

## Pioneer Tom Brooks: Yonkers and Westchester's First Black Policeman



Police Officer Tom Brooks

By Dan Murphy

*This story first ran in Yonkers Rising on March 6th, 2015*

The first black police officer in Westchester County was from Yonkers. Back in 1925, Officer Tom Brooks was appointed and, upon his hiring, became the first black man recruited by the Yonkers Police Department and the first black police officer in Westchester County.

Yonkers Police Department Historian, Retired Captain George Rutledge, wrote this biography of Brooks, a true pioneer in Yonkers' history.

"Tom Brooks was born March 10th, 1900, on North

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## Mayor Spano Sounds the Alarm on Budget: Heads to Albany to Ask for More Education Funds



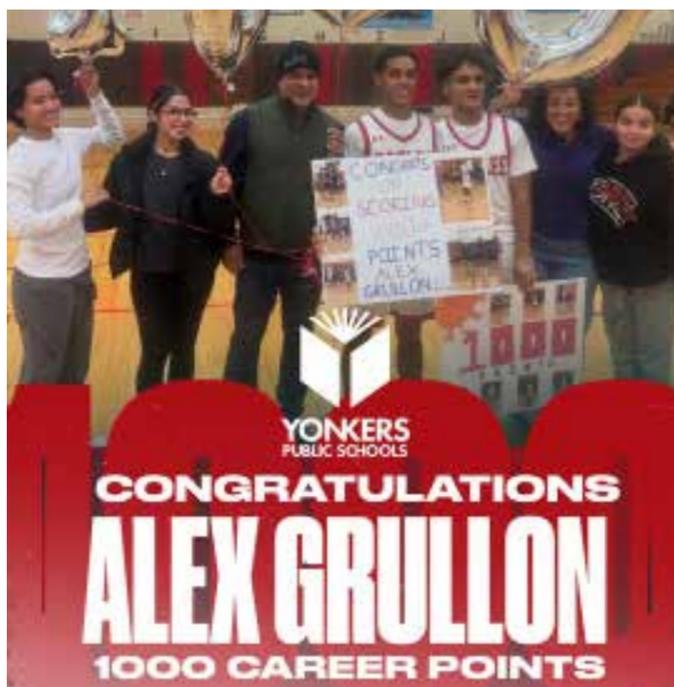
Mayor Mike Spano, with his financial team and YPS Superintendent Anibal Soler Jr.

Mayor Mike Spano testified before State lawmakers on the proposed 2026–2027 Executive Budget, outlining Yonkers' urgent education and municipal funding needs and calling for reforms reflecting the true cost of serving residents in a high-cost region like Westchester County.

"As local mayors, we are on the frontlines," said Mayor Spano. "We are on

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## YMA Basketball Star Alex Grullon Scores His 1000th Point



Congratulations to YMA basketball athlete, Alex Grullon for scoring his 1,000th career point – what a milestone! Alex's hard work, discipline, and commitment to the sport have powered his success on the court and made a lasting impact on the team.

*Note: We will print on the front page every student who scores their 1,000 point and every resident that reaches age 100*

## Anand Singh Pleads Guilty to Intent to Engage in Illicit Sexual Contact, & Possession of Child Porn



*Former Yonkers City Council and Westchester BOL Staffer has Bail Revoked, Faces 10 Year Minimum Jail Sentence in May*

By Dan Murphy

Anand Singh, a former aide to Yonkers City Council President Mike Khader and a former aide at the Westchester County Board of Legislators, pled guilty on Feb. 5 to sex crimes in White Plains Federal Court.

Singh, 35, from Tarrytown, pled guilty before Judge Vincent Bricetti of traveling with intent to engage in illicit sexual contact, and possession of child pornography. He now faces a mandatory minimum 10 year prison term when he is sentenced in May.

The charges against Singh date back to an incident in December 2022, and he has been free on a \$700,000 cash bond put up by his

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## Yonkers 40% Latino Population, Talk About the Bad Bunny Super Bowl



**Bad Bunny Super Bowl Merch in Yonkers See Story on Page 9**

## Purchase College and YPIE Partner to Provide YPS Students Scholarship, Direct Admission



Purchase College, SUNY and Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE) are excited to announce a new partnership that will provide housing scholarships in the amount of \$10,000 per year for one Liberal Arts and Science student from eight high schools in

*continued on pg 8-*

## Malcolm X’s Wife, Dr. Betty Shabazz and Her Connection to Yonkers



Dr. Betty Shabazz

By: Dennis Richmond, Jr.

Long before a fire turned a Westchester hallway into a national headline, Dr. Betty Shabazz was known for a different kind of heat: the steady, disciplined energy of an educator who refused to let tragedy define her family’s future.

Dr. Shabazz—the widow of Malcolm X and a longtime professor and administrator—built a public life rooted in scholarship and service. According to Encyclopaedia Britannica, she became widely known not only as Malcolm X’s spouse, but as an American educator and civil rights activist whose work extended well beyond the shadow of his assassination. Based on historical profiles, she pursued advanced education after becoming a widow, earning a doctorate in education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst in 1975 and later serving at Medgar Evers College in Brooklyn in teaching and leadership roles.

That public legacy collided with a private crisis in the early hours of June 1, 1997, when an intense blaze erupted at Shabazz’s co-op apartment in Yonkers. According to The Los Angeles Times, doctors said she suffered third-degree burns over more than 80 percent of her body and was taken to the burn unit at Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx in extremely critical condition. Investigators quickly deemed the fire suspicious, and a young relative was taken into custody, the paper reported.

Within days, the case drew national attention not only because of Dr. Shabazz’s stature, but because of the devastating family dynamics behind the headlines. According to TIME, police said the fire was set by Shabazz’s grandson, who had been living with her for much of the prior two years. In July, the legal process moved swiftly. According to The Los Angeles Times, 12-year-old Malcolm Shabazz pleaded guilty in Yonkers Family Court to the juvenile equivalent of manslaughter and arson, acknowledging he started the fire in the hallway of his grandmother’s apartment building.

Dr. Shabazz fought for weeks. According to The Los Angeles Times, she underwent a series of operations as doctors attempted to replace damaged skin and stabilize her condition. On June 23, 1997, she died from her injuries, the newspaper reported.

The tragedy reverberated far beyond Yonkers. Dr. Shabazz had spent decades urging young people toward education, discipline, and self-respect—using her platform to insist that history should be studied, not merely survived. Her death underscored a painful truth: historical importance does not insulate a family from trauma, instability, or the fractures that can follow public catastrophe into private homes.

Yet her legacy remains rooted in her work—the classrooms she led, the institutions she strengthened, and the example she set as a Black woman who pursued advanced education while carrying an enormous historical burden. In Yonkers, the address became a symbol of heartbreak. For many who remembered her, Dr. Betty Shabazz was, above all, a builder—of scholarship, of community, and of a life dedicated to making history matter for the next generation.

Thank you, Dr. Shabazz and Brother Malcolm X, for everything that you have done for The Black Community.

**Dennis Richmond, Jr. (@NewYorkStakz) is a journalist, historian, and educator from Yonkers, NY. He writes to uplift unheard voices, honor history, and inspire change.**

## When Taxpayers Pay More but Receive Less in Basic City Services: It’s Time to Examine How Our City Is Governed

By Joseph Berger, John P. O’Leary Northwest Yonkers Republican Club co-founder, member and guest writer. Part One

Yonkers currently operates under a Strong Mayor form of government, where executive authority is concentrated in a single political office. For taxpayers, this means major decisions about hiring, city services, and operations are largely controlled at the top, with limited independent oversight. While this structure can provide clear leadership, it also carries risks when accountability is weak—cost overruns, inefficient service delivery, and decisions driven by political loyalty rather than results all ultimately fall on taxpayers.

An alternative used in many well-run cities is the City Manager form of government, which separates politics from day-to-day management. Under this model, the mayor and City Council set policy and represent residents, while a professionally trained, non-partisan manager is hired to run city operations efficiently and transparently. For taxpayers, this approach emphasizes merit-based hiring, measurable performance, and reliable delivery of basic services—such as timely snow removal, infrastructure maintenance, and public safety coordination.

The following plan outlines how this model could bring greater accountability, better value for tax dollars, and restore trust in Yonkers government.

### COMPARISONS: Strong Mayor vs. City Manager Forms of Government

#### 1. Strong Mayor Form of Government

(Current system in Yonkers, NY)

##### DEFINITION:

In a Strong Mayor system, the mayor is both the political leader and the chief executive of the city. They have significant control over the administration, budget, hiring/firing of department heads, and implementation of policies.

##### PROS:

- Clear accountability: Voters know who is in charge, and the mayor can be held directly responsible for city performance.
- Strong leadership during crises: A Mayor with executive authority can make swift decisions when needed.
- Political visibility: A Strong Mayor can advocate for the city at state or national levels more effectively.

##### CONS:

- High potential for patronage and corruption: As seen in Yonkers, control over hiring often leads to politically motivated appointments, including rewarding party officials, donors, and even opponents in exchange for loyalty.
- Less Council Oversight: The City Council has limited ability to oversee or override administrative decisions or budgetary priorities.
- Political gridlock or favoritism: Decisions may be made to appease certain factions rather than the public.
- Policy swings: Changes in administration often lead to abrupt policy shifts and instability in long-term planning.

##### COST IMPLICATIONS:

- High salary for Mayor and top staff.
- Patronage jobs inflate city payrolls.
- Duplicated roles or unqualified hires cost taxpayers without adding real value.

#### 2. City Manager Form of Government

(System Yonkers previously had)

##### DEFINITION:

In this system, the City Council appoints a professional City Manager to oversee the day-to-day operations of the city. The mayor (if one exists) serves more as a ceremonial figure or policy leader with limited executive power.

##### PROS:

- Professional management: City Managers are typically credentialed and selected based on qualifications, not politics.
- Greater transparency: The Council retains more control over budgets, contracts, and policy enforcement.
- Reduced patronage: Hiring is done through a more merit-based process, limiting political interference.
- Policy continuity: Managers tend to serve longer than elected mayors, ensuring long-term planning and consistent service delivery.

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## How to Care For Your Aging Eye

Dr. Nicholas Donas Talks Aging Eye Disorders and the Latest Treatment Options to Improve Vision



**Dr. Nicholas Donas**

**By Dan Murphy**

Dr. Nicholas Donas, an ophthalmologist at St. John's Rivertown Ophthalmology, performs the latest procedures and treatments for age-related vision problems, including glaucoma, macular degeneration, and cataracts. He says these conditions can have a genetic component, but in many cases, they are simply due to the typical aging process.

"It's a natural process," Dr. Donas explains. "The main cause of cataracts is aging. So just the way that our skin develops wrinkles and our hair turns white, the lens in the eye gets a little cloudy and yellow as we grow older."

As the lens becomes cloudy and less transparent, a patient may begin having difficulty seeing.

"Cataracts eventually get to a point where they start to affect activities of daily living like driving, reading, or in some cases, even recognizing faces from across the room," says Dr. Donas. "For instance, some patients will say they can't read the scroll on the bottom of the TV screen. That's a big complaint people have. And of course, you know, driving at night, that's probably one of the most common complaints, especially when cataracts first start to develop. It doesn't mean necessarily that you have to have your cataracts removed, but if it gets to a point where either your doctor strongly recommends it, or you feel your vision should be better, that is an option."

The surgery is typically done while the patient is awake. Many patients have concerns about cataract surgery, but Dr. Donas explains that it's a fast, safe, and very common procedure.

"It's probably the most commonly performed surgery in the United States, and also one of the safest procedures," he says. "It's about a 10- to 15-minute procedure where tiny incisions are made on the front part of the eye, the cornea. We gain access, and the lens or the cataract is removed, and an artificial lens is placed where the cataract used to be."

Understandably, patients may also worry about pain or discomfort during the procedure.

"It's painless in the sense that we do use topical anesthesia," Dr. Donas notes. "And patients often get some sedation, so they're comfortable and relaxed. One of the biggest concerns is that the patient will see what I'm doing. So they'll ask me, 'Will I see what you're doing?' You can imagine that it wouldn't be very comfortable to see instruments coming at your eye, but that's not what happens. You don't see that, because you can't focus on what the doctor's doing. Most patients will say that they don't really experience pain, and for the most part, are very comfortable with the sedation they get."

Another common condition associated with aging is macular degeneration.

"The macula is the central part of the retina that is responsible for sharp vision," explains Dr. Donas. "What happens with macular degeneration is that the cells of the macula lose their ability to clear themselves of metabolic waste. So it accumulates, forming what we call drusen or deposits in the retina."

These deposits trigger changes in the retina that can lead to two types of macular degeneration: dry and wet. The dry type is the early phase of the disease, and the wet type is more advanced. Dr. Donas notes that there are different treatment options for these phases.

Slowing progression is key with early or dry-type macular degeneration.

"In all cases, we recommend that patients with macular degeneration protect their eyes from the sun," says Dr. Donas. "We know that UV damage can cause progression of the disease, so we do recommend sunglasses always. We also recommend anything good for your health, like quitting smoking. If you have diabetes, make sure your diabetes and blood pressure are under control. In addition, some vitamins have been shown to really slow the progression of macular degeneration. The AREDS2 vitamin formula is available over the counter. It's based on an extensive study that has found a specific combination of vitamins to help slow down the progression of the disease."

When the disease progresses, it can lead to bleeding and swelling under the retina.

"When you develop bleeding, it's called wet because you develop hemorrhages in the back of the eye," Dr. Donas explains. "And those hemorrhages can eventually lead to scarring and even cause patients to lose their vision. Fortunately, there are injection treatments for that type of macular degeneration as well. Of course, it's not something you take lightly, but these injections are very helpful. They've really been a game changer, and we've seen patients maintain their vision much longer."

Dr. Donas also discussed glaucoma, a third aging-related eye condition that can cause vision difficulties.

"Glaucoma is caused by elevated pressure inside the eye," he says. "So if you can imagine, the eye is a closed compartment. It's like a basketball, right? If you could overinflate the basketball, it would feel firm. So we measure the pressure in

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## Yonkers Woman Arraigned for Animal Cruelty After Dog Found Abandoned- Throat Slashed



**The 1-year-old dog, named Frankie, was found tied to a gate at Saint John's Cemetery, in Yonkers**

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced today that a Yonkers woman was arraigned on multiple animal cruelty charges Monday morning after a dog was found abandoned and severely injured at a Yonkers cemetery in November.

Anita Martin, 60, was charged with Aggravated Cruelty to Animals, an unclassified felony, Overdriving, Torturing and Injuring Animals, a class A misdemeanor, and Abandonment of Animals, an unclassified misdemeanor.

Martin pleaded not guilty to the charges. She was released on her own recognizance as none of the charges are bail eligible. Judge Evan Inlaw adjourned the case to Feb. 23 for further proceedings.

DA Cacace said: "Like many in Westchester, I was deeply disturbed to see the photos of Frankie on the news in his mangled condition. Our pets are completely dependent upon us for their well-being, and in this case, poor Frankie was failed many times over."

"The charges in this case are serious and reflect the gravity of the harms committed against an innocent and defenseless creature. The only silver lining here is that Frankie can now begin his healing journey and will undoubtedly spend the rest of his life in loving arms, much unlike his life as a puppy."

SPCA Westchester CEO Shannon Laukhuf said: "We are grateful to the Westchester County District Attorney's Office for moving swiftly to help ensure justice for Frankie. We are their voice and will continue to advocate tirelessly on behalf of animals who cannot speak for themselves."

According to charging documents and a veterinarian's deposition filed with the court, on Nov. 21, Martin left a 1-year-old dog named Frankie tied to a gate at Saint John's Cemetery, in Yonkers. For over three hours, Frankie was abandoned without food or water.

Eventually, Frankie was discovered by a good Samaritan, who phoned the police. During a subsequent medical examination, a veterinarian determined that Frankie was a 1-year-old, male mastiff-mix. Frankie was found to have a very large and severe wound on his neck, measuring 22 centimeters long and 4 centimeters deep, according to the veterinarian's deposition. This gash exposed all of Frankie's underlying tissue; it produced a foul odor, was badly infected and had pus and drainage present, the veterinarian found.

Frankie was also found to have been extremely underweight and emaciated, with his ribs clearly visible, indicating he had not been receiving proper nutrition for an extended period of time. A complex surgery was performed lasting two hours.

Amid these challenges, Frankie has retained a "remarkably sweet and loving" demeanor, according to the veterinarian. "He becomes excited as soon as he sees anyone approaching," the veterinarian notes. "He enjoys affection, seeks out attention and happily gives kisses to me and the staff. Despite the severity of his injuries and the neglect he suffered, he remains extremely gentle, trusting and affectionate."

The investigation was conducted by SPCA Westchester and the Yonkers Police Department. The case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Alexander Shapiro, recently named by DA Cacace to serve as the office's Animal Cruelty Coordinator.

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Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins Advances Legislation to Hold Utility Companies Accountable & Provide Relief for New Yorkers

Congressman Latimer Congratulates Mayor Spano on House Floor for 15 Years as Mayor



State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins

As families across Westchester and New York continue to feel the impact of rising utility bills, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins led the New York State Senate in advancing legislation to strengthen oversight of utility companies and protect ratepayers from unfair costs and practices.

“I have heard from too many Westchester residents and small businesses who are struggling to manage their sky-high utility bills month after month,” said Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. “This legislative package is about putting people first by strengthening oversight, increasing transparency, and giving the Public Service Commission real tools to rein in unjustified rate hikes. Keeping the lights on and the heat running should not come at the expense of a family’s financial stability.”

Senator Stewart-Cousins has long advocated for stronger consumer protections and utility affordability. This package builds on that work by ensuring that ratepayers have a stronger voice and that utility companies are held to clear standards of accountability.

The package includes measures that would prohibit utilities from charging customers for non-operational expenses such as lobbying and entertainment, require advance notice of proposed rate hikes through text, email, and monthly bills, and mandate that excess profits be returned to ratepayers. Additional legislation strengthens consumer protections by requiring the PSC to consider the economic and non-economic impacts of rate increases, including hardships caused by power outages.

Together, these reforms are designed to provide meaningful relief for residents, particularly seniors on fixed incomes and households enrolled in assistance programs, while ensuring utilities operate with greater transparency and fairness.

The legislation advanced under the leadership of Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins includes measures that would:

- Stop utilities from charging customers for lobbying and political activities by prohibiting ratepayer funds from being used for expenses like lobbying, public relations, advertising, travel, and entertainment.

- Require advance notice of proposed rate hikes by mandating that utilities notify customers of pending increases through text messages, emails, and notices on monthly utility bills.

- Ensure the Public Service Commission considers the real economic impact of rate increases on households when reviewing proposed utility rate changes.

- Strengthen independence and accountability at the Public Service Commission (PSC) by expanding the number of commissioners, clarifying the PSC’s mission to prioritize affordability and reliability, and preventing utility employees from serving as commissioners immediately after leaving the industry.

- Authorize the PSC to consider non-economic harm to customers when penalizing utilities, including hardship, stress, and suffering caused by unplanned power outages.

- Reform the utility ratemaking process to increase transparency and ensure that utility profits are reasonable and clearly justified.

- Give the PSC more time to review proposed rate increases by extending the suspension period for rate cases and limiting utilities’ ability to retroactively collect higher rates.

- Require utilities to return excess profits to customers when revenues exceed the rate of return approved by regulators.

- Mandate minimum standards for utility payment plans to better protect eligible residential customers already enrolled in assistance programs.

- Limit fixed monthly electric charges so customers are only billed for actual fixed costs related to service, not inflated or unrelated expenses.



Congressman George Latimer, pictured above, delivered the following comments on the floor of the House of Representatives on Feb.

Mr. Speaker,

I rise to congratulate Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano as he continues into the 15th year of his leadership as chief executive of Westchester’s largest city—and the third-largest city in the State of New York—Yonkers.

He is the longest currently serving mayor of a major city in New York State, guiding a municipality of over 200,000 residents and running the largest police department, fire department, sanitation department, parks and recreation programs, senior citizen centers, and every area of municipal services, and more.

Mike and I served side by side on the Westchester County Board of Legislators, and we have worked together in the New York State Assembly. As mayor of the largest local government, we have collaborated closely. During my tenure as Westchester County Executive, we partnered on a myriad of programs—from reducing crime to improving green spaces for all to enjoy.

He has shepherded the improvement of Yonkers public education programs, with higher graduation rates and new school construction. He has also shepherded an economic development boom in the city, including—among other things—an expansion of the film industry, giving Yonkers the nickname “Hollywood on the Hudson.”

He has overseen the expansion of housing, both affordable and market-rate, attracting new residents. From the floor of the House, this proves that government can still work and achieve for everyone when led by a true leader.

Thank you, Mike Spano.

Yonkers Guardians to Host Community Game Day Feb. 21



Join us for a Community Game Day!!

Come for an afternoon of fun, food, and family-friendly activities at a Community Game Day hosted by the Yonkers Guardians! Don’t miss this great opportunity for residents and police officers to come together, connect, and enjoy the day.

Saturday, February 21, 2:00 PM – 6:00 PM, Yonkers PAL – 127 N Broadway  
Live DJ, Pizza & refreshments, Interactive & board games, Fun for all ages  
RSVP required via e-mail by 2/16: [qjackson.yonkersguardians@gmail.com](mailto:qjackson.yonkersguardians@gmail.com)  
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## “History with Grit: Stitching Together the Past Through Heritage Costumes”



**Adults** | Black History Month | Grinton I. Will Library

### History with Grit: Stitching Together the Past Through Heritage Costumes

**Saturday,  
February 21**  
1 pm, Senator  
Flynn Room

Join History with Grit and Professor Christel Araujo of Westchester Community College for an inside look at how historical garments are reconstructed for documentary storytelling. This hands-on presentation explores how researchers translate archival evidence into period-accurate clothing, from selecting fabrics to building complete heritage costumes that bring early Black Yonkers to life.



1500 Central Park Ave  
Yonkers, NY 10710  
ypl.org/events



February 21, Will Library, Yonkers. Workshop Brings John Edward Bruce to Life Through Heritage Costume Design

Black History Month Program at Yonkers Public Library

As part of Black History Month, RISEUP and its partners will host a special public workshop titled “History with Grit: Stitching Together the Past Through Heritage Costumes” on Saturday, February 21, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Grinton I. Will Library, Yonkers Public Library.

This interactive session will explore how historical clothing is carefully reconstructed for the upcoming documentary, History With Grit: John Edward Bruce and the Early Makings of Black Yonkers. The film examines the life and legacy of John Edward Bruce, a journalist, historian, Pan-Africanist, & community leader, and his influence on early Black Yonkers (1910-1924).

The workshop will be led by Professor Christel Araujo, Professor of Fashion Technology at Westchester Community College. She will guide attendees through the research and design process used to recreate period-accurate garments. Participants will learn how historical records are translated into visual representations, how fabrics and materials are selected, and how costume elements are engineered to reflect authenticity. Heritage costumes will be displayed on mannequins for close examination.

This program is one of a four-part workshop series led by Dr. Robert Baskerville, Executive Director of RISEUP, and Harold McKoy II, President of Executive Branch Entertainment Group. The series supports the documentary’s pre-production process and gives the community a behind-the-scenes look at how history is interpreted for the screen.

The project is funded by a grant from the American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS). Community partners include UNIA-ACL, Yonkers Historical Society, Black Westchester, Yonkers Public Library, James H. Farrell Lodge #34, Westchester Community College Foundation, Beczak Environmental Education Center, and Executive Branch Entertainment Group.

This initiative builds on RISEUP’s ongoing efforts to preserve and honor the legacy of John Edward Bruce. In August 2023, RISEUP and James H. Farrell Lodge #34 held a temporary marker ceremony at Oakland Cemetery in Yonkers. Through fundraising efforts led by Harold McKoy II and support from organizations such as UNIA-ACL, New York State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, the Yonkers NAACP, along with other community base organizations and local community members, a permanent headstone from Minozzi & Sons was installed the following year.

Refreshments for the February 21 workshop will be provided by Off The Hook. Admission is free, but space is limited.

## On This Day in Yonkers History...



*Ella Fitzgerald*

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

Monday, February 16th

February 16, 1929: A new record in the number of penniless men forced to seek lodging at Police Headquarters was set when 40 men asked to be accommodated. Usually, the number was no more than twenty.

February 16, 1936: Yonkers own Jack Alexander performed on the Major Bowes’ Amateur Hour; his talent, doing barnyard imitations, went so well, he did not get one single gong!

Tuesday, February 17th

February 17, 1914: The Yonkers Teachers Association petitioned our Board of Education to provide rest rooms for grammar schoolteachers; apparently most Yonkers elementary schools did not have facilities for teachers!

February 17, 1933: Captain George Fried of Colonial Heights, hero of several rescues at sea, was given command of the Washington; the new ship officially would be commissioned for sea service on May 9th. At the time of the announcement, Fried commanded of the United States Liner Manhattan.

Wednesday, February 18th

February 18, 1931: Willard Van Derveer of Midland Avenue escorted Rear Admiral Richard Byrd when he addressed more than 1,000 people crowding the Roosevelt High School auditorium.

Van Derveer traveled with Byrd on his Antarctic Expeditions, documenting the discovery of mountain regions in the South Pole by taking “extraordinary motion pictures.” Some of the more spectacular film showed a bitterly cold snowstorm that stopped their progress with what seemed like unending snow, damaging their plane and radio. Four marooned men had to be rescued by a second plane.

At the third Academy Awards in 1930, Van der Veer and Joseph Rucker won the Academy Award for Cinematography for the film With Byrd at the South Pole. Mount Van der Veer in Antarctica is named after him!

February 18, 1932: Health, civic and community associations throughout Yonkers were outraged over the contemplated ouster of Health Commissioner Dr. Clarence Buckmaster; rumors circulated Yonkers that he was to be replaced by a Democrat.

The Yonkers Academy of Medicine sent a strongly worded resolution to Mayor Joseph Loehr, urging him to reappoint the Commissioner immediately.

Thursday, February 19th

February 19, 1937: Yonkers-raised and educated vocalist Ella Fitzgerald was officially welcomed home by Mayor Joseph Loehr!

Ella, considered by many to be one of the nation’s most popular vocalists, was well known on stage and radio. She returned to Yonkers to sing at the Paradise Boys’ Club Annual Dance, held at the Polish Community Center. The event, benefiting the Club’s Welfare Fund, was attended by more than 1,500 people, including many state and city officials.

February 19, 1942: The US Navy Department added the names of two Yonkers civilian defense construction workers to the list of probable Japanese prisoners of war. The Navy believed forty-four-year-old Clarence Calkins of Van Cortlandt Park Avenue and Raymond Montagriff, 36, of Lee Avenue, were captured during the siege of Wake Island.

Friday, February 20th

February 20, 1910: Health Officer Dr. William Coons urged tapping the New York Aqueduct of the Croton Reservoir for Yonkers. He stated the Yonkers water would never be “absolutely pure” as long as got ours from the Nepperhan River.

February 20, 1920: George Thomas, alleged leader of the policy slip racket in Yonkers, attempted to escape after Judge Boote ordered his arrest.

In the courtroom to see how one of his henchmen fared in court, Thomas was recognized by the judge and ordered Captain Ford to arrest him. Thomas bolted out of the court.

Court Interpreter Henry Friedman grabbed him in the hallway and marched the escapee back into the court by the scruff of the neck. Friedman recognized the man since Thomas had been arraigned on similar charge the previous September, when he was given a suspended sentence. Boote ordered he start the sentence immediately.

Saturday, February 21st

February 21, 1904: Henry Baker of Hudson NY sold Claverack College and Hudson River Institute to John C. Havemeyer of Yonkers.

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*continued on pg 9---*

## Philipse Manor Hall Announces Three Winter Break Activities



**Winter Break Activities**

**Feb 19 Keeping Warm: Cloth & Clothing**

11:00 AM - 3:00 PM | FREE!



Learn about the handmade clothing of the past, weave your own coaster, and make an 18<sup>th</sup> century paper doll.



**Winter Break Activities**

**Feb 20 Secrets, Symbols & Stories**

11:00 AM - 3:30 PM | FREE!



Watch "National Treasure" and learn about historic documents, write in invisible ink, and create your own treasure hunt!

Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site is pleased to present three days of Winter Break Activities inspired by everyday life in colonial New York that will involve creative crafts, interactive demonstrations, and historical exploration. The events are scheduled for February 18 through February 20 from 11AM to 3:00 PM onsite at Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, 29 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers.

On Wednesday, February 18 we'll explore how fireplaces functioned as both practical and decorative features in colonial homes in the 18th century. Participants will design their own paper candles and delft tiles, inspired by the blue-and-white tiles commonly found around historic hearths and even right here at Philipse Manor Hall.

On Thursday, February 19 we will focus on colonial crafts and craftsmanship. Before factories and fast fashion, clothing was handmade, mended, and reused. Join us for activities focused on the labor, materials, and skills required to clothe a household in the colonial era. Try your hand at weaving, creating small yarn coasters using simple cardboard looms, or make colonial paper dolls.

And on Friday, February 20, you're invited to watch National Treasure with us! A fun and fast-paced movie that introduces historical documents, hidden messages, and the meaning we assign to the past. Participants will have the opportunity to experiment with invisible ink to write secret messages and create their own treasure hunt, or try one of the museum's scavenger hunts!

**Tickets & Registration**

Tickets to this program are free! Registration is encouraged but not required. To register, call 917-965-4027 or email [philipsemanorhall@parks.ny.gov](mailto:philipsemanorhall@parks.ny.gov). All children must be accompanied by an adult.

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

## Black History and Heritage Come Alive in Roots



Local artists, David Dixon and Khuumba Ama, curate Roots, Black History and Heritage at Blue Door Art Center. Photo by M. Trommer

By David Dixon

Blue Door Art Center kicks off Black History Month with Roots Black History and Heritage, which runs February 7 – March 7, 2026. Local artists from Yonkers and surrounding areas draw upon their "Roots" as inspiration. Upon entering Roots, one is immediately greeted by a large portrait of a joyful Senegalese woman in striking native garb welcoming you. To your left see Winnie Mandela and of the African American fight for freedom in collages. Across the gallery, are bold African textile reliefs bordered by smaller mysterious paintings that draw the viewer in to contemplate their message.

Then you're invited to a wedding! The a life size bride and groom stand in the center of the room dressed to the nines in royal gold and purple African fashions, as they are serenaded by a soulful diva in blue. Invited guests include a trio of strikingly beautiful portraits. Across the room again is a fanciful tea party reminiscent of Alice in Wonderland and a tribute to African Colombians.

Be sure to seek out the many small treasures displayed throughout the exhibit, like the photo of the iconic red stage door of the Apollo Theater through which many of America's entertainment greats have passed. Also take a moment to consider the assemblages representing the shacks of the deep south from which so many African Americans ascended.

Strolling through this exhibit one is struck by the wide diversity of art that works together to present a cohesive, compelling story of the African diaspora. The exhibition curated by Khuumba Ama and David K. Dixon opens February 7 with a reception from 1 to 6 pm and runs through March 7, 2026, at the Blue Door Art Center, 13 Riverdale Ave, Yonkers NY. Gallery Hours are Thursdays and Fridays 3 – 6pm, and Saturdays, 1 – 6pm. Admission is free.

### Free Movie-The Color Purple Will Library -Feb. 17-2pm-4pm



### MOVIE SCREENING



**THE COLOR PURPLE (2023)**

Tuesday  
February 17  
2:30 - 4:40 pm | Will Library Auditorium

Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos & story ideas to [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com)

MAYOR SPANO'S SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT AWARD PRESENTED TO ELLA FITZGERALD ACADEMY



*Ella Fitzgerald Academy Students, Mayor Spano's School Spotlight Award-Photo by Maurice Mercado/City of Yonkers*

On Feb. 9, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano joined Superintendent of Schools Anibal Soler, Jr. to present his School Spotlight Award to the deserving administration, faculty, staff, parents, and students at Ella Fitzgerald Academy. Under the leadership of Dr. Valencia Brown-Wyatt, Ella Fitzgerald Academy has achieved notable progress in two pivotal areas: Exceptional Literacy Growth & Language Development and Academic Progress & Schoolwide Content Mastery.

“Dr. Valencia Brown-Wyatt and her team at Ella Fitzgerald Academy have shown what is possible when a school community is united in purpose and committed to every child’s success,” said Mayor Mike Spano. “Their steady academic gains speak to the hard work and unwavering dedication of the entire school community. I applaud their commitment and proudly recognize the progress they continue to deliver for our Yonkers Public School students.”

Dr. Valencia Brown-Wyatt and her team at Ella Fitzgerald Academy have worked tirelessly over the past year to meet the needs of their learning community. Their dedication has led to significant improvements in the school’s overall performance. This steady upward trajectory reflects a school deeply committed to equitable access, rigorous instruction, and whole-child academic success.

Initiatives that have contributed to the school’s success include: Exceptional Literacy Growth & Language Development— Ella Fitzgerald Academy stands out as a city-wide leader in accelerating literacy for multilingual learners; Ella Fitzgerald Academy posted a remarkable +14-point ELA gain—the highest among its peers—showing students are not only accessing grade-level work but excelling in it. This momentum is reinforced by strong New York State English as a Second Language Achievement Test (NYSELAT) performance, with most students advancing at least one proficiency level and several moving up two or more. With minimal regression and consistent, effective language-development systems, multilingual learners are empowered, supported, and achieving at high levels; Academic Progress & Schoolwide Content Mastery – Ella Fitzgerald Academy demonstrated positive growth across all tested subjects, including Math (+4) and Science (+3). Ella Fitzgerald Academy’s gains show that the school’s instructional practices are not confined to a single department but are part of a broader culture of academic improvement. This is evident, for example, in the way teachers enhance their professional development through inter-classroom visitations and district-led turnkey training. Supported by their colleagues, they learn and implement best practices in real time. Evidence of culturally responsive education is also reflected in the school’s meaningful family-engagement opportunities. By integrating language supports into content instruction across subjects, the school ensures that multilingual learners experience meaningful, measurable progress in every discipline.

“The remarkable gains at Ella Fitzgerald Academy are a direct reflection of the school’s intentional, student-centered work,” said Board of Education President Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio. “From the extraordinary literacy growth of multilingual learners to the steady, schoolwide increases in content mastery, Dr. Valencia Brown-Wyatt and her team have demonstrated what can happen when high expectations, strong instructional practices, and deep family partnerships come together.”

Superintendent of Schools Anibal Soler, Jr. added, “Ella Fitzgerald Academy shows how high expectations, strong instruction, and a commitment to multilingual learners lead to success. The literacy improvements and schoolwide growth come from intentional leadership, collaborative teaching, and a culture that believes every student can succeed. I am proud of Dr. Brown-Wyatt, her staff, and the entire school community for creating an environment where excellence and equity go hand in hand.”

Teens, Adults | Black History Month | Riverfront Library

Yonkers' First Negro "Cop" Who Is Now "Breaking In" On Force Here

Second Negro Appointment Is Made In Safety Department Police Bureau

Devlin Names Third Negro Cop To Force

Thomas Brooks, April 1925

James F. Martin, August 1928

Stewart L. Freeman, August 1928

**History of African Americans in the Yonkers Police Department**

Thursday,  
February 19  
6 pm,  
Yonkers Room

Join Yonkers native and veteran Yonkers Police Detective Ken Davis and learn about the first three African American patrol officers serving the City of Yonkers and the Yonkers Police Department: Thomas P. Brooks (1925-1959), James F. Martin (1928-1940), and Stewart L. Freeman (1928 - 1954).



One Larkin Center  
Yonkers, NY 10701  
ypl.org/events



Yonkers City Council President  
**Lakisha Collins-Bellamy**  
presents

**BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

*A Century of Black History Commemoration*

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25, 2026  
5:30PM - 7:30PM  
CITY HALL CEREMONIAL COURTROOM, 4TH FLOOR  
40 SOUTH BROADWAY, YONKERS, NY 10701

LAKISHA COLLINS-BELLAMY

## Nicodemo and Jereis Pick up Endorsements

Yonkers Democrats Anthony Nicodemo and Frank Jereis recently pick up endorsements in their campaigns for Westchester Legislator and NYS Assembly.

The New York State United Teachers (NYSUT) has officially endorsed Anthony Nicodemo for Westchester County Legislature in the 15th Legislative District, citing his lifelong advocacy for public education, working families, and community service. NYSUT President Melinda Person said the endorsement reflects the organization's long-term commitment to supporting educators who step up to serve in public office.

"We started the NYSUT Pipeline ten years ago to empower NYSUT members to serve in every level of government in which decisions that impact public education are made," Person said. "We are proud of the success of the program, and thrilled to be supporting NYSUT Pipeline candidate Anthony Nicodemo for County Legislative District 15."

Frank Jereis was endorsed by Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins to replace Assemblyman Nader Sayegh in the 90th Assembly representing Yonkers. Jenkins, former head of the Yonkers NAACP and longtime Yonkers resident and civil leader, praised Jereis for his experience, commitment, and knowledge of the needs of Yonkers families. Jereis currently serves as Chief of Staff to the incumbent Assemblymember Nader Sayegh, who has announced he is not seeking re-election.

"As someone who lives in and loves Yonkers, I'm proud to endorse Frank Jereis for State Assembly," said County Executive Jenkins. "Frank is committed to lowering costs and making our city more affordable, bringing in good jobs, and keeping our streets safe. I know we can count on him to stand strong for our Democratic values, and I know he'll make an excellent Assemblymember."

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### Anand Singh, continued from pg 1-

family. Some believe that Singh has avoided justice for three years, but on Feb. 5, Judge Bricetti revoked his bail and sent him to prison until his sentencing.

Yonkerstimes.com was one of the first media outlets to report on Singh's crimes in an April 2023 story titled, Underage Sex Sting in NJ Nabs Anand Singh, Westchester BOL Staffer .

A YouTube channel named OBL Global caught a former democratic staffer at the Westchester County Board of Legislators, Anand Singh, in an undercover, underage, sex sting in New Jersey.

The video can be found at this link- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kUNpG5HP4s&t=262s>

The incident was posted on YouTube April 11, but the incident occurred in Mid-December of 2022.

The video is graphic in content, and in the comments and messages by Anand Singh, who thought that he was chatting with a 14-year old girl.

Singh asks for the two to meet on Snapchat, to exchange photos and videos. "I want to share something with you. I'm doing something and I want you to watch."

Shortly after this message exchange, Singh backs off, messaging, "Save my number and in a few years hit me up," and "I am into it but I have to be the adult in this situation."

But shortly after Singh returns to graphic messages, including questions about the 14-year olds sexual history, and the type of sex he hopes to have with her. "are you on birth control-I could def hold you down lol."

Some of the chat messages have the name Hidley Anand, perhaps his Giglio name.

Then the conversation turns to inviting another underage girl to join them. "Do any of your friends like older guys too? Maybe we can all get together and party."

Anand then makes the decision to meet this young girl at 1am that evening. He traveled 2.5 hours, and during the drive made 5 phone calls to the young girl decoy. The audio of these calls is in the YouTube video and graphic.

Arriving at 1am at the designated location in Newark, Anand is confronted by Ramy and OBL. He then gets back into his car and leaves.

Two police officers show up and are filmed speaking with Ramy, the creator of OBL Global. The incident occurred in Newark and the New Police Department responded to the 911 call, but arrived after Singh had left.

We spoke to Ramy to verify this story and he was shocked at the depravity of Singh's messages and graphic sexual comments. "I've caught over 300 of these guys, before millions of viewers, and this was one of the worst chat logs I have ever seen. There are more stuff and posts that I couldn't post. And the fact that he was a government official is heartbreaking. He violated our trust, and even the decoy, who is in her 20's was traumatized at what he was saying.

Singh worked for former Yonkers City Council President Mike Khader, from 2019-2021. And until his termination, Singh worked for the Westchester County Board of Legislators, on the staff of both the Legislation and Economic Development committees.

Ramy said that Singh was wise to leave and not stick around and confess what he did. "He committed felonies and by showing up he can be charged with child endangerment. He crossed state lines to have sex with a minor. And the duffle bag he showed up with was filled with sex toys. But he didn't stay around and incriminate himself."

According to Ramy, he posted the video of Singh sometime in mid-december, but then took it down after the livestream. Many people watching the livestream recognized Singh and started notifying officials in Westchester four months ago.

Ramy said that County Legislator Colin Smith reached out to OBL for more information, and explained that after the livestream in December, their YouTube channel was taken down and he had to create another channel. OBL was also involved in two other high profile cases, and the Singh incident got pushed back. End of our 2023 story.

Singh's boss, County Legislator Chair Catherine Borgia, was made aware of the allegations in December and referred them to the County Public Safety Department, but took no further action. Borgia political career was derailed when she was forced to resign as board chair the next month because she failed to consult with county legislators and did not protect board members and staff.

Federal authorities in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York intervened and in May 2023 arrested Singh.

### Purchase College, YPIE, continued from pg 1-

as well as a direct admissions program that will automatically accept all students from YPIE schools that meet a certain grade threshold for 30 majors.

YPIE is the fifth partner to sign on for the Westchester Scholars housing scholarship program after White Plains, Port Chester, Mamaroneck, and Ossining school districts. The YPIE Direct Admissions Program is the first of its kind at Purchase.

This new partnership will include eight Yonkers Public High Schools: Yonkers Middle High School, Lincoln High School, Saunders Trades and Technical High School, Riverside High School, Gorton High School, Yonkers Montessori Academy, Roosevelt High School-Early College Studies, and Barack Obama School for Social Justice.

Purchase College President Michael E. Steiper, Ph.D., said, "I'm proud that Purchase is investing in the education of YPIE students to eliminate barriers to the application process through this new direct admissions program. We're grateful to YPIE for their efforts to support students and proud to work together to create pathways that make it easier for talented local students to enroll, thrive on campus, and graduate from a Top Ten Public School that excels in the liberal arts and sciences. We look forward to welcoming more Yonkers students into our robust programs in Law and Justice Studies, Economics, Communications, and Biology, to name just a few of our dozens of majors included in this new partnership."

Caitlin Read, Dean of Enrollment at Purchase College, said, "We're excited to partner with Yonkers Partners in Education in a more formal way, building on an existing partnership and the meaningful impact YPIE has had on student success. YPIE doesn't just help students get into college—they support them throughout their entire college journey, removing barriers and helping students persist and succeed. That work closely aligns with what we do at Purchase, where access, student support, and long-term success are central to our mission."

"We're grateful for our longtime partnership with Purchase College and have seen many YPIE students thrive on their campus," said Sam Wallis, YPIE CEO. "The Housing Scholarship and Direct Admissions Program open doors to deeper engagement, stronger connections, and a more meaningful college experience for YPIE students. We look forward to more ways to work together in the future."

"Living on campus has been a really positive experience," said Skye, a YPIE college student and senior at Purchase College. "I have more time to focus on my coursework and spend time in the studio working on art projects, and I no longer have to manage transporting sculptures back and forth on the bus. Being on campus has also helped me build friendships with people who share my interests and access health and counseling services more consistently."

#### Eligibility:

Students must participate in YPIE and graduate from one of the partner schools.

Students must live on campus at Purchase College, SUNY.

Students must apply and receive acceptance to one of the following majors: Anthropology, Art History, Arts Management, Biochemistry, Biology, Chemistry, Cinema and Television Studies, Communications, Economics, English and Global Literatures, Environmental Studies, Gender Studies, History, Journalism, Language and Culture, Latin American, Caribbean and Latinx Studies, Law and Justice Studies, Math/Computer Science, Media Studies, New Media, Philosophy and Critical Thought, Playwriting and Screenwriting, Political Science, Psychology, Sociology, and Undecided.

Students must be recommended by YPIE.

The Westchester Scholars Award will renew each year for a total of 8 semesters. Continued eligibility requirements:

Continue to reside in campus housing until graduation.

Remain in good academic standing (2.0 GPA or above) enrolled in an approved major.

Remain in good standing with regard to conduct.

File a FAFSA and TAP application each year.

Students must share their college experience with students from their high school by visiting their high school, presenting at an on-campus event, or sharing their experience in publications and/or social media.

How to Apply: Applications for the Westchester Scholars are now open. All YPIE students from the partner high schools applying to approved majors will be considered so long as they complete their applications by March 1, 2026. Scholarship recipients will be notified by April 1, 2026.

Questions regarding eligibility for the Westchester Scholars Award should be directed to Caitlin Read, Dean of Enrollment Management, [caitlin.read@purchase.edu](mailto:caitlin.read@purchase.edu) or 914-251-6317.

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### Spano to Albany, continued from pg 1-

on the frontlines in terms of educating our kids, with struggling families, we're on the frontlines of a failed immigration process, we're on the frontlines of food insecurities. When the federal government can't get it done, when New York can't get it done, we have to. As New York's third-largest City, our economic reality is different than the other Big Five, and the State's funding formulas must finally recognize that."

Mayor Spano joined mayors from Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, Albany, and Niagara Falls to address the Joint Legislative Committee.

"The Foundation Aid formula, as it exists today, simply does not work for Yonkers," added Mayor Spano. "Yonkers' students succeed not because the system is fair, but because our taxpayers and our city stretch themselves beyond the breaking point."

Key points from the Mayor's testimony include:

Education Funding Reform: Fully fund Foundation Aid and adopt the Comparable Wage Index for Teachers (CWIFT) to reflect Westchester's higher education costs, potentially delivering up to \$47 million more for Yonkers schools.

Special Education Relief: Update special education and transportation reimbursement formulas to keep pace with soaring enrollment and tuition costs that are largely beyond local control.

Municipal Aid & Revenue Stability: Increase AIM funding, address inflation-driven cost pressures, and ensure long-term revenue stability for Empire City Casino following the loss of the downstate casino license.

Mayor Spano reaffirmed his commitment to working with the Legislature and Governor Hochul to secure fair, sustainable funding for Yonkers' schools, services, and taxpayers.

*Taxpayer, continued from pg 2-*

**CONS:**

- Less direct accountability to voters: The City Manager is hired by the Council, not directly elected.
- Potential for Council dysfunction: If the Council is divided, hiring/firing a City Manager or managing direction may become politicized.
- Public disconnect: Residents may not understand who is truly in charge, reducing civic engagement.

**COST IMPLICATIONS:**

- City Manager salary is generally comparable to a mayor, but without the layers of patronage hires, overall city payroll may be significantly reduced.
- Professional efficiency: Savings through streamlined services, strategic planning, and reduced political waste.

**YONKERS CONTEXT & WHY RECONSIDER THE CITY MANAGER SYSTEM:**

- Under the Strong Mayor system, Yonkers has experienced a significant rise in political patronage, with tax dollars being used to maintain power structures by rewarding Council Members, party officials (both Democrat and Republican), and allies with jobs and favors.
- This diminishes public trust, inflates the cost of governance, and reduces the effectiveness of services.
- Under the City Manager system, the Council had stronger oversight, more influence on budget priorities, and a greater ability to focus on quality-of-life issues like infrastructure, sanitation, and public safety.

**CONCLUSION -WHY PUT THIS ON THE BALLOT:**

Moving to a City Manager form of government via public referendum could:

- Restore professionalism and fiscal responsibility to City Hall.
- Empower the City Council and, by extension, the residents.
- Reduce wasteful spending on political favors.
- Encourage long-term, stable planning free from the political drama of election cycles.

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***Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-***

Claverack College, a coeducational school in upstate New York, was founded in 1779 during the American Revolution by Reverend John Gebhardt of the Dutch Reformed Church. It became known as Washington Seminary. Renamed Claverack Academy in 1830, and renamed Claverack College in 1854. Three years later, its Hudson River Institute was founded for girls. About 300 students from wealthy families attended both schools, including future president Martin Van Buren, author Stephen Crane, and women's rights pioneer Margaret Sanger. By 1891, women outnumbered men in the school. The school later closed in 1902.

February 21, 1914: The Audubon Society of Yonkers High School created feeding places for birds unable to get food because of the heavy snow.

February 21, 1940: The Finnish Forward, the largest Finnish daily newspaper in the country, moved its editorial offices and plant to 445 Saw Mill River Road; they also moved the Women's Banner, the Forward's weekly companion publication.

Sunday, February 22nd

February 22, 1893: The Prohibitionists of Westchester County held a conference in Yonkers; Reverend F. Massick delivered an address on the "Importance of the Principle and Policy of Prohibition" and led the meeting.

February 22, 1943: Four hundred-fifty Yonkers dress company union members donated one day's pay to support relief agencies. Half of the fund was designated for national relief agencies; the rest went to local agencies including the Community and War Chests.

Employees donating a day's pay worked at: Bob Dress Company, 95 Riverdale Avenue; Danmore Dress Company, 25 North Broadway; Geneva Dresses, 11 St. Casimir Avenue; Lemore Dress Company, 27 North Broadway; Slymylne Undergarments, 289 Nepperhan Avenue; and Woodworth Dress Corporation, 69 Warburton Avenue.

***Questions or comments on this column? Email***

***YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com.***

***For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, please visit our website [www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org](http://www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org), call 914-961-8940 or email [info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org).***

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**CORPORATION NOTICE**

**CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK**

**PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers, New York will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, February 24th, 2026, at 6:30 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following Local Law, to wit:

**PROPOSED LOCAL LAW**

**A PROPOSED LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 43 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS TITLED "ZONING" BY AMENDING ARTICLE XV IN RELATION TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary. Further information, including access to a copy of said Local Law, may be obtained at the Yonkers City Clerk's Office located at City Hall — Room 102, 40 S. Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701

VINCENT SPANO

City Clerk

February 10, 2026

***What did Yonkers, and it's 40% Latino Population, Think of Bad Bunny's Super Bowl?***

*By Dan Murphy*

Bad Bunny delivered a historic Apple Music Super Bowl LX halftime show on February 8, 2026, at Levi's Stadium, becoming the first artist to perform nearly entirely in Spanish during the event. The 13-minute set was a vibrant celebration of Puerto Rican culture, Latino heritage, and broader unity across the Americas, blending high-energy reggaeton with deep symbolism. Emerging from towering sugar cane fields symbolizing colonial history and Puerto Rican roots, Bad Bunny played his hits and was joined by Lady Gaga and Ricky Martin.

Throughout, subtle nods to Puerto Rican identity, gentrification critiques, and immigrant pride appeared—culminating in a powerful finale where Bad Bunny listed countries across the Americas, waved their flags, held up a football inscribed "Together We Are America," and declared "Seguimos aquí" ("We're still here"). Despite some political controversy (including criticism from figures like President Trump), the show was praised as a joyful, unapologetic ode to Latin identity.

Many of our readers may not realize that 40% of the Yonkers population is Latino, so we wanted to get some thoughts on Bad Bunny's performance.

The Yonkers Hispanic Cultural Foundation held a Bad Bunny Bowl Super Bowl Watch Party at the Yonkers Brewing Co. on the big night. More than 200 people attended and celebrated the game and the halftime show.

The Yonkers Sanctuary Movement is offering Free Spanish lessons and sent out a flyer which reads, "If you didn't have time to learn Spanish for Benito's performance, YSM has your back. Spanish for beginners every Tuesday and Thursday, from 530-730pm. To register and for more information, call 914-491-0225."

Other comments included: "I want to salute Bad Bunny! My mom was born in Puerto Rico. After having sat back and taken it all in, now. I am disgusted and shocked at all the distaste and hatred towards Bad Bunny! Death threats towards him and his family, unbelievable! Hearing this was horrifying. West Side Story should have enlightened this country and put an end to this, but how soon it is forgotten. I loved that movie; that was my only connection to Puerto Rico back then. I didn't grow up with the Puerto Rican culture surrounding me, and I missed that," said Maria Williams.

Gilberto Gutierrez, owner of Yonkers Hub, is selling Bad Bunny Super Bowl Merch.

"Calling all Benito Bowl fans, the Bad Bunny Halftime Show merch is now at Yonkers Hub! Whether you came for the beats, the culture, or the historic Super Bowl LX performance, this merch lets you rep the moment in style. Swing by Yonkers Hub to score exclusive tees, hoodies, hats, and more — perfect for photo ops, watch parties, and everyday drip. Let everyone know halftime was the highlight," said Gutierrez, owner of Yonkers Hub, 470 South Broadway, who also rents mailboxes, and is a UPS and FedEx Authorized shipper, at the store. He added, "It's a historic event. We joined the celebration of the Latino culture, which is embedded in the fabric of America. Bad Bunny delivered a powerful message of love and unity in the midst of divisiveness."

Maura Daroczy posted, "Bad Bunny showed the world our values. weddings, children mingling with adults, everyone celebrating together through dance, music, and joy. Grandma, the winery, our zest for life. Our food, our values, our music, and marriage between people of different cultures or of the same sex. We are worthy, and we're not going anywhere. We are America."

One critique is that there were no English subtitles for his songs. Perhaps the NFL did not want the graphic language in some of his songs to appear on millions of TV's as subtitles.

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***Yonkers Rising*** PO Box 705, Yonkers NY 10702-914-815-1388. Proudly serving the people of Yonkers with hyperlocal news. Member NY Press Association. Legal notice inquiries to: [risinglegalnotice@gmail.com](mailto:risinglegalnotice@gmail.com). Daniel Murphy, Publisher & Editor in Chief, [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com). Bayan Baker, Assistant to the Editor in Chief [risingmediagroup@gmail.com](mailto:risingmediagroup@gmail.com).

Notice of formation of Hardcore In The 914 LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/5/2026. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Hardcore In The 914 8 Arden Drive, Hartsdale New York 10530. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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Notice of Formation of Israelov Law, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 01/27/2026. Office Location: Westchester. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the PLLC is: 51 Nethermont Ave, White Plains, NY 10603. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Senara & Co, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/29/2026. NY office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served is 455 Tarrytown Road, Suite 1307, White Plains, NY 10607. Purpose/character of LLC: Any lawful purpose.

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 S.I.T. Staying In Touch LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the New York Secretary of State on December 25, 2025. Office location: Westchester County. New York Secretary of State designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served. New York Secretary of State shall mail process to: Donald George McIntosh III, 137 Morningside Pl, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

## The Compromise that Can Save Lawler & Trump

By Dan Murphy

We all understand that there are very few truly independent voters left in today's political discourse. The nature of our hyper-partisan news, and the way in which social media exacerbates both sides, combined with the inflammatory nature of President Trump, usually forces voters over to one side of the fence or the other.

But that small sliver of the American electorate that is independent, which in my view means that over the last three Presidential elections, you have voted both for and against Trump, that determined the winner of the 2024 election and will determine which party controls Congress in 2026.

In Westchester, Congressman Mike Lawler is the face of our deeply divided American politics. He is hated by Progressive democrats and respected by conservative republicans. A small sliver of the electorate in the 17th Congressional District of NY has twice elected Lawler by narrow margins.

But over the past few weeks, there has been a defection of some of those Trump-Lawler voters in Westchester, Rockland, and Putnam, due to the shootings of Renee Good and Alex Pretti. Americans do not want to see fellow Americans killed for protesting, even if their protests are over the top and endanger the lives of ICE officers.

But the underlying issue with ICE is a question raised by one of the few middle-of-the-road, independent-minded media figures in the US- Michael Smerconish. On both his CNN and Sirius shows, Smerconish has asked the question, why is ICE apprehending so many illegal, or undocumented residents who have committed no other crime than entering our country illegally, while pursuing, arresting, and deporting criminal illegal aliens?

Last year, an incident in Peekskill drew national interest involving 24-year-old Amy Lituma. On July 29, ICE agents followed Lituma and her four-year-old son from her home in Peekskill to BJ's Wholesale Club in Yorktown. Lituma, an Ecuadorian immigrant, claims the armed men forced her out of the vehicle.

ICE agents showed her a photo of her partner, Wilmer Delgado, whom they were seeking to detain. Lituma said she did not know where Delgado was. ICE allowed Lituma to return home and had her call Delgado, who told her, "Don't say anything."

When given the option of being separated from her son or self-deporting, Lituma decided to return to Ecuador with her son. A video shows her son scared at ICE outside of their home. A rally was held in Peekskill in support of Lituma

Lituma said she crossed the border into the U.S. in July 2021, when her son was eight months old, and has been working as a house cleaner while living in Peekskill. She hadn't applied for U.S. asylum, and said she hoped to return to the U.S. with legal status someday. "I'm not the only one," Lituma said. "Many people are in the same situation. My request is not to break families apart."

This is the concern that a majority of Americans now have with ICE. That same majority is OK with ICE detaining, arresting, and deporting criminal illegals, like those who have committed rapes, child sex offenses, and drug crimes.

But they do not want to see ICE pursuing a criminal illegal, and when they make that arrest, they also deport all of the family members in that home.

White House Border Czar Tom Homan recently held a press conference in Minnesota and reiterated the ICE policy. "For those who are not a national security threat or public safety threat, you are not exempt from immigration enforcement actions. If you are in the country illegally, you are not off the table. Let me be clear, President Trump intends to continue mass deportations, and these actions will continue every day throughout this country. And we have not directed otherwise."

While Homan's comments follow the Federal laws concerning deportations of undocumented illegal residents, those laws no longer have the support of the majority of Americans. And the number of illegal or undocumented residents in our country being deported has now far exceeded the number of criminal illegals deported.

Dr Austin Kocher compiled apprehension totals from ICE, which show 70% of those apprehended have not committed a crime, other than that they are here illegally, some for 20 or 30 years. An example that Smerconish gave is a cook in a diner in New Jersey who has raised a family, paid taxes, and not committed a crime. Should he be arrested and deported? Most Americans say no.

So can ICE apprehend a criminal illegal in a household and not arrest the other undocumented residents in the residence that they raid? Can Homan change his policy to do just that? Most believe that Homan and the President must do so, or else they will lose republican control of Congress in 2026, including the seat held by Congressman Lawler. Lawler, at a recent town hall, said, "I fundamentally believe that if you have been in this country 5, 10, 15, 20 years, and you have not committed a crime, and you are participating in the workforce, and your children or your grandchildren may be American citizens, we should create a legal pathway forward. That does not mean citizenship. But it does mean they come out of the shadows and can participate in our economy and community without fear of deportation. That is something that I believe we can get bipartisan support for."

Back to that small sliver of voters who have voted for and against Trump in 16', 20', and 24'. Those who voted for Trump that I have spoken to have had enough of ICE's tactics, and they want it to change, or they will make a change when they vote in November. Those same voters still support ICE apprehending and deporting those criminal illegals who have committed serious crimes. If President Trump doesn't move forward on fixing ICE, he will become a lame duck after November, and will be unable to pass any legislation, and will likely have Congress investigating and, yes, voting on impeachment.

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

Notice of formation of MPMX, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/06/2025 Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 8 Lane Street Fl. 1 Yonkers, NY 10601 Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of DoubleStripe Associates LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 2/7/2026. 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, 23 Mt. Joy Ave., Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Broadway to Toler and Amanda Brooks. He attended PS #2 Elementary School and studied business courses at Yonkers High School. For six years, he worked as a chauffeur for former mayor Doctor Nathan Warren.

"When Tom was appointed a policeman along with 23 other men, the newspaper reported he would likely be assigned to a beat or post in that section of the city where the negro population predominates. Some of these areas would be School St., Waverly St., Brook Street, New Main St., and Morgan St., along with Chicken Island."

"A big man, broad-shouldered and of sturdy build, he once was asked what led him to seek a job as a police officer. He answered. 'My size. Also, I wanted to do something permanent for my life's work.' Brooks also thought the salary was fairly decent.

"Possessing A cheerful personality, smile, and snappy wit, he would often politely say, ' Don't call me Mr. Brooks, call me Tom. His witty cordiality made him a popular figure on his old beat in the First Precinct.

"Patrolman Brooks was a very popular and respected officer. He was very active in our PAL and was always available to council youths who seemed headed for trouble. During his career, he received several department commendations and awards for excellent police work.

"One award for heroism was received for an incident which occurred on December 1st, 1947, when 3-armed men entered 254 New Main Street, the Calcano Association clubhouse. The three men were armed, desperate, and, while holding the occupants at gunpoint, demanded money. During the attempted holdup, the gunman shot and killed off-duty fireman Anthony Polito and also shot and seriously wounded Polito's brother-in-law, off-duty Patrolman Ray Carosa.

Patrolman Tom Brooks, while on foot patrol, was calling the precinct from a police call box on Park Hill Ave. when he heard the sound of gunshots and, with gun in hand, entered the club. In attempting to arrest the robbers of violent struggle began. One escaped, but Brooks was able to subdue and arrest two of the gunmen.

"In the mid-1950s, your scribe was only a teenager, and I lived at 55 Ravine Ave. Mr. Brooks lived at 80 Ravine. In those years, my friends and I would hang out on the corner. That is until we saw Mr. Brooks. Even though he did not work in the area where we lived, his reputation for being a no-nonsense cop was enough to make us all leave the area and quickly. Along with his job as a policeman, Tom Brooks supplemented his income with a second job as a guard at Patricia Murphy's. Candlelight Restaurant on Central Park Ave. His brother Frank was the funeral director of Brooks Funeral Home at Warburton Ave. and Gold St. Unfortunately, Officer Brooks developed a heart condition and on May 24th, 1959, he passed away at the age of 59 at the Professional Hospital on Ludlow St. At the time, he was assigned to the Traffic Division. Officer Brooks was a member of the. BA and was a member and trustee of the Institutional AME Zion Church. I never knew him personally when I was a boy, but now, with nearly 32 years in our Police Department, I hear Brooks's name mentioned every now and again by those who knew him. I can honestly say his name and memory always received well-earned respect.

"Just prior to writing this article, I met with Tom Brooks's grandson, Yonkers firefighter Gregory Brooks. He asked if I might convey his feelings. At a time when black men had very few rights in this country, there stood a strong black man in the 1920s with a badge and a gun. Under undoubtedly close scrutiny, he was able to preserve and assimilate into the ranks of the Yonkers Police Department. He was truly a pioneer for the black men and women who, in the years to come, would proudly follow in his footsteps. My grandfather, standing over 6 feet and weighing close to 300 pounds, and carrying a gun, was easy to notice and very popular. People who knew him 40 to 60 years ago still ask if I am related to "Brooksie the cop". And that always brings a proud smile to my face and a feeling beyond words." End of story.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Detective Ken Davis, who, along with Rutledge, gave us the information about 20 Black police officers in Yonkers. We found this story on Brooks and will look for more.

Detective Davis has an event at the Yonkers Will Library, titled "The History of African Americans in the Yonkers Police Department," on Feb. 26 at 6pm.

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

Notice of Formation of YureeshStyle LLC, a domestic LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/10/26. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to the LLC at 35 S Broadway, K6, Irvington, NY 10533. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of JB HUDSON LINE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/20/2026. Office location: Westchester County, NY. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may bse served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 59 Alta Vista Dr, Yonkers, NY, 10710. Purpose: any lawful activity.

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

Notice of formation of JJ VILL, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/29/2025. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 64 Mountindale Road, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity

## Key Decisions-City Council Stated Meeting -Feb. 10

special ordinance – amending the budget for the city of yonkers for the 2025/2026 fiscal year in relation to transferring funds to and from various accounts for the purpose of: 1) snow and ice control street maintenance materials, 2) snow and ice control professional fees, 3) snow and ice control equipment, 4) snow and ice control motor vehicles, and 5) museum special projects. (neutral fiscal impact.) (all councilmembers.) added to the budget and finance committee & 2/10/2026 city council agenda. a transfer of 1,830,000 dollars from the “save” fund to snow and ice control (\$1,750,000) and museum special projects (\$80,000) (adopted 7-0)

resolution – advice and consent to the re-appointment of wilson kimball as chairperson to the zoning board of appeals. (no fiscal impact.) (all councilmembers.) added to 2/10/2026 city council agenda. for a three-year term to expire on november 26, 2028. (adopted 7-0)

resolution – advice and consent to the re-appointment of harry singh as a board member to the zoning board of appeals. (no fiscal impact.) (all councilmembers.) added to 2/10/2026 city council agenda. for a three-year term to expire december 31, 2028. (adopted 7-0)

resolution – advice and consent to the re- appointment of adrian djonbalaj as a board member to the zoning board of appeals. (no fiscal impact.) (all councilmembers.) added to 2/10/2026 city council agenda. for a three-year term to expire december 31, 2028. (adopted 7-0)

resolution – approving an agreement between the city of yonkers and service employees international union, local 704. (negative fiscal impact.) (all councilmembers.) added to the budget and finance committee & 2/10/2026 agenda. added to 2/10/2026 city council agenda. this is a successor collective bargaining agreement is for the period of january 1, 2024, through december 31, 2028. (adopted 7-0)

resolution – requesting new york state amend the vehicle and traffic law to increase the maximum numbers of red light cameras permitted within the city of yonkers (no fiscal impact.) (all councilmembers.) added to 2/10/2026 city council agenda. since 2009, the city has had traffic signal enforcement in 25 intersections, and intersections monitored by these cameras have measurable reductions in serious injury crashes. we request to increase the number of red light cameras from 25 to 50. (adopted 7-0)

resolution – requesting the passage of legislation designating parking and code enforcement officers employed by the city of yonkers as peace officers. (no fiscal impact.) (all councilmembers.) added to 2/10/2026 city council agenda. under current law, these officers are not permitted to take action for frequently encountered violations and local laws that threaten public health and safety during their official duties. this would authorize parking enforcement to issue tickets at the time of the violations directly to the individual, which is far more practical than the police locating the violator at a later date. (adopted 7-0)

resolution – requesting new york state permit municipalities to enter into host community agreements with adult use cannabis businesses. (no fiscal impact.) (all councilmembers.) added to 2/10/2026 city council agenda. the current new york law prohibits municipalities from imposing host community fees or negotiated impact payments on adult-use cannabis retailers, limiting local governments’ ability to recover the actual costs associated with hosting such businesses. adopting a host community agreement may provide the city with predictable and transparent mechanisms to offset hosting costs while maintaining strong state oversight. (adopted 7-0)

settlement resolution – \$15,000.00 – employee i.d. #340493 – against yonkers public schools and joseph sayegh. (fiscal impact – amount of settlement.) (all councilmembers.) added to the budget and finance committee & 2/10/2026 city council agenda. this is in regards of alleged employment law violations arising out of the complainant’s employment with yonkers public schools. (adopted 7-0)

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

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

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

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

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

1) Bid No. RFB-7582 – Opening Date: 03/20/2026: Purchase of Desktops and Monitors for Department of Information Technology Inventory (TN).

2) Bid No. RFB-7583 – Opening Date: 03/20/2026: Purchase of Sixty (60) Dell Mobile Data Terminals and One Hundred (100) Dell Desktop Computers (TARU) (TN).

3) Bid No. IFB-7578 – Opening Date: 03/13/2026: Phase 1 of 2 – Building and Site Upgrades at School 30 (AC).

4) Bid No. RFB-7579 – Opening Date: 02/27/2026: 12-Month contract with option to renew for 12-Months, to purchase as needed, approximately 2,400 forty-quart bags of Oil-Dri granular absorbent item #105040G50 (or Yonkers approved equal) (FB).

5) Bid No. RFB-7580 – Opening Date: 02/27/2026: City-Wide Generator Maintenance and Repair (FB).

6) Bid No. RFB-7585 – Opening Date: 02/27/2026: Twenty-four-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide parts and repair services as needed for Smeal fire apparatus (AC).

7) Bid No. RFB-7586 – Opening Date: 02/27/2026: Purchase of between 1 to 7 Snow EX VSS-3000 Three Hundred (300) Gallon Brine Sprayers (or Yonkers Approved Equal) (FB).

8) Bid No. RFB-7587 – Opening Date: 03/06/2026: 24-month contract, with an option to renew for an additional 12-months for the maintenance repair inspection services for Mohawk vehicle lifts (KAS).

settlement resolution – \$20,000.00 – azab aml v. board of education – alleging a personal injury claim in relation to claimant’s fall down accident on october 21, 2019, at the vive school. (fiscal impact – amount of settlement.) (all councilmembers.) added to the budget and finance committee & 2/10/2026 city council agenda. this is regarding an alleged personal injury claim in relation to the claimant’s fall accident on october 21, 2019, at the vive school in yonkers. (adopted 7-0)

settlement resolution – \$600,000.00 – mcva wcp-doe v. city of yonkers, et al. –for personal injuries allegedly by the plaintiff as a result of conduct by a schoolteacher while plaintiff was a student at lincoln high school in 2012. (fiscal impact – amount of settlement.) (all councilmembers.) added to budget and finance committee & 2/10/2026 city council agenda. regarding personal injuries allegedly sustained by the plaintiff as a result of conduct by a school teacher while the plaintiff was a student at lincoln high school in 2012. (adopted 7-0)

a resolution of the council of the city of yonkers to recognize the significance of black history month and commemorate february 2026 the celebration of black history month in the city of yonkers. (no fiscal impact.) (all councilmembers.) added to 2/10/2026 city council agenda. recognizing the significance of black history month as an important time to acknowledge and celebrate the contributions of african americans.(adopted 7-0)

a resolution of the council of the city of yonkers to commemorate february 2026 as national heart month in the city of yonkers. (no fiscal impact.) (all councilmembers.) added to 2/10/2026 city council agenda. commemorating february as american heart month in the city of yonkers. (adopted 7-0)

a resolution by the city council of yonkers to declare january 21 to february 27 as “dominican heritage month” in the city of yonkers. (no fiscal impact.) (all councilmembers.) added to 2/10/2026 city council agenda. commemorating this time commissioner of deeds. (no fiscal impact.) (all councilmembers.) added to 2/10/2026 city council agenda. 4 renewals, lasting for a period of two years to expire february 28, 2028. (adopted 7-0)

### *Aging Eye, continued from pg 3-*

the eye. Elevated pressure can damage various parts of the eye. When it causes damage to the optic nerve, that’s glaucoma.”

This nerve damage is irreversible, but the progression of glaucoma can be slowed with treatments like eye drops, laser treatments, and occasionally surgery. However, glaucoma can cause damage and loss of vision very quickly, before the patient is aware of a problem.

“It’s something you don’t feel, and that’s why glaucoma is often referred to as a silent thief of sight,” Dr. Donas explains. “You could walk around with glaucoma for a long time, have sharp vision, and eventually lose some of your field of vision and not be aware of it. This is one reason why it’s essential to have your eyes examined regularly, because most people with glaucoma are diagnosed at a routine eye exam.”

Dr. Donas’ father struggled with glaucoma, which inspired him to choose ophthalmology as a specialty. “I knew I could make a difference in the lives of patients like my father.”

Today, Dr. Donas sees patients at Rivertown Ophthalmology in Ardsley. For more information or to book an appointment, please visit their website.

Dr. Donas appeared on an episode of Riverside Talk, from St. John’s Riverside Hospital. Watch the interview at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yU89oJiA5TA>.



# YONKERS CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

40 South Broadway, City Hall Room 102, Yonkers, NY 10701

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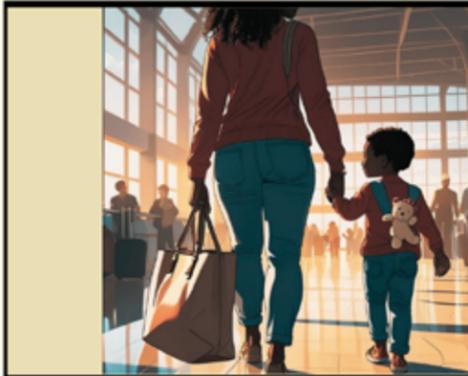
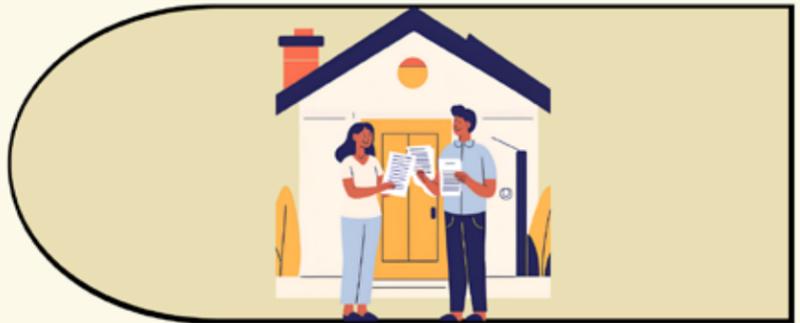


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