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Friday August 6, 2021

City Council Approves \$80 Million Bond for New School at St. Dennis Property



The Yonkers City Council, at a special meeting held on August 3, unanimously approved an \$80 Bonding project to build a new elementary school at the site of the former St. Dennis School in southwest Yonkers.

The borrowing plan for new schools is more complicated now in Yonkers because of the new Schools Construction Board that we created last year in an attempt to move forward the building of new schools, and the refurbishing of up to 100-year old schools throughout the district.

The Yonkers Industrial Development Agency, IDA, will be creating, or floating the bonds to the public. One piece of good news for the Yonkers taxpayers is that New York State government will reimburse Yonkers for 74% of the costs of the new school and community center, resulting in a final cost of around \$21 Million.

Construction of the school will take at least two years to complete with a 2023 opening at the earliest. Two councilmembers were said to be opposed to the bonding until a lengthy council budget committee meeting explained the new bonding process.

Councilman and Budget Chair Anthony Merante said, "We must move forward in building new schools, and in spite of all the stringent financial details, I support this in the hopes that there will be no hiccups in the construction of this school."

Councilwoman and Education Chair Tasha Diaz said, Diaz, "I'm glad that we had are all on the same page. This is vital to Yonkers and the school will be in my district on the south side where we need more schools. This state of the art, new school will help change the mindset of our children and a community center will be a part of this project is also great."

Councilman John Rubbo said, "I'm excited to support this and to see some progress in building more schools. We set aside money to purchase the property after long negotiations with the Archdiocese and now we can move forward with construction. I hope to see us build more schools for our growing school population."

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AG Report: Gov. Cuomo Sexually Harassed 11 Women; Stewart-Cousins & Mayer Say Resign

"The Attorney General's findings are clear and compelling. The Governor must resign. The patterns of sexually harassing, intimidating and inappropriate behavior towards women cannot be tolerated."

-County Executive George Latimer

"This report highlights unacceptable behavior by Governor Cuomo and his administration. As I said when these disturbing allegations first came to light, the Governor must resign for the good of the state. Now that the investigation is complete and the allegations have been sustained, it should be clear to everyone that he can no longer serve as Governor"

-State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins

By Dan Murphy

Numerous Westchester democrats have called on New York Governor Andrew Cuomo to resign after a report was released on Aug. 2, which found that Cuomo sexually harassed 11 women, most of who worked for NY State government.

The release from NYAG James' press conference states, "The independent investigators appointed by New York Attorney General Letitia James — led by Joon H. Kim and Anne L. Clark — today released their report into the multiple allegations of sexual harassment by New York Governor Andrew Cuomo. After nearly five months, the investigators concluded that Governor Cuomo did sexually harass multiple women — including former and current state employees — by engaging in unwanted groping, kissing, and hugging, and making inappropriate comments.

Further, the governor and his senior staff took actions to retaliate against at least one former employee for coming forward with her story. Finally, the Executive Chamber fostered a "toxic" workplace that enabled "harassment to occur and created a hostile work environment." The investigators find that Governor Cuomo's actions and those of the Executive Chamber violated multiple state and federal laws, as well as the Executive Chamber's own written policies.

"This is a sad day for New York because independent investigators have concluded that Governor Cuomo sexually harassed multiple women and, in doing so, broke the law," said Attorney General James. "I am grateful to all the women who came forward to tell their stories in painstaking detail, enabling investigators to get to the truth. No man — no matter how powerful — can be allowed to harass women or violate our human rights laws, period."

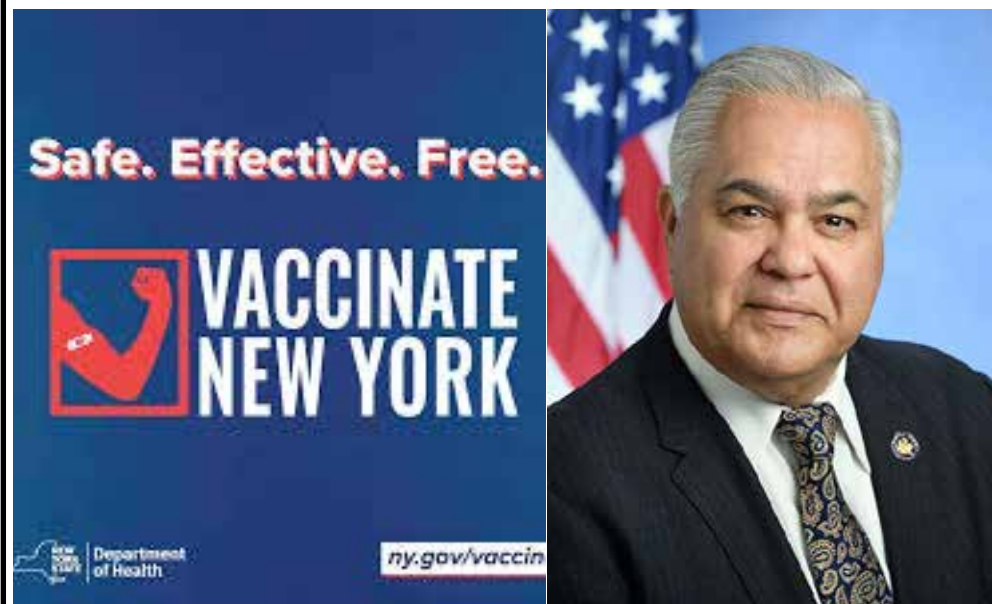
Starting in December 2020, multiple women came forward with allegations that Governor Cuomo sexually harassed them. Over the course of the investigation, the investigators interviewed 179 individuals. Those interviewed included complainants, current and former members of the Executive Chamber, State Troopers, additional state employees, and others who interacted regularly with the governor. More than 74,000 documents, emails, texts, and pictures were also reviewed as evidence during the investigation.

Backed up by corroborating evidence and credible witnesses, the investigators detail multiple current or former New York state employees or women outside state service who were the targets of harassing conduct on the part of the governor.

As part of the investigation, Governor Cuomo also sat with the interviewers and answered questions under oath. While the governor denied the most serious allegations, the investigators found that he did so by offering "blanket denials" or that

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Mayor Spano Mandates all City Workers-School District Employees to Vaccinate: Vaccinated Assemblyman Sayegh Tests Positive



While 80% of Westchester residents over 18 have a least one shot of a COVID vaccine, vaccinated Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, tested positive

On July 28, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced that all municipal and Yonkers School District employees must provide one-time proof of COVID-19 vaccination by Labor Day or undergo weekly testing.

"We have fought long and hard to combat this pandemic and this is not the time to back down as this virus evolves," said Mayor Spano. "Yonkers must continue on its road to recovery and that means ensuring that our workforce is protected and protects the residents we serve. We are in this together."

The mandate comes as COVID-19 cases resurge across the nation along with the rise of the virus' delta variant, particularly among those who have not been vaccinated. Prior to today's announcement, the City of Yonkers did not require proof of vaccination or require frequent testing among employees.

Similar to the recent policy announced by New York City, Mayor Spano also said that all unvaccinated employees must wear a mask indoors at their workstation, while vaccinated employees who do not interact with the public are currently not required to wear masks at their workstations, though they may choose to continue to do so. City and Yonkers Board of Education workers who interact with the public including students and their families, must continue to wear masks at all times regardless of vaccination status. In addition, all employees must still wear a face covering when entering the buildings, travelling to their workspace, and in elevators. Face coverings are required for all visitors while in any city or school facility.

Yonkers' 2,000 full-time municipal employees must show proof of vaccination or undergo routine testing by Labor Day, while the 3,500 full-time Yonkers Board of Education employees must do so by September 1, the start of the 2021-2022 school year.

After Mayor Spano's announcement, the Yonkers Board of Education adopted a resolution to comply with the vaccination mandate. At a special meeting of the Yonkers Board of Education on July 28, the Trustees adopted COVID-19 Protocol Resolution 4.1 in compliance with the City of Yonkers Workforce COVID-19 Vaccine Mandate issued today by Mayor Mike Spano. The resolution was adopted to protect the safety of students and

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Yonkers Chills Out for Ice Bucket Challenge at MGM-Empire Casino in Memory of Pat Quinn



hundreds take the ice bucket challenge above, photo by Jelena Gerga



Pat Quinn Sr., with Donna Davis at 6th IBC

On August 1, hundreds of attendees came to Empire Casino-MGM to honor the memory of Pat Quinn and to continue the tradition of the 2021 ALS Ice Bucket Challenge to raise funds for a cure to ALS.

In attendance were Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins; New York State Senator Shelley Mayer; Assembly Member Gary Pretlow; Westchester County Board of Legislators Chris Johnson and Damon Maher; Yonkers City Council Members John Rubbo

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Fava Hired to Coach Yonkers Force



Yonkers Force new Football Coach Anthony Fava

By Phil Foley

Last week Yonkers HS Athletic Director Jim Rose named Anthony Fava the new head football coach of the Yonkers Force football team. He replaces former head coach Dan DeMatteo who announced his retirement last month.

Anthony is a life long resident of Yonkers who resides in the Crestwood section of city. He played his high school football at Iona Prep and college football at Iona College. Today he is a Health Teacher at Gorton High School.

To take the job with the Force Anthony had to resign his last position as the head coach at Woodlands High School. I spoke with Coach Fava last week and the one thing I learned was that he really is 100% all in on making the Force a powerhouse in Westchester County Football! We at the Yonkers Rising would like to wish Antony the best of luck in the upcoming season!

Here is Coach Fava's coaching bio: He began coaching in Yonkers in 2005 at Saunders. Spent two seasons there, one as Defensive Coordinator with Varsity.

Moved onto Roosevelt in 2006 and spent 4 years there as Offensive Coordinator. Helped guide the 2009 team to a Section 1 Class A Championship team.

In 2011, moved on to Woodlands as Offensive Coordinator and helped guide the Falcons to Section 1 Class C championships in 2012 & 2014.

Become Head Coach at Woodlands in 2018 and guided the Falcons to the Section 1 Championship game but lost to Dobbs Ferry in Final.

"I am now a Health Teacher at Gorton HS and very excited to come back to where I started my career as a Teacher and Coach in Yonkers," said Fava.

Fourth Precinct Community Council

The Fourth Precinct Community Council will hold its monthly meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday August 19, in the meeting room at the Fourth Police Precinct 53 Shonnard Terrace, as was usual before the COVID19 crisis.

Anyone who lives or works in the area served by the fourth police precinct is welcome. All elected officials are welcome. Captain Michael Messar, Precinct Commander and Lieutenant Curtis will be available to discuss matters of interest.

Untermeyer Performing Arts Council Presents Swingadelic August 7



The Untermeyer Performing Arts Council will present Swingadelic at 7pm on August 7th at Untermeyer Park, located at 945 North Broadway, Yonkers.

Mixing blues, swing, and a variety of other musical genre with their own original songs, Swingadelic, will bring an amazing evening of the big band sound to Yonkers.

Swingadelic began in 1998 when upright bassist Dave Post gathered his jazz & blues-playing friends, playing engagements at New York City's Supper Club, Swing 46 and Windows On The World. As their popularity grew, they expanded to playing concerts and festivals.

Swingadelic has released seven CDs and has recorded for the ZOHO Music label since 2011. Swingadelic CDs have been in JazzWeek Radio charts Top 25, garnering critically acclaimed reviews in publications such as Jazz Times and All About Jazz.

The Untermeyer Performing Arts Council is delighted to welcome Swingadelic back to Yonkers and to World Fest 2021!

For more information, call the UPAC Artsline at 914-375-3435, visit our website at www.untermeyerperformingarts.org, or email us at untermeyer@outlook.com.

Ice Bucket Challenge continued from pg 1--

and Tasha Diaz; Alexandra Spano representing her father, Mayor Mike Spano; family of late Yonkers native Pat Quinn; and Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts executives to continue Pat Quinn's mission to raise awareness of ALS and the need for research funding to find a cure.

The annual event, co-founded by Quinn after his diagnosis of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) in 2013, became a global phenomenon in 2014 as thousands of people from around the world participated in the challenge on social media. This year at Empire City Casino, over 300 people doused themselves in ice cold water.

"Empire City Casino is proud to host the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge this year and be part of the continuing legacy of ALS champion Pat Quinn to generate awareness of this debilitating disease and the need for research funding," said Ed Domingo, MGM Resorts Northeast Group senior vice president and CFO. "This is an incredible community and to see everyone come together in support of the patients and families battling ALS is very moving. We continue to be committed to supporting our local community and hope to be one step closer to finding a cure."

"Year after year, our city continues to amaze me as I witness the outpouring of love and support for our fearless leader, Pat Quinn, and countless others who have suffered from this terrible disease," said Mayor Mike Spano. "Yonkers will continue to support the Ice Bucket Challenge and promote the need for more research to end ALS – we are in this every August until a cure!"

Though Quinn unfortunately passed away from ALS in November 2020, his drive and determination to find a cure continues through his family, community and beyond. Leading the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge this year was Quinn's father, Patrick Quinn Sr., who paid tribute to his son, and reiterated his determination to continue his son's mission to provide support for ALS patients and their families, and to hold the ice bucket challenge every year to ensure the need for a cure remains in focus.

Since 2015, Empire City Casino has hosted the annual challenge in support of Quinn and ALS patients across the globe to continue to generate awareness of the debilitating disease and the need for research funding. The 2020 challenge was not held due to the pandemic. More than \$115 Million in donations have been raised for ALS research from the Ice Bucket Challenge held across the world.

For more information, please visit YonkersNY.gov, Quinn4theWin and Facebook.com/QuinnForTheWin.

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ONE-ON-ONE CONSULTATIONS AVAILABLE FOR WESTCHESTER SENIORS AND THEIR FAMILIES

Thursday
August 12th
10am-12pm

Registration opens at 7am on August 11th at seniorlawday.info

Free 15 Minute Consults

via Zoom with an Attorney,
Certified Financial Planner or Care Manager

No cost & no obligation!

What You Need to Know:

- These are for members of the public and will occur via Zoom.
- Registration opens at 7am on August 11th and will close when full. Go to www.seniorlawday.info
- Provide brief information on the nature of your request, so that we can match you with the right professional.
- We will assign you a time slot between 10am and 12pm on August 12th.

SAMPLE QUESTIONS YOU CAN ASK

A FINANCIAL PLANNER

When should I begin collecting Social Security Income?

AN ATTORNEY

What is involved in preparing a will or a trust?
How do I enroll in Medicaid if my spouse is still working?

A CARE MANAGER

How do I train my home health aide?

Consider a Donation to Mayor Spano's Yonkers Backpack to School Supply Donation Drive



On August 2, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced the launch of the City's annual "Backpack to School" school supply donation drive. The 10th annual donation drive provides backpacks and school supplies to Yonkers Public School students most in need.

"Back to school supplies can be a financial burden for families, especially for families who have more than one child in school, especially after this stressful year," said Mayor Spano. "It is important that we remain committed to the success of our students. By working together, we will continue to seek resources and develop support for the students of Yonkers."

"Opening of schools this year is a pivotal time for all of our students and families after a year and half in hybrid or remote learning," noted Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of Schools, "It can be especially difficult for our youngest learners who may never have been inside their school. Our school district's restoration of full in-person instruction successfully began this summer. On Friday, September 3, all students, except prekindergarten, and staff return to 5 days of in-person instruction. This is a time of renewal and hope. The Mayor's annual backpack drive augments this and offers our students enormous joy when they receive their backpack filled with school supplies; it's heartwarming."

Board of Education Vice President Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio added, "Mayor Spano's backpack drive brings the community together to support our students and families. This effort is especially important this year because there are so many families continuing to struggle financially and, at the same time, school supplies are also becoming scarce quickly. Our public schools are central to the overall vitality of our community and all children should have what they need to start schools. Yonkers residents embrace the Mayor's Drive and historically open their hearts and pocket-books for our students. Board of Education President Rev. Steve Lopez, the Trustees and I look forward to joining the Mayor to distribute the backpacks."

Beginning today, backpacks and school supply donations may be made at the following Backpack to School drop-off locations until Friday, August 20th: Yonkers Riverfront Library - 1 Larkin Center
Grinton I. Will Library - 1500 Central Park Avenue
Crestwood Library - 16 Thompson Street

All four Police Precincts
PCT 1 - 730 E. Grassy Sprain Road
PCT 2 - 441 Central Park Avenue
PCT 3 - 435 Riverdale Avenue
PCT 4 - 53 Shonnard Place

Suggested supply packages for donation include new backpacks filled with the following school supplies: Crayons, Colored pencils, Washable markers, Glue sticks or Elmer's glue, Rulers, Pink erasers, #2 pencils, Pencil Sharpeners, Loose-leaf paper, Composition Books, Pencil pouches, Pocket folders Hand sanitizer, Tissue Packets, Masks/Face coverings.

According to the National Retail Federation, the national average spent on back to school supplies is \$29.5 Billion. Parents spend hundreds of dollars on back to school items, including school supplies, clothing, shoes, and electronics, totaling to more than \$600 per child.

Backpacks and supplies will be distributed to a Pre-K – 8 school as selected by Yonkers Public School. For more information about the program, please contact the City of Yonkers Communications Office at 914-377-6300 or visit www.yonkersny.gov/backpack

Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers

NOTICE OF A PUBLIC HEARING FOR FY 2022 ANNUAL PLAN

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (MHACY) will hold Two (2) Public Hearings on Wednesday, September 22, 2021 to discuss and accept comments on its proposed Agency Plan for Fiscal Year 2022.

The MHACY will hold two (2) public hearings to discuss and accept comments on its proposed Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 Annual Plan. A draft copy of the proposed changes and information will be available at the Office of The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers, Augustine J. Shea Administration Building, 1511 Central Park Avenue beginning Monday, August 9, 2021, from 8:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M. weekdays until Wednesday, September 22, 2021 and on our website www.mhacy.org.

The Public Hearings will be held on Wednesday, September 22, 2021, at:

4 Curran Court
Community Room Building #4
Yonkers, New York
2:00 P.M.

Ross F. Calcagno Home
10 Brook Street (Gymnasium)
Yonkers, New York
6:00 P.M.

These public hearings are open to all interested parties. Residents are encouraged to select a spokesperson to present their comments at the public hearings. Participants in the public hearings should present their comments orally and in writing. Persons wishing to speak at any of the public hearings will be limited to five (5) minutes each. A sign-up sheet for speakers will be available at the start of each public hearing.

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers does not discriminate because of disability, color, sex, religion, national origin, family status or race. Provisions will be made for persons with disabilities to ensure their full participation in these public hearings if they so choose. Request for any reasonable accommodation must be made to the MHACY by 4:00 P.M. on Tuesday, September 21, 2021.

The request must be directed to:
Legal Department Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers
1511 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10710
lcollins@mhacy.org Fax: 914-793-6916

Andrew, the Boy From Queens



By Eric W. Schoen

As I prepare to file this column, Attorney General Letitia James has issued her report on Governor Andrew Cuomo. By the time you read this article, the title Governor may be removed from in front of his name. Congratulations Attorney General James.

Congratulations for being the official who finally was willing to take on the Cuomo machine. It has been allowed to go on for way too long. It was the Cuomo way or the highway. If you dared to disagree with King Andrew, you lost your job. You lost your contract. You lost your ability to interact with the state.

Trust me, Andrew's behavior has gone on for years. He was the enforcer during his father's administration. I knew someone from Yonkers who at one point didn't do what the Cuomos wanted and lost his job. Yes his job was a patronage job. There is plenty of that at all levels of government. It's nothing new. It even goes on in the City of Yonkers!

And a lot of these patronage appointees have no qualifications for the jobs they get. They usually work to get a candidate elected to office and the candidate rewards them with a job. No problem if they are qualified for the job. An elected official has the right to surround him or herself with loyal people.

But when they are not qualified for the job they can be a liability to the official who appointed them. And you have some officials like Andrew who think that because he appointed you, he can interact anyway he wants with you. You don't like it? He will show you the door. It's that simple.

People knew not to mess with Andrew. He has that sweet, public, you would want him to be your grandson face and demeanor. But in private he is, to quote Senator Lloyd Bentsen when he ran against Dan Quayle for Vice President, 'No Jack Kennedy!'

Andrew Cuomo is no dummy. Far from as smart as his father was, but no dummy. What happened to Andrew happens to so many elected officials. The power goes to their heads. They think they are untouchable. Invincible. They can do as they please until they are caught, no pun intended with 'their pants down.'

And many times we the folks that continually elect them to office are to blame for letting the power go to their heads. And for letting this behavior go on. If there is any reason for term limits it's Andrew Cuomo.

Much credit for the unveiling of Andrew's despicable behavior goes to Assemblyman Ron Kim. Kim criticized Cuomo over the Nursing home scandal. In Yiddish we call the scandal a shanda. But we haven't got that report about the loss of thousands of lives needlessly yet so I won't comment on it.

Assemblyman Kim went public with a bullying conversation he had with Andrew. Kim said that Andrew told him 'We're in this business together and we don't cross certain lines and I hadn't seen his wrath and that he can destroy him.' It's funny when all of Kim's accusations became public, I didn't see many elected officials jump to Andrew's defense. That's got to tell you something.

Credit also must go to our Senator, Andrea Stewart-Cousins who while leader of her chamber when there was a power sharing arrangement going on said to Cuomo, 'You look at me, Mr. Governor, but you don't see me.'

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Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers

AVISO DE UNA AUDIENCIA PÚBLICA PARA EL PLAN ANUAL DEL AÑO FISCAL 2022

La Autoridad Municipal de Vivienda para la Ciudad de Yonkers (MHACY) tendrá audiencias públicas el miércoles 22 de septiembre de 2021 para discutir y aceptar comentarios sobre su propuesta de Plan de Agencia para el Año Fiscal de 2022.

MHACY llevará a cabo dos (2) audiencias públicas para discutir y aceptar comentarios sobre su plan anual propuesto para el año fiscal (FY) 2022. Una copia del borrador de los cambios propuestos y la información estará disponible en la Oficina de la Autoridad Municipal de Vivienda para la Ciudad de Yonkers, Augustine J. Shea Administration Building, 1511 Central Park Avenue, a partir del lunes 9 de agosto, 2021, de 8:30 A.M.- 4:30 P.M. entre semana hasta el miércoles 22 de septiembre de 2021 y en nuestro sitio web www.mhacy.org.

La Audiencia Pública se llevará a cabo el miércoles, 22 de septiembre de 2021, en:

4 Curran Court
Community Room Building #4
Yonkers, New York
2:00 P.M.

Ross F. Calcagno Home
10 Brook Street (Gymnasium)
Yonkers, New York
6:00 P.M.

Estas audiencias públicas están abiertas a todas las partes interesadas. Se alienta a los residentes a seleccionar un portavoz para presentar sus comentarios en las audiencias públicas. Los participantes en las audiencias públicas deben presentar sus comentarios oralmente y por escrito. Las personas que deseen intervenir en cualquiera de las audiencias públicas estarán limitadas a cinco (5) minutos cada una. Una hoja de inscripción para los oradores estará disponible al comienzo de cada audiencia pública.

La Autoridad Municipal de Vivienda de la Ciudad de Yonkers no discrimina por discapacidad, color, sexo, religión, origen nacional, estado familiar o raza. Se establecerán disposiciones para que las personas con discapacidad garanticen su plena participación en estas audiencias públicas si así lo desean. La solicitud de cualquier adaptación razonable debe hacerse a MHACY antes de las 4:00 P.M. del martes, 21 de septiembre 2021.

La solicitud debe dirigirse a:
Legal Department
Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers
1511 Central Park Avenue
Yonkers, New York 10710
lcollins@mhacy.org
Fax: 914-793-6916

NYS PTA & United Way Westchester/Putnam Team to Launch Reading Checkup Program

NYS PTA and the United Way of Westchester and Putnam have partnered with Learning Ovations, an Irvine, California-based early literacy support company, to launch a state-wide literacy program - Reading Checkup - a community-based program that encourages reading skills development at home.

Reading Checkup is designed for children in grades K through third grade. In the program, a child completes two online quizzes, then parents/caretakers receive evidence-based recommendations for specific reading skills to focus on at home, while choosing from targeted activities that meet the child's needs.

"NYS PTA is committed to supporting all children across NYS, and we know that literacy continues to be the key to student success," offered NYS PTA President Dana Platin. "We are thrilled to work with United Way of Westchester/Putnam and Learning Ovations to bring this family-based literacy program into every NYS home."

"Every child deserves the opportunity to succeed and helping them to read on grade level by the end of the third grade puts them on the right track," said Tom Gabriel, CEO of United Way of Westchester and Putnam. "By working with NYS PTA and Learning Ovations we are able to offer a resource to help children continue learning outside of the traditional classroom setting."

Reading Checkup uses breakthrough applications to provide students in grades K-3 with reading instruction customized to their individual needs. Backed by almost 20 years of research funded by the US Department of Education and The National Institutes of Health, Learning Ovations' early literacy school-based program, called A2i, has 90 percent of participating students reading at or above grade level by the end of third grade.

"Our research shows that there are two critical elements in supporting a child's reading development: you must know what their individual instructional needs are and then precisely match the type of instruction and the time spent to those needs," said Jay Connor, CEO and Founder of Learning Ovations. He explained that Reading Checkup provides each participating child and family with a detailed and customized plan to support their child's literacy development. "For this age group, having parents or caregivers actively engaged in supporting their child is powerful. So much better than just plopping them in front of a screen. AND Reading Check-Up makes it fun for both -- shared activities and a shared sense of accomplishment!" Connor noted.

"Schools and educators supported our students in the most amazing ways during the pandemic," offered Kyle Belokopitsky, NYS PTA Executive Director. "It's our job to do everything we can to support their work, and the work of our incredible children and families in the home. This new groundbreaking program will provide a year-long literacy tool that families can easily use to support at-home reading and literacy activities." continued on pg

Families interested in Reading Checkup can sign up directly on the new NYS PTA Reading Checkup webpage - <https://nyspta.org/learning-ovations-reading-checkup/>.

The year-long literacy program only costs \$16 per child in grades K-3 throughout this new partnership. Scholarships will also be available to cover program costs for high-need families, and the program is offered in both English and Spanish.

This program will join NYS PTA's current literacy programs, including the statewide and long-standing Pick a Reading Partner Program (formerly Parents as Reading Partners).

New Elementary School, continued from pg 1-

Council President Mike Khader said, "I had serious questions but I will be supporting this because the ultimate goal is to get a state of the art school built in the next 2-3 years. I don't want to delay this project and have our students suffer. But as we look to build more schools and refurbish our older schools, more clarity is needed. And while our reimbursement rate is 75% its insulting that other cities are getting a 95% rate. It's a slap in our face that we can't ignore."

The vote on Tuesday is a continuation of a 5 year attempt to purchase the property from the Archdiocese of NY which started in 2017. After difficult negotiations, the property was purchased for just under \$6 Million

The school is located at the corner of McLean Avenue and Van Cotrland Avenue. Mayor Mike Spano has proposed a \$2 Billion schools construction plan for the Yonkers Public Schools

Westchester Says Goodbye to Bear 211



By Dan Murphy

A black bear that roamed the backyards of homes in Connecticut and Northeast Westchester was hit by a car on July 26, and had to be put down. The bear was known as Bear 211 for the tags that were placed on his ears by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Conservation.

Bear 211 became a national sensation when a Facebook page was set up and thousands of followers enjoyed photos from homeowners in and around Armonk, who posted about the 125-pound black bear.

The auto accident occurred near Easton, Connecticut, but the vehicle left the scene. After the accident, Bear 211 was seen with serious injuries and had to be euthanized.

News of Bear 211's death hit many Westchester residents hard, including many of the 5,000 followers of the Bear 211 Facebook page. "My heart is broken right now to the point where I can't stop the tears. I am in the middle of making a Bear 211 album, (which I will continue), because of the joy he has brought me, and so many others. Never has a wild/forest animal been loved so much in this area. There is the blessing, Bear 211 is loved. I am trying to focus on that and the unity he gave us within his FB page. I am happy we have wonderful memories of Bear 211. Rest in Peace, Bear 211. We love you," was one post.

Another post-"This bear brought so much happiness and was often the topic of conversation at the dinner table with our children.. (they actually put their phones down). Thank you again Bear 211 for bringing light to many people who needed it."

The environmental conservation group, Wildlife in Crisis Inc, gives us knowledge with it post. "A tribute to a much loved bear: He was known as Bear 211 due to the unsightly plastic tags pierced through his beautiful ears. He had a Facebook page. He was beloved by residents of Westport, Weston and surrounding towns. He swam in pools, he sat on porches, he lingered on lawns and he roamed. He weighed 120 pounds, a yearling bear. He touched the hearts of many during his short time on this earth. On July 26th, this majestic bear was critically injured after being hit by a car and local police officers ended his suffering.

"We are heartbroken at Wildlife in Crisis. We've raised orphaned bear cubs and know first-hand just how endearing this species can be. We are proud of our community for their compassion for this bear. There is much we can learn from Bear 211. As suburban sprawl has overtaken Fairfield County, we are now more than ever stewards of the wild animals that live amongst us. We can all make a difference for wildlife from bears to butterflies, by being good stewards. Enlighten your neighbors. Leave mature trees standing. Don't use pesticides, rodenticides or herbicides, and work towards banning them. Allow half your lawn to grow into a life giving meadow. Don't trap wildlife, leave them be. Keep cats indoors and supervise your dogs. It's really easy and so fulfilling to live in harmony with nature. Lack of foresight has caused the overdevelopment of our towns. The time is now to preserve what little is left of open space. The most meaningful thing we can do as a community to honor Bear 211's memory is to actively preserve remaining open space."

Music Program for People with Dementia & Loved Ones Offered

The Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter will present "Something for Alz: Musical Moments" led by music therapist Timothy Doak via Zoom through August. This interactive music program utilizes music to help people with dementia interact and reconnect with their loved ones. The program, which started on Saturday, July 31, will be held from 11 a.m. to noon Saturdays Aug. 7, 14, 21, and 28.

Now in his second year presenting the program, Doak spoke fondly of the interactions he has with participants, even when it is presented over Zoom.

"One really wonderful thing about Zoom is you can see everybody right in your sight," he said, adding that he finds the interactions between him and the participants very easy and effective because he can make eye contact with participants and watch what everyone is doing at the same time. This also makes it easy for participants to see him and follow along.

Doak said the music itself is an important aspect of the interaction with the participants. "Even if you are sitting back and just listening, you are still interacting with the music and having a shared experience," Doak said.

He said gaining people's attention and keeping them involved is also an important part of the experience, adding that one way he does this is by choosing songs familiar to the participants' age demographic.

"That experience alone brings back memories, creating experiences where the individuals are remembering their lyrics and singing along," Doak said. He said he usually has participants fill in the lyrics to songs or sing while he plays and even encourages them to write their own songs to stay engaged.

Doak said he is passionate about rekindling connections between people with dementia and their loved ones, recalling how hearing their wedding song made it possible for a wife with dementia to cherish that moment with her husband, something she hadn't been able to remember for years.

Doak says music is a powerful tool that can be used to heal and comfort. He said he wants people to remember how music rebuilds connections from our past, reminding others about the love they have for one another.

To learn more about the programs and services offered locally, visit alz.org/hudsonvalley.

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Mosquitoes With West Nile Virus Found in Westchester

County Health Department Reminds Residents to Remove Standing Water and Use Repellents

On July 30, the Westchester County Health Department announced that this season's first two batches of mosquitoes carrying West Nile Virus in Westchester were detected in Mount Vernon. The areas surrounding the positive mosquito batches were inspected today by the Health Department, and nearby catch basins that held standing water were treated to protect against further mosquito breeding nearby.

To date, these are the first positives out of 105 batches of mosquitos collected from 11 locations throughout Westchester that were tested for West Nile Virus by the New York State Department of Health. New York City announced on July 22 that it had detected West Nile Virus in mosquitos in all five boroughs. Last year, five Westchester batches of mosquitoes had West Nile Virus out of 190 submitted for testing, with the virus first detected in mosquitoes collected on July 23.

Sherlita Amler, MD, Commissioner of Health, said: "With so many of us spending more time outdoors, protect yourself and your family by using repellents. Apply sunscreen first, and repellent second."

The Health Department reminds residents about mosquito safety through news releases, social media and our website, where a report on mosquito control and surveillance can be found on the West Nile Virus page. Throughout the season, the Department also traps and tests mosquitoes to track the presence of mosquito-borne viruses.

So far this year, there have been no reported cases of West Nile Virus in Westchester. Symptoms include fever, headache, body aches and joint pain, but can be more serious for people 60 and older, and those with underlying medical conditions.

For more ideas on how to reduce the mosquito population near your home, go to <https://health.westchestergov.com/west-nile-virus> and follow these tips:

Avoid the outdoors in the late afternoon and early evening when mosquitoes are active and feeding, or use insect repellents then and follow the label instructions.

Adults can use insect repellents with up to 30 percent DEET on infants over two months of age by applying the product to their own hands and then rubbing it onto their children, avoiding their hands, eyes and mouth. Products containing DEET are not recommended for use on children under two months of age.

Wear long pants, long-sleeved shirts and socks when outdoors, especially in areas where mosquitoes are active and feeding.

Check around your property for anything that can hold water, and pour it out or put it away.

Check and remove standing water from children's toys and play houses left outside.

Remove discarded tires.

Drill holes in the bottoms of all recycling containers left outdoors.

Turn over plastic wading pools, buckets and wheelbarrows.

Change the water in birdbaths at least twice weekly.

Keep storm drains and gutters clear of leaves and debris.

Continue to chlorinate swimming pools, outdoor spas and hot tubs until properly winterized or drained for the season and drain water that collects on their covers.

Residents who notice large areas of standing water on public property should report them to the Westchester County Department of Health at (914) 813-5000.

Maria Fareri Children's Hospital Offers Free Bike Safety and Helmet Check to Help Keep Children Safe Aug. 10

Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, a member of the Westchester Medical Center Health Network (WMCHHealth), will hold a bike safety and helmet checkpoint to educate families on the proper fit of bicycle helmets. Injury prevention experts will answer questions about proper use of bike helmets and will share other bicycle safety tips on Tuesday, August 10, from 10 am-230 pm, at the Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla.

Riding without a bicycle helmet or with an improperly fitting one significantly increases the risk of sustaining a head injury in the event of a crash, according to the American Academy of Pediatrics.

At this free community event, experts from Maria Fareri Children's Hospital will demonstrate proper bicycle helmet use and fit. No appointment is required. Children of all ages and their parents/caregivers are welcome.

A limited supply of free helmets will be available. Event will not be held if raining.

On This Day in Yonkers History...



The popular Major Bowes Amateur Hour on NBC Radio, in the 1930's - 40's

By Mary Hoar, President Emerita, Yonkers Historical Society, recipient of the 2004 Key to History and President Untermyer Performing Arts Council

Monday, August 9th

August 9, 1929: Palisade Avenue's Phillip Gray, acting on a dare from friend John Kennedy of Elm Street, walked through Getty Square in his blue V-neck pajamas! Not only did he attract crowds strolling down Elm Street to the Square escorted by "bet official referee" Jack Barden and bet maker Kennedy, Gray occasionally stopped to pose for a photographer. Gray ended the walk with a smile and \$25 richer. Later asked if he was embarrassed, Gray answered, "I was cool and collected!"

August 9, 1940: Yonkers authorities realized many fewer Yonkers residents were swimming at Sandy Beach below Ludlow Street. Because of freighters moored in the river, the beach and water in the small cove were cluttered with driftwood, debris and oil slicks from the ships. Instead, swimmers were using a small beach 100 yards south; a few adventurous boys even had erected a diving board on nearby rocks!

River swimming continued to be popular, even though the Yonkers Health Department issued annual warnings to stay out of the river because of its pollution.

Tuesday, August 10th

August 10, 1942: After the 12th vote count, Democrat Thomas Sheridan finally emerged as the winner of the Common Council seat formerly held by Al Richter sworn in as a Naval officer in Washington on July 31st. At the time, Yonkers used proportional voting, now called ranked voting, a system allowing voters to rank candidates in order of their preference, thus requiring multiple vote counts.

August 10, 1952: After getting a request from the Yonkers Water Bureau, the New York State Conservation Department began investigating the large numbers of eels and perch dying in the Saw Mill River. Since the Saw Mill was one of our water sources, Yonkers temporarily cut off accessing the river.

Wednesday, August 11th

August 11, 1928: City Engineer Chris Sheridan announced Yonkers would have to revise its plans to install a sewer on Yonkers Avenue. The sewer, to stretch from Alida Street to the Tibbetts Brook Valley, would have to be much bigger and much more expensive. Why? Someone discovered the new Yonkers Zoning Laws created an apartment zone in that very area!

August 11, 1947: Otis escalators went to sea! The escalators were installed in the SS Nieu Amsterdam, the first ship to have escalators. The ship's waiters used them to bring food and tableware from the kitchen to the ship's dining rooms.

Escalators were catching on; in the same announcement Otis announced they had installed escalators in the Wabash Railroad Station in St. Louis, and 80 more in various department stores the first half of the year. By the end of 1947, they had installed a total of six hundred in buildings, convention halls, hotels, stadiums, theaters and other train stations.

Thursday, August 12th

August 12, 1943: Members of Yonkers' Local 188 of the United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners happily contributed to the Yonkers movement to send cigarettes to the "boys in the armed forces." Recording Secretary James Airlie proudly announced they heard from one of their union members serving overseas; he wrote, "Puffing a cigarette from the home front, I feel a strong unity, one that forecasts victory in the near future."

August 12, 1952: Yonkers Red Cross First Aid Vice Chairman Abel Gorfain used his skills to help four victims of a car accident! Gorfain, who always had first aid equipment in the car, just in case, came on a two-car accident in the Bronx; he immediately treated four victims for shock, put compression bandages on lacerations, and made splints and slings for the three victims who had fractures. When the ambulance arrived, the staff just had to bring the victims to the hospital!

Friday August 13th

August 13, 1918: Four boys had an interesting explanation for Judge William Bleakley as to why they were arrested sneaking into School 18. They claimed they were "just playing a game," a game that required them to climb two stories up the front of the building, and then force the window open.

August 13, 1945: Bennett Avenue's John Sheils, First Sergeant with the 69th Armored Field Artillery Battalion, was awarded the Bronze Star for his "meritorious support of combat operations in Italy, France and Germany, January 1, 1944 to April 15, 1945."

August 13, 1955: The wooden Indian, an institution standing outside of Friedman's

continued on pg 7-

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Help Wanted: HOTEL CLEANING NYC- QUEENS- WHITE PLAINS. T&L Cleaning is looking for Housekeeping Staff for various Hotels. Room Attendants, Laundry Attendants, House-persons and Supervisors. Apply on-line at: tcleaningservices.com/apply or call 1-800-610-4770

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PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 5:10pm, Mayor's Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTIONS OF CHAPTER 15 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS ENTITLED 'TAXES' IN RELATION TO THE IMPOSITION OF A CITY OF YONKERS INCOME TAX SURCHARGE TO CONFORM TO THE 2021 AMENDMENTS OF THE NEW YORK STATE TAX LAW.

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

MIKE SPANO, Mayor Date: August 3, 2021

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, August 11, 2021 at 5:00pm, Mayor's Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING A PART OF ARTICLE XVI OF CHAPTER 15 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS ENTITLED 'ROOM OCCUPANCY TAX' TO CONFORM TO THE 2021 AMENDMENTS OF THE NEW YORK STATE TAX LAW.

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

MIKE SPANO, Mayor Date: August 3, 2021

Notice of formation of SaucyGuava, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/21/2021. 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, 332 Palisade Ave Apt C1, Yonkers, NY 10703-2918. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of THE LAST PACK LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/05/2021. Office: Westchester County, New York. SSNY has been designated as Agent of the LLC upon whom the process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, Joseph A. Candelario 74 Radford Ave., Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of Joyful Ventures LLC. Filed with the SSNY on 06/07/2021. 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, 145 Valentine Lane apt#4E, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of SUHANA HOLDINGS LLC. Filed with the SSNY On 05/10/2021. Office location: Westcheter 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, 27 Ravine Avenue, Apt. 2B, Yonkers NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of The Vision Junkie LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 5/14/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to The Vision Junkie LLC, 100 Riverdale Ave., Apt. 8C., Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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

However, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and in line with the directives issued by the Mayor of Yonkers regarding public safety, there is limited access to One Larkin Center. The building is open from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM for receiving packages via courier services and in person. If delivering bids in person, individuals must wear face coverings and see the Public Safety Officer in the library atrium, who will clock in the bid and then contact Purchasing to pick up the bid. Sealed Bids will continue to be opened and read on the dates below, however, there will not be a public opening of bids. Those interested in listening to the bid opening and the reading of bids can dial Conference Call number 1-701-802-5221 and enter Access Code 1354203 when prompted.

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

1. Bid 6671 - opening date 9/10/2021: Elevator upgrades at City Hall Annex, 87 Nepperhan Avenue. (AC)
2. Bid 6672 – opening date 8/27/2021: Thirty-six month contract to provide fire apparatus ground ladder and manifold, appliance, and nozzle inspection and testing services as needed. (AC)
3. Bid 6673 – opening date 8/27/2021: Purchase of various DeWalt, or equal, battery operated rescue power tools and accessories (18 items) with trade-in of inoperable and outdated tools. (FB)
4. Bid 6674 – opening date 8/20/2021: Twenty-four month contract with option to renew for 12-months for the purchase of parts and repair services as needed for Ford vehicles. (FB)
5. Bid 6675 – opening date 8/20/2021: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, for the purchase of up to 100 each 6-foot and 8-foot arms as needed for street light poles. (NG)
6. Bid 6676 – opening date 8/20/2021: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide interior and exterior vehicle cleaning services as needed. (AC)
7. Bid 6677 – opening date 8/20/2021: Purchase of three Chevrolet Express, or equal, 12-passenger vans. (FB)
8. Bid 6663 – opening date 8/20/2021: Purchase of three Zephair 200 G Double Convection Ovens and one Vulcan Electric Convection Steamer. (DC)
9. Bid 6670 – opening date 8/20/2021: Twenty-four month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, for the pick-up, removal, and lawful disposal of universal and hazardous waste as needed. (SR)
10. Bid 6577A - opening date 8/27/2021: Thirty-six month contract to provide water pump and motor maintenance and repair services as needed at various locations within the City (AS).
11. Bid 6640A – opening date 8/27/2021: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide maintenance and repairs to diesel engines as-needed for the Water Bureau. (AS)

FULL-SERVICE ELEVATOR MAINTENANCE AND REPAIR

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (“MHACY”) is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to provide full-service elevator maintenance and repair at MHACY Properties.

This RFP package contains submission requirements and terms and conditions and other pertinent information for submitting a proper and responsive proposal. This RFP is the only information provided to prospective bidders (hereinafter “Responders” or “Respondents”) and is available online starting August 13, 2021 at www.mhacy.org/about/procurement.

The RFP questions deadline is August 25, 2021 at 3:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions must be emailed to Brendan McGrath, Counsel at bmcgrath@mhacy.org by the deadline. No telephone calls and/or written communication sent via mail will be accepted. Proposals must reach the MHACY no later than 3:00 PM (EST) on September 10, 2021. Late submissions will be handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B.

Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria stated in the RFP. Negotiations may be conducted with contractors who have a reasonable chance of being selected for the award. After evaluation of the proposal revision, if any, the contract will be awarded to the responsible firm(s) whose qualifications, price and other factors are considered to be the most advantageous to the MHACY.

The MHACY reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any irregularities or informalities if it is in the MHACY's best interest to do so. The MHACY reserves the right to cancel this RFP or to reject, in whole or in part, any and all proposals received in response to this RFP, upon its determination that such cancellation or rejection is in the best interest of MHACY.

The MHACY is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or family status. The MHACY solicits and encourages the participation of minorities and small businesses in procurement.

Contact, related to this procurement, with members of the MHACY's Board of Commissioners, or MHACY's officers and/or employees other than the contact person show above, during the procurement process could result in disqualification of a proposal.

Wilson Kimball, President & CEO Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers 1511 Central Park Avenue Yonkers, New York 10710 RFP No. 2021-06

Notice of formation of 475 Sierra Vista Lane, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed on 07/23/2021. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 20 Skywood Court, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of 394 Sierra Vista Lane, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed on 07/23/2021. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 20 Skywood Court, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

AG Report, Cuomo Sexual Harrassment continued from pg 1-

that he had a “lack of recollection as to specific incidents.” The investigators also found that the governor’s recollection “stood in stark contrast to the strength, specificity, and corroboration of the complainants’ recollections, as well as the reports of many other individuals who offered observations and experiences of the governor’s conduct.”

Additionally, the investigators found that the Executive Chamber was “rife with fear and intimidation” that not only “enabled the above-described instances of harassment to occur,” but also “created a hostile work environment overall.” Further, Governor Cuomo, himself, and the Executive Chamber engaged in “retaliatory” behavior by “intend[ing] to discredit and disparage” a former employee that came forward with her story of harassment.

The investigation found that Governor Cuomo’s sexual harassment of multiple women and his and the Executive Chamber’s retaliation against a former employee for coming forward with her claims of sexual harassment violated multiple state and federal laws, including Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the New York State Human Rights Law, and 42 U.S. Code § 1983, in addition to the Executive Chamber’s own equal employment policies,” end of press release by AG James.

In a video released shortly after the AG’s presser, Gov. Cuomo denied touching anyone, and

Governor Cuomo repeatedly denied touching any of the accusers, and even attempted to attack the attorneys who conducted this investigation.

One of Cuomo’s accusers was Charlotte Bennett who grew up in Westchester. Bennett’s accusations, which were outlined in great detail during the press conference, has now been validated, while Cuomo’s denials have now been found to be lies. More on Bennett’s courageous journey next week.

A female NY State Trooper is also in the report describing the sexual harassment made against her by Cuomo.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer issued a statement minutes after NY Attorney General Leticia James’ press conference. “The Attorney General’s findings are clear and compelling. The Governor must resign. The patterns of sexually harassing, intimidating and inappropriate behavior towards women cannot be tolerated,” said Latimer.

Westchester State Senator and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins stated, “This report highlights unacceptable behavior by Governor Cuomo and his administration. As I said when these disturbing allegations first came to light, the Governor must resign for the good of the state. Now that the investigation is complete and the allegations have been sustained, it should be clear to everyone that he can no longer serve as Governor”

State Senator Shelley Mayer stated, “Today’s report by the investigative team appointed by the Attorney General is a damning indictment of the conduct – and culture – of the Governor and his Executive team. Their detailed substantiation of the complaints of 11 individual women validates those who were courageous enough to tell the truth and then face a campaign of ridicule and retaliation for doing so. The Governor’s effort to denigrate them and this investigation were shameful. The report found the Governor violated both state and federal law, laws he knew full well prohibited this harassment and abusive conduct. No one should be subjected to abusive words, unwanted touching, sexualized banter and intimidating surrogates at the ready. That’s what happened here. I applaud the courageous women who spoke the truth, and the Attorney General and her team for their work which thoroughly investigated and then validated their complaints. Now the Governor must resign immediately. That’s the right thing to do. The time is now.”

Assemblymember Amy Paulin stated, “The @NewYorkStateAG’s report and its conclusions are clear—Governor Cuomo has broken the very law he signed by sexually harassing several women, all of whom were brave enough to come forward and tell their painful stories. I appreciate what they’ve done and stand with them. The Governor’s behavior was not only dehumanizing and degrading to these women, but it also demeans his office and position. It’s unacceptable for anyone to act as he did, let alone the Governor of our State. He needs to resign now, and if that does not happen, we in the Assembly must begin impeachment proceedings.”

Tobacconist shop on Palisade Avenue for 70 years, had to be removed. Vandals not only broke off the statue’s right arm, they ran off with it!

Saturday, August 14th

August 14, 1932: The newly refurbished City Recreation Pier reopened with a new roof, new flooring on the second level, new railings, and a new paint job!

August 14, 1947: Two city judges, Charles Boote and Martin Fay, met with Deputy Public Safety Commissioner William Comey to ask for “stiffer penalties” for convicted gamblers in Yonkers.

August 14, 1947: Kingston Avenue’s Colonel John Hart Allen, on duty in Germany with the US Army, received the Polish Order Medal to thank him for recovering Polish property.

Sunday, August 15th

August 15, 1940: The Yonkers Common Council officially created the post of Honorary Deputy Commissioner of Public Safety, and asked City Manager Raymond Whitney to appoint Major Edward Bowes, and authorized Whitney to present the new Deputy Commissioner a gold badge. As soon as it passed, a certified copy was sent to Major Bowes, along with dozens of telegrams and messages from Yonkers organizations and officials. Why the honor? The Bowes National Amateur Hour was saluting Yonkers that evening. Several Yonkers performers were still in the running, and prominent Yonkers officials and businessmen were guests in the studio during the show.

August 15, 1945: President Harry Truman appointed St. Mary’s graduate Colonel Gerald Brophy of Bronxville Road as the US Representative to the International Civil Aviation Council; forty-four countries attended the Council’s first meeting in Montreal. Brophy previously served as Chief of the International Branch of the US Army Armed Forces, in charge of Lend-Lease. A lawyer with Chadbourne, Wallace, Parke and Whiteside, his specialty was air transportation and aviation manufacture.

Questions or comments? Email YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com.

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

Yonkers Vaccine mandate, continued from pg 2-

employees by preventing the resurgence of COVID-19 cases and in particular the COVID-19 Delta variant.

“The health and safety of our students, employees and families was our primary concern in every decision and action taken by the Trustees throughout this pandemic,” stated Board of Education Vice President Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio. “Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edwin M. Quezada successful implementation of the Board’s policies and strict adherence to CDC, New York State Departments of Education (NYSED) and Health (NYSDOH) guidelines, as well as Westchester County Department of Health (WCDOH) guidance enabled our schools to hold in-person instruction since October 2020.”

Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of Schools added, “the only way that all of our students can return to 5-days of in-person instruction is to follow the guidance of medical professionals that includes vaccination and testing. We will be relentless and continue to pursue opportunities for vaccines and testing as we did last school year. With our employees protected we can restore and renew our learning community, thereby providing our children and families hope for a brighter future.”

Yonkers Board of Education employees and students must continue to wear masks at all times regardless of vaccination status while at school. The resolution states, that on or before September 1, 2021, all employees of the Board of Education must be vaccinated or tested on a regular basis. All employees must provide proof of vaccination or proof of a negative COVID-19 test result based on a COVID-19 test administered within the prior seven-day period on a regular basis in accordance with the procedures and protocols implemented by the Superintendent of Schools and/or his designee.

NY Governor Andrew Cuomo has also announced that all State employees must be vaccinated by Labor Day or undergo weekly COVID testing. President Joe Biden made the same announcement for all Federal Employees. Westchester County Executive George Latimer recently announced that 80% of Westchester residents over the age of 18 have received at least one vaccination. In Yonkers, the vaccination rate is around 505.

In other COVID news, Yonkers Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, who was vaccinated, tested positive for COVID last week. Sayegh says he is in good spirits while under a seven-day quarantine after he tested positive for COVID-19, despite the fact that he was vaccinated for the virus. “I was surprised, really I was shocked. Here I am, vaccinated, and I got COVID-19,” said Sayegh, who recorded a public service announcement encouraging Westchester residents to get the COVID-19 vaccine at the NY State Mass Vaccination Site at the Yonkers National Guard Armory, when it opened in March of 2021.

Sayegh received the Moderna vaccine in February but said he is regularly tested as a precaution to protect his family, friends, Assembly staff and constituents He was tested for COVID after feeling a little under the weather and received a result he was not expecting, and tested positive.

“This is something that for me was a wakeup call that you can never feel there are enough safeguards,” said Sayegh, who is going public with his story in the hopes that it will encourage more hesitant New Yorkers to realize the COVID-19 Delta variant is, as reported by the CDC, far more contagious than earlier strains of the virus, and a serious health threat to those not vaccinated.

With less than 30 days before the start of the 2021-22 school year, educators await guidance from the NYS Department of Education regarding health and safety guidelines. Last week state Education Commissioner Betty Rosa said that she herself was waiting for Governor Cuomo and the NYS Health Department to release their guidance and guidelines on whether all students and staff will be vaccinated and how far apart students need to be in the classroom. “While the nature and extent of COVID-19 and its variants are still dynamic, it is essential that schools receive whatever guidance the Governor and the (Department of Health) intend to offer about the 2021-2022 school year as soon as possible to provide time for you to take necessary measures to safely welcome students in September,” Rosa wrote in a memo to Superintendents and School Boards.

Rosa, who added that the delays were “frustrating with a sense of urgency” said that for now, school districts can rely on guidance from the CDC, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, which Cuomo’s staff says will be the basis for the Health Department’s upcoming guidance.

But the guidance from the CDC has been evolving and changing as the Delta Variant of COVID becomes more prevalent. In May, the CDC said that all who are vaccinated can travel about their business without a mask; now they recommend masking for all individuals indoors, whether you are vaccinated or not.

As of August 2, the CDC recommends that residents in 23 counties in New York State, including Westchester, should be wearing masks while indoors regardless of whether you are vaccinated or not.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

Much credit for the unveiling of Andrew’s despicable behavior goes to Assemblyman Ron Kim. Kim criticized Cuomo over the Nursing home scandal. In Yiddish we call the scandal a shanda. But we haven’t got that report about the loss of thousands of lives needlessly yet so I won’t comment on it.

Assemblyman Kim went public with a bullying conversation he had with Andrew. Kim said that Andrew told him ‘We’re in this business together and We don’t cross certain lines and I hadn’t seen his wrath and that he can destroy him.’ It’s funny when all of Kim’s accusations became public, I didn’t see many elected officials jump to Andrew’s defense. That’s got to tell you something.

Credit also must go to our Senator, Andrea Stewart-Cousins who while leader of her chamber when there was a power sharing arrangement going on said to Cuomo, ‘You look at me, Mr. Governor, but you don’t see me. You see my black skin and a woman, but you don’t realize I am a suburban legislator.’ Cuomo according to press reports was stunned with Stewart-Cousins remarks.

I’ve known Andrea since our time working for then Yonkers Mayor Terence Zaleski almost 30 years ago. She is a thoughtful, caring person. I was a bit disappointed in her when she refused to call for Andrew’s resignation ‘until one more woman would come forward.’ That comment disappointed many of her supporters.

Andrea however represents Yonkers well in Albany, having ‘brought home the bacon’ particularly in terms of education funding this year with her colleagues Shelley Mayer, Nader Sayegh and Gary Pretlow. Bringing home money long overdue. I don’t think she has higher ambitions in Albany but I think you will see Shelley Mayer among those talked about for the top job in our state. Most definitely for the top job in Yonkers unless the ‘City Hall Gang’ figures out a way to extend Spano’s tenure.

The headlines in the conservative press will probably call Cuomo ‘a pervert’ for the way he supposedly, according to the report treated women. It wasn’t one woman. It was many women. Including a State Trooper charged with protecting him. Pathetic. Sad. Disgusting. It’s like can you believe what you are reading and hearing?

This abusive culture towards women in Albany has got to stop. And it has gone on not only in the Executive Mansion but also in both Chambers of the Legislature. Maybe with Andrew out of the picture there will be some real reform in Albany. Who would have thought that his demise would bring about reform.

Cuomo claims he never touched anyone and called the report biased. He will fight the accusations and the many civil lawsuits, some possibly criminal that will come out of it. Can he do this while at the same time being Governor. The report, coming from an Attorney General of his own party is too damaging. He will do the people of the State of New York a disservice trying to hang on.

And don’t forget, we haven’t seen the reports on the \$5 million dollar book deal, the Nursing Home deaths, the use of state resources for Covid testing for his friends and family while you and I waited on line and begged to get tested and I am sure as I hit deadline I am forgetting something.

It’s time for change in Albany. Not only a change in the person or persons in charge, but a change in the culture that has existed for way to long. And again, no pun intended, ‘Leadership.’

But remember. It is you and I that have the responsibility to vet out those people who want to run for office and elect people who are going to demand change. We must take that responsibility very seriously!

And now, show some leadership yourself. Make sure you have received your Covid vaccination. Your health, the health of your friends and family and everyone you love. In my book that’s the most important thing!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistoisyonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen and Dan Murphy on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday’s from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

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