

Yonkers Rising

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Friday February 4, 2022

Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier to Challenge Bowman for Congress, 16th District



Congressmembers Jamaal Bowman, right, will face a challenge from Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier

By Dan Murphy

Sources in the Yonkers Democratic Party tell YonkersTimes.com that the Chair of the Yonkers Democratic Party, Tom Meier, will announce next month that he is challenging Congressman Jamaal Bowman in a democratic primary this June. Meier has shared the news with several democratic leaders and elected officials in Westchester County, and so while its not official, "it's going to happen. Tom is going to run," said one Westchester democratic leader.

Meier, who is the Commissioner of the Yonkers Department of Public Works, will run as the democratic moderate alternative to Bowman, a progressive democrat and member of "the squad" of six ultra-progressive house members, led by Rep. Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, (AOC).

A Westchester democrat close to Meier said, "Tom has been thinking this over for six months now, and has come to the conclusion that democrats in Westchester don't want a progressive representing them in Washington and that Bowman is too far left to get re-elected."

Meier has been a Yonkers democrat for 40 years. He is a retired, Army Lt. Colonel, who has served successfully as both the Yonkers Democratic Chair, and DPW commissioner during the 10 years of Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano's administration.

Other moderate democrats were considering challenging Bowman, including sources tell us, Mayor Spano in Yonkers. But one Yonkers democratic leader told us, "If Tom Meier is going to run against Bowman, then Mayor Spano won't run. They will not run against each other."

Another Westchester democrat told us, "This is a tough race to beat Bowman and Tom knows it. But he will be able to reach out to the other democratic chairs in Westchester and seek their support. He will also have a good chance at getting some support of the unions, and especially the police unions in the county. It's a longshot

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2022 Black History Month Series: A Fashion Conversation with Tykeem "Big Baanks" Hall



Tykeem Hall

By Dennis Richmond Jr.

"I want the world to know that the key to a perfect look is confidence," Tykeem "Big Baanks" Hall explained to me. Tykeem spent over \$500,000 on clothes, bags, and jewelry in the past ten years. The legendary Fashion House Founder loves to look good. He recently picked up a pair of pants in Yonkers.

Women, men, and members of the TGNCNB community wear whatever they want. In the 1990s, many young Black men wore braids in their hair, and young Black women wore hoop earrings. Jheri curls and leather were the fashion statement in the 1980s. In the 1970s, afros were the style of the day. Women in the 1960s and 1950s often wore sunglasses and cat eyeglasses. The 1940s saw Black men in uniforms because many were in the service and fought WWII. Clothes impact culture and that's where Tykeem comes in.

Tykeem "Big Baanks" Hall, 26, continues a legacy passed down by his ancestors. Tykeem was born in White Plains, New York, to a Jamaican father from Mount Vernon. His mother is African American. She was also born in White Plains. Tykeem and his mother were both raised in Greenburgh, New York. As a child, Tykeem never took fashion seriously. Summers meant being with his cousins at his maternal grandmother's house.

"She would have a lot of magazines," he said. As a young boy, Tykeem found interest in these magazines. He would gaze at different fashions from page to page, admiring what he saw. His other cousins watched TV, and he would read magazines.

"My mom used to buy my clothes," he said. At 16-years-old, if Tykeem Hall wanted different clothes, Tykeem had to purchase them himself. And that's what he did. In 2013, Tykeem landed his first job at Kmart on Tarrytown Road in White Plains. He never shopped for clothes at Kmart. He used his paycheck and shopped elsewhere. "I only shopped at Kmart for hygienic things," he said.

Ann Lowe was the first Black person to become a noted fashion designer. She's perhaps best known for designing former first lady of the United States of America Jackie Kennedy's wedding dress in the 1950s. Tykeem follows in her footsteps today because he started his own fashion house.

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Westchester Power Community Energy Program What You Need to Know About Renewable Energy

"In terms of pricing, again, let's look at the facts: with Con Edison's rates spiking in the first half of January, at an average rate of 12 cents/kWh, the same customer would pay \$54 for their electricity if they opted out of Westchester Power's options. At Westchester Power's default 100% renewable rate of 8.710 cents, that customer would pay \$39.19 for the same amount of electricity in a month."

-Jason Baker, Yonkers Office of Sustainability

Facts to Know:

You can opt out at any time

You now have the choice of what power source you want

Different options to choose from and you can lock in a price

An Interview with Dan Welsh, Program Director, Westchester Power, Sustainable Westchester.

What is the Westchester Power program in Yonkers?

Westchester Power is a COMMUNITY ENERGY Program and it is New York State's first, largest program of its kind and is widely recognized as the State model. The program is a way to allow local governments to have a say in the energy choices available to their residents and the program is tightly regulated by the New York State Public Service Commission. Community Energy programs are designed to provide consumer protection and transparency with rates and program design. The Westchester Power program is managed and administered by Sustainable Westchester, a nonprofit organization, whose membership consists of Westchester County municipalities and the County itself. Our goal is to bring clean energy and sustainable solutions that are environmentally, fiscally and socially responsible – with the end-result of creating healthier, more resilient communities.

Yonkers is the latest of 29 municipalities in Westchester to join the Westchester Power Community Energy Program. For decades, Con Edison has passed through a variable market rate, predominantly non-renewable electricity supply to residents as the default when they establish their account. This traditional utility structure and the process of selecting the source of that default does not include community specific input. With the Westchester Power program, this has now changed.

Through the Westchester Power program, the City of Yonkers has now established a competitive, accountable process by which energy suppliers participate in an auction to provide Yonkers households with the lowest possible fixed-rates for both a renewable and a standard, non-renewable supply. The program provides choice and makes a vetted, proven renewable energy option accessible to residents.

Residents now have several vetted choices they can make about their energy supply:

- Keep the default Westchester Power renewable fixed-rate supply product priced at 8.709 cents/kWh.
- Choose the Westchester Power non-renewable ("Standard") fixed-rate supply product priced at 7.287 cents/kWh.
- Choose to stay with Con Edison with the utility's variable rate.
- Choose any other ESCO on your own.

Though we can't know what ConEd's variable supply rates will be, they are widely expected to be higher in 2022 than last year and spiked to 12 cents/kWh for the first half of January. In contrast to Con Edison, the Westchester Power rates are fixed until November 30, 2023 for both the renewable and standard products, protecting participants from any rate increases during this period. In fact, the program can help residents cap their utility rate as residents are always free to opt-out of the program and return to Con Edison supply if the utility's rates are lower (it takes X to X billing cycles to affect this change if requested after February 9th). The Westchester Power program does not guarantee savings.

How can residents exercise their choice?

The program begins with residents' first meter read after March 1st. Residents who would like to keep the new default renewable supply need not take any action. The pre-enrollment opt-out period ends February 9, but it is important to note that participants can opt out at any time after that with no fee or penalty.

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Congrats Yonkers: You Have the POWER to Choose Energy Supplier

In response to WSJ January 31, 2022 Commentary

By Jason Baker, Yonkers Office of Sustainability

Recently, the Empire Center wrote a weak and misinformed commentary on Yonkers' participation in Sustainable Westchester's Westchester Power Program without fact, reason or knowledge. The real fact is a proven and reliable program that provides eligible residents the power to choose the variable standard electric supply dictated to them by the utility, or a 100% renewable energy supply achieved by having energy suppliers compete to provide Yonkers residents with the lowest available fixed rate.

When residents move into their homes, what initial choice is given to them in regards to their energy supplier? NONE. In Yonkers, Con Ed provides a default energy supply, making us subject to its variable energy rates that often spike sky high without notice. Yonkers is now providing residents the choice that is right for them. Empire Center wrongfully states Yonkers is outsmarting residents by enrolling them into the program without consent or knowledge. The truth is that Yonkers began publically considering this initiative last winter, hosted numerous community information sessions, public hearings, sent emails, social media posts and direct mailers to residents along with garnering local press coverage with the purpose to inform constituents.

In terms of pricing, again, let's look at the facts: with Con Edison's rates spiking in the first half of January, at an average rate of 12 cents/kWh, the same customer would pay \$54 for their electricity if they opted out of Westchester Power's options. At Westchester Power's default 100% renewable rate of 8.710 cents, that customer would pay \$39.19 for the same amount of electricity in a month. Westchester Power also offers an even cheaper "standard" non-renewable supply option that residents may choose at 7.287 cents/kWh. Either way, residents have the choice and can opt out or back in at any time at no cost. The power to choose an electricity supply and pricing is now with residents, not a private utility. Plus, the selected energy supplier is fully vetted by the City, relieving residents of the burden of having to become an energy expert if they were to opt out of Con Edison's supply and choose an ESCO on their own.

Yonkers is proud of the enormous strides its made to provide for a greener, cleaner city through the enactment of multiple sustainability initiatives, pioneer-

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Westchester Community College to Expand Yonkers Location at Cross County Center



Westchester Community College, will expand its footprint at the Cross County Center and occupy the third floor of the new Target building

Marx Realty, a New York-based owner, developer and manager of office, retail and multifamily property across the United States, announced it has finalized a 10-year, 40,000-square-foot lease at Cross County Center with Westchester Community College (WCC). The college will occupy the third floor of the new Target building and is expanding its footprint at Cross County Center by 30,000 square feet to allow for more extensive classroom operations, including additional degree and certification programs, at the Center. The 1.15 million-square-foot Cross County Center is jointly owned by Marx Realty and Benenson Capital Management and was the first open-air shopping center in the United States.

“Cross County Center has always been so much more than a top shopping destination,” said Craig Deitelzweig, president and CEO of Marx Realty. “We are committed to a future-focused approach that fills a need in the region for an entertainment and lifestyle destination with offerings that range from dining and entertainment to traditional retail spaces. We are thrilled to see existing tenants such as Westchester Community College committing to a long-term presence that will ultimately bring added foot traffic to the Center while providing much-needed services to the community.”

This expansion comes a year after Marx Realty announced Target’s 40-year, 130,000-square-foot lease, the largest retail lease in the tri-state area in 2020. Target at Cross County will be the retailer’s first location in the City of Yonkers when it opens in late 2022 and, together with the Westchester Community College expansion, is part of a multi-phase plan focused on furthering the center’s ‘town square’ concept, creating safe, healthy, and dynamic spaces for residents and visitors from the Tri-State area and beyond.

“Retailer confidence in Cross County Center is bolstered by our efforts to bring a diverse mix of tenants to the location and provide an environment designed for success well into the future,” said Jim Stifel, chief investment officer of Benenson Capital. “We are committed to giving both tenants and visitors an experience like none other and offering a wide variety of shopping, dining and entertainment options to maintain the high levels of foot traffic we experienced even as the nation was just emerging from the pandemic.”

Cross County Center has seen a flurry of new and expanded leases in the last year. Topping the list of tenants is Forever 21 which signed a 29,720-square-foot lease while A | X Armani Exchange signed a 7-year renewal for their 5,025-square-foot space in the center. Additional firms re-committing to Cross County include fashion brands Express and American Eagle. H&M also signed a 10-year lease renewal to occupy 28,000 square feet where the retailer has incorporated its urban SOHO concept and is invested \$5 million in the location.

“Foot traffic at the center remained robust even as the nation in general, and the retail sector more specifically, were recovering from the pandemic,” said Deitelzweig. “The open-air experience combined with the diverse tenant mix and our vision for the future of this asset have caught the eye of major retailers, eateries and experiential users and we are in negotiations with several well-known brands who are keen on planting a flag at Cross County. We are confident that the evolution of Cross County Center will serve as a benchmark for the future of brick-and-mortar retail.

Visit crosscountycenter.com for more information.

Yonkers Public Library Celebrates Black History Month



Dr. Kishauna Soljour, Professor of History and curator

Every February, Yonkers Public Library celebrates the achievements and history of African Americans as part of Black History Month. We are thrilled to invite you to join us in these celebrations with various programs. We have featured book club picks, movies, and events for everyone! Check out YPL’s full Black History Month events calendar by visiting www.ypl.org/bhm.

Black History Month Movies at the Riverfront Theatre
 Sunday, February 6, 2:00-4:00 PM | Candyman (R)
 Sunday, February 13, 1:00-4:30 PM | Double Feature Film: Tuskegee Airmen (PG-13) & The Water Man (PG-13)
 Sunday, February 27, 2:00-4:00 PM | Judas and the Black Messiah (R)

Black History Month Movies at Grinton I. Will Library
 Thursday, February 17, 2:00-4:00 PM | One Night in Miami (R)
 Wednesday, February 23, 2:00-4:00 PM | Waves (R)
 Monday, February 28, 2:00-4:00 PM | Marshall (PG-13)

African American Dance with Marion Archer
 Saturday, February 19, 12:30 PM | Riverfront Library
 Saturday, February 19, 3:00 PM | Grinton I Will Library
 Wednesday, February 23, 3:00 PM | ZOOM

Marion Archer of ArtsWestchester will lead a performance and mini workshop in person. Learn about the history of African Dance, listen to drums and see an authentic African Dance routine, and join the dancer and drummer for a Q&A.



African-American Dance with Marion Archer

Black History Month Paint & Juice for Children
 Tuesday, February 22, 2:00 PM | Riverfront Library
 Learn a new skill and come celebrate with us this Black History Month! Ages 5-12. Registration required.

Redlining and its Lasting Impact on Black Communities
 Saturday, February 26, 1:00 PM | ZOOM
 Learn how the federal government used racial discrimination to create maps outlining Black communities, which in turn, were deemed risky investments by banks.

Jazz and Soul at the Riverfront Theatre
 Saturday, February 26, 2:00 PM | Riverfront Library
 Celebrate Black History Month with The Cody Childs Duo. This free concert honors artists such as Stevie Wonder, Roberta Flack, Bill Withers, Michael Jackson and many more.
 Visit YPL.org for more information.

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Notice of formation of JGS Notary Services LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/28/21 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O JGS Notary Services LLC , 588 Warburton Apt 2 Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Yonkers Police Detectives Solve Nine Year Old Cold Case Bronx Murder



Wanda Veguilla, left, and John Torres, right, were arrested by Yonkers Police in the 2012 murder of Pamela Graddick

On Tuesday, September 4th, 2012, at approximately 5:35 PM, members of the Yonkers Police Department responded to the wooded area between Rossmore Avenue and Midland Avenue, adjacent to the Sprain Brook River Parkway, on a report of a suspicious package. Responding officers discovered a decomposing human body wrapped in a garbage bag. Officers cordoned off the area and initiated a criminal investigation.

Detectives from the Major Case Squad and Crime Scene Unit responded to the scene. Investigation yielded that the victim, an adult female, had died from a gunshot wound to the head; she was identified as Pamela Graddick, a 26-year-old resident of the Bronx. Investigators believe that Graddick was killed outside the City of Yonkers and her body was dumped in an effort to conceal the crime. Due to the nature of the incident and absence of local leads, the investigation was transferred to the Cold Case Unit in 2014 for enhancement. Over the next seven years, Cold Case Detectives continuously worked the case, developing and enhancing information, recovering evidence, and maintaining relationships with the victim's family. A person of interest was identified early on in the investigation; however, it took years of additional case work to develop probable cause, culminating in a confession by the main suspect. On Sunday, January 23rd, 2022, nine years and four months after Graddick was discovered, Detectives charged her then partner with murder.

Wanda VEGUILLA, a 40-year-old resident of the Bronx, was charged with one count of Murder 2, a Class A-I Violent Felony in the New York State Penal Law. Investigators allege, based on evidence and statements made by VEGUILLA, that she shot and killed Graddick in their Bronx apartment as a result of ongoing domestic issues between them; at the time, they were in a relationship and living together. Furthermore, Detectives believe that VEGUILLA was assisted by an accomplice who furnished the murder weapon and helped transport the body: John TORRES, a 30-year-old resident of Yonkers, was charged on January 25th with felony Criminal Facilitation, Hindering Prosecution, and Tampering with Evidence in connection with Graddick's murder.

Commissioner John J. Mueller stated, "The passage of time only reinforces our commitment to solving these heinous crimes. The Yonkers Police prides itself on focusing on victims and their families and doing whatever we can to deliver justice for them. I hope that these arrests bring some degree of closure to Pamela's family and friends; and I applaud the extraordinary efforts of our Cold Case Detectives in closing out this case after so many years – well done!"

Both VEGUILLA and TORRES were arraigned in Yonkers Criminal Court and remanded to the Westchester County Jail pending their next court appearance. The case is being prosecuted by the Westchester County District Attorney's Office. Additional information may be released as it becomes available.

The City of Yonkers and Yonkers Police Department extends its deepest sympathies to the family and friends of Pamela Graddick. Furthermore, the City and Department expresses its sincere thanks to the Graddick family for their steadfast support of this investigation throughout the years, and the Westchester County District Attorney's Office for their professional collaboration.

The Yonkers Electricity Gamble



By Eric Schoen

If you are like me when it comes to electricity there are a few things you care about. You don't want your lights going out in a storm. You want the electricity to work when you are using your appliances (microwave in particular) and the lights to be on so you can read your Rising Media Group newspaper. You don't want the electricity to go off when you are using too much in your house or apartment. And you want the electricity delivered to your abode to be delivered safely.

I didn't forget about the cost of the electricity. You want it to be affordable. Most of us use Con Ed to provide electricity. You talk to your neighbors and friends throughout the country and they live in mansions or homes bigger than yours but pay less for electricity. Con Edison has been Conning Eric and you my dear readers for a long time with high electricity rates. When Johnny Carson was host of the Tonight Show (I miss him) he used that line many times.

Let me start out by giving you my electricity and light bulb background. Many years ago when Con Edison started selling, I think they were called compact fluorescent energy efficient light bulbs, I bought some. Con Ed was the only one selling them, they were discounted but not cheap, and because of their weird size they didn't fit into every fixture.

They had two curved bulbs in the socket, and the light they put out was not as good as the regular old fashioned light bulbs that came 4 in a box at various wattages branded GE or the store brand which was often cheaper. Mom would only buy the GE bulbs in that weird 4 pack with bulbs exposed facing different directions. I could never understand that package. So she was weary of me making the switch to something that might not be bright enough for her to read The Herald Statesman (predecessor to the Journal News) or the many other newspapers she read.

I could only fit the big new bulbs in certain fixtures, quite often putting them in the bedroom ceiling fixtures or in sockets in out of the way places where I could install them and leave the cover off. They lasted longer than regular bulbs, but I remember one bulb going out and the glass pieces dangerously falling all over the floor. This made it difficult to get the bulb out without electrocuting myself. So I consider myself a pioneer when it comes to energy efficient light bulbs.

Then maybe 10 years the ESCO, Energy Service Company came along. They were going to provide cheaper electricity. Con Ed would still be responsible for taking the cheap ESCO supplied energy and bringing it to your apartment or house. The energy lines and everything else other than the actual energy, electricity whatever you want to call it was under Con Edison's jurisdiction. Cheaper Con Ed Bill. Your thrifty writer was all for it!

Then the bills started coming. The cost of my My ESCO supplied electricity was higher than when Con Edison supplied the electricity. I was in shock. I called the ESCO, had a hard time reaching them on the phone and when I finally did the man who answered (he sounded like he was just walking by and picked up the phone) said something I will never forget. 'Mr. Schoen, you are not the type of customer we are looking for. I apologize for what occurred and we will switch you back to Con Edison to provide your electricity.'

Ever since then I have been ever so careful with anything having to do with electricity. I never heard from Mr. ESCO again. I am single and live in an apartment. The most energy I use is probably like you, in summer time when I put on the air conditioner. I hate air conditioning and make use of a ceiling fan in the bedroom. I have wooden floors (got rid of the thick green wall to wall carpeting years ago) and unless it is really hot can count on my fingers and toes the number of days I put on the air conditioning.

So in December I got a letter that looked like a piece of junk mail from 'Sustainable Westchester.' I almost threw it away but I like County Executive George Latimer and when I saw 'Westchester' I thought he might have something to do with it and read it. I would venture to say most Yonkersites tossed it in the garbage like they do after they rip the 20% off coupon on the Bed Bath and Beyond mailer.

The letter came in an envelope from 'Sustainable Westchester' and the Yonkers city seal was on the bottom very small. Now we all know if Mayor Mike Spano, our Councilpersons, County Legislators, State Legislators or Federal Legislators send a mailing to take credit or offer something for free their names will be big and bold on the envelope. That was not the case. Concern #1!

I read the letter quickly (like you I get a lot of junk mail and contribution letters from charities many of which are shady) and thought another ESCO. Been there done that. Then I read the excellent article by my friend Ron Matten in this newspaper. This group, 'Sustainable Westchester' was going to provide more environmentally friendly electricity. No guarantee that the rate would be lower. But the Kicker: you had to opt out from this program. It was not an opt in program. Concern #2. So as of 3/1/2022 I was going to have my power coming from 'Sustainable Westchester.' An ESCO. Concern #3 given my previous experience.

Yonkers has done an incredibly poor job rolling this program out. They have zoom sessions. How many people zoom? There was a phone number to call for information. The operators switched callers from operator to operator with no one answering questions. Sustainable admits they have been unable to promptly handle all the calls. If I heard that from one person I heard it from a dozen. And thousands of Yonkersites I bet still do not know what is going on.

Then this past Sunday, I read a commentary from the Wall Street Journal on this new Yonkers program. 'Ever get an offer in the mail you felt was too good to be true. Residents of Yonkers, New York's third largest city know how you feel!'

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BLACK HEALTH AND WELLNESS

2022's theme for Black History Month is "Black Health and Wellness," which takes a look at how American healthcare has often underserved the African-American community. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. often spoke about how of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health was the most shocking and the most inhumane.

VIDEO CONTEST

Submit a 3-5 minute video depicting how some of the healthcare inequalities have improved and where we can, as a nation, expand and/or do better in regard to those who are underserved. Also, include two prominent African American champions who have donated their time, efforts and science to improve health and wellness in all communities.

CONTEST RULES:

- Open to all Yonkers students in grades 1 – 12; one entry per student
- Complete Submission form
- Upload the video to a cloud platform (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.) and email the URL
- Video format should be in MP4 or MOV
- Videos cannot exceed three minutes in length
- Winning videos will be displayed on the City of Yonkers website and all social media platforms
- One winner will be chosen from each grade group (1-4), (5-8) and (9-12)

IMPORTANT DATES:

Friday, January 14, 2022	Contest Opens
Friday, February 11, 2022	Submissions Due
Monday, February 14, 2022	Winners are notified
Thursday, February 24, 2022	The 3 winning videos will be featured at the City's Annual Black History Month Virtual Celebration on Facebook @CityofYonkers on Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 5:30 pm. In addition, residents will be able to view the City's Annual Black History Month Virtual Celebration on television Channel 39 (FOS), Channel 78 (Cablevision) and on the City of Yonkers website at www.yonkersny.gov.

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Hudson River Museum Planetarium to Reopen Saturday Feb 5



Good news for the effort in Westchester to get back to normal as we approach the end (hopefully) of COVID. The planetarium at the Hudson River Museum will reopen this Sat. Feb 5.

In-person planetarium shows resume on Saturday, February 5. Enjoy ticketed shows at 12:30, 2, and 3:30pm on Saturdays and Sundays. Visit our calendar for a complete schedule or to purchase tickets, visit HRM.org.

Capacity is limited to 50 attendees per show (40%); advance tickets are strongly encouraged.

From the mysteries of the moon and the search for life beyond Earth, to the stories that shape our stars, our Planetarium has shows for every level and interest. Planetarium shows are offered every Saturday and Sunday at 12:30 and 2pm, with each time slot geared towards a different age group.

12:30pm shows are recommended for young children; 2pm shows, during which visitors explore what the sky will look like later that night, are live, interactive, and open to all ages. Check individual show descriptions below for more information. Please note that planetarium shows begin promptly as scheduled, and there is no admittance after they start.

In addition to our weekend screenings, planetarium shows are also offered on select holidays and during school breaks, known as School's Out, Stars Are In (SOSI). Check back for more updates in our calendar.

The Planetarium is equipped with Radio Frequency Assisted Listening Systems (ALSS). Please ask a member of the Planetarium or visitor services staff for more information.

Attorney General James Sues Precious Metals Company for Defrauding Seniors Out of \$68 M

Safeguard Metals Charged Exorbitant and Deceptive Markup on Silver Coins

On Feb. 1, New York Attorney General Letitia James today filed a lawsuit against a precious metals company — Safeguard Metals LLC — and its owner and manager, Jeffrey Santulan, also known as Jeffrey Hill, for defrauding investors, including many seniors, across New York and the nation. The lawsuit, filed by the U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) and a bipartisan coalition of 27 states, alleges that Safeguard Metals deceived nearly 450 investors nationwide by fraudulently soliciting nearly \$68 million for precious metals and misrepresenting its exorbitant fees charged to investors.

“These investors may have been sold on the comfort of investing in precious metals, but Safeguard Metals tarnished their dreams,” said Attorney General James. “Today, we are holding Safeguard Metals accountable for its shameful conduct that preyed on older New Yorkers and robbed them of a worry-free retirement. Companies’ peddling in lies and deception for profit at the expense of hardworking New Yorkers will not be tolerated. New Yorkers can trust that my office is fully committed to protecting their wallets from fraudsters like Safeguard Metals.”

The lawsuit — filed in the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California — claims that the California-based firm and its owner and manager targeted elderly investors through online advertisements as well as on social media and lured them into transferring funds from their traditional individual retirement accounts (IRA) into self-directed IRAs. The company misrepresented the mark-ups it charged investors on precious metals. These charges resulted in instant and substantial losses, with many investors losing a large portion of their investment funds immediately upon completing the transaction. The complaint alleges that Safeguard Metals and Jeffrey Santulan violated the Commodity Exchange Act.

The Office of the New York Attorney General (OAG) encourages any investors who suspect they have been targeted by precious metals investment schemes to come forward by contacting the office’s Investor Protection Bureau by emailing Investor.Complaints@ag.ny.gov.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a license, Number 1339572, for Beer, Liquor, Wine & Cider has been applied for by the undersigned to sell Beer, Liquor, Wine & Cider at retail in a Restaurant under the Alcoholic Beverage Control Law at 188 Waverly Street, Yonkers, NY 10701, NY, Westchester County, for on-premises consumption.

SUNY Oneonta Students Named to Fall 2021 Dean’s List

A total of 1,411 SUNY Oneonta students earned Dean’s List honors for the fall 2021 semester. To qualify for the Dean’s List, a student must earn a grade-point average of 3.5 or higher while carrying a course load of 12 hours or more.

Sofia Choudhury of Yonkers, Bachelor of Science in Undeclared Major, Kevin Hegarty of Yonkers, Bachelor of Science in Sport Management, Devin Shaughnessy of Yonkers, Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice.

Gov. Hochul Signs Sen. Biaggi Bill to Allow Absentee Ballot Voting for All in 2022

On Jan. 21, Governor Kathy Hochul signed legislation to allow voting by absentee ballot due to the COVID-19 pandemic through 2022. This legislation continues to allow New Yorkers to request an absentee ballot during the pandemic where there is a risk of contracting or spreading disease that may cause illness to the voter or other members of the public. This legislation first became law in July of 2020, and expired December 31, 2021.

“No one should have to choose between exercising their right to vote and protecting their health and safety,” Governor Hochul said. “This legislation will ensure the pandemic does not create inaccessibility for voters during upcoming elections and help protect New Yorkers’ access to the ballot.”

Absentee ballot applications for the February 15th special elections in the 60th and 72nd assembly districts are open through January 31st by mail, until February 14th in-person and can be submitted by mail or in-person until February 15th. More information on absentee voting and how to apply for an absentee ballot is available here.

Westchester State Senator Alessandra Biaggi said, “The COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the way we work, learn, and live— teaching us to adapt to in ways that we had never imagined before. We cannot allow the ongoing pandemic to undermine our democracy and interfere with New Yorkers’ right to vote, and must similarly adapt to prioritize public health while protecting our democracy. This is why I introduced S7565, my bill alongside Assemblymember Dinowitz, to ensure that no New Yorker has to choose between their health and fulfilling their civic responsibility, allowing New Yorkers to continue to vote absentee in 2022. Thank you to Governor Hochul for recognizing the need for this legislation, and for prioritizing the wellbeing of New Yorkers, while committing to protect our democracy.”

Congrats Yonkers, continued from pg 1-

many and receiving national recognition along the way. While Yonkers is the largest city in New York to enact this program, it certainly is not the first. The third largest city is joining 28 other municipalities in the county offering 100% renewable energy and follows Rochester in their pursuit in providing greater choice for their residents – all through the same enrollment methods. Does the propagandist want to attack them as well?

Some may debate the merits of the Westchester Power program, but misleading and purporting misinformation may be the greatest misstep here, specifically by politically motivated individuals who need to create a platform for themselves. In the world of fake news, it’s too bad the real ‘scam’ here is not believing that residents can make a decision of their own, based on facts and choice, rather than fear and fiction.

Jason Baker Office of Sustainability, City of Yonkers

Black History Month continued from pg 1-

Tykeem “Big Baanks” Hall took the natural step in his high-end fashion journey and created his own fashion house called Baanks Closet, styled BaanksCloset LLC. The LLC became incorporated on March 8th, 2021. Hall plans on designing his products and sharing his gift of fashion with the world. Samples for his products came on January 28th, 2022. His items come from overseas. He’s hesitant to share his brand with the world, though. He wants everything to be as close to perfect as possible.

“Clothes are like costumes,” he said. “You can put them on and decide who you want to be.” Over \$500,000 of designer pieces exist in Hall’s room. The nickname “Baanks” came from a friend of his. When people think of a bank, often, they think of money. \$500,000+ on clothes is no easy feat.

Tykeem holds close to six dozen pairs of footwear in his home. His room consists of brands ranging from Gucci and Moschino to Versace and Fendi to Burberry and Zaddy to Off-White and True Religion. It’s only a matter of time until Hall opens up BaanksCloset to the world. One of his dreams is to shop in Paris, France. He currently has eyes on a 2016 Re-Edition Dionysus GG Blooms bag. If you’d like to keep up with him as he continues his journey, check out his merchandise on Instagram here: <https://www.instagram.com/baankscloset>.

Dennis Richmond, Jr., is an author and journalist focused on the Black, Latinx, and LGBTQIA+ Community. His stories have appeared in Yonkers Rising for more than six years, and also in the NY Post. Richmond lives in Yonkers. Follow him on Twitter @NewYorkStakz.

Notice of formation of Aiyana’s Creations LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY, 11228 designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. US Corporation Agents Inc shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 127 Ramsey Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Jovanna Realty LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 5/14/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Jovanna Realty LLC, 100 Riverdale Ave., Apt. 8C, Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of LOREDANA VICARI PHOTOGRAPHY LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/6/21 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O LOREDANA VICARI PHOTOGRAPHY LLC , 125 Dunwoodie Street Yonkers, NY 10704 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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Sarah Lawrence College Awarded \$1.5 M Grant From Mellon Foundation for Climate Crisis- Environmental Studies

Bronx Community College will partner with SLC to bridge the humanities and science for a diverse student population

Sarah Lawrence College, in partnership with Bronx Community College, has been awarded a three-year, \$1.5 million grant from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to rethink the humanities through the lens of climate and environmental justice and to develop creative, collaborative pedagogies to address the climate crisis. The award is the largest programmatic grant in Sarah Lawrence history, a mark previously held by a \$1.2 million Mellon Foundation grant to advance and support civic engagement, which the College received in 2019.

"We are incredibly grateful for this grant and for the continued support from the Mellon Foundation," said Sarah Lawrence president Cristle Collins Judd. "It recognizes not only the urgency and need for action around the climate crisis and environmental justice, but also the value of and need for the humanities in all areas of our lives. And it's a clear vote of confidence in the innovative work of our faculty and students."

Sarah Lawrence is one of 12 liberal arts colleges to be selected from 50 applicants to the Mellon Foundation's Humanities for All Times initiative, and the College's \$1.5 million award represents the highest amount an institution could receive. Humanities for All Times was created by the Mellon Foundation to "support newly developed curricula that both instruct students in methods of humanities practice and demonstrate those methods' relevance to broader social justice pursuits."

"The Humanities for All Times initiative underscores that it's not only critical to show students that the humanities improve the quality of their everyday lives, but also that they are a crucial tool in efforts to bring about meaningful progressive change in the world," said Phillip Brian Harper, Mellon Foundation Higher Learning Program Director. "We are thrilled to support this work at liberal arts colleges across the country – given their unequivocal commitment to humanities-based knowledge, and their close ties to the local communities in which such knowledge can be put to immediate productive use, we know that these schools are perfectly positioned to take on this important work."

Led by faculty members Heather Cleary (Spanish, Literature), Sarah Hamill (Art History), and Eric Leveau (French, Literature), this grant will support the Sarah Lawrence Interdisciplinary Collaborative on the Environment (SLICE) curricular program. From a nexus of interdisciplinary perspectives, SLICE poses the humanistic question of how to exist in ethical relation to each other and to the planet as we confront the human-induced climate crisis; it seeks to answer this question by developing the tools of interdisciplinarity, collaboration, permeable classrooms, and community engagement.

The SLICE program has its foundations in work that began during the 2020-21 academic year. A group of faculty in art history and literature joined colleagues in environmental science, biology, and economics in the Sarah Lawrence Interdisciplinary Collaborative on the Environment in response to a growing desire on campus for civic engagement around climate change and social justice. SLICE's faculty, many of whom are early-career, came together to rethink pedagogies in response to the entwined crises of a global pandemic, systemic racism and the violence of white supremacy, and ecological disaster. In courses on topics such as art and ecology, environmental literary criticism, environmental data, and ecology of symbiosis, students analyzed, debated, and organized around issues of environmental justice and activism.

Together through this funding, Sarah Lawrence and Bronx Community College will spend the three year grant period co-creating in several key areas: bringing students from both institutions together for new interdisciplinary curricula, project-based learning, and programming; building a SLICE event series and student symposium; launching an inter-institutional "Climate Justice and the Arts" exhibition, slated for Spring 2024; supporting students as they collaborate with local environmental organizations, including Sarah Lawrence's own Center for the Urban River at Beczak (CURB), Groundwork Hudson Valley, and Untermyer Gardens; and implementing a robust digital humanities plan that will equip students with the digital literacy skills needed to reach a broad audience with their research in climate justice.

Drawing students to the humanities is at the heart of the Mellon Foundation, the nation's largest funder of the arts, culture, and humanities. The work done by institutions supported by the Humanities for All Times initiative "will make clear the power of the humanities in solving societal challenges through distinctive analytical projects that ensure students are skilled in diagnosing the cultural conditions that hinder our achieving a fully just and equitable society, and identifying the steps necessary to changing them."

Peterson Foundation Statement on \$30 Trillion National Debt

Michael A. Peterson, CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, commented today as the United States surpasses \$30 trillion in outstanding debt. Peterson said: "The milestone of \$30 trillion in debt should be a giant red flag for all of us about America's future economic health, generational equity, and role in the world. Our high and rising debt makes us less prepared for the next pandemic, less secure against future adversaries, less resilient to the changing climate, and less able to build the strong and inclusive economy that we all want for the next generation.

"How we got here is a long story of repeated chapters of fiscal irresponsibility on both sides of the aisle. Leaders in Washington have made imprudent decisions over decades, time and again choosing a favorite new tax cut or spending program above our collective future. On our current trajectory, interest will soon become our fastest growing 'program,' and will rise to eat up nearly 50 cents of every tax dollar collected in 2050. It's not only unsustainable, it's a moral failure that will harm our children and grandchildren.

"As we hopefully and gratefully emerge from the pandemic, our leaders should work to end this cycle. We are already staring down the barrel at \$13 trillion additional debt over the next decade, and a staggering \$30 trillion more in the ten years after that. With this much rapidly growing red ink already on auto-pilot, we can't afford any new installments of fiscally irresponsible programs or tax cuts that are not paid for. Even more critically, we must finally begin to address the permanent, structural imbalances between spending and revenues that prior lawmakers have built into the foundation of our budget. Medicare and Social Security, critical programs that support our most vulnerable, will deplete their trust funds in just 4 and 12 years, respectively. Every year we procrastinate just adds more risk to those in need, and places a greater burden on the backs of our kids. The good news is that the budget is entirely within our control. America's success over hundreds of years is based on a forward-thinking ethos, with leaders showing a moral determination and commitment to leaving a future that is brighter than the past.

On This Day in Yonkers History...



Eleanor Roosevelt visited Sarah Lawrence College on a few occasions in the 1940's and 50's.

*She is pictured in one of her visits to SLC, which is located in Yonkers
Photo Courtesy of SLC Archives*

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

Monday, February 7th

February 7, 1908: Public Works Commissioner Ferguson announced a drive against property owners who did not clean snow from their sidewalks. Any sidewalks not cleared within 12 hours after a storm would be cleaned by the city, and the property owner charged.

February 7, 1931: Ben Grady of Yonkers High School won the National Interscholastic Diving Championship at the University of Pennsylvania swimming championships.

February 7, 1953: Eleanor Roosevelt met with Sarah Lawrence College students informally to discuss world problems and the UN before making her formal speech at the school's Reisinger Auditorium.

Tuesday February 8th

February 8, 1943: To save newsprint and support the war effort, The Herald Statesman reduced the size of the five-column comics to four columns.

February 8, 1945: Thanks to the cooperation of Stauffer Chemical Company and Cleanart Laundry, Inc., Alexander Smith & Sons Carpet Company did not have to interrupt production of blankets for the US Army! Cleanart Laundry, Inc. on St. Casimir Avenue supplied rock salt; Stauffer Chemical in Chauncey supplied nitrate softeners, both needed to make the blankets. These necessities were delayed because of railroad tieups.

February 8, 1953: The New York Cardiac Home announced it would purchase part of the Untermyer Estate if Yonkers changed zoning to allow it to build a \$900,00 building. We did. The building now is the Richmond Center on North Broadway.

Wednesday, February 9th

February 9, 1953: Because the Yonkers Community Chest did not reach its goal, all fourteen agencies supported by the Chest were told there would be a 21% cut in their annual funding.

February 9, 1982: The Yonkers City Council unanimously voted to give the Lincoln Letter to New York State as a "restricted gift." The Lincoln Letter was written in 1864 to thank the Village of Yonkers for raising money at a Sanitary Fair, with the proceeds to be used to care for the soldiers wounded during the Civil war. Copies of the letter were sold, and the original was raffled. The winner of the raffle gave the letter to "the people of Yonkers," and it was displayed at Village Hall, now Manor Hall. Our residents raised more than \$14,000 for the care of our troops.

Thursday, February 10th

February 10, 1913: Fire damaged the upper part of the Park Hill Inn on South Broadway, with decorations and furnishings ruined by smoke and water damage. Destruction was estimated at \$4000.

February 10, 1956: A few of the stars from the era of semi-professional basketball in Yonkers took to St. Peter's basketball court to play an exhibition game against the church's Holy Name Society's "Young Bloods." Playing for the "Old Timers" were former Yonkers sports notables Shots Bennett, Fred Browne, Joe Drohan, Chuck Geiger, Tommy Hoar, Brud Howard, Ed McMorris, George Rusnack and Pete Toneske. Playing for the younger team were Ray Bartko, Jim Corbett, Frank Glumb, Fred Sohr, Bill Siegel, Ray Stevens, and Perry Williams.

Friday, February 11th:

February 11, 1923: After a public hearing at which not one speaker appeared, the Common Council voted to change the name of Kellinger Street, the continuation of Park Hill Avenue running from Linden Street to South Broadway, to Park Hill Avenue.

February 11, 1945: Four Italian prisoners of war left Mount Carmel Church without anyone noticing! The four, part of a group of 150 Italian prisoners of war attending mass at the church, were supposed to have a meal in the basement room. The men stepped out of the church to look around the neighborhood; while in front of a Beech Street home, the owner asked them to join his family. The buses were supposed to head back to Fort Hamilton in Brooklyn at 9 pm, so their host escorted the men back to the church at 7 pm. When they got there, all the buses were gone! The US Army had asked YPD to help search for the men, so the officers took custody and returned them to the Army.

Saturday, February 12th

February 12, 1931: While thousands of Yonkers residents were listening as Pope Pius XI inaugurated the Vatican's new radio station, Reverend Joseph Pernicone, Assistant Pastor at Mount Carmel Church, translated the Pontiff's speech from Latin to English for area papers.

continued on pg 7-

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LEGAL NOTICE

The ordinance, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on January 25, 2022, and approved by the Mayor on January 31, 2022, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such ordinance may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the CITY OF YONKERS, in the County of Westchester, New York, is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this Notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the publication of this Notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

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

SPECIAL ORDINANCE NO.2-2022

BOND ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, NEW YORK AUTHORIZING FUNDING FOR VARIOUS CAPITAL PROJECTS INCLUDED IN THE CITY’S 2021-2022 CAPITAL BUDGET, AS AMENDED; STATING THE TOTAL ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST THEREOF IS \$6,849,000; APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT THEREFOR; AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OF SAID CITY IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$6,849,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION

The bonds are authorized to finance various capital projects included in the City’s 2021-2022 Capital Budget, as amended.

The amount of obligations to be issued is \$6,849,000.

The periods of usefulness are various periods between 5 and 15 years.

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

A complete copy of the Bond Ordinance summarized above shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the office of the City Clerk, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York 10701.

Classifieds

Attorney: DIVORCE \$389 - Uncontested divorce papers prepared. Only one signature required. Poor person Application included if applicable. Separation agreements. Custody and support petitions. 518-274-0380

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Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

It went on to say electricity rates would increase 19%. It talked about the sneaky packaging of the official notification. The price of energy would go up. Mr. Spano is doing this to burnish his credentials with with the green community and make residents pay for it. Yonkers poorest residents already pay electricity rates 30% above the state rate. Poverty rate in Yonkers is nearly twice that in Westchester County. And as we all know from our visits to the supermarket, the National economy is experiencing the worst inflation in 40 years! Concerns 4-12!

I immediately posted the Wall Street Journal article on Facebook and Twitter. I asked that the City, County, State even Federal elected officials, who ever was responsible put this program on hold until residents can get more information. There should have been several letters about the program. Meetings would be appropriate but in the middle of a cold winter and in the middle of a pandemic people are afraid of big gatherings. A letter from the Mayor who sits on the Sustainable Westchester Board of Directors. As does Yonkers Resident, Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins.

I did receive a response from ‘City of Yonkers’ to my Facebook post. And to her credit, comments from Terry Joshi who I believe is on the Yonkers Green Activist Committee. Check out my Facebook page. Eric W. Schoen. Look for me in the picture with our dear departed Joan Rivers. And keep your eyes glued to Westchester Rising Newspapers for important information.

You have until February 9 to officially opt out. But you can opt out at any time. I still haven’t decided what I am going to do. But one thing is for sure. Due to the poor rollout, poor outreach, and poor timing in the middle of a pandemic when inflation is out of control, the poor people of Yonkers, white, black, brown are going to have a big surprise in March.

That is if the people or persons responsible for this mess don’t put the brakes on it until things get better and people can live the lives they led pre-pandemic and we don’t have crazy inflation. And we can get a better explanation of what the hell is going on here!

But sadly my dear readers, I must remind you as I have said oh so many times, ‘This, Too is Yonkers!’

Reach Eric Schoen at thistoisonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericyschoen. Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday’s from 10-11 a.m., on WVOX 1460 AM, and WVOX.com.

Notice of formation of Thomas Family Taste LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as the agent of the LCC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 268 Van Cortlandt Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Yonkers Parking Authority
8 Buena Vista Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (“RFP”)
Electrical Repair/Services Contract
ERS-2022-1

The Yonkers Parking Authority is soliciting proposals from Licensed Electricians that are experienced in repairs and service for electrical and data for commercial, industrial and indoor/outdoor parking facilities. If you have any questions, you may call the Yonkers Parking Authority at 914-965-2467 or stop at the Yonkers Parking Authority main office located at 8 Buena Vista Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. The full Request for Proposal can be downloaded from the Parking Authority’s website at www.yonkersparkingauthority.com.

To submit a Proposal, the submission must be sealed and plainly marked “RFP for Electrical Repair/Services Contract” on the outside of the mailing envelope as well as the inside sealed envelope, addressed to: The Yonkers Parking Authority, 8 Buena Vista Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Proposals will be accepted until 4:00 pm on February 10, 2022. All submitted proposals/bids shall be opened at 10:00 am on the first business day following the bid return deadline. Any person or persons that submitted a proposal wishing to attend bid opening may do so.

Faxed or Electronic submissions will not be accepted for the proposal. Once received, submissions will not be returned. All submissions must include a signature.

The Yonkers Parking Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals due to technical specifications or deficiencies, and to accept any proposal that it may deem to be in the best interest of the Yonkers Parking Authority.

Yonkers Parking Authority
8 Buena Vista Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (“RFP”)
Elevator Maintenance and Repair Contract
ELRS-2022-1

The Yonkers Parking Authority is soliciting proposals for Qualified Providers that are experienced in routine, preventive maintenance and emergency services for commercial and industrial Elevators.

If you have any questions, you may call the Yonkers Parking Authority at 914-965-2467 or stop at the Yonkers Parking Authority main office located at 8 Buena Vista Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. The full Request for Proposal will be available for download at the Parking Authority’s website www.yonkersparkingauthority.com.

To submit a Proposal, the submission must be sealed and plainly marked “RFP for Elevator Repair/Services Contract” on the outside of the mailing envelope as well as the inside sealed envelope, addressed to:

The Yonkers Parking Authority, 8 Buena Vista Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Proposals will be accepted until 4:00 pm on February 10, 2022. All submitted proposals/bids shall be opened at 10:00 am on the first business day following the bid return deadline. Any person or persons that submitted a proposal wishing to attend bid opening may do so.

Faxed or Electronic submissions will not be accepted for the proposal.

Once received, submissions will not be returned. All submissions must include a signature.

The Yonkers Parking Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals due to technical specifications or deficiencies, and to accept any proposal that it may deem to be in the best interest of the Yonkers Parking Authority.

Yonkers Parking Authority
8 Buena Vista Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (“RFP”)
Fleet Maintenance Services Contract
FMS-2022-1

The Yonkers Parking Authority is soliciting proposals for Qualified Automotive Providers, located within the City of Yonkers, for the provision(s) of Automotive Fleet Maintenance. The Yonkers Parking Authority has approximately (30) vehicles.

If you have any questions, you may call the Yonkers Parking Authority at 914-965-2467 or stop at the Yonkers Parking Authority main office located at 8 Buena Vista Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. The full Request for Proposal will be available for download at the Parking Authority’s website www.yonkersparkingauthority.com.

To submit a Proposal, the submission must be sealed and plainly marked “RFP for Fleet Maintenance Services Contract” on the outside of the mailing envelope as well as the inside sealed envelope, addressed to:

The Yonkers Parking Authority, 8 Buena Vista Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Proposals will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on February 10, 2022. All submitted proposals/bids shall be opened at 10:00 a.m. on the first business day following the bid return deadline. Any person or persons that submitted a proposal wishing to attend bid opening may do so.

Faxed or Electronic submissions will not be accepted for the proposal.

Once received, submissions will not be returned. All submissions must include a signature.

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Congressman Bowman Faces Dem. Challenge, continued from pg 1-

but not impossible.”

One unknown in this race is what will the new, redrawn boundaries of the 16th Congressional District in NY be. A proposal from NY Democrats now in charge of the process after a bi-partisan compromise failed has Bowman’s 16th District running north and including northern Westchester and Putnam County, with almost none of the Bronx portions of the current district.. Candidates will have to know what the boundaries are in order to collect signatures.

And most observers believe that change in the district, will benefit Meier. “If the district has less of the Bronx and more of Bedford, I would say that the democrats in Bedford are more moderate. But that doesn’t mean that they would vote for Meier over an incumbent, sitting Congressman,” said another Westcheter democrat.

Meier will also have to raise significant amounts of money in order to compete with Bowman, and if as expected Meier announced his campaign, it will be his first run for office. Bowman raised \$2.9 Million in his 2020 campaign.

“There are two ways to look at this race. If you think that Bowman’s victory in 2020 was a lucky, flash in the pan, then maybe Meier stands a chance. But if you think that the overall trend of Westchester democratic politics is towards more progressive politicians like Jamaal Bowman and Mondaire Jones, then Bowman wins in a blowout,” said a wise, Sound Shore Democrat.

Proposed congressional maps can be found at <https://newyork.redistrictingandyou.org/>

Rep. Bowman said on Social Media that he looks forward to the challenge in his 2022 re-election. “I’m fighting for the people in my district, not the special interests. In 2022, our movement will grapple with new redistricting maps and challengers in NY-16.”

Notice of formation of Gelpdawg Media LLC..Articles of Organization filed with the New York Department of State on 12/01/2021. Office location: Westchester County. The New York Secretary of State is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served upon him or her to the company c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Principal business address: 428 Marlborough Rd., Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful acts.

Yonkers Salutes an NYPD Hero

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-



On Jan. 28, members of the Yonkers Police Department and the Westchester County Police Department held a “Hero’s Salute” for NYPD Detective Jason Rivera, who was killed in the line of duty on Jan. 21. Police officers stood along three overpasses on the NYS Thruway in Yonkers to salute Rivera. A funeral at St. Patrick’s Cathedral in Manhattan was given for Rivera on Jan. 28, and then he was taken to Ferncliff Cemetery in Hartsdale for burial. Mayor Mike Spano is pictured with Police Commissioner John Mueller at one of the overpasses.



February 12, 1945: By a strong majority, the 22 organizations in the Central Committee of War Veterans Organizations voted to protest entertainment of war prisoners by local organizations, and asked the City administration to investigate why 150 Italian prisoners were at Mount Carmel Church the previous day. Past Commander John McNicol of the Lowerre Post denounced the “coddling of enemy prisoners who may have killed some of our own Yonkers boys... While our boys are in foxholes, these foreigners are being wined and dined by Yonkers groups and walking arm in arm with our Yonkers girls.” Some of the attendees stated this was not the first time prisoners attended a service at Mount Carmel.

Sunday, February 13th

February 13, 1927: Excavation began in Lawrence Park West for the new Sarah Lawrence College.

February 13, 1945: Reverend Mario Ponsigione, Pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, stated full responsibility for bringing 150 Italian men to Yonkers for mass lay with the US Army. Fr. Ponsigione explained the men the parish entertained were not prisoners of war; instead they were “cobelligerents, meaning they were in the fight on our side.” He continued, “The Church of Our Lady of Mount Carmel has never at any time entertained a single war prisoner. Every one of the men answered the appeal of the United States and volunteered his services to work at home... by so doing, they alleviated our manpower shortages.” Msgr. Ponsigione also was Chaplain of the American Legion.

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 yhsociety@aol.com.

Palisades Prep Hoops, continued from pg 8-

the Phoenix leading at the intermission, the Phoenix were out played in the third and lost the game 58-41. Deneli McIntosh had 12 points and was named to the all-tournament team. Teammate Xavier Merrill added 10 points. Coach Stahn is proud of his team, they played 5 games in 8 days. There has been a lot of improvement, even though they are 7-7 they are expected to make a late season run before the playoffs.

The team would like to thank Rosa Kastsaridis for helping us fund this tournament. Ms. Rosa always goes above and beyond for the students and student athletes and the team expresses their sincere gratitude for helping us with the tournaments. All proceeds from the tournament are donated by our team to the American Cancer Society. Due to the snow the championship game will take place on February 12th at 12:00pm, at Palisade Prep, between Clarkstown North and Briarcliff. The team is pictured in their tournament shirts, which are pink for cancer awareness.

Westchester Power, Yonkers, continued from pg 1-

Opting out before February 9th, simply means you will never have been enrolled.

Residents can choose to remain with the Con Edison supply, or switch to the Westchester Power Standard supply in the following ways:

- the best option is to go online to opt-out at www.sustainablewestchester.org/wp if the resident has the mailing that was sent to them about the program, which contains a pre-enrollment ID number,
- email info@sustainablewestchester.org with their request (they should include the name on the ConEd account and the account address).
- Residents can mail back the opt-out card found in the notification letter packet, which should be received by February 9th.
- Residents can also call Sustainable Westchester’s offices at 914-242-4725 during normal business hours and provide the name and the address on the account.
- Residents can also switch from renewable to standard supply by email at info@sustainablewestchester.org, through the Sustainable Westchester website portal or by phone to our offices.

What are the benefits of the program?

Communities all over New York representing millions of households are following Westchester’s lead in creating Community Energy Programs like Westchester Power because they know that the climate crisis requires an active approach and programs of this type provide residents with a vetted, proven choice to access renewable energy. While municipal involvement in utility services may seem unusual to some, in many contexts they are the norm. Utility supply is a traditional area of municipal involvement – we are all used to water and sewer services, and there are many places in rural New York and outside of the State that have municipal electric utilities. Addressing the environmental impact of our electricity supply is certainly within the scope of municipal governments and is recognized as a beneficial exercise of home rule authority.

Other energy program opportunities including Community Solar and GridRewards (both of which provide electricity bill savings), are available because we have the scale that CCA brings. Over 2,000 households in Westchester are saving up to 10% on their electricity bills because they signed up for our Community Solar program. Almost the same number of households participated last summer in Grid Rewards, New York’s first demand response program for residential customers. These households earned an average of \$67 for reducing their electricity usage during times of peak stress on our electricity grid.

Very importantly, we look to Westchester Power as a vehicle to help drive the benefits of the clean energy economy to low income residents who have had fewer opportunities to benefit to date. We have made a petition to the State to allow us to provide the Community Solar discount credits to low income customers on an opt-out basis.

There are additional direct benefits to the move to clean energy. Westchester has an F-grade from the American Lung Association for air quality, and we know health impacts of this problem fall hardest on the environmental justice areas that include Yonkers.

How can residents learn more?

Sustainable Westchester, the program administrator, is eager to provide information about the program to Yonkers residents and to answer all questions. They have scheduled the following upcoming information sessions.

Information can be found at sustainablewestchester.org/wp/yonkers.

All of the information sessions below can be attended on Zoom, visit the link above for the Zoom links -

Weekend Information Session/Office Hour is available on Saturday 2/5/2022 beginning at 12 noon use on Zoom

Monday 2/7 at 12 noon and 8PM.

Tuesday 2/8 at 12 noon and 8pm

Wednesday 2/9 at 12 noon

Wednesday Community Energy Information Sessions (presentations will take place, no registration needed): February 16, March 2, March 30 at 12:00 PM and 6:00 PM: Thursday Zoom Office Hours at 12:00 PM and 5:00: February 10, February 17, February 24th.

Sustainable Westchester will be scheduling more events soon! If you are interested in hosting an event for a community organization, please contact paul@sustainablewestchester.org.

It is important that the community has the facts about this program and your energy supply choices. Please share this information with other members of the community – bring friends, neighbors!

Why did some residents not receive a letter?

Residents who have already selected an electricity provider other than Con Ed, or have put a block on their Con Ed accounts, will remain with their current provider (and therefore did not receive a letter about Westchester Power).

Residents who receive HEAP (Home Energy Assistance Program) assistance are not eligible to participate in Westchester Power and therefore, also, did not receive a letter about the program.

Why is this an opt-out structure vs. opt-in?

It is important to consider the concept of opt-out supply. There is always a default supplier - that has been Con Edison for decades. When a resident moves into a new home and calls to turn on the power, they will receive power from Con Edison - unless they take action to switch. In municipalities that have established Community Energy programs, the default changes from the Con Ed (large regulated monopoly) to the community-chosen supply, but you still have the option to switch to another ESCO or back to Con Ed as you see fit. In this sense, Con Ed is really an opt-out program too.

In this instance, Westchester Power affords greater choice as it offers 100% renewable energy through a vetted, proven program without burdening the resident to become an energy expert or navigate through confusing, complicated ESCO offers.

Remember, there is always a choice with the Westchester Power program at no cost, fee or penalty. Opt-out can happen at any time beyond the February 9th date until the account is no longer active. It is a simple process and that can be done online or by phone.

What are the taxes outlined on the notification letter?

The city does not receive a fee, nor is it charged for participation in Westchester Power. Taxes and related items are standard and consistent with current utilities.

The GRT tax is consistent with all utilities and is a tax assessed by the Cities and Villages in Westchester County. This tax is part of the bill whether Con Ed, Westchester Power or an ESCO of your own choosing. Residents will see the GRT tax listed in their supply charges on their current Con Ed bill, this is not a new tax. This will remain consistent if a resident chooses to opt-out of the program or chooses to remain enrolled.

Are there going to be surprises with the program? Westchester Power is Not an ESCO – No surprises or strong arm tactics. The ESCO industry unfortunately has a history of bad practices. This includes enrolling people who have declined to enroll, offering low teaser rates and imposing high cancellation fees, among other abusive practices. These abuses are a longstanding concern and Sustainable Westchester has provided education and information to consumers since Westchester Power began in 2016 to educate residents about these practices and how to avoid them.

Westchester Power’s fixed rates, ability to cancel at any time with no fee, and public education processes provide protections against these practices.

There are no fees/penalties to opt-out, no bidding contracts, no surprise increasing rates or strong-arm tactics to keep anyone in the program. In this instance, Westchester Power affords greater choice as it offers 100% renewable and standard energy through a vetted, proven program

Will Con Ed continue to deliver and service accounts within the Westchester Power program? Con Ed provides the same delivery service to Westchester Power participants as it does to customers who purchase electricity supply from Con Ed. Maintenance of lines, response to emergencies, and help with billing issues remains consistent. In fact, Con Ed is required by law and regulated by the Public Service Commission to provide equal service to all accounts regardless of their energy supplier.

Westchester Power only affects a resident’s supply, not their delivery of electricity.

Meet Your 2022 Yonkers City Council



L-R-Councilmembers Shanae Williams, Corazon Pineda-Isaac, Majority Leader Tasha Diaz, Council President Lakisha Collins Bellamy, Minority Leader Mike Breen, Anthony Merante and John Rubbo. Photo by Donna Davis

Due to COVID restrictions, it was more difficult to get a photo of the entire council together in the new year. This photo was taken at the Yonkers Brewing Co. for a recent Yonkers Chamber of Commerce event.

Palisades Prep Boys Basketball Team Wears Pink for Cancer Awareness



Members of the Palisades Prep Boys Basketball Team and Coaches

The Palisades Prep Boys Basketball team has gone 3-2 over the last two weeks. On Friday January 21st the Phoenix hosted their league opponent the Greenburgh North Castle Knights and defeated them by a final score of 65-38. Senior guard and captain Deneli McIntosh lead all scorers with 21 points. Teammates Xavier Merrill and Miguel Gonzalez each added 14 points for the Phoenix. On Monday January 24th the Phoenix hosted the Croton Harmon Tigers. The boys were down 13 points at halftime but battled back to win 47-44. Deneli McIntosh led the Phoenix with 19 points and teammate Louis Martinez added 11 points. Two days later the Phoenix travel up to Croton-Harmon to complete the home-and-home series. The boys fell behind again this time by as many as 14 points before pulling away to win 66-58. Again senior captain Deneli McIntosh led all scorers with 26 points, teammate Jalen Brown added 14 and Miguel Gonzalez added 11.

Due to the Nor-Easter the Phoenix moved their Friends vs. Cancer Tournament up to Thursday and Friday. On Thursday, January 27th the host Phoenix lost to the visiting Briarcliff Bears, the final score was 74-52. Deneli McIntosh had 24 points and Jalen Brown added 10. The next day the Phoenix faced Mahopac High School in the consolation game. After a close first half which

continued on pg -7

Exciting News for Travelers! Yonkers City Clerk to Open Passport Office Starting February 7



Yonkers City Clerk Vincent Spano

Whether you need to apply for a U.S. Passport, or need a form, or a photo to renew your passport, you can now come to Yonkers City Hall.

On February, 7, the Yonkers Passport Office is now open by appointment.

Call 914-377-8099, or email Passports@YonkersNY.gov to schedule your appointment today.

Hours of Operation (Appointments Required)

Open: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

Open: Tuesday 9:00 am to 7:00 pm

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