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# Yonkers Rising

YonkersTimes.com

Friday July 19, 2024

## YPD Launches Drone as a First Responder Pilot



The Yonkers Police Department recently announced the launch of the City of Yonkers' Drone as a First Responder (DFR) pilot program, in partnership with Motorola Solutions Inc., Flying Lion Inc., Westchester Drone Ops, and St. Joseph's Medical Center.

Drone as a First Responder (DFR) is an innovative and transformative use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (aka Drones) used by public safety professionals to assist in everyday operations. This technology has not been implemented in the Westchester area as a DFR program until now. The Yonkers Police Department has committed to a 60-day pilot program to assess the use of this technology as an enhancement to our public safety operations.

For this pilot program, the Yonkers Police Department will utilize one drone- a DJI M300 series – equipped with high-definition cameras and thermal imaging. This drone will be responding to calls for service alongside, and overhead, Of

*continued on pg 15-*

## Yonkers City Council Approves Landmarking of St. Mary's Church



*By Dan Murphy*

At their July 16 special meeting, the Yonkers City Council unanimously adopted a resolution to Landmark St. Mary's Church. Built in 1948, St. Mary's is the oldest Roman Catholic Church in Yonkers.

St. Mary's is in jeopardy of closing its doors, after the Archdiocese of New York recently called for the church to merge operations with nearby St. Denis and only offer one mass per week.

The Landmarking of St. Mary's includes the exterior façade, interior, rectory and parish hall. The Landmarks Preservation Board voted to landmark the church, and the City Council voted to adopt the recommendation of the Landmarks Board, making the status official.

Hundreds of Yonkers residents and former parishioners of St. Mary's have come forward to call on the hallowed church to remain open.

Many Hispanic residents of Yonkers who  
*continued on pg 7-*

## Yonkers, County, State and Federal Officials Join with Mulford Corp. to Celebrate Opening of LaMora Affordable Senior Housing



See story on pg 10

## Rihanna's Savage X Fenty Opens at Cross County Center Yonkers



See story on pg 4-

## Yonkers Police Officer Bracken and K-9 Partner Socko Retire



See story on pg 4-

## Comic Book & Cosplay Workshops Throughout the Summer at Riverfront Library



Yonkers ComicBook & Cosplay Convention (YC3) to be held October 5

YPL is proud to join forces with Evan Bishop of 320 Arts to host the Yonkers ComicBook & Cosplay Convention (YC3). The convention and cosplay fashion show will be held on Saturday, October 5th at Riverfront Library in Downtown Yonkers. Throughout the summer, we will host a number of events dedicated to teaching people about how to design and make comic books and cosplay costumes.

List of workshops hosted at the Riverfront Library:

**Learn to Draw – Comics Styles**Thursdays, July 11 and August 8 | 2:30-4:00pm Learn to draw in comics styles from across the world — from big-name Western works to manga to Afrofuturist dreams — and develop your very own story.

**Build Your Hero's Costume Design**Thursday, July 18 and August 15 | 2:30-4:00pm Learn to design a comic hero all your own with Evan Bishop! Figure out their design, brew a color scheme, and use our mixed media materials to put together a mask and accessories.

**Publishing and Self-Publishing in Comics**Thursdays, July 25 and August 22 | 2:30-4:00pm Learn about publishing and self-publishing in the world of comics. Be prepared, if you dare, for the Yonkers Comics and Cosplay Convention!

**Heroic Accessories with 3D Printing**Thursday, August 1 | 2:30-4:00pm Come learn how to use 3D modeling software and online 3D printing repositories for your cosplay creations!

**Power Pieces with Catherine Schuller**Thursday, August 29 | 2:30-4:00pm Put together accessories for your hero from pieces of comics themselves with Catherine Schuller, and get ready for Yonkers Comic and Cosplay Convention!

**Yonkers Comic Book Cosplay Convention (YC3)**Saturday, October 5 | 10:00am-5:00pm This exciting event promises a full day of entertainment and activities for all ages. Highlights include engaging panel discussions with industry experts, an intense gaming tournament, Lego building activities, a variety of vendors offering unique merchandise, and a vibrant cosplay fashion show. Don't miss this opportunity to celebrate your love for comics, gaming, and cosplay with fellow enthusiasts!

Visit [www.ypl.org/yc3](http://www.ypl.org/yc3) for more information.

## Do New Yorkers Know We Have Public Financing of State Campaigns?



By Dan Murphy

This reporter was unaware that the State of New York has created a public financing program for candidates running for Assembly and State Senate this year and for Governor, Attorney General and Comptroller in 2025.

The Public Campaign Finance Board (PCFB) was established by Part ZZZ of Chapter 58 of the Laws of 2020 (enacting Title 2 of Article 14 of the Election Law). The New York State Public Campaign Financing Program launches after the 2022 general election (the first day of the program is November 9, 2022).

As part of the New York State Board of Elections (NYSBOE), PCFB is charged with the responsibility of administering the Public Campaign Financing Program for candidates running in Statewide and State legislative elections. The Program provides a multiple match on small contributions from New York State residents to candidates who opt in, allowing candidates the opportunity to raise competitive amounts based on eligible contributions from constituents. For all races, only in-district contributions of \$250 or less will be matched.

The Public Campaign Finance Board (PCFB) was created as a bipartisan unit within the State Board of Elections to implement and oversee the New York State Public Campaign Finance Program. The program is designed to foster participation in the democratic process by matching small dollar contributions with public funds.

The PCFB is responsible for developing a program for informing candidates and the public as to the purpose and effect of the Program, including the preparation and dissemination of educational materials, providing compliance counseling and guidance to candidates seeking to participate in Program. The PCFB will publish detailed information about the money raised and spent in Statewide and State legislative elections providing transparency to the use of public funds. The PCFB will also provide oversight and enforcement of program provisions to ensure public funds are utilized responsibly and pursuant to program parameters.

Eligible offices include Governor, Lt. Gov. Comptroller, Attorney General, State Senate and Assembly.

The New York State Public Campaign Finance Board authorized its first round of public matching funds payments to participating committees in May. Thirty-seven committees will receive payment electronically through the New York Statewide Financial System (SFS) for the first scheduled payment issuance date for the 2024 election cycle on May 13, 2024 before the June 25 primary.

The NYS PCFB has been funded with \$100 Million in taxpayer dollars for candidates that meet the requirements.

Contributions up to \$50 are matched 12 to 1. Contributions between \$50-\$100 are matched 9-1. Any contribution between \$100-\$250 is matched 8 to 1.

Untermyer Performing Arts Council, Mayor Mike Spano, and Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation & Conservation  
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**World Fest 2024**  
Another free Untermyer Performing Arts Council program!

**Peace of Heart Choir**

**Peace of Heart**  
Saturday, July 20th  
6:30 pm  
Samuel Untermyer Memorial Park  
945 North Broadway

Peace of Heart Choir is a volunteer community choir that sings to promote healing, diversity, community bonding, and mutual understanding through music.

"We believe that the power of music is universal. The music we sing reflects the ethnic, racial and cultural backgrounds and traditions of our membership and audiences. Our goal is to leave our audiences joyful."

Our events are admission free and open to the public. Please bring your own picnic. Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Seating is on a first-come, first-served basis. For tickets, directions and parking information, please check our website at [www.artsny.org](http://www.artsny.org) or call after 2 pm on the day of the performance, we will call (914) 370-5433.

ARTS IN THE EMPIRE CITY  
This program is one of many programs that are supported by the New York Department of Cultural Affairs, and is made possible through the generous support of the City of Yonkers, Yonkers Cultural Council, Yonkers Office of Cultural Affairs, and the Yonkers Cultural Council. For more information, please call (914) 370-5433.

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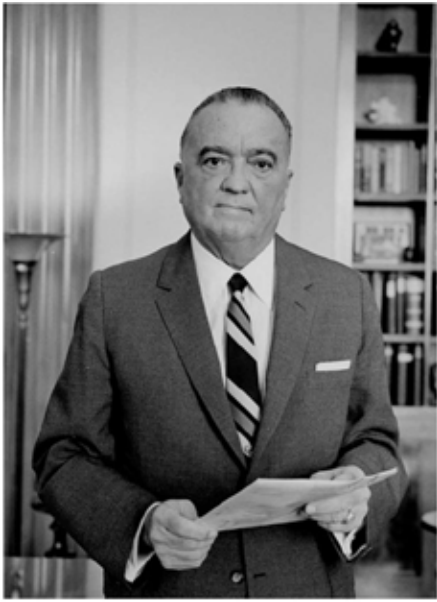
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# On This Day in Yonkers History...



**FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover**

**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 Untermyer Performing Arts Council**

Monday July 22nd

July 22, 1942: NY Governor Herbert Lehman directed Yonkers Mayor Benjamin Barnes to close all our gambling and bookmaking places, “without loss of time” and “regardless of the identity of their owners or operators.” Barnes felt honored Lehman recognized him “as boss,” although our City Charter gave most of the authority to the City Manager. The Mayor announced he would take control of the Police Department, appoint an investigating officer, and remove uniformed police officers from the front of suspected gambling places.

July 22, 1942: Horace Gray, City Manager League Chair, caused an uproar when he “accused” Draft Board Chairman and former Republican Mayor Ulrich Wiesendanger of granting an “unwarranted deferment” to Democratic Councilman Al Richter. Turns out the deferment was granted at the request of the Navy! Gray claimed he was just “asking questions.”

Richter investigated positions he might be suitable for, applying for three jobs. He was rejected for one, but the Navy seriously was considering Richter for the other two... and asked he be deferred until they finished.

Tuesday July 23rd

July 23, 1929: Spreckels Sugar Refinery began erecting five new illuminated signs to replace old signs on its plant at the foot of Vark Street, to denote change of the company name. Signs north and west were for river traffic; the sign to the east would be for Yonkers, and remaining signs were a “deluxe version” for train traffic traveling north and south on nearby tracks.

They also announced sugar packets supplied to hotels and restaurants in Westchester County and New York would be labeled “Made in Yonkers!”

July 23, 1949: Austrian born chemical engineer Dr. Fritz Hansgirg of Kenilworth Road passed away. Hansgirg invented the internationally recognized method of manufacturing superior magnesium, called the Hansgirg Method. After selling American rights to Henry Kaiser in 1941, he built a huge plant in California. Since he had worked for several years in Japan, he was arrested as an enemy alien shortly after Pearl Harbor. Hansgirg operated the new plant from the San Jose jail. Once released, he expedited production of magnesium to manufacture planes and bombs.

Also known as the “Father of Wartime Heavy Water Production,” Hansgirg’s manufacturing method was essential to the Manhattan Project building the

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# “Secrets” of the “Service” of Protection

*By Eric Wolf Schoen*



Let me start out by wishing former President Trump a speedy recovery from the gunshot that almost killed him over the weekend at a rally in Pennsylvania. This should not happen to any candidate for public office or sitting public official. In America, our battles take place on Election Day at the ballot box, not with gunfire at a campaign rally where people go to exercise their right to Freedom of Speech and to listen to the candidate they support.

Sadly, no matter all the security provided at an event by local authorities and Secret Service, if some crazy 22 year old man wants to get a gun and ammunition to attempt To kill a former President of this great land, they are going to figure out a way to do it using their demented mind. We can and must put all roadblocks in their way, but we have seen it time and time again that a crazy person will figure out the way to accomplish their goal.

The security of our Public Officials and the American people has to change based on the dynamics of 2024. People involved in this process have to be willing to change with the times or retire. There are few ‘Secrets’ of the ‘Service’ of Protection anymore in the fast paced, media driven world we live in, so let’s not make believe we know everything and the enemy knows nothing.

Why is it that every time there is a security breach where the Secret Service serves as lead agency, leaders of those charged with protecting our public officials claim they did not have the necessary tools to do the job given the amount of work they are given. In a Presidential Election year does the head of the Secret Service ask for extra man or woman power and is turned down by our lawmakers? If that is the case fire the Lawmakers!

We worry so much about protecting the world but we can’t even protect the lawmakers who pass the legislation paying the Secret Service! Something seriously wrong with this picture. We need to take some of the resources from abroad and bring them back to American shores to protect our officials and the public. And frankly, if the Secret Service doesn’t know what to do, the leadership in the organization has to go.

We have excellent police departments from Yonkers, NY to York, Pennsylvania, but can local police and Secret Service coexist when their roles are not spelled out clearly. The local officials know the local venues quite often better than the Secret service as the locals are in the facilities daily, but in the case of last weekend it appeared that roles were not clearly Delineated.

How could the shooter get to the top of a building guarded by local officials due to its proximity to the venue, be seen by many who alerted officials a man was on the roof and nothing was done about this? Lord we have drones for everything in the world today, but none at an important event like this! Was there nothing flying in the sky from federal nor local officials that would recognize this gunman a lone man standing on a rooftop with a gun?

A local law enforcement official got on the roof of the building a minute before the President was shot at. He saw the man had a gun. We. We’ll never know why he retreated and did not shoot the man, but this is being investigated.

*continued on pg 6-*

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## NY Court of Appeals Rules Proposition One, Equal Rights Amendment, Will be on the Ballot

By Dan Murphy

New York State Court of Appeals has permitted Proposition One, also known as the Equal Rights Amendment, to appear on the ballot on Nov. 5. The Court of Appeals dismissed the appeal of a ruling by the NYS Appellate Division which allowed the ERA to be on the ballot.

Proposal 1, the NY Equal Rights Amendment, reads:

No person shall be denied the equal protection of the laws of this state or any subdivision thereof. No person shall, because of race, color, ethnicity, national origin, age, disability creed, or religion, or sex, including sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, pregnancy, pregnancy outcomes, and reproductive healthcare and autonomy, be subjected to any discrimination in their civil rights by any other person or by any firm, corporation, or institution, or by the state or any agency or subdivision of the state pursuant to law.

Nothing in this section shall invalidate or prevent the adoption of any law, regulation, program, or practice that is designed to prevent or dismantle discrimination on the basis of a characteristic listed in this section, nor shall any characteristic listed in this section be interpreted to interfere with, limit, or deny the civil rights of any person based upon any other characteristic identified in this section.

The Proposal has supports and detractors organizing to support its passage and rejection.

Sasha Ahuja, Campaign Director for New Yorkers for Equal Rights, said, "In a victory for all New Yorkers, today's decision from the State's highest court confirms Prop 1 will be on the ballot in November. On Election Day, all New Yorkers can and should vote to protect our rights and reproductive freedoms, including abortion — permanently."

"The anti-abortion minority's cynical attempt to block this popular amendment from appearing on our ballots has once again been rejected, as expected. However, these anti-abortion operatives will not be deterred from seeking other methods to undermine our rights. From the overturning of Roe v. Wade, to abortion bans passing state houses across the country, anti-abortion extremists are restricting our rights and reproductive freedoms.

"Now more than ever, we need to make sure our fundamental rights and reproductive freedoms — including abortion — are protected from changing political tides. Our campaign will be meeting voters where they are across the state and making sure they vote YES on Prop 1 this November."

The nonpartisan Coalition to Protect Kids, said, "We are disappointed, but not surprised, that the controversial 'Equal Rights Amendment' initiative will, indeed, appear on the November ballot as Prop One.

"Proposition One is a dangerously worded proposal that could establish the permanent right of biological males to compete on girls and womens sports teams, threatening athletic scholarships for young women and taking away precious playing time. Sixty-six percent (66%) of New Yorkers recently surveyed by the Siena College Research Institute said they oppose biological males competing on girls and womens sports teams in New York State.

"Prop One could also prevent parents from knowing, or having a say, if a child is transitioning genders in school, at a time when European nations and many U.S. States are banning underage transgender surgeries because of the harm they have caused young people. The carelessly worded ballot issue that would amend New York's Constitution also includes language surrounding age that could threaten sensible age restrictions for young people — laws on smoking for example — and senior housing facilities that require residents to be 55 or older.

"Our strictly nonpartisan coalition is fully supportive of the LGBTQ+ community. That includes protecting young people from making permanent, and potentially tragic, life decisions without the input of their guardians." — Ayesha Kreutz, spokeswoman, Coalition to Protect Kids-NY

Democrats are hoping that Prop 1 will increase democratic turnout in the fall elections, advocating that will protect abortion rights in NY State.

## New Rochelle Woman Charged in Torture Murder of Her Intimate Partner



Victim Concetta Morton

Torture murder charge a first for the Westchester DA's Office; defendant also charged with threatening two individuals, physical and sexual assault of two other victims

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced on July 8 that a New Rochelle woman was indicted for murder and for inflicting torture upon 27-year-old Concetta Morton, an intimate partner, prior to her death.

DA Rocah said: "In a first for this Office, we are charging the defendant for not only murder, but also for allegedly acting in an especially cruel manner and inflicting torture upon Ms. Morton before her death. We commend the New Rochelle police for their role in this exhaustive investigation. My Office will seek justice for all of the victims."

The defendant, Kenya Tilford, 41, was arraigned July 2 before New York State Supreme Court Justice Anne Minihan in Westchester County Court following an 18-count indictment by a Westchester County Grand Jury on the following charges: Murder in the First Degree, Murder in the Second Degree, Strangulation in the First Degree, Concealment of a Human Corpse, Tampering with Physical Evidence, two counts of Intimidating a Victim or a Witness in the Third Degree, Assault in the Second Degree, Unlawful Imprisonment in the First Degree, three counts of Aggravated Sexual Abuse in the Third Degree, Kidnapping in the First Degree, Attempted Assault in the Second Degree, Strangulation in the Second Degree, and Coercion in the First Degree, all felonies; and Assault in the Third Degree and Menacing in the Second Degree, both misdemeanors.

The defendant remains remanded to Westchester County Jail and is scheduled to appear in court July 16.

It is alleged that the defendant tortured the victim for three months and, ultimately caused her death by asphyxiation before concealing the victim's body inside a storage bin at her Franklin Avenue apartment. During this period, the defendant was captured on surveillance video purchasing a hooded coverall, bleach, tarps, paper towels, rubber gloves, a chainsaw and the storage bin in which the victim's body was found.

The defendant is also charged with intimidating one individual, threatening another individual with a knife, physically and sexually assaulting one intimate partner, and sexually assaulting and attempting to physically assault another intimate partner who she also allegedly intimidated.

The New Rochelle Police Department arrested the defendant on Sept. 15, 2023, at an Elmsford hotel after Tarrytown police received a tip about the victim's deceased body. The Westchester County Medical Examiner and DA Criminal Investigators assigned to the High Technology Crimes Unit and the Violent Criminal Enterprise Unit, and Crime Analyst Alessia Vicari assisted with the investigation.

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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 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.

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.

***Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-***

Could the Secret service sharpshooters have fired on the man who shot the President? They were close enough but did not. A retired Los Angeles Police Department SWAT team sniper who reviewed social media video of the shooting, said he saw a slight delay before Secret Service snipers fired on gunman. He said the delay was caused by the 'agents' trying to find their target. Another big question that needs answers.

I could go on for days with questions I as layman have on what occurred here. You probably have many questions too! I hope Congress explores this matter thoroughly. Let's be clear. There have been problems with the Secret Service under Democratic and Republican administrations. Let's not make the investigation partisan.

The Secret Service decided after the events of last weekend to give RFK, JR. protection based on the terrible tragedies his family experienced. I have no problem with that but if I decide to run for President or you do, I would expect that we get the same Secret Service protection RFK, JR. Will receive. Our lives are just as important!

I am greatly disturbed by the many Anti-Trumpsters who expressed glee regarding what occurred. You should be ashamed of yourselves. Trump is not wearing the ear bandage for sympathy. This is not god punishing Trump because many disagree with him on the issues. There are some calling this God's retaliation against Trump and his family. Some say the gunman is a Republican in a Republican State fed up with the actions of the Republican Party. For those individuals with conspiracy theories I say stop the nonsense.

All we can do is everything within our power and the power of local, state, federal and Secret Service authorities to try to stop this from happening again. Pray it doesn't. And the Secrets of the Service of protection here need a thorough review and maybe a change in leadership at the agency! There is no time to waste. Our electeds with Secret Service protection deserve nothing less!

As we go to press former President Trump finally called the widow of the firefighter who died protecting his family during this tragic episode. I'm sorry but this should have been the first call he made before he hit the golf course!

**HOT TOPICS:**

Congratulations to the St. Mary's Church family in Yonkers on the landmark status approved by the City Council. After the vote I put Bing Crosby singing THE BELLS OF ST. MARY on the victrola and in my Facebook post! It truly is a beautiful church!

I went to Herman Keith's house years ago and saw this funny looking swimming pool in his backyard. I later found out it was the County sewage treatment plant! We lost Brother Herman and I thank Yonkers Rising Editor Dan Murphy for his story on him. The Journal News did no story on Herman, a man who through his work changed Yonkers. They are busy writing about Lobster rolls. Herman was a friend to many And he will be missed.

Senator Menendez from New Jersey was convicted on all counts brought against him. He's not from WESTCHESTER or New York for that matter, but he is from the tristate area. His actions reflect negatively on New York, New Jersey and Connecticut and on the United States Senate. He must resign immediately.

Have you tried to call Verizon or Con Ed lately. No one wants to deal with their websites online. My sister was put on hold for 55 minutes by Verizon and over an hour by Con Edison Customer Service. These wait times are unacceptable. The State must tell the utilities they have to improve on these wait times. Make sure with this heat you have the emergency phone number for your utility company programmed into your cell phone.

Let's end with something positive. As we go to press, Panera's popular Blueberry Bagel has returned. Many look forward to this occasion year round! Another exclusive. Their Sesame bagel will also be returning! Meanwhile it's hot out there. Hydrate with water before you go out the door!

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

NOTICE OF QUALIFICATION OF KD CONSULTANTS GROUP LLC AS AN AUTHORIZED FOREIGN LLC. APPLICATION FOR AUTHORITY FILED WITH THE SSNY 07/16/24. OFFICE LOCATION - WESTCHESTER COUNTY. PRINCIPAL BUSINESS LOCATION: 208 BENNET RD, FREEHOLD, NJ 07728. THE SSNY HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS AGENT OF THE LLC UPON WHOM PROCESS MAY BE SERVED. SSNY SHALL MAIL A COPY OF ANY PROCESS TO DOROTHY G. VASTOLA, 208 BENNET RD., FREEHOLD, NJ 07728. THE ARTICLES OF ORGANIZATION WERE FILED ON 07/13/2021 WITH THE NJ SECRETARY OF STATE, DEPT OF TREASURY, PO BOX 002, TRENTON, NJ 08625 FOR ANY LAWFUL PURPOSE.

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 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.

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

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

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, July 31, 2024 at 5:00pm, Mayor's Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

**A LOCAL LAW AMENDING A PART OF ARTICLE XVI OF CHAPTER 15 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS ENTITLED "ROOM OCCUPANCY TAX" TO CONFORM TO THE 2024 AMENDMENTS OF THE NEW YORK STATE TAX LAW.**

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

MIKE SPANO  
Mayor  
Date: July 17, 2024

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) #2024-04  
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR VIDEO SURVEILLANCE  
SYSTEM SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE AT VARIOUS  
PROPERTIES OWNED OR MANAGED BY THE MUNICIPAL  
HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS**

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

This RFP package contains submission requirements and terms and conditions and other pertinent information for submitting a proper and responsive proposal. This RFP is the only information provided to prospective bidders (hereinafter "Responders" or "Respondents") and is available online starting July 22, 2024, at [www.mhacy.org](http://www.mhacy.org).

There will be a site tour for interested parties on July 31, 2024, at 10 A.M. starting at 1-8 Schroder Street, Yonkers, NY. The RFP questions deadline is August 5, 2024, at 11:00AM Eastern Standard Time (EST).

Any and all questions must be emailed to Michael A. Cassino at [procurement@mhacy.org](mailto:procurement@mhacy.org) by the deadline. No telephone calls and/or written communication sent via mail will be accepted.

Proposals must reach MHACY no later than 3:00 PM (EST) on August 21, 2024. Late submissions will be handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B.

Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria stated in the RFP. Negotiations may be conducted with contractors who have a reasonable chance of being selected for the award. After evaluation of the proposal revision, if any, the contract will be awarded to the responsible firm(s) whose qualifications, price and other factors are considered to be the most advantageous to MHACY.

MHACY reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any irregularities or informalities if it is in MHACY's best interest to do so. MHACY reserves the right to cancel this RFP or to reject, in whole or in part, any and all proposals received in response to this RFP, upon its determination that such cancellation or rejection is in the best interest of MHACY.

MHACY is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or family status. MHACY solicits and encourages the participation of minorities and small businesses in procurement.

Contact, related to this procurement, with members of MHACY's Board of Commissioners, or MHACY's officers and/or employees other than the contact person show above, during the procurement process could result in disqualification of a proposal.

Wilson Kimball President & CEO  
Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers  
1511 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10710

## Letter to the Editor: It's Time to Put Yonkers IDA on Hiatus

By Bill Nuckel

It's time to put the Yonkers IDA on hiatus! IDA was created by NYS law in 1969 to promote economic welfare, create long term jobs, and a 2015 reform law added another requirement: A company must attest that it could not develop the project for which it's seeking a tax break without the discount. Three very simple rules.

In theory, IDAs should create permanent jobs in a community and boost the local economy, not only through these jobs but also via increased tax revenue from pilot payments. But experts argue that subsidies, including those from IDAs, don't actually provide an economic boost as intended. In 2013, economic development researchers were asked to prepare a report on subsidies for the New York State Tax Reform and Fairness Commission. The study found a major flaw in the structure of New York's subsidies: Tax breaks may go to a business that would construct a project even without the subsidy package. The study found no conclusive evidence that "state and local taxes, in general, have an impact on business location and expansion decisions."

In addition, IDAs generally aren't meeting their job creation numbers. The Authorities Budget Office analyzed data from projects approved in 2018 and found that five years later, in 2023, the projects had generated almost 60 percent fewer jobs than promised when the projects were approved.

Another common critique of IDAs is that the tax breaks they give out negatively impact schools. Most public school funding in New York comes out of residents' property tax payments. But IDAs have the power to lower the property tax burden for businesses and developers — and as a result, schools miss out on that money. IDAs often use the "but for" requirement to argue that their tax breaks aren't actually drawing away from local tax revenue at all: In the absence of a pilot, they claim, there would be no project and therefore no taxes to collect to begin with. But school districts lost \$1.8 billion to IDA tax breaks in 2021, according to a study by the subsidy watchdog group Good Jobs First.

Under NYS Law it is not permissible for IDAs to subsidize housing. How many projects in the last five years have been for new housing? Additionally, applicants are asked if they can undertake the project if not for the tax breaks. The application is submitted under penalty of perjury. Not saying they perjured themselves, but how many big established and well known housing developers have received IDA pilots?

The Yonkers IDA has approved millions of dollars in tax breaks, all at the expense of the taxpayer. How many projects have not been completed or gone belly-up? Every application approved, since most are for housing, puts the taxpayer on the hook. In addition, if you have made your payments on time and have \$10,000 remaining, ask for a grant — you'll get it. Ten thousand dollars, more free money. And how do we know if workers are paying Yonkers "luxury" tax for non-residents, not many of the applicants have Yonkers billing addresses. It's time to put the Yonkers IDA on hiatus.

Our Mission: The Mission of the City of Yonkers IDA includes undertaking projects and programmatic initiatives in furtherance of and to advance the job opportunities, health, general prosperity and economic welfare of the people of the City of Yonkers and to improve their recreational opportunities, prosperity and standard of living. YIDA works to create economic development and job growth throughout the City of Yonkers by attracting new businesses, retaining existing ones and helping them all become more competitive in a global marketplace.

Incentives include:

- Mortgage Recording Tax Exemption
- State and Local Sales Tax Exemption
- Real Property Tax Abatement Program (PILOT)
- Access to Tax-Exempt Bond Financing
- Information provided by "New York Focus, Who Runs New York"

## Italian Heritage Festival Returns to Kensico Dam Piazza June 21

Come celebrate Italian culture and special honoree, John DeCicco of DeCicco's & Sons Supermarkets, at the Italian Heritage Festival on Sunday, July 21, from noon to 6 p.m. at "Kensico Dam Piazza" in Valhalla.

County Executive George Latimer said, "Italians have a rich heritage and are extremely passionate about their art, history, religion, cuisine, architecture and fashion. I take great pride in my family's Italian heritage. I always enjoy when our beautiful plaza become a piazza as we celebrate the terrific culture of Italy with family and friends with delicious food and festive music."

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathleen O'Connor said, "Gather together on the great lawn at Kensico for the Italian Festival where everyone is treated like family. Come enjoy fabulous food and traditions with your loved ones and neighbors."

The festivities will include delicious Italian food, arts and crafts, children's games, dancing, music, Italian cultural exhibits and fun for the entire family. Live entertainment will feature Carozza Entertainment and Nikki Derosa, with music on the patio by DJ Marcello "MCO" and hosted by Nando Alpuche.

The festival will be held rain or shine. Seating is informal; bring blankets or folding chairs for seating on the lawn. No coolers will be allowed. Admission and parking are free. Carpooling or taking mass transit is encouraged.

The other heritage festivals in the series are: India, Sunday, Aug. 4 Noon – 6 p.m. Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla, Jewish, Sunday, Aug. 18 Noon – 6 p.m. Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla, Muslim, Sunday, Aug. 25 Noon – 6 p.m. Kensico Dam Plaza, Valhalla

The Italian Heritage Festival is sponsored by Antonio Meucci Lodge 213, Inc. and the Order of Sons and Daughters of Italy, both in White Plains, and co-sponsored by Westchester County Parks. Kensico Dam Plaza is located at 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla. Please be advised that on Sunday, July 21 the Bronx River Parkway will be closed for Bicycle Sundays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. between Scarsdale Road in Yonkers and the Westchester County Center in White Plains.

### St. Mary's, continued from pg 1-

now attend St. Mary's have been rallying in support of what is called "The Cathedral of the Hudson River Valley."

City Council Majority Leader John Rubbo said, "St. Mary's is a very important building in Yonkers. The Landmarks Board and Planning Board thought long and hard about it. I have received letters and emails from parishioners and former parishioners across the country to save this institution."

Councilwoman Tasha Diaz said, "I was delighted to see this legislation on our agenda. I attended St. Mary's school for six years and they had a good impact on my life."

Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, who was one of the first elected officials to call on the church to be preserved, said, "As a community, Yonkers has spoken. They have told us to landmark this church, so we voted today to take it out of committee."

Many Yonkers residents have been pushing for the council to grant landmark status to St. Mary's, for fear that the church would be demolished.

The Archdiocese of NY has told parishioners at meetings held earlier this year that the church is in need of \$10 Million in repairs. Some parishioners who are in the construction -engineering industry claim that the number is closer to \$6 Million, and the repairs can be made in phases.

This would give supporters of St. Mary's the opportunity to raise \$2 Million for the first phase. A nonprofit, St. Mary's Friends has been formed to do just that. "The non-profit organization St. Mary's Friends is working to ensure the preservation of St. Mary's (Church of the Immaculate Conception) Yonkers, New York. The mission of the organization is to save the church, so parishioners can continue to express their faith. We have been instrumental in filing an canonical appeal to stop the archdiocese from merging St. Mary's Parish with St. Peter's/St. Denis. We are working to gain landmark status from the city of Yonkers for both the external as well as internal physical structures. We are also working to submit an application for the National Historic Registry.

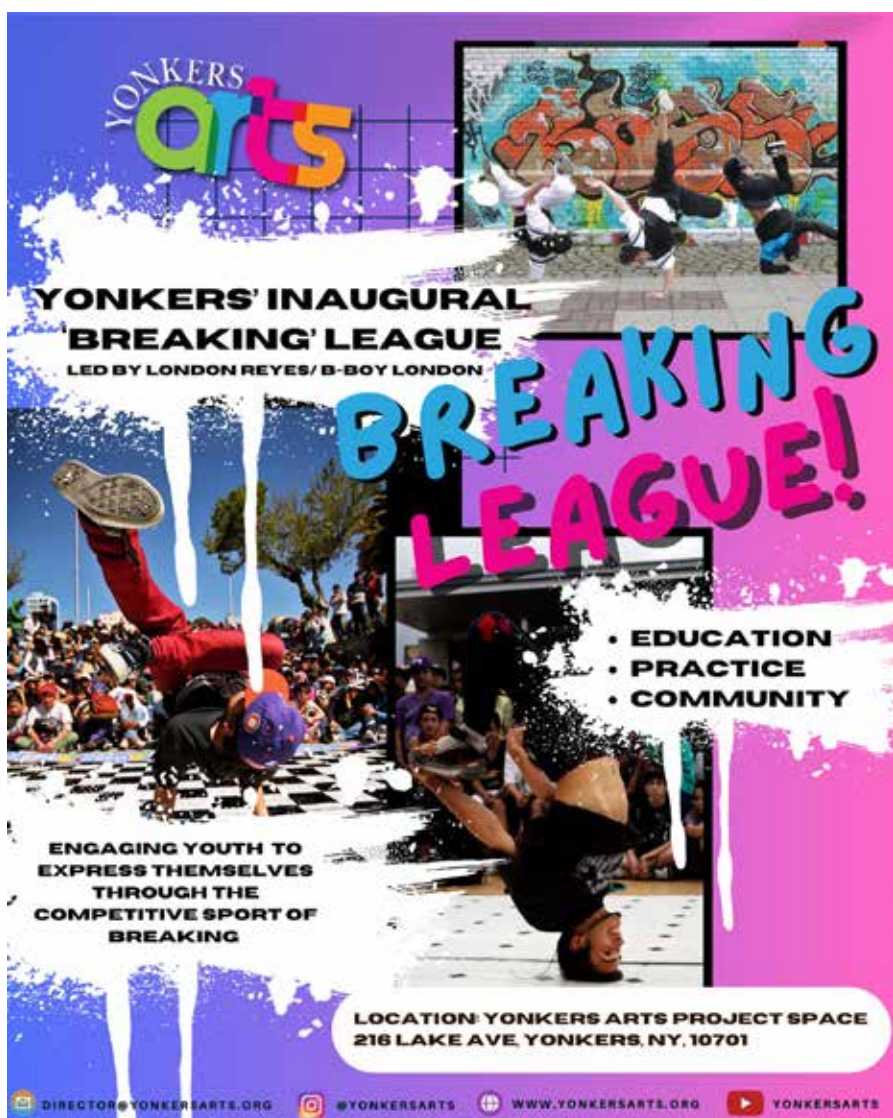
"We are also working to raise the funds necessary for building preservation and maintenance, including, but not limited to, the pursuit of grant opportunities and the launch of a capital campaign, to ensure the integrity of the buildings for future generations. We will work to preserve the church buildings, not only as a place for mass, but as a chapel or a shrine, where people can pray. It is our aim to protect the legacy of St. Mary's Church as an enduring beacon and Sacred Space of the Roman Catholic faith in the city of Yonkers," from St. Mary's Friends.

Anyone interested in joining St. Mary's Friends can contact Bob Lynn goblynn1@juno.com. The two key factors in granting Landmark status were the history and the architecture of the church. St. Mary's sits on .52 acres and is a valuable piece of real estate. The church recently celebrated its 175th anniversary. In other business, the City Council approved a temporary moratorium on any development of battery energy storage systems, and an 8 month moratorium on any new self storage facilities.

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

## Yonkers Breakdancing League Kicks Off

## Lansdowne Yonkers Appoint Matt Kane as Technical Director



Yonkers Arts is thrilled to announce the launch of the city’s inaugural Competitive Breakdancing League, spearheaded by the renowned London Reyes, also known as B-Boy London. This groundbreaking program will focus on the education, practice, and competitive sport of the art of ‘Breaking’, marking a significant milestone in the cultural and artistic landscape of Yonkers.

The league will span four months of intensive instruction and exhilarating competition. The program is poised to become one of the cornerstones of the community’s youth engagement initiatives. Kicking off July 22nd, Mondays & Tuesdays from 12PM - 2PM at Yonkers Arts Project Space (216 Lake Ave, Yonkers, NY, 10701). The program runs from July 22 to August 21.

Breakdancing is an Olympic sport! We will be finding out more about it and report back to you.

Visit [Yonkersarts.org](http://Yonkersarts.org) for more information.



Lansdowne Yonkers FC and its board of directors are proud to announce the appointment of Matthew “Matt” Kane as the club’s new Technical Director. This move is part of Lansdowne Yonkers’ long term strategy of expanding opportunities and development for the newly rebranded “Lansdowne Yonkers Academy,” where qualified young soccer players will be given higher standard training, coaching and guidance towards a college and pro soccer career from the age of 8 through their graduation from high school. Kane, a native of Belfast, Ireland, has already been on board for a full season as the first team’s head coach, and yielded results in the form of a season where “the Bhoys” captured the EPSL Metropolitan Conference title with a league record 57 points, and the Werner Fricker Region 1 Open Cup.

“Thrilled to be stepping into Lansdowne as Technical Director. The board and I share an ambition of Showcasing Lansdowne Academy as a hub of excellence for its dynamic community in the Westchester/ Yonkers area,” said Kane, who noted after the 1st team’s season that integrating the philosophy of the first team and the Academy will be paramount to the club’s future.

The immediate objective will be to build upon the structures already in place by Director of Coaching Shamir Mullings, where Kane and Mullings plan to be working alongside each other to evolve the club’s coaching methodology and player development pathway.

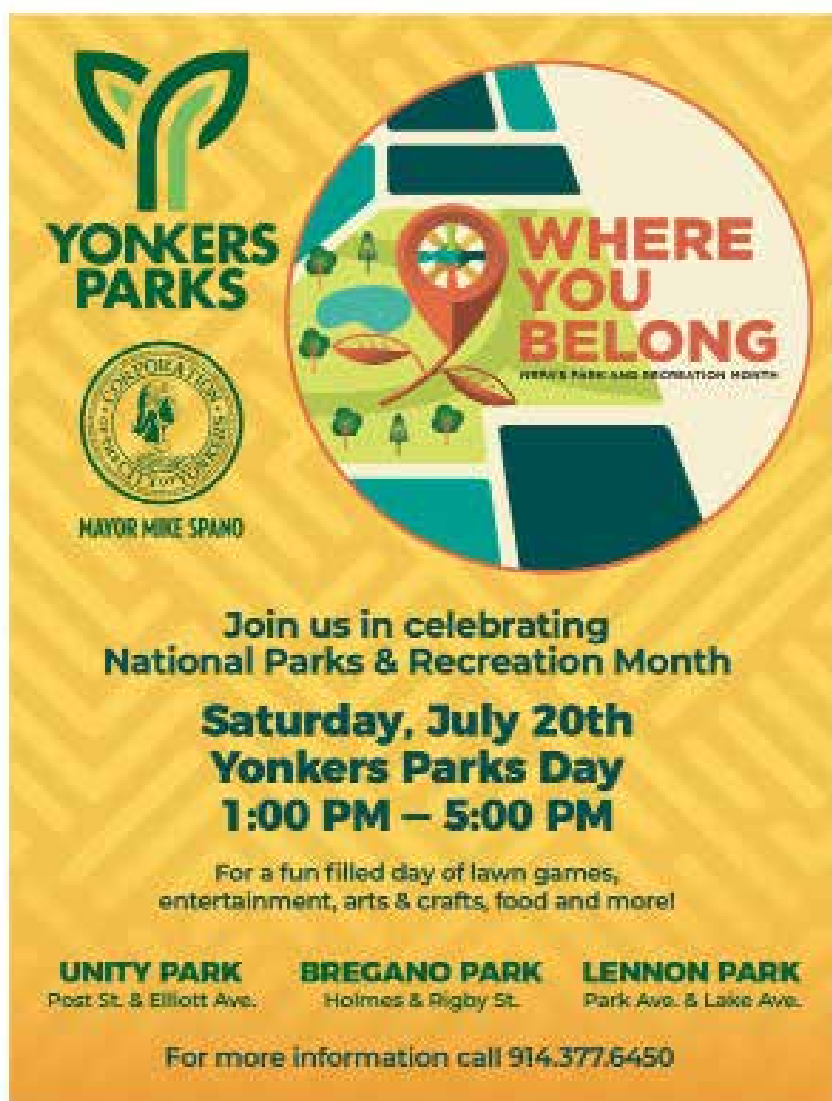
“We want the youth to be operating in the same vein of the senior squad, which is at the national level, and a subsequent long-term goal of that is to be participating in MLS Next and the National Academy League (NAL). Our mission is to develop, foster and support an elite mindset to the game of football from our players and best guide them on their journeys in soccer.”

Lansdowne Yonkers FC’s history of youth development goes back to when they initially partnered with Yonkers United Soccer Club, back when the senior club was “Lansdowne Bhoys FC”, before the two organizations formally merged in 2018 to become “Lansdowne Yonkers.” Yonkers United was originally founded in 1998 and among one of their most famous alumni is New York Red Bulls Goalkeeper Ryan Meara, who won 2 MLS Supporters’ Shields, and guided RBNY to an appearance in the 2017 U.S. Open Cup.

The merger to become Lansdowne Yonkers brought the soccer community together, serving over 400 players every season. In the past 2 seasons, graduating players have left with multiple trophies in the form of state cups and league titles, and moved on with some receiving scholarships for playing soccer and being leaders among their teammates in conference and NCAA play.

With Kane joining the organization in this capacity, Lansdowne Yonkers hopes to further expand on the growing number of players looking to build their soccer resumes and portfolios. Kane has a resume that includes coaching in the New York Red Bulls Academy system, as well as holding leadership and management positions at Met Oval and Soccer Stars United. His journey in soccer has also led to a great network that can benefit Lansdowne Yonkers in their pursuit of joining more prestigious youth development infrastructures such as MLS Next, a pathway program for sending young players to their professional careers in and around MLS and Professional American soccer.

Registration for Lansdowne Academy is available now on [lansdowneyonkersfc.com](http://lansdowneyonkersfc.com). The program has now expanded to 10 months, with winter sessions included to keep players in shape and sharp for the duration of their season!



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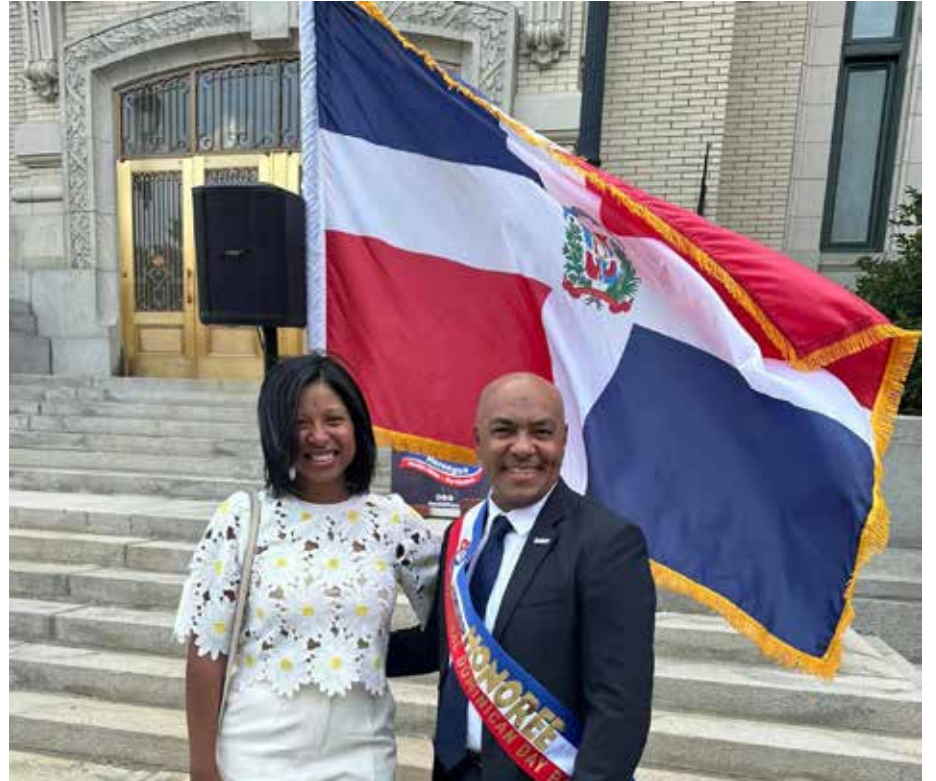
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**Yonkers Celebrates Terrero and Brewster Who Will be Honorees at NYC Dominican Parade Aug 11**



The National Dominican Day Parade, which will be held on August 11 in New York City, came to Yonkers City Hall on July 16 to recognize the largest Dominican population outside of NYC, and to celebrate two Yonkers residents, former Councilman Wilson Terrero and Winston Brewster. Both will be honorees for the NYC parade.

The event included music and dance. the 2nd Annual Dominican Day Festival in Yonkers will take place on Saturday, August 24th, 2024 from 12:00PM to 7:00PM.

*Top-Mayor Spano with, Winston Brewster, former Councilman Wilson Terrero, and Christina Contreras*

*Top right--Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Isaac dances with a very tall man*

*2nd right-Councilmember Pineda-Isaac with former Councilmember Terrero*

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## Yonkers, County, State and Federal Officials Join with Mulford Corporation to Celebrate Grand Opening of LaMora Affordable Senior Housing

**Project is One of Few Affordable Housing Projects in the Nation That Uses Energy Saving Passive House Design**

Officials from the City of Yonkers, New York State, Westchester County, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and the NYS Homes and Community Renewal joined with the Mulford Corporation today to celebrate the grand opening of La Mora Senior Housing, one of the few affordable housing projects in the nation that uses energy saving Passive House design in a modular construction format.

Located at 23 Mulberry Street in the Hollow neighborhood of South Yonkers, the \$48 million, four-story building has 60 energy efficient, affordable apartments for seniors. La Mora Senior Housing was built by the non-profit Mulford Corporation.

Passive House design is a voluntary standard for energy efficiency which results in ultra-low energy buildings that require little energy for space heating or cooling. It is estimated to achieve 40-60 percent energy savings over a conventional building design.

“The grand opening of this beautiful new senior housing development is yet another example of how the City of Yonkers and the Mulford Corporation are working together to revitalize our neighborhoods with affordable, quality-built housing. We applaud the Passive House sustainable design incorporated into the construction, which is in line with the City’s climate action plan for sustainable growth,” said Mayor Mike Spano.

“The Mulford Corporation is incredibly grateful for the financial support La Mora has received at every level of government from the City, county, state and federal government. Allowing Yonkers seniors to age in place in the most resilient housing possible was clearly a collective vision,” said Wilson Kimball, President of Mulford Corporation.

Homes and Community Renewal Commissioner RuthAnne Visnauskas said, “It is so gratifying to see this \$48 million development up and ready, just two years after the groundbreaking. This project brings 60 affordable, energy-efficient homes to Yonkers and is a testament to how we value and respect our seniors. Our thanks to Governor Hochul, the City of Yonkers, Mulford Corporation and our many partners and trades who worked with HCR to make this real and are helping us provide the types of housing opportunities that allow more New Yorkers to remain in the communities and neighborhoods they love.”

“La Mora Senior Apartments will ensure that more low-income seniors in Yonkers have safe, sustainable, and affordable housing options along with essential services. This development not only addresses the housing needs of our aging population but also sets a benchmark for energy efficiency and environmental responsibility. By integrating advanced design and construction standards, we are ensuring that our seniors can enjoy comfortable, secure, and modern homes while contributing to a greener future. I am proud to lead a State Senate dedicated to creating more affordable housing, from approving over \$26 million in state funding for this project, to the historic housing plan passed in the 2025 State Budget,” said NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart Cousins.

“HUD’s primary mission is to improve people’s lives and strengthen communities. La Mora Senior Apartments accomplishes both goals. It will provide seniors with safe, comfortable, and sustainable housing, while at the same time, revitalize the surrounding Yonkers Hollow neighborhood. I am delighted and proud of HUD’s contribution in the financing of this project and congratulate our partners for helping to make this needed and important housing come to fruition,” said HUD Regional Administrator Alicka Ampry-Samuel.

“We are proud to support Mulford Corporation in bringing 60 new affordable housing units to senior residents in Yonkers. This project will transform the lives of tenants who now have access to sustainable housing, along with the essential amenities and resources needed to prosper and thrive,” said Sharmi Sobhan, Managing Director, Chase Community Development Banking.

Financing for La Mora Senior Housing includes \$17 million in permanent tax-exempt bonds, Federal Low-Income Housing Tax Credits that will generate \$17.7 million in equity, and \$9.1 million in subsidy from New York State Homes and Community Renewal. NYSEDA provided \$240,000, Westchester County provided \$3.4 million from the Housing Implementation Fund and the City of Yonkers provided \$1,615,000 in HOME funds. Mulford Corporation provided a \$2.6 million loan.

Designed by the architectural firm of Perkins Eastman, the apartments include low-flow plumbing fixtures, Energy Star appliances, individual high-efficiency electric heat and cooling, and LED lighting. The building has a high-efficiency envelope, dual-pane insulated windows, and a central hot water heating and distribution system. An emergency generator will ensure that the building systems remain operable in the event of a blackout.

In addition to the energy saving features, other amenities include a community room with kitchen, two business rooms, fitness center, central laundry, building-wide WIFI, storage units, landscaped courtyard and roof top deck.

La Mora Senior Housing was featured in a national panel discussion in Washington D.C. on June 7 to raise awareness of innovative and affordable housing designs and technologies. More than 4,000 people, including policymakers, housing industry representatives, media, and the public, attended the program.

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**Mtayari Dixon, Still on the Run for Shooting of James Caldwell in New Rochelle in 2022**



**MTAYARI DIXON**

Unlawful Flight to Avoid Prosecution - Murder



By Dan Murphy

Twenty months after he was accused of shooting and killing James Caldwell Jr. in New Rochelle, the search for Mtayari Dixon continues. Dixon was involved in a verbal altercation with Caldwell on October 22, 2022, resulting in his death at the age of 29. In Feb. of 2024, the FBI announced that they were assisting the New Rochelle Police Department in New York with the search for Dixon.

After the murder, it is believed that Dixon boarded a train and went to Stamford, Connecticut. He then may have boarded a bus to Atlanta, Georgia, and then traveled on to Charlotte, North Carolina. Dixon has known ties to Charlotte, North Carolina; Atlanta, Georgia; Stamford, Connecticut; and New Rochelle, New York.

“On November 14, 2022, Dixon was charged with murder in the New Rochelle City Court, New York, and a state warrant was issued for his arrest. The FBI is offering a reward of up to \$10,000 for information leading to the location and arrest of Mtayari Dixon,” end of FBI statement.

One year after the shooting, on October 26, 2023, the New Rochelle Police Department announced that they had “obtained a Warrant of Arrest regarding a Homicide that occurred on October 26th, 2022 on Horton Avenue and Colonel Lee Archer Boulevard. The NRPD is looking to arrest Mtayari Z. Dixon, 29, formerly of New Rochelle but currently known to reside in Stamford, Connecticut.

“The Warrant calls for full extradition from any U.S. State. Anyone with current information of his whereabouts are encouraged to call New Rochelle Police Detectives at 914-654-2300.

“James Caldwell Jr, 29 years of age, of New Rochelle, died one year ago today. On October 26, 2022, at about 5:54pm, New Rochelle Police received multiple calls of shots fired, and that a person was shot near the intersection of Horton Avenue and Colonel Lee Archer Boulevard. Upon arrival, New Rochelle Police located a person on the ground with multiple gunshot wounds.

“New Rochelle Police, Fire and Ambulance personnel administered first aid and the victim was transported to a local hospital. Caldwell, ultimately succumbed to his injuries.

“Although New Rochelle Detectives have identified the person believed to be responsible for the murder, the suspect, Mtayari Dixon, is believed to be in hiding somewhere in the southern United States. New Rochelle Detectives have been working with other Law Enforcement agencies, including the FBI Safe Streets Task Force, to bring Mtayari Dixon to justice. We urge anyone with information on Dixon’s whereabouts to contact the New Rochelle Police Department at 914-654-2300,” end of NRPD statement from Oct. 2023.

Crimestoppers had offered a \$2,500 reward dating back to 2022.

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 Web: [www.foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org](http://www.foreverfamiliesthroughadoption.org)

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## *A Family Affair Take Shape at Open Door Family Medical Center*



*Sheida Takmil, left, with Maryam Motabar*

Like mother, like daughter.

Maryam Motabar worked as a dentist in Tehran, Iran, in a community health center and then in a private practice, before emigrating to the United States in 2000. She left her home, she said, to give her children a chance for a better life.

Hired as a dental assistant at the Ossining Open Door Family Medical Center after arriving in the U.S., Maryam quickly moved up the ranks. Within several years, she was the director at Open Door's sites in Ossining and Sleepy Hollow, and in charge of its call center.

The opportunity to return to dentistry came about when the NYU College of Dentistry accepted her into a two-year program that would have allowed her to practice as a dentist in the United States. She admittedly wrestled with her decision. "I loved dentistry, and I did think about it for a few weeks," she said. "But it's hard to say no to Lindsay (Farrell, Open Door's President/CEO). She can be very persuasive."

The decision worked out well for Maryam. Today, she is Vice President, Practice Administration, overseeing the federally qualified health center's medical and dental services, facilities, and call center.

Meanwhile, her daughter Sheida Takmil came to this country at the age of four and literally grew up at Open Door. She spent time there with her mother and used its primary care services as a patient herself. She saw up close the difference Open Door made in the lives of its patients, many of whom were new to the country and struggled to find quality healthcare.

During her teen years, Sheida read to children in the waiting room as part of Open Door's Reach Out & Read program, volunteered at the Ossining village fair, and put together educational materials for the Baby Bundle packages. This program supports prenatal patients and new moms with necessities like diapers, wipes, socks, baby toys, and seasonal clothes, and provides information about resources available at Open Door and in the community. Through these endeavors, Sheida taught children oral hygiene and got the chance to interact with different providers in various departments.

"I thought about medicine, but I always came back to dentistry," she said. "My mom didn't pressure me in one way or another. She just let my interests grow and cultivated them."

Added Maryam, "She's an excellent artist and there is an art and science to dentistry. She drew upon those talents."

After graduating from Ossining High School, Sheida went to the University of Pennsylvania. She graduated from UPenn in 2017, and the NYU College of Dentistry four years later. She did her dental residency at NYP Weill Cornell and recently completed a post-graduate program for implant dentistry. She recently earned fellowship status in the International Congress of Oral Implantologists (ICOI).

Two years ago, Sheida returned to Open Door – this time as staff dentist Dr. Takmil in the Ossining and Port Chester offices. She's one of several groups of family members – siblings, parents, and children – to work at Open Door in different capacities.

"The thought of working one day at Open Door, where my mother has worked for so many years, was always in the back of my mind," said Sheida, who is now 28. "I was open-minded about where I wanted to work, but my heart has always been at Open Door, and that was hard to ignore. It's very rewarding to be part of something so great. There have been so many positive changes over the years at Open Door, and now is an exciting time to be part of its future."

Her mother is also pleased with her daughter's decision to establish herself as a new dentist here. "We don't cross each other's paths. In fact, because we have different last names, many people here don't even know she's my daughter," said Maryam. "I see how committed she is. She makes me really proud."

For over 50 years, Open Door has provided accessible, high-quality health care and wellness services, regardless of a patient's ability to pay. Open Door offers family medicine, dental services, behavioral health care, women's health including obstetrics, vision services, insurance enrollment assistance, and much more. Open Door operates health centers in Ossining, Brewster, Mamaroneck, Mount Kisco, Sleepy Hollow, and Port Chester, and a dental site in Saugerties. Additionally, Open Door runs a mobile dental van and nine School-Based Health Centers in the Ossining, Port Chester, and Webutuck school districts.



Donate blood this month and give the gift of life. Adults and teens (with parents' consent) can donate during the New York Blood Center's Blood Drive on Monday, July 22nd, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the Riverfront Library Atrium, 1 Larkin Center, Yonkers.

ALSO: Donors receive a voucher for 2 Mets tickets (while supplies last).

Appointments are strongly recommended. Please register to make your appointment at [https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive\\_schedule/316261](https://donate.nybc.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/316261)

Yonkers Riverfront Library

1 Larkin Center

Atrium

Yonkers, NY 10701

## *Retired Westchester Teacher & Sports Announcer Gets 10 Year for Child Porn Possession*

*By Dan Murphy*



In February of 2021, Richard Leaf, left, a respected member of the Westchester community, was arrested by the FBI and charged with receiving and possessing videos and images containing child pornography. Leaf, 72, from Somers, was sentenced on July 2 by Federal Judge Philip Halpern to a 10-year prison term. "He knew exactly what he was doing," said Judge Halpern, who could have sen-

The details surrounding Leaf's arrest are disturbing, as is Leaf's continued behavior after his initial arrest.

Last year, Leaf admitted to posing as a teenager named "Alex Bronson" to communicate on Skype with a minor who Leaf believed was a 15 years old boy. During the course of these communications, the minor sent Leaf a video of himself masturbating in the shower and a fully nude photo of himself in a bedroom. In addition, law enforcement officers uncovered almost a dozen images and videos containing child pornography on Leaf's home computer.

The Complaint further alleges that Leaf created a dozen fictitious accounts on Chat Avenue, an online chatroom website, and Skype to communicate with minors. The usernames of some of LEAF's fictitious accounts include: alex bronson, sportsboi.15, alex15, 15brandon, zach.914, runnerboi.14, austinfl9, sportsgirl.914, brandon.williams.23, dan.dan77771, beachsand.7, Austin A.

U.S. Attorney Audrey Strauss urged parents and young adults who may have interacted with any of these usernames to call 1-800-CALL-FBI to help provide additional information that would help the investigation and help put this dangerous predator away for the rest of his life.

U.S. Attorney Audrey Strauss said: "Richard Leaf is alleged to have engaged in deeply disturbing sexual communications with minors, and in being in possession of child pornography. Child pornography inflicts immeasurable damage upon innocent victims, and this Office and our FBI partners will continue to exhaustively detect, identify, and charge any individuals engaged in this sinister conduct."

The charge of receiving child pornography carries a mandatory minimum sentence of 5 years in prison; and possessing child pornography carries a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison.

Leaf, a former member of the Westchester County Sports Hall of Fame, was the longtime announcer for Iona College basketball, and a retired Harrison middle school social studies teacher.

But after Leaf gave the FBI permission to search his computer, they found 10 files on his computer involving child pornography. After his arrest in 2021, Leaf told LoHud.com that the videos and photos found on his computer were not his and came from someone "hacking my computer."

After released on \$100,000 bail, Leaf was caught again engaging in illegal pornographic activity online. After that Leaf was back in jail. Assistant U.S. Attorney Jennifer Ong had asked for a 14-year term, calling Leaf's actions "predatory."

During his 34-year career as a Middle School teacher in Harrison, Leaf engaged in perverse conduct with students, including having sleepovers with students that involved in appropriate touching and masturbation.

One of Leaf's victims filed a lawsuit against the Harrison school district under the Child Victims Act. And part of the reason for Judge Halperin stiff sentence was after hearing about Leaf's other, more serious activities decades before.

## ***Mondaire Jones Criticized for Saying Trump Wants to “Terminate the Constitution” 48 Hours After Assassination Attempt***



**Former Congressman Mondaire Jones, with State Senator Pete Harckham and Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg in Peekskill**

**By Dan Murphy**

I like to start my columns about former President Donald Trump by reminding my readers that I have not voted for Trump, or Hillary or Biden, in the 2016 and 2020 elections. I voted third party both times, and plan on voting for RFK Jr. this fall.

But, like most Americans, I was shocked and saddened when President Trump was shot during a campaign rally in Pennsylvania last week. After the shooting, MSNBC pulled their Morning Joe show from the air because they didn't want the constant anti-Trump rhetoric to continue just 48 hours after an attempted assassination of a former President.

Why did NBC make this decision? Because the vast majority of Americans, regardless of party affiliation, did not want to hear the divisiveness and attacks on Trump, even for a few days. To continue the same talking points against Trump, who was the victim of an assassin's bullets, one of which killed an innocent man and first responder, is being tone deaf, and out of touch with most Americans, in my view.

How long should that time of decency continue? A few days? A week? I'm not sure, but 48 hours was too soon. Congresswoman Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, (AOC) warned democrats not to "resign themselves to fascism," and accept that Trump will win election in November, 48 hours after the shooting.

And former Congressman Mondaire Jones is being criticized for his comments against Trump at a rally in Peekskill on July 16. Jones said, "Donald Trump says he wants to terminate the constitution. When he could have tried to be more reasonable, he took the MAGA person to be his vice-president... And we are supposed to stop calling these people threats to democracy? Hell No." ([https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-\\_jwnAEYNo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N-_jwnAEYNo)).

Jones, who is running for Congress against Congressman Mike Lawler, was condemned by Lawler and by State Senate candidate Gina Arena. "This has nothing to do with political parties and everything to do with common sense and common decency," Ms. Arena said. "A U.S. Presidential candidate was shot three days ago, and a former congressman is already inciting additional hatred into the mix. It almost defies belief," said Arena, who is challenging State Senator Pete Harckham in November.

"For Mondaire Jones to double down on divisive and inflammatory rhetoric painting political opponents as enemies barely 48 hours after former President Trump was nearly assassinated shows how unfit for office Mondaire Jones really is," said Lawler for Congress spokesman Chris Russell. "Despite widespread calls for a return to civility and a toning down of the rhetoric, including by President Biden and former President Barack Obama, Mondaire Jones has continued to show his true radical nature, yet he can't seem to help himself. He should immediately apologize."

Westchester democrats in attendance, including State Senator Harckham, Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg and Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins, are being called on to disavow Jones' comments on timing. "Mr. Harckham clearly should have said something at the event, but he just stood there smiling and applauding instead. That's totally unacceptable. I call on Mr. Harckham to publicly reject Mr. Jones's remarks from this afternoon," said Arena.

"While Mondaire Jones attempts to incite violence against his political opponents, Congressman Lawler is actually working in a bipartisan way with Congressman Ritchie Torres to protect President Biden, former President Trump, and RFK Jr. on the campaign trail. And news broke that there is an existing Iranian plot to assassinate former President Trump. Shame on Mondaire Jones for his extreme rhetoric," said Russell.

Jones also called Trump "an enemy to democracy itself," when he criticized Lawler for supporting Trump at the RNC convention.

The political question is will Jones' comments impact his race for Congress against Lawler? Did Jones just lose the small sliver of undecided voters in the 17th Congressional district of NY? Or are political campaigns today more focused on firing up their political base then reaching out to the few undecided voters.

Lawler won election to Congress in 2022 by 1,820 votes. This congressional race is one that could help decide which party controls the House of Representatives in 2025.

Arena lost to Harckham in 2022 by a 53%-47% margin.

atomic bomb dropped on Nagasaki.

At the time of his death, he worked for American Electro Metal Corporation on Yonkers Avenue.

Wednesday, July 24th

July 24, 1939: FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover paid tribute to The Herald Statesman for its role in capturing Hendryk Reszka, "hiding in plain sight" at 275 McLean Avenue! According to Hoover, "The press of this country can be of invaluable assistance, especially bringing attention to fugitives from justice... I wish to extend to you my deep appreciation."

Reszka, leader of thieves accused of stealing \$1.5 million in jewelry, had escaped from Great Meadows Prison two years earlier and moved to Yonkers with girlfriend Frances Consola. Identified after his description was published at the request of YPD Chief Edward Quirk, he was caught walking near Getty Square by detectives from the FBI, NYPD and Pinkerton.

Thursday, July 25th

July 25, 1930: John Law of Yonkers, Manhattan College Football team Coach, announced Manhattan College and Atlanta's Oglethorpe University would play New York's first night college football game at the Polo Grounds! Powerful lights were used to illuminate the field to daytime brilliance.

July 25, 1934: Dr. James King began an internship at Yonkers General Hospital, the first person of Chinese heritage to do so.

Friday, July 26th

July 26, 1922: Health Commissioner Clarence Buckmaster announced gypsies camping in Yonkers left before the 9 am deadline he gave them. Buckmaster credited Second Precinct Captain John Cahill and his officers; they "gave the visitors little rest," showing up an hour before their deadline to "encourage" departure.

July 26, 1922: Mrs. Catherine Carney, owner of property the Police and Fire Bureau Stables were on, notified Public Safety Commissioner Tobin she was raising the rent August 1st, from \$70 to \$130.

Saturday, July 27th

July 27, 1937: Dr. Stephen Goodrich of Landscape Avenue, one of our last surviving Civil War veterans, passed away at the age of 90. Goodrich entered service at the age of 15, with his first combat experience in the Battle of Spottsylvania. From then on, he saw almost constant fighting. After being captured, he was taken to Andersonville Prison and paroled two months later; the Confederates broke up the prison in the face of Sherman's advancing Army. He returned to his regiment in time for Grant's last offensive before Appomattox and witnessed Lee's surrender. Goodrich's grandfather Captain William Hutchings, one of the last survivors of the Revolution, had lived to see his grandson Stephen fight in the Civil War.

July 27, 1922: Public Safety Commissioner Tobin announced he would not give in to Catherine Carney's 85% rent increase demand for her Central Avenue property. Tobin announced he would "be glad if the city was evicted." He believed Yonkers should buy land to build a new fire and police station.

Sunday, July 28th

July 28, 1936: Yonkers College opened its summer session at Saunders Trade School with 40 students. Its curriculum included courses in languages, mathematics, economics, public speaking, philosophy, and psychology. One class, limited to ten students, studied modern advances in biology by visiting scientific institutions throughout Yonkers. Dr. Crocker, Director of the Boyce Thompson Institute for Plant Research, offered the collegiate center full use of his institution's facilities. Another special course was the historical background of modern society, comparing contemporary democracies and dictatorships to those in the past. No credit was offered for these courses, but successful students received certificates.

Approximately 150 high school students enrolled for Fall 1936 Yonkers College courses; the College of the City of New York took on the center and accredited its courses.

**Questions or comments on this column? Email [YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com](mailto:YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com). For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, please visit its website [www.yonkershistorical-society.org](http://www.yonkershistorical-society.org), call 914-961-8940 or email [info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org](mailto:info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org).**

### ***Yonkers Rising***

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***“The Key to the Future of the  
World, is Finding the Optimistic  
Stories, and Letting Them be  
Known***

***-Pete Seeger***

**WEEKEND EVENTS IN WESTCHESTER COUNTY PARKS**

**SATURDAY, JULY 20**

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050. Tastings in the Field, 10 a.m. - 11 a.m. Journey with us in our field to note the similarities and differences within the family, genus and species of one of our crops through taste! Each class in this series will highlight a different seasonal crop, and explore how and why tastes vary and the benefits of these distinctions. Also: Aug. 3, 17. Get details and register <https://hilltophanoverfarm.org/events/event/2024/07/20/1721487600/tastings-in-the-field/488833>

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. Lasdon Green Squad, 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Every Saturday through November. Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/lasdon-green-squad/2024-07-20/>

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. Patterns In Nature Exhibition, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Explore the mesmerizing tapestry of patterns that can be found everywhere in this interactive exhibit and flower show. Saturdays and Sundays until August 31. Get details and tickets <https://www.lasdonpark.org/patterns-in-nature/>

Hilltop Hanover Farm and Environmental Center, Yorktown Heights: (914) 862-5050 Makerspace: Building Accessible Garden Beds, 12 p.m. - 2 p.m. Kids ages 9 through 17 will learn the basics of the building and operation of manual hand tools while constructing accessible beds to be used in our education garden. Free. Get details and register <https://hilltophanoverfarm.org/events/event/2024/07/20/makerspace-building-accessible-garden-beds/489020>

Tibbetts Brook Park, Yonkers: (914) 231-2870 Family Fun Day, 12 p.m. - 4 p.m. Join us for a day with music, games and more for the entire family. Participation is free; admission and parking fees apply. Westchester County residency is required; weather permitting. Rain date: July 21. Get details at <https://parks.westchestergov.com/family-fun-days>

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. Summer Fairy Houses, 1 p.m. - 2 p.m. Children ages 5 to 7 will earn their fairy wings by painting and decorating a summer fairy house while learning why fairies and forests are important. Children must be comfortable using acrylic paint, scissors and glue sticks. Get details <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/summer-fairy-houses/>

**SUNDAY, JULY 21**

The Bronx River Parkway. Bicycle Sundays, 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. A portion of the parkway is closed to cars for the exclusive use of non-motorized bicyclists and scooters, as well as in-line skaters, walkers and joggers. Runs 8 a.m. - 12 p.m. through July, and resumes 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. Sept. 8 through Oct. 6. Get details <https://www.thewpf.org/bicycle-sundays>

Alfred B. DelBello Muscote Farm, Somers: (914) 864-7283. Farmers Market, 9:30 a.m. - 2:30 p.m. Our market, which supports farmers and sustainable efforts in our area, features more than 25 local vendors every Sunday until Nov. 17. Get details <https://www.muscotefarm.org/programs-events/event/2024/07/21/1721572200/farmers-market/479750>

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7268. Gardening Sundays, 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. Get details and register <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/gardening-sundays/2024-07-21/>

Lasdon Park and Arboretum, Katonah: (914) 864-7262. Summer Garden Highlights, 11 a.m. - 12 p.m. Tour the Lasdon's with one of the gardeners to see what's flowering this time of year. Meet at the kiosk entrance. Free. No registration is necessary. Rain or shine. Also: Aug. 4, 18. Get details <https://www.lasdonpark.org/event/summer-garden-highlights-3/>

Ridge Road Park, Hartsdale: (914) 946-8133 Arab Heritage Festival, 12 p.m. - 6 p.m. Admission and parking are free. Get details <https://parks.westchestergov.com/press-releases/3354-irish-heritage-day-returns-to-ridge-road-park-3>

LETTER FROM MARIE VECA  
RE: THE INCREASE IN OUR PROPERTY TAX

Dear Councilman Merante:

I am an avid reader of Yonkers Rising, and I am very unhappy to hear about the recent tax increase, that Yonkers residents will have to pay in 2025. I cannot believe it. Everyone in the county of ours are facing the most difficult times ever, in the history of our land. I am writing because I read your article in Yonkers Rising, and I totally agree with you regarding the tax increase, that we will have to pay in 2025.

Also, I feel that there is so much waste of money being spent in the present administration. Salaries above all, should have not been voted in. And also new autos for all city employees. Why may I ask can they all not use their own automobiles to go to work and pay for their own gas. So much money would and could be saved for other worthy causes.

I also think about the past projects that were developed here in Yonkers. The Raceway and Ridge Hill. Where is all this money going? Right into and lining the pockets of many in City Hall. I have resided in Yonkers for over 50+ years and I am at present, along with many of my neighbors not happy campers.

Something has to change. All of what I mentioned in my opinion is needless spending. I in ending only had wished that you won as mayor. Thank you for all the good work you continue to do for us Yonkers taxpayers.

Sincerely,  
Marie A Veca  
Yonkers, NY 10701  
God bless you and your entire family! Stay Safe!

**Summer-Bummer: Westchester Lakes Close Due to Algae**

By Dan Murphy

Several Westchester area beaches have been forced to close temporarily due to Harmful Algae Blooms, HAB. Croton Point Beach on the Hudson, was closed earlier this month after testing found a enterococcus bacteria, which had been churned up in the water due to rain and wind. This County operated beach is now open.

Two other beaches in Northern Westchester, the Mohegan Colony Association and Mohegan Beach Park District, both on Mohegan Lake, were closed but are now open. The closures were due to harmful algae bloom found in water testing.

Lake Welch Beach in Rockland County, which can accommodate up to 9,000 visitors, was also closed due to HAB, but has now reopened.

Assemblyman Matt Slater and Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne advised residents of Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and called for the state to increase investments in new technology and needed infrastructure while offering an omnibus legislative package to tackle the ongoing HABs issue.

HAB's have continued to be a huge problem in the Hudson Valley region as five beaches in Putnam County, two beaches in Yorktown and others in Rockland have already been shut down due to ongoing algae blooms.

"Every year, our communities are combating harmful algal blooms, and the problem is now reaching every corner of the state," said Slater. "This is a complex issue that requires greater investment and a more comprehensive approach from New York state. Residents and visitors are being denied the ability to enjoy some of our great natural assets this summer because of these beach closures and the state cannot keep burying its head in the sand."

This proposal (A.6266)(S.7727) would add harmful algal blooms (HABs) within the definition of water contaminant and require the implementation of measures aimed at efficiently managing and mitigating the adverse effects of harmful algal blooms in marine and freshwater environments. Moreover, it requires the development of emergency protocols to swiftly address instances of HABs and establishes a commission to develop regional monitoring and response plans. The proposal would also direct Cornell University to complete a study of HABs and provide the findings to the governor, Legislature, state agencies and the HABs Commission. The state's Environmental Facilities Corporation would also be authorized to provide funding for emergency drinking water supplies when contamination has resulted in HABs or hypoxia.

Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne said, "Public health and safety should be a priority for every level of government. Harmful algal blooms are a public health issue. They are affecting communities across the state and Putnam County is not immune. Our Department of Health team does a remarkable job managing the impacts of HABs, but county and local governments need more support if there is ever going to be meaningful change to limit HABs in the future."

Westchester County Health Commissioner Dr. Sherlita Amler said: "The decision to close these beaches is a precautionary measure to ensure the safety and health of the public. Harmful Algae Blooms are more prevalent during hot days when water temperatures rise, leading to increased bacteriological growth rates."

Residents and visitors are encouraged to visit the Westchester County website, [westchestergov.com](https://www.westchestergov.com), for the latest updates on beach closures and reopening schedules. The County remains committed to maintaining high standards of environmental health and safety across its recreational facilities.

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*Drones & Police, continued from pg 1-*

Officers on the street. When a priority call for service is received, the drone will launch from the roof of St. Joseph's Medical Center and be jointly operated by a pilot on the roof with the drone, as well as a pilot controlling it remotely from our AWARE Crime Control Center. From this launch location, this drone has a response area that reaches approximately 60% of all Police calls for service.

The real-time video feed will be streamed to Officers and Supervisors in the field via a smartphone and laptop application, so responders can see the emergency scene before arriving. The ability to evaluate the resources needed, prepare the proper operational response, and increase the safety of the first responders and the public is the intent of the project and the mission of this program.

Public transparency is a fundamental value of the Yonkers Police Department. To maintain the highest level of trust and transparency with the community, drone flight logs will be published on the Yonkers Police Department website to show the community how the drone is being used. This public-facing platform will be updated daily, and the public will be able to see the date and time of flights, flight paths, and duration, as well as the reason for the flight and the call type it responded to.

Mayor Mike Spano said, "I'm so proud the City of Yonkers is the first and only municipality in Westchester County utilizing this program. By keeping up with evolving technology, we have another tool that allows us to serve our community in a way we never have been able to before. This will allow for more informed decisions, a bird's eye view, and an unmatched advantage in critical situations. Thank you to Motorola Solutions, Flying Lion, and Westchester Drone Ops for the assistance in providing us with this resource."

"Policing is a difficult profession," said Police Commissioner Christopher Sapienza. "Despite the challenges, our Officers here in Yonkers consistently prove they are the best at what they do. Today, we are giving them yet another tool to help them serve the people of this City with the addition of our drone as a first responder. This new technology transforms traditional police response by allowing our Officers to view a scene while responding, giving them vital information that can be used to make more informed decisions upon arriving. I want to thank Mayor Spano and his administration, as well as the city council, for continuing to be so incredibly supportive of our Police Department and constantly providing us with cutting-edge technology to ensure that our officers are the best-trained and best-equipped."

"Saint Joseph's Medical Center is honored to serve as the launching pad for the drone as a first responder program and partner with the Yonkers Police Department and the City of Yonkers on this important initiative to combat crime and keep our community safe," said Michael J. Spicer, President and CEO of Saint Joseph's Medical Center.

The pilot program will operate five days per week, eight hours per day, through August 31, 2024. After program completion, an assessment of the operation will be conducted to ascertain the effectiveness of this technology in Yonkers, as well as an overall program assessment and plan to move toward a full-time operation.

**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 weekends 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](mailto:processohonda@gmail.com) for applications or further inquiries.

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## Playland to Celebrate the Legendary Dragon Coaster's 95th Birthday

It's the Year of the Dragon and Playland is hosting a 'beast of a bash' this month as one of the nation's most historic amusement parks and waterfront destinations prepares for two weekends of fun to commemorate the iconic Dragon Coaster's 95th birthday on Saturday, July 20 and Sunday, July 21. Leading up to the birthday weekend, from July 12 to 14 and on Friday, July 19, Playland will also feature a dragon crafts station, where young visitors can tap into their creative side and decorate individual art pieces that will be part of a large dragon's body, complete with a 3D head, wings, tail and carried on poles – which will ultimately be part of Playland's celebratory Dragon Parade on July 20 and 21.

Standing at 80 feet high with approximately 3,400 feet of track, the Dragon Coaster originally opened in 1929 and continues to thrill riders of all ages to this day. It is the only coaster designed by Frederick A. Church that remains in operation on the east coast. The wooden ride is also one of 48 coasters around the world recognized by the American Coaster Enthusiasts as an ACE Roller Coaster Landmark, a designation reserved for rides of historic significance.

The fire-breathing celebrations will feature a Dragon Parade at 4 pm on Saturday, July 20 and Sunday, July 21, when entertainers on stilts and unicycles will lead kids in a dragon-shaped procession around the park while waving around commemorative dragon streamers. Throughout the day, face painters and airbrush tattoo artists will be available for dragon-themed face and body art, as well as special Kiddyland performances featuring Peter Michael Martin and performing aerialists.

Other festivities include Playland's Summer Sounds Concert Series, presented by The Capitol Theatre, a stunning fireworks display on Friday and Saturday, relay races, boat races and so much more. In addition, the #PlaylandArt Dragon Contest winner, where Dragon Coaster fans were encouraged to create their own creative impressions of the ride earlier this year, will be announced.

"The Dragon Coaster has been such a staple for generations of families, creating 95 years of thrilling memories that we wanted to recognize and celebrate this summer," said Evonne Keeler, CEO of Playland. "The Dragon Coaster is such an iconic part of Playland's vibrant history as we continue to enhance the park as a thriving waterfront destination, and we are excited to embrace that history with Playland's dragon-themed festivities that will delight guests of all ages all weekend long."

For the Saturday celebrations on July 20, roundtrip ferry service will also be available from East 34th Street in Manhattan with a stop at 90th Street and Ferry Point Park in the Bronx. More information and the full ferry schedule can be found here.

The Dragon Coaster weekend celebration schedule includes:

Saturday, July 20, 2024

- 2 pm, 3 pm and 4 pm: Kiddyland shows featuring Peter Michael Martin
- 4 pm: Dragon Parade with kids and entertainers circling the park channeling their inner dragon coaster

- 7 pm: Summer Sounds Concert Series presented by The Capitol Theatre: Jackknife Lori 90's Alt Rock Hits on the Main Stage

- 8:45 pm and 9 pm: Special pre-fireworks celebration to sing happy birthday to the Dragon Coaster, followed by fantastic fireworks at 9 pm

Sunday, July 21, 2024

- 1 pm: #PlaylandArt Dragon Contest winner announced
- 2 pm: Summer Sounds Concert Series presented by The Capitol Theatre: Rock and Roll Playhouse Plays The Music of Talking Heads For Kids on the Main Stage
- 3 pm, 4 pm and 5 pm: Kiddyland is one word shows featuring Ray Grins
- 3 pm to 4 pm: Boat Races
- 4 pm: Dragon Parade with kids and entertainers circling the park channeling their inner dragon coaster
- 4 pm to 5 pm: Relay Races
- 7 pm: Main Stage Variety Show with AJ Silver

For more information about Playland including new events and initiatives, visit <https://playland.com> and follow Playland on Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, Twitter and LinkedIn.

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

-Thomas Jefferson

Send us your letters, announcements, opinions, photos and story ideas to

[dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com)

## Yonkers Brewing Co. Opens Cross County Beer Garden



Mayor Mike Spano, Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, Assemblyman Nader Saygh, and Councilman Anthony Merante joined with Council Majority Leader John Rubbo and his other passion, the Yonkers Brewing Co., as it opened a Beer Garden at the Cross County Mall. Yonkers Astronaut Ron Garan is pictured bottom right with my favorite Yonkers Brewing beverage-The classic 914. Yonkers Brewing Co. is located at 92 Main Street. Have a cold one this summer!

### Stay Cool Yonkers!



Mayor Mike Spano recently joined with some Yonkers kids at Doyle Park. Yonkers Firefighters brought out the "turtle," it's an apparatus used to fire lithium-ion battery car fires -- but attached to a hose, it makes a great sprinkler!



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 - Ken C., MAKOplasty® knee replacement patient

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\*Source: Based on WOC follow-up survey

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 Orthopedic Surgeon  
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NOT SHOWN:  
 Jordan Fakhoury, DO; Evan Gaines, MD; David Lent, MD  
 Patrick Murray, MD; Paul S. Ragusa, MD; Thomas Schmicker, MD  
 Eric Spencer, MD; Mario Voloshin, DPM, FACFAS



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