

Yonkers Leads the Way: Implements Yondr Pouches for High School Students



District complies with state law while uniquely allowing students to keep their devices on them during the school day

Starting this school year, Yonkers Public Schools will implement Yondr Pouches in all secondary schools. This initiative is part of the district's ongoing commitment to fostering focused, engaged, and respectful learning environments while ensuring compliance with the new state law prohibiting student internet-enabled device use during the school day.

Yondr pouches are secure, lockable cases that hold students' personal cellphones and other internet enabled devices. Students place their devices inside the pouch upon arrival, keep the locked pouch with

Yondr Pouches will be used by YPS Students

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Untermeyer Gardens Interns Become Farmers!



From the Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy-Our Session 3 high school interns from the Yonkers public schools had quite the haul for their harvest. All of it donated to a food bank in Yonkers. Harvested this time, okra, basil, peppers, eggplants of all sizes, Swiss chard, beets, carrots, squash and cucumbers. One of the best photos of the year by John Jacono

450 Backpacks with Supplies Collected at Mayor's Backpack to School Drive



Mayor Mike Spano is joined by Yonkers BOE President Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio, Superintendent of Schools Anibal Soler, Jr., public officials from the Yonkers City Council, Westchester County, and the New York State Assembly, Rosemarie Ann Siragusa Principal Melanie Vancol and event sponsors Story on pg 12 Photo by Maurice Mercado

Yonkers Mayor Spano and Republican County Exec. Candidate Sculti Beg to Differ Over MGM Casino Gaming Application



Christine Sculti



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano

By Dan Murphy

Last week, Christine Sculti, the republican candidate for Westchester County Executive this November, penned an op-ed for Yonkerstimes.com in which she expressed serious concerns over the proposed application by MGM-Empire City Casino for a full gaming license at their Yonkers site.

Sculti writes, Yonkers' Casino Expansion: A Gamble on Our Community's Future

While the expansion of the MGM Empire City Casino in Yonkers has strong support from the Mayor and City Council, the state government has the final say on whether MGM will receive a coveted full casino license. The addition of live gaming tables could mark a new chapter for the city and Westchester County. The promise is obvious: more jobs, more tourism, and more tax revenue. But without a granular, public plan for how the community will absorb the shockwaves, this "jackpot" could turn into a long-term loss. In fact, a few days ago Atlantic City Mayor, Marty Small, Sr., was compelled to pen his own Op-ed. His "look before you leap" guidance to localities contemplating casino development is worth the read: <https://www.nydailynews.com/2025/08/15/nyc-casino-lessons-from-atlan->

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Councilman Merante: Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption Deadline is September 15



See Story on Page 11

Stealing from a School for the Disabled? To Buy a Chanel Purse?

Time to Think! Sliwa for NYC Mayor in November!

By Eric Wolf Schoen



Queens Woman Charged with Stealing Over \$220,000 meant for Mt. Pleasant School Serving Disabled Students. Shortly after depositing the funds, the defendant is accused of purchasing a Chanel purse

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that a Queens woman was arrested Thursday morning on multiple felony charges for allegedly stealing over \$220,000 in funds intended for the Mount Pleasant Cottage School Union Free School District, which serves students with educational, behavioral and emotional challenges.

Nataly Ramos Allende, 26, was arraigned Thursday in the Mount Pleasant Justice Court on two counts of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony, and two counts of Grand Larceny in the Third Degree, a class D felony.

Justice Mark Rubeo, Jr., released the defendant on her own recognizance as none of the charges are bail-eligible. She is due back in court on Oct. 2.

DA Cacace said: "It is unconscionable that anyone would prey upon a public school district, especially one serving our most vulnerable students. My office will not hesitate to act where the welfare of our children is at stake. We will work to ensure that the school districts victimized by this alleged scheme are made whole."

As alleged in a felony complaint, on Nov. 6, 2024, the defendant incorporated a limited liability company in New Jersey entitled "Mt Pleasant Cottage School LLC" and opened a Citibank account in the LLC's name shortly thereafter.

On Nov. 15, the defendant deposited into the Citibank account a \$107,402.40 check issued by the Southern Westchester BOCES to the "Mt Pleasant Cottage School," according to the felony complaint.

By law, public school districts are required, in some circumstances, to pay for their disabled students' out-of-district educational expenses.

Further, on Nov. 25, the defendant is accused of opening another bank account in the LLC's name at Chase Bank. As alleged in the felony complaint, the defendant deposited two checks issued to the Mount Pleasant Cottage School into this account: one, worth \$96,103.43, issued by the County of Onondaga; another, worth \$7,438.26, issued by the Carmel Central School District.

Further still, on Dec. 5, the defendant is accused of opening a bank account at the Bank of America in the LLC's name. Into this account, the defendant deposited a \$19,114.05 check issued by the County of Onondaga to the Mount Pleasant Cottage School.

After depositing the above-referenced checks, the defendant made cash withdrawals and bought a Chanel purse, according to the felony complaint.

The investigation was conducted by the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, the United States Postal Inspection Service and the Mount Pleasant Police Department.

The case is being prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Emily Rowe-Smith of the Economic Crimes Bureau.

The District Attorney's Office would like to take this opportunity to remind Westchester residents to avoid, to the extent practicable, issuing physical checks in the mail.

Despite the decreasing use of physical checks, check-related fraud has surged since the start of the pandemic. Federal regulatory filings related to check fraud

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'As Goes New York City, so Goes the Suburbs!'

The Mayoral race in New York City has a major affect on those counties to the north and cities especially like Yonkers

Fed up with traffic as we head home from what was a summer filled with beautiful weather, many of us haven't take the stay home route spending time locally with friends and family. As we sat on the balcony of our family and friends NYC apartments sipping Percecco eating those dainty little hors d'ouerves, one question that frequently came up was who will be the next Mayor of New York City.

A managerie of candidates came forward in a Primary to decide the next Mayor of New York. The small group of Primary winners included Andrew Cuomo (blah..) and current Mayor, Eric Adams (blah blah) to their credit voters chose an outsider to City Hall, Zorhan Mamdani as the prisid&

Why did Mamdani win . Maybe because people are tired of the same, thoughtless candidates, candidates that are running time and time again. It's power ,it is power, it's potato chip Adam's and, Cuomo, well what can I say about his candadicy.. Cuomo's dad is turning over in his grave thinking about his son's behavior and in particular, behavior toward women.

It was the 70's. My sister was going to New York University commuting from Yonkers everyday. Thank God a McDonalds manager took a break to take it upon himself to create a group of young men to provide security in the subways,

Curtis' beret is clean. His sateen jacket still shining. Bright. Let's give him a chance

Reach Eric Schoen at ewschoen@icloud.com.

Editor's Note: Recent polling has shown that independent candidate Andrew Cuomo could beat Mamdani if they ran one on one. But Sliwa is the republican candidate for NYC Mayor, he will not be withdrawing from the race.

We also continue to receive Ask Andrew stories from a group called The Cuomo COVID Orphans. We will begin to print these stories in the coming weeks.

My family and I just went to Manhattan for a day in the city. It has been some time since our last visit. We walked through Central Park and around mid town with no incident. There was a massive police presence at Rockefeller Center and some homeless in the streets.

SAXON WOODS AND SPRAIN RIDGE POOLS TO STAY OPEN FOR TWO WEEKENDS IN SEPTEMBER

Summer fun continues in September at two Westchester County pools!

Splash into September at Saxon Woods Pool in White Plains and Sprain Ridge Pool in Yonkers as the pools will be open for two weekends in September, Saturdays and Sundays, Sept. 6, 7, 13 and 14, weather permitting.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: "Keeping Saxon Woods and Sprain Ridge Pools open for an additional two weekends will provide extended recreational opportunities for families looking to keep the summer spirit going. I'm excited to welcome residents back to make the most of these bonus weekends."

Westchester County Parks Commissioner, Kathy O'Connor said: "We are thrilled to offer additional weekends at Saxon Woods and Sprain Ridge Pools to our residents and we are grateful to our staff and lifeguards for going the extra mile this September to keep the fun going and ensure a safe, enjoyable experience for everyone."

The pools will be open from 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. each day. Proof of Westchester County residency is required; admission fees apply. Last entry is at 6 p.m.

Saxon Woods Pool is located at 1800 Mamaroneck Ave. in White Plains and Sprain Ridge Pool is located at 149 Jackson Ave. in Yonkers.

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Yonkers Native Enters Fifth Year in the Classroom



Dennis Richmond Jr.

By: Dan Murphy

Yonkers native Dennis Richmond, Jr., 30, has begun his fifth school year as a classroom teacher. For the past two years, Richmond has taught in Mount Vernon, where he continues to inspire scholars with his passion for reading, writing, and history.

Throughout his career, Richmond has prided himself on giving his scholars more than just literacy skills. His goal, he says, is to help them see themselves as bosses. Students who are expert readers and writers.

Before securing his own classroom, Richmond spent time working as a substitute teacher in Yonkers Public Schools. In his early and mid-20s, he taught in nearly every building across the district. That experience, he recalls, was invaluable—not only did it allow him to teach a wide range of students, but it also helped him network with principals, assistant principals, faculty, and staff throughout Yonkers.

Even before stepping into his substitute teaching role, Richmond was already a familiar face to many young people in the region. From 2013 until 2020, while still a teenager and into his early 20s, he was known for “beating the drum for HBCUs.” His advocacy for Historically Black Colleges and Universities was covered extensively by Yonkers Times. Through that work, Richmond helped thousands of students across New York—including in Yonkers, Mount Vernon, and Greenburgh—learn about and apply to HBCUs.

Today, Richmond is as committed to education as ever. He often points out that Black men make up less than 2% of America’s public school teachers, and he sees his presence in the classroom as vital. For now, he has no plans to pursue an administrative role as an assistant principal or principal.

“Students need to see Black men in front of them teaching,” Richmond said. “Especially in New York.” Dennis has written for our publications for several years. We are proud of his successes, and for his commitment to teaching the next generation. Congratulations, my friend.

Farm to People Expands Delivery to Westchester



First Deliveries Begin Thursday, September 4,

Farm to People, New York City’s premier online farmers market delivering seasonal and sustainably-sourced produce and products from over 150 local farms and makers, will begin delivering to Westchester County, NY and Southern Connecticut starting Thursday, September 4, 2025.

Customers in the new delivery area will enjoy the same curated selection of local produce, pasture-raised meats, small-batch pantry goods, and chef-crafted prepared foods that New York City dwellers have loved since Farm to People’s launch in 2013: Ronnybrook Dairy, Hudson Valley Fisheries, She Wolf Bakery’s amazing Sourdough Breads, Snowdance Farm Heritage Chicken, Autumn’s Harvest Beef and Pork, Knead Love Gluten-Free Bakery, Black Seed Bagels, Jasper Hill Farm, Cheeses, and much more. Not to mention an array of mouth-watering Easy Meals – for parents and kids alike – prepared in the FtP Kitchen, using all these ethically sourced and produced products.

“Expanding to Westchester and Southern Connecticut is a really exciting next step for us,” said Michael Ray Robinov, Co-Founder and CEO of Farm to People. “These are communities with deep appreciation for locally-sourced food. They are looking for a way to connect more directly with the regenerative farms and makers in our region.”

Also, as a fun fact, this is a return home for Michael’s father, co-founder David Robinov, who opened two of the first natural markets in Westchester nearly forty years ago: Nature’s Warehouse, in Larchmont, and Katonah Natural Market. He later partnered with Mrs. Greens and branched out to open more markets in the mid-nineties. A pioneer in the natural and organic food industry, David’s vision to offer transparency and sustainably raised and grown food online is an important progression in enabling people to access healthier food and have it conveniently delivered to their door.

Farm to People’s flexible model allows customers to shop whenever they like, with the ability to choose from over 1,300 products (and growing) each week. Their customizable farm boxes are the best way to keep your fridge stocked year-round! Orders are packed and delivered on the same day—right to your door (never shipped).

Go to farmtopeople.com [2] to place an order and enjoy different first time customer offers.

Delivery Details:

First Delivery Day: Thursday, September 4, 2025

Delivery Days: Sundays, Mondays, and Thursdays

Free delivery over \$150; \$7.99 delivery fee for orders under that amount; \$20 minimum order.

Eligible ZIP Codes: Westchester: 10573, 10604, 10577, 10528, 10580, 10601, 10602, 10603, 10605, 10606, 10607, 10610, 10532, 10591, 10533, 10523, 10530, 10583, 10503, 10502, 10522, 10706, 10538, 10543, 10801, 10802, 10803, 10804, 10805, 10708, 10470, 10550, 10701, 10702, 10703, 10707, 10709, 10710, >10551, 10552, 10553, 10595, 10704, 10705, 10466, 10467, 10469, 10468, 10463, 10458, 10471

How to Order: Residents in the new delivery area can begin placing orders at farmtopeople.com starting Thursday, August 28th.

WESTCHESTER COUNTY TO HOST FREE PAINT RECYCLING EVENT Residents and Businesses can Recycle Unused Paint at Sprain Ridge Park on Saturday, September 20

Westchester County’s Department of Environmental Facilities (WCDEF) will be hosting a free Paint Recycling Day in partnership with GreenSheen Paint.

Free Paint Recycling Event- Saturday, September 20, 9 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Sprain Ridge Park, 149 Jackson Ave, Yonkers, NY

County Executive Ken Jenkins said: “Our goal is to make recycling simple, effective and widely available for Westchester residents. Paint recycling prevents hazardous materials from entering the waste stream and converts old products into something usable again. I encourage everyone to take advantage of this event and join us in reducing waste, conserving resources and keeping Westchester clean and sustainable for generations to come.”

Residents and businesses of Westchester County who register for this event can bring a variety of paint products to be recycled. This includes latex, acrylic, water-based, alkyd, oil-based, enamel, and floor paints, as well as stains, shellacs, waterproofing finishes, metal coatings and more.

Recycling paint diverts material from the waste stream and reduces the demand for raw, non-recycled materials when new paint is manufactured. The County also accepts paint by appointment year-round, Tuesday through Saturday, at the Household Material Recovery Facility (H-MRF) on the Grasslands Campus at 15 Woods Road in Valhalla. In addition to paint, the H-MRF accepts household chemicals and a variety of other items requiring special handling, often not accepted through curbside collection.

For more information on how to register for the event, visit circular.eco/event/westchester or call the Recycling Helpline at (914) 813-5425.

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MOUNT VERNON MAN SENTENCED TO 16 YEARS IN STATE PRISON FOR SENSELESS KILLING IN WHITE PLAINS

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y.- Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that Nathaniel Hill, 55, of Mount Vernon, was sentenced on Thursday to 16 years in state prison for the killing of 40-year-old Bernard Potillo in July, 2024. Hill, who pleaded guilty to Manslaughter in the First Degree in March, was sentenced by Supreme Court Justice James McCarty.

On July 4, 2024 in White Plains, Hill stabbed Potillo in the abdomen, killing him. Potillo was a resident of Yonkers.

DA Cacace said: "This is another sad example of a senseless and tragic killing. The impact of this horrible crime will be felt by the victim's friends and family forever. My hopes are that this sentencing offers the family at least some measure of solace and closure."

In a victim's impact statement read in court, Caprisse Hall, Potillo's girlfriend said: "Our future was taken. The family we dreamed of, the businesses we wanted to build, and the life we were crafting together. All of it vanished in one devastating moment. I was supposed to become his wife. We were supposed to create a legacy together. And now, I'm left holding the pieces of a broken heart and a shattered life."

This case was investigated by the White Plains Police Department and was prosecuted by ADA Adrian Murphy and Violent Criminal Enterprise Bureau Chief James Bavero.

FORMER CONSTRUCTION FINANCE MANAGER CHARGED WITH STEALING OVER \$50,000 FROM BUSINESS ACCOUNTS

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y. – Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that the former finance manager for a White Plains-based construction company was arraigned last week on allegations that she stole over \$50,000 from the firm and committed numerous other felonies.

Michele Rinaldo, 52, of The Bronx, was arraigned Aug. 13 in Westchester County Court on one count of Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a class C felony, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument in the Second Degree, a class D felony, one count of Identity Theft in the First Degree, a class D felony, three counts of Falsifying Business Records in the First Degree, a class E felony, and one count of Falsifying Business Records in the Second Degree, a class A misdemeanor.

Rinaldo pleaded not guilty to the charges. Judge Melissa Loehr released her on her own recognizance as none of the charges are bail-eligible. A conference in the case is scheduled for Sept. 24.

DA Cacace said: "The defendant's alleged thefts were as brazen as they were careless. Not only do these kinds of frauds hurt honest small businesses, they drive up the cost of doing business for everyone in Westchester County. I commend our partners at the U.S. Social Security Administration and the North Castle Police Department for helping to uncover this scheme."

According to a felony complaint earlier filed in the case, Rinaldo managed the books and payroll for a White Plains-based construction firm from September 2022 to March 2023. During this time, she issued 34 separate payments from the firm to two personal bank accounts, according to the complaint.

The complaint further alleges that shortly after making each payment, Rinaldo would go into the firm's payroll systems and change the listed payee on the transaction from her name to "US Treasury," "United States Treasury" or "United S Treasury."

The amounts allegedly diverted to Rinaldo's personal accounts totaled over \$200,000, according to the complaint.

The investigation was conducted by the North Castle Police Department, the U.S. Social Security Administration (Office of the Inspector General), the New York City Police Department and the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

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

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On This Day in Yonkers History ...



Tuskegee Airman Lee Archer, Jr. born in Yonkers

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 Untermeyer Performing Arts Council

Monday, September 1st

September 1, 1943: Yonkers war plants announced they would be open for business on Labor Day... like every other day! Otis operated on its usual schedule; Smith Carpet Company ran their machine shop. Cameo Curtains on John Street continued to manufacture fragmentation bomb parachutes, field bars and netting tents. Blair Shipyards worked 24 hours a day if a "ship was in" for repair, and it was! US Shipbuilding worked under the same circumstances. Warburton Avenue's Becopa Glove Mills and other glove manufacturers dedicated themselves to fulfilling defense contracts as quickly as possible, as did American Diet aids Company on South Broadway, who made "Soluble Coffee Products," packaged for the American Red Cross and sent to European and Asian prisoners of war.

September 1, 1943: The Yonkers War Council and the Office of Civilian Protection announced they would stand down for the remainder of 1943 unless the Common Council voted to add \$16,551.60 to their budget. They needed flashlights for the Auxiliary Police, medical equipment for casualty stations, demolition squad equipment, blackout identification headlight masks, pennants for Defense Driving Corps and radio communication equipment.

Tuesday, September 2nd

September 2, 1944: Yonkers War Council's Committee on Gardening for National Defense announced results of their extensive inspection and examination of Yonkers Victory Gardens.

First place went to R. Schneider of Rudolph Terrace, whose garden was cultivated on the Untermeyer estate west of North Broadway. A. Johnson's Wickes Avenue home garden ranked second. Both received high marks from judges led by William Crocker, Director of Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research; their gardens remained fully planted, extending their yield to Fall.

Winners of the "group gardens" awards were that of Messrs. Sieb and Kirchner, grown on the Untermeyer estate west of North Broadway. Second place went to the garden of Messrs. Healy and Fix, grown on the Untermeyer estate east of North Broadway.

Wednesday, September 3rd

September 3, 1918: Wallace Lodge, the new hotel founded by the Board of Foreign Missions of the Methodist Episcopal Church, officially opened at Highcliff Hall, formerly Park Hill girls' day and boarding school in Park Hill. After a tour of the grounds, the Lodge held a reception for 150 guests. A gift to the church, it was used for conferences and accommodations for foreign and home missionaries.

September 3, 1938: Although a lifesaving crew rushed to the Ludlow Westchester Service Corporation dock to save a man struggling in the water, nineteen-year-old Joseph Daniel fished 35-year-old Kavin Gannon out of the Hudson. Gannon claimed to have fallen in the river while on the Dock; witnesses reported Gannon jumped into the Hudson. After being examined at St. Joseph's Hospital, he was taken to the City Jail.

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Family with 48 Illegal Guns in Armonk; Son Gets 7 Years Jail for Illegal Weapons Possession ; Dad Gets 7.5 Years; Mom Gets Probation



By Dan Murphy
Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that an Armonk man was sentenced on Aug. 19 to seven years in state prison for weapons possession. Brandon Brois, 27, was sentenced to the minimum prison term by State Supreme Court Judge Larry Schwartz despite

By Dan Murphy

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that an Armonk man was sentenced on Aug. 19 to seven years in state prison for weapons possession. Brandon Brois, 27, was sentenced to the minimum prison term by State Supreme Court Judge Larry Schwartz despite prosecutors' request for a term of 12 years in state prison.

In January 2022, Brois was found in possession of an arsenal of illegal firearms in his Armonk home, including two assault weapons, a machine gun, two rifles, two pistols and a shotgun. In October 2024, a jury returned guilty verdicts convicting Brois on a total of 10 counts including Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Third Degree and Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Fourth Degree.

DA Cacace said: "Our office remains fully committed to combatting the scourge of illegal firearms that plague our community. Far too often these illegal firearms land in the hands of our most violent criminals, resulting in serious assaults and, at times, homicide. We will continue to team with law enforcement to keep all of Westchester safe."

This prosecution was a result of an investigation by the North Castle Police Department, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety's Real Time Crime Center, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

Brandon Brois' parents, Theodore and Helene Brois, who all lived in the home at 3 Tallwoods Road, North Castle, were also charged in the incident, dating back to 2022. All three were charged with the illegal possession of nearly 50 guns, including semi-automatic rifles, shotguns, machine guns and a ghost gun, by then DA Mimi Rocah.

Helene Brois, now 65 was charged with Criminal Possession of a Firearm.

Theodore Brois, now 70, was charged with first-degree criminal possession of a weapon.

On January 25, 2022, at approximately 11:25 a.m., the North Castle Police Department arrested the three defendants who had no permits to legally purchase or possess firearms, and seized 48 guns, which were found in several rooms throughout the house. At least 15 of the guns were loaded.

The defendants' arrests were a result of an investigation by the North Castle Police Department, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety's Real Time Crime Center, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

Theodore Brois received a stiff 7.5 year prison sentence, while Helene got probation.

Notice of Formation of Fifth Quarter Cards, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on August 9, 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: 50 Ganung Dr, Ossining, NY 10562. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of SteenShots 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. Vernon NY 10550. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of IM Consulting LLC filed with the SSNY on 11/05/2024 with the existence date as 01/01/2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whole processes against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of processes to the LLC, 3 Ward Street, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of 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.

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.

Hastings Library Presents: Local Luminaries David Zweig - An Abundance of Caution Sept.4



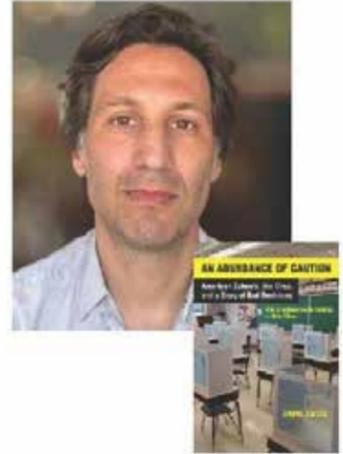
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DAVID ZWEIG AN ABUNDANCE OF CAUTION

David Zweig's book, *An Abundance of Caution: American Schools, the Virus, and a Story of Bad Decisions*, chronicles one of the worst American policy failures in a century—the extended closures of public schools during the pandemic.

As students return to the classroom, it's an opportune time for us to learn why, during the pandemic, more than 50 million kids in America were prevented from attending school full time, a circumstance that for many of them—including those in Hastings-on-Hudson—lasted for more than a year. The answers matter and they are likely not what you think.

Join us for a lively conversation about this moment and its lingering effects upon students.



**Thursday, September 4
7 to 8:15pm
at the Hastings Public Library**

7 Maple Avenue, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706
914.478.3307 www.hastingslibrary.org

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Join us for a lively conversation about this moment and its lingering effects upon students.

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 JUST SHIPSHAPE LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on [07/17/2025]. Office location: Westchester county. ENTITY PROTECT REGISTERED AGENT SERVICES LLC is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. ENTITY PROTECT REGISTERED AGENT SERVICES LLC shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 1 ALEXANDER STREET APT 314, Yonkers, New York, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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 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.

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.

The Robeson in Peekskill Project presents

THE PEEKSKILL RIOTS: THEN & NOW

A Panel Discussion



JOHN NICHOLS
Executive Editor, *The Nation*. Writer American politics, global media systems.



KENDALL HALL
Founder, Ubuntu Cultural Pavilion, preserving Paul Robeson's Legacy in NJ



SHANA L. REDMOND
Award winning Author *Everything Man: The Form and Function of Paul Robeson*



MICHAEL MEEROPOL
Economist, educator, author. Elder son of Julius & Ethel Rosenberg



Thursday, September 4, 2025
7:00 – 8:30 PM (doors open 6:30)

RSVP by September 2nd

On September 4th, the anniversary of the Peekskill Riots, we will present a special panel discussion, "The Peekskill Riots: Then & Now."

More than a remembrance, we will hear some of today's most insightful voices explore why the riots happened, what it meant then and why it still matters now.

Our distinguished panel includes:
John Nichols – (Moderator) Executive Editor of *The Nation* and previous correspondent on national affairs and Washington. Nichols has written, cowritten, or edited over a dozen books on topics ranging from histories of American socialism and the Democratic Party to analyses of US and global media systems.

Kendall Hall – Founder of Ubuntu Cultural Pavilion, preserving Black and African American history in Somerville, NJ, including Paul Robeson's local legacy. A leader in community engagement and archival preservation, she also co-founded the Rutgers African American Alumni Alliance.

Shana L. Redmond (Ph.D.) – Grammy nominated writer and creator. Author of *Anthem: Social Movements and the Sound of Solidarity in the African Diaspora* and *Everything Man: The Form and Function of Paul Robeson*, which won numerous awards including an American Book Award. She teaches in New York City.

Michael Meeropol – Economist, educator, and son of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg. Author of *Surrender, How the Clinton Administration Completed the Reagan Revolution* and co-author of *Principles of Macroeconomics, Activist vs. Austerity Policies*. He edited *The Rosenberg Letters, A Complete Prison Correspondence of Julius and Ethel Rosenberg*.

Join us for this timely conversation with leaders who bring deep historical knowledge and lived experience to one of the most significant moments in our community's and our nation's history.

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Manhattanville University to Host Sports Journalist

Jane McManus for Book Talk on the Rise of Women's Sports

REID CASTLE, EAST LIBRARY

September 18 at 6pm

Jane McManus



Professor Amy Bass, Emmy-award winning writer and expert on sports, culture, and politics to lead Q&A

Manhattanville University will host acclaimed sports journalist Jane McManus for a talk and Q&A session on her new book, "The Fast Track: The Rise of Women's Sports as an Industry and Investment."

The event and book signing are open to the public and will be held on Thursday, September 18, 2025, at 6 p.m. at Reid Castle East Library.

McManus, a veteran sports journalist and academic, will delve into the themes of her book, which challenges the notion that "no one cares about women's sports." "The Fast Track" provides compelling evidence of the increasing popularity and financial viability of women's sports, highlighted by recent watershed moments like the fervor surrounding Caitlin Clark during the 2024 NCAA Women's Basketball championship.

The book examines the upward trajectory of women's sports while also addressing the historical forces that have hindered its growth since Title IX in the early 1970s. "The Fast Track" confronts resistance toward women's leagues, analyzes media coverage of female athletes, and considers future investment possibilities. Additionally, McManus addresses critical topics such as racial inclusivity, the participation of transgender athletes, women's health issues, and the ongoing fight for equal pay.

The evening at Manhattanville will feature a question-and-answer session led by Amy Bass, professor of sport studies and Emmy-Award winning writer whose interests focus on sport, culture, and politics. She has made appearances on the TODAY SHOW, CNN Newsroom, and Anderson Cooper's Full Circle among other public affairs programs. She is chair of the division of social science and communication.

"I am absolutely delighted to welcome Jane to campus to share insights from her important new book on women's sports," said Professor Bass. "A trailblazer in sports journalism and a fierce advocate for equity and representation, she brings a wealth of experience and perspective that will resonate deeply with our students – especially those in our fast-growing interdisciplinary Sport Studies major. Her visit offers an extraordinary opportunity for our students to engage with one of the field's most vital voices."

Manhattanville University's Sport Studies major, one of the largest in the School of Arts and Sciences, offers a comprehensive curriculum that includes a 4+1 pathway to a master's degree in Sport Business Management. Undergraduate students in the program gain expertise in both sport marketing and sport management, preparing them for diverse careers in the dynamic sports industry.

For more information on the event and to RSVP, please visit the Manhattanville University events calendar: <https://www.mville.edu/events/calendar.php#event-details/a2fbc37d-d42d-4342-ba99-3b473409b74f>

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continued on pg 11-

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Former Yonkers Resident Madison Nero, Miss Earth USA

Water, Brings the Fight for Climate Policy to DC

By Bryan Fumagalli

Whether she is wearing a bikini on a reality TV show or addressing congress, Westchester's Madison Nero is making waves from Michigan to Washington.

Nero, 21, who holds the title of Miss Earth USA Water, finished as the second runner up in the Miss Earth USA competition, a leading environmental pageant that combines the beauty pageant industry with pressing environmental issues.

The Miss Earth USA 2025 pageant was broadcast this summer through a reality show "Pretty



Madison Nero

continued on pg 11-

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-Pete Seeger-

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, September 17, 2025, AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN YONKERS CITY HALL, 40 SOUTH BROADWAY, 4TH FLOOR (building is handicapped accessible).

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

OPEN/CONTINUED HEARINGS

5850 – Area Variance – Kathleen Bradshaw, Esq., on behalf of 194 Yonkers Avenue LLC, owner, on premises known as 182 Fillmore Street aka 194 Yonkers Avenue, Block: 405, Lots: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7,8, 9,13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Zone: BA - https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rmdP3X61js_cy3P25c-FkrsMpUyXHf34?usp=sharing

5855 – Area Variance – Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of 160 Stanley Avenue LLC, owner, on premises known as 160 Stanley Ave, Block: 184, Lots: 68, Zone: A (B00033778) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sBCFaH0lbtvx_DMeIZGYwbaUBYOPlzH?usp=sharing

#5868 – Area Variance – Shahin Badaly on behalf of 221 Lake Avenue, Block: 2179, Lot: 02 Zone: A&I District; 222 Lake Partners LLC, owner, on premises know as 222 Lake Avenue. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mf7O9_0k7lCtg3VjstKmCYFc2p9cjld?usp=sharing

#5852 - Area Variance - Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of 94 St. Andrews Place, Block: 133, Lot: 3, Zone: A, (B0033786), Pleasure Home Improvement LLC, owner, on premises know as 94 St. Andrews Place. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-WAnk-6N6D-BLNUSRFplEp6VBcZd6V80?usp=sharing>

#5895 – Area Variance— Andrew Romano Esq. on behalf of Pjeter Vukaj, owner, on premises known as 9 Abner Place, Block: 6163, Lot: 32.34 (A0000269) Zone: T. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tk5lkd1Viam48Mj-4fhB2-WYpSUEBsiU?usp=sharing>

#5899–Area and Use Variance–Steven Veneruso, on behalf of CPD Energy Corp, lessee, on premises know as 1282 Midland Ave, Block:5245, Lot: 5 (B0036230) Zone: BR https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1oGwj5ioxklQGufUpz_iVUL4tksZJ6v-z?usp=sharing

#5900 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano Esq., on behalf of WAG America LLC, on premises know as 38 Hunt Ave, Block:3137, Lot:16 (B0035424) Zone: S-50. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1N-HiBBAFqe09tTtPWOCe-h4OC1_expReA?usp=sharing

5790 – Area Variance - James Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of Mehranco Limited Liability Co., owner, on premises known as 1999 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4385, Lot: 42.43, (B30132) Zone: BR https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1luztIIO9IzkF1bUNhKvFBj6CNy_bLXR5?usp=sharing

#5903 – Area and Use Variance - Andrew Romano Esq. on behalf of 329 WSY LLC, owner, on premises known as 329 Walnut Street, Block: 453, Lot: 3 (B0032469) Zone: M. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Gxn8_x0Zg5W-K_VEgl0fG8uE19mwZe2b?usp=sharing

#5764- Area Variance - Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of Woodycrest Yonkers LLC, owner, Block: 2207, Lot: 21 (B0024208), on premises known as 37 Woodycrest Avenue, Zone: T. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TS9_F9jAFdMVLmrRI-47Z7vWeraW1h1P?usp=sharing

#5763 – Area Variance - Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of Woodycrest Yonkers LLC, owner, Block: 2207, Lot: 23 (B0024199), on premises know as 33 Woodycrest Avenue, Zone: T. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13ZXZ25vr0exLhnUzHnm7ewIVyOkQEHVP?usp=sharing>

NEW HEARINGS

#5905- Appeal from an Interpretation/Decision/Order of the Commissioner of Buildings- Jonathan D. Kraut on behalf of Scott Sall of 106 Bronxville Road LLC, on premises know as 106 Bronxville Road, Block:5322, Lot:13.14 (Complaint2025-0471) Zone: S-50. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10s6_nqQBTCy-ZqKHvVXX_EcT7Nc6fetx?usp=sharing

#5906 – Appeal from an Interpretation/Decision/Order of the Commissioner of Buildings- Jonathan D. Kraut on behalf of Scott Sall of 1 Bronxville Lane LLC, on premises know as 1 Bronxville Lane, Block:5320, Lot:23 (Complaint2025-0471) Zone: S-50. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ME2b_OZFZjtnzVTKNkeodSWFI3RrQm72?usp=sharing

#5494 & 5667 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano, Project Attorney. On behalf of 581 Saw Mill River Road, Block:3100, Lot: 200, Zone: I (B0011017), request your consideration for an extension of time on an expired Area Variance of Approval. https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RBWzAOsVzaQil_PUqgLtBDPWCngLyarV?usp=sharing

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

Sculti v Spano, continued from pg 1-

tic-city

An Infrastructure Nightmare in the Making: First, traffic. The casino already sits in a residential neighborhood at the tangled crossroads of state, county, and city roads, just off the Major Deegan, the Bronx River and Cross County Parkways, and Central Avenue.

Congestion is a daily complaint. A significant surge in visitors could gridlock not only Yonkers but neighboring communities. Who is responsible for fixing this? Will the state pay for ramp upgrades? Will the city get funding for signal improvements and road widening? Without a binding infrastructure agreement, the region will be left holding the bag.

Sex Trafficking and Drug Activity Concerns: This is a deeply concerning issue, but one that cannot be ignored. A casino of this size is not just a destination for entertainment — it is also a magnet for crime, ranging from petty theft to organized criminal operations.

While there is already gambling at MGM Empire City Casino, it is currently limited to slot machines. The proposed expansion would introduce a full range of table games, including cards and other forms of gambling, significantly increasing the risks. Plans to add a hotel in later phases have been discussed. Studies have consistently shown a correlation between large-scale casino operations and increased risks of sex trafficking and drug-related crime. Casinos — especially those operating around the clock — attract transient populations, cash-based transactions, and nightlife activity, creating conditions that enable illicit activity such as trafficking and drug distribution. The U.S. State Department's 2023 Trafficking in Persons Report highlighted how casinos have been used to facilitate human trafficking, with online platforms tied to casinos increasingly linked to cyber scams and the exploitation of vulnerable individuals for forced labor. Furthermore, a University of Nevada, Las Vegas study found that casino patrons are 17% more likely to pay for sex than the average survey respondent. These findings underscore the heightened risks that come with the expansion of MGM Empire City Casino from a slot-machine-only venue to a full-scale gambling operation. This expansion demands careful, comprehensive planning to protect our community from the serious consequences that often accompany large-scale casinos.

Social Services Need a Safety Net: Gambling addiction rates inevitably rise when casinos expand offerings. The Westchester County Department of Social Services and local nonprofits must be equipped with additional funding, staff, and training before the doors open to high-stakes table play. Right now, there's no clear indication they are preparing for this.

Follow the Money and Keep It Local: MGM will profit — but how much of that windfall will stay here? Are we reserving a percentage of new jobs for Yonkers and Westchester residents, or will outsiders flood in and take them? Is there a mechanism to earmark a larger slice of gaming revenue for local infrastructure, schools, and addiction treatment, rather than letting it disappear into Albany's general fund?

Planning Now, Not Regretting Later: The expansion is coming whether we're ready or not. But readiness means more than cutting a ribbon and celebrating "economic development." It means a transparent community benefits agreement that ensures dedicated law enforcement resources, traffic and road improvement projects, investment in commercial corridors, housing initiatives, social services resources, improved sanitation and elected officials presenting a unified, public plan before the first card is dealt. Otherwise, we're just rolling the dice with our community's future. My support of the expansion is contingent on a community benefits agreement that addresses the above concerns, and it must not come at the expense of the existing quality of life," writes Sculti.

The day after Sculti's Op-Ed was live, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano penned a rebuttal to Sculti. Spano writes, "She might live on the other side of the County from Yonkers, but that's no excuse for Rye resident and Republican-Conservative County Executive candidate Christine Sculti to throw cold water on MGM's application for a full gaming casino license.

Writing in the Yonkers Times, Sculti rolls out the standard objections that casino gaming is really a license for human trafficking, drugs, organized crime, and traffic gridlock — her list goes on and on.

She demands a plan to deal with community concerns. But guess what? There is one. You just have to take the time to read it.

But first let's review the benefits of a casino license for Empire Casino. No longer limited to slot machines, the additional table games and sports betting will generate more than \$350 million a year in gaming taxes, with 10 percent of that amount going directly to Yonkers. We'd have to raise the property tax by double digits to otherwise make up for that amount.

Then there are the jobs — not just the 6,500 construction jobs for the build out, but the additional 2,000 permanent union jobs that will be created once the expansion opens. Combined with the existing 700 jobs, that's 2,700 area households that will enjoy good wages thanks to this license.

MGM's submission, available on the State's website, runs to more than a thousand pages. It outlines how it will spend more than \$40 million to deal with traffic and other issues. Dozens of area intersections will be rebuilt or get improved signalization — many of them aren't even near the casino but will be improved anyway. A landscaped buffer will be created along one side of the casino, and new streetscapes will be constructed.

On top of this my office and the City Council have reached a community benefits agreement with MGM that amounts to much more. Besides \$10 million to create a new neighborhood public library and \$2 million a year to provide additional neighborhood police patrols, at least \$500,000 a year will go to local non-profit agencies.

While there are easy political points to be made in criticizing a casino license, let's take a minute to consider what happens if Yonkers doesn't get one. The answer is simple: The existing slot parlor and racetrack will close. A study by the leading gaming consultant in the nation confirms this. MGM agrees.

But we don't need a study to tell us this. Our own common sense will do.

The State is going to award three full casino licenses in the New York City area. How long do we think people will flock to an aging slot machine parlor when there are three other brand new casinos a half hour away that have table games, sports betting, performance venues, and a variety of restaurants?

continued on pg 11-

Councilman Merante: Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption Deadline is September 15

If you need assistance or have any questions, please contact the Assessment Department at assessmentsupport@yonkersny.gov or 914-377-6200, Monday through Friday from 8:30 to 4:30.

Download City of Yonkers Exemption Renewal Form

<https://u.pcloud.link/publink/show...>

Local governments and school districts in New York State can opt to grant a reduction on the amount of property taxes paid by qualifying senior citizens. This is accomplished by reducing the taxable assessment of the senior's home by as much as 50%.

To qualify, seniors generally must be 65 years of age or older and meet certain income limitations and other requirements. For the 50% exemption, the law allows each county, city, town, village, or school district to set the maximum income limit at any figure between \$3,000 and \$50,000.

In addition, there are three sliding-scale options that municipalities may adopt to provide a benefit to seniors with incomes greater than the local maximum. Under these options, qualifying seniors may receive the exemption if their income is below:

- \$55,700 for a 20% exemption,
- \$57,500 for a 10% exemption, or
- \$58,400 for a 5% exemption.

Check with your local assessor for the income limits in your community.

First Time Exemption Filing Form

<https://yonkers.seamlessdocs.com/f/RP467Initalwithwrkst25>

Renewal Exemption Filing Form

<https://yonkers.seamlessdocs.com/f/RP467Renewalwithworksheet>

BASIC STAR

To register for the Basic STAR, contact NYS at 518-457-2036.

Please Note: 2025 Exemption Application Links are now open

Enhanced STAR Exemption

The 2025-2026 Enacted State Budget included several provisions to simplify the STAR program. Homeowners will no longer be required to submit an application to the assessor if they had an ownership change or if the aged into the Enhanced STAR exemption. ORPTS will notify assessors of Basic STAR recipients who become eligible for Enhanced STAR (rather than requiring seniors to apply to their assessors).

SENIOR CITIZENS EXEMPTION (More Info)

<https://www.tax.ny.gov/.../pro.../exemption/seniorexempt.htm>

Sculti v Spano continued on pg 11-

The choice isn't whether MGM Empire Casino stays as it is or becomes a full casino. The choice is whether Yonkers gets a full casino license or closes altogether, throwing hundreds of people out of work, causing Yonkers an immediate \$28 million annual tax loss, and losing the opportunity for thousands of new jobs and new tax revenues for years to come.

If Yonkers doesn't get a casino license, then who does? The closest competitor is the Bally golf course in the Bronx near the Whitestone Bridge. It used to be called Trump Links, and when Bally's purchased it they agreed to pay Donald Trump \$115 million if it ever becomes a casino.

Maybe some political candidates are willing to risk Yonkers' future for the benefit of Donald Trump or the other deep-pocketed competitors.

By the end of the year New York State will decide who gets the three new casino licenses, and whether our City's biggest private sector will win one or be forced into eventual closure. I hope that all of our local leaders, and those who wish to become local leaders, will do what is right for our collective future," writes Spano.

MIKE SPANO, Mayor, City of Yonkers

Editor's Note: Here's our view of this issue. Sculti has been making the rounds at Republican events and fund raisers, including at Westchester Republican events where she has met two republican candidates in Yonkers, City Council candidate Solieri and County Board candidate Pineda.

Both Solieri and Pineda live near the Casino and are opposed to the expansion and the gaming license. They got Sculti's ear and she penned this Op-Ed which has been well received in republicans circles in Westchester, based on our Facebook data.

We do not agree with Sculti and her assumption that Sex Trafficking will come as a result of Gaming tables at MGM-Empire City. But she did make a bit of news, and our front page.

Mayor Spano was wise to respond. Even though it gave her a brief political pop, he had to set the record straight on what the project will do for Yonkers, and the efforts to provide a community benefits agreement for the surrounding community.

Republican County Legislator James Nolan supports the MGM gaming license, which puts him at odds with Sculti on this issue.

Madison Nero, continued from pg 9-

Down To Earth" exclusively broadcast on QBN, the Queen Beauty Network. "The preliminary competition included a private impact statement, swim wear, evening gown and abbreviated on-stage impact statement," said Nero, an Armonk native who spent time living in Yonkers with her grandmother. "

Those of us who finished in the top 12 spent the next six months engaged in advocacy such as attending New York Fashion Week, doing photo shoots and living our best lives as Miss Earth USA national finalists. In May, we reconvened to film 'Miss Pretty Down to Earth' at Sylvan Beach during which we competed in everything from photo and bikini shoots to interviews to runway at the Utica train station."

After nearly taking the crown this year, Nero isn't standing still. She plans to compete again next year for Miss Earth USA, stay connected with the public and even dabble in the world of public policy. "I work with youth through my environmental platform Metamorphosis with Madison, where I bring a modern twist to what it means to be eco conscious," she said. "That could be showing videos of me thrifting or hosting the series I have through Citizens Climate Lobby called Legislation 101, where I break down climate policy so people can understand what is going on and be civically engaged."

On track to graduate in December, Nero is majoring in advertising management at Michigan State University and hopes to become a pageant coach and work in social media. "I love it at MSU, especially in my role as president of Citizens Climate Lobby, a nonpartisan nonprofit grassroots climate change organization that pushes congress to implement climate policy," Nero said. "In that role, I have lobbied Sen. Elissa Slotkin of Michigan and recently spent time on Capitol Hill."

Follow Madison on Instagram at https://www.instagram.com/maddie_nero

Hochul's \$17B Medicaid Surge Leaves Little to Brag About

By Bill Hammond, EmpireReport.org

Governor Hochul has made Medicaid her dominant budget priority over the past four years, increasing the state's annual share of the program by \$17 billion – which is more new money than she allocated for every other part of state government, combined.

Yet she barely mentions the program in a list of accomplishments she posted to mark her fourth anniversary in office, suggesting that her heavy spending has bought few results that she cares to boast about.

The list used the word "Medicaid" only once, noting that Hochul signed legislation authorizing the program to cover remote monitoring of pregnant women.

The program plays an uncredited role in two other listed items: a \$1 billion "investment in mental health care" over several years, a portion of which is to come from Medicaid; and efforts to bolster access to abortion, which include higher Medicaid reimbursements for providers.

Otherwise, the safety-net health plan that covers one-third of the population goes unmentioned in a list of 47 bullet points. The list touts a cumulative school-aid increase of \$8 billion, but says nothing about the more than twice-as-large amount that she plowed into the health-care system.

This near-silence is consistent with her State of the State speech in January, in which she had little to say about Medicaid or health care generally.

Hochul has occasionally spoken out about problems that need fixing – such as the dismal quality ratings of the state's hospitals, or the rapidly rising cost of home health care. Yet her actions have mostly consisted of adding billions to the Medicaid budget (which is already the highest per capita in the country) and pushing to grow the health-care workforce (which is already the largest per capita in the country).

Both of these priorities happen to align with those of the health-care industry and its major labor union, 1199 SEIU, which are consistently among Albany's biggest-spending special interests – and campaign donors.

The result has been a 61 percent increase in state-share Medicaid spending in four years, compared to a 57 percent increase over 10 years during the Cuomo administration.

Meanwhile, festering health-care problems are going unaddressed, such persistently low quality ratings (and high emergency-room wait times) in New York's hospital system, and the grim conditions in many nursing homes, as exposed in lawsuits by Attorney General Letitia James.

In one major attempt at reform, Hochul abruptly moved to consolidate Medicaid's Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program, or CDPAP, under a single statewide contractor, replacing hundreds of smaller "fiscal intermediaries."

Secretively negotiated and hastily implemented, the overhaul has proven to be disruptive for recipients and caregivers alike, promises modest savings and does not address the eligibility rules that have allowed the program to grow so explosively.

One of the few stakeholders with reason to cheer was 1199, because the consolidation has paved the way for the union to organize CDPAP workers and boost its dues-paying membership by hundreds of thousands.

In 2023, Hochul established a Commission on the Future of Health Care and filled it with well-credentialed appointees, many of which come from outside the Albany bubble.

Although its report is eight months overdue, Chairwoman Sherry Glied, dean of the NYU Wagner School of Public Service, said in a recent interview that improving the poor quality of New York's hospitals – which she called "not acceptable" – would be one of the panel's top priorities.

In creating that commission, Hochul tacitly acknowledged that she needed a stronger agenda on health care – or at least one that goes beyond spending more on Medicaid.

Improving hospital quality would be a good place for her to start.

Stride Forward Modelling Program, continued from pg 8-

Through a blend of runway training, self-esteem coaching, branding workshops, and mental wellness support, students will gain practical skills that help them develop a strong self-image and improve their communication. The program is a powerful way for them to explore career opportunities in the fashion industry and beyond.

The journey culminates in a professional runway show, where students get to showcase their progress, celebrate their transformation, and gain real-world exposure to industry professionals. It's a moment of triumph and a chance to shine!

Program Details: Who: Students between the ages of 12 and 18; What: A 12-week transformational course; When: Every Friday, starting September 5th, 2025, from 4:00 PM to 5:30 PM Where: Yonkers Arts Project Space [216 Lake Ave, Yonkers, NY, 10701]

Ready to help a young person build the skills they need to succeed?

Sign Up at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSemihu5UIYQD6Kp6IXErs3INhJS3coQUFZU1IP5qB1UuP0ObA/viewform>

We look forward to welcoming you to the program!
Warmly, The Yonkers Arts Team

Letter-OP ED

This is a comment regarding the article: "Yonkers Launches New Initiative to Help Students Get Working Papers Faster" that appeared in the August 22, 2025 issue of "Yonkers Rising".

Any effort to help teenagers get jobs faster is a great one! I applaud it and I'm assuming this resource is open to all teenagers of Yonkers.

My comment is regarding the article's capitalization of "black" and "brown" as it relates to human beings. Colors are adjectives. Adjectives describe a noun. In this case, two groups of people. Adjectives in the English language are not customarily capitalized unless they are part of a name or title. ("The Blue Hen Café"; "The Yellow Rose of Texas") But if an (any) editorial staff makes the decision to break with grammatical custom and capitalize colors in reference to people, then it would be wise to apply this in a uniform manner to all racial groups, including "White".

Here's why: By capitalizing only particular racial groups and lower-casing others, it appears to show greater respect to one group over another. This results in fueling the ire of the "crazies". So if "black" and "brown" are capitalized and not "white", (as currently seen in many publications) this gives easy "ammunition" to MAGAs and white-supremacists. Why would we want to do that?

Also, by uniformly using one case or the other, it gives a subtle nod to the equality of all people. Especially if the word "people" immediately follows the color adjective. ("brown people", "white people", etc.) That's the word that needs the most emphasis!

Lastly, there are some racial groups for whom it could be considered offensive to be identified by their racial "color". For instance: Is it courteous to refer to the original inhabitants of North America as "red people"? To Asian people as "yellow people"?

I understand that sometimes there is a need to specify particular racial groups for clarity's sake. But let's "give ammunition" to the goal of harmonious relations by referring to each one in a consistent manner.

Maybe we should break with grammatical rules and always capitalize the most important word: "People"!

Thank you,
Diane Serniak
Yonkers, NY

New York Apple Association Names New Chairman of the Board

Thomas Coene, left



Just in time for the upcoming Apple season in New York State, the New York Apple Association has named Thomas Coene as chairman of the board. Coene and his wife Lindsey farm alongside his parents, David and Elizabeth Coene, and his grandparents, Robert and Judith Coene, at Windmill Farms LLC, a fifth-generation family operation. The family cultivates approximately 500 acres across Monroe and Wayne counties on the southern shore of Lake Ontario, growing apples for both

fresh and processing markets. They also operate an on-farm controlled-atmosphere storage facility. Coene holds a degree in agricultural business management from SUNY Cobleskill. "I look forward to leading the organization and working side by side with the other board members," Coene said.

Kristen DeMarree has been named vice president. She earned a doctorate in physical therapy from Nazareth University before returning to the family farm, where she is now transitioning to full ownership. Newly appointed board members Domenic Porpiglia and Jenna Roberts-Bruning join current members Ely Giroux, Kenny Bowman, Marcus Jones, Helene Dembroski, Joy Crist, Catherine Blackler, Mark Russell, Jeffery Fremouw, Carrie Waffler and Kent Schwab. Board members are elected by New York state apple growers to serve three-year terms, with the option to serve up to two consecutive terms.

The New York Apple Association is a nonprofit organization representing more than 500 apple growers across 50,000 acres statewide. New York is the second-largest apple-producing state in the U.S. NYAA supports fresh, processing and direct-to-consumer growers through advertising, promotions, public relations and educational initiatives aimed at strengthening the industry.

This year, NYAA was awarded two state contracts totaling more than \$3 million. "New York is expecting a robust crop this year, with production projected to exceed 30,500 million bushels," Coene said. "We've had a good mix of rain and warm summer days. Harvest in the Hudson Valley will begin around mid-August, followed by Western and Central New York, and then Northeast New York a few days later. Harvest typically wraps up the first week of November, depending on the weather."

Cynthia Haskins, NYAA president and CEO, announced an omni-channel consumer marketing campaign featuring a large digital billboard in New York City, 225 panel display billboards, and a targeted social media campaign showcasing digital images of New York apple growers. The campaign will highlight "The Big Flavor in The Big Apple," with branded display shippers and signage throughout the city. "We have a great opportunity to tell the story of New York apple growers," Coene said. "Consumers are more interested than ever in where their food comes from, who produces it and how it's grown." NYAA is expanding the Big Flavor campaign nationwide. Retail account managers are securing cooperative advertising partnerships and launching digital and coupon programs. New York apples are available in more than 7,400 retail stores across the country.

450 Backpacks with Supplies Collected at Mayor's Backpack to School Drive

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano today joined Yonkers Board of Education President Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio, Superintendent of Schools Anibal Soler, Jr., public officials from the Yonkers City Council, Westchester County and the New York State Assembly, Rosemarie Ann Siragusa Principal Melanie Vancol and event sponsors to present 450 backpacks, filled with school supplies, to the students at Rosemarie Ann Siragusa School as part of the Mayor's annual "Backpack to School Drive."

"I remain profoundly thankful for the steadfast support of our community and sponsors," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. "Together, we've gathered a remarkable supply of backpacks and school essentials for Yonkers students—equipping them for a successful academic year ahead. To every donor, your kindness and commitment to our city's future mean more than words can express."

Backpacks and school supplies were donated by City of Yonkers employees, residents, and a range of corporate and nonprofit sponsors including Heavenly Productions Foundation, Ridge Hill, Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts, Castle Royale, Adonis Crosby, The Appliance Doctor and Rock 'N Rods Classic Car Club.

"As a mother, I remember when my own child was little and how quickly the costs of going back to school added up," said Board of Education President Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio. "Today, with the average family spending nearly \$900 on supplies and essentials, this expense imposes a real burden on many parents. With the Mayor's care for children and families prompting the generosity of our partners, together, they help ease that burden and ensure our students start the year ready to learn. We are deeply grateful for this support, which means so much to families."

"Our priority is to make sure every child comes to school prepared to learn," said Yonkers Public Schools Superintendent Anibal Soler, Jr. "When families receive this kind of support, it not only eases the financial strain of back-to-school costs, but it also gives students the tools they need from day one. A backpack filled with supplies is more than just materials – it's testament to a strong community that the mayor has built over the years. This aligns with our Yonkers 2030 vision to empower, advance, and engage every student. I thank the Mayor Spano and our partners for helping us give students the strong start they deserve."

Chairwoman of Heavenly Productions Foundation, Dr. Kathy Reilly Fallon added, "Heavenly Productions Foundation (HPF), a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping babies and children in need, is proud to donate 250 backpacks and 250 sets of school supplies this year to Mayor Mike Spano's Backpack Outreach. For the past 14 years, our charity has been committed to supporting the Yonkers Public Schools, and we are honored to continue this tradition. We hope these donations will provide encouragement and the necessary tools for students to start the school year with confidence and success."

Ridge Hill General Manager, Meghann Hongach added, "As a gathering place for Yonkers families, Ridge Hill is committed to giving back to our community. We're honored to partner with Mayor Spano's 'Backpack to School Drive' each year and help ensure students have the tools to go back to school with confidence and excitement."

Since 2012, Mayor Spano's annual donation drive has distributed over 20,000 backpacks and school supplies to public school students. Due to the continuous outpour of support, each year non-profit organizations, churches and clients of the Westchester County Department of Social Services in the City of Yonkers are also able to receive backpacks and school supplies.

The latest survey on school supplies for 2025 from the National Retail Federation (NRF) determined that families with kids in grades K-12 expect to spend \$858.07 on clothing, shoes, school supplies and electronics. Total back-to-school spending is expected to reach \$39.4 billion, up from \$38.8 billion last year.

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 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.

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Events

ANTIQUA LOVERS TAKE NOTE: BRIMFIELD IS HERE-ALL SHOWS! September 2-7 New Shows open daily! Info for 2025:brimfieldantiqueweek.com.

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Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, AUG. 30

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

Book Buddies, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Children ages 7 and up can join us for a unique reading experience in one of our animal enclosures, where they can enjoy reading in an engaging and unique environment. \$10 fee for a 30-minute time slot (limited to one registration per time slot). Also: Sept. 27.

Get details and register: <https://www.muscotefarm.org/programs-events/event/2025/08/30/1756562400/book-buddies/528172>

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

The History and Highlights of Lasdon Park, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Urban naturalist Bruce Rosenberg leads a free walking tour that will focus on Lasdon's Arboretum. Also: Aug. Sept. 27. Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/history-and-highlights-of-lasdon-arboretum/>

Hilltop Hanover Farm & Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050

Sweet Farm-to-Table, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Craving something sweet? Adults and kids 8 and older can join us to harvest and make dessert fresh from the farm. \$20 class fee. Also: Sept. 27. Get details and pre-register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/sweet-farm-to-table-tickets-1374762163639>

Tibbetts Brook Park, Yonkers: (914) 231-2870

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

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

Art Exhibit: "Second Time Around: More Works From Martin Munroe," 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Munroe's journey continues down the road of acrylic and canvas. Tomorrow is the exhibit's final day. Get details: <https://www.muscotefarm.org/programs-events/art-shows-at-muscote.html>

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466

Naturalist's Choice Hike, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Join us for a walk through Marshlands' trails at as we interpret the wondrous things nature is showing us today.

Hilltop Hanover Farm & Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050

Savory Farm-to-Table, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Let's review sustainable methods of harvesting and kitchen skills related to the recipe, and then enjoy what we make together! \$20 class fee. Also: Sept. 27.

Get details and pre-register: <https://hilltophanoverfarm.org/events/event/2025/07/26/1753552800/savory-farm-to-table/525865>

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

Pond Patrol: Exploring Water-Quality Indicators, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Ages 10 and up can come along on an exciting outdoor adventure at our ice pond! In this hands-on program, you'll venture to the pond to search for macro-invertebrate small aquatic beings that reveal a lot about the health of our water and ecosystem. Also: Sept. 27. Pre-registration required: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/pond-patrol-exploring-water-quality-indicators-tickets-1396605096439?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

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-2-2/2025-08-30/>

SUNDAY, AUG. 31

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

Yoga in the Gardens, 9:30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Take a yoga class in the Conservatory or Gardens (weather dependent). Class will include meditation, poses, movement with the breath (Vinyasa). For beginner or advanced. \$25 per person. Pre-registration required: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/yoga-in-the-gardens/2025-08-31/>

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

Muscote Farmers Market, 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. Get details: <https://www.muscotefarm.org/marets/>

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

Gardening Sundays and Tuesdays, Weekly, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Enhance your gardening skills and plant knowledge by working side by side with the gardeners at Lasdon Park. Tasks include planting, watering, weeding, pruning, staking, deadheading, potting up and more! Through November. Also: Tuesday, Sept. 2. Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/gardening-sundays-2/2025-08-31>

Saxon Woods Pool, White Plains: (914) 995-4480.

DJ Day, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Swim and enjoy music at the pool! Participation is free; admission fees apply. Westchester County residency is required; weather permitting. Get details: <https://parks.westchestergov.com/family-fun-days>.

Yonkers Rising

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Senator Shelley Mayer Partners with United Way & Hispanic Federation For Back-to-School Drive



State Senator Shelley B. Mayer partnered with United Way of Westchester and Putnam Counties and Hispanic Federation for her annual Back-To-School supply drive for students and teachers. The donations were distributed at Port Chester Middle School on Tuesday, August 26 during News 12 and Optimum's Backpack Giveaway event.

From July 21 through August 21, Senator Mayer, United Way and Hispanic Federation collected donations at the City of Rye Recreation Center, Tuckahoe Village Hall, Pound Ridge Townhouse, and Senator Mayer's office in White Plains. Among the supplies were: backpacks, spiral notebooks, composition books, two-pocket folders, pencil cases, twelve-inch rulers, safety scissors, #2 pencils, ball-point pens, colored pencils, crayons, pencil sharpeners, glue sticks, highlighters, pink erasers and three-ring binders.

Senator Shelley Mayer said, "As always, I am thankful to live in a community that comes together to ensure our neighbors have everything they need to thrive. The new school year is an exciting time for students and teachers and is an opportunity for a fresh start, but for many families, school supplies are too expensive. I am overwhelmed once again by the generosity of our community, and I thank everyone who donated to our drive. I also thank the City of Rye Recreation Center, the Tuckahoe Village Hall, and the Pound Ridge Town House for providing drop-off locations. Lastly, thank you to United Way of Westchester and Putnam and Hispanic Federation for your commitment to our community and for partnering with me to ensure our students and teachers can start the school year off strong."

Con Ed, continued from pg

Board Chairman Vedat Gashi (D- New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, "We are united against Con Edison's outrageous rate hike proposals—across party lines, branches of government, local communities, state representatives, and, as we heard at our last Public Input Session, Con Ed workers themselves."

In addition to Chairman Gashi, legislators Shanae Williams, Terry Clements, Nancy E. Barr, Benjamin Boykin II, David T. Imamura, Erika L. Pierce, Jewel Williams Johnson, Emiljana Ulaj, and Margaret A. Cunzio listened intently to speakers, which included Mount Kisco Mayor J. Michael Cindrich and Trustee Thomas G. Luzio.

Residents are encouraged to submit written comments directly to the PSC at <https://documents.dps.ny.gov/public/MatterManagement/CaseMaster.aspx?MatterCaseNo=25-E-0072>.

Editor's Note: In most cases, a Whistleblower like to stay out of the public eye. We recently heard from John Stiloski, who complained about his Village of Tarrytown overpaying for a new fire truck; he put his name to it.

Mr. Morales is the President of the Utility Workers Union of America, A.F.L.-C.I.O., Local 1-2. He is a prominent member of labor in our region, and he testified to improper practices from Con Edison. Morales was by far, the most notable speaker at the BOL public hearings to date.

Con Edison has proposed rate hikes for 2026 that would increase the average electric bill by 11.4% and the average natural gas bill by 13.3%.

Austin Frankel, Blind Brook HS Senior, Develops Top Ranked Seat Maker App



Austin Frankel

By Dan Murphy

We recently spoke with Austin Frankel, a senior at Blind Brook High School in Rye Brook, who developed Seat Maker, an app designed to create

seating charts for anyone hosting an event and needing to determine who will sit where.

Austin's APP has quickly climbed to #4 in the U.S. paid Lifestyle category. "I built it because I saw the need for an easy way to arrange seats at community events and dinners," said Frankel.

How Did You Come Up With This Idea?

"In 10th grade, I was at a youth organization event, and no one knew where to

sit. People were moving chairs, asking around, and trying to figure it out on the fly. A week later, I went to a wedding dinner and saw the same thing. It almost ruined the whole night. That's when it clicked. There should be a fast, mobile app for seating that actually works. No spreadsheets, no long setup. Just a simple way to build and share a seating chart that makes sense."

What is the concept?

"Seat Maker makes event seating simple. Whether it's a dinner, party, mitzvah, or school event, figuring out where people sit is usually stressful. Most tools out there are designed for desktop or require complicated setup."

How did it get so popular?

"I solved a real pain point. No one wants to retype guest lists or deal with long spreadsheets. With Seat Maker, you import from contacts, drag to a seat, and you are done. Short demo clips, social media channels, and ambassadors also helped promote the product a lot. It reached #4 in U.S. Paid Lifestyle within 24 hours and #75 overall, with more than 30,000 impressions and strong early reviews."

What are Your Future Plans?

"I am a senior at Blind Brook High School in Rye Brook, NY. I plan to study business and entrepreneurship in college while continuing to build Seat Maker."

What are your thoughts on AI?

"As a kid, I remember asking Google for hours on end to fix simple problems. AI helped me move faster. I used it to learn SwiftUI, debug, and pressure test ideas. For Seat Maker, I am exploring smart seating suggestions and conflict checks."

Have you had any other successes in creating apps or in the tech industry?

"In high school, I started a coding class for kids, a tutoring program for AP Computer Science students, and built websites for local businesses. Seat Maker is my first iOS app and my biggest launch so far."

What does it cost to use your APP?

Seat Maker is now free to download on iOS (as of today). I am also planning on implementing a one-time purchase (OTP) that will unlock new/premium features (e.g., ad-free, advanced templates, smart seating suggestions, batch tools).

How do you monetize Seat Maker?

I currently monetize with in-app advertisements.

We tried Austin's app and found it to be very useful and easy to use for older, non-tech-savvy individuals like this reporter.

If you have an upcoming event, Try Seat Maker at www.seatmakerapp.com/ Austin Frankel is a 17-year-old high school senior from Rye Brook, NY, and the creator of Seat Maker. He is an entrepreneur who loves turning ideas into life. I'm ambitious and motivated to keep building, learning, and finding new ways to make an impact. Contact Austin at austinhfrankel@gmail.com.

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BTS Cell Phones, continued from pg 1-

them throughout the day, and unlock it at dismissal to regain access.

Superintendent of Schools Anibal Soler, Jr. stated, "Like every public school district in New York State, Yonkers Public Schools had no question but to comply with the new law. Thanks to available funding from Governor Kathy Hochul and in partnership with Mayor Mike Spano, we were able to think outside of the box and secure critical resources to ensure our high school students can hold onto their devices while still learning in a distraction-free environment. We are proud to be the largest school district in New York State to offer this option for all of our high school students."

Board of Education President Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio emphasized the importance of governance and partnership in the decision, "The Board of Education takes seriously its responsibility to govern with care and foresight. Implementing Yondr required careful planning, and I commend Superintendent Soler and Mayor Spano for their leadership and tact in bringing this forward. This collaborative effort reflects our shared commitment to both compliance and the well-being of our students."

"Yonkers Public Schools is an elite school district, consistently graduating our kids at 90%," said Mayor Mike Spano. "Governor Hochul's statewide policy banning internet-enabled devices during learning has been shown to increase academic performance and engagement. We want our students to attend to each other and their teachers, not their phones. We believe this will greatly shift the school atmosphere to one with more student interaction, conversation, and connection."

What Families Need to Know:

Student responsibility: Each high school student will receive their own Yondr pouch and must bring it daily.

Lost or damaged pouches: Schools will provide information on replacement procedures and costs.

Emergencies: Families should contact the main office if they need to reach a student during the school day.

After school: Pouches will be unlocked at dismissal, and students will regain full access to devices.

Graham Dugoni, founder and CEO of Yondr added, "The Yonkers Public Schools partnership with Yondr represents a transformative step toward reclaiming the learning environment our students deserve. When we remove the constant distraction of phones from classrooms, we restore genuine human connection and social interaction among our young people, all while improving academic outcomes. Yonkers' decision prioritizes student wellbeing and academic excellence, and we're proud to support districts that put learning first."

Why this matters:

Increased focus and participation in class

Fewer distractions and reduced social media conflicts

Improved safety and school climate

Stronger student-to-student and student-to-teacher connections

Better mental health

For grades PreK-8, schools will continue to use secure storage methods such as lockboxes, classroom-managed containers, or designated lockers, depending on grade level and building.

The district is proud to partner with Yondr, a recognized leader in creating phone-free spaces, and to set a precedent as the largest school district in New York State implementing this initiative.

"By removing cellphone distractions during the school day, we are creating a healthier, safer, and more productive school environment," said Superintendent Soler.

New York State "Bell-to-Bell" Policy Overview

New York State now requires all K-12 schools to enforce a "bell-to-bell" ban on personal internet-enabled devices – this includes smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, and other web-connected gadgets from the start to the end of the school day. This restriction applies across schools' entire property, including classrooms, lunch areas, hallways, study halls, and school grounds.

In alignment with this statewide mandate, the Yonkers Board of Education formally adopted Policy 5695: Student and Personal Electronic Devices on July 23, 2025. The policy prohibits the unsanctioned use of personal internet-enabled devices – including smartphones, tablets, smartwatches, and similar technology during school hours across all district schools.

The Yonkers BOE policy specifies that:

Students in grades 9-12 will store their devices in district-issued Yondr pouches, which remain locked throughout the day while in the student's possession.

Students in PreK-8 schools will store devices in teacher-managed lockboxes, classroom caddies, or secure lockers as designated by administrators.

Exceptions are made for health needs, emergencies, translation services, and accommodations required by an IEP or 504 Plan.

Replacement procedures and costs are outlined for lost or damaged pouches.

Adoption of Policy 5695 ensures that Yonkers Public Schools fully complies with New York State law while also setting a model for large urban districts by allowing high school students to maintain possession of their devices in a secure, locked manner.

Stolen Checks, continued from pg 3-

increased by 132% from 2020 to 2024.

In lieu of physical checks, consumers can make payments electronically through their bank's website or mobile app.

Editor's Note: Three points:

I-Is it really worth it if you have to steal from a disabled school? Perhaps, if the money were needed for the medical needs of a family member, or to keep your home. Even then...

II-Allende set up the phony LLC and then started to deposit checks meant for the school. At some point, the accountants or bookkeepers at the school would realize that deposits and/or checks were missing, especially in the amount of \$96,103.43. That check amount is unique, and would be easy to find.

III-DA Cacace is correct in warning residents not to use checks whenever possible. With electronic deposit and bill pay, most of us use very few checks today. But in this case, the check likely made it easier for investigators to follow into Allende's phony LLC account. They might even have been able to watch video from the bank the day the deposit was made and see Allende committing Grand Larceny.

Not the best thought out crime!

No Kid Hungry Reminds New York Families to Apply for Summer EBT- Deadline Sept. 4



Program gives eligible families \$120 per child to cover cost of food – visit summerebt.ny.gov to check your eligibility and apply

See Summer EBT reminder video from New York Governor Kathy Hochul and No Kid Hungry New York Director Rachel Sabella here

No Kid Hungry today reminded New York families to check their eligibility for Summer EBT and apply before the September 4 deadline. The program provides much-needed relief for households by helping cover the cost of groceries when school is out, ensuring children can enjoy healthy meals year-round.

Summer EBT gives eligible New York families a one-time installment of \$120 per child on a Summer EBT card, which can be used to pay for groceries. Now in its second year, Summer EBT will provide approximately \$250 million in grocery benefits to more than 2 million children in every corner of the state. New Yorkers can check their eligibility and submit an application by visiting summerebt.ny.gov.

Join us at NoKidHungry.org

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

Thursday, September 4th

September 4, 1918: Colonel William Boyce Thompson created a local Westchester newspaper, the Home Paper, to send to Westchester soldiers and sailors, giving servicemembers "happiness keeping up with events at home." Thompson formed an organization to bring his process elsewhere. The Home Paper garnered much praise, so the Colonel gave a dinner at the Union League Club for the members; members of the New York Press Association and others interested in creating a nationwide network of papers were invited.

Colonel Thompson became president and John Sleich of Leslie's Weekly was named Vice President. The group created a national campaign under the direction of APA's Courtland Smith: members were scattered from Ardsley to Indiana to Boston to Harrisburg. The campaign committee asked all newspapers in the country to send free "neighborly intercourse" directly to every serviceman newspaper in the US. They asked public cooperation as it was expensive to mail free local papers to our men in "foreign service."

Friday, September 5th

September 5, 1920: Dr. Paul Bauerberg addressed the local Socialist Party open-air meeting at the corner of Guion and New Main Streets.

September 5, 1932: Captain of the 1929 Notre Dame undefeated Fighting Irish football team coached by Knute Rockne, and Manhattan College Coach Johnny Law began coaching football at Sing Sing Prison.

Saturday, September 6th

September 6, 1919: Future Tuskegee Airman Lee Archer, Jr., was born to May and Lee Archer Sr. at their Woodworth Avenue home.

As a child in Yonkers, Archer's favorite pastime was reading comic books about World War I flyers!

After the family moved to New York City, Archer attended DeWitt Clinton High School and NYU. Archer flew 169 missions over 11 countries in "Ina The Macon Belle," his red tail P51 Mustang named for his girlfriend and later wife, Ina Burdell.

The only Airman officially designated an Ace, to this day he remains the sole African American Ace.

After retirement from the military, Archer returned to Westchester and joined General Foods, serving as Vice President and chief executive of three of its investment companies.

Sunday, September 7th

September 7, 1939: Yonkers welcomed the Batory, flagship of the Bdynia-American Line to our fair city. It was the largest passenger liner ever to visit Yonkers.

Barred from returning to its homeport Gdynia on the Polish Baltic's coast, Batory dropped anchor in the Hudson River near the City Pier, allegedly "awaiting orders."

While off the pier, the ship received a telegram: "THE POLISH PEOPLE OF YONKERS GREET THE BATORY AND CAPTAIN BORKOWSKI TOGETHER WITH HIS GALLANT CREW."

The crew disembarked at the Yonkers Canoe Club and enjoyed its hospitality. Later, they were entertained by members of the Polish Community Center.

While ashore, Captain Borkowski completed his immediate mission—finding a good glass of beer!

The Batory's veil of secrecy intrigued Yonkers; thousands of our residents went to the waterfront to look at the ship.

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

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



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

2070 Central Park Ave. Yonkers, NY 10710
(914) 361-1420 • info@MeranteForYonkers.com
Web: MeranteForYonkers.com FB: @MeranteForYonkers