

Yonkers Rising

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Friday December 15, 2023

Maichina Gennarelli, First Female Swimmer from Yonkers to Qualify for State Championship!



Maichina Gennarelli, third from right, with her teammates on the Yonkers Girls Swim team

By Dan Murphy

Yonkers High School Swimmer, Maichina Gennarelli, represented the Yonkers School District for the third consecutive year at the NYS Public School Swimming and Diving Championships on November 16-17 at the Webster Aquatic Center. She placed 14th in the 500-yard freestyle with a time of 5:12.01. She is the first female from The Yonkers School District to qualify for state championships; “When I started as a freshman on the team, I had no idea Yonkers did not have anyone qualify before. This was an amazing accomplishment in my swimming career,” she said.

Gennarelli had many impressive accomplishments throughout her varsity career. The Senior Captain holds 6 of 8 individual and all 3 relay team records at the Mark Twain Pool. During the League C Championships in October, Gennarelli won the 100-yard butterfly with a time of 1:01.96 and placed second in the 200-yard Individual Medley with a time of 2:14.58, achieving all-league honors. A month later, the team traveled to Clarkstown for Section 1 Championships. Gennarelli was 8th in the 100-yard freestyle (55.12) and 11th in the 200-yard freestyle (1:58.84).

Although this was Maichina’s third appearance at State Championships, she technically earned a state cut time her freshman year, but championships were canceled due to covid. The dual meets were swum “virtually” against other high schools. Teams swam races at their own pools with officials certifying the results. The times established were then entered into a database. Teams learned

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First Pay Raise for City Council in 10 Years & For Mayor in 20 Years, Passed by Council



Yonkers City Hall

By Dan Murphy

The Yonkers City Council approved salary increases for the office of Mayor and City Council at their meeting on Dec. 12. The vote for salary increases for the Mayor, and City Council, passed in separate votes by a 6-1 margin, with Councilman Anthony Merante voting no.

City Council salaries have not been increased in 10 years since 2014, and the Mayor’s salary has not been increased in 20 years, since 2004. Under the plan, City Council salaries will increase from \$48,000 to \$58,000 per year, plus stipends for serving in leadership positions and as Committee Chairs.

The Mayor’s salary will increase from \$158,000 to \$228,500. if adopted Also included in the city budget for this fiscal year is a retroactive salary back to Jan. 2023 for the Mayor’s salary.

Several residents attended the public hearing prior to the vote and commented in favor and opposed to the pay raises.

Councilwoman Shanae Williams said, “Being a public servant is a real job, and this is a full-time job. We put in the extra effort. I will not be benefitting from this (Williams is leaving the council on Jan 1 to serve as a county legislator), but I believe that everyone should be properly compensated”

Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Isaac said, “I will be supporting this, knowing the work that we do and the time we put in, the raises are worthy. It will bring additional candidates to run for office.-I want to diversify the caliber of people running for office.”

Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamny said, “I can’t recall the last time I worked was only on a Tuesday evening. Every night in December I attend community events and meeting, away from my family. It’s not part time work, we are putting in lots of hours. For those reasons I will be supporting this.”

Councilman Merante issued a statement before the meeting. “I will be voting NO on this pay raise proposal. I believe it’s highly unethical to vote your own raises. If anything, the Council should be voting only on a pay raise for the next administration and the Council should not directly benefit themselves. If the raises proposal passes, I will give mine back by donating \$500 per month to charitable organizations in my sixth district. In addition, Councilmembers get a city car and free gas along with other perks.

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Police Athletic League Hosts 800 for Holiday Party



Above: Santa with happy attendees and their gifts
Below: Elvis is in the PAL Building with Santa, Photos by Donna Davis



The Annual Christmas Party was a collaboration between PAL, YPD, City of Yonkers and Department of Parks and Recreation with the support of board members, staff and volunteers. Special gratitude to our sponsors.

Traditionally, this has been a celebration for children with disabilities. However, since 2021, we integrated all Yonkers families to join us in celebrating the spirit of the Holidays.

This year, we celebrate with over 800 participants. Everyone enjoyed a delicious lunch, music, entertainment, gifts and prizes. There was even a surprise visit from Santa!

All children are allowed to chose their toys which I believe makes this celebration unique and even more special for them.

Outpouring of Love for Josephine Spano; A Caring Angel- Mother of 16-Grandmother of 48



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano with Mother Josephine Spano who passed away at the age of

Obituary: On December 6, 2023, Josephine Spano, 89, of Yonkers passed away peacefully at home with her children by her side. Born on January 6, 1934, Josephine grew up in Yonkers and attended Commerce High School. She met and fell in love with her teenage sweetheart, Leonard Spano. They married on July 12, 1952. She followed him into the desert in California, where he was stationed as a U.S. Marine entering the Korean Conflict. Their adoration for each other deepened with every decade, and through his years of public service as a longtime County Legislator, Westchester County Clerk, and business owner, she remained a supportive force. They were happily married for 67 years.

The matriarch of the Spano family, Josephine’s life overflowed with love, devotion, and an unyielding spirit. Many touching moments could be written about the profound impact she had on each life she touched. When you walked into the Spano home on Christmas morning, you would see a crowd of family members and only the angel peeking from the top of the Christmas tree. That’s because hiding the rest of the tree were wrapped presents piled a mountain high and reaching nearly to the ceiling. Josephine showered her family with gifts; those came in many forms, most notably the gift of love.

From the beginning, she instilled the gift of unwavering faith in her family. When their first child Nicholas was born, they celebrated the gift of parenthood, but a year later after losing twin boys shortly after birth, she was told another child would not be in her future. On that day her prayers for intervention to Saint Gerard, the patron saint of motherhood, began and Josephine and Leonard were blessed with 15 more children. For more than fifty years, she hosted a mass asking Saint Gerard for his intercession in helping women faced with the same challenge.

To her children, she offered the gift of her guidance, support, and

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Yonkers Police Cadets Complete Training



Congratulations to the 2023 graduating class of Yonkers Police Cadets! These 11 young adults endured an intensive more than 6-month program that included lectures and presentations from various units of the YPD, as well as LOTS of physical training!

The program encourages growth in all aspects of life, as these young adults will use what they have learned as they move on through our high schools, college, and beyond!

Thank you to the Community Affairs Division, especially Detective Specialists Hogue and Bess who lead this amazing program. Make us proud, cadets!

Tie a Blue Ribbon Around Your Tree for Israel!



By Dan Murphy

Here is another wonderful idea to show your support for the people of Israel during a difficult time this Chanukah Holiday. After the October 7 attacks by Hamas against the people of Israel, Rye resident Kelly Goldstein began a fundraiser for families in Israel affected by the Hamas attacks.

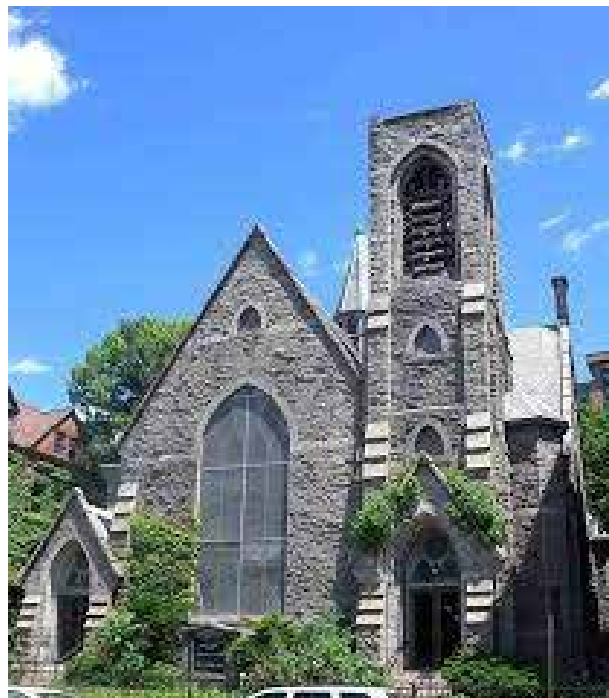
The fundraiser asks for an \$18 donation and in return donors will receive a Blue Ribbon to hang in your home or business, or around your old Oak tree. So far, the response has been great, with more than \$6,000 raised and Kelly has appeared on News 12, WABC TV-7, and several local publications.

While Chanukah is ending, Kelly is continuing her fundraiser. Please make a donation as any amount will help. Venmo @kellyreid-goldstein. Last 4 digits 3477.

Show your support for this great cause by donating and hanging your Blue Ribbon today! All donations will go directly to families in Israel, who need some help.

Thank you Kelly for starting this worthy cause and giving all of us a chance to give back and show our support for the people of Israel this holiday season.

NY Landmarks Conservancy Awards Grant to Messiah Baptist Church in Yonkers



Messiah Baptist Church, Yonkers

The New York Landmarks Conservancy has announced 19 Sacred Sites Grants totaling \$289,800 awarded to 17 historic religious properties throughout New York State, including \$30,000 to Messiah Baptist Church in Yonkers, New York to help fund roof replacement.

Noted New York City-based ecclesiastical architect Lawrence Valk designed the church as the Westminster Presbyterian Church in 1880. Messiah Baptist Church has owned the church since 1965. Founded in 1875, Messiah Baptist Church is the oldest predominantly Black church congregation in Westchester County and has played a central role in both the Yonkers and Westchester County Black community since the late nineteenth century. The congregation reaches about 1,000 people a year through activities such as a feeding program and youth programming.

“Our 17 grantees serve over 70,000 people through feeding programs, 12-step groups, cultural and outreach programs,” said Peg Breen, President, The New York Landmarks Conservancy. “Our funding helps maintain important buildings which contribute to the social fabric of communities throughout the state.”

The Sacred Sites Program provides congregations with matching grants for planning and implementing exterior restoration projects, along with technical assistance, and workshops. Since 1986, the program has pledged over 1,600 grants totaling over \$13.5 million to 850 religious institutions statewide.

The New York Landmarks Conservancy, a private non-profit organization, has led the effort to preserve and protect New York City’s architectural legacy for 50 years. Since its founding, the Conservancy has loaned and granted more than \$62 million, which has leveraged almost \$1 billion in nearly 2,000 restoration projects throughout New York, revitalizing communities, providing economic stimulus, and supporting local jobs. The Conservancy has also offered countless hours of pro bono technical advice to building owners, both nonprofit organizations, and individuals. The Conservancy’s work has saved more than a thousand buildings across the City and State, protecting New York’s distinctive architectural heritage for residents and visitors alike today, and for future generations. For more information, please visit www.nylandmarks.org.

Third Precinct Police Community Council

The Third Precinct Police Community Council will hold its next regular meeting on Wednesday, December 20, 2023 at 7:30 PM at the Chema Community Center, 435 Riverdale Avenue. Usual quality of life concerns and issues will be discussed. Elected officials are always welcome to be present for updates to their constituents. Residents and merchants of southwest Yonkers are strongly encouraged to attend this important community meeting. For further information please contact either Bob Stauf, President at 914 476-2284 or Captain Mike Mulvey at 914 377-7427.

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Latimer Talks Congressional Run With Yonkes Rising



Westchester County Executive and Congressional candidate George Latimer

By Dan Murphy

Westchester County Executive and now official candidate for Congress George Latimer spent some time with Rising Media to discuss his campaign to unseat Congressman Jamaal Bowman next year. Latimer and Bowman are both democrats and will compete in a democratic primary in the 16th Congressional district, which includes most of lower-mid Westchester next June.

“Democrats in the district are getting a choice between two progressives. I am running on all the progressive things we have done in Westchester County government,” said Latimer who highlighted increases in health funding for lower income residents, free bus service, and completing capital projects in the county including Memorial Field in Mt. Vernon and Sprain Ridge Pool in Yonkers.

“We have also managed the migrants with no crime issues. I have done all of this in a reasonable way.”

“Their game plan (Bowman campaign) is to say that they are progressive, and they are running against someone on the right. But when you have someone who has a progressive record to run on, and who has actually accomplished things and is deeply rooted in the Westchester communities that make up the 16th district, it’s a problem for their narrative. They are apoplectic because they can’t frame me in the way they want to,” said Latimer.

Supporters of Bowman have aggressively pushed back against Latimer’s candidacy. Congresswoman Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez (AOC) Tweeted about Latimer’s use of Dr. King’s famous words, “don’t judge me by the color of my skin, judge me by the content of my character,” in an interview with Gothamist.

“Quoting MLK to justify a cynical effort to unseat the only Black man representing Westchester & one of the few in Congress who stand for the human rights of Palestinians is repulsive. It’s time to organize with electoral force,” tweeted AOC.

Latimer’s MLK reference made Politico’s quote of the day, and Westchester progressives hoped to pounce on what they called Latimer’s shaky rollout of his congressional campaign. “Instead of the strong announcement he wanted, he went viral for his MLK comments, POLITICO has him as the quote of the day this AM (for unfavorable reasons), and he admitted to speaking with his second-in-command Ken Jenkins around redistricting in his Gothamist piece (contradicting an earlier interview). Latimer’s been a formidable campaigner at *-continued on pg 7-*

Super Swimmer, continued from pg 1-

how they performed later that evening when all data was posted online.

“That was a tough year, and was upsetting that swimmers could compete at states. I had to motivate myself more than I ever had before since we had no other teams to race in person.” Coach Schoenlank added, “Maichina has been a tremendous asset to the Yonkers Swimming Program. She has worked very hard and has been so impressive to watch. We are all extremely proud of her achievements over the last four years.”

Gennarelli is not limited to success in the pool. She is a scholar-athlete with a 4.0 GPA in the International Baccalaureate Program at Yonkers High School. She is also currently ranked 6th in her graduating class and has helped the girls swim team receive the NYS Scholar-Athlete Team award year after year. Gennarelli plans to continue her swimming career at Binghamton University, with a major in computer science. “I’m looking forward to continuing my swim career at the Division I level” she said, “I have been swimming since I was five years old, and I cannot imagine how different my life would be today without the dedication and determination swimming has given me. I am extremely grateful to be given the opportunity in college to start a new chapter in my swimming career.”

Yonkers Mayor & Council: We’re In The Money



By Eric Wolf Schoen

There they go again! By the time you read this article, the Yonkers City Council will probably approve raises for themselves and the Mayor that could be as high as 46%. Yes friends, 46%. Didn’t you get a 46% increase the last time your boss raised your salary. And in the case of the Mayor, the raise will include ‘retroactive’ pay of some \$72,400. You can’t make this stuff up.

When did the Council announce they would be voting on raising their salaries and that of the Mayor? After Primary Day and Election Day which was just a month ago. If they announced it before then, do you think the outcome of the election might have been different. Is the Council required to have a public hearing on this? You guessed it, nope!

This speaks to the problem with these proposed raises. The Council vote on the raises was first announced in the meeting call for the City Council Meeting on December 12, Tuesday of this week via the distribution of the City Council Agenda last Friday. So you have a full 5 days to make your voice heard Yonkers. Not enough time.

It’s these last minute announcements that get people crazy and fed up with the Yonkers City Council. The money for the raises was included in the budget for Fiscal year 2023-2024 which was approved last year in June. 7 months ago! And the Council just so happened to put it on the agenda in the middle of the holiday season when people aren’t paying much attention to what’s going on in City Hall.

Folks are busy making gingerbread houses or potato latkes (pancakes) or preparing for Kwanza Karamu, the most important meal of the holiday which takes place on the sixth night. The affairs of Yonkers City government Right now are not on peoples minds.

The then City Council played a game like this when they increased term limits with little notice from 3 to 4. Could the term limits vote have been a quid pro quo or deal for the salary increases? Why does it look strangely like that. And may I remind you that together with an increasing salary the City Council and Mayor get full health benefits paid for by the city as well as a city gassed up and maintained vehicle for their use. Take it from me, the free health benefits they get are better than those most people in Yonkers get, and after working a certain number of years they are eligible for a pension together with those health benefits free for life!

As the song brothers Ira and George Gershwin composed for the the Broadway musical film ‘A Damsel in Distress’ in 1937 says, it’s ‘Nice Work if You Can Get It!’

Some proposed numbers. The salary for the Mayor will increase 46% to \$228,500. He will get over \$72,000 in retroactive pay. The City Council President’s pay will increase 30%, 38% increase for City Councilpersons, 40% increase for Majority and Minority Leaders and Committee Chairs will receive an additional \$15,000 for their work. Pretty much everybody gets an increase over their base pay.

The Mayor’s retroactive pay seemed a bit odd as taxpayers get nothing for this. A City spokeswoman told my colleague Journal News Tax Watch columnist David McKay Wilson that the Mayor’s retroactive pay is in line with the 1 time checks issued to union members when a contract is settled. She said the State Legislature approved retroactive raises for the Governor and Lt. Governor in 2016.

We need to learn in Yonkers that just because some other party in government does something like retroactive raises doesn’t mean Yonkers has to do it to. It’s like the \$15,000 stipend given to the School Board President because other districts give their School Board Presidents \$15,000, a move by the Board of Education Mayor Spano agreed with me was wrong. This was the first time in the history of the Yonkers Board of Education that a trustee got paid for his work, hundreds of people volunteering without pay to do the job since the district was created. Like the \$15,000 and retroactive pay, you have to watch these things cause they can spread like wildfires!

Councilman John Rubbo told my colleague Wilson that the Council ‘delayed approving Raises to avoid disruption of negotiations with municipal unions before settling contracts.’ One has nothing to do with the other. If Yonkers can’t it’s act together settling union contracts before the old ones expire, then maybe it needs someone fresh to negotiate contracts and a new way of thinking taking the election cycle out of the process.

The Mayor will hold a public hearing on the raises sometime after the first of the year. If you don’t show up and object to the raises and what is occurring here or at least call the Mayor’s office at 914-377-6300 to voice your concerns, you have only yourself to blame for the games they play in the City of Gracious Living!

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Westchester Board of Legislators Passes, Latimer Signs 2024 Budget: No Tax Levy Increase for Fifth Straight Year; 14-2 BOL Vote

By Dan Murphy

On Dec. 11, the Westchester County Board of Legislators passed the 2024 Westchester County Budget. The \$ 2.7 billion budget includes additions approved by the Budget & Appropriations Committee. It reflects key priorities and investments in advocacy for youth, domestic violence, mental health, support for community centers and services, arts and culture, and environmental sustainability to make Westchester more affordable, livable, and safer.

BOL Chairman Vedat Gashi said, "As a Westchester resident with a family, I recognize that each dollar counts. As Chairman of the County Board of Legislators, I am proud that we have maintained our commitment to keeping the tax burden in mind while making great strides to achieve an upgraded Bond Rating to AAA. We have done this by carefully managing resources to revive medium-term growth for County residents while improving public safety, transforming our mental health care system, protecting our environment, and investing in our children's future."

The Operating Budget allocates \$8.8 million to the many non-profits that provide essential services for Westchester County residents. Areas of focus reflect the priorities of the Budget and Appropriations Committee and include over \$4 million for community centers and community-based services, \$550,000 for cultural organizations, over \$2.5 million for youth programming and services, \$620,500 for organizations combatting food insecurity, and over \$1 million for domestic violence.

The 2023 County budget will end shortly with:

- No Borrowing for Tax Certioraris
- No Borrowing for Pensions
- No Use of Fund Balance
- No Borrowing for Cash Flow
- The 2024 budget has No Borrowing or One-Shots and No Increase in Property Tax Levy, for the fifth straight year.

The budget signing comes on the heels of Westchester County being recognized by Fitch Ratings with a prestigious "AAA" credit rating. The "AAA" credit rating is the highest designation possible and underscores the County's commitment to maintaining a solid financial foundation. This recognition not only reflects the County's current financial standing but also positions it favorably for future economic challenges and opportunities. The "AAA" credit rating is expected to have a positive impact on Westchester County's ability to secure favorable interest rates when issuing bonds, ultimately benefiting taxpayers and supporting continued investment in critical infrastructure and community initiatives.

Majority Leader José Alvarado said, "Bringing our county budget together is a year-long process. It takes strong governance, fiscal prudence, and as Majority Leader, it takes bringing our Board together so we can align on priorities that will best serve the people of Westchester in both the near term and in a sustainable way."

The vote on the budget was 14-2, with Legislators Damon Maher and Catherine Parker voting no.

CORPORATION NOTICE CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 5:25pm, Mayor's Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

A LOCAL LAW IN REGARD TO THE COMPENSATION OF THE CITY COUNCIL AND THE CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT.

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

MIKE SPANO, Mayor
Date: December 13, 2023

Yonkers Family YMCA Names Vincent Taliaferro Interim President-CEO



Vincent Taliaferro

The Yonkers Family YMCA is pleased to announce that, starting December 9, 2023, Vincent Taliaferro will assume the role of Interim President and CEO. With a rich background in human services spanning three decades, Vincent brings a wealth of experience in nonprofit operations, youth development, and substance abuse prevention.

Having dedicated over ten years to the Yonkers Family YMCA, Vincent previously served as the Senior Operations Director. In this capacity, he played a pivotal role in overseeing significant facility improvements, including the renovation of the kitchen following a fire that impacted meal and dining programs. Additionally, Vincent spearheaded the construction of a state-of-the-art resident bathroom project.

Vincent's contributions extend beyond infrastructure enhancements. Notably, he played a key role in establishing a team that secured funding from the State of New York for Yonkers' only youth Clubhouse program. Moreover, Vincent was instrumental in launching the Reach & Rise Mentoring Program, benefiting approximately 20,000 children, youth, and young adults since October 2013.

In his tenure as Operations Director, Vincent prioritized the professional development of staff through mandatory training, fostering a robust organizational culture. This commitment positively influenced the YMCA's service delivery to its members and the community.

Vincent's lifelong dedication to serving marginalized communities is evident in his focus on issues such as homelessness, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, incarceration, prisoner re-entry, and gang intervention. Prior to his role at the YMCA, Vincent held positions as Program Director at Volunteers of America, overseeing one of the largest homeless men's shelters in New York City, and as a Program Director at Casa de Los Vecinos, a Community-Based Mental Health agency. Additionally, he served as the Executive Director of the Youth Shelter Program of Westchester in Mt. Vernon, New York.

Vincent Taliaferro holds a Master's Degree in Human Services from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and is a licensed New York State Credential Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Counselor (CASAC).

We are thrilled to have him in this role and leading this organization.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

INDEPENDENT REDISTRICTING COMMISSION BACK TO WORK

Tuesday afternoon, right before press time the New York Court of Appeals ordered the Independent Redistricting Commission back to work to redraw its Congressional map to return control of the states 26 Congressional districts to the New York State Legislature. The new map must be completed by February 28 of next year. The court said the neutral lines imposed for last years election were a temporary fix.

Though Democrats liked the decision, how fair is it to someone who wants to run for Congress and with legal battles won't know the district lines for months. Like County Executive George Latimer who was going to battle Congressman Jamaal Bowman based on the current lines. Will a set of approved Congressional lines be in place far enough in advance to complete all that is necessary for the Congressional primaries next year (I.e petitions) allowing time for candidates to campaign and debate the issues?

Another fine mess!

BRIEFS:

My condolences to the Spano family on the loss of matriarch Josephine Spano. What a nice lady! I have known the Spano family since they sold dry ice out of a vending machine on Riverdale Ave next to their garage many moons ago. Years ago Josephine and I met by chance at the doctors offices on North Broadway. All I could think of was with 16 kids how much time she must spend in those offices! Several years ago I ran into her at WESTCHESTER County Airport heading to Florida as I was. All I could think of was with such a large family she truly deserved a nice vacation. May her memory serve as a source of inspiration for her family and all Yonkersites!

With all the antisemitism in this country today, so happy to see that Yonkers has increased the number of menorah lightings, a new one this year at DPW headquarters on Nepperhan Avenue. Kudos to Chabad at Greystone Jewish Center and Rabbi Hurwitz for providing the guidance and inspiration for so many of them.

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisyonkers@aol.com, or friend him on Facebook Eric Schoen...just look for him in the picture with Joan Rivers!

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On This Day in Yonkers History...



The Yonkers Health Center, one of the first comprehensive full service municipal clinic and research facilities in the country. Now it is used for City of Yonkes offices

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

Monday, December 18th

1930: After the suggestion was made at the Crestwood Citizens Association's November meeting that Crestwood become an independent village and town, the Association took the first step to secede from Yonkers. President Walter Addicks appointed a committee to study the proposal, selecting former Association president Alfred Entenman to lead the investigation of the "desirability of secession" from Yonkers.

1942: Yonkers gas stations reported a run on their supplies; several stations ran dry before noon and closed. Because the Office of Price Administrations drastically cut the sale of gas to consumers, effective at 12 pm, only certain categories of customers could buy gas.

Tuesday, December 19th

1940: Yonkers Police Chief Kruppenbacher admitted parking violators were not ticketed by the Habirshaw Cable and Wire Corporation plant on Point Street. Although an ordinance prohibited overnight parking, the world situation led officials to ignore it. Since the plant operated three shifts around the clock producing defense orders, its workers were given "special privileges" in recognition of their needed work. The Chief added egregious violations, such as "blocking driveways and fire hydrants" were ticketed.

1949: For the first time in twenty-five years, tea was served at the Medical and Dental Service Auxiliary of the National Hebrew Orphan Home meeting. Why the switch from coffee? Because of its skyrocketing price!

Wednesday, December 20th

1946: The board of the Yonkers Chapter of the American Red Cross passed a resolution to resign "for the good of the service of the American Red Cross." It happened in an extremely contentious two-hour meeting in its Health Center office, attended by three members of National Red Cross staff. R. Purvis, North Atlantic Regional Manager appointed Maria Ryan, paid Executive Secretary, to conduct the chapter affairs on a temporary basis, until he selected a steering committee to run the branch.

1965: Nine children and three adults were killed in a fire that swept through the Jewish Community Center, the most tragic fire in Yonkers history.

Thursday, December 21st

1901: Yonkers police raided an alleged pool room in the Manhattan Hotel at 7 Warburton Avenue, arresting hotel owner Edward Stack. Eight of the men claimed to be NY Police Officers. Yonkers Police Captain Woodruff assembled a force of thirty men at the station house, marched to the hotel, and then surrounded it. Other YPD officers were making racing bets inside to gather evidence.

1915: Prospects of a "wider social life" in Yonkers... and in the City Jail... opened. A man, who was in jail because of alimony nonpayment, announced plans to start an "Alimony Club," to include all men imprisoned on the charge. He planned to "petition the court to have a section of the jail "detailed and furnished especially for them."

continued on pg 7-

DOMINICAN CULTURAL ASSOCIATION OF YONKERS, INC.
TOY GIVEAWAY EVENT
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17, 2023
2:00 pm - 5:00pm
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CITY OF YONKERS
MAYOR MIKE SPANO
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION
YONKERS PARKS
E.J. MURRAY MEMORIAL SKATING CENTER
348 TUCKAHOE ROAD • YONKERS, NY 10710 • (914) 377-6469
Winter Ice Festival
Sunday, December 17, 2023 from Noon to 3 PM
EVENT INCLUDES:
• Ice Show featuring the Learn to Skate Program including Freestyle Numbers and Soloists
• Public Ice Skating Following the Show
• Yonkers Idols Live
• Santa & Mrs. Claus
• Holiday Storytime with Swizzle the Rink Mascot
• Rinkside Cafe Treats for purchase
• Music, Face Painting, Balloon Artist, Entertainment & more...
FREE ADMISSION
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF \$7.00 SKATE RENTAL
TO THOSE WHO NEED TO RENT SKATES

Town of Riverhead Surplus Real Estate Auction
ONLINE ONLY EVENT
Property Address:
2211 Home II Ave., Riverhead, NY 11901
Online Auction Closing Begins:
Wednesday, December 27th, 2023, 10:00 AM
** Auction Reserved **
To participate in this online only auction, please visit our website and complete the "Online Bidding Registration Process". Bidding Period: Dec 27th - 29th, 2023, 9AM
For complete sale details:
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PUBLIC NOTICE

GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 66 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS KNOWN AS "NOISE" RELATING TO PROHIBITED NOISES

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Yonkers has adopted the abovementioned legislation that amends Chapter 66 of the Code of the City of Yonkers entitled "Noise" is hereby amended, in part, by amending Subsection A of 66-4 entitled "Enumeration of prohibited noises" to raise the decibel levels for certain noise violations.

The penalties for violation of this ordinance are as follows:

§ 66-24 Penalties for offenses.
Any violation of any provision of this chapter or violation of a lawful abatement order shall constitute a Class II offense.

The complete text of the ordinance is on file and may be examined at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 40 S. Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701.

Dated: December 4, 2023
Vincent Spano, City Clerk

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) # 231211_LA_
Landscape Architecture Design Services to Implement Environmental Justice Measures**

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers ("MHACY") is soliciting proposals from qualified landscape architecture firms for final design and construction documents to implement portions of a recently-completed Green Infrastructure Plan at various sites as specified in this Request for Proposal ("RFP").

Proposals will be accepted on a continual basis for a period of 30 calendar days. Proposals may be sent to the following: procurement@mhacy.org, cc km y be sent to the following: procurement@mhacy.org, cc kmagoolaghan@mulfordcorporation.com--Subject Line: MHACY RFP#231211_LA_

Proposals must be submitted no later than 5:00 PM (EST) on January 11, 2024. Awardees will be interviewed and selected no later than January 31, 2024. Questions regarding this RFP should be directed to procurement@mhacy.org, cc kmagoolaghan@mulfordcorporation.com.

MHACY is an equal opportunity employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability or family status.

MHACY solicits and encourages the participation of minorities and small businesses in procurement. Contact, related to this procurement, with members of the Authority's Board of Commissioners or the Authority's officers and/or employees other than the contact person shown below, during the procurement process could result in disqualification of a proposal.

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

Wilson Kimball President & CEO Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers-1511 Central Park Avenue Yonkers, NY 10710

**YONKERS POLICE DEPARTMENT
NOTICE OF ABANDONED VEHICLE**

I, Christopher Sapienza, Commissioner of the Yonkers Police Department, do hereby issue the following notice pursuant to Sections 109-144 and 109-147 of the Code of the City of Yonkers: A 2017 Honda Civic, bearing Connecticut license plate BE37471 (and identified by VIN # 2HGFC2F59HH571480) has been lawfully impounded since 05/18/23 and to this date no owner has come forward to claim any interest in this vehicle. Any persons having a legal interest in this vehicle may seek recovery of said vehicle by contacting Lt. Gregory Forshey no later than 05/12/23. If such person has a legal right to the vehicle, they shall be responsible for all costs incurred by the City to remove and store said vehicle and for the cost to publish any notice. If this vehicle is not claimed by 01/12/24, the vehicle shall be deemed abandoned and title shall vest with the City on 01/12/24, (20 business days from the date of publication).

**CORPORATION NOTICE
CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 5:15pm, Mayor's Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 58 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS ENTITLED 'HOUSING AND BUILDING MAINTENANCE CODE' IN RELATION TO PERMITS AND THE INSPECTION OF BOILERS.

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

MIKE SPANO Mayor Date: December 13, 2023

**CORPORATION NOTICE
CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 at 5:35pm, Mayor's Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 3-3 OF THE CITY CHARTER IN REGARDS TO THE COMPENSATION OF THE MAYOR.

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

MIKE SPANO, Mayor--Date: December 13, 202

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company TM Studio Ink LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 08/18/2023 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 process to : 5 Palisade Avenue Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date.

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company 2023 Holdings LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 08/21/2023 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 process to : 5 Palisade Avenue Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date.

Notice of formation of D & E Guest Reality Management, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/15/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, D & E Guest Reality Management LLC, 79-81 Main Street, P.O. Box 1100, Yonkers, NY 10702. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of 66 Meserole, LLC., Articles of organization filed with the NY Secretary of State (NYSS) on 11/28/2023. Office location: Westchester County. NYSS is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail a copy of process to: 11 Bon Air Ave, New Rochelle, NY 10804. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Formation of TAQUERIA MARQUITO, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/8/2023 with formation date of 1/1/2024. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Lundy, Beldecos & Milby, P.C., 450 N. Narberth Ave., Ste. 200, Narberth, PA 19072. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Formation of EVERYBODY EATS FOOD GROUP, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/8/2023 with formation date of 1/1/2024. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Lundy, Beldecos & Milby, P.C., 450 N. Narberth Ave., Ste. 200, Narberth, PA 19072. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of 326 PROSPECT AVE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 03/24/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Brian Caldwell at 130 Franklin Avenue, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Formation of 25 COUNTY ROUTE 62 LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/6/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The principal business loc. and address SSNY shall mail process to is Floann and Raymond Landeck, 79 Pembroke Dr., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of [THE NAVIE THERAPY GROUP L.L.C], LLC filed with SSNY on [08/29/23. Office: [WESTCHESTER] County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to LLC: [200 Bloomingdale Road, Suite 1A, White Plains, NY 10605]. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Jaylee's Beauty Lounge, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/29/23. 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, 55 Cole Street, Ste. 101, Yonkers, NY, 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Classifieds

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City Council, Pay Raises, Continued from pg 1-

"Since first elected, I have refused a city car because I don't believe taxpayers should be paying for my ride. Many politicians have forgotten that they are public servants which means serving the public not themselves. When you run for political office, everyone knows what the salary is. If the pay scale is not satisfactory just don't run," stated Merante.

On a separate vote for the Mayor's salary increase, Williams said, "The office of Mayor has not received a pay increase in 20 years. It's important to properly compensate the mayor of the third largest city.

Merante voted no, explaining, "I will not be supporting this, if the retro amount was not included I would support it. The mayor's job is a tough job – it is deserving of a pay raise—it's a thankless job.

Pineda-Issac said she was struggling with the retro pay part of the item, but voted for it, adding, "I believe that the salary is deserved for the Mayor. It's an overtime job with countless hours."

Council President Collins-Bellamy said, "It has been 20 years since the office of Mayor received an increase, when George W. Bush was President. It's not about the person, its about the position. The Mayor works 24-7 for the City. The retro has been included in the budget since May. I will be supporting this."

Josephine Spano, continued from pg 1-

Pets with Santa Photos
AT THE
YONKERS ANIMAL SHELTER



\$10 PER PHOTO IN A HOLIDAY FRAME
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 16TH & SUNDAY, DECEMBER 17TH
11:00 AM TO 3:00 PM
1000 RIDGE HILL BOULEVARD • YONKERS, NY 10710
FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL 914.377.6730



Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

Friday, December 22nd

1894: The St. Andrew's Golf Club of Yonkers-on-the-Hudson, joined with four other golf clubs to form the Amateur Golf Association of the United States. This name soon would be changed to US Golf Association.

1922: Although Yonkers Republican insurgents objected strenuously, going so far as to travel to Washington to lobby against the appointment, President Warren Harding nominated former District Attorney and Yonkers Corporation Counsel Francis Winslow of Alta Avenue to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

Saturday, December 23rd

1901: More than 240 prisoners appeared before Judge Kellogg after having been arrested two days earlier in a raid of Manhattan Hotel poolroom on Warburton Avenue. The courtroom was filled with spectators as eight NYC police officers were swept up in the raid. The NYC officers arrested in the sweep, however, did not give their own names; they claimed Yonkers' residences and lied about their occupations. As soon as these New York policemen were released on bail, they hightailed it to the Bronx border. Several of the court spectators, however, were detectives from NY Police Headquarters. Not only did they recognize several of the men, they notified New York Police Department superiors who the men really were!

1946: North Atlantic Red Cross official Judson Rees hinted a Red Cross Steering Committee would be appointed right after Christmas. Rees was in Yonkers as he had a working knowledge of the Yonkers board, having attended chapter board meetings before the resignations.

Board member Morris Goldner later told The Herald Statesman he had not resigned, saying a board of directors "can't be discharged by resolution... resignation must come as voluntary." Both Goldner and George Yanosik had abstained from voting on the resignation resolution at the meeting; Luke Onorato voted No. He added the seven absent board members couldn't be forced to resign.

Sunday, December 24th:

1946: Secretary of the Navy James Forrestal posthumously awarded Lieutenant Darwin Day, USNR, the Distinguished Flying Cross. Lt. Day, killed in a plane crash the previous July, received the recognition for heroism and extraordinary achievement in aerial flight. While piloting a PBY Blackcat over enemy-held waters of the Southwest Pacific, he rescued ten survivors of the USS Cooper and landed them in friendly territory.

Day grew up on Elliott Avenue, and married to Grace Stevenson, daughter of Rev. Harry Stevenson, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church. His mother Lily Day was a bacteriologist in the Yonkers Bureau of Laboratories.

1959: At the request of President Eisenhower, the American Flag at Philipse Manor Hall was lowered to half-mast in tribute to the passing of America's last surviving Civil War veteran, Confederate soldier Walter Williams who died at the age of 117. The President asked all flags be lowered to honor all members of the "Blue and Gray" until Williams was buried a few days later.

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.

dedication, whether it was sharing a hug or a special private moment. She is survived by her children, Senator Nicholas Spano (Linda), John (Evelyn), Maria Elena, Eleanore (John Kolmer), Leonard (Christine), Joanne (Vincent Finnegan), Rosemarie (Christopher Gannon), Camille (John Zajac), Mayor Michael Spano (Mary), Victoria (Thomas Smith), Anthony (Eva), Dolores (Richard Wilson), Loretta (Luis Eleutice), Gerard (Karly), Joseph (Rosalie), and City Clerk Vincent Spano (Jaime).

Her legacy carries on in her 42 grandchildren and 28 great-grandchildren. When asked what they'll remember most, her children said her gift of inner strength, her ability to carry a family through a crisis, and her hospitality in welcoming everyone into her home. Her gift of generosity began as a young mom when she served as the President of the PTA at Saint Peter's School and Mount Carmel School, member of the St. Ann Society, head of the lunch program at Sacred Heart, supporter of special needs children, and a volunteer for many charitable causes.

A keeper of traditions, whether it be summers by the bay in Mastic Beach with the whole family, a weekend away with her girls, an afternoon of bingo, Easter morning with baskets for each of her grown-up children, a talk over a cup of tea or a glass of red wine, she always put others first. As a young girl, Maria Elena may have said it best when she wrote, "Thank you, Mom, for always being there and being you. If I had a chance to pick my mom, I would have picked you." To her children, Josephine will forever be their guiding light, their cherished friend, and their angel.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said, "Our beloved mother, Josephine Spano, went to be with the Lord this morning. She is the strongest woman I have ever known. She always made each of her 16 children feel loved, valued and cherished. We all just wanted to make her so proud.

She inspired us. She educated us. She dedicated her life to us. For that, we are eternally grateful. She was the matriarch of our family, placing her foundation in faith. St. Gerard, the patron saint of childbirth, was whom she turned to for prayer.

Notably, he said, "Who except God can give you peace?" You are at peace now, Mom. What gives me comfort is you now are reunited with dad – forever our guardian angels. We will always strive to make you proud and keep you in our heart always."

Latimer for Congress continued from pg 1-

at the city and county level. But how many times he's already stepped in it--in just a single week--raises questions about whether he's ready for a high-profile primary like this," said one leader in the NY Working Families Party, who has already endorsed Bowman's reelection.

Latimer shook off the critiques and said, "I have not heard any of this from the people in the district--the people of Westchester who know me and see me in their communities. "I want to offer progressive policies with results -but also to work across the aisle and respect the other side. We don't have to vilify each other. Its how you choose to do your job. That is what I am hearing from my democratic friends in the 16th District." What this comes down to is who can be effective in congress for the people. Let the people make their own choice-

Latimer challenged the notion that Bowman, a sitting two-term incumbent Congressman, should not be challenged. "Four years ago he made the decision to run against Eliot Engel, a sitting Congressman. The people were given a choice then, and to say they can't have a choice now is divisive.

Latimer also pushed back against the belief by some that he cannot or should not run against an incumbent, black member of Congress. "I'm not black, but I have a record of opening doors for black leadership. I supported Loiz Bronz for Chair of the County Board, and I supported Andrea Stewart-Cousins for State Senate when she first ran. I also picked Ken Jenkins to be my Deputy County Executive."

Some in the media called Latimer's congressional campaign an attempted "Crucifixion" of Bowman. "As a Catholic, I find it outrageous to use the word Crucifixion about a political campaign. Nobody is being forced to support Latimer and people can make their own decision if they endorse him or me. A lot of Westchester democrats have worked with me for years and I am in most of the Westchester towns and cities in the district 5-10 times a month."

"I plan on campaigning everywhere. I'm not writing off anything and I cede nothing. I represented Yonkers in the State Senate for four years. The question that voters need to ask is who will accomplish more in Congress?" Latimer recently visited Israel and received a letter from 26 Westchester Rabbis urging him to challenge Bowman. Latimer said that support from the Jewish community is only one part of his coalition. "The idea that I'm someone's puppet is nonsense. I have never been that over my career in public service."

When asked about support for his campaign coming from AIPAC, (American Israel Public Affairs Committee), Latimer pointed out that NY members of Congress, including Rep. Hakeem Jeffries, Gregory Meeks and Grace Meng have all received support from AIPAC. "The majority of my fundraising and support will come from Westchester. His money will come from outside Westchester, from a nationwide network."

Why is the Latimer-Bowman contest the talk of the town in Westchester political circles? "Because they are trying to create a narrative that isn't credible, and they are afraid that someone from "The Squad" might lose a primary. Maybe I'm the guy with the grass roots support from Westchester democrats. He makes great speeches, but what has he done to represent his community? Let us both run on our records."

One more political fact about George Latimer—He hasn't lost an election since 1987. from the Rye City Council -to the Westchester County Board of Legislators-to the NYS Assembly-NYS Senate and two terms as County Executive.

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Yonkers Downtown BID Winter Market Features Free Ice Skating, Live Entertainment & Vendors



Yonkers Downtown Waterfront Business Improvement District is inviting everyone to skate (for free!) and shop at the 3rd Annual Winter Market hosted in Downtown Yonkers. Perfectly timed to ring in the holiday season, this festive, one-day special market is taking place on Saturday, December 16th from 12pm to 5pm. This fun-filled event is perfect for the whole family, with an ice-skating rink, family photo-ops, food and local artisan vendors, and festive live entertainment by Philadelphia Freedom: A Tribute to Elton John.

The heart of the Winter Market is the wide variety of 20+ local artisan vendors. Gifts for anyone and everyone can be found among the artwork, jewelry, fashion, crafts, baked goods and more.

The holiday market has FREE entry and will take place indoors at 25 Warburton Ave, Yonkers NY 10701 and outdoors by the Van Der Donck **Park**.

Yonkers DPW Hosts Menorah Lighting



L-R-Judge Mary Anne Scattaretico-Naber Naber, Mayor Mike Spano, Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz DPW Commissioner Tom Meier, State Senator Shelley Mayer



Mayor Mike Spano lights the Menorah

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, Department of Public Works Commissioner Thomas G. Meier and Teamsters Local 456 will celebrate the holidays with residents with a Menorah Lighting on Dec. 12.

The DPW also held a Selfie & Sip, with Santa, where visitors enjoyed holiday lights and decorations, free hot cocoa, candy and the opportunity take their own photo with Santa in his "workshop."

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