

## Yonkers Team's "Sponge Cities" Idea Wins Best Presentation At ELOC Summer Academy Showcase



Members of Yonkers Team Sponge Cities, with their winning presentation

By Michael Gold

Planting sponge cities, hanging nylon mesh nets to collect rainwater and water vapor, and installing cool roofs were some of the innovative ideas several student teams presented to help reduce the effects of climate change, at the Environmental Leaders of Color (ELOC)'s 2025 summer energy and environmental program at the Yonkers Library, August 7th.

Each summer ELOC conducts a six-week STEM educational and leadership academy for teens in Yonkers, Mt. Vernon, New Rochelle and other Westchester locations, as part of the regular schedule of summer camp activities in these communities.

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## Yonkers Honors John Edward Bruce with Permanent Headstone After 100 Years



State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, with community members at Bruce headstone  
*See Story on page 14*

## Yonkers Police Charge Man in Shooting-Homicide



Xavier Palmer

Just before 12:30 am on August 11, 2025, the Yonkers Police Department responded to the area of 30 Cliff Street on a report of a male who had been shot. Upon arrival, Officers located a 41-year-old male with a gunshot wound to his chest. Emergency medical care was rendered on scene, and the victim was transported to an area hospital. He unfortunately succumbed to his wound and was later pronounced deceased. The victim is identified as 41-year-old James Hardy, of Yonkers.

Detectives from the Yonkers Police Major Case Squad and Crime Scene

*continued on pg 14-*

## Significant Support, Lingering Concerns at First CAC Hearing on Empire City Casino License



Members of the MGM Citizens Advisory Committee, L-R-Maria Fernandez, Joe Apicella, Chair Jim Cavanaugh, Frank Jereis. Not pictured Larry Wilson.

By Dan Murphy

The Yonkers Community Advisory Council (CAC), made up of five appointees by local and state elected officials, held its first public hearing on Aug. 11 at the Will Library to gather public feedback to determine whether there is community support for MGM Resorts' application for a full commercial casino license for Empire City Casino.

CAC Chair Jim Cavanaugh said, "The members of the CAC are charged with reviewing the Empire City application, receiving public comments, and determining whether the project should be advanced to the next stage of the process. Today is for public comment."

Cavanaugh said that the second public hearing will take place on September 16 at the Yonkers Montessori Academy, 160 Woodlawn Ave., at 6 pm.

Comments regarding MGM Empire City may be submitted via email to MG-EMpireCityPublicComment@nystec.com

*continued on pg 11-*

## Pat Quinn's Memory Lives on With Annual Ice Bucket Challenge at MGM Casino



Mayor Mike Spano with participants and ALS patients attending the Ice Bucket Challenge at MGM-Yonkers Racway.

More Photos on pg 9-Photos by Donna Davis

## Remembering Michael Richard Bennett: A Yonkers Treasure



Mike Bennett, Rest in Peace

Michael Bennett, aged 91, of Fort Mill, South Carolina, passed away peacefully at home on August 5, 2025. The family will host a celebration of life at Edwards Dowdle Funeral Home in Dobbs Ferry on Thursday, August 14, 2025 at 10:30 am.

Born in Yonkers, New York, Mike was the son of James Bennett and Julia Curley. He attended Yonkers High School and after graduating, went directly into the Navy, serving on an AKA during the Korean Conflict. He went to navigational school in Bainbridge, Maryland and when a civilian again, attended City College in New York for two years.

While working in Albany, New York for over thirty years, he assisted three State Senators – John E. ("Chippie") Flynn, Christian Ambruster and William F. Con-

*continued on pg 12-*

## Remembering Delfim Heusler



Delfim Heusler, left, Rest in Peace

By Dan Murphy

I was surprised and saddened when I heard the news that Delfim Heusler had passed away over the weekend of Aug. 8-10, 2025 at the age of 53.

I was friends with Del for almost 30 years. We go back to the days of Publisher Ralph Martinelli and the Yonkers Home News & Times in the 1990's.

More recently, Del ran a website, Yonkers Insider, which was a down-the-middle newsite for people interested in Yonkers and Westchester.

I was in contact with Del every day. He kept me informed about what the blogosphere was up to and before

every election, we would gather and make our predictions.

He loved politics and was knowledgeable about almost every political figure in Westchester. There were very few people in Westchester who knew every elected official, what community they represented, and how many signatures they had to get to be on the ballot. Delfim has some serious knowledge about Westchester politics, and over the years, he build a list of contacts and connections that helped him get information before others.

That is why it was good to hear Mayor Spano, County Executive Jenkins, and DA Cacace offer their condolences.

"He was a local blogger who loved Yonkers and wanted to make a difference through his storytelling. Rest in Peace, Delfim Heusler, Founder of Yonkers Insider," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano.

"Westchester County is saddened by the passing of Delfim Heusler, publisher of the Yonkers Insider, an online publication that has covered news in Yonkers and Westchester County for over 21 years. Delfim was committed to keeping residents informed, providing consistent coverage of local government, community events, and issues that mattered most to his readers. His dedication to transparency and public access to information made him a trusted voice in Yonkers and beyond," said Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins.

"On behalf of Westchester County, I extend my deepest condolences to Heusler's family, friends, and colleagues. His work had a profound impact on our community, and his legacy will endure through the many people and stories he touched," said Westchester District Attorney Susan Cacace.

Del would have appreciated these kind words from the political leaders of Westchester. And anyone who knew Del at the end of his life knew that he was happy, and enjoying his life and coverage of Yonkers and Westchester.

The best post on Facebook that sums up Del, and my feelings on his loss, comes from my friend Matt Richter, who wrote. "I am so sad to hear of the passing of Delfim Heusler. Del was a remarkably kind and gentle man.

"We texted at least 4 or 5 days every week, and I always felt uplifted from his messages. Del has run a modest but earnest politics blog focused on the City of Yonkers for a long time.

"Several years ago, I suggested he start selling advertising on his blog, and over the following weeks, we talked about how that would work. He tackled the advertising model, and he was so happy with the response he got.

"He would let me know about every new client he signed and when he got a check."

"I am so proud of all that Delfim accomplished in his too-short life. He had long odds against him, but he overcame all the challenges and contributed mightily, in his way, to Yonkers and Westchester County politics."

"This is a picture following a haircut a few weeks ago. He always texted me pics after a fresh haircut."

"God bless Delfim. Reunited with your Mom and Dad. RIP, my friend. I will miss you a lot." Wrote Richter.

No news yet on a service for Delfim Heusler.

## Contribute to Mayor Spano's Backpack to School Drive Through Aug.18

Mayor Mike Spano's  **BACKPACK TO SCHOOL DRIVE**  **supplies list**



Please Donate the Following Supplies through August 18<sup>th</sup>

- backpacks
- crayons
- colored pencils
- washable markers
- glue sticks
- Elmer's Glue
- rulers
- pink erasers
- #2 pencils
- pencil sharpeners
- loose leaf paper
- composition books
- pencil pouches
- pocket folders
- hand sanitizer
- tissue packets
- masks/face coverings

Mayor Spano has officially launched the 14th Annual Yonkers "Backpack to School" Drive! Through August 18, you can donate new backpacks and school supplies at the following drop-off locations: Yonkers City Hall (40 S Broadway), Riverfront Library (1 Larkin Center) Grinton I. Will Library (1500 Central Park Ave), Crestwood Library (16 Thompson St), Police Precinct 1 – 730 E. Grassy Sprain Rd, Police Precinct 2 – 441 Central Park Ave, Police Precinct 3 – 435 Riverdale Ave, Police Precinct 4 – 53 Shonnard Place. More info: [yonkersny.gov/backpackdrive](http://yonkersny.gov/backpackdrive)

## Contribute to Mayor Spano's Backpack to School Drive Through Aug.18

Adults | Local History | Grinton I. Will Library



### Stockbridge: The Kingsbridge Massacre

Thursday, August 21  
6 pm, Senator Flynn Room

This documentary is about the massacre of Native Americans at Kingsbridge during the American Revolution in 1778.

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## 2025 Tour de Yonkers Set for September 28



The 16th Annual Tour de Yonkers will take place on Sunday, September 28, 2025. The ride is the second largest participant sporting event on the Yonkers calendar (the largest being the Yonkers Marathon). Last year the Tour had over 400 riders.

This enjoyable untimed event is open to all bike riders over the age of 18 with routes of 12, 25 and 50 miles. The routes include share-the-road streets, scenic park trails, and, for the longer ride, along the closed-to-traffic Bronx River Parkway. There will be a police escort for the first several miles.

The ride will start and end at the Beczak Environmental Center- Sarah Lawrence Center for the Urban River, 35 Alexander Street, located in picturesque Habershaw Park along the Hudson River. There is food provided at rest stops and at the finish.

Tour participants receive a cycling jersey as part of their registration, \$65 until Sept. 1.

Quantity of jerseys is limited so riders are urged to register early to insure they receive one.

For more information and to register visit [yonkersbikeclub.org](http://yonkersbikeclub.org)

## Fourth Precinct Community Council

The Fourth Precinct's Community Council will hold its monthly meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday, August 21, 2025, in the meeting room at the Fourth Police Precinct at 53 Shonnard Terrace. Anyone who lives or works in the area served by the Fourth Police Precinct is welcome to attend. All elected officials are also welcome. Captain Jeremiah Foley, Precinct Commander, and Lieutenant Robert Varley will be available to discuss your issues and matters of interest.

**Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com)**

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## Blame it on the Chopped Liver!



By Eric Wolf Schoen

I haven't had a good chopped liver sandwich in ages. You know, a sandwich on a fresh onion roll with seeds or for that matter, a mound of chopped liver surrounded by crackers where you dip the crackers into the chopped liver surrounded and consume an amount that causes stomach trouble.

As a kid growing eating liver I got stomach stress called the 'hulucches.' Every family had that one food item that caused distress! Usually you would lie down and within a half hour you would feel better, an alka seltzer or brioschi to lead the way. But last week it sort of got to my hence the lousy proofreading of my column. I guess I ate just a little too much after eating a bland diet during my hospital stay.

There's so many questions now to what the term soft bland diet means. For one part of the dieting spectrum instead of vegetables and proteins they are telling folks to go back to carbohydrate laced diet. We shall see what the ultimate quiet is when more research us done.

Its hot outside. The heat we gave been going through seems stronger than in years past. Is it the heat or is it that we are getting older. Wether it be Firemen, policemen, public works employee cool fresh air is not coming their their way.

Our OFFICE FOR THE aging brings meals all over Yonkers for the good fortune of our senior citizens, many without air conditioning in their apartments. This service is a blessing, as without it the people would go hungry. Call City Hall if you want to take part.

When you observe City of Yonkers employees working hard, hand them a bottle of cold water . That is a simple little thing you can do-to make riger their day a little brighter.

First the White House house talks to do away with the Kennedy Honors Awarding some of the finest people in the Art and Enertainet industry. The Present agreed to do it if people with a +consevatibe bavground were honored. A predisposed cemeremonyb almost lost

The President needs the Arts andhumanities council at a press conference we're so he can interest a grown up with little boys like the 6 year Elon Musk kid to interest with him!

Reach Eric Schoen at [ewschoen@icloud.com](mailto:ewschoen@icloud.com).

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## Greenburgh Police Officer & Whistleblower Kristin Stein Still Fighting for Justice

How the “Thin Blue Line” Became a Shield for Corruption



**Greenburgh  
Police Officer  
Kristin  
Stein**

By Dan Murphy

Four years ago, we wrote about a bombshell lawsuit against the Town of Greenburgh, the Greenburgh Police Department, and 16 Greenburgh Police officers, alleging a pattern of sexual harassment, sexual assault, and retaliation against Police Officer Kristin Stein.

A lawsuit filled with evidence and integrity is now used to show what will happen if you tell the truth at the Greenburgh Police Department.

Almost 7 years after the assault, Officer Stein is still fighting for justice, and we are here to fight with her.

A recent Journal News article reported that 14 of the 17 claims made by Stein in the lawsuit have been dismissed by Federal Court Judge Philip Halperin, including the 2019 sexual assault caught on camera.

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## County BOL Invests in the Safety and Success of Families and Students

The Westchester County Board of Legislators authorized critical improvements for the County’s largest family shelter plus after-school programming for sixth-graders in Yonkers during its meeting on Monday, August 4, 2025.

The Board acted to directly enhance residents’ daily lives by ensuring safe, healthy living conditions for vulnerable families and provide essential resources to help sixth-grade students successfully navigate one of the most challenging academic transitions.

**Investing in Safe, Healthy Conditions at County’s Largest Family Shelter**

The Board allocated \$855,000 in bonds to fund essential infrastructure improvements at the Coachman Family Center in White Plains, Westchester County’s largest family homeless shelter. The investment will address three key areas: replacing deteriorating water service lines, upgrading the fire suppression system, and relocating and improving ventilation systems that serve commercial spaces, including a nail salon and barber shop, within the facility.

Currently, up to 100 families with 189 children live at the Coachman while working toward securing permanent housing and independence. The facility provides housing-focused case management services including skill building, advocacy, crisis intervention, and connection to community resources. Families also have access to on-site childcare for preschoolers and a youth center for school-age children.

The infrastructure upgrades will improve air quality and building reliability for all shelter residents. The improvements represent the Board’s ongoing commitment to empowering families of all backgrounds as they work to achieve stability.

Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson, Chair of the Board’s Budget and Appropriations Committee, said of the investment, “Updating and modernizing the infrastructure of our shelter system is not just a matter of maintenance—it is a matter of dignity for our unhoused neighbors. The planned improvements to the Coachman Family Center in my district will enhance both the living spaces for those seeking stability and the commercial areas leased by long-standing tenants. These upgrades will ensure safer, more functional environments for all who use the building, while the continued revenue from these businesses helps sustain essential services.”

Legislator Nancy E. Barr said, “The Board’s approval to finance improvements at the Coachman Family Center is yet another example of the County’s commitment to maintaining and investing in county-owned infrastructure before facilities fall into disrepair, which would require even larger expenditures down the road. This center is a critical asset for Westchester residents facing homelessness as a result of eviction, house fires, storm damage, medical emergencies, or chronic health issues.”

**Partnering with Yonkers to Support Students’ Transition to Middle School**

The Board also endorsed an inter-municipal agreement (IMA) with the City of Yonkers to fund the Yonkers Sixth Grade Leadership Academy, an after-school program designed to help sixth-grade students successfully transition into middle school through weekly lessons on leadership and social skills, self-development, anti-bullying, academics, and mental health. The program will be open to all current Yonkers youth in sixth grade and will be taught by on-site staff and special guest instructors.

Under the approved cost-sharing arrangement, Westchester County will contribute up to \$110,000 with Yonkers providing a 100% match for the program this year. This partnership addresses a critical developmental period for youth by providing essential guidance during the challenging transition from elementary to middle school. The Westchester County Youth Bureau will collaborate with The City of Yonkers Youth Bureau to oversee the program.

Board Vice Chair José I. Alvarado said of the agreement, “I’m proud to support this funding—not only as Vice-Chair of the Board of Legislators, but as a representative of the City. This unique program gives our young people the chance to grow through fun, hands-on learning experiences that focus on respect, goal setting, self-care, and personal presentation. We’ve already seen incredible growth in students, and parents are truly grateful. The City of Yonkers Youth Bureau’s Youth Leadership Academy is making a real difference, and I believe it will continue to help our youth thrive as they transition into middle school and beyond.”

Legislator David J. Tubiolo said, “As one of the members of the Board of Legislators proudly serving the third largest city in New York State, I am delighted to support this initiative that provides opportunity to our community’s greatest resource: the youth. Funding this inter-municipal agreement between the County and City of Yonkers’ Sixth Grade Leadership Academy will provide our youngsters with the tools they need as they make this pivotal transition in their academic and life journeys.”

Minority Whip James Nolan said, “I’m proud to support the approval of this \$220,000 agreement with Yonkers to fund the Sixth Grade Leadership Academy. This after-school program plays a vital role in helping students successfully transition into middle school, build confidence, and develop the skills they need to thrive. As a graduate of the Yonkers Public School System, I know the importance programs like these play.”

Legislator Shanae Williams said, “The Board’s approval of the \$220,000 IMA with Yonkers is a significant investment in our youth at a pivotal stage in their development. Not all children learn the same way-- the Sixth Grade Leadership Academy offers a dynamic, alternative approach to reinforce academic skills and support diverse learning needs.”

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## ReX2 Deploys Digital Scanning Technology to Create Digital Twins of Buildings



*Mattie Wilkes with a LIDAR camera at 1 Executive Blvd. in Yonkers. Photo courtesy of the BCW.*

In a significant stride for real estate innovation, the Business Council of Westchester’s Westchester Innovation Network (WIN) recently facilitated a digital scan of a Simone Development Companies property by ReX2, a company at the forefront of digital-twin technology.

The scanning of One Executive Boulevard in North Yonkers, a medical office building newly acquired and renovated by Simone Development, served as a crucial test and demonstration of ReX2’s capabilities. A scan of the building, known as a digital twin, allowed ReX2 to create videos that allow prospective tenants to have a 3D experience walking through the building’s finished and unfinished spaces.

“The goal was originally to bring people into the space,” said Mattie Wilkes, ReX2’s founder. “Anybody on Simone’s leasing team can guide people, whether over the phone or on Zoom, through the whole building.”

Wilkes, 26, of Mount Kisco, established ReX2 just over three years ago, focusing on creating tailor made digital twins of physical spaces, differentiating itself significantly from standard virtual tours.

Unlike typical virtual walkthroughs that feature standard imagery, ReX2 uses LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) and infrared scanning. LIDAR devices emit laser light pulses to measure distances to objects and walls to create 3D models of any environment. This versatile technology can map terrain, assess hazards, and guide autonomous vehicles.

The digital twinning of a property allows architects to export measurements directly into CAD software for proposals, printing, and even generate floor plans for buildings where none exist.

The on-site scanning for One Executive Boulevard took approximately four days, followed by several weeks of collaborative work with Simone Development’s in-house leasing, construction, and property management teams for editing and information integration. Wilkes praised the experience of working with the Simone team, specifically commending director of leasing Jeremy Schwartz and vice-president of leasing Josh Gopan for their helpfulness and communication.

“We are very enthusiastic about supporting the WIN program by partnering with ReX2 to test their emerging real estate technology. The ReX2 team created an incredible 3D digital twin of our North Yonkers medical property at One Executive Blvd, which will be a phenomenal tool for our leasing team,” said Patricia Simone, Principal & President of Simone Management Group and a BCW board member. “This project truly embodies the mission of the BCW to connect businesses in our community so that they can support each other and grow the economy.”

The match between ReX2 and Simone Development reflects the BCW WIN’s mission to pair emerging innovators with established local companies to foster the latest ideas, drive research and discovery, and cultivate job growth in Westchester County.

“We are thrilled that WIN facilitated such an impactful match between ReX2 and Simone Development Companies,” said BCW president and CEO Marsha Gordon. “Introducing cutting-edge technology to one of Westchester County’s leading commercial real estate development companies exemplifies the WIN program’s primary mission: to empower business leaders to embrace innovative solutions, ensuring they continue to thrive and drive economic growth in our region.”

## On This Day in Yonkers History...



*Postcard of Fortfield Reservoir*

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

Monday, August 18th

August 18, 1907: A kind benefactor placed a neatly painted sign inscribed, “Trophy, Maria Teresa, Santiago, July 3, 1898” beneath the muzzle of the large naval cannon on the north side of Manor Hall Park.

August 18, 1944: London Rotarians saluted the Yonkers Rotary Club while entertaining Yonkers servicemen with Club connections at a special evening held in their honor. All Rotarians and sons of Rotarians who happened to be serving in England were invited to stop by their meeting for an evening of good cheer and entertainment, despite the fact London regularly was being bombed.

Tuesday, August 19th

August 19, 1917: The YWCA announced it would lend its old building at 29 South Broadway to the Red Cross for a recreation canteen to welcome service members.

August 19, 1922: Long-time Yonkers resident Park Benjamin, the wealthy patent lawyer and father-in-law of the late Enrico Caruso, passed away in Connecticut. Caruso had married Dorothy Park Benjamin, a 25-year old socialite, in 1918 and passed away three years later. The Benjamins lived on Palisade Avenue and Morsemere Avenue. Benjamin disowned his three children, leaving them \$1 each, and left his fortune to his adopted daughter Anna Bolchi Benjamin, whom he adopted as an adult.

Wednesday, August 20th

August 20, 1927: Twelfth Ward Alderman Frederick Stilwell announced his retirement from political life after twenty-one years of service to Yonkers. In 1926, the triangular Stilwell Park on McLean Avenue by East 241st Street was named after him.

August 20, 1952: Yonkers Planning Board turned down City Manager Charles Curran’s plan to rezone the Fortfield Reservoir property to permit a \$65,000 garage-storage-office building for Yonkers’ Street Lighting Bureau. Curran asked the two-family zoning be changed to commercial district zoning. The Board’s rationale was this zone change potentially would create a precedent for other zone changes in the residential section. Property owners in the Fortfield section expressed their strong objection to the proposed change. It was suggested the old Hudson Tire plant in Nepera Park would be preferable.

Thursday, August 21st

August 21, 1920: Detective Sergeant John Stuart and Detective Leander Sherman left for Toledo, Ohio, to retrieve a car stolen from Yonkers! They also had arrests warrants for John Samuels and Thomas Wiesene who had stolen the

*continued on pg 12-*

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STATE OF NEW YORK WESTCHESTER COUNTY

In the District Court

25CV005296-400 Child Custody Proceeding To against Andre Peart:

Take notice that a pleading seeking relief against you has been filed in the above-entitled Child Custody proceeding. The nature of the relief being sought is as follows:

Child Custody Complaint in Guilford County, North Carolina

You are required to make defense to such pleading not later than August 23, 2025 and upon your failure to do so the party seeking service against you will apply to the court for the relief sought.

This, the 28th day of July, 2025

Kelley Brosky, Atty. for the Plaintiff

122 N. Elm St., Suite 900, Greensboro, NC 27401

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 LCS Advisers LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 7/11/2025. 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, 260 Garth Road, Apt. 2d4, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: any lawful 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 PRINCE & BROADWAY PROPERTIES LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/22/25. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 172 Rockne Road, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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 Super Smart Future LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with Sec. of State of NY (SSNY) on 04/20/2023. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Super Smart Future LLC, 58 Valley Rd, Katonah, NY 10536. 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 SteenShotsz 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.

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.

THE CITY OF YONKERS/YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BUREAU OF PURCHASING, One Larkin Center, 3RD Floor, Yonkers, New York 10701 (Located in the Yonkers Riverfront Library Building across from the Metro-North train station) will receive sealed Bids and Proposals for the following projects until 2:00 PM, on the dates below.

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

The building is open from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM for receiving packages via courier services and in person. If delivering bids in person, individuals must see the Public Safety Officer in the library atrium, who will contact Purchasing to meet the individual at the 3rd floor elevator.

Those interested in listening to the Sealed Bids opening and the reading of bids can dial Conference Call number 1-701-802-5221 and enter Access Code 1354203 when prompted.

Solicitation documents are available for downloading from the Empire State Purchasing Group website at <http://www.empirestatebidsystem.com/>. The City welcomes and encourages participation by local and minority and women owned business enterprises.

1) Bid No. RFB-7505 – Opening date: 09/05/2025: Twelve-month contract with additional Twelve-Month Option to provide on-call roofing maintenance and repair services for City owned facilities (NG).

2) Bid No. RFB-7508 – Opening Date: 08/27/2025: Provide Cisco Flex (Or Yonkers Approved Equal) for On-Premises Calling for Education Software Licenses (NG).

3) Bid No. RFB-7507 – Opening Date: 09/05/2025: Twelve-month contract with an option to renew for the purchase of ½” crush stone as needed (TN).

4) Bid No. RFB-7510 – Opening Date: 09/05/2025: Purchase of Urban SBK Speed and Traffic Calming data software licenses (or Yonkers Approved Equal) (VB).

5) Bid No. RFB-7509 – Opening date: 9/5/2025: General construction contract for the exterior door replacement at Paideia School 15 (MM).

6) Bid No. RFB-7511 – Opening date: 9/5/2025: Purchase of 1-10 Buick Envista Sport Touring Model (or Yonkers approved equal) (MM).

Notice of Formation of Math Power LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY On 07/12/2025. 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, 35 Florence St, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of BLUEPRINTS AND BEYOND LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on February 4th, 2025. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 70 Ashburton Avenue, Apt. 7H, Yonkers, New York, 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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 155 ROUTE 202 LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 07/10/2025. 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, 401 Broadway, Suit 1111, NY, NY 10013. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Beautifully Hauled LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 07/15/2025. 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 28 Chestnut Street, Yonkers NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

YONKERS POLICE DEPARTMENT

NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLE

I, Christopher Sapienza, Commissioner of the Yonkers Police Department, do hereby issue the following notice pursuant to Sections 109-144 and 109-147 of the Code of the City of Yonkers:

A 2017 Honda CRV, identified by VIN # 2HKRW2H92HH617063) has been lawfully impounded since 05/02/25 and to this date no owner has come forward to claim any interest in this vehicle. Any persons having a legal interest in this vehicle may seek recovery of said vehicle by contacting Lt. Gregory Forshey no later than 09/12/25. If such person has a legal right to the vehicle, they shall be responsible for all costs incurred by the City to remove and store said vehicle and for the cost to publish any notice.

If this vehicle is not claimed by 09/12/25, the vehicle shall be deemed abandoned and title shall vest with the City on 09/12/25, (20 business days from the date of publication).

Notice of Formation of FUSE WORKS LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 04/11/2025. Office location: Westchester County, NY. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 54 Brosnan Pl, Tuckahoe, NY 10707. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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## Dr. James Yu Now Available to Bring Pain Relief to Patients



James Yu, DO, MS

Saint Joseph's Medical Center is proud to announce that James Yu, DO, MS, will be available to provide safe and effective pain relief to patients.

Dr. Yu, who is now affiliated with Saint Joseph's Medical Center, is a dual-trained anesthesiologist and interventional pain management physician who is dedicated to helping patients achieve lasting relief from chronic pain. Dr. Yu offers advanced, evidence-based treatment options that are tailored to each patient's

needs and focused on improving their quality of life.

A native of New York, Dr. Yu earned both his master's degree in biomedical sciences and his medical degree from Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine, where he also conducted research in neuroscience and pain medicine. He completed his residency in anesthesiology at the University of Illinois Chicago, followed by subspecialty training through the prestigious Tri-Institutional Pain Fellowship, where he trained at Weill Cornell-NY Presbyterian Hospital, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, and the Hospital for Special Surgery.

Dr. Yu brings extensive experience in minimally invasive techniques to treat a wide range of acute and chronic pain conditions. His approach is rooted in providing safe, patient-centered care that helps restore function and promote long-term wellness. He offers expert diagnosis and treatment for a variety of pain conditions, including neck and low back pain, disc herniations and degenerative disc disease, arthritis of the cervical/lumbar spine, spinal stenosis and sciatica, peripheral nerve pain and diabetic neuropathy, vertebral compression fractures, joint pain (shoulder, hip, knee), muscular pain, tendonitis, bursitis, complex regional pain syndrome, post-surgical pain, abdominal and pelvic pain, cancer-related pain, migraine headaches, and treatment-resistant anxiety and PTSD.

Dr. Yu offers a wide array of interventional and non-surgical treatments, including epidural steroid injections, nerve blocks, radiofrequency ablation, joint and trigger point injections, neuromodulation (spinal cord stimulation), endoscopic discectomy, regenerative medicine therapies (PRP), stellate ganglion blocks (for PTSD, anxiety, long COVID), and non-narcotic medication management. His approach to pain management is guided by compassion, clinical excellence, and collaboration. His care model includes detailed evaluations to identify the root cause of pain, personalized treatment plans designed for long-term relief, coordination with physical therapists, surgeons, and specialists, and ongoing patient education to support self-management and recovery.

Dr. Yu will have office space in Southern Westchester Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, located at 970 North Broadway, Suite 204 in Yonkers.

To schedule an appointment with Dr. Yu, please call 516-229-1443.

For more information, visit [saintjosephs.org](http://saintjosephs.org).

## ICE Makes Two More Detentions in Port Chester and Peekskill



Milton Guamarriga, left, and Amy Lituma with son right

By Dan Murphy

Two recent detentions and apprehensions by ICE in Westchester County are different from the case that made news last week: The 5 day detention of Scarsdale HS graduate Yeonsoo Go.

On July 29, Milton Guamarriga, a volunteer fire fighter in Port Chester, was detained by ICE and is now in their custody in a Michigan jail. Guamarriga, 43, has lived in Port Chester for more than 20 years. His wife and children are raising funds for his legal defense through [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com/f/e62bsq-reunite-our-family) <https://www.gofundme.com/f/e62bsq-reunite-our-family>

Dear friends, family, and kind strangers,

We are reaching out with heavy hearts to ask for your support. My father has recently been detained, and our family is navigating a deeply emotional and challenging time. He is a loving father, a hardworking man, and someone who has always put his family first. Unfortunately, the legal process ahead is overwhelming and expensive. We are raising funds to cover legal representation, court fees, and any related costs to ensure he receives a fair chance and that we can work toward bringing him home.

Every donation, no matter the amount, helps us move one step closer to reuniting our family. If you are unable to donate, sharing this campaign with others would mean the world to us Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your compassion and support during this difficult time.

With gratitude, The Guamarriga Family writes on GoFundMe. They have almost reached their goal of \$13,000.

Milton Guamarriga worked as a marble installer in addition to his volunteer fire fighters job.

Most of the media coverage has been sympathetic to the Guamarriga family and Milton's situation. "Milton Guamarriga, a 43-year-old father of three and long-time volunteer firefighter in Port Chester, New York, was detained by ICE outside

*continued on pg 12-*

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# Hudson Piers Affordable Housing Program

38 NEWLY CONSTRUCTED UNITS at 55 Riverside Dr, Yonkers, NY, 10701

## Who Should Apply?

Individuals or households who meet the income and household size requirements listed in the table below may apply. Qualified applicants will be required to meet additional selection criteria.

AVAILABLE UNITS AND INCOME REQUIREMENTS

BAND I 100% AREA MEDIAN INCOME (AMI) UNITS	Unit Size	Monthly Rent <sup>1</sup>	Units Available		Household Size <sup>2</sup>	Annual Household Income <sup>3</sup> (Minimum – Maximum) <sup>4</sup>
	BAND I 100% AREA MEDIAN INCOME (AMI) UNITS	Studio	30% of the household income	2	→	1 person
2 person						\$110,160 - \$136,000
1 bedroom		30% of the household income	9	→	1 person	\$96,390 - \$119,000
					2 person	\$110,160 - \$136,000
					3 person	\$123,930 - \$153,000
2 bedroom		30% of the household income	3	→	2 person	\$110,160 - \$136,000
					3 person	\$123,930 - \$153,000
					4 person	\$137,700 - \$170,000
3 bedroom		30% of the household income	1	→	5 person	\$148,716 - \$183,600
	3 person				\$123,930 - \$153,000	
	4 person				\$137,700 - \$170,000	
	6 person				\$159,732 - \$197,200	
BAND II 80% AREA MEDIAN INCOME (AMI) UNITS	Unit Size	Monthly Rent <sup>1</sup>	Units Available		Household Size <sup>2</sup>	Annual Household Income <sup>3</sup> (Minimum – Maximum) <sup>4</sup>
BAND II 80% AREA MEDIAN INCOME (AMI) UNITS	Studio	30% of the household income	2	→	1 person	\$78,540 - \$95,200
					2 person	\$89,760 - \$108,800
	1 bedroom	30% of the household income	4	→	1 person	\$78,540 - \$95,200
					2 person	\$89,760 - \$108,800
					3 person	\$100,980 - \$122,400
	2 bedroom	30% of the household income	2	→	2 person	\$89,760 - \$108,800
					3 person	\$100,980 - \$122,400
					4 person	\$112,200 - \$136,000
						5 person
BAND III 65% AREA MEDIAN INCOME (AMI) UNITS	Unit Size	Monthly Rent <sup>1</sup>	Units Available		Household Size <sup>2</sup>	Annual Household Income <sup>3</sup> (Minimum – Maximum) <sup>4</sup>
BAND III 65% AREA MEDIAN INCOME (AMI) UNITS	Studio	30% of the household income	3	→	1 person	\$47,600 - \$77,350
					2 person	\$54,400 - \$88,400
	1 bedroom	30% of the household income	6	→	1 person	\$47,600 - \$77,350
					2 person	\$54,400 - \$88,400
					3 person	\$61,200 - \$99,450
	2 bedroom	30% of the household income	5	→	2 person	\$54,400 - \$88,400
					3 person	\$61,200 - \$99,450
					4 person	\$68,000 - \$110,500
	3 bedroom	30% of the household income	1	→	5 person	\$73,440 - \$119,340
					3 person	\$61,200 - \$99,450
					4 person	\$68,000 - \$110,500
					6 person	\$78,880 - \$128,180

<sup>1</sup>Rent includes gas for cooking.

<sup>2</sup>Household size includes everyone who will live with you, including parents and children. Subject to occupancy criteria.

<sup>3</sup>Household earnings includes salary, hourly wages, tips, Social Security, child support, and other income. Income guidelines subject to change.

<sup>4</sup>A family may only participate in the COY AHO program if this will be their primary residence.

<sup>5</sup>Employees of MHACY and Mulford Corporation are prohibited from applying and are ineligible for consideration.

<sup>6</sup>Other Rental subsidies may not be used in conjunction with Affordable Housing Program.

## How Do You Apply?

Apply online starting **08/22/2025 11:59pm**. To apply online, please go to [www.hudsonpiers.com](http://www.hudsonpiers.com). Once on the website, click the "Apply for Affordable" button to get started. Only send one application per household. Do not submit duplicate applications. Applicants who submit more than one application may be disqualified.

## When is the Deadline?

Applications will be accepted until units are filled. Applications not selected will remain on the waiting list.

## What Happens After You Submit an application?

After the application deadline, submissions will be reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. Please note that applicants will be considered in the order in which their documents are completed. If your application is selected, you will be asked to submit documentation through a secure online platform called Rent Café. All household members over the age of 18 will be subject to a credit and background check.

For questions or inquiries, please email [HPaffordable@mulfordcorporation.com](mailto:HPaffordable@mulfordcorporation.com).

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# 2025 Ice Bucket Challenge



Ms Davis Photography



Ms Davis Photography

Photos by Donna Davis



Ms Davis Photography



Pat Quinn Sr.

Ms Davis Photography

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**Letters to the Editor:****Name The Rte.9 Pedestrian/Bike Bridge  
For Pete Seeger**

Last week NYS announced that a new 270-foot pedestrian and bicycle bridge along Route 9 in Tarrytown over the NYS Thruway had been completed. Great news!

I believe that the bridge should be named in honor of Pete Seeger who did more than most to improve the Hudson River. For much of the last 50 years of his life Pete was active in promoting action to clean up the Hudson River through the Hudson River Sloop Clearwater organization, dealing with everything from PCB contamination of the river caused by industrial manufacturing, to pesticide runoff, to harbor dredge spoil disposal.

Everyone who enjoys water sports on the Hudson owes Pete Seeger a huge debt of thanks.

Shortly after Pete Seeger died, I suggested that the new bridge over the Hudson (the Mario Cuomo Bridge) be named in Pete's honor. That suggestion was rejected. I then suggested that the walkway/bike path over the bridge be named in his honor. That was also rejected. We now have a new bridge and a new Governor. I'm hopeful that Pete's life and legacy will be honored. Those of us who enjoy the Hudson should reflect on Pete Seeger's contributions and never forget what he did for the river.

PAUL FEINER

Greenburgh Town Supervisor

**To the Editor:**

Congressman Mike Lawler held a raucous press conference last week to take credit for the raised cap on SALT deductions, his signature issue.

Previously, homeowners could deduct the full amount of their state and local taxes on their federal tax returns. In 2017, President Trump imposed a cap of \$10,000 on those deductions. Rep. Lawler is taking a victory lap for getting that limit raised to \$40,000 as part of the One Big Beautiful Bill that recently passed by one vote in each house of Congress. Now, those who itemize their federal returns can take this larger SALT deduction.

So why all the fuss about this big "win"? Who would object to a tax deduction? It turns out there's a reason that President Trump wanted this Big Mac of a bill passed quickly. Because just like a Big Mac, it's stuffed with things that are not so good for you. Dozens of Lawler's constituents showed up to the press conference to remind him that in voting for the raised SALT cap, he also voted to slash funding for Medicaid, SNAP (food stamps), and the federal subsidies that help people to buy health insurance. He also voted to increase the funding for ICE to \$75 billion, turning our country into a police state where masked officers can abduct our neighbors without due process and send them off to inhumane detention centers. Lawler also voted to give tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans, exploding the federal deficit to the point where it will trigger the PAYGO Act, resulting in mandatory cuts to Medicare.

But Mike Lawler is hoping that you'll just be happy with your extra SALT Big Mac and not notice all the really nasty stuff inside.

Celeste Theis

Croton on Hudson

**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.

I operate from convenient offices at 73 Market Street in Ridge Hill, Yonkers, NY. My fees are reasonable and I offer a free initial consultation. I offer in person meetings. Why deal with an unknown person online when you can meet with me in person?

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*Hope to hear from you! Thanks!*

**ICE detentions, continued from pg 1-**

raising funds for his legal defense through [www.gofundme.com](http://www.gofundme.com) <https://www.gofundme.com/f/e62bsq-reunite-our-family>

Dear friends, family, and kind strangers,

We are reaching out with heavy hearts to ask for your support. My father has recently been detained, and our family is navigating a deeply emotional and challenging time. He is a loving father, a hardworking man, and someone who has always put his family first. Unfortunately, the legal process ahead is overwhelming and expensive. We are raising funds to cover legal representation, court fees, and any related costs to ensure he receives a fair chance and that we can work toward bringing him home.

Every donation, no matter the amount, helps us move one step closer to reuniting our family. If you are unable to donate, sharing this campaign with others would mean the world to us. Thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your compassion and support during this difficult time.

With gratitude, The Guamarrigra Family writes on GoFundMe. They have almost reached their goal of \$13,000.

Milton Guamarrigra worked as a marble installer in addition to his volunteer fire fighters job.

Most of the media coverage has been sympathetic to the Guamarrigra family and Milton's situation. "Milton Guamarrigra, a 43-year-old father of three and longtime volunteer firefighter in Port Chester, New York, was detained by ICE outside his home last week and transferred to a correctional facility in Michigan.

"Guamarrigra has lived in the U.S. for over 20 years, working as a marble installer and volunteering with the local fire department for seven years. He is undocumented and has had an open deportation case since 2004. His family says he's been actively trying to obtain citizenship for the past two years and was preparing to study IT in college.

"The Port Chester community, including the fire department and mayor's office, is rallying for his release. Officials have sent letters to federal agencies advocating on his behalf," wrote CBS NY.

But one local media outlet, Westfaironline.com, reached out to ICE to ask why Guamarrigra was detained. (<https://westfaironline.com/combined/detained-port-chester-volunteer-fireman-had-been-ordered-deported-ice-tells-business-journal/>)

ICE is part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and according to DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin, Guamarrigra, is "a criminal illegal alien from Ecuador. His criminal history includes three DWIs (driving while intoxicated)."

McLaughlin said that Guamarrigra entered the U.S. illegally at an unknown time and place. She did not explain why, in the 19 years since the judge's order, Guamarrigra had not previously been deported.

McLaughlin said that he is currently being held by the government at the Calhoun County Correctional Center in Michigan.

"This serial drunk driver is a public safety threat," McLaughlin said. "Too many innocent lives have been lost at the hands of illegal aliens driving under the influence. Just this week, DHS highlighted the tragedies of Rickey Maddox who was killed by an illegal alien driving under the influence in Louisiana and the death of a mom and her 11-year-old daughter in New Jersey by another illegal alien," writes Peter Katz.

Another incident with ICE in Peekskill drew significant interest involving 24 year old Amy Lituma. On July 29, ICE agents followed Lituma and her four year-old son from her home in Peekskill to BJ's Wholesale Club in Yorktown. Lituma, an Ecuadorian immigrant, claims the armed men forced her out of the vehicle.

ICE agents showed her a photo of her partner, Wilmer Delgado, who they were seeking to detain. Lituma said she did not know where Delgado was. ICE allowed Lituma to return home and had her call Delgado, who told her "don't say anything."

When given the option of being separated from her son or self-deporting, Lituma decided to return to Ecuador with her son. A video shows her son scared at ICE outside of their home.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DNCTZphPRvx/?igsh=aGpuaGp3N3Zlcnc0-video>

A rally was held in Peekskill for Lituma. "Unmarked vehicles, unidentifiable officers, faces covered with masks," state Sen. Pete Harcham said. "This is terrifying our immigrant communities. And not only is it doing that, it is breaking down the years of trust and bridge-building that our local police have done. Our local police have worked hard to partner with our local immigrant community, and this is destroying our fabric. There is something very sick and broken about America right now."

Lituma said she crossed the border into the U.S. in July 2021, when her son was eight months old, and has been working as a house cleaner while living in Peekskill. She hadn't applied for U.S. asylum. She was due to depart for Ecuador on Tuesday, and said she hoped to return to the U.S. with legal status some day.

"I'm not the only one," Lituma said. "Many people are in the same situation. My request is not to break families apart."

In a written statement to Peekskill Herald signed "A/S" (Assistant Secretary), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) said, "ICE does not separate families. Parents are asked if they want to be removed with their children or ICE will place the children with a safe person the parent designates. This is consistent with past administration's immigration enforcement.

"Parents, who are here illegally, can take control of their departure with the CBP [Customs and Border Protection] Home App. The United States is offering illegal aliens \$1,000 and a free flight to self-deport now. We encourage every person here illegally to take advantage of this offer and reserve the chance to come back to the U.S. the right legal way to live American dream. If not, you will be arrested and deported without a chance to return."

Assembly member Dana Levenberg said, "What we need is a process to make it legal for people to be here and not throw people in jail, deporting people and making it harder for our communities to exist."

Of the approximately 50 attendees, nearly 40 offered testimony. More than half vocally supported the application, citing job creation, economic growth, and increased tax revenue as key benefits. Several highlighted the stability Empire City has brought to Yonkers since transitioning from Yonkers Raceway two decades ago, a harness racetrack that once drew massive crowds of 25,000–30,000 nightly during horse racing’s heyday, and which now operates with steady, dispersed patronage and no citywide spike in crime or traffic.

Ed Cook, Vice President of the Westchester Building Trades Council, said, “This isn’t just about casino expansion, it’s about opportunity, investment, and building a better future for Yonkers. MGM provides good-paying jobs and real careers. And they do it with integrity. But none of this will happen without your support.”

Many residents applauded the proposed investment, noting that the casino already contributes significantly to the local economy and school funding. State contributions exceed \$300 million annually to the state education fund and millions more in local taxes. With the Yonkers Public Schools (YPS), facing continued yearly budget deficits averaging \$50 million per school year, some speakers questioned how the existing funds generated by the casino are allocated and why Yonkers wasn’t receiving a larger financial benefit from the state when the city is home to such a significant generator of education funding.

Armondo Ramiro said, “I am born and raised in Yonkers, and Yonkers needs this project. It will open career paths in the trades, generate millions in tax revenue, and provide the funding we need to fix our aging schools and support city services. We have a world-class company willing to continue to invest in our city and its people.”

Supporters emphasized that the project promises 2,000 new direct jobs, 6,500 construction jobs, and thousands more indirect positions that are expected to be generated by having a renowned entertainment venue built in the city. They expect the full casino with expanded amenities to attract visitors across the region, including tourists from New York City and residents from Westchester to Bergen County and Fairfield County, strengthening local commerce.

Maria Paxos-Pampafikos from the Royal Regency Hotel, said, “MGM is the 3rd largest ticket seller for live events in the United States. In phase 1, MGM can bring in top-tier entertainment. Studies have found that the existing hotels can readily accommodate the incoming tourists. Let’s keep more tourism dollars in the local economy with this smart market investment.

Many praised MGM Resorts for its philanthropic presence, supporting nonprofits with significant funding, in-kind giving for local organizations, including costly signage printing and prize donations, and including significant funding in their designs that will include infrastructure improvements to benefit residents even outside the immediate vicinity of the casino, including stormwater systems and traffic upgrades.

“MGM’s growth will ensure that the raceway and casino will continue supporting jobs and giving back to the community. Our UPAC free summer concerts are made possible in part by MGM resorts,” said Yonkers Historian Mary Hoar.

“They have put Yonkers first, and are just 13 miles from midtown. It’s a critical piece of our city’s future and will create thousands of jobs. The raceway and now the casino have been here for more than a century. They are here and they want to stay here. We must protect our history by securing our future.”

Some attendees expressed frustration with what they saw as a lack of outreach by city officials. Despite live-streamed meetings and posted calendars, residents said they often feel uninformed about major projects impacting their neighborhoods.

A number of speakers shifted focus to the aging infrastructure and lack of investment by the administration, particularly flooding due to unmodernized sewers in the city’s hilly terrain. Some urged the CAC to consider whether MGM’s infrastructure contributions would be sufficient for neighborhoods beyond the casino site.

County Legislator David Tubiolo expressed concerns about the project. “I stand here to voice my concerns, as a fourth-generation Yonkersite. This project will bring an increase in traffic, an increase in noise, and the need for more emergency services.

“We cannot put a price tag on our quality of life; we need guarantees. The council has unanimously approved the zoning, and I urge this body to urge them to have more of a conversation about this project. We are good neighbors; treat us as such, and help us get to yes.”

Councilman Anthony Merante stated after the meeting, “Last night, I attended the public hearing at the Grinton I. Will Library where about 60 residents came to speak on the proposed \$2.3 billion expansion of Empire City Casino. I want to strongly encourage anyone with concerns or opinions about this project to make your voice heard before the MGM Empire City Community Advisory Committee, which will vote on September 30.

“MGM Resorts has applied for a commercial casino license that would allow for a major redevelopment, including a renovation and expansion of the gaming area, three full-service restaurants, a parking garage, and a new 5,000-seat entertainment venue designed to attract A-list performers and events. MGM says the project would bring new destination dining and a first-of-its-kind entertainment experience to our region.

“Last night’s testimony showed just how divided our community is. Supporters say the project would bring much-needed revenue to fix our aging schools, improve infrastructure, and support essential city services. Opponents worry that despite the casino’s promises, our schools remain underfunded and quality-of-life concerns could be overlooked. I will remain vigilant and serve as a watchdog throughout this process to ensure promises are kept and safeguards are in place.”

Other speakers pointed to the fact that concerns about increased congestion and crime echoed those voiced in the early 2000s when the casino was first being planned. However, Empire City has operated 20 hours a day for two decades without a measurable increase in crime, according to city data, and those familiar with the project details noted that rigorous design and mitigation efforts have been incorporated into the casino’s expansion proposals that will significantly improve current traffic complaints, stormwater management, and police resources.

Two candidates for City Council and County Board spoke up against the proposal. Michael Pineda, republican candidate for county board, said, “I am a union member, and I’m not in favor of this. This is a done deal between the administration and the casino, promising the same empty dreams. I’m not concerned about downtown Yonkers, I’m concerned about my neighborhood. There are no permanent benefits proposed.”

Tony Solieri, republican candidate for City Council, 4th district said, “Yes this will bring jobs, but what about the people most affected who live within a mile of the casino? I’ve been here for 51 years and believe that this will hurt us, the people in my district. We should get a bigger portion of the benefits.”

The CAC will hold one more public hearing on Tuesday, September 16 at 6 p.m. at the Yonkers Montessori Academy before making its recommendation to the state’s Facility Siting Board by September 30.

Comments regarding MGM Empire City may be submitted via email to [MGMEmpireCityPublicComment@nystec.com](mailto:MGMEmpireCityPublicComment@nystec.com)

The five members of the CAC are:

- Jim Cavanaugh, Chair appointed by Mayor Mike Spano
- Joe Apicalla appointed by County Executive Ken Jenkins
- Maria Fernandez appointed by Governor Kathy Hochul
- Larry Wilson appointed by State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins
- Frank Jereis, appointed by Assemblyman Nader Sayegh.

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ICE continued from pg 7-

his home last week and transferred to a correctional facility in Michigan.

“Guamarrigra has lived in the U.S. for over 20 years, working as a marble installer and volunteering with the local fire department for seven years. He is undocumented and has had an open deportation case since 2004. His family says he’s been actively trying to obtain citizenship for the past two years and was preparing to study IT in college.

“The Port Chester community, including the fire department and mayor’s office, is rallying for his release. Officials have sent letters to federal agencies advocating on his behalf,” wrote CBS NY.

But one local media outlet, Westfaironline.com, reached out to ICE to ask why Guamarrigra was detained. (<https://westfaironline.com/combined/detained-port-chester-volunteer-fireman-had-been-ordered-deported-ice-tells-business-journal/>)

ICE is part of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) and according to DHS Assistant Secretary Tricia McLaughlin, Guamarrigra, is “a criminal illegal alien from Ecuador. His criminal history includes three DWIs (driving while intoxicated).”

McLaughlin said that Guamarrigra entered the U.S. illegally at an unknown time and place. She did not explain why, in the 19 years since the judge’s order, Guamarrigra had not previously been deported.

McLaughlin said that he is currently being held by the government at the Calhoun County Correctional Center in Michigan.

“This serial drunk driver is a public safety threat,” McLaughlin said. “Too many innocent lives have been lost at the hands of illegal aliens driving under the influence. Just this week, DHS highlighted the tragedies of Rickey Maddox who was killed by an illegal alien driving under the influence in Louisiana and the death of a mom and her 11-year-old daughter in New Jersey by another illegal alien,” writes Peter Katz.

Another incident with ICE in Peekskill drew significant interest involving 24 year old Amy Lituma. On July 29, ICE agents followed Lituma and her four year-old son from her home in Peekskill to BJ’s Wholesale Club in Yorktown. Lituma, an Ecuadorian immigrant, claims the armed men forced her out of the vehicle.

ICE agents showed her a photo of her partner, Wilmer Delgado, who they were seeking to detain. Lituma said she did not know where Delgado was. ICE allowed Lituma to return home and had her call Delgado, who told her “don’t say anything.”

When given the option of being separated from her son or self-deporting, Lituma decided to return to Ecuador with her son. A video shows her son scared at ICE outside of their home.

<https://www.instagram.com/reel/DNCTZphPRvx/?igsh=aGpuaGp3N3Zlcnc0-video>

A rally was held in Peekskill for Lituma. “Unmarked vehicles, unidentifiable officers, faces covered with masks,” state Sen. Pete Harckham said. “This is terrifying our immigrant communities. And not only is it doing that, it is breaking down the years of trust and bridge-building that our local police have done. Our local police have worked hard to partner with our local immigrant community, and this is destroying our fabric. There is something very sick and broken about America right now.”

Lituma said she crossed the border into the U.S. in July 2021, when her son was eight months old, and has been working as a house cleaner while living in Peekskill. She hadn’t applied for U.S. asylum. She was due to depart for Ecuador on Tuesday, and said she hoped to return to the U.S. with legal status some day.

“I’m not the only one,” Lituma said. “Many people are in the same situation. My request is not to break families apart.”

In a written statement to Peekskill Herald signed “A/S” (Assistant Secretary), Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) said, “ICE does not separate families. Parents are asked if they want to be removed with their children or ICE will place the children with a safe person the parent designates. This is consistent with past administration’s immigration enforcement.

“Parents, who are here illegally, can take control of their departure with the CBP [Customs and Border Protection] Home App. The United States is offering illegal aliens \$1,000 and a free flight to self-deport now. We encourage every person here illegally to take advantage of this offer and reserve the chance to come back to the U.S. the right legal way to live American dream. If not, you will be arrested and deported without a chance to return.”

Assembly member Dana Levenberg said, “What we need is a process to make it legal for people to be here and not throw people in jail, deporting people and making it harder for our communities to exist.”

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car from Frank De Alba.

August 21, 1943: Leaders in the war veterans’ organizations wanted to combine all nineteen organizations into one large veterans’ group. The sponsors thought the knowledge and experience of the men who served in previous wars would be invaluable to those returning; the new organization would “bear more weight and have more influence than nineteen separate ones.” Yonkers had nine American Legion posts, five VFW posts and several garrisons of the Army and Navy Union. It was not expected to happen as several posts were considered “community posts,” such as Dunbar in Crestwood and Bajart Post in McLean Heights.

Friday, August 22nd

August 22, 1882: Workers at Copcutt’s silk mills nailed notices to trees shading Yonkers streets, appealing to all other power-loom silk weavers to aid them in their strike for higher pay.

The mill owned by William H. Copcutt employed 400 hands. A delegation from the silk handkerchief shop, operating 40 of the 80 looms in the factory, met with Copcutt to ask for more pay, claiming they could not live on their wages of 68 cents for single-loom handkerchiefs and \$1.38 for double-loom work. They were turned down flat. The entire department of 41 men and women met at noon. They decided to “stand out” until their rates were increased; 2/3 of the orderly and quiet strikers were girls and women.

Foreman Boydeell claimed they were getting better pay than anywhere in the country, averaging \$12 a week if they worked steadily.

Saturday, August 23rd

August 23, 1928: Dr. Leon Pisculli of Park Hill announced he would be a medical observer on the Roma, a plane that would attempt a non-stop flight to Rome. The announced plan was for Italian aviator Cesare Sabelli, Roger Q. Williams and Captain Frank Bonelli to pilot the plane. A short while later, the Roma took off for the Italian capitol without the good doctor, Sabelli or Bonelli. Instead, Roger Q. Williams and Capt. Lewis Yancey made the flight, landing in Spain. Yancey had a Yonkers connection; he was married to Gertrude Civelli, a Yonkers girl.

August 23, 1935: Major John Hayward of Chittenden Avenue, commander of the 369th Observation Squadron, Second Corps Area, led the contingent of six Army planes on the Wiley Post- Will Rogers memorial flight over New York.

The pair died when Aviator Post’s aircraft crashed because of engine failure shortly after takeoff from a lagoon near Point Barrow, Alaska. Congress suspended actions after learning of the deaths of the two men.

Sunday, August 24th

August 24, 1943: Alexander Smith Carpet Company announced company engineers Griffin Ashcroft and Oliver Beckwith developed a new tire tread of cotton and reclaimed rubber made on carpet looms; it used 40 percent of the rubber needed for a standard retread and lasted just as long. Although not on the market, it was displayed in the window First National Bank.

August 24, 1952: Gertrude Caulfield Cooney was honored by Crescent Post, American Legion. The only female member of the post, she served as a Yeoman in World War I. Not only was she a member, her husband, DPW Commissioner Thomas Cooney, was a thirty-year member and sons Thomas Jr. and John were World War II veterans, also belonged to the Post. They were a 100% Crescent Post family!

**Questions or comments on this column? Email [YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com](mailto:YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com).**

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

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## Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

### SATURDAY, AUG. 16

Croton Point Park, Croton-on-Hudson: (914) 862-5290

Beach Is Open, 11 a.m. - 6:30 p.m.

Weekends through Monday, Sept. 1; weather permitting. No admittance after 6 p.m. Parking and admission fees apply. Westchester County residency is not required for admission.

Get details: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/swim>

Willson's Woods Park, Mount Vernon: (914) 813-6990

DJ Day, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Come for a swim and enjoy music at the pool! Participation is free; admission and parking fees apply. Westchester County residency is required; weather permitting.

Get details: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/family-fun-days>

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

Lasdon Green Squad, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Every Saturday from April to November join the Lasdon Green Squad to keep Lasdon, Westchester's Public Garden looking beautiful. Volunteers will work with Lasdon staff on tasks such as invasive species removal, planting, watering, weeding, trail maintenance, mulching, trash clean up, and other tasks. For those age 14 and older.

Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/lasdon-green-squad-2-2/2025-08-16/>

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

Family Garden Party, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Bring the whole family and join us in the garden for a day of fun, games, crafts, hands-on activities, raffles, special garden tours, food trucks and a Mystery Gift Wheel. \$5 per person (ages two through 12).

Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/family-garden-day/>

### SUNDAY, AUG. 17

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7282

Muscote Farmers Market and Barnyard Beets, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

The market supports farmers and sustainable efforts in our area, featuring over 30 local vendors every Sunday until Nov. 16. Shop while listening to music performances from local musicians from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Check out the schedule.

Get details: <https://www.muscotefarm.org/markets/>

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

Gardening Sundays and Tuesdays, Weekly, 10 a.m. - noon

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! Through November. Also: Tuesday, Aug. 19.

Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/gardening-sundays-2/2025-08-17/>

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

Summer Garden Tour, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Join the head gardener for a free stroll around Lasdon's gardens. See what's in bloom this time of year.

Registration required: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/summer-garden-tour/2025-08-17/>

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**.-Thomas Jefferson**

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## Former Westchester Prosecutor & Yonkers Inspector General Dan Schorr Release New Book *Open Bar*



Former Westchester Prosecutor and Yonkers Inspector General Dan Schorr is celebrated the release of his second novel, *Open Bar*, with a reading and signing event on August 14 at the Bellefair Community Room in Rye Brook.

*Open Bar* is a collision of campus, corporate, and local politics when a high-profile sexual misconduct scandal rocks a prominent university.

When the longtime abuse by a university's softball coach of teenagers in its youth summer softball program—and the university's strategic cover-up of those crimes—comes to light, a community is turned

upside down in this drama-filled thriller perfect for fans of Kate Elizabeth Russell and Allison Leotta. Campus, corporate, and local politics collide when a high-profile sexual misconduct scandal rocks a prominent university.

Serena Stanfield, Mountain Hill University's human resources director, has just learned that the school's softball coach has been molesting teenagers in its youth summer softball program for years, and that the university has covered it up from both her and the public. Troy Abernathy, a junior associate at an international investigations firm, is navigating a turbulent, toxic workplace as the company aims to be retained by the university to investigate these sexual assault allegations.

Megan Black, a new member of the Mountain Hill City Council, is thrust into the fallout from the national scandal while she simultaneously focuses on securing a presidential commutation for her childhood friend, who is unfairly facing decades in prison after stabbing her abusive husband to death in self-defense.

As additional disturbing details of the coach's actions are uncovered, Serena, Troy, Megan, and other prominent community figures confront competing interests and unique obstacles while they each pursue different paths toward obtaining justice for the softball program's sexual abuse survivors—and offer conflicting understandings of what justice would even mean.

"Dan Schorr taps his years of real-world experience investigating sexual misconduct allegations to deliver a suspenseful, propulsive, and heart-wrenching novel — *Open Bar*."

—Gretchen Carlson, Journalist, co-founder Lift Our Voices, Female Empowerment Advocate, Author

"*Open Bar* is a gripping page-turner that follows the chaotic fallout from a top university's alarming sex abuse scandal. With fast-paced storytelling and compelling, memorable characters, Dan Schorr delivers a moving novel full of gritty realism, perceptive insights, and unexpected twists."

—Tara Rosenblum, Emmy-winning Senior Political & Investigative Reporter, News12 Network

Dan Schorr is a sexual misconduct investigator at his firm, Dan Schorr, LLC, and an adjunct professor at Fordham Law School. Previously, he served as a New York sex crimes prosecutor, the Inspector General for the City of Yonkers, and an adjunct law professor with Tsinghua University in Beijing, China. He has been a television legal analyst for Good Morning America, CNN, Fox News Channel, Law & Crime network, and elsewhere.

His first novel, *Final Table*, was published by SparkPress in 2021. Schorr lives in Rye Brook, New York with his wife and two children.

*Mike Bennett continued from pg 1-*

don. At the same time, he also worked as a bricklayer in New York City for over 25 years. In Albany, he served as a lobbyist for the National Electrical Contractors Association for more than 15 years, as well as the Sandy Hook and Hudson River Pilots. Mike served as a Legislative Advisor for the New York State Bricklayers and Allied Craftsmen, was a member of the New York State Conference of the B.A.C. Committee on apprenticeship and training and served as a consultant to the Pointers, Caulkers and Cleaners on Building and Mason Restoration.

Mike worked on a project related to the deceased Yonkers' veterans of the Korean Conflict, along with the annual P.A.L. Poster Contest in Yonkers.

Roberta and Mike were married for 52 years. They lived in Hastings-on-Hudson, New York for over 45 years and moved to South Carolina in 2020. They have three sons - Rob (Lorraine), Jimmy and Michael - and three grandchildren - Sophie, Brodie and Molly. Mike is survived by two sisters - Peggy Boscarino and Mary Lou Magner.

**Editor's Note:** I spent many happy days with Mike Bennett. Together with his amigo, photographer Ed Whitman, Mike would travel the city and take the photographs which we would run in our Yonkers Rising paper. These photos would come in almost every week for years, with Mike providing a keen eye to which photos should be included and which photo should make it to the front page.

Mike was a non-partisan supporter of the Mayor of Yonkers and the City of Yonkers. With his work and Ed's photos, Mike presented the positive side of Yonkers, through its people and organizations. They came into my office with their photos when Phil Amicone was Mayor and then when Mike Spano was Mayor.

Mike was a big part of the Yonkers PAL and helped serve thousands of young adults by keeping the door at the Walshin Center open.

I learned about the Chosin River, and Yonkers history, and legendary Yonkers figures like Tom Brogan from Mike, who served on the staff of one of Yonkers famous politicians: State Senator John Flynn.

God Bless Roberta and his family, I am glad that you got to spend these last few years with Mike.

## Yonkers Honors John Edward Bruce with Permanent Headstone After 100 Years



On August 9, the City of Yonkers held a special ceremony honoring the legacy of John Edward Bruce, a pioneering Black journalist, activist, and intellectual, who was buried in an unmarked grave at Oakland Cemetery in Yonkers for over 100 years.

A Headstone Revealing Ceremony was held to mark the placement of a permanent headstone for Bruce. This event follows last year's temporary marker placement ceremony, where Mayor Mike Spano issued an official proclamation recognizing August 11th as John Edward Bruce Day in the City of Yonkers.

This is the second phase of the tribute to John Edward Bruce (1856–1924), whose grave will finally be marked with a permanent headstone after nearly a century. Bruce, founded several New York newspapers more than 100 years ago and advocated for equal rights. The first was the placement



of a temporary marker in August 2024, when Mayor Spano proclaimed August 11th "John Edward Bruce Day in Yonkers."

The final phase will include a public documentary and educational programs in his name.

Thanks to the dedication of community partners and generous donors, RISEUP successfully raised the \$5,000 necessary for the headstone, which Minozzi and Sons have now completed.

A special thank you goes out to our major supporters: the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA-ACL), New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, New York State Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, the Beczak Environmental Education Center, the NAACP Yonkers Branch, Symra Brandon, CEO & President of Municipal Housing Authority City of Yonkers Wilson Kimball, and the City of Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, along with many residents and organizations that contributed. In addition to the headstone fundraiser, RISEUP's president, Dr. Robert Baskerville has hosted multiple presentations on JEB's contributions and was recently awarded a \$25,000 Digital Justice Seed Grant from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS) to begin production on *History With Grit*, a pilot documentary focusing on Bruce's life in Yonkers. [https://www.acls.org/recent-fellows/?program\\_id=40091&project\\_year=2025](https://www.acls.org/recent-fellows/?program_id=40091&project_year=2025)

*Yonkers Homicide, continued from pg 1-*

Unit responded to process the scene and investigate. The investigation revealed that this was a targeted incident stemming from a dispute between the suspect and the victim. While engaged in an argument on the sidewalk, the suspect discharged a firearm at the victim, striking him in the chest before fleeing the scene.

Detectives identified the suspect as 28-year-old Xavier PALMER of Yonkers. He was arrested earlier today by Detectives with the assistance of YPD ESU & FBI Westchester Safe Streets Task Force, and is being charged with Murder 2nd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon 2nd Degree, both felonies.

"Great work by our Detectives in identifying and apprehending the shooter in this case within just 12 hours of the incident," Police Commissioner Christopher Sapienza stated. "We will not tolerate senseless violence on our streets. If you commit these acts here, you will be apprehended and delivered to the justice system. We extend our condolences to the victim's family and friends in this difficult time."

This case is being prosecuted by the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

Note: Booking charges are merely accusations, and the suspect is presumed innocent until found guilty in a court of law.

**Send us your letters, announcements, opinions,  
photos and story ideas to  
[dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com)**

In 2019, Stein alleged that she was a victim of a sexual assault while working in Greenburgh Police headquarters. While Stein leaned over a table, police officer Jeffrey Cerone “grinded against her rear, rammed himself into her backside with his genitals, then threw her towards the middle of the room”, according to the lawsuit.

Don’t believe her? THERE’S A VIDEO! Here’s the link- (<https://www.lohud.com/videos/news/local/westchester/2021/08/18/greenburgh-ny-police-body-camera-officer-john-pilla/5569269001/>)

The body camera of the police officer, John Pilla, accidentally caught the whole thing on tape! In the video, several Greenburgh police officers are caught laughing hysterically after the assault occurred. At that time, Officer Stein was the only female officer in the room with approximately eight male officers.

Later in the video, both Officer Pilla and Officer Peter Schmidt are caught reenacting the sexual assault and explaining Officer Cerone’s sexual fixation on Officer Stein. Officer Schmidt stated, “Totally uncalled for. I think he has a crush on her... Since the first day that she got here, he’s been nothing but problems.” In response to that, Officer Pilla stated, “He tries to assert his dominance to show you that he has the [male genitalia] in the relationship.”

These two, as the other male officers, have now stated that they never saw anything.

These comments were a clear reference to Stein’s sexual orientation and gender.

Stein, who identified as bi-sexual, believed that when the male officers in the Greenburgh Police Department found out about her sexuality, the harassment against her increased drastically. “At first, I was retaliated against because I was a woman, but it became a more hostile work environment once they found out that I had a girlfriend.”

Multiple incidents of inappropriate texts, comments, sexual jokes, remarks, sexual solicitations, negative work assignments, silent treatment, uninvited sexual attention, and displays of pornographic photos are all alleged in the suit, filed in Federal Court in White Plains.

However, the only remaining defendants are the Town of Greenburgh, Chief Kobie Powell, and Captain Frank Farina. At the time of the assault, Powell was an officer and investigated the matter internally for the Greenburgh Police Department. He is now the Chief of Police.

This case has cost the taxpayers of Greenburgh a total of \$1.6 million. One of those taxpayers is the Stein family itself! Born and raised in Greenburgh, Stein, and her police officer-filled family are forced to pay for this injustice. Could the case have been settled earlier for this amount or close to it? The Town remains on the hook for any judgment if a jury finds the officers and the Town guilty, which could be millions.

“Every single word is truthful and factual. My main priority is to get out the truth about what happened. I need and want things to change, particularly in the Greenburgh Police Department. There are major, major issues with the Greenburgh PD,” said Stein.

The officers who proclaim that they didn’t see the assault, even though it occurred right in front of them, are “sworn officers”. With our trust and our tax dollars, they promised to tell the truth, to enforce the law, and to protect others. Instead, they watched another officer get hurt, ostracized and left to fight her despair alone. Stein stated, “They were witnessing something illegal and did nothing. We are mandated to report and get involved. Their involvement was mocking the situation and then lying about it when asked.”

Since then, Stein applied for disability for her severe PTSD, Depression, and Anxiety, but has not been approved by the State, and has been denied by the Town.

Another fallacy about the inner workings of any police department is that not everyone is protected by the “Thin Blue Line”. After Stein told the Town and the PD that she was suicidal, nobody cared or checked on her. She was stripped of everything she ever wanted and fought for, including her mental well-being. We continue to see suicide at a record high in law enforcement, and Greenburgh is adding to this inevitable statistic.

One of Stein’s attorneys, James Castro-Blanco, told the Journal News “Kristin deserves her day in court, and deserves to have her story told, and that she deserves to have a jury of her peers, to see what happened, to explain to them what’s happened to her, and to get the compensation that she deserves.”

We went back and reviewed the documentation in the lawsuit. And our opinion has not changed AT ALL since 2021.

We find Kristin Stein to be believable. She came from a family of cops, was raised in Greenburgh, and wanted nothing more than to serve the community where she grew up.

This story could have had a positive ending. Instead, it has been a disaster for Stein and a blemish on the Greenburgh Police Department, regardless of the result of the suit.

We consider Kristin Stein to be a whistleblower. She was and still is a truthful and honest person and police officer. But, because she came forward with what were serious and inappropriate allegations, some caught on video, it is she who got pushed out.

Most police officers are good public servants. But for some of those good cops, the corruption around them destroys them, and they end up keeping their mouths shut and told to ignore wrongdoing so that they can keep their jobs.

Stein previously said that so many other female officers have also been victims of this disgusting behavior. And yet... still nothing is done.

But what will happen when this case goes to trial, and members of the Greenburgh Police Department are called to testify under oath. What will the other female officers of the GPD testify to?

Perhaps nothing, but is that a risk that the Town wants to take? We urge the leadership in the Town of Greenburgh to settle this case and move on.

Kristin Stein never deserved any of this. And if a jury finds that she has no legal claim to an award, what happened to her is still unacceptable.

The next pretrial conference is set for August 26. Judge Halperin has called the parties together to try and settle the case. The Town and the officers are reluctant to even discuss a settlement. If they continue their insistence, a trial by jury could happen next year.

The winning team, called Rising Waters, all high school students from Yonkers, explained that sponge cities are a way to help lessen the effects of extreme flooding in urban areas, by planting trees, plants and grass on roadsides, sidewalks and even on walls and roofs.

The vegetation acts like a sponge by absorbing flood waters instead of letting rain pool and spread over impermeable surfaces such as asphalt and concrete roads and sidewalks. The team also recommended creating urban lakes in open areas to reduce the chances of flooding and installing permeable pavement to allow rainwater to percolate down into the ground.

“Some areas of Yonkers get a lot of flooding,” said Leonardo Resendiz, 15, a Yonkers resident and student at Fordham Prep in the Bronx, and part of the Rising Waters team.

“Buildings, asphalt, and concrete help worsen flooding. We’re trying to help reduce floods and save lives and help get government to save money,” Resendiz said.

“Sponge cities help to fight against not only floods, but they also help to fight against droughts, and heat waves, by cooling down what is known as the urban heat island effect, where urban cities or areas are experiencing different temperatures from neighboring rural areas. We can help cool down cities. We can also provide clean, healthy water to our communities,” Resendiz explained.

“Sponge cities can help stabilize water level conditions before, during and after the event of a flood,” said Luna Martinez, 14, a student at Barack Obama High School. “With absorbed water, they replenish ground water, to lower chances of drought and help in retaining water for future use,” she said.

The members of the team helped build the sponge city model out of moss, pipe cleaners and model clay.

“Flood mitigation and alleviation is very important to think about and to allocate the necessary funds to prevent present and future damages. It’s impressive to see and important that our youth now is helping to come up with solutions for the present and future,” said David Tubiolo, Westchester County District 14 legislator, representing parts of Yonkers and Mt. Vernon, who attended the ELOC showcase.

Yonkers, Mt. Vernon, New Rochelle and other communities in southern Westchester are all at risk from flooding due to climate change.

“The city of Yonkers has major risk from flooding. There are 6,320 properties in Yonkers at risk of flooding over the next 30 years. This represents 19 percent of all properties in Yonkers,” states First Street, a nonprofit organization that quantifies home and property climate risk.

“The city of Mt. Vernon has moderate risk from flooding. There are 2,033 properties in Mt. Vernon at risk of flooding over the next 30 years. This represents 18.7 percent of all properties in Mt. Vernon,” First Street’s website explains.

“The city of New Rochelle has major risk from flooding. There are 3,663 properties in New Rochelle at risk of flooding over the next 30 years. This represents 25.1 percent of all properties in New Rochelle,” First Street points out.

“Weather patterns are changing worldwide, including in the New York area,” wrote Dr. Diana Williams, Founder and Acting Executive Director of ELOC, in an email.

“Hurricanes are now reaching further into the North Atlantic, and flooding is becoming more severe and disruptive,” Williams wrote.

“While everyone is affected, low-income communities face the most significant and enduring risks, as limited resources hinder their ability to relocate, repair, or recover,” Williams explained.

“Now is the moment to assess the situation, develop strategic plans, and implement measures to better protect our communities. The 2025 class of the Environmental Leaders of Color summer students proposed practical mitigation strategies and solutions to address flooding in our region,” Williams pointed out.

“Increasing carbon is making the Earth warmer and heatwaves more extreme. The New York area is experiencing more hurricanes. People in New York need to be prepared,” said Dr. J. Marshall Shepherd, the ELOC showcase’s keynote speaker, director of the University of Georgia’s atmospheric sciences program, and a past president of the American Meteorological Society. He spoke via Zoom.

Other teams presenting their work included the Yonkers YMCA community garden, the Mt. Vernon Youth Bureau and the Cool Roofs team from the Bronx.

The Yonkers YMCA community garden proposed that homeowners install “fog collectors.” Fog collectors consist of nylon mesh that trap water vapor, fog and rain, with a tank placed below the mesh to collect the moisture the mesh attracts.

The Mt. Vernon team recommended creating a climate change tax refund program that offers taxpayers rebates for installing green roofs, LED lights, solar power, and efficient appliances, such as fans, to lower energy use.

The Bronx team encouraged property owners to install white or light-colored roofs, which help keep buildings cooler than dark asphalt or tar roofs, which absorb more heat.



## FIGHTS FOR WHAT'S RIGHT HE FIGHTS FOR YOU!

Anthony Merante Believes Public Service Means Putting You First

- ✓ Voted **NO** on property tax increases—4 years in a row
- ✓ Voted **NO** on the unfair water bill hike for the current year
- ✓ Said **NO** to a taxpayer-funded city car and free gas. He drives his own car
- ✓ Voted **NO** on City Council and Mayor pay raises
- ✓ When the raise passed he donated his to local community groups
- ✓ Fought against overdevelopment to protect neighborhoods

### ANTHONY'S COMMITMENT TO YOU

- ✓ Keeping Yonkers affordable
- ✓ Repairing our deteriorating roads
- ✓ Protecting our quality of life
- ✓ Keeping our neighborhoods safe
- ✓ Improve our parks and recreational facilities

### ANTHONY LISTENS, HE CARES, HE WORKS HARD FOR YOU!



#### ABOUT ANTHONY

Anthony Merante is a 38-year Yonkers resident and homeowner. He is a Yonkers businessman, Anthony J. Merante CPA, PC., Co-Owner and Vice-President, Westchester Kitchen & Bath, Inc, and Four Paws Dog Grooming. Anthony has been married for 41 years to Yolanda. They have two children, Anthony Jr. 30, Gianna 24. His children attended Yonkers Public Schools. Anthony is a community leader. President of the Sprain Lake Knolls Civic Association for 14 years and a member for 29 years.



#### PAID FOR BY FRIENDS OF ANTHONY MERANTE

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