

## Two Baby Crocs Found in Yonkers



*ECO Franz with juvenile crocodile and dwarf caiman removed from a residence in Westchester County*

From the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation:

Reptile Removal – Westchester County On December 10, ECO Franz received a report regarding an individual in possession of reptiles in the City of Yonkers without a license or permit. The animals, a juvenile crocodile and dwarf caiman, were discovered by City of Yonkers Police Officers while conducting an arrest for unrelated charges. The reptiles were placed in a properly licensed facility and ECOs issued multiple tickets to the individual for illegally possessing reptiles without t

*continued on pg 10--*

## Sir Shefik Receives Proclamation From NY State Senate

### Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins & Mayor Spano



*Sir Shefik Macauley with New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Mayor Mike Spano of Yonkers, New York. (Photo Credit: Joose Bogans / NASA Space Apps Yonkers)*

On the occasion of the 2025 NASA International Space Apps Challenge, Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins honored Sir Shefik with a Proclamation from NY State Senate.

This recognition inspires me to continue serving our community, celebrating our shared achievements, and uplifting the voices that strengthen our state. I am grateful for this acknowledgment.”

*continued on pg 9-*

## Attention Bee Line Bus Passengers: OMNY

### Fare Scanners on All Buses



Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins toured the Bee-Line Bus garage in Valhalla to view newly installed OMNY fare scanners on the Bee-Line fleet. The visit marked a major milestone ahead of the official County-wide launch of OMNY on January 4, 2026 at 5 a.m., when the Bee-Line bus system will fully adopt the Metropolitan Transportation Authority’s (MTA) contactless fare payment system.

Beginning January 4, Bee-Line fares will also be adjusted to align with MTA’s new fare rates. The changes include a 25-cent increase to the base and on-board cash fare, a 15-cent increase for reduced fares for seniors and

*continued on pg 3-*

## Mayor Spano to MTA After Bus Crash: Move Your Depot off the Waterfront to the Bronx



On Dec. 26, at 1:15pm, Yonkers Police and Fire units responded to the corner of Warburton Avenue and Ashburton Avenue on a report of a motor vehicle accident involving a bus. Upon arrival, units observed that an MTA bus had struck a storefront at that location. The bus was occupied solely by the driver, who sustained minor injuries. She was transported to an area hospital for evaluation. There were no other injuries or parties involved.

Yonkers FD and the Yonkers Department of Housing and Buildings are on scene, assessing the building's structural integrity. Units will remain on scene until the bus is removed and further assessments can be made.

The bus was leaving the MTA’s bus depot, located at 59 Babcock Place on the Yonkers waterfront, which houses 80 MTA commuter buses.

Mayor Mike Spano is renewing his call for the MTA to move the bus depot to the Bronx. Spano explained that the buses serve mostly New York City residents and don’t pay property taxes to the City of Yonkers. The property could easily generate up to \$500,000 in taxes per year if the depot were moved and the Mayor’s continued redevelopment of the Yonkers waterfront were to continue.

*continued on pg 9--*

## Woman Assaults Pregnant DSS Worker on Christmas Eve:

### DA Asks for Bail, Judge Lets Cochrane Walk Out- No Bail



*Judge Nichelle Johnson*

On Dec.27, Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced that Melissa Cochrane, 30, of Yonkers, was arrested Wednesday afternoon for allegedly attacking a pregnant Department of Social Services employee at the agency’s Yonkers district office.

Cochrane was arraigned Thursday on three counts of Assault in the Second Degree, a class D felony, one count of Assault in the Third Degree, a class A misdemeanor, and one count of Endangering the Welfare of a Child, a class A misdemeanor.

At Cochrane’s arraignment, prosecutors requested that she be held on bail in the amount of \$25,000 cash/\$50,000 secured bond/\$100,000 partially secured bond. Judge Nichelle Johnson released

## Happy Kwanzaa Yonkers!!



### African American Advisory Board & YPL Collect & Distribute 1,000 books

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano in collaboration with his African American Advisory Board and the Yonkers Public Library will host its Annual Kwanzaa Children’s Book Distribution Tuesday, December 30, 2025, 3:00pm at Yonkers Riverfront Library, One Larkin Center (Atrium). In addition to

*continued on pg 6-*

Learn to Play Liar's Dice at Philipse Manor Hall

A New Year's Commitment that Works:  
God First

Letter to the Editor:

How long do most New Year's "resolutions" last? Most people make resolutions related to fitness, finances and the like—and many break them within weeks. An Ohio State University survey found that only about 9% of people actually fulfill their resolutions, and 43% of people "expect to give up on their resolutions by the end of January." Data in other surveys varied, but there is a sense that New Year's resolutions often go nowhere.

So, how can we succeed in life and not make resolutions we don't keep? Goals require thought, planning and commitment. Let's start the new year with a winning plan.

Put God first. "But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you." (Matthew 6:33) How can we put God first? First of all, make time to read God's Word every day. You can do fifteen minutes in the morning to start your day with some energizing, edifying thoughts and promises, and again before bed, melting stress and relaxing in the knowledge that God will help and protect and heal you. Find promises that address your need.

Pray. Be specific and focused. (Philippians 4:6,7) Be careful for nothing; but in every thing by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. In the original, the word careful means anxious, and prayer carries the meaning of recognizing God's infinitely diversified and unlimited ability. Supplication focuses on your need, and requests means to request a specific thing. Focus clearly like a photographer with a camera on the what, but leave the how up to the omniscient God who knows the behind the scenes and bumps in the path ahead.

Use post-its and memory cards. Make notes of verses and quotes that inspire you, of small things you can do each day.

Now that you have connected with a Partner Who is always available to you and never fails, set your goals. They could be long term or short term. Sometimes you need to take things one day at a time. Don't be discouraged. Recognize that no one is perfect and when you fall, pick yourself up and keep on moving. Success is built by small steps over a period of time, the gradual realization of a worthy goal. God is omniscient and knows of obstacles and dangers that you cannot foresee. Not only is He both willing and able to prepare you for them, He is your biggest cheerleader.

Find a friend to help you. You can pray together, encourage each other on your goals, maybe even work on some of them together. Ecclesiastes 4:9-11 Two are better than one; because they have a good reward for their labour. For if they fall, the one will lift up his fellow: but woe to him that is alone when he falleth; for he hath not another to help him up. Again, if two lie together, then they have heat: but how can one be warm alone?"

Share what you have learned and your successes with someone else—that is both giving and reinforcing. You can help them achieve their goals as well.

(John 10:10) "The thief cometh not but for the steal and to kill and to destroy; I am come that they might have life and that they might have it more abundantly." Jesus Christ brought this promise—try it out and build a more abundantly and blessed new year.

Judith Niewiadomski  
Yonkers

Don't forget! We're starting 2026 with a new year of #HistoricalGames! Join us for our special "learn how to play" series all spring, starting next Saturday, January 3, 2026 at 1:00 PM with "Learn to Play Liar's Dice!"

Dating back to 15th century Peru, Liar's Dice is fast-paced game for two or more players. Brought to Europe by the Spanish, it became popular throughout Europe by the end of the 17th century. Using five dice and cups, Liar's Dice can go as long as you keep bluffing! Can you fool your opponents into believing your bid?

We'll also learn variations and other simple dice-based games from the past. Instruction begins at 1:00 PM. Bring a partner or make a new friend while you learn together.

This program is free and open to the public. No registration necessary. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

January 10-Westchester County Parks Event in Yonkers

Lenoir Preserve, Yonkers: (914) 968-5851

Naturalist's Choice Hike, 12 p.m. – 1:30 p.m.

Join the park naturalist to explore Lenoir's winter meadows and woods.

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

**"Were it left to me to decide if we should have a government without newspapers, or newspapers without a government, I should not hesitate a moment to prefer the latter**

**-Thomas Jefferson**

On This Day in Yonkers History...

Kindness and Compassion are New Years Resolutions Worth Keeping.



A Boyce Thompson Institute building and its plant greenhouses.

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

By J. Basil Dannebohm

As the calendar once again turns over, many of us find ourselves looking back on the last year, sometimes with regret. Though healthy reflection can be a good thing, it's important to remember the lessons, not the disappointments. If we could erase all the mistakes of our past, we would lose the wisdom gained from our experiences. What's done is done. It's okay to look back, but never let the past stop you from moving forward.

This is also a time when people make resolutions for the year ahead. Some of us will resolve to lose weight, exercise more, or eat healthier. Others will commit to expanding their knowledge. We live in an age where far too many people are so caught up in toning and shaping their bodies that they forget to tone and shape their character. One can go to the gym, hydrate, and eat a well-balanced diet, but if you ignore your mental and spiritual health there stands a good chance that next year around this time, you'll still feel empty. Likewise, while broadening one's horizons is an admirable pursuit, as the adage goes, "A person's most useful asset is not a head full of knowledge, but a heart full of love, an ear ready to listen, and a hand willing to help others."

Most of the resolutions that are made at the beginning of January fall by the wayside before March. Perhaps it's because many of them are frivolously aimed at self-gratification? But in the grand scheme of things, it's not about who you impress. It's about who you impact. Russian aristocrat-turned-anarchist Peter Kropotkin once observed, "Competition is the law of the jungle, but cooperation is the law of civilization." Yet because of our primal instincts, we live in a hyper-competitive society. We tirelessly strive to keep up with the Joneses. At the end of the year, what do we have to show for it? Copious amounts of debt, lack of self-esteem, lifestyles of absurd excess, and mental health issues in abundance. Then New Year's Eve rolls around, and many of us fester in regret only to start the entire process all over again the next day.

Very few among us truly have it easy. Everyone has issues. Life happens. None of us can ever fully know what our neighbors are going through. Yet far too many of us rush to assume, judge, mock, and criticize others.

In his book, "Anna Karenina," Leo Tolstoy writes, "If it is true that there are as many minds as there are heads, then there are as many kinds of love as there are hearts." Imagine if all those different minds agreed to be just a little bit kinder and more compassionate as a universal New Years' resolution. Kindness is a willingness to loan someone your strength instead of reminding them of their weakness.

In the year ahead, consider letting your compassion be wide enough to embrace the many hearts of those whose experiences and struggles might be unfamiliar to you: the shut-ins, the sick, the single parent, the immigrant, the widow or widower, the homesick college student, the veteran, the first responder. Consider carving out a little time to make a phone call, send a handwritten letter, or a little thoughtful item to someone in your community. If you're an extrovert, invite someone out for a cup of coffee or take an overlooked friend to lunch.

Even the simplest act can make a meaningful impact. For example, if you see an acquaintance at the grocery store, say hello and genuinely inquire about how that person is doing. Smile and greet the stranger you pass on the street. When you see something beautiful in someone, tell them. While it only takes a moment, the impact could last a lifetime. Who knows? It might even save a life.

In a 2012 Commencement Address at Syracuse College, screenwriter and playwright Aaron Sorkin said, "Don't ever forget that you're a citizen of this world, and there are things you can do to lift the human spirit – things that are easy, things that are free, things that you can do every day: Civility, respect, kindness, character."

Indeed, all that really matters is how we treat each other. When the year ahead draws to a close, don't measure it by how much weight you lost or how many books you read. Measure it by the hearts you've touched, the smiles you created, and the love you shared. Kindness is a resolution worth keeping.

J. Basil Dannebohm is a writer, speaker, consultant, and former legislator. His website is [www.dannebohm.com](http://www.dannebohm.com). He is a registered Independent.

Monday, January 5th  
 January 5, 1936: Charles Drury of Spencer Place, one of New York's best musical directors and arrangers, made his radio debut as musical director of the revue "At Home Abroad," starring headliners Beatrice Lillie, Ethel Waters, Herb Williams, Eddie Foy Jr., Vera Allen and Yonkers resident Eleanor Powell! Director of Music at the Winter Garden, he also arranged music for George M. Cohan and George White's Scandals. Drury was married to Yonkers native and performer Ethel Odell.

January 5, 1943: Two Yonkers naturalized citizens, Gotthilf Faigle and Herbert Otto, went on trial with 18 other men alleged to be members of the German American Bund; the government wanted to revoke their American citizenships. Faigle, reportedly leader of the Yonkers unit, was reported to have said he wanted to live permanently in Germany... and did not want Germany to lose the war. Finders was accused of being the head of the New Rochelle unit, and agreeing with Hitler's spoutings; he reputedly said "We need Hitler in the United States."

Tuesday, January 6th  
 January 6, 1931: Two Yonkers' scientists, Dr. S. E. McCallan and Dr. Frank Wilcoxon, were singled out by the American Society of Phytopathology at the American Association for the Advancement of Science. They were recognized for their work at Yonkers' Boyce Thompson Institute for "one of the finest pieces of plant pathology work in the United States during the last year." The duo worked for more than eighteen months on treating and killing fungus growth in Sulphur sensitive plants. Sulphur dust didn't actually kill the fungus, instead, fungi used it to create toxic hydrogen sulphide to kill fungus. The two scientists termed it as fungi taking their own lives. McCallan and Wilcoxon were recommended for \$1,000 prizes.

January 6, 1943: The Army Quartermaster gave Alexander Smith and Sons an order to manufacture an additional 5,000 blankets; the original contract was to manufacture 150,000 olive drab wool blankets at \$6.835 each. All blankets had to be delivered no later than June 30th.

Wednesday, January 7th:  
 January 7, 1933: Twenty-five-year-old Wolfe Street resident Hemsley Winfield performed the role of Witch Doctor in the premiere of the new American opera, "Emperor Jones." Based on Eugene O'Neill's play of the same name

continued on pg 11--

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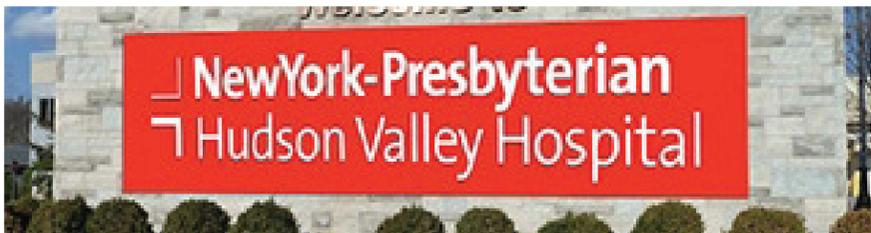
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## NY Presbyterian-Hudson Valley Hospital Pays \$616,000 for Illegal Kickback Scheme



**Attorney General James Secures Over \$616,000 from New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital for Illegal Kickback Scheme**

**HVH Allegedly Paid Oncology Practice Millions to Refer Cancer Patients to the Hospital**

New York Attorney General Letitia James today secured over \$616,000 from New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital (HVH) for violating the law by making illegal kickback payments to a Westchester County oncology practice in exchange for its doctors allegedly referring approximately 114 patients to the hospital. A joint investigation between the Office of the Attorney General's (OAG) Medicaid Fraud Control Unit (MFCU) and the United States Attorney's Office for the Southern District of New York (SDNY) revealed that from January 2011 through December 2019, HVH and its predecessor, Hudson Valley Hospital Center, paid millions of dollars to the oncology practice, which then referred its patients for oncology services at the hospitals. Under a settlement with OAG and SDNY, HVH will pay over \$616,000 in damages for false claims to New York's Medicaid program.

"New Yorkers should be able to trust that their doctors are making decisions based on their best interests, not financial incentives," said Attorney General James. "HVH's illegal kickback scheme undermined cancer patients' critical relationships with their health care providers. I will continue to go after illegal financial schemes that corrupt our health care system and prevent patients from getting the care they deserve."

The investigation found that from January 2011 through December 2019, HVH and Hudson Valley Hospital Center offered and paid the oncology practice over four million dollars in fees. These fees were paid in connection with three agreements – including for work that was either not performed, not performed as called for in the agreements, or for which HVH lacks any time records – to induce the oncology practice to refer its patients to Hudson Valley and HVH for oncology-related medical services. As a result of this scheme, HVH submitted false claims to Medicaid in violation of the New York State False Claims Act.

Under the settlement, HVH will pay \$616,676.14, representing damages to Medicaid, with over \$367,000 going directly to New York's Medicaid program. The remainder will be returned to the federal government. The case against HVH was initiated by a former employee, who will receive a portion of the settlement because the former employee filed a whistleblower lawsuit under the federal and New York False Claims Acts, which allow people to file civil actions under seal on behalf of the government and share in any recovery.

The investigation and settlements were the result of a coordinated effort between OAG and SDNY. Attorney General James thanks SDNY for their partnership and assistance.

The investigation was conducted by Deputy Regional Chief Auditor Matthew Tandle, under the supervision of Chief Auditor Dejan Budimir, and former Special Assistant Attorney General Jared Goldman of the Civil Enforcement Division, under the supervision of Deputy Chief Diana Elkind. The Civil Enforcement Division is led by Chief Alee Scott. MFCU is led by Director Amy Held and Assistant Deputy Attorney General Paul J. Mahoney. The Division for Criminal Justice is led by Chief Deputy Attorney General José Maldonado and overseen by First Deputy Attorney General Jennifer Levy.

Reporting Medicaid Provider Fraud: MFCU defends the public by addressing Medicaid provider fraud and protecting nursing home residents from abuse and neglect. If an individual believes they have information about Medicaid provider fraud or about an incident of abuse or neglect of a nursing home resident, they can file a confidential complaint online or call MFCU at (212) 417-5397. If the situation is an emergency, please call 911.

New York MFCU's total funding for federal fiscal year (FY) 2026 is \$70,793,651. Of that total, 75 percent, or \$53,095,240, is awarded under a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. The remaining 25 percent, totaling \$17,698,411 for FY 2026, is funded by New York State.

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

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

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

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

## Zachary Stern Brings 285 Teddy Bears to Warm the Hearts of Wartburg Seniors



There was something especially meaningful about Zachary Stern's ninth birthday this year. Instead of focusing on gifts for himself, Zachary chose to give joy to others; sharing his love of teddy bears with older adults and asking a simple, heartfelt question: If teddy bears bring me comfort and happiness, could they do the same for someone else?

That question sparked a beautiful act of generosity that culminated in Wartburg Adult Care Community's Beary Merry Holiday, a campus-wide celebration filled with smiles, hugs, and holiday cheer.



**Jenn Stern, Nate Stern, Brian Langergaard and Zachary Stern**

With the support of his family, Zachary launched a Spotfund.com campaign called "Teddy Bears for All." His mother, Jenn, and stepfather, Brian Langergaard, helped turn his birthday wish into action, amplifying the effort through family connections and philanthropic support. When Jenn and Brian happened to meet Pastor Kimberli Lile, Director of Spiritual Care at Wartburg, at a local restaurant in their hometown of Port Washington, NY, conversation turned to family-and to Zachary's dream of sharing teddy bears with elders.

"Come up to Wartburg in Westchester," Pastor Lile suggested. And just like that, the seeds of something special were planted.

Working collaboratively, Wartburg's Advancement, Recreational Therapy, and Spiritual Care teams designed a joyful afternoon that would allow Zachary and his family to personally deliver teddy bears across campus. The bears were supplied by the "Ms. Teddy Bear" company. On Friday, December 12, Zachary, his mom Jenn, stepdad Brian, and brother Nate arrived at Wartburg, where The Beary Merry Holiday officially began.

The tour visited four communities in one afternoon:

Wartburg's Adult Day Services, Meadowview Assisted Living where Wartburg independent residents joined in, the Skilled Nursing Center, and the Berkemeier Living Center, Wartburg's memory care residence.

At each stop, teddy bears were greeted with laughter, smiles, and heartfelt embraces, clear signs that joy was indeed on the move. In all 285 bears were distributed.

"Zachary reminded all of us that compassion has no age limit," said Pastor Kimberli Lile, Director of Spiritual Care. "His generosity created moments of connection that transcended generations and brought pure joy into the lives of our residents and patients. This was ministry in a most beautiful form."

Wartburg CEO Dr. David Gentner echoed that sentiment. "What Zachary and his family gave us was far more than teddy bears," Gentner said. "They gave our organization a reminder of the power of intention, and human connection. I'm so impressed with Zachary, and I sincerely hope we can repay his kindness someday soon"

As teddy bears found new homes in residents' arms and rooms, the day became a living example of Wartburg's mission to foster connection, dignity, and joy at every stage of aging.

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

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
 COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER  
 SUPPLEMENTAL SUMMONS  
 INDEX NO: 66684/2025  
 D/O/F: 07/10/2025

Property Address: 10 Tall Tulip Lane, Yonkers, NY 10710

Plaintiff designates Westchester County as the place of trial. Venue is based upon the County in which the property is situate.

AVAIL 3 LLC, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY BUT SOLELY AS ADMINISTRATOR OF RESTORATION III TRUST,  
 Plaintiff,

-against-

Unknown heirs at law of HERMAN AUERBACH, his next of kin, distributees, executors, administrators, trustees, devisees, legatees, assignees, lienors, creditors, and successors in interest, and generally all persons having or claiming, under, by or through said defendant who may be deceased, by purchase, inheritance, lien or otherwise, any right title or interest in and to the premises described in the complaint herein, all of whom and whose names and places of residence are unknown to the plaintiff and cannot after diligent inquiry be ascertained; LYNN AUERBACH AS HEIR OF THE ESTATE OF HERMAN AUERBACH, GARY AUERBACH AS HEIR OF THE ESTATE OF HERMAN AUERBACH, BOARD OF MANAGERS OF THE WINCHESTER HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, INC., UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TAXATION AND FINANCE;

“JOHN DOES” and “JANE DOES”, said names being fictitious, parties intended being possible tenants or occupants of premises, and corporations, other entities or persons who claim, or may claim, a lien against the premises,  
 Defendant(s).

-----X

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED to answer the Complaint in this action, and to serve a copy of your Answer, or, if the Complaint is not served with this Summons, to serve a Notice of Appearance on the Plaintiff’s Attorneys within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the State, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner, and in case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS: The foregoing Summons is served upon you by publication pursuant to an Order of the Hon. William J. Giacomo, a Justice of the Supreme Court, Westchester County, entered December 15, 2025 and filed with the complaint and other papers in the Westchester County Clerk’s Office.

THE OBJECT OF THE ACTION is to foreclose a mortgage dated February 21, 2025 and recorded in Control No. 650643550 on March 72025 in the Westchester County Clerk’s Office covering premises k/a 10 Tall Tulip Lane, Yonkers, NY 10710 a/k/a Section 4, Block 4402, Lot 306.

NOTICE YOU ARE IN DANGER OF LOSING YOUR HOME

If you do not respond to this summons and complaint by serving a copy of the answer on the attorney for the mortgage company who filed this foreclosure proceeding against you and filing the answer with the court, a default judgment may be entered and you can lose your home. Speak to an attorney or go to the court where your case is pending for further information on how to answer the summons and protect your property. Sending a payment to your mortgage company will not stop this foreclosure action. YOU MUST RESPOND BY SERVING A COPY OF THE ANSWER ON THE ATTORNEY FOR THE PLAINTIFF (MORTGAGE COMPANY) AND FILING THE ANSWER WITH THE COURT.

The following notice is intended only for the defendants who are owners of the premises sought to be foreclosed or who are liable upon the debt for which the mortgage stands as security.

YOU ARE HEREBY PUT ON NOTICE THAT WE ARE ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT A DEBT, AND ANY INFORMATION OBTAINED WILL BE USED FOR THAT PURPOSE.

PLEASE BE AWARE:

(1) that debt collectors, in accordance with the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, 15 U.S.C. § 1692 et seq., are prohibited from engaging in abusive, deceptive, an unfair debt collection effort, including, but not limited to:

- i. the use or threat of violence;
- ii. the use of obscene or profane language; and
- iii. repeated phone calls made with the intent to annoy, abuse, or harass.

(2) If a creditor or debt collector receives a money judgment against you in court, state and federal laws may prevent the following types of income from being taken to pay the debt:

- 1. Supplemental security income, (SSI);
- 2. Social security;
- 3. Public assistance (welfare);
- 4. Spousal support, maintenance (alimony) or child support;
- 5. Unemployment benefits;
- 6. Disability benefits;
- 7. Workers’ compensation benefits;
- 8. Public or private pensions;
- 9. Veterans’ benefits;
- 10. Federal student loans, federal student grants, and federal work study funds;
- and
- 11. Ninety percent of your wages or salary earned in the last sixty days.

TO THE DEFENDANTS: The Plaintiff makes no personal claim against you in this action.

TO THE DEFENDANTS: If you have obtained an order of discharge from the Bankruptcy court, which includes this debt, and you have not reaffirmed your liability for this debt, this law firm is not alleging that you have any personal liability for this debt and does not seek a money judgment against you. Even if a discharge has been obtained, this lawsuit to foreclose the mortgage will continue and we will seek a judgment authorizing the sale of the mortgaged premises. Dated: December 18, 2025 Sandy J. Stolar, Esq., MARGOLIN, WEINREB & NIERER, LLP, Attorneys for Plaintiff, 575 Underhill Boulevard, Suite 224, Syosset, New York 11791 516-921-3838- #102696

## Letter to the Editor: What are Mike Lawler’s 2026 New Year’s Resolutions?

As 2026 begins, it’s worth reflecting on Congressman Mike Lawler’s past “resolutions”.

These are the resolutions he made in his 2022 and 2024 campaigns. Back then, he pledged to:

- Get inflation “under control.”
- End “out-of-control” federal spending.
- “Back the blue” and uphold “law and order.”
- Strengthen border security while finding “dignified” solutions for undocumented immigrants.
- Support a “responsible” national defense.
- Take a “commonsense, mainstream” stance on abortion.
- Stop Chinese entities from accessing advanced U.S. semiconductor and AI technologies.

But in office, Congressman MAGA Lawler has caved on nearly every one of those commitments. So, here’s a more realistic set of resolutions for him in 2026:

- Increase tariffs and deportations while reducing labor and tourism, raising costs and cutting income for everyone.
- Keep giving tax breaks to billionaires like his benefactor Elon Musk, ballooning the federal deficit.
- Reward political loyalty over integrity, even when it means pardoning drug dealers and terrorists for cold, hard cash to the boss.
- Save one, or two victims of ICE kidnappings as token rescues for headlines and key voting blocks.

Support extreme tactics that separate families, ignore due process, and violate human rights. Have masked secret police kidnap immigrants.

Alienate NATO allies with reckless foreign policies like sinking and killing small ships that weaken global partnerships, and demonstrate how near-sighted this regime is.

Undermine women’s rights with harmful policies that provide no empathy for women needing abortions, only lip service.

Renege on shipping the latest semiconductor and AI technology to China.

In short, Lawler’s “resolutions” are less about serving his constituents and more about serving a corrupt and incompetent regime that is turning America from a beacon of democracy into a playground for the wealthy and well-connected.

Mike Lawler has run two campaigns on promises he never intended to keep. Let’s not be fooled again.

*Mark A. Lieberman, Yorktown, NY*

### Assault on DSS Worker, continued from pg 1-

the defendant, without bail, on her own recognizance.

The case is set to be heard next on Jan. 8. DA Cacace said: “The safety of our social services employees, who go out into the community every day to provide essential services to those in need, is non-negotiable. As alleged, the defendant committed a brazen assault on a dedicated county employee who was simply doing her job. Public servants should never have to fear for their safety when they clock into work. I stand with all in this county who are outraged by this incident and call for the passage of legislation that would enhance penalties for assaults on our social services employees.” According to a felony complaint filed in the case, on Dec. 24, inside the Yonkers district office of the Westchester County Department of Social Services, the defendant became argumentative with DSS case workers who were attempting to comply with a court order.

The defendant grabbed a pregnant DSS worker on her neck and chest areas and forced her to the ground, according to the complaint.

The case was investigated by the Westchester County Department of Public Safety. The case is being prosecuted by the Yonkers branch.

**DENTAL**  
Insurance

from Physicians Mutual Insurance Company, Inc.

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Dental50Plus.com/NYPres

Product/features not available in all states. Contact us for complete details about this insurance solicitation. To find a network provider, go to [physiciansmutual.com/fin-dental](http://physiciansmutual.com/fin-dental). This specific offer not available in CO, KS, NV, NY, OR - call 1-800-969-4781 or respond for a similar offer in your state. Certificate C254/B465, C250A/B438 (ID: C254ID; PA: C254PA); Insurance Policy P154/B469 (GA: P154GA; OK: P154OK; TN: P154TN). 6370

### Help Wanted

**Driver Needed:**  
 We are seeking a hardworking, enthusiastic, self-motivated and energetic professional to join our group of drivers.

**Driver must be customer service-oriented, punctual and friendly. Willing to work flexible hours, including days, nights, weekends and holidays. Must maintain a clean and well-organized vehicle, ensuring it is in excellent working condition through regular maintenance.**

Contact ( Terrysaunders145@gmail.com ) for more info.

**Community Baptist Church located in Yonkers, NY is seeking a Worship Director & Musician to lead weekly services and grow our vibrant music ministry. Candidates should be skilled in piano/keyboard, passionate about worship, collaborative with pastors and choir, and gifted in leadership. Responsibilities include directing rehearsals, mentoring musicians, and supporting special events. We offer a welcoming, Christ-centered community and compensation based on experience.**

Please send resume and video links to Rev. Dr. Nigel O. Cole at [revnigelocole156@gmail.com](mailto:revnigelocole156@gmail.com).

# Happy Kwanzaa Yonkers!!-1,000 Books Handed Out



free children's books, families will receive backpacks and a special treat.

This year's celebration places a special emphasis on the Kwanzaa principle Nia (Purpose)—honoring our collective responsibility to build, develop, and uplift the community. By promoting literacy and providing young readers with culturally affirming books and resources, the event reinforces the purpose of nurturing confident, informed, and inspired children who will carry the community forward.

## A Future Mayor? Visits City Hall



Sabrina Pretel is a senior at Lincoln High School Yonkers Public Schools. She was part of a survey of aspiring politicians in the district, and she said she'd like to become Mayor someday! She visited City Hall with her parents, and we had a chance to discuss her goals, including college. She has applied to several institutions and wants to study psychology and advocate for young people while remaining civically involved. After speaking with her, she has the drive to be anything she wants, including Mayor; she certainly may be on the ballot one day! Best of luck, Sabrina!

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

# Yonkers Senior Advisory Board



Yonkers has a brand new Senior Advisory Board!

After receiving over 70 applications, 14 incredible residents ages 60+ have been chosen to share their voices and experiences on senior issues in our City.

Meet the members: Raymond Embree, Douglas Ochoa, Steven Alston, Maria Teresa Torres, Kathleen Mayer, Janet Nappi, Pamela Petraglia, Joseph Lioi, Donna Nolan, Cheryl Green Foster, Eleanor Lennon, James Hurlman, Nancy Vasquez-Yancey, and MaryAnn Watkins.

This group will help guide programs, events, and initiatives that support seniors across Yonkers!

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**THE KITCHEN**

AN *SCOTT CONANT* SPOT

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Must be 18+ to enter

**VIEW MENU**

**Resorts World**  
HUDSON VALLEY

I-84 | Exit 36B | Newburgh, NY  
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**email [risingmediagroup@gmail.com](mailto:risingmediagroup@gmail.com)**

**TAX SALE NOTICE  
CITY OF YONKERS**

Department of Finance and Management Services, Office of the Commissioner, City Hall, Yonkers, New York.

Pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 452, Laws of 1908, known as the Supplemental Charter of the City of Yonkers, as amended by Chapter 725, of the Laws of 1917, adding thereto a new article numbered Article V-a, as further amended by Chapter 487, Laws of 1922, and as further amended by Chapter 667, Laws of 1933, as amended by Article IX Section 1 of Local Law No. 20-1961, as amended by Section 57 of Local Law 11 of 1995, and any subsequent amendments thereto, known as the Charter of the City of Yonkers, I, the undersigned Commissioner of Finance and Management Services of the City of Yonkers, do hereby give public notice:

That the respective owners of the lands and tenements in the City of Yonkers on which any taxes or assessments have been imposed and became a lien and have remained unpaid for one year since the same were due and payable are required to pay the amount of said taxes and assessments, together with all unpaid taxes and assessments affecting such lands and tenements, which became a lien and were due and payable prior to December 26, 2025 with all penalties thereon remaining unpaid, together with the interest thereon at the rate provided by law from the time the same became due and payable to the time of payment, and the charges of this notice and all other costs and charges accrued thereon to the time of payment, to the Commissioner of Finance and Management Services of the City of Yonkers, at his office in the City Hall, Yonkers, New York.

And Notice is hereby given that if default be made in such payment, the lien of the City of Yonkers, upon said lands and tenements for any tax or assessment, which became a lien so as to be due and payable before December 26, 2025; will be sold at public auction in the Ceremonial Court Room, 4th Floor, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, in the City of Yonkers, on Wednesday, May 13, 2026, at 10:00 A.M. of that date, for the lowest rate of interest, not exceeding 12 per centum per annum, at which time any person or persons shall offer to take the same in consideration of advancing the said taxes and assessments and penalties, as the case may be, the interest thereon as aforesaid to the time of sale, the charges of notice and all other costs and charges accrued thereon; and that such sale will be continued from time to time until all said liens of taxes and assessments shall be sold.

The transfer of tax liens to be executed and delivered to the purchaser thereof pursuant to the terms of said sale shall be subject to the lien for and the right of the City of Yonkers to collect and receive all taxes and assessments and penalties and interest thereon which became due and payable, of which became a lien upon said lands and tenements on and after the date mentioned in the advertisement for sale as stated herein, namely, the 26th day of December.

Each of the tax liens referred to in this advertisement will be sold subject to the provisions of the Federal Servicemembers Civil Relief Act and amendments thereto and Section 314 of the New York State Military Law.

Notice is hereby further given that a particular and detailed statement of the property affected by this sale, together with the total amount of the tax lien thereon, which is to be sold will hereafter be published in the official newspaper(s) of the City of Yonkers.

**FURTHER OR ADDITIONAL TAX SALE NOTICE**

In addition to the foregoing Tax Sale Notice and Statutes therein described, the further or additional notice is given setting forth the lots and parcels of land, including the street address thereof, on which the tax lien is to be sold together with the aggregate amount of tax lien thereon, and the assessed valuation of every said lot and parcel as described in the 2024 Tax Rolls as approved by the Department of Assessment and Taxation and confirmed by the City Council.

The name set forth is that of the person, corporation or legal entity appearing on the tax rolls as the owner or occupant of the lot or parcel of land upon which the tax lien is to be sold.

The first item is the Comptroller's Tax Lien Number; the second is that of the person appearing on the tax rolls as the owner or occupant of the property; the third is the location of the property as described on the tax rolls which includes the Section, Block and Lot Numbers as shown on the Official City Map; the fourth is the assessed valuation unimproved as shown on the tax rolls; the fifth is the total assessed valuation as shown on the tax rolls; the last group of figures is the total amount of the lien which is to be sold.

**John Liszewski**

**Commissioner of Finance and Management Services**

**OMNY Rollout, continued from pg 1-**

people with disabilities and a separate adjustment for the BxM4C express route. Aligning fares allows Bee-Line riders to continue receiving free transfers between Bee-Line buses and MTA subways and buses and to benefit from the seven-day OMNY fare cap of \$35 for unlimited trips, excluding the BxM4C. The fare cap for reduced-fare riders is \$17.50.

Jenkins said: "Westchester deserves a transportation system that works the way people live today. Installing OMNY across our entire Bee-Line fleet is about making transit easier, faster and more reliable for riders while ensuring access for everyone. This is a smart investment in modern public transportation that strengthens mobility across our County." Liberty Lines Transit President Thomas Murphy said: "Our staff has worked closely with the County to support the installation and launch of OMNY for Bee-Line riders. The new fare payment option is designed to enhance convenience and modernize the boarding process, contributing to an improved overall payment options and experience for the many customers who rely on the Bee-Line system each day." While OMNY officially launches on January 4 at 5 a.m., riders may continue using MetroCards on Bee-Line buses as long as the cards are not expired. MetroCard sales will end on December 31, 2025, and cards will no longer be reloadable after that date. Riders may transfer remaining MetroCard balances to OMNY cards through the OMNY Mobile Sales Van, which continues to visit locations across Westchester.

For riders who use weekly or monthly MetroCards, those cards must be activated by January 31, 2026, in order to be valid. Passengers can purchase OMNY cards at select retail locations. To find the nearest store that carries OMNY cards, visit: <https://omny.info/retail-locations>. In addition to OMNY, riders can continue paying with coins. For more information visit <http://www.westchestergov.com/beelinebus> or call the Bee-Line customer service center at (914) 813-7777.

**DA Cacace Determines that Peekskill Officer Regg Did Not Commit a Crime in Arresting Damar Fields**



**Peekskill Police Officer  
Daniel Regg**

**By Dan Murphy**

Westchester District Attorney Susan Cacace issued the following statement regarding the arrest of Damar Fields by Peekskill Police.

"On Dec. 4, the Peekskill Police Department referred a use-of-force incident involving multiple police officers to our office for review. The incident had occurred the day prior and concerned the arrest of an individual known to the department at the Riverfront Green Park.

"Our office's Public and Law Enforcement Integrity Bureau immediately began a comprehensive review of this incident. Investigators and Assistant District Attorneys reviewed body-worn camera footage that documented the incident, in its entirety, from multiple angles; interviewed a civilian eyewitness; reviewed post-incident police reports; reviewed independent footage uploaded to social media that depicted a portion of the incident; reviewed the applicable sections of the Peekskill Police Department's Standard Operating Procedure Manual; and reached out directly to the Peekskill community to solicit any additional, relevant information.

"The primary focus of our review was to determine whether the Peekskill officers' use of force on Dec. 3 constituted criminal conduct as defined by the New York State Penal Law. After reviewing all of the evidence in this case, our office determined that there is an insufficient basis to pursue criminal charges against any Peekskill police officer involved in this incident.

"We have relayed these findings to Peekskill Police Chief Renwick and referred the matter back to his department for internal investigation. Though not the primary focus of this review, our office recommended to the Peekskill Police Department that it consider additional training on how to deal with mentally ill or emotionally disturbed persons and on the use of de-escalation techniques.

"In the interest of full transparency, our office is publishing the entirety of the body-worn camera footage collected as part of this review. That footage may be viewed on our website, linked here."

The Westchester Coalition for Police Reform disagreed, stating, "The Westchester Coalition for Police Reform strongly condemns District Attorney Susan Cacace's decision not to file criminal charges against the police officers involved in the violent assault of Damar Fields on December 3, 2025, at Waterfront Park in Peekskill.

"Damar Fields, an unarmed man with emotional disabilities who was known by Peekskill Police, was beaten and tased three times by armed officers. The decision not to pursue charges sends a dangerous message that excessive force against vulnerable people will go unpunished.

"This outcome is deeply troubling, not only for Damar Fields and his family, but for every resident who participated in good faith in Westchester's police reform process following the murder of George Floyd. That year-long effort, required by Governor Andrew Cuomo's Executive Order, was meant to center de-escalation, accountability, and respect for human dignity. The District Attorney's decision undermines that work and erodes public trust.

"Serious questions remain unanswered: Why was the Project Alliance Mobile Crisis Response Team, designed to respond to mental health crises, not activated?

"Why did no officer intervene, despite a clear duty-to-intervene policy intended to prevent excessive force? We reiterate our call for the charges against Damar Fields to be dropped immediately. A person experiencing a mental health crisis should not be criminalized.

"When prosecutors decline to act, calls for accountability must not end. We call for independent review, legislative oversight, and systemic reforms to ensure that no one, especially armed government officials, is above the law.

"This is not how our communities choose to be policed. We reject policing rooted in violence and impunity, particularly toward people with emotional disabilities. Accountability is not anti-police. Transparency creates trust. Damar Fields deserves justice. Our communities deserve better."

The Peekskill NAACP issued the following statement before Cacace's finding. "The Peekskill NAACP Branch strongly condemns the misuse of power displayed by the police officers involved in Wednesday's riverfront incident. After reviewing the posted video, it is evident that the officers used excessive force, employed derogatory and inflammatory language, and engaged in racial name-calling toward the man in their custody. This behavior is intolerable and wholly inconsistent with the standards expected of law enforcement.

"We are fortunate that a bystander recorded this incident. It raises a critical question: What happens in the moments when no camera is present to hold those in power accountable? Incidents like this push our progress back by many steps and undermine our ongoing efforts to build open, safe, and trusting communication between the community and law enforcement.

*continued on pg 10-*

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

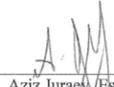
-----X Index No.  
Date Summons Filed:  
LAZIZI KHAMIDOV,  
Plaintiff designates Westchester County as  
the place of trial.  
The basis of venue is Defendant's residence.  
Plaintiff,  
SUMMONS  
-against-  
Defendant resides at 185 Riverdale Avenue,  
Apt. 8I, Yonkers, New York 10705.  
TONYA DAZIAH JAMES,  
Defendant.  
-----X

**ACTION FOR DIVORCE**

To the above named Defendant:

**YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED** to answer the complaint in this action and to serve a copy of your answer on Plaintiff's Attorneys within twenty (20) days after the service of this summons, exclusive of the day of service, where service is made by delivery upon you personally within the State of New York, or within thirty (30) days after completion of service where service is made in any other manner. In case of your failure to appear or answer, judgment will be taken against you by default for the relief demanded in the complaint.

Dated: 03/12/2025

  
Aziz Juraev, Esq.  
Law Office of Aziz Dzhuraev  
Attorneys for Plaintiff

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

-----X Index No.  
LAZIZI KHAMIDOV,  
Plaintiff,  
-against-  
TONYA DAZIAH JAMES,  
Defendant.  
-----X

**VERIFIED COMPLAINT  
ACTION FOR DIVORCE**

The Plaintiff, complaining of the Defendant, alleges the following:

**FIRST:** The parties are over the age of 18 years.

**SECOND:** This court has jurisdiction to hear this action for divorce. The Plaintiff has resided in New York State for a continuous period in excess of two years immediately preceding the commencement of this action.

**THIRD:** The Plaintiff and Defendant were married to each other on July 16, 2021, in Bridgeport, Connecticut.

The marriage was not performed by a clergyman, minister or leader of the Society for Ethical Culture.

**FOURTH:** There is no child as a result of this marriage, and no child is expected.

The Plaintiff resides at 515 E 7th Street, Apt. 3S, Brooklyn, New York 11218. The Defendant resides at 185 Riverdale Avenue, Apt. 8I, Yonkers, New York 10705.

The parties are covered by the following group health plans:

Plaintiff

Group Health Plan: NOT APPLICABLE

Defendant

Group Health Plan: NOT APPLICABLE

**FIFTH:** The grounds for divorce are as follows: Irretrievable Breakdown of the Relationship for at Least Six Months (DRL Sec. 170(7)): The relationship between the Plaintiff and Defendant has broken down irretrievably for a period of at least six months.

**SIXTH:** There is no judgment in any court for a divorce and no other matrimonial action for divorce between the parties is pending in this Court or in any other court of competent jurisdiction.

**SEVENTH:** Neither the Wife nor the Husband needs maintenance.

**WHEREFORE,** the Plaintiff demands judgment against the Defendant, dissolving the marriage between the parties to this action, and granting the following relief:

That the parties do not require maintenance and no claim will be made by either party for maintenance.

That the parties do not require payment of counsel and experts' fees and expenses.

That the Court grant such other and further relief as the Court may deem fit and proper.

The parties have divided up the marital property, and no claim will be made by either party under equitable distribution.

Dated: 03/12/2025

  
Lazizi Khamidov

STATE OF NEW YORK, COUNTY OF Kings, ss.

I, Lazizi Khamidov, am the Plaintiff in the within action for a divorce. I have read the foregoing Complaint and know the contents thereof. The contents of the Complaint are true to my own knowledge, except as to those matters therein stated to be alleged upon information and belief, and as to those matters I believe them to be true.

  
Lazizi Khamidov

Subscribed and sworn to before me  
on 03/12/2025

 Aziz Juraev  
Notary Public

Aziz Juraev  
Notary Public  
Registration No. 02DZ6409183  
Qualified in Kings County  
Commission Expires 09/21/2028

My commission expires on 09/21/2028

And part of the property could be used for a waterfront park.

The waterfront has transformed from an industrial zone into a hub for housing, restaurants, public spaces, and a thriving downtown economy. The MTA bus depot does not benefit Yonkers taxpayers, costing the city \$400,000 annually in lost property tax revenue that could support vital resident services. Relocating the depot would advance Yonkers' waterfront redevelopment and economic growth."

Mayor Spano has been calling on the MTA to relocate the bus depot shortly after he first took office. But now the call is more timely, as the city continues to open up the Hudson Riverfront property north of the Yonkers Train Station, which for decades housed industrial properties.

In 2020, Craig Cipriano, president of the MTA Bus Company, responded to Spano, saying, "We... do not see the Yonkers Depot as an obstacle in proceeding with development... While we understand the intent to incorporate the 3.65 acres on which the depot sits into the overall development of the area, substantial time and expense would be needed to locate and build another site, and there would be environmental and operational impacts associated with a relocation. To be clear, any relocation of the depot would require the identification of an alternate, workable site and full funding."

I am calling on Governor Kathy Hochul and NYC Mayor Mamdani to authorize the relocation of the MTA depot so Yonkers can redevelop the waterfront and reinvest in its community. Their leadership is needed to move this critical project forward.

Yonkers is still smarting from MGM's last-minute decision to withdraw its gaming license application for an expanded casino at Yonkers Raceway after the NYS Gaming Commission changed the terms, making it unappealing for MGM to move forward. That decision has never been fully explained, but many believe that Governor Hochul was aware of the change and its impact on Yonkers.

NYC Mayor Mamdani has called for free buses for NYC residents.

**Sir Shefik Macauley, continued from pg 1-**

On the occasion of the 2025 NASA International Space Apps Challenge, Senator Stewart-Cousins honored media personality, philanthropist, and technology maven Sir Shefik Macauley (known mononymously as Shefik) (<https://shefik.info>) with a Proclamation from New York State Senate. The event was held on October 4-5, 2025, presented by NASA Space Apps Yonkers (<https://spaceappsnyonkers.org>) and All Knight Access (<https://allknightaccess.com>).

NASA Space Apps Yonkers is an organization for NASA International Space Apps Challenge (<https://www.spaceappschallenge.org/2025/local-events/yonkers/>). The challenge is an annual hackathon for coders, scientists, designers, storytellers, makers, technologists, and innovators around the world. Each year, thousands of teams submit projects that demonstrate creativity, collaboration, and address challenges we face on Earth and in space. These projects go through multiple rounds of judging to determine the NASA International Space Apps Challenge Global Winners, which represent the most innovative projects submitted by participants.

In 2025 — for the first time in history — Yonkers, New York served as a host city for NASA International Space Apps Challenge. The kick-off ceremony was held on October 4, 2025, and Senator Stewart-Cousins attended the event in-person.

The Proclamation acknowledged and applauded the following recitals to Shefik: We recognize Sir Shefik Macauley for exemplary service within the Community and State upon the occasion of the 2025 NASA International Space Apps Challenge presented by NASA Space Apps Yonkers.

— Attendant to such concern, and in full accord with its traditions, this Legislative office is justly proud to commend Sir Shefik Macauley upon the occasion of his recognition by such an esteemed organization in our community.

— Sir Shefik Macauley (known as Shefik) is a media personality, philanthropist, and technology maven, who reached a notable milestone of 30 years, dedicating decades of his mindset, time, efforts, skill sets, and innate resources to the mission of community empowerment; as of April 2025, he was officially appointed as Managing Director and Local Lead of NASA Space Apps Yonkers, which is a strategic organization for the annual NASA International Space Apps Challenge.

— Sir Macauley is an Emmy Award winner, who was honored at the 46th Annual Sports Emmy Awards — for his work with NBC and Peacock, as Technical Production Manager for Games of the XXXIII Olympiad; Sir Macauley is also a long-time resident of Yonkers, New York; Sir Macauley formed a substantial team for NASA Space Apps Yonkers through his company All Knight Access, along with a collective of robust partners, collaborators, and supporters.

— Sir Macauley has worked for many Fortune 500 companies and celebrated brands; he was Web Developer at Condé Nast Digital, where he developed projects for their premiere online brands GQ, Vanity Fair, Wired, Epicurious, and Concierge, as well as their advertising clients Chase Sapphire, Continental Airlines, Buick, Smirnoff, Stacy's Pita Chips, and Valspar Paint and Coatings; Sir Macauley was also Web Developer at Columbia Law School, where he developed projects for both external and internal use for the Ivy League university.

I, New York State Senator and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, commend Sir Shefik Macauley for exemplary service and achievement in the Community and State, and thus join with the citizens of the State of New York to proclaim this day, October 4, 2025, Sir Shefik Macauley Day.

Shefik, also received a proclamation from Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. He is the Executive Producer and Host of the nationally syndicated, terrestrial radio show "Shefik presents Invocation" (<https://invocation.co>), as well as the internationally distributed video series of the same name. The radio show currently has a total of over 1 million dedicated listeners per month. The content is oftentimes aligned with Shefik's philanthropic endeavors and alliances with non-profit organizations. In 2024, Shefik was elevated to the rank of Knight, Grand Cross in the Equestrian Order of Michael Archangel, for his charitable and philanthropic work throughout the years.

“We acknowledge the decision to suspend the officer; however, we firmly believe the suspension should be without pay pending the outcome of a full and transparent investigation. Moreover, the consequences imposed in this case will speak volumes about whether law enforcement is truly committed to serving the community’s best interests—or whether some officers believe they are above the law.

“While we remain committed to fostering constructive dialogue and cooperation, actions such as these gravely erode public trust. We look forward to hearing from the District Attorney’s Office and the Civilian Complaint Review Board as this matter moves forward.”

We have reviewed the three bodycam video links provided by DA Cacace. It shows a clearly disturbed Damar Fields pulling down his pants and cursing the police officer. After the officer threatens to tase Fields, Fields responds, “how about I kill you.”

The confrontation between the officer and Fields that many have already seen from a witness video ensues, and then back up arrives to detain Fields. About five minutes later Fields appears calm and claims that he did nothing. The officer responds with “you had your dick out.”

The 2nd and 3rd videos provided by the DA are from the other two responding officers. In the 3rd video, Fields appears not to know what just had happened. “What just happened here...I didn’t do anything to you,” said Fields.

Police Officer Daniel Regg has been identified as the initial responding officer

*Baby Crocs, continued from pg 1-*

he required permits.

From Crocodile-lover- Mark Perpetua’s Reptile Encounters

Well it happened again! Two illegal crocodilians were seized in Yonkers, NY. The one on the left is a Morelet’s crocodile (*Crocodylus moreletii*). A species native to Mexico, Belize and parts of Guatemala. They can grow to about 9 feet long. The smaller one along the bottom of the photo is a smooth-front caiman (*Paleosuchus trigonatus*). This species of caiman is one of two that are referred to as dwarf caiman. This little one will grow to about 5 feet long. They are native to the Amazon and Orinoco river basins in South America. All 27 species of crocodilians require a special license to keep in NY. I will be picking these two up next Tuesday after I return from CrocFest.

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

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

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

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

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

- 1) Bid No. IFB-7509A – Opening Date: 01/30/2026: General construction contract for the exterior door replacement at Paideia School 15 (MM).
- 2) Bid No. RFB-7565 – Opening Date: 01/30/2026: 12-month contract for Commercial Kitchen Equipment Repairs on an "as-needed" basis (MM).
- 3) Bid No. IFB-7566 – Opening Date: 01/30/2025: Crestwood Library Renovations (MM).
- 4) Bid No. RFB-7497A – Opening Date: 01/02/2026: Purchase of N-Ear Radio Earpieces (or Yonkers approved equal) – Re-Bid (FEDERAL FUNDS) (VB).
- 5) Bid No. RFB-7558 – Opening Date: 1/23/2026: Purchase of Eaton Batteries for YFD/YPD Radio Sites (or Yonkers Approved Equal) (KS).
- 6) Bid No. RFB-7567 – Opening Date: 1/23/2026: 12 Month Contract with 12 Month option to extend for Emergency Plumbing Services for repair of residential & commercial leaking service lines, as needed (KS).

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### Yonkers Rising

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## BOMA Westchester Elects 2026 Slate



*Seated left to right, Angie Arrington - Cushman & Wakefield; Billie Jo Brunetti -Newmark BOMA President- Robert McNamara - GHP Office Realty; BOMA Vice President - Geraldine Molloy – Newmark; BOMA Secretary - Brian VanRiper - Robert Martin Company; Immediate Past President - Stephanie Manfredi - Colliers International*

*Standing left to right, Peter Zimmar – Regeneron; Caroline Molloy, Cushman & Wakefield. Vinny Finnegan - Gedney Way Consultants; Jacqueline Monge - Abert B. Ashforth, Inc. Ben Campos - KenCal Maintenance, BOMA Treasurer Gina Lomurno, Reckson*

The Building Owners and Managers Association of Westchester County has announced the election of its slate of officers for the 2026 term.

Robert McNamara was elected President. McNamara is Director of Operations & Management for GHP Office Realty

Other officers elected and sworn in for the 2025 term were:

Vice President: Geraldine Molloy, Newmark

Secretary: Brian VanRiper, Robert Martin Company

Treasurer: Gina Lomurno, Reckson

Immediate Past President: Stephanie Manfredi, Colliers International

The following Directors were also elected:

Peter Zimmar, Regeneron

Caroline Molloy, Cushman & Wakefield

Vinny Finnegan, Gedney Way Consultants

Jacqueline Monge, Abert B. Ashforth, Inc.

Allied Representative: Ben Campos of Kencal Maintenance Corp.

Public Relations Advisor: Dean Bender of Thompson & Bender

BOMA Westchester is the county’s leading professional organization dedicated to meeting the needs of building owners, property managers and allied professionals and tradespeople. BOMA Westchester is an affiliate of BOMA International --- the oldest and largest association of the office building industry, with over 100 federated associations in the United States and around the world. The 17,000-plus members of BOMA International own or manage more than 9 billion square feet of commercial properties in North America and abroad.

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**Yonkers History, continued from pg 3-**

about an African American conman, the lead role was played by Lawrence Tibbett in black makeup. Although the Met wanted to stage the production with all white dancers, Tibbett threatened to quit the production unless Winfield and dancers from Winfield's New Negro Art Theater filled the dance roles. Winfield became the first African American under contract to the Metropolitan Opera... and the first whose name was listed on the program!

January 7, 1944: Vera O'Brien, Registrar of St. Joseph's School and Chairman of the Parochial Schools Coordinating Committee, announced Yonkers parochial schools would sponsor a new C-47 Douglas ambulance plane to enable the quick transportation of badly wounded service men! Yonkers' Catholic Schools pledged to sell war bonds totaling \$110,000 during Yonkers' Fourth War Loan drive to underwrite the plane. If successful, a plaque crediting Yonkers Parochial Schools would be placed on the flying ambulance.

Thursday, January 8th

January 8, 1906: Mayor John Coyne suggested an unused fire house could be used for the free tuberculosis dispensary requested by the Yonkers Sanitary League. The League requested city funds for their work; the Common Council told them to incorporate so Yonkers legally could give them money.

January 8, 1937: Six musicians dismissed from the Federal Music Project held Westchester's first "sit-down strike" at the project office in the Main Street Sears, Roebuck Company building. The Federal Music Project had five units: Westchester Philharmonic Orchestra; Westchester Singers; the Federal Theater Orchestra; Philharmonic String Quartet; and the Westchester Symphonic Band. The six musicians were members of the Westchester Singers, a group "abandoned" December 15th as part of a general curtailment of the WPA. During the ensuing days, the group swelled to a dozen, as people from the other project performing groups were laid off.

Members of the group were offered jobs as laborers, roadwork using pick and shovels.

Friday, January 9th

January 9, 1911: The first copy of "The Up-To-Date-Woman," edited and published by the Yonkers Woman's Suffrage Association, was presented to Mayor Lennon. The paper, meant to be published just one day, was 16 pages and filled with excellent articles written by women prominent in suffrage circles.

January 9, 1954: Seminarians at St. Joseph's Seminary and College took advantage of the extreme cold snap to skate on the frozen pond on its grounds! Almost the entire body of water was frozen, with the exception of one far corner... the only place the usually happy ducklings could swim.

Saturday, January 10th

January 10, 1920: More than 125 men enrolled in the Knights of Columbus School for returned servicemen.

January 10, 1926: Public Safety Commissioner William H. Van Keuren announced his plan to establish an annual "Medal of Honor" award and other honors for police bravery; these new recognitions would give added weight to the Civil Service promotion lists.

Sunday, January 11th

January 11, 1927: Chief of Police Edward Quirk announced news dealers who persisted in selling "so-called art literature" banned in Yonkers would lose newsstand privileges.

January 11, 1931: The Common Council adopted a resolution requesting a signal device be placed in Getty Square to notify police and pedestrians in case of fire. Apparatus from headquarters frequently sped through the Square; a signal would give policemen advance warning that Yonkers Fire Department engines and trucks were coming.

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).

## PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2026, AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN YONKERS CITY HALL, 40 SOUTH BROADWAY, 4TH FLOOR (building is handicapped accessible).

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES [WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV](http://WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV).

## OPEN/CONTINUED HEARINGS

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

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

#5900 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano Esq., on behalf of WAG America LLC, on premises known as 38 Hunt Ave, Block:3137, Lot:16 (B0035424) Zone: S-50

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1N-HiBBAFqe09tTtPWOCeh4OCl\\_expReA?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1N-HiBBAFqe09tTtPWOCeh4OCl_expReA?usp=sharing)

#5790 – Area Variance - James Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of Mehranco Limited Liability Co.,

owner, on premises known as 1999 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4385, Lot: 42.43, (B30132)

Zone: BR \*Adjourned

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1luztII09IzkFibUNhKvFBj6CNy\\_bLXR5?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1luztII09IzkFibUNhKvFBj6CNy_bLXR5?usp=sharing)

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

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TS9\\_F9jAFdMVLmrRI-47Z7vWeraW1hlp?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1TS9_F9jAFdMVLmrRI-47Z7vWeraW1hlp?usp=sharing)

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

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/13ZXZ25vr0exLhnUzHnm7ewIVyOkQEhVP?usp=sharing>

#5905- Appeal from an Interpretation/Decision/Order of the Commissioner of Buildings- Jonathan D. Kraut on behalf of Scott Sall of 106 Bronxville Road LLC, on premises know as 106 Bronxville Road, Block:5322, Lot:13.14 (Complaint2025-0471) Zone: S-50

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10s6\\_nqQBTCy-ZqKHvVVX\\_Ec7Nc6fetx?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10s6_nqQBTCy-ZqKHvVVX_Ec7Nc6fetx?usp=sharing)

#5906 – Appeal from an Interpretation/Decision/Order of the Commissioner of Buildings- Jonathan D. Kraut on behalf of Scott Sall of 1 Bronxville Lane LLC, on premises know as 1 Bronxville Lane, Block:5320, Lot:23 (Complaint2025-0471) Zone: S-50

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ME2b\\_OZFzjtnzVTKNkeodSWFI3RrQM72?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1ME2b_OZFzjtnzVTKNkeodSWFI3RrQM72?usp=sharing)

#5910 – Area Variances – Mark Blanchard, on behalf of Hudson Pointe, LLC., on premises known as 1205 Warburton Ave., Block: 3570, Lot: 1 (B0037131) Zone: MG.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1lPdzRuXEqveyqXwEFvD0\\_sZTxaGZPPSx?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1lPdzRuXEqveyqXwEFvD0_sZTxaGZPPSx?usp=sharing)

#5912 – Area Variances – Andrew Romano, on behalf of Centro Cristiano Jehova es Mi Bandera, Inc. on premises known as 27 Glenwood Ave., Block: 2121, Lot: 30 (B0035776) Zone: M.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eMQdFJtmqR4YVvKLU3LNxL\\_jJ6Ez4BbTo?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eMQdFJtmqR4YVvKLU3LNxL_jJ6Ez4BbTo?usp=sharing)

#5913 – Area Variance – Janet Giris, on behalf of Morris Westchester Upper Site Associates, LLC., on premises known as 79 Austin Ave., Block: 3285, Lot: 210 (B0034334) Zone: CM.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1X9-XUh8voN3LaCu4nsfuEMCr8tvWjew6?usp=sharing>

#5914 – Area Variances – Stephen A. Veneruso, on behalf of AVL Homes, LLC., on premises known as 69 Spruce St., Block: 430, Lot: 58 (B0036935) Zone: A.

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o\\_5iOmj08xCEPt6r-4\\_d-P1D4mE0WEk3?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o_5iOmj08xCEPt6r-4_d-P1D4mE0WEk3?usp=sharing)

#5494 & 5667 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano Esq. on behalf of 581 Development Corp, owner, on premises know as 581 Saw Mill River Road, Block:3100, Lot: 200, (B0011017) Zone: I

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RBWzAOsVzaQil\\_PUqgLtBDPWCngLyarV?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RBWzAOsVzaQil_PUqgLtBDPWCngLyarV?usp=sharing)

## NEW HEARINGS

#5915 – Area Variance – Shahin Badaly, P.E on behalf of Ian Kim Ramos owner of 66 Pembroke Drive , Block:4468, Lot: 10 (B202406280) Zone: S-60

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1c35LzwHRQMiGxE8n204v6PQ9iuc-AFDd?usp=sharing>

#5909 – Use and Area Variances – Mark Blanchard, on behalf of Vark Street Realty, LLC., on premises known as 125 Vark Street, Block: 508, Lot: 12 (B0037237) Zone: UR-MD.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1584b82TmYrnyTYv44pXb35OmfPEccYWh?usp=sharing>

#5916 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, on behalf of Tameshwar Kallicharan owner of 25 (aka 27) Hyatt Avenue, Block: 6245, Lot:25.26 (B0036837) Zone: T

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1K1\\_zJm5Ynw90StOhWWWa-sAYHwJ\\_qpxO?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1K1_zJm5Ynw90StOhWWWa-sAYHwJ_qpxO?usp=sharing)

#5917 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, on behalf of Constantinos D. Kavvas, owner of 26 Hyatt Avenue, Block: 6417, Lot: 60 (B0037471) Zone: T

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KNeXPgEqtzfvQRJGZMSZUJIDNG8Kq\\_Da?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KNeXPgEqtzfvQRJGZMSZUJIDNG8Kq_Da?usp=sharing)

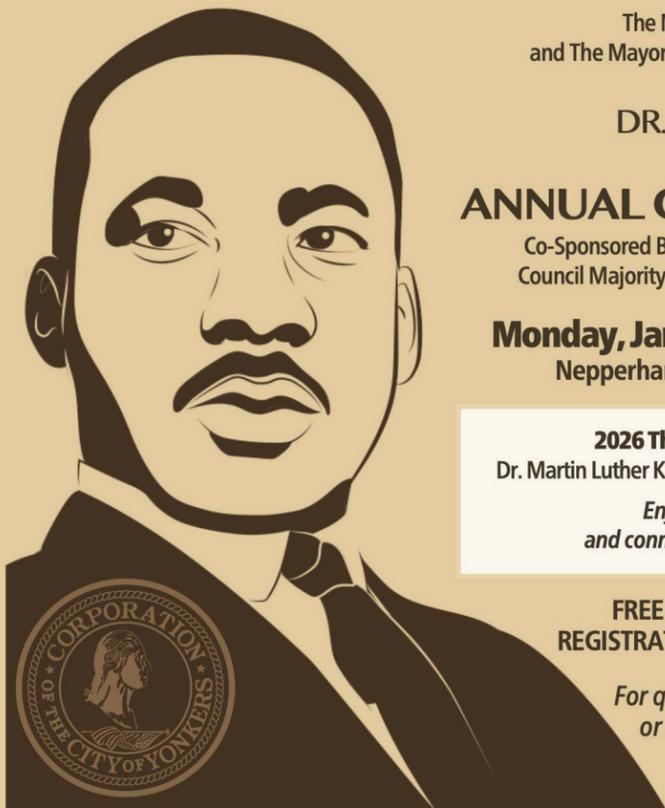
#5918 & 5074 – Area Variance – James G. Dibbini & Associates,P.C., on 264 Nepperhan Ave LLC, owner of 264 (aka 270) Nepperhan Avenue, Block: 2051, Lot: 5 (B0000970) Zone: I

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WicMtdxf5ZSkiMYrrngwtZLy6kLGNFYM?usp=sharing>

#5919 – Area Variance – Shahin Badaly, P.E., on behalf of 231 Lockwood Ave LLC c/o Jagdish Mitter, owner of 139 Mile Square Road (aka 231 Lockwood Ave), Block: 2290, Lot: 20.25 (B0037342) Zone: T

[https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jQM0nB3\\_EjAWbhNPYTeUZQ14djMttBJC?usp=sharing](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jQM0nB3_EjAWbhNPYTeUZQ14djMttBJC?usp=sharing)

# Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Annual Community Breakfast Jan 19-Nepperhan Community Center



**Mayor Mike Spano,**  
The Mayor's African American Advisory Board,  
and The Mayor's Office of Constituent Services and Minority Affairs  
Honor  
**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**  
AT THE  
**ANNUAL COMMUNITY BREAKFAST**  
Co-Sponsored By Yonkers Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy,  
Council Majority Whip Deana Norman and Councilwoman Tasha Diaz

**Monday, January 19, 2026 • 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.**  
Nepperhan Community Center • 342 Warburton Avenue

**2026 Theme: *Mission Possible 2*** - Celebrate the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a morning of inspiration, community, and purpose.  
*Enjoy breakfast, hear from impactful speakers, and connect with others committed to making a difference.*

**FREE ADMISSION • SPACE IS LIMITED**  
**REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED BY JANUARY 16TH**

For questions, contact (914) 377-6010  
or email [mayor@YonkersNY.gov](mailto:mayor@YonkersNY.gov)



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, the Mayor's African American Advisory Board and the Mayor's Office of Constituent Services and Minority Affairs, together with co-sponsors Yonkers Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, Council Majority Whip Deana Norman and Councilwoman Tasha Diaz, will host the annual MLK Community Breakfast on Monday, January 19, 2025, from 9AM to 11AM at the Nepperhan Community Center located at 342 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers.

This year's theme, "Mission Possible 2," celebrates the enduring legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. with a morning of inspiration, community, and purpose.

Attendees will enjoy breakfast, hear from impactful speakers, and connect with others committed to making a difference.

"Dr. King's vision of unity and justice continues to guide our community," said Mayor Spano. "His call for equality, compassion, and civic responsibility remains as urgent today as it was during the Civil Rights Movement. The MLK Breakfast is more than a gathering—it is a moment for reflection, dialogue, and renewed commitment. By coming together across neighborhoods, cultures, and generations, we honor Dr. King's mission and recommit ourselves to building a stronger, more inclusive Yonkers where every voice is valued and every resident has the opportunity to thrive."

For inquiries, please contact the Mayor's Office at (914) 377-6300 or via email at [mayor@yonkersny.gov](mailto:mayor@yonkersny.gov).

Registration Information-Due to limited seating, advance registration is required by January 16 at [yonkersny.gov/mlkbreakfast](http://yonkersny.gov/mlkbreakfast). Each participant must register individually to ensure fair access for all community members.



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– Pete G., MAKOplasty® hip replacement patient

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\*Source: Based on WOC follow-up survey

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Orthopedic Surgeon  
MAKOplasty® Specialist

NOT SHOWN:  
Jordan Fakhoury, DO; Evan Gaines, MD; Patrick Murray, MD  
Paul S. Ragusa, MD; Thomas Schmicker, MD; Mario Voloshin, DPM, FACFAS

