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Yonkers Police PBA President: Pineda-Isaac Misinformed About Fighting Crime



“Yonkers continues to be not only the safest large city in the State of New York but also one of the safest cities of its size in the nation...It is a shame that Councilwoman Pineda Isaac has chosen to ignore this success...She has never fought for more police in her district during her nine years serving on the Yonkers City Council,”

Keith Olson, pictured left

Op-Ed by Det. Keith Olson, President Yonkers PBA

For far too many of our elected officials, public safety and crime have become merely political talking points. All too often these issues are used as an opportunity to lay out one’s agenda in an attempt to promote themselves in an attempt to seek office or to be reelected. But for most of us, public safety is a reality, not just a topic to be shamelessly exploited.

Thankfully, from his first days in office, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano has made public safety a top priority. The results of Mayor Spano’s leadership have been astounding. Yonkers continues to be not only the safest large city in the State of New York but also one of the safest cities of its size in the nation.

In her recent OpEd, Yonkers Councilwoman Corazon Pineda Isaac makes it clear that she has joined the long list of progressives that do not respect the true importance of public safety and crime fighting. In her criticism of the Yonkers Police Department’s structure, the Councilwoman shows she is completely misinformed. While claiming to support the YPD in terms of personnel and financial resources, the fact is she has never fought for more police in her district during her nine years serving on the Yonkers City Council. And by ignoring the undeniable success of the Yonkers Police Department, which has been led and supported by Mayor Mike Spano, Councilwoman Pineda Isaac fails in her attempt to use public safety as an issue to promote her candidacy.

Here is an incontrovertible fact. While nearly every large city in the State of New York has erupted in gun violence over the last few years, including our neighbors in New York City and Mount Vernon, Yonkers has managed to hold gun violence and shootings at bay. Representing one of the City’s most crime challenged districts, the Councilwoman should know and appreciate this fact. Then again, rather than calling for the addition of a dedicated Gang Unit to the YPD as she does in her OpEd, she should know that the YPD has had a fully staffed Gang Unit for her entire tenure as the City Council representative of the 2nd District. In fact, partially in thanks to having the best Gang detectives in the Country, Yonkers has not had a single gang related shooting since October of last year.

What makes this even more remarkable is that the Yonkers Police Department’s success in combating crime has also coincided with dramatic reductions in arrests, in police uses of force and in civilian complaints, particularly excessive force complaints. Additionally, through Mayor Spano’s “Be the Change” campaign, the YPD has taken huge strides in ensuring that our police department reflects the community we serve. It is a shame that Councilwoman Pineda Isaac has chosen to ignore this success.

What Councilwoman Pineda Isaac is only now learning, going door to door talking to residents in Yonkers, Mayor Mike Spano has long understood. That is that public safety is paramount to our community and not just a political talking point. Mayor Spano has always shown an unparalleled commitment to driving down crime and keeping Yonkers residents as safe as possible and the results have been remarkable. As a lifelong Yonkers resident and a nearly 34-year veteran of the Yonkers Police Department, I proudly say that I look forward to another four years of Mike Spano as Mayor of Yonkers and of having a leader who truly understands and respects the importance of keeping our community safe.

Yonkers Public Schools Superintendent Quezada to Retire This Summer



“An exciting era is about to begin for the Yonkers Public Schools..It is time for me to take a new path in my life’s journey.”

-Dr. Edwin Quezada, left

On April 5, Yonkers Board of Education President Rev. Steve Lopez today announced that Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of Schools, submitted his letter of retirement effective July 3, 2023.

In Dr. Quezada’s letter to the Trustees, he expressed sincere gratitude for the opportunities he was afforded over his 25 years with the Yonkers Public Schools noting it was, “...an exceedingly rewarding, and at times challenging, period of my professional life... It is time for me to take a new path in my life’s journey.”

The letter continued with, “Over the last eight years, in collaboration with the Trustees, Mayor Spano, our New York State Delegation, local elected officials, Yonkers parents, and all educators and staff, a more sustainable foundation has been structured to continue improving student outcomes for future generations of children... An exciting era is about to begin for the Yonkers Public Schools... The foundation is in place. Therefore, I firmly recognize that this is the time for a new leader to continue this quest, an individual with a fresh perspective, innovative strategies and, most importantly, a passionate commitment for urban children to succeed.”

Board of Education President Rev. Steve Lopez said, “The Trustees and I understand and respect Dr. Quezada’s desire to expand his professional career and wish him well. Most importantly, we want to extend our deepest appreciation to Dr. Quezada for his outstanding and relentless commitment to the students, families and staff in our district. In his work with the Trustees, the Superintendent was and continues to be a steadfast equity champion for every student and staff member to

Record Number of Yonkers Democrats Sign Petition for Mayor Spano’s Re-election

6,922 signatures filed; 6 times the required number



Mayor Mike Spano at his 2023 State of the City address

Mayor Mike Spano announced this week that approximately 7,000 Yonkers residents have signed his Democratic Party nominating petition for his re-election. That’s seven times more than the required 1,000 signatures.

“We’ve never filed this many petition signatures before, so I’m really overwhelmed at the response from the people of Yonkers,” said Spano, adding, “It’s a sure sign that people are happy with the progress we are making and that they want us to keep it going.”

Spano also thanked the hundreds of campaign volunteers who have spent the past several weeks going door to door and otherwise meeting their neighbors in collecting the signatures.

“When you have seven thousand people signing a petition that says they want you to run again, it’s a humbling experience,” said Spano, “It’s also a highly motivating experience, and I can’t wait to see what we can accomplish together during the next four years.”

In running for another term, Spano said he will build on his success in maintaining Yonkers as one of the safest cities of its size in the United States, in maintaining the City’s record high rate of jobs, and in building more housing – including affordable housing – than ever before.

He also said when he presents the next City budget in just a few weeks, he again intends to stay within the state tax cap while fully maintaining services and funding for the City’s schools. With Yonkers Public Schools students having graduated at over 90% for the 3 years straight – making Yonkers the first and only Big 5 City District in New York to accomplish such an achievement — Mayor Spano wants to keep that momentum going.

Spano said that as the nation faces economic headwinds in the near future it is more important than ever to have experienced leadership with a record of success in City Hall. “If you had to choose a time to keep successful leadership in place, this is definitely that time,” said Spano, adding, “Success is never easy, but the next few years will contain economic challenges for Yonkers that will make it harder than ever. That’s a major reason I am running for re-election.”

“I’m proud of my record as Mayor, but I’m even more pleased that we changed the City’s image during this administration,” said Spano, “People are proud to say they live in Yonkers these days. That’s because others are seeing what we are seeing, which is that Yonkers is safe, has stable finances, is adding more than 12,000 units of housing, and has record low unemployment. It’s also a leader in providing affordable housing, since 22% of all units are classed as affordable.”

National Latino Officers Association Oppose Menthol Cigarette Ban



OP-ED by National Association of Latino Officers, NLOA

Since 1996 the National Latino Officers Association (NLOA) has been at the forefront of advocating against issues that adversely affect our Latino and Black communities. Today, we respectfully request that New York’s governor and New York City councilmembers see the warning signs of a racially discriminatory policy: the menthol cigarette prohibition. Let it be clear that WE DO NOT ENCOURAGE, SUPPORT, OR PROMOTE CIGARETTE SMOKING. As law enforcement experts, we hope that legislators consider our perspective and understand that we don’t make the laws, but we do have a hand in enforcing them.

“The National Association of Latino Officers firmly believes the best way to address tobacco use in our community is through a medical, not a criminal, approach,” said Sylvia T. Miranda, MBA, NLOA Executive Director. “Additionally, rather than increase the cigarette tax by one dollar, we urge the governor and legislators to consider allocating resources to crack down on illicit cigarettes. This will allow the state to recoup the billions in tax revenue lost to street cigarette dealers and illicit sales in stores. The loss of revenue on illegal and illicit sales of cigarettes is already astronomical. Banning cigarettes doesn’t prevent access it simply increases illegal access and greater loss of revenue. These revenues can help fund the education, treatment, and counseling services needed to address tobacco addiction. We urge lawmakers to consider the unintended effects of this ban and the criminal consequences it will have on Latino and Black communities.”

- The Coalition includes:
- National Latino Officers Association (NLOA)
 - The Grand Council of Guardians (GCG)
 - Law Enforcement Action Partnership (LEAP)
 - Nassau County Sheriff Guardians
 - Nassau County Police Guardians
 - Yonkers Guardians
 - Westchester-Rockland Guardians

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Alvin Martinez Named Yonkers Force Player of the Year



Alvin Martinez, Jr. with Yonkers Force Football Coach Anthony Fava

Post season kudos to Alvin Martinez, Jr. Yonkers Force Football Player of the Year! This talented Quarterback - a leader on and off the field - is a Yonkers Montessori Academy graduating senior, the recipient of the Yonkers My Brother's Keeper Builder of the Future Award, and a New York State MBK Fellow. The future has its eyes on you, Alvin! Congratulations!

Jews from Yonkers and Westchester Assembly at Ridge Hill for Hakhel!



Chabad of Yonkers Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz receives a proclamation from Adam Levine representing Yonkers Mayor Spano, proclaiming the Lubavitcher Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson's dedication to education. Photos by Robert Kalfus

By Robert Kalfus

In ancient times every seven years Jewish men, women, and children would gather at the Temple on the first day of Sukkot to hear the king of Jerusalem read aloud from the Torah. The gathering was practiced in Jerusalem until the Second Temple was destroyed at 70 CE. There now is no king, and the Temple does not stand, but the ritual continues to inspire Jews from around the world to gather together. The tradition known as Hakhel – “Assemble!” in Hebrew – and appears to be seeing a resurgence of popular interest, especially inspired in mid-20th century by the Hasidic Chabad Lubavitch Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson, who focused the gathering on the spirit of gathering and education of children. Hakhel's explicit inclusion of women and children makes it an attractive ritual for many Jews today.

Hundreds of Jews from the Bronx and of Westchester Jewish communities gathered on the south lawn of Ridge Hill, next to Whole Foods, and celebrated Hakhel, a Torah commandment to “Gather the people – men, women, children, and the strangers in your communities – that they may hear and so learn and revere your God and observe faithfully every word of His teaching.”

Ten NY Chabads from Westchester and The Bronx united to create the Jewish Unity Celebration's free activities which included pre-Passover crafts, balloon art, a petting zoo, music by Pumpidisa, one of Jewish music's most popular bands, cotton candy, face painting, and kosher snacks available for a charge. Rabbi Levi Groner, co-director of Chabad of Pelham, explained “this is a special Hakhel year, which occurs every seven years. This year, we had the idea to do an event pre-Passover” occurring just three days before Pesach. “We decided to create a concert and festival since this, a Hakhel year, which occurs even seven years. I don't know if there is any better time than before Pesach, the most observed Jewish holiday. Pesach is a time when we all get together and is therefore a special time to have this event.”

Passover begins at after sundown on Wednesday evening, April 5th and continues for eight days.



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Women With Uterine Cancer are Now Eligible for 9/11 Fund

Now Begins the Work of Reaching Victims and Their Families



Dana Cohen Esq.

By Dana Cohen, Esq.

For years, advocates for the 9/11 community have had to tell women battling uterine cancer that there was no help for them. These women were exposed to the same carcinogenic toxins as everyone else who lived, worked, and studied in Lower Manhattan, and if they had developed any other cancer, they would have been eligible for healthcare and compensation.

We had no satisfactory explanation for why they were singled out for disparate treatment, and the memory of these conversations, many from long ago, continues to haunt me as I lay in bed at night.

Finally, more than two decades after the 9/11 attacks, those difficult conversations have become a thing of the past.

The CDC has, at last, added uterine cancer to the list of 9/11-related illnesses, correcting a patent injustice. Women with uterine cancer are now eligible for the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) and the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund (VCF), which means they will receive the healthcare and compensation that they have always deserved.

Families who have lost loved ones to uterine cancer will also be eligible for compensation for their losses.

The benefits afforded by the WTCHP and the VCF are a much-needed lifeline for sick people, and for the families they leave behind. Since the CDC's announcement, my colleagues have been reconnecting with countless individuals who reached out over the years because many of the people who were denied benefits for their uterine cancer years ago will likely not know that they are now covered. Some are far sicker now, and some will have passed away.

Now is the time to pour our collective efforts into reaching victims to help to spread the news of this change. Here is what you need to know:

- People who were in the NYC exposure zone for some period between 9/11/2001 and 5/30/2002 may be eligible for benefits including free lifetime health care and compensation for pain and suffering and economic losses. Families who lost a loved one to uterine cancer are eligible for compensation as well.
- The program is not just for first responders. It also covers people who lived, worked, or went to school in the exposure zone.
- Covered conditions include respiratory ailments and virtually every cancer. As of last week, uterine cancer (which includes endometrial cancer) is covered. Help is available now.
- In order to qualify, an individual must prove they were in the exposure zone for the requisite period. The sooner the necessary documentation is collected, the better.
- The process is non-adversarial. This is a program of the United States Justice Department, not a lawsuit.
- Although people do not need a lawyer to apply, there are experienced advocates

who can assist with the process and their fees for services are capped by the federal government and may not exceed 10% of any award received.

Like many, I was there on the day of the attacks. My office is just two blocks from the World Trade Center and we all returned to work after the federal EPA told us that "the air is safe to breathe."

We now know that was inaccurate, and it turns out that listening to the EPA's guidance resulted in half of the people at our firm coming down with cancer related to their toxic exposure. Two colleagues who were only in their 40s lost their lives to cancer.

I consider myself fortunate to only have 9/11-related respiratory issues. I don't have uterine cancer but knowing that I and thousands of other women will be protected moving forward is critical.

Now, after 21 long years of waiting, we must do everything possible to reach these women. There is no making up for lost time when it comes to cancer, and there is no time to waste.

Dana Cohen is a partner at the law firm of Barasch & McGarry, lawyers for the 9/11 Community. She can be reached at dana@baraschmcgarry.com

The Day the Circus Came to NYC

By Eric Wolf Schoen



A friend had a dental appointment on the east side of Manhattan Tuesday. Another friend had a business appointment right near Trump Towers Tuesday. Should they go to their scheduled sessions?

The New York Police Commissioner ordered every Police Officer on duty and in uniform this week. 35,000 dedicated men and women. Never before in the history of New York City was this type of directive made. Many Officers hadn't worn their uniforms in years. Little time to go to the tailor for alterations, as if there were tailors available at a moments notice to alter 35,000 uniforms, take away the ones that still fit their occupants.

Yes friends, the occasion was the arraignment of the former President of the United States on 34 felony counts. All along since the announcement of the indictment the number was 30, misdemeanor or felony accounts. On judgement day, it was announced that the number of counts was 34 and they were all felony counts. So much for the media that was projecting incorrect numbers and types of charges for several days.

Step back for a minute. 35,000 Police Officers on duty. I can't even estimate the cost but some child won't get the proper education he or she deserves because money went to pay 35,000 police officers most of whose services were not needed. All to protect Donald. Isn't that sad!

The predictions were like the world was coming to an end. Marjorie Taylor Green, the representative from Georgia was coming to town with her MAGA (Make America Great Again) hat on Tuesday. She encouraged all Trump supporters from Yonkers to Alaska to come to the Big Apple to protest against former President Trump's impending indictment. Few came. Like my friend, they may have had a dental appointment they needed to attend where they lived. 35,000 police officers to protect the city that never sleeps from a crazy lady wearing a hat who ended up speaking to a smattering of Trump Supporters. For a measly 10 minutes. More journalists than protestors were in attendance.

I didn't have press credentials to cover judgement day, the day of indictment for Donald Trump. So I spent the day (at least up to press time) viewing the circus on television and listening on the radio. Hey, did I hear the Wolf Blitzers of the world say that my Congressman, Jamaal Bowman was leading a group of people who had the goal of drowning out the words that MAGA Marjorie and her tiny group of supporters were proclaiming regarding Donald's innocence?

I think before Congressman Bowman beats drums and blows whistles to drown out MAGA Marjorie, he should make himself visible in the Yonkers part of his district. And meet with his constituents who have broad national and international issues to discuss. Bottom line...Neither Bowman nor Brown had enough supporters to warrant 35,000 uniformed police officers and the enormous cost to the taxpayers of New York City!

So as of 5 p.m. Tuesday everything in New York City was as normal as it was all day and everyday. The men and women vendors sold pretzels and dirty water hot dogs from their carts. The fruit vendors sold their bananas and grapes, and the \$1 slice of pizza was still available if you could find it.

I have an idea. Maybe as punishment for his alleged crimes former President Trump and his supporters can lead business classes to help the pretzel man and dirty water hot dog man increase business and become rich like him. Sure accomplishes more for the taxpayer than to have Donald making license plates.

By the way, my friend with the dental appointment cancelled it. Let's hope that the matzah balls on her Passover plate are soft enough so she can enjoy the wonderful holiday feast. And let's save the circus like we had Tuesday for a day when it truly is a reality. The little boys and girls who have the money for their education redirected for unnecessary Police overtime send a big thank you Mayor Adams.

Passover. Are we really celebrating Freedom?

Rabbi Benjamin Berger, vice president of Jewish education at Hillel International, said Passover is known as the "festival of freedom." It's a celebration of not only the freedom of the Jewish people emerging from slavery in Egypt, and a tradition that results that is about remembering, and really putting ourselves in the shoes of those slaves and those who experienced the release from bondage, but also it reminds us of the freedom of all people," he said. "Anyone who's experiencing oppression of some sort, whether it's external, from other people, or internal, from our own sense of the things that oppress us internally," he added.

Rabbi Maya Zinkow, senior Jewish educator at UC Berkeley Hillel, told USA TODAY Passover "celebrates the movement from slavery to liberation." "So, we commemorate the time when the Jewish people really became a Jewish people. It's really the story of the birth of our peoplehood," she said.

Do we really have freedom when we have to post security guards at the entrances to synagogues and temples? Check identification? Take down collection boxes for fear their contents will be stolen?

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New Alzheimer's Association Report Finds Half Million Caregivers in New York



The Alzheimer's Association 2023 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures report, (<https://www.alz.org/alzheimers-dementia/facts-figures>) finds the burden on New York Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers is growing. The new report released on March 15 shows there were an estimated 546,000 dementia family caregivers across the state in 2022, providing 884 million hours of unpaid care valued at \$19.09 billion.

The new report also reveals that New York caregivers and those across the country face significant emotional, physical and health-related challenges as a result of caregiving as well, including:

Dementia caregivers report higher rates of chronic conditions, including stroke, heart disease, diabetes, and cancer compared to caregivers of people without dementia or non-caregivers. In New York state, 59 percent of caregivers reported at least one chronic condition.

The prevalence of depression is higher among dementia caregivers when compared to caregivers for other conditions. In New York, nearly one-quarter of caregivers reported depression.

Seventy-four percent of dementia caregivers report they are "somewhat concerned" to "very concerned" about maintaining their own health since becoming a caregiver. In New York, 12percent report frequent poor physical health. Across the country, 59 percent of dementia caregivers report high to very high emotional stress due to caregiving and 38 percent report high to very high physical stress due to caregiving.

"This year's Facts and Figures report underscores the considerable physical and emotional toll New York caregivers experience when caring for someone living with Alzheimer's," said David Sobel, executive director of the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter. "It clearly underlines the need for caregiver support in New York and across the region. The Alzheimer's Association offers free local support throughout our state including support groups and education, as well as the Association's 24/7 Helpline. This support can be a lifeline to caregivers."

The annual Facts and Figures report provides an in-depth look at the latest national and state-by-state statistics on Alzheimer's disease prevalence, mortality, caregiving, dementia care workforce and costs of care. According to the report, there are 6.7 million people 65 and older living with Alzheimer's dementia in the United States, including roughly 410,000 in New York state.

More on this report next week. Visit <https://www.alz.org/hudsonvalley> for more information.

City Councilmember Pineda-Isaac Introduces Legislation to Protect Tenant Health

Proposed Local Law Amends City Code to Include Mold as an Indoor Asthma Allergen Hazard

Yonkers City Councilmember Corazon Pineda-Isaac announced on April 5 the introduction of an amendment to chapter 58 of the City's "Housing and Building Maintenance Code" to include mold in its definition of "indoor asthma allergen hazards" in multiple dwellings. Currently, the City of Yonkers is unable to issue violations to property owners regarding mold simply because the City's code does not include mold in its definition of indoor allergen hazards. The Councilmember's amendment is aimed at updating the local law to include mold in its definition thereby holding landlords accountable while also protecting City residents.

"Indoor allergen hazards, including insects, rodents and other pests, as well as mold, present an uninhabitable living condition that is dangerous to the health of tenants," said Councilmember Pineda-Isaac. "The City of Yonkers has not done enough to protect its residents from mold in holding property owners to account and it's long overdue for the Mayor to act."

In addition to including mold as a health hazard within the City code, the Councilmember's amendment also stipulates landlord accountability for correcting underlying defects that cause indoor mold, such as a water leak. The department will investigate any complaint from a tenant in the event mold is identified on an indoor surface, building structure, ventilation system, or within wall cavities. Failure to correct a violation within the time period provided will constitute a fine of \$1,000 for each violation.

"It is the intent of this law to improve the living and health conditions of tenants in the City of Yonkers by eradicating indoor allergen hazards from their apartments," said Councilmember Pineda-Isaac. "Exposure to high levels of indoor mold can cause negative health outcomes, particularly for those who are most vulnerable such as the elderly, children and individuals living with pre-existing conditions. The inclusion of mold tenant protections within our City code accomplishes just that."

Disbarred Attorney from Bronxville Charged with Bankruptcy



By 2022, John Roesser, left, owed the IRS, and others, over three million dollars

On March 30, Damian Williams, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and Michael J. Driscoll, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), announced the unsealing of an Indictment charging JOHN ROESSER, a former attorney, with abusing the bankruptcy system by making false statements under penalty of perjury and submitting falsified records. By February 2022, after years as a partner at major law firms, ROESSER owed the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") millions of dollars in income taxes and filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Through multiple false statements, ROESSER lied to the Bankruptcy Court and the IRS about his purported receipt of millions of dollars in order to receive the protections of bankruptcy and keep his assets – including a multi-million-dollar residence and an Aston Martin sports car – while not paying his bills. ROESSER was arrested this morning in Bronxville, New York, and will be presented today in Manhattan federal court.

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said: "Bankruptcy is a lifeline for many people who need its protections to keep their lives together. The defendant allegedly corrupted and degraded a system that helps so many. As alleged, he manipulated the bankruptcy system by lying and falsifying bank records so that he could use its protections to keep his assets and to avoid paying his bills. And he should have known better — he used to be a lawyer. This Office will always bring to justice those who use their status to abuse the public's trust and to try to put themselves above the law."

FBI Assistant Director Michael J. Driscoll said: "As alleged, Roesser committed bankruptcy fraud when he lied to both the Bankruptcy Court and the IRS about his receipt of millions of dollars so he could retain his assets – which included a multi-million-dollar residence and a luxury sports car – while avoiding paying his bills. The FBI will continue to investigate and bring to justice those who attempt to fraudulently exploit our nation's legitimate financial protections to satisfy their own selfish desires."

As alleged in the Indictment: From in or about March 2013 through in or about January 2018, ROESSER was a partner at three multinational law firms. During his time as a partner at these law firms, ROESSER earned substantial income — and incurred substantial income tax liability. ROESSER resigned from the New York bar in or about June 2020 after admitting to misappropriating client funds.

By 2022, ROESSER owed the IRS, and others, over three million dollars. He also owned a house that he estimated was worth millions of dollars and an Aston Martin Rapide, a luxury sports car. Instead of paying his debts, in February 2022, ROESSER filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. See In re John Roesser, No. 22 Bk. 22049 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y.) (the "Bankruptcy"). In a Chapter 11 bankruptcy, a debtor may remain "in possession," meaning that the debtor keeps possession and control of his assets during the bankruptcy. But a debtor-in-possession must propose a viable plan of reorganization, which creditors then vote on. If a debtor fails to comply with the requirements of Chapter 11, a Chapter 11 bankruptcy can be converted to a Chapter 7 bankruptcy or dismissed. In a Chapter 7 bankruptcy, an appointed trustee usually converts a debtor's assets into cash for distribution among creditors. If a bankruptcy is dismissed, the debtor loses the protections of bankruptcy; for example, creditors can take steps to seize a debtor's assets.

ROESSER told the Bankruptcy Court and the IRS that he would soon receive millions of dollars and be able to pay his debts while keeping his house. Then, ROESSER filed a false declaration and submitted falsified records in the Bankruptcy indicating that he had received millions of dollars. This was false. ROESSER was concealing that he had not received millions of dollars after all, in a fraudulent effort to retain control of his assets while avoiding payment of his debts.

On or about March 3, 2023, after some of the above false statements were withdrawn by ROESSER's attorney in the Bankruptcy, ROESSER's Chapter 11 bankruptcy was dismissed. Without the protections of bankruptcy, creditors can now take steps to seize ROESSER's assets to pay his debts.

ROESSER, 52, of Bronxville, New York, is charged with one count of falsification of records in bankruptcy, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, and one count of false oaths and claims in bankruptcy, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

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Report Finds \$14.8 Billion of Waste/ Corruption Prone Pots of Money in NYS Budget

Reinvent Albany

Watchdogs Release Joint Report: "Lump Sum Warning"

Watchdog groups Reinvent Albany and Citizens Budget Commission today released a joint report, "Lump Sum Warning," which found \$14.8 billion in proposed lump sum pots in Governor Hochul's Executive Budget, including \$8 billion in COVID emergency pots that are not subject to review by the State Comptroller.

The report also reviewed the Legislature's one-house budget bills, which would add millions in new lump sum pots, including a notable \$2 billion in new lump sum pots proposed by the Senate to be distributed to hospitals.

Lump sums are appropriations that authorize spending on a broad range of projects or purposes to be determined and allocated at a later date. In New York, lump sums are often also called "discretionary funds" because the Governor and the Legislature decide where, when, and how they are spent, typically months or years after they are budgeted, and without public scrutiny.

Both watchdog groups and the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) have issued repeated warnings about the elevated risk of waste and corruption from lump sum spending. Aggravating the risk of abuse is the private process for awarding the money, which is typically not subject to Comptroller's contract oversight—a crucial check against abuse and a way to help ensure the taxpayer gets the best value on goods and services.

The groups said public dollars should not be spent through lump sum appropriations that increase the risks of waste, distortion of priorities, low return on investment, and corruption.

Recommendations:

- This budget, the Governor and Legislature should:
 - Not enact any new lump sum appropriations.
 - Omit the \$6 billion Special Public Health Emergency Appropriation from the budget.
 - Reduce the Special Emergency Appropriation to \$1 billion, and ensure it is subject to OSC oversight and competitive procurement rules.
 - Fully and completely disclose distributions from all lump sum pots currently being spent. The Executive should improve the transparency of existing lump sum databases and disclosures by consolidating them as much as possible. The Senate and Assembly should also provide a centralized database of lump sum funding, with much more detail than currently provided in resolutions passed by each house.

- Within the next few years, the Governor and Legislature should:
 - Pass a law codifying the Governor's discretionary lump sum database. This should include improved requirements for disclosure. As spending from prior lump sums continues, there should be robust transparency and accountability for that spending.
 - Provide full data for lump sum spending dating back to at least 2020.

The entire report can be viewed at this link: https://reinventalbany.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/CBC-and-RA-Joint-FY-2024-Executive-Budget-Lump-Sums-Report-2023.pdf?mc_cid=e7939ec884&mc_eid=0d3d3aea6b

Quezada retiring continued from pg 1-

to achieve their potential. This was evident from the first day he became Superintendent, throughout the challenges of COVID, and to today with our students sustained academic progress attaining a 90% graduation rate for the last three years."

President Rev. Lopez continued, "Moving forward, the Board of Education Trustees are charged with hiring a new superintendent. The educational landscape is continually evolving. Over the next few weeks, we will plan and develop an appropriate strategy to seek out a new leader with the requisite skills to transition our District into the next great phase for education in the City of Yonkers."

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano stated, "Dr. Quezada has been transformative to the Yonkers Public Schools. His passion and dedication to the educational and emotional development of our students has been evident throughout his tenure. From a vocal and adamant advocate to rebuild and fund our schools, to ushering in nationally-recognized mentorship programs, to overseeing unprecedented academic achievements such as the District's 90% graduation rate, Dr. Quezada's 25-years of service have left an indelible impact on the students and families of Yonkers. I believe he is one of the best school superintendents this City has had and I am forever grateful to him for his commitment to Yonkers. On behalf of the residents of our city, I wish Dr. Quezada and his family well as he enters the next chapter of his career."

On This Day in Yonkers History....



a Yonkers street was named after actresses Gloria De Haven, left, in 1953

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

Monday, April 10th

April 10, 1942: The US Industrial Chemical Company at the foot of Federal Street played a major part in the War Production Board's experiment to redistill "high wines" into industrial alcohol. Eleven distilleries sent wine to our plant for processing; the new industrial alcohol would be used to manufacture explosives.

April 10, 1947: The Upper New Main Street Merchants Association suggested the Yonkers Planning Board call the new downtown parking center something other than Chicken Island! They wanted the area called Park Center, saying it was "highly descriptive," and "would give the district some class." They proposed roads be cut through so parking would be easily accessible from the entire area.

Tuesday, April 11th

April 11, 1928: Feuding lovers were expelled from the Yonkers Flying Club! After appearing in Court to answer disorderly conduct charges, VP Adam Dengler, Secretary Helen Bailey and Publicity Chair William Bailey were dropped from the organization. Bailey told Judge Boote Dengler took Mrs. Bailey for an airplane ride and never brought her back, adding the duo were living together. Dengler denied the story, stating Bailey was jealous of Helen's aviation skills.

Club members unanimously decided it was better they were gone.

April 11, 1953: A Yonkers street was named after movie star Gloria De Haven! The planned Adirondack Oval in the Greystone Gardens apartment development instead was named De Haven Drive at the request of developer Martin Kimmel; Kimmel, "a friend" of Ms. De Haven, married the star a few months later.

Wednesday, April 12th

April 12, 1943: After Saunders Trades School was criticized as a "dimout violator," school officials announced they would create a temporary solution, shades made from wrapping paper. They would use them until the federal government allowed spending \$325 for dimout shades. Since the school was used at night for the war training program, the Board of Ed needed to ask the government.

April 12, 1943: After the New York State War Council found "several types of discrimination" in Yonkers war industries, all our firms went "on record as to their willingness to integrate members of minority groups on jobs throughout the plant." The Council found blanket exclusion of one or more minority groups in some plants; others only hired minority workers for unskilled jobs. A few plants immediately set about changing. The War Council said this was prevalent throughout New York State and promised to closely watch companies not in compliance.

Thursday, April 13th

April 13, 1928: Mayor Thomas Larkin was notified residents of Grey Oaks were filing a lawsuit to prevent installation of an incinerator on Saw Mill River Road, and had the backing of Samuel Untermyer. Untermyer suggested also engaging William Boyce Thompson and the Westchester County Parks Commission; both the Untermyer and Thompson estates extended down into the Nepperhan Valley, and the proposed site was adjacent to the Saw Mill River Parkway being built by Westchester.

April 13, 1938: After an eight-year fight, Cristabel Creswell, finally agreed to move her home from the middle of Railroad Avenue. Creswell had bought her home from the Westchester County Park Commission but had a dispute with the contractor she hired to move it from the parkway's right of way; he left it right in the middle of the street. For eight years, it stood halfway to its planned location.

Friday, April 14th

April 14, 1933: DPW Commissioner Goldsmith announced the remaining gas lamps on North Broadway would be removed; Besides the 118 lamps still on North Broadway, there were 117 old fashioned streetlamps remaining on Warburton Avenue.

April 14, 1955: After a spirited discussion, the Board of Education passed a resolution to request \$33,800 for window shades and drapes in almost every school, by an eight to one vote. Trustee William Dickson dissented, stating the schools needed soap, towels, paper and pencils more. Frances Francis responded the schools needed the shades and (stage) curtains, stating Common Council members criticized

continued on pg 7-

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Family Service Society of Yonkers (FSSY)
21st Century Community Learning Centers Initiative

Bid Request
Bidder Requirement: MWBE Certified

Family Service Society of Yonkers, a 140 year old human services agency, is seeking bids from qualified contractors in respect to After School Programs taking place in four Yonkers public elementary schools as part of the New York-state funded 21st Century Community Learning Centers Initiative:

Provider of Professional Development, Staff Training and Team Building: Bidders should have experience working with educators and providers of After School programs for students K-8. Bids will include up to 20 hours (total) of professional development, staff training and team building for 60 participants. Development training areas to include culturally responsive instruction, conflict resolution, and behavior management. Bids should include supplies/materials for activities. Trainings should be designed to ensure alignment with 21st Century Community Learning Centers goals and objectives:

- a. To offer a range of high-quality educational, developmental and recreational services for students and their families.
- b. To demonstrate educational and social benefits and exhibit positive behavioral changes.

Provider of Youth Development for Enrichment Programs: Bidders should have experience providing enrichment programs to students K-8 in such areas as visual arts, performing arts, STEAM, creative writing, physical fitness & recreation, and entrepreneurship. Contractors should provide bids for 6-week programs, 2 per site (4 sites). Please note: the same two 6-week programs can be provided at each site.

Bidder contact: Laura Kaplow-Goldman, grantsmanager@fssy.org

Solicitation Schedule
Request Date: April 7, 2023
Deadline for Bidder Questions: April 14, 2023
Answers to Bidder Questions Provided: April 21, 2023
Bid Deadline: April 28, 2023
Notification of selection: May 5, 2023
Contract start date: Immediate upon selection
Contract term: One year, subject to change at FSSY discretion

Classifieds

Auto Donations
Wheels For Wishes benefiting Make-A-Wish® Northeast New York. Your Car Donations Matter NOW More Than Ever! Free Vehicle Pick Up ANYWHERE. We Accept Most Vehicles Running or Not. 100% Tax Deductible. Minimal To No Human Contact. Call: (877) 798-9474. Car Donation Foundation d/b/a Wheels For Wishes. www.wheelsforwishes.org.

Auto Donations
Drive Out Breast Cancer: Donate a car today! The benefits of donating your car or boat: Fast Free Pickup - 24hr Response Tax Deduction - Easy To Do! Call 24/7: 855-905-4755

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Education / Career Training
COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM! Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer & Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain programs for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! 844-947-0192 (M-F 8am-6pm ET). Computer with internet is required.

Education / Career Training
TRAIN ONLINE TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 855-543-6440. (M-F 8am-6pm ET). Computer with internet is required.

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Miscellaneous
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Notice of formation of R.O.S.Y. LLC. filed with the SSNY EIN on 2/22/2023. 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, 2803 Larkspur Street, Yorktown Hts, NY 10598. Purpose: Real Estate

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:
THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2023 AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN YONKERS CITY HALL, 40 SOUTH BROADWAY, 4TH FLOOR (building is handicapped accessible). PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV .

OPEN CONTINUED HEARINGS
5790 – Area Variance – James Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of Mehranco Limited Liability Co., owner, on premises known as 1999 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4385, Lot: 42.43, Zone: BR (Adjourned to May 2023 ZBA meeting)

5797 – Area Variance – Shahin Badaly, P.E., on behalf of Marketin Hila/110 Ravine Realty LLC, owner, on premises known as 110 Ravine Avenue, Block: 2118, Lot: 39, Zone: A

5800 – Area Variance – James G. Dibbini & Assoc., P.C., on behalf of Sherwood Holding Company, owner, on premises known as 1186 Yonkers Avenue Rear aka 2 Sherwood Terrace, Block: 6315, Lot: 14, Zone: BA

5807 – Area Variance – DelBello Donnellan Weingarten Wise & Wiederkehr, LLP, on behalf of 46 Randolph LLC & N Broadway LLC, owners, on premises known as 316 North Broadway & 315 Palisade Avenue, Block: 2155, Lot: 59 & 16, Zone: M

5808 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Eugeniusz Strynowicz, owner, on premises known as 133 Vineyard Avenue, Block: 2170, Lot: 60, Zone: M

5809 – Area Variance – Neil J. Alexander, Esq., on behalf of City of Yonkers, owner, and Lemor Development Group & Empire Development Capital Holdings, LLC, contract vendees, on premises known as 273 Glenwood Avenue, Block: 2172, Lots: 29-41, 43 & 44, Zone: A

5810 – Use & Area Variance - Realty LLC, owners, on premises known as 143-151 Woodworth Avenue, Block: 2102, Lots: 4, 5, 11, 39 & 41, Zone: C

5811 – Area Variance – Daniel Richmond, Esq. & Jacob E. Amir, Esq., on behalf of Warburton Equities LLC, owners, on premises known as 289 Warburton Avenue & 230 Woodworth Avenue, Block: 2116, Lot: 40 & 7, Zone: A

NEW HEARINGS
5812 – Use Variance – Junisa A. Fondeur, owner, on behalf of herself, on premises known as 61 Sherwood Avenue, Block: 6381, Lot: 20, Zone: MG

5813 – Area Variance – James G. Dibbini, Esq., on behalf of Jeffrey P. Chartier, owner, on premises known as 66 aka 62 Malvern Road, Block: 4950, Lot: 65, Zone: S-200

5814 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, Esq., on behalf of Point and Ravine LLC, owner, on premises known as 56 Ravine Avenue, Block: 2115, Lot: 5, Zone: MG

5815 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, Esq., on behalf of Point and Ravine LLC, owner, on premises known as 76 Point Street, Block: 2114, Lot: 17, Zone: A

5816 – Use Variance – John J. Phelan, Esq., on behalf of Croton Terrace Enterprises Inc., owner, on premises known as 14 Orchard Street, Block: 2076, Lot: 17, Zone: MG

5817 – Area Variance – Janet J. Giris, Esq., on behalf of MHACY, owner, on premises known as 23 Mulberry Street, Block: 2062, Lot: 25, Zone: M

WILSON KIMBALL, CHAIRPERSON, ZBA

Notice of Formation of Hatter Luxury Eyewear LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on March 11, 2023, Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as the agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of CR8TIONZ, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 2/21/23. Office location: Westchester County. REPUBLIC REGISTERED AGENT SERVICES INC. designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1434 Western Ave, Suite 1 #7811 Albany, NY 12203 . Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Cake Bar By Charlene, LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/08/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 1 Glenwood avenue, 18E, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

CORPORATION NOTICE
CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, April 18, 2023 at 5:00pm, Mayor's Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 58 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, ENTITLED 'HOUSING AND BUILDING MAINTENANCE CODE' IN RELATION TO FEEDING OF ANIMALS IN RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS

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

MIKE SPANO, Mayor Date: April 4, 2023

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

Final thought: Should a well qualified, newly appointed Yonkers City Judge have on her list of supporters for her fundraiser a woman who stole food from the hungry from a Thanksgiving fundraiser? Just like in the case of George Santos, politicians need to vet the names and backgrounds of the folks that they put on their campaign lists as hosts for political events!

A joyous Passover and Happy Easter to you and your families!
Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge. Reach him at thistoosyonkers@aol.com.



Latimer Signs Executive Order Against LGBTQIA+ Hate



Members of the LGBTQ Advisory Board, the LOFT Center, & Pace University Students with County Executive George Latimer, Deputy CE. Ken Jenkins & BOL members. Also pictured is former Yonkers City Councilmember Michael Sabatino

International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) is celebrated annually on March 31. It's a day dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by the transgender community globally.

This year, Westchester County Executive George Latimer marked the day by signing an Executive Order reaffirming the County's unwavering commitment to promoting and encouraging dignity, respect and equality for all and ensuring the County Government will not tolerate hate towards LGBTQIA+ individuals and communities in any form.

Latimer was joined at the Executive Order signing by members of the County's LGBTQ Advisory Board, The LOFT Community Center Executive Director Judy Troilo and other LGBTQ advocates in Westchester County.

Latimer said: "Westchester County is a welcoming community no matter who you are, who you love, where you are from, or for that matter, any other reason. This Executive Order, a part of series of orders I am signing, makes the strong statement that our LGBTQIA+ community is a vital part of what makes Westchester our home."

New York Attorney General Letitia James said: "Transgender and non-binary people are an invaluable part of our communities and should be treated with dignity and respect. I applaud County Executive Latimer for taking critical action to safeguard the rights of transgender people in Westchester County and for leading the way in creating safe and inclusive places for all. Together, we will continue to ensure that transgender and non-binary people all across New York feel seen, heard, and valued, and that their rights are always protected."

The Executive Order, in part, states that: "Westchester County's community of residents who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual/agender, or otherwise do not identify as heterosexual or cisgender ("LGBTQIA+") or identities within any sexual and gender minority status including but not limited to gender nonconforming, non-binary, pansexual, queergender, and Two-Spirit are vital participants in economic, civic, and social

life in the County. Westchester County has established its leadership in protecting its residents by adopting human rights and fair housing ordinances that explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, and protecting youth against persons holding themselves out as mental health professionals engaging in harmful treatment of so-called "conversion therapy." It is the policy of the County of Westchester to affirm that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the County and its communities must treat human rights in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis."

NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said: "It is so important to reaffirm that Westchester County, as well as New York State, will always safeguard the rights of transgender and gender non-binary people. I am proud to have led the Senate in passing significant legislation, such as the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) that prohibits discrimination based on gender identity or expression and adds transgender New Yorkers to those protected by the state's Hate Crimes Law, as well as historic investments in organizations that support the LGBTQ+ community. I thank County Executive George Latimer for his and Westchester's commitment to our LGBTQ+ New Yorkers."

LGBTQ Advisory Board Chair Chris Oldi said: "The LGBTQ+ Advisory Board applauds and provides immense thanks to the County Executive and his administration for their continued commitment to protecting the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. This Executive Order makes clear that Westchester County is a welcoming place to live, work, and be yourself and that your right to be who you truly are will be protected."

Westchester County Legislator & BOL Liaison to LGBTQ Advisory Board Erika Pierce said: "Westchester County is a welcoming county that aims to support all of its residents, especially those most at risk for experiencing hatred. Currently, our trans neighbors are suffering due to acts of hatred and assaults on their access to health care. I am proud to be part of a county that reaffirms its unwavering commitment to promoting respect and equality for all, and in particular today, for our LGBTQIA+ individuals who need our full support."

LGBTQ Advisory Board Member Joann Prinzivalli said: "With the stroke of a pen, our County Executive George Latimer has confirmed Westchester County's continuing commitment to be a leader in the nation, confirming our county's commitment to protect the rights of all our inhabitants to be free from bigotry and persecution. Our county's commitment to diversity means that businesses located here are assured of access to the best, the brightest, the most creative, and the most talented work force in the nation."

The LOFT Center Executive Director Judy Troilo said: "The LOFT LGBTQ+ Community Center fully supports County Executive Latimer's executive order to protect, support and empower our community. This executive order reflects a crucial step forward in our collective efforts to ensure that all members of the LGBTQ+ community have access to the resources and protections they need to thrive."

Hudson River Audubon Society April Events



Wildlife Considerations in Forest Management.

John Butler, Program Director of Restoration & Stewardship at the Van Cortlandt Park Alliance, will discuss the considerations involved in managing a forest, including human stakeholders and the variety of habitat needs of different species. Case studies include the Pileated Woodpecker, Scarlet Tanager, and Eastern Red-backed Salamander. Wednesday, April 26 at 7 PM; in person at Lenoir Preserve Nature Center, 19 Dudley Street, Yonkers, and on Zoom. Email info@hras.org for zoom invitation.

Nature walk.

Debbi Dolan, Conservation Chair of the Hudson River Audubon Society, will lead a walk looking for plants, flowers, birds, and butterflies at the Lenoir Nature Preserve, 19 Dudley Street, Yonkers. Saturday, April 29 at 10 AM. Rain date Sunday, April 30. Register with Debbi: turlan@optonline.net.

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

schools for not having them. Other trustees reminded the group the shades needed to be drawn to show audiovisual programs.

Saturday, April 15th

April 15, 1945: As allegations Thomas Brogan demanded patronage from suspended City Manager Montgomery swirled around him, Brogan offered to take a lie detector test.

April 15, 1947: Yonkers Police rushed to pick up smallpox vaccines specially flown to Yonkers from Indianapolis because our local stock was exhausted the day before, including the emergency supply the State Health Department Laboratory in Albany rushed here.

One hundred-fifty people were waiting at the Yonkers Health Center when it opened at 9 am; by 10 am, the line extended out the door and into the street.

Sunday, April 16th

April 16, 1930: Starting a new aspect of his career, Hudson Terrace resident Joseph Urban, the internationally known artist, scenic designer and architect, agreed to assist Fox Film Corporation with two "colored talking pictures." He previously worked on twenty black and white silent films, but this was very different. He expected to spend ten weeks in Hollywood designing sets, and supervising lighting and color effects for "A Connecticut Yankee" starring Will Rogers, and "The Man Who Came Back" with Charles Farrell. Urban felt the colored and talking movies would start "moviedom on the way to development as an art, especially with the increasing refinement of lenses and sensitiveness of films."

April 16, 1946: High winds blew through Yonkers, winds so strong they blew the roof off a DPW toolshed at the foot of Main Street and carried the roof up Main Street to South Broadway; the roof then sailed down Broadway to smash into the new Nash showroom window at 188 South Broadway!

Questions or comments? Email YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com.

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

YMA Softball Superstar, continued from pg 8-

As softball season steadily approaches she's excited for this upcoming season and is hopeful for the outlook of the team. "We have a good team, and if we work hard we will hopefully go deep into the playoffs again", Moccia commented on this upcoming season. Moccia will return back to the Eagles this spring as they hope to defend their Section 1 title before she will continue to pursue softball at the next level.

No Menthol Ban, continued from pg 1-

Individual justice practitioners affiliated with:
National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE)
National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCIJ)
National Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers (NABLEO)
National Association of Criminal Justice Practitioners (NCJP)

The ACLU wrote this in a 2021 letter to the FDA: "Well-intentioned efforts to continue to reduce death and disease from tobacco products must avoid solutions that will create yet another reason for armed police to engage citizens on the street based on pretext or conduct that does not pose a threat to public safety. Of adults, approximately 80 percent of Blacks and 35 percent of Latinx who choose to smoke prefer menthol cigarettes. Banning menthol cigarettes risks massive setbacks to our criminal justice system at precisely the moment we should be advancing reform. If menthol cigarettes are banned, their sale and distribution would be a crime punishable as a felony under federal criminal statutes."

Do Not Criminalize a Public Health Issue

NLOA acknowledges the negative health impacts of tobacco use. However, numerous reports find that overall, smoking rates in the U.S. are the lowest they have ever been in public health history. In addition, people of color who are menthol smokers have the same overall cessation rates as their non-menthol-smoking white counterparts.

Adopting a public health solution, such as expanding anti-smoking education and prevention and cessation programs, would keep communities safer and healthier far more effectively than a prohibitive policy.

As New York considers a menthol ban, NLOA asks:

- Exhaust all non-prohibition alternatives before removing menthol cigarettes from legal and regulatory channels.
- Evaluate how a ban would adversely impact communities of color, trigger criminal penalties, and increase negative interactions with law enforcement.
- Meet with legislators to provide evidence-based criminal justice resources for pretextual stops and racial profiling.

"Public health and public safety solutions can exist side-by-side. We ask policymakers to choose another path. A menthol cigarette prohibition is not the right answer for New Yorkers, especially in communities of color," Ret. Commissioner Jiles Ship, former NOBLE Past National President and NCJP coalition member.

Visit <https://nloaus.org/> to learn more about The National Latino Officers Association (NLOA)

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AMVETS Donate Blankets to Vets



Commander Sam Riti of Post 40 AMVETS at Yonkers YMCA presenting lap blankets to Veterans.

Pictured in photo (left to right) Lucia Ortiz CEO of Yonkers YMCA, Commander Sam Riti Post 40 AMVETS, Vincent Taliaferro Marine Veteran and George Negron Army Veteran.

Blankets were donated by the New York State Foundation AMVETS American Veterans.

Commander Riti will be going to FDR Montrose Hospital and Castle Point Veterans Hospital to distribute lap blankets to Veterans there.

YMA Softball Standout Moccia Commits to Western Connecticut State University!



Yonkers Lady Eagles's Mackenzie Moccia playing third base during a playoff game vs Westlake High School at YMA Photo by Mrs. Moccia By Derrick Touba Jr.

All State Team, YMA softball player Mackenzie Moccia has had an illustrious high school career. While at the conclusion of this spring season she will leave high school softball goodbye, she will begin a new journey as she has committed to play at Western Connecticut State University.

Moccia has accomplished a significant amount through her tenure. As a sophomore she hit for a batting average of .727, and by the end of the year was an All Section honorable mention twice and a three time All League winner, and only proceeded to improve. As a junior she was named to the All State, All Section, and All League teams. She hit for an astounding average of .543 with 38 hits, 2 homeruns, 22 runs batted in, 5 doubles, and 8 triples for the Eagles. However, Moccia isn't just an elite hitter, but an ace pitcher for YMA, accumulating an impressive 12-6 record in 18 starts with an outstanding 150 strikeouts.

A natural third baseman, Moccia found the adjustment to pitching difficult, citing the significant difference in arm motions. "Pitching is completely different from third base," Moccia said, "When pitching you must learn new mechanics that have nothing to do with throwing a ball overhand. It was a huge challenge for me that took a lot of hard work to overcome". Moccia evidently worked to become one of the best pitchers in section 1. Showcased with a masterful performance last March in which she threw an exceptional 15 strikeout no-hitter, one of two no-hitters she threw on the year. Her consistent production on the mound earned her the nod to start the Section 1 Class C Championship game vs Tuckahoe. Moccia helped lead the Eagles to a hard fought 10-9 victory, becoming the first Yonkers softball team to win a Section 1 title.

With such an established resume Moccia was a valuable recruit for any university, but Western Connecticut State fit her best interests as a student-athlete. "I chose Western Connecticut State University for their education program and small class size. I was recruited by the coach and was very impressed with the program and her. Coach Stone is amazing and made me feel very comfortable when I visited West Conn", Moccia said on the reasoning behind her decision.

Moccia intends to major in elementary education, following in her parents footsteps who both contribute as educators in the Yonkers Public Schools district. A member of the National and Math honor societies at YMA, education is very important to Moccia and "West Conn" not only allows her to further her own education, but develop future minds as a teacher. A current member of Project Impact and peer mentoring programs, she is well immersed in helping her community and other students. Teaching offers an additional outlet to give back to her environment as she will continue such efforts in college.

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ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Keeping Hope Alive Across Diverse Communities: Caregiving Resources for Alzheimer's Disease

A virtual symposium from 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 22



The Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter is pleased to announce our biennial diversity, equity and inclusion symposium — "Keeping Hope Alive Across Diverse Communities: Caregiving Resources for Alzheimer's Disease." This virtual symposium seeks to address diverse communities and provide information, support and hope for caregivers. Our speakers will talk about the latest research and treatments in Alzheimer's disease, the impact of aging and the disease on diverse communities and the perspective of someone living with the disease.

Guest Speakers



Dr. Maria Carrillo



Karyne Jones



Arthena Caston

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



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