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Friday July 12, 2024

Yonkers & Westchester Mourn the Loss of Herman Keith, First African-American County Legislator

18,000 Drivers in Yonkers Ticketed \$250 for Driving Through School Bus Stop Sign

Mamaroneck Pedestrian Deaths of Mother Son Also Troubling



Herman Keith outside Yonkers City Hall

The Westchester County Government is deeply saddened to announce the passing of former County Legislator, the honorable Herman Keith on June 22, 2024, after a long illness due to complications with Alzheimer's disease. Keith, a revered figure in Westchester County and in his home community of Yonkers. He leaves behind a legacy of dedication, service and advocacy.



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced the inaugural school year of the Yonkers Safe Stop program, which utilizes cameras installed on District school buses to effectively capture stop-arm events and reduce the number of violations and injuries caused by motorists who disregard the school bus stop-arm, has yielded 18,132 violations since its official launch in November 2023. The month of May had the largest total of violations issued with 3,556.

Memorial Service for the Honorable Herman Keith

"The numbers are truly staggering, especially for drivers rendered with second and third offenses," said Mayor Spano. "We launched this program to protect our children. These stop-arm safety cameras will continue to help us enforce the laws of passing a school bus. I hope motorists will think twice before passing a school bus when the stop-arm is extended."

"The safety of our students is our highest priority. The success of the Yonkers Safe Stop program underscores our commitment to ensuring that every child arrives at school and returns home safely," said Superintendent Anibal Soler, Jr. "This initiative not only holds drivers accountable but also raises

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10th Annual ALS Ice Bucket Challenge Set for August 3 at Empire Casino-MGM

In Memory of Pat Quinn



Yonkers resident Pa Quinn, pictured above, diagnosed with ALS in 2013 at age 29, co-founded the global phenomenon event in 2014, which generated hundreds of millions of dollars in private donations for ALS research & medical advances to extend the lives of ALS patients. Quinn died in 2020 at the age of 37

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts, and the family of ALS Ice Bucket Challenge co-founder and late Yonkers Native Pat Quinn announced the date of the 2024 ALS Ice Bucket Challenge set for Saturday, August 3 (see video announcement here). The annual event will once again take place trackside at the historic Yonkers Raceway located at Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts in Westchester, New York.

Festivities will begin at 1:00 p.m. with the ice bucket dump scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Participants should pre-register online at YonkersNY.gov/IBC. The event, co-founded by Quinn after his diagnosis of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS) in 2013 at the age of 29, became a global phenomenon as more than 17 million people around the world participated in the challenge via social media by dumping buckets of ice water on their heads. The event continues to remain a catalyst for raising funds to support research to identify a cure for the debilitating disease and raise awareness of the need for more research funding. It is reported that an ALS patient dies in the U.S. every ninety minutes.

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Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

July 20, 11 am, Community Baptist Church, 60 North Broadway, Yonkers

A Life of Service and Commitment

Keith, who was originally from Alabama, was a United States Army veteran reaching the rank of 1st Lieutenant. After moving to Yonkers, Keith worked as an Engineer for the Perkin Elmer Optical Company and later as an Underwater Research Scientist for Columbia University. His career evolved to include significant roles in community development and advocacy, including managing programs for the Yonkers Community Development Agency and the Haitian Refugee Assistance Program.

Champion for Civil Rights and Equality

Keith's deep commitment to civil rights led to his presidency of the Yonkers Branch of the NAACP, where he spearheaded the landmark desegregation lawsuit against the City of Yonkers. His efforts laid the groundwork for equal ac-

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Sprain Lake Women's Golf League Celebrates 65 Years

Westchester's Oldest Women's Public Golf League



L-R Regina De Natale, Stella Oliver, Judi Forrest

Every Tuesday morning during the golf season (April-October) a group of 38 women tee off at Sprain Lake Golf Course in Yonkers. They are members of the Sprain Lake Women's Golf League, which recently celebrated its 65th anniversary and the distinction as the oldest women's public golf league in Westchester County.

A group of current and former members gathered at Sprain Lake to celebrate this momentous event on June 25, 2024. Included in the gathering of 50 were past and present members, Commissioner of Parks Recreation and Conservation Kathy O' Connor, Director of Golf for Westchester County, Rich Belizze, Head Pro at Sprain, Tom Avezzano and others.

We spoke to Judith Forrest, a member of the Jubilee Committee about the continued success of this special group. "In 1996, after leaving Knollwood Country Club, I joined the ladies group at Sprain". "I met the women and they were extremely friendly, cordial and nice, and had great knowledge of golf. It

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Philipse Manor Hall Hosts “Loyalist or Patriot” Revolutionary War Living History Talk Show 7/13

Messiah Baptist Church Hosts Prostate Cancer Seminar



left, Sarah Wassberg as Mary Philipse, right Chad Johnson as David Humphreys

During the American Revolution, the Hudson Valley was the site of fierce fighting between the Patriots and the British during the Revolutionary War, and Westchester County in particular was a contested “neutral zone.” How did people decide where their loyalties lay?

On Saturday, July 13, 2024, join Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, the Friends of Philipse Manor Hall, and Revolutionary Westchester 250 for “Loyalist or Patriot?” a living history talk show which explores which side historical people took during the conflict and why.

First debuted in 2023, this unique program features costumed historians portraying real people from Revolutionary era New York who come together for a no-holds-barred roundtable interview moderated by a talk show host. Our host Benjamin Thayer (portrayed by Philipse Manor Hall site manager Michael Lord) will ask the hard questions of seven historical people:

- Mary Philipse Morris, a wealthy Westchester and New York City socialite, portrayed by Sarah Wassberg Johnson, education and programs manager of Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site.
- Black Corn (Pekatawas Makatawai’U), and Algonkian man, portrayed by living historian Drew Shuptar-Rayvis.
- Lucy Bloom, a formerly enslaved woman, portrayed by Leslie Bramlett of the Old Barracks Museum and the Living History Company.
- Catherine Ellison, a wealthy Orange County merchant’s wife, portrayed by Karen Pena, Interpretive Programs Assistant at Washington’s Headquarters State Historic Site.
- David Humphreys, an officer and a gentleman, portrayed by Chad Johnson, Interpretive Programs Assistant at New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site.

Philipse Manor Hall State Historic Site, is located at 29 Warburton Ave., Yonkers, N.Y. 10701.



L-R-Dr. Robert Baskerville, PhD, CEO of RISEUP (Research Initiatives for the Strategic Empowerment of the Urban Populace), Brian Carter, Prostate Cancer Survivor, Harold McKoy Sr., Chairman of the Men’s Ministry, Coordinator of the Seminar, and Prostate Cancer Survivor, Harold McKoy II, VP of Strategic Planning & Relations for RISEUP, Wayne Daugett, Prostate Cancer Survivor

The Messiah Baptist Church Men’s Ministry proudly hosted its Second Lunch & Learn Seminar on Prostate Cancer, focusing on the critical issue of prostate cancer among Black men. The event took place on June 29th at the Yonkers Riverfront Library and was a tremendous success, attracting an estimated 30 attendees.

The Lunch & Learn Prostate Cancer seminars aim to educate and empower the community, providing crucial information about the early detection and treatment of prostate cancer. The next seminar is already being planned, with details to be announced soon.

The seminar featured several distinguished speakers, including: Dr. Gregory Joice, Urologist at NY Presbyterian Hospital Westchester, who provided valuable insights on prostate cancer and the importance of early detection.

Joseph Cosgriff, Director of Operations at Fans For The Cure, Tarrytown, NY, who shared information about ongoing efforts to combat prostate cancer.

Rev. Frank E. Coleman, Pastor of Messiah Baptist Church, who offered inspirational words and support.

Chairman Harold McKoy Sr., a prostate cancer survivor and founder of the Lunch & Learn Prostate Seminars, emphasized the importance of raising awareness and providing education on prostate cancer among Black men. He plans to host several more seminars at the Yonkers Riverfront Library to continue this vital work.

The Men’s Ministry urges all churches and community-based organizations to come out, participate, and get involved in spreading the word to bring about awareness of the number two killer of Black men, prostate cancer. “We are saving lives.”

The Messiah Baptist Church Men’s Ministry is dedicated to addressing the spiritual, physical, and emotional needs of men in the community. Through various programs and initiatives, the ministry strives to empower men to lead healthier and more fulfilling lives.

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On This Day in Yonkers History...



A sketch of the Getty House shortly after it opened on South Broadway

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

Monday, July 15th

July 15, 1920: Allan Helffrich was selected for the US Olympic Team; this made Helffrich, a “half-miler,” the second Yonkers man to be a member of an Olympic team. The first was Thomas Morrissey in 1908; marathoner Morrissey later joined the Yonkers Police Department.

July 15, 1942: Rear Admiral Husband Kimmel, Retired, who moved to 280 Bronxville Road in Yonkers after retiring from the Navy, joined the Frederick Harris firm in New York City; Retired Admiral Harris’s firm worked on top secret projects. Kimmel was Commander of the Pacific Fleet on December 7th 1941 when Pearl Harbor was attacked, was relieved of command shortly afterward and faced Court Marshall for dereliction of duty. The Roberts Commission found him not guilty of dereliction of duty.

Tuesday, July 16th

July 16, 1939: Yonkers City Court Interpreter Charles Civello received a cable announcing his son-in-law Lew Yancey of Lawrence Street had safely landed in London. Yancey had made a non-stop flight across the Atlantic from Buffalo with co-pilot Russell Roger.

July 16, 1942: Helen Friberg of the Women’s Red Cross Production Unit announced her volunteers sold War Stamps totaling \$645.05 at Empire City Race-track that day!

Wednesday, July 17th

July 17, 1934: Sailors from the USS Salt Lake City apparently had a very good time during their previous visit to Yonkers; while their ship was docked at Camden, fifty sailors chartered a bus for a return visit to Yonkers to spend the day!

July 17, 1942: Yonkers merchants sponsored the Yonkers’ Hero’s Day program in Getty Square to honor World War II servicemen and women... and to sell War Bonds and Stamps! Promptly at 11:30 am, trumpeters from Sacred Heart Church sounded their horns calling Yonkers to this special event; more than 2,000 people

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Who Are We Voting for President This Year?

By Eric Wolf Schoen



I hope you had a nice 4th of July holiday, whether you celebrated it last weekend, the weekend before or like many for the unofficial 9 day period. In conversation with friends, many people skipped the traditional family barbecues, and one friend just served hot dogs to his guests. The cost of everything related to a barbecue has gone up, and folks cannot afford to put steak on the grill anymore.

Was it the heat that caused people to stop barbecuing? Or are people so tired from everything that they decided to pass on the steak, ribs, chicken and everything else associated with our traditional outdoor holiday meal. Which leads me to the question: Who are We voting for President in November, a mere 4 months away. I hear from registered Democrats and Republicans one thing: no one is happy with the choices for President this year.

Isn’t it a shame the quality of candidates Democrat and Republican leaders put before us to run our country. Where is George Washington? Abraham Lincoln. Even Ronald Reagan, a Republican many Democrats voted for and many Republicans nowadays would think is too liberal at least was a leader deserving of our respect. One candidate is a convicted felon. The other candidate has a son convicted of crimes that any moron would realize his father’s influence was at the center of.

And look at number 2 on the ticket. What has Kamala done to make our country a better, safer, place for the citizenry? Where have you gone, Kamala the border czar? Certainly not to the Border. Marco Rubio. Do you remember the man who belittled him. Called him names like little Marco. And at press time that man is considering Marco for Vice President? Marco or the Donald will have to change their state of residency to run together. Though it’s a planet and not a state, is Mars being considered?

The Biden vs. Trump debate. How any political handler allowed President Biden to get on that stage I will never know. If I handled him and knew the shape he was in I would have pulled ‘the President is ill and can’t make it’ with either the flu or Covid excuse. I don’t buy the excuse that he has been traveling the country and was tired. He knew when the debate was. Why did Joe Biden in the shape he is in travel the country? Are members of his family so ruthless that they won’t let Biden out of his contract with the American people. Allowing the family to make more money with daddies connections?

Mr. Trump. If you believe this man is a true Conservative, I have a bridge in Brooklyn to sell you. Look how his positions on the issues have changed for political purposes over the years. And the way he acts when he is on stage seeking public support. We all know a fire alarm pulling Congressman from this area who recently lost the Democratic nomination because he carried on like a circus barker on stage.

People are tired of the screaming and the tumult on the American political stage. Politicians need to kiss babies and offer solutions to the problems facing this country. We have migrants crossing the border staying in fancy hotels in New York City while New Yorkers live in public housing painted in lead peeling from the ceiling causing health issues for so many. New Yorkers standing in line At

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The Westchester Coalition for Clean Water (WCCW) Announces Formation

The Westchester Coalition For Clean Water, (WCCW), announces its formation at today's Summer Riverfront Kickoff at Habirshaw Park on the Hudson in Yonkers. WCCW is committed to achieving, maintaining, and protecting clean water in all of Westchester's waterways for all community members now and for the future.

The coalition has formed to push for greater actions by Westchester County and local governments on issues including water pollution from our sewers, flooding from stormwater, safe fishing and shellfishing and increasing access to our waterfronts. WCCW is calling for all waterways in Westchester to be clean and healthy, free of trash and sewage, and flood resilient within 10 years.

WCCW membership includes Riverkeeper, Sarah Lawrence College Center for the Urban River at Beczak (CURB), Federated Conservationists of Westchester County, Groundwork Hudson Valley, Bronx River Alliance, the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Long Island Sound Study, Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club, and Beczak Environmental Education Center. These organizations, who have been working together as partners in water quality monitoring and as members of the Westchester Climate Crisis Task Force Water Committee, agree that a stronger focus on water health and safety is needed in Westchester, especially in light of the increased stress that climate change is placing on our water infrastructure, including increased storms and sea level rise.

Today's announcement took place on the waterfront in Yonkers where the wastewater treatment plant discharges untreated and partially treated sewage into the Hudson River when it rains. So far in 2023 alone, this County-owned treatment plant has discharged over 800 million gallons of partially treated sewage into the Hudson. The Yonkers plant takes the wastewater from the rivertowns upstream and the discharges pollute the river and leave solid waste on the Yonkers waterfront.

Riverkeeper President and Hudson Riverkeeper Tracy Brown, a WCCW co-chair said, "In the face of our changing environmental conditions and our aging infrastructure, it is concerning that Westchester is not sufficiently prioritizing clean and healthy water for all of our residents. I am grateful to have a coalition dedicated to this critical work and look forward to putting clean, healthy, and accessible water at the top of the priority list for our local and county governments." She added, "Each of our members are leading advocates and protectors of the waters they serve. By coming together as a coalition, our individual voices and efforts are amplified exponentially, allowing us to assess and meet all of the challenges facing Westchester's waterways."

NY Co-chair of the Citizens Advisory Committee of the Long Island Sound Study, Nancy Seligson, a WCCW co-chair, said, "Events like these showcase the beauty of Westchester's waterways, the Hudson, the Long Island Sound and all the lakes, rivers, ponds and tributaries in between. These treasures have to be protected from sewage and other pollutants that are detrimental to our environment and pose health risks to Westchester residents."

Executive Director of Groundwork Hudson Valley, Oded Holzinger, said "Intensifying flood events, degradation of the natural habitat, and compromised water quality are all climate and environmental hazards that are interconnected and know no municipal boundaries. Westchester County is home to some of the most densely populated watersheds in New York, many of them flow in the direction of the most climate vulnerable communities, making this an environmental justice issue. This is why the formation of this coalition is so crucial for bringing together key stakeholders to provide comprehensive solutions."

President of Beczak Environmental Education Center, Marcia Cooper, said, "It is of utmost importance to replace and/or upgrade current sewage and stormwater infrastructure that dates from the 1800's as well as the Sewage Treatment Plants in the area to ensure the health and well being of the waterways. The public health and environment is currently at risk and now is the time to solve this problem. Keep sewage and stormwater separate."

Commodore of the Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club, Lee Wordman,

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Westchester Property Owners Avoid Rent Freeze, Following Rent Guidelines Board Vote

One Year Leases +2.5%; Two Year Leases +3.5%

On June 27, the Westchester County Rent Guidelines Board approved a rent adjustment of 2.5% for one-year leases and 3.5% for two-year leases starting October 1, 2024 through September 30, 2025, with a final vote of 6-1.

While the new increases will prevent the destructive and counter-productive rent freeze that tenant advocates had been seeking, they do not match the escalating operating expenses of rent-stabilized buildings. These costs have surged due to inflation, rising material costs, and soaring insurance rates over the past year.

"Once again, property owners are given disappointing rent increases. We have the oldest stock of housing which has the highest need for maintenance and repairs. It is becoming increasingly difficult, if not impossible, to provide safe and well-maintained units. The Rent Guidelines Board has become our only avenue for these necessary increases but year after year, these increases don't even keep up with inflation or the Consumer Price Index (CPI). The board is completely skewed towards the tenants, without anyone taking into consideration the documented facts provided. The system is clearly broken and I fear it won't get fixed until a catastrophic event occurs," Lisa DeRosa, President of the Building and Realty Institute (BRI) and White Plains property owner said.

With an average rent \$1,473 per month across all sizes of rent-stabilized apartments, this would be an average increase of up to \$X per month beginning for leases beginning on or after October 1, 2024.

This year, the major points of discussion have been the soaring insurance premiums and the ongoing devaluation of rent-stabilized properties, in addition to inflation and rising maintenance costs for property owners. These have contributed to the number of rent-stabilized units being taken off the market entirely since 2019 – nearly 5,000 according to statistics presented to the board by the Division of Housing and Community Renewal.

Insurance premiums have been escalating by an average of 26% annually, while coverage is diminishing or challenging to secure. The average cost to insure an affordable apartment has surged to \$1,770, marking a 103% increase from four years ago when the average annual premium per unit was \$869. A decrease in insurers willing to provide coverage for multifamily housing, especially rent-stabilized buildings, has made it increasingly challenging for property owners.

The aftermath of HSTPA in 2019 has led financial lenders to reassess the viability of granting loans to rent-stabilized properties due to the new regulations and years of subpar rent increases. Valuations of the limited multifamily property sales have dropped, impacting loans and posing risks to financial institutions like Signature Bank and New York Community Bank. Reports indicate that two-thirds of rent-stabilized buildings in NYC are at risk of selling for less than their previous sales price, with a significant portion losing market value since 2018.

The diminishing property values have restricted property owners' access to loans for essential upkeep, renovations, and maintenance, leading to a rapid deterioration of rent-stabilized buildings in the coming years.

"Every morning, I wake up wondering: How many more years can I afford to keep my building in business when I'm faced with abysmally low rent guideline increases and my maintenance and repair costs continue to rise? What's going to happen when it's time for me to refinance my mortgage in a year and I find that no bank wants to come near my building because it's already viewed as a negative investment?" Alana Ciuffetelli, Chair of BRI's Apartment Owners Advisory Council said during her testimony. "It's challenging to remain positive as a rent-stabilized property owner in these times, and these rent guideline increases offer a small glimmer of hope amidst the uncertainty."

Amid increasing operating expenses, the Housing Stability and Tenant Protection Act (HSTPA) of 2019 imposed significant limitations on programs for funding building upgrades and renovations, underscoring the importance of annual increases by the Rent Guidelines Board.

Despite the recent change in legislation which raised the Individual Apartment Improvement (IAI) cap to \$30,000, this amount falls short for comprehensive apartment rehabilitation after a long-term tenant leaves. Renovation costs typically range from \$100,000 to \$150,000, especially for extensive repairs.

A recent survey by BRI revealed that most landlords have refrained from applying for Major Capital Improvements (MCI), which include essential upgrades like boiler replacements, window installations, electrical rewiring, plumbing, and roofing. Landlords delaying major renovations are waiting for a more favorable economic climate to avoid unforeseen setbacks. According to a study by Hudson Valley Patterns for Progress, MCI applications have declined by 83% in the last five years. Furthermore, rent guideline board increases have consistently lagged behind inflation, with this disparity intensifying over the past four years.

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Generation Analysis: How Millennials View Being Americans Today

By: Dennis Richmond, Jr.

With the season of The Fourth of July in the air, reflections on American identity are more poignant than ever, especially among millennials. For this generation, raised amidst rapid technological advancements and societal upheavals, defining what it means to be American is a nuanced and often tumultuous journey.

Alajah Whitehead, hailing from Yonkers, NY, captures a prevailing sentiment among her peers. She believes many millennials are detached from traditional notions of patriotism. “Depending on background and experiences, millennials may not feel a strong sense of pride in America,” Whitehead observes. “Some feel indifferent, born here by chance rather than choice, while others harbor resentment, feeling the country hasn’t reciprocated their allegiance.”

This skepticism towards national pride is compounded by a keen awareness of social issues exacerbated by digital connectivity. “Social media has made us acutely aware of our country’s flaws,” Whitehead argues. “From systemic injustices to unequal policies, how can we celebrate a country that doesn’t ensure fairness and equality for all?”

Khendra David, residing in Mount Vernon, NY, echoes similar sentiments but emphasizes the healing process amidst adversity. “As a millennial, I’ve endured trauma from multiple crises—from 9/11 to COVID-19,” David shares. “These challenges, compounded by personal struggles as a first-generation Black American woman, have left many of us exhausted.”

Despite these challenges, David finds solace in local communities that provide vital support. “In Westchester, I’ve discovered pockets of solidarity,” David notes. “These connections nurture resilience and a sense of belonging amidst broader disillusionment.”

Their narratives underscore a generational shift in how Americans view their national identity. Millennials confront a landscape shaped by global interconnectedness and domestic strife, challenging traditional narratives of patriotism rooted in unquestioning allegiance.

As America commemorates its independence, the reflections of young adults like Whitehead and David serve as a poignant reminder: patriotism today is diverse and complex. It encompasses pride alongside critical examination, unity amid division, and hope amidst disillusionment. Their stories illuminate a path forward where local communities foster resilience; even as broader national institutions face scrutiny.

In this pivotal moment, as the nation grapples with its identity, the voices of millennials offer a compelling narrative of resilience and adaptation. Their journey reflects a broader societal evolution, where the quest for a meaningful American identity continues to unfold amidst modern challenges. As we navigate these complexities, their perspectives challenge us to reimagine patriotism not as blind loyalty, but as a dynamic dialogue about justice, equity, and the pursuit of a more perfect union.

In the end, the essence of being American lies not just in celebration of independence, but in the ongoing commitment to confront and overcome the complexities of our time.

Dennis Richmond, Jr., an educator, historian, and writer, illuminates the experiences of Black, Latinx, and LGBTQ+ communities in Yonkers and NYC through his journalism. Stay connected with him by following @NewYorkStakz on social media.

Should Police Tell the Community, There is an “Armed and Dangerous” Criminal on the Loose?



A prior mug shot of Brandon Scerri, from one of his many other robberies he participated in down the east coast

On June 26-the Hastings on Hudson Police Department released the following statement.”As you may be aware, on Saturday, May 11, 2024, at approximately 5:19 am, the Hastings-on-Hudson Police Department received a 911 call from a resident of Broadway reporting her house was currently being burglarized by a man armed with a handgun. Hastings-on-Hudson Police Officers were dispatched to the scene along with mutual aid from the Dobbs Ferry Police Department. The officers checked the home, and it was determined that the suspect had fled before their arrival. The Hastings-on-Hudson Detective Division began an investigation and was assisted by the Yonkers Police Department Detective Division, the Westchester Real Time Crime Center, the Greenburgh Task Force, and the FBI Westchester Safe Street Task Force. After a lengthy investigation, on Wednesday, June 26, 2024, the perpetrator, in this case, will be formally charged with this crime. He will be

arraigned in the Village of Hastings-on-Hudson Justice court and sent to the Westchester County Jail. I want to commend the officers of the Hastings-on-Hudson Police Department for a successful investigation, and I would like to thank all the agencies involved for their assistance,” end of statement.

While the Hastings police did not release the name of the suspect, other media reports confirmed that Brandon Scerri, 29, was the man arrested and charged.

The police statement does not include the fact that the couple was tied and gagged, and that they had a young infant in their home at the time of the robbery. This story was posted on social media during the recent campaign for District Attorney. It is possible that the incident released by police is not the same as the incident we read about several weeks ago.

After a Google search, we found a number of stories about incidents concerning Scerri all over the East Coast. Scerri had outstanding arrest warrant from Pennsylvania and Florida for bank robberies and violent felonies.

Another local media report said that this robber, or another robbery occurred in Westchester in Oct. 26 of last year. But media outlets in Pennsylvania and Florida said that Scerri was in those states last year robbing banks.

Scerri is accused of two robberies in Westchester. One in Ardsley and one in Dobbs Ferry. He is charged with

- First-degree robbery;
- First-degree burglary;
- Second-degree criminal possession of a weapon;
- Third-degree grand larceny;
- Third-degree criminal possession of stolen property.

Scerri will be extradited to Pennsylvania for the following crime. “On June 5, 2024, the North Strabane Township Police Department was dispatched to a bank robbery at the First National Bank located at 2620 Washington Road. Since that robbery, our agency has worked tirelessly with the Federal Bureau of Investiga

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Yonkers Rising

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Notice of formation of Studio Elise LLC filed with the SSNY on 04/05/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of processes to the LLC, 3 Ward Street, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY 10706. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Lee & Mazie's LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 04/02/2024 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : Lee & Mazie's LLC 1 Sherwood Terrace Apt 5D Yonkers, NY 10704 Purpose: Any lawful purpose. Latest date upon which LLC is to dissolve: No specific date.

Notice of Formation of KW Services NY LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 3/30/24. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 875 King Street Chappaqua NY 10514. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of Intentional Journey Psychotherapy, LCSW, PLLC. Arts of Org filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 4/8/24. Office location: NY County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served and shall mail copy of process against PLLC to 1374 Midland Ave, Suite 410, Bronxville, NY 10708. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of Northern Lights Massage Therapy PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 8/21/23. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 409 North Broadway Apt 38 Yonkers NY 10701. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Resonance Interactive LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 5/14/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 17 Arlington Road, Scarsdale NY, 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

food pantries while migrants are given credit cards and health insurance benefits the American citizen can only dream of. Something wrong my friends with this picture!

The Borders. Trump couldn't finish them and get Mexico to pay for them. Biden left them unfinished so thousands could enter this country. Yes that's the American way, allow everyone to come in. But unlike our grandparents, folks crossing the border hear America and think what can they get for free. My grandfather who came through Ellis Island busted his chops working long days as a butcher to pay the rent.

July 4 is always a sad day for me. It is my parents, long gone Anniversary Day. Where did they get married? The beautiful Hotel Roosevelt in New York City. My beloved parents are rolling in their graves knowing that my grandparents paid a lot of money for their beautiful wedding at the Roosevelt which now shelters those who have crossed the border illegally for all they can get for free. Grandpa Schoen worked long hours driving the #1 Trolley from the Bronx to Yonkers to pay for that beautiful wedding. Grandpa Roth worked long hours in his butcher shop to help pay for the wedding. Now, the government pays for everything. Even if the migrants wanted to work, our government can't figure out a way to process work permits for them.

Joe Biden is not the problem, and neither is Donald Trump. Our bureaucracy and the small percentage of voters among those eligible who Vote is. Don't Vote? The State of the Union in America won't change. No term limits? No fresh ideas. If you vote the same folks in office every year things won't change as those in power believe your vote affirms what they are doing.

Maybe we need a housecleaning putting officials in charge with the tools necessary to fix our nation's problems. Where are the FDR's, Ronald Reagan's, George Washington's and Abraham Lincoln's among us. Not in the body of a man who doesn't believe in vaccinations that have protected us so well for so many years.

Do we need a President who places his hands kinda inappropriately on members of the opposite sex, age not considered. Or a man accused by so many of inappropriate behavior while he ran a large corporation? Or a Senator like in New Jersey who stacks up money because he doesn't believe in banks and took many trips with one of his largest contributors to the Dominican Republic to be around pretty young ladies?

We have to do better. I will defend the ability of a man with Parkinson's disease to run this country, but won't defend the same person when he is incoherent on the public stage. I will defend a man who pushed the bureaucracy to quickly end the enormous deaths as a result of Covid to run this country, but won't defend the same man when he alienates us from the rest of the world.

Which gets back to my initial question. Who are we voting for President this year? The choices are scary. Remember to say a prayer in November when you pull down the lever. Oops, I mean push the button or fill in the circle. If we can't come up with a safe system to vote, how are we going to come up with appropriate individuals to lead this country. Pray my friends. And God Bless America!

Briefs:

If you are an adult with children swimming in pools, oceans or other places this summer, make sure you know how to swim and watch those children carefully. Many of the Y's offer adult swimming classes both group and individual. Drownings this summer are already off to a bad start.

Smother yourself in Sunscreen when you are outdoors this summer. Read the directions on the package and follow them. And make sure you are WELL HYDRATED! Water please, not alcohol!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisonkers@aol.com, or friend him on Facebook Eric Schoen...just look for him in the picture with Joan Rivers!

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AGENDA

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, JULY 17, 2024 AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN YONKERS CITY HALL, 40 SOUTH BROADWAY, 4TH FLOOR (building is handicapped accessible).

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

OPEN/CONTINUED HEARINGS

5797 – Area Variance - Andrew Romano, Esq., on behalf of Marketin Hila/110 Ravine Realty LLC, Owner, on premises known as 110 Ravine Avenue, Block: 2118, Lot: 39, Zone: A (B29521) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H-4V45sMcWs0_3rOyDixjXc_ttlYGnZq?usp=share_link

5810 – Use & Area Variance – David S. Steinmetz, Esq. & Jacob E. Amir, Esq., on behalf of TCP Realty LLC, owners, on premises known as 143-151 Woodworth Avenue, Block: 2102, Lots: 4, 5, 11, 39 & 41, Zone: C - (B32117) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1H-uwlmlnZ67Pdqnxin47LX7kkvY8uwUh?usp=share_link

5850 – Area Variance – Kathleen Bradshaw, Esq., on behalf of 194 Yonkers Avenue LLC, owner, on premises known as 182 Fillmore Street aka 194 Yonkers Avenue, Block: 405, Lots: 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 9, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, Zone: BA - *Adjourned until September 2024 https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rndP3X61js_cy3P25c-FkrsMpUyXHf34?usp=sharing

5854 – Area Variance – Stephen A. Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of P and B Yonkers LLC, owner, on premises known as 37-43 Post Street, Block: 158, Lots: 66 & 68, Zone: M (B31035) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1CD_9e4Guj-ufCACfnF18U_5fJkkwC9wT?usp=sharing

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

(B32874) * Adjourned until September 2024 <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KcvFoSwZw6ljqBkVUcJQsWyXq4z4Pn-x?usp=sharing>

5856 – Area Variance – Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of Barak Realty Profit Sharing Trust fbo Yael Dunayer 50% and Barak Dunayer 50%, owner, on premises known as 133 Morsemere Terrace, Block: 2426, Lots: 39.42, Zone: T (A0000258) <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1V00zBW1AuNJYKsUO6fhl0m2Zz4RRB57A?usp=sharing>

5858 – Area Variance – James G. Dibbini Associates, P.C., Esq., on behalf of 1098 Yonkers Avenue Corp. LLC, owner, on premises known as 1098 Yonkers Ave, Block: 6301, Lots: 15& 18, Zone: BA

(B0024594) <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1YY3Lq7CPKYQ017996QBBynveYcCwza0C?usp=sharing>

NEW HEARINGS

5855 – Area Variance – Andrew M. Romano, Esq. on behalf of 160 Stanley Avenue LLC, owner, on premises known as 160 Stanley Ave, Block: 184, Lots: 68, Zone: A (B00033778) https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1sBCFaH0Iubtvx_DMeIZGYwbaUBYOPlzH?usp=sharing

#5859 – Non-Conforming - Giovanni Zapata , on behalf of 182 Concord Road , owner, on premises know as 182 Concord Rd, Block 4332, Lot:7 (B33813) <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1rOlzv4WUs7m5gNgGVT6RbJQhSPLFXSA9?usp=sharing>

#5860 – Area Variance – John J. Phelan, Esq. on behalf of MP Riverdale Associates, LLC, and Block: 154, Lots: 55 & 67 (B0034771) owner, on premises know as 58 Purser Place. <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bK>.

Notice of Formation of RR 207 Consulting, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 03/27/24. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 603 Warburton Ave, Ste 2, Hastings-on-Hudson, NY, 10706. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Toneske Management Services LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/27/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 146 Catskill Ave., Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Notice of formation of Freedenfeld Impact Advisors, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/23/24. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 350 Ringgold St., Peekskill, NY 10566. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Yonkers History, continued from pg 3-

responded! Ensign Richard McShane from the USS Marblehead, which played a key part in the Battle of Macassar Strait, stirred the crowd. He spoke about Keynote speaker was James Braddock, former World's Heavyweight Champion; other speakers were Yonkers Red Cross Chapter Chair Justin McCarthy and Reverend Edward McGrath from the Church of the Immaculate Conception (St. Mary's) gave the invocation, Reverend of St. Paul's Episcopal Church led those gather in prayers, and Rabbi Aaron Kahan of Lincoln Park Temple gave the benediction. Colonel Lesley Sutherland presented special certificates to companies selling bonds.

Thursday July 18th

July 18, 1904: City Judge Kellogg fined six midnight Hudson River bathers \$2 each. Why the fine? They failed to make use of their bathing suits during nocturnal swimming in the river. The fine came with a warning that a second offense would be met with the maximum allowed \$5 fine.

July 18, 1950: The Yonkers Board of Education hired its third African American teacher, Willianna Crier, to be an elementary teacher at School Six. Miss Crier, who had a BS from Hampton Institute and an MA in Education from Columbia University, came from a distinguished family. Her father, Colonel Douglas Crier, served our country during WWI and WW II; during his second round of service, he was appointed commander of the 23rd Internal Security Battalion. Afterwards, he worked in Yonkers City Court, and served as President of the NAACP.

Friday, July 19th

July 19, 1928: Albert Jost of Riverdale Avenue patented a safety device for airplanes he worked on for a year, a device enabling planes to land softly from any altitude in case of engine problems. The device, a parachute attached to the top wing of a plane, opened by pulling a lever inside the cockpit.

July 19, 1939: Otis Elevator announced it received the contract to install 18 escalators at the Sixth Avenue Line's 34th Street Station. Otis' bid was \$438,979; this was about \$50,000 less than the Westinghouse Electric Elevator Company bid. The NYC Board of Transportation announced the escalators were to be the "most commodious and modern and most beautiful of those in any station in New York, if not the world."

Saturday, July 20th

July 20, 1871: Plans were announced for improving the little park in Getty Square. For several years, the railing and retaining wall were in bad condition; planned improvements would rectify this lack of maintenance. Yonkers widened the sidewalk in front of the Getty House four feet, reducing the "carriage way," now South Broadway. The little park would be narrowed by four feet to return the street to its formal width. The park would be shortened ten feet at the southern end and six feet at the north, and round its corners. The public water pump would be moved to the northwest corner and the streetlamp to the opposite corner. When the new building for St. John's Church was completed, there would be few village centers that would equal our Yonkers!

July 20, 1924: Yonkers' own Vincent Richards became the first American to win gold in the Olympic Men's Tennis singles! Richards still holds the record as the youngest male to win a major championship; at the age of 15, he won the 1918 Men's Doubles Championship with Bill Tilden.

Sunday, July 21st

July 21, 1907: Governor Charles Evans Hughes signed two bills affecting Yonkers. The first was an act prohibiting building elevated structures on Riverdale Avenue and South Broadway; the second authorized Yonkers to grant the New York Central Railroad land for "railroad purposes."

July 21, 1927: Westchester County Park Commission temporarily closed down Tibbetts Brook swimming pool for two days to remove bath house checks and bathing accessories that had been dropped into the pool and blocked the drains.

July 21, 1928: Although Yonkers experienced a terrible storm, the recently constructed flume running under the new City Plaza (now Van der Donck Park), acted like a bed for the Nepperhan River and proved itself to be more than adequate.

Questions or comments on this column? Email YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com. For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, please visit our website www.yonkershistorical-society.org, call 914-961-8940 or email info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org

Notice of formation of WIT SOCCER LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/18/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 390 Heritage Hls, Unit D, Somers, NY 10589-1989. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Republicans Picks Dr. Miriam Flisser to Challenge Latimer for Congress-NY-16



Dr. Miriam Leavitt Flisser

Dr. Flisser has deep roots in Westchester and the Bronx, and an inspiring biography. She came to the United States as a child refugee from Eastern Europe and was raised in the Bronx before moving to Westchester. She served as the Mayor of Scarsdale following two terms as a Village Trustee, including service as Village Police Commissioner and Village Fire Commissioner.

Currently, she runs her own pediatric practice in Bronxville, and serves as Medical Director for schools in both Westchester and the Bronx. She graduated from The Bronx High School of Science, followed by New York University's Bronx campus; and The Albert Einstein College of Medicine. After moving to Westchester, Dr. Flisser has continued to serve the Bronx and Westchester communities for decades as a voluntary physician in numerous capacities.

A registered independent, Flisser won her three elections in Scarsdale on an independent "NonPartisan" ballot line. In 2022, she ran a spirited challenge against the current incumbent Congressman, Jamaal Bowman, and looks forward to building on that base this year. A dedicated public servant and trusted pediatrician with crossover appeal, Dr. Flisser's message resonates with voters of all walks of life who embrace common sense solutions to rein in an out-of-control federal government.

Said Flisser, "From inflation to border security, to crime, to parental rights, our federal government has failed the American people. We need a new voice in Washington who will stand up for our values. The Democrats have offered the voters of the 16th Congressional District a choice between a Defund the Police, anti-Israel radical who gives aid and comfort to terrorists, and a career politician who has raised taxes at every level of government in which he served over the past four decades. Both would continue the failed policies currently on display in our nation's capital. I'm a pediatrician – not a politician – and my campaign will offer the voters an obvious choice that embraces common sense to build consensus, and rejects the current dysfunction and incompetence of our federal government and its representatives."

Flisser received 36% of the vote in 2022 against Bowman. She will now face off against George Latimer in November. We have been informed that Bowman has declined to continue to run on the Working Families Party line after Latimer defeated him in the democratic primary on June 25. "Today's primary results prove that NY-16 wants change. A vote for George Latimer is a vote for Joe Biden's radical Democratic Party that has allowed inflation, crime, and illegal immigration to bring fear to Westchester. I am running to bring common sense back to Washington," Tweeted Flisser. who has a website miriam4congress.com/, x.com/levittflisser.

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Yonkers Public Schools Commemorates Juneteenth With My Brother's Keeper Summit



YPS Superintendent Anibal Soler, Jr.,



panel discussion with MBK alum and current students

Event Focused on Collaboration, Inspiration, and Innovation to Enhance Achievement for Young Men of Color

On Juneteenth, Yonkers Public Schools hosted dozens of students, families, educators, and community members for its inaugural My Brother's Keeper Summit, a first-of-its-kind event that built on the school district's growing national reputation for successfully supporting young men of color with educational and professional accomplishments.

Last year, the Obama Foundation recognized Yonkers as an MBK Model community, one of four in the nation. This distinction was awarded due to Yonkers' significant impact on graduation rates for young men of color.

This year's Summit, timed to coincide with Juneteenth celebrations, included the district's new Superintendent, Anibal Soler, Jr., who has launched and supported My Brother's Keeper chapters throughout his career. Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano addressed the crowd during the opening ceremony, while Yonkers police commissioner Christopher Sapienza and Yonkers Department of Public Works commissioner Thomas G Meier were present. Dr. Robert Fergus, a professor at Rutgers University and former member of the Yonkers Board of Education, served as a special moderator.

"Events like these are not just gatherings; they are critical for the empowerment and advancement of our young men of color," said Superintendent Soler.

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YONKERS PARKS
MAYOR MIKE SPANO

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Yonkers Parks Day
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YPL Hosts Virtual Author Series in July for Kids and Teens



YPL is thrilled to present renowned children's authors to our Yonkers families. In July, we are hosting virtual author talks with four prominent writers. From the convenience of your home, you can join Max Brallier as he discusses his popular book, *The Last Kids on Earth*, now adapted into a Netflix series or hear award-winning author Elizabeth Acevedo discuss the power of poetry. This event is a wonderful chance for families to enjoy the book together and count it towards your summer reading log! Register separately for each author talk.

YPL Presents Author Talk series is made possible through the generous support of the Foundation for the Yonkers Public Library.

Surviving the Summer with *The Last Kids on Earth* and Max Brallier (3rd-6th Grade)

Tuesday, July 16th at 2:00 PM EDT

Would you survive a zombie apocalypse? Join us to talk with New York Times bestselling author Max Brallier about *The Last Kids on Earth*, both the

continued on pg 12-

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**Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve
Honor Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins**

**Yonkers Native Joel Soriano, Stepinac
Class of 2018, Headed to the NBA**



L-R US Congressman Michael Lawler; Lucy Rockefeller Waletzky, Former Chair of New York State Council of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation; NY State Senator Jose Serrano; New York State Senate President Pro Tem & Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins; Westchester County Executive George Latimer; George Gumina, President and Founder, FRSPP, Photo by Mark Liflander Photography

Friends of the Rockefeller State Park Preserve honored New York State Senate President Pro Tem & Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins at their 2024 Gala June 29th at the Rockefeller Estate in Pocantico Hills. She received the prestigious John D. Rockefeller Jr. Park Preservation Award for her unwavering support of New York State Parks and commitment to environmental stewardship. “Andrea Stewart-Cousins has championed not only the Rockefeller State Park Preserve, but all parks in New York State since she was elected to the New York State Senate in 2007,” said George Gumina, Founder and President of the Friends, a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting and maintaining the Preserve’s land and historical features. “Her tenure as the longest serving Democratic Majority Leader in New York State Senate history, and the first woman and African American woman in this role, make her an unstoppable force committed to addressing the needs of all New Yorkers.”

Resources raised by the gala will continue the next steps of a major project at the Preserve’s Rockwood Hall section. This unique 88-acre section of the park

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Stepinac High School wrote, “We would like to congratulate Joel Soriano ‘18 who just signed an Exhibit 10 deal with the Charlotte Hornets! Joel a member of the 2018 NY State Federation Championship Team!! Proud is an understatement and the meaning of hard work and perseverance! NBA = Joel Soriano!”

Soriano, 6’11” from Yonkers, played three seasons for St. John’s basketball before the NBA draft. 9.5 rebounds per contest to go with 13.8 points per game.

The Hornets now have a few months to decide whether to include Soriano on their roster, or send him down to G league for some more work. Either way, look for Soriano to be a NBA player soon.



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– Ken C., MAKOplasty® knee replacement patient

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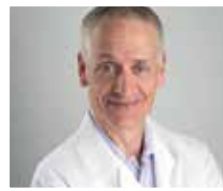
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Patrick Murray, MD; Paul S. Ragusa, MD; Thomas Schmicker, MD
Eric Spencer, MD; Mario Voloshin, DPM, FACFAS



Letters to the Editor:

LATIMER THANKS VOTERS

Dear Editor,

I'd like to thank the Primary voters of Westchester for their large vote of confidence in the June primary for US Congress. I'm deeply indebted to those who were supportive of my effort to serve us in the House of Representatives; having previously served these communities in the NYS Assembly and NYS Senate, as well as Westchester County Executive, I fully intend to continue to work as hard as always, to be present in the community, and to deliver results that help people.

I will be on the ballot in November on the Democratic line; Election Day Is Nov 5. I ask for your support, and promise to earn it every day.

George Latimer

Why I voted for George Latimer...and Race, Religion, and even Rhetoric had nothing to do with it

By Jim Vespe, Mamaroneck

There's a lot of discussion now about the Latimer-Bowman Democratic primary, much if it more nasty than nice: how it took twenty million dollars to propel George Latimer to victory, and how Jamaal Bowman didn't care about people who don't look like him.

But the simple fact is I would have voted for George Latimer even if AIPAC or any other group hadn't spent a dime...or if his opponent were a person I worked for twice: Barack Obama...because George Latimer was the most qualified candidate I have ever seen run for any public office.

His experience goes back several decades, from local councilman to county legislator to State Senator to County Executive. He's dealt with passing bills and patching pipes to building bridges both literally and politically, and earned praise across the political spectrum for persistent effort and personal civility.

To draw an analogy to his favorite sport, he's a New York Yankee who has never been booed in Boston.

And along the way he's met just about everyone in Westchester, including probably you, not just at major events like holiday parades, school dedications and library openings, but little get-togethers like block parties and blood drives.

I've often thought you could call in to WABC radio and ask Curtis Sliwa, founder of the Guardian Angels, former New York City mayoral candidate, and occasional shooting victim about any neighborhood in New York City and Curtis would be able to tell you who the elected officials were, what number the police precinct was, and what stores and restaurants were on just about any block.

George Latimer knows Westchester the way Curtis Sliwa knows New York City.

I'm certain George will maintain the same level of involvement when he goes to Washington, and while I'm sure he hopes fellow Democrat Mondaire Jones will join him in Congress, you know if Republican incumbent Mike Lawler is re-elected, Latimer will forge a strong bipartisan bond with him to serve all residents of the Lower Hudson Valley.

Simply stated, George Latimer is the best person to represent our district in Congress for the next two years.

And I would have voted for him if his opponent had been someone I admired in my sixties, Barack Obama, someone I respected in the sixties, John F Kennedy, or even someone I revered more than either of those two gentlemen, for more than sixty years...Willie Mays.

(And please check out the bottom of Mike Vaccaro's column in the New York Post, Sunday, June 23)

St. Mary's Church:

For Whom the Bell Tolls Part II

The architectural design of the building fits the schematics rendered to create a Romanesque Cathedral. Most notably, the church was built in the shape of a cross. Eyes are drawn upward to the large dome above the altar. The dome transcends ordinary light, filtering through stained glass, illuminating paintings, frescoes, and sculptures that tell biblical stories, revealing the mysteries of the faith.

The Landmark Preservation Board voted unanimously to accept the application. It is currently being reviewed by the City's Planning Board, which will advise the Landmark Preservation Board. After a hearing and a vote, it is anticipated that the Landmarks Preservation Board will send the application to the Yonkers City Council for approval. Ultimately, the members of the Yonkers City Council will decide whether to designate landmark status to the church building—that City Council meeting has not been scheduled.

So far, the City Council has supported the Yonkers community in the efforts made to keep St. Mary's open. City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy drafted a resolution calling upon the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York to find alternatives to the closure of St. Mary's Church. The resolution was adopted unanimously by the City Council on January 30, 2024.

"So many people in the city of Yonkers have connections to the church that it's unfortunate that it's come to this," Collins-Bellamy stated. "We're pushing to stop it. I know there are a lot of repairs that need to be done, no one's refuting that, but it could be done in phases so that the congregation could raise the money."

City Councilwoman Deana Renee Robinson, who represents District 1, where St. Mary's is located, recalls that the first town hall meeting held this past January was jam-packed. "The room was filled to capacity. There were no more seats and then there were so many people gathered in the back." Film crews were present and elected officials showed up, including State Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, who has deep ties to the Arab-American community.

Angelique Piwinski spent ten years on the Yonkers Landmarks Preservation Board (2009-2019) to prevent the destruction of Yonkers historical architecture. "Judging by the city's town hall meeting, the resolution was overwhelmingly supported, but it will be interesting to see how the Yonkers City Council will vote on the landmark application."

Regardless of what happens with the landmark decision, the church building still has repairs that must be made. If the parish is forced to leave the building and merge with St. Peter/St. Denis, the bells of St. Mary's will no longer ring.

Many feel that the Archdiocese has not given the community any time at all to raise the funds. The Archdiocese has not envisioned or supported additional marketing streams that would benefit St. Mary's and help the community to thrive financially.

Robert Lynn, whose career focused on corporate marketing, stated that "The impending decision to close the church has generated a fire storm and backlash of comments and show of support from literally thousands of current and past parishioners, across the entire country!" The Archdiocese might not be aware of the barrage of commentary and conversations that are national in scope.

Anthony Kunny stated, "I'm deeply concerned that our voices are not being heard."

Aldo Dominguez, who grew up going to St. Mary's Church, now spends the majority of his time in Florida. He remembers getting dressed up and going to church every first Friday, then going out with his friends afterward. Today those friends have moved out of the area, but they still stay in touch. "We keep in touch via Facebook, via email, or we might meet and go out to dinner."

There is a huge community to tap into—people across the country who care about St. Mary's and will donate funds to stop the parish from being closed. Robert Lynn noted, "Once we are able to obtain a 'realistic' number from the Archdiocese for the repairs, I will need to develop a marketing plan to reach these individuals, and their friends and relatives via direct mail, social media, phone messaging, etc."

Sarah Barysauskas, whose grandmother sat in the same pew for noon mass every day, questions why the American Roman Catholic Church allows so many of its churches to be closed and/or torn down. "It's not the same in Europe," she said. "European churches are historic landmarks (tourist attractions) that are supported by multiple revenue streams. American churches are viewed as franchises in a corporation that are shut when they are not making enough money."

The question demands to be asked: Is the Catholic Church in business to make money or does it exist to serve the people? St. Mary's sits on .52 acres. If the Archdiocese were to sell the church site, they would fetch a good price from commercial real estate developers.

Rumors abound on social media that this is a done deal—that the Archdiocese has already made plans to sell the property. Pure speculation, but it might explain why the insurance company—hired by the Archdiocese—recently detected damage, but not during annual inspections made in previous years. It also might explain the \$10 million estimate, and why the Archdiocese has barred any fundraising efforts to save the church.

The Archdiocese did not respond to three requests for comment.

Yonkers Commissioner of Finance John Liszewski, (who is speaking personally and not in his official position), said, "St. Mary's is not an ordinary church. How is the Archdiocese serving the immigrant population? If we don't serve the immigrant population, how will the church grow?"

Isidoro Acevedo seeks strength and guidance from the faith that has brought us all together in the first place. "I had this anxiety and I had a guilty feeling," he said. "These people worked so hard to build this church. They gave their sweat and tears, and now we're going to let them tear it down. I was feeling so devastated and my heart was so heavy. Dear Lord, take this away from me."

As a building worthy of being designated as a landmark, it is in the best interest of the Archdiocese to accord St. Mary's the respect it deserves—as a symbol of hope for the droves of immigrants who picked themselves up by their bootstraps and made the city of Yonkers what it is today. The Archdiocese needs to understand that the immigrants of today will create the Yonkers of the future.

Patricia Vaccarino grew up in Yonkers. She wrote The Yonkers Trilogy, historical fiction, which takes place in Yonkers from 1969-73. The Yonkers Public Library will be featuring an online book discussion group for The Yonkers Trilogy on April 25, May 2 & 9. All are welcome to participate. <https://yonkerstimes.com/yonkers-beats-a-discussion-guide-with-author-patricia-vaccarino/>

Editor's Note: Part I of this story appeared in the June 28-July 5 issue of Yonkers Rising. You can read the complete story at [Yonkerstimes.com](https://yonkerstimes.com)

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Classifieds

Driving Though School Bus Stop Lights, continued from pg 1-

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awareness about the importance of adhering to school bus safety laws. Thanks to Mayor Spano, our partnership is a significant step toward creating a safer community for our students."

The City of Yonkers officials launched the program on November 13, 2023. A 30-day warning period in October alerted drivers before fines were issued.

In the first month, 1,939 violations were issued including 44 second offenses and 2 third offenses. At the beginning of the program, only 250 buses were equipped with stop-arm cameras.

As part of the City's partnership with Verra Mobility, 516 buses are now equipped with school bus stop-arm safety cameras. Under the law, the fine for passing a school bus ranges from \$250 for a first violation, \$275 if a second offense occurs within 18 months, and \$300 for every following offense, if within 18 months. The registered owners of vehicles captured illegally passing a stopped school bus with the stop-arm extended and lights flashing are liable for a Notice of Liability.

Yonkers is the only district among New York's Big 5 cities to fully implement a school bus stop-arm safety camera program. The City of Yonkers is also the largest district in Westchester County and the only district in the County with an operational stop-arm safety camera program.

Verra Mobility's CrossingGuard™ school bus stop-arm enforcement solution provides state-of-the-art stop-arm safety technology to effectively capture stop-arm events. When the stop-arm is deployed, the camera automatically detects vehicles that pass the stopped bus within the enforcement zone. When an event occurs, the cameras record video of the vehicle and capture event images including the vehicle, its license plate, and the extended stop-arm. Violation videos and license plate images are reviewed by a City of Yonkers Parking Violations Bureau technician for approval before a warning or Notice of Liability is issued.

The City of Yonkers contracted Verra Mobility to administer its School Bus Safety Program. For more information on Yonkers Safe Stop, visit <https://www.yonkersny.gov/1017/Yonkers-Safe-Stop---School-Bus-Safety-Pr>.

For more information about Verra Mobility's CrossingGuard™ school bus enforcement solutions, visit <https://www.verramobility.com/government/crossing-guard/>.

The other sad story concerns an incident in Mamaroneck. From the Mamaroneck PD. "On 06/20/2024, the Village of Mamaroneck Police Department responded to a double-fatal pedestrian motor vehicle accident at Mamaroneck Ave and New Street. The victims have been positively identified as Molly Murphy Donovan, a 43-year-old Mamaroneck resident, and her 6-year-old son, Michael Donovan Volpe. The identity of the school bus driver is being withheld at this time as this remains an active investigation. No charges are currently pending against the bus driver.

The Police Department, along with Village of Mamaroneck Officials, are partnering with Westchester County to investigate ways to improve pedestrian and traffic safety at this intersection."

More details came out about this incident. The accident occurred at 830 am, as the mother and son were headed to school. Adults and children were walking through a cross walk two were struck by a mini-school bus driven by a 68-year old man from Mount Vernon. It is believed that the driver had a green light while driving through the intersection. Surveillance video should help determine what happened.

The Mamaroneck School District issued the following statement. "There is nothing more difficult for a community to experience than the loss of life, and we know everyone in the Mamaroneck and Larchmont communities is heartbroken by this news. We know that the death of a child is particularly difficult for other children to process. At this time, we have informed our staff of this incredible loss, and social workers and psychologists are fully deployed at MAS."

While it is clear that crossing guards cannot be placed at every intersection near school, perhaps more hirings are need, if residents in our communities will take the job.

As for the 18,000 drivers who drove through a stopped school bus with lights flashing? SLOW IT DOWN

Drivers can object to the findings and the fines through an appeal, similar to the appeal process for red light cameras in Yonkers.

One legitimate excuse we heard was from a young driver traveling northbound on Central Avenue. Central Park Avenue is a four land roadway, with a large median in between.

The driver did not see the school bus, traveling southbound, but got the summons anyway. Even though a legitimate excuse, it will not change the result-guilty as charged.

So drivers need to be aware of the cost of running by a stopped school bus in Yonkers-\$250. And all of us should be aware of what happened in Mamaroneck and realize that its not worth it.

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book series and the animated series on Netflix. In this virtual event, Max will share how he came up with the different monsters and villains as well as the unique ways that Jack and his friends figure out to defeat them.

Ever since the monster apocalypse hit town, average thirteen year old Jack Sullivan has been living in his tree house, which he's armed to the teeth with catapults and a moat, not to mention video games and an endless supply of Oreos and Mountain Dew scavenged from abandoned stores. But Jack alone is no match for the hordes of Zombies and Winged Wretches and Vine Thingies, and especially not for the eerily intelligent monster known only as Blarg. So Jack builds a team: his dorky best friend, Quint; the reformed middle school bully, Dirk; Jack's loyal pet monster, Rover; and Jack's crush, June. With their help, Jack is going to slay Blarg, achieve the ultimate Feat of Apocalyptic Success, and be average no longer! Can he do it?

Max Brallier is the New York Times bestselling author of more than fifty books, including the middle-grade series, The Last Kids on Earth. Under the pen name Jack Chabert, Max is the creator and author of the Eerie Elementary series and author of the New York Times bestselling graphic novel Poptropica: Mystery of the Map.

Learning the Power of Poetry with Bestselling Author Elizabeth Acevedo (9th-12th)

Tuesday, July 23rd at 2:00 PM EDT

You're invited to learn about the power of poetry with Elizabeth Acevedo! In this exciting author conversation and Q&A, Acevedo will provide a short reading from her National Book Award winning and New York Times bestselling novel-in-verse, The Poet X serving as the backdrop to this amazing chat!

The Poet X is about an Afro-Latina heroine who tells her story with blazing words and powerful truth. Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about.

Elizabeth Acevedo is the New York Times-bestselling author of The Poet X, which won the National Book Award for Young People's Literature, the Michael L. Printz Award, the Pura Belpré Award, the Carnegie medal, the Boston Globe-Horn Book Award, and the Walter Award. She is also the author of numerous other titles including Family Lore; With the Fire on High, which was named a best book of the year by the New York Public Library, NPR, Publishers Weekly, and School Library Journal; and Clap When You Land, a Boston Globe-Horn Book Honor book and a Kirkus finalist. Acevedo has been a fellow of Cave Canem, Cantomundo, and a participant in the Callaloo Writer's Workshops. She is a National Poetry Slam Champion, and resides in Washington, DC with her husband.

Registration is required for both events. Visit <https://libraryc.org/ypl> to register and learn about other authors in the series.

Sprain Women's Golf League, continued from pg 1-

was a wonderful experience from the start and I look forward to this playing with them every week," said Forrest who had been President two separate terms of four years each.

The Sprain Women's Golf League began in 1959, when there were no women's golf leagues on the public courses in Westchester County. "The women broke down the sport barrier well before there was the federal ruling of Title 9, in 1972" said current President Regina De Natale. "They were determined to be independent from the men."

Stella Oliver was at the luncheon celebration and joined the League in 1960. "I originally played at St. Andrew's, but after my kids had grown up I found this League and it was fabulous. Everyone was absolutely enthralling. We had tee times and a tournament every year, and Sprain Lake Golf Course is beautiful."

Oliver found her time with the women "like a mini-vacation every week. Like most women in Westchester, I had a lot going on taking care of a house and husband and children. The camaraderie that I found in this League, and the friendships that I have made over the years, are special. Every week brought something different." She was Club Champion for 10 years.

Terri Nucaro, won the League Championship many times over the 38 years she has been in the League and has recorded three hole in ones in League play at Sprain Lake. She has also won the MGA (Metropolitan Golf Association) Tournament with partner Ann Kyle. "This group is special. Our League gives women an opportunity to golf with other women."

De Natale added, "We have a cross section of women in our League, from moms to teachers to nurses from all walks of life and from all across Westchester. This golf course has always been our home."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation Kathy O'Connor said, "The Sprain Lake Women's Golf League has the distinction of being Westchester County's first women's public golf league. This esteemed group's 65th anniversary underscores its longevity, stability and sustained influence in women's golf. A Sapphire Jubilee is a remarkable and rare occasion that honors exceptional strength, respect and recognition. Congratulations!"

Everyone we spoke to had great respect for Sprain Lake and the staff that keeps the course in great shape. "I love that Sprain is beautifully maintained and a challenge to play. It feels like our private course. The women of our League are dedicated and love the game of golf. We look after each other on and off the course. We strictly follow the rules of golf while having fun and being competitive. Making friends and playing golf, what more could one ask for?" said De Natale.

said, "The Hudson River and its tributaries are a unique and wonderful resource. Our members have primary contact with the River and we are committed to seeing the River protected and nurtured. Anyone that has spent time on the River knows that it is a very special place. Having grown up along the Waterfront, I've seen the improvements that have been made but more can be done. Imagine a Hudson River that is known for its high water quality."

Senate Majority Leader, Andrea Stewart-Cousins, said, "As we face the challenges of climate change, the Westchester Coalition for Clean Water is a vital step forward. This coalition's goals align with the achievements we've made in the '24-25 NY State budget, such as securing \$500 million for the Clean Water Infrastructure Grant program, bolstering the Environmental Protection Fund, authorizing over \$60 million in bond funds to Yonkers' sewage treatment plant, and funding initiatives like NY SWIMS to enhance recreational water facilities. These investments will help ensure that all of Westchester's waterways are sewage- and trash-free, flood-resilient, and accessible to all. I commend the dedication of the coalition members in their efforts to create a sustainable and vibrant future for Westchester County."

Assemblyman, Steve Otis, a leader in supporting state clean water grant programs, said, "We should all celebrate this new coalition of groups focused on the urgency of improving our clean water infrastructure. Increased rainfall in storm events that cause flooding and consistently rising temperatures which degrade water quality are both warning signs. We need to accelerate the pace of clean water infrastructure projects to protect against storm damage and pollution of our waterways. The coalition will work with local officials to advance this agenda."

Westchester County Legislator, Hon. Shanae Williams, said, "As a Westchester County Legislator, I commend the Westchester Coalition for Clean Water on their vital initiative to protect our waterways. The commitment to clean, healthy water for all residents is crucial, especially as we face increasing challenges from climate change. Together with these esteemed organizations, we will work tirelessly to ensure a sustainable and resilient future for Yonkers and Westchester County as a whole."

Hastings Robberies, continued from pg 5-

tions, the Washington City Police Department, the Washington County District Attorney's Office, and other surrounding police departments. Today, June 10, 2024, we are announcing the issuance of full extradition arrest warrants for the two actors, Brandon Scerri and Kayla Pruett. With that, we ask for community vigilance and support in making reports of their known whereabouts."

Law enforcement in Pennsylvania asked the public for help when searching for Scerri. "They should be considered armed and dangerous, and based on past conduct, we believe they are a threat to the community. They were last known to be in Washington County, Greene County or surrounding areas. Both are strongly encouraged to contact our department to make arrangements for their surrender."

But in Westchester, no information was released to the public about Scerri, or the danger he posed to the public. Both styles are acceptable, "Sometimes they don't want to jeopardize the opportunity to catch the guy," said one of our friends in Westchester law enforcement

Media reports of Scerri's Pennsylvania bank robbery state, "According to the complaint, a gun was never seen. The teller told authorities the robber got frustrated when she gave him \$150 in \$1 bills and one \$5 bill. The man allegedly told her to open the drawer to prove there was no more money. Officials say after seeing there was no more cash, he grabbed what was given to him and tried to walk out of the bank. According to the complaint, the robber could not open the door and turned to yell at the teller if she was going to let him out. The report states she then told him that he had to pull not push the door. Once he was able to open the door, officials said he fled on foot."

Scerri had stopped at a gas station before the bank robbery in PA and was caught on video. He is accused of robbing a second bank in the area.

Scerri had an accomplice in most of his crimes. Her name is Kayla Pruett. According to PA report, Pruett is also in custody here in NY. But there has been no mention of her in police reports or media reports.

Pruett is said not to be involved in the home invasion.

It is a mystery how this couple was able to evade law enforcement for two weeks, from the time of the bank robbery to the home invasion, to the arrests. "The couple from Wellsburg, WV is accused of the June 5 robbery of the First National Bank in Canonsburg, Pa. The couple got away with \$7,450 and was later seen on surveillance spending the stolen money on fast food and at a drug store."

MBK, continued from pg 8-

Our mission is to create a continuum of support that starts with school readiness and extends through high school graduation and beyond, ensuring our students are prepared for college, careers, and civic life."

The summit provided a platform for reflection, learning, and action to further support young men of color in Yonkers. Following opening remarks by Superintendent Soler and a panel discussion featuring MBK alumni and current students, MBK Yonkers Executive Director Jason Baez addressed the attendees. They then had the opportunity to attend breakout sessions aligned with MBK's six key life milestones:

- Entering school ready to learn
- Reading at grade level by third grade
- Graduating from high school
- Completing postsecondary education or training
- All youth out of school are employed
- All youth remain safe from violent crime

New Rochelle Woman Arrested by SPCA for Animal Abandonment



SPCA Westchester announced that their Humane Law Enforcement Unit (HLE), under the direction of Ernest Lungaro, and with the assistance of the New Rochelle Police Department, arrested Marissa Levy and charged her with animal abandonment.

On June 11th a video captured a small Labrador Retriever puppy, now named Rosie, being dumped out of a car and onto Lotus Road in New Rochelle. The video was posted on the SPCA's social media pages and thanks to an anonymous tip called into SPCA Westchester's Confidential Animal Cruelty Hotline, Ms. Levy was identified. She was arrested on June 25th and issued a desk appearance ticket with a return date of July 9th.

"We will never understand how someone could so callously abandon a defenseless animal and are so thankful that a Good Samaritan acted swiftly and rescued Rosie," said Shannon Laukhuf, SPCA Westchester's Chief Executive Officer.

Had Rosie run into the street, it could have ended very badly, and she could have sustained serious injuries, or worse. Fortunately, Rosie is safe and has been adopted by the Good Samaritan who found her. If you witness or suspect an animal is being mistreated or neglected, please call the SPCA's Cruelty Hotline at (914) 941-7797.

Link to Video: <https://www.instagram.com/reel/C8moytpO2CD/?igsh=c3FtMTJzMTBibXk2>

SPCA Westchester is a No-Kill Animal Rescue Center located in Briarcliff Manor and is NOT affiliated with any national animal welfare organizations. Learn more at spcawestchester.org.

Herman Keith, continued from pg 1-

cess to quality integrated education and fair housing opportunities for all.

In 1983, Keith made history as the first African-American Lawmaker elected to the County Board of Legislators. He served as a Westchester County Legislator for 12 years, including roles as Minority Whip and Minority Leader. His open-mindedness and dedication to quality service earned him the respect of his colleagues and constituents. Keith's legislative achievements include the South Africa Divestment Bill, the Banks Community Reinvestment Act, Youth Employment Job Training Programs, Health Care Initiatives, the Invest in Kids Program, and JobSTAR.

Advocate for Youth and Community

Beyond his political achievements, Keith was a passionate advocate for the positive development of young African-American males. He frequently spoke at schools, civic organizations, and religious institutions, promoting self-worth and positive self-image.

In his later years, Keith founded Hudson River Consulting Group, providing consulting services in development and construction. His expertise and extensive network of contacts were invaluable to businesses seeking funding, grants, and loans.

A Life Remembered

Keith is survived by his beloved wife, Gail Adams, and his five children. His contributions to the community are also remembered through his service on numerous boards and committees, including the Nepperhan Community Center, Black Democrats of Westchester and the Yonkers Community Action Program. Keith's influence extended to national media, including appearances on the Donahue Show, McNeil Lehrer Newshour, and Nightline. He also served as a consultant for several projects, including the City of Yonkers Police & Firefighter Recruitment Program and the Westchester County Waterfront study.

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-YAAHF Celebrating Juneteenth African Heritage Festival Weekend
- JUNE 21 MAIYA SYKES**
NBC's "The Voice" Star Brings Down Home Delta Blues, Funk, Rock & Pop
- JUNE 28 JODI MUSIC**
A Tribute to the Great Latin Ladies of Music-Chita Rivera, Selena, J Lo & more
- JULY 12 EMILY DENHAM**
Let's Go GAGA over Taylor Swift, Indie Pop & Soul Music by Lady Gaga, Bonnie Raitt & more
- JULY 19 VON NEWMANN**
A Night of Classic R&B and Soul Saluting Otis Redding, Donnie Hathaway, Al Green & Bruno Mars
- JULY 26 ALANA ALEXANDER**
For the Love of Ella, Ledisi, Lalah & the Queens of Jazz & Fusion R&B
- AUGUST 2 SPANGLISHFLY**
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The Heart & Heat of Roots Reggae with Funk, Fusion & FIRE

Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

One Down, One to Go: Westchester's Next, Huge Congressional Race-Lawler vs Jones



House Speaker Mike Johnson, right made his second trip to the 17-congressional district of NY to support Rep. Mike Lawler



former Congressman Mondaire Jones, with a supporter in Peekskill

By Dan Murphy

Westchester democrats in the 16th congressional district are dealing with political fatigue from the Jamaal Bowman-George Latimer primary. Voters were inundated with mailers and TV ads, which after a saturation point, do nothing but annoy and turn off the voters

But further north in Westchester voters in November will have a huge congressional race in NY-17, which includes Northern Westchester, Rockland and Putnam Counties, with Congressman Mike Lawler running against former Congressman Mondaire Jones.

Lawler is completing his first term. Two years ago he narrowly defeated Congressman Sean Patrick-Maloney by 2200 votes.

With a Presidential election to increase turnout, Lawler could be in political jeopardy. And with Republicans holding a 5 seat majority in the House, every seat is important in order for Republican Speaker of the House Mike Johnson to keep the gavel next year.

That is why Speaker Johnson has already made two trips to the district, and Westchester, to support Lawler. In years past, when the Speaker of the House came to your district, it was big news and a big deal. Former Speaker Nancy Pelosi came to support Congressman Jamaal Bowman two years ago.

But in a hyper-political climate, the other political party uses the Speaker's visit to attack either the conservative far-right, or the progressive far left.

What it does show to us is that the Speaker knows that the Lawler race is in play and that he needs Lawler to win. It also puts Lawler in a good spot to highlight programs that the Speaker might be able to support in the district.

Lawler's opponent is former Congressman Mondaire Jones. Having a former Congressman running against a sitting Congressman is unusual. Jones represented much of the same district that Lawler now represents.

Democrats are comfortable with Jones, and state and national democrats feel the same way that Johnson and the republicans do about this race. That a Jones victory could help tip the balance in the House to the democrats and elect-Hakeem Jeffries Speaker.

Jones had a tough couple of weeks leading up to the Bowman-Latimer primary. Jones publicly supported Latimer. This enraged progressive democrats who called Jones' action a betrayal.

Some progressive groups pulled their endorsement of Jones and Jones lost a Working Families Party primary to an unknown candidate, Anthony Frascione.

Democrats we spoke to said that in November, any fallout from progressive democrats anger at Jones will be forgotten.

"Mondaire needs to get some of the small sliver of undecided voters in this race. And the fact that he endorsed George Latimer for Congress, helps with independent voters."

And for Progressive voters and Working Families Party voters in the district, they will have a choice to make in November. Do they want Mike Lawler returning to Washington, or do they want Mondaire? And any votes for they guy on the WFP line could tip the balance if the margin of victory is 5,000 or less. "

Another democrat told us, "Joe Biden won this district in 2020 by 10 points, and Mondaire was elected to Congress. Now in 2024, with a democrat at the top of the ticket, Mondaire can ride the coattails against back the DC."

Republicans, as expected, have the opposite view. "Trump lost to Biden by 10 in 2020, but now 4 years later, that number will surely shrink. With crime, immigration and inflation on the ballot, Lawler can talk about the importance of the common sense work he has done, and republicans have done in Congress.

We encourage our readers and fellow residents in NY-17, to enjoy the summer, because in the fall we will once again see the barrage of mailers and TV ads that both campaigns, and their supporters will dump on us.

Editor's Note: While Latimer still has an opponent in November, we are waiting to see how serious his republican opponent, Miriam Flisser, will be. Flisser will have to have the bare minimum of social media presence, and funding, (at least \$1 Million) to be considered a legitimate opponent for Latimer.

THE RACE FOR WESTCHESTER DISTRICT ATTORNEY: A CALL FOR UNITY OF VISION IN THE FACE OF DEFEAT

Op-Ed by Marie Bell

"In all things that are purely social we can be as separate as the fingers, yet one as the hand in all things essential to mutual progress."

Westchester County residents will have four months to ponder the above words of our famous educator, author, and orator, Booker T. Washington, as in early November it will be time to apply these words in electing our next Westchester District Attorney and other leaders, regardless of whom our choice was in the bygone Democratic Primary elections.

More importantly, this short period will also prove whether the two opposing candidates in the Primary will demonstrate their professed motivations during their respective campaigns to advance justice principles in the good of Westchester. This they can do by ignoring personal defeat and encouraging their supporters to embrace "mutual progress" in supporting the Democratic nominee, retired Judge, Susan Cacace. This action of forming a unifying front would augur well for both, in ensuring a legacy devoid of personal expediency and self-interest. Afterall, as once aspiring leaders, their loyal supporters are entitled to their direction now more than ever, having followed both of them in embracing a vision that did not resonate at the polls.

The test of a unifying leader has already been passed by the winning candidate Susan Cacace, when on June 20th five days before the Primary her campaign published a call for unity, "no matter the outcome," And amidst the elation of Primary night and again, two days following, took the time to publicly remind Westchester that, "As we move forward, I'm committed to uniting our community. This victory belongs to all of us who believe in a fair and just legal system. Let's rally behind this vision as we head into the general election." She further made a pledge to those who have not yet seen her vision, "To those who did not vote for me, I vow to work very hard through November to share my plans and vision for this office and earn your support so that we can emerge from this campaign cycle united as Democrats, as a County under the leadership of this District Attorney's Office and working toward safety through the balance of justice with compassion I've talked about."

The vision she speaks of is the mutual progress expressed by Booker T. Washington.

Marie Bell is an author, with recent sexual violence trauma-informed advocacy work at Columbia University, leadership in higher education criminal justice program, and law enforcement experience.

Letter: Another Biden Bust-You Can't Fool Mother Nature

The "Biden Bunch" has, for the past few years, pestered we citizens with their grandiose ideas for "Saving our Planet" by implementing certain "Green Piece" procedures to cut pollution-they are:

Ev's-while eliminating petrol exhausts, they institute their own type of pollution, Windmills-- Expensive to run & maintain-they give off vibration pollution"—Solar Energy-Requires massive open fields to to be effective-if they are built on "mother earth" weeds will spring up their thick foliage, interfering with absorption of the Sun's rays, etc.

Since the present administration has saddled us with these foolish plans- I have one they will eat up--

It's called "TOTEM POLES FOR ALASKA--when fully implemented, it will Re-employ 50,000 unemployed Democrats!!

"Brevity is the soul of wit" (Wm. Shakespeare-Hamlet, Act 2-Scene 2).

Joe Pettit, Yorktown Hts, NY

Is Bowman Headed to MSNBC? and Then Challenge Torres for Bronx Congressional Seat?

Ice Bucket Challenge, continued from pg 1-



By Dan Murphy

Many democrats in the 16th Congressional district of NY were shocked and befuddled when Congressman Jamaal Bowman skipped a neighborhood candidates forum in his own neighborhood to appear on The Colbert Show.

One Sound Shore Democrat told us, “he knows he lost, so he is auditioning for his next gig.”

After his lackluster appearance on Colbert, Bowman turned up the heat by screaming and cursing with AOC and Bernie Sanders at a rally for Bowman in the South Bronx. The problem, for some, was that the rally was not held in his district. It was held in St. Mary’s Park in the Mott Haven neighborhood in the south bronx.

St. Mary’s Park is located in the 15th district, represented by democrat Congressman Ritchie Torres. Congressman Torres is not a member of the squad, and after the tirade by Bowman and AOC at the rally, Torres said about the rally, “The level of profanity here is so shocking as to be unbecoming of a Member of Congress, There is nothing in Jamaal Bowman’s unhinged tirade that remotely resembles the decency of the people I know and represent in the South Bronx,” said Torres on X.

Now after Bowman’s loss to George Latimer in NY-16, Bowman’s supporters are tossing out the idea of Bowman challenging Torres in NY-15.

Torres is the first gay Afro-Latino in Congress, and differs with Bowman as a staunch supporter of Israel.

Torres has also blasted Bowman for pulling the fire alarm in Congress last year.

The support for Bowman comes from the same ultra-progressive groups like the Democratic Socialists and the Working Families Party that lost with Bowman to Latimer.

“Even if it happens, a Bowman-Torres race is two years away. That’s a lifetime in politics. Plus I think Bowman is going to try and make a couple of bucks on cable TV. Or get ready for Bowman on YouTube soon,” said another Westchester Democrat.

ALS, often referred to as “Lou Gehrig’s Disease”, is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. Quinn lost his battle with ALS in November 2020, yet his drive and determination live on through his family, friends, community, and beyond to raise awareness and find a cure for the approximately hundreds of thousands of Americans suffering from ALS. While the prognosis for ALS patients 80 years after Lou Gehrig was diagnosed remains the same, technology now exists to keep those living with ALS alive longer. According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention, approximately 5,000 individuals are newly diagnosed with ALS across the U.S. annually.

Leading the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge for another year is Quinn’s father, Patrick Quinn, Sr., who continues to pay tribute to his son and ensure his mission continues. Hosting a variety of fundraising events throughout the year, Quinn’s nonprofit organization, Quinn for the Win Find Your Smile Foundation (“Quinn for the Win”), continues to have significant impact at both local and national levels.

Locally, Quinn for the Win provides cash grants to local ALS patients and their families to offset expenses not covered by medical insurance, including wheelchair adjustments needed as patients’ physical limitations change as the disease progresses and home renovations to accommodate wheelchairs, as well as providing financial support for organizations that serve families of ALS patients. Quinn For The Win also supports sleep studies at St. John’s Riverside Hospital to help find solutions for sleep difficulties faced by ALS patients.

In the ten years since it was founded, ALS Ice Bucket Challenges have also significantly increased the awareness of this deadly disease globally. As one example, ten years ago only 80 multidisciplinary clinics for ALS were open around the country. Now, more than 240 are open nationally where ALS patients can see a pathologist and all the medical disciplines they need all in one place. Technology is also much more advanced with Pat Quinn Jr. using an expanded CPAP machine, one of the first prototypes, to help expand his lungs and make it easier to breathe. Social media also allows patients to connect from all around the world, including Pat Quinn Jr. while he was alive, engaging with patients across the globe.

And according to the ALS Association, more than \$2 million has been invested into the development of a new drug, Relyvrio, that was recently approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to help slow down the effects of ALS. In the last six years, three ALS drugs have been approved by the FDA with several others in clinical trials. Also, approximately 130 research projects are being funded in twelve countries around the world thanks to Quinn’s efforts.

“I’m so grateful for the continued support of Mayor Mike Spano, Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts, and community members from Yonkers and far beyond who continue to fight onwards toward a cure through keeping the ice bucket challenge going each and every year,” said Patrick Quinn, Sr. “ALS ruins families... I’ve seen it. The Yonkers community has been the champion of our family and ALS patients nationwide, especially in the last few years without Pat. My son built such a strong system of support and his Quinn for the Win – Find Your Smile Foundation is nothing short of remarkable. Pat laid the groundwork to find a cure, and now it’s our job to finish his mission to defeat ALS once and for all. I look forward to seeing everyone on August 3.”

“The City of Yonkers is proud to carry the legacy of Pat Quinn over the last decade,” said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. “Every year, I witness the inspirational show of love for Pat and because of him, there is greater hope. We can’t stop now. There are so many families dealing with the devastation of ALS. We are in this every August until we find a cure with our partners at Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts.”

Since 2015, Empire City Casino has hosted the annual challenge, with the exception of 2020 because of the pandemic. The City of Yonkers donates buckets and the stage for the event and organizes online registration for participants. Empire City underwrites the cost of the event and donates the space, staffing, and over 1,300 pounds of ice.

“Through the ice bucket challenge that had its roots right here in Yonkers, we’ve seen ten years of inspiration, dedication and compassion in our community through the Quinn family,” said Taryn Duffy, Vice President of Public Affairs, Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts. “Empire City is proud to support and honor the legacy of Pat Quinn and his family in the fight for awareness and the nonstop pursuit of a cure for ALS patients around the world.”

The 2024 Annual Ice Bucket Challenge will be held outdoors trackside, is free to participate, and attendees of all ages are welcome. Day-of, walk-up registration will also be available, but online advance registration is strongly encouraged to secure a space and bucket. For more information and to register, please visit www.empirecitycasino.com.

Help Wanted

We are hiring attendants to engage at Honda’s Cafe Corp, located in Dobbs Ferry, New York. We seek candidates who demonstrate leadership skills, successfully motivating and guiding the team. A passion for coffee culture and a desire to learn and share knowledge with both the team and customers is essential. Candidates must possess excellent communication skills to treat customers with courtesy and respect. Experience with Microsoft Excel or Planning will be considered an advantage for inventory management, purchasing, and inventory control. Flexibility in scheduling is required, including availability on week-ends and holidays. Proficiency in Spanish or Portuguese languages is desirable, though not essential.

Hours: 48 hours per week Income: \$29,580/year

Please contact Valnei Honda Soares, via email at processohonda@gmail.com for applications or further inquiries.

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IDA Presents 2024 Parkledge Breakthrough Scholarship Awards to Yonkers High School Seniors



Back row (from left) Priya Chacko, Chanellie Capellan. Marykay Scott, Yonkers Public Schools Superintendent Anibal Soler, Jr., Issa Eid, Anyoly Ogando and Jacqueline Santos Pinto. Front row (from left) Dr. Rosalba Corrado DelVecchio, President of Yonkers Public Schools Board of Trustees; Victoria Diaz, Abigail Garcia, Amy Sanchez, Darlenys Ynoa, Deputy Mayor Sue Gerry, Richard Doestch, Hudson Valley Property Group (Parkledge representative); Yonkers IDA Executive Director Jaime McGill and City Council Majority Leader John Rubbo.

On June 24, The Yonkers Industrial Development Agency (YIDA) today presented 10 Yonkers high school students with 2024 Parkledge Breakthrough Scholarship awards totaling \$25,000. The high school seniors each won awards of \$2,500. The awards are made to seniors who have been enrolled in a Yonkers school for all four years of high school. Applicants must be in good academic standing and accepted to a post-

secondary institution that leads to a degree, license or certification. Awardees are required to have a recommendation from a member of the faculty who knows the student well. Applicants must also provide a personal statement concerning his/her future community service goals and how his/her education will contribute to these goals. The scholarship fund was created by the Parkledge Apartments.

The 2024 scholarship awardees are: · Priya Chacko – Yonkers High School, · Victoria Diaz – Gorton High School, Issa Eid – Barack Obama School for Social Justice, Abigail Garcia – Gorton High School, Anyoly Ogando – Riverside High School, Amy Sanchez – Gorton High School, Jacqueline Santos Pinto – Riverside High School, Marykay Scott – Yonkers Montessori Academy, Darlenys Ynoa – Saunders Trades and Technical High School, Chanellie Capellan – Sacred Heart High School.

For more information visit yonkersida.com.

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