

Don't Miss It! Untermyer Gardens Conservancy Grand Illumination Now Open Until Jan 4 Free



See Story on Page 11

Merante Says Goodbye for Now at His Last Council Meeting



photo by Donna Davis

“This is not goodbye, just a farewell for now.”

Dec. 9 marked the final meeting of the year for the Yonkers City Council, and for outgoing 6th District Councilman Anthony Merante, it was a bittersweet moment. The council chambers were filled with friends, supporters, and longtime constituents as he reflected on his years of public service.

“My mantra during my time in office has always been, and will al-

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Happy Chanukah Westchester!



Dr. Jonathan Dzik, leading Chanukah songs, Copyright © Robert Kalfus

The Jewish holiday of Chanukah, the Festival of Lights, starts this year at sundown on Sunday, Dec. 14, and concludes on Dec. 22. The Lubavitcher Rebbe wrote regarding Chanukah and religious freedom in our United States of America:

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Tree Lighting Ceremonies Brings Yonkers Community Closer Together



Santa and Mrs. Claus at the SBBID Tree lighting

By Dennis Richmond Jr

The Yonkers Downtown Getty Square Tree Lighting Ceremony took place on Friday, December 5, 2025, from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., drawing dozens of residents despite bitterly cold temperatures. The one-hour celebration offered a full range of festive activities including hot chocolate, live music, candy canes, and opportunities for neighbors to enjoy each other's company. All attractions were free to the public.

Paxo's Grill & Café provided complimentary hot chocolate, which quickly became a favorite among attendees seeking warmth. The event was made possible through collaboration among the Stagg Family Foundation, Yonkers Economic Development Corporation, the City of Yonkers, the Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation, and Paxo's Grill & Café. Their combined efforts ensured that the annual tradition remained accessible to families across the city.

High school students were seen at the event too and singers performed throughout the evening. A costumed Grinch character made its way through the crowd, adding lighthearted fun to the gathering. The program also drew a strong po-

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Mayor Spano Presents Crestwood Girl Scout Program Center With \$150K



See Story on Page 14

Yonkers Partners in Education and AT&T Provide 230 Laptops to Students



See Story on Page 14

Abused Dog Needs A Home for Christmas



From the Yonkers Animal Shelter
FRANKIE'S SAD STORY — A CHRISTMAS WISH

Meet Frankie — a brave little survivor with a heart of pure gold. Frankie was found tied to a pole so tightly that his neck was severely slit open. The photos are far too graphic to share, but what we can share is how grateful we are to Central Animal Hospital, where Frankie has spent the last month healing, recovering, and stealing hearts.

Thank you to the The City of Yonkers, without you guys we would not have been able to provide the life-saving care Frankie desperately needed — and he has bounced back in the most beautiful way.

Frankie is about 1 year old, incredibly sweet, friendly, and lovable. He's smart, knows some commands, and walked out of the hospital with a big smile as if to say, "I'm ready — take my pictures and find me my forever home!"

Let's grant Frankie his Christmas Wish!!

If you can open your heart and home to this amazing boy, Frankie is ready for you. TEXT MICHELE 914-374-4808.

Free Clothing Giveaway-Roosevelt HS-Dec. 13

YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Clothing Give-Away

For Families In Need

Saturday
December 13, 2025
9:30am-11:30am

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 Roosevelt is conveniently accessed by the Beeline bus system, 8, 20, & 78

Sponsored by Economics & Government classes working towards Seal of Civic Readiness

Roosevelt High School's Econ & Government students are putting civic readiness into action by sponsoring this incredible community-based event! Stop by this Saturday between 9:30 AM and 11:30 AM at Roosevelt High School for a Community Clothing Giveaway — everything is FREE for families in need.

Smart Food Waste Bins Available 24/7 at 3 Locations

Food Scrap Drop Off Bins Located at:

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- Lincoln High School
- PEARLS Hawthorne School

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NEW in Yonkers: Smart Food Waste Bins are now available 24/7 at Crestwood Library, Lincoln High School and Pearls Hawthorne School.

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Mayor Mike Spano
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Yonkers Riverfront Library - One Larkin Center
 Grinton I. Will Library - 1500 Central Park Avenue
 Crestwood Library - 16 Thompson Street

BOOK DISTRIBUTION
 Tuesday, December 30th at 3PM
 Yonkers Riverfront Library - One Larkin Center

For more information about the Kwanzaa Children's Book Drive & Distribution, please contact Dr. Dwanita Crosby at Dwanita.Crosby@yonkersny.gov or (914) 377-6084.

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Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

On This Day in Yonkers History...



**Otis Elevator Company
Yonkers
Illustrated,
1904,**

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

Monday, December 15th

December 15, 1933: Homeless and hungry, Joe Iacovetti may have bluffed a robbery victim but ended up in jail!

Pretending he had a gun, he forced Thom McAn salesman Cornelius Byrnes to give him money... and remove his pants! A youngster passing by the 21 Main Street store saw what was happening, so ran to Getty Square where Officer Colgan was on duty. Colgan immediately headed towards the scene with gun drawn.

Byrnes ran outside without pants, shouting "I've been held up!" Passing men chased Iacovetti, who ran down Mill Street to escape... but was trapped! On one side were the men chasing him. The other side? Patrolman James Colgan with his gun pointed at him.

Tuesday, December 16th

December 16, 1925: At the request of Chicken Island's Bittersweet Production Corporation, Federal Agents dumped hundreds of gallons of beer into the Nepperhan River! The company had a permit to "dealcoholize" beer, but found the final product was unusable.

December 16, 1942: Mayor Barnes defended Dr. Ward Cook, Director of Yonkers' Bureau of Laboratories. A few weeks earlier at a Budget Hearing, City Manager William Walsh chastised Cook for "spending too much time" in his home garden, stating Cook spent "half his time raising flowers... getting prizes for his flowers instead of being in the laboratory."

Barnes spoke to several doctors he trusted. Cook actually spent his nights working in the City Hall laboratory until well after midnight. Barnes asserted the time Dr. Cook spent working with his flowers were during his time off.

Wednesday, December 17th

December 17, 1937: Both factions in a Russian Orthodox Church disagreement filed for restraining injunctions from Supreme Court Justice Raymond Aldrich. One side wanted to keep Father Kushwara at Holy Trinity and asked for a temporary injunction against the transfer. The others wanted Bishop Theophilus' order transferring the priest to an upstate (Watervliet) church honored and asked for an injunction preventing Kushwara from remaining.

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MAYOR SPANO ANNOUNCES YONKERS FIRE DEPARTMENT SECURES LARGEST FEMA AFG GRANT IN NEW YORK STATE

More Than \$800,000 Toward Specialized Training

On Dec. 4, Mayor Mike Spano announced that the Yonkers Fire Department has been awarded an Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for Operations and Safety programs. Yonkers secured \$887,061, the largest AFG award of any municipality in New York State this year.

"This is a big win for Yonkers," said Mayor Mike Spano. "Our firefighters are among the best in the nation, and this grant gives them the tools and training they need to stay ahead of the challenges they face every day. Thank you to our federal partners, including U.S. Senator Schumer for investing in the safety of every resident, business, and family in our City."

The funding will support training additional firefighters to the advanced Hazardous Materials level, strengthening the department's ability to respond to evolving chemical, industrial, and energy-system risks, while safeguarding the critical infrastructure that keeps the region running. The grant was secured through United States Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer, who represents the City of Yonkers.

Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer said, "Yonkers' brave firefighters risk their lives every day on the frontlines to protect our community. I'm proud to deliver a whopping \$887,061 in federal funding, the largest AFG grant awarded in New York this cycle, to help train new firefighters and upgrade the Yonkers Fire Department's aging infrastructure, which will keep our firefighters and families safe. I have long fought to increase funding for the AFG program because I know how important it is for our first responders to be well-equipped and prepared. I'm grateful that the program continues to deliver results for Westchester County."

"Securing this AFG grant is a transformational step for the Yonkers Fire Department and for public safety across our region," said City of Yonkers Fire Commissioner William Fitzpatrick. "This funding allows us to rapidly expand our certifications and deepen the capabilities that our Yonkers community and regional partners depend on, accelerating our progress and reinforcing our readiness."

Yonkers Police Warn of Fake Invoice Scam

We're reminding everyone about a new scam in which scammers are impersonating the City of Yonkers Planning & Development Department and sending fraudulent invoices.

The Planning & Development Department DOES NOT send invoices to anyone, and any correspondence (e-mail or letter) that includes the Planning Department logo or information in the header is a scam!

When in doubt, please refer to the contact information below for the Planning & Development Department.

- New office location:
- 20 South Broadway, 9th Floor
 - Suite 907, Community Development (914) 377-6650
 - Suite 923, Economic Development (914) 377-6797
 - Suite 900, Planning Bureau (914) 377-6555
 - Suite 923, Zoning Board of Appeals (914) 377-6136

Wishing Eric Schoen a Happy Chanukah and Continued Recovery

Mr. Murphy

Can you please tell us about the health of Eric Schoen. I hope and pray that he is OK but very little information about him is on Social Media.

Thanks Julia Rothchild, Yonkers

Editor's Note: I will check with Eric's family and get back to you. I can report that he is a fighter and has not given up.

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Merante, I'll Be Back, continued from pg 1-

main, "It's All About You," said Anthony Merante. "Serving my constituents and the hardworking taxpayers of Yonkers has always come first. I have never voted with the administration for the sake of political expediency. I voted based on my conscience and what I believed was right for the people I represent. I viewed my role strictly as public service."

Merante expressed deep pride in his record and gratitude to the many residents who supported him throughout his tenure. He also thanked his current and former colleagues on the City Council, highlighting the constituent services and accomplishments he is most proud of during his time in office.

He did not shy away from sharing his disappointments as well. "I am disappointed that my colleagues voted to give the mayor the opportunity for a fourth term. I hope they will have the courage to let the voters decide on any additional changes. I am also disappointed that the mayor ran interference with constituent services by telling residents they would not receive help if I were elected," Merante said.

Every Democratic member of the City Council acknowledged Merante's work, spoke of his kindness, and expressed fondness for him. In a telling moment, however, there were no remarks offered by the leader of his own Republican Party, the Council Minority Leader.

As one chapter closed and another begins, Merante left residents with the immortal words of Arnold Schwarzenegger: "I'll be back." He added, "My work on behalf of Yonkers taxpayers as their advocate will continue, but in a new form."

Supporters of Merante tell us that he is considering his options to run for another office.

Merante's comments drew a rebuke from Councilman-elect Tim Hodges, who defeated Merante last month. "I normally would not comment on such matters, but Anthony Merante's bitter and delusional rant during his final Council meeting leaves me no choice. During his remarks, he chose to belittle me and my candidacy by referring to me only as "the Democrat," and he attacked the individuals—of all parties—who supported my campaign, including his own Republican predecessor and my friend, John Larkin, even holding up a photo of him.

The truth is this: Anthony Merante's defeat had little to do with redistricting or the so-called "blue wave" he claims, and everything to do with his non-existent and failed record on the City Council and the strength of my candidacy. Four years ago, in a national red-wave year, Merante defeated me by a razor-thin margin—where I was even ahead by 9 votes on election night—after which I congratulated him graciously. But in every one of his three Council elections, he has consistently run behind the rest of the Republican ticket.

By contrast, both this year and four years ago, I ran ahead of the Democratic ticket—often by double-digit margins. Even in the portion of the 6th District that did not change during redistricting, Merante's support collapsed. He carried that area by 92 votes four years ago; this year, he lost it by hundreds. And while he claims he had "strong numbers" in the 2023 Mayoral Election, the truth is that Mayor Spano—at the top of the ticket—trounced him by roughly 20 points in the same areas. The voters didn't just reject his excuses; they rejected his record.

Whether Anthony Merante wants to admit it or not, he was not defeated by "a few votes." He was defeated in a 20-point landslide, by more than 1,200 votes. I look forward to serving the people of the 6th Council District—whether they supported me or not—and working every day to move our community forward.

There's a quote that Anthony Merante has now proven true in the most unfortunate way:

"A man's true character is revealed in defeat" -Alison Goodman. Despite this unfortunate way to end his time on the Council, I wish Anthony Merante and his family all the best in their future endeavors.

Yonkers 2nd Precinct Community Council Meeting

The 2nd Precinct Community Council meets on the third Wednesday of each month at 7:00 p.m. in the Lincoln High School Library, located at 375 Kneeland Avenue.

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 17.

You are welcome to join us if you live or work in the communities served by the 2nd Precinct.

Become a Nurse and Serve Your Community:**Cochran Nursing School Builds Enrollment with Hospital-Based Learning Program**

The Cochran Nursing School at St. John's Riverside Hospital is working to help more students become nurses with a hospital-based, immersive learning experience. Its fast-paced, two-year program offers unique learning opportunities, according to the school's dean, Dr. Sandra Dave.

"I think what separates it is being a hospital-based program," says Dr. Dave. "That means students have access to our clinical facilities and don't have to fight to get placements in other hospitals."

She adds that the two-year program is attractive to many potential students.

"A lot of our graduates come from the area we serve. Some are socioeconomically challenged, and because of that, they're very driven. They want to be out in 2 years and in the workforce, starting to provide for their families. As a result, they get into the workplace more quickly with our two-year program. They gain more clinical skills, more acumen."

Students who graduate from the two-year program can begin working right away, but will need to complete a bachelor's degree within ten years due to New York State licensing requirements.

Dr. Dave completed her undergraduate nursing degree in England, where she is originally from, and then came to the US to earn her FNP (Family Nurse Practitioner) degree at Pace University. She later completed a doctorate in clinical nursing practice.

In 2022, Dr. Dave became the Dean of Cochran Nursing School and immediately began working to increase enrollment.

"Enrollment across the board for nursing and some of the health sciences is down," she says. "The school enrollment has ebbed and flowed. I think it was over 300 at its peak, but at the moment, we have a total enrolled body of about 114 to 120. That's where we're averaging. So our graduating classes tend to be around 35 to 50 students, depending on attrition and other factors."

However, each individual class is much smaller. Dr. Dave says they aim for a 1-to-6 faculty-to-student ratio to improve the learning experience.

"We're trying to reflect that as well in the clinical space," she says. "So a group of no more than six students will be on the floor at any one time. That means they have a more individualized experience and more 1:1 time with the patient. They get more time with the faculty rather than just being, you know, a number in a group."

Cochran also offers a simulation lab to help students learn delicate procedures, such as starting an IV.

"It's a luxury to have a SIM lab, especially in a small institution like Cochran," Dr. Dave explains. "A SIM lab or simulation lab can be a variety of things to different people, but basically, it's an excellent, safe space in which nurses can train. We use a human patient simulator, which is a high-fidelity mannequin that breathes and has a pulse. We can relay voice commands through them. They can blink their eyes. They have realistic hair. Realistic skin. You can catheterize them. You can put a vent in or start an IV line."

She adds that the SIM lab walks students through a wide variety of potential patient scenarios.

"So our first-year students get a low-fidelity respiratory simulation. In our final semester, students who are doing a lot of cardiac and neuro will get maybe a patient who has an arrhythmia or is having a myocardial infarction, and they'll be taking care of that patient in the SIM lab."

This experience prepares students for interactions with real patients and helps build confidence.

"This is where they learn the first steps of teamwork," says Dr. Dave. "You get to see who the leader is in the room, who's delegating, who's just standing in a corner, who needs to be coaxed out of their shell a little bit. There's progression as they go through the curriculum, so you get to see the students develop more. And that translates to what the instructors see on the floor. They get to see that confidence."

As students train in the lab, Dr. Dave continues to work to increase enrollment and attract new students to Cochran. Scholarships are available, and she continues to seek additional funding from local foundations to make nursing education more accessible.

"We have set up some fantastic scholarships for our students," says Dr. Dave. "We have at least four students who pretty much get a full ride because of the generosity of some of our donors. We also have donations earmarked for some physical and capital improvements."

Dr. Dave hopes not only to bring more students to the school but also to attract more people to the field of nursing.

"I think people should study nursing and come to Cochran, because it provides such a foundational experience for the rest of your life," she explains. "You know, if you can look after people, that means you can certainly look after yourself and your own family. You can build on that foundation to take you anywhere that you want to go. If you want to be an ICU nurse, it's going to prepare you for that. If you want to look after pediatric patients, it will prepare you for that. If you want to be a school nurse, it will prepare you for that. If you want a career that you can really apply your focus to and that has ever-expanding opportunities, nursing is there for you."

To apply or learn more about nursing programs, please visit the Cochran Nursing School website, <https://cochranschoolofnursing.us/>.

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Reps. Latimer, Bresnahan Introduce Legislation to Prevent Bridge Strikes by Large Trucks



U.S. Congressman George Latimer (D-NY) and Congressman Rob Bresnahan, Jr. (R-PA) introduced the Bridges Not Bumpers Act of 2025, bipartisan legislation to tackle the issue of bridge strikes by large trucks and commercial motor vehicles.

Throughout the country, highways and local roads with low clearance bridges are vulnerable to strikes by large trucks. Too often, commercial drivers have a lack of awareness of their vehicle's size when driving on roads with low clearance bridges. This problem is exacerbated by our increased reliance on GPS systems, many of which are not designed to consider vehicle size on roadways meant solely for passenger vehicles. In Pennsylvania, there were more than 600 strikes to bridges and other overhead structures between 2013 and 2023. In New York, there were 350 bridge strikes in 2024 alone, usually involving large truck operators failing to recognize warning signs or vehicle height. However, these strikes are preventable.

"Bridge strikes by large trucks are preventable and are a real problem in the New York metropolitan area," said Congressman Latimer. "They strain local governments who often bear the financial burden of fixing damaged bridges or redesigning infrastructure to prevent future strikes. They also burden local law enforcement who must divert resources to remove trucks from under bridges and redirect traffic to alternative routes. In the past, I made eliminating bridge strikes a priority and worked closely with state and local officials to find solutions. I am proud to continue that work as a member of the House of Representatives and working across the aisle with Rep. Bresnahan to get this done."

"Too many local bridges in NEPA are already in rough shape, the last thing they need is trucks driving into them," said Congressman Bresnahan. "When these crashes happen, it is our local communities that get stuck having to shuffle transportation dollars away from other much-needed projects just to fix the damage. The Bridges Not Bumpers Act will use modern technology, boost driver awareness, and identify high-risk locations so we can finally stop these preventable strikes before they happen."

"Bridge strikes are a serious safety hazard for both motorists and rail operations," said Association of American Railroads President and CEO Ian Jefferies. "With drivers increasingly relying on GPS, we have a real opportunity to ensure those tools are powered by accurate clearance data empowering drivers to make safer choices. Reps. Latimer and Bresnahan's legislation also provides the foundation for railroads and public agencies to better prioritize critical infrastructure investments that can further enhance safety."

"Bridge strikes not only damage critical infrastructure, but can also put other drivers at risk and create major traffic delays," said American Trucking Association's SVP of Legislative Affairs Henry Hanscom. "All drivers have a responsibility to pay attention to their surroundings, read signs, and keep our roadways safe. ATA appreciates the leadership of Representatives Bresnahan and Latimer for including the trucking industry in this effort to increase education and resources to help prevent these crashes."

"In addition to the harm created by the originating accident, bridge strikes can cause economic disruption to a region for an extended period of time as repairs are underway – particularly if the bridge is part of a railway line," said American Short Line and Regional Railroad Association President Chuck Baker. "Short line freight railroads privately own and maintain tens of thousands of bridges in the United States. ASLRRRA supports H.R. 6531, the Bridges Not Bumpers Act of 2025, as it will improve safety for the public and railroads. The bill provides for education of motorists, particularly commercial truck drivers, an easily accessible bridge inventory and identification of bridge heights in GPS units, and funding to identify and implement countermeasures for reducing bridge strikes. We appreciate Representatives Latimer and Bresnahan's focus on eliminating these largely avoidable accidents."

The Bridges Not Bumpers Act of 2025 would:

Direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a Bridge Clearance Strike Working Group to make recommendations on, among other things, (1) ways to improve public-private data sharing regarding bridge clearance and truck route data, (2) ways to improve the availability of truck specific information and route signs on GPS navigation tools, and (3) ways for companies that rent trucks to clearly label their vehicles with height and weight information.

Direct the Secretary of Transportation to create a National Clearinghouse for Bridge and Tunnel Clearance Strikes to serve as a centralized repository for data collection and dissemination of best practices to prevent bridge strikes by commercial motor vehicles.

Direct the Secretary of Transportation to create a grant program to conduct research using the Clearinghouse to (1) identify locations for potential infrastructure improvement projects to mitigate bridge and tunnel clearance strikes, (2) conduct preliminary engineering tasks to analyze alternative bridge strike mitigation options and identify preferred mitigation alternative recommendations, and (3) assess the effectiveness of currently implemented and future countermeasures against bridge and tunnel clearance strikes and strategies and programs to reduce such strikes.

21 Yonkers Officers Graduate from Westchester County Police Academy



County Legislator David Tubiolo with three new YPD graduates

Fifty-one recruits – including one from the Westchester County Police Department – graduated Dec. 5 from the Westchester County Police Academy. They are headed off to work at six departments in Westchester.

The new officers, who completed 22 weeks of training at the police academy in Valhalla, received their diplomas before a packed house at the SUNY Purchase Recital Hall.

County Executive Ken Jenkins and Public Safety Commissioner Terrance Raynor presented the graduates of the 160th Session of Basic Recruit School with their diplomas and congratulated them for mastering the physical and academic demands of the Academy.

"To the members of the 160th Session: thank you for all your hard work and for all you have accomplished at the Academy. You leave here with the training and the skills you will need to protect our communities from those who would do us harm. Stay true to your ideals and rely on the outstanding training and example you have received these past 22 weeks," Jenkins told Westchester's newest police officers.

The county executive also thanked the family members in attendance for the love and support they have provided, and will continue to provide, to the region's newest police officers.

"I know you are proud of these new officers. And I know there will be times you will worry about them. My dad was a police officer and I am familiar with those emotions, and more, when a loved one serves in law enforcement," he said.

Raynor urged the graduates to treat all members of the public with fairness and respect in the performance of their duties.

"The state of policing in this country demands that you embrace the concept of police and community working together. I encourage you to engage your communities with humility and respect. Treat people with fairness and empathy, no matter their race, religion or socio-economic status. Converse with others the way you would like your loved ones spoken to. The instruction you received at the Academy enables you to be the guardians your community seeks," he said.

The graduates and their departments are:

Westchester County Police: Edison Regalado.

Mount Vernon: Peter Abdou, Michael Balducci, Walter Carpio-Monterroso, Vincent Kukaj, Stevesha Marsden, Joseph Shleiwet, Ted Trashani.

New Rochelle: Connor Burke, Michael Clements, Taylor Creazzo, Kaitlyn DiLalla, Davante Parker, Kevin Ruiz-Graciano.

Scarsdale: Philip Del Bene.

White Plains: Luke Arnzen, Richard Clark, Alam DeLos Angeles, Michael Guglielmo, Veronica Lew, Maxwell Littleton, Adalberto Martinez, Steven Mitchell, Michael Napolini, Thomas O'Sullivan, Lisa Petrellese, James Rhodes III, Tiffany Rivera, Robert Santana, Frank Spaziant Jr.

Yonkers: Amanda Alvarez, Joanna Bavosa, Francis Birmingham, William Branch, Natasha Chennies, Cole DeVito, Michael DiRosa, Peter DiRosa, Robert Doci, John Francesconi, Theodore Fullerton, Anton Hlawitschka, Nabil Kawar, Rosemary Kearins, Joseph Kieftlya, Irvin Martinez, Timothy McDermott, Cassandra Newman, Christopher Pena, Jake Spreckman, Luke Tannian.

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Digital Infrastructure Services LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 10/22/25. Office: Westchester County. NY DOS designated as agent for service of process; DOS shall mail copy of process to 7 Ridgeway Cir White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Nicaudis Group Family Daycare, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/26/25. 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, Nicaudis Castillo, 156 Union Ave, Mt Vernon, NY 10550.

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 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 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 Lifestyle Rehabilitation, LLC filed with SSNY on 10/27/2025. 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, 56 Martha Place, Chappaqua, NY, 10514. Purpose: Physical Therapy.

Notice of Formation of Sets n Sweats LLC, filed with SSNY on August 24, 2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to LLC: 515 Boston Post Rd, #1034 Portchester, NY, 10573, USA Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of PRINCE & BROADWAY PROPERTIES LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/22/25. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 172 Rockne Road, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of LIQUID ASSET SERVICES LLC. Application for Authority Filed with the SSNY on 12/05/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to THE LLC, 46 LINCOLN AVENUE, PORT CHESTER, NY 10573. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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

Notice of Formation of IT TAKES ALL KINDS PICTURES, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/21/2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, Republic Registered Agent Services Inc. 54 State Street Suite 804 Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful

Notice of Formation of 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. Venron NY 10550. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of 1M Consulting LLC filed with the SSNY on 11/05/2024 with the existence date as 01/01/2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whole processes against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of processes to the LLC, 3 Ward Street, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation Hinman Hall, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/08/2025. 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, 9 Landing Drive, Dobbs Ferry NY 10522 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.

Tree Lighting Ceremony Brings Yonkers Community Closer Together



*continued from
pg 1-*

left; Dennis Richmond Jr, with State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins

Say Hi to Dennis when you see him around Yonkers and say I read you in Yonkers Rising!

cal presence. New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Westchester County Legislator Shanae Williams, Yonkers Councilmember Deana R. Norman, and Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano all attended and offered remarks.

While the turnout consisted of several dozen residents, their presence reflected a shared commitment to civic pride and seasonal celebration. The cold weather did little to deter Yonkers families, young folks, and longtime community members from coming together to usher in the holiday season in the heart of Getty Square.

Dennis Richmond, Jr. (@NewYorkStakz) is a journalist, historian, and educator from Yonkers, NY. He writes to uplift unheard voices, honor history, and inspire change.

Notice of Publication of Hari Govinda LLC. Arts. Of Org. Filed with the SSNY on 10/19/2025. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, Prajwal B Shrestha, 12 Vista Court, Ossining, NY, 10562. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of FirstLine Infusion LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on September 16, 2025. Office location: Westchester County, New York. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The SSNY shall mail process to: FirstLine Infusion LLC, 30 Winthrop Ave., Elmsford, NY 10523. Purpose: Any lawful purpose permitted under New York State law.

Notice of Formation of Marayjay, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/04/2025. 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 Entity Protect Registered Agent Services LLC, 447 Broadway 2nd Fl. - #3000, New York, NY 10013. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Sprites' Hollow LLC, formerly What Are We Making LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/30/2021. 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, 88 Colgate Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Line Dot Line, LLC; Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on July 8, 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 any process to Line Dot Line, LLC, 34 Mountain Avenue, Larchmont, NY 10538; The registered agent is Lauren Cogan, 34 Mountain Avenue, Larchmont, NY 10538; Purpose: To engage in any lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be formed under the laws of the State of New York; Duration: Perpetual.

Notice of Formation of Elsie Legacy Group LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/26/2025. 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, 41 Woodland Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Infinity Strategies Group LLC. Arts of Org. Filed with SSNY on September 1, 2025. Office location: Westchester County, New York. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 255 Huguenot Street, Apt 913, New Rochelle, NY 10801. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Sale

Supreme Court: Westchester County Acqua Capital LLC v Che Li et al. Defts Index#: 58090/2020 Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale filed and entered October 1, 2025, I will sell at public auction in the Lobby of the Westchester County Courthouse 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd White Plains NY 10601, on December 18, 2025 at 3:30 pm the premises located in the Village of Tarrytown, County of Westchester, State of New York known as Section 1.190, Block 115 Lot(s) 21. Sold subject to the terms of sale and filed judgment of foreclosure. Bank Checks Only, must be payable to the Referee for 25% of Bid Price, No Cash Accepted. Jerrice D. Epps, Esq. Referee.

Yonkers' Girls Flag Football League A Great Success



Alpha Elite Sports proudly announces the successful completion of the first-ever Yonkers Girls Flag Football League, a groundbreaking milestone for youth sports in Westchester County. What began as a vision to create more opportunities for young female athletes quickly grew into a powerful and inspiring movement within the community. This inaugural season saw an amazing turnout, with girls from all across Westchester coming together every week to compete, learn, and grow. Remarkably, nearly 80% of participants had never played flag football before joining the league. Through the dedication of our coaches, volunteers, and supportive families, these young athletes showed extraordinary progress—both in skill and confidence—throughout the season. One of the highlights of the year was the league's first Pro Bowl Game, an electric showcase of talent featuring athletes representing every team. The excitement was everything we hoped for and more, with the AFC defeating the NFC by a score of 28-6 to claim the inaugural Pro Bowl Trophy.

On November 16, 2025, the league closed out its season with an unforgettable Playoffs and Championship Weekend. The competition was fierce, the energy was high, and the passion on the field reflected just how far these young women have come in such a short time. Alpha Elite Sports is proud to announce that the New England Patriots were crowned the First-Ever Yonkers Girls Flag Football League Champions, completing an undefeated regular season and playoff run. With the overwhelming success of the inaugural season, Alpha Elite Sports is already preparing for the Spring 2026 season. Registration opens December 1st, and families are encouraged to sign up early. A major turnout is expected, and spots will fill quickly. Visit <https://yonkersgirlsffl.org/> to learn more.

Mayor Appoints Budget Specialist Al Frey as Yonkers Workforce Development Board Exec. Dir.



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced his appointment of Al Frey, left, as Yonkers' new Workforce Development Board (WDB) Executive Director. A seasoned budget specialist and recent Manager for the City's Department of Public Works, Frey replaces outgoing Executive Director Karen Ramos, who is retiring.

Photo by Maurice Mercado

"Al brings a proven track record of leadership and collaboration that will strengthen our city's workforce development efforts," said Mayor Spano. "His commitment to connecting Yonkers residents with meaningful career opportunities and supporting our local businesses aligns perfectly with our vision for a thriving, inclusive economy. I'm confident that under Al's direction, the Yonkers Workforce Development Board will continue to empower our community and prepare our workforce for the jobs of tomorrow."

Al Frey commented, "I would like to thank Mayor Spano for giving me the opportunity to help further his vision of helping the City's residents and local businesses. I believe we can connect both companies and workers to enhance the quality of life for everyone in Yonkers."

Frey joins the City of Yonkers' Workforce Development Board after serving as a Manager for the Yonkers' Department of Public Works and previously as a Budget Analyst for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation. During this time with the City, Frey managed operating and capital budget lines for the respective departments. Previously, Frey spent over 20 years with the New York State Department of Financial Services where he conducted investigations into various financial crimes and developed and managed the New York State ATM Safety Program. Frey also has served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for the Westchester School for Special Children since 2003. Frey holds a Bachelor of Arts from Iona College.

Mayor Spano added, "I also want to extend a special thanks to Karen Ramos for her many years of dedicated service to Yonkers – as the WDB Executive Director, our Planning and Development Department Commissioner and as Deputy Corporation Counsel. We wish Karen a restful and joyful retirement."

Letter: Bloated County Budget

I wanted to draw your attention, and the attention of your readers, to an comment made by my Town Councilman Anthony Giacobbe regarding the recently passed Westchester County Budget.

"The Westchester County budget increased by over \$700 million since 2018. This increased rate of spending was reckless, and blame should not be shifted to other levels of government.

"County government needs a complete overhaul, as far too much money is being spent and this level of government should be minimal.

"Additionally, the official Westchester County Facebook page should not be used for political statements, this is poor practice," writes Giacobbe.

I couldn't agree more. I would also add that I do not agree that President Trump is to blame for the recent cuts and tax increases in the County budget. None of the proposed budget cuts to Westchester County from the Federal government have been made yet, we are still in a Federal budget from 2024-25.

Don't Blame Trump for spending to your hearts delight. And I understand that this is the Holiday season, but I would like a few more of my tax dollars in my pocket to pay for gifts for my grandkids.

I am also ready to campaign and work for Supervisor Colavita if an opponent comes forward. Same for my County Legislator James Nolan.

My best to you Mr. Murphy and your publications
Bob Henson, Eastchester

Letter:

The following letter re "Kindness", was addressed to members of the Greenburgh Town Board and other local elected officials; it is something that residents should be aware of.

Gentlemen, Ladies - Really? Are you kidding? We are living in the 21st century and 2026 is almost here; and it seems to me, from all I hear, that some of the officials in the Town of Greenburgh, NY have buried their heads in the sand, and are refusing to see not only what's happening around them, but also the future barreling down upon them. Violence against people is reported daily on TV and horrors committed against animals posted daily on social media for "LIKES"! Wake up!

As an educator, a teacher for more than 30 years, I find it downright shameful and embarrassing to say what is so very apparent: that for reasons known best to them, the Town Board has refused to allow a sign to be posted at the Greenburgh Nature Center that says -"BE KIND TO ANIMALS"!

What are you thinking??? What planet are you living on? With children (and adults) needing to be taught, and frequently reminded that kindness matters, that compassion for all beings is important, this Board has said NO to such a timely and gentle reminder! Shame on every one of you who voted against this.

You are a disgrace to your community and the office entrusted to you, and bring dishonor to your own families.

Zelda Penzel
Member - Animal Defenders of Westchester

Yonkers Firefighters 50 Year Tradition Continues: Caroling to Nursing Homes



Yonkers firefighters kept a 50-year tradition alive, caroling and bringing holiday cheer to nursing homes

On Dec. 8, over fifty active and retired members of your Yonkers Fire Department brought Christmas Cheer to many residents in the nursing homes in Yonkers, Hastings and Dobbs Ferry along with stops to the grave of Father Thomas McDonald, and to the home of former Yonkers Fire Captain Thomas Fitzpatrick.

One stop was at Mother Cabrini where the members not only sang for the residents but to visit and bring in the holiday spirit to former Fire Commissioner Tony Pagano and his wife Dale.

Happy Holidays to All.

The Parish of St. John the Baptist,
Most Holy Trinity, St. Ann
670 Yonkers Ave. Yonkers, NY 10704
(914) 963-1486

presents

Lessons and Carols

"An Evening of Sacred Christmas Music"

Join the parish choirs and magnificent guest soloists in St. John the Baptist Church as we usher in the Christmas Season with prayer and song.

The program will include traditional carols and treasured classical selections.

Sunday, December 14th
4:00 PM

Light refreshments to follow
Free Admission

teleflora

20% Off Holiday Sale

Teleflora's Yuletide Sparkle Tree

Teleflora's Yuletide Sparkle Tree is a festive floral Christmas tree made of red blooms, holiday greens, and shimmering accents. Arranged in Teleflora's keepsake Crystal Drum Vase, it's a joyful holiday gift or centerpiece. SKU #T25X420A

Your Price
Reg. Price ~~\$99.99~~
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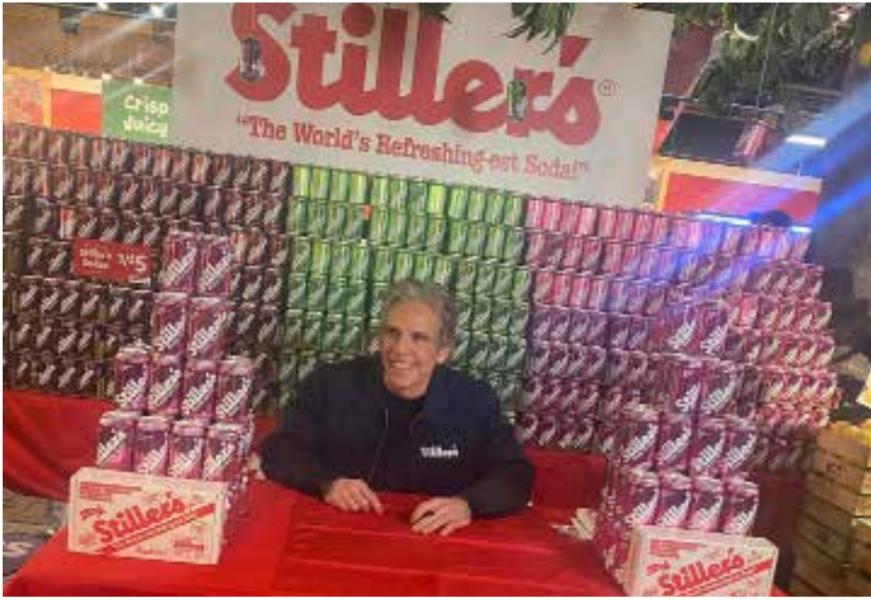
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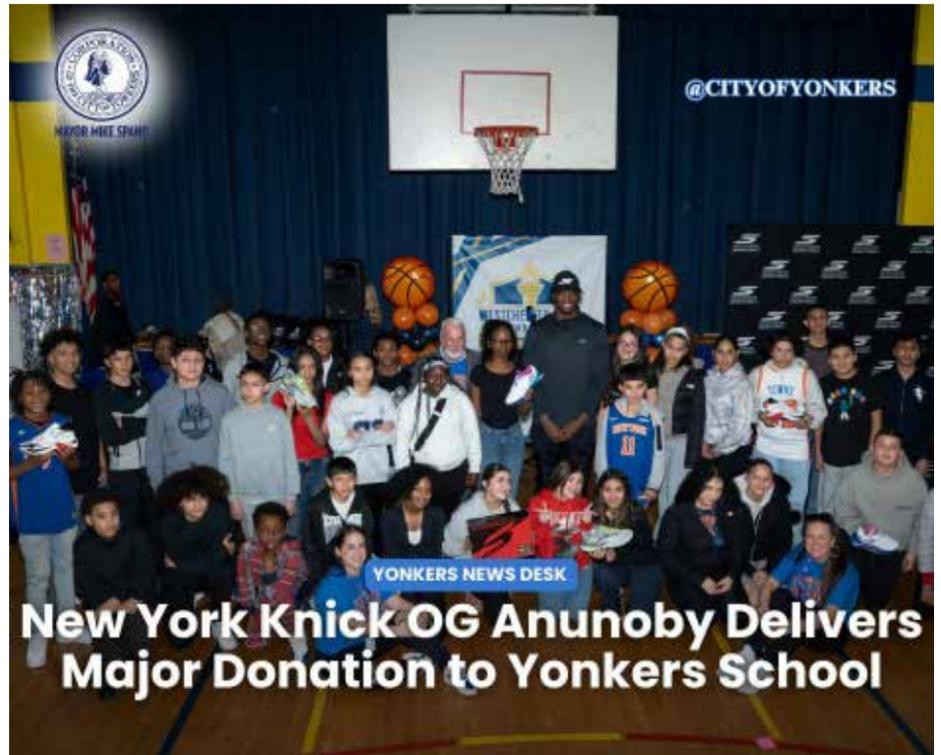
Ben Stiller Comes to Stew Leonard's Yonkers to Promote Stiller's Soda

NY Knick OG Anunoby & Skechers Surprise Yonkers Students with \$25,000 Donation



Ben Stiller stopped by Stew Leonard's in Yonkers last week to promote his new line of Stiller's sodas. The actor and director met shoppers as the store rolled out flavors like lemon lime, Shirley Temple and root beer. Stiller's all-natural, low-calorie sodas are now available at the Yonkers location.

We picked some up for Thanksgiving at Stew's in Danbury, pretty good.



New York Knick OG Anunoby Delivers Major Donation to Yonkers School

On Thursday, December 4, New York Knicks forward OG Anunoby, Skechers, and AdoptAClassroom.org delivered an unforgettable holiday surprise to students at Westchester Hills School 29 in Yonkers—presenting a \$25,000 donation to support the school's library and boys' intramural basketball program, both heavily impacted by recent budget cuts.

What began as a simple school assembly quickly turned into an emotional celebration as OG walked into the gymnasium to cheers from the middle school students. He spoke about the importance of education and reading—values his parents instilled in him growing up—and then personally helped gift Skechers basketball shoes to the boys' and girls' teams while answering questions from the aspiring young athletes.

The donation will expand the school's library with more inclusive reading materials — including some of OG's childhood favorites — and restore much-needed athletic resources, ensuring students have both academic and extracurricular support heading into the new year.

From OG on why it is important to give back to his community: "I think it's important because we were all kids once, and we all had to go to school. Academics, school, reading — those things are very important. As an athlete, I think you should remind kids of that. School and athletics go together. Doing the right things in the classroom — not getting in trouble, doing your homework — that carries over into sports. Good habits off the court lead to good habits on the court."

As part of the initiative, an additional \$10,000 donation was also made on behalf of OG Anunoby to P.S. 200 The James McCune Smith School, helping build an inclusive book collection for their students.

This moment is part of Skechers' fifth consecutive year partnering with AdoptAClassroom.org through its Register Round-Up program, which has raised more than \$670,000 since 2021—supporting over 17,000 students in under-resourced schools across the U.S. and Puerto Rico.

With the holidays approaching, this event delivered one of those inspiring stories that truly resonates — a community uplifted, students energized, and a meaningful investment in education and youth athletics.

Santa and the Grinch are Friends....For Now



Santa and the Grinch have been seen in and around Yonkers for the various Tree lighting ceremonies and Holiday celebrations. This photo shows them at the Downtown Yonkers Waterfront BID Tree Lighting.

Santa is always happy and jolly, but the Grinch can change from someone with a Holiday heart of gold to a nasty Rotter.

We hope that the Grinch can continue to get the holiday vibe and spirit from Santa and all the kids at the other events around the city.

Let us know if you see them-email dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

NEW YORK HOMEOWNERS:

- Need a **NEW ROOF** and **HELP PAYING** for it? Any leaking, visible damage, or roof age qualifies!
- Money flying out of old, drafty **WINDOWS**? You may qualify for new energy efficient windows!

NEW 2025 FUNDING PROGRAMS AVAILABLE NOW!

888-849-9991

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Enrollment is only open during a limited time. Programs, appointments, and installations are on a first come, first serve basis in your area.

HELP IS AVAILABLE EVEN IF YOU COULD PAY CASH

Approved applications will have the most priority by quality of repair work, availability of funding, and proximity to the program area. Limited funding available.

MENORAH LIGHTING & GELT DROP

AT RIDGE HILL

Live music • Gelt drop • Juggler
Donuts & latkes • Fun for the whole family

Sunday, December 14 | 4-6 PM
Ridge Hill Park Plaza

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

-----X Index No.
Date Summons Filed:
LAZIZI KHAMIDOV,
Plaintiff,
-against-
TONYA DAZIAH JAMES,
Defendant.
-----X

Plaintiff designates Westchester County as the place of trial.
The basis of venue is Defendant's residence.

SUMMONS

Defendant resides at 185 Riverdale Avenue, Apt. 81, Yonkers, New York 10705.

ACTION FOR DIVORCE

To the above named Defendant:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer on Plaintiff's Attorneys within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the State of New York, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Dated: 05/12/2025

[Signature]
Aziz Juraev, Esq.
Law Office of Aziz Dzhuraev
Attorneys for Plaintiff

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

-----X Index No.
LAZIZI KHAMIDOV,
Plaintiff,
-against-
TONYA DAZIAH JAMES,
Defendant.
-----X

VERIFIED COMPLAINT

ACTION FOR DIVORCE

The Plaintiff, complaining of the Defendant, alleges the following:

FIRST: The parties are over the age of 18 years.

SECOND: This court has jurisdiction to hear this action for divorce. The Plaintiff has resided in New York State for a continuous period in excess of two years immediately preceding the commencement of this action.

THIRD: The Plaintiff and Defendant were married to each other on July 16, 2021, in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The marriage was not performed by a clergyman, minister or leader of the Society for Ethical Culture.

FOURTH: There is no child as a result of this marriage, and no child is expected.

The Plaintiff resides at 515 E 7th Street, Apt. 3S, Brooklyn, New York 11218. The Defendant resides at 185 Riverdale Avenue, Apt. 81, Yonkers, New York 10705.

The parties are covered by the following group health plans:

Plaintiff

Group Health Plan: NOT APPLICABLE

Defendant

Group Health Plan: NOT APPLICABLE

FIFTH: The grounds for divorce are as follows: Irretrievable Breakdown of the Relationship for at Least Six Months (DRL Sec. 170(7)): The relationship between the Plaintiff and Defendant has broken down irretrievably for a period of at least six months.

SIXTH: There is no judgment in any court for a divorce and no other matrimonial action for divorce between the parties is pending in this Court or in any other court of competent jurisdiction.

SEVENTH: Neither the Wife nor the Husband needs maintenance.

WHEREFORE, the Plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendant, dissolving the marriage between the parties to this action, and granting the following relief:

That the parties do not require maintenance and no claim will be made by either party for maintenance.

That the parties do not require payment of counsel and experts' fees and expenses.

That the Court grant such other and further relief as the Court may deem fit and proper.

The parties have divided up the marital property, and no claim will be made by either party under equitable distribution.

Dated: 05/12/2025

[Signature]
Lazizi Khamidov

STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF Kings, ss.

I, Lazizi Khamidov, am the Plaintiff in the within action for a divorce. I have read the foregoing Complaint and know the contents thereof. The contents of the Complaint are true to my own knowledge, except as to those matters therein stated to be alleged upon information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

[Signature]
Lazizi Khamidov

Subscribed and sworn to before me on 05/12/2025

[Signature] Notary Public

Aziz Juraev
Notary Public
Registration No. 02DZ6409183
Qualified in Kings County
Commission Expires 09/21/2028

My commission expires on 09/21/2028

50+ New York Groups Call for Moratorium on New Data Centers

Letter to Congress Cites Massive Energy and Water Consumption, Ratepayer Turmoil

In a letter sent to Congress, more than 50 organizations from across New York State called for a full national moratorium on the approval and construction of new data centers. The letter cites massive and unsustainable consumption by data centers of energy and water resources, and skyrocketing utility costs for families and small businesses. The letter was facilitated by the national environmental organization Food & Water Watch, and signed by national and statewide groups including Greenpeace, Friends of the Earth, Physicians for Social Responsibility, Americans for Financial Reform, Citizen Action of NY, NY Communities for Change, and For the Many.

The letter states, in part: "The rapid expansion of data centers across the United States, driven by the generative artificial intelligence (AI) and crypto booms, presents one of the biggest environmental and social threats of our generation. This expansion is rapidly increasing demand for energy, driving more fossil fuel pollution, straining water resources and raising electricity prices across the country... We urge you to join our call for a national moratorium on new data centers until adequate regulations can be enacted to fully protect our communities, our families, our environment and our health from the runaway damage this industry is already inflicting."

"At a time when New Yorkers are struggling with soaring utility bills, data centers threaten to inflict even more costs on our communities," said Eric Weltman, senior New York organizer at Food & Water Watch. "It's prudent that we press the pause button on Big Data's voracious and expanding appetite for energy and water before it's too late to prevent massive harm."

Already, energy demand from data centers in the U.S. is expected to increase up to threefold between 2023 and 2028. And recent analysis from Food & Water Watch found that by 2028, AI-supporting data centers could consume:

720 billion gallons of water annually simply to cool the facilities — equal to more than 1 million Olympic-size swimming pools, or enough water to meet the indoor needs of 18.5 million American households.

300 terawatt-hours (TWh) of energy annually — enough electricity to power over 28 million American households.

"Communities across the country are being inundated with this unchecked expansion of data centers, leaving residents to bear the burden of skyrocketing utility rates, worsening water and air pollution, and serious public health concerns," said Yvonne Taylor, Vice President of Seneca Lake Guardian. "When an AI data center comes to town, our communities are promised an economic boost. Instead they are steamrolled, with developers depleting natural resources and refusing to take accountability for the harm they inflict. For too long, our representatives have sat back and watched as we are taken advantage of. We need leaders who will step in to protect residents against this exploitation, and put public health and safety above corporate profit."

"Data Centers have quickly emerged as a false solution, as these new massive industrial projects create very few permanent jobs, introduce new environmental justice concerns for nearby residents, jack up energy and water costs for communities, and create headaches for local governments," said Bridge Rauch, Environmental Justice Organizer with Clean Air Coalition of Western New York. "We need a federal moratorium on new data centers to give state and local governments a chance to work with their constituents to develop regulations that work for their communities."

Meanwhile, this summer the Trump administration released an "AI Action Plan," which outlines its priorities related to the advancement of so-called "artificial intelligence" and the industries supporting it — including massive energy- and water-intensive data centers. Among other things, Trump's plan seeks to dismantle existing environmental and land use rules that it views as a hindrance to the unfettered growth of these industries.

In October, Food & Water Watch initially called for a full moratorium on data center approval and construction, likely becoming the first national organization to do so.

Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy-2025 Grand Holiday Illumination

2025 Grand Holiday Illumination: December 6 through January 4

Inaugurated in 2015, the Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy's Grand Holiday Illumination has quickly become a New York tradition, and thousands of visitors come to enjoy the spectacle. Come for FREE and see the Walled Garden lit with more than 150,000 lights and listen to holiday music from many traditions.

The 2025 Grand Holiday Illumination opens on Saturday, December 6 at 5:30 p.m. with a dramatic lighting ceremony, and is then open every night through Sunday, January 4, from 4:30 until 8:00 p.m., free to the public with NO RESERVATIONS required. Illumination is OPEN on Christmas Eve and Day, and New Year's Eve and Day.

A New Event Under the Lights:

This year, the Conservancy is establishing a new tradition—the Grand March—which will take place most nights at 7:00 p.m. (see schedule at right) on the lower terrace lawn, weather permitting. Lasting about ten minutes, this guided line dance is appropriate for all ages and promises to be a fun experience that adds warmth and camaraderie to the evening. The dance will be accompanied by lively march music as participants form twosomes, foursomes, a tunnel, a spiral, and a run-around.

The days when the Grand March will take place are on Dec. 14 & Dec. 19-Jan. 4.

Try Our New Scavenger Hunt

Explore the Walled Garden in a whole new way by searching for nine objects scattered amongst the garden's 150,000 lights.

Can you find everything?

Visit untermyergardens.org to learn more.

Editor's Note: To all of our Yonkers readers-most of you have already experience the Grand Illumination, but if you haven't you are missing out on one of the special treats of the Yonkers Holiday season.

Please make a visit this year and make a donation if you can.

Ridge Hill Partners with Toys for Tots Westchester & Putnam to Support Local Children This Holiday Season

This year, the holiday spirit shines even brighter as Ridge Hill teams up with Toys for Tots Westchester & Putnam County, which for the first time is proudly headquartered in the City of Yonkers. As part of its commitment to uplifting local families, Ridge Hill is donating \$500 per child to the Toys-for-Tots Youth Volunteer Program, giving young volunteers the chance to shop directly at Ridge Hill for gifts that will bring joy to children across Westchester. Co-coordinator Patricia Laforey and community outreach manager Harold McKoy Sr., along with members of the Westchester County Police and Fire Departments, will escort the youth volunteers for a special day of Christmas shopping and service.

To add to the holiday cheer, Shake Shack at Ridge Hill will host a Giveback Tuesday, donating a percentage of the day's sales to Toys for Tots Westchester. This continued support helps the organization meet the growing needs of families throughout the county. Last year, Toys for Tots Westchester distributed 48,000 toys, and with nationwide cutbacks affecting programs everywhere, the 2025 goal has risen to 100,000 toys. Headquartered at 578 Nepperhan Avenue in Yonkers and supported by local partners like James H. Farrell Lodge #34, the Luther V. Garrison Sr. Masonic Foundation, Teamsters Local 456, and Outback Steakhouse; Toys for Tots Westchester remains committed to making sure no child is forgotten during the holidays.

The youth volunteers, who represent the heart of this mission, shared what this experience means to them. Dillon, age 13, said, "Not all kids have the opportunity to volunteer." Saniyah, 15, added, "I enjoy making memories with the other youth volunteers." And 13-year-old Trevor Simms, who has served with the Masons at their Christmas giveaways for years, said, "I have been volunteering with the Masons from Yonkers all my life, and now volunteering directly with Toys for Tots is great." With the support of Ridge Hill, local agencies, and dedicated volunteers, Toys for Tots Westchester continues spreading hope, kindness, and Christmas joy to thousands of children across our community.

Happy Chanukah, continued from pg 1-

"The Chanukah Lights remind us in a most obvious way that illumination begins at home, within oneself and one's family, by increasing and intensifying the light of the Torah and Mitzvos in the everyday experience, even as the Chanukah Lights are kindled in growing numbers from day to day. But though it begins at home, it does not stop there. Such is the nature of light that when one kindles a light for one's own benefit, it benefits also all who are in the vicinity. Indeed, the Chanukah Lights are expressly meant to illuminate the "outside," symbolically alluding to the duty to bring light also to those who, for one reason or another, still walk in darkness. What is true of the individual is true of a nation, especially this great United States, united under G-d, and generously blessed by G-d with material as well as spiritual riches. It is surely the duty and privilege of this Nation to promote all the forces of light both at home and abroad, and in a steadily growing measure. Let us pray that the message of the Chanukah Lights will illuminate the everyday life of everyone personally, and of the society at large, for a brighter life in every respect, both materially and spiritually. With esteem and blessing in the spirit of Chanukah," [Signed] Rabbi Menachem Schneerson"

Letter to the Editor: Did Assembly Speaker Heastie Support Bally's Casino in His Backyard?

To the Editor: I have enjoyed your coverage of the decision by the NY Gaming Board to award three licenses, two in Queens and one in the Bronx. As a Yonkers resident, I was disappointed that MGM pulled their application at the last minute. Our city could have used the revenues and the jobs for residents. One question that I can't find an answer to online is, for the Bally's Casino in the Bronx, did the Speaker of the Assembly, Carl Heastie, support the project that is in his backyard? Many progressive groups and Bronx residents opposed the project. Your latest story talked about the problems that Bally's has but did not answer these questions.

Thanks Janet Antonucci, Yonkers: Below is the story referenced above.

State Board Recommends All Three Commercial Casino Applicants, But Bally's Stands Out as Risky Bet By Dan Murphy

At its hearing yesterday, the Gaming Facility Location Board unanimously recommended the three remaining applicants, Bally's (Bronx), Hard Rock Metropolitan Park (Queens), and Resorts World New York City (Queens), for commercial casino licenses. In its publicly released report, the Board praised Bally's proposal as a "substantial investment" with a \$2.3 billion capital plan, promising thousands of new jobs, a 507-room hotel, a 2,000-seat event center, a Jack-Nicklaus-designed golf course, a 4,661-space parking capacity, and extensive amenities. It is easy, and perhaps politically expedient, to frame this as a win for New York: jobs, infrastructure, revenue, growth. But the publicly available record shows that Bally's carries serious red flags, which the Board itself partially acknowledges but overlooks in its rush to issue all three licenses. In its report, the Board notes that Bally's is "a highly leveraged, non-investment-grade entity." That language cannot be dismissed as boilerplate. It is a clear warning sign: Bally's may lack the financial resilience to withstand economic downturns, construction delays, or underperformance of its projected revenues. Yet the Board is recommending it anyway; a questionable exercise of public trust given the scale of public stakes involved. While Bally's projects robust job creation with 2,876 full-time and 865 part-time workers (3,741 total, or roughly 3,503 full-time equivalents), with a median comp near \$80,000 including benefits, the Board hedges. It notes that Bally's own projections of gross gaming revenue, net revenue, and operating income may fail to materialize, especially given that the facility "will not be operational in the first three and one-half years" after licensing. Moreover, the Board flagged serious doubts about climate resilience and stormwater management in Bally's Bronx plan, concrete issues that could undermine the project's viability or community impact over time. Bally's claims a net present value (NPV) community benefit of \$765 million. But the Board itself warns that this figure may be overstated, especially given that funds for the Bronx Benefit Fund won't flow until the facility opens. This means any benefits are decades away under the proposed 2030 timeline. In the end, Bally's appears to be trading long-term community promises on shaky financial ground and distant delivery, which is hardly a reliable foundation for a project impacting one of the city's most economically and socially vulnerable boroughs. Despite the Board's formal posture that all three applicants "met statutory criteria," public reporting indicates that support within the Bronx was tepid at best. According to media accounts, the Board's selection sparked immediate protest: as one news outlet put it, "the three winning bidders hugged and clapped, but not everyone was happy... Protesters stormed out chanting 'Shame on you!'" when the decision was announced. Critics, including local community activists and environmental groups, flagged concerns about increased crime, addiction, traffic, environmental degradation (especially stormwater run-off into impaired waterways), and the conversion of community parkland into a casino complex. These are not minor downsides. For a borough long underserved and often neglected in development decisions, rushing ahead with a casino, especially a large-scale resort, risks repeating patterns of top-down planning that historically have marginalized local voices. The Board's Selection Document acknowledges some of these concerns (e.g., environmental and stormwater issues) but appears to discount them in favor of optimistic financial forecasts. In short: the "community-centric" process envisioned by the 2022 licensing statute looks to have been largely symbolic, not substantive. There is one fact that cannot be ignored: under its agreement, Bally's must pay Trump Organization \$115 million if it wins the license for the former Trump-linked golf course in the Bronx. That fact alone raises obvious and uncomfortable questions. As the New York Post reported, this payout would directly benefit the Trump Organization. But even beyond optics, the more profound concern is that a public-interest decision by a state board is being channeled to enrich a private party with deep financial and political ties at a moment when state and city budgets are under pressure and public trust in institutions is fragile. Suppose the same individual stands to gain personally from a casino license, even as public coffers are being constrained. In that case, that should raise alarm bells for every resident, community leader, and policymaker. This matter should also be viewed not simply as a questionable decision about one applicant, but as emblematic of a deeply flawed process and inequitable regulatory structure. When the Legislature authorized these downstate casino licenses in 2022, it introduced new requirements, including community advisory committee approval, environmental reviews, upfront license fees, and a minimum capital-investment threshold of \$500 million. On paper, these criteria promised a high bar. But in practice, the new rules have created a steep barrier for existing gaming operators, particularly those that have already proven their ability to deliver stable revenues, support thousands of jobs, and invest over decades in New York's economy. Meanwhile, another sector, harness racing, continues to receive massive subsidies, despite widespread evidence that such subsidies largely benefit horse owners, breeders, trainers, and drivers, the majority of whom do not reside in New York and certainly do not live near Yonkers. With state subsidies propping up what state officials recently admitted is a sport that likely would not exist without government underwriting, it is absurd that a proven operator like MGM Resorts International would be punished by being excluded from the competition (MGM withdrew earlier this fall) while speculative casino proposals are fast-tracked. In effect, the way the law is written and how it is being implemented have created an uneven playing field, disadvantaging operators with track records and rewarding those with debt-heavy, high-risk proposals. The decision by the Gaming Facility Location Board should not be framed simply as a win for economic development. On the contrary, it feels like a gamble, with heavy financial, environmental, and political risks being placed on a highly leveraged company whose public promises may prove empty. At the very least, the Board's glowing summary of Bally's must be met with healthy skepticism, and lawmakers, community stakeholders, and the public should demand accountability before any final license is granted.

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LEGAL NOTICE

The ordinance, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on November 25, 2025, and approved by the Mayor on December 5, 2025, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such ordinance may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the CITY OF YONKERS, in the County of Westchester, New York, is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this Notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the publication of this Notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

Vincent E. Spano, City Clerk
City of Yonkers, New York
SPECIAL ORDINANCE 49-2025

REFUNDING BOND ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, IN THE COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, NEW YORK, ADOPTED NOVEMBER 25, 2025, AUTHORIZING THE REFUNDING OF ALL OR A PORTION OF THE CITY'S OUTSTANDING GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS-2015D, GENERAL OBLIGATION SERIAL BONDS-2015E AND SCHOOL SERIAL BONDS-2015F, STATING THE PLAN OF REFUNDING, APPROPRIATING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$63,000,000 THEREFOR, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$63,000,000 REFUNDING BONDS TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION, AND MAKING CERTAIN DETERMINATIONS ALL RELATIVE THERETO

The bonds are authorized to refund of all or a portion of certain unmatured maturities of outstanding bonds of the City issued in 2015.

The periods of probable usefulness for which the Bonds to be Refunded were issued consist of various periods, commencing on the date of original issuance of the first bonds or bond anticipation notes issued for the respective purposes for which the outstanding bonds were issued.

The amount of obligations to be issued is not to exceed \$63,000,000.

A complete copy of the Bond Ordinance summarized above shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the office of the City Clerk, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York 10701.

DATED: December 8, 2025 Yonkers, New York

Yonkers History , continued from pg 3-

December 17, 1942: The Yonkers Service Clubs Committee learned they were chartered by the Secretary of State. The group, composed of representatives from the Exchange, Kiwanis, Lions and Rotary Clubs, was formed to promote the welfare of people entering American Armed Forces and to sponsor public events supporting the war.

The Committee purchased gifts on behalf of Yonkers to recognize the sacrifices of our men and women entering the armed services. Its directors were men prominent in Yonkers businesses and fraternal organizations, such as Samuel Hayward.

Thursday, December 18th

December 18, 1937: A group of Holy Trinity parishioners stopped newly appointed pastor Reverend Joseph Dzvomchik from entering the Russian Orthodox Church; Father Dzvomchik left with attorney Theodore Murin and met with Bishop Theophilus, head of the American Russian Orthodox Church. The Bishop had assigned Dzvomchik to the parish. Theophilus advised them to wait for the Supreme Court decision on the injunction restraining Father John Kushwara from remaining in Yonkers.

The newly elected church board stated Bishop Theophilus had transferred Fr. Kushwara to the church in Watervliet. The previous board petitioned the Bishop to keep Kushwara, claiming the majority of parishioners wanted him to continue as pastor... and would do everything possible to keep him.

Friday, December 19th

December 19, 1957: Judge Harold Garrity stated a recent US Supreme Court decision banning wiretapping affected indictments in a Yonkers gambling case! Attorney Joseph Ragno made a motion to dismiss the case against the Alfonso brothers on the grounds "the cases were not diligently brought to trial;" Garrity stated "the Supreme Court decision brought an 'overriding question' to the case."

After a December 1955 raid, the brothers and six other defendants were accused of running a multi-million dollar gambling operation in the Yonkers Fleetwood Plaza restaurant. One of nine simultaneous raids Westchester DA Joseph Gagliardi conducted here with Sheriff John Hoy and 45 Deputy Sheriffs, this "first step" in Gagliardi's "clean-up" campaign swept up 65 men. After the hearing, the Westchester Grand Jury indicted fifteen of the men for gambling. Besides the restaurant, Yonkers' raids "hit" a florist, TV repair shop, travel agency, an antique store, a travel agency and private homes.

Saturday, December 20th

December 20, 1923: The Yonkers Police Association honored Public Safety Commissioner Tobin with a farewell reception. Patrolman William Kruppenbacher, President of the Association, presented the Commissioner with a diamond ring as a token of respect and good will.

December 20, 1944: Seven Yonkers men bonded while in Bougainville, Papua New Guinea, thanks to a Jeep!

Saunders graduates Horace Delamater and Walter Panek with Yonkers native John Anderson managed to locate four other Yonkers men while driving on the Bougainville Road; as they rounded the windy roads, they shouted, "Next stop, Getty Square!" When Yonkers men heard the call, they bounded out of foxholes, tents and jungles, knowing the call came from men from home!

They picked up two additional Saunders graduates, Joe Kardash and Dan Yarrusso, Commerce grad Alfred Wallinger and Longfellow graduate Patrick Armida. They were thrilled to meet each other and spent almost five months together reminiscing about home until the war called them back into action.

Sunday, December 21st

December 21, 1937: The arguments on counter injunctions in the disagreement between Reverend Kushwara and new head of the Holy Trinity Russian Orthodox Greek Catholic Church Andrew Walp were adjourned one week in White Plains Supreme Court.

December 21, 1955: Otis Elevator Company signed an agreement to manufacture, install and service automatic bowling pinsetters! For the first time, Otis manufactured machines would be offered to bowling alleys to buy for \$7800 rather than lease. The first Otis installation happened a week later; they already were scheduled to install 4,000 in 1956.

Questions or comments on this column? Email YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com. For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, please visit our website www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org, call 914-961-8940 or email info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org.

County Budget Passes After Legislators Reduce Tax Increase to 3.7%

The Westchester County Board of Legislators voted by overwhelming majority to pass the 2026 Westchester County Budget. The approved budget reduced the County Executive's proposed property tax increase from 5.27% to 3.7%. For the average homeowner, this equates to roughly \$3 more a month while remaining tax cap compliant.

The \$2.5 billion spending plan provides critical social services for Westchester residents including childcare assistance, enhanced health programs, support for domestic violence survivors, and resources to address food insecurity.

Westchester's 2026 budget reduces nearly all County department budgets by 8% and eliminates 180 positions, reducing our workforce by almost 5%.

Chairman Vedat Gashi (D—New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown) said, "This balanced budget would not be possible without the input of residents from every corner of the County. We are operating in a moment of unprecedented instability created by the Trump Administration. The Board has done everything possible to protect essential services, provide for our most vulnerable neighbors, and keep Westchester on stable financial footing. I am deeply thankful to everyone who made their voices heard throughout this budget process."

Legislator Jewel Williams Johnson (D—Elmsford, Greenburgh, Tarrytown, White Plains) said, "Today, we approved the 2026 Operating, Special Districts, and Capital Budgets, concluding one of the most difficult budget seasons we've faced, driven by federal decisions that slowed the economy and sharply reduced our sales tax revenues. Even as every department absorbed cuts, hiring was frozen, and our non-profit partners were initially facing reductions of about 70%, we worked to restore support—bringing that cut closer to 40%—and added critical funding for child care and maternal health, because families cannot wait for better times. The final budget includes a 3.7% increase in the County property tax levy, which equates to about \$3 more per month on the County portion of the bill for a home assessed at \$500K, and we fought to keep that impact as modest as possible while preserving essential services. As Budget & Appropriations Chair I am deeply grateful to my colleagues, our County Executive, our County staff and workforce, our nonprofit partners, and every resident who participated in this process, and I remain committed to keeping Westchester families at the heart of every decision we make."

Majority Leader David T. Imamura (D—Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Edgemont, Hartsdale, Hastings-on-Hudson, Irvington) said, "I am happy to support a budget that prioritizes the working people of Westchester. This budget keeps tax increases to a minimum while delivering essential services. At a time when the federal government uses human suffering as a weapon, we have been able to mitigate at least some of the harm imposed by this administration on Westchester residents."

The budget was delivered to County Executive Ken Jenkins for his signature. "I thank the Westchester County Board of Legislators for their diligent work and leadership in revising and passing the 2026 budget. The \$2.5 billion dollar spending plan was shaped by one of the most challenging financial climates we have faced in years. The difficulties of 2025 will carry into 2026 and likely beyond, and this budget reflects the hard, necessary choices before us."

"We are operating in a moment of unprecedented instability created by decisions made in Washington by the Trump Administration – decisions far beyond the County's control. Federal cuts, new requirements and tariff policies have injected volatility into local budgeting in ways we have not experienced in recent memory. This budget is a direct response to that Trump turmoil."

"Westchester's 2026 budget reduces nearly all County department budgets by eight percent and eliminates 180 positions, reducing our workforce by almost five percent. Even with these cuts, we have produced a tax-cap-compliant budget that protects essential services, supports affordability initiatives and our workforce. For the average homeowner, this amounts to roughly \$3 dollars more per month to sustain the level of service Westchester taxpayers expect and deserve."

"Again, I thank the Board for their partnership as we navigate this difficult moment together."

The budget vote was 13-4, with Legislators James Nolan, Margaret Cunzio, David Tubiolo and Tyrae Woodson-Samuels voting no. "I voted no on this year's budget. I don't know how I could vote to stress constituents' finances even more, with Con Edison's rate increase looming in the future, with many everyday costs continuing to increase. All these additional costs amount to a sizable burden that many would have a hard time having to shoulder," said Legislator Nolan.

**Send us your letters, announcements, opinions,
photos and story ideas to
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Classifieds

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Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, DEC. 13

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720

Third Annual Photography and Art Exhibit Opening Reception, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Opening Reception for the Third Annual Photography and Art Exhibit co-sponsored by The Friends of Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary. Refreshments will be provided. The exhibit will be on view through daily through Saturday, January 31, 2026.

Get details: <https://friendsofreadwildlifesanctuary.org/event/third-annual-photography-and-art-exhibit-for-read-sanctuary/>

Lasdon Public Gardens and Veterans Memorial, Katonah: (914) 864-7268

Wreaths Across America with Veterans on the Trail of Honor, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Remember the fallen. Honor those who serve. Teach our children the value of freedom. At 11 a.m., join the Vietnam Veterans of America Chapter 49 in the laying of remembrance wreaths at each of the memorials on Lasdon's Trail of Honor.

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005

Dip-Candle Workshop, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Stop into the nature center for a workshop on making hand-dipped candles! Guests will get to take home their candles.

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

Guided Farm Tour, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Join us to take a free, one-hour tour around the farm to visit and learn about our animals and a few of our historic buildings. Tours meet outside the reception center. These tours are for individuals and small families. Also: Dec. 14, 20.

Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/guided-farm-tours-tickets-1915990772979?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

Merestead Estate, Mount Kisco: (914) 864-795

Winter Tree ID, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Trees have a special beauty in winter, when their leaves have dropped and you can observe their silhouettes clearly. However, identification can be more challenging. Join this walk to get familiar with bark and buds, plus learn about the natural histories of some of Merestead's species. Meet at the carriage house parking area on the south side of 455 Byram Lake Road in Mount Kisco. All ages welcome.

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851

Beginner's Birdwatching, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

All ages can join us for beginners' birdwatching from our indoor observation room and learn to identify some of the common birds in our area. Afterwards, join the staff on a short hike throughout the park to observe our winter bird community.

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

How Hot Cocoa is Farmed, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Learn about the farming and making of hot chocolate while sipping on homemade cocoa and taking part, hands-on, in a part of the process. \$15.

Get details and register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/how-hot-cocoa-is-farmed-tickets-1797172283679?aff=oddtcreator>

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466

Winter Wildflower Arrangements, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m.

Make a festive centerpiece for the holidays. Bring your own vase, and we'll help you make a beautiful winter bouquet using dried plants and natural objects from the field and forest. Donation: \$5.

SUNDAY, DEC. 14

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

Project Feeder Watch, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Beginners to experts can join us for a wonderful day of viewing local birds at the Nature Center's feeders. Free. Also: Dec. 21, 28.

Miller House, White Plains: (914) 428-105

Open House, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Drop in to visit the former home of the Ann and Elijah Miller family, an average colonial Westchester family whose lives were changed forever when Washington and his army fought for American independence. Located at 140 Virginia Road in White Plains.

Lasdon Public Gardens and Veterans Memorial, Katonah: (914) 864-7268

Candlelight Vigil with Veterans on the Trail of Honor, 4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Honor all of Westchester's veterans at the Annual Candlelight Vigil on the Trail of Honor, where 800 luminaria will be placed along the trail and a ceremony will take place at the Vietnam Memorial. Meet at the Trail of Honor entrance in the main parking lot, lower level.

Yonkers Rising

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

Yonkers Partners in Education and AT&T Provide 230 Laptops to Students

AT&T and Human IT provided Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE) 230 refurbished laptops today to distribute to local students in need.*

The computers, funded by an AT&T contribution, were given to graduating seniors and college-age students.

“This contribution isn’t just helping students today, it is preparing them for the careers of tomorrow,” said Sam Wallis, CEO of Yonkers Partners in Education. “These laptops will support students through high school, into college, and as they begin building professional skills that will serve them for a lifetime. We are grateful to AT&T for this donation and for investing in our students’ potential and their futures.”

According to U.S. Census Bureau data, millions nationwide still don’t have access to the internet or connected devices needed to fully participate in the online world, an issue known as the digital divide.

This effort is part of AT&T’s initiative to help address the digital divide through internet accessibility, affordability and safe adoption. AT&T is committing \$5 billion to help 25 million people get and stay connected to high-speed internet by 2030. This includes distributing thousands of computers to students and their families across New York since 2021.

“At AT&T, we’re committed to helping ensure every community can thrive in the digital age. Access to connectivity, devices, and digital education is vital so that students of all ages can take full advantage of technology and put their imaginations to work,” said John Emra, President, AT&T Atlantic Region. “AT&T is proud to collaborate with organizations like YPIE and are grateful for their continued efforts to help close the digital divide in Yonkers.”

Across New York, AT&T is investing in technology, digital literacy and digital learning solutions to help students and families succeed. In addition to laptop distributions, the company has opened 13 AT&T Connected Learning Centers to provide a free space within communities where people can access high-speed internet, computers and educational resources. Learn more at att.com.

Mayor Spano Presents Crestwood Girl Scout Program Center Gets \$150K

Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson welcomed Mayor Spano to the Crestwood Program Center to announce the partnership to revitalize the building.

On Monday, December 8, 2025, Girl Scouts Heart of the Hudson (GSHH) staff, volunteers, and Girl Scouts welcomed Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano to the Crestwood Girl Scout Program Center at 360 Parkview Avenue in Yonkers to announce a new funding partnership. Mayor Spano revealed to the crowd of approximately 50 Girl Scouts and caregivers that the City of Yonkers is designating \$150,000 for GSHH to revitalize the building for current and future generations of Girl Scouts.

Along with Mayor Spano, in attendance were GSHH CEO Dr. Kari L. Rockwell, COO Hada Reed, other members of GSHH staff, volunteers from the Yonkers Service Unit including Service Unit Manger April Stiller and Troop Leader Clara Barragan, and many Girl Scouts and their caregivers.

Mayor Spano said of the partnership, “...there was a discussion about how we could raise some money so that we kind of rebuild this place right? And do so in a way that provides for a more nurturing environment for each and every one of you.”

He also praised the Yonkers Girl Scout community and leaders Clara Barragan and April Stiller for their commitment to the organization and for creating a “community (that) goes above and beyond for themselves.”

GSHH will use the funds to provide critical updates to the building, including upgrades/repairs to the heating and electrical systems, and renovating the kitchen. These, including other upgrades will make the program center better equipped to support volunteer and GSHH-led Girl Scout programming. Work on the center will begin shortly to have it up and running as soon as possible for more Girl Scout programs and activities.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS

JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,

Plaintiff,
vs.

LAURA LAUDON, AS HEIR AND DISTRIBUTE OF THE ESTATE OF ELLEN MARSHALL A/K/A ELLEN F. MARSHALL; UNKNOWN HEIRS AND DISTRIBUTEES OF THE ESTATE OF ELLEN MARSHALL A/K/A ELLEN F. MARSHALL, any and all persons unknown to plaintiff, claiming, or who may claim to have an interest in, or general or specific lien upon the real property described in this action; such unknown persons being herein generally described and intended to be included in the following designation, namely: the wife, widow, husband, widower, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors, and assignees of such deceased, any and all persons deriving interest in or lien upon, or title to said real property by, through or under them, or either of them, and their respective wives, widows, husbands, widowers, heirs at law, next of kin, descendants, executors, administrators, devisees, legatees, creditors, trustees, committees, lienors and assigns, all of whom and whose names, except as stated, are unknown to plaintiff; NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE; UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE,

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

Defendants.

To the above named Defendants

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

NOTICE OF NATURE OF ACTION AND RELIEF SOUGHT

THE OBJECT of the above caption action is to foreclose a Mortgage to secure the sum of \$435,000.00 and interest, recorded on August 01, 2005, in Control Number 452030784, of the Public Records of WESTCHESTER County, New York., covering premises known as 421 MOUNT HOLLY ROAD, KATONAH, NY 10536.

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

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

NOTICE

YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

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

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

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

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

Dated: November 24th, 2025

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

INDEX NO. 62448/2025

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

Mortgaged Premises:
421 MOUNT HOLLY ROAD, KATONAH, NY 10536

Section: 0014, Block: 10533, Lot: 041

Peekskill Cop Caught on Video Tasing/Kicking Man

**No Body Cam or ID of Cop One Week Later;
No Charges Filed Against Damar Fields**



Watch the Video <https://www.facebook.com/reel/2551965931844067>

By Dan Murphy

On December 3, 42-year-old Peekskill resident Damar Fields was at the Riverfront Green Park on the banks of the Hudson River.

Peekskill Police Officers arrived after receiving complaints about Fields. A witness recorded video of an officer tasing and kicking Fields, while attempting to place Fields under arrest, with a second officer assisting.

Seven days after the incident, the city has neither released the officer's body camera video nor the officer's identity. And no criminal charges have been filed against Fields, although some claim that police arrived after receiving a call that Fields had "exposed himself."

Damar Fields is well known in Peekskill. Most people view him as a non-threatening person who stays with friends or in a shelter. He did not deserve the vicious police beating. Those who know him describe him as kind, thoughtful, and cheerful.

Fields was recently arrested in September for drug possession and has mental health challenges.

The witness, who has not been identified, took the video and shared it with Peekskill activist Darell Davis. Davis has been in contact with Damar Fields and his mother, who has been interviewed on several NYC TV news channels.

Comments from the witness who recorded the video include, "I saw the officer pull into the Riverfront and park. I was parked in the circle. The tasers put him down—he was already tasered twice before I started recording—and kicked—that's what spurred me to record—he never once raised his hands towards the cops—he only covered up in defense."

Davis has been calling for the release of the bodycam footage, the officer's name, and the charges against Fields. All are reasonable, and five days after the incident, they have not been released.

The Peekskill PBA released a statement unequivocally supporting the officer's actions.

"The Peekskill PBA looks forward to a professional and independent investigation into the facts and circumstances surrounding this matter. That investigation will reveal that the Peekskill patrol officer was directed by concerned citizens to the Riverfront Green Park due to the frightening behavior of a male by the gazebo. Once located, the officer observed the male fully exposed with his pants pulled down. The male refused to follow the officers' legal commands to comply and aggressively approached them, making irrational statements. It was clear to the officer that the male, who was apparently high on narcotics and was known to the officer due to his frequent problematic behavior, was a threat both to himself and the parkgoers. When the officer attempted to take the male into custody, he resisted violently and continued to act irrationally. The officer used only the force necessary to effect the arrest. Indeed, the male was only fully restrained when several other officers arrived and assisted in the arrest.

"Once again, and predictably, individuals who are ignorant of the totality of facts surrounding this arrest have accused our police officer of misconduct. One of the most challenging tasks a police officer faces is placing a violent, resisting individual under arrest. It may be "hard to watch", but it takes force to overcome violence, and bravery to confront danger.

"The Peekskill PBA offers its unequivocal support to the officer involved, and all of the women and men of the Peekskill Police Department. We remember that no call is ever "routine" and recognize the dangers inherent in policing and the risks faced by the Westchester police community every day. We thank the members of the Peekskill Police Department – and all of the police departments throughout the County – for keeping our neighborhoods and families safe."

Davis, who has become a spokesperson for Damar Fields and his mother, responded to the PBA with, "An honest investigation doesn't start with defending the officers. It starts with releasing the footage, confirming the facts, and letting the community see what happened. Anything less is a cover-up dressed up as a procedure.

"So I'm saying this directly to the Peekskill PBA: stop talking about investigations and start showing the evidence. Stop telling us to wait and start proving your officers did what you claim. If your story is solid, the video should back it up. If it doesn't, that's exactly why you're keeping it buried. The community doesn't want another polished statement. We want the truth."

If the officer's body cam backs up the PBA's claims, then the attempted arrest of Fields could be justified.

But the force used by the cop will be much harder to justify if and when this officer is charged with a crime. "The officer used only the force necessary to effect the arrest," from the PBA statement, is the rationale that will be used to defend the force used.

But just like a photograph, a video is worth a thousand words. (Arthur Brisbane—The phrase "a picture is worth a thousand words" is commonly attributed to Arthur Brisbane, a newspaper editor who used it in a 1911 article)

"I don't care if this guy is a mass murderer. You had him tased, helpless, and you pounced on him, and that's not your job," said Davis.

Field's mother, Barbara Simpson, said on TV, "Indeed, the male [on the ground] was only fully restrained when several other officers arrived and assisted in the arrest. "To treat another human being like this, his job needs to be taken."

The City of Peekskill and Mayor Vivian McKenzie released a statement, which included, "We recognize that the cell phone video capturing part of the arrest has raised significant concern, and we want the public to know that we take this matter extremely seriously. The video is troubling and raises serious questions about what transpired — specifically regarding the officer's conduct and use of force. This incident is under active investigation to determine all relevant facts and circumstances.

The officer has been placed on administrative leave while this matter is under review.

Anyone with additional information, including video or witness accounts, to come forward. Please contact Lt. Adam Renwick at 914-862-1406 or by email at arenwick@peekskillpolice.com.

Police Chief Renwick said, "After reviewing the initial body camera footage, I made the decision to formally refer the incident to the Westchester County District Attorney's Office for an independent investigation. I did this because the video circulating on social media raised legitimate questions about the use of force, and it was essential that all aspects of the incident be investigated fully and impartially. Our department is fully cooperating with that review and has provided all available evidence, including body-worn camera footage, reports, and witness statements."

"Let me be very clear: I am committed to a complete and thorough review of all evidence in this case. When that process concludes, I will take whatever actions are appropriate based on the findings. Professionalism and accountability have been core principles throughout my career in law enforcement, and they continue to guide every decision I make.

I have no hesitation in holding officers accountable for their actions and ensuring that corrective measures and training are applied when necessary.

Finally, I caution both our officers and the community against drawing conclusions from a limited pool of information, such as a single video or even a partial set of evidence not yet reviewed in its entirety." Said Chief Renwick.

The use of force by police officers is guided by the U.S. Supreme Court's "objective reasonableness" standard in *Graham v. Connor* (1989), which evaluates force based on the totality of the circumstances, including the severity of the crime, whether the suspect poses an immediate threat, and any resistance or attempts at evasion. It emphasizes de-escalation, proportionality, and the sanctity of human life.

Key Principles of the Model Policy

Reasonableness and Proportionality: Officers may use only the force that is objectively reasonable to achieve a lawful objective, such as making an arrest or self-defense. Force must be reduced as the situation de-escalates.

De-Escalation Requirement: Officers are required to use de-escalation techniques (e.g., verbal commands, time/distance, or calling for backup) when feasible before resorting to force.

Use of Force Continuum: Force options escalate based on threat level, from presence and verbal control to physical tactics, tasers, impact weapons, and deadly force as a last resort.

This is the standard the Police Officer involved must meet. While this newspaper and its editor usually stand with the police, in this incident the officer's rage does not meet the standard of police service that the people of Westchester demand.

What was Lamar Fields doing that warranted this use of force? The police can and will argue that he was resisting arrest during the takedown, tasing, and kicking. Most will disagree, but that will be the argument.

Did he have a weapon? Did he threaten the officer? The video only shows that Fields did not respond to a repeated call to "Get Your F*&^@ Face on the Ground."

Frequently and unfortunately, these types of incidents result in the severe injury or death of the police officer or the person arrested. Thankfully, this was not the case.

A Rally will be held on Saturday, December 13, at the Gazebo at Peekskill Riverfront Park at 1pm.

Many elected officials and local media have not been as vocal as many in the Peekskill community hoped. This may be due to delays in obtaining body-cam footage, the officer's ID, and any charges against Fields.

But Davis says that the video clip is enough. "The police know him. They call him by name," Davis said. "They've had interactions with him. They know he has mental health challenges. At any point, they could have just backed up."

Editor's Note: We have attempted to create a GoFundMe page for Damar and his mother, but were unsuccessful. Anyone with the ability to do so can reach us at dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com.

In Home Personal Training

In-Home Personal Training Available. NASM, EMT and Special Needs Certified. Strength Training, Fat Loss, and Muscle Building. Virtual and online coaching available. Text or call Andrew at 914-646-1718.

Read it all Online at YonkersTimes.com

Dominican Cultural Association of Yonkers

Saint Nicholas Visits Philipse Manor Hall

Free Christmas Toy Giveaway

Yonkers Riverfront Library Dec. 14



SUNDAY DEC. 14 2025

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Saint Nicholas Day Celebration at Philipse Manor Hall!
We're so grateful to all the families who came out—and a huge thank you to our amazing staff and volunteers who made the day possible. Kids had a wonderful time exploring 17th-century Dutch traditions with hands-on crafts, music, and of course... a special visit from St. Nicholas!

Tell Us Who Needs Some Holiday Cheer:

Every Year, Yonkers Rising and Yonkerstimes.com likes to hear from our readers, who tell us someone they know who could use a little holiday cheer. Email us at dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com and we will publish your letter and get them a gift card.



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