

Yonkers Rising

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Friday December 22-29, 2023

Criticism & Hate Against Council President Collins-Bellamy Unwarranted & Unacceptable



Yonkers City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy

By Dan Murphy

Yonkers City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy is not your typical politician. In fact, I don't find her to be a politician at all. She is a public servant, who performs the duties of her office without seeking credit, or applause from the voters.

Over the past two years, I have watched Council President Collins-Bellamy preside over council meetings in a professional manner, commenting when she deems it important, but not having to chime in on every item on the agenda.

I was outraged and disappointed when I heard Collins-Bellamy say that her office had received phone calls that cursed her decision to support pay raises for the council and mayor by including the N-Word.

For someone to take the time, during the holiday season to make such a horrendous comment is an insult to the thousands of Yonkers voters who elected Collins-Bellamy, and to those who have admired the way in which she has conducted the business of the city of Yonkers.

At the last council meeting, former Council President Mike Khader commented in opposition to the pay raises. But he added, "Council President Bellamy, you promised to adhere to transparency and ethics in government, a stark contrast between rhetoric and reality. You have fallen short of that commitment. Your legacy is an extension of term limits and a pay raise tone deaf to the concerns -self enrichment."

Many people in attendance thought that Khader's comments were ill advised. Perhaps this was the beginning of a rematch between Khader and Collins-Bellamy. While Khader criticized Collins-Bellamy's record, we disagree.

Over the past two years, the Council President has worked as a team with

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Charter School Test Scores Top Yonkers Public Schools Results

NYSED STATE ASSESSMENT RESULTS 2023 SCHOOL YEAR GRADES 3-8

	CSEE	YPS	NYC
ELA3	58	39	48
ELA4	46	42	53
ELA5	59	39	50
ELA6	80	35	48
ELA 7	78	40	52
ELA8	72	48	60
MATH3	59	44	55
MATH4	44	44	52
MATH5	55	34	51
MATH6	81	38	46

By Dan Murphy

State test scores for elementary students released by the State Department of Education show that student at the Yonkers Charter School for Education Excellence, CSEE, significantly outperformed Yonkers Public Schools students.

CSEE students had the highest percentage of students meeting the standard for the ELA exam in 6th grade at 80%, compared to 35% for YPS, and in 7th grade, with 78% of CSEE students meeting the standard, compared to 40% for YPS.

On the Math exam, 81% of CSEE 6th graders met the standard, compared to 38% for YPS students. NYC students test results also outperformed YPS students.

Dr. Eduardo LaGuerre, Founder of CSEE and Board Chairman, said "Every year since we have opened we have always outperformed YPS students, at half the cost. It's about loving kids and being able to work with parents, and having a staff that is committed. It takes a health body and healthy mind and people that are committed to children.

"All of our Charter School high school students have been accepted to college, with \$8 Million in scholarships. We retain our teachers and staff, they stay with us not because of the money but because of our learning environment. We have a loving, nurturing and supportive school, and these test results show it."

Susan Cacace Retires From Bench to Run for Westchester District Attorney



Susan Cacace

By Dan Murphy

Former County Court Judge Susan Cacace recently stepped down from the bench to announce her candidacy for Westchester County District Attorney. The current DA, Mimi Rocah, announced that she will not be running for reelection next year (2024).

Cacace made her announcement before 100 supporters in front of the County Courthouse. "From protecting the most vulnerable in our society from domestic violence and child and elder abuse, to holding our government officials to the highest standards, to eliminating political corruption on all levels, to prosecuting the most heinous of crimes, sex crimes and homicides, every case will be given the attention it requires under my leadership and at the capable hands of the outstanding people who I will bring to serve in the Westchester DA's office," Cacace said.

Cacace has worked for over 30 years as a prosecutor, defense attorney, and judge in Westchester, with nearly 15 years serving in the Westchester DA's office and nearly 20 years serving as a Westchester County Court Judge. She resigned from that position, as the currently longest serving County Court Judge earlier this month to dedicate herself entirely to this endeavor. The Democratic Primary will be on June 25th, 2024.

While Cacace has become the front-runner in the Democratic Primary to replace Rocah, four other democrats have nounced their campaigns for DA. They are:

Adeel Mirza, a former prosecutor in the Westchester DA's office
William Wagstaff a civil rights attorney,

Sheralyn Pulver Goodman who works in the Westchester Independent Office of Assigned Counsel, and

David Szuchman, a former Manhattan ADA who now works for Paypal.

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Ken Jenkins at The Center of the Political Universe in New York State



Westchester Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, also Chair of the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission, IRC

By Dan Murphy

A recent court decision ordered that a new set of congressional lines be drawn in New York State for the upcoming 2024 elections. In Westchester, the new lines will redraw the 16h and 17th Congressional districts. held by Rep. Jamaal Bowman (16) and Rep. Mike Lawler (17).

Westchester Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, in his other role as Chair of the NYS Independent Redistricting Commission, IRC, now sits as head of a body entrusted to come up with a new set of Congressional lines for New York State that is amenable to both democrats and republicans.

In 2014, New York voters passed a referendum in 2014 creating the IRC in the hopes of drawing fair, non-partisan congresssional boundaries. Since then, the IRC has been unable to come to an agreement agreeable to both parties. The IRC is made up of ten members of both parties; Republican Charles Nesbit is the co-chair of the IRC.

If the IRC is unable to come to an agreement, then the boundaries will be drawn by the democratic controlled state legislature. Two years ago, this scenario occurred. The IRC deadlocked, (without Jenkins), and democrats in the state legislature passed congressional lines that republican objected to as being unfair. The courts agreed and appointed a special master to draw the lines for the 2022 Congressional elections.

And in those 2022 Congressional elections, republican did quite well in New York State, winning 10 House seats, including 5 on Long Island and NYC, 5 upstate, and one in Westchester for Lawler. That number is now 9 with George

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Legendary “NYC Breakers” & London Reyes Host “Battle of the Boroughs” Yonkers Edition



Kanato, right, winner of the Breakers under 15; j.i.h.a.d winner of the Adult Breakers, top left; below-Mayor Mike Spano with Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano with members of the NYC Breakers



Long-time Yonkers resident and former candidate for Westchester County Legislator, London Reyes, is more than a family man and community advocate/activist. His passion and experience in organizing and being a positive force for change and achieving success began in High School when, as a member of the iconic breaking (breakdancing) crew, the New York City Breakers in the early 1980’s.

They were the 1st crew to dress, promote and predict that Breaking should and would become an Olympic Sport. This prediction has become a reality, and the world will, for the first time, see the art and sport that is Breaking presented at the 2024 Olympics in France.

On Dec. 16, at Montessori School 27 in Yonkers, a Breaking competition was held, with five members of, the legendary NYC Breakers joining forces to host the event and promote the launch the first Public School Breaking League in the United States, in the Yonkers Public Schools.

In attendance were NYC BREAKERS: B-Boy London, Kid Nice, Action, Icey Ice, Powerful Pex. Hosts: B-Boy London (NYC Breakers) and Danny Infamous (Xfenz Crew). Judges: Elmo (Street Masters), Whorah (Beast Coast) and Nemesis. DJ’s: Johnny Juice (Public Enemy & The Bronx Boys/TBB), King Uprock (Dynasty Rockers), and DJ Tanco NYC (Black Storm Music). SHOWCASES: Uprock, Popping, and Locking.

Mayor Mike Spano and Congressman Jamaal Bowman attended and enjoyed the show. Congrats to your winners Kanato & @bgirlnikkiv_ taking the kids 2v2 . Congrats to @j.i.h.a.d @cypherst8 @modd.squad20 taking the adults ! Both won a \$1000 first prize.

Assemblyman Nader Sayegh & Other State Legislators Urge State to Avoid Closure of 270 Agencies for Medicaid Patients



Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, left, with Bangla CDPAP Services CEO Abu Mahmood, whose seven offices in New York are targeted for closure.

More than 40,000 Elderly Medicaid Patients at risk

CDPAP New York United hosted a press conference at Health Aid in Yonkers on Tuesday, December 12 where New York legislators spoke to a room full of interested and concerned community members and in-home care providers to show their support for stopping the closure of an estimated 270 CDPAP (Consumer Directed Personal Assistance Program) agencies that provide home care services to disabled and elderly Medicaid participants. This December event follows a similar one held at N&J Homecare in Rego Park on October 11.

The New York Department of Health (NYDOH) plans to close an estimated 270 agencies that serve more than 40,000 New York residents. Small local minority agencies are being targeted for closure, and agencies serving specific cultural and diverse populations are scheduled to be cut as well, amounting to an estimated 60 percent of CDPAP home care agencies in New York.

Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, 90th Assembly District said, “This legislation before us would seriously impact in a negative way how we provide services for these elders and these disabled individuals. And, we know that the make-up of our community – as diversified as it is – requires agencies that have the ethnic and the knowledge and the awareness of the people we serve.” He continued saying that “We are at a point as a society where we focus on healthcare, and we focus on making sure that our loved ones have the ability to live a quality of life that surely allows them to stay at home.”

“When we reach out to allow more agencies that represent our ethnic fabric to really stay in business and really allow a workforce to address the needs, it’s a win-win for everyone involved,” Sayegh added.

Assemblyman Andrew Hevesi, 28th Assembly District, said, “I’m here today to support Nader’s bill which is particularly designed to fix a mistake that the State Legislature made in 2018. We were pushed by then-Governor Cuomo into a budget agreement that is bad for our seniors, bad for our disabled and bad for the home health aid groups that provide these services.”

“My understanding is the services provided by your agencies – these agencies – have been stellar, and that’s not why this issue came about. These groups – your groups – provide what I believe are preventive services, now I know most don’t think of it that way, but if your services are not provided, those people that you care for are going to the emergency room, and the emergency room costs exponentially more than the services you provide.”

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DA and Family of CJ Hackett Wanted Stiffer Sentence for His Death from Drunken Driver



CJ Hackett

In August of 2022, 16-year old CJ Hackett was riding a scooter on McLean Avenue in Yonkers, when he was struck by a car driven by Stephen Dolan. Dolan fled the scene, only to be found and arrested by Yonkers Police

Dolan pled guilty to 2nd degree vehicular manslaughter, leaving the scene of a fatal accident and driving while intoxicated, in exchange for an agreed up sentence of 1 1/2 years to 4 1/2 years in prison.

Hackett was a student at Stepinac High School about to start his junior year. His family wanted Dolan to receive the maximum sentence, but State Supreme Court Justice James McCarty explained that Dolan had no prior record.

Westchester County DA Mimi Rocah's office also did not agree with the sentence. "The Westchester County District Attorney's Office has remained committed to seeking justice for CJ Hackett and his family. We consistently recommended to the Court that the defendant receive the maximum sentence under the law of two and one-third to seven years in state prison for the vehicular manslaughter of the 16-year-old Stepinac High School student.

"While we are disappointed that the Court's promised sentence today will not reflect our recommendation, the defendant, Stephen Dolan, is going to prison. Our thoughts remain with the Hackett family and the Yonkers and Stepinac communities."

Council President, continued from pg 1-

her colleagues on the council and Mayor Mike Spano. This Council President does not grandstand, and try to take credit for every initiative.

In fact, Collins-Bellamy only responded to several comments from speakers, including Khader, about the job of Council President not being a part-time job in reality. Instead of engaging with the former Council President she defeated, she took the high road.

A review of Council President Khader's record of achievement during his one term is not very long, It was unprofessional and demeaning to his former office to attack the current Council President. He should have kept his comments to the item at hand, the salary increases, and left it at that.

This type of criticism of a sitting elected official of the third largest city in New York State is unusual. We have not seen this in our coverage over 20 years.

So let me take a moment to tell our readers what I have seen in the first two years of City Council President Collins-Bellamy. Professionalism, appearances at events around the city, a willingness to take the time to understand and explain the items before the council, and a no nonsense approach to presiding over the legislative body of Yonkers.

The people of Yonkers don't care how many photos you are in. They also don't care about what you are wearing (another undignified attack that we have read on social media).

They just want someone who they can trust will do the right thing. And they have put their trust in Collins-Bellamy, and not Khader, do to just that. And this reporter can attest that she has done that.

And all the while having to endure racist phone calls during the holidays. Don't let the bastards get you down, Council President.

Have a Merry and Joyus Christmas!

LEGAL NOTICE

The ordinance, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on November 28, 2023, and approved by the Mayor on December 12, 2023, 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 NO. 47- 2023

BOND ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, NEW YORK, AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF VARIOUS SETTLED CLAIMS, STATING THE ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST THEREOF IS \$10,000,000, APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT THEREFOR, INCLUDING AVAILABLE FUNDS OF THE CITY IN THE AMOUNT OF \$542,059.61 TO PAY A PORTION OF SAID APPROPRIATION AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OF SAID CITY IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$9,457,940.39 TO FINANCE THE BALANCE OF SAID APPROPRIATION.

The object or purpose for which bonds are authorized is the payment of settled claims in various legal actions instituted against the City.

The period of probable usefulness is between five (5) and fifteen (15) years and shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the New York Local Finance Law.

The amount of obligations to be issued is \$9,457,940.39. The City expects to pay the balance of the estimated total cost from District funds available therefor.

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

Dated: December 14, 2023

Yonkers, New York

Is Christmas Really Monday?



By Eric Wolf Schoen

When I pulled into the parking lot at Cross County Shopping Center on Tuesday to get my coffee at Panera and write this week's column, I saw many more cars than I would normally see on a Tuesday morning. This truly woke me up to the fact that Christmas is upon.

Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus and the elves are busy putting the finishing touches on all the presents he will deliver through the chimney on Christmas Eve to be ready when the children wake up yes, this coming Monday morning. Rudolph with his nose so bright is getting ready to lead the reindeer to take Santa on his trip to visit our homes. The baking has begun on the cookies, treats we will leave out for Santa and the reindeer to thank them for their yearly visit.

Tell me where did this year go? I guess it's true the older you get the faster time flies. It's seems like we just put our winter wardrobe away for the season. If you haven't taken those warm winter jackets and ear muffs back out of the closet by now, you are walking around shivering as you partake in the many wonderful winter activities and holiday celebrations the gracious city of Yonkers and quaint Westchester county have presented this month.

So much has happened in the year we will leave behind in a little more than a week. And we know a lot of what to expect in the new year. I will touch on some of the highlights, but please don't throw any snowballs at me if I forget something that tickled your fancy.

Yes, the Yonkers City Council did pass those massive salary increases several days after they were announced. Included in the raise package was retroactive pay for the Mayor. The way this occurred is no surprise to the vast majority of Yonkers residents use to a City Council that never fails to amaze us! Your last and only opportunity to express your feelings to the Mayor who will give thumbs up or down to the raises is Wednesday, January 3 at 5:35 p.m. at a Public Hearing at Yonkers City Hall. If you can't make it call the Mayor at 914-377-6300 by the January date to tell him how you feel.

Voters approved term limits for the Yonkers City Council and the Mayor and twice the Council has extended the limits doubling them from those voter approved. Will the Mayor or City Council appoint a Charter Revision Commission to examine this issue and put it on the ballot for voter review, or will they collectively not stir up the pot. Stay tuned!

Spring 2024 is when Congestion Pricing is scheduled to start in New York City, a toll for cars including those from Westchester who drive south of 60th Street in the Big Apple. The money will not go toward road improvements desperately needed but to mass transportation. Fewer people from the suburbs are coming into New York City since the pandemic. Expect even fewer when this ridiculous toll kicks in. Though the matter is pretty much set in stone, it's not to late to call your State Legislators and the Governor to put a stop to it!

A big question as we head from 2023 to 2024 is who will represent us in Congress come 2025. State courts have put the matter back in the hands of an Independent Redistricting Commission that will again attempt to draw legislative district lines for approval by the New York State Legislature.

Will we in Yonkers and Westchester have the fire alarm pulling, Congressionally censured Jamaal Bowman on our ballot in a primary with Westchester County Executive George Latimer? Will the district lines be redrawn to take Yonkers or Westchester or parts of both out of the district currently represented by Congressman Bowman. Bowman, who so early in his term of office voted against an infrastructure bill that had then House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visit the district and say she was upset with him! I'm afraid we will probably have to wait until late Spring for this issue to be settled.

While we are discussing things in Washington, D.C., 2024 is a Presidential Election Year. During 2023 we have learned everything we need to know about those running to lead our country, and in 2024 we, the people will make the decision. Though it looks like President Biden will compete against former President Trump, anything is possible in this great land of ours!

Flooding on Westchester roadways will continue to be a problem in 2024 as it was in 2023. Just this week the usual suspect roads like the Saw Mill and Bronx River parkways were closed due to heavy rains. Will anyone come up with a solution? Is there a solution?

Same thing goes for trucks too high entering roadways with bridges too low causing damage and traffic jams for miles. Everyone knows that the way to stop this is to put physical barriers up to prevent the trucks from entering the roadways, but New York State refuses to approve the solution.

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City Council Unanimously Approves Reappointment of Liam McLaughlin as Inspector General **Mayor Spano Nominates William Fitzpatrick as Yonkers New Fire Commissioner**



Liam McLaughlin

By Dan Murphy

The Yonkers City Council unanimously approved the reappointment of Liam McLaughlin as Yonkers Inspector General. McLaughlin, who served on the Yonkers City Council and as City Council President was reappointed to a term ending in 2029 after being renominated by Mayor Mike Spano to continue his service.

“I’m happy to support this reappointment of the Inspector

General said Councilman John Rubbo. Liam is a lifelong resident of the city and has been a dedicated public servant for many years. He takes the role of IG very seriously.”

Council Minority Leader Mike Breen said, “The council has received good, frank advice from him. He continues to help the city.”

Council Majority Leader Tasha Diaz said, “I think he (McLaughlin) is doing an awesome job. We can also call on him.”

Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Isaac said, “I have reached out to him on constituent concerns, and he has answered professionally and promptly.”

Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy said, “He has been an excellent IG. He takes his role seriously and issues opinions that are always fair and just.”

Jenkins, IRC, continued from pg 1-

and one in Westchester for Lawler. That number is now 9 with George Santos expelled.

Republicans were hoping to have the current lines in use for their 24’ reelection campaigns. What will the new boundaries proposed by the IRC look like in the 10 republican seats, at least 7 of which can flip back to democrat.

A path to a democratic majority in the House in 2024, runs through New York, as does a republican majority. This is the task before Jenkins and the IRC.

Westchester democrats and republicans we spoke to called it “a nearly impossible task.”

In today’s hyper-partisan political climate, “it is hard to get 5 democrats and 5 republicans to agree on what day it is. But I think Ken is someone who can seek consensus and compromise. The question will be if republicans are willing to meet him in the middle,” said one Westchester democrat.

Jenkins served as a County Legislator, and briefly as Chair of the BOL. He ran for County Executive on two occasions. County Executive George Latimer tapped Jenkins to serve as Deputy County Executive six years ago. During that time Jenkins has forged strong ties to democrats across Westchester County, and is widely seen as the front runner to become the next County Executive in 2025. County Executive George Latimer is term-limited from running for a third-term.

Independent voters are hoping that Jenkins can bring about the compromise that voters asked for in 2014 Good luck Ken and Happy New Year!

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Vincent E. Spano, City Clerk
City of Yonkers, New York

SPECIAL ORDINANCE NO.49-2023

BOND ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, NEW YORK AUTHORIZING FUNDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE SCHOOLS FACILITIES MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE BOARD OF EDUCATION, AS AMENDED; STATING THE ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST THEREOF IS \$30,000,000; APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT THEREFOR; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OF SAID CITY IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

The bonds are authorized to finance various capital projects included in the School Facilities Management Plan for the Board of Education, as amended.

The amount of obligations to be issued is not to exceed \$30,000,000.

The period of usefulness associated with the construction of improvements to various school buildings and the sites thereof, is thirty (30) years.

Pursuant to the provisions of Section 17 of the Special Local Finance and Budget Act of the City of Yonkers, constituting Chapters 488 and 489 of the Laws of 1976 of the State of New York (herein called the “Act”), the City is authorized and directed to include the pledge and agreement of the State of New York (herein called the “State”) contained in said Section 17 of the Act, in the ordinance, and the Act provides that upon payment for the bonds or notes by the original and all subsequent holders thereof the inclusion of such pledge and agreement shall be deemed conclusive evidence of valuable consideration received by the State and City for such pledge and agreement and of reliance upon such pledge and agreement by any holder and that any action by the State contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of such pledge and agreement shall be void.

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 14, 2023
Yonkers, New York

Yonkers Rising

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Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced William Fitzpatrick, left as his nominee for the City’s new Fire Commissioner.

Fitzpatrick returns to lead the Yonkers Fire Department (YFD) after 32 years of service with the Department. He retired as Deputy Chief, overseeing operations, in December 2011.

“William Fitzpatrick has the knowledge, management skills and compassion to lead our Yonkers Fire Department,” said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. “He’s a firefighter’s firefighter, who rose through the ranks during his career. This job is part of who he is.

“His father and three brothers retired from the Yonkers Fire Department and what better way to continue that legacy than returning as Commissioner.”

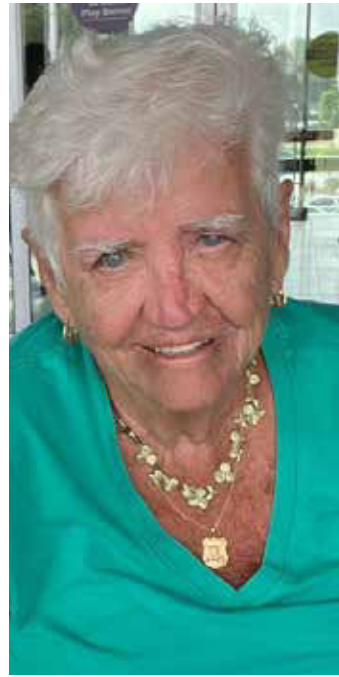
Fitzpatrick joined the Department in 1979 as a Firefighter assigned to Station 3. He was promoted to Lieutenant in 1988, serving with Tower Ladder 71. In 1991, he was promoted to Captain becoming Commander of Squad 1 (which later became Rescue 1). In 2001, he was elevated to Assistant Chief with a focus on training and operations. He was promoted to Deputy Chief of Operations in 2004 and remained in that position until his retirement in 2012.

“I’m looking forward to getting back in! I’m so impressed with how the Yonkers Fire Department has evolved in the 11 years since my retirement,” said Fitzpatrick. “Thank you to Mayor Mike Spano for this opportunity to rejoin the Department. I look forward to partnering with Administration, EMS and Yonkers Police Department to enhance everyone’s safety and protect the citizens of Yonkers.

William Fitzpatrick is a Yonkers native and graduate of Sacred Heart High School. His father retired as a Captain of the Yonkers Fire Department in 1978 and his three brothers retired as Assistant Chiefs.

Fitzpatrick replaces current Fire Commissioner Anthony Pagano who will retire effective December 31, 2023. Pagano first served as Fire Commissioner from 2002 to 2011 and returned in 2021. “Tony has brought his decades of experience to this role, becoming an exceptional Fire Commissioner,” said Mayor Spano. “We thank him for his service and dedication to the City of Yonkers and to our Fire Department. We wish him well in his retirement.”

Obituary: Theresa Olson



Theresa Olson

Theresa Ann Olson, affectionately known as “Terri,” gracefully departed from this world on December 9, 2023, at the vibrant age of 80 in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina. Born on July 29, 1943, in Yonkers, New York, she lived a life filled with laughter and love.

Terri dedicated 37 years of her life to the Edenwald Center in Pleasantville, New York, where she eventually earned the title of Director. Her career was truly a work of art.

Survived by her daughter and best friend, Kelly Chiarella, her son, Keith Olson, and her partner, Marie Fontes, Terri leaves behind a legacy that will be cherished forever. Her grandchildren, Tyler Olson, AJ Chiarella, Sean Olson, Nicky Chiarella and her daughter in law Liza will fondly remember her as the queen of fun and mischief. Her love, support and dedication to her grandsons was boundless.

In this grand performance called life, Terri was preceded in death by her loving husband, John Olson, and her six brothers and sisters. They’ve now reunited in the ultimate afterparty.

To celebrate Terri’s unforgettable journey, the family will be hosting intimate “Celebration of Life” parties that promise to be as lively as she was. Stay tuned for details on these joyous gatherings, where memories will be shared, laughter will be abundant, and tears will be replaced with smiles.

Terri Olson, a true maestro of life, will forever be remembered for her vivacious spirit, her zest for adventure, and her ability to bring sunshine into every room. As she takes her final bow, let us honor her legacy with love and laughter. Rest in peace, Terri. Your performance was truly one for the ages.

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SPCA Westchester Waives Adoption Fees for Animals in Care for 30 or More Days



adopt Bolton today

The SPCA announced today that now through December 31st all adoption fees will be waived for any dog or cat who has been patiently awaiting adoption for 30 or more days. "What better time to support the SPCA and save the lives of orphaned animals by gifting them with loving homes," says Shannon Laukhuf, Executive Director.

Shelters nationwide are currently experiencing a decrease in adoptions since the pandemic. Many highly adoptable dogs and cats are subsequently waiting longer to be adopted. Currently SPCA Westchester has more than 100 animals in their care who will make great additions to a family. Dogs and cats like Bubba, Trolly, Arrow and Bolton are just a few of the dogs and cats whose fees are waived this holiday season.

Adoption policies and procedures will remain the same during the SPCA's Home for the Holidays promotion, ensuring adopters and animals are properly matched. To learn more about this special event, visit spcawestchester.org or email info@spcawestchester.org for further details.

Link to view all of our adoptables:
<https://spcawestchester.org/adopt/animals-for-adoption>.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

It seems like every time we go to the grocery store prices have increased. Will this continue in 2024? Is there truly a reason for these increases or are manufacturers and the stores that sell us goods just taking advantage of consumers. Sadly many among us suffer.

We pray for Peace in the Middle East and an end to war and the tragic loss of lives. There are so many columnists more versed on this topic than yours truly so I will not compete. As I asked you to do, I put a menorah in the window of my apartment and a Happy Chanukah banner on the front door. To support the people of Israel I have purchased products made there as many of you have.

As you get ready for some well deserved time off this holiday season, let me recommend some films you may enjoy at the multiplex or via streaming services. Maestro starring Bradley Cooper is a biographical film that centers on the relationship between American composer Leonard Bernstein and his wife. Willie Wonka is back in WONKA, the story of a young chocolatier who manages to change the world one delectable bite at a time. The Holdovers is a comedy about a bad tempered history teacher forced to chaperone a handful of students during Christmas break. Napoleon, a film that depicts the rise and fall of French dictator Napoleon Bonaparte. All worthy of watching.

Yes Virginia, Target came to Yonkers this year!
 It's that time of year when we remember those killed in the fire at the Yonkers Jewish Community Center on December 20, 1965. Nine children and 3 adults killed. Largest number of lives lost in a Yonkers fire.

Please remember to throw a dollar in the Salvation Army Kettle as my dad did every time he saw a bell ringer ringing the bell. All year long and particularly at this time of the year, the Salvation Army helps those in need providing things you and I take for granted.

Thank you again this year for welcoming me into your homes each week for my take on what's going on in our planet. Kudos to Editor Dan Murphy and his assistant Bayan Baker for producing the Rising Media Group Newspapers providing you with news about you and your neighbors.

Merry Christmas. Happy Kwanzaa. Happy , Heathy New Year in a world of Peace!

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

LEGAL NOTICE

The ordinance, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on November 28, 2023, and approved by the Mayor on December 12, 2023, 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 NO.48- 2023

BOND ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, NEW YORK, AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF VARIOUS SETTLED CLAIMS RESULTING FROM LITIGATION COMMENCED AGAINST THE CITY AND THE YONKERS CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT PURSUANT TO THE NEW YORK CHILD VICTIMS ACT, STATING THE ESTIMATED TOTAL COST THEREOF IS \$2,000,000, APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT THEREFOR, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OF SAID CITY IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$2,000,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION.

The bonds are authorized to finance various settled claims resulting from litigation commenced against the City and the Yonkers City School District pursuant to the New York Child Victims Act.

The period of probable usefulness is between five (5) and fifteen (15) years and shall be determined in accordance with the provisions of the New York Local Finance Law.

The amount of obligations to be issued is \$2,000,000.

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

Dated: December 14, 2023 Yonkers, New York

On This Day in Yonkers History



Lower elevator house for the Park Hill elevator

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 25th

1887: St. Aloysius Boarding Academy for Boys was destroyed by fire. Opened in 1868 by the Sisters of Charity on the South Broadway property, St. Aloysius prospered right from the start as there was a need for a good school for pre-college boys. Among its students were notables such as John and Lionel Barrymore. A notice appeared in the Yonkers Statesman ten days later informing the public "the loss by the burning of St. Aloysius Academy will be considerable, and only partially covered by insurance." The school was no more. The property was used to build St. Joseph's Hospital.

1945: Yonkers learned Santa did not always dress in red! After reading about a woman who lost her purse with money for family's Christmas, Santa, former Board of Contract and Supply Secretary Samuel Aron not only opened his heart, he convinced friends to chip in for the needy. Wearing a business suit, Santa Aron presented the family with \$50, returning Christmas joy to a family that lost hope.

Tuesday, December 19th

1923: Because of the extreme conditions in the Hudson, Yonkers Ferry Company President Leo Schwartzstein suspended service until March. Heavy ice floes had damaged the hull of the tugboat FJ Purdy, sinking it off the City Pier. Fortunately, the crew escaped without injury.

1931: Common Council President John S. Davis broke the six-six tie on the long discussed and much-criticized ordinance authorizing Yonkers to operate the Park Hill elevator. Davis voted yes, and it became a city obligation.

Wednesday, December 27th

1917: The State Arsenal sent a representative to inventory all federal property in the old Armory on Waverly Street before they officially "abandoned" it. The captain in charge found 75 blue full-dress uniforms and many condemned olive drab uniforms in the old company drill shed. The Armory was being officially moved to North Broadway, under the command of Captain William McVicar.

1951: Sergeant Valentine Fonseca of Nepperhan Avenue finally arrived to spend Christmas holidays with his family. Along with 38 other Korean War veterans, Fonseca was delayed by bad weather and plane trouble. Motor trouble caused a two-day delay in Oregon; bad weather grounded them in Des Moines, where they spent Christmas Day in the airport. Engine trouble cancelled takeoff on the 26th. United Airlines picked up them the next morning; the group arrived at Newark Airport midday.

Thursday, December 28th

1905: The Board of Police Commissioners ordered a redistribution of transportation. The buggy used by the Police Captain was to be used by the night patrol mounted squad; the wagon used by the Detective Sergeant would be used as a patrol wagon. Several officers petitioned for new horse blankets, claiming the old ones were worn out.

1929: Although Mayor John Fogarty gave a \$1,000 raise to the Public Safety Commissioner and \$1,500 raises for the DPW Commissioner, Corporation Counsel and City Engineer in the 1930 Yonkers budget, he refused the raise the salary of the Mayor.

Friday, December 29th

1913: After a proposal by Hugh Thompson of North Broadway to honor the first baby born in Yonkers in 1914, other merchants joined with him to shower the baby with gifts!

1949: News that the State Harness Racing Commission authorized trotting races at the old Empire City Trace for the 1950 season was good news for the people of Yonkers. The track had been idle for several years because the flat racing meeting had been transferred to Long Island. The one drawback was that the name, "Empire City," still was owned by the former owners who moved the races.

continued on pg 7-

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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

LEGAL NOTICE

The ordinance, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on November 28, 2023, and approved by the Mayor on December 18, 2023, 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 NO.52-2023

BOND ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, NEW YORK AUTHORIZING FUNDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE CITY'S 2023-2024 CAPITAL BUDGET, AS AMENDED; STATING THE TOTAL ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST THEREOF IS \$82,981,816; APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT THEREFOR; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OF SAID CITY IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$82,981,816 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

The bonds are authorized to finance various capital projects included in the City's 2023-2024 Capital Budget, as amended.

The amount of obligations to be issued is \$82,981,816.

The periods of usefulness are various periods from 3 to 40 years. Pursuant to the provisions of Section 17 of the Special Local Finance and Budget Act of the City of Yonkers, constituting Chapters 488 and 489 of the Laws of 1976 of the State of New York (herein called the "Act"), the City is authorized and directed to include the pledge and agreement of the State of New York (herein called the "State") contained in said Section 17 of the Act, in the ordinance, and the Act provides that upon payment for the bonds or notes by the original and all subsequent holders thereof the inclusion of such pledge and agreement shall be deemed conclusive evidence of valuable consideration received by the State and City for such pledge and agreement and of reliance upon such pledge and agreement by any holder and that any action by the State contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of such pledge and agreement shall be void.

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 19, 2023

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 Realty 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 Realty Management LLC, 79-81 Main Street, P.O. Box 1100, Yonkers, NY 10702. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Cacace, Westchester DA, continued from pg 1-

Cacace is from Yonkers and now lives in Eastchester. Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier said, "I think she (Cacace) is the most qualified and most committed. She retired from the court to run for DA. She is born and raised in Westchester and is a long time public servant, as an Assistant District Attorney and a Judge. This type of experience will make her a great chief prosecutor for Westchester County."

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 Calimero II, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/4/2023. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Marie H. Durif-O'Dowd, 1632 First Avenue, Apartment 326, New York, NY 10028. Purpose: Any lawful act or 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.

Notice of formation of Say Say Mwah, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/31/2023. 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, 42 Linden Street, Apt 1L, Yonkers, New York 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Classifieds

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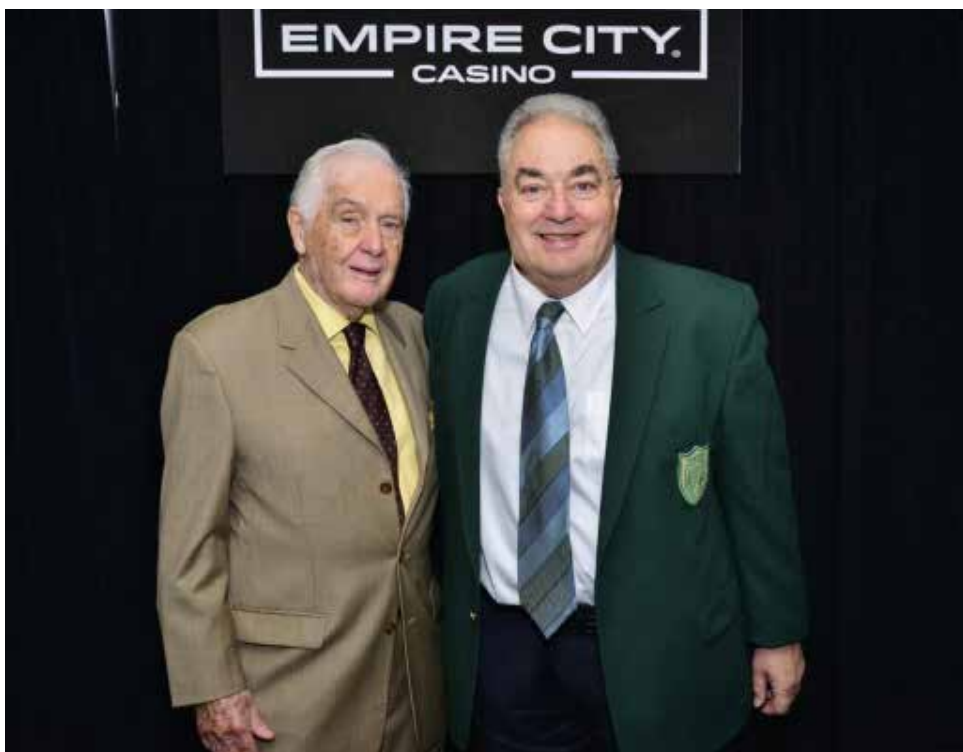
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Advertisement for Generac generator featuring a man standing next to a generator unit. Text: "It's not just a generator. It's a power move." "Receive a free 7-year warranty with qualifying purchase - valued at \$706." "Call 877-516-1160 to schedule your free quote!"

Buying Comics! Looking for 1960's-1990's I PAY CASH! Located in Yonkers -Text or call Andrew at 914-646-1718.

Advertisement for Dish Network featuring a football player. Text: "dish Authorized Retailer" "DON'T MISS ANY OF THE ACTION 8,000 TOUCHDOWNS ONE PLACE TO WATCH!" "1-866-782-4868"

A Tribute to Ed Whitman



Ed Whitman, right, with Mike Bennett

By Dan Murphy

The people of Yonkers lost one of their greatest cheerleaders last month, when Ed Whitman passed away at the age of 81. Ed was the “official” photographer for our Yonkers Rising newspaper for two decades.

When I started working with Ed back in 2006, the concept of digital photos had not yet taken over in media – so Ed would go to his local photo store in Bronxville, print out each of his photos and bring them to the Yonkers Rising office at 25 Warburton Avenue.

Together with Ed’s good friend, Mike Bennett, we would review the photos to determine which ones would make the paper and which photo stood out and would make the front page. It was a wonderful time going over these photos with Ed and Mike over the years.

Ed and Mike formed a “Dynamic Duo,” who would follow the Mayor around the City (Mayor’s Phil Amicone and Mike Spano included), take photos, take names of the people in the photos and bring them back to my office. These events helped me put together a positive narrative about the City of Yonkers and the good things happening in the city – especially helpful considering the negativity that the media was focused on at the time.

With Ed’s help, we were able to show our readers about the PAL Poster Contest, the PAL Easter Egg Hunt, the PAL Christmas Party and notably, an exceptional spotlight on the individual stories of the boys from Yonkers that gave their lives in the Korean War.

Although hampered by a lame leg, Ed was available to cover events whenever needed. In the Mayor’s office, Lucia Travato was a great help by confirming events.

Mayor Mike Spano said, “We are saddened to hear of Ed’s passing. Ed was a consummate gentleman, professional and talent. His photos captured the essence of our City, telling the good stories of so many through the years. We will miss him and we send our deepest condolences to his family.”

Ed would quietly and efficiently be in the right place at the right time. He was also a member of AMVETS Rauso Post 40 in Yonkers and worked with Commander Sam Riti, another close friend of Ed’s, to get out the news of the Post and their work to help and serve veterans in Yonkers and in Westchester.

“Ed Whitman was a big participant with AMVETS Post 40. He was very involved in the Post activities at FDR Montrose and Castle Point. He was a very active member in all Post 40 meetings and taking Veterans to Yankee and Met games, dinner theatres. He will truly be missed and remembered as a member and a dear friend, said Commander Sam Riti.

Ed was one of the kindest people that I have had the pleasure of working with. He was generous to a fault, exacting in his work, an avid reader with an exceptional memory. Ed would blow up a special few of his photos into 8 x 10’s and hand them out to me and others. I still have the Santa photos that he took for me at the PAL Christmas parties.

We became good friends over the years, and although we didn’t see each other in recent years, Ed would also call me with a story idea, or a photo that he would now comfortably email me. And he was always an avid reader of our newspaper and when it came out on Thursday night and was dropped off at the Raceway Diner in Yonkers, Ed was there late at night reading it front to back. If there was an error, he was the first to let me know. He was also a proud member and officer of the Templers.

Thank you for all your hard work, Ed, and for your friendship. You will be missed.

Yonkers History continued on pg 6-

Saturday, December 30th

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!

1938: Otis Elevator Company received a \$552,950 contract to build 133 elevators for New York City’s Red Hook and Queensbridge housing developments. This marked the first use of elevators on a large scale in low-cost housing projects in the New York metropolitan area. Housing officials stated building six-story buildings with elevators were more economical than building the usual four-story walkups on a larger area. The elevators were to stop only at the first, third and fifth floors, keeping costs down to meet limits set by the US Housing Authority.

Sunday, December 31st:

1931: Dr. James Morrissey of St. Andrew’s Place purchased an airplane, which he kept at Curtiss Wright Field in Rosedale, Long Island. Morrissey had completed training for his pilot’s license, and was believed to be the first Yonkers doctor to qualify as a pilot. His kept his plane at Curtiss Wright Field on Long Island.

1943: Mayor-elect Curtiss Frank, confined to his home with an attack of viral pneumonia, took the oath of office at his home at 70 Rockledge Road; the oath was administered by City Clerk Francis J. Heafy. Mrs. Frank requested this be done so there would not be a lapse between the expiration of Mayor Benjamin Barnes’ term ending that midnight and the beginning of the new Common Council. The 1944-1945 Council was elected by Proportional Representation.

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.



Ed Whitman’s Greatest Hits Top-Santa at Holiday Party; Middle Easter Egg Hunt; bottom PAL Poster Contest.

Ed’s photos touched thousands of people’s lives in Yonkers

PHOTOS BY Ed Whitman



city of YONKERS Mayor Mike Spano’s **MOBILE TAX OFFICE**
ALL LOCATIONS ARE 9AM - 7PM

Thursday, December 28, 2024 Homefield House 911 Saw Mill River Road	Wednesday, January 3, 2024 Coyne Park/Bernice Spredkman Community Center 777 McLean Avenue	Thursday, January 4, 2024 Grinton I. Will Library 1500 Central Park Avenue
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Representatives from Finance and Constituent Services will be in attendance to collect property taxes, water bill payments, and answer any questions.
The 2024 Yonkers Property Tax 3rd Installment payment is due by Monday, January 8th, 2024.
For more information, contact the Mayor’s Office of Constituent Services 914.377.6010

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Maria Regina HS Arts Teacher from Yonkers Honored with Inclusion in NAEA Exhibit



Maria Regina High School Visual Arts Instructor, Teresa Pereira, from Yonkers, is among a select group of art educators whose creative artwork is included in the annual National Art Education Association (NAEA) Member Exhibit.

Pereira's work, which is on display through May 3 on the NAEA website www.arteducators.org, was recently selected by a panel of jurors. It is the latest chapter in her distinguished career as Maria Regina's acclaimed visual arts teacher who has inspired her students over the past eight years and as an accomplished artist whose paintings have been exhibited in galleries and art fairs throughout Westchester.



Teresa Pereira, with an Art student at Maria Regina High School, left and her submitted work above

She is also a prolific muralist in the region whose murals can be seen in all three branches of the Yonkers Public Library, The Mount Vernon Public Library as well as in several businesses and private residences in the tri-state area. Pereira also collaborated with alumnae Catherine Spaziantie (Class of '18) and Natalie Gonzalez (Class of '19) in painting the mural for the Hartsdale Fire District Station 1.

Pereira was among the 94 selected entries among the 546 peer submissions from the United States and around the world. The submissions were reviewed by the jurors for originality and uniqueness, clarity and meaning, innovation and creativity, material usage and medium application and quality of craftsmanship.

Speaking about her painting (see attached image), Pereira explained: "I've been intrigued with the painting within painting and infinite themes ever since I started painting in college... This painting is a combination of these ideas. I was interested in creating a super-realistic/photographic infinite painting, so I used photos of myself in a photo montage I made in Photoshop, engraved the image onto a sheet of Baltic birchwood, then painted with several thinned layers of oil paint."

Stepinac HS Senior Organizes Toy Drive for Injured Children at Fareri Children's Hospital



Top row, l-r: Shane Byrne, who led the top drive and his Stepinac classmates, Cody Murphy, Thomas Brady, Liam Egan, Jack Doyle and Aidan Carroll and front row, l-r, Derek Saa, John Calise and Tim O'Shea.

Shane Byrne of Yonkers, a senior at Stepinac High School, was recently lauded by Heavenly Productions Foundation, for organizing a successful toy drive to bring hope and smiles to the gravely ill and injured children who are being treated at Maria Fareri Children's Hospital, Valhalla, NY.

Byrne reached out to Heavenly Productions to help with the non-profit's 8th Annual Toy Drive, a campaign he wanted to undertake in memory of his late cousin, Luke Gallagher, who was a patient at Maria Fareri for 18 months and fought cancer courageously before passing away in 2019 at the age of 12.

In an email to Paul Carty, Principal, Dr. Kathy Reilly Fallon, founder and chairwoman of Heavenly Productions, said: "On behalf of the executive board members, we wish to extend our deepest gratitude to Shane Byrne who organized the toy drive." Over the past two months, Byrne and a group of his classmates collected and donated 225 toys as well as four blankets. Heavenly Productions delivered Stepinac's donations to the young patients just in time of the holidays.

Byrne was assisted by fellow students Cody Murphy, Thomas Brady, Liam Egan, Jack Doyle, Aidan Carroll, John Calise and Tim O'Shea, all of Yonkers and Derek Saa of Hartsdale.

Byrne's was the second drive in memory of Luke Gallagher that was undertaken this year by a Stepinac student (and also a close family member). In the spring, Matthew (Class of '23) — Luke's brother— led a successful spring community blood drive. A total of 88 donors (students, faculty, administration, family members and friends, among others) answered the call to help address blood supply shortages, exceeding the drive's goal of 70 blood donors. As a result, their donations will potentially help save the lives of 264 area hospital patients.

For more information, visit www.Stepinac.org.

Happy New Year Yonkers

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