

A 60+ Year Tradition Continues: Operation Santa Claus Returns to Yonkers for Annual Fundraiser



Senator Nick Spano proudly announces the Operation Santa Claus Annual Fundraiser, to be held on Sunday, December 14th at 10:00 AM at Castle Royale, 92 Waverly. Senator Spano serves as Chairman for this year's event, with Tom Meier and Gail Burns as Co-Chairs.

For over 60 years, Operation Santa Claus, founded by the late Senator Bill Condon, has raised tens of thousands of dollars to support organizations that work directly with individuals with developmental disabilities, helping to provide essential services, support, and adaptive equipment not only during the holiday season but throughout the year and.

"Operation Santa Claus continues to make a meaningful difference in the lives of so many," said Senator Spano. "We invite our community to join us in supporting this important mission."

The public is warmly invited to attend.

For additional information, please contact Gail Burns at gmb927@gmail.com.

Operation Santa Claus is a charitable bi-partisan organization made up of public officials, local merchants, civic groups and residents whose mission is to raise money for special adaptive equipment for individuals with developmental disabilities, not only during the holiday season but throughout the year. Every dollar raised supports the acquisition of this vital equipment to improve the quality of life of those our mission serves.

This year's honorees include:

Dr. Iyad Annabi MD-Senator John E. Flynn Lifetime Achievement Award 2025

Yonkers Fire Department Training Unit- Eleanore Klein Community Champion Award 2025

Cecil Niles- Anne Neville Parent Advocate Award 2025

Yonkers Police Department Finds an Apartment for Homeless Man



See Story on Page 11

The Rich Get Richer and Yonkers Gets Screwed: NY Gaming Commission Awards Three Casino Licenses to New York City

"I am deeply disappointed in New York's decision to move forward with the award of three casino licenses all within New York City." -Mayor Mike Spano

By Dan Murphy

On Dec. 1, the NYS Gaming Facility Location Board voted to recommend casinos for locations in Metropolitan Park at Willets Point, Queens, Resorts World New York City at the Aqueduct Racetrack in Queens and Bally's Bronx in Throggs Neck. The five-member board will provide its recommendations to the state Gaming Commission, which is expected to approve the plans before Dec. 31.

"The Gaming Facility Location Board has performed a true public service. These five individuals volunteered hundreds of hours to review and digest thousands of pages of complex application material and ultimately made the best selections for the State of New York. We are all thankful for their dedication and service for what has been up until now a thankless task. We entered this process with a tabula rasa, and are concluding with three impressive projects that will transform communities, establish career opportunities for residents, and drive much-needed revenue to the MTA, public schools and the City.

"The Gaming Commission has already undertaken the background investigations of the applicants and is expeditiously applying its statutory license suitability criteria to ensure that these casinos are operated with utmost integrity and fiscal responsibility. A New York gaming license is a privilege – and this Commission will ensure those entities fortunate enough to be selected for licensure meet New York's rigorous standards."

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Stepinac Senior from Yonkers Collects 2,000 Pairs of Socks for Those in Need



Congratulations to Xavier Drago '26, who just wrapped up his campus-wide Sock Drive, collecting more than 2,000 pairs for those in need!

All donations will support My Brother's Keeper Dress For Success Closet and the Yonkers Police Athletic League, helping local families stay warm and supported this season.

Amazing job, Xavier—thank you for living out Stepinac's mission of service and leadership!

Mayor Spano Appoints Alexandra Bisesi to Yonkers City Court



See Story on Page 7

Mayor Spano's African American Advisory Board & Yonkers Public Library to Host Kwanzaa Children's Book Drive & Distribution

Kwanzaa Children's Book Drive Begins Wednesday, December 3rd;

Book Distribution to be Held Tuesday, December 30th at 3PM

On Dec. 3, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, in collaboration with his African American Advisory Board and the Yonkers Public Library, announced the launch of the Annual Kwanzaa Children's Book Drive & Distribution beginning today Wednesday, December 3 and the distribution of books, along with additional items, on Tuesday, December 30 at 3PM at the Yonkers Riverfront Library, One Larkin Center. This initiative celebrates cultural heritage, promotes literacy, and brings the community together in the spirit of Kwanzaa.

"This partnership represents more than just collaboration—it is a powerful affirmation of our community's rich diversity and shared dedication to education," stated Mayor Spano. "Through initiatives like the Kwanzaa Children's Book Drive & Distribution, we are not only celebrating cultural heritage but also investing in the future of our children. By uniting around these efforts, we strengthen families, inspire learning, and create lasting traditions that uplift the entire Yonkers community."

Kwanzaa Children's Book Drive

The drive runs from Wednesday, December 3rd to Monday, December 29th, with drop-off locations at all three Yonkers Public Library branches:

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

Yonkers Public Library Director, Jesse Montero added, "YPL is proud to once again partner with Mayor Spano and the African American Advisory Board on this important cause. Books can inform, entertain, and empower, and therefore help fulfill principles of Kwanzaa like self-determination, community, and creativity."

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

First Precinct Community Council

The 1st Precinct Community Council will be having their December Meeting on Wednesday, Dec. 10, 2025 at 7 PM at the 1st Precinct, 730 East Grassy Sprain Road, Yonkers, NY. As always, it is our Holiday Meeting and we ask all those attending to bring an unwrapped gift for Elizabeth Seton Children's Center. Please come & join us. Light refreshments will be served.

Remembering Pearl Harbor-84 Years Later

By Bob Abate

December 7th, 1941 – quite possibly the most monumental day of the Twentieth Century – the tipping point between potential worldwide domination and today's relatively widespread global freedoms.

In two weeks – Sunday, December 7th, 2025 – marks the 84th anniversary of that most fateful day. On these occasions, I'm keenly reminded of our World War II Combat Veterans who made this all possible. They were mostly "kids" at the time – eighteen, nineteen, twenty-year olds; many never away from home before.

Over the years, I've had the good fortune and privilege of meeting and interviewing a number of these men. One was Frank A. – an eighteen year old "kid" from Westchester, New York. I would like to share part of his written remembrance of that fateful day ...

"More than a half-century later, it is not easy depicting the events of that day. The wounds and mental strain during those war years are very much part of my present being.

We lay asleep, oblivious to the world. The island was awakened by the drone of diving aircraft and the thunderous thuds of ground-pounding explosions in the nearby harbor. Our early Sunday morning quiet was shattered by spine-tingling shrieks as the first Japanese bombs streaked toward Pearl Harbor. My company was stationed at Hickam Field, next to the mess hall. We then realized that Hickam was being bombed. Initially, the attack was concentrated on the grounded aircraft to minimize opposition to the main attack.

Suddenly the explosions were closer and stronger and I heard this dive bomber. The ground shook and I knew it was close. I thought it was the Navy practicing but when we went outside our tent, the mess hall was blown apart. They had dropped a bomb inside. It took a direct hit as early-risers ate their breakfast. The force of the blast blew the top of the building wide open and the roof's metal sheathing rolled over the building's side in twisted disarray, resembling Popeye's opened spinach can.

Our first instinct was to dive for cover. The initial damage was devastating. In minutes, the airfield was totally destroyed. Suddenly, the official announcement came over the radio, "Air raid! Pearl Harbor! This is not a drill!" We just stood there. we were dumbfounded. Then, as the surviving soldiers ran across the adjacent baseball field toward their barracks, the Japanese planes strafed and bombed them. it was a total massacre. Bodies of the dead and wounded were everywhere. Parts of Hickam Field were strewn all over. Without ammunition, our rifles were useless against the flying planes fleeing by faster than a cannon ball.

I saw smoke coming up from Pearl Harbor. The battleships were parked two abreast so the outboard ships were the first targets of the low-flying torpedo planes. Hitting the outboard ships prevented the inboard ships from escaping. The USS Arizona took a direct hit and almost blew in half. Bombs penetrated the heavy plated upper decks as easily as a kid pokes holes in a cereal box top with a pencil, then exploded far below decks.

Charred bodies were everywhere. Faces that smiled earlier reading letters from home, hands that clapped the night before and legs that strolled the beaches of Waikiki were partly visible under the mass of ugly twisted steel. Men's clothing were stripped from their flesh, their shoes blown off and strewn about. In the midst of the raging fires and smoke, the cries of the wounded mingled with the moans of the dying and the stillness of the dead appalled the living. Scores of survivors were seriously wounded, many in deep shock only later to be mercifully relieved of their pain and suffering by death itself.

The devastating attack ended by 10AM. The island of Oahu and most of its military might was transformed from a quiet, subtle calm to a detonated time bomb. In just two hours, the Japanese with their precise and effective bombing had thoroughly destroyed the world's mightiest military complex. 2400 Americans lay dead. 1340 were wounded. Eighteen ships were sunk and 290 aircraft were destroyed.

The troops collected their senses and as true Americans, they assisted in saving whomever or whatever they could. Death was a part of growing up for countless young kids who became men that day. I was one of them."

Bob Abate lives in Yonkers, and has been working on a project to memorialize all of the interviews he has with Veterans. Bob can be reached at rpaabate@gmail.com

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Three Yonkers Public Schools Student Athletes Commit to Colleges



Let's celebrate three outstanding Yonkers student-athletes who have committed to compete at the collegiate level.

On College Football National Signing Day, let's begin with Lawrence Iyalekhue, Roosevelt High School #ClassOf2026, who has signed to play Division I #football at Boston College.

Pictured with the @yonkersforce powerhouse is his family, including his equally remarkable twin sister, Lauranta Iyalekhue, Yonkers High School #ClassOf2026, who recently committed to Division I #volleyball at San Diego State University.

Rounding out this impressive trio is Nailah Searight, Saunders Trades & Technical High School #ClassOf2026. Nailah has committed to Jacksonville State University, another Division I school. An accomplished softball pitcher, she reached a major milestone last season with 300 strikeouts.

Boston College, San Diego State, and Jacksonville State are NCAA Division I (D1) universities, competing at the highest level of collegiate athletics.

Oh There's No Place Like Home for the Holidays



By Eric Wolf Schoen

Editor's Note: Pray for Eric's continued recovery. Here is one of his old holiday columns

'Twas 3 days after Thanksgiving, and all through the Yonkers Target.

Not Even a Christmas Tree left in the Market!

For the week prior to Tom Turkey's Arrival,

Target had 50 % off of everything for Christmas in Style!

And so begins our holiday shopping in and around Yonkers. But this year a particular trend is developing. Stores would often be stuck with stocks of merchandise left at the end of the holidays. But by discounting early consumers would get a good deal shopping and the things they need to 'make their spirits bright.'

Moral of the story is to buy the things you will need early as you are not going to find a big selection at the end. With a new administration in Washington, stores don't know what to expect and consumers find themselves in the same boat.

Check delivery minimums when shopping as you will often guarantee the best price. So many stores now compete for your business you want to make sure you are getting the lowest price possible. Look at dates on everything you want as items can quite be often be out of date and bring this to the attention of management,

A modern outlet for things for thing for Christmas stockings are the dollar stores particularly Dollar Tree in Yonkers on McLean Avenue and on South Broadway. Excellent items are fresh and they have large selections of products that can be appetizing to all family members. I particularly like the pints of ice cream they sell for \$1.25. Butter Pecan, Chocolate, vanilla as far as I am concerned taste just like the name brands for less than a third of the price.

Check with the manager of your dollar store as to What days the frozen trucks come in. This guarantees you know when to be at the stores. If the truck comes in on Thursday nights or Monday night it is parked out overnight and is available the following morning. Occasionally items are packed out when they arrive. Dollar store items go quickly so get to your store early for best selection.

Everyone loves a Gift certificate, and always buy the bonus ones with bonuses attached to them. They give you an extra 5 or 10 dollar bonus which comes in handy after the holidays.

Make sure you use the cards promptly and on time.

You are not going to find a Sunday paper chock full of circulars as we have found in the past, so your best bet is to get on the email lists of the stores you shop and or on the stores hardcopy Mail list. Contact Stores that you are going to to find out weekly specials. Stock up at non shopping center stores.

If you are not handicapped don't park in a handicapped parking. Spot. And always rememberer , if you see something unusual say something. We want you to have a very happy holiday. Filled with joy, love and beautiful things!

Reach Eric Schoen at ewschoen@icloud.com.

CALLING ALL YONKERS STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-12!
REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.
2026 POEM CONTEST

HONORING DR. KING'S LEGACY THROUGH CREATIVE EXPRESSION

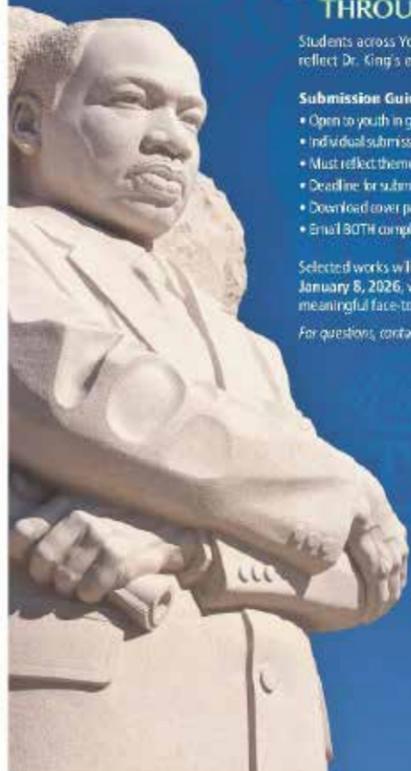
Students across Yonkers are encouraged to submit original poems that reflect Dr. King's enduring themes: justice, courage, and unity.

Submission Guidelines:

- Open to youth in grades 6-12 who reside or attend school in Yonkers.
- Individual submissions only (no group entries)
- Must reflect themes justice, courage and unity inspired by Dr. King's legacy
- Deadline for submission: Friday, December 19, 2025
- Download cover page: WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV/MLK
- Email BOTH completed cover page along with poem to contest@yonkersny.gov

Selected works will be featured during the live showcase on Thursday, January 8, 2026, where youth will present their poetry and engage in meaningful face-to-face dialogue with community guests.

For questions, contact Dr. Dwanita M. Crosby at Dwanita.Crosby@yonkersny.gov




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Good Cause Eviction:

Good Cause in Name, Bad Policy in Practice

By Alana Ciuffetelli, Chair, Apartment Owners Advisory Council (AOAC), Building and Realty Institute (BRI)

The decision by Westchester municipalities, including most recently New Rochelle, to adopt Good Cause Eviction mandates may have been made with good intentions, but the policy is unlikely to achieve what its name promises — and could make local housing challenges worse.

For a law called Good Cause Eviction, the number of evictions isn't likely to change much. Nine out of ten evictions in New Rochelle last year were for failure to pay rent — a cause that remains fully allowed under the new law. Across the state, municipalities that adopted Good Cause months ago have actually seen slight increases in evictions. The root causes of eviction — housing affordability, rising costs, and stagnant incomes — remain unaddressed.

The rent cap, set at the lower of 10% or inflation plus 5%, might sound fair, but it creates new problems for both tenants and property owners. When a major, unexpected expense hits — storm damage, emergency repairs, or a sudden spike

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Even Year Election Law Means Many Republican Town's will Hold the Same Elections Next Year



By Dan Murhy

New York's Even-Year Election Law, enacted in December 2023 as part of the state budget and signed by Governor Kathy Hochul, shifts most local elections from odd-numbered years to even-numbered years. The primary goal is to align these elections with state and federal races (held in even years), which typically see much higher voter turnout—often 50-60% compared to 20-30% in odd-year local elections. This consolidation aims to boost participation, reduce municipal costs, and make voting more convenient by minimizing “voter fatigue” from annual polls.

For Westchester, this means that Town governments that just held elections and have two-year terms will have to run again in 2026. And all members of the County Board of Legislators will also have to run again next year. The County

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Buying Comics!

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Westchester Democrats Split on Con Ed Rate Settlement which Lowered Rate Increase to 2.8%



Westchester Democrats at Press Conference opposing Con Ed's 2.8% rate increase

By Dan Murhy

Last week, we reported on an agreement reached between Con Edison and 41 Westchester municipalities which significantly reduces the proposed rate increase for both gas and electric energy.

The Westchester Municipal Consortium (WMC) announced a three-year settlement agreement (known as a Joint Proposal) has been formally reached between Con Edison, the PSC staff, and other parties.

Con Edison's original proposed electric rate increase of 13.4% has been reduced to 2.8% on the total customer bill under the settlement. On the gas side, the original propose 19% increase has been reduced to 2% on the total customer bill. The agreement spans January 1, 2026, through December 31, 2028, with similar annual increases of approximately 2.8% (electric) and 2.0% (gas) in the 2nd and 3rd years.

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ArtsWestchester Hosts Free Day of Art, Workshops, and Open Studios-Dec. 13

ArtsWestchester will host a vibrant day of free art, hands-on workshops, and open artist studios that offer attendees immersive experiences in artistic expression.

The December 13 event runs from noon to 5 p.m. at ArtsWestchester's historic landmark headquarters, a cultural hub where the public can meet the creators who call the building home.

"This open house is a special opportunity to experience art and imagination firsthand, with the opportunity to find inspiration, serenity, or beauty in unexpected places," said ArtsWestchester CEO Kathleen Reckling.

Visitors can begin their visit by exploring the current exhibition Meltdown: A Changing Climate, where artists imagine the potential impacts of climate change specifically on the Hudson Valley region.

Exhibition-related family workshops will be held between noon and 2 p.m. for children aged 5 to 12. Kids will learn, play, and grow by engaging with themes from the gallery's exhibition through printmaking and paper crafting.

Throughout the afternoon, many of the professional artists, photographers, sculptors, and creative businesses housed within the historic nine-story building will open their studios so that visitors can learn about the creative process.

The open studios are also an ideal time for holiday shoppers to find one-of-a-kind handmade gifts while supporting local creatives.

The Second Saturday Workshops are generously supported by New York – Presbyterian. ArtsWestchester is located at 31 Mamaroneck Ave., White Plains.

On This Day in Yonkers History...



Painting of Isaac Merritt Singer in 1869; founder of the Singer Sewing Machine Company

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

Monday, December 8th:

December 8, 1903: John Edward Bruce, Executive Chairman of the Toussaint L'Ouverture Republican Club, spoke about L'Ouverture's life to an appreciative audience at Wiggins Hall.

L'Ouverture led the Haitian independence movement at the time of the French Revolution; once an enslaver, he emancipated enslaved people and embraced abolition.

December 8, 1908: Dorando Pietri, the Italian athlete who defeated Yonkers' Olympic gold medalist Johnny Hayes at Madison Square Garden a few days earlier, was feted at a banquet at the Highland Avenue home of the Conti family; after dinner, a fans paraded him through Yonkers, led by the Italian Boys Band. The parade ended at Turn Hall on Elm Street, where Pietri was the special guest.

Tuesday, December 9th:

December 9, 1908: Yonkers' Young Men's Italian Instructive Club honored Marathon runner Pietri Dorando at their annual ball, even though Johnny Hayes of Yonkers had received the Olympic Marathon gold medal at the 1908 Olympics. Dorando was disqualified.

The Olympic Marathon took place on a warm London day. Dorando's efforts to win sapped his strength; he became dehydrated and fatigued. Entering the final length minutes before his competitors, he ran the wrong way. Judges stopped him, turned him around... he collapsed. Judges stood him up. Collapsing four times heading to the finish line, Dorando had to be helped up each time, yet the judges awarded him first prize. Hayes finished moments later. An American protest reversed the results; Hayes was awarded first as it was obvious the Dorando could not have finished without help. Queen Alexandra later presented Dorando a silver cup she had made.

A few weeks later, Dorando, Hayes, Yonkers Marathon winner James Crowley and marathon winners from around the country raced at Empire City Track.

December 9, 1949: Mayor Edith Welty appeared on the cover of the US Marine Corps recruiting bulletin; with her was Major Louis Wilson, of the New York Marine Recruiting Headquarters. The cover was captioned, "The Major and the Mayor."

Wednesday, December 10th:

December 10, 1905: Several banks reported counterfeit \$5 silver certificates were flooding the city. The tip off? The word "treasury" was spelled "treasurey" on the bogus notes.

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Letter to the Editor:

I am responding to your November 7 article, "Lawler Votes Yes to Reopen Government; Latimer Votes No".

I am relieved that the government shutdown is over and people receiving food assistance from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) will temporarily get their benefits restored. However your article distorts the situation, making it seem like Rep Latimer supported cuts to SNAP and Rep Lawler opposed them. The opposite is true. The Republican's "One Big Beautiful Bill" which Rep. Lawler voted for in July made draconian cuts to SNAP of roughly \$300 billion, imposing new work limits, narrowing the definition of a dependent child to those under age 7, and shifting large costs to states. This will put millions of people, including 300,000 New York households with children, seniors, and disabled people, at risk of losing their food assistance.

Nobody should starve in the richest country in the world. We must reverse these evil cuts as soon as possible, and also not make the situation worse by cutting vital housing and Medicaid programs.

Amy Stern, White Plains and Volunteer with RESULTS.org

Yonkers Rising

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

Notice of formation of Nicaudis Group Family Daycare, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/26/25. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, Nicaudis Castillo, 156 Union Ave, Mt Vernon, NY 10550.

Notice of Formation of Schmoose Pack Projects LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/20/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Bruce Wong 10 Station Square Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of OnPoint Home Designs LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 8/28/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 14 Crosby Court, Cortlandt Manor NY 10567. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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

Notice of Formation of Lifestyle Rehabilitation, LLC filed with SSNY on 10/27/2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 56 Martha Place, Chappaqua, NY, 10514. Purpose: Physical Therapy.

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

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

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

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

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

Notice of Formation of SteenShotz LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/12/2025. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 343 South 3rd Avenue, Mt. Venron NY 10550. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

Notice of Publication of 19 THIRD AVE RENTALS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 08/29/2025. Office: WESTCHESTER CO. SSNY designated agent for process and shall mail process to copy to the LLC 7014 13th Ave, #202, Bklyn, NY, 11228. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of 275 VICTORY BLVD LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 08/29/2025. Office: WESTCHESTER CO. SSNY designated agent for process and shall mail process to copy to the LLC 7014 13th Ave, #202, Bklyn, NY, 11228. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of BLUEPRINTS AND BEYOND LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on February 4th, 2025. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 70 Ashburton Avenue, Apt. 7H, Yonkers, New York, 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Sale

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

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

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

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

Notice of Formation of Marayjay, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/04/2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the Entity Protect Registered Agent Services LLC, 447 Broadway 2nd Fl. - #3000, New York, NY 10013. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Sprites' Hollow LLC, formerly What Are We Making LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/30/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 88 Colgate Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Line Dot Line, LLC; Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on July 8, 2025; Office location: Westchester County; SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served; SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to Line Dot Line, LLC, 34 Mountain Avenue, Larchmont, NY 10538; The registered agent is Lauren Cogan, 34 Mountain Avenue, Larchmont, NY 10538; Purpose: To engage in any lawful act or activity for which limited liability companies may be formed under the laws of the State of New York; Duration: Perpetual.

Notice of Formation of Elsie Legacy Group LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/26/2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 41 Woodland Road, Bedford Hills, NY 10507. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation Hinman Hall, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/08/2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 9 Landing Drive, Dobbs Ferry NY 10522 Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of RELIABLE MEDICAL SERIVES PLLC filed with the SSNY on 07/6/25. Office: Westchester County. Registered Agent Inc. designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 27 Edgewold Rd. White Plains, NY 10607. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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Music at Asbury Presents “God Bless Us, Everyone” December 14



SUNDAY, DECEMBER 14, 2025 AT 4 P.M

Asbury-Crestwood United Methodist Church is delighted to present the fifth performance of its popular free holiday program, “God Bless Us, Everyone,” part of the Music at Asbury series. The show is a staged reading of Dickens’ classic holiday story, A Christmas Carol, complemented with songs by Alan Menken and Lynn Ahrens, Alan Silvestri and Glen Ballard, and a selection of familiar Christmas carols for the audience to sing along. This is a 80-minute program with no intermission.

Directed and conceived by Mauro Contrastano, with Mary Thombs as music director, “God Bless Us, Everyone” stars Mauro Contrastano, Laura Leopard, Martin McGeachy, and J.T. O’Connor. Caitlin Dowling will serve as the organist, with soloists Joseph Diaz, tenor; Katherine Logan, soprano; Nick Stephens, trumpet; Jimi James, Ruth Chiamulera, Jeannine Padula Goche, and Gary Skidmore; the Asbury UMC Choir; members of Asbury Summer Theatre; and young people from the Riverarts voice studio of Mary Thombs.

Reservations are strongly suggested. Reservations can be made online at <http://www.musicatasbury.com> or by calling the church office 914-779-3722.

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

Sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read at the address above in the 3rd Floor Finance Conference Room.

The building is open from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM for receiving packages via courier services and in person. If delivering bids in person, individuals must see the Public Safety Officer in the library atrium, who will contact Purchasing to meet the individual at the 3rd floor elevator.

Those interested in listening to the Sealed Bids opening and the reading of bids can dial Conference Call number 1-701-802-5221 and enter Access Code 1354203 when prompted.

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

- 1) Bid No. IFB-7556 – Opening Date: 1/02/2026 – Elm Street Bridge Repair (MM).
- 2) Bid No. IFB-7557 – Opening Date: 1/02/2026 – Wiltshire Place/Perry Place Drainage Improvements (MM).
- 3) Bid No. IFB-7451 – Opening Date: 1/09/2026: Crisfield Pump Station Improvements (699 Scarsdale Road, Yonkers, NY 10707), which includes upgrades to pumping, piping, and electrical components. The resultant contract will include a Project Labor Agreement between the Building and Construction Trades Council of Westchester and Putnam Counties, the City of Yonkers, and the Contractor (TC).
- 4) Bid No. RFB-7546A – Opening Date: 12/19/2025: Assessment and repair of CBRNE and HazMat meters and detectors. Account: Grants, UASI (VB). (FEDERAL FUNDS)
- 5) Bid No. IFB-7553A – Opening Date: 1/09/2026: City of Yonkers Police Department 2nd Precinct Asbestos Abatement and Main Lobby Restorations (TN/MM).
- 6) Bid No. RFB-7555 – Opening Date: 12/19/2025: 12-month contract for the purchase, planting and aftercare of 122 trees in Yonkers (MM).
- 7) Bid No. RFB-7551A – Opening Date: 1/9/2016: City Of Yonkers DPW-Sewer Bureau Purchase of Parts to Repair Sewer Furnace (TN).

Mayor Spano Appoints Alexandra Bisesi to Yonkers City Court

On Dec. 3, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced his appointment of Alexandra R. Bisesi as City Court Judge for the City of Yonkers. Bisesi will be sworn in as City Judge on January 1, 2026 at a city-wide Inauguration Ceremony at the Riverfront Library.

“I am proud to appoint Alexandra Bisesi as our newest City Court Judge,” said Mayor Spano. “Alexandra has been in public service for 15 years, serving the Westchester and Yonkers communities, especially as it pertains to municipal and family law. Alexandra’s professionalism, deep knowledge and experience in litigation will prove to be a great asset to the Yonkers City Court system.”

Bisesi commented, “I am grateful to Mayor Spano for this appointment and for the confidence he has placed in me. I look forward to serving on the Yonkers City Court bench and working every day to uphold fairness, apply the law with clarity, and serve the people of Yonkers with integrity.”

Bisesi joins the Yonkers City Court bench after serving as Associate Corporation Counsel for the City of Yonkers for the last three years. While working in the Office of Corporation Counsel, Bisesi litigated tort and property damage claims and city code prosecutions which included building and housing and fire code violations. Bisesi previously was a Senior Attorney at de Moya & Associates P.C. where she litigated matters before various courts in New York, including Supreme and Family Court in areas of divorce, family law, and estate litigation. She also has worked with domestic violence victims during her time with Pace Women’s Justice Center and was a legal intern for the Honorable Chief Judge Michael Martinelli of the Yonkers City Court. Currently, Bisesi serves as Vice President for 100 Hispanic Women, Westchester Program and Yonkers Lawyers Association as the CLE Coordinator and Secretary. Bisesi holds a Juris Doctor degree from Pace University School of Law and Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice from Pace University.

Mayor Spano’s appointment of Bisesi fills the vacant seat left by Judge Verris Shako. She will run for a full 10-year term in the November 2026 election. Bisesi joins Chief Judge Hon. Arthur J. Doran, III, Hon. Karen N. Beltran, Hon. Karen N. Best, Hon. Evan Inlaw, Hon. Ada D. Medina, and Hon. Daniel P. Romano on the Yonkers City Court bench.

PRESSLEY MEMORIAL PANTRY THANKSGIVING FOOD DRIVE



Assemblyman Nader Sayegh and his Constituent Liaison, Chandra Sookdeo, attended the Pressley Memorial Pantry Thanksgiving Food Drive on November 17th at 38 Warburton Avenue in Yonkers. Thank you to Director Mother LaJune and Pastor Cecilio Edwards for their leadership and for the compassion they continue to show our community.

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opinions, photos and story ideas to

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Holiday Events in Yonkers



2025 CHRISTMAS TREE & HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS
MAYOR MIKE SPANO

12/4/25	7:00 - 8:00 PM	Crestwood/Girl Scouts • American Legion Plaza
12/5/25	4:30 - 5:30 PM	Downtown Waterfront BID • Getty Square
12/5/25	5:30 - 7:00 PM	UPAC • Untermyer Park
12/5/25	7:00 - 9:00 PM	CHAT • St. George/Longvue Terrace
12/6/25	5:30 - 8:00 PM	Untermyer Conservancy • Untermyer Park
12/10/25	6:00 - 8:00 PM	South Broadway BID • Lincoln Park
12/10/25	7:00 - 8:00 PM	The Luther Burbank Garden Club • Rumsey Rd
12/11/25	6:00 - 8:00 PM	MAMA • Conor Park
12/7/25	3:00-4:00 PM	Cedar Knolls Colony • Darcy Park
12/17/25	5:00 - 6:00 PM	Chanukah Menorah Ltg • City Hall
12/30/25	3:00-5:00 PM	Mayor's Kwanzaa Children's Book Distribution • Yonkers Riverfront Library

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

presents

Lessons and Carols

"An Evening of Sacred Christmas Music"

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

The program will include traditional carols and treasured classical selections.

**Sunday, December 14th
4:00 PM**

Light refreshments to follow
Free Admission

Yonkers Parks, Recreation and Conservation Launches First Ever Partnership with Toys for Tots



YONKERS PARKS IS TEAMING UP WITH THE MARINE CORP RESERVE "TOYS FOR TOTS" THIS YEAR.

Donation boxes are located at Parks Headquarters, Murray's Skating Center, and the Nodine, Spreckman, Cola, Scotti, and Nepperhan Community Centers.

Help us make this season bright for our Yonkers Children!

Yonkers Green Up Giveaway



YONKERS GREEN UP GIVEAWAY

Be sure to purchase your at-home food scrap kit to receive a FREE blue recycling bin or compost bin. Also pick up free compost for your garden on a first-come, first-served basis.

Choose one FREE with purchase of food scrap kit while supplies last.

YONKERS RECYCLING CENTER
735 Saw Mill River Road
Monday - Saturday
7:30 AM - 4:15 PM

Yonkers is giving away FREE recycling or compost bins with the purchase of an at-home food scrap kit — plus free compost while supplies last. Stop by the Yonkers Recycling Center and Green Up your home.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced that the City of Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation's first-ever partnership with the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots program, joining forces to bring joy, comfort, and hope to children in need this holiday season.

"Toys for Tots has delivered happiness and a message of hope to millions of children for decades," said Mayor Mike Spano. "I'm proud that our Parks Department is joining this mission for the first time and giving Yonkers families another way to make a meaningful difference this holiday season."

Beginning immediately, Yonkers residents are encouraged to drop off new, unwrapped toys at designated Parks Department locations through December 15.

Yonkers Parks Headquarters, 285 Nepperhan Avenue
E.J. Murray's Memorial Skating Center, 348 Tucka-hoe Road

Nodine Hill Community Center, 140 Fillmore Street
Bernice Spreckman Community Center, 777 McLean Avenue

Charles Cola Community Center, 945 N. Broadway
Scotti Community Center, 680 Bronx River Road
Nepperhan Community Center, 342 Warburton Avenue

Yonkers Parks, Recreation and Conservation Commissioner Steve Sansone added, "The Yonkers Parks Department is happy to partner with the Marine Corps Reserves and their many dedicated volunteers to send a message of hope and a distribution of toys to those less fortunate."

For more than 75 years, Toys for Tots has been a nationally recognized program led by the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve, collecting and distributing new toys to children who may otherwise go without during the holidays.

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Yonkers NAACP Holds Disaster Relief Initiative for Hurrican Melissa Victims in Jamaica



The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Yonkers Branch, together with the New Rochelle and Port Chester/Rye Branches, joined by Westchester County Legislator Shanae Williams (D16), Yonkers City Council Member Deana Norman (1st District), coordinated a critical disaster relief initiative to assist those affected by Hurricane Melissa.

Jamaica's approval of a tax waiver through November 28, 2025, created an important opportunity to collect donations for residents impacted by the storm. Collections began on Monday, November 17, 2025, and continued for one week at two primary locations: Yonkers City Hall and the Michaelian Office Building. The community's generosity filled three barrels and four boxes, which will be delivered to the Warsop Seventh Day Adventist Church in Trelawny, Jamaica.

NAACP Yonkers Branch President Kisha D. Skipper stated, "As we enter the Thanksgiving holiday, a time when we have so much to be thankful for, we stand in solidarity with those affected by Hurricane Melissa. We pray for the

continued on pg 15-

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COUNCILWOMAN CORAZON PINEDA-ISAAC, IN PARTNERSHIP WITH CATHOLIC CHARITIES DAY LABORERS PROGRAM, PRESENTS...

Winter COAT DRIVE

Donate new or gently used coats, hats, scarves, and gloves to help day laborers and their families stay warm this winter.

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40 S. Broadway, Suite 406
Yonkers, NY 10701

MORE INFO
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PHILIPSE MANOR HALL STATE HISTORIC SITE AND THE FRIENDS OF PHILIPSE MANOR HALL PRESENT:

ST. NICHOLAS DAY CELEBRATION

**SATURDAY
DECEMBER 6, 2025
12 PM TO 4 PM**

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TIPS TO PREVENT DELIVERY PACKAGE THEFT

MAYOR MIKE SPANO

- Have packages delivered to where you are, not to where you aren't. Consider having packages delivered to your office or place of employment instead of your home.
- Use tracking numbers and delivery notifications. Most major shipping companies offer this free service, and can send you a text or email when your package arrives.
- Ask family members, trusted neighbors and friends to accept deliveries on your behalf or to pick-up your packages.
- Request packages to be placed in a less conspicuous spot, such as a side door or behind a planter or garbage can.
- Many shipping companies now allow you to request a delivery time or time frame — schedule packages for when someone is home.
- Install a smart security camera at your front door.
- Request signature on delivery if possible.
- Some companies and shippers offer locker service or for packages to be held at the delivery distribution center for pick-up.
- Keep an eye out for suspicious vehicles and people in your neighborhood and report suspicious activity to the Yonkers Police Department at (914) 377-7900.



Additionally, residents should be aware of a secondary scam where identity thieves will order items and have them shipped to unaware third parties and use their front door as a drop location! If you receive a package you did not order, please call the shipping company ASAP and report the incident.



YONKERS PARKS IS TEAMING UP WITH THE MARINE CORP RESERVE "TOYS FOR TOTS" THIS YEAR.

Donation boxes are located at Parks Headquarters, Murray's Skating Center, and the Nodine, Spreckman, Cola, Scotti, and Nepperhan Community Centers.

Help us make this season bright for our Yonkers Children!

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

More Than \$800,000 Toward Specialized Training

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

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

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

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

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

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

December 10, 1943: A South Broadway dad had quite a surprise as he passed by Loew’s Theater. He stopped to look at photographs, stills from the movie “The Cross of Lorraine,” playing at the theater. The surprise? He recognized his son, actor John T. Lambert! Jack played the part of Jacques Boutrox in the movie.

Lambert, a Yonkers High grad, moved to Hollywood and landed parts in several movies, including the sailor in “Stage Door Canteen.” He also appeared in a few Broadway shows.

Thursday, December 11th

December 11, 1866: Isaac Merritt Singer of Yonkers was awarded a patent for an innovation to his sewing machine. He received his original patent for the sewing machine in 1851; innovations with the shuttle, bobbin, thread movement and cloth feed earned further patents.

December 11, 1927: Caleb C. Dula of 1109 North Broadway, former President and Chairman of the Board of Directors of Liggett & Myers Tobacco Company, made a gift of \$200,000 to the endowment fund of Duke University. The school, then being built in Durham, North Carolina, was founded by Dula’s close friend James B. Duke. Dula called his home on North Broadway Lenoir after his birthplace in North Carolina.

In its pre-Revolutionary days, the property was part of Peter Forshee’s farm.

Friday, December 12th

December 12, 1918: The Yonkers Board of Education turned down Mayor Wallin’s proposal to centralize all city purchases through the Board of Contract and Supply. By a vote of eight to one, the board reinforced its right to exclusive control over the schools’ purchases.

December 12, 1935: The Yonkers Board of Education announced it would investigate high school fraternities and sororities after receiving reports not only were they undemocratic, they also indulged in “drinking and necking.”

Saturday, December 13th

December 13, 1924: Countess Catherine Károlyi addressed the Amackassin Club and spoke about her husband’s fight for democracy. The wife of Hungary’s one time richest man Count Michael Karolyi, Prime Minister and President of Hungary 1918-1919, she revealed the Count’s eyes were opened during his time in America; he became “infected with democracy.” When he fled his native land, he lost his \$30,000,000 estate to the Horthy government.

December 13, 1944: Alexander Smith and Sons Carpet Company became the first business to adopt television as an advertising tool, with the premiere of “The Magic Carpet.” The show would be aired every other Wednesday at 8:30 pm on Station WABD, a Dumont TV station. Although the company acknowledged pioneering TV as an advertising medium was chancy because of the limited audience, the program would take people who liked to travel, but couldn’t because of wartime restrictions, to visit through travel films, interesting places around the world.

Sunday, December 14th

December 14, 1919: Secretary of the Navy Josephus Daniels announced three Yonkers men were to be awarded the Navy War Cross for distinguished service and extraordinary heroism: Lieutenant Walter Glencairns, Boatswain’s Mate Charles Schwimmer, and Seaman Andrew McKinley.

December 14, 1929: The first five-alarm fire in Yonkers’ history destroyed the Orpheum Theater at Nepperhan Avenue and New Main Street.

Flames leaping more than 100 feet into the air threatened the entire block, but a long, arduous fight by 75 fire fighters brought the fire under control. Families living in the theater building were driven into the street; the blaze caused more than \$100,000 damage. Theater owner Leo Brecher later announced he would not rebuild.

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

The key to the future of the world, is finding the optimistic stories and letting them be known.

Pete Seeger

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State Police Charge Somers Man with Promoting Obscene Sexual Performance of a Child

The New York State Police Bureau of Criminal Investigation (BCI) at Somers, in coordination with the New York State Police Troop K Computer Crimes Unit (CCU), has arrested Andrew J. Giannetta 34, of Somers, NY, following a long-term Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC) investigation.

In February 2024, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children (NCMEC) submitted a CyberTipline report to the New York State Police regarding suspected child sexual exploitation material being shared through a social media platform. The investigation identified Giannetta as the suspect, leading to the execution of a search warrant at his residence. Multiple electronic devices were seized for forensic analysis.

Following a review of the evidence and consultation with the Westchester County District Attorney's Office, Giannetta was arrested on November 26, 2025, and charged with the following:

- Two (2) counts of Promoting an Obscene Sexual Performance by a Child Less Than 17 Years of Age, Class D felonies.

Giannetta was arraigned before the Somers Justice Court and released on his own recognizance. He is scheduled to reappear in court on February 2, 2026, at 5:30 p.m.

Anyone with information about child exploitation or abuse is urged to contact the National Center for Missing & Exploited Children at 1-800-843-5678 or submit a report online.

Class D felonies have a mandatory minimum sentence of two years, while non-violent ones have a minimum of one year.

even year elections, continued from pg 4-

Executive has a four-year term, so Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins, after appearing on the ballot twice in 2025, will not have to run again, and the County Clerk and District Attorney also will not have to run again.

Proponents argue it promotes a "more inclusive and representative democracy" by encouraging broader participation, especially from underserved communities. Studies from other states show that even-year alignment can increase local election turnout by 10-20 percentage points.

The law faced lawsuits from over 20 counties (mostly Republican-led, such as Onondaga, Nassau, and Rockland), claiming it violated home rule provisions in the state constitution that allow local governments to set their own structures and election timing through charters. A lower court in Onondaga County initially blocked it in late 2024, ruling that shortening terms infringed on local control.

In May 2025, the Appellate Division (Fourth Department) unanimously reversed the decision, deeming the law a valid "general law" applicable statewide, justified by the state's interest in higher turnout. In October 2025, the New York Court of Appeals (the state's highest court) upheld the ruling, confirming the law's constitutionality and rejecting claims of free speech, due process, or equal protection violations. The law is now fully implemented, with the 2025 elections serving as the bridge to even-year cycles starting in 2026. One of the benefits supporters of the law cite is cost savings from fewer elections. What will those cost savings be to the Westchester taxpayer?

Opponents worry about "ballot overcrowding," in which local races are overshadowed by national ones, and argue that it overrides local voter-approved charters.

Marina Pino, counsel in the elections and government program at the Brennan Center for Justice at NYU Law, had the following comment:

"This ruling is a major victory for New York voters. Voter turnout drops sharply in odd-numbered years, especially among young voters and voters of color. Shifting to an even-year election cycle will encourage more New Yorkers to participate in local democracy, making elections far more inclusive and representative. Voting in New York should be convenient and accessible. This law is a vital step in that direction."

County Executive Ken Jenkins said, "The Court of Appeals' unanimous decision to uphold New York's even-year election law is a smart and practical step forward. Moving local elections to even-numbered years will strengthen voter participation and reduce costs. This decision helps increase voter participation by aligning local races with state and federal elections and saves taxpayers money by reducing the number of election cycles. New York stood up and ensured that more voices are heard, more residents are engaged, and more communities are represented. It's about making government more efficient, more inclusive, and more responsive to the people we serve. It's a win for taxpayers, a win for democracy, and a smart step forward for New York."

Chris Koetzle, executive director of the New York Association of Towns, expressed disappointment over the decision. "We believe that what this does is relegates local issues and local elections behind national and state issues," Koetzle said.

For Republicans in Yorktown, Harrison, Eastchester, Mt. Pleasant, North Castle, Bedford, and other Towns with at least some republican representation, they will have to return to the voters in 2026 during a Governor's race, which will likely see Democrat Kathy Hochul against Republican Elyse Stefanik, and again during a Presidential year of 2028. Pelham, Somers, North Salem, Pound Ridge, Greenburgh, and Bedford are other towns impacted.

It was hard to find someone willing to cross over party lines on this issue. Gina Arena, republican candidate for State Senate in Northern Westchester and Putnam, called the law, "Absurd is the Word! There is no good idea here! The only idea is another power play by the Democrats! No money is being saved. There will still be elections for other offices in odd years! Wake up, everyone."

For example, under the new law, the 2025 election for Yorktown Town Supervisor was held as scheduled, but the Supervisor's term will be calculated as if the Supervisor had been elected in 2024. In effect, the Supervisor elected in 2025 will serve a one-year term and will be up for election in 2026. This will also be the case in other Westchester towns where their Supervisor just ran in 2025.

In contrast, Yorktown Town Councilmembers serve four-year terms. The terms of those Town Council members elected in 2025 will similarly be treated under the new law as if they were elected in 2024, but, since they have four-year terms, their seats would be next up for election in 2028

Republican State Senate leader Rob Ortt said, "Moving local elections to even years is something not a single New Yorker asked for. Albany Democrats' assault on local elections will bury any chance local candidates and officials have at getting their important messages out, and it is a blatant attempt to rig elections in Democrats' favor."

NY Conservative Party Chair Gerard Kassir said the law "defies logic as well as any meaningful efforts to provide citizens with the ability to focus on what will be an overwhelming number of dissimilar issues," calling it a "clearly political action by the democratically controlled state government." He said the law is a "clearly political action by the Democratically controlled state government."

The new lawsuit filed in Federal Court argues that voters would have no choice but to mindlessly rely on party labels or cues from the most prominent races at the top of the ticket, rather than a genuine examination of local candidates during campaign season. William Brewer III, lead counsel for the plaintiffs, called the law "an attempt to drown local voices, burden political speech, and erode the connection between voters and their local governments."

On the Westchester Board of Legislators, only Republican legislator James Nolan could be negatively affected by the even-year law. "I strongly oppose the move to shift our local elections to even-numbered years. Local elections should be about local issues, not drowned out by the noise of state and federal campaigns. This change isn't about increasing participation — it's about increasing control. Voter turnout may rise in raw numbers, but the focus on local government will fade. Our residents deserve the chance to make thoughtful, informed decisions about their county government without the distractions of presidential and congressional politics. Last month's election made one thing clear: I am still the ONLY Republican on the Westchester County Board of Legislators — and heading into next year, I will be the #1 target for those who want to flip District 15 and silence our voice," said Nolan.

The only Westchester Town government with an ALL-Republican Board and Supervisor is Eastchester. The New York Post reported on this, featuring Eastchester Supervisor Tony Colavita.

(<https://nypost.com/2025/11/17/us-news/inside-the-last-gop-stronghold-in-nycs-liberal-northern-suburbs-as-it-stays-all-red-in-a-sea-of-blue/>)

"Town Supervisor Anthony Colavita cited a pro-police philosophy and fighting to keep taxes low... "We don't bite on the political social issue of the day. When wokeism was rampant, and DEI, and defunding the cops and all that stuff were all going on... We couldn't care less about that. We were all about continuing traditional values in Eastchester. Like supporting the police. Keeping Eastchester safe."

The story goes on to note that Colavita and his Republican town council members ran unopposed this year, with no Democrats stepping forward. The last time democrats ran a candidate against Colavita was in 2021. But with the even year law, it appears that democrats are ready to try again, with Eastchester Democratic Chair John Filiberti and Westchester Democratic Chair Suzane Berger commenting in the post story that Colavita "may be busy next November", and Berger adding "If by 'woke,' the Supervisor means Democrats deplore the president's cutoff of SNAP benefits from 42 million Americans, so be it," a reference to President Trump, who democrats have used in their campaigns against Westchester republicans since 2017.

The Village of Tuckahoe, within the Town of Eastchester, has a majority of democrats on its board, so a challenge to Colavita may come from there. Rob Astorino was the last Westchester Republican to win a countywide race, and Somers is the only town with a Republican majority of voters. Harrison and Yorktown are other towns where democrats have made inroads. North Castle already has a majority of Dems on the board.

The Republican federal lawsuit claims that the even-year law is violating New Yorkers' First Amendment rights. We see that as a stretch; the new law may make it more difficult and expensive to get a message out during a Presidential race. The question is, will the even-year law speed up the process of republican decline in Westchester? County republicans and supporters of Colavita have mixed views. Some told us, "We are so happy that Tony stepped up and told it like it is. That's why we love Eastchester." To others who told us, "That NY Post story put a target on Tony's back."

Yonkers Police Department Finds an Apartment for Homeless Man

From the YPD: Today is "Giving Tuesday"- we're going to highlight some recent work done by our Homeless Outreach Officers who coordinated a really incredible effort to get a homeless man settled into an apartment- and so much more.

Alfred is a Yonkers man who has been suffering from homelessness for several years. Unable to attain stability, he was really struggling and needed a hand. That's when he connected with our Officers assigned to homeless outreach- Officers Lauren Soto and Alyssa Petrucelli, with the assistance of their supervisor, Sergeant Vincent Saponara.

In conjunction with Anthony Olagbemi from the Mobile Crisis Response Team and Sean O'Connor from the Department of Social Services, our Officers connected Alfred with a range of vital programs and services to help him get back on his feet.

Most importantly, this team was able to get him an apartment here in Yonkers- and that's where more of this magic came into play.

Our friends at Mattress Firm on Central Park Avenue assisted Alfred with a donation of a mattress and bedding. The Yonkers PBA is donating a Thanksgiving meal and grocery store gift cards. The Yonkers Women in Law Enforcement donated a microwave, and Annovia's Endeavors donated other furniture and basic household necessities to help transform Alfred's new apartment into a comfortable home.

This entire effort is an example of what can be achieved when several community resources come together to help people.

The Yonkers Police Department has dedicated resources towards homeless outreach for the past 15 years. The work of these Officers is often done behind the scenes and doesn't get much attention, so today we wanted to thank YPD Homeless Outreach Officers, both past and present, for their dedication to helping those in the most need here in Yonkers.

Governor Kathy Hochul said, "From the moment that three downstate casino licenses were authorized in the 2022 State Budget, I have been clear: any approved project must provide real benefits to its community and have sustainable economic plans. I am grateful to Chair Been and the Gaming Facility Location Board for their careful review of the applications according to these high standards.

"The three projects approved today promise to unlock billions in funding for the MTA and create tens of thousands of jobs. It is critical that they keep those promises. I look forward to the Gaming Commission's review of the Board's recommendations in the weeks ahead."

The City of Yonkers had initially hoped for the MGM casino at Yonkers Raceway to win approval of one of the three licenses. But in a decision that has never been completely explained, MGM bailed out at the last minute and withdrew its application.

After MGM's move, the hope for vast majority of Yonkers residents and stakeholders who wanted a Gaming Casino at Yonkers raceway was for the Gaming Commission to award only two licenses, so that the City could find another applicant to apply for a license.

That hope ended on Dec. 1. Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said, "I am deeply disappointed in New York's decision to move forward with the award of three casino licenses all within New York City. But the decision has been made, and now my focus is singular: protecting our city's number one taxpayer and largest employer. I am asking the Governor and the state to recognize the new realities before us and work collaboratively with Yonkers and MGM on a meaningful plan to strengthen this facility. We need to expand its potential, transforming it into a true entertainment destination. Failure is not an option for our residents, our workforce, our city's future."

The most likely explanation as to why MGM bailed out was when the NYS Gaming Commission released rules about how long each casino license will last. These rules came very late in the game, and required that all licenses will last at least 10 years, but bigger projects are entitled to longer licenses — 15 years if the project's investment is between \$1.5 billion and \$5 billion, 20 years if between \$5 billion and \$10 billion, and 30 years if greater than \$10 billion.

A 15 year term was determined by MGM to not be economically feasible. But Bally's investment is also under \$5 billion so they should also only be entitled to 15 years. Bally's also has to pay the Trump Corporation \$115 Million for the land in which they will build their Bronx location, next to a Trump golf course.

The gaming casino at Yonkers Raceway was estimated to create thousands of construction jobs and 2,000 permanent new jobs, and jobs for working-class residents of Yonkers.

Recently, many NYC residents expressed opposition to the Queens casino expansions.

Many Casino insiders thought that "only one license will be issued to Citifield. Resorts World bid so high on their tax rates that they're rumored to be trying to get out of this licensing round and hope for a 2nd shot. There's a lot of grumbling about their financial stability & the fact that they're leaving Sullivan County high and dry while investing billions downstate. They've spent more money on ads for their NYC casino than the revenue share Sullivan County gets from their Catskills casino. Upstate feels like Resorts World has given them the middle finger.

"Yes, I think the state process was flawed. Too much uncertainty, that's why companies like Wynn, Las Vegas Sands, and MGM stepped out. I'm surprised they awarded three licenses, but also interested to see if the commission agrees and awards all three."

The two logical locations for a gaming licenses are the two racetracks that currently have VLT's, video lottery terminals; Yonkers Racway and Belmont Race Track. Belmont got a license, while Yonkers got screwed.

Why is a gaming license so important for Casinos? One Yonkers resident posted, "I moved to Yonkers in or around 2013. I've only been to Empire city casino twice-why? No table/live card games."

Yonkers City Council Majority Leader John Rubbo issued a sharp statement condemning the New York State Gaming Commission for killing a multi-billion-dollar project in Yonkers and advancing policies that undermine Westchester County and the thousands of union workers who stood to benefit from a full-scale casino license at MGM Empire City.

Rubbo pointed to New York State's own labor data, showing New York City has grown private sector jobs by 3.4 percent since before the pandemic, while the suburbs and upstate have seen a net decline of 0.2 percent.

"At the exact moment when the suburbs are falling behind in job creation, the Gaming Commission is making decisions that push investment away from communities like Yonkers," Rubbo said.

The Majority Leader noted that all three downstate licenses announced today went exclusively to New York City, leaving Yonkers and Westchester behind despite being the third largest city and one of the most diverse, growing regions in the state.

Rubbo called for modernization of MGM Empire City's nearly twenty-year-old tax structure to be in parity to the newly approved downstate casinos.

"MGM has contributed billions to New York's education system over eighteen years," Rubbo said. "Yet they are still forced to operate under an outdated tax model harsher than what the new casinos will pay. That punishes an early partner instead of supporting them."

Rubbo pledged to work with Mayor Spano and state leaders to secure a fair revenue structure that increases the local share for Yonkers and Westchester County to support education, public safety, transportation, and infrastructure.

"If New York wants growth in the suburbs, then treat suburban communities fairly," Rubbo said. "Honor the eighteen years of contributions MGM has already made. Provide a predictable path for the next generation of investment. Yonkers deserves certainty. Westchester deserves respect. And we can prove this is still a place where major employers can invest for the long term."

Editor's Note: Another thought on what a bad decision this was for New York State. The longer you wait for the gaming casino's to be built, the more likely it is that bettors will be more accustomed to betting online and by phone. Yonkers Casino was the most "shovel ready" location to open a gaming casino. The bones of a casino are already in place here in Yonkers.

We have yet to read or receive a comment on this decision from State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, since her support of the Yonkers Raceway Casino license application in September.

"While the reductions do not go as far as we had proposed, they are a substantial move in the name of affordability, and the requirements for more disclosure and transparency on capital projects and the costs of overhead vs. underground systems are major gains for our County," said Joel Dichter, Counsel for the Westchester Municipal Consortium. "This outcome reflects how much can be accomplished when Westchester's municipalities stand together for a common goal."

"There is no doubt that Westchester's municipalities banding together had a substantial impact on the results," said Hastings-on-Hudson Mayor Nicola Armacost who is also President of the Westchester Municipal Officials Association. "This collaboration ensured our communities were heard at the state level and will continue to give us a voice in how utility investments are made in Westchester."

"I'm proud of the work we put into this, and I'm particularly proud that each of Pelham's municipal entities stood united in this fight. My sincerest thanks to Pelham Manor Mayor Lapey, Town Supervisor McLaughlin, and each of our respective boards for committing to this effort in such a unified way. This is an excellent outcome for our residents," said Village of Pelham Mayor Chance Mullen.

But this week, prominent Westchester democrats joined County Executive Ken Jenkins to oppose the settlement agreement reached between Con Edison and the WMC. This puts democrats like State Senator Shelley Mayer, who opposes the compromise, on the other side of this argument to supporters like Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner who said, "Greenburgh joined a consortium of 40 municipalities joined forces, hired an experienced attorney and fought to lower Con Ed's proposed rate hikes."

A spokesperson for Con Edison said, "The Joint Proposal is the result of an 11-month, highly inclusive process led by the Public Service Commission, engaging the broadest range of stakeholders to date. This process worked as designed, ensuring all voices were heard and producing a plan that balances the immediate affordability challenge with the investments necessary to maintain system reliability and resilience in the short term."

"Con Edison is acutely aware of the issue of affordability, which is why last year we provided more than \$300 million of discounts to income eligible customers in our energy assistance programs. This year, we advocated for the recently approved expanded energy affordability program which will raise the income thresholds and allow for more customers to become eligible for bill discounts."

Other supporters of the agreement include: New York State Department of Public Service Staff ("Staff"), City of New York, Alliance for a Green Economy ("AGREE"), National Railroad Passenger Corporation ("Amtrak"), Consumer Power Advocates ("CPA"), Environmental Defense Fund ("EDF"), Electrify America, LLC ("Electrify America"), New York Energy Consumers Council ("NYECC"), New York Power Authority ("NYPA"), Retail Energy Supply Association,

"The results speak for themselves" said New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert. "Teaming up with 39 other Westchester municipalities was not only unprecedented but ultimately an impactful effort that will bring real relief to Westchester County residents and businesses."

Members of the WMC include: Ardsley, Bedford, Briarcliff, Buchanan, Cortlandt, Croton-on-Hudson, Dobbs Ferry, Eastchester, Elmsford, Greenburgh, Hastings, Irvington, Mamaroneck Town, Mamaroneck Village, Mt. Vernon, New Castle, New Rochelle, Ossining Town, Ossining Village, Peekskill, Pelham Manor, Pelham Town, Pelham Village, Port Chester, Rye Brook, Rye City, Rye Town, Scarsdale, Tarrytown, Yonkers, and Yorktown, Bronxville, Mt. Pleasant, North Castle, Pleasantville, Sleepy Hollow, Tuckahoe, and White Plains.

At the press conference announcing their opposition to the agreement, County Executive Jenkins, State Senator Mayer, Assemblymembers Dana Levenberg and MaryJane Shimsky and Chris Burdick all had the same message: That the WMC did a good job but not good enough.

Senator Mayer said, "I stand out as someone who is really calling into question the entire system of regulation of utilities. The (WMC) tried their very best to do the best they could get, and they did get something, but it wasn't good enough."

"The problem is delivery charges. For 12 years, I have complained against Utility rates, I have testified, I have submitted testimony. None of it was relevant. None of it was considered, even though I represented hundreds of thousands of people."

"I want to really commend my colleagues, (WMC) because they were in the fight and they actually pushed the envelope. But we all agree that envelope was not pushed far enough," said Mayer.

Assemblyman Burdick said, "This is totally unacceptable. The utility rates are already outrageous."

Assemblymember Levenberg said, "And looking at a 5 to 7% increase over the next three years, I don't believe any of our constituents are looking at income increases of that percentage."

BOL Chair Vedat Gashi said, "This is an improvement on what was presented earlier but its absolutely not enough. The rate hikes to this point have been unconscionable and the proposed rate hikes are heartless and unacceptable."

County Executive Jenkins said, "I am hopeful that the governor will be talking to not only the chair of the Public Service Commission, but to members."

Jenkins and the BOL issued a statement, "Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins and the Westchester County Board of Legislators strongly reject the proposed rate increases recently announced as part of the Joint Proposal between Con Edison, the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC), and other parties."

"Families are already being stretched to the breaking point. Utility bills are skyrocketing while wages remain flat. We are hearing from seniors on fixed incomes, families juggling multiple jobs, and business owners barely staying afloat. A rate hike of this magnitude will force too many to choose between paying their utility bills and affording necessities like food, medicine, or childcare."

After the democrats held their press conference we reached out to members of the WMC for comment. Greenburgh Supervisor Paul Feiner said, "The consortium was able to get a rate reduction lowered—we had an expert in utilities hired by the wmc and they got the best deal possible -nobody wants rate hikes and tax hikes sometimes its unavoidable—the county and state and con ed have bills to pay

"I would be thrilled -if it was 0%, but the county taxes are going up by 5% and I feel if county and local govt kept taxes at 0 then we could say con ed doesn't deserve over the years I have been critical of con ed outages-they have done a much better job -

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Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, DEC. 6

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

Birding, 8 a.m. - 10 a.m. Join the Saw Mill River Audubon on a venture to observe birds that visit the Sanctuary. Meet near Playland Lake in the back of the main Playland parking lot. Bring binoculars. Registration is required. Get details and register: <https://friendsofreadwildlifesanctuary.org/event/more-birding-with-the-audubon-society/>

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

Lasdon History and Highlights Tour, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Urban naturalist Bruce Rosenberg leads a walking tour that focuses on Lasdon's history and highlights. Stops include the William and Mildred Lasdon Memorial Garden, the magnolia trees, lilacs, conifers, the azalea garden and Lasdon's main house. Get details and register: <https://www.lasdonpublicgardens.org/event/history-highlights-tour-of-lasdon/2025-12-06/>

Hilltop Hanover Farm & Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Tea with the Animals, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Join us for a mid-morning cuppa while you meet and learn about the animals on the farm! Participants will harvest and make some scrumptious treats for both us humans and the animals to enjoy together for a tea party! Adults and children 6+ welcome! Pre-registration is required with a \$15 program fee. Details and registration: <https://hilltophanoverfarm.org/events/event-calendar.html/event/2025/12/06/1765033200/tea-with-the-animals/541313>

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466. Birding for Beginners, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. For anyone interested in birdwatching, this is a great way to learn some basics. Bring binoculars. No pre-registration needed.

Hilltop Hanover Farm & Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Old Time Music Jam, 11:30 a.m. - 3 p.m. This event is a monthly gathering of local, acoustic musicians who play traditional Appalachian fiddle music. Play or just listen, and enjoy the community that music can create! Musicians of all levels are welcome.

Cranberry Lake Preserve, North White Plains: (914) 428-1005. Animal Adaptations: Craft and Creation, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. Join us in the nature center for a lesson on animal adaptations, and use your imagination to design a creature of your own!

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Katonah: (914) 864-7282. Guided Farm Tour, 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m. and 2 p.m. - 3 p.m. Join us to take a free tour around the farm to visit and learn about our animals and a few of our historic buildings. Tours meet outside the reception center. These tours are for individuals and small families. Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/guided-farm-tours-tickets-1915990772979?aff=ebsoporgprofile>

Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River: (914) 864-7322. Winter Arts & Crafts, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Take a break from the cold weather and, through some creative crafts, learn about the many adaptations our flora and fauna use to beat the freezing temperatures.

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851. Rockin' Geology, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. This time of year, we can clearly see the beautiful Palisades across the river. But what are they and how were they formed? All ages can learn about types of rocks, the Palisades, the Hudson River and the ever-changing nature of the Earth during this stimulating winter walk.

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720. Submit Photography and Artwork for Read Photography Exhibit, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Submit photographs and other artwork of wildlife and natural landscapes. Photographs and artwork must be framed and wired for hanging. One photograph/art piece per person, please. Get details: <https://friendsofreadwildlifesanctuary.org/event/submit-photography-and-artwork-for-read-photography-exhibit-2/>

Westchester County Center, White Plains: (914) 995-4050. Stand-up Comedy with Nicky Smigs, 6:30 p.m. - 10 p.m. From Caroline's on Broadway to Governor's Comedy Club of Levittown, Nicky Smigs brings his sharp humor and uncanny impressions to crowds everywhere. \$50 includes dinner, show and parking. Get details and tickets: <https://countycenter.biz/event/stand-up-comedy-night-with-nicky-smigs/>

SUNDAY, DEC. 7

Croton Point Park Nature Center, Croton-on-Hudson: (914) 862-5290. Project Feeder Watch, 9:30 a.m. - 12 p.m. Beginners to experts can join us for a wonderful day of viewing local birds at the Nature Center's feeders. Free. Also: Dec. 14, 21, 28.

Westchester County Center, White Plains: (914) 995-4050. William F. Plunkett Jr. Christmas Classic, 12 p.m. - 7 p.m. Courtside: \$40; general admission: \$10. Buy tickets at the venue's box office. Get details: <https://countycenter.biz/event/william-f-plunkett-jr-christmas-classic-2/>

Croton Point Park Nature Center, Croton-on-Hudson: (914) 862-5290. Archaeology at Tharros, a Roman City in Sardinia, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Join the NYS Archaeological Association's Lower Hudson Chapter for a free presentation by archaeologist John J. Yarmick about the ancient history and treasures of Sardinia.

Edith G. Read Wildlife Sanctuary, Rye: (914) 967-8720. The Clever Survivors: Raccoons in the Wild and Urban Landscapes, 2 p.m. - 3:30 p.m. Native to North America, they thrive in forests, wetlands and increasingly in urban environments. This discussion will explore their behavior, diet, social structure, and interactions with natural ecosystems and human communities. Get details: <https://friendsofreadwildlifesanctuary.org/event/the-clever-survivors-raccoons-in-the-wild-and-urban-landscapes/>

Stepinac Students Participate in Annual “Box City” Event

Raise \$27,000 to Fight Homelessness

Archbishop Stepinac High School successfully hosted its annual Box City event on Friday, November 7, bringing the school community together to raise awareness and funds for families facing homelessness in Westchester County and New York City. Sponsored by Stepinac’s Campus Ministry, this year’s event saw more than 200 students participate in the immersive experience, helping to raise over \$27,000 to support local homelessness initiatives.

Students constructed temporary shelters out of cardboard boxes and blankets on Stepinac’s campus, gaining first hand insight into some of the daily challenges endured by unhoused individuals. The experience encouraged reflection, compassion, and a deeper understanding of the struggles faced by those without stable housing.

Throughout the evening, students heard from guest speakers including officers from the White Plains Police Department, Ms. Yascara Maldonado of the City of White Plains Planning Department, and representatives from Lifting Up Westchester, an organization dedicated to helping individuals overcome homelessness and rebuilding their lives. Stepinac also presented a donation to Lifting Up Westchester in support of their ongoing efforts.

Student participant Matthew Rodriguez ’26 reflected on the impact of the event: “Sleeping outside makes you realize how much we take for granted. It opened my eyes and made me want to do more to help people who don’t have a place to call home.” Over the years, Box City and other charitable initiatives have helped Stepinac raise more than \$100,000.

Casino, continued from pg 4-

Congressman Latimer Creates 7 Citizen Task Forces



Congressman George Latimer, right, with Tuckahoe resident Valon Nikci

On Monday, December 1, 2025, Congressman George Latimer announced a slate of seven citizen task forces. Each task force will be chaired by a resident with issue expertise from NY16. Rep. Latimer presented his seven task forces, the Chairs of each Task Force, and their members. The members will include residents from Westchester and the Bronx who have career or advocacy expertise in the seven areas of focus. Rep. Latimer also outlined the role each task force will play

Congressman George Latimer, right, with Tuckahoe resident Valon Nikci

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“We are fortunate here in Westchester and the Bronx to have many talented and engaged people whose knowledge and expertise can benefit all our communities. When people think of Washington, they think of a concept in a far-away place that is out of reach and out of touch with everyday Americans. That is now how I have operated in my decades in public service.

“I have always sought community involvement and spend every day not in Washington, but meeting with residents in Westchester and the Bronx. I’m excited to bring the legislative process to my district,” said Rep. Latimer

The seven task forces and its member are:

Intergovernmental: Chair Nancy Kaboolian
Richard Harley, Chance Mullin, Hector Santana, Anne Janiak, Megan Glander, Ben Boykin

Veterans Affairs: Chair Kevin Megett
Bill Goodenough, Bob Cypher, Joe Bello, Rod Carson

Social Services: Chair Jane Fisher
Judy Trolio, Beatriz Coronel, Martiza Flood, Judith Watson, Tom Gabriel

Infrastructure: Chair Jonathan Lewis

Morgen Flesig, Harmet Goindi, Noel Ellison, Rich Nightingdale, Dylan Pine, Michael Stanton

Environment and Energy: Chair Martin Rogowsky

NYAG James Releases Penny’s for Charity Report

New Report Shows Charitable Giving Campaigns Raised Nearly \$1.6 Billion in 2024, An Increase of More Than \$82 Million from 2023

Professional Fundraisers Retained 25 Percent of All Charitable Campaign Donations, Up From 17 Percent in 2023

Ahead of Giving Tuesday and the holiday season, New York Attorney General Letitia James today released her annual “Pennies for Charity: Fundraising by Professional Fundraisers” report. The report analyzes data from 2024 charitable fundraising campaigns submitted to the Office of the Attorney General’s (OAG) Charities Bureau by professional fundraisers. The OAG uses this data to protect New Yorkers’ wallets and ensure both donors and charities who choose to work with fundraisers have all the information they need to make informed decisions. The report provides guidance and tips for New York donors, examines trends in the nonprofit sector, and shares details about fundraisers’ performance.

“New Yorkers give generously to charities to support causes they care about, and they should know that their donations are being used responsibly,” said Attorney General James. “Every year my office releases the Pennies for Charity report to help New Yorkers understand where their donations are going. Ahead of the holiday giving season, I encourage everyone to consult my office’s tips for charitable giving to avoid scams and ensure that their hard-earned money is being used for good.”

New York is home to many diverse charitable organizations and institutions, with more than 102,000 charities registered with the OAG Charities Bureau. Many charities choose to contract with for-profit professional fundraisers, who can bring expertise in raising money from a variety of donor groups. Professional fundraisers must register with the Charities Bureau and report on their charitable campaigns, including the campaigns’ earnings and expenses. The 2025 Pennies for Charity report is based on analysis of professional fundraisers’ 2024 financial results.

Professional fundraisers are independent for-profit contractors often hired by charities to run campaigns. This year’s report found that in 2024, professional fundraisers received a fourth of every dollar donated to the charities that hired them — a total of more than \$395 million in fees and expenses. An analysis of 588 campaigns conducted by professional fundraisers in 2024 found that charities received 75 percent of donations, a notable decrease from the 83 percent return in 2023. The report also found that:

In 293 charitable campaigns, or about 50 percent of campaigns, charities received less than 50 percent of funds raised in 2024.

In 104 charitable campaigns, or about 18 percent of the campaigns, expenses exceeded revenue, costing charities more than \$20 million.

To help New Yorkers during the holiday giving season, the report also includes tips for donors to follow before donating over the phone, by mail, or online to ensure that their contributions reach the causes they intend to support. Important tips to keep in mind include:

If you are contacted by a telemarketer, ask questions to make an informed decision. New York law requires telemarketers soliciting for charities to make certain disclosures to potential donors and prohibits them from making false, misleading, or deceptive statements to contributors. Telemarketers are required to tell potential donors their names, which professional fundraiser employs them, and if the telemarketer is getting paid. Donors may also ask what percentage of their donation will go to the fundraiser for fees and expenses.

If you receive a direct mail charitable appeal, verify the soliciting organization. Does the organization have a name that sounds like a well-known charity? Double-check — is it the one you think it is? Does the mailing claim to follow up on a pledge that you do not remember making? Does it clearly describe the programs that the charity plans to fund with your donation?

If you are donating online, do your research first. Donating online or via an app is convenient for donors and can be cost-effective for a charity. But before hitting “send,” donors should check whether a campaign is legitimate.

Some online platforms that host groups and individuals soliciting for causes do not obtain permission from charities, or vet those charities that use their service. Donors should only give to campaigns conducted by people they know. Donors also should check what fees they will be charged and make sure that the charity has given its permission for the use of its name or logo. The charity’s site or the charity should confirm that the charity has approved the campaign.

When donating online, make sure the website is secure. The web address should start with “https.” Unless the charity uses a separate payment site, the web address should match that of the organization that will receive the donation.

Be wary of email solicitations that ask you to click a link or open attachments. These could be phishing scams that try to trick you into giving out your credit card number, Social Security number, or other confidential information.

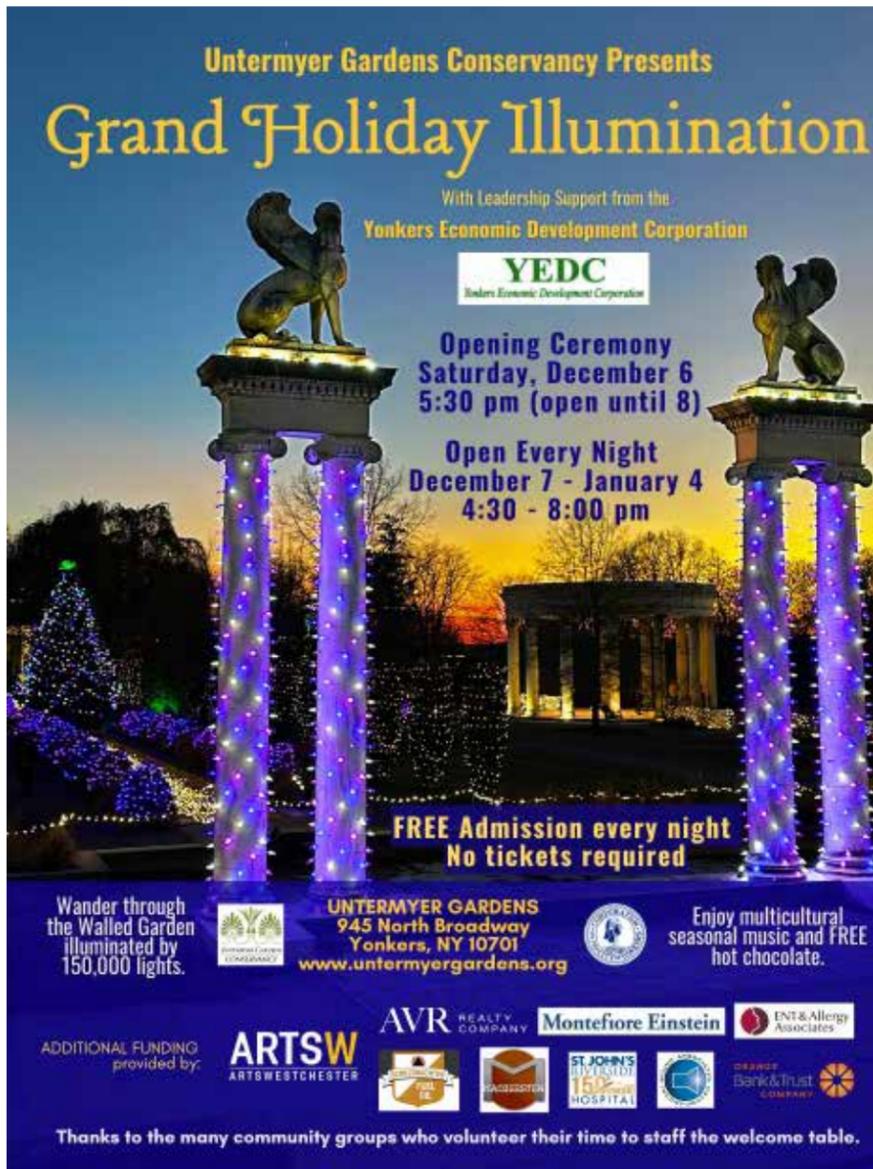
Use the OAG Pennies for Charity database to review a charity’s fundraising track record. It will show you what percentage of a professional fundraiser’s campaign went to the charity. If a charity frequently receives only a small percentage of funds raised, you may want to look further into how well that charity manages its fundraising and accomplishes its mission. You can also use OAG’s searchable registry to look up charities’ financial reports.

More information about OAG’s Charities Bureau and organizations it regulates may be found online. If you believe an organization is misrepresenting its work or that a scam is taking place, please contact OAG’s Charities Bureau at complaints@ag.ny.gov or (212) 416-8401.

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**Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy
Grand Holiday Illumination-Opens Dec. 6**



2025 Grand Holiday Illumination: December 6 through January 4

Inaugurated in 2015, the Untermeyer Gardens Conservancy's Grand Holiday Illumination has quickly become a New York tradition, and thousands of visitors come to enjoy the spectacle.

Come for FREE and see the Walled Garden lit with more than 150,000 lights and listen to holiday music from many traditions.

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

Illumination is OPEN on Christmas Eve and Day, and New Year's Eve and Day.

Good Cause Eviction:

Good Cause in Name, Bad Policy in Practice, continued from pg

in insurance — requiring a larger than normal increase in rent upon renewal, under the law, a tenant could simply refuse to pay, pushing the issue into housing court where it could take months or years to resolve. In New York City, some landlords are reportedly raising rents more than they normally would — say, 6% where they would normally stick with 3% — not to exploit tenants but to safeguard against future risk.

And the issues go beyond dollars and cents. Good Cause has been dubbed the “Bad Neighbor Protection Act” because it can make it difficult to address disruptive or unsafe tenant behavior that falls short of being criminal or an open-and-shut lease violation. A tenant who routinely aggravates neighbors, damages property, or delays access for repairs could still have a near-automatic right to renewal — even at the expense of everyone else’s safety and peace of mind.

For renters seeking affordable housing, the law may also backfire. Because property owners can no longer simply decline to renew a lease for tenants who are causing issues or generating complaints, they will be more cautious when approving new applicants — especially those with unstable finances or prior rental problems. Ironically, the people who need housing the most could end up having an even harder time securing it.

The end result could be fewer available apartments, higher rents over time, and more strained relationships between tenants and property owners. Unless Westchester communities are ready to significantly expand their housing stock, we’ll see fewer vacancies and more competition for what’s left — the exact opposite of what this law intended.

We all want stable, affordable housing. But if Good Cause leads to the same number of evictions, higher rents, fewer repairs, and extra protection for nuisance neighbors, we need to ask: what good is it really doing?

NAACP, continued from pg 9

safety and well-being of all whose lives have been altered by this devastating storm, and we are grateful for the opportunity to offer support during this difficult time.”

James Henderson III, President of the Port Chester–Rye Branch, affirmed the collaboration: “The NAACP Port Chester–Rye Branch stands in full support of this critical relief effort for our brothers and sisters in Jamaica. Many in our communities have family, friends, and loved ones who were directly affected by this devastating hurricane, and we know that better days are ahead because the resilience of the Jamaican people is unwavering.”

Aisha Cook, President of the New Rochelle Branch, added: “The utter devastation experienced required ‘all hands on deck.’ Our humanity requires that we stand in the gap when our brothers and sisters suffer.”

Westchester County Legislator Shanae Williams shared: “As islands in the Caribbean continue to recover from the devastating impact of Hurricane Melissa, it is essential that we stand with our brothers and sisters during this difficult time. Moments like this call for unity, compassion, and action. I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to the NAACP Yonkers Branch for organizing this effort and to everyone in the community who donated. Your contributions remind us of the power of community and our shared responsibility to support those facing hardship. Together, we can help islands like Jamaica—the land of my birth—rebuild and heal.”

Yonkers City Council Majority Whip Deana Norman added: “As Councilmember for a majority-minority district with a strong Jamaican American community, it is important for me to stand with our residents as they support loved ones back home. I’m deeply grateful to everyone in Council District 1 who contributed to this vital effort. Thank you to the NAACP Yonkers Branch for leading the charge on this important humanitarian mission. God blesses us so that we can be a blessing to others. The tragedy in Jamaica is truly heart-wrenching, and today we stand in full support of our brothers and sisters across the Caribbean. May we continue to lift them in prayer and extend compassion wherever it’s needed.”

Sasha Gay-Denton, a Jamaican native and Yonkers resident who lost a loved one and helped coordinate the packing and shipping of items, expressed her gratitude: “I am incredibly grateful for the food and clothing contributions made by the NAACP Yonkers Branch. These donations will impact many lives in the parish of Trelawny, Jamaica, who have been affected by the Category 5 hurricane. It means a great deal to be able to give back to my country, especially when they need it most.”

Send us your letters, announcements,

opinions, photos & story ideas to

dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

“Were it left to me to decide if we should have a government

without newspapers, or newspapers without a government,

I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter

-Thomas Jefferson



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