

# Yonkers Rising

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Friday January 21, 2022

## NY Mobile Sports Betting Apps Up and Running You Can Now Legally Place Your Super Bowl Bet



By Dan Murphy

On Nov. 8, the New York State Gaming Commission approved sports betting licenses to nine applicants, including BetMGM, whose parent company is MGM Resorts International, the owner of MGM-Empire Casino, located in Yonkers.

On Jan. 8, the NYS Gaming Commission approved the licenses to begin to operate, and 1.2 million new accounts to bet on sports were created in New York State. BetMGM was approved on Jan. 17. In addition to BetMGM, the other licenses went to DraftKings, Caesars, Rush Street Interactive (BetRivers), FanDuel, WynnBET, PointsBet, Bally Bet, and Resorts World, who now make up the options for sports betters now in NY.

So far the response to the interest and betting activity for the NFL playoffs in New York State has been impressive. Last year, mobile sports betting was legal in New Jersey and estimates have 25% of New Jersey's sports betting revenue coming from New Yorkers who cross over the Hudson River to place a sports bet. Now New York State will capture most of that revenue and tax it at 51%. And already, New York has surpassed New Jersey as the #1 state for mobile sports betting.

And the hometown mobile sports betting operator is BetMGM, who got the green light to turn on its mobile sports app on Jan. 17.

This arrival allows customers in the Empire State to download the mobile app and place wagers with BetMGM, an Official Sports Betting Partner of the Knicks, Rangers and Madison Square Garden Arena.

Adam Greenblatt, Chief Executive Officer, BetMGM: "This is a big moment for BetMGM. We have some incredible plans for our new customers in New York tied in with Empire City Casino and our friends at Madison Square Garden. New York is our 19th and largest market to date. 2022 is already turning out to be a great year for BetMGM, and there's much more to come."

New York first allowed sports betting in the state's four upstate casinos in 2019.

New York State Senator Joe Addabbo Jr., chair of the Committee on Racing, Gaming and Wagering, is a Democrat from Queens. He says the move is keeping revenue from migrating out of New York. "This past weekend, just it proves something: that New Yorkers were waiting to use a product in New York, because the volume was so great that I believe the Caesars app crashed," he said.

The state Gaming Commission approved four mobile apps to launch on the eve of the NFL playoffs: DraftKings Sportsbook, FanDuel, Caesars Sportsbook and BetRivers. MGM Resorts' Empire City Casino and Madison Square Garden launched its mobile app, BetMGM, Monday.

Four additional operators are still awaiting approval – BallyBet, Wynn Interactive, Resorts World Bet and PointsBet

NFL betting accounted for 49 percent of the bets in the first 24 hours after

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## Truck Driver Shortage Continues, but DMV has No Place in Yonkers for CDL Tests for 3 Years



By Dan Murphy

In the summer of 2018, Yonkers Rising wrote a story about how the last location in Yonkers, and in Westchester County to take a NYS DMV road test for a CDL license for a tractor trailer driver (18-wheeler) had closed. For years, the Cross County Shopping Center parking lot in Yonkers was used by the DMV to test for tractor trailer drivers, and while road tests for regular cars and drivers are still given at that location on Vrendenburgh Avenue, the owners of Cross County didn't want the big trucks using their parking lot.

Now, three and a half years later, and two years into the COVID pandemic, a supply chain shortage has gripped the country. Most of the supply chain backlog coverage has been on the west coast and the port of Los Angeles, where many goods come from China and Southeast Asia.

But the port of New York City has also experienced the same problem getting goods out on the road and into supermarkets, resulting in shortages. A lack of truck drivers to deliver goods has been a big reason for the backlog, with many older truck drivers retiring or not working during COVID. Some estimates have a shortage of 80,000 truck drivers on the East Coast.

Since the 2018 closure, DMV has opened a Tarrytown location for driver's

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## Attempted Cop-Suicide Results in Police Shooting and Injured Officer



YPD Commissioner Mueller at Press Conference

On Monday, January 17th, 2022, at approximately 12:29 PM, members of the Yonkers Police Department responded to 52 Main Street, third floor, on a 911 call of a man waving a gun threatening people. Upon arrival officers made contact with a male subject on the third floor resulting in a police-involved shooting. The area was cordoned-off and both criminal and internal investigations were initiated. Investigation thus far has yielded that when officers made initial contact with the male subject, he shouted that he had a gun.

It is also believed, based on a subsequent interview with the subject, that his apparent intent was to commit suicide-by-cop, and utilizing a cell phone and another object he fashioned a crude imitation pistol that he may have displayed to responding officers. Investigators also believe that the initial 911 call was made from a cell phone belonging to the subject. It is further known that during the event, one officer fell from the third-floor landing to the second-floor landing approximately ten feet below, resulting in serious injuries to his head, back, and spine.

At least three police officers discharged their weapons in the direction of the subject, striking him one time in the calf. Both the subject and injured officer were taken to local area hospitals and are listed in stable condition. Investigators are

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## Eviction Moratorium Lifted; Tenants Rights Groups Fear Thousands of Tenants in Jeopardy

By Dan Murphy

New York State's moratorium on evictions has ended effective January 15. New York and New Mexico were the only two remaining states to have their eviction moratoriums still in place. The moratorium, which barred landlords from filing new eviction notices in local courthouses for almost two years, means that as of January 18, (courthouses were closed on Jan. 17 for MLK Jr. Day) landlords can now file eviction notices for tenants who have fallen behind on their rents.

The eviction ban was first enacted in March of 2020 at the beginning of the COVID pandemic by then Governor Andrew Cuomo. The moratorium required tenants to fill out a hardship declaration, which prevented any legal action from being taken against them in court. But with the moratorium lifted, if a landlord files a notice of eviction, tenants will now have to appear in their local housing court, usually a part of a town, village or city court, to answer the claims of back rent owed.

Because it has been 22 months since the last notice of eviction has been filed in any courthouse in New York State, nobody knows whether a flood of eviction notices will be filed this week.

Dennis Hanratty, President of the Mount Vernon United Tenants Association, said we are in uncharted territory. "Nobody knows what is going to happen, but I'm scared to death that we are going to see thousands of eviction notices filed by landlords who have been waiting for the moratorium to expire."

In Mt. Vernon we usually have 5-15 eviction cases in City Court. Will there now be hundreds of cases filed? I'm not sure the courts will be able to handle it and in bigger courthouses like Yonkers, there may be thousands of eviction notices filed. There is a big backlog and the landlords have them stacked up and ready to go. I know we are going to be busy, along with the Department of Social Services and Legal Service of the Hudson Valley."

Hanratty said that one way tenants can get relief is through the Emergency Rental Assistance Program, ERAP. The federal program was used during COVID to help pay landlords for tenants who couldn't pay their rent. Under Governor Kathy Hochul New York State paid out \$2 Billion in ERAP funds, exhausting the funding.

NY State has requested additional ERAP funding from a leftover \$1 Billion in unused ERAP funds from other states. So far NY has only received \$29 Million in additional ERAP funds, and NY reopened its ERAP portal on Jan. 11 but the demand for rental relief far exceeds the federal funding available.

Hanratty is hoping that states with a large number of rental apartments like New York will get more of the leftover \$1 B in ERAP funds.

*continued on pg 4-*

## Bailey Initiative Launches Program to Address Racial Justice Through Community Real Estate Investment and Affordable Homeownership



**From left to right: Front: Michelle Nicholas (PCSB), Juan Diaz (PCSB), Joseph Roberto (PCSB), Anthony Landi (City of Yonkers), Jennifer Solomon (Bailey Initiative), Alba Guevara (City of Yonkers) Back: Lindsay Carden (PCSB) Anthony Bailey (Bailey Initiative), Don Brown (YCA)**

Bailey Initiative announces the launch of its “HomeOwnership Promotes Equity (H.O.P.E.)” program, which seeks to close the racial gap in homeownership by supporting first-time home buying by Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) in New York State’s third most populous urban center.

The H.O.P.E. program, in partnership with PCSB Bank and the City of Yonkers, will host its first cohort on January 24, 2022. The inaugural 4-week course will engage participants on how to obtain, maintain, and sustain their own home and in doing so create generational wealth. All classes will be held both virtually and in-person at the Yonkers Community Action Program, Inc. (YCAP) office located at 20 South Broadway Suite 420, Yonkers, NY.

“As a community-focused bank, we are proud to support equity in homeownership, which is such a crucial foundation of creating generational wealth,” said Joseph D. Roberto, Chairman, President & CEO, PCSB Bank. “Bailey Initiative has designed a program that will enable more individuals and families to achieve the dream of buying their first home and building a better future for themselves and the entire Yonkers community.”

Anthony Landi, Deputy Mayor for the City of Yonkers, stated “Mayor Spano always felt, as do I, born and raised here in Yonkers, that when you have skin in the game, it means something to you. Homeownership is one of those ways of doing that, as well as assisting in reducing poverty.”

“We are excited to receive our inaugural grant from PCSB Bank and the City of Yonkers that allows us to offer a homeownership program for the residents of Yonkers. Understanding that generational wealth begins with a growth mindset, we are educating and providing our participants with the knowledge and access to financial resources that will offer them the opportunity to own a home and build generational wealth,” said Anthony Bailey, Executive Director, Bailey Initiative.

Recognizing that homeownership is a fundamental building block for economic equality, Bailey Initiative, through its programs, addresses the historical and current impediments that create a gap in access for Black and Hispanic households to home financing and real estate investment. Education programs for potential first-time homebuyers will outline the processes of homeownership, assist with down payment options for property acquisition, and provide links to lending institutions that offer affordable financing options. Bailey Initiative will also continue its work of promoting local policy solutions through collective research with the view of ensuring the creation of a favorable environment for homeownership within the BIPOC community in Yonkers.

Yonkers residents who are interested in participating in the program can register at [www.baileyinitiative.org/register](http://www.baileyinitiative.org/register).

## Yonkers High School Basketball

The Palisade Prep Boys Basketball team finished a tough week 0-3. On Tuesday the boys traveled to Clarkstown South HS in Rockland County. The boys lost by a final score of 67-35 and Deneli McIntosh led the Phoenix with 22 points. The boys bounced back the next day at home hosting the Haldane Blue Devils from Putnam county. The game was very close until the fourth quarter when the visitors pulled away winning by a final score of 70-52. Again Deneli McIntosh led the Phoenix with 26 points. On Friday the boys were at home again this time hosting the Alexander Hamilton Red Raiders from Elmsford. After falling behind early the boys battled back to make the game close throughout this third quarter. The boys ran out of gas late, with their third game in four days and lost by a final score of 67-49. Louis Martinez lead the Phoenix with 15 points, Deneli McIntosh added 14 points and Xavier Merrill added 12 points. The boys are in action this week only one time. They host the Greenburgh-North Castle Knights on Friday at 4:30.

## Yonkers Gets \$900,000 Grant for Pre-K Programs Thanks to Majority Leader Stewart Cousins



**Yonkers School District awarded a \$900,000 competitive grant to expand Universal Pre-K. 5 other school districts will receive first time state**

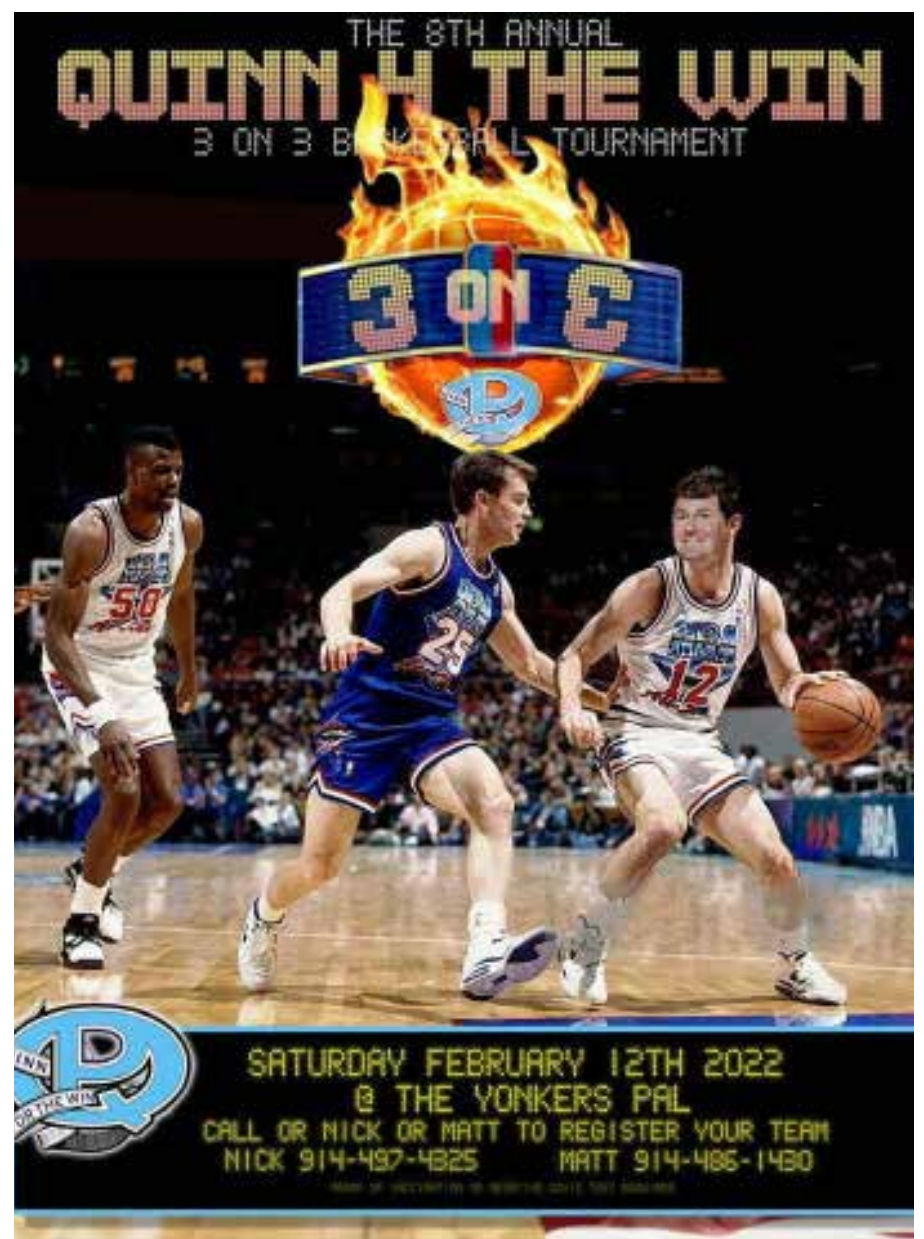
The Yonkers School District was awarded a \$900,000 competitive grant from the New York State Education Department to expand its existing Pre-Kindergarten program and five other school districts in State Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins’ District will get state funding for Pre-K programs for the very first time. The districts are Ardsley (\$280,800), Dobbs Ferry (\$221,400), Edgemont (\$216,000), Elmsford (\$156,600) and Hastings-on-Hudson (\$172,800).

Senator Stewart-Cousins, pictured above, has championed a commitment to have Pre-K statewide within the next three years. Last year, she led the successful fight to secure a historic \$105 million for Universal Pre-Kindergarten across the state. This is the largest commitment in Pre-K funding ever. Under the leadership of Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, the legislature will continue to fight for universal Pre-K until all four-year-olds have access.

“As a former teacher and a lifelong advocate for education, I believe we must commit the financial resources to provide our pre-kindergarten children with every opportunity to learn,” said State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. “This Universal Pre-K funding will enable these school districts to expand and, in some cases, start early learning for these children. I want every child in the state to have this advantage.”

“This grant to expand full-day universal pre-kindergarten programs championed by Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins demonstrates her strong commitment to provide equity and access to quality education,” noted Yonkers Public Schools Superintendent Dr. Edwin M. Quezada. “Exemplary early childhood education is foundational for the academic and social emotional growth for students, in particular underserved children. We have the data that proves this in Yonkers because of our decades providing pre-kindergarten opportunities. Early learning builds the skills students need to thrive in school and life.”

Of the funds allocated for Universal Pre-Kindergarten, \$90 million were dedicated to establishing new programs in school districts that do not offer state-funded Universal Pre-K programs. An additional \$15 million was dedicated to expanding existing programs through competitive grants. Yonkers was one of 31 school districts to receive the Universal Pre-Kindergarten Expansion Grant.



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# 2022 Rev. Dr. MLK Video Contest Open for Students

# Security Training to Attend Synagogue or Church?



By Eric W. Schoen

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edwin M. Quezada today are launching the 2022 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Video Contest. This year's theme for Black History Month is "Black Health and Wellness," which takes a look at how American healthcare has often underserved the African-American community. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. often spoke about how of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health was the most shocking and the most inhumane.

"The COVID-19 pandemic continues to teach us many lessons, particularly in regards to the many inequities in healthcare," said Mayor Mike Spano. "During this time, we must continue to work together as a society to bring about change to these injustices. As Dr. King stated, 'If I cannot do great things, I can do small things in a great way.' I am confident our students can reflect on this ever-important, timely topic and illustrate to us the lessons Dr. King has given us."

Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of Schools stated, "This annual contest is an opportunity for our students to expand their knowledge about Dr. King, and embrace his work and methods to achieve equity for all people. In 1966, at the Medical Committee on Human Rights in Chicago, Dr. King said, 'I see no alternative to direct action and creative nonviolence to raise the conscience of the nation.' As students discover African American champions for health and wellness, my hope is that they can be inspired and motivated into action."

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

The Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Video Contest is open to all primary and secondary Yonkers students; only one video may be submitted per student. Guidelines and specifications for the contest can be found at <https://www.yonkersny.gov/mlk>.

Ø Video submissions are due Friday, February 11, 2022 and may be emailed to [contest@yonkersny.gov](mailto:contest@yonkersny.gov)

Ø A total of three videos will be selected. One video from grades 1-4, one video from grades 5-8 and one video from grades 9-12. Winners will be selected by the Mayor's African American Advisory Board and will be notified on Monday, February 14.

Ø Each winner will be sent a certificate and a plaque from Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano

Ø For questions regarding the video contest email Dwanita Crosby at [Dwanita.Crosby@yonkersny.gov](mailto:Dwanita.Crosby@yonkersny.gov)

As COVID-19 cases, fueled by the omicron variant continue to surge, the winning videos will be featured at the City's Annual Black History Month Virtual Celebration on Facebook @CityofYonkers on Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 5:30 pm. Residents also will be able to view the City's Annual Black History Month Virtual Celebration on television Channel 39 (FiOS), Channel 78 (Cablevision) and on the City of Yonkers website at [www.yonkersny.gov](http://www.yonkersny.gov)

What is going on in this world? Another hostage taking at a Jewish Synagogue? A Rabbi felt sorry for a man on a chilly day in Colleyville, Texas. He let the man in to get warm. He made him a cup of tea. Next thing you know the Rabbi and several congregants are taken hostage. Thankfully the situation came to a safe conclusion.

Remember the good old days when churches and synagogues would leave their doors open, sometimes 24 hours a day. This sadly is not the case anymore. But there are still plenty of churches and synagogues and other religious institutions that despite the actions of a few open their doors serving meals to those in need and providing food for the hungry and shelter for those without a roof over their heads. We care about our fellow men and woman.

Colleyville, Texas. I had never heard of it before. My sister did. She knows a family who moved there a number of years ago. My Rabbi did. He served as a Student Rabbi in Colleyville flying from Cincinnati (where he was studying) to Texas every other Friday for 2 years for 48 hours leading Shabbat services, training B'nai Mitzvah students, teaching Adult Ed, and reflect with students preparing for conversion.

I'm always amazed when situations like this occur and there is some local connection. But that's not the point of this article. The question I raise with you is do we all need security training to go about our lives in 2022? These hostage situations happen in schools, supermarkets, malls, post office facilities, grocery stores basically practically everywhere we go on a daily basis. Sadly way too often.

It use to be everyone had their Red Cross CPR and First Aid training certificates. Though my certificate has expired, if I know I am going to be in a place with a lot of people I brush up on the latest CPR techniques god forbid I have the need to use them. Do we have to add security training and active shooter training to the list of what we must know?

I remember going on a plane right after September 11. I saw a man come on the plane with a guitar that he stored in the overhead bin. I looked to see where it was in case god forbid hijackers attempted to take control of the plane. My thought was I would open the bin and smack the hijacker on the head with it knocking him or her out. I'm no Superman, but when you get in these terrible situations you have to think fast.

Federal agencies are still checking how the hostage taker got into this country. The British man who took the four people hostage before being killed was known to British intelligence services, according to a U.S. official and British news media reports. He had been on the watch list of Britain's MI5 security service as a "subject of interest" in 2020, according to an American official briefed on the matter, who spoke on condition of anonymity because the investigation is continuing.

But by the time he flew to the United States, he had been deemed to no longer be a risk, the BBC reported Tuesday. The Guardian, citing government sources, reported that it was a midlevel investigation in the second half of 2020.

We have always welcomed those from other countries to our great land. The question is can we continue to do this particularly with people who are 'subjects of interest' or on 'watch lists'?

Even if we gave sophisticated security training to every American, sadly what happened in Colleyville is not going to stop. We have great resources on the internet regarding security training and many available from federal, state and local authorities. Don't get yourself crazy but you might want to check them out.

And please pray for the people of Colleyville, Texas that they will heal from this sad episode. And pray, yes pray as we so often do that nothing like this ever happens again.

## HOT TOPICS

Former New York City Mayor Bill DeBlasio is not running for Governor. Hallelujah!

Current New York City Mayor Eric Adams does not feel safe on the New York City Subways. And you and I are supposed to?

I have received some emails that some of the 10 minute parking time buttons on Yonkers Parking Authority (YPA) street parking meters have been removed. We can not let this happen. Businesses cannot let this happen. The Yonkers Chamber of Commerce can not let this happen. I have contacted the

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### BLACK HEALTH AND WELLNESS

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

### VIDEO CONTEST

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

### CONTEST RULES:

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

### IMPORTANT DATES:

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

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## Reginald LaFayette, Long Serving Westchester Democratic Leader, Dies at Age 69



*Reginald LaFayette*

*By Dan Murphy*

On Jan. 15, Reginald LaFayette, the long-serving former Chairman of the Westchester County Democratic Committee, passed away at the age of 69, due to an accident in his home where he fell in his home. LaFayette served as the Chair of the Mount Vernon Democratic Party for decades before taking control of the Westchester Democratic party in 2004. He stepped down in 2020, but during his leadership democrats in Westchester became not only the majority party but the supermajority party in most parts of the county.

"Today, the entire County of Westchester mourns the death of Reginald A. LaFayette," said County Executive George Latimer. "Reggie had a long and distinguished career as a public servant. He was politically brilliant, and it is without doubt that no person did more to bring diversity to City and County government than Reggie. He was insightful and tempered; he was my friend for nearly 50 years starting when we were both young men in Mt. Vernon – where we both first became active in the community. We shared meals, advice and even coached a little league team together. Today, the news of his passing seems surreal; tomorrow we go forward and we carry on and remember his legacy of working for voting rights, diversity and equal opportunity for all in government. I grieve with his children, his many friends and colleagues."

LaFayette, a Mount Vernon resident, started his career in Mount Vernon City Hall, serving as a Deputy Comptroller and City Clerk, and serving in the Mount Vernon Democratic Committee under former Chair David Ford. LaFayette has served as a Mount Vernon Democratic district leader since 1972, nearly 50 years in Westchester democratic politics.

Since stepping down as county leader in 2020, LaFayette remained active, sharing his half century of political advice with democrats, including a breakfast only a day before his passing with Congressman Jamaal Bowman. "Just yesterday I had Breakfast with Mr. Lafayette in Mount Vernon where he imparted his decades of wisdom and experience. This meal is one that I will forever cherish. Our conversation left me inspired and grateful for the forty years he proudly served our community; building democratic power and diversifying leadership."

As chair of the Westchester and Mount Vernon Democratic parties he paved the way for so many like myself making opportunities for women and people of color. Reggie fought for voting rights—something that remains as critical as ever. We will miss him greatly. I express my condolences to his loved ones, friends and our community. May Chairman Reggie Lafayette Rest-In-Peace. His memory and legacy will not be forgotten, said Rep. Bowman.

When LaFayette took control of the Westchester democratic committee in 2004, democrats were slowly becoming the majority party in Westchester, but the future was still in doubt. 2007 was a turning point for democrats in Westchester under LaFayette when District Attorney Janet DiFiore and Assemblyman Mike Spano switched parties and became democrats.

Since then, democrats have won 14 of the last 16 countywide races, including all three in 2017. "Reggie was a mentor to many and a man of principle. I learned so much from him. He will be missed" says Suzanne Berger, the current Chair of the Westchester County Democratic Committee.

"I am in utter shock..." says County Legislator (D-11) and Chair of the Black Democrats of Westchester County Terry Clements. "Reggie was not only a friend, but a powerful figure in Westchester. Reggie was tough, hard-working, dedicated and passionate and I am going to miss my friend deeply"

"The sudden passing of Reggie Lafayette is a tremendous loss to all people around the state of New York. Reggie's public service was exemplary as well as his dedication to ensuring that people of color and women were elected at every level of government" says Ken Jenkins, Westchester's Deputy County Executive.

This reporter first met LaFayette in 1995, when I was a district leader in Mount Vernon, working with a group called Democrats for a Better Mount Vernon. LaFayette was the vice-chair of the powerful Mount Vernon Democratic Party, under another legendary democratic political figure in Westchester, David Ford.

LaFayette's passing is perhaps the last we will see of the old political power brokers in Westchester politics. But the outpouring of well wishes for him shows that he will not soon be forgotten.

### *Evictions, continued from pg 1-*

Governor Hochul has made \$100 million in state-funded rent supplements available for localities, committed \$125 million to households previously ineligible for ERAP based on income, authorized \$125 million to help landlords with tenants who have declined to participate in ERAP or vacated with arrears, signed an increase in rental voucher amounts into law, invested \$25 million for free legal services for tenants, and unveiled a sweeping, five-year, \$25 billion plan to address housing affordability in her State of the State address.

Estimates have 400,000 New Yorkers, and 200,000 in New York City, facing eviction. Those residents are being reminded of their rights, which include that they cannot be locked out of their buildings, they do not have to leave until the legal eviction process is completed. And they have a right to legal representation, regardless of immigration status. Some affordable housing groups are expecting a surge in homelessness across the state once the evictions are filed.

The New York State Association of Realtors supported the expiration of the moratorium. "We welcome the return to market-based conditions under New York's nation leading tenant protection laws. It is important to remember that the moratorium expiration does not impact other protections for tenants in New York, including the Tenant Safe Harbor Act, which shields tenants from non-payment evictions if they can exhibit COVID-19 related financial hardship. As we continue to work through housing challenges of all kinds related to the pandemic, we encourage New York's congressional delegation to provide additional funding to tenants and housing providers through New York's Emergency Rental Assistance Program."

On November 30, 2021, the Building and Realty Institute of Westchester and the Mid-Hudson Region (BRI) and several multifamily apartment landlords filed a lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the extension of the New York State eviction moratorium that was signed into law on September 2, 2021.

Tenants rights groups had hoped that Gov. Hochul would extend the moratorium again.

Westchester County Government is offering the following information. If you are behind in paying your rent and received a demand for payment or an eviction notice, help is available.

Call 2-1-1 or visit 211.org

Legal Services of the Hudson Valley: (877) 574-8529

Hudson Valley Justice Center: (914) 308-3490

Westchester County Department of Social Services: (914) 995-3333

County Executive George Latimer said, "if you get a letter don't sit on it, reach out for assistance. The state has assistance and other non profit groups can help, but you have to reach out. Tell them your situation and they will try to help."

## Westchester Power and Community Choice Aggregation

*By Ron Matten*

This last weekend many Yonkersites received a notice that their energy service provider (ESCO) would be changed unless they choose to opt-out. This notice was sent to residents with Con Edison Accounts who have not entered into a contract with an ESCO and are being supplied utility commodities by Con Edison. If you are a Con Edison customer and you don't remember receiving the notice, you probably threw it away. It looked like junk mail.

Your utility bill is divided into two parts. You are billed for the actual utility commodity, electricity and/or natural gas, and the transmission of said commodity. The transmission or distribution includes the use and maintenance of the transformers, wires, piping and other infrastructure that Con Edison uses to deliver the commodity. In New York State, consumers can choose their energy provider. In our area, Con Edison manages the distribution infrastructure, which is often more costly than the commodity. If you did not enter into an agreement with an ESCO or third-party provider, Con Edison is your default provider.

The City of Yonkers has contracted with Westchester Power to be the ESCO for residents that currently have Con Edison as their default provider. In order to avoid having your utility provider switched, you must actively opt -out before February 9, 2022. If you do not actively opt-out, you will be automatically signed up. Current Westchester Power rates are higher than Con Edison's variable rate.

You may ask, how can the City of Yonkers change my utility provider without asking me? The New York State Public Service Commission established the Community Choice Aggregation Program on April 21, 2016. The program allows municipalities to negotiate and procure "green" energy for their residents. A bill sponsored by the City of Yonkers Mayor's Office of Sustainability was presented at the March 9, 2021, City Council meeting. The bill allowed the City of Yonkers to procure energy for all residents who were customers of the default provider, Con Edison. The bill also listed an opt-out provision, not an opt-in provision. The Yonkers City Council passed the bill by a vote of five (5) to two (2), with Anthony Merante and Mike Breen voting against the legislation. The law is now part of the Yonkers City Code.

Years before Yonkers joined Community Choice Aggregation, Greenburgh enrolled in the program. Residents of Greenburgh have been complaining about the higher rates and the inability to opt out, once enrolled. In December, Westchester Power's Renewable Fixed rate was 33% higher than the average Con Edison standard rate. This figure is based on Greenburgh's published rates.

The New York State Public Service Commission requires that municipalities joining the CCA provide education and information sessions to potential CCA members for no less than a two-month period.

Yonkers has met this criterion, but the city has done a poor job in promoting the sessions. This is evidenced by the large number of residents treating the opt-out mailer as junk mail. While the opt-out mailer and letter displayed the city seal, it came from a Houston, Texas address. It did not appear to be an official mailer from the City of Yonkers. The City Council and Mayor should delay the enrollment until a new mailer with more appropriate marking can reach Yonkersites.

Presently, if you do not want Westchester Power to be your ESCO, you must opt-out by February 9th 2022. The advantage of being in the program is using energy from renewable sources.

The disadvantage is that you will generally pay more for renewable energy. The choice is yours.

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) # 2022 – 02  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR FULL-SERVICE GROUND SOURCE HEAT PUMP SYSTEM SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE AT VARIOUS PROPERTIES OWNED OR MANAGED BY THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS**  
*The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers ("MHACY") is soliciting proposals from qualified firms for a Full-Service Ground Source Heat Pump System Service and Maintenance for MHACY at various sites as specified in this Request for Proposals ("RFP"). This RFP package contains submission requirements and terms and conditions and other pertinent information for submitting a proper and responsive proposal. This RFP is the only information provided to prospective bidders (hereinafter "Responders" or "Respondents") and is available online starting January 31, 2022 at [www.mhacy.org/about/procurement/](http://www.mhacy.org/about/procurement/). There will be a site tour for interested parties on February 16, 2022, time to be determined, starting at 1157 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY. The RFP questions deadline is February 23, 2022 at 11:00AM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions must be emailed to [procurement@mhacy.org](mailto:procurement@mhacy.org) by the deadline. No telephone calls and/or written communication sent via mail will be accepted. Proposals must reach MHACY no later than 3:00 PM (EST) on March 1, 2022. Late submissions will be handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B. Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria stated in the RFP. Negotiations may be conducted with contractors who have a reasonable chance of being selected for the award. After evaluation of the proposal revision, if any, the contract will be awarded to the responsible firm(s) whose qualifications, price and other factors are considered to be the most advantageous to MHACY. MHACY reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any irregularities or informalities if it is in MHACY's best interest to do so. MHACY reserves the right to cancel this RFP or to reject, in whole or in part, any and all proposals received in response to this RFP, upon its determination that such cancellation or rejection is in the best interest of MHACY. MHACY is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or family status. MHACY solicits and encourages the participation of minorities and small businesses in procurement. Contact, related to this procurement, with members of MHACY's Board of Commissioners, or MHACY's officers and/or employees other than the contact person show above, during the procurement process could result in disqualification of a proposal.*  
**Wilson Kimball  
President & CEO  
Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers  
1511 Central Park Avenue  
Yonkers, New York 10710  
Project No. 2022-02**

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## Yonkers Libraries & Hudson River Museum Share \$89,300 Grant

Yonkers Public Library (YPL), in partnership with the Hudson River Museum (HRM), has received a \$89,300 grant from the Metropolitan New York Library Council to fund cultural learning opportunities for students and families residing in Yonkers and Westchester County.

The grant will support the library and museum's joint The Estuary Project: Learning that Flows Two Way, which synchronizes the library's programs and resources with the museum's exhibitions, planetarium, and workshops. This project was awarded through a highly competitive review and selection process by Metropolitan New York Library Council made possible by the Institute of Museum and Library Services' American Recovery Plan Act federal grant program.

"The City of Yonkers couldn't be prouder that two of its premier institutions were awarded this prestigious grant. Yonkers Public Library and the Hudson River Museum have always provided critical literacy, art and cultural education to the Yonkers Community. During the COVID-19 pandemic, many organizations and services struggled to maintain their programs, but the library and museum support for the community through online services and programs was an essential way to keep our activities in Yonkers alive and our residents engaged," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. "This award will guarantee that we can do this in the future. Federal support at the community level creates strong cities and ensures that community members have access to arts and educational resources as we emerge from the pandemic."

YPL and HRM will partner on multiple projects, including building a one-of-a-kind library collection related to Yonkers, tribal history of the Lenape, history of the Hudson River, and the Hudson River School art movement that can be used by Yonkers' students, library cardholders, educators and historians.

"We are excited to work together with our friends at Hudson River Museum to offer quality cultural experiences to young people and their families that have been deprived of them during the COVID-19 pandemic. As institutions of informal learning, it's important that we collaborate and support each other's collections and services and this grant gives us a great opportunity to do that," stated Jesse Montero, library director of Yonkers Public Library.

Hudson River Museum's curator and educators will also work closely with library staff on developing programs and curriculum that complement the museum's permanent collection and upcoming 2022 exhibitions The World of Frida, Frida Kahlo in Context and Collection Spotlight: Women Photographers.

Masha Turchinsky, director and CEO of Hudson River Museum added, "This grant will enable us to deepen our partnership with Yonkers Public Library and enrich the lives of children and their families. We are excited to develop programs together that encourage curiosity, exploration and inspiration through arts, culture, and science. This collaboration is a real win for all."

"Metropolitan New York Library Council is thrilled to support the work being done by Yonkers Public Library and Hudson River Museum on The Estuary Project: Learning That Flows Two Ways. This project exemplifies the very principles that this program holds dear: a positive working partnership between libraries and museums, engagement with members of our communities during trying times, and their principled attention to helping fill the gaps in education that are arising due to our continued public health emergency," said Nate Hill, executive director at Metropolitan New York Library Council. "We are grateful to both Yonkers Public Library and Hudson River Museum for their partnership in the Museums and Libraries grant program, and we look forward to working together with them in the coming months."

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) # 2022 – 01 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR FULL-SERVICE HEATING SYSTEM AND MAINTENANCE AT VARIOUS PROPERTIES OWNED OR MANAGED BY THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers ("MHACY") is soliciting proposals from qualified firms for a Full-Service Heating System Service and Maintenance for MHACY at various sites as specified in this Request for Proposals ("RFP").

This RFP package contains submission requirements and terms and conditions and other pertinent information for submitting a proper and responsive proposal. This RFP is the only information provided to prospective bidders (hereinafter "Responders" or "Respondents") and is available online starting January 31, 2022 at [www.mhacy.org/about/procurement/](http://www.mhacy.org/about/procurement/).

There will be a site tour for interested parties on February 15, 2022, time to be determined, starting at 1157 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY. The RFP questions deadline is February 23, 2022 at 11:00AM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions must be emailed to [procurement@mhacy.org](mailto:procurement@mhacy.org) by the deadline. No telephone calls and/or written communication sent via mail will be accepted.

Proposals must reach MHACY no later than 3:00 PM (EST) on March 1, 2022. Late submissions will be handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B.

Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria stated in the RFP. Negotiations may be conducted with contractors who have a reasonable chance of being selected for the award. After evaluation of the proposal revision, if any, the contract will be awarded to the responsible firm(s) whose qualifications, price and other factors are considered to be the most advantageous to MHACY. MHACY reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any irregularities or informalities if it is in MHACY's best interest to do so. MHACY reserves the right to cancel this RFP or to reject, in whole or in part, any and all proposals received in response to this RFP, upon its determination that such cancellation or rejection is in the best interest of MHACY.

MHACY is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or family status. MHACY solicits and encourages the participation of minorities and small businesses in procurement. Contact, related to this procurement, with members of MHACY's Board of Commissioners, or

MHACY's officers and/or employees other than the contact person show above, during the procurement process could result in disqualification of a proposal.

Wilson Kimball  
President & CEO  
Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers  
1511 Central Park Avenue  
Yonkers, New York 10710  
Project No. 2022-01

## Yonkers Rising

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## On This Day in Yonkers History...



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

Monday January 24th

January 24, 1935: Orlando Nichols, the only surviving member of the first Yonkers regiment to join the fight for the Union in 1861, strongly opposed moving the Civil War Monument from the grounds of Manor Hall. Nichols reminded everyone the monument had been erected and paid for by the citizens of Yonkers, the Manor Hall was City Hall when it was placed there, and the dedication was attended by all remaining Civil War survivors. Unfortunately, when the state had taken control of the Manor House, the monument went with it.

One local organization suggested it be moved because members felt the monument was not appropriate for a pre-Revolutionary building; others felt the monument "played second fiddle in the time-honored site of the Lords of the Manor." The Ewing Circle, Ladies of the Grand Army, specified the state should pay to move the monument to a new site selected by a committee of accredited architects, but only with the approval of surviving veterans and affiliated organizations. Mayor Joseph Loehr said he would not approve the move without the "full sanction of the men who fought for the Union's preservation."

Tuesday January 25th

January 25, 1935: After spending three days clearing a 17 inch snowfall, Yonkers was finally dug out. As was the custom at the time, DPW dumped truckloads and truckloads of snow into the river near the pier, creating huge piles of snow more than 40 feet high. The river was so frozen, DPW crews had to use dynamite to blast the mountainous piles and ice so the tide could carry it away!

January 25, 1945: The Common Council voted to name two Yonkers parks after outstanding Yonkers citizens. The ruins of the Hendrick Hudson Hotel in Park Hill would be named for former Mayor Leslie Sutherland; Morsemore Park would be named for E. Wetmore Kinsley, longtime head of the Recreation Commission.

Wednesday, January 26th

January 26, 1936: It was announced Pennsylvania Avenue resident Eleanor Powell would not rejoin the cast of "At Home Abroad," and would be replaced by Mitzi Mayfair. Although making progress after her collapse from overwork, she was resting at her home in Crestwood.

January 26, 1945: US War Secretary Henry Stimson announced Yonkers native General Joseph Stilwell would command the Army Ground Forces, succeeding Lieutenant General Ben Lear.

Thursday January 27th

January 27, 1935: South Yonkers residents were concerned by an airplane flying very low over their homes every Sunday; they wanted to know who he was... and why he kept making return trips. He buzzed their homes, making figure eights and loops too close to for comfort. The pilot? Tom Brennan. His mom lived on Purser Place and had become concerned about his safety when he started flying. Acrobatics were his way of letting her know he was just fine.

January 27, 1945: Retired YPD Captain Thomas Morrissey was elected President of the new Retired Policemen's and Firemen's Association of the City of Yonkers at a meeting held at the Exempt Firemen's Hall on Buena Vista Avenue.

An outstanding marathoner and member of the Mercury Athletic Club, Morrissey won the National Indoor 25-mile championship in 1907. Morrissey won the first indoor marathon held in Brooklyn in 1908; a month later he won the Boston Marathon, earning him a spot on the 1908 US Olympic Team. At the event in London, he won his first heat. In the finals, although running towards the front of the crowd, a side stitch combined with the London humid summer heat forced Morrissey to drop out of the race at mile 20.

Friday January 28th:

January 28, 1946: Yonkers resident Captain Daniel Unangst, with the Japanese Naval Hospital in Kure, reported he visited Hiroshima. He said, "The devastation in major portions of that once great city is frightening... the whole picture is one of utter destruction. It makes the question of world security a real one."

January 28, 1947: Private William Hogel of Tibbetts Road reported Korea was being "Yonkersized!" Within a short time, he met three Yonkersites in his post in Seoul, Korea. He met Hugo Estberg of Sedgwick Avenue, with the 31st Infantry Regiment, and J. Patrick McLean of Bronx River Road, a Field Coordinator in a nearby PR Office. He also frequently visited Virginia von Lampe of Highland Avenue, an assistant in Club and Recreational Work in the area Red Cross Headquarters.

continued on pg 7-

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

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

To submit a Proposal, the submission must be sealed and plainly marked “RFP for Electrical Repair/Services Contract” on the outside of the mailing envelope as well as the inside sealed envelope, addressed to: The Yonkers Parking Authority, 8 Buena Vista Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Proposals will be accepted until 4:00 pm on January 24, 2022. All submitted proposals/bids shall be opened at 10:00 am on the first business day following the bid return deadline. Any person or persons that submitted a proposal wishing to attend bid opening may do so.

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

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

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

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

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

JESMYR CORP.  
d/b/a EL CALVARIO COCINA MEXICANA

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

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

LEGAL NOTICE  
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YONKERS  
PUBLIC HEARING  
AMENDMENT TO 2021/2022 CAPITAL BUDGET

I, Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, City Council President of the City of Yonkers, do hereby call a public hearing on a proposed amendment to the 2021/2022 Capital Budget of the City of Yonkers as follows:

Tuesday, January 25, 2022  
City Council Chambers  
City Hall  
40 South Broadway – 4th Floor  
Yonkers, New York

7:00 p.m.

The proposed amendment to the Capital Budget for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2021 and ending June 30, 2022, increasing the estimated total authorization set forth in said Capital Budget by approximately Six Million Eight Hundred Forty-Nine Thousand (\$6,849,000) Dollars, from One Hundred-Six Million Seven Hundred Sixty-Eight Thousand Five Hundred Thirteen (\$106,768,513) Dollars to approximately One Hundred Thirteen Million Six Hundred Seventeen Thousand Five Hundred Thirteen (\$113,617,513) Dollars to fund capital projects in and for the City of Yonkers.

Anyone wishing to speak may sign up on the night of the hearing at the hearing site. Each speaker shall be permitted three minutes and speakers shall be called in the order in which they have signed up.

LAKISHA COLLINS-BELLAMY  
CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

January 18, 2022

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

The Yonkers Parking Authority is soliciting proposals for Qualified Providers that are experienced in routine, preventive maintenance and emergency services for commercial and industrial Elevators. If you have any questions, you may call the Yonkers Parking Authority at 914-965-2467 or stop at the Yonkers Parking Authority main office located at 8 Buena Vista Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. The full Request for Proposal will be available for download at the Parking Authority’s website www.yonkersparkingauthority.com.

To submit a Proposal, the submission must be sealed and plainly marked “RFP for Elevator Repair/Services Contract” on the outside of the mailing envelope as well as the inside sealed envelope, addressed to: The Yonkers Parking Authority, 8 Buena Vista Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Proposals will be accepted until 4:00 pm on January 24, 2022. All submitted proposals/bids shall be opened at 10:00 am on the first business day following the bid return deadline. Any person or persons that submitted a proposal wishing to attend bid opening may do so.

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

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

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

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

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

To submit a Proposal, the submission must be sealed and plainly marked “RFP for Fleet Maintenance Services Contract” on the outside of the mailing envelope as well as the inside sealed envelope, addressed to: The Yonkers Parking Authority, 8 Buena Vista Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Proposals will be accepted until 4:00 p.m. on January 24, 2022. All submitted proposals/bids shall be opened at 10:00 a.m. on the first business day following the bid return deadline. Any person or persons that submitted a proposal wishing to attend bid opening may do so.

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

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

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## Letters to the Editor:

To the Editor: I enjoyed your recent story on the race for Mayor in two years, 2023. The list of 8 candidates that were polled included a diverse choice, which is what Yonkers is all about.

Two names stand out in the poll; Mayor Mike Spano and Senator Shelley Mayer. Both have the name recognition and could raise the required amount of donations to run and win. And I do believe that Mayor Spano could get the City Council to overturn term limits again, so that he could run for a fourth term. But I'm not sure he wants to do it and I'm also not sure that Shelley wants to do it.

Very much like the race for President in 2024, the next Mayor of Yonkers may be someone we have not met or know. I also like the City Clerk Vincent Spano, who I have met while conducting business in City Hall.

*Denise Caligari, Yonkers*

## Lionsgate Could be a Billion Dollar Boom for Downtown

I have seen the media coverage over Lionsgate studios coming to Yonkers. It is the best publicity that our City has received in a long time. Now that they have committed to \$500 Million total investment, you can expect that the stimulus that their presence will be for the downtown will make this a Billion Dollar deal. Restaurants, coffee shops and other service providers will pop up, or the existing businesses will be able to expand and hire more employees. I'm proud to say that I'm from Yonkers.

*Linda Pappas, Yonkers*

## DMV CDL Lack of test site , continued from pg 1-

tests, but only for bus drivers and small trucks and cars, not for the tractor trailers that transport our goods across the county.

While its difficult to find people willing to become a tractor trailer driver, some believe that the third largest City in New York State should have a location to help those who want to work a good paying job.

"If we had a location in Yonkers, there would be 50 people taking the test," said one business in the lower Westchester area that trains truck drivers. "Right now, the closest location is in Wappingers Falls, and the earliest date to get a test date is in April. A lot of people can't get up to Dutchess County to take the test and we would have to drive the truck up there to have them take the test. It becomes difficult to impossible to get it done. The third largest City in New York should have a location to take a CDL test, especially during COVID."

Possible locations in Yonkers include a city owned parking lot on Central Avenue by the Will Library and ball fields, a part of the MGM Casino at Yonkers Raceway parking lot, and part of the unused part of the Burger King parking lot on Central Avenue.

"One of the owners of these properties needs to step up. They need to understand that they are helping the residents of Yonkers and help the supply chain crisis, while giving a few hundred people a good paying job to raise a family," said one truck driver exam operator.

Before a location can be found and agreed upon, NYS DMV needs to take the first step and agree to have its employees give CDL tests for tractor trailers in Yonkers again.

Westchester State Senator Shelley Mayer has been working to try and accomplish that goal. "I have just recently raised this issue again with the Commissioner of DMV and I am insistent that I get an answer. We have a shortage of CDL truck drivers as well as bus drivers. And while the government has made improvements in the process with testing, we continue to have a testing site in Yonkers. Interested drivers have to go to the Bronx or up to Wappingers. That is completely unacceptable. I'm sure we can find a space, but we need the DMV to work with us and then they can work with Mayor Spano to find a space. These are good paying jobs that provide a future, and we have shortages in supplies in our area," said Sen. Mayer.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano is aware of the issue but is waiting for the State, and DMV to take the first step.

About 72% of goods transported in the U.S. are carried by truckers. But with high turnover rates and dwindling driver supply, the industry has reached a breaking point. U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg said his department will fund \$32 million for states to improve the commercial driving license process.

NY Governor Kathy Hochul recently signed a law which allows persons under the age of twenty-one to obtain a Class A CDL for operation within state borders.

One truck driver operator said that because of the driver shortage, employers were paying \$2500 a week for licensed truckers.

Another county resident wondered why someone in City, County or State government can't find a suitable location on public land. "Why do they have to keep asking local businesses to put the truck drivers test site on their land. Can't we find a place on city land in Yonkers, or on county land in Westchester? Cross County let DMV take their tests there for years but it's not their responsibility to do so."

We did receive the following communications from NYS DMV.

"Due to federal regulations that changed the test site requirements, DMV has not been able to identify an appropriate site in Westchester County. We currently have a CDL Site in Tarrytown where we are allowed to conduct tests a few days per week for most CDL applicants. However, we cannot conduct CDL A (tractor trailer) tests there due to the size restriction of this location.

"The Governor recently announced the start of a process for third-party testing to expand access to CDL road tests and help address the need for more truck and bus drivers – more info here: <https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/governor-hochul-announces-plan-address-truck-and-bus-driver-shortage>. It remains our priority to increase the number of sites, and we are currently working with the New York State Office of General Services (OGS) and other state agencies and authorities to find additional suitable locations in the Yonkers area.

## Attempted cop Suicide, continued from pg 1-

actively developing information in relation to this incident, including the possibility that the subject may have been experiencing mental health issues prior to this event; as such, his identity is being withheld. The subject remains in police custody with charges pending; he is a 24-year-old resident of the building at location.

Police Commissioner John J. Mueller stated, "Everyday, police officers in this county respond to thousands of incidents that have the potential for use of deadly force and are called upon to deal with any number of issues, increasingly with people in crisis. Upholding the sanctity of life remains paramount; thankfully in this incident the injuries are not life-threatening. We are committed to a thorough and transparent review of yesterday's events."

Members and supervisors with the Major Case Squad and Internal Affairs Division are actively involved in this investigation in conjunction with the Westchester County District Attorney's Office. All involved parties and witnesses will be interviewed, the scene will be processed subject to appropriate search warrants, and a comprehensive use-of-force review will be conducted, including the examination of body worn camera video. All findings will be shared with the District Attorney's Office and their Public Integrity Bureau and may be made public when available.

## Hudson River Audubon Upcoming Events

FeederWatch, sponsored by the Hudson River Audubon Society. Help count birds for a Citizen Science project sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology. No experience necessary. Lenoir Nature Center, 19 Dudley Rd., Yonkers. Vaccination card or Excelsior Pass and masking required. Upcoming dates:

Saturday, January 29, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Sunday, January 30, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 12, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 13, 12:00-2:00 p.m.

Saturday, February 26, 10:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Sunday, February 27, 2:00-4:00 p.m.

## Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

Yonkers Parking Authority about this and received no response as of press time. I travel around a lot. New York City and Philadelphia to name two big cities that I go to (as well as White Plains, a littler city). The Yonkers machines where you have to put your license plate in are more complicated then the machines of New York City, Philadelphia and White Plains where you put in money for time periods, no license plate numbers. Our wonderful seniors tell me they have the most problems with the sophisticated Yonkers parking machines.

Eric, you write a story mentioning red light cameras and the mail comes flooding in! Suffolk County Legislature Presiding Officer Kevin McCaffrey, a supporter of Red Light Cameras says the new Republican Majority will take a hard look at Red Light Cameras and whether they cause more accidents then prevent them. McCaffrey is questioning if Red Light Cameras are really for safety or are they for revenue generation. My buddy former Mount Vernon Major Ernie Davis was the most upfront elected official admitting these cameras are for generating revenue not for safety. Yonkers needs a study, not done by City Hall nor the company that lobbied for the City and the company that runs Yonkers' Red Light Camera Program. Anyone with a brain knows these cameras are money generators for Yonkers. Hey, maybe the New Yonkers City Council Democrat and Republican ruling majority will put an end to these devices or at least make sure the timing on the lights is correct.

A periodic reminder. Acquaint yourself with the locations of Yonkers Red Light Cameras which you will find at [www.yonkersny.gov/live/parking-transportation/parking-violations-bureau/red-light-cameras-how-it-works-locations](http://www.yonkersny.gov/live/parking-transportation/parking-violations-bureau/red-light-cameras-how-it-works-locations) or google Yonkers New York Red Camera Light locations.

As we go to press another high truck has hit a low bridge in Westchester. When will this stop? County Executive George Latimer believes that if the Federal Government requires GPS systems on trucks to be commercial grade GPS systems the problem will be solved. Unfortunately, it's not going to happen. Wait, maybe my Congressman Jamaal Bowman, still after my \$3 campaign donation will get legislation on this matter through Congress. I won't donate \$3 to his campaign, but since he is my neighbor I will buy him a cup of coffee, Dunkin, Starbucks, Panera wherever he wishes!

Reach Eric Schoen at [thistoosyonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistoosyonkers@aol.com). Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen and Dan Murphy on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

## Sports Betting App, continued from pg 1-

going live CEO Richard Schwartz with Rush Street Interactive, which owns the BetsRiver app, says New Yorkers have been waiting to place a bet easily and legally for a long time.

"I think there was some frustration from fans who would like to do it. And clearly you saw a lot of traffic visiting New Jersey, of people in New York instead of being able to bet from the convenience of their homes in New York," Schwartz said. "So, you had a lot of frustration to some rumors, some conjecture that 15 to 20 percent of the revenues generated from New Jersey were actually generated from New Yorkers. That now that New York is legal with mobile sports, we will reclaim much of those revenues. So, I think there's a lot of interest in this activity because it is highly regulated, highly safe, as actual level of engagement and fun for the user experience that people wanted it sooner than it arrived."

Elisa Richardson with BetMGM said many New Yorkers traveled to NJ to place their sports bets. "People driving over the bridge, you know, it definitely is happening. If you have a state like New York or close to other states, especially a state like New Jersey, where sports betting was first legalize - safe to say that people are going to cross over and bet."

Of the 1.2 million new accounts created, 9 out of 10 being new customers with no other betting account created until it became legal in NY. This level of interest in legal sports betting had Lindsay Slader, from GeoComply to say, "The data tell us that New Yorkers are dumping illegal sportsbooks for the new legal options, and operators are also excelling at attracting first-time bettors."

BetRivers sportsbook, owned by CEO Richard Schwartz, called the first few days of sports betting in New York, "explosive."

## Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

Saturday, January 29th

January 29, 1927: After serving in China for more than 15 years, Rev. S. Harrington Littell and his family were recalled by the China Mission and forced to leave Hankow, because of the severe unrest there. They planned to travel home through Europe and arrive in Yonkers late spring.

January 29, 1927: Four well-known Yonkers companies announced they were planning to put bids in to build the new Yonkers Post Office: Triangle Construction Company, Lynch and Larkin, Inc., A. D. Vinci and George T. Kelly. None of them got the contract.

Sunday, January 30th

January 30, 1935: A chance tire chain mishap led Detectives William Daly and Edward O'Connor with Detective Sergeant Henry Murphy, to discover a huge bootlegging plant! Led by the strong smell of mash, they called Chief Edward Quirk who came with a carefully selected team of officers. Unable to get it, they used a police car as a battering ram on a garage at 927 Old Nepperhan Avenue. The car had forced the door open a few inches; Detective Edward O'Connor, the slimmest of the group, was able to get inside and open it to the rest of the raiders to discover a giant illegal distillery with an estimated value of \$100,000.

The police believed "powerful gangland interests" ran the operation. Chief Quirk said the operation was the "most elaborate and complete" he had seen in his 25 years with the police. Ten wooden vats held 8,000 gallons of alcohol ready for distribution, and 5,000 gallons were in production. Quirk estimated the operation could produce 3,000 gallons daily.

Questions or comments? 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 [yhsociety@aol.com](mailto:yhsociety@aol.com).

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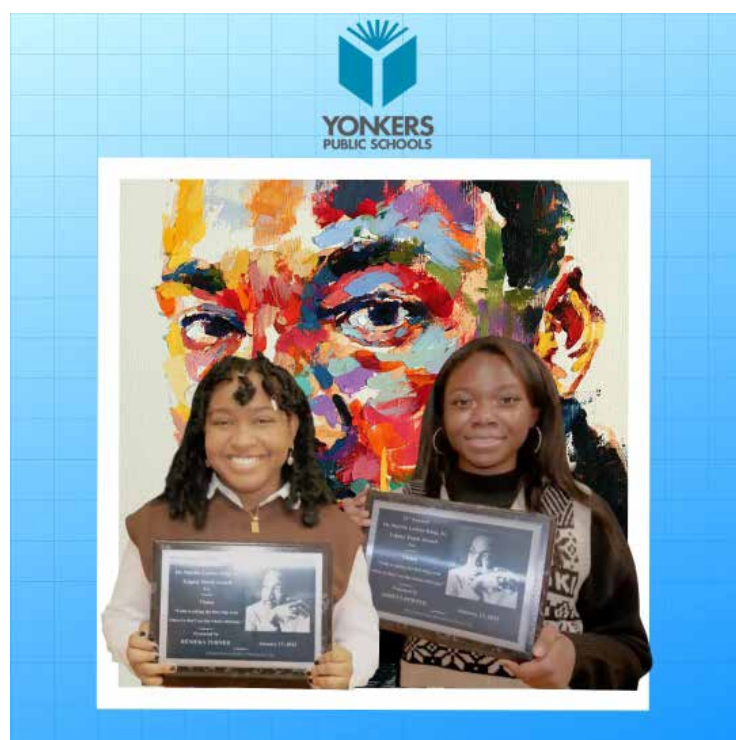
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## Thank You Mr. Postman for Your Service Through COVID



I read your article a while back and I had to share this pic of the best postal worker in Yonkers. He rings our bell when he picks up or delivers a package, or a special piece of mail. His name is Young and he's been delivering mail to our house for around 20 years. He is an amazing person and I just wanted you to know about him. He deserves a shout out!-writes Karen L. from Yonkers

## Congratulations Renieka Turner & Abreya Porter for MLK Award



Congratulations to Renieka Turner and Abreya Porter who were awarded the African American Men of Westchester #MLK Legacy Youth Award for keeping Dr. Martin Luther King's message of service alive. Renieka and Abreya, both Roosevelt High School students, are beacons of light in their school and in their community. We are #grateful for their service.

## Hey Yonkers, Order Your Free, at Home COVID Tests from Uncle Sam

On Jan. 18, the American people can now order 4 free at-home COVID-19 tests. The tests will be completely free—there are no shipping costs and you don't need to enter a credit card number. The new US government website went live a day early.

While COVIDTests.gov was expected to start accepting orders on Wednesday, an "Order free at-home tests" button was added Tuesday, which brings users to [Usps.com/covidtests](https://usps.com/covidtests) to order four at-home free tests.

The tests are part of the Biden administration's purchase of 500 million tests last month to help tackle a record surge in infections. Orders are expected to ship in 7 to 12 days. The 2020 Census reported 126.8 million U.S. households, so if 100 million households each order 4 tests, they will be sold out of the first batch. On Jan. 13, Biden announced he would double the federal government's order to 1 billion tests.



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