

**DiFiore's Downfall!
Story on pg 7**

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Friday July 15, 2022

Ice Bucket Challenge Returns to Empire City Casino-MGM July 31 in Memory of Pat Quinn



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 has announced that the 2022 ALS Ice Bucket Challenge will take place Sunday, July 31, trackside at Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts. The festivities will begin at 1:00 p.m. with the ice bucket dump scheduled for 2:00 p.m. Ice Bucket Challenge 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, became a global phenomenon in 2014 as thousands of people around the world participated in the challenge via social media.

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 20,000 Americans who currently suffer from the disease. Approximately 5,000 individuals across the U.S. are newly diagnosed with ALS annually. Leading the ALS Ice Bucket Challenge charge this year is Quinn's dad, Patrick Quinn Sr., who continues to pay tribute to his son and ensure his mission continues.

"I'm so grateful for the continued support of Mayor Mike Spano, Empire City Casino, and the entire City of Yonkers as we march onward towards a cure," said Patrick Quinn, Sr. "The community that Pat has been able to build to raise awareness for ALS research 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 and find a cure to defeat ALS once and for all. I look forward to seeing everyone on July 31st and appreciate the continued support."

ALS, often referred to as "Lou Gehrig's Disease," is a progressive neurodegenerative disease that affects nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord. With no known cure, Quinn began the Ice Bucket Challenge to put ALS 'on ice' by raising awareness as well as much-needed funding for research. The challenge has remained a catalyst of the efforts to find a cure for ALS, with Quinn helping inspire billions of dollars in donations for ALS research, which has helped produce significant discoveries and breakthroughs. One such recent breakthrough includes an experimental therapy involving the drug Albrioza, which has been approved in Canada, and could potentially provide a new treatment option for the disease.

Recent years have also shown significant advances in research. A recent Oregon State University study showed a copper compound can help slow the progression of ALS after recent testing in mice. Just a few short years ago, researchers discovered a new gene associated with ALS that may hold the key to one day finding a cure. Additionally, new technology is allowing individuals affected by ALS to

continued on pg 7-

Yonkers to Buy Waterfront Land to Create New Ludlow Park



Yonkers new Ludlow Park will be near county waste treatment plant

City-County Partnership for 3.8 Acre Purchase to Mark Largest Expansion of Yonkers Parks System in Decades

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced the City's agreement to purchase eight parcels of land along the Hudson River in the Ludlow section of the city to be developed into a new waterfront park. The City of Yonkers and Westchester County will develop the property, to be purchased for \$13 million, along with adjacent parcels to create 3.8 acres of dedicated parkland, making it the largest expansion of the Yonkers Parks system in decades.

"With the purchase of this land, southwest Yonkers will once again regain access to our most precious asset, the Hudson River," said Mayor Spano. "Plans are being developed now to create a new park that will feature an additional boat launch, playground, open green space and more. Thanks to our partnership with Westchester County, we continue to return our waterfront to our residents and improve our quality of life."

The City has included \$10 million in its capital plan for purchase of the property and construction of the park. Westchester County also has pledged \$10 million toward the purchase and development. In addition, the County anticipates contributing a parcel at the north end of the adjacent Wastewater Treatment Facility toward the park.

County Executive George Latimer said, "Yonkers residents deserve riverside park access the same way that all Westchester residents do - and this key initiative in conjunction with the City will expand that access. With this new announcement by the Mayor, I am looking forward to implementing our shared vision, and more importantly, seeing the enjoyment it will bring to the residents of Ludlow Park and beyond."

"The waterfront property purchase is yet another positive step forward for Yonkers, now the third largest city. Once this property is developed, it will enhance the beautification of our great city. Our goal is to continue on the path of a better Yonkers," stated Council Majority Leader, Tasha Diaz.

"I am thrilled to know this waterfront access in southwest Yonkers will become a reality," stated Yonkers City Councilmember, Corazon Pineda-Isaac, District 2. "Not only will this waterfront park be a benefit for current Ludlow Park residents, but it will also attract others to the waterfront in southwest Yonkers and add open, green space in a much-needed area, especially for deserving area residents who have to contend with a County Wastewater Treatment Facility in their own neighborhood. This partnership between the City and Westchester County will be beneficial to our Yonkers Families, our community and to the City as a whole."

continued on pg 3-

Yonkers IDA Announces Recipients of 2022 Parkledge Breakthrough Scholarships



From left, Mayor Mike Spano, Henry Reyes, Aracelis Rivera, Ariana Ortiz, Melanie Laureano, Jean Toro Duque, Adrian Heredia, Andrew Cavaluzzi of Hudson Valley Property Group (representing Parkledge) IDA Executive Director Jaime McGill and Council Majority Whip John Rubbo.

The Yonkers Industrial Development Agency (YIDA) has announced eight Yonkers high school students who are recipients of the 2022 Parkledge Breakthrough Scholarship awards totaling \$20,000.

The high school seniors each won awards of \$2,500. The awards are made to seniors who have been enrolled in a Yonkers public 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 2022 scholarship awardees are: Chelsea Cromwell - Yonkers Middle High School · Adrian Heredia - Roosevelt Early College · Ariful Hoque - Palisade Preparatory School · Melanie Laureano - Saunders High School · Ariana Ortiz - Sacred Heart High School · Henry Reyes - Roosevelt Early College · Aracelis Rivera - Gorton High School · Jean Toro Duque - Roosevelt Early College

"Congratulations to the shining stars of our Yonkers Schools. Each one of these students demonstrate the commitment and hard work needed to excel. Special thanks to Parkledge for its continued support and investment in our students' futures so they can move forward and make Yonkers proud!," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano.

Yonkers Industrial Development Agency Established in 1982, the Yonkers Industrial Development Agency is a public benefit corporation that provides business development incentives to enhance economic development and job growth in the City of Yonkers. For more information visit yonkersida.com.

In 6 Months, New York State Collected \$302 Million in Mobile Sport Wagering Tax Revenue



On July 8, Governor Kathy Hochul announced that in under six months of operation, New York's mobile sports wagering program has far surpassed every other state, as well as the Division of the Budget's FY 2022 revenue projections. According to New York State data, the State has generated more than \$302 million in tax revenue from mobile sports wagering since January 8, 2022 – with the entire amount directed for education aid, youth sports and responsible gaming programs. Additionally, the ninth and final operator in New York State – Bally Bet – was authorized to accept wagers on July 7, making the Empire State's latest foray in regulated gaming fully operational.

"In just six months, New York has become a leader among states in implementing successful gaming policies, with hundreds of millions of dollars going to important programs that will improve the lives of all New Yorkers," Governor Hochul said. "The recent launch of New York's final sports wagering operator will provide key revenue for education, youth sports programs, and problem gambling support. I look forward to continuing to enact responsible gaming policies that provide exciting entertainment for New Yorkers of legal age – all with important safeguards in place to help those who need it."

According to reports, New York has collected more in mobile sports wagering revenue in six months than the total sports wagering revenue—both mobile and on-premises—that any other state has generated over several years. Through May 2022, Pennsylvania has collected \$265.6 million in sports wagering tax revenue since November 2018, and New Jersey has generated \$237.1 million since June 2018.

In January, New York State projected \$249 million in mobile sports wagering tax revenue (including \$200 million in already-collected license fees) in FY 2022, while total collections were \$361 million (including the \$200 million in license fees). As of April, New York State projects \$357 million in FY 2023, \$465 million in FY 2024, \$493 million in FY 2025, \$509 million in FY 2026 and \$518 million in FY 2027.

Assemblymember Gary Pretlow said, "There was no doubt in my mind when we put together the legislative Mobile Sports Betting plan what the outcome would be. I looked at what New Jersey was doing, and I knew that a large part of their success was based on New Yorkers crossing the state line. I saw it as an opportunity to keep more tax revenue and make New York the largest betting market in the U.S. This is a great accolade for the State as we continue to derive monies for education, youth sports and problem gambling."

According to GeoComply, a software firm used by sports books to ensure geolocation requirements, more than 2.9 million unique player accounts have been created since January, conducting nearly 707 million transactions.

For FY 2023 and annually thereafter, revenues from mobile sports wagering are distributed as follows: \$5 million to fund sports programs for underserved youths, \$6 million to fund problem gambling education and treatment, and the remaining majority to education aid.

Every Friday, the NYS Gaming Commission publishes weekly mobile sports wagering reports from all of its operators online here.

The Commission's regulations require operators to prevent underage gaming, provide bettors the availability to impose spending limits, and share information on gambling risks and signs of problem gambling. New Yorkers who are struggling with a gambling problem or know someone with a gambling problem can call the state's toll-free, confidential HOPEline at 1-877-8-HOPENY (1-877-846-7369) or text HOPENY (467369). New Yorkers can also contact the Regional Problem Gambling Resource Center at: <https://nyproblemgamblinghelp.org/>.

Upcoming - Men's Health Webinar July 20th at 3pm with Dr. Mathew Q. Fakhoury

Join us to learn new facts on how Men can stay healthy and manifest overall wellness. This is an excellent webinar for men and those that care for them. Click here to RSVP: <https://hipaa.jotform.com/221574326647157>



Mount Vernon Man Indicted for Killing Puppy in Yonkers



On July 7, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that Mount Vernon resident Thaddeus Jones was indicted for throwing a 12-week-old puppy to its death on a Yonkers roadway.

Jones, 34, was indicted by a Westchester County Grand Jury for Aggravated Cruelty to Animals, a felony, and two counts of Criminal Impersonation in the Second Degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance in the Seventh Degree, both misdemeanors. The defendant was arraigned on July 7, 2022, and bail was set.

It is alleged that on May 14, 2022, at approximately 7 p.m., Jones was traveling in a vehicle with the driver, the driver's Pitbull puppy and two other passengers. After the driver pulled over to the side of the road, Jones got out of the car, grabbed the dog from the vehicle and threw it onto Yonkers Avenue in Yonkers. The puppy was killed after it was struck by oncoming traffic. It is further alleged that Jones provided false identification to law enforcement and was in possession of methamphetamine.

The Yonkers Police Department arrested Jones shortly after the incident, following a joint investigation with the Westchester County Department of Public Safety.

The case is before Judge Robert Neary in Westchester County Court, and is being prosecuted by Animal Cruelty Coordinator MaryAnn Liebowitz of the Trials and Investigations Division. Jones is scheduled to appear again in court on July 22, 2022.

The charges against the defendant are merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

After posting this story online at Yonkerstimes.com, we received the following letter to the editor:

"I read with horror the above mentioned article. This vile human needs to be punished to the fullest extent of the law, including a lifetime ban of having any animals. I sincerely hope the judge in the case takes this seriously. Animal cruelty and abuse is a heinous crime and scum like this do not deserve a free pass to harm any other animals," writes Christina DeRespiris from New Rochelle.

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Slave Owners of Yonkers, in 1820

John Thompson	3	2
Frederick Vanwagoner	1	
Joseph Cartwright	3	
James Brundage	2	
Abraham Berean		
James Barton	1	
Augustus Van Cortlandt		
Thomas Wood	1	
Henry Blenus	1	1

By Dennis Richmond Jr.

A conversation based on slavery is tough. Slavery took place all over the world. Slave owners were not just White. Black people and Indigenous people participated in the slave trade as well. When people think of slavery in the United States, they may think of southern plantations. They may also think about Black men, women, and children picking cotton. Slavery didn't look like that everywhere.

New York didn't have sprawling plantations and enormous cotton fields. Some people in New York who were slave owners, owned as little as just one. It might be hard to fathom, but at one point, slaves used to walk the streets of Yonkers. Everywhere from Getty Square to Central Avenue and South Broadway to McLean would have seen their fair share of enslaved Africans.

In 1810, the largest slave owner in Yonkers was Augustus VanCortlandt. Augustus owned 15 people. I did a deep dive into the 1820 United States Federal Census Schedule. Almost 100 years ago, Yonkers had slave owners with some familiar last names. Jacob Odell had a home with 17 people, and five of those people were slaves. Peter Underhill's house had nine people living in it. Two of the people living in Peter's house were his slaves. Today, Yonkers has a street that carries the name Odell and has a street that carries the name Underhill.

Women were not excluded from the people-for-profit business either. Martha Valentine and Hannah Horton owned a total of three slaves between the two of them. According to the New York Historical Society, slaves did the majority, "of the work of many households – bringing in the firewood, the water, and the food; cleaning the house and the clothing; removing the wastes. They were vital to the work of early craftsmen and manufacturers, and many became skilled artisans themselves."

Personally, many of my ancestors were not slaves in 1820. My 6th great-grandmother Tamar Felmetta was a quasi-free Black woman who lived in New York City, New York. My 5th great grandfather Charles Merritt was a quasi-free Black man who lived in Greenwich, Connecticut. Still, that doesn't take away from my ancestors who were slaves. That also doesn't take away from all the people who were slaves in Yonkers.

We live in an era where folk debate whether to say "slavery" or "involuntary relocation." Some people don't want to discuss LGBTQ+ issues. The least we could do is talk about the history of slavery in Yonkers.

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

Be Prepared for a Nuclear Attack



by Eric Wolf Schoen

The streets of New York City are empty, and the one's with people are dirty because out of town folks are pigs and drop their garbage. You fall over the homeless on the streets of the city. You can prepare your fall as you can smell them miles away. The subways, dangerous so much that people are afraid to take them. It's either buses or Ubers for residents of the Big Apple.

The numbers of people returning to work in Manhattan offices is low. Who is going to get on the dangerous subways, filled with homeless with their life's belongings in bags to start the day or end it. The Mayor wants Police Officers to patrol the subways in single patrols. They don't want to do that. Hey, it's dangerous down there.

Covid has returned with a vengeance. Variant, schmariant it's still not good. Yes we have to learn to live with it, but tell that to someone who is sick and under quarantine. Masks are abundant indoors at restaurants and department stores, half the people not wearing them correctly. Pink, green, blue you can wear a mask but not if you are in a car by yourself, in a swimming pool or in a park where you are half a mile from the person closest to you. In those situations don't think one is useful. Hey, you are in the park for fresh air!

Our new disease of the month? Monkeypox. Sadly it's being blamed on the gay community though many heterosexual people are getting it. 7,000 vaccines are being snapped up as we speak, while the FDA holds over a million in some foreign country.

The only affordable foods are fruit, cereals and bread. The question is what to put on the bread. Fewer and fewer meat specials. My sister ordered a steak, nothing fancy for home delivery from a local diner. Though it was delicious \$30 bucks?

In the midst of the craziness what do we have broadcast on the radio stations and television stations covering Manhattan and the other boroughs and suburbs like ours. A public service announcement telling New Yorkers what to do in case of a Nuclear attack.

'Stay in the house' the PSA instructs New Yorkers and those of in the suburbs lucky enough to hear it. What did they expect we were going to do? Go outside and have a party. Stay in your house as long as there is a house for you to stay in!

So this is information Mayor Adams feels we need to know to keep us safe. Drugs being peddled all over the streets. The stench of marijuana permeates the air whether you are inside or outside. Crime, well they tell you it's gone down but when you see what happened to that poor bodega owner, the kid shot dead from Yonkers and, well where do I begin? You know they are lying.

Let's talk about the bodega owner for a minute. The wife of the President of the United States is talking to a group of bodega owners from throughout the country and she can't even pronounce bodega properly. I guess she is sheltered where she is in Delaware as they don't have bodegas. In case you don't know what a bodega is, it's a small grocery store that has the basics, often a little higher priced than the supermarket. The small grocery stores my dad owned off Palmer Road, on Warburton Avenue by Otis, and his uncles owned on Glenwood would by today's standards be considered bodegas.

Why are they called bodegas. Why are Stores that sell lox and bagels called Appetizing stores. My dad probably called his store a grocery store. He offered customers the convenience of not having to wait on line and personal service like meats cut to order and home delivery. You don't mind paying a little more for that.

So we have a sad episode in New York City. A hard working bodega worker (these people often put in 12 plus hour days) minding his business, selling his chips, pretzels (why do so few companies sell pretzels...they are so much more healthy than fried chips) and deli items and a woman picks up a bag of chips, goes to pay with a credit card, the credit card won't go through, she pulls a knife out of her bag while her companion attacks the poor bodega worker, cutting him at various parts of his upper body. Out of self defense so he doesn't get killed the bodega worker pulls a knife on the companion and kills him. The bodega worker didn't come to work that day looking to kill someone over a bag of potato chips. You know whether you have enough money in your account for potato chips. If you don't use cash.

—So who spends the night, actually several nights at Rikers Island? The poor bodega worker probably earning minimum wage. The district attorney, a character named Alvin Bragg sets bail high so the bodega worker and his family can't afford it. Bragg let's criminals some of whom have committed 50, 100 crimes out jail with no bail and no guarantee they will ever return to court. Many don't.

Finally, cooler heads prevail and the obnoxiously high bail set by the district attorney is made more reasonable. They took the bodega workers passport away.

continued on pg 6-

Italian Heritage Festival Returns to Kensico Dam Plaza July 24

Come celebrate Italian culture and special honoree, local resident Lisa LaRocca of News 12 Westchester at the Italian Heritage Festival on Sunday, July 24, from noon to 6 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla.

County Executive George Latimer said, "Italy is considered one of the birthplaces of Western civilization and has a rich heritage in art, history, religion, cuisine, architecture and fashion. I always appreciate seeing the beautiful plaza become a piazza as we celebrate the rich culture of Italy with family, friends, delicious food and festive music. I take great pride in my family's Italian heritage, as does everyone who shares that heritage."

The Italian Heritage Festival takes place from noon until 6 p.m. The festivities will include food, dancing, music, exhibits, children's games, and arts and crafts vendors. The event will also feature entertainment from Teo Ricciardella, DJ Nando Alpuche, Antonio Guarna, Francesca Cavalliere, Anna Calemme, Marcello Sparagna, Nat & Diane Carbo, and DJ Marcello.

The other heritage festivals in the series are:
 India - Sunday, Aug. 7, noon - 6 p.m., Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
 Jewish - Sunday, Aug. 21, noon - 6 p.m., Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
 Muslim Heritage - Sunday, Aug. 28, noon - 6 p.m., Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla
 For More information or call 914-864-PARK.

New Yonkers Waterfront Park, continued from pg 1-

The 2.95 acres of land purchased from owner Anthony Mauro currently serves as a private bus depot. Yonkers City Council approved the purchase at its stated City Council meeting on June 29, authorizing \$140,000 for the initial down payment.

The new park also resolves, in part, the dispute that many residents of SW Yonkers have had concerning the treatment plant, the fumes coming from it, and that the plant had to collect the waste from all of Westchester County. At least the residents in the neighborhood will have a new park to enjoy.

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New York Passes New Gun Laws After US Supreme Court Decision

Op-Ed: Yonkers Police Deserve a Fair Contract Now

By Keith Olson, President, Yonkers PBA

Yonkers is a special place. As a lifelong resident of Yonkers, a more than thirty-three year veteran of the Yonkers Police Department and as President of the Yonkers Police Benevolent Association, I have said that phrase countless times. "Yonkers is a special place." I have said this sarcastically. I have said it euphemistically. But more than anything, I have said it, and meant it, quite literally. Yonkers truly is a special place.

One of the many things that makes Yonkers so special is how incredibly safe a community we are. While we often hear about Yonkers being one of the safest cities of our size, and while our elected officials frequently laud the amazing work that our police officers do, our level of safety is often taken for granted.

For me, the issue of safety was put in great perspective when my son moved to the Rochester/Buffalo region last year. As I looked at crime statistics comparing Yonkers to the cities in Western New York, I became unnerved, worried for the welfare of my son. For instance, in 2021 Yonkers had 21 shooting incidents; that is an incident in which someone was hit by gunfire. While one such incident can be considered too many, comparatively, the smaller city of Rochester had an astounding 350 shooting incidents in the same time frame. Buffalo, only slightly larger than Yonkers, had 301 shooting incidents in 2021.

For even more perspective on how safe Yonkers is we can look at our neighbors for comparison. Despite being one third the size of Yonkers, Mount Vernon had more shooting incidents in 2021 than did Yonkers. And a quick look at the daily headlines shows how our neighbors to the south, New York City, is erupting in violent crime. Current stats show how these amazing disparities in gun violence between Yonkers and other cities have continued to this day.

So this begs the following question. How? How is it possible that a city like Yonkers, bigger than Rochester and bordering the Bronx and Mount Vernon can have such a low rate of violent crime and remain so incredibly safe? While some folks may have varying opinions as to answers to this question, the main component is undeniable. That component is the Yonkers Police Department.

The Yonkers Police Department is arguably the best police department in the country. In every metric imaginable, the men and women of the YPD are accomplishing incredible things. In the midst of a nationwide violent crime surge, the YPD has kept Yonkers exceptionally safe. While taking illegal firearms off the street nearly every day, the YPD has seen a reduction in civilian complaints and police uses of force. We have managed to build on our bond with the community while at the same time nearly eliminating gun violence. Simply put, the YPD gets it right.

As an expert in this field, and speaking as one of the most experienced police officers in our region, I can say unequivocally that none of these accomplishments would be possible without having a motivated, well supported and fairly compensated police force. These are the things that improve morale, which is the most underrated factor in striving towards a sound police force and therefore, a safe community.

It is the high morale of the men and women of the Yonkers Police Department that compels them to risk their lives on a daily basis to keep the people we serve safe. It is what drives our Detectives to work tirelessly until they solve every crime they come across. It is also what inspires a 27-year veteran of our job to conduct an incredibly dangerous gun investigation, getting shot in the process, despite being only days from retirement. In policing, morale is everything.

Sadly, there are things at play in Yonkers City Hall that is destroying the morale of our police officers. In recent years, appointed city officials have shown a disappointing lack of support for some of our most vulnerable police officers, those who've been seriously injured in the performance of their duties. These same city officials have forced us into wasteful litigation regarding issues involving police officer's contractual rights, made us deal with needless policies attacking our officers that have become pregnant and have forced upon us haphazard policies dealing with Covid-19. These are only a few examples of recent treatment from City Hall that has lowered morale in the YPD. Unfortunately, many of our officers feel that they are treated only as a number and not like the dedicated public servants that they are.

Most importantly, and most damaging to our morale, is that Yonkers police officers have worked without a contract for more than three years. While the police unions have attempted to meet as often as possible with the city in an attempt to negotiate a fair deal, the city has dragged this process out for far too long. To "assist" in negotiations, City officials have squandered hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars on high-priced attorneys rather than reward their most dedicated first responders. The City of Yonkers has failed to negotiate fairly with their amazing police officers and that is unacceptable.

It is this slow but steady dismantling of morale that can destroy the fabric of a great police department like the YPD. There is more than enough reckless, external antagonism in the world of policing to make our jobs harder and the last thing the City of Yonkers should be doing is manufacturing more. Our fine officers, who've worked without a contract through the pandemic, a nationwide violent crime surge, through social unrest and an anti-police atmosphere, deserve much better. Our community deserves better as well.

Yonkers is a special place. Let's keep it that way. Demand a fair contract now for your Yonkers police officers.

Det. Keith Olson, President, Yonkers PBA



By Dan Murphy

On June 23, the US Supreme Court struck down a long time gun law in New York State requiring gun holders to applying for a concealed carry permit with tough requirements. Justice Clarence Thomas wrote in overriding New York State's law, in effect since 1913, that the Constitution protects "an individual's right to carry a handgun for self-defense outside the home," and improperly infringes on the Second Amendment.

The old law in NY required applicants to show proper cause to carry a concealed weapon.

After the decision, Governor Kathy Hochul called a special session of the state legislature to pass new gun law restrictions.

The new laws do not affect keeping a gun in your home. The New York State Rifle & Pistol Association brought the challenge which was successful.

The gun laws in New York, which go in effect on Sept. 1 are:

- Expanding on eligibility requirements in the concealed carry permitting process, including completed firearm training courses for applicants.
- Allowing the state to regulate and standardize training for license applicants.
- Restricting the carrying of concealed weapons in sensitive locations and establishing that private property owners must expressly allow a person to possess a firearm, rifle, or shotgun on their property. Individuals who carry concealed weapons in sensitive locations or in contravention of the authority of an owner of private property will face criminal penalties.
- Establishing state oversight over background checks for firearms and regular checks on license holders for criminal convictions.

- Creating a statewide license and ammunition database.
- Strengthening and clarifying the law relating to the sale of body armor to include hard body armor, such as the type worn by the suspect in the Buffalo shooting and the safe storage of firearms.
- Social media review. As part of the character assessment, under the new legislation, gun license applicants will have to submit a list of their social media accounts over the past three years. Hochul argued that the accounts can be analyzed for indicators of violent intent, like recent mass shooters who detailed their murderous plans on social media.
- Background checks. Applicants will have to submit four character references along with the other required materials.
- Sensitive locations and Private Property. Certain locations are always unsafe for guns, and this legislation makes concealed carry in sensitive locations a punishable crime. Sensitive locations include: Airports, Bars and restaurants that serve alcohol, Courthouses, Daycare facilities, playgrounds and other locations where children gather, Educational Institutions, Emergency shelters, including domestic violence shelters and homeless shelters, Entertainment venues
- Federal, state, and local government buildings, Health and medical facilities, Houses of worship, Libraries, Polling sites, Public demonstrations and rallies, Public transportation including subways and buses, Times Square.

"A week ago, the Supreme Court issued a reckless decision removing century-old limitations on who is allowed to carry concealed weapons in our state — senselessly sending us backward and putting the safety of our residents in jeopardy," Governor Hochul said. "Today, we are taking swift and bold action to protect New Yorkers. After a close review of the NYSRPA vs. Bruen decision and extensive discussions with constitutional and policy experts, advocates, and legislative partners, I am proud to sign this landmark legislative package that will strengthen our gun laws and bolster restrictions on concealed carry weapons. I want to thank Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Heastie, and all of our partners in the Legislature for their willingness to take on this critical issue with urgency and precision. I will continue to do everything in my power to combat the gun violence epidemic."

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, "In response to the Supreme Court's decision implying that guns are more important than lives in this country, we are passing legislation to ensure that New York State has safe and responsible gun laws. States are the last line of defense, which is why we are stepping up to protect New York from being easily flooded with concealed weapons and keeping firearms out of the wrong hands. These measures, in addition to the previous anti-gun violence legislation we passed, are vital in a time when there are more guns than people in America. New York will continue to prioritize people's safety and lives, and I thank my conference, Speaker Heastie, and Governor Hochul for their partnership."

National gun control groups applauded the new laws, while others questioned the constitutionality of the new laws.

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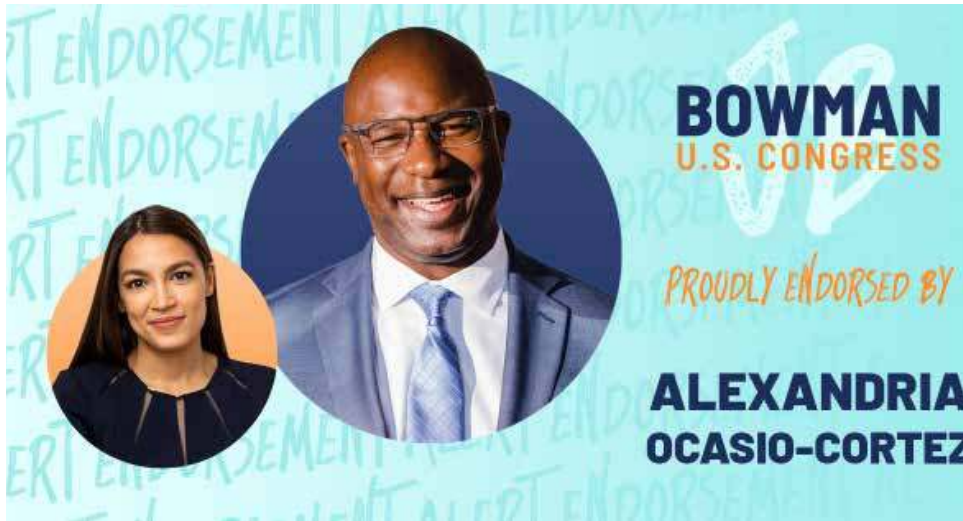
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AOC Endorses Bowman; Mayor Murphy Switches Endorsement to Parker, in NY-16



Catherine Parker

It was no surprise that on June 30, Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez endorsed Congressman Jamaal Bowman for re-election in New York's 16th Congressional District, which includes all of southern Westchester, including Yonkers and Mt. Vernon, parts of the Bronx, and northern into Mid-Westchester. Rep. Ocasio-Cortez and Rep. Bowman have worked together on legislation and in advocating for progressive issues of concern since Bowman's election two years ago, and the two are unofficial members of "the Squad," made up of six of the most progressive members of the House.

"I am beyond excited to endorse my brother in service, Congressman Jamaal Bowman for re-election in NY-16. Last week, SCOTUS made it clear that gun rights are far more important than the rights of women and human lives. At a time like this, we need representatives in Congress who understand that our system is rigged for a select few and who are willing to fight to completely transform our structures. For New Yorkers in NY-16, that leader is Congressman Jamaal Bowman. I am proud to call him my colleague in Congress and look forward to continuing to work with him for many years to come," said Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez.

Congresswoman Ocasio-Cortez's endorsement of Jamaal Bowman during his insurgent 2020 primary campaign proved to be a turning point in the race. In the year and a half since Bowman took office, he and Ocasio-Cortez have taken their fight for the people of their two districts, a Green New Deal, and Medicare for All to Washington.

"I'm excited to once again be endorsed by one of the most important Democratic leaders of our time — Congresswoman Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez," said Congressman Jamaal Bowman. "From her community organizing to her historic 2018 victory, AOC has been fighting relentlessly in Washington DC for working people and historically marginalized communities. Her brilliance, work ethic, and undeniable love for humanity continues to inspire me and millions across the country. I look forward to continuing to fight by her side both in the Bronx and in Washington."

Congressman Bowman has also been endorsed by the Working Families Party, NARAL, Planned Parenthood Action Fund, 1199 SEIU, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, and NY US Senators Schumer and Gillibrand.

Bowman faces a challenge in the upcoming democratic primary in August from two members of the Westchester County Board of Legislators. Legislator Vedat Gashi, announced his candidacy in the Spring, while Legislator Catherine Parker announced her candidacy last month. Gashi lives in Yorktown, Parker is from Rye. Bowman lives in Yonkers.

No republican candidate has yet been announced since the courts redrew the 16th District.

On June 29, The delayed redistricting process has shaken up more than the defining lines of congressional districts in the lower Hudson Valley. Mamaroneck Town Mayor Tom Murphy announced his support and endorsement of Catherine Parker, Democratic challenger to incumbent Congressman Jamaal Bowman.

Murphy, who had previously endorsed Bowman prior to the final change in redistricting, expressed disappointment in the redistricting process and sought a representative to Washington who represented Mamaroneck's values.

Mayor Tom Murphy: "My endorsement of Mr. Bowman was meant for his race against Vedat Gashi. Now with Catherine in the race, I must withdraw my endorsement of the freshman legislator and put my full support behind Catherine. She has been a stalwart champion for us here in Mamaroneck, including bringing attention to the ongoing flood issues and damage we've received from major weather events. She works hard, is dedicated to seeing things through and delivers results. Catherine knows our issues, listens to us, and will fight for the issues that we most care about."

Parker, who served as Democratic Majority Leader of the Westchester Board of Legislators, and now serves as the Chair of the Human Services, Human Rights & Equity Committee, has set herself apart from legislative colleagues in pushing for key legislation in gun safety laws, women's rights, and combating climate change.

Catherine Parker: "I'm honored to receive Mayor Murphy's endorsement. He has been a strong voice in protecting Mamaroneck's community and we have worked together for years to ensure that Mamaroneck's interests are best represented at the Board of Legislators. I look forward to continuing that relationship and finally bringing necessary infrastructure funding to town to help ongoing flood mitigation challenges amidst a changing climate."

Parker entered the race due to incumbent Rep. Bowman's inaction on key issues that impact Westchester and Bronx residents daily including voting 'no' on funding the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and reinstating the SALT tax deduction, two critical pieces of legislation that would reduce the tax burden on Westchester and Bronx families and invest in much needed local infrastructure improvements.

Also running in the Democratic primary in August are County Legislator Vedat Gashi and Harrison resident Mark Jaffe.

On This Day in Yonkers History...



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

left-Adriaen Van der Donck, the founding father of Yonkers

Monday, July 18th

July 25, 1881: The torpedo ram Alarm arrived at Yonkers for experimental trials. It remained lying in the Hudson at the foot of Main Street for several days, testing its speed and putting the Mallory steering apparatus to the "severest test." The Mallory allowed the vessel to be guided without using a rudder, instead using the propeller. Lieutenant R. Brown, the commander of the Alarm, was very pleased with the apparatus. The ship ended up staying in Yonkers until August 6th, and then headed back to the Brooklyn Navy Yard to have its piston rod repaired.

July 18, 1950: The Yonkers Board of Education hired Willieanna Crier, the third regularly appointed African American teacher, to be an elementary teacher at School Six.

Miss Crier, who had her BS from Hampton Institute and a Masters in Education from Columbia, 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.

Tuesday, July 19th

July 19, 1926: Eileen O'Mara of the Yonkers Women's Swimming Association, shattered the record for the 110-yard Backstroke in a state meet at Babcock Lake in Hoosick Falls. Her time of 1:32 broke the mark set by Ethelda Bleibtrey at Manhattan Beach in 1919 by more than 1 second. Eileen was the sister of swimming star Doris O'Mara.

July 19, 1947: Councilman Edith Welty suggested the Republican City Executive Committee not endorse her for the coming election. Why? Because of "certain requests for patronage for which I manifested an unsympathetic attitude."

Wednesday, July 20th

July 20, 1912: School Superintendent Charles Gorton laid the blame for students' lack of spelling ability at the feet of their mothers. He said mothers were too eager to have their children "excel in special lines and are overlooking the necessary rudimentary training the means so much for the all-around development of boys and girls." He believed less time should be spent teaching music, arts and manual training.

July 20, 1927: After fighting for close to two years. Thomas Lyons of Warburton Avenue was awarded \$3200 for the loss of his eye while working for Yonkers; the award, originally handed down May 1926, had been appealed by Yonkers. The next step, according to attorney Harry Laragh, was to sue for the interest on the award garnered while Yonkers was appealing.

Thursday, 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, 1924: Sisters Frieda and Elsa Schlobohm of Warburton Avenue, returning from Maine, were passengers on the Steamship Boston when it was rammed in a dense fog by the tanker Swift Arrow off Point Judith, RI. The tanker was lightly damaged and assisted in the rescue efforts. The liner held more than 1,000 passengers and a crew of 180; four people lost their lives. The Schlobohm sisters escaped the ship in a leaky lifeboat, one that was missing its rain plug; they and their fellow passengers bailed water desperately for two hours to keep the craft from sinking until they were picked up by a steamer. The girls arrived back in Yonkers safely two days later.

Friday, July 22nd

July 22, 1918: the Honorable Charles S. Whitman, Governor of New York, spoke at the Warburton Theater. All Yonkers citizens were invited to hear him discuss State issues, and listen to entertainment by noted local singer Harold Land.

July 22, 1927: Water Bureau Superintendent James Curran had a personal run-in with an adventurous local fish. The mischievous creature decided to go exploring and left the Grassy Sprain Reservoir to travel through Yonkers water mains. Unfortunately for Curran, he ended up in his home system, costing the Superintendent \$188 for repairs to this plumbing.

continued on pg 7-

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DISH Wireless LLC is proposing to install new wireless telecommunication antennas on an existing building located at 636 Palisade Ave., Yonkers, Westchester County, NY. The new facility will consist of the collocation of antennas at a top height of approx. 68ft on the 70.9ft building (80ft 3in to the highest appurtenance). Any interested party wishing to submit comments regarding the potential effects the proposed facility may have on any historic property may do so by sending such comments to: Project 6122005841 - JD EBI Consulting, 21 B Street, Burlington, MA 01803, or at (203) 231-6643.

NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER DYNASTY, LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST CGSRE ACQUISITION CORP, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered October 22, 2021, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Lobby of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, NY on August 15, 2022 at 9:30AM, premises known as 68 Runyon Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester and State of New York, Section 3 Block 3112 Lot 59+60. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,792,943.78 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #50855/2019. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the WESTCHESTER County COVID-19 Protocols located on the Office of Court Administration (OCA) website (<https://ww2.nycourts.gov/Admin/oca.shtml>) and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. Anthony J. Centone, Esq., Referee CLAIR GJERTSEN & WEATHERS PLLC 4 New King Street, Suite 140 White Plains, NY 10604 50855-2019 72689

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Notice of formation of Sutton E.L.S Ent, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/18/2021. 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, 103 McLean Avenue Apt.# 3b, Yonkers NY 10467. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Commission on Reapportionment of Ward Boundaries for the City of Yonkers hereby gives public notice, in accordance with the New York State Public Officers Law, of its upcoming meeting:

Tuesday
 July 19 at 3:00 PM
 Mayor’s Conference Room
 Yonkers City Hall, 2nd Floor
 Yonkers, New York 10701

Dated: July 12, 2022

ADVERTISEMENT FOR RFP LEGAL NOTICE:

Family Service Society of Yonkers (FSSY) has issued a Yonkers Hoarding Project Request for Proposal (RFP) for the following services: Garbage Removal Services, Pest Control Services and Deep Cleaning and Organizing. Proposals are due on or before Friday, July 29th, 2022 at 5PM, Eastern Time. Contact Rtavarez@fssy.org to request the RFP documents, ask questions and send proposal. FSSY will accept the lowest responsible proposal that serve the best interest of the Yonkers Hoarding Initiative. FSSY especially encourages women and minority business firms to submit proposals.

Notice of formation of Color It Black, LLC. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/28/2022. 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 Color It Black LLC, 33 Cliffside Drive, Yonkers, NY 10710 Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Sweeney Tech, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 06/16/2022. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 14 Alta Place, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Formation of LNE CONSTRUCTION, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/21/2022. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to James Saisa, 25 Harvard Ave., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Articles of Organization (DOM-PROF.LLC). Komosinski Law, PLLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) 4/19/2022. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of DOM-PROF.LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail copy of process to Richard F. Komosinski, Esquire, 30 Emmett Pl., Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: The practice of Law.

Ice Bucket Challenge, continued from pg 1-

regain their voice.

“Pat Quinn’s fight and determination to combat this horrible disease has been so inspirational and we are proud to carry on his legacy,” said Mayor Spano. “Pat and his organization, Quinn For The Win, have courageously and selflessly turned his battle with ALS into one of the most successful social media fundraising movements this world has ever seen. We encourage everyone to join us on July 31st so we can continue the fight to find a cure for ALS.”

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 the online registration for participants. Empire City underwrites the cost of the event and donates the space, staffing, and over 1,300 pounds of ice.

“Pat Quinn was as tough as they come in his courageous pursuit of a cure, a legacy Empire City Casino is committed to upholding in continuing his fight for awareness and a cure for ALS patients all around the world,” said Ed Domingo, Senior Vice President and General Manager for Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts. “We are incredibly humbled to be part of a community that always shows up and supports each other, and we will continue to do our part.”

The annual Ice Bucket Challenge will be held outdoors trackside, is free to participate, and attendees of all ages are welcome (note: entrance into Empire City Casino is limited to those 18 years-of-age and older). 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, please visit YonkersNY.gov, Quinn4theWin and Facebook.com/QuinnForTheWin.

Eric Schoen continued from pg 3-

—So who spends the night, actually several nights at Rikers Island? The poor bodega worker probably earning minimum wage. The district attorney, a character named Alvin Bragg sets bail high so the bodega worker and his family can’t afford it. Bragg let’s criminals some of whom have committed 50, 100 crimes out jail with no bail and no guarantee they will ever return to court. Many don’t.

Finally, cooler heads prevail and the obnoxiously high bail set by the district attorney is made more reasonable. They took the bodega workers passport away. He had been planning to leave the country, was honest with the authorities but don’t trust the bodega worker. The DA puts his trust in the criminals with multiple felonies.

In the midst of the Covid increase, Mayor Adams says he should do a better job of wearing masks in public. Do as I say, don’t do as I do. Mayor making it easier to get home Covid kits. It’s easy now through your pharmacy or mail order. There is no mechanism for reporting Covid at home testing so will we ever know the real numbers of people infected by the virus. Or will we continue this ridiculous guessing game based on the numbers of Covid cases reported through public testing

Half of Republicans have had it with Donald Trump. Over sixty percent of Democrats don’t want Joe Biden running again. Kamala Harris’ accomplishment are negligible. She’s in charge of the border. So get your ass there frequently to see what’s going on.

The Republicans and Democrats have weak Presidential candidates for 2024. And as long as abortion is on the table, Democrats will continue to occupy the White House. The overwhelming majority of Americans continue to support a woman’s right to chose, and those people are not on Republican side of the ledger! They are active, they are energized after the Supreme Court’s decision and they vote!

No one is in charge in Washington. Our Congressman Bowman thinks he’s an orator and marches up and down on MSNBC but doesn’t tell you a member of his campaign committee is related to an executive at the station.

Things are bad. What we have to do is elect candidates in all districts in all states who agree with our principles and values. Otherwise we will be stuck with what we have now! And spread our campaigning to encourage friends throughout the country to do the same.

Don’t kid yourself for a minute. The madness in New York City is a mere 10 minutes from us in Yonkers and Westchester!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisyonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show alternating Thursday’s from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, WVOX.com click listen or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

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Free COVID Vaccines for Young Westchester Children

WESTCHESTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE
 GEORGE LATIMER ANNOUNCES FREE COVID-19
 VACCINES FOR YOUNGEST CHILDREN
*Health Department Offers Vaccines by Appointment for
 Children Six Months to Five Years*

Westchester County Executive George Latimer announced that the County Health Department is offering free pediatric Moderna COVID-19 vaccines this summer. The vaccine clinics will be held on Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon, by appointment only, for children ages six months to five years. The vaccine clinics will be held at the Health Department, 134 Court Street, White Plains.

The Moderna vaccine is given in two doses, at least 28 days apart. The County will also be offering all other COVID-19 vaccines for the other age groups from 1 to 3 p.m. on Fridays.

To make an appointment visit health.westchestergov.com

More appointments will be added, so please check back frequently.

The Westchester County Health Department is offering free pediatric Moderna COVID-19 vaccines this summer. The vaccine clinics will be held on Fridays from 9 a.m. to noon, by appointment only, for children ages six months to five years. The vaccine clinics will be held at the Health Department, 134 Court Street, White Plains. Recently, the County gave 109 young children their first COVID-19 vaccines.

The Moderna vaccine is given in two doses, at least 28 days apart. The County will also be offering all other COVID-19 vaccines for the other age groups from 1 to 3 p.m. on Fridays. To make an appointment, go to: <https://health.westchestergov.com/2019-novel-coronavirus>, select the Vaccine and Clinic Information drop down, and click on the link for the vaccine you want. More appointments will be added, so please check back frequently.

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

Saturday, July 23rd

July 23, 1910: Thomas Broadbent of 15 North Broadway was presented the King's Medal by the British Government for rescuing 3 sailors on the trading steamer Fantel, off Cape Palmes, Liberia. The Fantel was wrecked on a sunken rock, and the crew worked for four days and nights to prevent the hold from being totally filled with water. Part of the crew mutinied; local pirates tried to take over the ship for its cargo but were repelled by the sailors' revolvers. On the 4th day, six crewmembers were overcome in the hold by gas. Broadbent volunteered to rescue them, was lowered into the hold and brought up 3 sailors. Unfortunately, in trying to recover other crewmembers, Broadbent was overcome himself, and did not revive for 5 days. It was his second medal from the British government, the first awarded for bravery several years earlier.

July 23, 1931: Well known contractor George T. Kelly of North Broadway was a judge for the Mickey Walker-Jack Sharkey fight at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn. The fight ended in a draw; Kelly voted for Sharkey and noted referee Arthur Donovan voted for Sharkey. The third judge, Charles Mathison, said the fight was a draw.

Sunday, July 24th

July 24, 1653: Yonkers' founder Adraien Van der Donck, who received his law degree in the University of Leyden and had been admitted to practice before the Supreme Court of Holland, received permission to practice law in New Netherlands, the first lawyer in America!

July 24, 1925: Wilma Ansell of Nepperhan Avenue was chosen "Miss Yonkers of 1925" at the annual beauty contest sponsored by American Legion Post 7. Held at the Strand Theater, contest judges were Sidney Riesenberg, Robert Huntington, Charles Louis Hinton, David Hutchinson and Mrs. O. W. Kalkhof.

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

DiFiore's Downfall! Accuser Claims Ethics Complaint is "100% the Reason" for Her Stepping Down as Chief Judge

By Dan Murphy

On July 11, Westchester resident Janet DiFiore, the Chief Judge of New York State's Highest court, announced that she will be stepping down in August. The announcement comes after a complaint filed against DiFiore with the NYS Commission on Judicial Conduct became public.

The complaint was filed against DiFiore by Dennis Quirk, the head of the NYS Court Officers Union. DiFiore and Quirk have been engaged in a back and forth regarding allegations made against each other, resulting in a formal complaint filed against DiFiore, which Quirk tells Yonkerstimes.com "is 100% the reason why she is stepping down."

Quirk was accused of racist behavior leading the state corrections union, a charge that Quirk has vehemently denied. DiFiore hired former Homeland Security Director Jey Johnsson to conduct an investigation against Quirk.

The allegations against Quirk were leaked to the NY Post. Quirk discovered that DiFiore had released the allegations against him to the press, resulting in Quirk emailing DiFiore the following in 2020. "Your call to the NY Post that I am a racist is false and you know it. You want to spread false rumors let's see how you like the online articles about your relationship with a police officer with ties to organized crime while you were married posted all over every Court building in NYS."

DiFiore took Quirk's email as a threat and moved forward with a disciplinary action against him with a hearing officer, Phylliss Flug. In a letter dated, Aug. 24, 2021, DiFiore wrote to Flug that Quirk sent her a "threatening and disrespectful email," adding "I implore you to use your authority wisely to uphold the values of our entire court system."

Flug sent DiFiore's letter to the Commission on Judicial Conduct and to Quirk. Quirk then filed a complaint with the Commission, writing that the letter was evidence of "an overall lack of professionalism and improprieties that Chief Judge DiFiore has consistently engaged in."

Quirk added that while he denied the allegations made against him, "DiFiore has never, to my knowledge, denied the allegations made against her."

Quirk explained in his letter to the commission that a full day of testimony was held on the matter in April of 2021, and despite getting a subpoena for DiFiore to testify, she never was required to attend the hearing.

After the hearing was closed, DiFiore wrote her letter to Flug, which Quirk found to be "in clear violation of my due process rights and Collective Bargaining Agreement guarantee of a fair and impartial hearing," and "was a blatant attempt to use the enormous weight and prestige of the Office of Chief Judge of the State of New York to advance her private interest of having me terminated for my lawful First Amendment protected speech."

"In my 47 years of professional interaction with the state judiciary, I have never encountered the systematic culture of intimidation and influence peddling that Chief Judge Janet DiFiore has consistently engaged in," wrote Quirk.

It is important to note that Hearing Officer Flug forwarded DiFiore's letter to the Commission on Judicial Conduct, apparently because she believed that DiFiore may have violated ethics laws or judicial conduct guidelines.

We spoke to Quirk who told Yonkerstimes.com that "No Chief Judge has even been removed or censured. She blew a fit when I wrote that email and filed my complaint to the commission, and the fact that the hearing officer forwarded the letter to the Commission, makes me confident that the reason why she is stepping down is 100% related to this complaint and her improper conduct against me."

The story that Quirk referenced when he emailed DiFiore was written by Mt. Vernon Exposed and Samuel Rivers. We contacted Rivers who told us that DiFiore never contacted him or sued him for his stories on her, which included another story about her hiring a nanny without paying taxes on her employment.

DiFiore, 66, has served six years of a 14-year term as Chief Judge. She told the NY Times that, "she was ready to pursue other opportunities after more than six years on the job. "I've made my contribution," she said, adding that she had no other job waiting, but felt it was a "comfortable moment" to move on. She allowed, however, that there would be "another chapter in my professional career."

It is also interesting to note that DiFiore received no support from members of the NYS Democratic Party after recently ruling against the democrats regarding the redistricting of Congressional districts across the state. Congressman Hakeem Jeffries tweeted "Good riddance," on the news of DiFiore's departure. DiFiore switched political parties in 2007 from republican to democrat.

Many New York Democrats are hoping that Governor Kathy Hochul will appoint a more progressive democrat to lead the state's highest court. Sen. Brad Hoylman, said the Court of Appeals has fallen "increasingly out of step with the needs and desires of New Yorkers on issues such as workers' rights, criminal justice and tenants' protections."

DiFiore's court spokesperson Lucian Chalfen said that her resignation was not connected to the investigation, and that complaints filed to the Commission are supposed to be kept confidential. DiFiore was appointed by former Governor Andrew Cuomo, who resigned from office last year.

Another member of the Court Officers Union we spoke to thought that there was another reason for DiFiore's attacks against Quirk. "Why did DiFiore go after Quirk to begin with? There is more to this story, she went overboard to ruin his career reputation."

Prior to the NY Post story against Quirk, the Union leader and DiFiore had fought over re-opening of the courts and COVID. Quirk wanted to protect his members with PPE and thorough cleaning of the courtrooms before permitting his members to work again. During this heated debate between the two, Quirk published the addresses of DiFiore on Facebook and urged his members to protest outside. He was suspended for 30 days by the OCA. While he remains union president, Quirk retired after the suspension, and has sued DiFiore and other state officials for libel-slander in Federal court over the NY Post story. That case is still pending. The Post is not a named defendant.

Westchester native Jeff Deskovic, who is now an attorney after being wrongfully convicted and spending years in prison, said "I am not sorry to see her go: the Court of Appeals rarely granted permission to defendants to appeal to them, and ruled for the prosecution almost always. Beyond that, DiFiore's using her office to send an ex parte letter to a hearing officer during a disciplinary hearing, in an attempt to influence the proceeding, is outrageous. It is off the record influences like that which lead to wrongful convictions and other forms of injustice, ultimately costing the accused a fair proceeding, undermining due process rights, and the legitimacy of proceedings. Judge DiFiore's stepping down should not be the end of this matter: if she is found guilty, there should be some real consequences for her actions. If that was me or any other member of the public, we would face consequences. Why should she be any different?"

Deskovic raises a good question. After DiFiore steps down, is she still in jeopardy of legal action against her by the commission? That answer appears to be no: "It's over if she resigns before the Commission completes their review of the complaint. That stops the inquiry," one NY attorney told us.

But that same attorney also explained, "The other question that remains is should she be punished for her behavior moving forward as an attorney, and will this impair her ability as a future lawyer? The Grievance Committee could be asked to review her actions, but also determine if there is any other conduct that she has engaged in that may be material to any complaint." Much more to come... stay tuned.

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Congrats Riverside HS Val, Sal



Congratulations to the Riverside High School Valedictorian, Daniel Silva, and Salutatorian Giulia Capobianco, pictured above. Silva graduated with a 98.4 GPA and completed 12 AP-college link courses. He is a YPIE Scholar, and was Nominated by Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins to the 2022 U.S. Presidential Scholars Program for Career and Technical Education. He was a IBM P-Tech Intern and enjoys Reading, watching movies and soccer. His favorite soccer players are Mo Salah and Luis Diaz, and his favorite soccer team is Liverpool. He enjoys challenging himself and plans to major in Computer Science.

Silva was accepted to Fordham University, Pace University, Iona College, Manhattan College, Mercy College, SUNY Purchase, CUNY Baruch, CUNY City College of New York, CUNY Hunter, CUNY Lehman, CUNY Queens College

Salutatorian Giulia Capobianco graduated with a 95.25 GPA and completed 16 AP, College Link and PT Tech courses. She also was a YPIE Scholar and a member of Riverside's Game Club, Anime Club, Cooking Club, Robotics Club, Drawing and Comic Club.

Giulia's volunteer work included serving at CHOICE of New Rochelle Food Pantry during Thanksgiving week. She enjoys Programming/coding in Python, and enjoyed attending SUNY Westchester Community College, where she was a full-time student in her senior year of high school.

She plans to major in in Electrical Technology at WCC, where she will take a number of completed college credits with her.

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MOVIES AT DUSK			
DATE	MOVIE	RATING	LOCATION
July 1	To Wong Foo, Thank you for Everything! Julie Newmar	PG-13	Untermeyer Park – North Broadway
July 8	Raya and the Last Dragon	PG	Trenchard Park – Trenchard Street
July 15	Sing 2	PG	Kardash Park – Bretton Road
July 22	Soul	PG	Culver Park – Culver Street
July 29	Encanto	PG	Kinsley Park – Chase Avenue
August 5	In the Heights	PG-13	Sutherland Park – Overcliff Street
August 12	DOG	PG-13	Scotti Park – Bronx River Road
August 19	Space Jam: A New Legacy	PG	Schultze Field – St. Eleanora's Lane
August 26	Jungle Cruise	PG-13	Conor Park – McLean Avenue

MUSIC 7:00 - 8:30 PM			
DATE	BAND	MUSIC GENRE	LOCATION
June 30	Total Soul	Music & Dance Show Band	Cerrato Park – Riverdale Avenue
July 7	Reprimand	Rock/Cover Band	Lennon Park – Lake Avenue
July 14	FDR Drive	Pop/Motown	Boo Wilson – Runyon Avenue
July 21	3D Rhythm of Life	Latin/Pop	E.J. Murray Skating Center Tuckahoe Road
July 28	Trombonazo	Latin	Lincoln Park – South Broadway
August 4	Mariachi Sol Miteco	Mariachi	Daylighting III – New Main Street
August 11	Therapi Band	Dance/Reggae/Steel Drum	O'Boyle Park – Hawthorne Avenue
August 18	Cherish the Ladies	Irish Folk	Coyne Park – McLean Avenue
August 25	Uptown Royalty NYC	Music & Dance Show Band	Stefanik Park – Nepperhan Avenue

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