

PRESORT-STD  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
White Plains, NY  
Permit #7164

# Yonkers Rising

YonkersTimes.com

Friday January 12, 2024

## Outrage Over Anti-Semitic Incident at High School Girls Basketball Game in Yonkers



Members of The Leffell School girls basketball team & coach John Tessitore

By Dan Murphy

On Jan. 4, members of The Leffell School's Woman's Basketball Team, were the subject of anti-Semitic remarks during a game against Roosevelt High School in Yonkers. The slurs came directly from members of the Roosevelt HS girls basketball team, and were related to the Israeli war against Hamas as a result of the terror attack on October 7.

The game was cancelled during the 3rd Quarter, and security walked off members of The Leffell School. One of the players for The Leffell School, a private, Jewish school in Westchester, wrote a letter for their school newspaper detailing what happened.

"Throughout the first half of our game against Roosevelt High School in Yonkers, there was a somewhat hostile environment, with substantially more jabs and comments thrown at the players on our team than what I have experienced in the past. Despite this, our team chose to let their aggressiveness fuel us going into the second half of the game, as we continued to play passionately.

"However, all of that changed in the third quarter. Members of our team started to get injured from the other team's physical style of play. At the end of

*continued on pg 10-*

## MGM Resorts Unveils Vision for Empire City Casino-Yonkers if Full Scale Gaming Approved



A 5,000 seat entertainment venue are part of MGM plans for a new Casino in Yonkers

MGM Resorts International recently unveiled its vision to transition Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts into a world-class entertainment destination, MGM Empire City, if awarded a commercial casino license for its historic Yonkers, New York site. Key elements of the phase one design include a comprehensive casino floor redevelopment and expansion, 5,000-capacity entertainment venue, state-of-the-art BetMGM sportsbook, food and beverage outlets by celebrated chefs, cocktail bars and lounges, technologically advanced meeting spaces and more.

MGM Empire City's plans feature a complete property redevelopment shifting from a video lottery terminal racino into a full-scale commercial casino with live-dealer table games, the newest slot machines and a high-limit gaming area for the most discerning casino guests. The design includes the addition of several new destination dining experiences, including a modern steakhouse.

*continued on pg 13-*

## Yonkers Public Schools Hire Anibal Soler Jr. as Next Superintendent



L:R Rev. Steve Lopez, Yonkers Public Schools Board President, Anibal Soler, Yonkers Newly Confirmed Superintendent of Schools, & Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano

On January 9, the Yonkers Board of Education confirmed Mr. Anibal Soler Jr. as the new Superintendent of the Yonkers Public Schools. Soler will begin his post on May 1, and was selected after a national search process.

Yonkers Board President Reverend Steve Lopez stated, "I am thrilled to announce the appointment of Mr. Anibal Soler Jr. as our new Superintendent. Our exhaustive national search has culminated in selecting a leader whose unparalleled experience in transforming urban school districts is a perfect match for our needs. Mr. Soler's exemplary track record in boosting student achievement and his deep commitment to community engagement embody the ideal qualities we sought for this pivotal role. His innovative leadership and visionary approaches are poised to make a profound impact on our students and the Yonkers community as a whole. We are united in our excitement and look forward to the positive changes his tenure will bring."

"We welcome Mr. Soler to Yonkers, along with his impressive and extensive experience as a school administrator and educator," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. "His sensibility and passion for excellence reflect the values and policies we need in order to continue the progress made by the Yonkers

*continued on pg 4-*

## If Bowman Beats Latimer, Could a Republican Beat Bowman?



Jeanine Pirro



Congressman Jamaal Bowman

By Dan Murphy

The race for Congress in Westchester between Congressman Jamaal Bowman and County Executive George Latimer will be one of the most watched democratic primaries in the country. Whoever wins the democratic primary for Congress in the 16th district of NY, (lower and mid-Westchester) in June, they will represent the democratic primary in November 2024.

Voters in the 16th district-NY have elected a democratic to represent them for the past 30+ years. Congressman Bowman has represented the 16th for four years. Before that, Congressman Eliot Engel served for 28 years.

The political question that some are asking is, if Bowman defeats Latimer, can a republican beat Bowman? Has Bowman angered, turned off, or disap-

*continued on pg 11-*

## Westchester's First Baby New Year-2024!



Congratulations to Alaysia Miller, left, who gave birth to Adrien Miller on New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 2024, at 12:47 a.m., at New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital. Baby Adrien weighed 8 pounds, 11.2 oz, and 20 inches. Both mother and son are healthy and happy.

## Letter to the Editor

As a former Yonkers Public Schools teacher who made respect for others through exposure a goal in my classes, I am appalled and disgusted at the behavior of the basketball players who blatantly used antisemitic remarks against the players from the Leffel School.

My question? Why isn't antisemitism being addressed universally in the Yonkers public schools.

I feel strongly that the horrific behavior of the students involved Must Not continue. It is the job of all those who have contact with the students to keep them all safe and to be respectful to others.

After I retired, the district ran an amazing program I was involved with which was about the Holocaust. It taught understanding and respect for those who are different and who learned so much from horrific experiences they went through.

As a Jewish teacher in a district where there are so few Jewish children it is so important for students to learn, understand and respect others.

If this behavior is allowed to continue, Jews today-who will be next?

WR Hollander  
White Plains

## Mordance Ballet Company Relocates to Yonkers



MorDance, the trailblazing ballet company renowned for pushing artistic boundaries and fostering impactful social change, is delighted to announce its exciting relocation to the vibrant city of Yonkers. This strategic move marks a pivotal moment in MorDance's history, opening doors to expanded opportunities, heightened community engagement, and the realization of the company's long-term vision.

Founded in NYC in 2014, MorDance has consistently challenged ballet's traditional structures to embody a more inclusive and diverse vision of the artform. Now, as MorDance sets its sights on Yonkers, the company is poised to infuse the city with its unique blend of contemporary ballet and artistic innovation.

Founder and Artistic Director, Morgan McEwen, expressed her enthusiasm for the move, stating, "Yonkers offers a vibrant cultural landscape, and we are eager to contribute to its artistic tapestry. Our relocation is not just about finding a new home for MorDance; it's about building bridges through the transformative power of ballet. We believe in the ability of the arts to inspire, connect, and enrich lives, and we are thrilled to embark on this journey in Yonkers."

Through the generosity of AMS Acquisitions, MorDance will take up temporary residence in an extraordinary 12,000-square-foot venue in the heart of downtown Yonkers overlooking the Hudson River. The company perceives this incredible opportunity as a prelude to establishing a lasting legacy and forever home in Yonkers. This interim space will serve as a dynamic platform for MorDance to immerse itself in the local community, cultivate a new more expansive audience base, and launch outreach initiatives.

Looking ahead, MorDance envisions the establishment of a 200-seat black box theater and rehearsal space. More than a mere venue, the center will embody the company's core values of community, creativity, and collaboration. This ambitious project reflects MorDance's commitment to leaving an indelible mark on the cultural landscape of Yonkers.

MorDance's plans for the upcoming year are nothing short of ambitious. The company is set to unveil an expanded and captivating programming lineup, promising audiences an immersive and unforgettable ballet experience.

As the Hudson River Museum's Spring/Summer 2024 Teaching Artist In Residence, MorDance is thrilled to collaborate with the Museum on multiple public events and performances inspired by the exhibition Rivers Flow/Artists Connect.

MorDance will kick off its first Yonkers performance season from April 30 to May 4, followed by its long-standing NYC season at New York Live Arts in Manhattan. The company plans to open its rehearsals to the public regularly in Yonkers, and anticipates launching a series of free outdoor performances in the summer of 2024. MorDance is excited to expand its outreach programs into the Yonkers and Westchester communities while maintaining its current programs in NYC.

MorDance's mission is rooted in fostering a more dynamic and inclusive future for the performing arts by enhancing accessibility and creating empowered environments for creative expression. MorDance invites the Yonkers community and beyond to join them in this thrilling new chapter. Visit [MorDance.org](http://MorDance.org) for more information.

**Untermeyer Performing Arts Council**  
Mayor Mike Spano  
**Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation**

*Present another free Untermeyer Performing Arts Council Program  
brought to you by Empire City Casino by MGM*



**WORKSHOP:  
THEATER GAMES  
AND IMPROV**

"JOIN US FOR A 90 MINUTE WORKSHOP, WHERE WE WILL ENGAGE WITH THE LIBERATING POWER OF THE PERFORMING ARTS THROUGH A SERIES OF FUN THEATRICAL GAMES AND EXERCISES."

**WHEN: SUNDAY 1/21 11:30AM-1PM**

**WHERE: CHARLES COLA COMMUNITY CENTER 945 N BROADWAY, YONKERS, NY 10701**

**UNTERMEYER PERFORMING ARTS COUNCIL**

REGISTER AT  OR: [RIVPLAYHOUSE.ORG/ONSTAGE](http://RIVPLAYHOUSE.ORG/ONSTAGE)







BY MGM RESORTS



## In Home Personal Training

*In-Home Personal Training Available. NASM, EMT and Special Needs Certified. Strength Training, Fat Loss, and Muscle Building. Virtual and online coaching available. Text or call Andrew at 914-646-1718.*

SAVE ON YOUR  
**Travel Plans!**

Up to **75%**  
more than **500 Airlines**  
and **300,000 Hotels** across the world!

*Let us do the research for you for free... we'll save you time and money*



*Spend your travel dollars when you get there **not getting there!***

We're not allowed to publish fares online so call for the best rates now **877-988-7277**

## January 4th Was Nancy Maron Day in Yonkers



(left to right): Nancy Maron receiving the Velma K. Moore Award from LTAS President Jean Currie.

Mayor Mike Spano declared January 4th Nancy Maron Day in a proclamation presented at Yonkers Public Library (YPL)'s Riverfront Library earlier today. The Mayor, YPL trustees, library staff, family and friends assembled to witness YPL Board of Trustees President Nancy Maron receive the Velma K. Moore Award from Jean Currie, President of the Library Trustees Association Section (LTAS) of the New York Library Association (NYLA). This is a statewide award that has been presented annually since 1962 to a library trustee or board that has "made exemplary contributions to the development of library services in New York State."

The award was presented with a \$1,500 check, which Nancy donated to YPL in order to support library programs and services.

Nancy Maron first became a Trustee on the YPL Board of Trustees in 2012. In 2014, she was elected as President of the Board of Trustees, a role she still holds. During her tenure as a Trustee, Nancy has been responsible for many accomplishments and innovations, including:

- Co-founding the Foundation for the Yonkers Public Library (FYPL) in late 2017. This organization helps raise vital funds for innovative programs and services, and is an important advocacy group when the library needs it. (FYPL just wrote YPL a check to support library programs! If you want to support it, donate here.)

- Building consensus around the need for restoring the Will Library's facade, a multimillion dollar capital project.

- Crafting YPL's first ever public Annual Reports as a means of showcasing and visualizing the library's major successes.

- Shepherding the library through two Five Year Plans of Service: the 2017-2021 Strategic Plan and the recently released 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.

- Guiding the library through two director searches. Providing oversight and support to the library during the COVID-19 pandemic. Working with library staff through a rebranding campaign in 2023. Congratulations!

## Feeder Watch at Lenoir Preserve with Hudson River Audubon Society

All are welcome. We sit inside a cozy room in the Lenoir Preserve Nature Center and watch birds come to the outdoor feeders. A great way to learn about backyard birds, if you're not familiar with them. A citizen science project of the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. Hot drinks and snacks served, too.

Multiple dates: Saturday, January 13, 10AM - Noon, Sunday, January 14, 2PM - 4PM, Saturday, January 27, 10AM - Noon, Sunday, January 28, 2PM - 4PM. Cost: Free

Winter Birds Field Trip with Hudson River Audubon Society | Saturday, January 27, 2024 at 8 AM Meet at Pelham Bay Park at 8 AM; far left corner of the Orchard Beach parking lot. We will search the woods and water for winter birds. American Wigeon, Bufflehead, Red-breasted Merganser should be in the bays.

Lenor Preserve, 19 Dudley Street, Yonkers, NY 10701

## Antisemitism: Yes, it has Existed in Westchester and Yonkers



By Eric Wolf Schoen

In large part fueled by what is going on in the Middle East, Antisemitism has reared its ugly head again throughout the United States and other parts of the world. This is particularly true in areas such as New York and places where there are large Jewish populations. Jewish College students are afraid to go to class, Jewish teachers have every word they say monitored, and Jews are afraid to leave their homes for fear of attack.

I planned on writing about antisemitism that members of my family and I have experienced dating back to before I was born in an article in these newspapers. But when you live in an area chock full of news and information that people need to know about, you first want to share that news that affects the population you are writing for and put broader topics like antisemitism off to the side.

Then you have an incident like what occurred Thursday at a basketball game between Yonkers Public Schools students from Roosevelt High School in Yonkers and Leffell School in Hartsdale, formerly the Solomon Schechter school. It reminds you to never forget about important topics that hit close to home in your life and never put them to the side.

Allegations were made and substantiated that one Roosevelt High School student said 'Free Palestine' during the game. That student was suspended from the basketball team. Another allegation was made that a Roosevelt student said, 'I support Hamas you (expletive) Jew.'

Another published account has Roosevelt students shouting other antisemitic slurs and curses and 'Free Palestine' at Leffell School players.

Glad to see the Yonkers Public School district took quick action on the student with the substantiated comment. If investigation finds more students made antisemitic remarks, those students need to be dismissed from the team per the District Code of Conduct and the rest of the teams games need to be cancelled. The Coach of the Roosevelt team was suspended from the team and the public needs to know why this occurred.

The District must continue its investigations, but an outside party needs to be brought in from the State Education Department or the section basketball organization to review what went on here and to be sure the district response is appropriate. I agree with the restorative Justice circle outlined by the Interim Superintendent of Schools and that this incident can be used as a 'teachable moment.' However, those students or district staff who acted improperly must be sanctioned.

The investigation must determine why no Yonkers Public School participates in the Anti Defamation League's 'No Place for Hate' anti bias program a reported 75 schools in Westchester do. The answer to that as a former student and Administrator in the district could be that Yonkers never experienced this problem in the past. When I graduated high school in 1978 the district was 50% white and 50% minority, black and Hispanic. Everyone got along, and though it is over 40 years ago the district never had or has had problems like what occurred on Thursday.

State Senator Shelley Mayer's comment that an initial statement she saw from the school district that wasn't shared publicly minimized the impact of the incident also needs investigation from an outside source to see who generated the statement. In light of the antisemitism currently going on in the world

continued on pg 10-

**Make the smart and ONLY CHOICE when tackling your roof!**

**Limited Time Offer! SAVE!**  
 up to **50% OFF** + **10% OFF**  
 ON YOUR INSTALLATION  
 TAKE AN ADDITIONAL 10% OFF  
 Additional savings for military, health workers and first responders

**ERIC** FREE ESTIMATE  
 Metal Roofs 1.855.492.6084  
 Bpna 0/51002 MADE IN THE U.S.A.

How offers only. Does not include material costs. Cannot be combined with any other offer. Minimum purchase required. Other restrictions may apply. This is an advertisement placed on behalf of Erie Construction Mfg. Inc. ("Erie"). Offer terms and conditions may apply and the offer may not be available in your area. If you call the number provided, you consent to being contacted by telephone, SMS text message, email, and/or social media by Erie or its affiliates and service providers using contact information you have provided. If you are on a 501(c)(3) call list or register, please review our Privacy Policy and Terms of Use on [www.ericconstruction.com](http://www.ericconstruction.com). All rights reserved. License numbers available at [www.ericconstruction.com](http://www.ericconstruction.com).

**It's not just a generator. It's a power move.**

Receive a free 7-year warranty with qualifying purchase\* - valued at \$736.

Call 877-516-1160 to schedule your free quote!

**GENERAC**

## Letter to the Editor:

We noted those substantial raises for the Mayor & the Council members. We noted the the Mayor's salary had not increased for (20) years.

Look!

"FIRST PAY RAISE FOR YONKERS CITY COUNCIL IN 10 YEARS & FOR MAYOR IN 20 YEARS, UNDER REVIEW"

AND! Look.

"Value of \$1 from 2003 to 2023

\$1 in 2003 is equivalent in purchasing power to about \$1.67 today, an increase of \$0.67 over 20 years. The dollar had an average inflation rate of 2.59% per year between 2003 and today, producing a cumulative price increase of 66.88%."

This means that today's prices are 1.67 times as high as average prices since 2003, according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics consumer price index. A dollar today only buys 59.880% of what it could buy back then."

Let me write this about that "raise". It was long overdue.

Mayor Spano has done a terrific job putting our city on the map. Our population is finally increasing. Housing, new retail stores, a major film studio, etc., have evolved under his leadership. My wife and I were down at the YoFi Festival recently. It was a grand success. The new construction by the Library is most impressive! Etc.! Etc.!

And, if you haven't noticed, we are also having a rip roaring inflation going on. In addition, with higher gross income....Uncle Sam is there with his large hand out!

Q.E.D. (Q.E.D. is an acronym for the Latin phrase quod erat demonstrandum, a fancy way to show off you just logically proved something.)

Happy New Year to all  
Hilary Duncanson/Yonkers

### YPS Superintendent, continued from pg 1-

Public Schools in recent years. I look forward to working with him and having an open and productive partnership as Yonkers cultivates its next generation of leaders."

Dr. Luis Rodríguez, the Interim Superintendent, welcomed Mr. Soler, expressing confidence in his commitment to lead the district to new heights. "I warmly welcome Mr. Anibal Soler Jr. to the Yonkers Public Schools family. His vision for academic excellence, and his alignment with our district's goals, are clearly evident. In the coming months, I am committed to working closely with Mr. Soler to ensure a seamless and smooth leadership transition. I hope he will find our collaboration instrumental in laying a strong foundation for his tenure."

Mr. Soler shared his vision for the future, "It is a great honor and a privilege to be appointed as the Superintendent of Yonkers Public Schools. I am deeply grateful to Mayor Spano, the entire Board of Trustees, and the Yonkers community for their unanimous vote of confidence in my leadership. This appointment is a testament to the strength and collaboration of our Trustees, reflecting our shared commitment to excellence in education. I am immensely excited about the future of Yonkers Public Schools. My primary focus will be on continuing to elevate our district, assuring that every student is provided with an exceptional education that equips them for success. Together, we will build on our strengths, embrace innovative approaches, and ensure that our district becomes a beacon of educational excellence."

Dr. Luis Rodríguez added, "Having the privilege of currently serving as Interim Superintendent, I can promise Mr. Soler two things: One, you will never, ever be bored and two, I will faithfully support your setting a new direction for our District, that further elevates our staff and further equips our students to be effective leaders in a troubled and troubling world." Your arrival heralds a promising new chapter for Yonkers Public Schools. ¡Superintendente Soler, Bienvenido a las Escuelas Públicas de la Ciudad de Yonkers!

Mr. Soler brings a wealth of experience to Yonkers Public Schools. As Superintendent of Schenectady City Schools since 2021, he managed a significant operating budget and launched numerous initiatives such as the Community Schools Initiative, Early College High School, and a district core-instructional program. Prior to this, he served as Superintendent of Batavia City Schools, where he significantly improved graduation rates and launched a district-wide Community Schools Initiative focused on equity and opportunity.

His role as Associate Superintendent in Buffalo Public Schools saw him lead major school improvement strategies, including the Strong Community Schools Initiative. As an Adjunct Professor at Canisius College and the University of Rochester, Mr. Soler has been instrumental in shaping future educational leaders.

His educational background includes an anticipated Ed.D. in Educational Leadership from Manhattanville College, a Master of Science in Educational Administration from St. John Fisher College, and a Master of Science in Educational Technology from Nazareth College.

Mr. Soler will begin his appointment on May 1, 2024 expiring June 30, 2028.

## Port Chester Man Indicted for Att.Murder in Yonkers Shooting of Off Duty NYPD Cop



Bryan Martinez, photo from YPD

**Defendant allegedly used a 9mm pistol to fire approximately 13 rounds at the victim, striking him once**

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced today that a Port Chester man was arraigned on an indictment charging him with attempted murder in the November 2023 Yonkers shooting of a man, who was an off-duty New York Police Department officer.

DA Rocah said: "This defendant allegedly fired approximately 13 rounds at the victim in broad daylight. We will not tolerate this kind of senseless gun violence in Westchester, and will seek to hold this defendant accountable."

A Westchester County Grand Jury indicted the defendant, Bryan Martinez, 30, for Attempted Murder in the Second Degree, Attempted Assault in the First Degree, Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, Assault in the Second Degree, and Reckless Endangerment in the First Degree, all felonies.

The defendant was arraigned today before Judge George Fufidio in Westchester County Court, and bail remains at \$500,000 cash, \$750,000 bond and \$1 million partially secured bond. The defendant's next court date is Feb. 8.

It is alleged that on Nov. 14, 2023, at approximately 11:23 a.m., the defendant used a 9mm pistol to shoot approximately 13 rounds at the victim, striking him once in the arm, near the Saw Mill River Parkway and Tompkins Avenue in Yonkers. The victim drove himself to St. John's Hospital in Yonkers, where he was treated for his injuries. The defendant and victim were known to each other.

The Yonkers Police Department arrested the defendant in Port Chester on Nov. 16, 2023, following an investigation with the assistance of the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, the Westchester County Real-Time Crime Center, the Port Chester Police Department and the FBI's Westchester Safe Streets Task Force.

The case is being prosecuted by Major Case Bureau Chief Nadine Nagler and Senior Trial Counsel Brian Bendish of the Homicide Bureau. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

BOGO  
40% OFF

OFFER ENDS 1/31

888-448-0421

ATTENTION FIREFIGHTERS

Were you exposed to firefighting foam?

Firefighting foam, commonly used to fight jet fuel fires, has been widely used by the military and fire departments since the mid 1950s. However **firefighting foam contains chemicals known as PFAS**, which have been linked to illnesses like cancer.

Sokolove Law is currently investigating cases nationwide involving **pancreatic, kidney, testicular, thyroid, bladder, breast, liver, colon/colorectal and prostate cancer, as well as leukemia and lymphoma** after occupational exposure to firefighting foam.

If you or a loved one were diagnosed with cancer after exposure to firefighting foam, you may be entitled to receive **compensation**.

Call 844-290-8149 now  
for a FREE legal consultation.

SOKOLOVE LAW

This is a paid advertisement for legal services. Sokolove Law, LLC (LLP in certain states), 1330 Boylston St, Chestnut Hill/MA. Ricky LeBlanc admitted in MA only. Members: Paul Dix, Alton, IL, admitted AR, Rich Grabow, 970 Farmington Ave West Hartford/CT (860) 904-7789, Paul J. Morgan, Winter Park/FL, Nick Nighswander, Florence/KY, Michael Breaux, Gonzales, admitted LA, Gregg Hobbie, NJ, Matt Christian, 1007 East Washington Street, Greenville SC. Co-founder/AL: Environmental Litigation Group PC, Birmingham. The choice of a lawyer is an important decision that should not be based solely upon advertisements. No representation is made that the quality of the legal services to be performed is greater than the quality of legal services performed by other lawyers. While this firm maintains joint responsibility, most cases of this type are referred to other attorneys for principal responsibility. Prior results do not guarantee a similar outcome. The Wyoming State Bar does not certify any lawyer as a specialist or expert. Anyone considering a lawyer should independently investigate the lawyer's credentials and ability, and not rely upon advertisements or self-proclaimed expertise. Free background information available upon request. ©2021 Sokolove Law, LLC

DENTAL Insurance

from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company

Call to get your FREE information Kit

1-855-225-1434

Dental50Plus.com/mypress

Product not available in all states. See www.Dental50Plus.com for participating states and provider details. Policy terms and conditions apply. Coverage is subject to underwriting. This is not a contract. For more information, call 1-855-225-1434. ©2023 Physicians Mutual Insurance Company. All rights reserved.

## City Council Meets for Reorganization Meeting for 2024-25

By Dan Murphy

Every two years, the Yonkers City Council meets to formulate its rules for the next two years, 2024-25, until the next council election in 2025. Prior to the meeting, the City Council meets to discuss who will be the Chairs of the different council committees, and leadership posts.

On Jan. 2, 2024 the council met for their Reorg meeting. Councilwoman Tahsa Diaz was named Majority Leader and Councilman Mike Breen was named Minority Leader. Councilman John Rubbo was name Majority Whip.

The following Council Committee Chairs were named:

Rules-Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy

Budget & Finance: Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy

Community Mental Health Services: Councilwoman Deana R. Robinson

Education: Council Majority Leader Tasha Diaz

Legislation & Codes: Councilman John Rubbo

Municipal Operations, Safety & Labor: Council Minority Leader Mike Breen

Real Estate: Councilman Breen

Intergovernmental Affairs: Councilwoman Robinson

Two council members, Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Isaac and Councilman Anthony Merante were not given a committee chair, which pays councilmembers an additional stipend in addition to their council salary. Pineda-Isaac is a democrat, Merante a republican. Usually the backroom negotiation between councilmembers before the meeting gives every councilmember a committee chair.

Both Pineda-Isaac and Merante voted no on the rules package, which passed 5-2. After the vote, Pineda-Isaac stated, "This week, the new Yonkers City Council met for the first time to organize as a council. Every two years in the first week of January the council determines and votes on the rules of proceedings and for council leadership.

"During this week's meeting, I was denied a committee chairmanship by the leaders of my own caucus. As a result, there are no Latino voices chairing committees in Yonkers, which is an outrage given the growth and representing 42.4% of the Yonkers population. The reason for losing my chairmanship is obvious: It was done in retaliation for my political support of an opposing candidate. (Editor's Note: Pineda-Isaac collected signatures for Hector Santiago, who was attempting to challenge Councilwoman Tasha Diaz in the 3rd district).

"I do not take issue with my being denied a role as a committee chair. This will not prevent me from attending committee meetings and advocating for my constituents. I take issue with the clear attempts to silence the voices of Latino residents who have been historically ignored or overlooked in New York's third largest city.

"True leadership brings people together toward a common agenda and requires all of us as elected officials to move past campaigns and come together to do our work. It does not tear people apart by taking personal retribution on a whim. That's a recipe for dysfunction that benefits no one on the council, and actively harms the people of Yonkers.

"Regardless of these rules, please know that I will continue to ensure that your voices are heard both inside and outside City Hall," writes Pineda-Isaac in an email to her constituents.

Councilman Anthony Merante also commented after the vote. "Retribution begins. My first day here was, January 1st, 2018. and, when we came to this reorganization meeting, at that time, I was given the Community Relations committee.

"Then on January 1st, 2020, I had the honor of being, appointed the budget chair. Little did we know a couple of weeks after that Covid was going to come about, and I did a great job keeping this budget on a positive level. We did well remotely, made sure that everything moved smoothly and came away with a very good fund balance at the end of my term. Then came January of 2022. I, again, was honored to chair the Legislation and Codes Committee. We had a lot of potential progress there. However, that was railroaded and put on a back burner in November, I think it was November 19th of 2023 when I VOTED NO TO EXTENDING TERM LIMITS.

continued on pg 15-

## On This Day in Yonkers History...



Left- Hemsley Winfield in 1933. This Yonkers native and African American dancer, choreographer and director founded the groundbreaking Negro Art Theater Dance Group.

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

Monday, January 15th

1934: Modern dance pioneer Hemsley Winfield of Wolfe Street passed away from pneumonia at the age of 26. The first African American under contract to The Metropolitan Opera, he performed the role of the Congo Witch Doctor in the premiere run of The Emperor Jones in 1933. He founded the New Negro Art Theater and was the first African American to appear on the concert dance stage. Winfield graduated from School Thirteen and Yonkers High School and studied at Columbia University before entering the world of dance and drama.

1940: City Manager Raymond Whitney, proving he could save nickels as well as dollars, ordered removal of all "special" water coolers in City Hall; at a monthly rental rate of \$2.50 per cooler, this saved Yonkers \$15 monthly. When asked why, Whitney stated, "City employees can drink City of Yonkers water."

Tuesday, January 16th

1924: Civil War Veteran James Presise, one of Yonkers' oldest residents, passed away at 91 in his Ashburton Avenue home. He moved to Yonkers in November 1861. Shortly after his move here, he joined the Union Army; he served throughout the war without injury. Hired by Eickemyer and Osterheld, he worked with electrical genius Charles Steinmetz. Persise also worked at the Tube Well Station on Saw Mill River Road, retiring at age 89 after working 34 years for the Water Board!

1940: City Comptroller James Hushion revealed the Suburban Bus Company, headed by former Alderman William Slater, had not paid one cent of the tax levied on all utilities since the tax was imposed in 1937.

Wednesday, January 17th

1945: Arthur Blair, President of Arthur G. Blair, Inc., announced the appointment of former Yonkers Fire Chief Edward Siller as Chief Fire Warden for the local shipyards company. Retired because of disabilities caused by injuries and burns, he received the Department Medal of Honor and other awards for heroism. Siller would oversee fire prevention and protect government and Blair properties at the Alexander Street and City Pier shipyards, site of the company's defense work.

1952: Ninety-one former auxiliary police officers voted to ask for an official investigation of Yonkers Civil Defense leaders! The group resigned to protest suspension of their commander Charles Palmer; Auxiliary head Arthur Chambers suspended him on charges of insubordination because of a disagreement over uniforms. They selected nine men to present their request to the Common Council. When asked about the situation, Chambers denied anyone quit as no one submitted written letters of resignation to him.

**Saving a Life EVERY 11 MINUTES**

*I'm never alone*

**Life Alert® is always here for me.**

One touch of a button sends help fast, 24/7.

Help at Home Help On-the-Go

**Life Alert®** Batteries Never Need Charging.

For a FREE brochure call:

**1-800-404-9776**

Call today and receive a **FREE SHOWER PACKAGE PLUS \$1600 OFF**

**SAFE STEP WALK-IN TUB**

**1-855-916-5473**

With purchase of a new Safe Step Walk-in Tub. Not applicable with any previous walk-in tub purchase. Offer available while supplies last. No cash value. Must present offer at time of purchase. CSLB 1682185 NSCB 0682199 0682445

FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

**Notice of Real Estate Auction****By Order of the City of New Rochelle**

Notice is hereby given by the City of New Rochelle (the "City") of the public auction of the surplus City property listed below, which is in New Rochelle, NY.

The public auction will take place January 29 beginning at 10:00 AM and will end January 31 at 12:30 PM.

Bid online only at [www.auctionnetwork.com](http://www.auctionnetwork.com).

The auction will be conducted in accordance with, and all bidders agree to be bound to, the terms and conditions of the auction and sale.

In Rem Auction Property

Parcel ID 1227-0017

Address 55 Walnut Street

[WilliamsAuction.com/NewRochelle](http://WilliamsAuction.com/NewRochelle)

800.801.8003

Philip R. Heiliger Re Lic 10311207661

Williams & Williams Re Lic 109911428

Formation of 25 COUNTY ROUTE 62 LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/6/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The principal business loc. and address SSNY shall mail process to is Floann and Raymond Landeck, 79 Pembroke Dr., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of [THE NAVIE THERAPY GROUP L.L.C.], LLC filed with SSNY on [08/29/23. Office: [WESTCHESTER] County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to LLC: [200 Bloomingdale Road, Suite 1A, White Plains, NY 10605]. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Jaylee's Beauty Lounge, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/29/23. 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, 55 Cole Street, Ste. 101, Yonkers, NY, 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Say Say Mwah, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/31/2023. 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, 42 Linden Street, Apt1L, Yonkers, New York 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of 326 PROSPECT AVE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 03/24/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Brian Caldwell at 130 Franklin Avenue, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of 66 Meserole, LLC., Articles of organization filed with the NY Secretary of State (NYSS) on 11/28/2023. Office location: Westchester County. NYSS is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail a copy of process to: 11 Bon Air Ave, New Rochelle, NY 10804. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Formation of TAQUERIA MARQUITO, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/8/2023 with formation date of 1/1/2024. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Lundy, Beldecos & Milby, P.C., 450 N. Narberth Ave., Ste. 200, Narberth, PA 19072. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

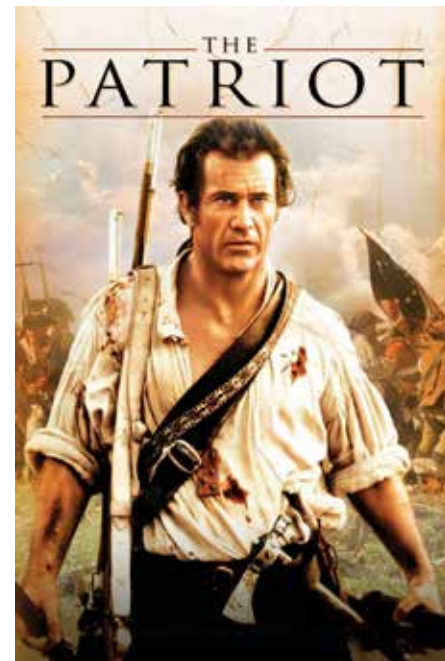
Formation of EVERYBODY EATS FOOD GROUP, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/8/2023 with formation date of 1/1/2024. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Lundy, Beldecos & Milby, P.C., 450 N. Narberth Ave., Ste. 200, Narberth, PA 19072. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Calimero II, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/4/2023. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Marie H. Durif-O'Dowd, 1632 First Avenue, Apartment 326, New York, NY 10028. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

Ana Lucia Nail Lounge LLC, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 1/8/24.. Office: New York 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, 115 Chelsea Street Hawthorne, NY 10532. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

## Philipse Manor Hall Hosts Historians for Commentary on Revolutionary War Movie

### Historians discuss accuracy of "The Patriot" (2000)



Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site and the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall are pleased to host "Historian and A Movie: The Patriot" on Friday, January 19, 2024 at 7:00 p.m.

If you could think of one Hollywood movie about the American Revolution, it's probably this one, for better or worse. "The Patriot" (2000, 165 mins, R) follows the fictional story of a veteran of the French and Indian Wars and his family as they are reluctantly pulled into the American Revolution. Set in South Carolina, it includes graphic depictions of the brutality of war. We'll hear from historians Michael McGurty and Chad Johnson of New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site, as they reveal the accuracies and inaccuracies of the film's depiction of the American Revolution. This film is rated R and is not recommended for young or sensitive audiences.

The Historian & A Movie is a program series in which Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Sites invites historians and subject experts to give commentary on popular Hollywood films with historical subjects. The program occurs monthly on Friday evenings.

This program is free and open to the public. Doors open at 6:45 p.m. Seating is first-come, first-served. Refreshments provided by the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall. Registration is recommended, but not required. Register at <https://www.philipsemanorhall.com/programs-and-events/historian-a-movie-the-patriot>.

Notice of formatoin of A Soft Delicate Flower by Kae, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 1/3/24. Office location: Peekskill County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1840 Crompond Road Peekskill NY 10566. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of FEVER PITCH SPORTS CARDS & COLLECTIBLES LLC. Articles of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/01/24. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of the process to John Amelio, 2138 Saw Mill River Road, Yorktown Hts. NY 10598. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of D & E Guest Reality Management, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/15/2023. 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, D & E Guest Reality Management LLC, 79-81 Main Street, P.O. Box 1100, Yonkers, NY 10702. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Pachamama Vibes, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/20/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her to the company c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc. 7014 13th Ave., Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Principal business address: 762 Hoover Avenue, Peekskill NY 10566. Purpose: Any lawful acts.

Formation of D & G PARTNERS, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 1/9/2024. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to M. Burr Keim Company, 2021 Arch St., Philadelphia, PA 19103. Purpose: Any lawful activity.



**EXCLUSIVE LIMITED TIME OFFER!**

**15% OFF** + **10% OFF** + **0%**

YOUR FIRST PURCHASE\*    UP TO 10%    APR. 15th 2024\*\*

**Promo Code: 285**

FREE GUTTER PLACEMENT + FREE GUTTER CLEANING\*

**CLOG-FREE GUTTERS FOREVER**

**CALL US TODAY FOR A FREE ESTIMATE**

**1-855-478-9473**

Non-Transferable Offer. Not Valid Where Prohibited. \*See Offer Agreement

## Adeel Mirza Kicks Off Campaign for Westchester District Attorney



Adeel Mirza

Democrat Adeel Mirza recently made it official, announcing that he is a candidate for Westchester District Attorney. "I am running for Westchester District Attorney because as a career prosecutor, I know how to balance public safety and equal justice for all. I've prosecuted cases at the highest levels and led multiple Branches around the County. That's the experience I'll bring to lead the office as we create the safest, fairest Westchester for all our families.

Mirza worked in the D.A.'s office for 18 years, focusing on gang and gun violence cases and became a "branch chief." Most recently he's been a criminal attorney, taking on pro bono cases.

"I am a career prosecutor in the office I seek to lead," Mirza said. "I know that office and the strengths and weaknesses of that office and I think I can use that experience and my knowledge in order to improve the criminal justice system for the people of Westchester."

Mirza lives in New Rochelle with his two sons. During his time as a Supervisor in the DA's office, Adeel oversaw thousands of prosecutions each year - on all levels from misdemeanors to violent crimes like rape and homicide. He built critical relationships with the police departments in Westchester County who serve as a crucial partner for the District Attorney's office.

Since his time in the District Attorney's Office, Adeel has been in private practice handling pro bono cases for defendants in Westchester who cannot afford representation. This has given him a view from the other side of the criminal justice system that is important for any District Attorney to have.

"I will protect women and children from domestic violence. I will protect tenants from bad landlords. I will protect workers from unscrupulous contractors, and I will protect seniors from elder abuse."

"At this moment it's important to have a District Attorney that understands the balance between public safety and equal justice for all. It's important to have a District Attorney that understands a modern prosecutor's office and the present day rights of defendants going through the system. And it's important to have a District Attorney who is compassionate at the worst times in people's lives - whether that's the victims of crime or those accused. But above all, I'm running for District Attorney because I know how to keep Westchester families safe from crime - because that's what he's done his whole career."

Visit [mirza4da.com](http://mirza4da.com), for more information.

Judge Susan Cacace, Civil rights Attorney William Wagstaff, Public defender Sheralyn Pulver Goodman are also announced democrats running for Westchester DA.

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

Thursday, January 18th

1944: Yonkers school children collected newspapers, magazines and cardboard boxes to bring to their schools for the district wide paper drive. It took two pounds of this wastepaper to make the special V-boxes, special containers of fiberboard and paperboard used to send food and supplies to our fighting troops.

Unfortunately, one or more "unpatriotic, uncooperative" people attacked the carefully bundled piles of newspapers and magazines at five schools, opening and mutilating them.

1944: At the request of our local Post Office, local draft boards gave 60-day deferments to 38 Yonkers Postal workers; according to our Superintendent of Mails Charles Brady, any further reduction of staff would result in a sharp curtailment of services, and eliminate some deliveries.

Friday, January 19th

1942: NYC's Greystone Press sent five hundred books to the Yonkers' Victory Book Campaign! Two Yonkers residents headed the company, President Hans Teuenfils of Edgecliff Terrace and VP George Shively of Bronxville Road. At the time, book donations from Yonkers residents totaled upwards of 1100; more were left each day.

1945: After receiving phone calls from North Yonkers residents about a "skunk sitting on a fence" at 651 Palisade Avenue, SPCA Officer Frank Perna investigated. He greatly impressed those watching when he grabbed it by the tail and put it in a box to bring to a wooded section of Yonkers. Asked how he had been so calm while dealing with a skunk, he replied, "It was an opossum!"

Saturday, January 20th

1933: Public Safety Commissioner Denis Morrissey ordered every police officer begin compulsory training in target practice and firearms, regardless of what department they were in or their length of service. Lieutenant Jerome Linehan, Motorcycle Patrolman Herbert Schanck, and Patrolman Frank Yambra, previously an Army arms instructor, were the instructors. The order generated resentment, especially among those officers who hadn't fired their service weapon in years.

1945: Twenty-four-year-old Captain Bernard Diekman, husband of Yonkers resident Leilah Diekman and pilot of a B-25 Mitchell bomber out of Corsica, received his first Bronze cluster on his Distinguished Flying Cross for "extraordinary achievement in an attack upon enemy supply and troop concentration near Santa Lucia, Italy." Captain Diekman led a formation of twelve bombers over the target and inflicted "severe damage."

Sunday, January 21st:

January 21, 1921: Yonkers tennis star Vincent Richards' name appeared at the top of the United States Lawn Tennis Association National Junior Ranking list; Bill Tilden and Paul Gibbons were the selection committee.

1942: General Douglas MacArthur awarded Yonkers native Thomas Trapnell the Distinguished Service Cross for singlehandedly fending off a Japanese advance. On December 22, 1941, he remained between enemy troops and his men and set fire to a truck to block a bridge; under constant enemy fire, he waited until the bridge was fully engulfed in flames before leaving. Captured in 1942, he endured horrendous conditions during his imprisonment. When finally liberated from a Manchurian POW Camp by Russian soldiers, the former All America halfback, nicknamed the "warhorse of the West Point backfield," weighed under 100 pounds when he was released.

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).

FROM OUR FAMILY TO YOURS,  
LET'S MAKE YOUR KITCHEN  
**MAGIC**

NEW CABINETS | CABINET REFINISHING | COUNTERTOPS | BACKSPASHES

**SAVE 10% ON YOUR FULL KITCHEN REMODEL\***

855.281.6439 | Free Quotes

Connect Anywhere, Anytime.

Enjoy Free Internet Data on Your Mobile Devices with the Affordable Connectivity Program. You qualify if you receive:

- Medicaid
- SNAP
- BSI
- WIC
- Veterans Pension
- Survivors or Lifetime Benefits
- Tribal Assistance Program
- Housing Assistance

maxsip

Get a subsidized 4G Android Tablet for \$20

CALL TODAY (877) 651-1637

**BATH REMODEL**

YOUR BATHROOM.  
YOUR WAY.  
IN AS LITTLE AS  
**ONE DAY**

CALL NOW  
855.564.2680

SPECIAL OFFER  
**50% OFF Installation**  
WITH  
**No Interest No Payments for 1 Year**  
PLUS  
**FREE Safety Upgrade\***

855.564.2680

### Yonkers Rising

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

**Buying Comics!**  
**Looking for 1960's-1990's**  
**I PAY CASH!**  
**Located in Yonkers -**  
**Text or call Andrew at 914-646-1718.**

# Three New Legislators Join Westchester County Board



*(L-R Bottom Row: Leg. Colin Smith, Leg. Benjamin Boykin, Leg. Erika Pierce, Leg. Nancy Barr, Leg. Catherine Parker; Middle Row: Leg. Shanae Williams, Leg. Emiljana Ulaj, Leg. Judah Holstein, Leg. Jewel Williams Johnson, Leg. David Imamura; Top Row: Min. Leader Margaret Cunzio, Maj. Whip Terry Clements, Vice Chair Jose Alvarado, Chair Vedat Gashi, Maj. Leader Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, Min. Whip James Nolan (Not Pictured Leg. David Tubiolo)*

On November 7, 2023, three new Legislators were elected to represent Westchester residents in County Legislative Districts 9, 10, and 16. Legislator Emiljana Ulaj (D - Cortlandt, Ossining, Croton, Briarcliff, Buchanan), Legislator Judah Holstein (D - Eastchester, New Rochelle, Tuckahoe), and Legislator Shanae Williams (D - Yonkers) will be officially sworn in at the Board’s Organizational meeting on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 7:00 p.m., along with the 14 current Legislators. The Oath of Office will be administered by Westchester County Clerk, the Honorable Timothy C. Itoni, in the Board Chamber at 148 Martine Avenue, White Plains.

Legislator Emiljana Ulaj said, “Public service and government is about creating the conditions for residents to thrive and self-actualize. Every step we take, every priority we advance, will be done with that goal in mind. As an immigrant and a refugee, the weight of the responsibility of this role is never lost on me. I look forward to working together with my County Legislative colleagues--For The People.”

Ulaj and her family fled Albania in 1997 in the midst of a civil war. After nearly a year spent as refugees, the family emigrated to the United States where they were granted asylum. They settled in Northern Westchester, and Emiljana’s parents worked multiple jobs to ensure a stable family life. Her father found a union job at a local public school that provided health insurance for the whole family and financial security for the children to go to college and pursue fulfilling careers. Seizing on this opportunity, Emiljana began a career focused on public service. Today, Ulaj works as a union organizer for New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), the union that gave her family so much. Having worked as a hands-on public advocate, staff member for the New York State Senate, and currently as a union organizer, Emiljana looks forward to advocating for others on the County Board of Legislators. She is a graduate of John Jay High School in Cross River and Bard College in Annandale-on-Hudson. Her work history includes serving as Director of Communications & Strategic Planning for State Senator Shelley B. Mayer, Communications Specialist for the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) Local 32BJ, and Regional Political Organizer for NYSUT.

Legislator Judah Holstein said, “I have always been a fair and objective listener, helping people understand different viewpoints and bringing people together. People appreciate being heard and being treated with respect, even in a disagreement. I look forward to representing District 10 and working with my colleagues at the Board of Legislators to find effective solutions to the challenges we all face.” Holstein is a lifelong District 10 resident and a graduate of Iona College, Judah was raised in the Bonnie Crest neighborhood of New Rochelle. His wife, Jackie, grew up in Eastchester but was born in New Rochelle and traces her New Rochelle roots back four generations. Judah and his family live in Eastchester, where his three children all attended public school.

Judah began his career as a respected software developer in the corporate world, and founded his small software company, Miracom Computer Corp., in 1995. He has a long history of community involvement, including three terms on the Eastchester School Board beginning in 2013, where he worked to ensure the best possible public education through advocacy, vision, communication, and balance. Throughout his tenure, he has consistently advocated for the residents of Eastchester and their children, exercised responsible budget oversight, fostered constructive dialogue to build consensus and achieve outcomes, and prioritized transparency and diplomacy. In addition to his three terms on the School Board, he has served on the boards of three local PTAs.

Legislator Shanae Williams said, “I am honored to represent the 16th district and look forward to working on issues that matter most to my constituents, including housing, quality of life, and mental health. As an immigrant from a big family, I have always looked to understand different perspectives and bring people together.”

Williams was born in Jamaica, immigrated to Yonkers as a child, and attended the Westchester public school system. Williams holds a Bachelor of Science from the State University of New York at Albany and holds the highest GPA Award for the Class of 2011 in the Department of Sociology. Williams interned and then served in the New York State Assembly. Upon graduating from college, Shanae worked full-time at the Office of the Mayor of Yonkers. She obtained her Master of Business Administration with a focus in Leadership from Walden University in 2015. Williams was appointed to the Yonkers City Council on January 1, 2018 and subsequently elected to the Council in 2019, where she represented the First Council District.

Williams was the City Council’s liaison for the Yonkers Human Rights Commission, and Chair of the Community and Mental Health Committee, Women and Children Committee, and the former chair of the Legislation and Codes Committee. Williams has been a leader in advocating for more affordable housing in Yonkers and a strong advocate for the homeless community in downtown Yonkers. She looks forward to continuing her work for the residents of the City of Yonkers in her new role as County Legislator for District 16.

Chairman Vedat Gashi (D- New Castle, Somers, Yorktown) said, “We are excited to begin the 2024-2025 Legislative term by welcoming a strong freshman cohort of three duly elected Legislators. I look forward to hearing their unique perspectives and ideas as we collaborate as a body to move forward for the benefit of their districts and all of Westchester County.”

**Have Computer Problems?**

Get **\$20 OFF** Any Service

Use Coupon Code **42513**

24/7 Emergency Service  
Data Recovery  
Virus Removal  
Router Maintenance

Call Now / Get a Free Diagnosis **866-848-0045**

Friendly Certified Computer Repair Experts

**Geeks OnSite**

**NEW YORK HOMEOWNERS:**

**NEED HELP WITH EXPENSIVE REPAIRS? WE MATCH YOU WITH FUNDING YOU CAN AFFORD.**

**888-254-6006**  
or visit [NYProgramsFunding.net](http://NYProgramsFunding.net)

**ROOFING | SIDING | WINDOWS | DOORS & MORE!**

**HELP IS AVAILABLE EVEN IF YOU COULD PAY CASH**  
...but it won't last! Enrollment is only open during a limited time. Programs, appointments, and installations are first come, first serve.

**ACT NOW!**

Approved applications within the restrictions of equity requirements provided by NYProgramsFunding.net. Not affiliated with State or Federal Government. ©2023 NYProgramsFunding.net



## Con Edison's Scholar-Athlete of the Week: Stella Perini-Harrison High School



By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to Stella Perini, a senior at Harrison High School, for being named a Con Edison Scholar Athlete of the week. Stella has starred on the Harrison HS basketball, Soccer and Lacrosse teams.

Perini was a key component to the Harrison HS Girls Basketball team that made it to the State finals. In three recent basketball games, Stella recorded a double-double, averaging 16 points and 10 rebounds. She has been named all league in basketball three times, and a three time all league player in Lacrosse.

Stella has served as an English tutor for Ukrainian students separated from their families, and as a leader in Backyard sports, for students with severe physical and mental disabilities.

Perini served as School Government President, and as a member of the Athletic Council, National Honors Society, Math Team and Spanish Club.

Stella will graduate with a 97.38 GPA, and is enrolled in the IB program at HHS.

“Stella is committed to her studies and is most certainly an academic,” said HHS Counselor Kelly Malczewski. “Stella has challenged herself with higher level Physics and Calculus courses. As an IB Diploma candidate, she has been highly successful in her classes.”

“She is also highly involved in the school’s DECA Club (Business Club) and travels regionally and nationally for business competitions.”

“Stella is a regional qualifier for her science research project on the affects of CTE (Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy)”

### Assemblyman Nader Sayegh's Comments on Roosevelt HS Incident

“I am disappointed by reports of antisemitic remarks being used towards visiting players at a Girls Basketball game at Roosevelt High School. As Yonkers residents, New Yorkers, and Americans, I know this is not who we are. We all must do everything we can to condemn inflammatory and hateful rhetoric based on religion, race, ethnicity, or gender.

As a lifelong educator, I understand the power education can have to heal division and bridge us. This is a challenging time for many in our diverse community who have an intrinsic connection to the disturbing events unfolding in the Middle East. However, that is no excuse for divisive and hateful commentary that undermines our identity as Americans. I unequivocally condemn all Antisemitism, Islamophobia, and all other forms of religious discrimination.”

## Stepinac HS Students Mobilize for SOUPER Bowl, to Help Address Food Insecurity Crisis



Stepinac's students who participated in last year's SOUPER Bowl Food Drive.

Continuing a 12-year tradition, Stepinac High School students are mobilizing their efforts in the school's single largest annual food drive, known as the SOUPER Bowl, to help Feeding Westchester meet its critically important mission.

When the campaign ends on February 9, the canned nutritious food items the students collect will be donated to the non-profit committed to “nourish our neighbors in the fight against hunger” in communities throughout Westchester. The timing of the SOUPER Bowl Food Drive helps to address low inventories of food items that food pantries experience following the holidays.

Last year, students of the renowned all-boys Catholic high school collected and donated more than 2,000 pounds of nutritious, non-perishable food item which made it possible for Feeding Westchester to provide about 2,000 meals to help feed children, seniors and families throughout the region.

On its website, [www.FeedingWestchester.org](http://www.FeedingWestchester.org), the nonprofit notes children and adults from all walks of life go hungry in every community. “Our programs are designed to address food insecurity when and where the need is greatest.”

“Although Westchester is a wealthy area, wages remain low and stagnant for the working poor, and the cost of living continues to rise. With fixed expenses like rent and childcare, groceries are often the first family expense to be cut.”

Underscoring the severity of food insecurity in the region, on average, every month Feeding Westchester serves 220,000 people, many of whom are children. In fiscal 2023, it distributed more than 21 million pounds of food, equal to more than 17 million meals.

When Fr. Thomas Collins (Class of '79), President, launched Stepinac's SOUPER Bowl in 2012, he said: “We knew the food pantries in this area would be depleted after Thanksgiving and Christmas so I challenged the students to meet the needs of the hungry.” Year after year, Stepinac's students have continued to meet that challenge.

To learn more about Feeding Westchester and to make a donation to support its mission, visit [www.FeedingWestchester.org](http://www.FeedingWestchester.org).

**RIVER CRUISE VACATIONS**  
Experience the beauty and history of the H. Lawrence & Ulster Rivers on a scenic Canadian riverboat. Request our free travel brochure.  
**1-800-287-7368** [www.RiverCruiseVacations.com](http://www.RiverCruiseVacations.com)  
2nd Street St., Suite 202, Niagara, ON L2S 3K6 TEL: 416-298-1111

**A better moving experience starts here.**

**LOCAL AND LONG DISTANCE MOVING SERVICES**

- + Flexibility with hourly labor and last-minute moves
- + Competitive pricing and no hidden fees
- + Packing and storage services available

Get a Free info kit today  
**Call 1.855.978.8942**

**Bellhop**

ASSEMBLYWOMAN DANA LEVENBERG

**ENVIRONMENTAL TOWN HALL**

Learn more about New York State's commitment to climate action, including answers to common questions. Share your thoughts on state environmental legislation and initiatives with Assemblywoman Levenberg as the legislative session gets underway.

**Thursday, January 25 at 7:00 PM**  
Ossining Public Library  
53 Croton Avenue, Ossining, NY 10562

(914) 941-1111 | [levenbergd@nyassembly.gov](mailto:levenbergd@nyassembly.gov)

@AMDanaLevenberg

## Man Charged with Attempted Murder of Ex-Girlfriend in Sleepy Hollow

*The defendant allegedly forced his way into victim's home in violation of an order of protection before shooting her*

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah and Sleepy Hollow Police Chief Anthony Bueti announced that a man has been arraigned after his arrest for attempted murder in the shooting of his ex-girlfriend in Sleepy Hollow.

DA Rocah said: "We will do everything we can do to support this victim who survived terrifying violence allegedly inflicted by a former intimate partner. I thank the Sleepy Hollow Police Department and our law enforcement partners for their efforts in locating and arresting this defendant as swiftly as possible."

Chief Bueti said: "I applaud all of our officers and detectives for the thorough investigation, and quick response, which helped to ensure there were no threats to the community or our schools. Our thoughts are with the victim and her family."

The defendant, Ruben Santiago, 38, was arrested on Jan. 3 by the Sleepy Hollow Police Department and arraigned before Judge Katherine Baldwin in Sleepy Hollow Village Court on felony charges of Attempted Murder in the Second Degree, Attempted Assault in the First Degree, Assault in the Second Degree, two counts of Criminal Possession of a Weapon in the Second Degree, and Aggravated Criminal Contempt. He was remanded to Westchester County Jail. His next court date is Jan. 22.

It is alleged that at approximately 4:30 p.m. on Jan. 2, the defendant, in violation of an order of protection, forcibly entered the Sleepy Hollow home of his ex-girlfriend, and shot her with a .38 caliber revolver. The victim, who suffered gunshot wounds to her neck and hand, is being treated at an area hospital for her injuries.

The Sleepy Hollow Police Department conducted the investigation, with the assistance of the FBI's Westchester Safe Streets Task Force, Westchester County's Real Time Crime Center, the Greenburgh Drug and Alcohol Task Force, the New York Police Department, and the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

---

*Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-*

and here at home, anyone who minimizes the incident needs to wake up and extensive sensitivity training. And to turn on the news.

Antisemitism has shed its ugly light on my family and I going back to the days my father owned a grocery store on Palmer Road where Palmer Lizzie's exists today close to Bronxville before I was born. Many of his customers were not use to dealing with a Jewish businessman. Mom was a student teacher in Bronxville, and in a village where there were no Jews quite often felt uncomfortable teaching in its' public schools.

Growing up there were swim and tennis clubs in Yonkers that did not let Jews join. They only let Jews in when they were about to go bankrupt to save the day. Same is true for at least 1 golf club.

The largest loss of life in a fire in Yonkers was at the Jewish Community Center on South Broadway across from St. Joseph's hospital. Close friends of the family died in the fire in which both Jews and non Jews perished. The fire, arson was in 1965. Is there any plaque on the site in memory of those who died. Nope!

I took a Civil Service test that had no qualifications other than a college degree for a position with the Yonkers Municipal Housing Authority. I scored high and was interviewed by a member of the Board that ran the authority. The lady belittled me so and questioned why I even showed up for the interview. I almost left in tears until I spoke with a neighbor who worked For the Authority who said Jews need not apply for jobs there. My uncle had another member of the Authority board as his gym teacher in high school and told me what an antisemite he was. That's why I always refer to Civil Service, an agency I went on to run as silly service.

Some say that part of the reason for the Yonkers Schools desegregation case was to break up clusters of Jewish students on the east side of Yonkers and to spread them around. When I went to work at the Board of Education the schools never had off Easter Monday but were closed most days of Passover and for Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur. Every year I would get a call in my job as Press Secretary from a parent who would say the Jews got their holidays off why was the district not closed for Easter Monday. I had to remind them that Easter Monday is not a holiday.

There were certain sections in Yonkers where Jews, though it was unofficial were not allowed to live. Don't get me wrong the same was true for many ethnic, racial and religious groups. Fortunately I never experienced this but know of friends who did.

You won't find many Jews on Yonkers boards and commissions. Kudos to Mayor Spano for putting a highly qualified Jew on the Yonkers Board of Education which hasn't had a Jewish member in years. Take a look at the dedication plaques in many Yonkers schools and you will see many Jewish Board of Education members responsible for approving their building.

I'll leave you with two incidents, one with antisemitic overtones and one clearly antisemitic. I was called to meet with a high ranking City of Yonkers official during my tenure working at Yonkers City Hall. The official greeted me by telling me how he had worked with Jews in a previous job and how he was familiar with Judaism. This had nothing to do with why I was meeting with this official.

The others incident I remember clearly as if it was yesterday. I was the guest of an elected official from Yonkers who was running for statewide office at a campaign fundraiser at a major country club in Westchester. I checked my coat at the event and there was no sign of a charge. I came back to retrieve my coat and there was posted a sign for something crazy like \$5 per coat. I questioned the coat clerk if the sign was up at the beginning of the night. The clerk put a penny in the ash tray in front of me and gave me my coat and my mothers coat. A member of the club retrieving his coat laughed. My mother said to me welcome to the world of antisemitic country clubs in Westchester.

Yes, antisemitism has existed in WESTCHESTER and in Yonkers. Let's get what happened a week ago Thursday investigated and have those involved face the punishment they deserve. Let the County Executive bring all those involved in the section together, and let the Interim Superintendent of Schools proceed with his restorative Justice circles and sanction those who did wrong.

And let Yonkers once again be the City of Gracious Living!

**Reach Eric Schoen at [thistoisonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistoisonkers@aol.com), or friend him on Facebook Eric Schoen...just look for him in the picture with Joan Rivers!**

*Roosevelt HS, continued from pg 1-*

the quarter, players on the opposing team started shouting "Free Palestine" and other antisemitic slurs and curses at us.

"Attacking a team because of their school's religious association is never acceptable, but especially due to the current war in Israel and the world's rise in antisemitism, this felt extremely personal to me and many members of my team. I have played a sport every athletic season throughout my high school career, and I have never experienced this kind of hatred directed at one of my teams before.

"I was so impressed with my teammates for coming together and deciding that we did not want to continue this game after the third quarter, as it no longer felt respectful as the other team did not show sportsmanlike conduct. Instead of responding to hatred with more of the same, we chose to separate ourselves from the situation and leave with dignity and pride in who we are and what we believe in," wrote Robin Bosworth, Class of 24'

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and Yonkers Public Schools Interim Superintendent Dr. Luis Rodriguez issued the following statement on Jan. 7. "The Yonkers Public Schools along with the City of Yonkers sincerely apologize to the students and community of The Leffell School for the painful and offensive comments made to their women's basketball team during a recent game with Roosevelt High School-Early College Studies. Collectively, we do not and will not tolerate hate speech of any kind from our students and community. The antisemitic rhetoric reportedly made against the student athletes of The Leffell School are abhorrent, inappropriate and not in line with the values we set forth for our young people.

"As soon as the School Administration learned of the incident, an investigation was conducted involving game officials, coaches and students, including school officials from The Leffell School. After a thorough review of videos taken at the game and interviews with those who witnessed the incident, the Yonkers Public Schools dismissed the coach and one player from the Roosevelt basketball team. The investigation is ongoing. Should the District determine other students were involved in the incident, further action would be taken by the school District where appropriate.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer has called for an Education Round Table. "Hate speech has no place in Westchester County and will not be tolerated. High school sports are meant for enjoyment, camaraderie and good sportsmanship. The recent incident goes against the spirit of fair play and unity that these games are intended to foster. I am now calling on all members of the community to come together and condemn such behavior, emphasizing that unity is paramount, especially in challenging times."

Congressman Jamaal Bowman said, "There is no place for antisemitism on the court, in our schools, or any other place in our society. The behavior and harmful rhetoric displayed during Thursday's game is unacceptable, and it's our job as parents and educators to teach against hate in all forms so our children can learn and do better... we must remember that Jewish Americans are not responsible for the actions of the Israeli government, just as Arab Americans are not responsible for the actions of Hamas.

State Senator Shelley Mayer said, "Antisemitism in Yonkers cannot be ignored- and it won't be. Thank you Mayor Mike Spano for responding and committing to following up with action. As a proud Yonkers resident and a Jewish elected official, I'm determined to take steps to ensure it doesn't happen again.

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, "I am deeply saddened and disappointed to learn of the antisemitic comments at a high school basketball game in my district. Religious intolerance has no place in our society, and especially in our schools. I've dedicated my life to making sure every child has a right to attend school in a space which is safe from violence and hatred, and my heart goes out to the students and families of the Leffell School in the aftermath of this disturbing and upsetting incident. I join my fellow elected officials in calling on the New York State Board of Regents and the City of Yonkers to conduct a full investigation into the allegations."

City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy said, "It saddens me to learn of the reported Anti-Semitic comments directed towards a local basketball team. A city as diverse as Yonkers will not tolerate any form of hate or discrimination. It is crucial to take the necessary disciplinary action against both students and any staff involved in this incident. We must stand together as a community to condemn such behavior."

Councilman Mike Breen said, "I am greatly disappointed in the anti-Semitic rhetoric that was reported to have been used at a Yonkers basketball game on Thursday. Yonkers is a city that celebrates its diverse cultures, and this type of behavior will not be tolerated. I expect that anyone who participated in this will no longer have the privilege of representing our city and their school as a student-athlete going forward."

Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Isaac said, "I was saddened to learn of the antisemitic comments made during a recent basketball game at Roosevelt High School towards student-athletes at The Leffell School. The City of Yonkers takes pride in our diversity, so to hear that such comments were made by our very own students is unacceptable. I am glad that Yonkers Public Schools has taken action to dismiss the coach and one of the Roosevelt high school student-athletes involved in this incident and will continue its investigation to determine if any other disciplinary measures are necessary."

Councilman John Rubbo said, "I am appalled by the alleged anti-Semitic comments made by students at the Roosevelt High School basketball game. Any form of hate speech or discrimination is unequivocally unacceptable and must be condemned outright. I commend Mayor Spano for his swift action in convening a meeting of all involved parties to confront racism in all its forms within our city and schools. It's essential that we address these issues head-on and foster an environment of understanding and respect."

The coach of the Roosevelt Girls basketball team, Brian Williams, said he did not hear any comments during the game and questioned his termination. One of the girls on the RHS team, whose name has not been released, remains suspended from the basketball team.

While there is a video of the game, there is no audio, making it difficult or impossible to determine what was said, The Yonkers NAACP has said it will conduct an investigation. The Yonkers Public Schools has received thousands of emails about this incident, many with hateful intent. We believe it is time to move on.

## AI Is Here! Business Council of Westchester Announces Bold New Initiative for 2024



**Bargav Balakrishnan, VP of Industry Modernization, IBM**

The Business Council of Westchester, the county's largest and most influential business membership organization, will devote much of its 2024 programming to artificial intelligence (AI).

The initiative is called AI Alliance 360°, and it is devoted to helping BCW members prepare for the opportunities that await in this latest technological revolution. AI Alliance 360° will consist of in-person and virtual events that will explore the technology's many implications with the goal of helping BCW members understand how they will be affected by AI's power.

"AI will be a disruptive economic force, just as the Internet revolution was in the past generation," said BCW president and CEO Marsha Gordon. "The growing adoption of AI will challenge all of us to reconsider our business models and pivot to new operations."

The BCW's year of AI begins on January 30 with AI Unveiled: Understanding and Navigating the Future of Intelligent Systems at Manhattanville College. The breakfast event features a coffee chat with Bargav Balakrishnan, VP of Industry Modernization, IBM and a Regeneron expert, followed by a Decoding AI Workshop with Nikhil Jagga of CMIT Solutions.

Subsequent AI-related events are scheduled throughout the year. Key events include:

- AI in Professional Services: Innovation and Integration
- Healing Horizons: Navigating AI in Healthcare's Transformative Technologies
- FutureEd: Harnessing the Power of AI in Academic Innovation
- Securing Tomorrow: AI in Cybersecurity and Technology
- AI Unleashed: Smart Insights and Innovations to Transforming Marketing Strategies

"We must become conversant about AI to ensure that we can harness its potential while having the proper safeguards in place within our organizations and networks. Through the AI Alliance 360° programming, the BCW aims to increase awareness of AI and its role in the future," said Gordon.

### 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 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 bid 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 RFB-7089 - Opening date: 1/26/2024: Purchase of Vulcan and Bakers Pride, or Yonkers approved equals, commercial kitchen equipment, 6 items (JH).
2. Bid IFB-7090 - Opening date: 2/16/2024: Replacement of the Pedestrian Bridge in Doyle Park located at 463 Walnut Street, Yonkers, New York 10701 (AC).
3. Bid IFB-7091 - Opening date: 2/16/2024: Windows, masonry, interior improvements, and site work at Family School 32 located at 1 Montclair Place, Yonkers, New York 10710 (MM).
4. Bid RFB-7092 - Opening date: 2/16/2024: Inside network cabling services for the 3rd, 9th, 10th, and 11th floors at 20 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York 10701 (DC).
5. RFP-485A - due date: 1/26/2024: On-call, multiple consultants, to provide multi-discipline engineering, architectural, and landscape design services for a 36-month term with the option to renew for 24-months (MM).

### Can a Republican Beat Bowman, continued from pg 1-

pointed, enough democrats in the 16th district, that they would consider voting republican?

One of our Westchester democratic readers writes, "It has also been implied by some far-left Democrats that George Latimer's primary challenge may weaken Bowman if he is the Democratic nominee in the general election, but the experienced, centrist Latimer may actually be the Democratic Party's only chance to hold onto this Congressional Seat.

"Imagine if Bowman were the Democratic nominee and the Republican Party nominated former District Attorney and current Fox News panelist Jeanine Pirro.

"I have no idea if Ms. Pirro is planning to run against Jamaal Bowman, but if Donald Trump personally urged her to make the race...explaining how she could be a vital member of his Congressional team if he re-won the White House...do you really think she would decline?"

"Granted, that race would have all the subtle, understated dignity of a wrestling match in a steel cage ("Bowman the Showman" vs "Pristine Jeanine" "Going Bonkers in Yonkers!") with AOC and Laura Ingraham strutting across the square circle holding up cards between rounds and Rachel Maddow and Greg Gutfeld offering incisive sideline commentary, but unlike Dr Miriam Levitt Flisser, a 76-year-old physician and former Mayor of Scarsdale who got 36% of the vote against Bowman in 2022, skilled debater Pirro...backed by substantial contributions from across the country, and even internationally... might actually prevail.

"Republican candidates who nobody ever heard of defeated incumbents with less baggage than Jamaal Bowman to capture several Congressional districts in New York in 2022 that Joe Biden carried in 2020.

"For many Democrats, having to choose between Jamaal Bowman and Jeanine Pirro may be reminiscent of a question baseball broadcaster Vin Scully (I believe) asked his sidekick Joe Garagiola during the 1965 All-Star Game:

Vin queried, 'if you were a pitcher with the game on the line, would you rather pitch to Willie Mays...or Hank Aaron?'

"And Joe replied, without missing a beat, 'that's like asking a guy going to the electric chair...do you prefer AC or DC?'

"Can Democrats really not think 'Judge Jeanine' could pick off this allegedly safe seat?"

The Republican Party is clinging to a Congressional majority thinner than a slice of prosciutto at DeCicco's deli counter, further reduced by the expulsion of pants-on-fire liar George Santos and the Quixotic quitting of Speaker-for-a-day Kevin McCarthy. Hakeem Jeffries can't wait to order drapes for the Speaker's office.

"So, George Latimer's campaign is not only an effort to retain this Congressional seat...but to regain control of Congress. After all, isn't that what all Democrats...even members of the Squad...should work towards?" end of letter, name withheld.

In 2022, Rep. Bowman got 64.2% of the vote, with Dr Miriam Levitt Flisser with 35.7%. Bowman received 133,567 votes to 74,156 for Flisser. But in a Presidential year, the vote totals will be higher.

If the republican baseline is 36% in the district, can Pirro, or another big-name republican, flip 15% of the vote? That is a tall order, but the two big knocks on Bowman make it a possibility. His stance on Israel and his inability to connect with constituents.

Most believe that Pirro will not walk away from the Fox \$\$\$ to run for Congress. Pirro is a panelist of the Fox TV News-Talk Show "The Five" which is the #1 show on Cable.

But one democrat told us that if it were Bowman against an unknown republican, not Pirro, "I would consider voting for the other candidate, and I think that there are a lot of democrats in the district who feel the same way. That's why we must elect Latimer."

## Good Government Groups Call for More Transparency in Congressional Redistricting Process

The letter, which was sent on December 18, calls for the Independent Redistricting Commission to prioritize transparency and public input as it drafts a new Congressional map for the 2024 election cycle.

December 18, 2023

Ken Jenkins, Chair, Charles Nesbitt, Vice Chair  
Ross Brady, Esq., Yovan Samuel Collado  
John Conway III, Esq., Dr. Ivelisse Cuevas-Molina  
Dr. John Flateau, Elaine Frazier  
Lisa Harris, Esq., Willis H. Stephens, Jr., Esq.

Re: Ensuring Transparent Redistricting Commission Hearings  
Dear Commissioners,

We, the undersigned organizations, write to urge you to prioritize transparency and public participation as you resume drawing New York's congressional map in the coming weeks. Our organizations represent a broad range of groups and communities that remain deeply invested in an equitable and transparent process that includes substantive input from New Yorkers around the state. We firmly believe that an open redistricting process is critical for ensuring that the voices of all New Yorkers are heard.

New Yorkers deserve the opportunity to weigh in on district lines before they are finalized despite the challenges presented by the procedurally set timeline for the creation and submission of the new map. The adherence to a strict timeline should not be achieved at the expense of the interests of everyday New Yorkers. Notwithstanding the position expressed by some commissioners in their December 15 statement, we note that several commissioners are newly appointed and do not have the benefit of having heard directly from New Yorkers at the hearings held in 2021 and early 2022. Moreover, prior hearings held were not in response to current congressional maps drawn by the Special Master.

The Commission should solicit feedback from New Yorkers by holding hybrid hearings at different locations in the state. The Commission should also allow the public to submit written testimony that the Commission is required to share with all commissioners. Such hearings and written testimony are required to ensure that any new map reflects the diversity of New York's population and upholds the principles of the Voting Rights Act. To ensure fair representation for all New Yorkers, we urge you to protect communities of interest and minority voices throughout the state.

Finally, the Commission should make it clear that its duty is to the public, not elected officials or political parties. Holding mapping deliberations in public will significantly help the Commission achieve this goal. It is our hope that the Commission collaborates and prioritizes reaching a consensus on the new map. New Yorkers deserve a redistricting process free of gridlock, and we ask that the Commissioners do everything in their power to reach an agreement.

The lack of public trust in New York's redistricting process is pronounced and voters are weary of ever changing district lines and the attendant uncertainty it brings right before a consequential election cycle. We urge the Commission to make every attempt at collaboration, meaningful public input, openness and transparency before submitting any new congressional map plan to the Legislature.

Sincerely,

APA VOICE Redistricting Task Force  
Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund (AALDEF)  
Citizens Union, Common Cause/NY  
Empire State Indivisible, League of Women Voters New York  
New York Civic Engagement Table (NYCET)  
New York Immigration Coalition (NYIC)  
New York Public Interest Research Group (NYPIRG)  
Reinvent Albany

### CORPORATION NOTICE CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers, New York will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following General Ordinance, to wit:

#### PROPOSED GENERAL ORDINANCE

A PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 43 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, AND THE ACCOMPANYING ZONING MAP TO RECLASSIFY AND REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 900 NORTH BROADWAY ON THE TAX MAP AS BLOCK 3415, LOT 23, SECTION 23, SECTION 3, FROM ITS PRESENT PEP DISTRICT DESIGNATION TO THE MG DISTRICT.

Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary. Further information, including access to a copy of the proposed legislation, may be obtained at the City Clerk's office, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York and on the City's Website.

VINCENT SPANO City Clerk

### Letter to the Editor: WESTCHESTER RISING

We are proud that New York State has become the tenth state to enact a ban on wildlife killing contests.

Wildlife killing contests aren't hunting - they are bizarre, gruesome spectacles giving prizes to the largest number of massacres in a set time period. 'Traditional' hunters like Jim Posewitz, the president of the Hunter's Institute, are against these 'contests,' saying such contests create poor public relations for hunters. Ed Nuse, former executive director of International Hunting Education, said, 'We don't like true hunting to be mixed up with such contests for money and prizes.' There are hunting shows on TV, but not the killing contests - gotta go underground to view them. The public would be too appalled to see our wildlife - including crows, squirrels and rabbits - suffering and dying in piles like they're trash.

They are not trash. They are not illegal immigrants, they are not criminals, they are not merely moving paper targets at the carnival. The days of saying 'it's just an animal' are over. Youtube has shown us animal's intelligence and sentience. Those who defend these contests by saying the prizes 'benefit' various charities can in fact reach into their wallets and make donations right now, from their hearts - no killing is necessary.

This is a great country; greatness doesn't come by eagerly and pointlessly slaughtering and piling up dead and dying innocent beings to win a prize. Thank you, New York State, for being leaders in wisdom and compassion for the profoundly voiceless.

Kiley Blackman, Tuckahoe  
Founder, Animal Defenders of Westchester  
www.ADOW.org

### Classifieds

#### Attorney

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

#### Health

HEARING AIDS!! High-quality rechargeable, powerful Audien hearing aids priced 90% less than competitors. Tiny and NEARLY INVISIBLE! 45-day money back guarantee! 855-598-5898

#### Health

ATTENTION OXYGEN THERAPY USERS! Discover Oxygen Therapy That Moves with You with Inogen Portable Oxygen Concentrators. FREE information kit. Call 888-514-3044

#### Health

VIAGRA and CIALIS USERS! 50 Pills SPECIAL \$99.00 FREE Shipping! 100% guaranteed. CALL NOW! 855-413-9574

#### Home Improvement

BATH & SHOWER UPDATES in as little as ONE DAY! Affordable prices - No payments for 18 months! Lifetime warranty & professional installs. Senior & Military Discounts available. Call: 866-393-3636

#### Home Improvement

Do you need a Roof or Energy Efficient Windows & Help paying for it? YOU MAY QUALIFY THROUGH NEW RELIEF PROGRAMS (800) 944-9393 or visit NYProgramFunding.org to qualify. Approved applications will have the work completed by a repair crew provided by: HOMEOWNER FUNDING. Not affiliated with State or Gov Programs.

#### Home Improvement

AGING ROOF? NEW HOMEOWNER? STORM DAMAGE? You need a local expert provider that proudly stands behind their work. Fast, free estimate. Financing available. Call 1-888-920-9937

#### Miscellaneous

DIRECTV Sports Pack - 3 Months on Us! Watch pro and college sports LIVE. Plus over 40 regional and specialty networks included. NFL, College Football, MLB, NBA, NHL, Golf and more. Some restrictions apply. Call DIRECTV 1-888-534-6918

#### Travel Services

SAVE ON YOUR TRAVEL PLANS! Up to 75% More than 500 AIRLINES and 300,000 HOTELS across the world. Let us do the research for you for FREE! Call: 877 988 7277.

**TRUGREEN**  
Live life outside.®

Save now with  
**50% OFF\***  
Your First Application

Get the most out of  
your lawn this spring.

**SCHEDULE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY! 1-844-674-6550**

\*Requires purchase of annual plan. Special price is for first Lawn application only. Requires purchase of annual plan, for new residential EasyPay or PrePay customers only. Valid at participating TruGreen locations. Availability of services may vary by geography. Not to be combined with or used in conjunction with any other offer or discount. Additional restrictions may apply. Consumer responsible for all sales tax. †Purchase of annual lawn plan required for TruGreen Lawn Assessment, which is performed at the first visit. \*Guarantee applies to annual plan customers only. BBB accredited since 07/01/2012. ©2023 TruGreen Limited Partnership. All rights reserved. In Connecticut, B-0153, B-1380, B-0127, B-0200, B-0151.

*MGM Casino Yonkers, continued from pg 1-*

The entertainment venue will be the first-of-its-kind in the region, hosting A-list performers and events in a spectacular 5,000-capacity setting with unrivaled views, cutting-edge acoustics and dedicated amenities. MGM Resorts is renowned for its entertainment offerings as the third-largest ticket seller for live performances in the United States and the capacity to seat more than 100,000 people a night across entertainment venues around the world. MGM Empire City's entertainment venue will boost the region's economy, attracting new events to the market and bringing together locals and tourists alike.

A commercial casino license will also enable MGM Empire City to introduce The BetMGM Sportsbook & Lounge, offering guests lively game day experiences with a 112-foot wrap-around LED screen, stadium seating, VIP areas, multiple betting kiosks and food and beverage operations.

"MGM Resorts has a long and proud history of delivering world-class entertainment and gaming experiences, and we couldn't be more excited to build on that track record at MGM Empire City," said Bill Hornbuckle, President and Chief Executive Officer, MGM Resorts. "A full-scale casino and entertainment destination will provide unparalleled experiences, create thousands of jobs, boost the state's economy, and be a game-changer for the entire region."

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said, "This is a momentous opportunity for the City of Yonkers, and I'm excited for the future, knowing the development of MGM Empire City will create thousands of good-paying union jobs and the economic growth that will ensure our city continues to flourish and prosper. Already drawing millions of guests annually, this development plan will solidify Empire City's status as a premier entertainment destination. Generations of Yonkers residents have worked at, enjoyed, and supported this historic property for 125 years, and I am excited about the significant impacts this project will have for residents now and for the next 125 years."

Ed Domingo, General Manager of Empire City Casino, said, "When MGM Resorts acquired Empire City Casino in 2019, we knew we were becoming stewards of a historic institution that has served generations of New Yorkers as a gathering place for entertainment, a source of jobs for the community, and a driver of economic development. As MGM Resorts prepares to enter its sixth year at the helm of this iconic property, we are excited to be able to combine the knowledge we have developed of the New York market with our expertise as a global entertainment brand, to bring the next chapter of New York's entertainment landscape to the incredible community we are part of."

With 31 destinations around the world, MGM Resorts offer best-in-class hotels and casinos, state-of-the-art meeting and conference spaces, incredible live and theatrical entertainment experiences, and an extensive array of restaurant, nightlife and retail offerings, sports betting and online gaming operations.

Empire City currently boasts the largest casino floor in the company's domestic portfolio at 160,000 square feet and is also one of the largest gaming floors in the country. It has been operating since October 2006 with video lottery terminals and electronic table games under its current lottery license. The site is also home to the historic Yonkers Raceway, a world-renowned horse racing harness track that has been operating since 1899. MGM Resorts remains committed to continuing racing operations and recently made significant investments in track renovations.

Empire City is Yonkers's largest tax contributor and one of its largest private employers. Future development plans will substantially boost workforce numbers with thousands of direct hires and over 10,000 anticipated indirect and induced jobs. The property currently spends tens of millions annually on local goods and services, keeping New York dollars in the state.

A full commercial gaming license will allow MGM Resorts to offer a casino experience that is competitive to the offerings of neighboring states, deterring the current flow of entertainment dollars from New York to gaming and entertainment properties in other states. The commercial license is also expected to spark more than \$1 billion in new economic activity for the region.

The development plan will move forward if MGM Resorts is successful in securing one of three available full commercial casino licenses currently up for bid in the State of New York. Application process and timeline will be provided by the state's Gaming Facility Location Board in the coming months.

## CORPORATION NOTICE

## CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 16, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested for all interested persons to be heard in favor of or in opposition to the proposed resolution:

## RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF YONKERS TO RENEW A CABLE FRANCHISE AGREEMENT WITH CABLEVISION SYSTEMS WESTCHESTER CORP. IN THE CITY OF YONKERS

Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary. Further information, including access to a copy of the proposed resolution, may be obtained at the City Clerk's office, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York and on the City's Website.

Vincent Spano

City Clerk

Date: January 3, 2024

## Peterson Foundation Statement on National Debt Surpassing \$34 Trillion

Michael A. Peterson, CEO of the Peter G. Peterson Foundation, commented today as the United States surpasses \$34 trillion in debt. Peterson said:

"We are beginning a new year, but our national debt remains on the same damaging and unsustainable path. Following last year's debt ceiling deal, we quickly crossed \$32 trillion in June, \$33 trillion in September, and now we are soaring past \$34 trillion. Looking ahead, debt will continue to skyrocket as the Treasury expects to borrow nearly \$1 trillion more by the end of March. Adding trillion after trillion in debt, year after year, should be a flashing red warning sign to any policymaker who cares about the future of our country.

"The debt rises unabated because of well-known, structural drivers, including an aging population, high healthcare costs, rising interest costs, and a tax system that doesn't fund what we've promised. On our current path, important programs like Medicare and Social Security will both face the depletion of their trust funds within a decade. Despite these clear and present fiscal dangers, our leaders are still debating this year's appropriations, with a potential government shutdown looming.

"To help break through partisan gridlock, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle and in both the House and the Senate have supported a bipartisan fiscal commission. This is promising, because a dedicated, comprehensive process would put everything on the table, allowing lawmakers to look across the entire budget to recommend revenue and spending reforms that stabilize our debt. Nine-in-ten voters, across party lines, support a bipartisan fiscal commission, because they understand that we can't borrow our way to a positive economic future. As we enter a critical election year, it's an important time for a national conversation about our fiscal outlook and economic future, and an opportunity to start to put the nation on a stronger, more sustainable path."

## Libertarian Party of New York Denounces State Reliance on Surveillance Cameras for Revenue Generation

*-Questions Impact on Safety*

The Libertarian Party of New York (LPNY) declares its staunch opposition to the New York State Department of Transportation's broadened implementation of automated speeding tickets. The automated ticketing system, implemented in a limited way in 2021 and expanded recently, employs technology to detect and automatically issue speeding tickets. While excused as a road safety measure, the LPNY interprets this move to broadly expand this system as an insidious strategy for hidden taxation of the working class while egregiously infringing upon their Fourth Amendment rights.

According to LPNY, the exploitation of these systems for financial gain under the guise of public safety constitutes not just a breach of personal privacy but also an act of state-sanctioned extortion. Their position is that this system not only exemplifies governmental overreach but also serves as a devious mechanism for revenue gathering, effectively extorting money from vehicle owners via a hidden tax under the pretext of safety.

"The deployment of automated ticketing systems amounts to a flagrant violation of the Fourth Amendment, which protects against unreasonable searches and seizures," remarked Andrew Kolstee, Chair of the Libertarian Party of New York. "Beyond the constitutional transgression, it is a thinly veiled attempt to extort money from hard working New Yorkers. The lack of human oversight and the denial of any recourse to contest these automated tickets is a profound infringement on the rights enshrined to every American."

The LPNY is particularly alarmed by the lack of public awareness and debate regarding the broadened implementation of this system. The covert manner in which this law was passed and put into effect raises significant concerns about governmental transparency and accountability.

Furthermore, the LPNY expresses deep concerns over the potential expansion of such surveillance technology and its implications for personal privacy and freedom. "What starts as automated speeding enforcement could easily become a slippery slope towards more invasive forms of government surveillance," added Kolstee. "This is already happening. These cameras were introduced in work zones, but are reportedly being installed in non-work zone areas, which discretely expands the government surveillance system."

Moreover, the LPNY posits that the strategic setting of fines at a low threshold suggests an intent to discourage contestation, subtly coercing the populace into acceptance of this new norm. According to LPNY, this approach disproportionately burdens the financially vulnerable and working class New Yorker, creating a two-tiered justice system based on one's ability to pay.

"The LPNY calls for an immediate suspension of this automated ticketing system," remarked Kolstee. "We urge state legislators and the New York State Department of Transportation to consider the serious Fourth Amendment concerns raised by such a system. We are committed to the principles of individual liberty, due process, and limited government, and advocate for a state where public safety is upheld without compromising the constitutional freedoms of its citizens. The automated speeding ticket system violates these principles and the constitutional rights of New Yorkers."

The LPNY is actively seeking people who have been ticketed by this new system, as plaintiffs in a legal challenge against it. The LPNY is concurrently launching a fundraising drive to support these efforts. By combining legal action with advocacy, the LPNY aims to protect the Fourth Amendment rights of all New Yorkers against what it considers to be invasive measures by NYS

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**A LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 109 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, ENTITLED “VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC” IN REGARDS TO DUE PROCESS PROCEDURES FOR TOWING AND IMPOUNDED VEHICLES**

Notice is hereby given that the City Council of the City of Yonkers has adopted the abovementioned legislation that amends Chapter 109 of the Code of the City of Yonkers entitled “Vehicles and Traffic” is hereby amended in part by amending various sections to update the process by which vehicles are towed and impounded and by which vehicle owners/lessors are notified.

The penalties for violation of this local law are as follows:

§ 109-160. Penalties for offenses; towing and storage fees.

A. Except for violations of this chapter which are within the jurisdiction of the Parking Violations Bureau, and in the event that a penalty is not established for a given violation of this chapter, then such violation shall be punished by a fine not exceeding \$250 or confinement in jail not exceeding 10 days, or both.

B. Parking, standing and stopping violations shall be punished as follows:

Type of Violation	Fee	Type of Violation	Fee
Expired meter (on street)	\$30	M/T 12 inches from curb, 2-way street	\$50
Overtime parking at meter (on street)	\$30	M/T 12 inches from curb, 1-way street	\$50
Expired meter (off street)	\$30	Parking left side to curb, 2-way street	\$50
Failed to activate meter (on street)	\$30	Parking wrong direction, 2-way street	\$50
Overtime parking at meter (off street)	\$30	Parking wrong direction, 1-way street	\$50
Failed to activate meter (off street)	\$30	Parking opposite construction site	\$50
Parking in 2 meter spaces (on street)	\$50	Improper parking	\$50
Parking rear to meter (on street)	\$50	Parked rear to curb	\$50
Parking in 2 meter spaces (off street)	\$50	Improper angle parking	\$50
Parking rear to meter (off street)	\$50	Angle parking prohibited, 2-way street	\$50
No parking	\$50	Angle parking prohibited, 1-way street	\$50
Overtime parking, no meter	\$50	Wheels not turned to curb on hill	\$50
Parking in driveway, public or private	\$50	Parking a trailer, semitrailer, tractor-trailer, tractor, house-on-wheels, bus or school bus	\$500
Parking within 30 feet of stop sign	\$50	Other commercial vehicle	\$50
Parking within 10 feet of crosswalk at intersection	\$60	Parked on bridge	\$50
Parking in loading zone	\$50	Unattended vehicle	\$70
Parked at theater entrance	\$50	No current license plate	\$90
Parked on private property	\$50	Unauthorized license plate	\$90
Parked without lights	\$50	Parked leaving L/T 10 feet roadway	\$90
Inspection violations	\$50	Restricted area	\$70
Parked on entrance or exit ramps, state highway	\$50	Restricted area, parking lot	\$70
Parked on state highway	\$50	Restricted area, off street	\$70
Parked alongside curbcut	\$50	Restricted, raceway parking	\$70
Parked for purpose of vehicle sale	\$50	Obstructing traffic	\$90
Parked for vehicle repair, except emergency	\$50	Obstructing traffic, L/T 10 feet roadway	\$90
Parked on highway with speed limit over 35 mph for purpose of selling frozen desserts	\$50	Double-parked	\$90
Parked within safety island	\$60	Double-parked commuting hours (Mon. - Fri. 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., excluding holidays)	\$100
Parked within crosswalk	\$60	Parked within 15 feet of fire hydrant	\$70
Parked within intersection	\$60	Parked in fire zone	\$90
Parked on sidewalk	\$80	Parked within 20 feet of fire station entrance	\$90
No standing	\$70	Parked in tow-away zone	\$90
No stopping	\$70	Emergency snow removal	\$90
No stopping, bus stop	\$50	Parked in handicap space, no permit, on street	\$200
Stopped on pavement	\$50	Parked in handicap space, no permit, off street	\$100
Registration violations	\$70	Abandoned vehicle	\$450
Unregistered motorcycle	\$70	Abandoned vehicle in a designated emergency	\$500
Tab improperly on plate	\$70	All other parking violations, including violations of Article 32 of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law	\$50
License plate violations	\$90		

C. In the event that a respondent does not enter a plea or remit the fine due for a parking, standing or stopping violation as and when required by this chapter, then they shall pay a late payment penalty equal and in addition to the scheduled fine for the violation charged.

D. In the event that a vehicle is towed pursuant to this chapter, the owner or person entitled to possession of the vehicle shall pay a towing charge and a storage charge as set by the rules and regulations of the City of Yonkers. These charges shall be in addition to any fines or penalties for illegal stopping, standing, parking, abandonment or any other offense under this chapter. Towing and storage charges shall be paid as lawfully. No vehicle shall be released unless all towing and storage fees, outstanding parking violations and related penalties are paid in full.

The complete text of the ordinance is on file and may be examined at the Office of the City Clerk, City Hall, 40 S. Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701.

Dated: December 18, 2023 Vincent Spano City Clerk

## Winter Train Show at Hudson Park, New Rochelle Jan. 14 & 21



Embrace the joy of the season and join us for a whimsical journey through the Hudson Park Children's Greenhouse's first-ever "Winter Train Show"! This perfect family event promises an evening filled with joy, wonder, and the warmth of community. Experience the enchantment of meticulously crafted scale model trains as they wind through a winter wonderland, featuring a London-themed city with 19 ceramic landmarks and a charming United States setup.

### Event Dates:

Sunday, January 14th, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm  
Sunday, January 21st, 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm

### Location:

Hudson Park Children's Greenhouse  
Hudson Park, 44 Wildcliff Road, New Rochelle, NY 10805

### Ticket Information:

\$5 per person, available at [<http://hpcgreenhouse.org/>]

Curated with passion by President Millie Radonjic-Ilich and committee member John Hessel, this educational event invites families to explore the fascinating world of trains while supporting the greenhouse's commitment to children's education. Bring friends and family for an evening that combines entertainment with learning—a delightful blend that promises to create lasting memories.

## Ask Rusty – Can Someone Work While Collecting

### Social Security Disability?

Dear Rusty: If a person is collecting Social Security disability benefits, can they, at any point, work at all? If they can, what is the maximum they can earn and still keep the disability benefit? I am asking because my husband is still young, but his injuries will not allow him to go back to the job he had prior to his injuries and surgeries. He does not just want to sit at home doing nothing! Signed: Concerned Wife

Dear Concerned: Actually, the Social Security Administration (SSA) encourages those collecting SSDI (Social Security Disability Insurance) benefits to attempt to go back to work and they provide considerable leeway for them to do so. The monthly earnings limit for those collecting SSDI benefits in 2024 is \$1,550 and as long as your husband earns less than the limit while working, his SSDI benefits will not be in jeopardy. Your husband should contact Social Security's Ticket to Work program directly to protect his disability status and discuss returning to work while collecting SSDI benefits.

The Ticket to Work program assists those now receiving SSDI benefits who wish to test their ability to return to work without putting their SSDI benefits at risk. The program provides considerable assistance, including new career training opportunities and connection to potential employers, and it is voluntary and costs nothing. Here is a link to Social Security's information on the Ticket to Work program: <https://choosework.ssa.gov/>

It's not mandatory for your husband to enroll in the Ticket to Work program but, in addition to other available assistance, he can request a Trial Work Period (TWP) which would allow for 9 months, over a rolling five year period, during which he can earn any amount (even over the normal monthly limit mentioned above) without risking his SSDI benefits. Within the Trial Work Period, only those months he earns over the normal monthly SSDI limit would count as a Trial Work Month. So, for example, your husband could work part time regularly earning under the normal monthly limit and if, in some months (up to nine), he earned more it wouldn't affect his SSDI benefits.

So, your younger disabled husband can, indeed, work while on Social Security disability, for as long as he wishes while earning under the monthly SSDI limit (the SSDI earnings limit changes yearly). He may also wish to enroll in Social Security's Ticket to Work program for assistance with developing a new career. Plus, he can take advantage of using trial work months in the event his work earnings will, at times, exceed the monthly SSDI limit. If your husband earns over the SSDI limit for more than the 9 trial work months and his benefits are consequently stopped, he can - within the 5-year Trial Work Period - have his benefits reinstated (without again going through the full application process) if his disability, once more, renders him unable to work full time.

For starters, I suggest your husband contact Social Security's Ticket to Work program directly at 1.833-889-0108 to discuss returning to work part time. Social Security will guide him through the entire process. This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation's staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association (NSSA). NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity. To submit a question, visit our website ([amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory](http://amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory)) or email us at [ssadviser@amacfoundation.org](mailto:ssadviser@amacfoundation.org).

## Weekend Events at Westchester County Parks

SATURDAY, JAN. 13

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

Animal Interactions, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Do you want a more up-close view of our animals? Join us for a private experience and enter one of our enclosures where you will see, touch and learn more about an animal of the farmer's choice. Also: Feb. 10, March 9. Get details and pre-register <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/animal-interactions-tickets-773107303757>

Miller House, 140 Virginia Road, White Plains: (914) 428-1005

Miller House Open House, 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Drop in to visit the former home of the Ann and Elijah Miller family, an average colonial Westchester family whose lives were changed forever when Gen. Washington and his army fought for American independence.

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

Winter Art, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Have some wintry fun with snowflakes that won't melt. Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/winter-art/>

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

Animals in Hibernation, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Where do animals go during the winter? Join us for this program about types of hibernation for different animals found here in the sanctuary.

Trailside Nature Museum at Ward Pound Ridge Reservation, Cross River: (914) 864-7322. Wildflower Paper Workshop, 1 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Let's recycle paper and give it new life! Together we can make our own custom wildflower seed cardstock, which will be perfect for art projects and can be planted to create a beautiful spring garden instead of being recycled.

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851

Invasive Vine Basket Weaving, 1 p.m. - 3 p.m. Join us for a chance to learn simple basket weaving while supporting the ecology of the preserve. We will forage for our weaving materials by cutting back invasive vines, then sit in a warm spot to construct our very own baskets. For ages 12 and older; an indoor/outdoor program.

### City Council Reorg, continued from pg 4-

"I'm at the beginning of my seventh year on the City Council, and I read these rules, which basically says Anthony Merante, Councilman for six years, has not been assigned a committee. That's a disgrace. It's disrespectful to the residents of the 6th District. So basically, in reading through this, it looks like the City Council is basically going to be run by five individuals. I'll bring a lot of popcorn.

"Furthermore, with the termination of my legislative aide, Connie Braun, who sat in this chamber with all the council members for 25 years, was terminated with a disabled son and no paycheck. That is just disgraceful! As a target of political retribution. I sit here honored that my advocacy to be independent is working because I'm here for the people, by the people, not by the Council or from the second floor."

Pineda-Isaac and Merante's other connection is that both ran unsuccessfully for Mayor in 2023. Pineda-Isaac lost a democratic primary to Mayor Mike Spano, and Merante lost in the general election in November to Spano.

The vote for committee chairs, and the hiring of council staff, are both political in nature. Both are beholden to the majority on the council.

At their re-org meeting every two years, the council also designates a daily and weekly newspaper for the City of Yonkers. The purpose is to publish legal notices and other official city announcements. NY State law requires the publication of legal notices for public hearings, Bid's for services and contracts, and upcoming meetings. Yonkers Rising was named as the official weekly newspaper for the City of Yonkers. We thank all of the members of the council who voted unanimously for our paper to continue serving the people of Yonkers. Yonkers Rising has had the weekly paper designation since 2006. We also print the City of Yonkers legal notices on our website [Yonkerstimes.com](http://Yonkerstimes.com).



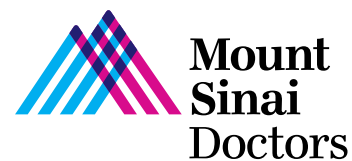
# Mount Sinai expertise. Westchester convenience.

Visit Mount Sinai Doctors in Westchester County and get access to the same expertise and medical advancements available throughout the Mount Sinai Health System.

Our six locations in Westchester County offer primary care and multiple specialty services, including cardiology, gastroenterology, orthopedics, breast surgery, and more.

Book an appointment close to home today at [mountsinai.org/westchester](https://mountsinai.org/westchester)

**WE FIND A WAY**



**Mount Sinai Doctors-Bronxville**  
77 Pondfield Road  
Bronxville, NY 10708  
914-337-2301

**Mount Sinai Doctors-Hartsdale**  
141 South Central Avenue, Suite 102  
Hartsdale, NY 10530  
914-997-1200

**Mount Sinai Doctors-Pelham**  
116 Fifth Avenue  
Pelham, NY 10803  
914-813-3133

**Mount Sinai Doctors-Scarsdale**  
341 Central Park Avenue  
Scarsdale, NY 10583  
914-370-5000

**Mount Sinai Doctors-Yonkers**  
1086 North Broadway  
Yonkers, NY 10701  
914-968-3535

**Mount Sinai Doctors-Yonkers Orthopedics**  
984 North Broadway, Suite 306  
Yonkers, NY 10707  
914-369-1700