

Rally in Yonkers Says “Keep Your Hands Off Social Security”



L-R-Kisha Skipper, Congressman George Latimer, Indivisible CD 16 co-founder Eileen O'Connor, Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Isaac

By Dan Murphy

More than 10,000 protestors rallied across Westchester County last week for “Hands Off” rallies in Mt. Kisco, Mamaroneck, Yonkers, and Hastings on Hudson on April 4 and 5.

Part of a nationwide movement with over 1,000 scheduled protests, the

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Mayor Spano Swears In Four Students to the Yonkers Board of Education



L-R: Yonkers City Council Whip Deana Robinson; Yonkers City Council Lakisha Collins-Bellamy; Yonkers Board of Education Student Trustee William Williams; Yonkers Board of Education Student Trustee Jaelynn Wesley; Yonkers Board of Education Student Trustee Margaret Ennin; Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano; Yonkers Board of Education Student Trustee Rafael Diaz; Yonkers City Council Majority Leader John Rubbo; Yonkers Board of Education President Dr. Rosalba Corrado DelVecchio; Yonkers City Council Member Tasha Diaz; Yonkers Board of Education Trustee Sheila Greenwald; Superintendent of Schools Anibal Soler. Photo by Maurice Mercado

Mayor Mike Spano today swore in four Yonkers Public Schools students to the Yonkers Board of Education. As non-voting ex-officio trustees of the Yon-

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Yonkers Parking Enforcement Officer Honored for Heroic Bravery



While on duty, Parking Enforcement Officer Al Citarella spotted a fire at 21 Van Cortlandt Park Ave, called 911 and ran into action—pounding on doors to alert residents and even searching for someone still inside. For his bravery, Mayor Mike Spano awarded him Employee of the Quarter.

Citarella is pictured with Mayor Spano, left

Seven Candidates for City Council Submit Petitions to Get on the Ballot



City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy submitted more than 3,000 signatures to the Board of Elections

By Dan Murphy

In one of the busiest election seasons in Yonkers on record, seven candidates for Yonkers City Council President have filed petitions with the Westchester Board of Elections, seeking to be on the ballot for their respective party primaries in June.

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Mayor Spano & YPD Relaunch Domestic Violence Domestic Violence Unit with NYS Grant



L-R Sgt. Robert Spink, P.O. Makena Raffu, P.O. Genesis Vasquez, Mayor Mike Spano, Commissioner Christopher Sapienza, Photo by Maurcie Mercado

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and the Yonkers Police Department announced the formation of its Domestic Violence Unit (DVU) specializing in case management of intimate partner domestic violence incidents. It is the first dedicated Domestic Violence Unit in the City since 2009.

The DVU is funded under the Governor’s Statewide Targeted Reductions in

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Congratulations Nazir Fields, Yonkers Force, Named Yonkers Rising Player of the Year



By Phil Foley

Congratulations to Nazir Fields, Yonkers Force QB from 2024, who has been named the Yonkers Rising and Yonkerstimes.com player of the year. Nazir played in six games in 2024 for the Force, and threw for 1180 yards, and rushed for 880 yards.

Nazir was the MVP for the Superintendent’s Cup Game last year between the Yonkers Force and the Yonkers Brave. He was also named All League and All Section.

Nazir had offers to attend Western Connecticut State, McDaniels College, Salve Regina University and SUNY Morrisville. He has committed to attend SUNY Morrisville and play football.

“Nazir is a special student-athlete. It has been a pleasure watching him play and seeing him do amazing things on the field. We thank him for his hard work and dedication to the program. Everyone is excited to see him do great things at the next level at SUNY Morrisville,” said Force Coach Anthony Fava.

Nazir was named Yonkers Rising-Yonkerstimes.com player of the year last year as well. Congratulations and best of luck!

Senator Shelley Mayer and Pace Women’s Justice Center Host Toiletry Drive



State Senator Shelley Mayer is partnering with Pace Women’s Justice Center to sponsor a Toiletry Drive in acknowledgment of April as Sexual Assault Awareness Month through April 27. The Senator and PWJC request full-size items, including shampoo, conditioner, body wash, toothpaste, toothbrushes, deodorants, moisturizers, and feminine hygiene products. Drop-off locations include:

- Sen. Mayer's Office: 235 Mamaroneck Ave., Ste 400, White Plains
- Ottinger Hall: Elisabeth Haub School of Law, at Pace University, 78 N Broadway, White Plains
- Grinton I. Will Library: 1500 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers
- Pound Ridge Town House: 179 Westchester Ave, Pound Ridge
- Tuckahoe Village Hall: 65 Main St #209, Tuckahoe

Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, “I am proud to partner with the Pace Women’s Justice Center to collect toiletries for our neighbors in need and survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence. Many of us do not think twice about having essential items like deodorant or toothpaste as we prepare for the day. However, for some, these items can be too expensive and may be sacrificed in order to buy food or pay rent. If you are able, I encourage you to donate any items you can. I am grateful to the Pace Women’s Justice Center and the drop-off locations for collaborating with me to support our community.”

Cindy Kanusher, Executive Director of Pace Women’s Justice Center, said, “At the Pace Women’s Justice Center, we’re grateful to partner with Senator Shelley Mayer on this Toiletry Drive. This collaboration highlights the power and importance of community leaders and organizations coming together to support survivors at every step of their journey. By collecting everyday essentials, we’re not only meeting basic needs—we’re offering moments of self-care that are vital in the transition from crisis to healing.”

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Lawmakers and Advocates Rally in Yonkers to Demand Budget Funding for the Housing Access Voucher Program



New York’s Growing Housing Crisis Has More Middle Class Families Facing Eviction, With Record Rates of Childhood Poverty and Homelessness

VOCAL-NY recently held rallies in New York City, Rochester, and Yonkers to demand policies to end homelessness in the final state budget by including funding for the Housing Access Voucher program (HAVP).

“We need to get folks out of shelters and prevent them from becoming homeless in the first place” Said Noam Cohen, a leader with VOCAL-NY’s NYC Chapter. “HAVP could get me into permanent housing, giving me a chance to get my life started.”

“If Governor Hochul had created the Housing Access Voucher program years ago, young mothers like me who were struggling with homelessness could have been spared from this destabilizing experience. I hope that we can count on Governor Hochul’s leadership so that we can end homelessness for children, individuals, and families across the state,” said Monika White, a member of VOCAL-NY’s Rochester Chapter.

“We took action today to deliver a simple message to our state elected officials in Westchester: You can not pretend homelessness is not an issue in this community. We’re counting on you to tell the Governor to support common-sense, immediate solutions to the homelessness crisis, like the Housing Access Voucher Program!” said Ernest Williams, a member of VOCAL-NY’s Westchester Chapter.

BACKGROUND:

In cities across New York, advocates are rallying alongside VOCAL-NY to demand the legislature and Governor prioritize funding to end homelessness in the final state budget. When asked about the HAVP recently, Governor Hochul has stated that she is focused on the construction of a modest amount of new units — but this fails to address the immediate needs of New Yorkers on the verge of eviction, living in the broken shelter system, or trying to survive on the streets.

The Department of Housing and Urban Development’s annual point-in-time survey, which estimated that more than 158,010 people across New York State experienced homelessness in 2024. Data from the NY State Technical and Educational Assistance Center for Homeless Students (NYS TEACHS) showed that over 155,000 children were homeless during the 2022-2023 school year – 35,000 of them living outside of NYC. Homelessness is a growing problem, particularly amongst children upstate, as rural regions have seen a shocking rise in youth homelessness of more than 1000% from 2014-2024. The driving force behind these increases continues to be non-payment evictions, and rising housing costs have meant higher and higher income earners are winding up in rental arrears.

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Free Haircuts at the Yonkers PAL!

Free Haircuts at Yonkers PAL!

Join City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy and Mayor Mike Spano for a special day of free haircuts for seniors and kids ages 5-17!

Haircuts, fades, shaves, and line-ups by Coby Barbershop.

Date: Tuesday, April 15

Time: 10 AM – 2 PM

Location: Yonkers PAL – 127 N. Broadway

Registration is required. Call 914-377-7381 to reserve a spot!

In Trouble with the IRS or the NYS Tax Department?

In trouble with the IRS or the New York State Tax Department? I can help.

My name is Gerald Snyder, and I am an enrolled agent and a former IRS Group Manager. I have successfully represented clients before the IRA and the NYS Tax Department for over 25 years. I resolve liens, levies, seizures, income tax and sales audits, and penalties and trust fund recovery issues. I also handle unfiled tax returns.

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For more information, call me at 914-793-5654 or email me at thasnyder1@verizon.net.

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

I Am Out Gefilte Fishing



By Eric Wolf Schoen

With the weather still a bit chilly, it's hard to believe that spring is upon us with Passover starting this weekend and Easter right around the corner. Long gone are the days of family members searching through the house with a feather for those last few crumbs of bread that may scattered around,

It's amazing the traditions each family has for Passover. But one thing that always draws controversy is gefilte fish. What is gefilte fish? It is a dish made from a poached mixture of ground deboned fish, such as carp, whitefish, or pike. It is traditionally served as an appetizer by Ashkenazi Jewish households. Popular on Shabbat and Jewish holidays such as Passover, it may be consumed throughout the year. It is typically garnished with a slice of cooked carrot on top.

Historically, gefilte fish was a stuffed whole fish consisting of minced-fish forcemeat stuffed inside the intact fish skin. By the 16th century, cooks had started omitting the labor-intensive stuffing step, and the seasoned fish was most commonly formed into patties similar to quenelles or fish balls.

Now that doesn't sound too bad does it? And yes, all the fish needed for this dish must be caught somewhere. So next time someone tells you jokingly they are gefilte fishing, it's true because if someone didn't go fishing we wouldn't have what some consider a delicacy.

To make the modernized "gefilte fish" fish balls, fish fillets are ground and mixed with eggs (some recipes exclude eggs), matza crumbs, spices, salt, onions, carrots, and sometimes potatoes, to produce a paste or dough which is then simmered in fish stock.

Carp, pike, mullet, or whitefish are commonly used to make gefilte fish; more recently, Nile perch and salmon are also used, with gefilte fish made from salmon having a slightly pink hue.

Gefilte fish may be slightly sweet or savory. Different preparations and taste preferences may reflect Ashkenazi Jews' specific ancestral origins in Europe. The preference for sweet gefilte with sugar was popular among Galician Jews from central Europe, while gefilte fish with black pepper was preferred by the more northern Litvak Jews.

Sweet gefilte fish with sugar can be traced to the turn of the 19th century, when the first sugar beet factory opened in southern Poland. The sugar industry, which involved many Jews, grew rapidly, and sugar was included in many foods in the region.

The idea of putting sugar into anything else was absurd. Polish Jews began to put sugar into all dishes including peppery kugels, stuffed cabbage and gefilte fish.

The late 1930s brought a brand named Mother's from "Sidney Leibner, the son of a fish store owner." This ready-to-serve fish was followed by "Manischewitz, Mrs. Adler's, Rokeach and others."

What separates the men from the boys is the stock the commercial gefilte fish is packaged in. Some is packaged in a liquid while other is packaged in a jelly broth. The jelly brother isn't the most appetizing thing to look at!

The post-WWII method of making gefilte fish commercially takes the form of patties or balls, or utilizes a wax paper casing around a "log" of ground fish, which is then poached or baked. This product is sold in cans and glass jars, and packed in jelly made from fish broth, or the fish broth itself. The sodium content is relatively high at 220-290 mg/serving. Low-salt, low-carbohydrate, low-cholesterol, and sugar-free varieties are in the market.

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On This Day in Yonkers History...



The Otis Elevator Plant in Yonkers, still open today, help the US Military during World War II

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

Monday, April 14th

April 14, 1937: Philip Sheedy, John Rae and Joseph Surbis were Smith Carpet Company union weavers fired August 7, 1935, for union activity. Rae, Velvet Mill Chair of the company union, had worked eighteen years for the company union; Sheedy worked 19 years for Smith and postponed his wedding when fired. Urbis was a Smith employee for 20 years.

All three men received letters "inviting" them back to their old jobs with back pay for the months they were unemployed.

The National Labor Relations Board found Smith started a company union in violation of law; Regional Labor Relations Board Director Elinore Herrick announced they would work with company officials for "disestablishment" of the company works council, which the "NLRB found was a company union." Company officials posted notices they voluntarily would comply with the Wagner Act and NLRB recommendations.

Tuesday, April 15th

April 15, 1925: Plans to reorganize the Habirshaw Electric Cable Company were announced by officials of the company. It was believed that this announced would cause the receivership of Habirshaw to be lifted and business would continue.

April 15, 1943: Because of the efforts of former Deputy City Clerk Joe Nowicki, the Polish National Alliance purchased \$20,000 worth of bonds from Yonkers! Nowicki was a Board Member of the Polish National Alliance of Brooklyn, the largest Polish fraternal order in the Eastern United States! T. Kosciuszko Group 142, based in Yonkers, was a member of the Alliance, with Emil Yedowitz president. The \$20,000 purchase supported the Yonkers Polish community's "Buy-A-Jeep" drive four days later in front of St. Casimir's Church.

Wednesday, April 16th

April 16, 1942: Thousands of Otis Elevator workers and families jammed Atherton Street in the Otis complex to hear Commander of Army Services of Supply Lieutenant-General Brehon Somervell congratulate company workers on their contribution to the war effort.

Somervell stated Otis's plant was "doing a fine job... scheduled to deliver 50 units of production to the Army (in March), it produced 112." He asked production be sped up because the "war isn't anybody's pink tea." He reminded workers their efforts "...may save American's lives," soldiers' lives on five continents.

Somervell and the twenty Army officials with him toured the Otis complex afterwards.

April 16, 1947: While a cordial group of eleven people were chatting over dinner at Ben Ring's Kimble Avenue home, conversation turned to the recent smallpox scare and the importance of vaccinations; this convivial group of friends quickly turned dinner into a vaccination party! Dr. Morris Woodrow happened to

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Westchester Aviation Association Offering \$5,000 Flight Training Scholarships!



The Westchester Aviation Association (#WAA) is offering (3) flight training scholarships, sponsored by #TradewindAviation and #AcademyofAviation, to help you pursue your aviation dreams.

Each recipient will receive the scholarship money to be used for their choice of ground school and/or flight training at the Academy of Aviation at the Westchester County Airport.

The deadline to apply is April 30th, so don't wait! Take the next step to learn more and apply at

https://www.westchesteraviation.org/?fbclid=IwY2xjawJf8eZleHRuA2F1bQIxMQABHkGJbvmyQy_hxz_H_h66j1uZA3WjQ0W-ApOQHsO9L9E154Hz_Mp6vJq4Ct_aem_vyRZK0m4ZqkpsMkhBu8kwQ

The Scholarships are named in memory of former Town of North Castle Councilman Bill Weaver.

Third Precinct Police Community Council

Third Precinct Police Community Council meeting will take place on Wednesday, April 16 - 7:30 PM at the Chema Community Center, 435 Riverdale Avenue. Quality of life concerns and issues will be discussed. Residents and merchants of the southwest Yonkers area are encouraged to attend. For further information please contact either Bob Stauff, President at 914 476-2284 or Captain Mike Mulvey at 914 377-7427.

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Notice of formation of S2K REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/09/2024. 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 NCH REGISTERED AGENT, 42 BROADWAY, FL 12-200, NEW YORK, NY, 10004-3892. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

SUPREME COURT - COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

MANUFACTURERS AND TRADERS TRUST COMPANY A/K/A M&T, SUCCESSOR BY MERGER WITH HUDSON CITY SAVINGS BANK, Plaintiff -against- MICHAEL FRITH, LAURA DESHON, et al Defendant(s). Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered herein and dated March 5, 2020, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at public auction in the Lobby of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd., White Plains, NY on April 3, 2025 at 10:00 a.m. premises situate, lying and being in the Town of Cortlandt, County of Westchester and State of New York, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the easterly side of Sunny Way, where the same is intersected by the division line between Lot Nos. 266 and 267 on Map No. 6584; being a plot 100.00 feet by 200.00 feet by 100.00 feet by 200.00 feet.

ALSO, situate, lying and being in the Town of Cortland, County of Westchester and State of New York, bounded and described as follows: BEGINNING at a point on the dividing line between Lot 37 and Lot 38 on the above mentioned map where the same is intersected by the northerly line of Lot 267 as shown on Map entitled, as filed Map No. 6584 and which point is distant 99.58 feet southerly as measured along said dividing line between Lot 37 and Lot 38 from the southerly boundary of Red Oak Lane as same is shown on Filed Map No. 25985; RUNNING THENCE South East, 24.00 feet; South West, 89.53 feet; South West 13.64 feet; THENCE North East, 100.00 feet. Section: 34.17 Block: 1 and Lot: 14

Said premises known as 10 SUNNY WAY, CORTLANDT MANOR, NY 10567 Approximate amount of lien \$432,385.27 plus interest & costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment and Terms of Sale. If the sale is set aside for any reason, the Purchaser at the sale shall be entitled only to a return of the deposit paid. The Purchaser shall have no further recourse against the Mortgagor, the Mortgagee or the Mortgagee's attorney.

Index Number 53628/2017.

STUART I. BALL, ESQ., Referee
David A. Gallo & Associates LLP
Attorney(s) for Plaintiff
47 Hillside Avenue, 2nd Floor, Manhasset, NY 11030
File# 7777.122

**Public Notice Notice of Public Hearing
Town of Eastchester Planning Board**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Planning Board of the Town of Eastchester will hold a public hearing on Thursday, April 24, 2025 at 7 PM at the Town of Eastchester, 40 Mill Road, Eastchester, NY in the Court room auditorium on the site plan application for 1 Maple Ave, Section 44, block 10, lot 7 for a site plan review. The public is invited to attend the hearing and voice their opinion on the application, a copy of the notice has been mailed to the owners within 200 foot radius of the property.

Notice of Formation of Claritas Consulting LLC. Arts of Org. filed with New York Secy of State (SSNY) on 3/25/25. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 85 Windsor Terrace, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of JJJ Roadside Solution, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 01-07-2025. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Joel Armando Mena, 25 Knowles Street, Yonkers, New York 10705. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Name of formation of THEOAK LLC. Date of filing Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State (SSNY) 6/14/24. The LLC is located in Westchester County. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against it served is to the principal business location at c/o 669 Main Street, Unit 605, New Rochelle NY 10801. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of ME YOU & BIJOU, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the State of New York (SSNY) on 02/03/2025. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to ME YOU & BIJOU, LLC, 1585 Central Park Ave, Unit 157, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Schmoose Pack Projects LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/20/2024. 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 Bruce Wong 10 Station Square Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of 130 FRANKLIN AVE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 10/15/2024. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Brian Caldwell at 68 North Steet, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of OnPoint Home Designs LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 8/28/2024. 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, 14 Crosby Court, Cortlandt Manor NY 10567. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of 1M Consulting LLC filed with the SSNY on 11/05/2024 with the existence date as 01/01/2025. 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.

Notice of formation of IT TAKES ALL KINDS PICTURES, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/21/2025. 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, Republic Registered Agent Services Inc. 54 State Street Suite 804 Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful

Notice of formation of LIQUID ASSET SERVICES LLC. Application for Authority Filed with the SSNY on 12/05/2024. 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, 46 LINCOLN AVENUE, PORT CHESTER, NY 10573. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of SteenShotz LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/12/2025. Office Location: 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, 343 South 3rd Avenue, Mt. Venron NY 10550. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Yonkers Rising

PO Box 705, Yonkers NY 10702-914-815-1388. Proudly serving the the people of Yonkers with hyperlocal news. Member NY Press Association. Legal notice inquiries to: risinglegalnotice@gmail.com. Daniel Murphy, Publisher & Editor in Chief, dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com. Bayan Baker, Assistant to the Editor in Chief risingmediagroup@gmail.com.

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Yonkers Mayor Spano to Open Mobile Tax Office for Residents



Mayor Mike Spano's MOBILE TAX OFFICE 2025

MONDAY, APRIL 14, FROM 9AM TO 7PM
Coyne Park/Bernice Spreckman Community Center
777 McLean Avenue

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 16, FROM 9AM TO 6:30PM
Homefield House
911 Saw Mill River Road

THURSDAY, APRIL 17, FROM 9AM TO 7PM
Grinton I. Will Library
1500 Central Park Avenue

Representatives from Finance and Constituent Services will be in attendance to collect property taxes, water bill payments, and answer any questions.
County property tax payments are due by Tuesday, April 22

For more information, contact the Mayor's Office of Constituent Services 914.377.6010

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today announced the upcoming Mobile Tax Office locations for the 2025 County property taxes. The Mayor's Office of Constituent Services, along with the City's Finance Department, will be available on Monday, April 14, from 9AM to 7PM at Coyne Park/Bernice Spreckman Community Center (777 McLean Ave.); Wednesday, April 16, from 9AM to 6:30PM at the Homefield House (911 Saw Mill River Rd.) and Thursday, April 17, from 9AM to 7PM at Grinton I. Will Library (1500 Central Park Ave.) to assist Yonkers residents and accept all County property tax payments, which are due by Tuesday, April 22.

"As a way to make it easier for residents to pay their property taxes or water bills, I am once again offering the Mobile Tax Office to everyone. I welcome anyone requiring help with any matter to stop by any of the three locations," said Mayor Mike Spano.

For more information, residents are encouraged to contact the Office of Constituent Services at (914) 377-6010 between 9:00 AM - 4:30 PM or contact the 24/7 Mayor's Help Line at 377-HELP (4357) for assistance.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

Can you believe this jelly, which some love and some have no use for has a patent? The patent for this jelly, which allowed mass-market distribution of gefilte fish, was granted on October 29, 1963, to Monroe Nash and Erich G. Freudenstein.

Gefilte fish has been described as "an acquired taste." Grocery stores also sell frozen "logs" of gefilte fish. Some with raisins in it to sweeten it. I don't know about that!

Many Jewish families haven't a clue what gefilte fish is Having never served it for Passover. It really has no symbolism like so many other things on the Passover table.

Well, the holidays are here and so is Spring. I hope I have convinced you that yes, you do have to go fishing to make gefilte fish.

May you and yours have a joyous Passover and an Easter filled with beautiful traditions passed down from one generation to another.

Reach Eric Wolf Schoen at ewschoen@icloud.com.

Letter to the Editor:

Mike Lawler is taking away our voting rights!

In 2024 there were 343,000,000 people in America and 153,000,000 of them voted. Surprisingly, Donald Trump didn't claim or discover any voter fraud in 2024. Whereas in 2020 Trump claimed he had lost because of voter fraud, but he couldn't prove any existed.

So the Trump right-wing think tank The Heritage Foundation, which spearheaded the now infamous Project 2025, created the "Election Fraud Database" for which a grand total of 20 cases were brought in 2024, with charges ranging from ineligible voting to false registrations, duplicate voting, and ineligible voting."

20 CASES OUT OF 153,000,000 VOTES DOES NOT CONSTITUTE FRAUD!

Mike Lawler's claim ("safeguarding our elections from potential foreign interference is a good thing") is misdirection. Foreigners may be promoting candidates but they're not voting.

And the consequences of his SAVE Act is foisting a real fraud against all Americans.

Lawler's Safeguard American Voter Eligibility (SAVE) Act requires all American citizens registering to vote or updating their registration information to appear in person and present proof of citizenship.

Proof would be a birth certificate, or a US passport (which requires a birth certificate). Government-issued driver's licenses including REAL IDs or military or tribal IDs do not qualify as proof. Fewer than half of all Americans have a valid passport.

It's worse for married women who changed their last name to be their married name, which does not match their birth name. It's estimated that 69,000,000 women are in this situation, and their voting rights are being attacked.

Lawler's disenfranchisement act doesn't state what to do if one's married name doesn't match one's birth name. If you get a chance you should ask him.

Next time he takes a break from voting against Medicaid, the 911 Victims Fund, education, cancer research, funding for projects in his district which he touts as having secured, and so much more, ask him why he continues to perpetuate a lie about voter fraud, and why he wants to take away your voting rights.

Mark Lieberman, Yorktown

After California's \$4 Billion Settlement, Advocates Urge New York to Audit Child Victims Act Liability

In the wake of Los Angeles County's unprecedented \$4 billion settlement to compensate survivors of institutional child sexual abuse, the Coalition of Just and Compassionate Compensation is calling on New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli to conduct an immediate and comprehensive audit of state and local government liability under the Child Victims Act (CVA).

On March 11, the Coalition formally submitted a letter to Comptroller DiNapoli urging his office to assess the full financial exposure facing school districts, municipalities, and state-run institutions across New York. The letter warns that despite over 10,000 lawsuits filed under the CVA, the state has yet to provide the public with any meaningful accounting of its legal and budgetary obligations.

"The \$4 billion settlement in Los Angeles is not just historic—it's a warning," said Dave Catalfamo, Executive Director of the Coalition. "New York has similar exposure, but no plan and no transparency. Survivors deserve justice, and taxpayers deserve honesty."

The Coalition's letter cited a Newsday investigation revealing that just 39 Long Island school districts have already paid \$167 million to settle 117 CVA cases. Those settlements represent only a fraction of the lawsuits filed across the state, and were uncovered largely through Freedom of Information requests.

The group also pointed to a January 2025 report from California's Fiscal Crisis and Management Assistance Team (FCMAT), which estimated that California school districts alone face \$3 billion in costs from AB 218-related lawsuits—California's equivalent to the CVA—and warned that some districts may be forced into receivership as a result.

"California has started to reckon with the financial truth. New York is still pretending the numbers don't exist," said Catalfamo. "This isn't just bad budgeting—it's a moral failure. Survivors have waited long enough."

The Coalition is urging the Comptroller to take immediate action by: Conducting a statewide audit to determine the total liability under the CVA; Releasing a public estimate of projected fiscal exposure and its implications for taxpayers and essential services;

Investigating whether public entities have delayed settlements or failed to reserve adequate funds;

And developing a responsible fiscal strategy to ensure that survivors are compensated and services remain intact.

"Every day without action is another day of uncertainty for survivors—and for the people of New York," said Catalfamo. "Justice isn't just about the courtroom. It's about accountability, transparency, and the courage to face what others have tried to bury." Visit <https://justice4survivors.com/>, for more information.



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WJCS Hosts Passover Luncheon for Holocaust Survivors in Westchester



Westchester Jewish Community Services (WJCS) hosted a Passover Luncheon for members of its Holocaust Survivors program at Beth El Synagogue Center in New Rochelle on Wednesday April 3rd. In partnership with UJA-Federation of New York and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, WJCS created a pre-holiday celebration filled with music, delicious food, and many smiling faces. Holocaust survivors attended with family members and caregivers, all of whom delighted in the opportunity to be together.

“WJCS is committed to ensuring that Holocaust survivors in Westchester feel supported, both in practical ways as well as socially and emotionally,” said Allison Danzig, Coordinator of WJCS Holocaust Survivor Services. “We recognize the importance of Holocaust survivors, who have suffered unimaginable traumas and loss, being together. Providing opportunities for them to chat, laugh, sing, and even dance the hora brings joy and connection.”

“Passover is not just about remembering the past. It’s about how we carry its lessons forward. Holocaust survivors have done that so powerfully,” said WJCS

continued on pg 10-

Career Expo Draws Hudson Valley Students to Learn About Opportunities in Skilled Trades



From left, Allison Bashkoff, Workforce Development Institute; Marty Sommer, NYS Union Teachers; New York State Sen. Shelley Mayer; Jenifer Puja, Westchester/Putnam Central Labor Body AFL-CIO; Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne; Rockland County Executive Ed Day; Dr. Scott Kalicki, Rockland Community College; Lou Picani, Teamsters L.U. 456; Matt Pepe, BCA; Chief of Staff John Mulgrew of Sen. Bill Weber’s office; U.S. Rep. Mike Lawler; Mary Jane Bertram, Workforce Development Institute; Labor Leader Maria Kercado; Deborah Thomas, Rockland County Workforce Development Board; and Hudson Valley Construction Career Day Administrator Lucy Redzeposki. Photo by George Drapeau III

More than 700 local high school students got an inside look at the world of building and construction last week at the 24th Annual Construction Career Day, the premier industry-sponsored career exposition in the Hudson Valley.

Students from six counties filled the Rockland Community College Fieldhouse on March 28 and learned first-hand how the industry’s “new collar” careers offer strong earning potential, job security, and the ability to build a career right in their own communities—without the heavy financial burden of college tuition.

The event connected students with experienced union members and skilled trades professionals from 19 union organizations and four private-sector companies from the Hudson Valley, who led live demonstrations in plumbing, welding, masonry, carpentry, and metalwork. Attendees also had the opportunity to speak one-on-one with apprenticeship instructors about what it takes to join a registered apprenticeship program. These programs follow a “learn-while-you-earn” model, where participants receive classroom instruction and on-the-job training, earning wages that increase as their skills grow.

Hosted by the Construction Industry Council of Westchester & Hudson Valley, Inc. (CIC) and the Building Contractors Association of Westchester & Mid-Hudson, Inc. (BCA), Construction Career Day is designed to reinvigorate the industry’s labor force with young talent.]

“We want students to see that the trades are not just a backup plan—they’re a first-choice career path,” said Matthew Pepe, Executive Director of the CIC and BCA. “The demand for skilled labor is increasing, and we’re seeing infrastructure investments at the state and federal levels, so there is clearly a need for these



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In Its First Hackathon Competition, Maria Regina High School's Girls Team Wins 1st Place



Members of Maria Regina High School's winning "Tigers Who Code" team are (l to r): Isabella Bendick, Angelina Nguyen and Elizabeth Hunt

In its first major competition since it was established less than a year ago, Maria Regina High School's Girls Who Code Club won first place in the Beginner Category in the highly competitive Ardsley Hacks, Ardsley High School's annual day-long Hackathon.

"It was a resounding achievement," declared Shelagh Amann, computer science instructor and moderator of the Club," adding, "For the first time, our participants stepped into the world of hackathons—facing challenges head-on, working as a team, and proving that perseverance and dedication lead to success. I couldn't be prouder!"

Maria Regina's winning team comprised freshmen Isabella Bendick of New Rochelle and Angelina Nguyen of Yonkers and junior Elizabeth Hunt of Yonkers. They came up with the team name, "Tigers Who Code," when they entered the

continued on pg 10-

Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins Names 24 Yonkers Students to Youth Advisory Council



Three YPIE Regeneration Science Research Scholars, Loremy, Adrianna, and Maya were accepted to State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins Youth Advisory Council

Twenty-four students from Yonkers have been accepted to New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins' prestigious Youth Advisory Council. Those selected are:

- Barack Obama School for Social Justice students Amari Derry and Deja Green
- Central Park East High School student Bryce Newton
- Charter School of Educational Excellence students Alys Bermejo and Amar'i Sylvester
- Gorton High School students Loremy Galindo and Luna Lopez Cruz
- Lincoln High School student Margaret Ennin
- Riverside High School students Princess Allen and Ja'Mya Wright
- Robert Halmi Sr. Academy of Film and Television students Mirlyn Ramirez and Alexander Torres
- Roosevelt High School student Adrianna Hernandez
- Saunders Trades and Technical High School students Amber Diaz and Valeria

continued on pg 12-



Maria Luffano, DO Gastroenterology

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2025 YONKERS ARTS WEEKEND, MAY 17-18

Two-Day Arts Festival Sees Return of Fashion Show, Featuring WCC Student Designs

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-Art by
Joe Panella

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today announced the City of Yonkers is celebrating the 11th annual Yonkers Arts Weekend (YAW) festival on Saturday, May 17 and Sunday, May 18. The two-day festival is filled with exciting new programs, including a student-designed fashion show by Westchester Community College, workshops, exhibitions and more.

“Thanks to the commitment of our community, Yonkers continues to secure its reputation as an artistic hub in the region,” said Mayor Mike Spano. “Yonkers’ rich history, coupled with our thriving arts community, transforms the City, especially the historic waterfront district, into a walkable museum. I want to give thanks to those who keep the arts alive year-round in our community and I’m thrilled that we can continue to bring this event to our community.”

This year, YAW will deliver a comprehensive range of pop-up exhibitions, free art workshops, and musical performances across four dynamic venues including:

The Hudson River Museum will feature open galleries, guided tours of the mansion, planetarium shows, family workshops, performances and the new “Fashion in Motion” fashion show (Sat., 5/17 at 2pm). Venue and programs will be available Saturday 11am - 5pm.

Untermeyer Park & Gardens will feature tours of the gardens, performances, family workshops. Venue and programs will be available Saturday and Sunday 11am - 5pm.

Carpet Mills Arts District (CMAD) will feature the 21st Annual YOHO Artists Open Studio, live painting at the Mural Festival at CMAD, Small Business Expo at The Lab, performances, exhibitions, and family workshops. Venue and programs will be available Saturday and Sunday 11am - 5pm.

Downtown Yonkers will feature extensive programming, performances, family workshops, walking tours, and exhibitions at multiple locations. Venue and programs will be available Saturday and Sunday 11am - 5pm.

For updates on exhibits and scheduling for the 2025 Yonkers Arts Weekend, visit <https://yonkersartswweekend.com>.

Hackathon, continued from pg 9-

competition. High school participants of all grade levels from the region focused on the theme, “dollars and data,” underscoring the intersection of finance and technology. The young coders were challenged to incorporate the theme into their projects, allowing for creative interpretations.

In capturing the Beginner Category Award, the “Tigers Who Code” team was recognized for their outstanding coding skills as newcomers to the field who had not previously participated in any hackathons.

Emboldened by their victory, Maria Regina’s Girls Who Code Club is likely to set its sights on two other Ardsley Hacks awards categories next year. They are Written Code which recognizes projects with code that is readable, well-structured, organized, reliable, and efficient and Overall Project, the top award that honors the best project as a whole.

Petitions, continues from pg 1-

Leading the pack is the current Council President, democrat Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, who submitted over 3,000 petitions. One thousand valid signatures are required to get on the ballot for CCP, and the submission of 2,000 signatures is considered to be safe to avoid getting knocked off the ballot.

Two former democratic City Council Presidents also filed their petitions. Mike Khader submitted over 2,500 signatures, while Chuck Lesnick submitted over 2,300 signatures.

Councilwoman Tasha Diaz, who is also running for City Council President, and Peter Spano, also submitted petitions, but we do not know how many at this time.

It is interesting to note that registered Yonkers Democrats are only allowed to sign one of these five petitions submitted for council president. If a Democrat signed for more than one candidate, the earliest dated signature is valid.

On the republican side of the aisle, Dean Politopoulos and Ron Schutte have also submitted their petitions to the BOE. “The petition period is officially over, and we are proud to announce that we submitted over a whopping 200% of our goal for both Republican and Conservative signatures,” said Politopoulos.

Next week, we will delve into the races for City Council and County Legislators and see if anyone is challenging some of the candidates’ petitions and signatures.

Thanks to Delfim Heusler, Yonkers Insider, for helping me keep track of the petitions and signatures (www.facebook.com/groups/244486586248971).

be part of the group... and happened to have his bag with vaccine in his car. In a very short time, he immunized everyone at the party!

Thursday, April 17th

April 17, 1942: Former East Coast Chief of the Bund Storm Troopers Hans Meyer, Fox Terrace, announced he gave full information about himself to the FBI, and stated he always will be a “true American,” no matter what happened in his case.

Meyer worked for Otis Elevator Company. Otis Works Manager John Hornung and Personnel Manager Charles Edgar jointly stated he was a “loyal employee” and his work was “perfectly satisfactory and we know nothing detrimental about him.” They had no plans to dismiss him, since Meyer’s job did not involve manufacturing war material.

Because of his former affiliation, Crescent Post Commander Maurice Zellner asked Otis officials to discharge Meyer, “and all others in similar categories.” Zellner said his Post sent skilled mechanics and qualified guards to Otis for employment, and were turned down. Hornung responded, “any skilled mechanics physically fit would be put to work at a moment’s notice,” and asked the post to send him the list of men.

Meyer’s two daughters, both American Citizens, were stranded in Germany with their mother.

Friday, April 18th

April 18, 1921: Mayor William Wallin asked the Simon Borg Estate for permission to use Pelton Field to play summer baseball. Yonkers promised the Estate it would grade the field and put it in good shape.

April 18, 1942: After careful examination of materials, styles and colors, the 225 women Otis Elevator employees selected their “slack suit uniforms,” adopted to protect them from injury. Dark blue whipcord slacks and blouses were more sensible to protect them and give them the needed freedom of movement while working with machinery.

Because so many men were serving in the Armed Forces, women were working as inspectors, assemblers, coil winders, armature winders and milling machine operators.

The company expected to hire many more women!

Saturday, April 19th

April 19, 1915: Alexander Smith and Sons Carpet Company replaced their three-days-a-week schedule with a four-days-a-week schedule.

April 19, 1942: RKO Strand Theater joined thirty area theaters showing child friendly movies for the weekend, movies selected from a list considered appropriate for children chosen by the Schools Motion Picture Committee, an organization of teachers and parents in local schools. The Strand showed Mr. Bug Goes To Town, Corsican Brothers and Blondie Goes to College.

Sunday, April 20th

April 20, 1886: Yonkers streetlights were electrified.

April 20, 1951: Fifty businessmen from Lincoln Park Jewish Center joined together to search for six men, including four from Yonkers—Paul Ryer, Anthony Iveli, Paul Kane and his son Neil—who went missing while fishing on Long Island Sound five days earlier. Their boats capsized during a sudden storm near Norwalk, but families hoped they had made it to one of the small islands sprinkling the Sound. The Coast Guard, a helicopter and a patrol bomber had searched for the missing men earlier in the week.

Paul Ryer’s body was found a month later; Neil and Paul Kane’s bodies were found the following week.

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

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

The Decline of the Post Office: An American Horror Story

By: Dennis Richmond, Jr.

Once the beating heart of American communication, the U.S. Postal Service is now a shadow of its former self. In bustling neighborhoods across New York, long lines, missing mail, and unhelpful employees have become the norm. Gone are the days of a friendly postman delivering your letters with a smile. Today, it's a frustrating, and often downright unpleasant, experience to send or receive mail.

For many, the local post office was once a trusted community hub — a place where you could count on efficiency, service, and professionalism. But now, it feels as though the spirit of public service has been abandoned. A walk into your local post office may have you greeted not with a courteous “How can I help you?” but instead with indifference — or worse, a staff that seems to be counting the seconds until their shift ends.

And let's not even get started on the music. Over the past few months, music has blurred from behind the counter, distracting customers and adding to the feeling that the post office is just another retail job — not a service to the people. The experience of standing in line, waiting for help, and listening to music blaring in the background has become a new normal for frustrated New Yorkers.

While staff apathy and unprofessionalism are bad enough, the real kicker is how often the mail goes missing. In a world where we rely on delivery for everything from birthday cards to bills, losing a package is no longer just an inconvenience — it's a catastrophe. And let's be clear: the USPS is no longer the go-to for reliable service. FedEx, UPS, and Amazon have taken over, offering faster and more dependable delivery services that leave the USPS in the dust.

Millennials and Gen Z may not have experienced the glory days of the post office, but for those 30 and up, it's a bitter pill to swallow. Once an institution that prided itself on delivering with dignity, the USPS is now often synonymous with disappointment and frustration.

So, what happened to the USPS? While the rise of digital communication and private companies like Amazon and FedEx has certainly played a part, the real problem is deeper. The decline of the post office isn't just about technology; it's about lost pride, lost service, and a government-run agency that simply doesn't seem to care anymore.

As the years go on, it's clear: the post office's best days are behind it, and New Yorkers are paying the price. The question is, how much longer will America put up with it?

Dennis Richmond Jr. lives in Yonkers and is on Twitter @NewYorkStakz. He is a journalist focused on Black, Latinx, and LGBTQ+ Communities.

WJCS, continued from pg 8-

CEO Seth Diamond. “They have rebuilt lives, raised families, and built communities. And they have passed down the stories that must never be forgotten. Our survivors are the living bridge between memory and hope, between history and the future.”

WJCS provides weekly Holocaust survivor groups in which participants discuss current events and their everyday challenges and needs. The not-for-profit agency also organizes social events in which Holocaust survivors gather as a community to celebrate Jewish holidays and enjoy outings to cultural events, including films, shows, and concerts.”To learn more about WJCS programs and services, please go to www.wjcs.com.

Scarsdale and Yonkers Teachers Paid the Highest in New York State

A total of 186 out of 685 school districts outside New York City last year had a median classroom teacher pay over \$100,000, according to data posted today on SeeThroughNY, the Empire Center’s government transparency website, up from 159 five years earlier.

All eight Rockland County school districts had median pay over \$100,000 during the 2023-24 school year, as did 54 of Nassau’s 56 districts, five of Putnam’s six districts, 41 of Westchester’s 46 districts, 59 of Suffolk’s 69 districts and six of Ulster’s nine districts. Orange County had six districts over \$100,000, Dutchess had three, and Erie had three.

At the county level, the highest median teacher pay levels were found in Putnam (\$126,971), Westchester (\$123,413), Nassau (\$121,840), Rockland (\$119,469), and Suffolk (\$119,123).

Compared to five years earlier (2018-19) and not adjusting for inflation, the difference in county-level median pay ranged from 8 percent lower in Niagara County to 51 percent higher in The Bronx. The pay figures, collected by the state Education Department, do not include employer contributions toward health insurance, pensions, retiree health coverage or other benefits.

The district with the state’s highest median teacher pay was Mid-Hudson’s Scarsdale (\$156,432). In other regions, the district with the highest median pay was: Cold Spring Harbor (Long Island) (\$150,089)

-Sweet Home (Western NY) (\$104,467)-South Colonie (Capital Region) (\$98,353)-Utica City (Mohawk Valley) (\$85,996)-Baldwinsville (Central NY) (\$85,081)- Medina (Finger Lakes) (\$81,020)-Wells (North Country) (\$81,481)-Addison’s (Southern Tier) (\$78,904)

Buffalo City School District – the biggest school district outside New York City – employed 3,122 full time classroom teachers, paying a median salary of \$80,707.

Figures for the other big school districts were:

City of Rochester: 2,154 teachers with a median pay of \$69,361.

City of Syracuse: 1,702 teachers with a median pay of \$69,030.

City of Yonkers: 1,445 teachers with a median pay of \$146,259.

A district’s median pay reflects the pay scale set by union collective bargaining agreements and where teachers fall on their respective pay scales based on seniority and degree attainment. Teacher union contracts, and individual pay records going back to 2008 for school administrators, teachers and other employees and other school data are searchable on SeeThroughNY. Teacher salaries are among the biggest cost drivers in New York’s school district budgets. The Empire Center maintains a dashboard that illustrates the major financial drivers including cost components, revenue categories, and per pupil expenditures for New York’s school districts. According to the latest available data for 2022-23, 478 of New York school districts, or 70 percent, paid out at least a quarter of their annual budgets for teacher salaries, with several as high as 40 percent. The latest teacher pay data highlights New York’s increasingly bloated school district spending, which is the highest in the nation. However, test scores have remained consistently mediocre. New York’s school districts face pressure to eliminate DEI programs or risk losing federal funding. While federal aid accounts for less than 15 percent of most school districts’ total budgets, NYSED has made it clear that it will not comply with President Trump’s order. As a result, the state will need to find alternative funding sources, and taxpayers will likely bear the burden through higher property and state taxes. Visit empirecenter.org, for more.

Hands Off social security, continued from pg 1

“Hands Off” events demanded protections for healthcare, workers’ rights, and economic security.

On April 4, protestors in Yonkers stood outside the Social Security office on South Broadway with one concern: Hands Off Social Security.

The White Plains Social Security office is set to close at the end of May. Other offices, including the Yonkers office, could be closed.

“Social Security has been here for 90 years and is a lifeline for people. Closing the White Plains office and taking the phones out of the Bronx office are all designed to get people to give up, not just on social security, but on veteran benefits, things that benefit our public school systems through the Department of Education, public health issues, and laying off people left and right. This is an attempt to remake America,” said Rep. George Latimer.

Keisha Skipper was one of the organizers of the Yonkers event. “Cuts to the government have led to the Social Security Administration’s website crashing four times in ten days this month, and there are not enough workers to answer phones. On Wednesday last, Sahil Kapur and Julie Tsirkin of NBC News reported that lawmakers, including Senate Finance Subcommittee on Social Security chair Chuck Grassley (R-IA), have been kept in the dark as the men working for DOGE have cut SSA phone services and instituted new rules requiring that beneficiaries without access to the internet prove their identity with an in-person visit to an SSA office.

“But of course, the Trump administration has a Catch-22; according to the AP (4/19), “Dozens of Social Security Administration offices across the country are slated to close this year due to actions taken by Elon Musk’s Department of Government Efficiency as part of the Trump administration’s unprecedented effort to shrink the size of government... The offices are closing despite a new requirement that tighter identity-proofing measures be put in place to prevent fraud and abuse. These steps will require millions of recipients and applicants to visit agency field offices rather than interact with agency employees over the phone.”

Congressman George Latimer said, “So when Elon Musk, who was not born in this country, calls Social Security a Ponzi scheme. The White Plains social security office is closing even though Ken Jenkins and Westchester County government have offered a lower cost alternative, they still turned it down because they are not looking to save money, they are looking to get rid of a series of programs and services. It’s Social Security, but it’s also Medicaid and Veterans benefits.

Youth Advisory Council, continued from pg 9-

Maqueda

Yonkers Middle High School students Helena Cruz, Venessa Duval, Maya Kollarmalil, Hayden Subhash and Kaitlyn Vazquez

Yonkers Montessori Academy student Gianni Rodriguez

Caroline Davis and Julia Samuel who attend Woodlands Middle/High School

Shannon Ava Whitney who is homeschooled

The Youth Advisory Council, now in its fifth year, is composed of civic-minded high school students from across the 35th Senate District. This year’s YAC comprises 51 students from across the district.

“The students of today are the leaders of tomorrow, and investing time and effort in their development is an investment in our future,” said Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins. “Each year, I am inspired by the passion and commitment of the young people in our district. I look forward to working with this talented group as they gain insight into the issues that matter most to them and make a meaningful impact in our communities.”

The Youth Advisory Council is a unique opportunity for high school students to engage in civic leadership, community service, and policy discussions with their peers and local leaders. Participants meet throughout the year to discuss pressing social and policy issues, engage with guest speakers, and collaborate on service projects that address community needs. The program empowers students to develop leadership skills and a deeper understanding of government and public service.

The 2025 Youth Advisory Council will meet monthly, with sessions focusing on topics such as government and public policy, social justice, environmental sustainability, and mental health awareness. Participants will also have opportunities to volunteer with local organizations, advocate for legislative initiatives, and develop service projects that benefit their communities.

Domestic Violence Unit, continued from pg 1-

Intimate Partner Violence (STRIVE) initiative.

“We are committed to prioritizing the safety and well-being of survivors of domestic abuse,” said Mayor Mike Spano. “Thank you to the State Delegation for their advocacy in funding this specialized unit, which will allow for more effective investigation and support. We know these officers will use their training to build trust and create an impact in the City of Yonkers. It’s a significant step toward creating an even safer community.”

Felony domestic violence incidents reached a five-year high in the City of Yonkers in 2024, with a 42% increase from pre-COVID-19 reports.

The DVU will have a victim-centered approach, prioritizing safety and connecting survivors to support services and resources. It will collaborate with multiple partners, including shelters, programs, law enforcement agencies, and the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office.

Yonkers Police Commissioner Christopher Sapienza said, “Through strong partnerships with domestic violence advocates, support programs, shelters and the District Attorney’s Office, this unit will create a comprehensive support network for survivors. We are confident that this collaborative approach will make a significant impact in enhancing our Department’s response to incidents of domestic violence.”

The unit will consist of one supervisor and two officers, including one Spanish-speaking officer. A dedicated phone line, (914) 377-7322, will begin operating on Monday, April 7, for residents to connect with the DV unit directly.

Registered Westchester Sex Offender Caught Again Targeting a 15-Year-Old Boy

Jonathan DeLaura was Sentenced To 485 Months In Prison For Possessing, Receiving, And Distributing Child Pornography And For Transferring Obscene Material To A Minor

By Dan Murphy

The news last week from the US Attorney’s office was that Westchester resident Jonathan DeLaura had been sentenced to 485 months in prison in connection with the same sex crimes that he committed in 2009 and in 2011 makes some wonder whether our criminal laws against sex offenders are working to keep underage children safe.

DeLaura, 50, who had lived in Yorktown, pled guilty last year to receiving,

distributing and possessing child pornography, sending obscene material to a fifteen-year-old boy, and sending that obscene material while being a person required by law to register as a sex offender.

DeLaura has served jail time on two other occasions before getting caught again sending explicit messages to a 15-year-old boy with whom he also engaged in sexual activity.

Acting U.S. Attorney Matthew Podolsky said: “DeLaura possessed large quantities of child pornography and took advantage of a fifteen-year-old child, all while he was required by law to register as a sex offender. This case underscores the urgent need for law enforcement to continue its efforts to protect children from those who prey on them. As yesterday’s sentencing demonstrates, we will use every tool available to prosecute and punish those who sexually exploit children.”

DeLaura has a long criminal record that dates back to 2009. According to Federal prosecutors,

On or about October 7, 2009, DELAURA was convicted, upon a guilty plea, of Sexual Misconduct: Engage in Oral/Anal Sexual Conduct Without Consent, in Bronx County Court. He was sentenced on December 16, 2009 to a term of 60 days’ in prison and six years’ probation, and he was required to register with the New York State Sex Offender Registry.

In December 2010, following DELAURA’s violation of probation, he was re-sentenced to a term of one year in prison. He was released from prison in April 2011.

From at least on or about May 5, 2011, through on or about May 10, 2011, DELAURA received and distributed files containing images and videos of child pornography, in Westchester County, using a file-sharing program.

In or about November 2011, DELAURA contacted a 15-year-old boy (the “Victim”) in an Internet chat room claiming to be a 17-year-old girl and using the screen name “sillyrabbit.” After an exchange of messages, DELAURA sent sexually explicit photographs to the Victim. Thereafter, DELAURA met the Victim on two occasions and engaged in sexual activity with him. On February 2, 2012, when DELAURA tried to meet the Victim for a third time to engage in sexual activity, he was arrested by officers of the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department (“PCSD”). After DELAURA was arrested, a search warrant was executed at his residence and PCSD officers recovered an iPod, which contained approximately 162 videos containing images of child pornography and approximately 5 still photos of images containing child pornography. The iPod also contained the sexually explicit photographs DELAURA sent to the Victim.

On February 3, 2012, DELAURA was convicted of two counts of Criminal Sexual Act in the 3rd degree in Putnam County Court and sentenced to a term of 32 months to 8 years in prison. DELAURA completed that sentence on January 2, 2020, and has been incarcerated on the federal charges since then.

The fact that DeLaura was a registered sex offender in New York State did not stop him from committing the same sex crimes with underage victims again and again. US Attorney Podolsky praised the efforts of Homeland Security Investigations, the Putnam County Sheriff’s Department, the Yorktown Police Department, the Putnam County District Attorney’s Office, the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office, and the Edison Police Department in New Jersey in connection with this investigation.

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Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, APRIL 12

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7282. Morning Grooming, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Experience the joy of grooming our friendly horses and donkeys! This hands-on program lets kids ages 12 and older help care for our animals through brushing and grooming, which supports coat maintenance and encourages positive socialization. Also: May 10; June 14. \$20; registration required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/morning-grooming-tickets-1264412835829?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466. Signs of Spring, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Join us for a guided walk to observe the signs and patterns of nature in spring.

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Katonah: (914) 864-7282. Pollinator Garden Cleanup, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Refresh and revitalize Muscote Farm's pollinator garden for the upcoming growing season. Get details and register: <https://www.muscotefarm.org/programs-events/event-calendar.html/event/2025/04/12/pollinator-garden-cleanup/518669>

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Katonah: (914) 864-7282. Book Buddies, 10:30 a.m. - 12:30 a.m. Join us for a unique reading experience in one of our animal enclosures, where children ages 7 and up can enjoy reading in an engaging and unique environment. Also: May 10; June 14. \$10; get details and register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/book-buddies-tickets-1267662385319?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Birch Tree Tapping, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Did you know that you can tap more than just maple trees? Learn how to identify birch trees and participate in the tapping process! \$5 per person. Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/birch-tree-tapping-tickets-1291164099579?aff=oddtcreator>

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-585. Canoe Burn, 12 p.m. - 3 p.m. Learn about and witness the burning of a canoe. It's a traditional Lenape practice of creating canoes using fire during this three-hour drop-in outdoor program. All ages are welcome.

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720. Signs of Springtime, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Let's go on a journey to find clues of spring emergence, from birds to bees to leafing trees.

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Katonah: (914) 864-7282. Cookie Decorating Workshop, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Learn all of the tips and tricks of cookie decorating. Appropriate for ages 10+. \$30 per person; registration required: <https://www.muscotefarm.org/programs-events/event-calendar.html/event/2025/04/12/cookie-decorating-workshop/516058>

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466

Moonrise Over Marshlands, 7 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. There's nothing like the quiet beauty of a walk in the moonlight! Join us for a night walk through fields and forests illuminated by moonlight. Refreshments courtesy of Friends of Marshlands.

Register by calling (914) 835-4466.

SUNDAY, APRIL 13

Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson: (914) 862-5290. History & Natural History of Croton Point, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Join the village historian and the park naturalist for a hike exploring scenic and fascinating Croton Point Park. Meet at the RV Park entrance. Free; ages 6 and up; wear sturdy shoes.

Westchester County Center, White Plains: (914) 995-4050. New York Metro Reptile Expo, 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Check out over 250 vendor tables full of reptiles, amphibians, invertebrates, supplies, and more. Get details <https://countycenter.biz/event/new-york-metro-reptile-expo/>

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

Yoga in the Gardens, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. A gentle discovery to the amazing benefits of a Yoga practice. Setting time for you within the beauty of the surroundings. The classes will include lead meditation, poses, movement with the breath (Vinyasa). For all levels. \$25; registration required: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/yoga-in-the-gardens-2/2025-04-13/>

Lasdon Park, Arboretum and Veterans Memorial, Katonah: (914) 864-7263

Gardening Sundays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Enhance your gardening skills and plant knowledge by working side by side with the gardeners at Lasdon Park. Tasks include planting, watering, weeding, pruning, staking, deadheading, potting up, and more. Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/gardening-sundays-2/2025-04-13/>

Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson: (914) 862-5290. Project Feeder Watch, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. From a warm indoor perch and in association with Saw Mill River Audubon, observe and learn about the birds that visit feeders in our area. Free.

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Katonah: (914) 864-7282. Vernal Pool Hike, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Hike out to one of our vernal pools in search of egg masses, wood frogs, and salamanders. Be prepared to be hiking for 45 minutes round trip on moderate terrain. Waterproof boots are recommended. Appropriate for ages 5+. Free; registration required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/vernal-pool-hike-tickets-1307010807509?aff=oddtcreator>

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005. Wood Duck Walk, 10:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Learn about our native wood duck population and check out their nesting boxes. Hiking shoes are recommended for this moderate hike.

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720. Woodchuck Survival Skills, 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Join the naturalist to learn about their survival tactics, hibernation adaptations and points of residency.

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Spano Appoints Students , continued from pg 1-

kers Board of Education, the students join a nine-member Board, which is the official policy making body of the School District.

"I am very proud to appoint some of Yonkers Public Schools' finest young men and women to the Yonkers Board of Education," stated Mayor Spano. "These students are the very best and brightest of our student body, exemplifying their commitment to education, fostering communication and leadership among their peers. Congratulations to them all – I am excited to see what their future holds."

Mayor Spano appointed the following Yonkers Public Schools student trustees to the Yonkers Board of Education:

William Williams – Williams is a senior at Saunders Trade & Technical High School and will serve as a trustee through the end of the school year. He is an active member of Yonkers My Brother's Keeper, Music Club, Shared Decision-Making Team, Student Government and Skills USA, where he recently was named State Champion in Prepared Speech. Williams plans to attend Emory University in the fall.

Jaelynn Wesely – Wesely is a senior at Yonkers High School and will serve as a trustee through the end of the school year. She serves as a Junior Senator of the Yonkers High School Council and is a member of the Unified Students Leadership Council, Big 5 Schools Lobby Group, Yearbook Club and has been on the Principals List and High Honor Roll since 2021.

Rafael Diaz – Diaz is a junior at Saunders Trade and Technical High School and will serve as an alternate to the Board. Diaz is enrolled in the Electrical Computer Circuitry CTE Program and recently attended New York University's Cyber Security program. He is an active member of his school's Robotics Club and the Unified Yonkers Student Leadership Council.

Margaret Ennin – Ennin is a junior at Lincoln High School and will serve as an alternate to the Board. She is the Vice President of the school's Film Club and Newspaper Club and the Student Council Secretary. Ennin also is a member of the Science National Honor Society, Social Studies National Honor Society and is on the school's Principals List.

As ex-officio members of the Yonkers Board of Education, the student trustees will sit with the Board at public meetings and hearings and participate in other board activities at the Board's discretion. They will not attend executive sessions or other non-public meetings.

Board of Education President Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio noted, "On behalf of the Board of Education, I'm thrilled to welcome William, Margaret, Rafael, and Jaelynn as our student trustees. They join us as colleagues, bringing fresh voices and lived experiences that enrich our conversations and decisions. We value their insight and their commitment to representing their peers with integrity and heart. Yonkers is fortunate to have such thoughtful young people stepping up — we're excited to listen, to learn, and to lead together."

Superintendent of Yonkers Public Schools Anibal Soler, Jr., commented, "It's a historic moment, welcoming these four incredible student representatives to the Yonkers Board of Education. These young leaders are stepping into an important role — not only as the voice of their own schools but as advocates for over 24,000 students. Their presence reminds us why we do this work. I look forward to hearing their perspectives, learning from their experiences, and working alongside them to move Yonkers Public Schools forward. They're already making their schools and their city proud."

In September 2024, New York State Legislation was passed and signed requiring school districts to have at least one non-voting student representative on its Board of Education. New York State Senator Shelley Mayer, of Yonkers, sponsored the legislation.

State Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, "I am delighted to join Mayor Mike Spano and Superintendent Anibal Soler, Jr. in congratulating and welcoming four Yonkers Public Schools students as non-voting ex-officio members of the school board. I proudly sponsored the legislation that requires all school districts to have one student member and, as Chair of the Senate Committee on Education, I am excited to see the active role these students will take and how it will positively impact our school community. These students will bring valuable perspectives as they step into their roles as members of our shared civil society. Congratulations to the Seniors William Williams and Jaelynn Wesley and the Junior alternates, Rafael Diaz and Margaret Ennin"

"Special thanks to our State Senator Mayer for her insight and leadership in ensuring our students are given seats at the table and their voices are heard," added Mayor Spano. "These historic appointments will set our students and District up for future successes and provide us unique insights into the experience of a Yonkers Public Schools student."

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF JEFFERSON SUMMONS WITH NOTICE --X Index No. EF2025-00000794, Date Summons Filed: 02/17/2025 JESSE FELDMAN, Plaintiff, -against- JACOB WARREN a.k.a. JACOB WARREN-NAGER, a.k.a. JULIAN WARREN, Defendant –X Plaintiff designates Jefferson County as the place of trial. The basis of venue is CPLR Sec. 509. Plaintiff resides at 50 Richmond Ave., Buffalo, NY 14222. ACTION FOR DIVORCE To the above named Defendant: YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to serve a notice of appearance on the Plaintiff's Attorneys within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within thirty (30) days after the service is complete if this summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York); and in case of your failure to appear, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the notice set forth below. David Centeno, Esq. David Centeno Law, PC, Attorneys for Plaintiff, 767 Third Ave., Suite 2400, New York, NY 10017, (866) 830-2064 NOTICE: The nature of this action is to dissolve the marriage between the parties, on the grounds: DRL Section 170 subd. (7) - the relationship between the Plaintiff and Defendant has broken down irretrievably for a period of at least six months. The relief sought is a judgment of absolute divorce in favor of the Plaintiff dissolving the marriage between the parties in this action. The nature of any ancillary or additional relief demanded is: That the parties do not require maintenance and no claim will be made by either party for maintenance. Neither party is seeking maintenance as payee as described in the Notice of Guideline Maintenance. That the parties do not require payment of counsel and experts' fees and expenses. That both parties may resume the use of any prior surname.

That the Court grant such other and further relief as the Court may deem fit and proper. The parties have divided up the marital property, and no claim will be made by either party under equitable distribution. NOTICE OF ENTRY OF AUTOMATIC ORDERS (D.R.L. 236) Rev. 1/13 FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THESE ORDERS MAY BE DEEMED A CONTEMPT OF COURT PURSUANT TO the Uniform Rules of the Trial Courts, and DOMESTIC RELATIONS LAW Section 236, Part B, Section 2, both you and your spouse (the parties) are bound by the following AUTOMATIC ORDERS, which have been entered against you and your spouse in your divorce action pursuant to 22 NYCRR Section 202.16(a), and which shall remain in full force and effect during the pendency of the action, unless terminated, modified or amended by further order of the court or upon written agreement between the parties: (1) ORDERED: Neither party shall sell, transfer, encumber, conceal, assign, remove or in any way dispose of, without the consent of the other party in writing, or by order of the court, any property (including, but not limited to, real estate, personal property, cash accounts, stocks, mutual funds, bank accounts, cars and boats) individually or jointly held by the parties, except in the usual course of business, for customary and usual household expenses or for reasonable attorney's fee in connection with this action. (2) ORDERED: Neither party shall transfer, encumber, assign, remove, withdraw or in any way dispose of any tax deferred funds, stocks or other assets held in any individual retirement accounts, 401k accounts, profit sharing plans, Keogh accounts, or any other pension or retirement account, and the parties shall further refrain from applying for or requesting the payment of retirement benefits or annuity payments of any kind, without the consent of the other party in writing, or upon further order of the court; except that any party who is already in pay status may continue to receive such payments thereunder. (3) ORDERED: Neither party shall incur unreasonable debts hereafter, including, but not limited to, further borrowing against any credit line secured by the family residence, further encumbering any assets, or unreasonably using credit cards or cash advances against credit cards, except in the usual course of business or for customary or usual housing expenses, or for reasonable attorney's fees in connection with this action. (4) ORDERED: Neither party shall cause the other party or the children of the marriage to be removed from any existing medical, hospital and dental insurance coverage, and each party shall maintain the existing medical, hospital and dental insurance coverage in full force and effect.

(5) ORDERED: Neither party shall change the beneficiaries of any existing life insurance policies, and each party shall maintain the existing life insurance, automobile insurance, homeowners and renters insurance policies in full force and effect. IMPORTANT NOTE: After service of Summons with Notice or Summons and Complaint for divorce, if you or your spouse wishes to modify or dissolve the automatic orders, you must ask the court for approval to do so, or enter into a written modification agreement with your spouse duly signed and acknowledged before a notary public. NOTICE CONCERNING CONTINUATION OF HEALTH CARE COVERAGE (Required by Section 255(1) of the Domestic Relations Law) PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that once a judgment of divorce is signed in this action, both you and your spouse may or may not continue to be eligible for coverage under each other's health insurance plan, depending on the terms of the plan. NOTICE OF GUIDELINE MAINTENANCE If your divorce was commenced on or after January 25, 2016, this Notice is required to be given to you by the Supreme Court of the county where your divorce was filed to comply with the Maintenance Guidelines Law ([S. 5678/A. 7645], Chapter 269, Laws of 2015) because you may not have counsel in this action to advise you. It does not mean that your spouse (the person you are married to) is seeking or offering an award of "Maintenance" in this action. "Maintenance" means the amount to be paid to the other spouse for support after the divorce is final. You are hereby given notice that under the Maintenance Guidelines Law (Chapter 269, Laws of 2015), there is an obligation to award the guideline amount of maintenance on income up to \$228,000 to be paid by the party with the higher income (the maintenance payor) to the party with the lower income (the maintenance payee) according to a formula, unless the parties agree otherwise or waive this right. Depending on the incomes of the parties, the obligation might fall on either the Plaintiff or Defendant in the action. There are two formulas to determine the amount of the obligation. If you and your spouse have no children, the higher formula will apply. If there are children of the marriage, the lower formula will apply, but only if the maintenance payor is paying child support to the other spouse who has the children as the custodial parent. Otherwise the higher formula will apply. Lower Formula 1. Multiply Maintenance Payor's Income by 20%. 2. Multiply Maintenance Payee's Income by 25%. Subtract Line 2 from Line 1 = Result 1 Subtract Maintenance Payee's Income from 40% of Combined Income* = Result 2. Enter the lower of Result 2 or Result 1, but if less than or equal to zero, enter zero. THIS IS THE CALCULATED GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF MAINTENANCE WITH THE LOWER FORMULA. Higher Formula 1. Multiply Maintenance Payor's Income by 30% 2. Multiply Maintenance Payee's Income by 20% Subtract Line 2 from Line 1 = Result 1 Subtract Maintenance Payee's Income from 40% of Combined Income* = Result 2 Enter the lower of Result 2 or Result 1, but if less than or equal to zero, enter zero. THIS IS THE CALCULATED GUIDELINE AMOUNT OF MAINTENANCE WITH THE HIGHER FORMULA. * Combined Income equals Maintenance Payor's Income up to \$228,000 plus Maintenance Payee's Income. Note: The Court will determine how long maintenance will be paid in accordance with the statute. (Rev. 3/1/

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The Civil War in the Yonkers GOP

By Ron Matten

Years of neglect by the Yonkers Republican City Committee leadership has led to a grass roots uprising among rank and file republican loyalists. A coalition of Debbie Kozak, Brandon Neider, and party endorsed candidates are challenging the old guard of the Yonkers GOP.

The discontent has been brewing for over a decade since Mike Spano switched parties and the Spano Political Machine, helmed by lobbyist Nick Spano, abandoned the Yonkers GOP. The last republican to win a city-wide race was former Council President Liam McLaughlin in 2013. After Liam's crushing defeat to Mike Khader in 2017, it is widely believed that a republican cannot win citywide office. The facts would bear out the hypothesis, as the Yonkers GOP has largely become the Spano JV team.

While many in the party have sought to run good candidates who vow to deliver a safe city with reasonable fiscal constraints, others have acted like gate keepers so that Spano surrogates can maintain their control over city affairs, including zoning concerns. This is important as Empire Strategic Planning, a Spano Family enterprise is the lobbyist for the majority of developers doing business in the city. The key services at city hall are property development a not delivering municipal services. ESP is paid millions to represent the interest of developers.

The conflict came to a head this election season when ward leaders representing the 4th Council District and 14th County Legislative District refused to endorse independent republican candidates. These candidates, Tony Solieri (4th CC) and Michael Pineda (14th CLD) eventually won their party's nomination, thanks to the independence of chairs, Robert Moffit and Doug Colety.

The final straw occurred when ward leaders representing the constituent wards refused to distribute the nominating petitions to their district leaders. Brandon Neider who attempted to run for the 14th County Legislative District four years ago, seized on the opportunity and presented a slate of district leaders who can elect loyal ward leaders as replacements to the culprits. Mr. Neider was blocked four years ago by the same gatekeepers.

Ms. Kozak, who had run unsuccessfully for County Legislative District 16, has also seized upon the opportunity to relinquish the party of its gatekeepers. While running she experienced her own headwinds from within the party, as the majority of the ward leaders are Yonkers employees or professionals having business in front of the city. The culprits have an interest in keeping the status quo. In Yonkers, it's more about patronage than party. Ms. Kozak has spent the last two years building a successful independent political club, as her stock climbs within the party.

Yonkers has 12 wards, and the ward leaders are responsible for voting in the party chair and candidates. In the Yonkers Republican City Committee, 11 wards are constituted, meaning they have representation. Seven of the 11 wards are controlled by city employees, relatives of city employees, or those having business in front of the city. Only the first, fourth, fifth, and tenth ward have any real independence. Unfortunately wards one and four represent very few republicans and therefore, have a low vote count in selecting leadership positions.

Throughout the next week, the Westchester Board of Elections will hear challenges and objections and for the first time in known history, Yonkers may have a free and independent republican party.

Ron Matten ran as a republican candidate for Yonkers City Council President in 2021 receiving 47.5% of the vote. He is a registered republican and district leader.

Agree to Disagree

By Debbie Kozak

I read Ron Matten's, "The Civil War in Yonkers GOP" in the Yonkers Times regarding his take on the challenges surrounding the current Yonkers Republican Party leadership. While I agree with many of his observations, there are a few points where I respectfully disagree.

Matten is right that the Spano influence has significantly co-opted much of the Republican Party in Yonkers, as well as the Conservative Party. That's why I believe my involvement in the realignment of the Republican Party—particularly in our Northwest Yonkers community—is more important than ever. Our neighborhoods have gone too long without genuine representation. Too many elected officials and party insiders have prioritized political ambition and high-paying patronage positions over the needs and interests of the people they claim to serve. Unfortunately, that pattern continues this year.

Our community deserves better. We need leaders who care deeply about our neighborhoods, not individuals using politics as a steppingstone for personal gain. Those who know me understand that my commitment has always been, and will always remain, focused on the well-being of our community, not a political job.

Despite the division within our party, I remain hopeful. The recent efforts to make the Republican Party more independent gives me a sense of optimism. It is possible to break free from the Spano grip and offer voters a credible, principled alternative.

Within both factions of our party, there are hardworking individuals and true believers in Republican ideals. After the primaries, we must come together, set aside our differences, and focus on building a stronger, more independent Republican Party that puts the City of Yonkers, and its residents, first.

For those who are more interested in holding grudges and sowing division, rather than working together for a better future, then frankly, leadership in the Yonkers Republican Party is not the place for you.

By Debbie Kozak, President, John P. O'Leary NW Yonkers Republican Club and 2023 Republican Candidate Westchester County Legislator District 16 (Yonkers).

Career

Expo, continued from pg 8-

critical skills. We're proud to be a part of this important effort to enhance our workforce, invest in our communities, and strengthen our overall economy."

This year's Construction Career Day attracted 726 students from 33 high schools and learning centers.

In attendance and expressing strong support for the campaign were U.S. Rep. Mike Lawler, State Sen. Shelley Mayer and Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne as well as a representative from the New York State Department of Labor.

There are more than 20 skill trades represented among the building and construction trade unions. For information about apprenticeship programs and job opportunities, visit cicbca.org/union.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

INDEX NO. 68714/2022

REVERSE MORTGAGE FUNDING LLC

Plaintiff,
vs.

CLARA B. SOMERVILLE; FEDERAL HOUSING COMMISSIONER,

"JOHN DOE #1" through "JOHN DOE #12", the last twelve names being fictitious and unknown to plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the tenants, occupants, persons or corporations, if any, having or claiming an interest in or lien upon the premises, described in the complaint,

Plaintiff designates WESTCHESTER as the place of trial situs of the real property

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

Mortgaged Premises:
116 ESPLANADE, MOUNT VERNON NY 10553

Section: 165.57, Block: 2086,

Lot: 2

Defendants.

To the above named Defendants

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in the above entitled action and to serve a copy of your Answer on the plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days of the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within thirty (30) days after service of the same is complete where service is made in any manner other than by personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, if designated as a defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service. Your failure to appear or to answer will result in a judgment against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. In the event that a deficiency balance remains from the sale proceeds, a judgment may be entered against you.

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT

THE OBJECT of the above caption action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure the sum of \$912,000.00 and interest, recorded on February 27, 2019, in Instrument Number 590583180, of the Public Records of WESTCHESTER County, New York., covering premises known as 116 ESPLANADE, MOUNT VERNON, NY 10553.

The relief sought in the within action is a final judgment directing the sale of the premises described above to satisfy the debt secured by the Mortgage described above.

WESTCHESTER County is designated as the place of trial because the real property affected by this action is located in said county.

NOTICE

YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home.

Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property.

Sending a payment to the mortgage company will not stop the foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

Dated: March 5th, 2025

ROBERTSON, ANSCHUTZ, SCHNEID, CRANE & PARTNERS, PLLC
Attorney for Plaintiff, Oluwatobi Adedokun, Esq.
900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, NY 11590, 516-280-7675

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News in Yonkers and around Westchester

12th Annual Autism Resource & Provider Fair
Saturday April 26th 2025
 1pm - 4pm

All Speciality Vendors Contact
 Email: info@theautismproject-flos.org Contact: 914-979-2194

This event co-hosted The Autism Project - FLOS Inc & The Westchester School

@ Westchester School's New Location
 40 Brewster Ave
 Yonkers

ELEVATE YOUR EARNINGS

Easter Egg Hunt

DPW SERVICE CENTER
 LOCAL 456

Saturday, April 12TH
11:00AM - 2:00PM
Ages 4 - 10

Egg hunt at 11AM until completed
Pictures with bunny & face painting until 2 PM

DPW SERVICE CENTER
1130 Nepperhan Avenue | Yonkers, NY
Easter bags will be provided while supplies last.

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