police, prosecutors and small businesses to combat retail theft and crack down on illicit cannabis shops. Included within the budget were the following new provisions:

**Assault of a Retail Worker:** Creates a new class E felony of assault of a retail worker. A person is guilty of assault on a retail worker if they cause physical injury to a person whose usual workplace is a retail establishment, while they are performing a task within the scope of their duties, with the intent of preventing them from performing said duties.

**Larceny Aggregation:** Allows prosecutors to aggregate the cost of stolen merchandise over multiple offenses if there is a single, ongoing criminal intent. A person found guilty with \$1,000 in total stolen value can be charged with larceny in the 4th degree, a class E felony; a person found guilty with \$3,000 in total stolen value can be charged with larceny in the 3rd degree, a class D felony; a person found guilty with \$50,000 in total stolen value can be charged with larceny in the 2nd degree, a class C felony; and when a person is found guilty of \$1 million in stolen value they can be charged with larceny in the 1st degree, a class B felony.

**Fostering the Sale of Stolen Goods:** Creates the crime of fostering the sale of a stolen good; a class A misdemeanor.

**Tax Credits for Small Businesses:** Provides a commercial security tax credit to businesses with 50 employees or fewer that have at least one physical retail location in New York State. Businesses with fewer than 25 employees are eligible to receive a tax credit if they spend more than \$4,000 on security expenses within the last year; and businesses with more than 25 employees are eligible if they spend more than \$6,000. Eligible businesses can claim up to \$3,000 per location.

**Shutting Down Illicit Cannabis Shops:** Provides new tools for local governments to establish their own local laws to shut down illicit cannabis stores, seize products and impose civil penalties.

*continued on pg 11-*

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## GOV & NYS & NYC Officials to the Public: DROP DEAD!



By Eric Wolf Schoen

Hard to believe it was almost 40 years ago when in the midst of a fiscal crisis in New York City, the headline in the NY Daily News read, 'FORD TO NYC: DROP DEAD.' Then President Gerald Ford refused to bailout New York City in the midst of a fiscal crisis stating he would veto any bill calling for "a federal bail-out of New York City."

It was announced late last week that the date Congestion pricing will begin in New York City is June 30, 2024. Drive your car below 60th Street in Manhattan and you will be hit with a \$15 fee. Better yet let's call it a fine. There are numerous lawsuits seeking to stop this from occurring. The State of New Jersey filed one of them. We will look at the cost of a ride from New Brunswick, New Jersey to 42nd Street by car that a friend of mine makes five days a week in few short moments.

As far as I am concerned, Congestion Pricing adopted by the MTA after approval by the New York State Assembly and Senate and the Governor is just like President Ford saying to a cash strapped New York City 'DROP DEAD!' Congestion pricing will make you think twice about making that trip to New York City to enjoy all that the greatest city on Earth has to offer.

We hear ridiculous statements like that made by MTA boss Janno Lieber that 'As congestion pricing starts at midnight on the morning of June 30, the first users will only be charged the nighttime fare of \$3.75. Drivers will not have to pay the \$15 fee until 9 a.m. Sunday morning.' People like Lieber think folks in this region are stupid. I hate to inform you pal but we are not.

Let's take a look at the tolls my friend from New Brunswick, New Jersey will face every time he enters Manhattan below 60th Street. He drives a passenger car. New Brunswick, New Jersey on the New Jersey Turnpike to George Washington Bridge. \$11. Crossing the George Washington Bridge is another \$16. That's \$27 dollars. Add the \$15 Congestion pricing fee and you are talking about \$42 to drive into Manhattan. That's a lot of money, and he hasn't even had a bagel with a schmear to eat.

Remember friends that the money Mr. Lieber and gang collect from the Congestion Pricing program will not be spent fixing the roads we travel on. The Congestion Pricing dollars will be spent on trying to improve mass transit in New York City. My friend will see no repairs to the potholes that cause

*continued on pg 6-*

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**02 NEW ROCHELLE Thursday, May 2: 7 PM – 9 PM**  
*Trinity St. Paul's Episcopal Church - 311 Huguenot St., New Rochelle, NY 10807*

**07 YONKERS Tuesday, May 7: 7 PM – 9 PM**  
*St. John's Episcopal Church - 100 Underhill St., Yonkers, NY 10710*

**09 VIRTUAL MEETING Thursday, May 9: 6 PM – 8 PM**

*In-person venues are ADA, transit, and parking accessible.*

Thoughts? Questions? Comments?  
**Please Reach Out!**

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[bit.ly/PropelNYWestchester](https://bit.ly/PropelNYWestchester)

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## Providing Shelter: In Memory of Roy Echols and Jackie Robinson



*Whitney M. Young Jr. (far right) with Jackie Robinson (left) and Chief Justice Earl Warren (center). Photo credit: Columbia University Office of Public Affairs photograph collection, University Archives*

*By John Nolon*

Watching Major League Baseball celebrate Jackie Robinson day on April 15 reminded me of when I once met him along with Roy Echols, a community organizer in Yonkers, NY.

When I returned from serving in the Peace Corps in Guatemala in 1969, I had been accepted as a Reginald Heber Smith Community Law Fellow to work in an Office of Economic Opportunity funded legal services program. I was randomly assigned to work in Yonkers providing legal assistance to the Community Action Program and its staff. During my first week there, Roy Echols, a very large and determined CAP staffer came into my office, slapped his large fist on my small desk, cursed the lack of affordable shelter, and told me we were going to build affordable housing and that I needed to figure out how to do it.

We formed a not for profit called the Yonkers Community Improvement Corporation (YCIC) and rented a storefront on Warburton Avenue. I boned up on housing development and finance, we found a deteriorated park in the Hollows neighborhood, got it released by the state legislature from the state's public trust requirements, and found a developer cosponsor to build two 12 story buildings with 195 low income housing units on that parcel.

We spoke to Whitney Young's widow and got her permission to use the name of her late husband, an American civil rights leader, for the project. She asked that we interview Jackie Robinson who, by then, was long retired from baseball and had a construction company. Our storefront was small, the Warburton Avenue neighborhood was littered and poorly lighted (frankly scary) at night, but it was there early one evening in 1971 that we met with Jackie, his wife, and construction manager and agreed to a term sheet for a contract to construct Whitney Young Manor. It provided shelter to lower income families for over 30 years, was purchased by a new developer, Omni New York, in 2006, underwent an 11 million dollar restoration, and continues to be rented to low income households. Today a 1,320 sq. ft. apartment rents to a family of four with income under \$77,000 for rents of around \$2,000/month. I'd estimate that over 600 individuals have obtained shelter in the Manor for nearly 50 years. Roy, (if you are reading this), that's 10,950,000 individual nights of shelter.

Having learned about affordable housing development, I was hired by the City of Yonkers as Deputy Corporation Counsel and the Deputy Director of the Department of Planning and Development and helped develop more housing. In 1974, I was recruited to set up and run the Housing Action Council, which is still working today building and rehabilitating lower income housing. I'd estimate that the Housing Council's work has resulted in 15,000 units of low and moderate housing in the nearly 50 years it has existed, providing shelter for another 45,000 individuals.

Jackie Robinson's contributions are well known and widely respected. Roy's hand slap on my desk and the contagious energy of his determination, not so much. It was a small chance event that resulted in significant change, providing shelter for so many and teaching that our individual actions can count.

**John R. Nolon is Distinguished Professor of Law Emeritus at the Elisabeth Haub School of Law at Pace University where he supervises student research and publications regarding land use, sustainable development, climate change, housing insecurity, racial inequity, and the coronavirus pandemic. He is Co-counsel to the Law School's Land Use Law Center, which he founded in 1993. He served as Adjunct Professor of land use law and policy at the Yale School of the Environment from 2001-2016. Before he joined the law school faculty, he founded and directed the Housing Action Counsel to foster the development of affordable housing.**

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## Screening of 9/11 Documentary "Dust" Highlights Urgency of Implementing the 9/11 Notice Act



*L-R: Hezues R., Westchester Legislator David Tubiolo, Westchester Legislator Shanae Williams, 9/11 Legal Advocate Michael Barasch, "DUST" Doc writer, producer, director Bridget Gormley, and NYS Assemblyman Nader Sayegh*

A poignant screening of the 9/11 documentary "DUST" took place on Friday, April 26th, 2024, at the YoFi Fest Digital Media Art Center, aimed at elevating awareness of the 9/11 Notice Act and its impending implementation.

Hosted by NYS Assemblyman Nader Sayegh in collaboration with The Social Impact Content Film School, the event attracted key legislators, legal advocates, and members of the community to discuss the essential legislative changes needed to protect 9/11 survivors, inclusive of the creation of a 9/11 curriculum for New York State elementary, middle, and high schools.

Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, the author of the 9/11 Notice Act, emphasized, "It's imperative that federal, state, and local governments, along with educational institutions, comply fully with the notification requirements of the 9/11 Notice Act. We must ensure no one who was in the exposure zone is left uninformed."

Michael Barasch, managing partner of Barasch McGarry, which has represented more than 40,000 members of the 9/11 community, pointed to new data from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control revealing a 17 percent increase in victims of 9/11 reporting at least one type of cancer from 2022 to 2023. Worse, he noted, CDC data confirmed a 16 percent increase in Responders and a staggering 38 percent increase in Survivors dying from 9/11 toxins over the last twelve months, underscoring the urgent need for awareness and action.

This led Barasch to share compelling stories, including that of a young student who attended school near the World Trade Center and is now facing uncertain health conditions. He said, "One of my youngest clients went to elementary school near the World Trade Center and now attends college but is fighting cancer due to their exposure to 9/11 toxins. Young adults in the containment zone need to know their rights and should register with the Federal 9/11 programs."

The event also highlighted the need for a detailed briefing by the NYS Economic Development and the U.S. 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund on their plans to conduct extensive outreach for the implementation of the 9/11 Notice Act, as requested by Assemblyman Sayegh and supported by local leaders.

The film "DUST," directed by Bridget Gormley, who lost her father to cancer linked to 9/11, powerfully illustrated the ongoing health crises faced by first responders and survivors.

She said, "My inspiration for 'DUST' stemmed from witnessing the silent suffering and significant struggles that the 9/11 toxins inflicted on my family, as the toxic exposure tragically claimed the life of my father, FDNY Firefighter Billy Gormley."

The screening was followed by a panel discussion led by Hezues R., founder of The Social Impact Content Film School, who moderated a deep dive into the themes of the film and the legislative impact.

Hezues R. remarked, "Today's discussion is not just about remembrance but about action. It's about ensuring that the stories told in 'DUST' lead to tangible changes in how we support our 9/11 survivors and heroes."

When discussing situations where companies closed or went bankrupt, such as J&R Music and Computer World—which was adjacent to Pace University across tp rescue forgotten workers, Barasch said, "We must also engage agencies like the IRS or Department of Labor to assist companies that have closed, to support our 'Go Find Me' campaign under the 9/11 Notice Act.

Gormley expanded the conversation and issued a challenge to the New York State Department of Education to create a mandatory 9/11 curriculum for grades Kindergarten through 12 to ensure New Yorkers never forget the terrorist attacks and its lingering effects. Assemblymember Sayegh along with Westchester County Legislators David Tubiolo and Shanae Williams expressed support for the concept.

The event concluded with acknowledgments and a call to engage further with the cause championed by the documentary "DUST" and the 9/11 Notice Act. The community left empowered, informed, and ready to support the necessary outreach and legislative efforts.

### Buying Comics!

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# State Budget Passes How Did Westchester Do?

By Dan Murphy

State legislators and Governor Kathy Hochul agreed on a \$237 Billion spending plan and budget for NY state for the next year. While the budget was passed three weeks late, local Assemblymembers and State Senators were able to get the Governor to agree to some of her proposed changes to the budget which would have affected Westchester school districts.

State Senator Shelley Mayer provided a detailed explanation of the budget. "The road to this year's budget was challenging, but my colleagues and I were determined to fight for the best possible overall outcome for New Yorkers. As with all budgets, the FY 2024 - 2025 New York State Budget is the result of compromise. But I choose to celebrate what we did do, not what we could not.

Since the Governor announced the Executive Budget Proposal in January – her proposal for how the state will spend its money – I have heard from so many of you about the Governor's proposals, including proposed cuts to Foundation Aid for public school funding.

*continued on pg 14-*

## Letter: Request for Coverage

I've been looking for your coverage of the proposed construction at 900 N. Broadway in YONKERS RISING to no avail.

A four story building was granted rezoning at this spot, much to the dismay of 101 family residents of the adjacent Gateway Co-op. It will pose many problems with overcrowding and parking. As it's a senior residence, the builders and owner Sayegh [brother of the assemblyman] are required to provide only 31 parking spaces on the property for the 60 future residents.

We are concerned about the effect on the already high water table and foundation stress on our co-op buildings as well.

Councilman Merante held several meetings with Gateway shareholders regarding this proposed construction. They were well attended and included Council President, John Rubbo. Francine Kowalsky of the Gateway Co-op was able to get a stop order when the trees were cut down without permission a few weeks ago.

Looking for your article in a future issue, I am, Mary T, Yonkers

## On This Day in Yonkers History...



Postcard of the Yonkers Jewish Community Center, (JCC)

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

Monday, May 6th

May 6, 1944: Phelps Dodge announced it was rushing work on the former National Sugar Refinery, foot of Main Street, to convert it into the fourth Yonkers' Habirshaw Cable and Wire subsidiary. Besides the main plant at Point Street, they had the McLean Avenue unit (by Pelton) and the bare wire plant on Saw Mill River Road.

May 6, 1944: Helen Friberg, Executive Vice Chairman of the Red Cross War Fund, announced the generosity of Yonkers Public Schools pushed the fund total to \$158,000! She thanked students "for doing a splendid job on the scrap paper salvage drive as part of their war efforts."

Tuesday, May 7th

May 7, 1943: Aranya Smart, Women's Chair of the Yonkers War Saving Staff, announced school children surpassed their original goal of "buying" a fleet of Army jeeps; they sold enough bonds to "buy" six fleets! Yonkers' total school bond sales of \$560,200 was enough to purchase more than 600 jeeps. Leading the campaign was St. Casimir's with bond purchases of \$45,000; School 21 was second with bond sales of \$36,000. Eight other school topped \$20,000 in bond sales.

May 7, 1943: Thousands visited Larkin Plaza to view a Japanese two-person submarine captured on Oahu where it was grounded during Pearl Harbor. It was the first "Pacific war zone trophy" brought to Yonkers and was part of a bond drive. The drive was extremely successful because of the generosity of John Lewis of Ardsley, who purchased a \$100 bond for every \$25 bond sold that afternoon.

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NOTICE OF FORMATION of Intentional Journey Psychotherapy, LCSW, PLLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/8/24. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against PLLC to 1374 Midland Ave, Suite 410, Bronxville, NY 10708. Purpose: any lawful act.

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 is hereby given that a license, number Pending for beer, wine and cider has been applied for by the undersigned to sell beer, wine and cider at retail in a Summer Tavern under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 8000 Mall Walk, K035, Yonkers, NY 10704, Westchester County for on-premises consumption.

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

flat tires on his car. The uneven roads that destroy the alignment on his car will remain the same.

Some call the MTA the Money Taking Agency. There is no accountability at the MTA. It's just give us more money, give us more money. Add a tax dedicated to the MTA and all our problems will be solved. And they never are.

Why doesn't my friend take mass transit to New York City? He's tired of the New York subways filled with homeless people urinating in the seat next to his on the subway. He doesn't want to throw up because of the smell of marijuana that seems to accompany everyone riding on the subway. At press time the White House is proposing relaxing the marijuana rules. Just what we need in the country right now. He might see a cop on the train, but quite often he does not. He feels unsafe riding the subways. He is not going to risk his life or the life of his family riding on the subway. Do you blame him?

Legislators usually vote for things to benefit their districts. Why any suburban legislator would vote for Congestion Pricing boggles my mind. Suburban legislators can easily stop this Congestion Pricing. Why are they not doing this and support it? These are the questions that you must ask your legislators at public meetings, via email and on the phone prior to Election Day.

There is little congestion on the streets of Manhattan after 5:30 p.m.-6 p.m. Monday through Friday. So why charge motorists this fee after 6:00 pm to 7 a.m. the next day. And why charge this fee on weekends. What do people do after 6 p.m. and on weekends? Visit Manhattan to see a Broadway Show, enjoy a fine dinner in a New York City restaurant, visit the Christmas Tree and Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall and a myriad other things.

Add a congestion pricing fee to high gas prices, high ticket prices, expensive parking, baby sitters, etc. and people are going to skip the visit to the Big Apple. Or certainly go a lot less. This will hurt the economy of New York City and hurt the great many businesses who not only rely on foreign tourists but count on visitors to New York City from the suburbs to patronize their establishments.

The haphazard way this toll is being introduced? No one knows all the exemptions and new ones come out everyday. The MTA puts all the cameras and equipment up. They try to make it hard for any judicial body to turn the program off. New details come out about the program everyday. Because the MTA is ready for your money and has a plan to spend it only they know the details of.

The Governor and State Legislators and New York City elected officials are simply saying 'Drop Dead' to the people who elected them to office. They don't care that you haven't gotten a raise in years. They don't care that people will not visit museums and other cultural institutions, the latest Broadway shows, concerts, parks because the costs of driving into Manhattan are simply too high!

And watch consumer prices for everything from apples to oranges skyrocket. Trucks pay an even higher fee when entering the congestion zone, and manufacturers are certainly going to pass those costs on to the consumer.

People in Westchester need to get on the phone and tell your legislators Congestion Pricing will do nothing for the suburbs. If we don't stop it many good hard working people are going to lose their jobs. And sadly, New York City will become emptier than it was during the pandemic. Certain areas of the city that were once bustling have storefronts that have sat empty since the beginning of the pandemic and will remain empty.

Residents of Westchester it is in your hands. Don't let your elected official say 'Drop Dead' to you as President Ford said to New Yorkers almost 40 years ago! **ANTISEMITISM AND DESTRUCTION OF CAMPUS PROPERTY MUST STOP**

Let's be very clear. If it were not for the Jewish Community in New York and around this country, students today would not have a Columbia University or New York University or many of the schools where outside agitators are stirring up students as we speak. Students should kiss the ground they walk on in appreciation of the contributions Jews made to make their institutions learning palaces.

When students and outsiders destroy buildings they should be expelled immediately from the institutions they attend. And University Officials need to get rowdy, destructive students off campus property using the police department whether it be NYPD or other departments in this country.

Parents of college students must know that after all the money they spent on their children at prestigious institutions of higher education that everything can be lost if the student breaks the law and is part of the out of control mobs we see on television.

Don't cancel graduation ceremonies school officials. The students who act like they are supposed to should not be deprived of the pomp and circumstance they worked so hard for.

Columbia University waited way too long to corral those destroying school property. For public safety the police should have been called in much earlier. The sad thing is many of the protestors could not find Israel or the Middle East for that matter on a map!

**Reach Eric Schoen at [thistooisonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistooisonkers@aol.com), or friend him on Facebook Eric Schoen...just look for him in the picture with Joan Rivers!**

**LEGAL NOTICE  
YONKERS MUNICIPAL CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION**

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on May 9, 2024 5p.m. in the office of the Civil Service Commission located at 1 Larkin Center, Riverfront Library – 2nd floor Community Center room on the matters of amending the Appendices of the Yonkers Municipal Civil Service Rules.

Such proposed changes are available for inspection during business hours in the office of the Yonkers Civil Service Commission located at 1 Larkin Center – 2nd floor Yonkers, N.Y. 10701.

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 PLLC 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.

Notice of formation of Bosco Home Improvements LLC, . Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/15/2024. 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 716 Loomis Ave Peekskill, NY 10566. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Notice of formation of Studio Elise LLC filed with the SSNY on 04/05/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whole processes against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of processes to the LLC, 3 Ward Street, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

EATZTOUR LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 05/23/2023. Office: WESTCHESTER COUNTY. SSNY designated as agent of LLC for process and shall mail copy to R/A: US CORPAGENTS, INC., 7014 13TH AVE, #202, BKLYN, NY, 11228. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of EM SLEEP CONSULTING LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/08/2024. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 53 Windsor Place, Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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.

**TRUSTEES NOTICE TO BENEFICIARY MARIE K. (GEORGETTE) MOORE**

Trustee Kathy Whately, of the HARRIET C. WHATELY IRREVOCABLE INSURANCE TRUST and of the HARRIET C. WHATELY IRREVOCABLE INSURANCE TRUST, II, has identified MARIE K. MOORE a/k/a MARIE GEORGETTE K. MOORE a/k/a MARIA GEORGETTE KOUMLIKIS MOORE, born on or about April 30, 1947, Daughter of Rosa Lee Whately Koumlakis and George James Koumlakis, mother of Cheryl Marie Moore, as a Beneficiary of the Trusts entitled: HARRIET C. WHATELY IRREVOCABLE INSURANCE TRUST and HARRIET C. WHATELY IRREVOCABLE INSURANCE TRUST, II. The said Trustee has used diligent efforts to locate the Beneficiary with last known addresses being in Yonkers, NY and Bronxville, NY. This Notice shall serve as the last measure by the Trustee to locate the Beneficiary, or her heirs, and demands that she contact the Trustee's attorney at the below address on or before July 8th, 2024, or Beneficiary shall be deemed to have waived her interest under the Trust and the Trustee shall proceed in disbursement of the Beneficiary's interest in accordance with the Trust terms or pursuant to Virginia Law.

**MARIE K. MOORE, or her heirs, Contact:**

Whitaker R. Johnston, Esq.  
Attorney for Kathy Whately, Trustee  
20580 Timberlake Rd.  
Lynchburg, VA 24502  
1 (434) 237-6458



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# Letters to the Editor:

# Yonkers Arts Weekend

## National Day of Prayer May 2nd: Lets Get Prayers Answered

By Judith Niewiadomski, Yonkers

How often do we get around to praying only when we have exhausted ourselves and are at our wits' end from trying to fix things by ourselves? Looking to God as a last resort is why we're so often stuck in our problems and challenges. How skilled can we be at anything if we only do it once in a while or simply repeat memorized words?

The the Apostle James tells us (James 5:16) "The effectual fervent [active] prayer of a righteous man availeth [prevails] much." But we diminish the power of prayer, praying as a last resort without much hope of an answer—or a secret conviction that the answer will be, "Nope. You're not good enough, nothing for you." We don't have to be good enough because God is good all the time and wants above all things that we prosper and be in health even as our soul prospers. (3 John 2).

To get prayers answered we must believe that God answers prayer and rewards those who diligently seek Him. (Hebrews 11:6)

Some sneer when people whose hearts are touched offer thoughts and prayers in a tragedy, revealing their belief that prayer does no good. That mindset is why many don't get answers to prayer. What you believe, you receive.,

Prayer is connection with God; a bond with He Who heals the broken hearted, Who desires above all things we may prosper and be in health even as our soul prospers.(3 John 2) Prayer girded with focused believing, can help and heal even from a distance because it is not limited to our resources but connected to the Father Who is all powerful and present everywhere.

God knows what we need, all the details of our circumstances, and the long term effects of our choices even before we ask.

Prayer is not passive, prayer is aggressive Prayer is not a last resort, prayer is a battle plan that does not go all to hell when it confronts the enemy. Prayer is you and God working together to overcome the enemy and the circumstances to bring about godly results that are better than we hoped for. (Ephesians 3:20) How can we lose when we are tapped in to Someone who knows every thought of every heart?

Many of us grew up saying repetitive prayers, and while we meant well, we all know how it goes: you memorize something and even with your best intentions, it often becomes mindless repetition, repeating the words from memory without understanding how those words apply to what we face now.

Every person is unique. Different needs and challenges arise every day. So, to be effective, our prayers need to be focused on those specific needs and challenges.

Jesus Christ demonstrated what we call "The Lord's Prayer," as a model, an example. How does it begin? Not with hesitation toward a distant and unknowable deity, not with chanted repetition, but with heartfelt reaching out to God as a Father Who is bigger than all those needs and problems. It was different from how the scribes and Pharisees prayed; they weren't people you'd walk up to and hug and ask for help. In fact, they would have considered themselves to be defiled and made unclean by your touch. They focused on obedience to the letter of the law, not the heart behind it. Without the power of God energizing their prayers their country, Israel, was occupied by a pagan army, and the people were desperately in need, of wholeness, healing, and peace.

Prayer is opening your heart to your Father God about your fears and pains and challenges and needs, as Jesus Christ did in Gethsemane, and allowing Him to lead and comfort and provide a way for you to have His best.

Now if God knows everything, why do we need to pray? Good question. Prayer is personal communication between the individual and God. Prayer is for us to get our minds calm and focused on what God has done and can and will do for us as individuals. Prayer actively takes our focus from the mud we're stuck in and the chaos that surrounds us and lifts our thoughts up to focus on the delivering hand of God.

How can we pray effectively? We use our minds and what we know of the Word of God:

We look to God as a loving Father.

We recall and focus on His ability to do.(Study the records of what He has done for others.)

We cut through the mental and emotional clutter and confusion and narrow our focus to what we need.

We get specific as to what we want and need. Leave the how to God's infinite diversity. He has a solution for every problem.

We do not limit God, recognizing that He is able to do exceeding abundantly above all we ask or think. (Ephesians 3:30)

We take action on what we know to do.


The key to receiving answers to prayer is believing, holding your mind, despite the circumstances, to what God has promised. You don't have to be in church. You don't have to be good enough because He is good enough. You don't have to be a particular religion, but only believe what God has promised in His Word..

Let's make this National Day of Prayer the first day of a more effective prayer life.

Don't forget to be thankful. If you're getting your prayers answered, isn't that the least you can do? So tell other people what God has done for you so they can live more abundantly too.

Judith Niewiadomski, Yonkers

**CARPET MILLS ARTS DISTRICT**



**20 YEARS OF YOHO OPEN STUDIOS**

Saturday & Sunday, 11am-5pm  
540 & 570 Nepperhan Avenue, Yonkers New York 10701

For the twentieth year, the YOHO Artists community opens up their studio doors welcoming art revelers from all over! This anchor event continues to serve as one of the premier activities during Yonkers Arts Weekend!

**Exhibition** 11AM-5PM 19th Annual Artist Showcase  
216 & 222 Lake Avenue, Yonkers New York 10701

Saturday & Sunday, 11am-5pm  
570 Nepperhan Avenue, Yonkers New York 10701

**Exhibition** 11AM-5PM Ecosystems  
530 Nepperhan Avenue, Yonkers New York 10701

**Exhibition** 11AM-5PM US+U Presents: Made of Survival  
222 Lake Avenue, Yonkers New York 10701

**The PowerLab Pop-up Session** 11AM-5PM Yonkers Collab Exchange

Saturday, May 4th  
222 Lake Avenue, Yonkers New York 10701

**Music Performance** 1PM-2PM Anna Demis  
222 Lake Avenue, Yonkers New York 10701

**Music Performance** 4PM-5PM Counterbalance

Sunday, May 5th  
222 Lake Avenue, Yonkers New York 10701

**Music Performance** 2PM-4PM Soulful Latin Ensemble

**Mural Installation - CMAD**  
Saturday & Sunday, 11am-5pm  
540 Nepperhan Avenue, Yonkers New York 10701

**Mariachi Fiesta: pre Cinco de Mayo Celebration Performance**



Saturday, 3:30pm-5:30pm  
945 North Broadway, Yonkers New York 10701

Sunday, May 5th

**Universal Drum Sounds** 11AM-12PM Yonkers Drums

**Music Performance** 12PM-1PM Soul Synergy Trio of Soul & Jazz Music

Sunday & Sunday | 229 North Broadway

**Workshop** 11AM-12PM Kids Spring Painting

**Workshop** 1PM-2PM Jewelry Making

Saturday

**Workshop** 1PM-2PM Portraits

Saturday

**Workshop** 1PM-2PM Screen Printing

**WEARTONE**



**OPEN STUDIO, WORKSHOPS AND MORE AT WEARTONE!**

Saturday & Sunday, 11am-5pm  
229 North Broadway, Yonkers New York 10701

We Art One Artist Collective is a group of creative individuals who have joined forces to discuss, develop, and create dynamic experiences for the community. We Art One offers holistic art programs and workshops to meet the diverse needs of Yonkers residents and neighboring communities.

**Downtown Yonkers**



**BLUE DOOR ART CENTER: EXHIBITION: THE DARK SIDE PHOTOGRAPHY/ART**

Saturday & Sunday, 11am-5pm  
13 Riverdale Avenue, Yonkers New York 10701

Blue Door Art Center invites you to take a glimpse into The Dark Side, a Black and White Art & Photography Exhibition featuring over 50 local Artists! This exciting exhibition will be live during Yonkers Arts Weekend!

**Exhibition Tours** 12:30PM-5:30PM

Saturday, May 4th

**Workshop** 10AM-12PM Mexican Tile Making for Kids

**Workshop** 11AM-12PM Button Making Corner for Kids

**Workshop** 1PM-2PM Wide Collage for Adults

**Music Performance** 4PM-5PM Jazz Afternoon

Sunday, May 5th

**Workshop** 10AM-12PM Creative Voices: Poetry & Art Fusion

**Workshop** 11AM-12PM Button Making Corner for Kids

**Workshop** 1PM-2PM Poetry, Drawing & Multimedia Journey to Stars

**Music Performance** 3PM-5PM Blue Door Unplugged

**S.I.C. FILM SCHOOL**

Saturday, May 4th at 2pm-4pm  
1140th Center, Yonkers NY

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Hope to hear from you! Thanks!

## Pepsi Launches Pepsi X-Mary J. Blige Strength of a Woman Partnership with \$100,000 Fund to Empower Yonkers Women



*The Fund Supports Non-Profit Organizations Empowering Women in Yonkers, NY in Honor of the Music Icon's "Strength of a Woman Festival and Summit"*

As a returning co-presenting partner of Mary J. Blige's "Strength of a Woman Festival and Summit," Pepsi is launching the Pepsi x Mary J. Blige Strength of a Woman Community Fund, with \$100,000 available as grants to local organizations whose work elevates and educates underserved women in Yonkers.

The fund created in partnership with United Way of Westchester and Putnam, which helps residents become self-sufficient and thrive in a stronger community, is open to Yonkers-based non-profit organizations addressing the needs of women who are underserved, marginalized, or living paycheck-to-paycheck. The funds will be distributed via grants between \$5,000 to \$20,000 to qualifying organizations supporting programs in education, financial stability, and food security. Applications can be submitted online by June 1, 2024 at [www.uwwp.org/pepsi-soaw](http://www.uwwp.org/pepsi-soaw).

As the Festival and Summit comes to the Big Apple for the first time, Pepsi is honoring the global icon by giving back to women in her hometown of Yonkers, NY and bringing the event's purpose of empowerment, elevation, and education to life for the community.

"Pepsi has been an incredible partner for the Strength of a Woman Festival and Summit since the start. Now, with their support, being able to come home to Yonkers to give back to and invest in the community I grew up in is all I've ever wanted. We hope to provide resources for local organizations striving

## Toastmasters: A Safe Space To Grow Your Confidence In Public Speaking

**MI TOASTMASTERS HYBRID MEETING**

Join us and learn the art of public speaking in a supportive environment. (Free Event)

WEDNESDAY, MAY 8, 2024  
6.15 PM - 7.45 PM EST

**IN-PERSON PARTICIPATION**  
Yonkers Public Library  
Grinton I. Will Public Library  
Mezzanine Room

<https://mitoastmasters.toastmastersclubs.org>  
Click: CONTACT US

SCAN HERE FOR ZOOM LINK

Are you ready to unlock the power of public speaking? Elevate your communication skills and boost your confidence with Toastmasters! Whether you're aiming to ace presentations at work, deliver captivating speeches, or simply become a more polished communicator, Toastmasters offers the perfect platform for growth. Join us at the vibrant MI Toastmasters Club #1322088, nestled in the heart of Yonkers Open House and join us on Wednesday, May 8, 2024! This special event will be a hybrid affair, offering both in-person attendance at the Grinton I. Will Library (Conference Room, 1500 Central Avenue, Yonkers 10710) Looking ahead, our hybrid meetings will continue on the second Wednesday of May and June (May 8, June 12), while virtual-only sessions are slated for the fourth Wednesday of each month (May 22, June 26). Virtual access is available at the following Zoom link: <https://zoom.us/j/92432586829?pwd=TCtjcjRVL0NDNEsrcEpJV3BGWmN0QT09> Zoom Meeting ID: 924 3258 6829 Passcode: 244697

Visit our website at <https://mitoastmasters.toastmastersclubs.org/> and select the Contact Us tab to connect with us.



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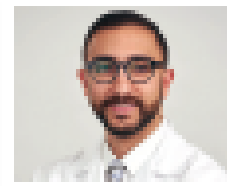
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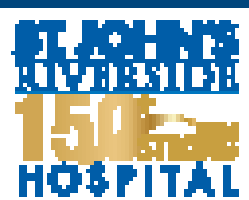


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# Yonkers Arts Weekend Events

## CARPET MILLS ARTS DISTRICT



**YOHO ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION!**  
 Sunday, 4:30pm | Simple Motive Brewery  
 222 Lake Avenue, Yonkers New York 10701



**Battle of the Boroughs: Breakdancing Demonstration**  
 featuring London Reyes and Friends!

Sunday, 12pm | Yonkers Arts Project Space  
 216 Lake Avenue, Yonkers New York 10701

## UNTERMYER PARK



**GUIDED TOURS WITH THE UNTERMYER CONSERVANCY**

Saturday 11am, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm  
 945 North Broadway, Yonkers New York 10701

Are you ready to experience the exquisite beauty of Untermyer Gardens like never before? Then join the President of the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy, Stephen F. Byms, on a walking tour that will take you on a journey through the gardens as seen through his expert eyes.

- Workshop** 12PM-2PM Art in the Parks with Kateri Walker
- Exhibition** 11AM-3PM Ken Davis Graffiti Art Display
- Music Performance** 12PM-1PM Joe Giglio Jazz Trio

## Downtown Yonkers



**YONKERS PUBLIC LIBRARY: EXHIBITION: YONKERS PUBLIC STUDENT EXPOSE**

Saturday & Sunday, 11am-5pm  
 1 Larkin Center, Yonkers New York 10701  
 Yonkers Public Schools proudly presents the 3rd Annual Yonkers Public School Student Art Exposé featuring collections from over 30+ public schools at the YPL Atrium. The exhibition also includes an incredible presentation from our Autistic Student Artists as well as our YPE participants.

**Arts Westchester's Arts Mobile** 1PM-4PM (BOTH DAYS)

- Saturday, May 4th
- Exhibition** 10AM-5PM Bridging Chasm
  - Workshop** 10AM-12PM Figurative Wire Sculpture Class
  - Workshop** 1PM-3PM Kiln-Fired Ceramics Class
  - Music Performance** 7PM-9PM YPL Jazz Band
  - Workshop** 1PM-3PM Flower Arrangements & Poetry Installation

- Sunday, May 5th
- Exhibition** 10AM-5PM Bridging Chasm
  - Workshop** 11AM-1PM Mystery Story Box Workshop with Kateri Walker
  - Workshop** 2:30PM Storytelling with April Armstrong
- MOTHER'S DAY SPECIAL MUSICAL PERFORMANCE**  
 Sunday, May 5th at 3pm-4pm  
 1 Larkin Center | Riverfront Library Auditorium

## Downtown Yonkers

**YONKERS FILM FESTIVAL SCREENING & MIXER**  
 Saturday May 4th, 5pm-8pm  
 28 Wells Ave (5th Floor) Yonkers New York 10701

Sunday, May 5th  
**Workshop** 1PM-5PM YOFI Artist Talks

**SARAH LAWRENCE COLLEGE AT BECZAK: A TRIBUTE TO LANGSTON HUGHES**  
 Saturday May 4th, 2pm-4pm  
 35 Alexander Street Yonkers New York 10701

**THE 914 COLLECTIVE PRESENTS: ROAD TO COMIC CON**  
 FEATURING: ALIENS EXIST AN INTERGALACTIC BLINK 182 TRIBUTE | YONKERS BREWING CO.  
 Saturday May 4th, 7pm  
 92 Main Street Yonkers New York 10701

**PHILIPSE MANOR HALL: GUIDED WATERFRONT WALKING TOURS**  
 May 4th & May 5th  
 10:30am & 1:30pm  
 29 Warburton Avenue Yonkers New York 10701

**PHILIPSE MANOR HALL FEATURE EXHIBITION: OUR WHOLE HISTORY**  
 May 4th & May 5th at 10pm-5pm  
 29 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers NY 10701

- Saturday, May 4th
- Workshop** 12PM-3PM Historical Games
- Sunday, May 5th
- Workshop** 1PM-3PM Cineo De Mayo Flower Making

**Mural Installation - Downtown**  
**JAMES RODRIGUEZ: EDUCATION IS TRANSFORMATION**  
 May 4th & May 5th  
 10:00am & 5:00pm  
 Riverdale/Hudson Street Yonkers New York 10701

## Hudson River Museum



**GUIDED AGE GLENVIEW: HISTORIC HOME TOURS**

Saturday, 12pm, 1pm, 2pm, 3pm, 4pm  
 511 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers New York 10701  
 Travel back in time and experience our magnificently preserved 6000+ sq ft home in person! Explore our six fully restored period rooms on a 45-minute guided tour of 1877 home on the National Register of Historic Places.

**Free Admission** 11AM - 5PM

- Saturday, May 4th
- Workshop** 10AM-1PM Flowing Mobiles
  - Workshop** 12PM-1PM Light Saber Noodles
  - Games & Activities** 1PM-4PM Bubble Extravaganza
  - Planetarium Show** 7PM The Sky Tonight

Saturday, May 4th at 3:30pm  
 Hudson River Museum Planetarium  
**Moonbase: The Next Step**, you'll learn about efforts to establish a permanent, scientific outpost on the Moon.

**Mural Installation - JFK Marina**

**WESTCHESTER MURAL GROUP: HUDSON HUES: A SILHOUETTED SYMPHONY**  
 May 4th & May 5th  
 10:00am & 5:00pm  
 1 John F. Kennedy Memorial Drive Yonkers New York 10701

continued on pg 13-

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## Assemblywoman Paulin Urges Legislature to Pass Her Legislation, After Weinstein Rape Conviction Overturned

On April 25, the New York Court of Appeals overturned Harvey Weinstein's 2020 rape conviction in a 4-3 decision, concluding that "the trial court erroneously admitted testimony of uncharged, alleged prior sexual acts against persons other than the complainants of the underlying crimes."

In 2020, Weinstein was convicted in New York of a criminal sexual act in the first degree and rape in the third degree for offenses against two women. The judge in his trial allowed for the admittance of evidence of his prior sexual assaults under the Molineux Rule, which allows prosecutors to bring in proof of a defendant's prior bad acts or crimes to establish motive, intent, or other relevant issues.

However, in February, Weinstein's defense argued that Justice James Burke influenced the trial by allowing three women to testify about allegations that weren't part of the case. Today, in a 4-3 decision, New York's highest court overturned the 2020 decision and determined Weinstein had not received a fair trial.

The NY Court of Appeals is composed of seven judges, but for this case, two judges recused themselves. While it would be standard practice to allow the remaining five judges to vote, the Chief Judge appointed two new judges which provided the 4-vote majority that overturned the conviction. The three judges that voted to uphold the conviction were all permanent judges on the court.

"I am deeply disheartened by the NY Court of Appeals decision today and urge the legislature to pass my bill to allow NY courts to admit evidence that a defendant has committed any prior sexual assaults in a criminal proceeding in which a defendant is accused of sexual assault" said Assemblywoman Amy Paulin, "we must ensure that victims are able to rely on this type of evidence in future cases."

Assemblywoman Paulin has introduced legislation, A.4992, that would codify the Federal Rules of Evidence (FRE) in New York State law. Pursuant to FRE 413, the court may admit evidence that the defendant committed any other past sexual assault. Sex offenders are far more likely overall, as compared to non-sex offenders, to reoffend with a sexual crime. Sexual assault is an especially heinous crime and given the likelihood of recidivism, it is necessary to codify FRE 413. If New York enacted this legislation, we would join the sixteen other states that have adopted the FRE to protect victims of sexual assault.

"The stunning reversal of Harvey Weinstein's conviction shows a failure by New York's highest court to recognize the relevance of an abuser's pattern of serial sexual assault. It is time for New York to do what 16 other states and the Federal Rules of Evidence have done, and allow juries to hear evidence of a sexual abuser's pattern of similar conduct. We applaud Assemblywoman Amy Paulin for leading the way by introducing a bill to right this injustice," said Jane Manning, Director of Women's Equal Justice.

Hon. Judy Harris Kluger, Chief Executive Officer for Sanctuary for Families, said, "Sanctuary for Families and the survivors we serve are deeply troubled by the reversal of Harvey Weinstein's conviction for rape, a decision that exposes a critical gap in our legal system's response to sexual violence. Assembly Member Amy Paulin's bill, A4992, which permits the admission of evidence of the defendant's prior sexual assaults in sexual assault prosecutions, is precisely the legislative response urgently needed to address this gap. This reform, adopted by California and fifteen other states, would help ensure that serial sex offenders are held accountable and prevented from continuing to perpetrate harm while strengthening the rights of survivors to access justice. Sanctuary for Families urges New York State lawmakers to act decisively and pass this bill."

"We are profoundly disheartened by the Court's decision to reverse Harvey Weinstein's case. For survivors to have a chance to achieve justice, these cases should have the ability to include evidence of prior sexual assaults perpetrated by the abuser," said Robyn Mazur, Executive Director of the Joyful Heart Foundation. "Overturning this ruling and forcing survivors to endure the retraumatizing effects of another trial will also create a chilling effect on other survivors in the future."

medical program and health care is such a growing industry."

Who helped her get to this point of academic achievement? "Everyone, but my parents also helped me. My teachers at Gorton always encouraged me to continue to push myself to do my best. They recommended higher level classes and gave me the support I needed."

Abigail has been ranked #1 at Gorton since her freshman year. "I've worked hard but others have worked to push me to maintain my ranking."

Any advice for young students? "Achieving academic excellence has always been my first priority. But finding a balance between academic, extracurriculars, community service and quality time with friends is important for growth and success."

Gorton HS Salutatorian Rania Khan will graduate with a 100.53 GPA. One of her favorite teachers is also Dr. Mike Wszolek. "I had his class for two years. It helped me get hands on experience in the medical field. I have known that I was interested in the medical field since middle school. And that is still my desire."

"Dr. Mike was always interesting and took us to the next level of learning, setting us up for success. He is very supportive."

Rania's favorite course at Gorton was AP Psychology. "I found it very challenging and very interesting. It combines humanitarian and biological sciences, which are two of my interests. I enjoy learning about how people think and why they are a certain way."

Rania also used YPIE's resources. "One of the major's is after school science research program that I have attended since my freshman year. I don't think that I would be that successful in science without it. For the first year or two we did basic scientific methods and wrote a paper. Once I had a topic, I began doing research on my own and that's how I won the Regeneron Award in science."

In January, Rania became only the second student from the Yonkers Public Schools selected as a top 300 semi-finalists for the National Regeneron Science Talent Search

Her Project Title was, "Combined Sewer Overflow Neutralizing Agent Sodium Hypochlorite (NaOCl) Ramifications on the Vitality of the Tetraselmis Population Within the Hudson River."

"I learned a lot, we have many science research competitions and submitted in depth papers with detailed findings. I didn't plan on getting into the top 300."

Rania will be attending Wesleyan University, ranked in the top 20 colleges in the country, located in Middletown Connecticut. "My science research teacher recommended it and the financial package was great. It's not that far away from home and when I visited, I found the students passionate about academics. And the social environment is nice. It was everything I was looking for."

She plans to double major in Biology and Neuroscience. "It will help me be more prepared for medical school. I want to become a Neurologist, but I am still not sure. I am also really interested in advocating for patients and human rights advocacy."

Rania said that "Gorton Guidance Counselor Ms. Russo pushed me hard to get to the next level. And my other teachers kept on top of me. My parents also pushed me to do good and make them proud."

Rania said that she wanted to be Valedictorian since freshman year, and there has been a friendly rivalry of sorts between her and Abigail. "We were remote in freshman year for COVID, but in my sophomore year I would monitor my grades every day."

Advice for aspiring Valedictorians? "Work hard the road to success has many turns but don't give up because it's all worth it in the end."

Read it all Online at  
[Yonkerstimes.com](http://Yonkerstimes.com)

LEGAL NOTICE

CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YONKERS  
PUBLIC HEARINGS  
2024/2025 PROPOSED BUDGET

I, Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, City Council President of the City of Yonkers, do hereby call a public hearing on the proposed 2024/2025 City of Yonkers Operating Budget and Capital Budget as follows:

Thursday, May 9, 2024  
City Council Chambers  
City Hall- 4th Floor  
40 South Broadway  
Yonkers, New York

7:00 p.m. Wednesday, May 22, 2024  
Auditorium  
Saunders High School  
183 Palmer Road  
Yonkers, NY 10701  
7:00 p.m.

Anyone wishing to speak may sign up on the day of the hearing at the hearing site. Each speaker shall be permitted three minutes and speakers shall be called in the order in which they have signed up.

LAKISHA COLLINS-BELLAMY  
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

April 26, 2024

City of Yonkers  
Summary of FY24-25 Executive Budget

Property Taxes:	\$437,882,124
Special Taxes:	\$226,370,666
State and Federal Funding:	\$113,706,719
City Departments:	\$54,811,194
Other Revenues:	\$49,498,103
Appropriated Fund Balance (General):	\$63,371,957

Total Revenues Sub-Total:	\$945,640,763
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Library Fund:	\$565,175
Water Fund:	\$55,443,083
Sewer Fund:	\$12,529,276
Board of Education:	\$450,541,530

	\$1,464,719,827
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City Departments:	\$394,565,927
Fringe Benefits:	\$215,423,860
Special Items:	\$31,859,938
Board of Education:	\$708,871,156
Total Operating Expenditures:	\$1,350,720,881
Debt Service:	\$113,998,946

	\$1,464,719,827
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Revenues vs. Expenditures	\$
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<u>Property Tax Levy</u>	
Board of Education Property Tax Levy	\$227,462,663
City Property Tax Levy	\$160,419,461
Total Property Tax Levy	\$437,882,124

<u>Property Tax Rate per \$1000 of Assessed Valuation (AV)</u>	
Board of Education Tax Rate per \$1,000 AV	\$591.04
City Tax Rate: per \$1,000 AV	\$341.94
Tax Rate: per \$1,000 AV	\$932.98

<u>Capital Budget</u>	
City Total:	\$43,398,086
Board of Education Total:	\$15,400,000
Total:	\$58,798,086

The FY25 Executive Budget is available for review by the public at:  
<https://www.yonkersny.gov/government/departments/finance/city-budget/city-budget-2025-executive/-fsiteid-1#/>

Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Senator Mayer were joined by County Executive George Latimer, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, and President of the Retail Council of New York, Melissa O'Connor.

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, "Through decisive action in the State Budget, we're equipping local law enforcement with the necessary resources to combat retail theft and eradicate illicit cannabis shops, safeguarding both our communities and our economy. These new measures affirm our commitment to protecting our local businesses and ensuring the safety of both retail workers and consumers. I am proud to have led the Senate in the passage of these budget measures, and to stand with Governor Hochul and Speaker Heastie in prioritizing the safety and prosperity of all New Yorkers."

State Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, "I am proud New York is taking action to address the ongoing challenge of persistent retail theft and illicit cannabis sales. The budget passed this year provides prosecutors and police with the tools necessary to crack down on retail theft and illicit cannabis shops, keeping New Yorkers safe and giving businesses the tools necessary to support and grow their stores. I thank Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins for her leadership and dedication to protecting New Yorkers and I thank our local leaders and law enforcement for working with us to find the appropriate measures to address these challenges."

Assemblymember Nader Sayegh said, "Passing the 2024-2025 New York State Budget with new legislation to combat retail theft and assault on retail workers sends a clear message: New York prioritizes the safety and prosperity of its neighborhoods. These new measures not only protect both small and large businesses from the economic strain of theft, but also safeguard consumers and employees, fostering an environment where everyone can thrive. With these new laws in place, New York is taking decisive action to protect and preserve our retail sector whilst ensuring that justice is served. I am happy to have joined my colleagues in both the Assembly and Senate in voting for this Budget and thank Governor Hochul for signing these bills into law. It is a step in the right direction to keep our communities safer and quality of life high."

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "I want to thank my partners in government for coming together to combat an issue we have all seen facing our communities. The retail thieves who are behind crime sprees like smash-and-grabs, or those trying to profit from the sale of stolen goods deserve to face harsher penalties. They are cheating not only store owners, but the hard-working people who pay for the goods they purchase. By the same token, our business owners and retail workers should receive the support of additional patrols and tax credits if they incur costs from further securing their stores. We want to back our retail community, help reestablish a sense of trust, and put an end to retail theft in Westchester County."

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said, "I commend State Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and State Senator Shelley Mayor for taking action on cracking down on illegal smoke shops. We have long advocated for better state regulation of cannabis. We are not against legalization but rather direct marketing to children and its impact on the quality of life of the residents of our City."

Yonkers Police Commissioner Christopher Sapienza said, "In Yonkers, we take the quality of life of our residents seriously. The Yonkers Police Department continues to aggressively combat all forms of retail theft and the unregulated sale of illegal marijuana, both of which are a detriment to our local businesses, shoppers, and residents. Thank you to Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins and Senator Mayer for advocating for these important resources that will aid our Police Department in continuing our success with these local issues."

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah said, "We applaud the legislature for providing necessary updates to the laws that will help prosecutors across the state hold individuals accountable for retail theft, which has greatly impacted businesses, merchants, workers and shoppers."

**Pepsi, Mary J. Blige continued from pg 8**

to support and uplift women for even greater impact this year," said Mary J. Blige.

Blige announced the fund with a surprise appearance at Westchester Community College-Yonkers on Thursday, April 25, as part of the Pepsi x Strength of a Woman Community Day, made possible by PepsiCo Foundation, Pepsi and YWCA of Yonkers.

PepsiCo Foundation also donated \$50,000 to YWCA of Westchester and Westchester Community College to support and uplift the local community.

"We're excited to deepen our partnership with Mary J. Blige by investing in the very community that has shaped her remarkable journey. The launch of the Pepsi x Mary J. Blige Strength of a Woman Fund exemplifies our shared vision with Mary to empower women, by enabling organizations to continue their valuable work," said Kent Montgomery, Senior Vice President, PepsiCo Industry Relations and Multicultural Development.

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024 AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN YONKERS CITY HALL, 40 SOUTH BROADWAY, 4TH FLOOR (building is handicapped accessible).

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV .

OPEN/CONTINUED HEARINGS

# 5790 – Area Variance - James Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of Mehranco Limited Liability Co., owner, on premises known as 1999 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4385, Lot: 42.43, Zone: BR

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1luztIIO9IzkF1bUNhKvFBj6CNy\\_bLXR5?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1luztIIO9IzkF1bUNhKvFBj6CNy_bLXR5?usp=sharing)

# 5810 – Use & Area Variance – David S. Steinmetz, Esq. & Jacob E. Amir, Esq., on behalf of TCP Realty LLC, owners, on premises known as 143-151 Woodworth Avenue, Block: 2102, Lots: 4, 5, 11, 39 & 41, Zone: C

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H-uwlmlnZ67Pdqnxin47LX7kkvY8uWUh?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H-uwlmlnZ67Pdqnxin47LX7kkvY8uWUh?usp=share_link)

# 5836 – Use & Area Variance – Mastrogiacomo Engineering PC, on behalf of My Main Man LLC, owner, on premises known as 47 High Street aka 102 Park Avenue, Block: 2167, Lot: 1.3, Zone: MG

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KcvFoSwZw6ljqBkVUcJQsWyXq4z4Pn-x?usp=sharing>

# 5849 – Area Variance - Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Sherena Doldron, owner, on premises known as 26 Cornell Ave, Block: 111, Lot: 22.32, Zone: A

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1QWuIINnN5i53ma6tWqHsKu5cfNX2d6B?usp=sharing>

# 5850 – Area Variance – Kathleen Bradshaw, Esq., on behalf of 194 Yonkers Avenue LLC, owner, on premises known as 182 Fillmore Street aka 194 Yonkers Avenue, Block: 405, Lots: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Zone: BA

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rndP3X61js\\_cy3P25c-FkrsMpUyXHf34?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rndP3X61js_cy3P25c-FkrsMpUyXHf34?usp=sharing)

NEW HEARINGS

# 5851 - Area Variance – Maximillian Mahalek, Esq. of Cuddy & Feder LLP, on behalf of Islamic Community Center of Mid-Westchester, owner, on premises known as 20 aka 2 Grandview Boulevard, Block: 4600, Lot: 114, Zone: S-100

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15E-kh7\\_GSXNeKgLGHZoeWbH6XSDiylq9?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/15E-kh7_GSXNeKgLGHZoeWbH6XSDiylq9?usp=drive_link)

# 5852 – Area Variance – Jared Smith, R. A., on behalf of Rupert Clarke, owner, on premises known as 115 Morris Street, Block: 156, Lot: 26, Zone: M

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13nnXrp9qZaPxaKFnYN61xT2D2595Y\\_O?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13nnXrp9qZaPxaKFnYN61xT2D2595Y_O?usp=drive_link)

# 5853 - Area Variance – Kevin Solli, P.E., on behalf of Chipotle Mexican Grill, owner, on premises known as 1201 Nepperhan Avenue, Block: 3395, Lot: 64, Zone: BA [https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ofRPXeeFGkxwAOlaaeRIrPQ-2yN95Xa?usp=drive\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ofRPXeeFGkxwAOlaaeRIrPQ-2yN95Xa?usp=drive_link)

Wednesday, May 8th

May 8, 1944: Twenty Sarah Lawrence College students began a work-study course on “The Industrial Problems in Wartime” during the summer session. Student’s requirements each week were to work three nights in a local war plant and attend two lectures taught by faculty member Amy Hewes.

May 8, 1952: Refined Syrups and Sugars announced the development of Dextran, created at Refined Syrups and Sugars on our Yonkers riverfront! Dextran was a “volume extender” for blood plasma; the company quickly pointed out it was not a blood substitute, but rather would supplement a short blood supply. It could be bottled and stored indefinitely, ready to use when needed.

Thursday, May 9th

May 9, 1922: Four NYPD officers with Yonkers Police Detectives John Fitzpatrick and Charles Ward arrested four Iridio-Platinum-Gold Company executives on charges of first-degree larceny. At the time of their arrest, the men they were working a claim on their Yonkers “mining property,” the Sidebotham Estate in Nepera Park. The company description of Yonkers “mother lode” claimed it held eight trillion dollars in gold, two trillion dollars in platinum and one hundred million dollars in silver.

May 9, 1922: In the effort to relieve Getty Square traffic, Yonkers began negotiating to buy part of St. John’s Episcopal Church property to widen Hudson Street and Riverdale Avenue. Since Cochran family members donated property to the church, wills and deeds had to be reviewed to confirm if gift restrictions prevented the sale. If the deal went through, the parsonage and the Home for the Aged had to be demolished.

Friday, May 10th

May 10, 1944: The D’Avanzo family of Yonkers cheered when cousin Dr. Teodor Picado was elected President of Costa Rica! Joseph, Aurello, Alphonso, Vincent, Carmella D’Avanzo and Yolanda Vetrano, who came to Yonkers in 1924, lived on Poplar and Waverly Streets, and Buena Vista and Riverdale Avenues.

May 10, 1954: City Manager Charles Curran asked the Thruway Authority to reimburse Yonkers for cost of buying water from New York City. Thruway construction had dumped dirty water into the Saw Mill River, the chief source of Yonkers’ water, forcing closure of the Tube Water filtration beds. Curran stated, “I cannot impress upon you too much the severity of the health hazard... an immediate and positive solution (must) be found for this problem... causing pollution and increased turbidity in the Saw Mill River.”

At the conference between the contractor, Thruway and local officials, Curran was told there was “...no real solution... the condition would continue for... two to three years.” Curran suggested immediate action and a definitive written agreement remediating the situation. In the meantime, the NYC Board of Water Supply asked permission to take more water from the Delaware River.

Saturday, May 11th

May 11, 1922: Vasily Padishuk, alleged “propagandist and solicitor” for the Iridio-Platinum-Gold Company, turned himself in! The Manhattan Grand Jury had indicted company officers for selling stock and taking money under false pretenses. Company literature listed several prominent Yonkers people as investors to influence others to buy stock; named restaurateur Peter Shanley said he didn’t own their stock, and others listed were small shareholders.

May 11, 1947: Yonkers residents Marinus Koch and George McIntosh were rescued when their plane overturned while landing in the Hudson near the Ludlow Dock. Able to climb on their overturned plane, they were rescued by nearby Mirsky Launch Service. The Mirsky launch also towed the plane to the Westchester Service Company dock, where it sank in forty feet of water as it was tied to the dock.

Sunday, May 12th

May 12, 1943: The Yonkers community gathered at the Jewish Community Center for the “Remember the Dead—Rescue the Living” memorial service for the two million Jewish people killed by the Nazis.

May 12, 1954: NYS Water Pollution Control Board announced it would hold a public hearing in Westchester on the water in the Saw Mill River. Studies showed sewage pollution at the lower end of the river in Yonkers and in other areas without sewers.

Questions or comments on this column? Email [YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com](mailto:YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com). For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, please visit its website [www.yonkershistorical-society.org](http://www.yonkershistorical-society.org), call 914-961-8940 or email [info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org).

**FORD MUSTANG DRAWING**

Win a Ford Mustang GT Premium Fastback!

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Saturday, May 25 • 10pm

\*Actual model and color may vary.

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Geeks OnSite

*Mayor's Budget, continued from pg 1-*

For FY25, the Administration has combined Debt Service and Maintenance of Effort contribution to education with an increased allocation of \$7.3 million in comparison to FY24. This is an increase of \$498.5 million cumulatively since Fiscal Year 2012.

In total, the Administration is providing \$12.7 million of additional funding that includes an increased MOE, and the absorption of costs that will help pay for the projected BOE consolidated budget expenditure growth.

Mayor Spano reapportioned \$5 million in Temporary Municipal Assistance Aid awarded by New York State and it directed toward Yonkers Public Schools.

"I want to thank the Governor and state delegation for endeavoring these important funds on behalf of our City," Mayor Spano said. "We decided to place it where it was needed most, our schools, and unfortunately, it's still not enough."

This year, Yonkers Public Schools will see the loss of \$33 million from non-recurring aid provided by the American Rescue Plan and Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Acts. As a result, Yonkers Public Schools will need to restructure and consolidate to accommodate for the changing District that has seen a reduction of approximately 2,400 (or 10%) in-district regular students and a substantial increase in the number of special education students.

**Municipal Operating Budget**

Included in the Executive Budget is a municipal General Fund operating budget of \$715.7 million. General Fund Departmental Expenditures, Department Debt Services, and Special Items are budgeted at \$375.8 million, a decrease of \$3.4 million or approximately 1%.

With rising costs, an increased transfer to the public school budget due to the State's lack of funding, a \$23 million increase in healthcare costs, and subdued housing-related activity as a result of high mortgage rates, the Executive Budget proposes the tax rate per thousand dollars of assessed value would increase by \$48.73, an increase in the tax rate of 5.51%, requiring the City to break the state-mandated tax cap.

Under the proposal, a typical one-to-three-family home at the median assessed value of \$10,900 would see its annual property tax bill increase by \$531, or approximately \$44 per month.

This year's Executive Budget contains a newly formulated Senior Citizen Tax exemption, which raised the income exemption level, providing Yonkers seniors an approximate total of \$2.4 million in savings on their property taxes. Senior citizens, who applied, and for the first time qualified for the higher income limit senior citizen tax exemption program, will likely see a reduction in their property taxes.

Mayor Spano added, "The Administration continues to be efficient and conscientious of our fiscal challenges. I hope that the 2025 Executive Budget is a basis for discussions and decisions. I ask our City Council members to continue to build upon the spirit of cooperation that has passed twelve consecutive bipartisan budgets during my time in office."

**Budget Snapshot:**

- \$1.46 billion total budget
- Tax rate of 5.51%, requiring the City to break the state-mandated tax cap.
- \$298.85 million appropriation for the Board of Education, the largest ever budgeted by an Administration.
- \$59 million, which includes the school portion (\$15.4 million), earmarked for capital improvements
- \$18.3 million grant budget, including more than \$6 million for paving initiatives
- The elimination of 10 vacant positions
- The addition of 15, revenue-producing, cost-containing, and/or revenue-neutral positions with the most budgeted for a January 1, 2025 start date. Eight of the 15 positions are contractually obligated.
- Maintains city services and municipal workforce

The Yonkers City Council must adopt the City budget by June 1 for it to take effect by the new fiscal year, which begins July 1, 2024. To view Mayor Spano's proposed Executive Budget, visit [www.yonkersny.gov]www.yonkersny.gov.

**More on the state budget and Yonkers**

Below are figures from NY State concerning this years State Aid for Yonkers, compared to last year. Despite the increases in State Aid and the \$5 Million contribution in Foundation Aid going to YPS, there remains a large budget hole that the new Superintendent, Dr. Anibal Soler Jr. will have to work to close with the Board of Education. The loss of \$33 Million in Federal COVID funds for the school district, now puts the staff and programs that the city used the Federal funds for, on the table.

Also look for parents, students and teachers to call on the City Council to increase City funding to YPS this year.

But with a 5.5% propert tax increase already too high for some on the council, it will difficult to get additional funds from the City.

Mayor Spano made two interesting observations. YPS enrollment has declined by 10%, 2,400 students, and there has been an increase in special education students.

All of this makes for a challenging budget, especially for YPS

**Total School Aid on the Run (includes Foundation Aid, expense-based aid):**

**2023/24: \$385,461,488**  
**2024/25: \$413,951,215**  
**Increase: \$28,489,727, 7.4% increase year-over-year**

**Foundation Aid (unrestricted school aid aid):**

**2023/24: \$262,748,946**  
**2024/25: \$284,521,842**  
**Increase: \$21,772,896, 8.3% increase year-over-year**

**Yonkers AIM**

**2023/24: \$108,215,479**  
**2024/25: \$113,215,479**  
**Increase: \$5,000,000, 4.62%**

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 and Proposals for the following projects until 2:00 PM, on the dates below.

Sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read at the address above in the 3rd Floor Finance Conference Room.

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 see the Public Safety Officer in the library atrium, who will contact Purchasing to meet the individual at the 3rd floor elevator.

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 7153 – Opening date: 5/22/2024: Purchase One RZA760 Stihl Batter Powered Zero Turn Mower w/60" Deck, or Yonkers approved equal (KAS).
2. Bid 7154 – Opening date 5/17/2024: Pick-up, removal, and lawful disposal of construction and demolition debris from the City of Yonkers lots and yards as needed (VB).
3. Bid 7155 – Opening date: 5/22/2024: Purchase Various Specialty gases for Water Treatment Laboratory as needed (KS).
4. Bid 7130A – Opening date: 5/17/2024: Purchase of nine cases of DuoDote Auto Injectors – Re-Bid (VB).
5. Bid 7156 – Opening date: 5/22/2024: Purchase Microsoft Surface Pro 9 or better, Keyboard and Accessories (KS).
6. Bid 7157 – Opening date: 5/17/2024: Purchase up to 1500 tons of ¾ Stone (VB).
7. Bid 7158 – Opening date: 5/17/2024: Purchase check advice forms (KS).
8. Bid 7118 – Opening date: 5/22/2024: Purchase Cafeteria Equipment (AC).
9. Bid 7119 – Opening date: 5/22/2024: Purchase Small wares Kitchen Equipment (KAS).
10. Bid 7159 – Opening date: 5/22/2024: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew 12-months, to purchase bulk quantities of 25% Caustic Soda, membrane grade as needed (AC).
11. Bid 7160 – Opening date: 5/17/2024: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew 12-months, for the purchase of Mueller and Kennedy water distribution products as needed (KAS).
12. Bid 7161 – Opening date: 5/22/2024: Maintenance, Repairs and Parts for Ross Control Valves as needed
13. Bid 7162 – Opening date: 5/22/2024: Purchase Toyota Model 50/8FGCU25, Internal Combustion Lift Truck, or Yonkers approved equal (VB).
14. Bid 7163 – Opening date: 5/17/2024: Herbicide Weed Control Services (NG)
15. Bid 7164 – Opening date: 5/17/2024: Pick-up, removal, and lawful disposal of rock and dirt from the City of Yonkers lots and yards as needed (NG).
16. Bid 7165- Opening date: 5/22/2024: Purchase Cybersecurity routers and accessories (KAS)
17. Bid 7166 – Opening date: 5/22/2024: Purchase Various paper and cleaning supplies for Yonkers Public Schools 2024-2025 School Year (VB)
18. Bid 7167 – Opening date: 5/22/2024: Purchase Various Food Products for Yonkers Public Schools 2024-2025 School Year (DC)

*Classifieds**State budget, continued from pg 1-***Attorney**

DIVORCE \$389 - Uncontested divorce papers prepared. Only one signature required. Poor person Application included if applicable. Separation agreements. Custody and support petitions. 518-274-0380

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**Public School Funding Restored - No School District Funding Cuts**

As Chair of the Senate Education Committee, funding for our public schools was my number one priority throughout budget negotiations. The Governor proposed devastating cuts to our schools in January. Her proposal for school aid fell far short of what our students, teachers, and school communities need and deserve. Over the past several months, I have stood with my colleagues, teachers, parents, students, administrators, and advocates to oppose these proposals.

I am proud that my colleagues and I prevailed. Under the FY 2024-2025 budget, every district will receive at least as much money as last year. We also fought for, and won, a higher inflationary factor than the Governor proposed, delivering more aid to many districts. The budget increases school aid by \$1.3 billion, or 3.8%, over the current school year and adds more than half a billion dollars to the Governor's proposal.

This win is a testament to the parents, teachers, school board members, superintendents, and advocates across the state who made their voices heard over the last four months. This budget reflects a necessary investment in the work our schools are doing to support students post-COVID, both for learning loss and mental health needs.

**Other Education Investments for Our Schools**

\$70 million Non-Public Safety Equipment Grants to help our non-public schools pay for security needs, particularly for our Jewish and Muslim schools after October 7.

\$30 million for capital projects for New York State Schools for the Blind and Deaf, including the New York School for the Deaf in Greenburgh.

\$180 million to continue the historic investment in school meals.

For the first time since 2000, we increased the minimum award for the Tuition Assistance Program (TAP) and expanded the eligibility requirements to make college more affordable for more families. For dependent students, we raised the household eligibility threshold to \$125,000.

**Responding to Hate Crimes**

I am pleased we also took action against the deeply concerning rise in hate crimes throughout New York State, by expanding the list of offenses categorized as hate crimes, including gang assault, sexual abuse, sex trafficking, falsely reporting an incident, and more.

Last fall, I was proud to have served on the NYS Bar Association Task Force on Combating Anti-Semitism and Asian Hate, which endorsed a substantial increase in the list of crimes subject to enhanced penalties as hate crimes, and this Act adopts many of their recommendations. This new Hate Crime Modernization Act reinforces our commitment to protecting all New Yorkers and our belief that New York is home to everyone.

**Support for Working Families**

I am also proud that this budget affirms our commitment to making New York affordable for working and middle-class families. We invested \$350 million in a new supplemental tax credit that will provide direct support to working families who are eligible for the Empire State Child Tax Credit. Families will be eligible to receive additional support if they are married and file jointly with a household income of less than \$110,000; if they are single and have a household income of less than \$75,000; or are married but file separately with an income of \$55,000.

We invested \$50 million for customers enrolled in the NYSEDA EmPower+ Program to help low and moderate-income households save energy and money when making energy improvements to their homes.

**Healthcare**

The state budget also makes critical investments relating to healthcare. We are supporting struggling hospitals by increasing Medicaid reimbursement to help struggling hospitals and we included \$150 million in capital funding for SUNY Hospitals. We invested \$285 million in nursing homes and \$15 million in assisted living programs. The budget includes provisions to allow children ages 0-6 to remain continuously enrolled in Medicaid or Child Health Plus without having to redetermine eligibility, to ensure children have stable and affordable health insurance for their early years. Additionally, we eliminated cost-sharing for insulin in commercial health insurance plans, to ensure it remains affordable and accessible.

Lastly, we provide a 2.84% cost of living adjustment for workers in human services, including a 1.7% targeted salary increase for specific support, direct care, clinical, and non-executive administrative staff. These people provide care for our most vulnerable, particularly those in group homes or group settings.

**Housing**

I am pleased that this budget includes groundbreaking protections for rental tenants and the much-needed investments to encourage the development of new affordable housing. This includes new protections for renters from unreasonable rent increases or unjust evictions. Cities, towns, and villages outside of New York City may "opt-in" to these tenant protections by passing a local law and will have the flexibility to determine which units are covered.

Additionally, we invested \$75 million to support public housing authorities outside of New York City, which we anticipate will benefit our public housing in Yonkers, New Rochelle, Tuckahoe, White Plains, and Port Chester.

In addition, the final budget includes new incentives for developers to build affordable housing. We also modified the law to allow owners of rent-regulated buildings to recoup more money when they renovate or improve individual units, while including protections for tenants.

These are modest changes, particularly in the suburbs, that provide local governments with significant control and incentives to build more affordable housing. I hope to see the communities I represent opt-in to the protections and opportunities in this bill and I will continue to fight on behalf of tenants and homeowners in my district and around the state.

As many of you know, one solution proposed was the "faith-based affordable housing act" to allow existing religious institutions to more easily build a limited number of affordable units on their property. I believe this is a modest proposal worthy of consideration. However, this act was not included in the final budget housing plan and is unlikely to get further attention this legislative session.

**Dedicated Funds for the Army Corps of Engineer Project in Mamaroneck**

With my colleague Assemblyman Steve Otis, we secured \$10.58 million in the budget specifically designated to fully fund the State's increased share of this long-standing project to address flooding in Mamaroneck. Because the cost of the project increased over time, the State had to increase its share to meet the requirements and move the project ahead. I'm very pleased that we could get this funding added, in addition to last year's funding of \$17.5 million.

**Roads and Bridges**

While we could not get all I wanted, we did secure \$60 million in additional funding through the State's CHIPS programs, which fund local road improvements. I'm keenly aware that our region needs additional attention from the NYS DOT, and I intend to be a strong advocate for our roads and bridges.

I am pleased the budget included my proposal to require that all large-scale SUNY construction fund projects use project labor agreements. It also included important reform to Tier VI to change the final average salary calculation to an employee's three highest years of pay, not five. For our police, fire, teachers, municipal service workers, and other critical public employees, these changes represent a true victory," writes Sen. Mayer.

Governor Kathy Hochul said, "This budget agreement represents the most significant improvement in housing policy in three generations. It includes transformative investments in health care and education that will put our State on the path to fiscal stability. It will end co-pays for insulin, establish first-in-the-nation paid prenatal leave, and launch the EmpireAI consortium. This budget cracks down on retail theft and gives us new tools to shut down illicit cannabis storefronts. It helps the children of New York City by extending mayoral accountability for public schools. And we got it all done without raising income taxes by a single cent. I'm grateful to Speaker Heastie, Leader Stewart-Cousins and my colleagues in the Legislature for their collaboration on this agreement,"

*continued on pg 15-*

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## Holtec Sues NY Over Indian Point Waste

### Environmental Groups Want On-site Radioactive Storage

**Push for on-site storage comes as Holtec sues NYS over Save the Hudson Bill, passed last year to protect the environment, communities and economy from dumping radioactive waste into Hudson**

On April 25, environmental advocates and organizations held a rally in support of on-site storage of the radioactive wastewater currently held at the decommissioning Indian Point nuclear facility. The push for on-site storage comes as Holtec, the company in charge of the plant decommissioning, announced a lawsuit against New York State for passage of the 2023 of the Save the Hudson Bill (S6893/A7208), which outlaws radioactive waste dumping into the Hudson River at Indian Point.

Following the rally, nuclear engineer and decommissioning expert Arnie Gundersen outlined a solution for on-site storage at a meeting of the Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board. The Board requested Gundersen's participation in the meeting and submitted questions to him after viewing a video and an in-depth webinar sponsored by the Stop Holtec Coalition.

Food & Water Watch Senior New York Organizer Santosh Nandabalan said: "New Yorkers scored a tremendous victory when we successfully passed the Save the Hudson Bill. Radioactive nuclear wastewater does not belong in our water. We call on state leaders to stand strong and ensure on-site storage of radioactive waste at Indian Point, as the safest option for our environment, communities, and regional economy."

Governor Hochul signed the "Save the Hudson" bill into law in August 2023, after it passed the NYS Senate 63-0, and the NYS Assembly 100-44. The legislation makes it illegal to discharge any radiological substance in the Hudson River in connection with the decommissioning of a nuclear power plant. This legislation was the culmination of advocacy by the Stop Holtec Coalition, a grassroots umbrella group of over 138 environmental organizations, over three counties and 35 municipalities calling for a halt to the dumping, and 450,000 online petition signers.

Holtec filed the lawsuit in Federal Court on April 18, and argues that Federal law, and the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, supercedes New York State law in regulating nuclear waste, and that New York overstepped its authority when it passed the Save the Hudson Bill.

New York Attorney General Letitia James will represent NY State in the lawsuit. The discharge of nuclear waster into waterways has been approved in the past, and that is Holtec's legal argument, that there plan to dump into the Hudson "satisfies NRC regulations and is well within federal limits on radiological discharges," according to he lawsuit.

Safe Energy Rights Group cofounder Courtney M. Williams, PhD. said: "Holtec's lawsuit is not surprising. They're here to make money, not be a responsible neighbor. They don't care if dumping hurts the rejuvenation of our riverfronts and the tourism it could bring. They don't care if their dumping hurts the health of this community. The Union of Concerned Scientists has predicted Indian Point will flood twice a month by the year 2060. Given that there is nowhere for the nuclear waste to go, we must force Holtec to plan for storing the waste properly onsite. We need the state to stand strong. The Hudson River is the largest Superfund site in the nation thanks to GE and their dumping of PCBs in the river. Imagine if we could go back and stop that contamination. This moment is the closest we'll get; we need to seize it."

Tracy Brown, President of Riverkeeper, said: "Federal law allows for states to regulate their own interests, including economic interests. The Save the Hudson legislation is not only an appropriate use of state power, it is necessary to protect New York from the economic damages that would come from using the Hudson River as a dumping ground. Riverkeeper continues to advocate for storing the radioactive wastewater on site for at least twelve years, which is one half-life of tritium, while reasonable and advantageous disposal methods can be determined."

Tina Bongar, co-organizer STOP HOLTEC Coalition, United For Clean Energy, said: "Now a leading national nuclear engineer and decommissioning expert Arnie Gundersen has said Holtec is capable of storing the wastewater safely on site without jeopardizing tourism and recreation along the Hudson River. Who wants to kayak, fish, swim, drink milk and eat apples from the Hudson Valley if fuel pool water is dumped in the Hudson River? Holtec needs to respect our communities and store the wastewater safely on-site."

The Indian Point Decommissioning Oversight Board (DOB), is holding public hearings in Westchester to consider options. On its website, DOB writes, "On April 18, 2024, Holtec Decommissioning International filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court – Southern District of New York challenging New York State's 2023 enacted legislation pertaining to wastewater discharges from nuclear decommissioning sites on the Hudson River (S. 6893 / A. 7208). The Office of the Attorney General will review the complaint and represent the State. Given the active litigation, it is anticipated that Decommissioning Oversight Board meetings will forego discussion of the litigation and legislation. However, the DOB plans to continue planned presentations on 4/25 regarding alternative methods of wastewater removal."

Alternative options other than dumping in the Hudson include, shipping the waste to licensed disposal facilities, or keeping the waste on site. The tanks would hold 400,000 gallons of waste, and after 12 years, the radioactivity of the waste is reduced by 50%.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "As County Executive of Westchester County, I firmly stand behind the New York State law aimed at protecting the Hudson River, a cherished gem for recreation and tourism in our region. The State has rightfully taken measures to safeguard the health and integrity of our waterways.

"The law passed in 2023, which prohibits the movement of any radiological substance into the Hudson River during the decommissioning of a nuclear power plant, reflects our shared commitment to environmental protection and public safety. The Hudson River holds ecological and economic value for our communities, and it is our responsibility to ensure its preservation for current and future generations. Five County Executives, of both political parties, have stood up for protecting this river. We firmly believe that the State has acted in the best interest of our residents and the environment."

Indian Point closed in 2021.

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## Yonkers Celebrates the Unveiling of "Together," Mary J. Blige Mural

In recognition of local talent that has come out of the City of Yonkers and its public housing, a new mural tribute to singer, songwriter Mary J. Blige was unveiled at Palisade Towers.

The mural called "Together" is a tribute to Blige, a local legend and international phenomenon who came from humble beginnings in Yonkers. Blige was recently tapped to be inducted into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

The 78-foot wide by 18-foot-high mural was unveiled at the eight-building former public housing complex in a ceremony presided over by Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, Yonkers Housing Authority (YHA) CEO Wilson Kimball, Yonkers Arts Executive Director Ray Wilcox and Artist Robin Alcantara.

It is part of a multi-year public art partnership between YHA and local arts organization Yonkers Arts that was funded by the Mulford Corp., a non-profit that funds YHA projects. The public art project has brought more than 150 pieces of art to YHA properties including two earlier mural tributes to famous YHA residents Earl "DMX" Simmons and Ella Fitzgerald.

"It is always a proud day when we can highlight the accomplishments of our city's residents," said Mayor Spano. "The talents and accomplishments of these local heroes is an inspiration to us all and a reminder that even those who come from humble beginnings can achieve great things."

Kimball said that the mural accomplishes two things: to inspire local residents and to bring beauty to urban areas. "When we are surrounded by beauty we are inspired to do our best, and be our best. This mural by Robin Alcantara celebrates African American culture and artists who were able to overcome their surroundings and rise to greater things," she said.

Alcantara was also responsible for a mural in the Calcagno Homes gymnasium that was unveiled last January called "The Come Up," which prominently featured another local legend the "Queen of Jazz" Ella Fitzgerald.

"Being able to paint these walls in Yonkers is a dream come true and I am grateful to be able to work with you to bring murals to the city," said Alcantara.

For more information visit [www.mhacy.org](http://www.mhacy.org)

## DA Rocah Charges Peekskill Councilman with Filing Fraudulent Petitions



**Peekskill Councilman  
Rob Scott**

**The defendant, who was seeking to get on the ballot for a county legislator seat in the June 2023 Democratic primary, allegedly signed his petitions as a witness verifying forged signatures**

On April 17, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that Robert Scott, 44, of Peekskill, was arrested and charged with filing designating petitions containing forged signatures for a seat on the Westchester County Board of Legislators in the June 2023 Democratic primary election.

DA Rocah said: "Free and fair elections are the foundation of our democracy. Undermining the petition process in an attempt to get on the ballot in an election violates the public's trust."

The defendant, who is currently a Common Council member in the City of Peekskill, was arrested April 16 by the Westchester County District Attorney's Office and charged with Offering a False Instrument for Filing in the First Degree, a felony. The defendant was issued a Desk Appearance Ticket for an April 30 arraignment in White Plains City Court.

It is alleged that on April 10, 2023, the defendant filed, with the Westchester County Board of Elections, designating petitions containing forged signatures of eight individuals, who told DA's Office investigators that they never signed a petition for the defendant. The alleged forged signatures appeared on three of the 37 sheets that the defendant signed as a witness

The defendant was seeking to get on the June 27, 2023 ballot as a candidate in the Democratic primary election for Westchester County Board of Legislators District 1, which encompasses Peekskill and parts of Cortlandt and Yorktown.

The Criminal Investigators Squad of the DA's Office launched an investigation in July 2023 after receiving complaints from individuals who attested their signatures were forged.

The charges against the defendant are merely accusations, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

### State budget, continued from pg 14-

Other budget highlights include:

**To-go cocktails:** A law which was about to expire, which temporarily allows bars and restaurants to sell take out alcohol, was extended for five years. Movie theaters are now also allowed to sell alcohol.

**Migrant funding:** The budget includes \$2.4 Million to help New York City with the influx of more than 100,000 migrants. The state spent \$1.9 Billion last year.

**AIM Funding to Cities:** Funding to help Cities like Yonkers was increased for the first time in more than a decade, from \$715 Million to \$758 Million.

**Opioid Addiction Funding:** Almost \$1 Billion was allocated to help local governments combat Opioid abuse and addiction. \$960 Million was allocated for treatment centers and prevention and support services.

## Westchester Launches Craft Beverage Trail



Westchester County Tourism & Film launched the Westchester Craft Beverage Trail connecting more than 23 distilleries, craft breweries and cideries from throughout Westchester. Residents and visitors age 21 and older are now able to discover the rich tapestry of Westchester’s liquid craftsmanship and local artisans with support from a free new online passport (no app downloads required). Once registered, users will be able to earn rewards for fun items that reflect Westchester’s booming beverage scene while savoring their favorite sips along the trail.

The lower Hudson Valley’s diverse and vibrant craft beverage scene—just a “pint’s pour away” from New York City—takes center stage with the Westchester Craft Beverage Trail, featuring an array of brews, hops, lagers, ciders and more, crafted right in Westchester County. Metro-North provides a safe and reliable transportation option, making it easy for participants to join the adventure without the hassle of driving. Along the trail, participants can earn points with each check-in at the featured merchants, using them to claim unique rewards like smartly designed caps and mugs. Participating spots include beloved Westchester staples like Broken Bow Brewery (Tuckahoe), Captain Lawrence Brewing Company (Elmsford) and Barrel House (Mt Kisco), Hardscrabble Cider (North Salem), River Outpost Brewing Company (Peekskill), Wolf & Warrior Brewing Company (White Plains) and plenty more.

Learn more at <https://www.visitwestchesterny.com/things-to-do/dining/craft-beverages/trail/>.



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