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Van der Donck Park Delivers Massive Returns



A public park designed to accelerate green renewal in Yonkers' downtown has spurred more than half a billion dollars in private investment a decade since its inauguration.

The \$48 million daylighting of the Saw Mill River at Van der Donck Park—dedicated in 2012—led to \$582.6 million in surrounding development, including the recent opening of the Great Point Studios/Lionsgate facility just a block from the park.

“Yonkers’ commitment to green redevelopment didn’t end with uncovering the Saw Mill River at Larkin Plaza,” said Mayor Mike Spano. “Since taking office in 2012, my administration has “daylighted” two more sections of the river and expanded recreational opportunities with new fitness centers in parks, renovated playgrounds, and new sports fields like the soccer mini-pitch at Pelton Park, which opened in September. The city now has the resources to build a new, 3-acre waterfront park near the Ludlow Station and a new athletic field near the Boyce Thompson Center.”

With funds allocated by former Gov. George Pataki, Yonkers officials and Groundwork Hudson Valley began planning to uncover the river in the late 2000s. After the park opened, rising property values around Van der Donck Park lifted

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The Rise of the Bully Blogosphere



By Ron Matten

Journalists and reporters as a subcategory are vital in a free society. They provide the populace with important information, which allow us to make personal, professional, and political decisions for ourselves and our communities. One cannot just declare themselves to be a journalist. Journalists are trained and subscribes to a code of ethics:

to Seek and report the truth, to Minimize harm, to Act independently, and to Be accountable and transparent.

With the advent of YouTube and social media, Yonkers has seen the rise of a new class of “self-declared journalists,” more aptly defined as the bully bloggers. There are three prominent bully bloggers who have created a toxic environment over the last few years. I will refer to them as BBA, BBB, and BBC. The names are unimportant, this work is more about principles and dignity.

According to his YouTube channel, BBA has been on the scene since 2013. He has developed a following by chasing down local accidents and other tragedies mostly on the westside of Yonkers. He interviews political candidates and covers some public events. He often finds divisive topics and loves to post about former President Donald Trump. I think it’s a bromance. He uses Facebook and Instagram to house his “platform.”

According to LinkedIn, BBB claims be the founder of a multinational “news service since 2006.” His early work seems to mimic the Drudge Report and is more of a news aggregator. At some point, he decided to utilize Facebook for his platform and now spends his time behind the keyboard hurling insults.

BBC is a “Johnny come lately.” He created a political commentary YouTube/Facebook podcast during the 2021 Yonkers’ election. When his favorite candidate lost the primary, BBC moved into the bully blogosphere. His preferred poison is dishing on the alleged bedroom indiscretions of elected officials and their campaign operatives. He provides no proof of his public utterances. He has admitted to using his podcasts as a form of coercion, because he could not get proper building permits. Perhaps, hiring the correct consultants would have streamlined the process. The most enjoyable part of his show is watching him try to pronounce a three-syllable word.

Back in 2017, BBA and BBB were at war. They were protesting each other, waging allegations of pedophilic behavior. Somehow, they managed to figure out that they can work together to bully others and make a profit while doing it. Now BBC has joined the fray, seeking mutual and total annihilation.

The three stooges of fake journalism, build stories out of innuendo, rumors, and half-truths. They weave elaborate nonsensical conspiracy theories that do nothing to inform the citizenry. If you post or express a dissenting view, you be come a target of their bully blogs. They do not foster public discussion but stifle it.

In an earlier column, I blamed the Yonkers City Council Majority Leader for inciting the gallery at a council meeting. These masters of misinformation laid the foundation with their false and misleading blogs. They are NOT journalists, but menaces.

BBA asked me to advertise on his platform for the low introductory price of \$1,000 for three months. I declined. Seeing no shared profit, BBB began attacking me on his platform. This amounts to nothing more than extortion.

In another instance, BBA accepted twice his usual ransom to keep a candidate’s political opponent off his platform. Although the “Equal Time Rule” applies to television and terrestrial radio, the actions of BBA, BBB, and BBC violate the spirit of the rule and hinder the elective process.

These bully bloggers cannot be considered viable news sources. They have no training, editors, and face no consequences for misrepresenting facts. Their innuendos and rumors create a harmful environment and have created a less tolerant Yonkers.

Ron Matten was the republican candidate for Yonkers City Council President in 2021.

Yonkers is Hurting, As It Says Goodbye to Sgt. Frank Gualdino



God Bless Yonkers Police Sgt. Frank Gualdino

By Dan Murphy

A long, blue line of police officers from across the tri-state region circled Sacred Heart Church and Whalen and Ball Funeral Home in Yonkers on Dec. 7 as the City of Yonkers said its final goodbye to Police Sgt. Frank Gualdino, On December 1st, 2022, Sergeant Frank Gualdino, a 24-year veteran of the Yonkers Police Department, and supervisor in the Traffic Unit, was tragically killed in a head on collision. Sergeant Gualdino was on-duty and driving his unmarked vehicle on Tuckahoe Road when an unlicensed 16-year old driver crossed into the opposite lanes at a high rate of speed and struck his vehicle.

Among the outpouring of love and sadness for Gualdino was this from Caitlin “Today, the Yonkers Police Department will lay to rest a hero, a husband, a father, a son, an uncle, a brother, both blood and blue. Detective Sergeant Frank Gualdino served his community for over 24 years and was just months from retirement. His loss is tragic and unimaginable, just weeks before Christmas.

“Throughout their careers, most officers will come face to face with evil in ways us ordinary citizens cannot even fathom, perhaps none quite as unsuspecting as a 16 year old, unlicensed driver who took Frank Gualdino from his wife, children, loved ones, and department far too soon. The nature of his passing may seem almost ordinary, or commonplace, the type of “accident” we hear about too often;

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Operation Santa Claus: Mission Accomplished



It’s official: Santa Claus is in Yonkers, so be on the lookout. Santa made one of his first appearances of the Season at the Operation Santa Claus event held every year to raise funds and assist assist developmentally disabled children and adults.

Former State Senator Nick Spano has been the Honorary Chair of Operation Santa Claus and is the driving force behind this wonderful event, held this year at Castle Royale on Dec. 4. What is always great about this event is that everyone leaves their politics home and is there to support a good cause. “Operation Santa Claus is a Yonkers tradition that began more than sixty years ago. The money raised from the generosity of our residents and businesses show their vested interest in building our community and commitment to our city,” said Spano.

And if Santa is coming to your neighborhood, let us know or take a picture. And give Santa our best-email us at risingmediagroup@gmail.com.

Sister to Sister International, Holds Screening of Move “Aftershock” and Cuts Ribbon For Black Maternal & Child Center for Excellence



Participants in STSI movie screening and ribbon cutting, photo by Joy Malone

Sister to Sister International has been at the forefront of promoting awareness and systemic change around the Black maternal health crisis in the United States and its impact on Westchester County and the region.

In this regard, on Thursday, November 10th, Sister to Sister International (STSI) and Community Partners hosted a screening of the award-winning documentary, Aftershock and a Ribbon Cutting for the creation of a Westchester County Black Maternal & Child Center of Excellence. The event was hosted at the Grinton I. Will Library in Yonkers.

Special greetings were delivered by the Hon. Jewel Williams Johnson, Health Committee Chairperson of the Westchester County Board of Legislators and Hon. Shanae Williams, Yonkers City Council representative. Well wishes were also shared by Hon. Chris Johnson, Westchester County Board of Legislators and Andrea Stewart Cousins, NYS Senate Majority Leader, in abstention.

The evening continued with a momentous ribbon cutting by Sister to Sister International, founder Cheryl Brannan, and community partners including the Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network, Dr. Angela Campbell, Executive Director; Birth from the Earth, founder Nubia Earth Martin; IOE President, Cheryl Hunter Grant, Westchester County Department of Health, Assistant Commissioner, Ashley Hardesty DePietro, St. John’s Riverside Hospital, Dr. Kay Scott and Barbara DiNoto, Director of Maternal Health Services, former Legislator Ruth Walter, along with various other supporters including Andrus, National Council of Negro Women, Westchester Black Women’s Political Caucus, Westchester County Women’s Agenda, Westchester County Women’s Advisory Board, Zonta International, to name a few.

Sister to Sister International (STSI) will serve as the oversight and coordinating body for the Black Maternal Child Center Excellence. This innovative project is the first of its kind in Westchester centering Black women and the birthing process, including their offspring up to the age of two. The BMCCE will be collaborative in nature building on our existing collective impact relationships with founding partners, including the Lower Hudson Valley Perinatal Network, Birth from the Earth, Woman to Woman Obstetrics and Gynecology, IOE Total Consulting, St. John’s Riverside Hospital and the Westchester County Department of Health.

The vision for the BMCCE is that every Black birthing person has reproductive rights and is seen, heard, and cared for with dignity in excellence. The mission of the BMCCE is to create lasting solutions to racism, unequal access to healthcare and poor outcomes for Black birthing people and their children in Westchester County and beyond. The BMCCE will accomplish its mission through

The audience was engrossed as the evening continued with a screening of the compelling award-winning Hulu documentary, Aftershock that highlights the loss of local families due to preventable pregnancy and post-partum deaths. After the screening a highlight of the evening was a “Talk Back” with special guest Bruce McIntyre (single dad & activist) featured in the film, moderated by Nubia Earth Martin, founder of Birth from the Earth, and also featured in the film. During the “Talk Back” Mr. McIntyre discussed the Save A Rose Foundation, that he created along with the WOMB Bus a mobile unit designed to educate women in the Bronx. He stated, “We want answers. We want change. We seek justice in honor of the women that are no longer with us, and those that are in fear of suffering the same fate. We want more black mothers to hold and love their babies.” To become involved in this movement email bwgc2015@gmail.com and to make donations go to [s2si.org/donate](https://www.savearosefoundation.org/) and <https://www.savearosefoundation.org/>

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 to take action!

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Help Toys for Tots Westchester Make Sure Every Child Gets A Little Bit of Christmas!



By Dan Murphy

One of the most respected organizations in Westchester that you can make a contribution to this Holiday Season is Toys for Tots Westchester. Collection boxes for Toys for Tots Westchester can be found all over but there are other ways that you can make a donation.

We spoke to Westchester coordinator for Toys for Tots, Steve Topilnycky who told us “We have kicked off our campaign, we have boxes throughout the County. We are on track to service over 33,175+ Children this year, that is up from the 25,131 children from last year. With such a large number of children, we need people to fill our collection boxes. As many American families are struggling to make ends meet, and many parents will be unable to provide even a single gift for their children this Christmas — without help from Toys for Tots! Please find it in your heart to make a gift to make sure Santa visits every child this Christmas, no matter their circumstances.”

“We also accept monetary donations. Checks Payable to: “Toys for Tots”, and mail to: Toys for Tots PO Box 1207 White Plains, NY 10602-1207.

You can also donate via credit card online at http://tiny.cc/_dnt (it’s a short link to the Foundation donation page for the Westchester County Campaign).

We have a wish list at Learning Express Scarsdale http://tiny.cc/_le, and Amazon http://tiny.cc/_amzn.

Visit westchester-county-ny.toysfortots.org or their Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/T4TWestchester>, to find locations and donation links. The Marine Toys for Tots is a Top-Rated Charity. We are an all Volunteers, no donated funds are used to pay any salaries (Foundation staff are paid from an endowment). We are a 501(c)3 Charitable organization and donations are dedicated for tax purposes. We have volunteer opportunities. We are using Signup.com if anyone is interested at this link-<https://signup.com/go/YkxNfwf>.

Van der Donck Park, continued from pg 1-

Yonkers’ finances. Spano said that Yonkers leveraged the new revenue streams from this responsible development to improve public schools and infrastructure. For example, Yonkers’ current adopted budget of \$1.4 billion is about 46% higher than the budget adopted the year the park opened.

In its September issue, National Geographic celebrated the success of Van der Donck Park, which has won landscape and architectural design awards. The magazine stated that “Nothing illustrates the promise of urban conservation more poetically than ‘daylighting’ a creek.”

Spano called the park’s success a vindication for his predecessors who at times faced skepticism and ridicule for envisioning a new downtown.

“Thanks to what was once considered a crazy idea of sacrificing parking to uncover a buried river, the city is delivering on a promise of greener urban spaces, upgraded parks and better access to magnificent waterfronts,” said Spano.

Thomas More Society Files Lawsuit Against Westchester Abortion Clinic Access Law

Claims Free Speech Illegally Restricted



“We count at least seven layers of unconstitutional speech restrictions in this one law,” Christopher A. Ferrara. “The First Amendment does not allow government to ban lawful speech it deems offensive merely because it disagrees, however vehemently, with the message,”

“This bill won’t meet the test put forward in the 2014 U.S. Supreme Court Decision *McCullen v Coakley*. Passing this law will cost Westchester County millions of dollars trying to defend this unconstitutional law in Court. We are elected to not only represent our constituents but also to defend the United States Constitution.” -Legislator James Nolan

left- Christopher Moscinski arrested outside a White Plains clinic in 2021

By Dan Murphy

Citing Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s “Letter from a Birmingham Jail”, The Thomas More Society has filed a lawsuit against Westchester County, County Executive George Latimer and Westchester County Police Commissioner Terrance Raynor claiming that a Westchester County law which places restrictions on protests outside of abortion clinics is unconstitutional and a violation of free speech and the First Amendment.

Westchester County legislators passed, The Reproductive Health Care Facilities Access Act, which bans anyone from entering or exiting a reproductive healthcare facility, following or harassing a person within 25 feet of a facility and damaging or interfering with the operation of a facility.

The law was passed as a result of several incidents where pro-life protestors entered clinics in Westchester that perform abortions.

A pro-life group, 40 Days for Life, a local 40 Days for Life vigil group, and two individual plaintiffs have asked a New York federal court to stop Westchester County from enforcing a law imposing multiple restrictions on the speech of pro-life advocates on the sidewalks and rights-of-way adjacent to abortion clinics in the county.

On Nov. 24, the plaintiffs requested a preliminary injunction from enforcing the new law, Chapter 425 of the Laws of Westchester County, while the matter is under court consideration, followed by a permanent injunction on enforcement.

40 Days for Life claims that the new law includes a “floating bubble zone” provision that makes it illegal for sidewalk counselors to “approach” within 8 feet of anyone who is within 100 feet of the entrance to an abortion clinic unless they have the person’s prior “affirmative” consent to do so. The law defines “approach” as any movement to a point within eight feet of any part of another person’s body by any part of a pro-life advocate’s body or even a sign held by a pro-life advocate.

“The floating bubble zone is a classic content-based restriction on speech,” said TMS Special Counsel Christopher A. Ferrara. “Only speech that involves ‘protest, education or counseling’—meaning only pro-life speech, obviously—is forbidden within the floating bubble under threat of arrest, prosecution, fines and up to six months in jail. You can talk about the weather or anything else inside the floating bubble, but if you breathe a word about the pro-life message, you are a criminal.”

Ferrara’s co-counsel, Thomas More Society Counsel Michael McHale, further explained the Westchester County law being challenged. “The law also establishes a ‘no follow and harassment’ zone within 25 feet of any part of the premises of an abortion clinic, including the public portion of the driveway that is the primary point of peaceful encounter between pro-life sidewalk advocates and people approaching or leaving one of the abortion clinics by car. ‘Following’ could mean a step or two, while ‘harassment’ is defined, incredibly enough, as any form of unwanted speech or conduct, no matter how peaceful, that does not stop after an ‘express or implied request’ to cease. What does ‘implied request’ mean? That’s anybody’s guess, which is why the law is unconstitutionally vague and also overly broad. That is also true of the law’s other prohibitions of ‘obstruction’ of access to an abortion clinic or ‘interference’ in its operation, defined to include ‘by deceptive means’—meaning potentially any pro-life speech the political opposition deems ‘misinformation.’”

“We count at least seven layers of unconstitutional speech restrictions in this one law,” added Ferrara. “During the legislative sessions that preceded its adoption, the members of the ‘pro-choice’ Board of Legislators made it clear that they were targeting pro-life speech they deemed too ‘offensive’ to allow. The First Amendment does not allow government to ban lawful speech it deems offensive merely because it disagrees, however vehemently, with the message,”

As the local 40 Days for Life vigil group that is a plaintiff in the action warned its participants: “This law is designed to intimidate pro-lifers and scare them off the sidewalks in front of abortion facilities. We cannot allow it to achieve that goal.”

Chapter 425 was passed four days after the Supreme Court issued the decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women’s Health*, overruling *Roe v. Wade*. “The County legislators made it clear during the meeting at which they voted to adopt Chapter 425 that it was in part retaliation for the *Dobbs* decision. But the same legislators know full well that, just for starters, the floating 8-foot bubble zone may well be struck down by the Supreme Court, whose more recent decisions clearly call into question an earlier Supreme Court decision, *Hill v. Colorado*, that upheld such a law despite its patent targeting of pro-life sidewalk counselors—an unconstitutional “content-based” restriction on speech that seeks to punish speakers based on the officially disfavored content of their message.

Since *Hill*, the Supreme Court has recognized that “floating bubble zones” in which pro-life speech is criminalized but other kinds of speech are allowed, violate the First Amendment. Accordingly, TMS’s Amended Verified Complaint against Westchester County quotes the Court’s 2014 decision in *McCullen v. Coakley*, wherein the majority observes that “when the government makes it more difficult to engage” in pro-life “sidewalk counseling,” including “normal conversation and leafletting on a public sidewalk,” it “imposes an especially significant First Amendment burden.” Additionally, the Amended Complaint notes that any laws regulating this peaceful pro-life advocacy must give “adequate breathing space to the freedoms protected by the First Amendment,” per *Madsen v. Women’s Health* (1994).

“Westchester County has completely ignored the Supreme Court’s clear warnings,” observed Ferrara, “by enacting a blitzkrieg of restrictions on speech near abortion providers that leave zero breathing space for peaceful pro-life expression.”

Read the complaint here [<https://thomasmoresociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/FILED-First-Amended-Verified-Complaint.pdf>].

The Westchester Board of Legislators voted 15-2 to pass the law, with Legislators James Nolan and Margaret Cunzio voting no. In casting his no vote, Nolan said, “I voted no because I think this bill won’t meet the test put forward in the 2014 U.S. Supreme Court Decision *McCullen v Coakley* and that this bill sets an unfair burden on protestors’ right to free speech. In the long run, I think that passing this law will ultimately cost Westchester County millions of dollars trying to defend this unconstitutional law in Court. We are elected to not only represent our constituents but also to defend the United States Constitution.”

This summer three men affiliated with the anti-abortion group Red Rose Rescue were sentenced to three months in jail following their criminal conviction for trespassing at All Women’s Health and Medical Services in White Plains.

On November 27, 2021, at approximately 8:40 a.m., the defendants entered the facility where they remained unlawfully for approximately two hours despite receiving numerous requests and warnings to leave from medical staff and the White Plains Police Department.

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On This Day in Yonkers History...

Where Were the Parents?



Samuel Untermyer, one of Yonkers most famous residents



By Eric Wolf Schoen

By Mary Hoar, Yonkers Historian, President Emerita Yonkers Historical Society, Recipient of the 2004 Key to History and President Untermyer Performing Arts Council

Monday, December 12th

December 12, 1929: Yonkers resident John Flinn, Vice President of the Pathe Film Company, was one of two corporate officers arrested on charges resulting from the studio's catastrophic fire. Ten people died in the fire, including four chorus girls, and several more were injured. One of the badly burned was electrician Richard Stradling of Hawthorne Avenue. Chief Sound Engineer Charles Younger of Central Park Avenue helped rescue several people before getting his own injuries treated.

December 12, 1949: Annette LoCascio asked for a separation, full custody of her son Joseph III, \$1000 a month temporary alimony, and \$10,000 in attorney's fees. Justice Frank Coyne had awarded her custody. Mrs. LoCascio informed the court her husband's salary as President of Doll and Toy Industries was \$25,000 annually, in addition to income from his leasing Dunwoodie Golf Club to an independent operator for "at least \$10,000" annually.

December 12, 1955: Ninth graders in the Industrial Arts Class at Longfellow Junior High School began making toys for hospitalized children! The boys made model trucks out of scrap wood they brought to school, carefully following project plans from teacher Jack Bochner.

Tuesday, December 13th

December 13, 1945: For the first time since the war began, Larkin Plaza was available for local shopper parking. War plant workers had used all the parking spaces day and night during the war, and the two-hour parking restriction was ignored to enable their war efforts.

December 13, 1937: Contractor and Democratic State Committeeman Thomas Brogan was awarded more than \$1,000,000 by the Reconstruction Finance Corporation to construct a large apartment complex on the former Colgate estate in Glenwood.

Wednesday December 14th

December 14, 1908: After a successful run in NYC, the comic opera "The Gay Musicians" was performed at Blaney's Theater on Warburton Avenue. Yonkers resident Julian Edwards wrote the music, and conducted the orchestra at the performance in his hometown; Edward Siedle of the Metropolitan Opera House wrote the book... Siedle also was from Yonkers! Neighbors in Ludlow, Siedle lived at 1 Fairfield Road and Edwards lived at 70 Sunnyside Drive.

December 14, 1955: The Yonkers Ferry greeted the new Thruway Bridge in Tarrytown during the opening ceremonies. Stationed near the bridge, the ferryboat Weehawk sported a huge sign stating "Best Wishes From Yonkers Ferry," and its old-fashioned foghorn took part in the 17-gun salute kicking off the celebration. The Yonkers Ferry had carried cars and trucks between Yonkers and Alpine NJ for 34 years.

Thursday December 15th

December 15, 1918: Samuel Untermyer was named as chairman of the Mayor's Waterfront Commission; Mayor Wallin also appointed E. M. Yerks, John E. Andrus, Alexander Stolz and City Engineer Griffith to study Yonkers waterfront development.

December 15, 1918: Former Secretary of the Treasury, Director of the Railroads and Yonkers resident William McAdoo spoke at the Red Cross Roll drive held at the Proctor's Theater.

December 15, 1944: Work crews and a crane began tearing down the station platform at the back of the First National Bank Building, starting the final phase of the destruction of the abandoned Getty Square spur of NY Central's Putnam Division.

Friday, December 16th:

December 16, 1931: Alderman Thomas Sullivan launched his "Buy in Yonkers" campaign after emphasizing the advantages of buying locally.

December 16, 1937: Residents of the Nodine Hill section of Yonkers filed the first lawsuits for damages resulting from the collapse of the Nodine Hill water tower the previous October.

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Yonkers is Hurting, continued from pg 1-

his call to service, on the other hand, unique and exceptional. Frank Gualdino is a hero in every sense of the word, a man who left his own family each day to protect and serve the members of his community, fully knowing the risks associated with his calling."

Other comments included, "If you were lucky enough to know Frank, you'd know what a kind and thoughtful man he was. Frank was a long-time union representative and someone you could go to for advice, and a great source of knowledge for a new trustee. Whenever there was someone in need, Frank was the first person to volunteer to help...Frank wasn't looking for accolades. He was just doing good.

Another comment- Frank always had our backs and helped me out a few times as the 1st cop on scene when I needed it. Some cultures have a celebration when someone passes to celebrate their life lived and show gratitude for the joy they gave to us. Others like ours mourn. Frank, I can't believe your gone. Rest in Peace.

Mayor Mike Spano said, "Sgt. Frank Gualdino was a cop's cop and the epitome of Yonkers Finest. Yonkers is a close tight-knit community and when we lose one member of our law enforcement community, we all feel a sense of grief. Frank is someone we all knew and loved. He was a friend and a family man -- the best of all us and the best of Yonkers."

Just last month, Sgt. Gualdino was commended when he came to aid of a 3 year old who became unconscious at a funeral. A Help a Hero Account has been set up in Sg. Gualdino's name at the following link: <https://helpahero.com/campaign/help-the-family-of-ypd-sgt-frank-gualdino?fbclid=IwAR13pVXDg86shdKHfXIVbQyMqtYPTtY9uEcTAG2VrpILXsd1iNEVRly94RA>.

A video released by the YPD shows the driver of the BMW losing control after driving at a speed of 80 MPH on a 30 MPH part of Tuckahoe Road at the bridge crossing the Sprain Parkway. Very little information has been released about the 16-year old driver of the BMW, who survived the accident but is in stable condition.

Several Yonkers residents want answers. "But he killed a responsible human being, an important member and a pillar of our community, and this jerk knocked out a pillar, devastating their family. If her recovers and after we bear the millions of dollars cost of repairing and then rehabbing this teen, saying "Sorry" will never be enough. Did he have, or does he need, his father's permission to drive the car? Is the father culpable?"

In a tragic accident last week, Yonkers Police Sergeant Frank Gualdino lost his life to a 16 year old who had just got his learner's permit and was driving a BMW on Tuckahoe Road. Gualdino was a respected Sergeant in the department with 24 years of service looking forward to his retirement in the not to distant future.

What the hell is a 16 year old doing driving a BMW? The car clearly did not belong to him. The question I ask is where were his parents. Did they give the kid the key to the car?. Leave it around the house? Are they not aware of the laws regarding 16 year olds getting their driving permits and what they can and cannot do. When we have a kid 16 years old getting a permit, is he and the one who goes for the test with him given a list of do's and don't. Not that it would matter here but are we offering driving classes in our high schools so the kids can learn from professionals how to drive?

Driving on our roads has become truly 'defensive' particularly as a result of when the roads were empty during the heart of the pandemic. People had freedom to act like crazy nuts, and they have continued this behavior even though the roads are back to normal with traffic. All you see on the roads right now are cars disobeying every rule in the book. This has got to stop, Or we are going to have more tragedies.

Please pray for Sergeant Gualdino, his family and for all the other cops on the road. They need our prayers and they need us to drive like human beings and not race cars drivers. We might never find answers to why this happened, but make sure before you give someone the key to a car they know what they are doing.

And again I ask, where were the parents of this 16 year old kid?

Handicapped Parking Spaces

Two people I know recently got handicapped parking permits and have a hard time using them in Yonkers and Westchester. The common complaint? Cars and particularly trucks without the permits are parking illegally in handicapped parking places, sometimes for hours at a time. And no one is ticketing or towing illegally parked cars in handicapped spaces.

If people get the word that enforcement is going to take place, see how quickly they move their vehicles. And it's not alright to have someone sitting in the ready to move the car when a handicapped driver pulls up.

Back in the 70's Yonkers had an excellent program where citizens were paid to take pictures of cars illegally parked in handicap spots and submit them to the court. People got hefty fines as it was all sort of done undercover with No uniforms and no marked police cars. With cell phone cameras today it would be much easier to catch offenders and email the information right to the police or courts. The city of Yonkers could make \$200 a clip with minimal costs for the program. Something to look into City Hall!

I use to see Traffic Enforcement Agents around town giving out tickets but they are far and few between. And i travel frequently around town that if they existed I would see them. We need a big publicity splash for these programs. Don't forget the many cars double parked or close to fire hydrants.

We can enforce the laws, get traffic moving and make some money! A beautiful trifecta.

Lack of Food at the Grocery Store

I'm starting to believe that the empty shelves whether it be canned goods, paper goods, produce, cat and dog food and all the other products missing from the grocery store is simply a game merchants are playing to raise prices. It's terrible when you walk in the store and don't know what to expect. This forces you to waste your time going to two or three stores to get what you need.

Senator Schumer calls for all these investigations at Sunday press conferences. Let him investigate why from week to week you never know what to expect at the supermarket!

A gift tip: i had to go to the Dollar Tree store on South Broadway to pick up some candies I like. I noticed that they had small packages from Entemann's, Italian candy, Chock Full O'Nuts coffee and teas all for \$1.25 each. Pick up 5-10 items, pick up a basket and you have a wonderful inexpensive gift anyone will enjoy. The items are even marked 'for gift baskets' on the shelf display making it easy to choose.

A health tip: I received a notice from my doctor that before I do my holiday shopping I should do my health shopping by the end of the year even more immediately. Is there something bothering you that you want checked out? Are you eligible for a pair of glasses or a teeth cleaning before December 31. Prescriptions that need filling before the ball drops for the New Year? Better to get it done while people are shopping and appointments are available then to wait until you are rushing around December 24-31.

Continued on pg 6-

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Classifieds

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 5-

Auto Donations

Drive Out Breast Cancer: Donate a car today! The benefits of donating your car or boat: Fast Free Pickup - 24hr Response Tax Deduction - Easy To Do! Call 24/7: 855-905-4755

Wheels For Wishes benefiting Make-A-Wish® Northeast New York. Your Car Donations Matter NOW More Than Ever! Free Vehicle Pick Up ANYWHERE. We Accept Most Vehicles Running or Not. 100% Tax Deductible. Minimal To No Human Contact. Call: (877) 798-9474. Car Donation Foundation d/b/a Wheels For Wishes. www.wheelsfor-wishes.org.

Buying / Selling

Buying diamonds, gold, silver, all fine jewelry and watches, coins, paintings, better furs, complete estates. We simply pay more! Call Barry 914-260-8783 or e-mail Americabuying@aol.com

Education / Career Training

TRAIN ONLINE TO DO MEDICAL BILLING! Become a Medical Office Professional online at CTI! Get Trained, Certified & ready to work in months! Call 855-543-6440. (M-F 8am-6pm ET). Computer with internet is required.

COMPUTER & IT TRAINING PROGRAM! Train ONLINE to get the skills to become a Computer & Help Desk Professional now! Grants and Scholarships available for certain programs for qualified applicants. Call CTI for details! 844-947-0192 (M-F 8am-6pm ET). Computer with internet is required.

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ARE YOU BEHIND \$10k OR MORE ON YOUR TAXES? Stop wage & bank levies, liens & audits, unfiled tax returns, payroll issues, & resolve tax debt FAST. Call 888-869-5361 (Hours: Mon-Fri 7am-5pm PST)

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ATTENTION VIAGRA USERS: Generic 100mg blue pills or generic 20mg yellow pills. Get 45 plus 5 free \$99 + S/H. Call Today. 877-707-5523

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Miscellaneous

Get DIRECTV for \$64.99/mo for 12 months with CHOICE Package. Save an additional \$120 over 1st year. First 3 months of HBO Max, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz and Epix included! Directv is #1 in Customer Satisfaction (JD Power & Assoc.) Some restrictions apply. Call 1-888-534-6918

BEST SATELLITE TV with 2 Year Price Guarantee! \$59.99/mo with 190 channels and 3 months free premium movie channels! Free next day installation! Call 888-508-5313

TV Internet Phone

DISH TV \$64.99 For 190 Channels + \$14.95 High Speed Internet. Free Installation, Smart HD DVR Included, Free Voice Remote. Some restrictions apply. Promo Expires 1/21/23. 1-866-595-6967.

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

December 16, 1953: Two Yonkers brothers, although visually impaired, graduated as registered masseurs from the Swedish Institute in New York. Harold Dando was chairman of the industry committee of County Blind, Inc., headquartered in Yonkers. Brother Harry was a World War II veteran, married and had a daughter. Both men planned to continue with postgraduate studies before entering into practice.

Saturday, December 17th:

December 17, 1906: Yonkers Postmaster Parsons announced Post Office clerks would have to work ten-hour days until the Christmas rush was over; he also announced a large number of postal money orders were purchased, with the largest number sent to Ireland. Other countries that Yonkers people sent money to, in order, were England, Germany, France, Italy and Russia.

December 17, 1910: The men of Engine and Truck 1 on Palisade Avenue built 10 doll houses, four toy firehouses and trolley cars in their spare time. All toys were quite complete in every detail and were destined to be Christmas gifts.

December 17, 1943: The executors of Samuel Untermyer's estate filed the State appraisal, outlining a gross estate of more than \$8 million, with most of the estate left to his three children.

December 17, 1955: The Common Council announced it again would debate adding chemicals to the Yonkers water supply to prevent children's tooth decay in January. They had voted it down eighteen months earlier.

Sunday, December 18th:

December 18, 1924: Hollywood film director Hobart Henley, while visiting relatives on Valentine lane, predicted sensational and melodramatic pictures would be replaced by simple and natural movies in the near future.

December 18, 1930: Residents of Bryn Mawr Park presented a radio to the officers and men of the city's new firehouse, Engine 12, on Dartmouth Avenue. A delegation of from the civic associations in the section called at the fire station and presented the gift to Lieutenant Edward McCarthy.

December 18, 1931: Mayor-elect Joseph Loehr announced he would urge the sale of city owned property adjacent to the Habirshaw Cable and Wire Corporation at Glenwood to allow the company to expand.

Questions or comments? Email YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com.

For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, please visit our website www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org, call 914-961-8940 or email info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org.

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Every year I remember the poor children and adults who died in the fire at the Jewish Community Center on South Broadway in December oh so many years ago. May their memory be a blessing.

Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

CITY OF YONKERS DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS ALTERNATIVE REFUSE COLLECTION (ARC) PROGRAM

Summary of General Ordinance 7-2022 Regulations
 On June 14, 2022 the Yonkers City Council passed General Ordinance 7-2022, amending §91-16 of the Code of the City of Yonkers and requiring all commercial entities and multiple-dwelling buildings with more than 6 units to place their refuse in containers made of heavy-duty plastic and having an attached non-removable lid that will prevent access by animals.

Regulations established by the Department of Public Works further state that containers picked up by the City may not hold more than 50 gallons/50 pounds of materials and must not be filled to excess in so much that the top cannot securely close. Roll-off containers (10 to 40 yards) and 3 yard rear loading containers equipped with covers are permitted in lieu of plastic containers. Commercial establishments include any and all businesses, including those conducting light industrial, industrial, and manufacturing activity, as well as not-for-profit organizations; clinics; hospitals; and multiple dwelling apartment buildings (with more than 6 dwelling units) including rentals, condominiums, cooperatives and public housing. These requirements and regulations also apply to properties utilizing private carting services.

Guidelines for Approval of Alternative Refuse Collection (ARC)
 In addition to establishing regulations for administering refuse collection in accordance with General Ordinance 7-2022, the Department of Public Works has developed an Alternative Refuse Collection (ARC) program to provide for the collection of solid waste for properties deemed by the City to contain physical building or property conditions that are prohibitive to compliance with the required use of containers (as specified under GO 7-2022 regulations). The program aims to minimize the period of time that non-containerized refuse is left for curbside collection. The following conditions must be present at a property to be eligible for ARC:

1) Active use of a commercial garbage compactor for waste management
 The Department of Public Works provides for the collection of solid waste at properties that use garbage compactors to manage residential waste. Compacted waste helps reduce odors and protect against rodent intrusion. Compactors produce dense, heavy bags of trash that may not be suitable for container storage and collection by sanitation personnel.

2) Insufficient refuse container storage and collection space
 In addition to the use of a commercial garbage compactor, property owners seeking approval for ARC must demonstrate:

- Insufficient interior building storage space for refuse containers;
- Insufficient exterior building storage space for refuse containers; or
- Insufficient curbside collection space for refuse containers.

Property owners seeking to have their building(s) included in the ARC program must submit a written request by mail or email to the City of Yonkers Department of Public Works citing the existing building and/or property conditions preventing compliance with General Ordinance 7-2022 and including sufficient supporting documentation. The Department of Public Works may require additional documentation and/or conduct an on-site inspection of the property.

Properties approved for ARC will be placed on a special late-morning garbage collection route and will only be permitted to place refuse curbside between the hours of 6:00am and 9:00am on scheduled garbage/recycling pick-up days to be determined by the Department. Failure to comply with ARC regulations may result in immediate removal from the program.

AGENDA FOR ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2022 AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN YONKERS CITY HALL, 40 SOUTH BROADWAY, 4TH FLOOR (building is handicapped accessible).

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV .

OPEN CONTINUED HEARINGS

5790 – Area Variance – James Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of Mehranco Limited Liability Co., owner, on premises known as 1999 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4385, Lot: 42.43, Zone: BR (B30132) (May 2023 ZBA meeting)

5797 – Area Variance – Shahin Badaly, P.E., on behalf of Marketin Hila/110 Ravine Realty LLC, owner, on premises known as 110 Ravine Avenue, Block: 2118, Lot: 39, Zone: A (B29521)

5798 – Area Variance – Ralph G. Mastromonaco, P.E., on behalf of 23 Park Avenue LP, owner, and Kearney Group, contract vendee, on premises known as 23 aka 21 Park Avenue, Block: 2090, Lot: 44, Zone: M (B30335)

5799 – Area Variance – Jacob Amir, Esq., on behalf of Dagro Associates II, LLC., owner, on premises known as 165 aka 167 North Broadway, Block: 2094, Lot: 25, Zone: BA (B23338)

5800 – Area Variance – James G. Dibbini & Assoc., P.C., on behalf of Sherwood Holding Company, owner, on premises known as 1186 Yonkers Ave Rear aka 2 Sherwood Ter., Block: 6315, Lot: 14, Zone: BA (B29260)

5802 – Area Variance – Diana B. Kolev, Esq., on behalf of Macquesten Development LLC, contract vendee, on premises known as 632 aka 636 South Broadway, Block: 29, Lot: 1, Zone: SBS (B31218)

NEW HEARINGS

#5803 – Area Variance - Veneruso, Curto, Schwartz & Curto, LLP, on behalf of 1219 Yonkers Ave LLC c/o Titan Capital, owner, on premises known as 453 Bronx River Road aka 1219 Yonkers Ave, Block: 6383, Lot: 6, Zone: BA (B22115)

#5804 – Area Variance - Veneruso, Curto, Schwartz & Curto, LLP, on behalf of City of Yonkers, owner & Verus Development LLC, contract vendee, on premises known as 345 McLean Ave, Block: 59, Lot: 75, Zone: A (B27461)

#5805 – Use Variance - Daniel Patrick, Esq. Cuddy & Feder LLP, on behalf of Sgarson LLC, owner, on premises known as 673 McLean Ave aka 675 McLean Ave, Block: 6215, Lot: 1.49, Zone: B (B31393)

#5806 – Area Variance – Andrew Maniglia & Jim Surdoval, on behalf of 70 Pier LLC, owner, on premises known as 66 and 70 Pier Street, Block: 146, Lot: 1.4 & 5, Zone: LMX (B24085)

WILSON KIMBALL-CHAIRPERSON, ZBA

Read it all online at
 Yonkerstimes.com

Yonkers Own Sam Riti Honored for 50+ Years as a Basketball Referee



Yonkers community leader Sam Riti was recently thanked for his 50 years as a High School basketball referee. Riti, who has also served the Yonkers community as a Veterans advocate, was honored by the Board 52 Basketball Officials for his work refereeing tens of thousands of young basketball players over the past half century.

Pictured above is Anthony Fischetti, President of Board 52, who presented Riti with a Watch, pen, key ring and money clip with the IAABO logo. Sam said he is still enjoying refereeing and will continue to do so as long as he can.

Riti was also honored by Bill Bohl for his service as an employee and retiree representative of Branch 387 Letter Carriers Yonkers, NY. Sam is on the Executive Board of Branch 387 and was given a 50 year pin and gold card for his dedication to athletics.

And while we are on the topic of basketball, I would put my money on Sam against any basketball player in Yonkers in a foul shooting contest. If anyone is interested, let me know and we can make it happen.

Congratulations Sam for all that you have done, and continue to do for Yonkers. Photo by Darin Moran.

Delfim Heusler Honored by West. BOL for Yonkers Insider News Site



Westchester County Legislators James Nolan of the 15th District and David Tubiolo of the 14th District delivered a Proclamation to Delfim Heusler, pictured above, Publisher of Yonkers for his 19 Year Anniversary of Covering News in Yonkers and Westchester County. The Proclamation Proclaims that Saturday, December 3rd was Delfim Heusler in Westchester County.

Delfim Heusler said, "I want to thank the Westchester County Legislature and In Particular Westchester County Legislators James Nolan of the 15th District and David Tubiolo of the 14th District for the Proclamation in Recognizing me and my News Reporting for the Last 19 Years.

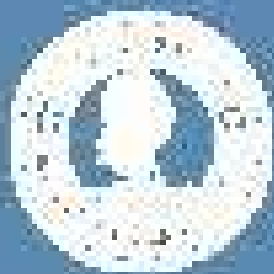
I look forward to Reporting the News in Yonkers and Westchester County for many years to come. I am not nothing without my Loyal Readers and Followers, I thank all of you guys. I thank my Family, My Father Paul Heusler, My Aunt Maggie Smith, My Godmother Marie May, My Aunt Dolores Joao and all of my Cousins and my Aunts I thank my family and I thank all my many Friends who are my Backbone in my life. I love all of you. I also thank my second Family the Daly Family - Carol & Tom and the rest of The Daly Family.

I salute dear friends like my Best Friend Virginia Perez, My dear friend Carol B, my other friends like Brandi Campbell, Tasha Diaz, Mobetta Perry, Lorraine Lopez, Brian Harrod, Dan Murphy, Ru Ros, Vincent Spano, Vince Collazzi, Steve Simpson, Jen Oelkers, The Late James Wieland who got me into reporting the News and many more friends too many to mention. I always try and treat people with Respect and the Way that I would want to be treated." said Heusler. Congratulations!

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Building on a nearly decade-long economic renaissance, the Yonkers Industrial Development Agency (YIDA) under the leadership of Mayor Mike Spano has been instrumental in providing financial incentives for development projects representing nearly \$5 billion in private investment and more than 8,100 multifamily units planned, completed, under construction and approved for development.

To learn more about the financial incentives provided by the Yonkers IDA, visit yonkersida.com or call (914) 509-8651.



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For More Info Please Visit www.yonkersdowntown.com





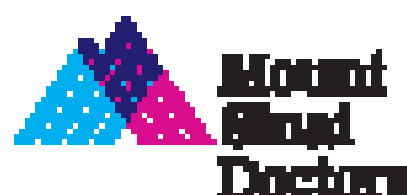
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