Yonkers Rising

YonkersTimes.com Friday December 6, 2024

100 Year Old Yonkers Business,

Hollywood Florist, Honored by Stewart-Cousins



Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins with owners of Hollywood Florist in Yonkers.

New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins presented New York State Senate Empire Business Awards to three small businesses in District 35 in recognition of Small Business Saturday this week.

Hollywood Florist, Inc, located at 414 South Broadway in Yonkers, has been in business for more than 100 years. A family-run establishment, Chris and Artemis Grammatos purchased the business in 1984. Today, the day-to-day is run by their sons, Elton and Peter Grammatos, who thanked Sen. Stewart-Cousins for the Empire Business Award. "We've been here for 100 years because of our customers and we're so appreciative of them. Our customers are our number 1 priority," said brothers Peter and Elton Grammatos, managers of Hollywood Florist. "It's nice that they know we've been around for a long time. The business has been here for 100 years, our father has been here for 40 years this October, and it's good to have that relationship with the community where they know we've been here for a long time."

continued on pg 4--

After 17 Years US Dept. of Justice Ends Monitoring Of Yonkers Police Department



Mayor Mike Spano at Press conference announcing USDOJ termination of investigation into Yonkers PD

Mayor Mike Spano and Yonkers Police Commissioner Christopher Sapienza mark a historic day in City history by announcing the compliance of a Department of Justice investigation and subsequent termination of an agreement to ensure constitutional policing.

The Department of Justice today announced the termination of the agreement, which began in 2016 acknowledging the tremendous effort of the City of Yonkers and Yonkers Police Department.

"What we have accomplished has changed the hearts and minds of the Justice Department," said Mayor Spano. "We applaud our Police Department but also the efforts of our community. By partnering together, we are able to make a difference for our residents, their quality of life and how our community continued on pg 10-

Update on Saving St. Mary's Church - Yonkers



By Dan Murphy

We received the followng update from a member of the committee that is hoping to come up with a financial solution to save St. Mary's Church on South Broadway in Yonkers. Built in 1948, St. Mary's is the oldest Roman Catholic Church in Yonkers.

Hello Dan,

It's been several months since our group, Friends of St. Mary's, has continued on pg 10-

Three Grinches Caught Stealing Christmas Gifts with a Santa Hat on! Watch Your Packages!



From the Yonkers Police Department:

We do not think Santa would appreciate Ms. Torres wearing his hat while attempting to steal Christmas!

Adriana Torres, Manuel Ortiz, and Vladymir Campos learned the hard way that YPD does not tolerate package theft in our city.

These grinches were all charged with Petit Larceny, Criminal Possession of Stolen Property in the Fifth Degree, and Possession of Burglar's Tools following their arrest on Bronx River Road this past Saturday afternoon.

Let this serve as a reminder that our uniform and plain clothes officers are out in force this holiday season. It doesn't pay to be a Grinch!

Video link below:

https://www.facebook.com/search/top?q=yonkers%20police%20department

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Senator Nick Spano: A Legacy of Service and Advocacy



Nick Spano, with Santa Claus at a recent Operation Santa Claus fund raiser in Yonkers

Nick Spano, a name synonymous with service, made an indelible mark during his tenure as a New York State Senator, where he served the people with unwavering dedication for over two decades. Today, almost 18 years after stepping away from the Senate chamber, Spano continues to pursue what he does best, championing the causes closest to his heart, particularly advocating for individuals with developmental disabilities.

In the years since leaving public office, Spano's passion for supporting vulnerable communities has only deepened. His advocacy is not just a professional commitment but a deeply personal one, rooted in his desire to create a world where people with developmental disabilities are included and celebrated for their unique talents and contributions.

continued on pg 14-

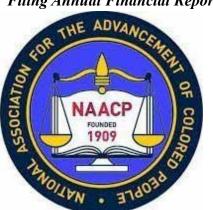
Yonkers NAACP Ordered to Cease & Desist All Activities

By Dan Murphy

"The Rev. Frank Coleman, Jr, President of the Yonkers NAACP, sent a letter to members on Nov. 25 which states, "As discussed in our recent general membership meetings, our branch is non-compliant because our Annual Financial Report (AFR) has not been submitted to the National Office by Raquel Ali who was our Treasurer, and she has since resigned.

"Because we are noncompliant, we received a letter from the National o

Due to Noncompliance in Filing Annual Financial Report



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Toys for Tots-Westchester Gives 30,000 Kids a Toy for Christmas... With Your Help



Every year around this time, we highlight and encourage our readers to consider donating to Toys for Tots Westchester. The reason is simple: coordinators for Toys for Tots Westchester, Steve and Kelly Topilnycky do a remarkable job in getting the most out of your donations. Steve writes,

"The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Westchester County is again reaching out to our valued community for support. Last year, we successfully assisted

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"The U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Westchester County is again reaching out to our valued community for support. Last year, we successfully assisted 29,365 children in Westchester County by distributing 43,961 gifts. However, this year, we anticipate an increased need to provide gifts to nearly 38,375 children, and we cannot achieve this goal without your help.

"We invite you to join us in spreading the joy of Christmas to children in need as the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program calls upon your generous spirit; as a highly esteemed, nationally recognized 501(c)3 non-profit charity, we are dedicated to significantly impacting the lives of the less fortunate during this festive season. Your support is crucial in helping us fulfill our mission, and together, we can ensure that every child experiences the magic of the holidays. Let's unite our efforts and create lasting memories for those who need it most!

We invite you to join us as a volunteer; you can sign up through this link: https:// signup.com/go/vPfOCLC. Additionally, our website ((https://westchester-countyny.toysfortots.org/) provides information on drop-off sites and locations for dona-

There are various ways to contribute, including our Amazon Wish List (http://tiny. cc/ amzn), where items purchased will be shipped directly to Toys for Tots Westchester until December 15th. Furthermore, you can explore our Learning Express Toys Gifts Wish List at http://tiny.cc/ le.

For those who prefer to donate via credit card, online donations can be made through our website at http://tiny.cc/ dnt. Checks should be made payable to "Toys for Tots" and mailed to: Toys for Tots, P.O. Box 1207, White Plains, NY 10602-1207

Former County Legislator and US Marine Jim Maisano annually holds an event to collect toys and raise awareness for Toys for Tots. This year, Maisano will hold his event on December 14, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m., at the Beechmont Tavern, 750 North Avenue, New Rochelle.

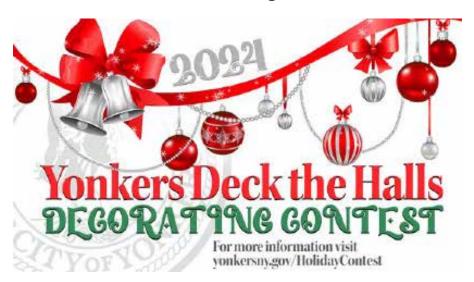
A simple Facebook search on Toys for Tots Westchester will show how many local organizations partner with Steve and Kelly and why we like to give what we can to them every year. They can be trusted to put your donations into the hands of someone who needs a little Christmas joy.

Last month, Steve T gave a "big shout out to the officers of Town of Greenburgh Police Department, who were conducting training in the building being utilized by Toys for Tots - Westchester. The campaign received 8 pallets of toys that will be distributed to children in need within the county. After a long day of extensive training, these officers noticed the Campaign Coordinator Steve Topilnycky breaking down the pallets and moving the toys inside the building. With no Toys for Tots volunteers available this task would take hours to complete. They jumped into action and in no time flat, all 8 pallets were broken down and the cases of toys moved down the ramp into the building gym."

Another option for our readers is to volunteer. Steve and Kelly somehow get the job done every year, but they could use a few helping hands.



Show Your Holiday Spirit - "YONKERS DECK THE HALLS" Decorating Contest



Residents & Businesses Can Enter-Contest Runs through December 18

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced the launch of the "Yonkers Deck the Halls" Holiday Decorating Contest. Residents and businesses are invited to showcase their holiday spirit by decorating their properties and submitting entries for a chance to win the grand prize of a \$250 Visa gift card and a custom "Yonkers Deck the Halls" lawn sign. The contest runs from Monday, December 2 to Wednesday, December 18 at 5PM.

"This contest highlights the creativity and pride of Yonkers residents," said Mayor Mike Spano. "I encourage everyone to participate and help make Yonkers shine this holiday season."

Contest Details:

Participants can submit photos or videos of exterior or interior holiday decorations. Submissions can include homes, apartments, businesses, schools/ classrooms, or community spaces. Entries will be judged on creativity, holiday spirit, use of lights and decor, and Yonkers pride. Participants can submit photos or videos of their decorated properties on social media using the hashtag #YonkersDeckTheHalls and tagging @CityofYonkers. Submissions will be judged on creativity, holiday spirit, use of lights and decor, and Yonkers pride.

Key Dates:

Contest opens: Monday, December 2, 2024

Submission deadline: Wednesday, December 18, 2024

Winners announced: Friday, December 20, 2024

The City will feature select entries on its social media platforms, including Facebook, Instagram, X and TikTok, during the contest.

For information about the "Yonkers Deck the Halls" Holiday Decorating Contest, visit yonkersny.gov/HolidayContest.

OPEN FIRE BAN LIFTED FOR WESTCHESTER COUNTY PARKS

Ban lift effective immediately

On Dec. 2, the open fire ban placed on Westchester County Parks has been lifted, effective immediately, due to recent soaking rains that alleviated the dry conditions.

The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and the National Weather Service both no longer have warnings issued for our area, and while Westchester County remains in drought conditions the fire danger has

Officials will closely follow conditions and take further action if needed.



In Home Personal Training

In-Home Personal Training Available. NASM, EMT and Special \ Needs Certified. Strength Training, Fat Loss, and Muscle Building Virtual and online coaching available.

Text or call Andrew at 914-646-1718.

Gaza Protest at Sarah Lawrence College Ends After 7 Days-Admin. Building Occupied



By Dan Murphy

One of the more interesting and underreported stories in Westchester media ended on Nov. 27, when a group of student protestors at Sarah Lawrence College ended their "occupation" of part of the campus and one SLC building.

The students were protesting against the college's investment in Israeli companies and the use of those monies to fund the Israeli war in Gaza.

This was the first protest in Westchester since the spring, when many college campuses had student protests over Gaza, Israel and the hostages held since Oct. 7, 2023.

The protestors included members the Students for Justice in Palestine and the Divestment Coalition at Sarah Lawrence. The demand from both groups was for SLC to "fully divest from companies manufacturing weapons used by the Israeli government."

Sarah Lawrence SJP announced the ending of the occupation on Nov. 27 after the administration conceded to one of the protesters' main demands. "We have voted to dismantle our camp after receiving written confirmation from the college that a report disclosing the extent to which the companies listed in the Divestment Proposal are included in the college's investment portfolio will be published by January 27, 2025,"

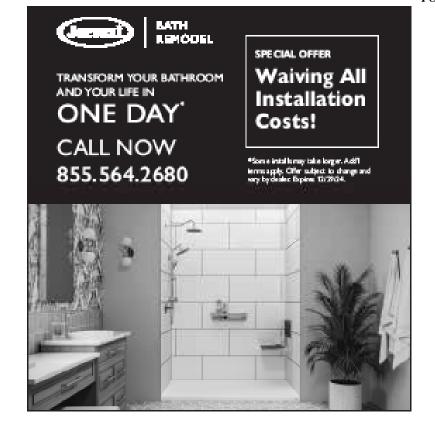
Most of the protestors are not likely to face any punishment, except for the several who "occupied" a SLC adminstration building, which they held for a day.

SLC President Cristle Judd said, "I want to be clear that peaceful protest has long been a part of Sarah Lawrence's history. I want to be equally clear that some of yesterday's actions crossed lines in ways that cannot be ignored or condoned. Students whose actions threatened the health and safety of those in our community or who knowingly and repeatedly violated clearly communicated college policies will be subject to disciplinary action through the student conduct hearing process,"

SLC Professor Samuel Abrams said that President Judd's words, "ring hollow to me." "The students' behavior is performative; it is causing harm to their peers as well as to the school's mission and core functions. The college should ask law enforcement to end this charade, and these students should be held fully accountable and must face consequences, including expulsion. Judd should be removed from office, and the school needs to return to its true values of actually providing a liberal education so that its students can "tackle the problems of, and thrive in, a complex and rapidly evolving world." Sarah Lawrence College has fallen; it can be rebuilt with the right guidance and leadership. None of this should have happened, and it is a direct result of educational malpractice and disastrous leadership by the school's president," wrote Abrams for Mindingthecampus.org-https://www.mindingthecampus.org/2024/11/25/sarah-lawrence-has-fallen/.

Not surprisingly, the SLC Student newspaper, The Phoenix and reporters Tallulah Hawley and Zoe Cushing supported the rights of student protest. "Sarah Lawrence's occupation takes place amid a global shift in how universi

continued on pg 14-



Oh There's No Place Like Target for the Holidays



By Eric Wolf Schoen

'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 could 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 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.

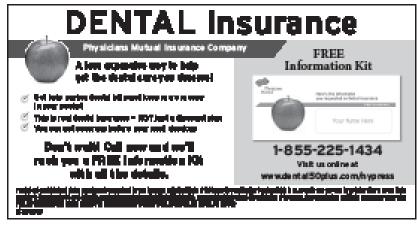
Make sure you use the cards promptly and on time.

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!

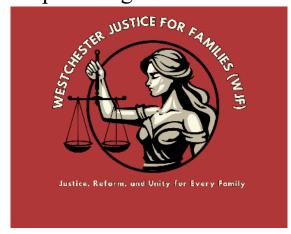
Reach Eric Schoen at thistooistonkers@/aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers.





The Westchester Story Lab

Empowering Families to Change Systems



This event is dedicated to empowering families impacted by the CPS and family court systems. It offers a supportive platform for families to share their experiences, understand their rights, and work toward constructive solutions for systemic improvement. With a focus on advocacy and community leadership, we aim to foster collaboration and increase awareness around the need for family-centered reform. A highlight of the event will be a Story Lab workshop led by Piper Anderson. In this workshop, local community leaders and family advocates will learn advocacy-building techniques to advance community well-being. The workshop is designed to equip attendees with practical skills to drive positive change and strengthen family integrity. Participants must pre-register for this event. This workshop also includes a phenomenal line up of panelists and speakers.

This event will be hosted by Westchester Justice for Families and sponsored by 914United and the Redlich Foundation. In attendance will be Piper Anderson the co-founder of the Rikers Public Memory Project, Tiffany Hamilton the CEO of YWCA of White Plains and many local Westchester Elected Officials.

December 13, 2024 at 11:30am -3:30pm at the Yonkers Riverfront Library, 1 Larkin Plaza, Yonkers NY 10701.

Register at: https://bit.ly/wjfstorylab.

100 Year Old Business, continued from pg 1-

"The New York State Senate Empire Business Award is a great way to honor local small businesses and institutions that contribute significantly to our communities," Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins said. "With Small Business Saturday this week, I wanted to use this opportunity to highlight the thriving and diverse small business community in my district. It's my honor to recognize the accomplishments of these three establishments, which are staples of their respective fields here in Westchester."

Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins presented awards to Hollywood Florist Inc in Yonkers, J.P. Doyle's Restaurant and Public House in the Village of Sleepy Hollow, and The Good Witch Coffee House in the Village of Hastings. The three businesses were each nominated by members of the public after Sen. Stewart-Cousins solicited recommendations from constituents.

In Trouble with the IRS or the NYS Tax Department?

In trouble with the IRS or the New York State Tax Department? I can help. My name is Gerald Snyder, and I am an enrolled agent and a former IRS Group Manager. I have successfully represented clients before the IRA and the NYS Tax Department for over 25 years. I resolve liens, levies, seizures, income tax and sales audits, and penalties and trust fund recovery issues. I also handle unfiled tas returns.

I operate from convenient offices at 73 Market Street in Ridge Hill, Yonkers, NY. My fees are reasonable and I offer a free initial consultation. I offer in person meetings. Why deal wiht an unknown person online when you can meet with me in person?

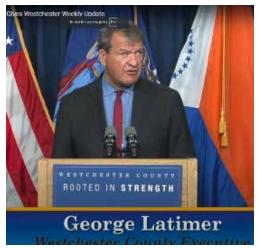
For more information, call me at 914-793-5654 or email me at thas nyder 1@ verizon.net.



Yonkers Rising

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County Executive Latimer to Resign Jan. 2, to Take Oath in New Congress



"I am deeply appreciative of the many kindnesses that have been shown to be over these past 7 years

"There is a time to come and a time to go with everything. I hope my time in Washington will be substantive,"

County Executive & Congressman-elect George Latimer

By Dan Murphy

Westchester County Executive George Latimer announced that he will resign his office on January 2, 2025 so that he can take the oath of office as the new Congressman for NY-District 16. Latimer made the announcement at his recent weekly news briefing.

"Effective January 2, I will be resigning the position of County Executive. That is because I will be sworn in as a Congressman. I am deeply appreciative of the many kindnesses that have been shown to be over these past 7 year. I am prepared to work closely with this county government, but there is a time to come and a time to go with everything. I hope my time in Washington will be substantive," said Latimer, who in addition to his most recent 7 years of service as County Executive, he also served for 13 years as a County Legislator, giving him 20 years of service in county government.

Latimer also went over the procedure for selecting his replacement, which has been the cause of confusion for some in Westchester. "Board of Legislators Chair Gashi will appoint an acting County Executive for a couple of days, until the first meeting of the BOL on January 6. At that meeting they (BOL) will appoint an acting County Executive for 90 days, until they set the date for a special electon, which will likely be in the month of February."

At that point the Democratic and Republican parties in Westchester will select their candidates for County Executive and both will face off in that special election. There will be no primary in either party for County Executive until June

Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins has announced his campaign for County Executive and is widely seen to be the choice of county legislators when they meet to appoint an acting County Executive.

Republicans have yet to announce a candidate for County Executive, nor has any Westchester republican announced their intentions to run. County Legislator James Nolan told Yonkerstimes.com that he will not be a candidate for County Executive, and those close to Eastchester Supervisor Tony Colavita have told us that he will also not be running.



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On This Day in Yonkers History...



Movie Star Carole Landis with fourth husband, Yonkers filmmaker Horace Schmidlapp

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

Monday, December 2nd

December 2, 1933: Marshall-Matheson Company, one of Yonkers oldest stores, closed its doors for the last time. The good news? A new store, Marshall-May, Inc., would open in its place and hire all 150 employees who worked at Marshall-Matheson!

December 2, 1948: Mrs. Ellen Long, the first resident of Cottage Place Gardens, was presented with keys to her new home by Robert Saunders, MHA Director Joseph McCann, William Schlobohm, and other members of the Municipal Housing Authority. The first tenants of the new complex lived in houses torn down for the new homes.

Tuesday, December 3rd

December 3, 1943: Judge Martin Fay reserved his decision on hearing felonious assault charges brought by YPD Patrolman Frank Skowronski against two men wounding each other in a Chicken Island Halloween shotgun duel. Sweeney McIntyre, 73, continued on parole and John Mitchell, 33, returned to jail.

December 3, 1945: C. Ray Cole of Crestwood became Yonkers first million-dollar Victory Bond purchaser! Treasurer of Coleman Holding Corporation, his bond purchase of 1/8 of Yonkers' quota made him Yonkers' best customer.

Cole believed it was the "fundamental first duty of all Americans to help.," continuing, "The greatness of Yonkers comes from the home... I am so happy to... help make sure Yonkers does not fail," i.e., meeting its quota. Company total purchases during War Bond drives totaled three million dollars.

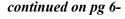
Wednesday, December 4th:

December 4, 1945. Habirshaw Cable and Wire Corporation was the first Yonkers large company to hand in its Victory Loan subscription; it purchased \$500,000 worth of bonds from the Yonkers War Finance Committee.

Committee Chair Harold Garrity announced he was extremely grateful to Habirshaw for backing the Yonkers drive. He also announced Otis Elevator stook a subscription of \$100,000. Yonkers had five more days to meet our Victory Loan quota of eight million dollars.

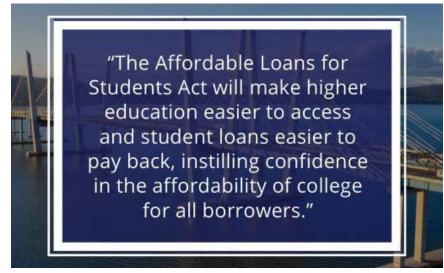
Thursday, December 5th

December 5, 1907: Aldermen considered the proposal of the American Scenic and Historic Preservation Society to purchase Manor Hall for \$50,000.





Congressman Lawler Introduces Bipartisan Bill Lowering Federal Student Loans Interest Rate to 1%



On Nov. 18, Congressman Mike Lawler (NY-17) introduced the Affordable Loans for Students Act, which will lower the interest rate on federal student loans to 1%. Specifically, the Affordable Loans for Students Act:

Lowers the interest rate on federal student loans to 1%;

Retroactively applies the interest rate adjustment to outstanding loans;

Authorizes the Department of Education to modify the interest rate and refinance student loans automatically, without any opt in from borrowers —borrowers may opt out of refinancing if they choose;

Provides for the refinancing of other student loans to Part D loans to ease the rate adjustment process;

Authorizes borrowers to consolidate loans if they have multiple outstanding Part D loans following this change;

Requires a report with information on the total number of borrowers whose loans have been modified or refinanced under this section during the preceding year and the number of such borrowers who are delinquent in making payments on such a loan.

"Nowhere have costs skyrocketed more than in higher education," said Congressman Lawler. "And sadly, with high interest rates, making even a dent in the principal balance can be a challenge. The Affordable Loans for Students Act will make higher education easier to access and student loans easier to pay back, instilling confidence in the affordability of college for all borrowers."

The Affordable Loans for Students Act is endorsed by the American Council on Education (ACE), the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA) and the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U).

"Increasing college affordability is a top priority of ACE and the higher education community. We are proud to endorse the Affordable Loans for Students Act because we believe that lowering interest rates for future and current borrowers and creating greater flexibility in loan repayment options will significantly benefit students. This bill is a great step in the right direction, and we will continue to work with Congress to increase affordability for all students," said the American Council on Education (ACE).

"NASFAA has long advocated for systemic solutions to reform student loan repayment. By lowering the interest rate on all federal student loans to 1%, the Affordable Loans for Students Act puts forth an equitable approach that would help ease the burden of student loan debt on current and future borrowers. This legislation is an important step in promoting access to affordable postsecondary education," said Karen McCarthy, Vice President of Public Policy and Federal Relations at the National Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators (NASFAA).

"The American Association of Colleges and Universities is pleased to endorse the Affordable Loans for Students Act. By making it easier to access and repay federal student loans, this bill would make college more affordable for all borrowers and help address the unconscionable debt burden carried by too many students and graduates," said the American Association of Colleges and Universities (AAC&U).



Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST,

-against-

OMOWUMI LONGE, ET AL.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Westchester on June 20, 2024, wherein U.S. BANK TRUST NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, NOT IN ITS INDI-VIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR RCF 2 ACQUISITION TRUST is the Plaintiff and OMOWUMI LONGE, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the WESTCHESTER COUNTY COURTHOUSE,,LOBBY, 111 DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. BLVD., WHITE PLAINS, NY 10601, on December 2, 2024 at 9:30AM, premises known as 437 SOUTH 5TH AVENUE, MOUNT VERNON, NY 10550; and the following tax map identification, 169.39-3091-37.

ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON, COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER AND STATE OF NEW YORK

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No.: 68185/2022. Robert Huffay, Esq. - Referee. Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, social distancing and mask wearing. *LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIRECTIVES.

Notice of formation of GCMA2 Real Estate Group LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/29/204. 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, 66 Hutchinson Blvd, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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 Hampton Estate Care LLC. Arts. of County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process pose: Any lawful activity.

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 130 FRANKLIN AVE LLC. Artiles of Organization filed with SSNY on 10/15/2024. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Brian Caldwell at 68 North Steet, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of David A. Langner, Esq., PLLC filed Arts. of Org. with NY Sec. of State (NYSS) on 11/18/2024. Office: Westchester County. NYSS was designated PLLC's agent for service of process, and shall mail process to 87 Hawkes Ave., #2104, Ossining, NY 10562. Purpose: Practice

Send us your letters, opinions announcements, photos and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

SUPREME COURT, STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER, Index No. 61446/2024, SUMMONS:

US Bank as custodian for Actlien Holding Inc.,

Plaintiff.

The Unknown Heirs, Legatees, Devisees and/or Representative of Right W. Howley, And All Persons That May Claim An Interest In The Property Referred To In The Complaint By, Through Or Under Any Of The Foregoing (The Aforesaid Unknown Heirs, Legatees, Devisees and/or Representatives Being All Such Heirs, Legatees, Devisees and/or Representatives Of Their Than Those Specifically Named As A Defendant Herein – The Identity And Addresses Of All The Foregoing Not Being Known To Plaintiff), Judy Howley Galligan, Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Thomas Fitzgerald, Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Sharon Tufo Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Kathy Howley Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Richard Howley Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Mary Jane Brown Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Ruth Morrison Dee Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Robert Howley Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, Joan Howley Jackowiak Individually And As Heir To The Estate Of Ruth W. Howley, T11 Funding Point 62, LLC, Credit Solutions Of America, New York State Department of Taxation And Finance, CSA Corp, "John Does" And "Jane Does", Same being fictitious and unknown to the Plaintiff, the persons or parties intended being the fee Owners, occupants, tenants, persons or entities, if any, having Or claiming an interest in or lien upon the liened premises if the aforesaid individual defendants if living, or if said individual defendants are dead, their respective heirs-at-law, next-of-kin, distributes, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors and successors in interest and generally all persons having or claiming under, by, through, or against the said defendants named as a class, of any right, title, or interest in or lien upon the premises described in the verified complaint,

Defendants.

Location of property to be foreclosed: 92 Vineyard Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10703. SBL# 2- 2174-10.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in the above action and to serve a Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/17/2024. Office: Westchester copy of your Answer on the Plaintiff's attorney within twenty (20) days after the service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, or within (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner than by personal delivery within the State. The United States of America, to the LLC, 35 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Pur- if designated as a Defendant in this action, may answer or appear within sixty (60) days of service hereof. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

Westchester County is designated as the place of trial. The basis of venue is the location of the mortgaged/liened premises.

NOTICE: YOU MAY BE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME.

If you do not respond to this Summons and Complaint by serving a copy of the Answer on the attorney for the tax lien company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you for non-payment of City of Yonkers, New York taxes for the tax year 2016, and filing the Answer with the Court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your property. Speak to an attorney or go to the Court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the Summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to the City of Yonkers may not stop this foreclosure action.

YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (TAX LIEN COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. DATED: November 20, 2024, JASON BERTUNA, ESQ.

Bee Ready Law Group, LLC,

Attorneys for Plaintiff Office and Post Office Address 170 Old Country Road, Suite 200 Mineola, NY 11501

Telephone: (516) 746-5599

NATURE AND OBJECT OF ACTION: The object of the above action is to foreclose on a tax lien(s) held by Plaintiff bearing the date(s) the 10th day of May, 2017, executed by the City of Yonkers at auction on the 10th day of May, 2017, to Plaintiff to secure the sum of \$4,235.47, plus any applicable interest and fees, and recorded by the City of Yonkers on the 10th day of May, 2017 as Tax Lien Certificate No. 190168.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. Paul I. Marx, a Justice of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, dated October 28, 2024, and filed along with the supporting papers in the Westchester County Clerk's Office. This is an action to foreclose the property for an unpaid tax lien.

The premises are described as follows: All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester, State of New York, and designated and shown upon the tax map of the City of Yonkers as follows: Section: 2 Block: 2174 Lot: 10. Upon information and belief premises known and designated by the records of the City of Yonkers Tax Assessor as 92 Vineyard Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10703.

City of Yonkers Discovers Historical Film Reels Depicting Life in the City in the 1920's



Recently Digitized Film Reels Opens Door to the Past Photo by Joe Panella/City of Yonkers

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced today the discovery of historic film reels stacked inside a storage area of the Yonkers Department of Planning and Development formerly located at 87 Nepperhan Avenue.

"Our City is full of amazing, rich history and we now are fortunate to get a glimpse of our past with these new-found artifacts," said Mayor Spano. "When our team discovered the reels, we couldn't contain our curiosity. We immediately digitized them to see what was on them and it was like opening a time capsule into the early 20th century of life in Yonkers."

The reels are between five and fifteen minutes long and shows the paving of Yonkers Avenue, one of the City's busiest thoroughfares. It also takes viewers to City Hall and a groundbreaking ceremony of what is the present day 87 Nepperhan Avenue. Another reel also shows the fashion of everyday Yonkers residents walking along the storefronts of Getty Square and the early days of the City's fire department.

"I encourage our residents to take a peek at these reels, especially our longtime residents," said Mayor Spano. "It's possible someone's grandparents or great grandparents who worked for the City may be on these videos."

All of the videos have been uploaded and are available on the City's You-Tube page, https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bTnAtNiuS_I

Letter to the Editor: Our Tax Dollars at Work?

"Major Biden-Harris Mistake Gave Taliban \$239 Million in U.S. Aid".

This was reported by a nationally known government dog watch organization. The report goes on to state-"A new report found that the U.S. mistakenly gave hundreds of millions of dollars to the Taliban after the State Department failed to properly vet award recipients."

"At least \$239 million in taxpayer money has landed in the hands of terrorists since the Biden Administration's botched withdrawal from Afghanistan. The State Department appears not to have followed its own counterterrorism partner vetting requirements in Afghanistan before approving the 29 grants to several local entities."

Careless is, as careless does

Joe Pettit Yorktown

Source: The Judicial Watch magazine –Verdict (November 2024 edition)





My Experience at the 2024 Black Men in Education Convening



L-R-Dennis Richmond Jr., George Lee, and Christopher Bowman

By Dennis Richmond Jr.

From November 21st to November 23rd, I had the privilege of attending the 2024 Black Men in Education Convening in Philadelphia, a transformative experience for me as one of the only 1.3% of Black men teaching in America today. This convening brought together around 1,200 folks in education from almost 40 states, all committed to reshaping education for Black students.

As a middle school educator with experience in Yonkers, the Bronx, and now Mount Vernon, I've dedicated my career to empowering students facing systemic barriers. This event reignited my passion and provided valuable tools to better support my students.

The convening provided an invaluable opportunity to connect with professionals deeply committed to educational equity. I had the privilege of engaging with HBCU students such as Glendon Harmon and educators like Reed Driver, a teacher from Nashville, Anthony Johnson of the Belmont Charter Network in Philadelphia, and George R. Greenidge Jr., a visiting fellow at the Harvard Kennedy School. These discussions were inspiring and necessary.

Representation matters, and as a Black male teacher, I know the impact my presence can have on students who may rarely see themselves reflected in their educators. Black male teachers make up just 2% of the overall teaching force, and that statistic isn't lost on me. Events like this convening are critical to building networks, sharing resources, and finding support to stay in this field and thrive.

Thanks to the United Negro College Fund (UNCF), who sponsored my attendance, I walked away from Philadelphia with a clear vision for what I want to achieve. I'm excited to launch several new initiatives at my school in Mount Vernon, starting with ensuring every sixth grader has a library card by January 2025. Access to books and digital resources can be life-changing, and I want to make sure my students have the tools they need to succeed.

I'm also committed to helping all my students achieve grade-level proficiency in Language Arts by June, and I'm designing a Boys Empowerment Class to start in February. This program will focus on leadership, resilience, and academic success, giving boys a safe space to build confidence and receive mentorship from educators who look like them.

In addition, I'm challenging my students to read at least 25 books this year and plan to organize curriculum-aligned field trips to help bring learning to life. These initiatives were directly inspired by conversations I had at the convening, and I'm eager to see the impact they'll have.

Attending the 2024 Black Men in Education Convening wasn't just an inspiring experience—it was a call to action. I left Philadelphia more motivated than ever to push boundaries, challenge the status quo, and provide my students with the opportunities they deserve. This journey is just beginning, and I'm excited to see where it takes me and my students.

Dennis Richmond, Jr., an educator, historian, and writer, illuminates the experiences of Black, Latinx, and LGBTQ+ communities in Yonkers and NYC through his journalism. Stay connected with him by following @NewYork-Stakz on social media.



Beyond Costumes: A Conversation with Yon Zweibon

huyered.

Join HRM Director and CEO Masha Turchinsky for an inspiring conversation with Yon Zweibon, the Yonkers-based costumer and founder of Beyond Costumes, the largest privately owned costume shop in the New York metropolitan area. Serving the film, television, and theater industries, as well as the public, Zweibon will discuss the transformative power of costumes in her life and the lives of those who wear them. In March 2025, Zweibon will celebrate the 25th anniversary of purchasing the business and making a dramatic career shift from CPA to costumer. She'll bring a selection of costumes from her shop and share insights into their power to transform. Audience members are invited to try on a costume, and HRM Junior Docents will model costumes to encourage participation in this unique and interactive experience. This event will take place on Sunday, December 15, at 2pm, in the Greene Education Center. This event is free with general admission.

Yonkers Charter School's Girls Volleyball

Team Wins Championship



The Charter School of Educational Excellence (CSEE) Owls clinched the 2024 High School Varsity New York State championship in the City Schools Sports Association (CSSA) on November 9, defeating the AECI2 of the Bronx in a decisive 3-1 victory. The rivalry between the Owls and AECI2 intensified this season, with AECI2 narrowly defeating CSEE at the Owls' homecoming game in October. However, the championship win solidified CSEE's place as a dominant force in the CSSA."The players' hard work and commitment truly paid off," said CSEE athletic director Michael DeSimone. "This victory showcases not only their athletic talent but also their dedication to excellence in all areas of life."The Owls' 13-player varsity volleyball team boasts a remarkable 4.0 GPA. CSEE's K-12 charter school offers a robust athletics program with 21 sports teams across its middle and high schools. In addition to volleyball, students participate in flag football, soccer, basketball, baseball, softball, cheerleading, and track across fall, winter, and spring seasons. The CSEE is now accepting applications for the 2025-2026 school year. Information sessions begin on December 11 for grades K-7 at 260 Warburton Avenue in Yonkers. Tours of the high school begin on February 19. For more information call 914-476-5070, X:4 or visit www.charterschoolofeducationalexcellence.org/



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Congratulations to the 2024 Graduating Class of Yonkers Police Cadets!





These 18 amazing young adults just completed a rigorous 6-month program with the Yonkers Police Department! They tackled challenging physical training and attended lectures and presentations from various units of the YPD. This program helps them grow as leaders and prepares them for success in high school, college, and beyond.

Huge shout-out to the Community Affairs Division, especially Detective Specialists Hogue and Bess for leading this incredible program.

f you're a Yonkers teen between the ages of 14 and 18 and have what it takes to challenge yourself and set yourself up for future success- consider applying for the next Youth Cadet Program.

This 6-month program meets once per week. If you can make it till the end, you'll have been a part of something special- an experience that lasts a lifetime! Come develop your:

Physical Fitness

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Career Building & Future Planning

For more information and to download an application, visit: https://www.yon-kersny.gov/.../commu.../yonkers-police-cadets.

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CHESTS.

Gorton High School's 30 Year Reunion



Above and below: Gorton High School Class of 1994 celebrate their 30th anniversary with Principal Jamie Morales



The Charles E. Gorton High School Class of 1994 celebrated its 30th reunion November 30 at Castle Royale in Yonkers. Alumni, former teachers, and friends came together for an evening filled with laughter, reminiscing, and dancing to music from the 90s and beyond. A moment of silence was held to remember classmates, staff, and teachers who had passed away.

The reunion was organized by a dedicated committee, co-chaired by Adam M. Greenwald and Hope Hodges, with members Ebony Cook Yizar, Dan DeMatteo, Roxanne Franquelli, Ivan Hernandez, and Ada Medina. Former teachers Mr. Roco Riti and Ms. Dora Manzo joined the celebration and were warmly greeted by attendees. Mr. George Morris also attended and was enthusiastically welcomed, though he is not pictured in the event photo.

Special thanks go to Yonkers Public Schools Superintendent Aníbal Soler, Jr. and Gorton High School Principal Mr. Jamie Morales for supporting this milestone event. The reunion highlighted the enduring bonds and shared pride of the Gorton High School community.

Gorton High School, established in 1923, is a public magnet school in Yonkers. Known as the "Home of the Wolves," the school has a rich history of academic excellence, school spirit, and a commitment to preparing students for success in higher education and their future careers The school is home to specialized academies such as the Academy of Information Technology, the Law and Public Service Academy, the Medical and Health Professionals Academy, and the Commercial Horticulture Academy. These programs provide students unique pathways to explore their interests and pursue various career opportunities.



DOJ, YPD, continued from pg 1-

interacts and engages with our Police Officers."

The agreement required the Yonkers Police Department to improve its policies and practices regarding the use of force, stops, searches, arrests, the protection of First Amendment rights, misconduct investigations and discipline and community policing. The City and Police Department has implemented all of the reforms required by that agreement and sustained those reformed for more than a year.

"Under the direction of Mayor Spano, the Yonkers Police Department revised numerous policies, procedures, training and documentation pertaining to uses of force," said Yonkers Police Commissioner Christopher Sapienza. "Over the course of this agreement, we initiated more than forty community programs, which are still in place today. The Yonkers Police Department is and will remain a community-based Police Department putting the citizens of Yonkers first."

The Yonkers Police Department was recognized by the Department of Justice for its improvements in the constitutionality and effectiveness of its policing including a 22% reduction in violent crime over the last five years, a significant reduction of excessive force settlements and decreased allegations of unlawful uses of force.

The Yonkers Police Department is also engaged in dozens of community programs including Be the Change, Coffee with a Cop, YPD Cadets, National Night Out and the Neighborhood Stabilization Team.

Three Scrooges, continued from pg 1-

As part of her ongoing efforts to combat theft and protect New Yorkers, Attorney General James recommends the following tips for New Yorkers to follow to prevent package theft:

Always pick up your mail promptly when delivered. Do not leave it in your mailbox or on your porch overnight. If you are expecting checks, credit cards, or any other financial items, ask a trusted friend or neighbor to pick up your mail if you are unable to do it promptly.

Sign up for tracking alerts, such as USPS' Informed Delivery service, which provides email notifications for incoming mail and packages, to know when your package is scheduled to be delivered. When signing up for tracking alerts, verify that the URL you are using is legitimate. Scammers often solicit potential victims using fraudulent package tracking messages.

If you cannot be home to receive a package, opt to have it delivered to a secure location like a USPS Smart Locker or use the USPS Hold Mail Service. Letters and packages will be held securely at your local Post Office until you return.

Use a doorbell camera or video surveillance system to help deter thieves or assist law enforcement in identifying them.

When mailing something important, consider requesting signature confirmation for the intended recipient or using the Hold for Pickup option, which allows the recipient to collect the package at their local Post Office.

If you suspect your mail was stolen or see a mail theft happening, contact police immediately and then report it to Postal Inspectors by calling (877)-876-2455.





Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

been in contact with you and your publication, Yonkers Rising, but we just wanted to assure you, and all of the other thousands of supporters, across the areas of NY and beyond that we're still on the case.

Since the landmark decision, back in July, that was reached unanimously, by the Yonkers City Council, we have been meeting, via phone conference, weekly, to plan & implement a constantly evolving environment, as it pertains to the merger of St. Mary's of the Immaculate Conception with the combined parish of St. Denis- St. Peters.

In late July, accordingly with Canon Laws, our group of St. Mary's parishioners. filed an appeal known as a Petition For Hierarchical Recourse, to the Dicastery for the Clergy in the Vatican on July 22, 2024. This appeals the Decree issued by Timothy Cardinal Dolan, Archbishop of the Archdiocese of New York, the object of which is the elimination of the Parish of the Immaculate Conception located in the City of Yonkers, and conterminously within the boundaries of the Archdiocese of New York.

The Petition For Hierarchical Recourse is being transmitted to your dicastery (Cardinal You) within the 15 useful days available for bringing this appeal following Cardinal Dolan's rejection of the Petition for Reconsideration that we initially brought to him, a rejection which occurred on July 8, 2024.

The response, From the Vatican, 10 September 2024 is as verbatim DICASTERIUM PRO CLERICIS

Dear Mr. Tovar et al.,

The Dicastery for the Clergy writes regarding your hierarchical recourse, in conjunction with Ms. Julia Velasco and Mr. Bobby Faah, against the decree of the Archbishop of New York, His Eminence Timothy Cardinal Dolan, dated 31 May 2024 and modified on 8 July last, which joined in an extinctive union the parishes of Saint Peter-Saint Denis-Immaculate Conception(cf.cann.121 and 515 &2).

From the documents provided, it appears that your petition has been legitimately presented within the peremptory time limits to the correct Dicastery. Therefore, this curial Institution, in accordance with Art. 137 &1 of the General Regulations of the Roman Curia, hereby ACCEPTS it for examination, recognizing as the object the aforementioned decree.

This Dicastery has placed itself in correspondence with Cardinal Dolan and will communicate with you again when his response has been studied.

Thanking you for your correspondence, and with assurances of prayers and best wishes, I remain.

Sincerely yours in Christ, Lazzaro Cardinal You Heung sik Prefect

As is common knowledge, the Church of St. Mary's has evolved thru the generations that have become a part of the history of Yonkers. And as such, so has the Church. The majority of it's parishioners are from the Spanish Community, and members of it are active on it's Board of parishioners. By the Decree , issued by Cardinal Dolan, back in late May, there is to be ONLY ONE Mass per week, at 10am on Sundays in English. ALL of the other Masses, both in English & Spanish, are being said at the combined St. Peter – St. Denis. Leaders of this community have attempted to attend these Masses, and have indicated, thru photos & words that there are issues of crowding, lack of available parking spaces in their parking lot, which, in turn, has created illegal parking along Ludlow Street, and Riverdale Avenue.

Thus, many & most of these Spanish speaking families have stayed at St. Mary's Church, and attend the single Sunday Mass @10am, after they conduct the rosary outside of the Church, on the street or in the rear parking lot. Some walk over to the Grotto of Our Lady of Guadalupe, next to St. Mary's Hall, to conclude their morning.

Lastly, but certainly not less significant, is the announcement that our group, St. Mary's Friends has launched our web site, stmarysfriendsorg.com

We welcome you & everyone to view the wonderful history of St. Mary's, it's creation, as it intertwines with the growth of Yonkers, and it's myriad of immigrants that have made Yonkers what it is, and what it will be, for all generations that call it home!

Thus, we will be sharing this site with any & all individuals that have had their own lives 'touched' by St. Mary's, in hope that they can join our cause, both via donations, as well as pro bono assistance in the areas of Civil Engineering, Accounting/Finance, and Media Communications.

I speak for every member of our small, but hard working Friends of St. Mary's to ask for your professional assistance via Print & Social Media at Yonkers Rising and The Yonkers Times.

Wishing you & your families a Happy Thanksgiving! Robert R. Lynn Friends of St. Mary's St. Mary's School '67

At their July 16 special meeting, the Yonkers City Council unanimously adopted a resolution to Landmark St. Mary's Church.



Gov. Hochul Vetoes Mayer & Paulin Bill to Support Non-Profit Organizations

Governor Hochul vetoed a bill on Friday by Senator Shelley Mayer and Assemblymember Amy Paulin that aims to address the unacceptably slow contract and procurement process faced by non-profit organizations that contract with New York State. S4877/A2740B would have required agencies that fail to submit renewal contracts to the Attorney General or execute them in a timely fashion to report to the State Comptroller on the status of those late contracts. The bill also would have required agencies with delayed contracts to report to the Comptroller on barriers to submitting and executing contracts in a timely manner, and their plans to address those issues.

New York State relies on not-for-profits for everything from early education childhood programs to safety net services including mental health assistance, homeless shelters and legal counseling. The state outsources to and relies on not-for-profits to provide these services, and without them many programs would not even exist. These agencies are performing work that the state is obligated to do by law. It would be more expensive if the state did the work. Unfortunately, the timeliness of the state's contracting process and procurement is consistently slow, delaying payments and often undermining the financial stability of these organizations.

New York State Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, "I am deeply disappointed that Governor Hochul has vetoed a bill that would have helped non-profit organizations across the state deliver vital services to our communities. For years, I have heard from non-profits about the challenges created by delays in executing their contracts with the state. This legislation would have provided needed transparency for non-profits with delayed contracts, and pushed state agencies to address bottlenecks and other barriers to their ability to execute contracts in a timely manner. Although this is a setback, I will continue to fight, alongside my colleague Assemblymember Paulin, to support our non-profits and address persistent delays in state contracting."

Assemblymember Amy Paulin said, "I am deeply disappointed with Governor Hochul's veto of A.2740b/S.4977a, which would have helped to ensure timely payment to not-for-profits which contract with New York State. This legislation would ensure that the state does not continue to put our state's not-for-profits in precarious and unfair financial situations. Likewise, it will improve the contracting process and ultimately the delivery of essential services to New Yorkers. For these reasons State Senator Mayer and I will be reintroducing this bill in the 2025 Legislative Session. Upon its passage in the Legislature, I urge Governor Hochul to swiftly sign it into law."





19-Year Old Arrested by New Rochelle Police For Additional Sex Assaults

Joey Valencia



From the New Rochelle Police Department: Additional Victims Come Forward in Assault Case

Following our November 7th, 2024 press release regarding the arrest of Joey Valencia in connection with the sexual assault of a 13-year-old girl, the New Rochelle police department has received reports from additional victims who came forward after our initial announcement.

Their statements provided crucial information that fortified the case against the suspect and uncovered further criminal activity. The courage shown by these survivors in sharing their experiences has been invaluable. Based on this new information, Joey Valencia was charged with additional crimes. Joey Valencia remains in custody at the Westchester County Jail on \$250,000.00 bail.

Considering these developments, we strongly encourage other victims to come forward. Our investigation remains active, and we are committed to thoroughly examining all leads and supporting all victims. We thank our community for their continued cooperation and support in this sensitive matter.

If you believe you may have been a victim or if you have information related to this case, please contact the New Rochelle Police Department at 914-654-2300

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Be Thankful: We All Won on November 5th Opinion-By Judith

Opinion: By Judith Niewiadomski

The election is over. Some rejoice because they understood the productive executive management of President Trump. Feelings of those who voted for Ms. Harris range from the healthy: bitter disappointment or resignation to pathological rage and grief and fear. Dem voters: put your grief aside; you too will benefit from the new administration. Fear not: you are already safer than you were and the future will be safer under President Trump. Many illegal invaders have already turned back. Traffickers will have fewer people to abuse, American communities will cease to be overwhelmed. Our veterans, homeless and seniors will not be denied as the resources we alloted for them are diverted to invaders. And the root causes that Ms. Harris could never perceive —the love of money and devilish lust for power over others will be fought rather than enabled.

We are already safer because our enemies know that they will not be catered to, feared by or allowed to hurt US under President Trump and his administration. Border Czar Holman is already at the border. Border Patrol agents who retired or resigned in disgust are coming back because they will finally be allowed to do their job. Terrorists and foreign rapists and murderers and drug and sex traffickers will be thwarted and deported, not rewarded. Hundreds of thousands of lives will be saved. The MS13 murder cult and Tren de Aragua will be jailed or deported as individual circumstances determine. (Trump cut MS13's presence by more than half in term one, jailing their leaders and deporting many of them. Tren de Aragua was not in the US during his first term) Securing the border will not just save the lives of Americans, but those the beasts traffic. Everyone should watch and read Newsmax's investigative report on human smuggling. Border Patrol agents summed it up after showing how traffickers abandon people in the desert: "These aren't people to them; they're just money." Biden-Harris lost track of as many as 800,000 children, many of whom were released to traffickers. The Trump administration will make a wholehearted effort to find these children. Be thankful their abusers will be jailed or deported.

Our energy production will rise, cutting prices for everything else. (If you voted for democrats, you can continue to pay higher prices. Gas station owners don't make much profit, which is why most endeavor to sell snacks and other items.) Billions in American taxpayer money will not be diverted from needy Americans and used for invaders who broke federal law and shoved themselves over legal immigrants and American citizens. Small businesses and jobs will expand because of lower costs and elimination of burdensome but unproductive regulations.

Even if they did not vote for President Trump, those who pay taxes will pay less as tax rates are cut, jobs return from abroad and wasteful bureaucratic spending is cut—and the federal government focuses on mandated responsibilities. Change the mindset: government is not the solution to all your problems. God is. He can do more for you than government spending trillions.

Hundreds of thousands of lives will be saved as the wars in Ukraine and Israel end. Recall that Putin dared not invade Ukraine when Trump was President. The head of the European Union is already planning to buy oil and natural gas from the United States as our energy production ramps up, noting that American gas and oil is cheaper. (It is also the cleanest oil in the world.) Biden-Harris's killing of our pipelines and permits and opening of Russia's Nordstream pipeline is how Putin funds his war. Note the hypocrisy of those socialists who have much less distance to ship by pipeline (the safest and least expensive way) that those socialists charge their neighbors more than the United States, even though we free market capitalists have to ship it much longer distances by sea and land. Sanctions against Iran and a real alliance with Israel kept Iran from funding Hamas and Hezbollah. With sanctions restored and a no nonsense President, their ability to make war will be crippled.

No, President Trump will not weaponize the justice department nor the IRS as most presidents of the 20th and 21st centuries did except for Eisenhower, Reagan, and Trump. Lavrenty Beria lawfare at the federal level will end. Trump could have (and should have) prosecuted Hilary and the DNC and numerous others for the Russia collusion fraud—but he didn't. He was too busy doing positive things.

So, whoever you voted for, relax and enjoy the holidays and your family and friends. You will be safer. You will soon have more disposable income and lower expenses as government waste and unauthorized spending is cut—a model that can sustain a more fiscally responsible government for the future. You know better how to spend your money than government bureaucrats. Our fellow Americans in North Carolina got help within a day or two on the backs of mules from Mountain Mule Packers, the Cajun Navy, Samaritan's Purse, Mercy Chefs, and a league of volunteer helicopter pilots while FEMA refused to help people with Trump signs in their yard, and stood around demanding paperwork. Pennsylvania Amish came and put up tiny houses (Cabins for Jesus) for people to stay in as it gets colder, but FEMA wants to take them down and force people back into tents. Kentucky roadbuilders came in and started rebuilding roads while the feds are still pushing papers and saying it would take years. You can do better than distant bureaucrats who never see the pained faces and pressing needs of real people.

Be thankful to God, Who never fails Don't be a slave and dependent of government; help your neighbor. Your reaching out, however small, is immediate, closer, and more humane. You will get the blessing of seeing someone's life bettered. (And maybe make new friends.) No paperwork, no bureaucracy protecting its power and privilege, just basic human kindness, which will make you happier. Maybe one day, they will be the ones helping you.

Judith Niewiadomski, Yonkers

Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Letter to the Editor:

My name is Maranda Zocchi. I am a widowed mother of a 15 year old girl in sports and a 7 year old boy in sports. I am writing to you in concern of our unelected New York State Board of Regents and their expected vote to end Girls in Sports in New York.

Girls in Sports and the building of females having their own space and teams started long before we were all born. In the late 1800's and early 1900's to be exact. All anyone has to do is google and find the statistics. I want to bring attention to the here and now. I will only talk about my experience as a mom. I observe everything.

My daughter at a young age started in Little League baseball on and off. When she approached middle school sports became more obviously significant in her life. I watched all her friends evolve. I watch the coaches and their interaction. As she joined modified girls softball, I observed an even more important aspect of sports. The growth and team approach of our girls forming unity. The work that I as a parent put into her passion for her sports is tremendous.

Why do I do it? On top of being a widowed mom almost 4 years now, sports have introduced major stability in our lives at a time when she had one of two roads to choose. Losing her best friend, her Daddy, was traumatic. The pathway of Pancreatic Cancer was no observation I wanted her to ever endure. As a family we hit it head on. I gave her options at 12 years old. Continue with studying and growth in your sports or, you can take the hard road. Sulk in sadness, do drugs, drink alcohol, do not embrace your studies and have a horrible relationship with both your positive teachers and even worse ruin your 4 year old little brother's life and your family forever.

My daughter has the most amazing group of girl friends (sister-like) in all her sports which includes softball both school and travel, wrestling and volleyball. This group of friends all do sports. From Girls lacrosse, field hockey, track, soccer etc... Through my observation, sports not only enhance keeping the evil things out of their lives but the empowerment and reality is the formation and evolution of girls in sports is sacred on so many levels. Training and the physiological aspects of girls are different from boys. Girls' muscle composition is different. as a whole Girls In Sports is a complete BIO-PSYCHO-SOCIAL well being that we can never allow to be stripped from them because of political disgust. It is within our power to protect and preserve the works, goals accomplished to date and the FUTURE of our Girls to continue this major positive road.

As a mom will not only fight to preserve this for just my beautiful amazing young female athlete but also for all her friends and all of New York Girls in Sports. If I stand alone, then I stand alone. I will not give up. For the state of New York to even propose such a positive aspect of our young females demolish, sickens me. It is quite obvious either the decision makers of this proposal are clueless on the true aspects of harm this proposes on our young female athletes or the decision makers are brainwashed with the governing bodies that feed into false agendas. We can not allow them or anyone following them to impose on our young ladies. I thank you for your time and look forward to continuing to work with you on this topic.

Passionately signed, Maranda Zocchi Putnam Valley New York

Yonkers NAACP, continued from pg 1-

fice instructing us to cease and desist all activity pertaining to our election that was scheduled for November 25th from 7:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. via Election Buddy. Subsequently, we were instructed by our Regional Director, Wilbur Aldridge, that this cease and desist also pertains to all branch activities, including meetings. Therefore, the November 25th meeting is canceled.

"We will hear from National once we are in compliance. Thank you all for your support, and we will keep you informed," writes Coleman, President of NAACP-YONKERS BRANCH #2188.

One of the newer members said that NAACP Yonkers Branch #2188 has been having "constant problems" in recent months. Rev. Coleman announced at the last meeting that he would be stepping down from his position.

A new election was set for tonight, Nov. 25, before this announcement. "The members deserve an explanation as to what is going on," said the member.

It is estimated that the branch has around 50 members.

More information will be provided as it becomes available.

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finding the optimistic stories and letting them

be known." — Pete Seeger



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Weekend Events in Westchester County Parks

Friday, Dec. 6, 5 p.m. - 8 p.m.

Holiday Lights on the Farm

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

Get into the holiday spirit and see the farm in a new light! Visit our animals inside of the decorated barns, participate in holiday-themed activities, listen to music and enjoy delicious eats from food trucks! \$7.77 for ages 3 and older. Rain or shine; no refunds. Also: Dec. 7, 13, 14, 20, 21.

Registration required https://www.eventbrite.com/e/holiday-lights-on-the-farm-tickets-1073461896429?aff=efbevent&fbclid=IwY2xjawGZ-15leH-RuA2FlbQIxMAABHRaoH7FkwzNWLvUSPqIpYKkhk0v1bhdlJnviPaGb-CqWIZpbZ6CdZH-KHOA_aem_JCE3lKgmVkMcyg-zOh5k1Q

Saturday, Dec. 7, 9 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Naturalist's Choice Hike

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

Join the park naturalist to explore the history and nature of the unique Croton Point peninsula on the mighty Hudson River. Meet at the entrance to the RV Park; ages 6 and up; moderate difficulty; wear sturdy shoes.

Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m.

Lasdon's History and Highlights

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268

This tour focuses on the Arboretum's history and highlights. We will walk and examine the William and Mildred Memorial Garden, magnolia trees, lilacs, conifers and azalea garden, in addition to the Lasdon house's history. Free

Get details https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/the-history-and-highlights-of-lasdon-2/2024-12-07/

Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.

Birding for Beginners

Marshlands Conservancy, Rye: (914) 835-4466

This is a great way for anyone interested in birdwatching to learn some basics. Bring binoculars and your love of birds! Led by Chris Mignone of Central Westchester Audubon.

Saturday, Dec. 7, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Old Time Music Jam

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. This event is a monthly gathering of local, acoustic musicians who play traditional Appalachian fiddle music. Come to play or listen; enjoy the community that music can create! Musicians of all levels are welcome.

Saturday, Dec. 7, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m.

Rockin' Geology

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851

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 learn about the types of rocks, the Palisades, the Hudson River and the earth's ever-changing nature during this walk around Lenoir.

Saturday, Dec. 7, 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Submit Photography and Artwork for the Read Exhibit

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

People can submit photographs and other artwork of wildlife and natural landscapes. The works must be framed and wired for hanging. One photograph/art piece per person, please.

Sunday, Dec. 8, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m.

Gardening Sundays

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268

Get details and register https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/gardening-sundays/2024-12-08/

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YONKERS TIMES

News in Yonkers and around Westchester

Taxpayer Action Network (TANPAC) Launched for Fiscal Conservatism & Transparency in NY



A new political action committee, the Taxpayer Action Network (TANPAC), has officially launched to champion fiscally conservative policies, federalism, transparency, and limited government principles throughout New York State. Founded in the Summer of 2024, TANPAC is dedicated to promoting responsible government spending, prioritizing taxpayer interests, and ensuring accountability at the local, county, and state levels.

With a primary focus on the Hudson Valley, TANPAC is also set to expand its efforts statewide, working to research and support elected officials and candidates who demonstrate a commitment to prioritizing government spending and controlling taxation. As part of its mission, TANPAC invites all candidates and elected officials to take the Taxpayer First Pledge on its website, TaxpayerActionNetwork.com.

The pledge states:

"I will support the implementation of policies to improve taxpayer engagement, transparency, and better control government spending and taxation.

I acknowledge that the federal and state governments account for 70% of local government spending in mandates, and only 30% of local government spending is at the discretion of local government. In both cases, I will advocate for the proper prioritization of that spending, focusing on the core functions of government."

"New York taxpayers deserve a government that respects their hard-earned money and prioritizes efficiency and accountability over wasteful spending," said Kevin Byrne, Putnam County Executive and one of TANPAC's founders. "The Taxpayer Action Network is here to advocate for good fiscal policy and support candidates who are committed to transparency and accountability in government. Together, we can change the trajectory of New York governance for the better."

TANPAC makes clear and objective evaluations of candidates while engaging with local communities to drive impactful change on a wide variety of issues facing New York State. Through its advocacy efforts and pledge initiative, the organization aims to uphold federalism and limited government principles while ensuring taxpayer resources are spent responsibly.

Recently, TANPAC held its first networking event and fundraiser in Mahopac, New York, with special guest speaker NYC Minority Council Leader Joe Borelli. Borelli, who is being considered by many to be a candidate for the upcoming NYC Mayoral Race, spoke to the packed crowd about the importance of local and state elections as well as sensible spending policies.

The Taxpayer Action Network PAC invites citizens, candidates, and elected officials to join its mission by visiting TaxpayerActionNetwork.com for more information, updates, and ways to get involved.

SLC, Gaza protest, continued from pg 3-

ties treat on-campus, peaceful student protests. UN Rapporteur Gina Romero reports that from 2023-2024, pro-Palestine student protests across the world have faced protest bans, restrictions on rights to assembly and arbitrary arrests. She urges universities to refrain from falsely citing hate speech as a reason for restricting and villainizing peaceful protests.

"The actions taken next by the Sarah Lawrence administration will have an impact on international precedents for institutional responses to on-campus peaceful protests. If punitive action is taken against participating student protestors (revocation of financial aid, scholarships and potential expulsion), then Sarah Lawrence will be adding to a global climate that has made peaceful protesting increasingly dangerous to those involved. Making it more difficult to organize peacefully without punishment is a form of censorship.

"Whether disapproval of the protestors' message or concern for campus operations is at the heart of restricting student protests is a moot point. The fact is that the actions that the administrators take to punish and prevent sit-ins silence student voices. For a student body that already does not feel heard by the administration, the next step could mean everything for admin-student relations," https://sarahlawrencephoenix.com/opinions/2024/11/21/ensuring-student-rights-to-protest-sjps-international-walkout-for-divestment-and-arms-embargonbsp.

Two other stories we found informative are: https://indypendent.org/2024/12/sarah-lawrences-gaza-solidarity-encampment-ends-after-university-said-it-would-disclose-ties-to-israel/

and: https://www.algemeiner.com/2024/11/22/students-justice-palestine-occupies-building-sarah-lawrence-college/

Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Senator Spano, continued from pg 1-

Through Operation Santa Claus, Senator Spano has raised thousands of dollars to help organizations provide adaptive equipment for those with developmental disabilities. However, he emphasizes that this work is not possible without the support of people like you. Your support is crucial in providing job training, community integration, and social opportunities for individuals with disabilities, helping to break down barriers and empower participants to lead fulfilling, independent lives.

Spano often speaks about the transformative power of work—not just as a means of financial stability but as a source of pride and purpose. It is important to remember those individuals who were born differently than others through no fault of their own.

Beyond his advocacy, Spano remains a mentor and community leader. Spano serves as Chair of the Board of Richmond Community Services. "Ever since his days in the New York Senate, Nick Spano has been known as a grand champion for people with developmental disabilities. He chaired the committee on disabilities and was instrumental in securing funding for the field. We at Richmond Community Services have been very fortunate to have Nick as chair of the Board of Directors for the last 10 years. In his role, he provides exceptional leadership and support to this organization. With his hard work on behalf of Richmond and people with developmental disabilities, we got grants and private donations to fund things and services New York State does not pay for. This is essential in providing quality lives to the people we support, "said Paca Lipovac, President/CEO of Richmond Community Services.

Senator Spano dedicates countless hours to raising awareness, speaking at events, and interacting with families to better understand their needs. His work is not about accolades or recognition but about ensuring everyone has access to the resources they need to thrive, regardless of their abilities.

Senator Spano's unwavering commitment has not only inspired a new generation of advocates but also left an indelible mark on the lives of countless individuals and families. Although his service in the Senate may have ended nearly two decades ago, his impact continues to grow, offering hope and inspiration to those in need.

For Nick Spano, public service was never just a career—it was and remains a passion. Operation Santa Claus will hold their annual fundraiser this Sunday, December 8th, at Castle Royale, 92 Waverly Street, Yonkers, NY, from 10 AM to Noon. For more information, please get in touch with Gail Burns at gmb927@ gmail.com or 914-469-4835.



Westchester Winter Wonderland Worth Your Visit



Westchester's Winter Wonderland Drive-Thru Holiday Light Extravaganza, returned to Kensico Dam Plaza on Saturday, November 23, 2024 bigger and better than ever with thousands of more lights, TWO 100-foot light tunnels, New LIVE Ice Queen character and the best LIVE Santa Claus in Westchester making it accessible and convenient for all!

The festive celebration takes place six consecutive weeks through December 31, 2024, starting at 5:30p.m. weekdays and on Saturday - Sundays at 5:00p.m. *End times vary per night. Tickets are \$37 per vehicle, making it a great value for families! Proceeds from this event benefit WPF and allow the organization to further its mission to advocate for and invest in the preservation, conservation, use and enjoyment of 50 parks, trails and open spaces within the Westchester County Parks system. When purchasing tickets, guests were able to donate additional fund to Westchester Parks Foundation to help expand its Camp Morty program for disenfranchised youth along with Westchester Medical Center Health Network Maria Fareri Children's Hospital. For complete information and to purchase tickets, visit wwinterwonderland.com.





Mohammad will discuss his work on Jewish-Arab relations, fostering dialogue and mutual respect in Israel and beyond.



"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

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

December 5, 1945: Thanks to Yonkers Savings Bank and People's Savings Bank, Yonkers was the first Westchester community... and one of the first in the country... to go "over the top" in our Victory Loan Drive, with a quota of eight million dollars. Both banks purchased two million dollars of the Victory Loan bonds! The smaller Yonkers Savings and Loan Association purchased \$400,000.

War Finance Committee Chair Harold Garrity commented, "The people in Yonkers little realize the banks in Yonkers have been the backbone of every War drive. Without their support, it would have been impossible to have achieved the outstanding results Yonkers has attained."

December 5, 1945: Sandy, a Scottie Terrier owned by Doris Bennett, a Wave stationed in Washington DC, was returned to Yonkers! Sandy was obediently standing, waiting for Doris' father to finish shopping, when he disappeared. Although the family searched many days, the family never found him. Turns out Sandy was picked up by a crew member of the Toombs when it was in Yonkers three months earlier and brought him to the ship. Sandy had his license tag on, so Ship's Officer Fonce Kellmas contacted the NYS Agriculture Department who identified who owned Sandy. He wired the Bennetts... but the story leaked, and the AP let the relieved Bennett family know first!

Friday, December 6th

December 6, 1936: Milton Berle opened his radio show with these words. "Good evening, folks. We're broadcasting tonight from New York City... you know, that suburb of Yonkers!"

December 6, 1945: While attending the annual Yonkers Restaurant Liquor Dealers Association dinner, War Board Chair Harold Garrity announced Yonkers had purchased bonds totaling \$12,551,000 in our Victory Bond drive!

He also revealed the total of WWII bonds sold in Yonkers was \$142,000,000! While he was speaking, Association members pledged to buy an additional \$15,600!

Saturday, December 7th

December 7, 1940: Smith Carpet Shop formed the Alexander Smith Memorial Foundation, dedicated to the founder of the Carpet company. It would not solicit the public but fund the Foundation itself to donate money to "worthy charitable organizations and undertakings in Yonkers." This was a major change in policy, as Smith previously did not make charitable donations. The Foundation's seed money was donated by company management.

Foundation fficers were Smith descendant and President William Ewing, VP Alexander Halliday, Treasurer Frank Xavier, Secretary Parker Lattin, and Board Member Fred Klein. Foundation Counsel was former Mayor William Wallin.

December 7, 1957: Herald Statesman classified ad clerk Fawn Brown and fate helped reunite Mrs. Edward Clark with her packages, no doubt saving her family Christmas. Mrs. Kyler Kastberg called an ad into the paper to advertise packages she found. A short time later, Brown received a call from Mrs. Edward Clark to place an ad she lost packages. Brown asked exactly what Clark lost, then called Kastberg to ask exactly what she found... it was a match! Fawn Brown let both women know the mystery was solved, thanks to classified ads... and before an ad appeared in the paper.

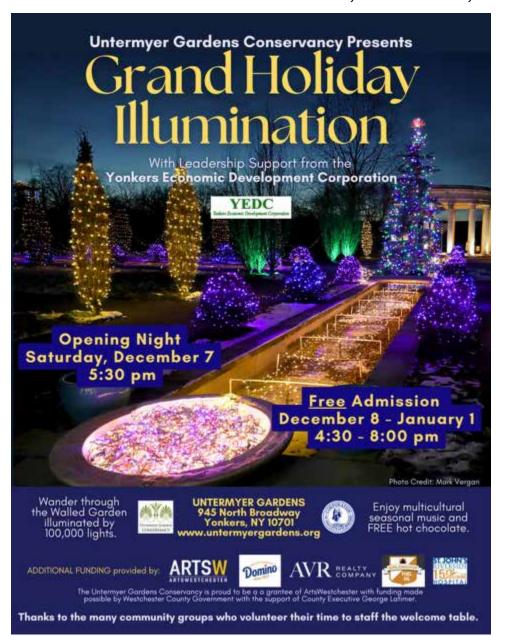
Sunday, December 8th:

December 8, 1945: Popular movie star Carole Landis married her fourth husband, Broadway producer and Yonkers filmmaker Horace Schmidlapp. At the time of the wedding, Schmidlapp, a partner in Associated Filmmakers Inc., planned to build a half-million-dollar movie studio on Central Park Avenue in Yonkers. Landis died less than three years later while still legally married to Schmidlapp.

December 8, 1950: Lieutenant Colonel Douglas Crier passed away. Crier served our country twice, once in World War I and then in WW II, when he was appointed commander of the 23rd Internal Security Battalion. At the time he passed, he was Yonkers City Court Bookkeeper and President of the Yonkers NAACP.

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





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Yonkers Parks Holiday Events





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