

# Yonkers Rising

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Friday April 1, 2022

## Yonkers Breaks Ground on Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community School First New School in Yonkers in Almost 20 Years



a rendering of the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community School on Lawrence Street, above; below, elected officials and Yonkers Public Schools stakeholders celebrate the ground breaking



On March 25, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, Yonkers Board of Education, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edwin M. Quezada along with local and state officials officially broke ground on the Yonkers Public School District's new Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community School. To be dedicated to Supreme Court Justice Sotomayor, the new school located at 73 Lawrence Street, will serve 675 students from Pre-Kindergarten to 8th grade and the local community. The Justice School is the first of three new schools to be constructed by the City of Yonkers in its efforts to rebuild the aging infrastructure of the Yonkers Public Schools.

Designed as a community school, the Justice School will feature multi-functional spaces that will be accessible evenings and weekends without the need to open the entire school building. Special amenities include a multi-purpose gymnasium and meeting room with stage; a full-sized basketball court and locker rooms; a cafeteria and meeting room with full kitchen; and a health suite with

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## Yonkers High School Varsity Cheerleaders Have a Great Season



Pictured from left (Back row): , Michelle Konrad, Victoria Ashman, Natashaly Gomez, Joelin Colon, Ivana Curanaj, Kenneth Sessoms, Claire Silvestri; (Middle row): Germeyorie Pena Castro, Julia Plawiak, Arianna Cambeiro, Venus Melo; (Bottom row):, Jessica Macdonald, Adianna Von Wiegand, Grismara Corana, Nicole Valdez, Alyssa Campbell, Fatima Salvador, Kevin Macdonald

The Yonkers High School Varsity Cheerleaders returned for the 2021/2022 Winter Cheer season lead by Coach Jessica Macdonald and Coach Kevin Macdonald. Coach Jessica and Coach Kevin praised the team for all their efforts, sacrifices, and hard work especially with the difficult scheduling conflicts that arose resulting in limited practices in the gym.

The teams hard work paid off, as they were able to compete competitively as well as placing 2nd at the Westchester County Invitational and earning an invite to the State's sectionals. For the first time in all of Yonkers Public Schools' history, senior and team Captain Arianna Cambeiro made the Westchester, Putnam, Dutchess, Rockland Cheerleading Coach's Association All League Team. She was also the recipient of their Tier 2 scholarship award and the entire team earned the NYSPHSAA scholar athlete award.

Congratulations to Arianna and the entire YHS Varsity Cheerleaders for giving Yonkers something to cheer about!

## Watch Out for Catalytic Converter Theft

### CATALYTIC CONVERTER THEFTS

A catalytic converter is an emissions control device that's in the exhaust system, found underneath a vehicle.

Inside a catalytic converter are three valuable metals: platinum, rhodium and palladium. Those who steal catalytic converters try to sell them once they remove the part from the car.

#### Prevent Catalytic Converter Theft

- Consider having your repair shop engrave your vehicle's VIN (vehicle identification number) on the CAT.
- Park in a garage or other secured area when possible.
- Park in a well lit area or near motion lights.
- Park in view of security or other cameras.
- Have a screen or cage installed covering your CAT, making it more difficult to quickly remove.



Yonkers police made four arrests in the theft of catalytic converters in the city

By Dan Murphy

Most of you may not know what a catalytic converter is, or didn't know until a recent rash of thefts of the devices on your car has made news across the country, and more importantly, here in Westchester.

Catalytic converters are a piece of your exhaust system that controls emissions. They are made with valuable metals which makes it desirable for thieves to steal them and sell them.

While some thieves can cut out your catalytic converter in less than 30 seconds, it is a loud process that involves cutting it from your car exhaust. Replacing your catalytic converter will cost you around \$1,000.

On March 22, Yonkers Police arrested four men, charged with stealing Catalytic Converters from cars in Yonkers. The YPD reports, "2nd Precinct plain clothes units were surveilling the area of Delano Avenue at Agawam and observed a catalytic converter theft in progress.

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## GoFundMe Page Created to Help Filipina Yonkers Woman Attacked; Drunk Driver Gets 2-7 for DWI in Yonkers



By Dan Murphy

A GoFundMe page has been set up by the family of the elderly Filipino Yonkers resident who was attacked in an Anti-Asian hate crime. See pg 4.

Our readers voice their opinions on a YouTube video of the attack, pictured above, also on pg 4.

Drunk drivers beware! A Westchester judge sentenced David Poncurak to 2 1/2 to 7 1/2 years in jail for DWI and reckless driving, which resulted in his vehicle pinning a Mother and her infant daughter under the car. Story on pg 4.

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David Poncurak

Visit [YonkersTimes.com](http://YonkersTimes.com) for up to date news and a pdf of last weeks paper

**The Grand Reconnaissance Took Place on Valentine's Hill at St. Joseph's Seminary**



**Dr. Iris de Rode speaking at the Grand Reconnaissance Forum at St. Joseph's Seminary and College.**

*By Mary Hoar*

More than one hundred area historians converged on St. Joseph's Seminary and College on Valentine Hill to welcome Dr. Iris de Rode to Yonkers, with dozens more attending the program on Zoom.

Bishop James Massa warmly welcomed the gathering March 16th to the Seminary, sharing significant information on the history of Valentine Hill; Professor of Church History Father Michael Bruno spoke on a few fascinating highlights of the 125-year history of Dunwoodie, as St. Joseph's Seminary commonly is called after the area of Yonkers where it is located.

Dr. de Rode, who earned her PhD researching the French-American alliance during the American Revolution using unpublished primary resources, addressed all on the results of her studies. She based her presentation on the papers and diaries of François Jean de Beauvoir, Marquis de Chastellux, General Rochambeau's chief liaison to George Washington. After convincing his descendants to allow her to visit his private archives in the family castle in France, Dr. de Rode discovered many documents the family was unaware existed. Chastellux was fluent in English and French; neither Washington nor Rochambeau spoke the other's language, so Major General Chastellux was an essential link between the two. As a result, he formed a close, lifelong friendship with the man who became our first president, no doubt strengthened because of his strong ideological support for the American cause for freedom.

Dr. de Rode's presentation was followed by comments on Revolutionary War history by Nick Dembowski and Dr. Erik Weisberg; Constance Kehoe, President of RW250 was emcee.

St. Joseph's Seminary & College graciously hosted the program through the courtesy and assistance of Bishop James Marra, Rector; Father William Cleary, Vice Rector; Danielle Pizzola, Events Coordinator; and Seminary staff members. Revolutionary Westchester 250, the Yonkers Historical Society, Friends of Odell House Rochambeau Headquarters and the Kingsbridge Historical Society joined to cosponsor this outstanding event.

**Free Rabies Vaccines for Westchester Pets April 24 in New Rochelle**

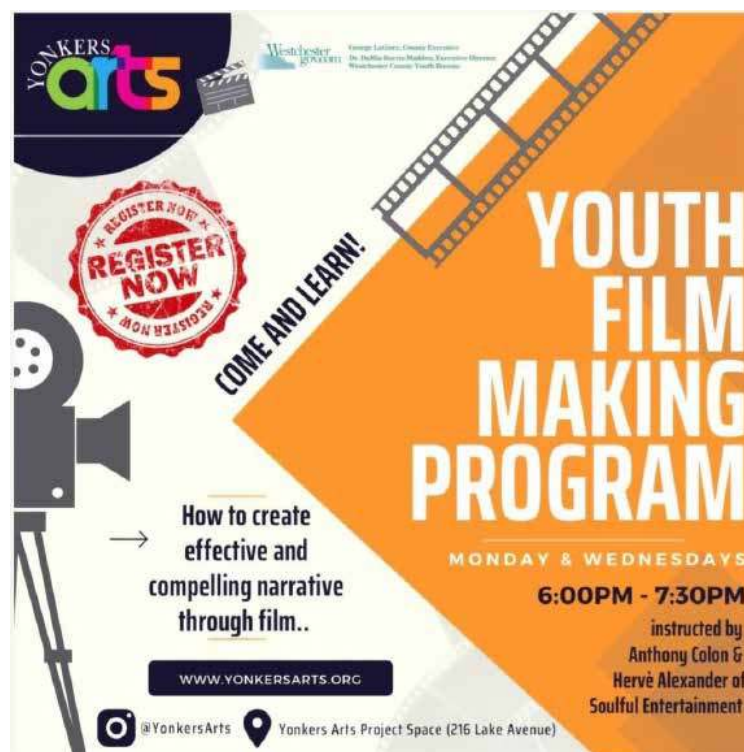
Westchester County residents can bring their dogs, cats and ferrets for free rabies vaccinations on Sunday, April 24 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Stamen Animal Hospital, 61 Quaker Ridge Road in New Rochelle. Appointments are required. Call 914-632-1269 for more information. An adult must supervise all pets. Cats and ferrets must be in carriers and dogs must be on a leash. Under New York State law, dogs and cats must receive their first rabies vaccine no later than four months after birth. A second rabies shot must be given within one year of the first vaccine. All animal bites or contacts with animals suspected of having rabies must be reported to the Westchester County Health Department at (914) 813-5000.

**BUYING OLD COMICS!**

**Looking for 1960s-1990s. I PAY CASH!**

**Please call 914-646-1718 Located in Yonkers**

**Yonkers Arts Presents DJ 101 Workshop and Youth Filmmaking Program-April 3 and 4**



Yonkers Arts is excited to announce the launching of our new slate of youth programming opportunities via partnerships with the Westchester County Youth Bureau, City of Yonkers, MHACY, and the Yonkers IDA. And various community partners we consider family!

If you know of any young creatives interested in participating in these programs please sign up and register asap!!

**DJ Pro 101 - beginning April 3, 2022**

The DJ Pro 101 course is the perfect introduction for young musicians that want to hit the ground running. The creative/musician will get familiar with the theory, learning the basic techniques of mixing and blending; all of which you need to learn when playing live. At the end of this course, the young musician will perform a 10-15 minute set in front of their peers and instructors that will showcase what they've learned. Each student will learn and master the following skills: DJ history, Basic music theory & song structure, Ins & outs of equipment (turntables, mixers, speakers, etc.), Basic scratching & timing

If you have a youth that would be interested in learning more, they can sign up here: DJ Pro 101 Sign Up at [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWSN\\_fa9iVsmPecMbbThTACfFCMDspkW\\_F3BkHq979RJo8Eg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeWSN_fa9iVsmPecMbbThTACfFCMDspkW_F3BkHq979RJo8Eg/viewform)

**Youth Filmmaking Program - beginning April 4, 2022**

This course is an introduction to the art of filmmaking, where we will further encourage the curiosity of our young creators. In this course, we will cover the many elements of filmmaking, including the types of films, the complexities of directing, pre and post-production efforts, the various styles of script & screenwriting, cinematography, and camera operation.

The workshop takes place on Mondays and Wednesdays each week from 6:00PM to 7:30PM at the Yonkers Arts Project Space. If you have a youth that would be interested in learning more, they can sign up here: Youth Filmmaking Program Sign Up at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfgtYXzCRPEeH-xVbW-UXxERelFCnHD2P-CyOtKcRG0j0hGBw/viewform>

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/YonkersArts> for more information.

**MORNING STAR church**  
636 PALISADE AVENUE  
YONKERS, NY 10703



*Resurrection Sunday*

You and your family are invited to Easter Worship at **Morning Star Church**

Please join us for service

**SUNDAY, APRIL 17, AT 11:00 A.M.**



## Ursula McIntyre Honored as a Woman of Distinction



Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts Assistant Director of Racing Ursula McIntyre was honored as a Yonkers Woman of Distinction for her accomplishments and more importantly for giving back to the community she was born and raised in. McIntyre is pictured above with Mayor Spano and her daughter.

Born and raised in Ireland, Ursula's exceptional leadership skills were apparent from a young age. As the eldest of nine children, she helped take care of her younger siblings and supported the household. Ursula immigrated to New York in 1982 to pursue her passion for the hospitality industry. She was just twenty years old and excited to begin her professional journey at Yonkers Raceway and Empire City Casino. Since then, Ursula has climbed the ranks, being promoted to one of the top leadership positions at the property: Assistant Director of Racing in 2019.

In addition to her many professional accolades, Ursula is highly regarded for her significant philanthropic contributions to her community and beyond. Locally, Ursula is well-known for her involvement throughout numerous organizations in Yonkers, including her work with the Yonkers Police Athletic League, the Aisling Irish Community Center, and the annual Yonkers Saint Patrick's Day Parade. This year Ursula was selected to Chair the Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee in honor of all that she has done from the Irish-American community.

Inspired by her late father, who passed away from Lymphoma, Ursula is also a staunch advocate for Cancer research and treatment accessibility. She was named Woman of the Year in 2013 by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society for her leadership of the Team Trinity Banquet at Empire City Casino, which generated \$118,000 for blood cancer research. In 2018, Ursula was recognized for her steadfast community efforts and presented with the Women of Excellence - Above and Beyond Award by the Yonkers Chamber of Commerce. Ursula has always been community first and Yonkers strong.

Congratulations Ursula, and next week we will feature the other winners of Mayor Spano's Women of Distinction Awards.

## Send in the Clowns...The Oscar Edition



By Eric W. Schoen

Don't slap me on the face but with what happened Sunday night and what's been happening this week so far, the clowns are still with us! So, I decided not to change the title of the column. Let us start with, sadly the most important thing: The Academy Awards Presentation better known as the Oscars.

The producers of the show and ABC agreed to a three hour show. It ended up being over three and a half hours, with most of America not having the opportunity unless you have streaming services of seeing the winning film. We will get to that in a minute.

There are certain jokes, particularly when they pertain to health that are not meant for an Oscar show or any comedic venue. Chris Rock's joke regarding Will Smith's wife's hair loss condition is one of them. It was totally inappropriate and he should never host another awards show.

But for Will Smith to go on the stage and 'bitch slap' Chris Rock? We look to these actors as role models for our children and ourselves. As a person deeply involved for years in public relations, any good P.R. Person would have advised Smith to sit down, get the award everyone knew he was getting, and when he went into the Press Room to greet the media after his win to go after Rock.

If Smith did that he would be a hero today and Chris Rock would be out of a job. And Smith could have taken victory laps for his exceptional performance and victory. Instead, ticket sales skyrocketed at the venue Rock would have probably been playing to many empty seats this week.

Many thought it was an act. But it's not an act when ABC starts bleeping Will Smith's words. You want to be in the public eye you need to learn to control your emotions and let a good Public Relations guy or gal help you do what you need to do. Come to think of it, we really haven't seen anybody 'bitch slap' someone in ages. No offense but it is very 'girlie' thing to do, not something you expect from a guy.

CODA (Child of Deaf Adults) won for best picture. I doubt many of you saw it. I didn't. That's because on top of the \$329 cable television, internet and telephone bill I get I would have to pay for streaming services. It is only available on the Apple streaming service, so my friends with Apple stock saw their shares soar after the best picture win.

I like to see new movies on the large screen at the Multiplex. I saw Sandra Bullock's new movie over the weekend at the comfortable, reclining seat Cross County movie theater that was packed. Skip the Bullock movie (no Gone with the Wind).The theaters are sanitized and you are supposed to leave your mask on except when eating or drinking. Covid safe. Bring a little bottle of water from home in to get around that. Particularly if it's a slow, boring 2 1/2 hour movie where many people fall asleep with their masks on. The theaters have installed air filtration systems to keep you healthy.

The Power of the Dog is another movie you can't catch at the multiplex. The next big controversy will be between the streaming services and the multiplexes. There's room for both if the don't get greedy, but watch for clowns on both sides to defend their defenseless causes.

So we still don't know who the unvaccinated sports figures and performers are but we know the many front line city workers and corporate employees who lost their jobs because they were unvaccinated. And Mayor Eric Adams says as we go to press he's 'tired of hearing from the terminated!' Who does this man think he is. King Richard, no King Eric. Basically it's a case of 'Money Makes the World Go Around' as we see lobbyists got paid big bucks to lobby Eric Adams on this and many other issues. As we are talking Broadway, 'Money Makes the World Go Around' is from Cabaret.

So the clowns at City Hall in New York make the little unvaccinated guys suffer when the baseball and basketball players and those from other sports and performers take the field. Don't get me wrong. I believe everyone should get the vaccinations they qualify for. And I know lawsuits are in the works. Where's the man who supposedly cares for the poor black, white, and Hispanic people, our Congressman Jamaal Bowman. And his comrade, AOC. Silence of the Lambs.

A man living in a tree in Riverbank State Park has finally received a notice evicting him from the tree giving him shelter options. Problem is the operators of these shelters give big bucks to politicians who let them make mega money operating dangerous facilities. Do you realize some of these shelters, not only in New York City but in Westchester too get over \$100 a night to 'house' the homeless who are allowed in at 9 p.m. and must leave by 6 a.m. the next day. You multiply \$100 a day (most shelters get much more) times 30 days a month and we are

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## Westchester County Youth Bureau Seeks Applicants for NYS Governor's Youth Council

The Westchester County Youth Bureau is seeking young people ages 13 to 21 to represent Westchester County on the New York State Governor's Youth Council. Governor Kathy Hochul has announced applications are open for this Youth Council which will be comprised of one representative from each county in the state - totaling 62 members.

Interested youth should submit an application by April 4, 2022 through the online portal available at <https://nysylc.secure-platform.com/a>. Candidates will be selected on their character, leadership skills, academic achievement, civic engagement, and service to their community. Members of the NYS Governor's Youth Council will meet virtually and will provide recommendations to the Governor and other policymakers on many different issues, including: Mental Health Challenges on Youth Substance Use and Prevention, Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion, Gender-based Violence Prevention & Response, Creating Positive Interactions between Youth & Law Enforcement, Youth Programming in a Virtual World, Youth Voice & Engagement: Creating Opportunities Addressing Identity and Community Needs. The Youth Bureau will search far and wide for applicants.

Three applicants will be selected to advance to the final selection process in Albany, where one youth will be selected. Please contact the Westchester County Youth Bureau at [wcyb@westchestergov.com](mailto:wcyb@westchestergov.com) or (914) 995-2745 with questions.

## Meeting of the Minds Dementia Conference

9 a.m. to 3 p.m. May 25, 2022

Sleepy Hollow Conference Center  
455 S. Broadway, Tarrytown



Featuring Keynote Speaker  
**Dr. Claire Sexton**  
Director of Scientific Programs  
& Outreach for the Alzheimer's  
Association

alzheimer's  
association

MEETING  
OF THE  
MINDS

DEMENTIA CONFERENCE 2022

Register at [AlzDementiaConference.org](http://AlzDementiaConference.org)

This event is supported in part by a grant from the New York State Department of Health.

## Latimer: County Center Will Stop COVID Testing & Vaccinations on April 1



*“The demand for vaccination has dropped dramatically because our vaccination rates are so high... We think our measured policies have worked and got us to this point.”*

*-Westchester County Executive George Latimer, left*

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said that COVID vaccinations and testing currently offered at the County Center in White Plains will end effective Friday April 1. Latimer made the announcement at his weekly briefing on March 28.

“The demand for vaccinations has dropped dramatically because our vaccination rates are so high. We have reached the point where we are going to suspend our testing and vaccinations at the County Center on Friday. We reserve the right to take any action necessary if conditions change,” said Latimer.

“We did not require vaccinations in Westchester, but using persuasive powers, more of our workforce was vaccinated and we did not have an outbreak. We think our measured policies have worked and got us to this point.”

Westchester County Government is now in dialogue with New York State to deconstruct the medical facilities that were built inside the county center so that the concerts, graduations, and basketball games can return.

Watch full briefing here: <https://youtu.be/oVSNmW4Nyhg>

With the declining number of vaccinations at the County Center, Westchester County is undertaking the following steps:

Friday, April 1 will be the last COVID vaccination clinic at the County Center. Anyone who received a first dose this week or through April 1 will be contacted by the Westchester County Department of Health to receive a second dose at 134 Court Street.

Starting April 8, COVID vaccines will be offered at 134 Court Street on Fridays from 9 A.M. to 3 P.M.

This is the routine immunization day for the County’s Health Department. The Health Department will continue to offer satellite clinics in high need communities, including the “Thank You” program, senior centers, and booster clinics.

## Family of Filipina Woman, Victim of Anti-Asian Attack, Sets Up GoFundMe Page

**A FEW WORDS FROM PAM YANG, WHO ORGANIZED THIS FUNDRAISER** Note: This is the official fundraiser for the woman of the Yonkers anti-Asian attack. We won’t be sharing names as we are concerned for her and her family’s safety and want to respect their privacy as they deal with this horrific event.

They are represented pro bono by the law firm of Paul, Weiss. Any press inquiries can be directed to Jennifer Wu (jwu at paulweiss.com). The letter below is from the children of the Yonkers survivor:

On March 11, our mom, a hardworking 67-year-old Filipina woman, was assaulted in front of her own home. In this despicable, unprovoked attack, she suffered serious head trauma and internal injuries. She is currently stable and out of the hospital, but has extensive injuries that requires constant outpatient care. It’s a miracle that she’ll be able to make a full recovery, but it will be a long journey and we don’t know when she’ll be able to go back to work. Her attacker was our neighbor and lived in her building. She will have to move to ensure her safety as she cannot continue living in her home, apartment building, or neighborhood. We want to protect our mother any way we can, so we ask to stay anonymous so that she can focus on her recovery without being bombarded by the media or having more fears for her safety. We are grateful for the outpouring of love for our mom and any support you’re willing to contribute to her medical bills, rehabilitation and mental health services, and move to a new home. Thank you so much.

What Happened To Our Mom Our mom was returning home and saw Tam-mel Esco in front of her building. As she walked past him, he called her an “Asian bitch.” Ignoring him, she walked into the lobby of her building and while trying to open the second door, Esco approached her from behind, slugged her, and knocked her to the ground. This was entirely unprovoked. He then stood over our mom and punched her in the head and face more than 125 times before stomping on her seven times then spitting on her. Our mom suffered multiple contusions and lacerations to her head and face, facial bone fractures, and bleeding in the brain. She is stable and still recovering from her injuries.

If you can make a contribution, go to the GoFundMe, at <https://gf.me/v/c/m6nj/help-filipina-woman-of-yonkers-antiasian-attack>

### Opinion about YouTube video of Anti-Asian

#### Assault Taken Down

I truly believe that only by seeing the vicious and cowardly attack upon this defenseless woman can moral outrage be ignited. This unfortunate woman was bothering no one. She was just trying to live her life when this piss poor excuse for a human being, a feral subhuman, viciously attacks her. Even though he is obviously bigger and stronger than his frail, petite victim this vile parasite attacks her from the back, giving her no chance whatsoever to defend herself as she is repeatedly and brutally beaten. Let there be no apologists for this appalling barbarism, this brutal assault upon public safety, the bedrock foundation of civilization. To defeat hatred you must see it and look into its eyes to realize its insatiable evil. By watching this video, in the words of Tennessee Williams, “Mankind has its fingertips pressed to the fiery braille of reality.” Taking the video down deprives society of a crucial learning experience, the lessons learned when our focused awareness is pressed onto the fiery braille of reality.

Jerry Longarzo, Yonkers

I just read the article on YouTube taking down a recent beating in Yonkers, because it “violates our violent or graphic content policy.” I agree with the YPD and view it as censorship which is so prevalent in our society today. I think something like this video, although shocking and upsetting, educates the public as to what people are capable of doing to each other, and that in our country people who commit such crimes deserve punishment in our courts of law.

Thank you!

Catherine Smith (life time Yonkers resident)

## Drunk Driver Gets 2-7 Years for Crash that Pinned Mother & Infant in Yonkers

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced the sentencing of a Yonkers man who, while intoxicated, hit a mother and her infant child with his car moments before he crashed through a Yonkers storefront and trapped both victims under the vehicle.

David Poncurak, 44, was sentenced on March 29, 2022, to an indeterminate term of 2 ½ to 7 ½ years in state prison after his plea of guilty to Aggravated Vehicular Assault, a felony. He also pled guilty to Driving While Intoxicated, Driving While Ability Impaired by the Combined Influence of Drugs or of Alcohol, and Aggravated Unlicensed Operation of a Motor Vehicle in the Third Degree, all misdemeanors.

The District Attorney’s Office had requested that the court impose a sentence of 4 to 12 years in state prison.

“David Poncurak recklessly got behind the wheel of his car after drinking heavily and using illegal narcotics and placed a mother and her daughter in extreme peril,” DA Rocah said. “I am thankful for the heroic actions of the Yonkers Police Department, the bystanders, and the ambulance crew. Because of them, the victims are alive and healing today. We will continue to vigorously prosecute unlawful and dangerous drivers to keep Westchester’s roads safer for all.”

On July 23, 2021, at approximately 8:25 a.m., Poncurak hit a mother who was carrying her infant child with his car. Both victims were thrown onto the hood of the car, which Poncurak then crashed through the storefront of a barbershop on Lake Avenue in Yonkers. The crash trapped both victims under the vehicle, and Yonkers Police, with the help of bystanders, were able to lift the car off the victims. Poncurak had a blood alcohol content of .13 and illegal narcotics in his system at the time of the collision.

Both victims were transported to Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx, where the mother underwent surgery for a fractured femur. The infant suffered a fractured skull and severe burns. The case was before Judge Barry Warhit in Westchester County Court, and was prosecuted by Vehicular Crimes Bureau Chief Nadine Nagler.

## NY Young Republicans Name Yonkers Businessman Patrick Murphy Rising Stars



Emily Costanza, left, Patrick Murphy, right

On Saturday, March 12th, Westchester Young Republicans Emily Costanza and Patrick Murphy were recognized as Rising Stars by New York State Young Republicans during their annual Rising Star ceremony in Albany. Westchester Young Republican Chairman Devin O'Rourke said "I'm very proud of Patrick and Emily and I'm happy to see that their hard work was recognized by NYSYR. Emily worked very hard during her election last year for both herself and the rest of the Republican Slate. Patrick has been a member of WCYR for nearly a decade and does whatever he can to help the Republican Party. I couldn't think of any better choices!"

Patrick Murphy was born in The Bronx, raised in Yonkers. He earned his BBA from Baruch College in Manhattan Patrick has been involved in politics for almost 19 years, going on his first canvassing deployment for Republican candidates with his dad when he was 10 years old. Murphy has volunteered or provided tech & media consulting & services for all levels of government, city council, county legislature, assembly, county clerk, state senate, and congress, in Westchester, Putnam, and Suffolk counties.

Patrick joined the Westchester Young Republicans 10 years ago, serving as PR Director & Treasurer from 2015-2020. Being a proud 1st generation Guyanese-American, Murphy is also involved in the Asian-American Republicans, serving on their board from 2016-2018. Patrick is the President of New Logical Tech & Media Consulting, where aside from political work, he consults and maintains the IT & digital media presence for small businesses, government agencies, and sports organizations.

Emily Costanza is a lifelong resident of Mount Pleasant and was elected as its Town Clerk last year. Since graduating from Rutgers University, where she studied Political Science and Communications, Emily has served as a District Leader with the Westchester Republican County Committee. She has been involved in local, state, and national political campaigns in various capacities for over seven years, helping Republicans win throughout the state and country.

## Alzheimer's Association Virtual and In Person Events for April

The following events are scheduled for April 2022. Unless otherwise noted, they will be held virtually and registration can be made online, by visiting or by calling the Alzheimer's Association at 800.272.3900.

Something for Alz: Musical Moments: 11 a.m. to noon Fridays, April 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29: A free virtual interactive music program with therapist Tim Doak.

Something for Alz: Creative Expression: 11 a.m. to noon Saturdays, April 2, 9 and 16: A free virtual creative arts program with therapist Jayne Henderson. Tune into this program with drawing materials at hand.

Healthy Living for your Brain and Body: 7-7:30 p.m. Monday, April 4: A free virtual program in partnership with Irvington Public Library with information on diet, nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement. Get hands-on tools to develop a plan for healthy aging. To register, click here.

Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia: 7:30-8 p.m. Monday April 4: A free virtual program in partnership with Irvington Public Library. Learn about the impact of Alzheimer's, the difference between dementia and Alzheimer's, risk factors, disease stages, research, treatments and Alzheimer's Association resources.

Dementia Conversations: 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 5. A free virtual program in partnership with Bronxville Public Library with helpful tips to assist families with difficult dementia-related conversations, such as going to the doctor, deciding when to stop driving and making legal and financial plans.

Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behavior: 9:30-10:30 a.m. Wednesday, April 6. Behavior is one of the primary ways people with dementia communicate their needs and feelings once the ability to use language is lost. Learn to decode common behaviors so you can connect at every stage of the disease.

10 Warning Signs of Alzheimer's: 1:30-2:30 p.m. Wednesday, April 6. A free in-person program in partnership with Pine Bush Area Public Library at 223-227 Maple Ave., Pine Bush. Learn about 10 common warning signs and what to watch for in yourself and others, typical age-related changes, how to approach someone about memory concerns, early detection, the benefits of a diagnosis, the diagnostic process and Alzheimer's Association resources.

Understanding and Responding to Dementia-Related Behavior: 2-3 p.m. Wednesday, April 6. A free hybrid program in partnership with Cornell Cooperative Extension Sullivan County via Zoom or in person at 64 Ferndale-Loomis Road, Liberty. To register, click here. Behavior is one of the primary ways people with dementia communicate their needs and feelings once the ability to use language is lost. Learn to decode common behaviors so you can connect at every stage of the disease.

Sunday Social: 12:30-3 p.m. Sunday, April 10. Join us for a fun in-person social program for people with dementia and their family caregivers featuring lunch and music at The Club at Briarcliff Manor, 25 Scarborough Road, Briarcliff Manor.

Healthy Living for your Brain and Body: 2 p.m. Monday, April 11. A free virtual program in partnership with New City Library with information on diet, nutrition, exercise, cognitive activity and social engagement. Get hands-on tools to develop a plan for healthy aging.

Legal and Financial Planning for Alzheimer's Disease: 10 a.m. Tuesday, April 12. A free virtual program in partnership with Bronxville Public Library with information on legal and financial issues to consider before an Alzheimer's diagnosis and how to put plans in place for the future.

## On This Day in Yonkers History...



Yonkers Poet Edwin A. Robinson

By Mary Hoar, President Emerita Yonkers Historical Society and President Untermyer Performing Arts Council

Monday, April 4th

April 4, 1928: Yonkers' Homefield neighborhood had its own version of Arbor Day! They planted a beautiful Blue Norway Spruce, one registered in the American Tree Association's National Hall of Fame for Trees, to serve as the annual Homefield Christmas tree. The ceremony, attended by hundreds of neighborhood residents, featured addresses by local clergy, with music and singing by area Campfire Girls, Girl Scouts and Boy Scouts. After a recitation of Joyce Kilmer's poem "Trees," the Girl Scouts attached a tablet inscribed, "This tree is dedicated to posterity. Be kind to it." The Boy Scouts then poured water on the tree, christening it in honor of Charles Lathrop Pack, President of the American Tree Association.

April 4, 1937: George Corwin of Deshon Avenue launched a one-man campaign to control Yonkers' stray cats! In his plea to the Common Council he requested all pets be registered, owners put a bell on their cats and fines be levied on negligent owners.

Tuesday, April 5th

April 5, 1936: Thirteen Roosevelt High School students, eleven boys and two girls, organized the Tuckahoe Post, Veterans of Future Wars and Auxiliary, the Home Fire Division. Headed by senior Robert Wronker, Editor of the Crimson Echo, its members believed it was "inevitable this country would be engaged in war in the next 30 years;" they asked the government immediately pay each future veteran a "bonus" of \$1000.

April 5, 1936: Because so many children were injured by them, Police Chief Edward Quirk ordered his officers to mount a campaign against air rifles.

Wednesday, April 6th

April 6, 1756: The freeholders and inhabitants of the towns of Yonkers and Mile Square held a public town meeting at the home of Edward Stevenson in Yonkers; they elected James Corton as Supervisor and Pounder; Thomas Sherwood, Constable and collector; David Oakley and William Warner, assessors; Edward Weeks, William Crawford, Daniel Devoe, John Ryder, Isaac Odel Hendrick Post, highway masters; Andrew Nodine, Charles Warner, Moses Tailer and Isaac Odell, fence and damage views; and Benjamin Fowler was elected Town Clerk of Yonkers.

April 6, 1998: Three Yonkers police officers were injured while trying to control an early morning melee at Sarah Lawrence College; one suffered a fractured hand, another a sprained elbow and the third injured his knee. Four students and a visitor were charged with second-degree assault, resisting arrest and obstruction of governmental administration. The boys gave a college security guard a difficult time, claiming he threatened a female student and her friends at a campus party, so were taken to the campus security office. When Yonkers police officers arrived, the intoxicated boys pushed, tackled and punched the officers while being arrested.

Thursday, April 7th

April 7, 1955: As part of the local club's celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of Rotary International, Yonkers Rotary announced plans to not only provide Yonkers Workshop, Inc. with a building, but also equipment to train and organize jobs for people with arrested tuberculosis and cardiac issues!

April 7, 1960: Twenty-one year old Sarah Lawrence College senior Joannah Felicity Touchet Clapton was named the chief beneficiary in the will of Mrs. Arthur Whitney, inheriting an estate worth nearly \$4,000,000. The Whitneys had brought Clapton to the United States during the WWII London blitz at the age of two; she became a US citizen before returning to England after the war. The Whitneys later brought Joannah back to the US for an American college education.

Friday April 8th:

April 8, 1935: Funeral services were held in Manhattan for former Yonkers saloon

*continued on pg 7-*

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**Sotomayor school, continued from pg. 1-**

space for two exam rooms and a dental exam room.

“The Justice School is the first of its kind in our District and will be a model moving forward as we continue to rebuild our schools,” said Mayor Spano. “Our local schools are the heart of our neighborhoods and should be made accessible not only for educational enrichment, but also for the benefit of the families who live in the area. We are fortunate for the opportunity to dedicate a new school in recognition of the positive change Justice Sotomayor represents to our students and District.”

The Justice School is the first phase in implementing the Yonkers Joint Schools Construction and Modernization Plan, which began in 2016 when Mayor Spano embarked on an advocacy campaign to rebuild Yonkers schools. The average age of Yonkers Public Schools is 75 years old with many as old as 100 years old, making them some of the oldest in New York State. The District is also one of two districts in New York with a growing enrollment teaching 27,000 students, which is currently 4,500 seats over capacity. Improvements needed to update and rebuild Yonkers Schools is estimated at \$2.3 billion. New York State passed legislation that enabled the creation of the Yonkers Joint Schools Construction Board, which bonded for the cost of the new \$75.6 million, 96,000 square foot facility. New York State is allocating \$53 million of the project’s total cost.

Mayor Spano added, “Today would not be possible without the commitment of the Yonkers State Delegation, our State leaders and school stakeholders in supporting our efforts to improve the environments in which our children learn. Mobilizing as a united front to rebuild Yonkers Schools exemplifies the necessity of this campaign. Let’s keep up the momentum in fighting for the needs our students and their families deserve.”

Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community School also will serve as a new Dual Language school that provides students with a rigorous academic program of instruction affirming multilingualism and multiculturalism, as well as the social, emotional, and intellectual development of each child. Dual language schools are designed for native and nonnative English speakers to achieve bilingualism, biliteracy, cross-cultural competence, and academic proficiency equal to the levels achieved by students in non-English Language Learning programs. The school’s instructional program, provided in both English and the home/primary language, aligns with New York State and Yonkers Learning Standards. Students will embark on a journey to earn the New York State Seal of Biliteracy when graduating from high school.

Board of Education President Rev. Steve Lopez, stated, “The trustees and I are very proud to name our new school the Justice Sonia Sotomayor Community School. The school will serve as an anchor for this community providing a dynamic educational program for our students as well as adult and family medical, dental and social emotional services, and recreational activities afterschool and on weekends. It is important in our great City to be able to recognize those individuals who our communities can relate to in a bold attempt to continue to inspire people to want to succeed.”

“The City of Yonkers is a model for diversity, equity and inclusion,” noted Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of Schools. “Our learning community believes Yonkers is the perfect location to celebrate the life and work of Justice Sonia Sotomayor. We are honored the Justice accepted our request and to be the first school in Westchester County to commemorate her achievements. Justice Sotomayor will serve as an inspiring role model for our current diaspora and for generations of children, faculty and staff who will grace the hallways of this school in the future. Her accomplishments offer children a springboard for success throughout their lives.

New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, “I was happy to work with my colleagues in the Yonkers state delegation for the creation of the Yonkers Joint Construction Board. This legislation helps Yonkers to build and renovate more schools so our children can reap the benefits. And it is so fitting that this school will be named after Justice Sotomayor. As she once said ‘we are never going to reach equality in America until we achieve equality in education’.”

New York State Senate Education Committee Chair Shelley B. Mayer said, “In naming this new school after Justice Sonia Sotomayor, the District’s overarching principles of diversity, equity and acceptance will undoubtedly be reinforced for the students in the school and all those residing in the City of Yonkers. I am proud to have fought for these funds to support our children and their families. Thank you to Mayor Mike Spano, Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Yonkers Board of Education President Rev. Steve Lopez and Trustees for your leadership on this project.”

“Today is a proud moment for the City of Yonkers and public education,” said New York State Assemblyman Nader Sayegh. “The Justice School on McLean Ave is special because it addresses a dire need of classroom spaces in our District. Justice Sotomayor is a role model for many in our Latin population. She exemplifies the greatest qualities that our children can aspire to be.”

Built on the site of the former St. Denis Catholic School, the Justice School is the first Yonkers Public School constructed since 2000 and is designed in accordance to the Yonkers green building standards. The school’s sustainable features include photo voltaic solar panels, green roofs, high-efficiency electric heat pumps (no fossil fuels used for heating), extensive natural daylighting with sunshades, low water use plumbing fixtures, fresh air ventilation with MERV 13 filtration, LED light fixtures, recycled content in materials and low VOC interior finishes and furnishings.

Expected to open for the 2023-24 school year, the new Yonkers Public School will be dedicated to Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor. Sonia Sotomayor, Associate Justice, was born in Bronx, New York, on June 25, 1954. She earned a B.A. in 1976 from Princeton University, graduating summa cum laude and receiving the university’s highest academic honor. In 1979, she earned a J.D. from Yale Law School where she served as an editor of the Yale Law Journal. She thereafter served as Assistant District Attorney in the New York County District Attorney’s Office from 1979–1984. She then litigated international commercial matters in New York City at Pavia & Harcourt, where she was an associate and then partner from 1984–1992. In 1991, President George H.W. Bush nominated her to the U.S. District Court, Southern District of New York, and she served in that role from 1992–1998. She then served as a judge on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit from 1998–2009. President Barack Obama nominated her as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court on May 26, 2009, and she assumed this role August 8, 2009.

For more information about Rebuild Yonkers Schools, visit [www.rebuildyonkersschools.com](http://www.rebuildyonkersschools.com) and social media platforms, [www.facebook.com/rebuildyonkersschools](http://www.facebook.com/rebuildyonkersschools); [www.twitter.com/rebuildyps](http://www.twitter.com/rebuildyps) and [www.instagram.com/rebuildyonkersschools](http://www.instagram.com/rebuildyonkersschools).

**Yonkers History continued from pg. 5**

porter Edwin Arlington Robinson, a renowned poet who lived here at the turn of the 20th century. After Kermit Roosevelt discovered his poetry in 1905, he recommended it to his father, President Roosevelt. Roosevelt gave Robinson a sinecure at the NY Customs House, to help “American Letters.” Robinson soon became one of our best known and distinguished poets. Receiving the first Pulitzer Prize ever awarded for poetry in 1922 for Collected Poems published in 1921, Robinson received two more Pulitzers, the American Institute of Arts and Letters Gold Medal for Poetry, and was nominated for the Nobel Prize in Literature four times.

April 8, 1960: Because of all the publicity resulting from Joannah Felicity Touchet Clapton inheriting millions, she signed herself out of Yonkers’ Sarah Lawrence College for the weekend... and did not return. Although the school did not know where she was, the School spokesman told the press she could be out for a few weeks and return without penalty.

Saturday, April 9th

April 9, 1911: Installation of furniture, floor coverings and file cabinets began in our new City Hall offices! Since the Police Chief’s new quarters was to be in City Hall, all Bertillon records, the Rogues Gallery and other paraphernalia were moved from the Wells Avenue station to the Chief’s private quarters.

April 9, 1947: The Exchange Club voted unanimously to sponsor an annual Spelling Bee for Yonkers students! It would be open to all public and private school students in Yonkers through eighth grade, with prizes would be awarded to the winners.

Sunday, April 10th

April 10, 1926: After receiving a letter asking one of the new high school buildings planned be named after the late Mayor Taussig, the Board of Education announced immediately after Gorton High School was named after former Schools head Charles Gorton, they would no longer name buildings after local people.

April 10, 1927: Alderman William McGeory charged that some of the Yonkers police officers on the night shift, who previously had worked in the building trades before entering YPD, were moonlighting during the day using those same construction skills.

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

**Catalytic Converter Theft, continued from pg. 1-**

As officers approached, the suspect vehicle took off and officers followed. The suspect vehicle attempted to evade officers on the New York State Thruway, however a blown tire forced them back onto Central Park Avenue; at Tuckahoe Road, they struck a marked police car before finally coming to a stop in the area of Underhill Street at Standish Avenue; the driver then attempted to flee on foot but was apprehended by officers. A search of the vehicle yielded three catalytic converters and a battery-operated metal sawing tool. The four suspects were placed under arrest and face charges including felony grand larceny, felony auto stripping, obstruction, criminal mischief, and resisting arrest. Two of the suspects were residents of Pennsylvania and one was a resident of the Bronx.

Here are some tips from the YPD: What is a Catalytic Converter? A catalytic converter (CAT) is an emissions control device that’s in the exhaust system, found underneath a vehicle.

Why are they targets for theft? Inside a CAT are three precious earth metals: platinum, rhodium, and palladium. Criminals who steal CAT’s sell them for profit.

What can I do to protect myself and my vehicle? – Report suspicious behavior by calling the Yonkers Police at (914) 377-7900; emergencies dial 9-1-1 or 377-

7777. Often times CAT thieves will prowl in the middle of the night; tools used may include a reciprocating saw – the entire event can happen in under a minute. If you hear metal sawing noises at night, it could be a CAT thief at work.

- Park in a garage or other secured area when possible.
- Park in a well lit area or near motion lights.
- Park in view of surveillance cameras, or have them installed to watch your driveway.
- Consider having your repair shop engrave your vehicle’s VIN number on the CAT, or even weld a cage over the CAT.

Yonkers City Councilman John Rubbo is trying to make life more difficult for Catalytic Converter thieves. “I started reaching out to auto body shops to talk about having them etch the VIN numbers (vehicle identification number) on the catalytic converters. Some are willing to do it but they have to get the tools.”

“This is a call to action in my district, and in Yonkers right now, but it can happen anywhere. This is a call to action to keep our quality of life,” said Rubbo, who has looked at what other cities in the US have been doing to combat catalytic converter thefts in their communities.

“In Grover Beach California, they have a VIN etching program and they have the same problem. This is one way to combat it. We are going to come up with a list of auto body stores who agree to participate. You will be able to go to that shop and for a small fee they will etch the VIN numbers.

“This will help the police find your catalytic converter and the small fee is worth it compared to the cost of replacing a catalytic converter,” said Rubbo who encouraged residents and auto body shops to call his office at 914-377-6314 and participate.

But Rubbo is right, this could start happening in other parts of Westchester County soon. So if you hear someone sawing in your driveway in the middle of the night, beware, and call 911.

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