

## We Endorse: Ken Jenkins for Westchester County Executive



Left: County Executive Ken Jenkins

Sculti refuses to debate Jenkins at LWV Forum for County Executive: See Story on pg 14

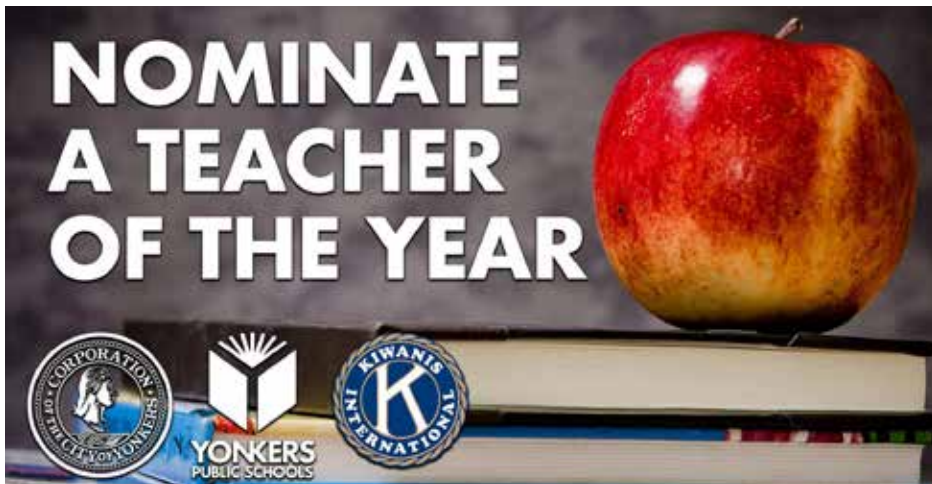
Rising Media and Yonkerstimes.com endorse Ken Jenkins for Westchester County Executive in the special election on February 11.

In the short time that Jenkins has served as County Executive since being appointed by the Board of Legislators, he has shown himself ready for the job and has hit the ground running with innovative proposals and fresh ideas.

We endorse Jenkins for several reasons: First, he has the experience to serve the people of Westchester. Jenkins was elected a County Legislator representing Yonkers and also served as BOL Chair. In 2010, when Jenkins was BOL Chair, and Rob Astorino was County Executive, Jenkins proposed a property tax cut for homeowners who faced the highest property taxes in the country today and

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## Nominate a Yonkers Teacher of the Year



See Story on Page 4-

## 14-Year-Old Charged with Murder for 2024 Yonkers Shooting



Daquan Glenn

The defendant is accused of fatally wounding Daquan Glenn and shooting another victim in the leg at Doyle Park, in Yonkers.

On Jan. 30, Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that a 14-year-old Stratford, Conn., resident was indicted for murder, among other charges, and arraigned this afternoon in the Youth Part before Westchester County Court Judge Helen Blackwood.

The defendant was charged by indictment with Murder in the Second Degree, Attempted Murder in the Second Degree, Assault in the Second Degree, and two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree. He pleaded not guilty to each of the charges.

He was remanded to the custody of the Westchester County Department of Correction at Woodfield Cottage.

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## Several Yonkers Democrats to Face Off in Primaries for Council/Council President

Yonkers Democratic Chair Tom Meier-

"None of the candidates rearing their heads will abide by the party's decision at a convention. So, I might not have a convention and let the democratic voters in Yonkers decide,"

On Councilwoman Pineda-Issac,

"You ran against the Mayor but never supported the winner of your own Democratic Party when you lost. You also voted against term limits, but are you now running for another term on the Council? Now, you want the party that overwhelmingly supports the Mayor to support you?"

By Dan Murphy

Two Yonkers City Councilwomen announced that they would forgo the Yonkers Democratic Party's decision and not seek their party's endorsement as they move forward in the 2025 elections. Councilwoman Tasha Diaz, who is running for Yonkers City Council President, and Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Isaac, who is running for reelection to the Council in the 2nd District, both said they would run on their own merits in a Democratic primary in June. "As we approach the upcoming Democratic convention, I recognize the pressure many of you are facing regarding nominations. I do not want to put anyone in a difficult position, which is why I ask that you refrain from nominating me," said Diaz.

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## Ivan McRae, Jr.: Yonkers Tuskegee Airman!



Born in Harlem in 1923 to Jamaican natives Ivan and Laura McRae, Ivan McRae and his family moved to Yonkers just a few years later.

While attending School One, young Ivan was active both in class and in the Nepperhan Community, following the family lead of community service.

His father broke the color barrier as the first black "white cap" at Grand Central; eventually he became foreman of the operation. Ivan Sr.'s personal efforts knocking on company doors ensured Yonkers businesses followed the tenets of the Fair Employment Practice Commission.

Besides being co-founder and first president of the Nepperhan Community Center, he served the organization for many years. He was in the

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## On Immigration: Dispatch from a Social Worker



By Alexander Kinaj

A child pulled me aside recently, the usual cool optimism in his eyes replaced by something else—a quiet desperation. News of the Trump administration's harsh crackdown on illegal immigration and the enforcement of those policies in his backyard of Westchester had reached him. He feared that his father would get swept up and taken away from him in an ICE raid.

Just this past summer, he came to me, bursting with joy, when his father bought him a new guitar and told me about his hopes of being able to emulate one of his favorite musical artists. Now, he feared his father wouldn't be home when he returned from our program. I knew he was just looking for the support and

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## Nine Mentors and Countless Dreams



Jason Baez, 4th left, with members of a YPS Future Career Series panel

By Jason Baez, Executive Director of Yonkers My Brother's Keeper

A young student, hesitant but curious, waited in line to ask a barber about his career. In Spanish, he shared his dream of one day cutting hair, his excitement growing as the barber encouraged him in the student's own language.

Moments like this were at the heart of Yonkers Public Schools' last month's Future Career Series, where students had the rare chance to connect with professionals who not only shared their career journeys but also their personal stories and challenges.

The event brought together nine professionals—eight of whom were African-American—from fields like medicine, law, education, and law enforcement. Each speaker emphasized perseverance and the importance of representation.

A lawyer shared how he failed the bar exam six times before passing, showing students that setbacks don't define success. A doctor described growing up in Harlem without ever seeing a Black doctor. A detective spoke about his experiences as a Black man in law enforcement and his mission to change perceptions of policing.

Their experiences reflect a broader reality: For students who may feel isolated in their aspirations, seeing professionals who look like them can make all the difference, underscoring the need for programs like the Future Career Series to inspire and support young people of color in underrepresented careers.

The personal connections made the event truly impactful. At a networking session following the panel discussion, students lined up to speak with panelists one-on-one. Some were shy, but with encouragement from me and other adults, they stepped forward. One student, who spoke limited English, connected deeply with the barber because of their shared language. Another aspiring doctor had a long conversation with the physician, soaking up advice and encouragement. The barber, proud of his role, later shared a recording of the event at his shop, hoping to inspire others.

At its core, the Future Career Series was about showing students what's possible when they see professionals who look like them and understand their experiences. Representation matters because it opens doors to careers students might not have considered or thought were for "someone like them." The speakers shared honest accounts of struggle and resilience, offering inspiration through their achievements.

January is National Mentoring Month, making the Future Career Series more relevant than ever. It's a reminder of the urgent need to connect young people with mentors who can guide and encourage them, especially in communities where representation is limited. Mentorship programs like this serve as catalysts for success, ensuring that students not only dream big but also have the tools to achieve those dreams.

Research reinforces the value of mentorship, showing that young adults with mentors are more likely to be employed and earn higher salaries. Not only do programs like this inspire, they create opportunities for relationships that can change lives.

The Future Career Series aligns with MBK's fifth milestone: ensuring all youth successfully enter the workforce. By connecting students with relatable roles, the program provided guidance and hope, leaving students with a renewed belief that they can overcome challenges and define their own paths.

Yonkers MBK is one of only four cities nationally recognized as an MBK Model Community by the Obama Foundation, reflecting the commitment to creating opportunities for our young men of color. In addition to the Future Career Series, Yonkers MBK is reengaging the Each One, Reach One program, which pairs professionals with young men of color in mentorship roles. Both programs demonstrate the power of connecting students with leaders who can inspire and guide them to success. If you're interested in participating, reach out to Yonkers MBK to help shape the next generation of leaders.

As I watched students step out of their comfort zones, ask thoughtful questions, and engage with the panelists, I saw their confidence, curiosity and belief in their own potential shine. Programs like the Future Career Series empower students to imagine a future they can create for themselves. When we invest in our youth, we're investing in their dreams, their futures, and the strength of our entire community.

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*For more information, call me at 914-793-5654 or email me at thasnyder1@verizon.net.*

## CE Jenkins Signs Bill to Provide Free Westchester County Park Passes to U.S. Military Veterans



Military veterans welcome! Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins has signed a bill into law that provides free Westchester County Park Passes to U.S. military veterans residing in the County. This legislation marks a significant step in recognizing the dedication and sacrifices of veterans by granting them free access to the County's extensive park system and recreational programs.

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## Town of Mount Pleasant Closes Park After 12 Canadian Geese Found Dead

Town of Mount Pleasant officials are cautioning residents after 12 Canada geese were found dead at a pond in a local park.

Supervisor Carl Fulgenzi and Police Chief Paul Oliva strongly advised residents to keep away from any dead geese that may be found at other locations in the community.

The dead birds were found Sunday at Carroll Park on Rollings Hill Road in Thornwood. Supervisor Fulgenzi said that they were removed by a professional wildlife expert and taken by the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) for testing. Out of an abundance of caution, Carroll Park has been closed until it can be determined that there is no health threat posed to visitors. A laser device is being used to chase off any other geese that try to land at the pond.

Supervisor Fulgenzi said that dead Canada geese have been found at other locations in Westchester and that the Town has notified the County Department of

Health of this case.

"Unfortunately, there are a growing number of Avian Flu cases across the state and beyond. All of us need to be aware of the potential health risks posed to humans and be sure to report but not go near a dead bird as the chances are high that it will be infected," said Supervisor Fulgenzi.

Anyone who finds a dead goose in a public park or other Town-owned property should contact the Town Police Department at 914-769-1941. Police will arrange to have a wildlife professional remove it. Dead birds found on private property in the Town should be reported to the NY State Department of Environmental Conservation.

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Free Smoke Alarm Installations from Yonkers Office of Emergency Management & The Red Cross



**American Red Cross** 

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American Red Cross teaming up with OEM

**FREE SMOKE ALARM INSTALLATION**

**Saturday, February 15**  
**10AM - 2PM**  
**Make an appointment**

Free Installations Take Place Saturday, February 15, 10 AM to 2 PM

The City of Yonkers Office of Emergency Management is partnering with the American Red Cross for the first time to "Sound the Alarm," a free smoke alarm installation program.

On Saturday, February 15, Yonkers residents who make an appointment will receive free smoke alarms between the hours of 10 AM and 2 PM.

"Smoke alarms are critical in the event of a fire," said Mayor Spano. "It gives families a chance to escape safely, potentially saving lives. I applaud our Office of Emergency Management and local Red Cross for teaming up to provide this important service for our residents."

"Our Office of Emergency Management, the City of Yonkers, and the American Red Cross are always available in a time of need," said Michael Mosiello, Director of the Yonkers Office of Emergency Management. "We also try to prevent such unfortunate incidents by being proactive and this installation goes in line with that. Fire prevention saves more lives than fire suppression."

Residents are encouraged to call (877) RED-CROSS (877-733-2767) and select option 5 to make an appointment. The free program will include the installation of smoke alarms plus fire safety education about how to build a fire escape plan and make sure homes are fire-safe.

Stephanie Dunn Ashely, CEO of the American Red Cross Metro NY North Chapter said, "A home fire is the most common disaster a family may experience. Having a working smoke alarm can cut the risk of death in a fire by half. This is why we are grateful to the City of Yonkers and to Mayor Spano for their partnership and support of our Sound the Alarm event in Yonkers, where our volunteers will meet one-on-one with residents to share home fire safety information and install free smoke alarms. Sound the Alarm events like these are part of our national Home Fire Campaign, which has saved over 2600 lives across the country and installed more than 2.5 million free smoke alarms in communities like Yonkers over the past 10 years."

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**On This Day in Yonkers History...**



Yonkers first "skyscraper," this art deco style office building is at 20 South Broadway in Getty Square and is 12 stories high.

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

Monday, February 10th

February 10, 1947: Contractors scheduled to do renovation work could not get into the Labor Temple at 307 Walnut Street, so they called a locksmith. When they building finally was opened, they found a deserted room with five telephones and tables littered with bet records and pads! Someone immediately notified The Herald Statesman a "horseroom" was found. Police Commissioner O'Hara, Captain James McCue and Lieutenant William Comey arrived on the scene and confiscated all materials. Dates on the scratch sheets were two years old.

February 10, 1953: Dr. And Mrs. Morris Woodrow were the honored guests of Arthur Krim, President of United Artists Corporation, at the formal Premiere of John Huston's "Moulin Rouge" at the Capitol Theater in New York City. Mr. Krim was the brother of Beatrice Woodrow.

Tuesday, February 11th:

February 11, 1943: Habirshaw Cable & Wire Corporation expanded its operations for the second time within a few weeks. The company leased the entire fifth floor of the First National Bank Building at 20 South Broadway for its accounting department.

February 11, 1944: Joseph Ringwalt, Yonkers War Salvage Committee Chairman, released its report for 1943. Yonkers people of all ages went over and above, collecting thirteen thousand tons of scrap metal, more than three times the city's quota assigned by the War Production Board. We collected sixty tons of waste fats, seven thousand tons of wastepaper, and thirteen thousand tons of textiles.

Wednesday, February 12th

February 12, 1936: Yonkers WPA workers were outraged when told to report for work as usual on Lincoln's Birthday. Representatives marched on City Hall to protest having to work on a holiday but couldn't not file the objection. City Hall was closed... it was a holiday!

February 12, 1982: Mayor Angelo Martinelli formally presented Yonkers's very precious Lincoln Letter to New York State and Mary Dugal, Philipse Manor Hall Site Manager, as a "restricted gift."

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## Black History Month 2025: The Black Panther Party: Empowerment, Resistance, and Liberation



By: *Dennis Richmond, Jr.*

In the 1960s, the Black Panther Party (BPP) emerged as a force of revolution and hope for Black communities in America. Born in the heart of Oakland, California, the BPP was forged in the fire of systemic oppression, offering both protection and purpose to a people who had long been silenced. The Party, founded by Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale, became a beacon of resistance, its armed patrols and community programs illustrating the power of Black self-determination. But as revolutionary as the Black Panther Party was in theory, its story remains as heartbreakingly poignant as it is inspiring.

Fred Hampton, the charismatic leader of the Illinois chapter of the BPP, captured the soul of the movement. In 1969, at just 21 years old, Hampton became a voice for the disillusioned, rallying Black youth to embrace their power and demand their rights. His words, now immortalized in history, still echo today: “We say, we want freedom, we want power to determine the destiny of our Black community.” Hampton’s belief in the power of unity and the necessity of revolution was not just a political stance—it was a call for survival. Tragically, his life was stolen from him in a brutal assassination by the FBI, a loss that marked one of the darkest chapters in American history.

Yet, even in death, Hampton’s words resonate deeply with the struggle of young Black men and women today. For Black youth in Yonkers, Mount Vernon, and across the nation, the fight for justice is far from over. The challenge today, as it was in Hampton’s time, is to recognize that the struggle for liberation is inherently tied to how we learn and teach. As Fred Hampton said, “You can kill a revolutionary, but you can’t kill a revolution.”

Stokely Carmichael, who later became Kwame Ture, called for a radical change in the way Black people viewed their relationship to power and authority. His call for “Black Power” was not simply about reclaiming Black pride, but about realizing that power does not come from the government or the status quo; it comes from the people. Carmichael’s words reverberate now more than ever: “This is the first time in history that the oppressed have an opportunity to take over their own destiny, their own power.” Young people in New York, in Brooklyn, Harlem, and the Bronx, are inheriting a legacy of revolutionary thought that demands they take control, not just of their communities but of their futures.

And then there’s Angela Davis, whose voice was an unyielding drumbeat of liberation. As a member of the Communist Party and an advocate for Black liberation, Davis understood that true revolution begins in the classroom. “Education is the practice of freedom,” she wrote, “the means by which we learn to recognize and develop our own voices.” Yet in our schools today, too many young Black minds are still shackled by curricula that teach submission and silence rather than liberation and justice.

The fight for justice today is about the same principles the Panthers lived and died for—self-defense, empowerment, and unity. But it also demands that we radically transform how we teach the next generation. In New York, educators must learn not just to teach for education, but to teach for liberation. This is how we honor the Panthers, and this is how we fight. As Fred Hampton said, “We have to love each other and support each other. We have to teach the people how to defend themselves.” The struggle continues. And for that, we owe it to the Panthers—and to ourselves—to keep fighting, teaching, and loving.

The Black Panther Party’s legacy is not just a history lesson. It’s a living, breathing movement that is still taking shape today. My father, Dennis Richmond, Sr., attended a BPP meeting when he lived in California. It is our duty as Black Americans—every single one of us—to make sure the legacy of the Black Panther Party never dies.

*Dennis Richmond Jr. lives in Yonkers and is on Twitter @NewYorkStakz. He is a journalist focused on Black, Latinx, and LGBTQ+ Communities.*

## Nominate A Yonkers Teacher of the Year

*Students, Parents, Teachers & Administrators Called to Nominate Teachers at [www.yonkersny.gov](http://www.yonkersny.gov)*

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and the Yonkers Kiwanis Club in collaboration with the Yonkers Board of Education will present the 2025 Teacher of the Year Awards to three deserving members of the Yonkers Public Schools’ faculty. Students, parents, teachers, and administrators can begin submitting nominations today through Monday, March 3 at [www.yonkersny.gov](http://www.yonkersny.gov).

Established in 1956, the Teacher of the Year Award celebrates Yonkers teachers who further excellence in education. A committee, comprised of members of the Yonkers Kiwanis Club and Trustees of the Board of Education, selects the honorees.

“The outstanding work our teachers do in and out of the classroom deserves to be recognized,” said Mayor Spano. “We are incredibly proud to honor these individuals who are pillars of our Yonkers community. The partnership between the City, the Yonkers Kiwanis Club, and the Yonkers Board of Education celebrates our everyday heroes’ exceptional dedication and commitment in the classroom and, at times, even beyond the classroom.”

“Every day, our teachers inspire, challenge, and uplift Yonkers Public Schools students, shaping the future of our community with their dedication and passion,” said Superintendent of Schools Anibal Soler, Jr. “The Teacher of the Year Award is an opportunity to celebrate these educators who go above and beyond, fostering a love for learning and empowering students to achieve their fullest potential. I encourage everyone — students, parents, and colleagues — to take the time to nominate an extraordinary teacher.”

Board of Education President Rosalba Corrado Delvecchio added, “The Trustees of the Yonkers Board of Education take great pride in honoring the incredible work of our teachers, whose unwavering commitment transforms classrooms into spaces of growth, creativity, and achievement. This annual award is a meaningful way for the Yonkers Public Schools community to express gratitude and admiration for those who make a difference daily. We look forward to celebrating the educators who inspire excellence in our students and our schools.”

Three Yonkers Public Schools teachers will be selected, representing the elementary, middle, and high school levels. Students, parents, teachers, and administrators are encouraged to nominate a teacher at [www.yonkersny.gov](http://www.yonkersny.gov). Eligibility requirements for selection as Teacher of the Year include employment as a teacher in the Yonkers Public Schools for at least five years; demonstration of dedication to the teaching; initiation of new, meaningful programs for either students, teachers, or parents, or being innovative in the use of existing programs, and display significant community involvement.

“The Yonkers Kiwanis Club and its members take great pride in sponsoring the esteemed ‘2025 Teachers of the Year’ award,” said Erin Anderson, Yonkers Kiwanis President. “It is our honor to work with the City of Yonkers and Board of Education to recognize our public school teachers who bring excellence to our education system and make a lasting difference in our students, their futures, and in our community.”

Online nominations must be submitted by Monday, March 3 at 5 PM.

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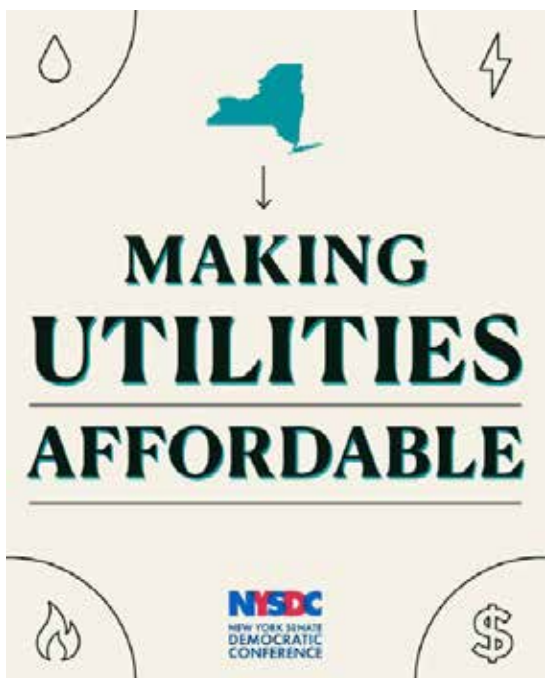
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## Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins Leads Passage of Legislative Package to Lower Utility Costs



Last week, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins led the New York State Senate in advancing a package of new legislation to protect ratepayers and address New York's affordability crisis by prioritizing consumers and holding utility companies accountable.

These bills aim to lower costs, improve transparency, and ensure fairness for households across the state. Provisions would, among other things, set up affordable payment plans for eligible utility customers, prevent service shut-offs and late fees while a utility company is being investigated, and require the Public Service Commission (PSC) to study how rate changes could impact customers financially.

"A significant percentage of the calls my office receives from constituents are related to concerns about high energy costs. This is especially true every few years in Westchester, when ConEd asks the PSC for rate increases," said Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. "This package will require the PSC to take into consideration how any rate change will impact its customers. It will also expand payment options to help those whose bills are increasing past affordability, eliminate estimated billing practices and cap certain charges."

State Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, "I am pleased that two of my bills passed the Senate this week as part of the Utility Affordability Package. I hear from constituents daily regarding their utility bills, often showing bills that bear little resemblance to their actual usage, or that have the "regulated" part of their bill far exceeding the "market-driven" portion. My bill, S.1896, will prioritize New Yorkers' right to have stable utility rates that are as low as possible by requiring the PSC to determine rates in a fairer, more transparent manner that puts the interest of ratepayers ahead of the for-profit utility company. My other bill, S.1701, will hold utility companies more accountable when they fail to prepare for and respond to storms. I deeply appreciate everyone who has reached out to me regarding their outrageous ConEd bills and I thank Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and my colleagues for prioritizing the crisis of unaffordable utility rates. In the Senate, we are committed to working to lower utility rates and hold the PSC and Con Ed accountable."

### Highlights of the Legislative Package:

**Assessing Utility Rate Changes:** Requires the Public Service Commission (PSC) to consider how rate hikes impact consumers' economic well-being.

**Protecting Customers During Investigations:** Prevents service shut-offs and late fees while the PSC investigates a utility and requires notifications to customers during investigations.

**Ensuring Accurate Utility Bills:** Mandates utility companies to use actual meter readings, not estimates, to ensure customers are only charged for what they use.

**Improving Storm Responses:** Strengthens emergency response requirements and allows the PSC to impose stronger penalties for poor utility compliance during storms.

**Fair Utility Profit Calculations:** Requires standardized equity calculations to ensure fair and reasonable rates.

**Capping Fixed Charges:** Limits utilities to recovering only necessary fixed costs, such as metering and billing.

**Affordable Payment Plans:** Directs utilities to create statewide affordable payment plans for low-income customers enrolled in social service programs.

**Minimum Standards for Payment Plans:** Establishes guidelines for affordable utility payment plans to protect eligible customers.

**Automatic LIHEAP Re-enrollment:** Requires automatic re-enrollment for low-income households still eligible for energy assistance programs.

## Philipse Manor Hall Presents Revolutionary Walking Tour on President's Day



Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site is pleased to present a President's Day Revolutionary Walking Tour for the general public on Monday, February 17, 2025, at 10:30 a.m. This free, family-friendly tour will include the sites of many important Revolutionary War events that occurred in downtown Yonkers.

Did you know that George Washington and the Continental Army spent time in Yonkers during the American Revolution? And that British Army General Sir Henry Clinton once used Philipse Manor Hall as his headquarters? Immerse yourself in Revolutionary War era Yonkers during this free 2.5 mile walking tour in honor of President's Day! Located just a few miles north of British-occupied Manhattan, Yonkers was a hotbed of wartime strife. Explore the troop movements, skirmishes, and people of the American Revolution in Yonkers on this special themed walking tour of the Albany Post Road and the Yonkers waterfront. Tour will include stops at the Enslaved Africans Rain Garden, St. John's Episcopal Church, and Philipse Manor Hall.

Please note that this hike features hills and inclines and will last approximately 2 hours. Not recommended for very young children. Please leave your pets at home. For more information, including parking, visit <https://www.philipse-manorhall.com/programs-and-events/presidents-day-revolutionary-walking-tour>.

Pre-registration is recommended, but not required. To register, call 914-965-4027 or email [philipsemanorhall@parks.ny.gov](mailto:philipsemanorhall@parks.ny.gov). For those who wish to explore indoors, Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site will be open special for the holiday, 10:00 AM to 5:00 PM for guided and self-guided tours.

### Yonkers Ranks Among Nation's Top Cities for Diabetes Management

#### New study analyzes 350 cities for diabetes care and health outcomes

In a comprehensive study released this month, Yonkers has been recognized as one of America's top cities for diabetes management and care. Cities across the country were evaluated using multiple metrics including "healthcare access, physical activity resources, and health outcomes." The study placed Yonkers in the top 15% nationally, with a score of 45.59 out of 100, outperforming many larger metropolitan areas including neighboring New York City. "This recognition demonstrates Yonkers' strong commitment to providing comprehensive healthcare access and promoting healthy lifestyles for all residents," said Nazar Hembara from AllClinicalTrials.com. "Our research shows that Yonkers has created an environment where managing diabetes is made more accessible through strong healthcare infrastructure and community resources. The city's investment in these areas has resulted in significantly better health outcomes compared to many similar urban areas." The study revealed impressive statistics for Yonkers, ranking 26th nationally for low diabetes prevalence at 7% and 58th for obesity prevention with a rate of 23.6%. The city particularly excelled in healthcare access, providing 34.12 endocrinologists per 100,000 residents and maintaining a strong network of 94.32 grocery stores per 100,000 residents, ensuring access to healthy food options. "While we're proud of our high ranking among U.S. cities for diabetes management, our goal is to continue improving our healthcare resources and community support systems," Hembara added. "These results show that our approach to healthcare accessibility and healthy living initiatives is working, but we recognize there's always room for advancement in serving our residents' healthcare needs." The study utilized a weighted scoring system that evaluated cities based on health outcomes (50%), healthcare access (30%), and lifestyle supports (20%), analyzing data from public health records, census information, and local government statistics.

Notice of formation of S2K REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/09/2024. 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 NCH REGISTERED AGENT, 42 BROADWAY, FL 12-200, NEW YORK, NY, 10004-3892. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

**Notice of formation of GCMA2 Real Estate Group LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/29/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 66 Hutchinson Blvd, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity.**

Notice of formation of Break Bread Not Hearts, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/26/2024. 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: Break Bread Not Hearts, LLC PO Box 36 Valhalla, NY 10595 Purpose: any lawful activity.

Name of formation of THEOAK LLC. Date of filing Articles of Organization with the Secretary of State (SSNY) 6/14/24. The LLC is located in Westchester County. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The post office address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against it served is to the principal business location at c/o 669 Main Street, Unit 605, New Rochelle NY 10801. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Hampton Estate Care LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/17/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 35 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

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

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

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

Notice of formation of Chic Nails Room LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/24/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 356 Riverdale Ave. #1, Yonkers, NY, 10705. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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

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-7385 – Opening date 03/07/2025: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide services to test and supply results for phosphorus and fecal coliform analysis of wastewater samples (AC).

2. Bid No. RFB-7387 – Opening date 02/21/2025: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for two 12-month periods, to provide truck repairs and maintenance as needed for the Yonkers Public Schools (FB).

3. Bid No. RFB-7391 – Opening date 03/07/2025: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for two 12-month periods, to remove, discard, furnish and install, repair and/or reset various types and quantities of fencing throughout the School District as needed (FB).

4. Bid No. RFB-7393 – Opening date 02/28/2025: Purchase of a variety of IT hardware and technology products manufactured by Promethean, HP, TrippLite, and Texas Instruments, or Yonkers approved equals, for the Yonkers Public Schools. Bidders are required to comply with NYSED's Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBE) participation goals for this bid (MM).

5. Bid No. RFB-7394 – Opening date: 02/28/2025: Purchase of Avon Protection FM54 Respirators and accessories, or Yonkers approved equals. (VB).

6. Bid No. RFB-7395 – Opening date: 02/28/2025: Twelve-month contract to purchase six Rologard Global Company model K2600, or Yonkers approved equal, vehicle barriers with vehicle transport kit. The initial purchase will be for six units with the option to purchase another six units within 12-months (VB).

7. Bid No. RFB-7396 – Opening date: 02/28/2025: Purchase of one Anatomage Virtual Cadaver Table, or Yonkers approved equal, with clinical crate, online training, and one-year warranty. (KS).

8. Bid No. RFB-7397 – Opening date: 02/28/2025: Twelve-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).

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) #2025-01

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR

SECURITY GUARD SERVICES

AT VARIOUS PROPERTIES OWNED OR MANAGED BY

THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers ("MHACY") is soliciting proposals from qualified firms

for Security Guard Services for MHACY at various sites as specified in this Request for Proposals ("RFP").

This RFP package contains submission requirements and terms and conditions and other pertinent information for

submitting a proper and responsive proposal. This RFP is the only information provided to prospective bidders

(hereinafter "Responders" or "Respondents") and is available online starting February 14, 2025, at [www.mhacy.org](http://www.mhacy.org).

A site tour will take place on February 25, 2025, starting at 1-8 Schroder Street, Yonkers, NY at 10am. The

RFP questions deadline is February 27, 2025, at 3:00 PM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions

must be emailed to [procurement@mhacy.org](mailto:procurement@mhacy.org) by the deadline. No telephone calls and/or written

communication sent via mail will be accepted.

Proposals must reach MHACY no later than 3:00 PM (EST) on March 6, 2025. Late submissions will be

handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B.

Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria stated in the RFP. Negotiations may be conducted with contractors

who have a reasonable chance of being selected for the award. After evaluation of the proposal revision, if any,

the contract will be awarded to the responsible firm(s) whose qualifications, price and other factors are

considered to be the most advantageous to MHACY.

MHACY reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any irregularities or informalities if it is

in MHACY's best interest to do so. MHACY reserves the right to cancel this RFP or to reject, in whole or in

part, any and all proposals received in response to this RFP, upon its determination that such cancellation or

rejection is in the best interest of MHACY.

MHACY is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation,

color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or family status. MHACY solicits and encourages the

participation of minorities and small businesses in procurement.

Contact, related to this procurement, with members of MHACY's Board of Commissioners, or MHACY's

officers and/or employees other than the contact person show above, during the procurement process could

result in disqualification of a proposal.

Wilson Kimball

President & CEO

Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers

1511 Central Park Avenue

Yonkers, New York 10710

Project No. 2025-01

Notice of formation of Granola Girl, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/19/24. 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, 206 B Heritage Hills Drive, Somers, NY 10589. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Ambit Psychological Services, PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY 12/17/24. Office: Westchester County.. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 933 Mamaroneck Ave Ste 202, Mamaroneck NY 10543. Purpose;

Any lawful activity.

# Letters to the Editor:

## *Betraying Those Who Keep Us Safe*

My father was a police officer with the NYPD for 27 years. On September 11, 2001, I was sent home from school early to find him gone into the chaos we were all sheltering from. I was eight years old. I don't remember feeling afraid, but I remember understanding that something big and scary was happening. I remember my family gathered together, watching the news. And I remember my mom was afraid. Looking back now, understanding all of what happened that day, I still struggle to imagine how afraid she must have been.

In 2021, Michael Fanone went into a scene of chaos. He'd been a police officer for over 20 years and was responding to calls from officers in distress. He found himself faced with a mob. They dragged him down the stairs, beat him, sprayed him with chemicals. They tried to take his gun while others cheered that he should be killed with it. One man tased him multiple times in the neck, then sent a message to a group chat, "tased the f\*\*\* out of the blue". Fanone sustained a heart attack and traumatic brain injuries, but he survived. Others didn't. Officer Brian Sicknick died after suffering multiple strokes as a result of his injuries. Four other officers later died by suicide. In all, about 140 police officers were injured while defending the U.S. Capitol.

January 6, 2021 was the kind of day my family hoped and prayed thousands of times my dad would never have to face. But we knew that he would, if it ever came to it, to keep us safe, just as Fanone and so many others did that day.

The men who beat Fanone to unconsciousness are now free. The man who boasted of tasing Fanone is free, less than 2 years into his twelve-and-a-half year sentence. Every rioter, regardless of their crime, has been pardoned or had their sentence commuted by President Trump, despite the Vice President's assurances that, obviously, violent offenders shouldn't be pardoned.

Trump made it sound like he couldn't be bothered to parse through the 1500 or so convictions. "It would be very, very cumbersome to go and look," he told Sean Hannity. Men died defending our nation, but keeping track of who assaulted them is too cumbersome.

Rather than an accident of laziness, Fanone believes Trump is sending a clear message: If you commit crimes on his behalf, he will support you. If you try to prevent him from doing what he wants, then you know what's coming. Whatever Trump's reasoning, pardoning violent attacks on police officers is an insult to the men and women who risk everything to keep us safe. It is an insult to their families, who fear every day that the worst might happen. It emboldens extremist groups. And it invites yet more violence.

After January 6, Fanone was unable to return to the force due to his injuries. He ultimately resigned, but he continues to speak out about the attack on our nation's Capitol. As a result, he and his family have received threats and suffered acts of violence. His mother has been harassed. Feces and bricks have been thrown at her and her home. Now, Fanone is seeking protective orders against the men who attacked him and may need to relocate for the sake of his family. If this is the thanks he gets, how can we as a nation continue to ask police officers to defend us?

Trump campaigned on bringing down crime, but betraying our police officers and freeing violent criminals will not make America safe. It will only make our country worse.

*Cooper Tamayo, Yonkers*

### **ILLEGAL IMMIGRANTS—A "TAXING SITUATION"**

Before all those "hand ringers" begin to bemoan how badly illegal immigrants are being treated, here are a few "hard facts":

- 1-More than 43% of all food stamps are given to illegals,
- 2-95% of murder warrants in Los Angeles are for illegals,
- 3-Less than 2% of illegals are picking crops, but 41% are on welfare,
- 4-More than 66% of all births in California are to illegals on MediCal—paid By American Taxpayers.

#### **OUR TAXES ARE ALSO BEING PAID FOR:**

- A-Nearly 60% of all occupants of HUD properties in the U.S-are illegals,
- B-More than 39% of California students, grades 1-12 are illegals,
- C-75% of LA's Most Wanted-are illegals,
- D-More than half of all gang members, are illegals.

Guess what president and his administration, was responsible for "Opening the gates", admitting these people without proper vetting???

"If you do not take an interest in the affairs of your government, then you are doomed to live under the rule of fools." (Plato)

*Joe Pettit, Yorktown Heights*

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# Mayor Spano Heads to Albany to Advocate for Alternative Funding Formula for Education Aid

## *Mayor Urges Albany to Utilize Teacher Wage Index to Determine School Funding, Potentially Bringing an Additional \$64 Million to District over Five Years*

Continuing his push for additional State funding, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano headed to Albany on Feb. 4 to call on New York State representatives to change the State's metric for education funding to the Comparable Wage Index for Teachers (CWIFT). CWIFT reflects current county economic conditions and the variations in competitive teacher wages, in which Westchester County has the highest costs. If funded using this index, Yonkers Public Schools could receive an additional \$64 million in educational funding over the next five years.

In 2024, the Rockefeller Institute issued a report on New York State education funding, suggesting CWIFT is a more equitable solution to funding districts by calculating the expected local share of education contribution by comparing district wealth with the cost of hiring local teacher talent by county. Currently, New York State utilizes the Regional Cost Index (RCI) as a key component of Foundation Aid. According to the Rockefeller Institute's report, "the current nine-region construct of the RCI does not adequately reflect the cost differences faced by individual school districts." The report suggests 71% of all districts would benefit from a new CWIFT.

For 20 years in which the RCI has been used to calculate funding, Yonkers has been grouped with smaller local economies in Upstate and Western New York, such as Sullivan and Ulster Counties, putting the Yonkers School District at a disadvantage for Foundation Aid.

"I encourage New York to recognize the disparity and alter the calculations for education aid by adopting CWIFT," says Mayor Spano. "Heed the Rockefeller Institute's recommendations and fund Yonkers Public Schools based on the economic costs of running a school in our county, and not those 100 miles north of us."

Mayor Spano is expected to testify today in front the New York State's Assembly Ways and Means Committee and the Senate Finance Committee, where he will advocate for additional school and municipal funding. Mayor Spano also will ask the Legislature to make the State's Shared Services Grant available to Yonkers, citing the City's successful merger of five city and school nonacademic departments that alleviates \$10 million annually from the District's budget.

Mayor Spano also will cite the staggering increase in educational service for Yonkers students with learning differences as a reason for additional funding, stating, "Our special education enrollment has increased 14% in just three years, due to the lasting effects of the pandemic and our proximity to New York City families who are seeking an alternate educational option. What's even more concerning is the intensity of the services required to address any learning differences has increased by 21%, which puts more of a strain on our specialty staffing needs, meaning more therapists and aides."

Mayor Spano continued, "While the Yonkers School District is a model urban district, achieving the highest graduation rate of the Big 5 for the last nine years, it has done so with non-recurrent revenue. We are edging towards severe cuts without guaranteed funding. We've come to the limit of what the City and our residents can afford. I ask New York State to reassess how Districts are funded so they can guarantee reoccurring aid to our students."

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

***— Pete Seeger***

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Hope to hear from you! Thanks!

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

## Black History Month Discussion with Author AJ Woodson, Riverfront Library Feb. 22

All Ages | Black History Month | Riverfront Library



**Black History Month: Author Talk with AJ Woodson Primary**

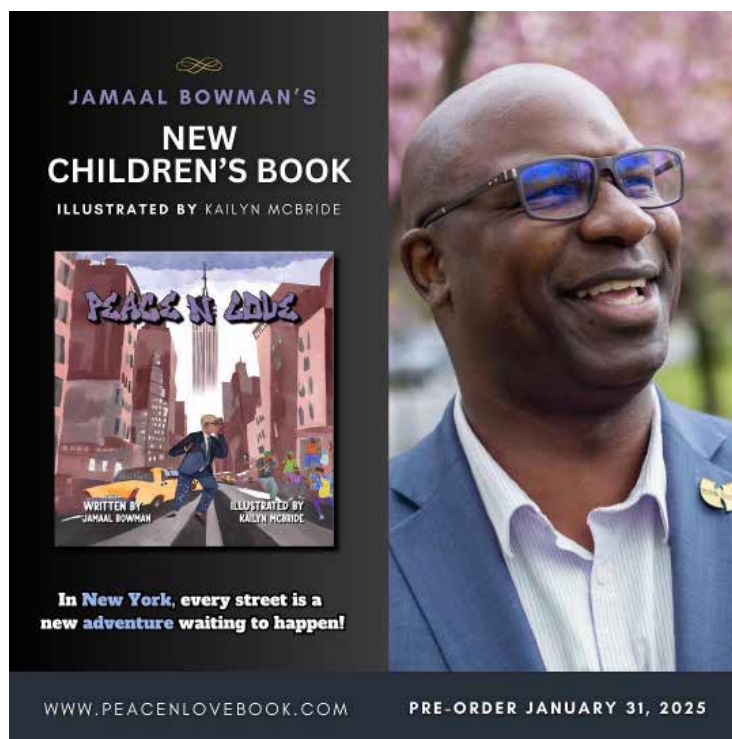
**Saturday, February 22**  
2 pm, Community Room A&B

Come join the author of *We Got Our Own Thang*, A book that gives you a look at Hip-Hop from The 914 (Westchester County, New York). This book doesn't only celebrate the superstars and rap legends that grace its cover, like DMX, Heavy D & The Boyz and Mary J. Blige, but many of the early legends. The book highlights the contributions of individuals of The 914 in the 50-year history of Hip-Hop.



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

## Former Congressman Jamaal Bowman Has Published a Children's Book!



JAMAAL BOWMAN'S  
**NEW CHILDREN'S BOOK**  
ILLUSTRATED BY KAILYN MCBRIDE

**PEACE N LOVE**

WRITTEN BY JAMAAL BOWMAN  
ILLUSTRATED BY KAILYN MCBRIDE

In New York, every street is a new adventure waiting to happen!

WWW.PEACENLOVEBOOK.COM PRE-ORDER JANUARY 31, 2025

Former Congressman Jamaal Bowman (NY-16) is excited to announce the upcoming release of his new children's book, "Peace N Love," dedicated to inspiring a generation that dreams of a world filled with kindness and compassion, and showing kids that they can be anything they want to be. This heartfelt book is set to be available for pre-order on January 31st, 2025.

"Peace N Love" draws inspiration from Bowman's signature phrase, which he has used to begin and end every speech throughout his career. The phrase embodies his commitment to ending war and senseless violence while advocating for love and compassion in every child's home and community. Through this book, Bowman aims to instill these values in young readers, encouraging them to envision a brighter future.

"I wrote 'Peace N Love' because I believe that every child deserves to grow up in an environment where love prevails over hate," said Jamaal Bowman. "This book is not just for children—it's a call to action for all of us to foster kindness in our communities. At a time when our country faces a divide, we must continue to strive for an America that promotes empathy and understanding, which is what my children's book aims to do."

The book features vibrant illustrations by talented artist Kailyn McBride, bringing Bowman's words to life in a way that resonates with children and adults alike. Each page invites readers on a journey filled with messages of hope, understanding, and the importance of treating one another with respect.

"Art is colorful, and it resonates with anyone and any child, no matter the color of their skin. I make sure that my illustrations tell a story far beyond the picture on a page," said Kailyn McBride. "Marrying words that promote acceptance with diverse illustrations is the idea behind my work, and I'm glad I was able to help tell Bowman's story. We want every child in grades Pre-K-3rd across America to read this book or have it read to them."

"Peace N Love" will be available for pre-order starting January 31st, 2025. Interested readers can purchase the book by visiting [www.peacenlovebook.com](http://www.peacenlovebook.com).



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**MAYOR'S BASKETBALL TOURNAMENT**

CITY OF YONKERS and MAYOR MIKE SPANO Present the Annual Mayor's Basketball Tournament

sponsored by the Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation

**February 18-21**  
Roosevelt High School Lower Gym  
631 Tuckahoe Road  
Yonkers, NY 10710

The tournament is open to girls and boys teams in the following divisions:  
**Grades 7 & 8**  
**Grades 9 & 10**

Deadline for rosters is Monday February 10, 2025

For more information on the rules and regulations governing the tournament, player eligibility and the official team roster call 914.377.6440.



# Ukrainian Youth Concert-St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church



Thanks to Congressman George Latimer for this photo taken of a Ukrainian Youth Concert held at St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church on January 19.

The church, located at 21 Shonnard Place in Yonkers, has one of the most beautiful interiors, as the photo depicts.

Save the date!

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**YONKERS CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT LAKISHA COLLINS-BELLAMY PRESENTS**

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**THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025**  
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email [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com)

Read it all Online at [Yonkerstimes.com](http://Yonkerstimes.com)

## Congressman George Latimer's Statement on Proposed Tariffs on Canada and Mexico

Levying tariffs against long term allies and neighbors for political purposes is foolish. A tariff is a strategic tool, used against bad international actors who seek to hurt an American industry by flooding the market with cheap products. When used as an across the board measure, such as the Smoot-Hawley Tariff imposed during the Hoover years of the Great Depression, tariffs only made things worse.

Wall Street knows this. Main Street knows this. Ronald Reagan, the icon of Republicans, spoke forcefully against tariffs during his tenure.

But neither economics nor history matters if your purpose is simply to disrupt government functions and flex your muscles.

This Administration has embarked on policy after policy that will hurt this country. Vaccination policy, environmental policy, and now international trade policy. They are flush with power after last November's results... but we will all come to see the negative impact on Americans as these ill-advised actions come to full fruition.

## The Sharing Shelf Served 6,764 Westchester Children and Teens in 2024



Suchay, pictured above, a dedicated social worker in the Larchmont Mama-ronneck Schools, has been a trusted partner for over five years, always looking out for her students' best interests. She consistently taps into our services to ensure their clothing needs are met.

To celebrate her recent birthday, Suehay invited her friends and family to volunteer with us.

She shared, "I wanted to again thank you for allowing my family and I to volunteer, although you were closed for vacation. I am so grateful for the partnership and the blessing you offer the families I work with. Volunteering at The Sharing Shelf was a great way to kick off my birthday, and give back to such a wonderful community organization. Thank you for allowing me to share your organization's mission with my family."

Thank you, Suehay, for your unwavering support and generosity. Actually, we celebrate you!

The Sharing Shelf, the nonprofit clothing bank serving children and teens in need in Westchester County, announced today that it had provided clothing to 6,764 children and teens in 2024. That number reflects the 5,805 children who were served through the clothing bank, and 959 teens who received clothing from the Teen Boutique.

The total number represents an increase of 23% from 2023, and the need for clothing continues to grow: In the first three weeks of 2025, requests for clothing have grown 145% over the same period in the previous year – from 178 requests in 2024 to 437 in 2025.

Requests to The Sharing Shelf for clothing for the children and teens came in 2024 from 588 staff members at 161 community partner agencies across Westchester. Those children and teens live in every community in Westchester.

Those numbers have grown as well. The number of staff members at partner agencies who requested clothing grew from 522 in 2023 to 588 in 2024. The number of partner agencies grew from 138 to 161.

While Westchester is among the nation's wealthiest counties, its poverty rate for children under five was 11.1% in 2023, according to Westchester Children's Association. More than 67,000 children and teens live in poverty or a low-income home in Westchester.

"Clothing insecurity is often overlooked, on the assumption that as long as one has some kind of clothes, there's no problem," said Deborah Blatt, Founder and Executive Director of The Sharing Shelf. "But for students to perform well in school – and stay in school – they need to have clothes that are the right size, that are appropriate to the season, that reflect their personality, and they need enough of them to be clean. Imagine how you would feel going into a meeting inappropriately dressed, and how you would perform in that situation. The need is great in Westchester, and growing. The Sharing Shelf plays a crucial role in addressing clothing insecurity countywide."

Visit <https://www.facebook.com/TheSharingShelf> to learn more.

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

## Muscoot Farm's Cluxatawney Henrietta Predicts Six More Weeks of Winter



Bundle up for a few more weeks of Winter! Westchester County is gearing up for six more weeks of winter as Muscoot Farm's weather-predicting chicken, Cluxatawney Henrietta, did not lay an egg at this morning's Groundhog Day celebration at the farm. Now in its seventh year, Muscoot Farm's annual Groundhog Day festivity offers a fun twist on tradition with kid-friendly activities, treats and a unique weather prediction by one of the beloved farm's own residents.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said, "Cluxatawney Henrietta has become a true Groundhog Day icon in Westchester County. The excitement and buzz surrounding our hometown hen's annual weather prediction is simply unbeatable."

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathy O'Connor said, "Muscoot Farm's Groundhog Day celebration has grown into one of the County's most adored traditions, bringing joy and fun to residents of all ages year after year."

Muscoot Farm Director Jonathon Benjamin said, "Who needs a groundhog when we have Cluxatawney Henrietta? Our spirited fine-feathered forecaster steps up to the challenge every time, proving she can outshine groundhogs across the nation with her unique weather-predicting talents!"

## Maria Regina HS Educator from Yonkers Honored



*Reena Varma*

Reena Varma (P'17) of Yonkers, chairperson of Maria Regina High School's Science Department, has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious 2025 Kevin Burns Outstanding High School Science Teacher Award, sponsored by the Spectroscopy Society of Pittsburgh (SSP).

In May, at an Awards Banquet at Duquesne University in Pittsburgh, she will join the roster of past honorees who were recognized by SSP for exceptional teaching in the sciences at the secondary level.

"This honor recognizes Ms. Varma's outstanding contributions to our science program that have earned high praise," said Maria Carozza-McCaffrey ('99), principal, adding: "We are thrilled and congratulate Ms. Varma for being recognized for her dedication to inspiring students and fostering a love of science. This latest award again underscores the high caliber of educators at Maria Regina, where excellence in teaching continues to shape the future of our students."

Ms. Varma noted, "I am deeply honored to be the winner of the 2025 Kevin Burns High School Science Teaching Award. This recognition reflects the incredible colleagues and supportive administration I work alongside every day. A special thank you to all my students, past and present, who made me a part of their learning journey at Maria Regina. Teaching science and fostering an environment that encourages students to explore STEM fields has always been the most rewarding experience for me and will continue to be so."

Under Ms. Varma's leadership, Maria Regina's science program has significantly expanded as increasing numbers of students have enrolled in College Board AP science courses. In addition, Maria Regina has won AP accolades. Most recently, for the second-year-in-a-row, it earned the annual AP Computer Science Female Diversity Award, one of a select group of only 847 high schools in the nation to earn the prestigious honor.

And last June, Maria Regina held its first Science Fair, a two-day exhibition that showcased 274 scientific topics that the students explored. She noted: "Our students worked very hard on their projects of interest," Ms. Varma related. "They learned to think like scientists, asked relevant questions, researched, experimented and were well prepared to present their findings which were lauded by a panel of experts who judged the students' efforts." To learn more, visit [www.mariaregina.org](http://www.mariaregina.org)

*We Endorse Jenkins, continued from pg 1-*

still do.

Astorino had proposed a 1% tax cut, while Jenkins proposed a 2% tax cut. Astorino vetoed Jenkins's additional property tax cut (why, we will never know) but Jenkins and the BOL overrode that veto. Still, the instance shows, in our view, that Jenkins is serious about giving homeowners and taxpayers a break whenever possible.

As Deputy County Executive for 7 years under Latimer, Westchester County Budgets came in with a 0% property tax levy increase in six of those seven years. We are confident that Jenkins had input on those budgets and in providing property tax relief.

Jenkins also had 7 years to be a partner with Latimer in leading county government. Now Jenkins is ready to lead Westchester into the future.

We appreciate that Ken and his wife, Deborah Hudson-Jenkins, have lived in Yonkers since their marriage in 1982 and raised their children here. More than 40 years in Westchester give Jenkins firsthand experience about the challenges facing families in the county.

Jenkins has also worked in the private sector, building a career in telecommunications and technology with Apple, AT&T, Bell Atlantic, New York Telephone (Verizon), NYNEX, and Seer Technologies, and as a real estate agent.

Jenkins was also a political commentator for News 12 during its political heyday a while ago. He has a unique and interesting professional background that will serve the people of Westchester well.

Much like Latimer, Jenkins is known all over Westchester due to his numerous organizations Jenkins' extensive public and community involvement includes board service with the Greyston Foundation, United Way, Westchester County District Attorney's Community Advisory Committee, Westchester County Crime Stoppers and the Community Planning Council of Yonkers. He served as President of the Yonkers Branch of the NAACP and the Yonkers Community Action Program.

The comfort that the people of Westchester already have with Jenkins is an important reason that warrants his election. Jenkins represents a generation of Westchester residents who have stayed in Westchester when others have left for places across the country.

We applaud Chris Sculti for running on the republican party line and giving voters in Westchester a choice when they cast their ballot for County Executive. But we are disappointed that Sculti declined to debate Jenkins at a League of Women Voters forum. (See story on pg 14).

Most Westchester voters need to be reminded that there is a special election on February 11.

When Jenkins accepted the endorsement of Black Pastors from Westchester, one pastor said, "It's his time." We agree,

Ken Jenkins experience, integrity, and commitment to our county make him the ideal leader to take on the role of Westchester County Executive.

We endorse Ken Jenkins for Westchester County Executive in the special election on February 11 and in early voting.

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### ***Yonkers History, coninued from pg 3-***

Written in 1864 by President Abraham Lincoln, the letter also was signed by cabinet members Secretary of State William Seward, Secretary of the Treasury Salmon Chase, Secretary of War Edwin Stanton and Secretary of the Navy Gideon Welles.

Lincoln's letter stated, "The President of the United States and Heads of Departments tender their best wishes, and kind regards to the ladies who are managers of the Fair to be held at Yonkers for the benefit of the sick and wounded soldiers." Copies of the letter were sold, and the actual letter was raffled. The winner of the raffle took a copy and presented the letter to "the people of Yonkers." More than \$16,000 was raised at the fair; this would be equivalent to \$321,635.67 in today's dollars!

Thursday, February 13th

February 13, 1923: The steamer Ben Franklin of the Ben Franklin Transportation Company snapped its propeller trying to break through the thick ice off the Yonkers coast. It was put into dry dock for repairs, and the company had to use other company vessels to keep its river schedule.

February 13, 1942: The Yonkers Jewish Community Center's Club Maccabee held a "Gift for Yanks" dance, an idea conceived by Abe Cohen. Admission was a donation of an item soldiers might need or want. Most teens brought razor blades, writing paper, toothbrushes and toothpaste, shoe polish, things servicemen and women could use. The committee also received unusual items such as bed socks, dice, a copy of the book Robinson Crusoe, and an electric pants presser! These donations were sent to members of the Jewish Community Center serving in the armed services.

February 13, 1941: The Labor School of La Rabida Council, Knights of Columbus, opened. The free school was open to all men and women, regardless of their race, creed or color. The Council hope was for all workers, union and nonunion, to take advantage of the courses offered.

Friday, February 14th

February 14, 1916: Florance Sullivan announced the Lincoln Military Association acquired 600 acres of land in South Yonkers, including the Tibbetts Brook Valley, to be used both as a training ground and as a classroom for those who wanted "to obtain a knowledge of the military arts." The theory, according to Mr. Sullivan, was wars were "won only by volunteer soldiers after the regular army had been defeated."

February 14, 1935: Seven Yonkers organizations picketed the Royal Italian Consular Agent office on Main Street to protest Italy's attack on Ethiopia.

February 14, 1937: The New York Engineering Company plant closed because of a major water main break at Ashburton Avenue and Alexander Street. After the Water Bureau crews repaired the break, they estimated 1,500,000 gallons of water had been lost.

Saturday, February 15th

February 15, 1903: Yonkers resident John Kendrick Bangs was one of the keynote speakers at the Southern Society Dinner held at the Waldorf-Astoria; other speakers were Dr. Woodrow Wilson of Princeton and A. C. Braxton of Virginia. Bangs was a well-known writer, humorist, editor and satirist.

February 15, 1919: John Reed, a newspaper correspondent in Russia during the Russian Revolution, spoke on "What is Bolshevism" at the Labor Lyceum on Palisade Avenue.

Sunday, February 16th

February 16, 1919: A collection of war souvenirs gathered in war-torn France and Belgium went on exhibit at 5 Getty Square. The exhibition was arranged and organized by a group of Allied and American soldiers.

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.

Questions or comments on this column? Email [YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com](mailto: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).

## **Yonkers Charter School Foundation Elects New Leaders**



The Foundation in Support of Education Excellence (FSEE) has elected Elizabeth Bracken-Thompson and Eric Cruz, pictured above, as its new co-chairs.

Bracken-Thompson, a partner at Thompson & Bender, and Cruz, vice president of Innovation & Technology at Alexandria Real Estate Equities, will lead the foundation's fundraising efforts for the Charter School of Educational Excellence, a K-12 public charter school on Warburton Avenue. Both have served on the FSEE's board for years.

"As I pass the torch, I am filled with confidence and excitement for the future of the Foundation in Support of Educational Excellence. Elizabeth Bracken-Thompson and Eric Cruz bring an extraordinary blend of expertise, vision, and passion to this role. Their leadership will undoubtedly elevate our mission to provide life-changing opportunities for the students of the Charter School of Educational Excellence. I look forward to seeing their efforts create even greater impact in the years ahead," said Betsy Stern, outgoing chair of the FSEE.

Bracken-Thompson is the creative force behind Thompson & Bender's success and oversees all aspects of its advertising, integrated marketing, special events, public relations, and strategic planning initiatives. She began her career with Gannett Suburban Newspapers (now The Journal News) and rose to the position of vice president of marketing for Gannett's entire 10 newspaper group.

Cruz has a proven track record in strategic IT deployment, successful technical solutions, and leadership. He is recognized for motivating teams, strategic planning across markets, and establishing robust networks and cybersecurity protocols in real estate.

"As a long-time supporter of the foundation's work, I am deeply committed to advancing its mission of providing critical resources for the Charter School of Educational Excellence," said Bracken-Thompson. "Together, we will continue to build on the strong foundation established by Betsy Stern and drive efforts to ensure every student has the tools they need to succeed."

"Our shared goal is to expand opportunities for the students of the Charter School of Educational Excellence, empowering them to thrive academically and beyond. With the dedication of our board and community partners, I am confident we can take the foundation's impact to new heights," said Cruz.

In addition to the co-chair appointments, Mary Cahill recently joined the board of trustees.

The Charter School of Educational Excellence on Warburton Avenue in Yonkers is a K-12 public charter school with more than 1,000 students. Last year, the Class of 2024 received more than \$9 million in college scholarships. Founded in 2005, the school is celebrating its 20th anniversary in 2025.

*Yonkers Tuskegee Airman, continued from pg 1-*

Canadian Army during World War I, later became active in Yonkers' Samuel Dow Post VFW, serving many years as a Trustee and Financial Officer. A respected Scout leader, Ivan Sr. also served on the original Yonkers Youth Board, executive board of Yonkers' NAACP, Yonkers Veterans Agency, worked as a Senior Center leader and was president of the Yonkers Senior Citizens Advisory Committee. Community service was in Ivan Jr.'s DNA!

As a member of Boy Scout Troop 34, he received multiple merit badges and awards, including a public service badge for passing out 34 posters to businesses for the Yonkers Health Department's "Drink Milk" campaign. Ivan took part in class activities and programs, portraying a variety of roles, including his third-grade portrayal of Lawyer Abraham Lincoln in the School Founders Day Program.

A 1941 Roosevelt High graduate, Ivan McRae Jr. became Assistant Scoutmaster of his former troop; so respected, McRae Jr. was given the honor of accepting the parade flag presented to his troop.

While attending Columbia University, he worked for NY Central as a part time baggage porter at the Croton-Harmon Station. According to an interview his granddaughter Brianna published, while on duty he heard a loud commotion and ran to the waiting room to help; when he arrived, he learned Pearl Harbor had been attacked.

Ivan enlisted in the Army's Aviation Cadet Program and was chosen for Pilot Training at Tuskegee Army Airfield in 1943.

At 6'1", he was too tall to fit in a fighter plane; instead, he earned his wings as a Twin-Engine Bomber Pilot with the famed Tuskegee Airmen and flew B-25s.

McRae was attached to the 477th Bombardment Group organized that year, the first highly trained Black bombardment group in Air Force history.

Tuskegee Airfield was crowded with training classes already in progress, so his unit was assigned to Freeman Field March 1945.

Freeman Field was commanded by Colonel Robert Selway. He created two clubs for officers, emboldened by Major General Frank Hunter's remarks to the command. Hunter stated, "The War Department is not ready to recognize Blacks on the same level of social equal to white men... I will not tolerate any mixing of the races..."

McRae and the other officers were directed to use the Non-Commissioned Officers Club, forbidden to use the "Supervisory" Club, although lower ranked White officers were welcome there.

Three Black Officers were arrested when entering the Officers' Club, accused of "jostling" a Provost Marshall. In a carefully organized non-violent protest April 1945, later known as the "Freeman Field Mutiny," Black officers tried to enter the officers' club five men at a time; military police confronted and arrested them. Within a few days, sixty-one officers were arrested and confined to their quarters, charged with "disobeying a superior officer."

Charges were dropped against everyone but the three officers accused of using "violent activity." A few days later, Selway issued Base Regulation 85-2, dictating facilities the Airmen could use; he required every man to sign the order institutionalizing racism.

More than one hundred Black officers refused to sign this military version of "separate but equal," and were arrested. Flown to Godwin Field, they were placed under house arrest.

After pressure from the Black press who published their story and the NAACP, the Airmen were released. A few weeks later, the War Department determined Selway's Base Regulation 85-2 violated the Army's existing code.

The Army offered to remove reprimands from the officers' records, but not everyone wanted them removed. A rebuke for a courageous stand against injustice was a badge of honor.

The three officers accused of "using violent activity" were court-martialed and defended by future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. The decision was reached July 1945, exonerating two of the men; it was reported the third man, Lt. Roger Terry, got a light sentence. His insubordination charge was dismissed, but the Lieutenant was convicted of jostling an officer. He was fined \$150, demoted, and dishonorably discharged, hardly a light sentence. Forty years later, Assistant Secretary to the Airforce Rodney Coleman set aside Terry's conviction and demotion, removed his court martial, removed his dishonorable discharge, refunded his \$150 fine, and restored his rights and privileges. Coleman stated, "With this action, a terrible wrong in the annals of the US Military and US Air Force history has been righted."

Selway was relieved of command; West Point grad Colonel Benjamin Davis, a decorated Black officer, took command of the unit; for the first time, McRae's 477th Bombardment Group was led by Black officers.

McRae finally resumed training to fly missions in the Pacific, but the August 1945 end of World War II kept Second Lieutenant McRae out of combat.

He returned to New York after the war to finish his studies. Graduating from Columbia University's School of Engineering in 1948, he was awarded the prestigious Darling Prize, an annual monetary award given to "the most faithful and deserving student of the graduating class in mechanical engineering."

A few months after graduation, McRae married Marjorie Cox. The couple settled on Long Island, raising their four children in Dix Hills while Ivan worked for defense industries such as Fairchild Space and Defense Systems and Gould Simulations Systems.

The military functional "separate but equal" remained in effect for three years until President Truman took action. He was deeply disturbed about post war acts of violence against Black military members and veterans; Truman wanted civil rights reform.

July 26th, 1948, President Harry S. Truman signed Executive Order 9981, ended segregation by ordering full integration of all branches of the US military. It stated, "It is hereby declared to be the policy of the President that there shall be equality of treatment and opportunity for all persons in the armed services without regard to race, color, religion or national origin. This policy shall be put into effect as rapidly as possible... There shall be created in the National Military Establishment an advisory committee to be known as the President's Committee on Equality of Treatment and Opportunity in the Armed Services," The Committee's mission was to change military regulations to facilitate integration in the service.

Congress awarded the Tuskegee Airmen their highest honor for valor, the Congressional Gold Medal, on March 29, 2007; three hundred Airmen attended the ceremony and received medals from President George W. Bush. Presented to acknowledge and appreciate their "unique military record, which inspired revolutionary reform in the Armed Forces," the medal was designed specifically to honor the Airmen. One side of the medal portrays three Tuskegee Airmen—a pilot, a mechanic and an officer; on the reverse side are three planes the Airmen flew, the B-25, the P-40 and the P-51.

Ivan McRae received his medal in 2010 from Congressman Steve Israel, presented at a special ceremony at the American Airpower Museum in East Farmingdale.

McRae passed away six years later at the age of 93, laid to rest in Calverton National Cemetery.

In 1947, Freeman Army Airfield was deeded to the City of Seymour Indiana for a community airport. They opened a museum on the site in 1999, a museum which commemorates the WWII airfield, the men who trained there, the Women Airforce Service Pilots (WASPS) who ferried and tested planes for the men, and the Freeman Field Mutiny.

There are people who believe the adoption of the non-violent tradition of the American Civil Rights movement to their brave actions, forever changing the history of the American Armed Forces. Thank you, Ivan McRae, Jr., for standing up for your yourself, for fellow servicemen, for equality, for justice and for the future of our country.

*Dispatch from a Social Worker, continued from pg 1-*

assurance I have tried to provide all my clients. And I tried to do just that, letting him know that he had people who cared for him—I being one of them—and

that he was not alone in dealing with this fear.

And yet, I could not tell him that his fear was unjustified.

Earlier last week, the President of Colombia, Gustavo Petro—before capitulating to President Trump's demands of accepting migrants back to his nation—stated on X, "A migrant is not a criminal and must be treated with the dignity a human being deserves." I don't think the majority of this country would disagree with Petro's sentiment—perhaps that makes me naive.

But the current rhetoric around immigration—legal or otherwise—is not just about policy, nor is the presence of ICE merely just an example of law enforcement performing its function as an agent of the state. They are signals, and their message is as clear as the fear in my client's eyes: you are not welcome here, and you should be afraid.

What seems to be lost in these arguments about asylum, immigration, and border security are the people behind these debates. These are, by and large, God-fearing, hardworking, decent people who have laid down roots in this country, started families in this country, and contributed to the economy of this country. These are the people who construct those fancy, unaffordable high-rises in White Plains and New Rochelle; they are the nannies who take care of your children in Scarsdale and Harrison; they are the health aides who take care of your aging parents; they are the cooks and dishwashers at your favorite restaurant along the Hudson River; they are the parents of your child's friend in school.

They are the invisible spokes in our community, our society, and their contributions largely go unnoticed and unappreciated. They don't deserve our fear, contempt, or scapegoating for problems that were festering long before they arrived in this country.

I'm not suggesting that we be naive to the real-life impacts of immigration, nor am I suggesting we throw open the border and allow anyone to enter the country at any time without thinking of the consequences. We can have well-meaning disagreements on the merits of immigration: the effects on our economy, the already limited housing opportunities for citizens, concerns of social

cohesion, etc. We can debate policy.

But what can't get lost in the noise of these debates is my client, who just wants to learn to play a song on the guitar for his father—before he can't.

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## Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers

**Family Maple Tapping, Saturday Feb. 8, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Sugaring season has begun and we've got a fun way to enjoy it! We invite families and friend groups to come to learn how we tap our maple trees at Lenoir. This event will be held outdoors, so dress for the weather. Please arrive on time to experience the entire 30-minute program. Also: Feb. 15.

Reservations required <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/family-maple-tapping-tickets-1091363400309?aff=ebdssbdestsearch>  
**(914) 968-5851**

*Yonkers Democrats, continued from pg 1-*

"While this process might create the illusion of consensus, the true power in this race lies where it always has—with the voters of Yonkers.

"Let me be clear—I am fully committed to this race for City Council President. I am running because Yonkers needs real change. The current City Council leadership has failed to put the needs of our residents first and has prioritized self-serving interests over those of the people. It's time for a new direction that truly puts Yonkers first.

"I will be working closely with many of you to carry petitions. I am confident that together, we will bring the change Yonkers deserves," said Diaz, who is challenging the current Council President, Lakisha Collins-Bellamy.

Pineda-Isaac said, "I will not seek the endorsement of the Yonkers Democratic City Committee at the convention. Instead, I will run for reelection to the City Council's 2nd District in the Democratic Primary and leverage my vast network of volunteers and supporters to qualify for the ballot on my own.

"In my tenure as a City Councilmember, I have only run with the party's endorsement once. My service on the Council is a testament to the fact that it is the people who decide their representatives and no one else. I have continuously delivered for the people of the District, whether it's by funding the new Day-spring Community Center in Nodine Hill, passing an affordable housing ordinance, or requiring body cameras on police officers. They know that I have the record, leadership, and experience to lead our District through these challenging times, creating more affordable housing, making our communities safer, and funding our public schools. I am accountable to them and only to them.

"I strongly respect the district leaders who work tirelessly to advance Democratic party values in our city and are often underappreciated for their efforts. Many of these leaders support my candidacy, and I am deeply thankful.

"I look forward to prevailing in the primary and moving the party forward as one united front. With Donald Trump in the White House, there is no more important goal than coming together and fighting as one." said— Councilwoman Corazón Pineda-Isaac.

We recently spoke to Yonkers Democratic Party Chair Tom Meier about the upcoming election cycle. Meier said that the Yonkers Democratic Executive Committee will not endorse this year, and there might not be a convention. "None of the candidates rearing their heads will abide by the party's decision at a convention. So, I might not have a convention and let the democratic voters in Yonkers decide.

"The clock is ticking. We have a special election on February 11 and petitions will come out at the end of February. Meier said that the Yonkers Democratic Party is focused on getting Ken Jenkins elected County Executive on February 11.

"You will see us getting the message out. I have over 400 district leaders, and you multiply that by family, friends, and word of mouth, and that power is strong. We want voters to be aware of Ken's record and experience. He's from Yonkers and has served as Deputy County Executive. He has good name recognition, and we need to get people out to the polls for Kenny."

Other announced Democratic candidates for City Council include Alberto Vazquez for the 2nd District (against Pineda-Isaac) and Tim Hodges and Virgil Borelli for the 6th District (against Republican Councilman Anthony Merante).

Meier was critical of Pineda-Isaac's decision last year not to endorse Mayor Mike Spano after he defeated her in a Democratic primary. "Our Mayor is the titular head of the democratic party in Yonkers. You ran against the Mayor, but you never supported the winner of your own democratic party and never endorsed Mayor Spano.

"You also voted against term limits, but are you now running for another term on the Council? Now, you want the party that overwhelmingly supports the Mayor to support you? That's a tough proposition for many loyal Yonkers Democrats," said Meier.

*Next week: Three City Council President to Face Off in Democratic Primary in June.*

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## Sculi Declines to Debate Jenkins in LWV Forum for County Executive



**Republican County Executive candidate Christine Sculti**

By Dan Murphy

In 2021, republican Christine Sculti ran for Westchester County Executive against democrat George Latimer. During that campaign, Sculti refused to participate in the League of Women Voters debate against now Congressman Latimer.

Now four years later and Sculti is once again the GOP nominee for County Executive. And, once again, unfortunately, Sculti has declined to participate in a LWV debate days before a special election will be held for County Executive on Feb. 11.

Here is the release. “The League of Women Voters of Westchester announces that it will not be holding a Candidate Forum for the Westchester County Executive Special Election. Democratic candidate Ken Jenkins had stated that he would be available for the proposed February 3, 2025, virtual candidate forum. However, Republican candidate Christine Sculti declined the League’s invitation to participate.

“A candidates’ meeting with only one candidate present is an “empty chair” meeting, and is not permitted under LWVW rules and its policy of nonpartisanship. LWVW regrets that this important proposed educational event for voters had to be cancelled.

“This is a lost opportunity for the public to hear directly from candidates during a virtual event or post-event recording and to address their own questions to them through electronic submission,” stated Westchester County League President Kathy Meany. “We strive to run forums in a respectful, non-partisan environment that encourages civil discourse and allows candidates to address voters’ inquiries and concerns. It is a disappointment that there will be no such opportunity for voters residing in Westchester to learn more about the candidates running for County Executive in this Special Election.”

Here’s what we wrote four years ago. Are political debates fast becoming a thing of the past? The Westchester League of Women Voters, LWV, longtime sponsors of candidate forums in Westchester County, announced on Sept. 27 that they were canceling their upcoming forums for County Executive and County Clerk because of the lack of participation of the Republican candidate for County Executive, Christine Sculti, and the GOP candidate for County Clerk, Scooter Scott.

The Democratic candidates in both races, incumbent Westchester County Executive George Latimer and incumbent Westchester County Clerk both accepted the League of Women Voters’ invitation to participate, but the organization’s policy requires at least two participants for a candidates forum to be held.

In recent years, some republicans have been reluctant to participate in LWV debates for what some believe is a democratic bias in some forums against republican candidates.

But as one westchester republican told us, “You have to participate in any and all debates to get your message out and hope for a newsworthy event or slip up from your opponent. Especially, if you are the challenger, you have to get into any exchange you can with County Exec. Latimer and County Clerk Idoni. It’s kind of like waiving the white flag not to do so.” End of prior story.

We understand the “gripe” from Westchester republicans, which we have heard for some time, that there is a “democratic bias” favoring Westchester dems.

But even if that is true, it is not enough to boycott, and not let the people of Westchester meet you and hear from you, and contrast your views with your opponent.

Chris Sculti had some issues to run on this year. She’s has articulated those views on social media. She should have attended the debate and presented those views.

Clearly, County Executive Ken Jenkins has more experience in these types of forums. But you never know what may happen in debates. Sculti could have hoped for the best and given it her best shot.

Democrats hold a massive enrollment edge in Westchester County. That is a fact, and those voters are inclined to support democrats.

So what? Does that mean Sculti or any republican should throw in the towel, which is what passing on the one big debate appears to look like.

If you want to lead Westchester County, then stand up and tell them why they should vote for you at the League of Women Voters debate.

I have watched many republicans do just fine in LWV debates. It’s not impossible.

Note: District Attorney Susan Cacace, a democrat, skipped last year’s LWV forum. So, people from both parties opt out on occasion.

One of our independent minded friends from Tuckahoe wrote to us, “I completely agree with you. She does have some issues to run. A real leader will not be afraid to debate their opponent no matter what the perceived bias is. If you’re prepared and know your stuff, it shouldn’t matter. If you are not comfortable speaking in public, get some training. Get out of your comfort zone.”

*Free Parks Passes for Veterans, continued from pg 2-*

Jenkins said: “Veterans have given so much to protect our freedoms, and it is our responsibility to show our gratitude in meaningful ways. Signing this legislation into law ensures that all veterans feel recognized and valued. Our parks provide opportunities for relaxation, connection, and healing, and this initiative opens those benefits to every veteran in our County.”

The legislation, approved by the Westchester County Board of Legislators, eliminates the financial barrier to obtaining a Park Pass, allowing veterans to enjoy the mental, physical, and social benefits of outdoor recreation.

Westchester County Board of Legislators Chairman Vedat Gashi said: “Such enthusiastic bipartisan support from legislators reflects the gratitude we all feel for these important community members.”

Legislator Erika Pierce said: “We are so proud to have veterans here in Westchester County. We value them, their families and the skills they contribute to our communities. We wanted to find a way to give back to them, especially those who otherwise wouldn’t be able to afford visiting our beautiful parks.”

Veteran and County Attorney John Nonna said: “This is a thank you that goes a very long way, and as a veteran I am grateful. Whether it’s hiking along scenic trails, spending time with family in nature, or participating in community programs, veterans now have enhanced access to this award winning County park system.”

Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Commissioner Kathy O’Connor said: “Our veterans deserve our utmost gratitude and support. I am thrilled that they will now have the opportunity to apply for our resident park passes for free so they can enjoy our parks at the discounted rates.”

Veterans Service Agency Director Ron Tocci said: “The passage of this legislation reflects the County’s ongoing commitment to honoring and supporting its veteran community. By removing the financial barrier to enjoying County parks, the bill acknowledges the sacrifices made by veterans while promoting their physical health, mental well-being, and connection to the community.

To apply Veterans must provide:

Proof of County residency (e.g., New York State driver’s license, lease, deed, or utility bill).

Proof of veteran status (e.g., Department of Veterans Affairs-issued Veteran Identification Card (VIC), Veteran Health Identification Card (VHIC), or New York State driver’s license with Veteran designation).

This legislation extends the benefit to all veterans, expanding the County’s existing program that provides free Park Passes to veterans with service-connected disabilities.

*14 Year Old Charged, continued from pg 1-*

DA Cacace said: “The circumstances surrounding this case are tragic and disturbing. When I took office, I made a commitment to address the scourge of gun violence that affects all of us in Westchester, but our cities most acutely. We will pursue every avenue available to keep guns off our streets and out of the hands of those who would misuse them. Daquan Glenn should be alive today, and we will work to provide his family, and the community, with a measure of justice.”

At approximately 5 p.m. on Aug. 26, 2024, the defendant is accused of shooting at two victims, one fatally, at Doyle Park in Yonkers. Daquan Glenn, 29, sustained multiple gunshot wounds, including two gunshot wounds to the head. He was later pronounced dead at Saint Joseph’s Medical Center.

The second victim was discovered a short distance away with a gunshot wound to the leg. He survived his injuries.

The defendant is accused of aiding, abetting, and acting in concert with another person while committing these crimes.

Because of the defendant’s age, the murder charge carries a maximum potential penalty of 15 years to life in state prison.

The defendant is due to appear in court again on Feb. 6.

In December, the defendant was charged in a felony complaint with attempted murder and attempted assault, among other charges, in connection with an unrelated incident that occurred one month prior to the Doyle Park shooting. That case remains pending.

The investigation into the Doyle Park shooting was conducted by the Yonkers Police Department and the FBI’s Safe Streets Task Force.

The case is being prosecuted by Bureau Chief Jonathan Strongin and ADA Brian Bendish, Senior Trial Counsel in the Homicide Bureau.

**“Were it left to me to decide if we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter.”**  
**-Thomas Jefferson**

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PF-SPAD0505111658 MPM 01/05 Rev 1

## PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, February 19, 2025 AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN YONKERS CITY HALL, 40 SOUTH BROADWAY, 4TH FLOOR (building is handicapped accessible).

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

## OPEN/CONTINUED HEARINGS

# 5797 – Area Variance - Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Marketin Hila/110 Ravine Realty LLC, Owner, on premises known as 110 Ravine Avenue, Block: 2118, Lot: 39, Zone: A (B29521)

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H-4V45sMcWs0\\_3rOyDixjXc\\_ttIYGnZq?usp=share\\_link](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H-4V45sMcWs0_3rOyDixjXc_ttIYGnZq?usp=share_link)

# 5850 – Area Variance – Kathleen Bradshaw, Esq., on behalf of 194 Yonkers Avenue LLC, owner, on premises known as 182 Fillmore Street aka 194 Yonkers Avenue, Block: 405, Lots: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7,8, 9,13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Zone: BA -

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rndP3X61js\\_cy3P25c-FkrsMpUyXHf34?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rndP3X61js_cy3P25c-FkrsMpUyXHf34?usp=sharing)

# 5854 – Area Variance – Stephen A. Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of P and B Yonkers LLC, owner, on Premises known as 37-43 Post Street, Block: 158, Lots: 66 & 68, Zone: M (B31035) \*Adjourned

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CD\\_9e4Guj-ufCACfnF18U\\_5fJkkwC9wT?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CD_9e4Guj-ufCACfnF18U_5fJkkwC9wT?usp=sharing)

# 5836 – Use & Area Variance – Mastrogiacomo Engineering PC, on behalf of My Main Man LLC, Owner, on premises known as 47 High Street aka 102 Park Avenue, Block: 2167, Lot: 1.3, Zone: G (B32874)

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KcvFoSwZw6ljqBkVUCJQsWyXq4z4Pn-x?usp=sharing>

# 5855 – Area Variance – Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of 160 Stanley Avenue LLC, owner, on premises known as 160 Stanley Ave, Block: 184, Lots: 68, Zone: A (B00033778)

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sBCFaH0Iubtvx\\_DMelZGYwbaUBYOPlzH?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sBCFaH0Iubtvx_DMelZGYwbaUBYOPlzH?usp=sharing)

#5864 - Area Variance - James Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of T&H 1828 LLC, owner, On premises known as 1828 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4615, Lot: 22, Zone M (B0034059)

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#5867 – Area Variance - Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of 221-223 Buena Vista Avenue, Block: 172, Lot: 92 & 94.98 (B0035075) Zone: UR-LD, Two Twenty One Vista Group LLC owner, on premises know as 221 Buena Vista Avenue

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1F1m-R-0c-gBFiMzvd3FNmtZIP7EDj1mO?usp=sharing>

#5868 – Area Variance – Shahin Badaly on behalf of 221 Lake Avenue, Block: 2179, Lot: 02 Zone: A&I District; 222 Lake Partners LLC, owner, on premises know as 222 Lake Avenue\* Adjourned

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mf7O9\\_0k7ICtg3VjstKmCYFc2p9cjd?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1mf7O9_0k7ICtg3VjstKmCYFc2p9cjd?usp=sharing)

#5852 - Area Variance - Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of 94 St. Andrews Place, Block: 133, Lot: 3 (B0033786) Zone: A, Pleasure Home Improvement LLC, owner, on premises know as 94 St. Andrews Place

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1-WAnk-6N6D-BLNUSRFpEp6VBcZd6V80?usp=sharing>

#5870 – Area Variance – Cristian Hernandez on behalf of 105 Ridgewood Avenue, Block: 6335, Lot 20 (B0034666) Zone: S-50; Khaled Awwad, owner, on premises know as 105 Ridgewood Avenue.

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#5872 – Area Variance – Ellen Theg , on behalf of Groundwork Hudson Valley Inc., owner, on premises known as 8 Orchard Street, Block:2075, Lot:13 (B0035484) Zone :MG

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#5873- Area Variance- Improvement to a Non-Conforming Use - Nick Faustini, Architect, on behalf of 148-158 Ludlow St. Corp. ,owner, On premises known as 148 Ludlow Street, Block:165, Lot:12, (B202101347) Zone: I

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o98Rq5rr-geGQr2l-16SP7g3GbfqYZK\\_?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o98Rq5rr-geGQr2l-16SP7g3GbfqYZK_?usp=sharing)

#5764- Area Variance - Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of Woodycrest Yonkers LLC, owner, Block: 2207, Lot 21 (B0024208), on premises know as 37 Woodycrest Avenue, Zone: T

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TS9\\_F9jAFdMVLmrRI-47Z7vWeraW1hP?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TS9_F9jAFdMVLmrRI-47Z7vWeraW1hP?usp=sharing)

#5763 – Area Variance - Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of Woodycrest Yonkers LLC, owner, Block: 2207, Lot 23 (B0024199), on premises know as 33 Woodycrest Avenue, Zone: T

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13ZXZ25vr0exLhnUzHnm7ewIVyOkQEHVP?usp=sharing>

#5874- Area Variance—HDR (Alicia Vaccaro, PE), on behalf of NYC DEP- Bureau of Water Supply (Maria Mandarino, PE). , owner, on premises known as 601 Midland Avenue, Block: 8001, Lot: 10, (B0035159) Zone: S-60

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#5875 – Area Variance – Andrew Collingham, RA , on behalf 20 Ferndale Realty LLC, owner , on premises know as 20 Ferndale Street, Block:2375; Lot: 14 ( A0000235) ; Zone: M

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1b4ZLmVx93CJ7YnCY9Yq2F9TmDz8eXEWoP?usp=sharing>

#5876 - Area Variance – Andrew Collingham, RA , on behalf Samuel Olivieri, owner , on premises know as 18 Ferndale Street, Block:2375; Lot: 14; ( B0033562) Zone: M

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#5877 – Area Variance- Diana Toledo, on behalf of Toledo LLC, owner, on premises know as 29 Cliff Avenue, Block: 128; Lot: 21 (B0035812) Zone: M

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#5878 – Area Variance – Maximillian Mahalek, Esq.,Cuddy & Feder LLP on behalf of Central Plaza Associates LLC, owner, on premises know as 2542 Central Park Avenue aka 2604 Central Park Avenue, Block:4877 Lot:1 (B0035618) Zone: BR

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TM1vg\\_bChwa4-xX7RuZaMbyJxQjZaLk?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TM1vg_bChwa4-xX7RuZaMbyJxQjZaLk?usp=sharing)

## NEW HEARINGS

#5811 – Brian T. Sinsabaugh, Esq, Zarin & Steinmetz LLP, on behalf of Warburton Equities LLC, on premises know as 289 Warburton Avenue and 230 Woodworth Avenue , Block 2116 Lots:40 & 7, Zone: A, request for Area Variance Approval Renewal to renew the July 19, 2023 ZBA Resolution of Approval

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1LZNApx4mudDxRIX28IY-06NO6fufPt7w?usp=sharing>

#5879 – Improvement to a Non-Conforming Use –Andrew M. Romano, Esq., on behalf of Holy Apostolic Church. , owner, on premises known as 129 Buena Vista Ave, Block: 510, Lot: 27, (B0033159) Zone: CM

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cGo5mBWlLohorm\\_tffNLI5GDaCCKPxrL?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1cGo5mBWlLohorm_tffNLI5GDaCCKPxrL?usp=sharing)

#5880 -#5880 – Area Variance -Shahin Badaly on behalf of Eric Byars Freeman, 5 Woodworth Avenue, Block: 2008, Lot: 14, Zone: D-MX;(B0035418) owner, on premises know as 5 Woodworth Avenue

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Ilg4amV3RGTnsYwNnd2nJ4lhMsNslXN8r?usp=sharing>

Supplemental Summons and Notice of Object of Action Supreme Court Of The State Of New York County Of Westchester Action To Foreclose A Mortgage Index #: 56421/2024 Keybank, NA Plaintiff, vs Unknown Heirs Of Helena Daniel AKA Helen Daniel If Living, And If He/She Be Dead, Any And All Persons Unknown To Plaintiff, Claiming, Or Who May Claim To Have An Interest In, Or General Or Specific Lien Upon The Real Property Described In This Action; Such Unknown Persons Being Herein Generally Described And Intended To Be Included In Wife, Widow, Husband, Widower, Heirs At Law, Next Of Kin, Descendants, Executors, Administrators, Devisees, Legatees, Creditors, Trustees, Committees, Lienors, And Assignees Of Such Deceased, Any And All Persons Deriving Interest In Or Lien Upon, Or Title To Said Real Property By, Through Or Under Them, Or Either Of Them, And Their Respective Wives, Widows, Husbands, Widowers, Heirs At Law, Next Of Kin, Descendants, Executors, Administrators, Devisees, Legatees, Creditors, Trustees, Committees, Lienors, And Assigns, All Of Whom And Whose Names, Except As Stated, Are Unknown To Plaintiff, Mary Ann Daniel As Heir To The Estate Of Helena Daniel A/K/A Helen Daniel, Donella Marie Daniel As Heir To The Estate Of Helena Daniel A/K/A Helen Daniel, James Daniel As Heir To The Estate Of Helena Daniel A/K/A Helen Daniel, Loretta H. Davis As Heir To The Estate Of Milo R. Davis, Milo R. Davis, JR. As Heir To The Estate Of Milo R. Davis, Unknown Heirs Of Milo R. Davis If Living, And If He/She Be Dead, Any And All Persons Unknown To Plaintiff, Claiming, Or Who May Claim To Have An Interest In, Or General Or Specific Lien Upon The Real Property Described In This Action; Such Unknown Persons Being Herein Generally Described And Intended To Be Included In Wife, Widow, Husband, Widower, Heirs At Law, Next Of Kin, Descendants, Executors, Administrators, Devisees, Legatees, Creditors, Trustees, Committees, Lienors, And Assignees Of Such Deceased, Any And All Persons Deriving Interest In Or Lien Upon, Or Title To Said Real Property By, Through Or Under Them, Or Either Of Them, And Their Respective Wives, Widows, Husbands, Widowers, Heirs At Law, Next Of Kin, Descendants, Executors, Administrators, Devisees, Legatees, Creditors, Trustees, Committees, Lienors, And Assigns, All Of Whom And Whose Names, Except As Stated, Are Unknown To Plaintiff, People Of The State Of New York, United States Of America On Behalf Of The IRS John Doe (Those unknown tenants, occupants, persons or corporations or their heirs, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, guardians, assignees, creditors or successors claiming an interest in the mortgaged premises.) Defendant(s). Mortgaged Premises: 80 Touissant Avenue Yonkers, NY 10710 To the Above named Defendant: You are hereby summoned to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Supplemental Summons, to serve a notice of appearance, on the Plaintiff(s) attorney(s) within twenty days after the service of this Supplemental Summons, exclusive of the day of service (or within 30 days after the service is complete if this Supplemental Summons is not personally delivered to you within the State of New York). In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the Complaint. The Attorney for Plaintiff has an office for business in the County of Erie. Trial to be held in the County of Westchester. The basis of the venue designated above is the location of the Mortgaged Premises. TO Unknown Heirs of Helena Daniel AKA Helen Daniel, Unknown Heirs Defendants In this Action. The foregoing Supplemental Summons is served upon you by publication, pursuant to an order of HON. Gretchen Walsh of the Supreme Court Of The State Of New York, dated the Tenth day of January, 2025 and filed with the Complaint in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Westchester, in the City of White Plains. The object of this action is to foreclosure a mortgage upon the premises described below, dated December 30, 2011, executed by Helena Daniel AKA Helen Daniel (who died on January 20, 2019, a resident of the county of Westchester, State of New York) to secure the sum of \$150,000.00. The Mortgage was recorded at Instrument Number 520373408 in the Office of the Westchester County Clerk on April 11, 2012. The property in question is described as follows: 80 Touissant Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710 NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this Foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT. DATED: January 15, 2025 Gross Polowy LLC Attorney(s) For Plaintiff(s) 1775 Wehrle Drive, Suite 100 Williamsville, NY 14221 The law firm of Gross Polowy LLC and the attorneys whom it employs are debt collectors who are attempting to collect a debt. Any information obtained by them will be used for that purpose. 84237

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