

Yonkers Rising

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Friday June 23 2023

WE ENDORSE: MAYOR MIKE SPANO



**Mayor Mike Spano, with City Council Majority Leader Tasha Diaz, left and Councilwoman and BOL candidate Shanae Williams, right
June 27 Democratic Primary**

The silent majority of residents in Yonkers go to work, raise their kids, and play by the rules. They want the best education they can give their children, and they want safe streets for them to play in. They don't rant on Facebook, or ridicule others on Social Media.

They also see what is happening in New York City and across the country and watch it on TV. After 12 years they are pleased with the direction of their City, and in the leadership of Mayor Mike Spano, who we endorse for reelection in the democratic Primary June 27 and in early voting starting June 17.

Under Spano's leadership, Yonkers has:

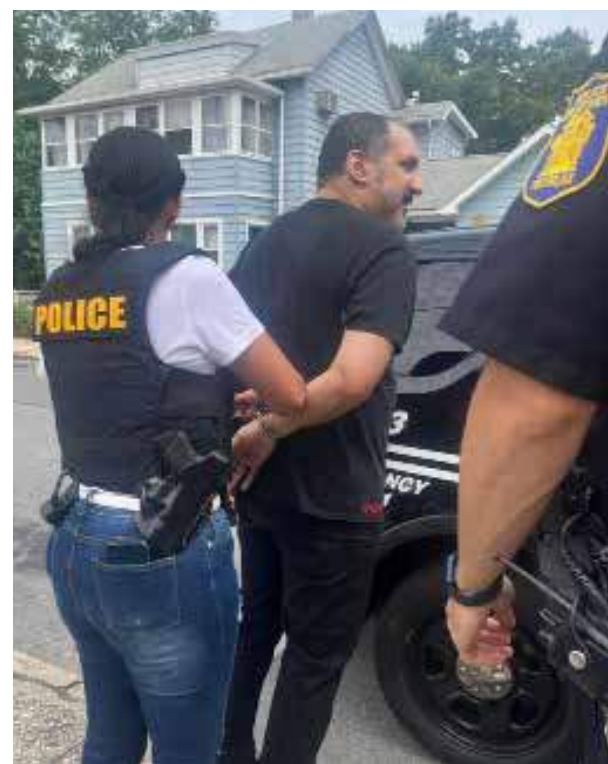
- Controlled property taxes
- Increased education funding to historic levels
- Been a leader on environmentally friendly initiatives
- Increased affordable housing units: Yonkers has the most affordable housing units in Westchester. And while there is a debate over the percentage of affordable housing units that new developers should be required to build, every new development project in Yonkers means more affordable units added. An empty building or vacant lot provides Zero affordable units.
- Controlled Crime: Yonkers is one of the safest Big Cities in New York State and across the country, according to FBI statistics.

The issue of term limits is also a part of this election. Spano is seeking a fourth, four-year term after the council made the change last year. When we speak to people in our travels around Yonkers delivering Yonkers Rising, very few put Term Limits at the top of their list. Crime and Education are the two issue we hear most about, with taxes third.

Over Spano's time as Mayor, there has been very little negativity about New York's 3rd largest city. The only negative headline came recently, in the form of accusations of nepotism in City government. Most people in Yonkers already knew that the Spano family was large and that many members of the Spano family serve in Civil Service positions in Yonkers. Most of these positions are roles in public safety that required both written and physical exams to ensure the best of the best were hired. That is why Yonkers has such high performing Police and Fire Departments. We applaud and thank anyone, including those with a Spano name, who put

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Former Corrections Officer Indicted for Cold Case 97' Yonkers Murder of Nusinaida Ramos



Yonkers Police Det. Martinez taking Rafael Ramos into custody for the 1997 murder of his ex-wife

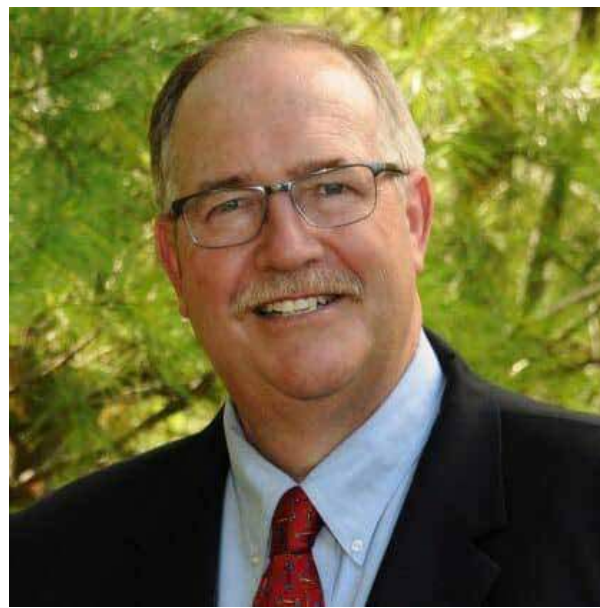
*bottom left:
Nusinaida Ramos*

Westchester DA Rocah Announces grand jury indicts Ramos's ex-husband for strangulation murder

On June 15, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that a Sleepy Hollow man was indicted for the 1997 beating and strangulation death of his 34-year-old ex-wife, Nusinaida Ramos. Both cases—after lengthy investigations by the Yonkers Police Department and the Westchester County District Attorney's Office—are the latest homicides charged by the Cold Case Bureau, which the District Attorney established upon taking office in 2021.

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We Endorse: Mike Breen City Council 5th District, Republican Primary June 27



City Council Minority Leader Mike Breen

Compromise is not a bad word. Nor is consensus. In our view, it is the way that our government has always worked, and how it works when it is operating correctly.

City Councilman Mike Breen has sought compromise, and consensus, in his years on the City Council. He has reasonably sought the middle ground that most Yonkers residents, taxpayers and voters, also occupy.

Breen has worked with Mayor Spano on many of his budgets and initiatives but has also spoke out and voted against the Mayor when he sought fit. The recent City budget is one example where Breen voted no; he believed that any property tax increase above 2% was too high.

In the past, we have called Breen, "Councilman Pothole," because of his ability to serve the constituents in the 5th district and effectively respond to their quality of life concerns. A recent example is the effort to rebuild Schultze Playground. Exemplifying the model public-private partnership, Breen joined forces with the Crestwood Community Fund who was able to raise \$420,000, adding to the City's investment of \$800,000. Construction is slated to begin in the fall of 2023.

Breen also got 48% of the vote in his race for Assembly last year, almost defeating a very popular Assemblyman Nader Sayegh.

Breen's opponent is Ron Schutte, someone who has been described as invisible to his community until deciding to run for office. A neighbor of Schutte said "I've lived in this neighborhood for nearly 15 years and have never had so much as a conversation with him. Now he comes knocking at my door looking for support against someone who has always been there for us. I'm with Mike Breen".

Schutte is running solely on the issue of Breen's vote in favor of term limits. We don't agree with that line of thinking; We find Breen's experience on the City Council, and his ability to get things done, as a reason for residents in the 5th district to support his reelection.

We are also distressed by the negative attacks against Breen by supporters of Schutte, who is close friends with another Yonkers republican running for office this year. In politics, when a candidate goes with a negative message it typically means they are way behind and need to try and "bloody up" their opponent. We suspect that is what is occurring here.

Breen has shown time and time again that he is a committed supporter of our Police and Fire Departments, dedicated to attacking quality of life issues head on and making the necessary investments in our City's infrastructure and parks for our children to enjoy. That's why we endorse Mike Breen because he has earned the vote of republicans in the 5th district based on his record on the city council.

Cool Off at the Yonkers Riverfront Festival

**SUMMER KICKOFF
RIVERFRONT FESTIVAL**

FREE! Saturday, June 24, noon - 5 pm
Habirshaw Park, Yonkers, yprc.org

KAYAK & standup paddle board, ENJOY canoe rides, FISH w/ seine nets, TOUR historic boathouse & environmental center, MAKE ART from recyclables, LEARN about oysters, DO YOGA, DRUM, PLANT seeds to take home, FOOD, MUSIC & MORE!

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Yonkerstimes.com**

“Senior Member” of DA Rocah’s Staff Knew About Anand Singh Sex Allegations in Dec. 2022



“This office learned that a senior member of the WCDAO was, in fact, given notice of the allegations against Singh on several occasions by Westchester County Government members and staff, the earliest of which occurred in December 2022,”

June 5 letter from Amy Finz, Chief Assistant District Attorney to Frederick Sullivan, Asst. Chief Westchester County Attorney

Who is This Employee?

Why hasn’t this employee submitted their resignation to DA Rocah?

By Dan Murphy

A letter obtained by Yonkerstimes.com shows that a “Senior Member” of Westchester County District Attorney Mimi Rocah’s staff, “was given notice of the allegations against (Anand) Singh on several occasions by Westchester County government members and staff, the earliest which occurred in December 2022.”

Anand Singh was an employee of the Westchester County Board of Legislators when he was caught in an internet sting where he was recorded trying to have sex with a 14-year old girl. After several hours of graphic texting, phone calls and photo sharing, Singh drove three hours to New Jersey to meet the young girl, who was actually a decoy, working for OBL Global. The video was livestreamed in December of 2022, but didn’t reemerge until April 2023. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LE2F2vHXZ4c>

Singh was kept on until April; he was arrested by the FBI in May. Now comes word that someone in Rocah’s office had knowledge of Singh but did nothing about it. First reported in the Yonkers Ledger <https://www.theyonkersledger.com/news/westchester-da-mimi-rocah-investigating-legislators-over-child-sex-predator-scandal/3226/>, and in a letter later obtained by Yonkerstimes.com, Chief ADA Amy Finz writes to Frederick Sullivan at the Westchester County Law Department that Rocah’s office, “has referred the matter to another prosecutor’s office, that will conduct an independent investigation.”

In April, Rocah announced an investigation into the actions of the Westchester County Board of Legislators concerning Anand Singh, and demanded the preservation of all “data, information and communications.”

Who the individual was in Rocah’s office who had prior knowledge of Anand Singh’s actions four months before his arrest in not yet known to the public. We also don’t know who the independent prosecutor is investigating Singh.

Friends of the DA are telling us that “other members of the DA’s staff had no knowledge that this individual knew about Anand in Dec. of 2022 until their own investigation uncovered proof. She (Rocah) isn’t happy about any of this.”

Here is where we differ with Rocah and her supporters. The letter is dated June 5. The Yonkers Ledger ran their story on June 6. There has been no public discussion or comment from her office, in an apparent attempt to keep this quiet. Full disclosure would have been the best decision, as soon as the letter was penned.

YPIE Recognizes Volunteer Elisa Owen and Superintendent Dr. Quezada at Celebration



Mayor Mike Spano joins YPIE Gratitude Celebration with Volunteer Elisa Owen, Superintendent Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, YPIE Executive Director Sam Wallis and Elisa’s students. Photo by Donna Davis

On June 6th, Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE) recognized the impact and dedication of its 230+ volunteers at its annual Gratitude Celebration at the Cross County Center.

Mayor Mike Spano and Yonkers Superintendent Dr. Edwin M. Quezada joined more than 100 volunteers, community members, staff, and friends to express gratitude to YPIE’s volunteers for making a lasting difference in the lives of Yonkers students.

A YPIE volunteer since 2012, Elisa Owen was honored with the Wendy R. Nadel Volunteer Legacy Award, created in honor of YPIE’s founding executive director. Elisa has worked with hundreds of students and served in many roles, including YPIE Graduation Coach, Essay Coach, Volunteer Advisory Board member, and partner to YPIE College Advisors and Senior staff.

“Through the years, I have worked with students from Yonkers who have shared their stories with me — some of these stories are sad, some of them are harrowing, some of them are ordinary, some are funny—but what is remarkable is that their stories are shared with me with such open-heartedness,” reflected Elisa.

Several of Elisa’s former students attended the celebration. “Elisa has watched me cry over my classes, helped me make big decisions, and is the first person I go to whenever I accomplish something new,” shared Sera. “Thank you to YPIE for matching us together when I was a shy 14-year-old girl. Elisa, I will never forget you wherever life takes us. Thank you so much for never giving up on me.”

YPIE also recognized a “Volunteer of the Year” from each of the Yonkers high schools. “The impact we have on young people would not be possible without the time, dedication, and love of our volunteers who, at 230 strong, may very well be the largest corps of volunteers in Westchester County,” stated Stacy Winitz, YPIE Senior Director of Volunteer Engagement.

This event was also dedicated to thanking retiring Yonkers Superintendent Dr. Edwin M. Quezada for his strong commitment to Yonkers students and his partnership with YPIE.

“YPIE is grateful to Dr. Quezada for his longtime partnership in helping to build a college-going culture throughout the district and working with us so students see a path to higher education in their future,” shared YPIE Board of Directors Chair, David Westin.

YPIE thanks the Cross County Center for hosting our annual Gratitude Celebration and all the YPIE community members that joined this meaningful event. Learn more about ypie.org.

MIKE BREEN
CITY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 5

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WWW.BREEN4YONKERS.COM
MIKEBREEN4YONKERS@GMAIL.COM

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EARLY VOTING SCHEDULE: JUNE 17TH - 25TH

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GRINTON I. WILL LIBRARY
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- Sunday, June 18, 2023 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.
- Monday, June 19, 2023 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.
- Tuesday, June 20, 2023 from noon until 8 p.m.
- Wednesday, June 21, 2023 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.
- Thursday, June 22, 2023 from noon until 8 p.m.
- Friday, June 23, 2023 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.
- Saturday, June 24, 2023 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.
- Sunday, June 25, 2023 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

City of Yonkers Rededicates Pedestrian Bridge in Honor of 1st African-American Councilman Joseph E. Burgess



This month, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and the Yonkers City Council rededicated the pedestrian bridge that connects Yonkers City Hall to the Cacace Justice Center on Nepperhan Avenue in honor and memory of the City's first African American Councilman, Joseph E. Burgess Jr. The re-dedication included a ribbon cutting ceremony and a walk across the pedestrian bridge in honor of Burgess.

"This re-dedication ceremony is a tribute to the immense contributions of Joseph E. Burgess, Jr., who paved the way for future generations of African Americans in our city," said Mayor Mike Spano. "It is an opportunity for us to collectively honor and celebrate his life and legacy, and to renew our commitment to the values of diversity, inclusion, and social justice."

Joseph E. Burgess, Jr. was the first African American to be elected to the Yonkers City Council in 1983 representing the city's 1st Ward. In 1992, he was appointed as the City's Deputy Human Resources Commissioner and frequently gave presentations to students in Yonkers Public Schools. During his tenure, Joseph E. Burgess, Jr. worked tirelessly to ensure that the voices of African Americans were heard and represented in the decision-making process. Most importantly, Joseph E. Burgess, Jr. played a pivotal role in promoting social justice, equality, and diversity in the city.

"Joseph E. Burgess was a gentleman, statesman and a voice of reason during the most tumultuous times in Yonkers history," said former Yonkers City Council President Vincenza A. Restiano. "It was an honor to serve with him on the Council and most fitting that the City recognize his place in history."

The City of Yonkers originally dedicated the bridge to Burgess on June 5, 1995, however a permanent plaque was never installed to commemorate the designation. The ceremony was part of the city's efforts to place an official plaque on the bridge, recognize Burgess and celebrate the contributions of the African American community prior to the start of the city's Juneteenth Weekend.

Cold Case Murder, continued from pg 1--

DA Rocah said: "Today we have delivered some measure of closure to the families who have lived with these unsolved cases for a combined 36 years. The sentence and indictment in these cases show what can be accomplished with the resources and commitment of our dedicated Cold Case Bureau. Thanks to the tenacious work by our attorneys, investigators, and our vital police partners, we are securing justice for victims."

Yonkers Police Commissioner Christopher Sapienza said: "I applaud the extraordinary efforts of our Yonkers Police Cold Case Detectives and the Westchester County District Attorney's Office Cold Case Bureau in pursuing justice for the Ramos family. Words cannot assuage the grief of losing a loved one to violence, so we hope these efforts bring some degree of closure to those who knew Nusinaida."

A Westchester County Grand Jury indicted Rafael Ramos, 54, for Murder in the Second Degree, for the alleged beating and strangulation death of his ex-wife Nusinaida Ramos. The defendant was arraigned before Judge Fufidio in Westchester County Court on June 14, 2023, and remanded.

On the afternoon of March 9, 1997, the defendant, a former Corrections Officer at Sing Sing Correctional Facility in Ossining, allegedly used a T-shirt to strangle his ex-wife to death after beating her until she bled in her Colins Street apartment in Yonkers. The next day, Yonkers police conducted a welfare check at the behest of the victim's family and found her dead on her living room floor.

Yonkers police arrested the defendant on June 14, 2023, at his residence in Sleepy Hollow. The case is before Judge Fufidio in Westchester County Court, and is being prosecuted by Cold Case Bureau Chief Daniel Flecha of the Trials and Investigations Division. Criminal Investigator James Menton assisted with the investigation.

Rocah also announced that Wanda Veguilla was sentenced to 20 years in prison for the 2012 Murder of Pamela Graddick. That case was also solved by the Cold Case Bureau in 2021. The Yonkers Police Tweeted, Thank you to Yonkers PD Cold Case Detectives John "Lumpy" Geiss (ret.) and Vionett Martinez for their pursuit of justice for the families of Pamela Graddick and Nusinaida Ramos."

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Goodbye Sweet Aunt Shirley



By Eric W. Schoen

There is always someone special in every family that holds the family together in good times and bad times. This week we Lost my Aunt Shirley who I was very fond of at the ripe young age of 96. She died of natural causes.

Until her death she served as the matriarch of our family. Dad had 3 brothers, each with a wife and two children. Dad and his brothers all died young, and in Shirley's case her husband passed at a very young age. Shirley's boys were in high school when her husband, my uncle Harry passed. She kept the family together in time of sorrow.

I always enjoyed visiting Aunt Shirley in her Bronx apartment house. She would always offer me food like a good Jewish aunt never allowing me to say no. We would always have an enjoyable day when we spent it with Shirley and the boys.

When her husband was alive, Shirley and Harry always had a habit of calling to talk to my parents when we were on our way out, particularly when we were heading to Temple on Friday night at 8:00 p.m. My dad would take the time however brief to talk to his brother, and make plans to continue the conversation later.

Shirley was the major provider for her family after her husband's early death. She went above and beyond with her sons. When one took seriously ill she stayed with him at his Lincoln Center apartment 24 hour a day, 7 days a week. As Shirley got older, the son reciprocated by providing 24 hour care to his mother. You don't see that in many families.

Goodbye sweet Aunt Shirley. Always a smile and a warm welcome. You will be missed.

Primary Day is Tuesday June 27

Journal News featuring extensive articles on how Mayor Spano raised over a half a Million dollars for his reelection bid. Much of the money was raised by companies with business before the city. To the winners go the spoils. You can have your say by voting in the Primary with early voting this weekend.

People moan and groan about candidates with large war chests or who get large amounts of money in particular from those who do business with the city. You don't like it? Make sure you vote on Primary Day.

Voting costs nothing, is easy to do and allows everyone to have their say in what is going on in the city. Don't forget and if you do, don't complain!

The Titanic

People pay a lot of money for excursions to see the remnants of the Titanic. This week one of the vessels operated by a private company has gone missing. The vessels are put together with flimsy materials.

We pray for the missing and hope that if people have extra bucks they spend it in better ways!

Swimming

Make sure you swim in an area clearly marked where lifeguards are on duty. We have already had tragic accidents this year. And if you haven't learned to do so yet, learn to swim. The county offers courses at its various pools. That's how I learned to swim. Teacher Marge Bruno taught many people in Yonkers including this swimmer. She had a firm but gentle hand teaching the youngest to the oldest how to swim during the summer at Tibbetts.

And if you don't know how to swim, stay in shallow water and make sure you swim with a buddy!

White House 'pull your shirt down' Ceremony

Shame on the person who during an LGBT ceremony took her shirt off. It took a long time to get LGBT people to be respected to be able to celebrate on the White House lawn. This 'Tik Tok' game player just spoils it for the majority who know how to behave. Fortunately her White House visit permit was taken away! Permanently!

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Holtec Accused of “Strong Arming” Unions to Help Their Plan for Hudson River Waste Dump

**CALL GOVERNOR HOCHUL AT
866-696-8249**
and urge her to oppose Holtec’s plan to dump its toxic waste into the Hudson River and to do everything in her power to ensure our waterways don’t face further threats from big polluters.

Have questions, want to volunteer or be more involved in the fight to protect the Hudson River?
Contact Santosh at snandabalan@fwwatch.org



To sign the petition, scan the code at left or visit fwwat.ch/ProtectTheHudson



By Dan Murphy

Efforts to keep Holtec, the Corporation that is charged with decommissioning Indian Point Power Plant, from dumping one million gallons of nuclear waste in the Hudson River, continue, with a bill to prohibit radiological discharges into the Hudson River expected to be passed in the Assembly this week, and to land on the desk of Governor Kathy Hochul this month.

But Holtec is now on the offensive, pushing back on the narrative that they should not be allowed to dump in the Hudson River, which took Pete Seeger and Robert Kennedy Jr., and many other environmental advocates, decades to clean. Members of several unions packed a recent decommissioning meeting in Buchanan and held protests outside of the office of Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg, the sponsor of the bill.

But other residents who live near the closed power plant don’t see the connection between forcing Holtec not to dump, but instead to store the waste to reduce the toxicity as recommended by Riverkeeper, and union jobs.

“I care deeply about all of my constituents, including our local workforce. I have been hearing concerns from three labor unions who are fearful of possible layoffs during the decommissioning of Indian Point. Because I am very concerned about local jobs, I asked multiple questions about the labor implications of different radioactive waste management options during last night’s Decommissioning Oversight Board meeting. I heard repeatedly that there is plenty of work to be done at various points during the decommissioning process. If this is the case, why are workers being told that their jobs are at stake if A7208 passes? This appears to be an attempt to enlist labor in an effort to stifle public discussion of our options,” said Assemblywoman Levenberg.

“If they are confident that the science and evidence unequivocally supports the safety of discharging the water, they should want skeptical members of the public to be able to come in and hear it and be convinced. Public perception of a polluted, hazardous river will undermine our local economy in various ways, harming property values, business interests, and much more. More than 30 municipalities and thousands of my constituents have reached out to my office to oppose the plan to discharge nuclear waste into the Hudson.”

Members of the Carpenters Union oppose the bill by Levenberg and State Senator Pete Harchkham, claiming that it will effectively stop the decommissioning of Indian Point and kill their union jobs as a part of the cleanup.

“This bill may be well intentioned, but it would stop the decommissioning of Indian Point and lead to substantial long-term job losses in the Hudson Valley. The concerns raised by the bill’s sponsors have been addressed, and the EPA has developed environmentally conscious procedures that our members are following closely. A handful of misguided activists from outside our community shouldn’t be allowed to stop a worthy project that is providing critical blue collar jobs,” said Bill Banfield, Assistant to the Executive Secretary-Treasurer, North Atlantic States Regional Council of Carpenters.

However, finding the connection between stopping Holtec from dumping in the Hudson, to the union jobs for the cleanup on the power plant and surrounding property, is difficult to find. “This is nothing more than Holtec strongarming unions into stopping this bill from passing, and allowing them to dump this Nuclear Waste in the Hudson. This is how a child acts when they don’t get what they want, and their refusal to consider other options is a sign of a corporation that doesn’t care,” said one Westchester environmental leader.

State Sen. Peter Harchkham, a sponsor of the bill, called connecting union jobs with toxic dumping a false choice. “Protecting jobs versus protecting our environment and natural resources is a false choice. We need to work together to accomplish both. There are years’ worth of work onsite at Indian Point, and workers should not be treated as hostages while we deal with the challenges of safe decommissioning.”

Another point raised by opponents of the dumping is that if Holtec decides to store the wastewater on site, which would reduce the tritium’s half-life (the radioactive isotope) by 50%, there would be hundreds of new union jobs required to build the waste facilities and the surrounding infrastructure.

Recent supporters of Holtec’s plan to dump include John Ravitz, of the Business Council of Westchester, who penned an Op-Ed, (<https://www.theexam-inernews.com/holtecs-planned-release-of-indian-point-water-was-agreed-to-by-all-parties/>) and from Warren Smith, republican candidate for Cortlandt Town Supervisor.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer at his weekly briefing on June 15, said, “If Holtec asserts that there is no method by which the contaminated water can remain on site, they must explain why that is the case...The question that I have to ask is if this water is released in this quantity at this level of pollution, that there will be no harmful effects to this river over the next 50 years? I have no confidence, nor have I seen persuasive data that assures me otherwise.... If there is any miscalculation, we are the ones who will pay the price. I support calls for a moratorium to address these issues.”

Yonkers Firefighter’s Stolen Van, and Special Wheelchair for 10-Year Old Daughter Found



Yorktown Police Officers with YFD Finnegan’s Van

By Dan Murphy

Yonkers Firefighter Bob Finnegan lives in the Shrub Oak section of the Town of Yorktown. When he came out to start his day, he found that his 2017 Toyota Sienna had been stolen out of his driveway. In the car was a specialized wheelchair for his 10-year old daughter, Mia.

After a tremendous outpouring of support and donations to the family, Yorktown Police answered the prayers of the Finnegan’s, finding the car and the wheelchair.

The Yorktown Police reports, “A few nights ago, we had a few people we

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Cold Case Murder, continued from pg 3-

DA Rocah said: “Today we have delivered some measure of closure to the families who have lived with these unsolved cases for a combined 36 years. The sentence and indictment in these cases show what can be accomplished with the resources and commitment of our dedicated Cold Case Bureau. Thanks to the tenacious work by our attorneys, investigators, and our vital police partners, we are securing justice for victims.”

Yonkers Police Commissioner Christopher Sapienza said: “I applaud the extraordinary efforts of our Yonkers Police Cold Case Detectives and the Westchester County District Attorney’s Office Cold Case Bureau in pursuing justice for the Ramos family. Words cannot assuage the grief of losing a loved one to violence, so we hope these efforts bring some degree of closure to those who knew Nusinaida.”

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On the afternoon of March 9, 1997, the defendant, a former Corrections Officer at Sing Sing Correctional Facility in Ossining, allegedly used a T-shirt to strangle his ex-wife to death after beating her until she bled in her Colins Street apartment in Yonkers. The next day, Yonkers police conducted a welfare check at the behest of the victim’s family and found her dead on her living room floor.

Yonkers police arrested the defendant on June 14, 2023, at his residence in Sleepy Hollow. The case is before Judge Fufidio in Westchester County Court, and is being prosecuted by Cold Case Bureau Chief Daniel Flecha of the Trials and Investigations Division. Criminal Investigator James Menton assisted with the investigation. The charges against the defendant are merely an accusation, and the defendant is presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty. Rocah also announced that Wanda Veguilla was sentenced to 20 years in prison for the 2012 Murder of Pamela Graddick. That case was also solved by the Cold Case Bureau in 2021. The Yonkers Police Tweeted, “Thank you to Yonkers PD Cold Case Detectives John “Lumpy” Geiss (ret.) and Vionett Martinez for their pursuit of justice for the families of Pamela Graddick and Nusinaida Ramos.”

We Endorse Spano, continued from pg 1-

themselves in harms way every day to protect others.

The Spano patriarch, Leonard Spano Sr., started a tradition of public service 50 years ago. The Spano’s go to work every day, serve the public, and have proven themselves to be an important part of the city.

When Deputy County Executive Ken Jenkins endorsed Mayor Spano last week, we thought that Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Isaac needed the same type of Big-Name Democrat to come in and endorse her campaign. Perhaps a powerful state senator or county leader. But that didn’t happen.

Pineda-Isaac focused all of her available media attention on nepotism, which is a hard argument to make when you have your mother and your sister serving in similar jobs you are accusing the Spano family of. Pineda-Isaac also holds a county job that is considered a political appointment.

Pineda-Isaac also has more than \$2,000 in unpaid parking tickets. LOHUD reports that, “When you add up the tab for tickets she incurred on both her BMW and the city-issued vehicle she gets assigned for serving on the City Council, Pineda-Isaac has run up fines and penalties totaling \$6,295 since 2014.”

The tickets should have been paid for before Pineda-Isaac ran for Mayor. The inability to do so either shows a disregard for the importance of respecting the rules, or a disorganization in her campaign.

Pineda-Isaac also supported many of Spano’s initiatives and budgets while on the city council. Now she is running against Spano claiming that he was wrong on many of the issues that she supported him on. That is a tough sell.

We were impressed by the campaign of Margaret Fountain-Coleman. Fountain-Coleman had served in public office before, in other communities, as a Trustee in Tuckahoe, and in Virginia. We find this experience to be an asset because it shows that she can get elected and serve people. But many voters don’t know her well enough to elect her Mayor of Yonkers. We hope that Fountain-Coleman can continue to serve in the field of education, helping educate the young people of Yonkers.

Voter apathy is also a problem in this election and many smaller, local elections. Whether you support or oppose former President Trump, his presence has made it difficult to focus on other issues. People also seemed to be too busy with their own lives to focus on the race for Mayor of Yonkers, which is a problem for both Pineda-Isaac and Coleman.

We have heard that progressive democrats, and members of Indivisible, are supporting both Pineda-Isaac and Coleman. This underscores the view of many politicians that both will split any opposition vote to Spano.

When you are running against a three-time popular incumbent, you need a knockout, and neither Pineda-Isaac or Coleman got close to that. The reason seems to be that overall, the people of Yonkers are satisfied and content with what’s happening in their city, and the leadership that Spano has provided.

We Endorse Mayor Mike Spano for Reelection in the Democratic Primary June 27. Early voting has already begun, at the Will Library, Riverfront Library and the Nodine Hill Community Center.

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Progressive Computing Celebrates 30 Years



L-R- Ugo Chiulli, Progressive Computing; George Latimer, Westchester County Executive; Robert Cioffi, Progressive Computing

Robert Cioffi and Ugo Chiulli were raised in Yonkers. They attended and graduated from both Gorton High School and Iona College, became friends, and eventually informal business associates at Iona College during the technology revolution in the 1980s. Today, Robert and Ugo are co-founders of Progressive Computing and celebrating the company's 30th anniversary.

Progressive Computing started in 1993 as Robert and Ugo developed software programs for local businesses with open-source DOS. At that time, much of the servicing was "break-fix". Progressive would receive a phone call when a partner needed something repaired. Eventually, Progressive Computing grew to provide a host of services as the technology of doing business became more complex and nuanced. Progressive was among the first to adopt a subscription-based service, offering numerous benefits like guaranteed response time, continued IT support and backup, strategic planning, consulting services, and cyber security protection.

Years ago, Mr. Cioffi (COO), Mr. Chiulli (CEO), and Robert Patterson, the company's Sales and Marketing Director, adopted a unique approach of forming and participating in several peer groups of technology-minded individuals from different industries and disciplines. They would meet quarterly to discuss their business, challenges, and opportunities in the IT industry and would discuss ways to address these issues.

This valuable peer group insight allowed Progressive Computing's leadership team to put best practice ideas into practice, keep on top of the ever-changing industry, anticipate new trends, and give advice and consultation to their growing portfolio of partners. Progressive Computing has expanded to over 70 clients with revenues exceeding \$5 million annually.

During the Covid outbreak, as many businesses were losing revenue and reducing their workforce, Progressive committed itself to keeping the company whole and riding out the pandemic. Progressive's leadership team stayed in touch with all of their partners, helping them through the difficult transition of managing the pandemic's effects on their business. Progressive Computing not only emerged stronger from the pandemic, but the Covid experience helped to make businesses more aware of the natural evolution to cloud-based serving, a strategy Progressive had advocated for years.

Progressive's core values are Respect, Commitment, Team, and Humble Confidence. The latter value is an attitude of quiet confidence that Progressive specialists have when consulting, or troubleshooting an issue, without overreaching or seeming to flaunt their expertise. Interestingly, Progressive has four employees who have been with the company for over 20 years; they embody these core attributes that the company's employees embrace today.

The hiring process at Progressive is rigorous; each new hire must pass the core values interview before moving on to the next level. Of course, any business fortunate enough to have its employees perform and live by their company's core values will be better suited to be successful, as Progressive Computing has been since 1993.

Progressive is keen on supporting community-based efforts. From working with The United Way of Westchester and Putnam, Arts Westchester and other nonprofits, having active membership in The Business Council of Westchester to holding high-tech classes at Rutgers, Progressive appreciates the community that has helped them thrive since the company started. We also help provide leadership at various nonprofits. Robert Cioffi is on the board of The Business Council of Westchester, Robert Patterson on the board of the Manhattan Chamber of Commerce, and Ugo Chiulli a board member of Community Resource Center.

The future for Progressive is promising, with the growth of cloud services, the importance of cyber security, and the likely prospect that the company considers the acquisition of entities that can help elevate the customer experience in the coming years; Progressive is well positioned for continued success and growth.

On This Day in Yonkers History...



Electrical Engineering genius Charles Steinmetz about 1910

By Mary Hoar, City of Yonkers Historian, 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, June 26th

June 26, 1877: Aldermen Shonnard, Murphy and Morse opened an investigation into charges of "official corruption" against First Ward Alderman Joseph Riley. Riley allegedly "tried to induce" City Treasurer George Cobb to pay \$750 to ensure he would stay in his position, with the Riley guaranteeing any candidate nominated by Mayor Gibson would not be confirmed. When questioned by the committee, Riley strongly denied the charges, and stated he had neither received a bribe nor asked for one. Apparently, he was not believed as he was to be brought before the entire Common Council a few weeks later.

June 26, 1929: DA Frank Coyne announced he was opposing defense attorney Sydney Syme's motion to inspect minutes of the Grand Jury indicting client Earle Peacock, the Yonkers Torch Killer. Syme obtained an order directing Coyne to "show cause" why Syme should not.

Tuesday, June 27th

June 27, 1897: A. Conan Doyle thanked John Kendrick Bangs of Yonkers for dedicating his book, "The Pursuit of the Houseboat," to him. Bangs' dedication read, "To A. Conan Doyle, with the author's sincerest regards and thanks for the untimely demise of his great detective, which made these things possible."

Doyle responded, "How very good of you to inscribe your most amusing and original book to me! I begin to have hope of immortality now that I have got onto your flyleaf. I hope I shall be in England when next Mrs. Bangs and you come over. With all kindest remembrances to you and yours, Ever truly yours, A. Conan Doyle.

His exciting postscript: "I still live in hopes of playing round the Yonkers links once more," with no indication of which Yonkers' fine golf course.

Wednesday, June 28th

June 28, 1937: John Dickson of Yonkers, pioneer of wholesale distribution of newspapers in the United States, retired at the age of 73. Dickson started with eight boys: the company went from street sales to house-to-house delivery in 1898, with The Yonkers Daily News the first evening paper delivered to homes in Yonkers! When that paper stopped publishing, his company delivered The Yonkers Statesman and The Yonkers Herald until the papers merged; his company then delivered The Herald Statesman. John Dickson and Sons on Clinton Street was sold.

June 28, 1940: The first families moved into new apartments at Mulford Gardens! First family to arrive was Nicholas Spak's, formerly of Jefferson Street. Immediately investigating the apartment, they loved the large windows and modern kitchen appliances. The families held an impromptu flag raising ceremony at the project's flagpole at the center of the complex.

Thursday, June 29th

June 29, 1913: Forty-seven members of Kitching Post, GAR, left Yonkers for a Gettysburg battlefield reunion via a special train.

June 29, 1955: F. A. Sharpe of Intervale Place, dubbed the "River Investigator," announced the Hudson River was getting "higher, wider and saltier at a catastrophic rate." He forecast a time when the NY Central Railroad would abandon the Hudson Division roadbed and buildings along the river would be vacated. Increasing river currents would make boating impossible, and cities along its bank would not be able to use the river for drinking water or sewage disposal. He contended the cause was the melting polar ice caps and record high temperatures in the Arctic, referencing ice bergs floating into shipping lanes as proof.

continued on pg 6-

Registration is Now Open for Westchester County Parks Second Pickleball Tournament

Pickleball is back by popular demand! Registration is now open for the Westchester County Parks Pickleball Tournament to be held on Saturday, July 29, at 9 a.m. at Tibbets Brook Park in Yonkers.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "Catch the craze! Pickleball is becoming America's fastest growing sport, and we are proud to offer tournament play to Westchester County residents. So grab your paddle and come join us at the new pickleball courts at Tibbets Brook Park.

Westchester County Parks Commissioner, Kathy O'Connor said, "Following the tremendous success of our first pickleball tournament held earlier this month, we are thrilled to offer a second competition to Westchester residents."

The mixed doubles tournament is open to men and women, levels 2.5 to 3.0 and 3.5 to 4.0 (no beginners please). Rain date is Sunday, July 30.

The fee is \$30 per team, with a maximum of 12 teams. Deadline for registration is Friday, July 14.

Visit Westchester County Parks for more information, or to register, call (914) 231-4645 (Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.). Tibbets Brook Park is located at 355 Midland Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10704.

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Notice of formation of My Mind Is Magic, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 3/14/2023. 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, 50 Hawthorne Ave C3-1, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of LIVE LONG LIVE STRONG FITNESS LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 11/07/22. Office location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 33 Sherwood Ave, apt. 3w, Yonkers, NY 10704. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Motives Thru Fabric LLC. Filed with Angel Luis Morales III. Office: Westchester County. Angel Luis Morales III designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. Angel Luis Morales III Shall mail a copy of process to the LLC, 35 Montague Street, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Formation of LIMESMASHER LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 6/2/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Michael Limekiller, 938 Saw Mill River Rd., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of True to Life Counseling Psychotherapy Services, LCSW PLLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 5/26/2023 Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC at 50 Riverdale Avenue Suite 15J, Yonkers, Ny 10701. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Cellco Partnership and its controlled affiliates doing business as Verizon Wireless (Verizon Wireless) proposes to collocate wireless communications antennas at a top height of 83 feet on a 109-foot building at the approx. vicinity of 139 Valentine Lane, Yonkers, Westchester County, NY 10705. Public comments regarding potential effects from this site on historic properties may be submitted within 30 days from the date of this publication to: Trileaf Corp, Conchita Jones, c.jones@trileaf.com, 1395 South Marietta Parkway, Building 400, Suite 209, Marietta, GA 30067, 678-653-8673 ext. 659.

Eric Schoen , continued from pg 3-

Briefs:
Can you believe the person who slashed a dog in the face. How pathetic can someone be!
Social media has had a negative impact on kids. It is important that parents watch their children’s social media excursions and not have other kids use the device to belittle each other.
Transit knife arrests are up 60% in New York City. Wonder why people and businesses are leaving the city? And why people are afraid to take public transit!
Hunter Biden has taken a plea deal with prosecutors. Yes, if Donald had returned the documents in his possession he might have gotten a plea deal too without jail time.
I’m still waiting to hear all these tapes the Trump side and Biden side claim to have of each other. Release the dam tapes already, or for heavens sake stop talking about them.
I am impressed with Presidential candidate Tim Scott a conservative willing to work with the Democrats. Among all the White faces, it will be good to see a black face in the Republican debates.
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 and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge. Reach him at thistooisyonkers@aol.com.

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**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 5, 2023 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 CHAPTER 47 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS ENTITLED ‘OUTDOOR SIGNS’

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: June 16, 2023

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THE CITY OF YONKERS/YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BUREAU OF PURCHASING, One Larkin Center, 3RD Floor, Yonkers, New York 10701 (Located in the Yonkers Riverfront Library Building across from the Metro-North train station) will receive sealed Bids for the following projects until 2:00 PM, on the dates below.

Sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read at the address above in the 3rd Floor Finance Conference Room.

The building is open from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM for receiving packages via courier services and in person. If delivering bids in person, individuals must see the Public Safety Officer in the library atrium, who will contact Purchasing to meet the individual at the 3rd floor elevator.

Those interested in listening to the bid opening and the reading of bids can dial Conference Call number 1-701-802-5221 and enter Access Code 1354203 when prompted.

Solicitation documents are available for downloading from the Empire State Purchasing Group website at http://www.empirestatebidsystem.com/. The City welcomes and encourages participation by local and minority and women owned business enterprises.

- 1. Bid 6992 – Opening date: 07/14/2023: Purchase of one Recreation by Design, or Yonkers approved equal, mobile command trailer (NG).
- 2. Bid 7008 – Opening date 07/07/2023: Twelve month contract, with the option to renew for twelve months, for the purchase of dog and cat food, cat litter and pads as needed for the Yonkers Animal Shelter (NG).
- 3. Bid 7009 – Opening date 07/07/2023: Purchase of two Chevrolet Tahoe SSV’s, or Yonkers approved equal (MM).
- 4. Bid 7001 – Opening date 07/14/2023: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide road and highway improvements within Yonkers (2023– 2024 Highway Improvement Contract) (KS).

5. Request for Quotation-479 – Due date 07/07/2023: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for three 12-month terms, to provide the services of a Water Systems Operator and Maintenance Specialist (the “Specialist”) to provide on-call Construction Management & Construction Oversight Consulting Services. The Specialist will assist the Department of Public Works in overseeing the Construction Management of Water Bureau Capital Projects (NG).

6. Bid 6990 – Opening date: 07/21/2023: Furnish and install emergency diesel engine at the Tuckahoe Road Low Service Pump Station located at 319 Tuckahoe Road (MM).

7. Bid 6994 – Opening date 07/21/2023: Furnish and install an above ground/ underground refuse disposal system on a new City provided Freightliner truck (MM).

Classifieds

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Old Songs Music Festival
2023
June 23, 24 & 25, 2023
Altamont Fairgrounds, near Albany, NY
festival.oldsongs.org

Stolen Van, Missing Wheelchair , con't from pg 4-

refer to as P.O.S. (Persons Or Suspects.....although, it could be open to interpretation) rummaging through unlocked vehicles in the dead of night, when they hit the jackpot and located the van depicted in our photo. Unfortunately, and hey, it happens when you have a fob, you forget and leave the fob inside, which does not allow you to lock your vehicle. We may be suspect shamers, but we never victim shame here at YPD. Well, our P.O.S.' decided they'd steal the van, which had a customized wheelchair inside, that was very much needed for a member of the victim household.

"Well, we're happy to report that eagle eyed Yorktown Police Department Detective Dan Curtis spotted the unoccupied van parked in a residential parking lot just over the town line on Lexington Ave last night. The good news.....the customized wheelchair was still inside of the van! That's Detective Curtis on the left, being joined by Detective Sage (best hair @ YPD for the last 25 years), processing the van for physical evidence as we speak, so we can return the van to the rightful owner ASAP. As always, we're hoping to "scoop up" the P.O.S.' involved in the theft and we'll be working hard to make that happen Help us, help you, please try and remember to lock your unoccupied vehicles."

To help the Finnegan's overcome this challenging time, a GoFundMe page was set up and raised more than \$7,500. Bob Finnegan, Mia's dad and a Yonkers firefighter, said that won't happen again. "I accept full responsibility, you know, I grew up in a small town like this, so I got used to not having to lock doors and not having to lock cars," he said. "Obviously I have learned my lesson that times have changed."

The website MoneyGeek recently placed Yorktown at the #1 spot in its new list of the safest small towns in the United States.

Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

Friday, June 30th

June 30, 1877: The Yonkers Common Council, investigating charges of official corruption made against First Ward Alderman Joseph Riley in connection with the city treasurer, revealed the results of four days of statement and investigation by publishing some testimony.

June 30, 1943: Sergeant Mike Giovanniello of Yonkers took part in the amphibious assault on Rendova Island, overwhelming a Japanese military garrison and securing the island for an artillery base. Afterwards he opened a can of field rations and found a lump of sugar with a paper wrapper reading "French Chef!"

The label not only gave the restaurant's address, it also had the name of the manufacturer, National Sugar Refining Company. He was so moved by finding a wonderful souvenir of his hometown, he kept it through two campaigns. He mailed the slip of paper to the South Broadway restaurant, with a note stating he ate there many times, and "kept the wrapper in his money belt throughout the fighting." He wanted the French Chef name to "travel through the jungles of New Georgia and back to Yonkers." The management of the restaurant was so touched, it held on to Giovanniello's letter and the sugar wrapper.

Saturday, July 1st

July 1, 1907: To add to the military appearance of City Hall at Manor Hall Park, the city moved the large cannon from the High School on South Broadway to the Park. The canon was presented to the City of Yonkers: it was taken from the Maria Teresa Santiago, flagship of the Spanish Navy's First Squadron during the Spanish American War. Two guns of the "Revolutionary type" already were mounted at City Hall.

July 1, 1928: The new \$150,000 jail on Alexander Street opened.

Sunday, July 2nd

July 2, 1908: The title of the Manor Hall was formally transferred to New York State at a meeting in the Common Council Chamber. Present were Mayor Warren, President of the Yonkers Historical Society Stephen Thayer, Assemblyman Harry Haines and City Treasurer Gideon Peck.

July 2, 1922: Former Yonkers resident Charles Steinmetz, the electrical genius who worked for Rudolf Eiche Meyer until he retired and sold the company to General Electric Company, was designated to run as the Socialist candidate for State Engineer and Surveyor.

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 info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org

Westchester County Pools to Open June 23

Willson's Wave Pool in Mount Vernon

Ride the waves into summer as Willson's Wave Pool in Mount Vernon opens Friday, June 23, along with the remainder of County-owned pools, Saxon Woods in White Plains, and Sprain Ridge and The Brook at Tibbetts, both in Yonkers!

Last summer, Willson's Wave Pool wasn't able to open due to repairs, which were ongoing throughout the summer and year, however, the spray deck, aqua playground and the slides remained open.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "The opening of this pool brings joy and relief to our community, providing a much-needed respite for children and families during the summer. After last summer, ensuring its successful repairs were done correctly was crucial, as this site offers a safe and enjoyable space where children can swim and play and families and residents can gather - fostering a sense of community and well-being."

Commissioner of the Westchester County Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation, Kathy O'Connor said, "I'm excited to welcome residents back to Willson's Waves this summer and I congratulate the staff for an exemplary job on getting the pool and facility ready for the season!"

The \$3.3 million project to get the pool ready for the 2023 season consisted of several new elements including pool slab, pool plaster finish, pool grating at the zero entry, pool tile, return and drain piping system, and a new underdrain system was installed to control groundwater. Other improvements include the upgrade of the Spray Deck Feature "dancing waters" and the Ultraviolet Disinfection System. The wave pool has a graduated depth from zero inches to six feet and offers waves up to three feet for six-minute intervals.

All four County-owned pools will be open daily through Labor Day, Monday, Sept. 4, 11 a.m. to 6:30 p.m.; last entry is 6 p.m. Proof of Westchester County residency required; admission fees apply. Parking fees apply at The Brook at Tibbetts in Yonkers.

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