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Yonkers Student Excellence: YMA Valedictorian & Salutatorian



YMA Valedictorian Pashka Durgaj and Salutatorian Elizabeth Radko

By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to the 2021 Yonkers Montessori Academy, YMA, Valedictorian Pashka Durgaj and Salutatorian Elizabeth Radko.

Pashka Durgaj will graduate with a 99.7 GPA. Her favorite teachers at YMA are Math teachers Richard Harman, (Calculus and Algebra) and Irina Morgunova (Algebra II, Trigonometry, Precalculus). “You can tell that they are in their profession because they truly care about teaching people. They are hands on teachers and are there for you whenever you need help.”

Durgaj’s favorite subjects are Math and English. “I enjoy writing as a way to express myself, and as a way to hone my creativity.”

Extra-curricular activities for Pashka include joining the YMA Art Club, recreational art and music outside of school, in the form of singing, playing instruments (some piano and drums), drawing (multimedia), and makeup artistry, and helping out with the families construction/home renovation business where she serves as a part-time administrative assistant. Pashka also helps take care of and tutor her younger brothers.

Durgaj has completed 8 AP-College Link courses, and was accepted into five schools including Manhattan and SUNY Binghamton. She will be attending Manhattan College in the fall. “Its close to home, and I didn’t want to make a big a jump like going to Binghamton my first year. Manhattan has a lot of varied programs so I get to see what I like.”

While mechanical engineering is Pashka’s current plan as a Major, it may change. “I don’t like to put restrictions on myself.”

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“Shame On You Principal Medina”

Lawsuit Claims Sexual Texts/Pics Made by Perverted Principal



One of the semi-nude photos of Dodson Principal Evelina Medina

The front page of the New York Post, and media outlets across the county and the world, picked up this unfortunate story and photos, concerning Yonkers, and Dodson School Principal Evelina Medina. The reason for the interest online and in print is that the story includes nudity, texting, forcing an employee to do the wrong thing, affairs and more.

We print this story, and include the photo, because along with thousands of our readers, parents and taxpayers in Yonkers, we are horrified, offended and outraged that this type of behavior was allowed to continue after the allegations were made and all relevant parties in the Yonkers Public Schools were notified, if the allegations in the Federal Lawsuit are true,

The lawsuit was filed by Gisselle Vasquez, a 35-year-old single mom, who worked as a spanish secretary at the Dodson School in Yonkers under Principal Medina. Medina is accused in the lawsuit of sharing naked pictures of her lovers with Vasquez, and of making Vasquez take semi-naked pictures of herself. One of those pictures is cropped above. If you wish to have more detail you can find other photos at YonkersTimes.com or elsewhere online.

According to the lawsuit, one photo was texted by Medina to Vasquez of a man in bed holding his penis. On another day at the school Medina told Vasquez to close the door and then removed her pants, according to the lawsuit.

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Lakisha Collins-Bellamy Picks Up Endorsements Democratic Primary for Council President



L-R-County Legislator Christopher Johnson, Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, City Council President candidate, Council Majority Leader Corazon Pineda-Isaac

One of the leaders in the Yonkers Demoratic Party called this years Democratic Primary in Yonkers, “one of the strangest I have seen in 35 years”

The race for Yonkers City Council President tops of list as the most important, citywide election on June 22, But this race for Council President has many Yonkers democrats scratching their heads and waiting, with about 25% of democrats in Yonkers undecided between the incumbent, Council President Mike Khader, and challenger Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, who is also a Yonkers Board of Education Trustee.

Normally, an incumbent Council President running for re-election would not see a serious challenge from within their own party. Three months ago, Khader received the endorsement from the Yonkers Democratic Party, receiving 86% of the vote of the democratic district leaders.

But Collins-Bellamy kept campaigning, and, two issues materialized about Khader’s leadership as Council President. After those stories broke, Khader’s numbers slipped and Bellamy’s campaign took off.

Now, after a few mailings from both campaigns and texts to Yonkers democrats, Collins picked up the endorsement from two Yonkers elected Democrats, Council Majority Leader Corazon Pineda-Isaac and County Legislator Christopher Johnson.

“As Majority Leader of the Yonkers City Council, it’s critical that the Office of the Council President has strong leadership promoting the quality of life for all Yonkers residents,” said Majority Leader Pineda-Isaac. “To effect real change, it takes a total team effort, and I fully support Lakisha Collins-Bellamy for City Council President to continue to lead Yonkers into its best days.”

County Legislator Johnson added, “The City Council President’s Office deserves someone who loves Yonkers, has integrity, and has already committed themselves to making Yonkers better. Lakisha meets all of those qualifica-

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Did the Son of Sam Do It Alone? Yonkers at The Center of Netflix



David Berkowitz, upon his arrest in Yonkers, August 10, 1977

By Dan Murphy

Did David Berkowitz, aka the ‘Son of Sam’, act alone when he shot 13 young couples, killing 6, from 1976 and 1977 in New York City? Or was Berkowitz part of a satanic cult in Yonkers, where he lived, and did two other men from Yonkers play a role in the shootings that terrorized millions of New Yorkers for 13 months?

A new Netflix True Crime documentary, The Sons of Sam: A Descent into Darkness, makes the case that two young men from Yonkers who lived close to Berkowitz’s apartment on 42 Pine Street, were not only involved in some of the shootings, but one was the real Son of Sam.

I was 10 years old when The Son of Sam, or the 44 Caliber Killer, began his rampage, always shooting couples in a car very late at night. Usually at Lovers Lane locations across New York City, the shooter would walk

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Fans Welcomed Back to Yonkers Raceway June 9



As harness racing resumes at Yonkers Raceway after a brief break this Monday June 7, Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts (“Empire City”) announced today harness racing spectators can return to wager and enjoy live racing in person at the historic track beginning Wednesday June 9. Fans will be permitted trackside with a limited capacity to ensure social distancing requirements can be maintained.

A regular racing schedule has been in place since June 22, 2020, but without spectators due to COVID-19 restrictions.

“Opening up the historic track to racing fans on June 9th is another positive step forward for our property,” said MGM Resorts Northeast Group SVP and Chief Financial Officer Ed Domingo. “We are committed to ensuring a safe and healthy environment at the racetrack, as we have done on our gaming floor, and we look forward to welcoming our racing fans back.”

Yonkers Raceway is preparing for an exciting schedule of racing this season. Upcoming featured events at Yonkers Raceway include two of the first legs of the Triple Crown for three-year-old trotters and pacers on Friday, July 2nd: the \$500,000 MGM Yonkers Trot and the \$500,000 MGM Grand Messenger Stakes.

“We are so happy to finally welcome back our fans after this prolonged absence,” said Alex Dadoyan, Director of Racing. “Having fans back at the track enjoying racing in person is a great step towards fully returning to regular racing operations.”

Live harness racing takes place at the historic Yonkers Raceway Monday through Friday with a nightly post time of 7:15 p.m. All wagering will take place outside in the designated area adjacent to the famed half-mile Yonkers Raceway oval. Races are simulcast and also available for viewing and wagering online at www.EmpireCityBets.com. Racing fans can create a free account and view live racing at Yonkers Raceway and tracks across the country.

Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts operates daily from 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 a.m. For more information on Empire City Casino, along with the latest updates, please visit www.empirecitycasino.com.

Notice of formation of Street Meatz, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 04/06/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 28 Frazier Place, Yonkers, NY 10704 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company Bougie The Brand By Shay LLC, Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/22/20 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to : C/O BOUGIE THE BRAND BY SHAY LLC, 100 Riverdale Avenue Apt 7D Yonkers, New York 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Yonkers Rising

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Pride Celebrations in Downtown Yonkers This Month



Yonkers PRIDE, a collaboration between The City of Yonkers’ Mayor Mike Spano’s LGBTQ Advisory Board, the Yonkers Pride Planning Board, and the Yonkers Downtown Business Improvement District, is thrilled to announce its lineup of PRIDE events for the month of June. The highlight of which will be an evening Variety Show on Saturday, June 12 from 6pm to 7:30pm.

“Celebrating Pride Month is going to be really special after the past year of hardship due to the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Steve Cruz, President, Yonkers PRIDE. “Pride Month is about celebrating who we are as individuals and showing love for ourselves and each other. We encourage everyone to come join us at the Pride festivities this month!”

The festivities will begin with the 7th Annual Yonkers Pride Flag Raising Ceremony on Friday, June 11 at 4:30pm. Join Mayor Mike Spano and his LGBTQ+ Advisory Board for the annual Yonkers Pride Flag Raising at the Unity Fountain located outside City Hall or watch it live streamed on Facebook. Pride flags will also be flying all along Main Street between Warburton Avenue and Buena Vista Avenue for the month of June.

“After a long year of cancelled events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Yonkers Downtown is making strides to keep the Pride spirit alive with safe in-person events to celebrate Pride Month,” said Sara Brody, Executive Director, Yonkers Downtown BID. “We are really excited about the Variety Show! It is going to be a great way for people to get out to an event safely and just enjoy the entertainment. There will be tons of laughs, singing and more, all with a backdrop of the picturesque Hudson River as the sun begins to set.”

The evening Variety Show will take place at the Yonkers Waterfront Amphitheater, an open-air theater adjacent to the Yonkers Pier and X2O Restaurant located at 71 Water Grant Street. This fundraising event, which overlooks the beautiful Hudson River, will be full of entertainment including drag performance, stand-up comedy, singers and more. Tickets to this in-person event will be sold in pods. Each pod will be spaced apart from other pods, which allows for distance to be maintained between groups. Come out and celebrate Pride safely!

Tickets on Sale Now! General Admission \$25, at <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/yonkers-pride-variety-show-tickets-154038456169>

Following the Variety Show, stay downtown for the first-ever Pride Bar Crawl from 7:30pm to 10:00pm. Enjoy extended happy hour, specialized drink specials, and dinner specials at selected restaurants. Ask individual restaurants what their Pride Special is for the night!

After the Variety Show, enjoy extended happy hour, specialized drink specials, and dinner specials at selected restaurants

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Ed Hajim Inducted Into Roosevelt High School Hall of Fame

Masks and Clouds



By Eric W. Schoen

When you woke up on Monday morning, the question of the day in New York State was do students have to wear masks indoors and outdoors for the remainder of the school year. When you woke up Tuesday morning and tried to log on to the New York Times or News 12 websites and could not, you learned that clouds were more than those puffy things in the sky and controlled our ability to access information.

Lots to discuss this week! Let's start out with masks. No one wants to see students in classrooms or outdoors at recess wearing masks or any face coverings. Particularly with warm weather upon us. But statistics show that the wearing of masks is crucial to stopping the spread of COVID-19. We only have several more weeks of schools left. So why the heck change things now?

On Friday the Governor makes an announcement that masks were no longer required inside school buildings or outside during recess or other activities. School Boards throughout the state were holding emergency meetings over the weekend to discuss the issue. Some school districts apparently went all remote on Monday until the mask issue was clarified. According to the Journal News one district even used a snow day in June because of the mask uncertainty.

Every time our government does something like this it puts people who are already on edge over the whole Covid-19 situation even more confused and upset. The Governor wanted to independently verify everything that came out of the Trump administration on Covid-19. Now that we have a new sheriff in the White House is his policy the same. I'm confused.

Let's hope we get some guidance from the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) on the need for wearing masks in school before September. Poor kids sit in plexiglass in classrooms if they are learning in person. I couldn't do it if I was in grade school. Better yet roll up your sleeve and get vaccinated. That's the way to put an end to what we are going through!

Speaking of vaccinations, I was invited to see an Off Broadway show over the weekend. In order to see the show I would have to fill out a Covid Screening Questionnaire. The document had to be filled out before I could attend the show, signed and either emailed or brought with me before I could enter the theater. It asked all those questions you are asked before they allow you to enter a medical building. On the one hand I thought it was a good idea to keep everyone safe. But on the other hand I am hoping that people get vaccinated so that these questionnaires are not necessary.

I'll be honest. I have no problem with people being asked if they

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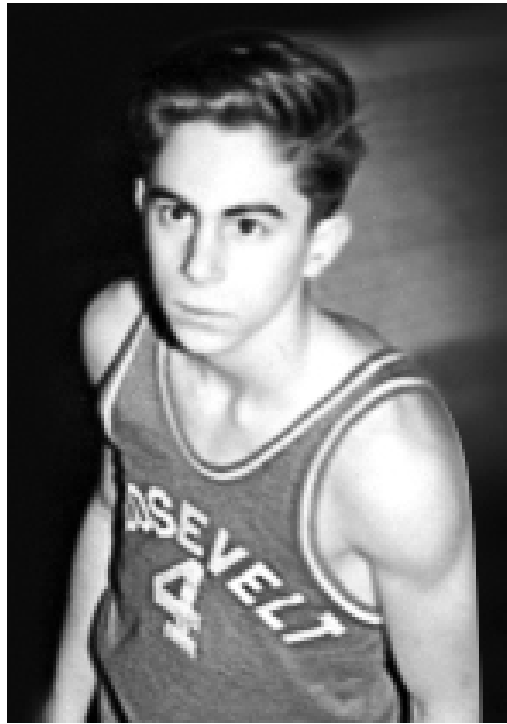
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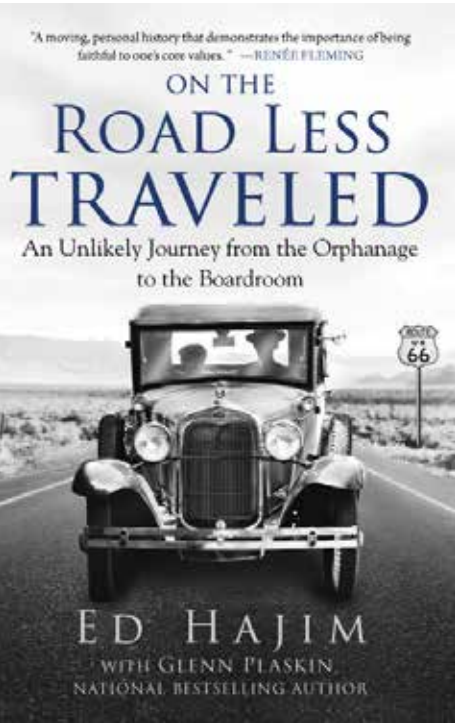
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Ed Hajim, RHS Class of 1954, right, and his book, left



Many graduates of Roosevelt High School, (RHS), in Yonkers have gone on to complete their version of the American Dream. Astronauts, News Anchors, and NFL Players are just a few of the notable graduates of Roosevelt.

As a result of some of their famous graduates, RHS created a Wall of Fame in 2015, and honor a graduate every year. Recent inductees include: Jeanine Rose (Anchor News 12) 2015, Ron Garan (NASA Astronaut) 2016, Joseph Holland (Lawyer, author, activist, philanthropist) 2017, Coach Tony DeMatteo (Coach, teacher, mentor) 2018, Jimmy Kennedy (NFL) 2019, 2020 COVID no ceremony.

On June 2, Ed Hajim was honored. as the latest member of the RHS Hall of Fame. Hajim is the author of On The Road Less Traveled, An Unlikely Journey from the Orphanage to the Boardroom.

At the age of 3, Ed Hajim was kidnapped by his father, driven cross-country, and told his mother is dead. He presses his face against the car window, watches the miles pass and wonders where life will take him. Where you'd least expect.

In his memoir Hajim tells the improbable story of how he bounced from foster homes to orphanages, in a daily struggle to survive, to living the American dream as an accomplished Wall Street executive and model family man with great moral fiber and the means to give back to a world that seemed intent on rejecting him.

Hajim served as a senior executive at such firms as E.F. Hutton, Lehman Brothers, Furman Selz and other financial institutions, regularly transforming fledgling operations into profitable growth machines. His life accomplishments were rightfully acknowledged in 2015 with the Horatio Alger Award, given to Americans who exemplify the values of initiative, leadership, and commitment to excellence and who have succeeded despite personal adversity.

He grew up in orphanages and in foster homes including in Yonkers, with no mother and no father. Ed and the other boys from his Yonkers orphanage attended Roosevelt High School. He thrived there although he couldn't participate in many of the extracurricular activities the school offered because he had to work several jobs after school. One job was bagging groceries, and another was setting bowling alley pins (very dangerous, he said).

"My childhood disadvantages became advantages in later life. By living in 15 to 20 different locations, I learned how to adjust to different circumstances, became good at it, and almost looked forward to it; I was not afraid to change."

"My lack of a present family forced me to seek out external mentors and better understand the need for partners/people who cared. By being alone, I developed self reliance and was not afraid to be self-directed."

Ed learned to survive by keeping himself strong and focused. And step by step, he turned his life around, eventually living the American dream with the help of a NROTC college scholarship, graduating from the University of Rochester and then attended Harvard Business School.

Hajim is currently chairman of HighVista, a Boston-based money management company. He has been married 55-years, with three children and eight grandchildren. In 2008, Ed donated \$30 million to the University of Rochester, the largest single donation in its history—to support scholarships and endow the Edmund A. Hajim School of Engineering and Applied Sciences. Ed believes in the importance and opportunity of education – as it changed his life so much.

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YMA Yonkers Softball Champs!

By Phil Foley

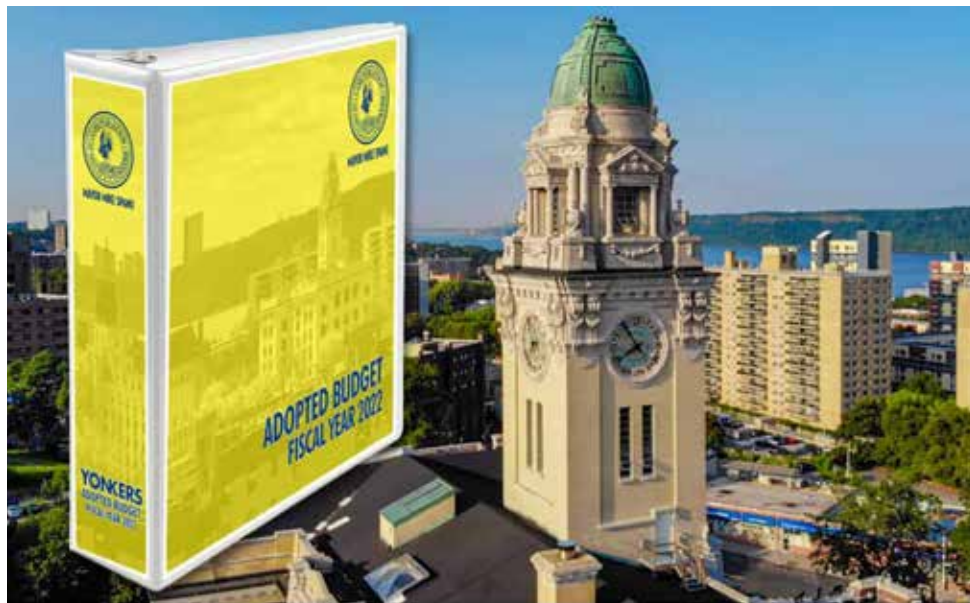
Last week the Yonkers Montessori Academy defeated Yonkers HS to win the Yonkers City softball championship! The final score was 20-5. This was their second title in the last four years. (Note there was no season in 2020 due to Covid.)

Emily Moccia was 3-5 at the plate with a double, Mackenzie Moccia 4-5 with a double, Jazlyn Aquino went 3-4 with doubles and Gianna Pappalardo played a very solid game behind the plate and added 2 hits to the cause. Overall it was a total team effort was the Tournament MVP. She went 3-4 at the plate with a triple and two home runs which were hit over the fence at Lenon Park! In the circle Andy gave up 5 hits and had 11 strikeouts, one shy of her 100th career strikeouts.

Coach Ann Bernadone said of Yonkers HS: “Yonkers HS was solid team and an impressive opponent. Soffia Perra hit a two run homer, Sabrina Iacovetta had two hits and an RBI while Lalaine Castellon also contributed with an RBI.”

In other action YMA defeated Hamilton HS 20-2. Andy Hegarty had 8 strikeouts and allowed just 3 hits. At the plate she went 2-3 with a double, home run and 3 RBIs. Leah Calvello was 2-3 with an RBI. Mackenzie Moccia was YMA's slugger of the day with a HR, double and 5 RBIs.

Yonkers Adopts 2021-22 Budget With 0% Propety Tax Increase



City of Yonkers 2021-2022 Budget Snapshot:

- \$1.25 billion total budget
- NO property tax increase; stays within state-mandated tax cap
- Includes record increase in aid to Yonkers Board of Education with increase of \$10.9M
- Maintains city services and positions

In one of the least controversial budgets in three decades, the City of Yonkers passed a \$1.25 Billion budget for both City and Education operations by a 7-0 vote. The budget included a 0% property tax increase (under the tax cap), no cuts to city services or positions, and provides an additional \$10.9 Million in funding for the Yonkers Public Schools.

Mayor Mike Spano said, “Like many cities across the country, Yonkers experienced a yearlong lockdown due to a global pandemic that crippled local businesses and employment. Fortunately, Yonkers weathered the storm better than expected, allowing us to prevent an increase in the taxes so not to place additional burdens on our taxpayers. Today, the city is emerging from the lockdown and is getting back to business, putting our residents back to work.”

The City held budget hearings, which were attended by only a few residents. The 2022 Adopted Budget also increases the School District's budget, totaling the city's contribution to \$280.5 million — making it the largest local share of any big city to a district outside of New York City. Over 53% of the Adopted Budget is devoted to the Yonkers Public Schools, the highest percentage contribution made during the Spano Administration.

City Council Majority Leader Corazon Pineda-Isaac said, “I am proud to have voted for a lean and honest budget that provides for the largest contribution to education ever, and a zero percent increase to property taxes. Following a global pandemic that plagued communities across our nation, I knew we could not balance a budget on the backs of taxpayers.

“Key highlights include \$2 million for which I personally advocated, to restore the much needed Junior Varsity Sports, for our high school student-athletes, 22 additional Music and Arts Positions, 7 additional Librarians, 8 Physical Education Positions, 8 Career and Tech Education Positions, 5 Foreign Language Instructors, 53 School Counselors, Social Workers and Psychologists,

“I advocated for funding to support the Montefiore Nurse Family Program which supports young mothers and provides at home visits from baby birth until the age of two. I also advocated for the allocation of money which allows us to get 300 families off of the Section 8 vouchers waiting list and provide more people with housing,” said Pineda-Isaac.

“By working together with our City Council, we are maintaining quality services for our residents, relieving our taxpayers as best as we can and making the vital investments in education so we can keep moving Yonkers forward,” Mayor Spano added.

Early Voting FOR PRIMARY ELECTION

Westchester County registered voters are eligible to cast an early voting ballot. Registered voters will be able to cast their ballot at ANY of the 23 designated early voting locations.



Yonkers Public Library locations:

Riverfront Library

One Larkin Center - Yonkers, NY 10701

Grinton I. Will Library

1500 Central Park Ave - Yonkers, NY 10710

Saturday, June 12	12-5 pm
Sunday, June 13	12-5 pm
Monday, June 14	8 am-4 pm
Tuesday, June 15	12-8 pm
Wednesday, June 16	8 am-4 pm
Thursday, June 17	12-8 pm
Friday, June 18	8 am-4 pm
Saturday, June 19	12-5 pm
Sunday, June 20	12-5 pm

Frequently Asked Question for 2021 Primary Election

For the 2021 June Primary Election, you can vote in person before Election Day. This year Election Day is on Tuesday, June 22, 2021.

What is Early Voting?

Westchester County registered voters can vote in-person before Election Day at ANY of the twenty-three (23) Early Voting Centers.

Who can vote early?

All Westchester County registered voters can vote early.

When can I vote early?

Early voting period will be from Saturday, June 12, 2021 through Sunday, June 20, 2021.

Where can I vote early?

You can vote at ANY of the designated early voting sites throughout the County.



Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

want to attend a Bruce Springsteen concert or a Broadway show or go to work to prove that they have been vaccinated. I think there are a lot of people who are not resuming their normal lives because they are afraid they may come in contact with someone who is unvaccinated. They say once you are fully vaccinated you can't get Covid-19 but then we hear of isolated cases where vaccinated people have come down with the virus.

A Cloud Service Company. Be honest, before Tuesday morning did you know what that term meant? As you do every morning you turned on your computer, went to your favorite website whether it be the New York Times or the Journal news or maybe you needed some sequins for a dress you are making from Amazon and what did you get? In the case of the Times yesterday's news if you like me had downloaded it the night before. Or an ERROR 503 service unavailable message that I received on the WCBS 880, radio.com and when I attempted to refresh the New York Times website.

Fortunately for viewers of yonkerstimes.com because we have the best in the business and are state of the art you were not blocked from our website and fresh content was provided!

So why did this happen. The problem appeared to be related to an outage at Fastly (FSLY), a cloud service provider. The company said on its service status website (which was working) Tuesday morning it had identified the problem and fixed the issue — but many sites were still unavailable for some users at 7 a.m. ET.

What prey tell is Fastly? Fastly helps improve load times (the time it takes for you to click on yonkerstimes.com and for it to appear on your screen) for websites and provides other services to internet sites, apps and platforms including a large global server network.

Fastly supports news sites and apps like CNN, the Guardian, the New York Times and many others. It also provides content delivery for Twitch, Pinterest, HBO Max (allowing you to see the movie In The Heights this Thursday), Hulu, Reddit, Spotify and other services. Other major internet platforms and sites including Amazon, Target, and the UK government website — Gov.uk — were affected.

Heavens the poor Target Bullseye Dog was affected. I hope the poor dog got fed! Combined with Amazon that's a severe crisis for you shoppers out there. What did you do for the hour or so the outage lasted? Go shopping in a brick and mortar real store like the good old days?

All this goes to show you that whether it be Fastly or other computer systems like the Colonial Pipeline (is gas so expensive because hackers got into it?) or the nations largest meat supplier, JBS, systems have to be in place to protect interruption when they go down or are hacked. I'm no computer czar but these big billion dollars companies as well as you and I with our \$500 or less computers have to have backups in place and download software, often available for free to prevent any interruption in our computing. Look into it now before it hits home!

Some Briefs:

If what the former New Rochelle Schools Medical Doctor (also parent of a child in the district) says is true encouraging the district to close down schools because people were getting sick was ignored by the then Superintendent of Schools, it is not only disgraceful but my guess will result in many other lawsuits. We have to rely on the best medical advice in these situations and that advice cannot be second guessed by bureaucrats with no medical knowledge!

Swimming season is upon us. Rockland man dies swimming in a lake. That beginning of the season reminder that you should not go swimming in water if you do not know how to swim. And the most important thing a parent can do is get swimming lessons for their children. So many opportunities are available out there, many free. I learned to swim at Tibbetts Pool with free classes offered by Westchester County.

Speaking of water, the Metro District in Southern California got the award for best water in the nation? Was Yonkers water in the competition? Having been to California numerous times I can tell you that our Yonkers water far beats any California water I have tasted. It still comes out ice cold, ready to drink from the faucet.

Conventions are back in Las Vegas. The first one? The World of Concrete. Come on guys, with all respect to concrete couldn't you bring back conventions with something a little more exciting.

In closing, thank you to the many readers who read and responded to my column last week about being stuck on the Major Deegan for 5 hours. I'm fine, but many of you didn't realize if you get stuck on the Deegan AAA can't tow you or fix your flat and you end up with a minimum \$140 bill that doesn't even include changing your tire or putting on the donut. Hopefully one of the agencies that awards this insane towing contract and our legislators will do something to end, no pun intended 'highway robbery!'

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m., on WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com to listen for free.

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Yonkers Board of Education Unanimously Adopts 2021-2022 School Year Budget

The Yonkers Board of Education unanimously voted to adopt the 2021-2022 School Year Budget at a Special Meeting. Board of Education President Rev. Steve Lopez noted, "With this budget the District is able to fulfill the Trustees October 2020 commitment to implement a restoration process for all students to return to school in September 2021. In fact, as of July 1, all of the summer session programs are operating under normal in-person instruction. Most importantly, this budget demonstrates that when our elected officials, employees and families band together around equity for Yonkers' children, sustainable funding occurs. Thank you Mayor Mike Spano, City Council President Mike Khader and the entire City Council for the \$6.7 million increase in the Maintenance of Efforts and the debt service of \$4.2 million that equates to \$10.9 million. Thank you New York Senate Majority Leaders Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senator Shelley Mayer, Assembly Members Gary Pretlow and Nader Sayegh for the new 3-year phase-in increases in the Foundation Aid formula providing \$21.9 million this coming year and the \$12 million in Bullet Aid totaling \$33.9 million increase for Yonkers children. Thank you Yonkers Council of PTAs and parents across our city as well as our outstanding bargaining unit leaders and members who valiantly fought for additional funding. This united effort demonstrates that when we remain committed to building the capacity of the City's public schools the result provides sustainable solutions for student success 2021-2022 and beyond."

Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edwin M. Quezada stated, "This budget recognizes and addresses the challenges that our students, families and staff have faced over the last sixteen difficult months. At the same time, it offers a foundation to rebuild, equip and transition our learning community to actualize years of strength, success and meaningful accomplishments for all students. With this budget, we put an end to the deficit model that for decades hampered our ability to provide teachers, programs and materials for an equitable sustainable school system. Today, we embark instead to build on our system's proven strengths and simultaneously develop new, innovative and sustainable systems to support the academic, social and emotional needs of our students and their families. True equity for Yonkers students begins, more importantly, with additional school counselors, psychologists, social workers, nurses as well as art, music, librarians, physical education, career and technical education and English language learners teachers. In 2021-2022 and beyond, with relentless passion and empirical evidence we will create conditions for all students' success - Yonkers children deserve the best!"

Ed Hajim, RHS Hall of Fame, continued from pg 3-

Hajim, a member of the RHS Class of 1954, took time out of his busy schedule to meet via Zoom with Roosevelt's Media Communications students who read his book, ON THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED: An Unlikely Journey from the Orphanage to the Boardroom. These juniors and seniors had an opportunity to hone their reporter and writing skills learned in the school's career and technical education magnet program. Enthralled by Mr. Hajim's challenging life and his great success, the students were able to hear from him about being raised in orphanages and foster homes then finally landing in Yonkers for his high school years at Roosevelt. Mr. Hajim says in his book, Roosevelt was excellent and offered him opportunity to break out of his circumstances and discover his strengths. He worked on achieving good grades and excelling at sports. This momentum propelled him through the University of Rochester, Harvard Business School and business.

"Our Wall of Fame inductees are role models who inspire, encourage and offer sage advice to our students," noted Principal Ed De Chent.

Ed Hajim's Alumni Wall of Fame induction is available on demand on the Roosevelt High School - Early College Studies website www.yonker-publicschools.org/roosevelt.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR SECURITY DIRECTOR AT BUILDINGS OWNED OR MANAGED BY THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers ("MHACY") hereby solicits proposals from qualified firms for the provision of Security Director services for MHACY at various locations specified in the 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") and is available online starting June 18, 2021 at www.mhacy.org under the "About" section.

The RFP questions deadline is June 25, 2021 at 3:00PM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions must be emailed to 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 July 7, 2021. Late submissions will be handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B.

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


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

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

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

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

Project No. RFP 2021-03



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EOE

On This Day in Yonkers History...



Babe Ruth, caught for speeding in Yonkers, but given only a warning

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

Monday June 14th

June 14, 1946: Eustace Farley, Yonkers Red Cross Chapter Chairman, reported the Kingsbridge Road Veterans' Hospital in the Bronx highly praised two Yonkers Red Cross Motor Corps members. The hospital had asked Yonkers for help in transporting ten disabled veterans from their facility back to Yonkers. The Yonkers Chapter not only provided their station wagon, Margaret Mahr and Henry Hallam were more than kind in driving, lifting and carrying our boys to their wheel chairs. According to the letter, "It was a big job well done, and you could not have sent two nicer people to help."

June 14, 1949: A helicopter from the USS Missouri visited the Yonkers Seaplane Base, the very first non-Navy installation visited by a helicopter based on an American battleship! Piloted by Lieutenant James Braun of Ohio, the helicopter landed so crewmembers could get parts for an offset printing press on the battleship.

The first battleship to have a helicopter force, the Missouri had two \$80,000 HO3S Sikorskys whose primary purpose was to perform rescues. It also distributed mail between the flagship and its escort ships.

Tuesday June 15th

June 15, 1943: Yonkers learned the Japanese conquests in the Far East were causing difficulty in our hometown! Alexander Smith & Sons Carpet Factory, producing large amounts of cotton duck for use in the war, had trouble getting cotton. One reason was our Farm Belt needed twine. Without jute from the Far East, the twine had to be made from cotton instead of jute, using resources that might have gone to our Smith Carpet Company.

June 15, 1946: Yonkers Public Library Director Grinton Will announced the Yonkers Public Library had a list of more than 200 titles, chosen to further the practice of the "Golden Rule" and racial understanding. The bibliography, created for Community Chests and Councils by the American Library Association, was designed to be used by educational organizations to "make children and young people receptive to ideas of cooperation, generosity and thoughtfulness for others." According to the literature, "Racial understanding, democratic ideals, life in other lands with underlying principles of sharing and worthwhile group living have been emphasized in poetry, biographies, stories, plays and pamphlets."

Wednesday, June 16th

June 16, 1923: Police Captain John Cahill led brief ceremonies at the Second Precinct Roll Calls to celebrate the fifteenth anniversary of its founding.

June 16, 1937: With 5,155 workers voting, the Textile Workers Organizing Committee of the CIO won the Wagner Act referendum by 315 votes, becoming the bargaining agent at the Alexander Smith and Sons Carpet Factory. The Independent Smith Workers Union, considered to be a "company dominated union," received 2400 votes.

Thursday, June 17th

June 17, 1927: Officer Thomas McCaul of the Yonkers Traffic Division bawled out the famous "King of Swat" for speeding in Yonkers. Babe Ruth had just given a speech in Hastings, and was speeding on his way home when the good officer stopped him and reprimanded him. After the lecture, he let Ruth continue on his way without a ticket.

June 17, 1953: The Herald Statesman issued an after two motor vehicle accidents on Neville's Hill, the area of North Broadway just north of Manor House Square. In both cases, two large tractor-trailer trucks had their brakes fail, resulting in drivers losing control and endangering pedestrians and property. Both drivers steered their trucks off the road and crashed into buildings. The second accident actually knocked out Yonkers' fire alarm system, further endangering the city.

continued on pg 6-

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) #2021-02
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR LAUNDRY SERVICES
AT BUILDINGS OWNED OR MANAGED BY THE MUNICIPAL
HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (“MHACY”) hereby solicits proposals from qualified firms for the provision of laundry services for MHACY at various locations specified in the 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”) and is available online starting June 18, 2021 at www.mhacy.org under the “About” section.

The RFP questions deadline is June 25, 2021 at 3:00PM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions must be emailed to Juaquin Padilla at 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 July 9, 2021. 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. This is a non-exclusive contract. MHACY may award more than 1 Respondent a contract.

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. MHA-CY reserves the right to cancel this RFP or to reject, in whole or in part, any and all proposals received in response to this RFP, upon its determination that such cancellation or rejection is in the best interest of MHACY.

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

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

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

Project No. RFP 2021-02

CORPORATION NOTICE
CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers, New York will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 6:00 P.M. Pursuant to Executive Order No. 202.1 issued by the Governor of the State of New York, as extended, this meeting will be conducted remotely; there will be no in-person attendance at this meeting. The meeting will be televised and/or available on a virtual meeting platform. Information related to accessing and viewing the meeting will be available on the City’s website at WWW.YonkersNY.gov, or by emailing the City Clerk at cityclerk@yonkersny.gov. The Public Hearing is being held on the following General Ordinance, to wit:

PROPOSED GENERAL ORDINANCE

A GENERAL ORDINANCE AMENDING GENERAL ORDINANCE 4-2000, ALSO KNOWN AS CHAPTER 43 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, MAKING “SATELLITE FACILITIES OF COLLEGES, UNIVERSITIES, OR THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES” A PERMITTED USE (WITH SUPPLEMENTAL REQUIREMENTS) IN THE BR “RESTRICTED BUSINESS, RESIDENCES EXCLUDED” DISTRICT OF THE CITY.

VINCENT SPANO, City Clerk

Notice of Sale

Supreme Court: Westchester County T11 Funding v Manuel Pereira et al. Defendants, Index#: 51986/2019 Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale filed and entered on January 24, 2020, I will sell at public auction in Courtroom 200 of the Westchester County Courthouse 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd White Plains NY 10601, on July 9, 2021 at 3:30 P.M. premises located in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester, State of New York known as Section 1, Block 463 Lot(s) 25. Sold subject to the terms of sale and filed judgment of foreclosure. Bank Checks Only, must be payable to the Referee for 25% of Bid Price. Leticia Arzu, Esq. Referee.

Notice of formation of SaucyGuava, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 05/21/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 332 Palisade Ave Apt C1, Yonkers, NY 10703-2918. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

Friday, June 18th:

June 18, 1935: Although silent film star Carlyle Blackwell was nabbed for speeding in our fair city, zipping down Central Park Avenue at 45 mph, fortunately, he got Judge Martin Fay for his hearing. Blackwell was one of the judge’s boyhood heroes, and the star-struck judge gave the actor a suspended sentence instead of a hefty fine! Fay happily reminisced in court about never missing one movie starring Blackwell.

June 18, 1943: Benjamin Franklin Junior High School Principal C. Powell Townsend had the honor of attaching a bronze plaque to the ambulance the school donated to the US Army. It officially was presented to Lieutenant Leland S. Nestle, USA at a ceremony held at the school.

Saturday, June 19th:

June 19, 1941: Although Ludwig Schlich, Attaché of the German Consulate in New York City, refused to comment on the US State Department order to close all German Consulates, he did say he “certainly would not stay in Yonkers” at his Midland Avenue home.

June 19, 1945: Caryl Avenue apartment residents were outraged by the NYC Parks Department announcement it would dig up the small vegetable gardens right behind their buildings, carefully planted and tended by the residents. The gardens, there for many years, were on the northernmost part of Van Cortlandt Park.

June 19, 1955: Cynthia Mullahoo of Trinidad was the first person in the US to have a visa extended to finish a business school course. Her visa was extended to allow Cynthia to graduate from the Pace Business School at 35 South Broadway. While attending school, she lived with her uncle Frank Ballgobin of Warburton Avenue.

Sunday, June 20th: June 20, 1654: Peter Stuyvesant, Director General of Niew Amsterdam, sent a letter to Holland describing the potential danger from Native Americans. It also stated the “lands of the old Verdonck” were “divided and settled by his children and associates in various plantations and farms,” indicating Adriaen Van der Donck had passed away in 1654, before the Peachtree Wars of 1655.

June 20, 1975: After the Yonkers School Board gave him a new four-year-contract although he still had more than one year left on his original contract, Yonkers Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Robert Alioto announced he was leaving his position here to lead the San Francisco Schools. San Francisco gave him a four-year contract and a salary increase of \$2500 to \$44,500. Moving eliminated the possibility of a serious conflict between Alioto and Mayor Angelo Martinelli.

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

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Virtual Public Hearing on Tuesday, June 15, 2021 at 5:00pm, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING ARTICLE IX OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF YONKERS IN RELATION TO SEWER RENTS

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.

To participate in the public hearing via ZOOM please join using the following information:

MIKE SPANO, Mayor

Join Zoom Meeting
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9148217764>

Meeting ID: 914 821 7764
One tap mobile
+19292056099,,9148217764# US (New York)
+13017158592,,9148217764# US (Washington DC)

Dial by your location
+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)
+1 301 715 8592 US (Washington DC)
Meeting ID: 914 821 7764
Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kc5Qx0IY4r>

Date: June 3, 2021

LEGAL NOTICE

The ordinance, a summary of which is published herewith, has been adopted on May 28, 2021, and approved by the Mayor on June 1, 2021, and the validity of the obligations authorized by such ordinance may be hereafter contested only if such obligations were authorized for an object or purpose for which the CITY OF YONKERS, in the County of Westchester, New York, is not authorized to expend money or if the provisions of law which should have been complied with as of the date of publication of this Notice were not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the publication of this Notice, or such obligations were authorized in violation of the provisions of the constitution.

Vincent E. Spano
City Clerk
City of Yonkers, New York

SPECIAL ORDINANCE NO. 29 - 2021
BOND ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, NEW YORK, AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF VARIOUS TAX CERTIORARI JUDGMENTS, COMPROMISED CLAIMS AND SETTLED CLAIMS APPROVED BY THE CITY COUNCIL DURING FISCAL YEAR 2021-2022, STATING THE ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST THEREOF IS \$15,000,000, APPROPRIATING SAID AMOUNT THEREFOR, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OF SAID CITY IN THE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT OF NOT TO EXCEED \$15,000,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION.

The bonds are authorized to finance various tax certiorari judgments, compromised claims and settled claims against the City.

The period of probable usefulness is a minimum five (5) years and maximum twenty (20) years, dependent on the total amount of tax certiorari claims paid in a single fiscal year.

The amount of obligations to be issued is \$15,000,000.

A complete copy of the Bond Ordinance summarized above shall be available for public inspection during normal business hours at the office of the Clerk of the City at City Hall, in Yonkers, New York.

Dated: June 7, 2021
Yonkers, New York

NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT, WESTCHESTER COUNTY
INDEX NO.: 58848/2019

BONITA WEST LLC v. 164 ELM REALTY CORP., et al., Defendants. Pursuant to Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale, dated January 22, 2020 and entered on January 24, 2020, I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction, in the Courtroom 200 of the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, New York on the 25th day of June, 2021 at 11:30 A.M., the premises directed by said Judgment to be sold, being in Section 1, Block 455, Lot 6 on the Tax Map of the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester, and known by the street number 164 Elm Street, Yonkers, New York. Approximate amount of Judgment is \$23,431.15 plus interest, costs, attorneys’ fees and advances. Said premises will be sold subject to the provisions of the filed Judgment and the Terms of Sale. FRANK APICELLA, ESQ., Referee. SANDERS, GUTMAN & BRODIE, P.C., Attorneys for Plaintiff, 18 North Central Avenue, Suite 204 Hartsdale, New York 10530 (718) 522-0666

Notice of formation of iFantasy, LLC. filed with the SSNY on 6/8/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228 . Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Son of Sam, continued from pg 1-

up to the car and begin firing, usually at the heads of the unlucky couples. And while the crimes were happening in New York City, In Yonkers and in Westchester, the fear of the shooter was just as great. We were all reading the NY Post and Daily News and listening to the local news every night, and the NYPD couldn't crack the case.

The four part documentary is narrated by Paul Giamatti, directed by Joshua Zeman, and is based on the book by author and Yonkers resident Maury Terry. Terry's book *The Ultimate Evil*, outlines his theories on the case, which are that Berkowitz was part of a Satanic cult that played a major role in the killings.

Terry became obsessed with the Son of Sam story and began a decade long investigation, in which he penned stories for the Herald Statesment (Journal News today), NY Post and others before publishing the book. Terry believed that David Berkowitz was involved in a satanic cult that met at Untermyer Park and other secluded locations in northwest Yonkes. In the 1970's Untermyer Park was run down and in disrepair and looked nothing like it does today.

Members of the cult aided Berkowitz in the Son of Sam killings, according to *The Ultimate Evil*. Two Yonkers brothers, Michael and John Carr, fit the description. Both knew Berkowitz and their father was Sam Carr, so his two sons could indeed be the Sons of Sam.

When Berkowitz was arrested after the NYPD followed up on a traffic tickets issued near one of the shootings, he confessed, explaining that his neighbor Sam Carr sent messages through his dog. The NYPD and NYC Mayor Abe Beame wanted the Son of Sam case closed after 13 months of fear and front page stories, so no other suspects were considered after Berkowitz confessed.

But several questions remained. Why did none of the police sketches from witnesses and victims look like Berkowitz? Some victims and witnesses insisted that Berkowitz was not the shooter, yet nobody was charged in the Son of Sam shootings and killings other than Berkowitz, who confessed to them and pled guilty. He continues to serve a lifetime sentence and is said to have become a Christian.

Terry visited Berkowitz before he died in 2015 and told him that his theory about John and Michael Carr was correct and they had done several of the shootings that he had confessed to.

Two familiar faces in the documentary are former Yonkers Mayor Phil Amicone and Kay Amicone, who is the sister of Maury Terry. LoHud recently wrote about the work of two Yonkers police officers, Peter Intervallo Sr. and his partner Thomas Chamberlain, who were convinced that Berkowitz was the Son of Sam 8 months before he was arrested after investigating the shooting of two dogs near Berkowitz's apartment.

The Sons of Sam: A Descent into Darkness is a great, four-part documentary, and a must watch for many of our readers. Much more of this story in the days to come, and for anyone in Yonkers with some details, please email us at dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Perverved Principal, continued from pg 1-

Vasquez told the NY Post "To this day I don't understand what would make her so comfortable to ask me to do that for her," Vasquez told The Post, explaining that the women were not friends. "I wondered if I don't do this what would be the repercussions for me at work. I'm a single parent and I thought what would happen if I said no."

Medina is accused of then texting the images of herself to Vasquez. "Medina used my client as her own personal drop-box to keep the sexy pictures away from her [Medina's] husband," said attorney Christopher Berlingieri. "Due to the serious nature of the sexual harassment here, we felt that there was no other option but to bring a civil action."

All of the strange and perverted requests came in 2018, including when Medina commanded Vasquez to buy lingerie for her from the infamous Romantic Depot on Central Avenue.

The lawsuit also includes Dodson Assistant Principals Sandra Guzman and Christopher Cassano. Guzman is alleged to have had sexual discussions with Medina and Vasquez in school, and let us remember that this is an Elementary School.

The allegations in the lawsuit are more serious concernng Dodson Assistant Principal Christopher Cassano, who is accused in the suit of sexually harrassing Vasquez, asking sexually explicit questions and attempting to kiss her on the lips without her consent. Vasquez was eventually transferred to the Ceasar Chavez school, where she still works today.

Vasquez began formally complaining about the activity, according to the suit, contacting Human Resources staff and working up the chain to Superintendent Dr. Edwin Quezada, in an alleged email exchange, according to the suit. But nothing was done to try and change or rectify the position that Vasquez was placed in, other than the transfer.

The New York Post reported that Medina is no longer principal at Dodson. No comment from the Yonkers school district on the pending litigation.

Several of our readers are aware of this case having read it online. "I can't believe that a Principal in Yonkers is in a story in the Daily Mall," said Teresa, one of our readers. "This is a shame, sad to see it and hope you report on it so that everyone knows."

Others had sympathy for Ms. Vasquez. "When we hear alot about people not wanting to work anymore, here we have a single mom, trying to work for her young daughter, trying to do the right thing, and instead she gets caught up in some sick, sexual leadership situation at an elementary school? This creeps me out."

Yonkers Rising reporter Eric Schoen was disappointed with the lack of response from the school district. "A professional PR person would have said the individuals involved have been reassigned and will not be interacting with children nor professional staff. This calms the fear of parents who wonder WTF is going on at their child's school without convicting the individuals involved.

"A professional would have also said this matter is under investigation by the district and until the investigation is complete, we will have no further comment. It shows the district is doing something. Safety of students and staff is paramount.

"To say the district doesn't comment on litigation is a ridiculous response that doesn't take into consideration the well being of students and staff. That is why I felt it so important that you include the picture," writes Schoen.

Yonkers Rising has spoken with Vaquez's attorney, and more information on this story may be coming. Anyone else with information can email us at dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Editor's Note: We had several discussions with our staff and friends of the paper, concerning whether or not we should print the disturbing photo, and on the front page. While we were all not in agreement, we decided to print the photo because as one Yonkers Rising reader told us, "why should you be embarrassed about the photo? Principal Medina should be embarrassed about what she was doing while working for YPS, and the school district should be embarrassed, if the lawsuit is true, and they could have resolved this before it all came out." Also interesting to note that neither the Journal News nor News 12 has covered this story as we go to press, while the rest of the newsworld has taken notice.

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YONKERS TIMES
News in Yonkers and around Westchester

Notice of Formation of Bratdog LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/26/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, Shantell James, 11 Lanark Road, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

YMA Val-Sal continued from pg 1-

Learning throughy COVID "gave me a different type of responsibility," said Dur-gaj. "I haven't been to school at all and when I was in the classroom it motivated me, so I had to find the self motivation at home." She continued to stay home for the rest of the spring "for the health of my family."

Pashka's friends and family helped her to get to this point of achievement. "My parents instilled a hard work ethic in me, and I always have that voice in my head pushing me to do my best, and my friends have always been good role models."

One of Pashka's close friends is YMA Salutatorian Elizabeth Radko "Liz was a great role model for me as one of the hardest workers in our class."

Liz Radko will graduate with a 99.1 GPA. Her favorite teachers at YMA are Irina Morgunova (Algebra II and Trigonometry/Pre-Calculus), and Christina Lucca (Chemistry)."Ms. Morgunova was always so encouraging, and her main goal was to help you understand the material, rather than simply pass a test. Ms. Lucca was kind and extremely precise with all of her instructions. She was always right there to answer any and all questions you could have about whether or not you were doing things correctly."

Radko's favorite class is Chemistry. "I always like doing things hands on and Chemistry gives me the ability to interact. Both my Chemistry and Math teachers motivated me to match their level of passion."

Extra curricular activites include learning Japanese. "I have been learning Japanese since grade school, when my twin sister and I got interested in Japanese pol culture and we wanted to watch the movies without subtitles. Now I can read Japanese and have pretty good grammar."

Liz also served as a Youth Court volunteer, a program where youthful offenders are sentenced before young adults. "High School teens serves as the Judge, prosecutor and defense attorney. It helps those charged with a crime to become more productive members of society."

Liz Radko has a twin sister, Catherine. who also achieved academic greatness at YMA, ranking #4. "My sister motivated me to do everything I could academically and pushed me to be my best. We are close friends with Pashka and have taken a lot of the same classes over the past four years. We help each other.

Liz took 8 AP-College Link courses and was accepted into five colleges and will be attending the University of New Haven in the fall. "I have always been interested in Forensic Science and will be studying that at New Haven which has a great department in that field. I watch all the CSI shows and want to work in that field, solving crimes through science.

Learning through COVID "wasn't much different for me, other than I couldn't see my friends. I feel like I was self sufficient and it gave me more time to get things done perfectly."

Both Radko and Pashka had their own devices to learn remotely, with only the occasional glitch or wi-fi troubles. "We are both pretty attentive students and our teachers knew that if we weren't in class there was something wrong with our wi-fi.

Liz thanked her parents and her sister, "my other half," "for keeping me motivated and pushing me to do the best we could."

Radko said that both she and her sister "didn't pay attention to the rankings and my sister wasn't upset that she wasn't #1 or #2. We both put in the hard work and we are happy that it paid off."

Yonkers Election, continued from pg 1-

tions, and that's why I am supporting her."

Later this week, City Councilwoman Shanae Williams also endorsed Collins-Bellamy. The other two democratic councilmembers, Tasha Diaz and John Rubbo, have yet to endorse either Khader, Collins-Bellamy, or the third candidate in the race, Peter Spano.

Both Khader and Collins-Bellamy have picked up other endorsements. Khader got the endorsement from Teamster Local 456 and from the Yonkers Federation of Teachers.

Collins-Bellamy got the endorsement from Yonkers Firefighter Local 628, and from the Working Families Party, whose line she will be running on in November.

Several Yonkers democrats we have spoken to are still undecided, and waiting to see which way they go. Which brings us back to the reason why we are 11 days from the democratic primary for council president and we can't predict the outcome.

One reason for this is that Collins-Bellamy is a good candidate! "Let's give Laki-sha credit," said one Yonkers democrat. "Her campaign is active, both in the community with voters and with mailings, endorsements, social media. It is a professional campaign that peaked at the right moment."

Collins-Bellamy also has something to say on the campaign trail and in her recent debates. If elected, she would be the first, African-American woman elected to citywide office in Yonkers. She also works as an attorney for the Yonkers Municipal Housing Authority and as a member of the Yonkers Police Reform Committee. She is a lifelong resident of Yonkers and is highly qualified to serve the people of Yonkers in any position she chooses to run for, including Council President.

The endorsement for Collins-Bellamy from Majority Leader Pineda Isaac is significant because she works with Council President Khader on a frequent basis, and is supporting his opponent, Collins-Bellamy.

Khader --

Khader could use an endorsement from one of two remaining council democrats. Don't expect an endorsement from Councilman John Rubbo, who disagrees with Khader on many topics and their styles of governance don't coincide. Councilwoman Tasha Diaz is the other democratic member.

Both sides feel good about how the primary is shaping up. "We've got him on the ropes," said one Collins-Bellamy supporter. "If 1 in 4 democrats are still undecided, those undecided voters usually go to the challenger--Lakisha?"

Khader has kept his campaign positive, and his mailings tout his political independence. "Mike Khader was elected four years ago on the message of change and something new. Four years later, many Yonkers democrats see though it, what does a progressive -independent mean when you haven't delivered?"

Finally, one democrat asked, "Where did all of this nonsense come from? I still think Mike Khader will win the democratic primary on June 22. He still has my vote."

Still others don't like the tactics in this race, or either canddiate. "We need more substance and less of these political atacks-and garbage -the political bar in Yonkers is too low." said another Yonkers Dem.

LAKISHA COLLINS-BELLAMY

DEMOCRAT FOR YONKERS CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT

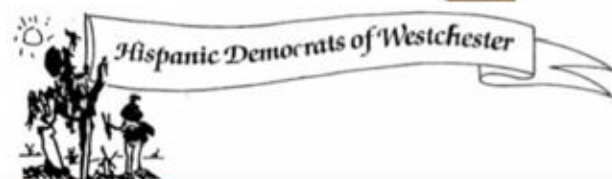
LAKISHA WILL:

- **FIGHT FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING:** As an attorney for the Municipal Housing Authority of Yonkers, Lakisha works diligently to improve affordable housing opportunities and protect residents
- **STAND WITH OUR STUDENTS:** As a Board of Education Trustee, Lakisha has advocated for more funding for our schools, and will continue to push for quality public education
- **IMPROVE PUBLIC SAFETY:** As a member of the Yonkers Police Reform Committee, Lakisha partnered with a diverse group of stakeholders to redefine public safety for ALL Yonkers residents



ENDORSED BY:

- NYS WORKING FAMILIES PARTY
- YONKERS FIREFIGHTERS LOCAL 628
- YONKERS POLICE CAPTAIN'S, LIEUTENANT'S, AND SERGEANT'S ASSOCIATION
- HISPANIC DEMOCRATS OF WESTCHESTER



www.lakishaforyonkers.com

Jose Alvarado for County Legislator.



"Alvarado Will Best Serve the people of Southwest Yonkers."

- Yonkers Rising Endorses

Also endorsed by:

- County Executive George Latimer
- Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano
- State Senator Shelley Mayer
- Assembly Member Gary Pretlow
- Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins
- Westchester County Clerk Tim Itoni

- Yonkers Democratic City Committee
- Westchester County Democratic Committee
- Hispanic Democrats of Westchester
- Stonewall Democrats

and the residents of Southwest Yonkers, Ludlow Park, and Park Hill.

VOTE

EARLY
JUNE 12-20

ON ELECTION DAY
TUESDAY JUNE 22ND

Scan to find your polling location

