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Friday June 24-July 1, 2022

Gorton High School Valedictorian, Salutatorian, Look to the Future



Gorton HS Valedictorian Elham Al-Shareqi, and Valedictorian Kwadwo Osarfo-Akoto

By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to Gorton High School's 2022 Valedictorian Elham Al-Shareqi and Salutatorian, Kwadwo Osarfo-Akoto. Elham Al-Shareqi will graduate with a 100.12 weighted GPA.

Her favorite teachers are U.S History/Government teacher Stephen Frum and English teacher Catherine Marinello. Both helped me in many ways.

"My favorite subject is English. English has helped me grow as an individual by developing my literary skills since my first language is Arabic. In addition, I enjoy reading, writing, and analyzing texts and English class has helped me improve on all of them."

Elham has taken nine College Link courses and she helps volunteer at her local Mosque. "I am a Quran student teacher and during the holy month of Ramadan, I've organized fundraisers with everything we collected donated to different charities.

Elham's life story includes emigrating to the United States nine years ago and teaching herself English. Now she is a Valedictorian and fluent in English and Arabic. She is currently engaged in clinical rotations at St. John's Hospital and will graduate with 27 college credits towards her Health Information Technology Associate's degree from Westchester Community College, and enjoys traveling, cooking, writing, journaling, painting and reading.

Al-Shareqi was accepted to six universities including Columbia and Harvard! She will be attending Pace University in the fall. "My plans academically speaking will remain the same. I will continue to strive to be on top, ambitious, and hardworking. With that, I hope I can graduate from Pace University at top of my class. In addition, that will open many doors and opportunities for me to become a cardiologist. Before medical school, she plans to major in Health & Medicine/Human Resources/Nursing.

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Warburton Galerie Presents Solo Exhibiton by Haifa Bint-Kadi



Yonkers Artist Haifa Bint-Kadi

Continuing its commitment to bringing the public exemplary art exhibitions featuring both emerging and established artists, Warburton Galerie, 16 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers, presents I was a Point, I was a Circle, June 25th- August 4th, 2022. This exhibition is the culmination of Haifa Bint-Kadi's 2021-2022 residency. An opening reception will be held from 6:00-9:00pm on Saturday, June 25th to celebrate the accomplishments of this artist and her tremendously thoughtful and impactful body of work.

Bint-Kadi is a first Generation American, a Palestinian, a daughter of refugees, a Muslim and a mother. Her artwork expresses the exploration of self, displacement, of marginalization, mixed-race heritage and a need for belonging as she seeks to define and embrace her identity. The shows title is an elegiac ode by Huda Al-Namani which Bint-Kadi discovered during her first year in college. It is a discussion between the Self and the Other, the Individual and Society, the Womb and that which is Birthed from the womb and refers to the many cycles within life and our own lives. The artist says "To me it represents the constant need to affirm identity without despair. Hope within darkness can defiantly birth renewal and transformation. I Am, despite all circumstances."

The exhibition features work across a range of media, focusing on painting and sculpture from her What Once Was, Still is and Will Forever Remain Series as well as mosaic work. The artist describes her process in the following way- "My work reflects tension as I use mark-making, layering and repetitive strokes in an abstract expressionistic style to create history on the canvas. I place importance on associations with people, objects, memories and geographical locations that have impacted my identity. These associations become visually represented in my work through the use of cultural elements like ground mica, henna, Turkish coffee, embroidery and found objects, playing on Middle Eastern iconography. I find joy in the radical juxtaposition of objects, forms and curious marks. By experimenting with relation-

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Happy 4th! Fireworks at City Pier 9pm July 4

BOA, Bezos Earth Fund and NYS Invest \$2 Million in SW Yonkers Climate Initiative



Mayor Mike Spano, City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, City Council Majority Leader Tasha Diaz, Groundwork Hudson Valley Executive Director Brigitte Griswold, MHACY President and CEO Wilson Kimball; Westhab Assistant Vice President Samantha Chiafalo; New York State Bank of America President, Jeffrey Barker, with members of the GHV Green Team

The Bank of America Foundation, Bezos Earth Fund, and New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation all made a major commitment to alleviating climate risks in the Hudson Valley region by sponsoring a neighborhood-centered, solution-based climate resiliency initiative in the environmental justice community of Southwest Yonkers. This marks a historic series of public-private partnerships for Groundwork Hudson Valley.

Bank of America has a major presence in downtown Yonkers and has provided \$500,000 over a two-year period to expand and galvanize the Climate Safe Neighborhoods Partnership coordinated by the nonprofit Groundwork Hudson Valley. Through the Groundwork Climate Preparedness and Land Restoration program, made possible with funding from the Bezos Earth Fund, Groundwork Hudson Valley has been awarded \$400,000 to utilize nature-based solutions and resilient landscaping to reduce exposure to extreme heat and flooding in The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (MHACY) properties across Yonkers. Joining the movement to tackle climate change at the community level is New York States' Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC), which awarded MHACY \$900,000 to undertake an innovative green infrastructure plan to abate heat islands and flooding at MHACY properties.

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Yonkers Gets Greener See Story on page 3



Sayegh's Diaper Sales Tax Relief Gets Unanimous Support



Yonkers Assemblyman Nader Sayegh's drive to exempt all diapers from local sales taxes succeeded during the final hours of the Legislative Session when the assembly voted 146-0 to pass the Sayegh DIAPER Sales Tax Exemption Legislation. Earlier the State Senate approved the legislation 63-0.

Assemblyman Nader Sayegh said: "With inflation impacting family budgets, I passed statewide legislation to exempt diapers from local sales taxes, making them more affordable for families struggling to buy enough diapers for their babies and making incontinence products more affordable for Seniors. Diapers are a necessity and adding a sales tax on top of the purchase price is just wrong. I thank the National Diaper Bank Network and the volunteers from the State's diaper banks including the Junior League of Central Westchester, for coming to the State Capitol to lobby for passage of my Diaper Act."

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Democratic & Republican Primaries in Westchester on June 28 and in Early Voting



Governor Kathy Hochul, left, and Harry Wilson, right

Westchester democrats and republicans are heading to the polls, during early voting this week, and for the upcoming primary on June 28 for Governor and Assembly. Due to court cases and the redistricting of congressional lines in NY, another primary will be held in August for Congress and State Senate?

For the first time in decades, both major parties have competitive primaries for Governor. On the democratic side, Governor Kathy Hochul is running for the first time as Governor, after taking the position upon the resignation of Andrew Cuomo.

Hochul's two opponents in the democratic primary are Congressman Tom Suozzi and NYC Public Advocate Jumaane Williams. Suozzi has occupied the moderate lane of the NY democratic party, while Williams occupies the far left, progressive wing. Neither candidate has distinguished himself, nor given a rationale while they should be the NY Dems candidate for Governor.

This is despite a lot of bad news for NY State and for the Country, most notably crime, inflation, and gas prices. Hochul shouldn't be blamed for inflation and gas prices but the problems of the party in charge in Washington DC trickles down to NY.

But Williams and Suozzi have not been able to land a knockout blow to Hochul's campaign on either subject. Suozzi had the campaign cash, and experience, to stand toe to toe with Hochul, but he seems unable to connect with enough NY democrats to get close enough in the polls to stand a chance at victory.

Suozzi's biggest mistake, in our view, was saying that he would accept the endorsement of Andrew Cuomo. Agreeing to accept an endorsement that will never come only annoyed or angered the many NY democrats who called on Cuomo to resign, and his victims of sexual harassment.

The other issue that Suozzi has tried to tarnish Hochul with is her prior support of gun rights and the NRA. We believe that it is OK for elected officials to change their minds, and "evolve" as Governor Hochul has on this issue. We like what we have seen from Governor Hochul and endorse her in the democratic primary June 28.

The republican primary for Governor is more complicated, with four candidates running to face off against the democratic nominee in November. Congressman Lee Zeldin, former Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, Businessman Harry

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Latimer Invites Job Seekers to Transportation Career Job Fair June 30

Westchester County Executive George Latimer is encouraging prospective employees to participate in the County's transportation careers job fair. The day-long event will feature a morning session from 10am to 12pm open to Minority and Women Owned Businesses (MWBs) and Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Businesses. The afternoon session will offer information on careers in transportation.

Date: Thursday, June 30, 1pm to 4pm. Location: New York Power Authority, 123 Main Street, White Plains, New York 10601.

Latimer said: "Transportation keeps this County moving forward and allows potential employees to develop and amplify skills needed to work at our airport or transportation hubs, even in the private sector. We are pleased to partner with the MTA to offer this kind of opportunity to Westchester job seekers."

Director of the Westchester County Office of Economic Development Bridget Gibbons said: "Our job fairs are continuing to be a successful pipeline to building a strong workforce and creating a collaborative partnership between Westchester County and employers like the MTA. We know we have talented people looking for the right opportunity and we hope to strengthen economic opportunities for our neighbors by providing a link to their career development."

Exhibitors include the New York State Department of Transportation, Hudson Valley Region, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, New York State; Westchester County Airport, The Bee-Line bus, school and private bus companies, car limousine services such as Red Oak Transportation, and more. Participants are encouraged to be prepared for on-the-spot interviews. Prospective employees are also advised to bring multiple copies of their resume and a picture ID.

YPIE Honors the Fitzgerald Family at Volunteer Gratitude Celebration



Richard and Beth Fitzgerald with their daughters, grandchildren, and students the family has mentored.

On a spectacular evening, Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE) recently hosted its annual Volunteer Gratitude Celebration to thank YPIE's community of 230+ dedicated volunteers and recognize the Fitzgerald family for their 15-year commitment to Yonkers' students.

Richard Fitzgerald, YPIE's founding Board Chair, was honored alongside his wife Beth and daughters Shannon and Raissa with the Wendy R. Nadel Volunteer Legacy Award. This award was created in honor of YPIE's founding executive director to celebrate volunteers who embody YPIE's core values.

Richard has been a relentless advocate for Yonkers students. In addition to serving on the YPIE Board for 15 years, Richard has recruited his team at Sound Associates to support YPIE events and provided YPIE students with internship opportunities to explore the world of professional audio and video services.

Richard's wife Beth and daughter Shannon were part of YPIE's original volunteer program, serving as mentors, essay coaches, and tutors to students. Richard's daughter Raissa joined the YPIE staff in 2014 as a college advisor and soon after her husband Mark and Shannon's husband Patrick were also volunteering their time as graduation coaches.

Over the years, the Fitzgeralds officially coached more than 12 YPIE students, for whom they have gone above and beyond, and dozens more students have benefited from their time and support.

"Without Beth and her family's continued support and guidance, I don't know where I would be right now. Thank you for all of your kindness, guidance, support, and caring ways, through all these years. You have greatly impacted my life and it has been an honor to have you as my mentor and friend." – Mikayla, YPIE Alum

This event was generously hosted by the Cross County Center on their beautiful mall and was a heartfelt celebration of the warmth and compassion of the YPIE volunteer community.

Several local officials attended this celebration and Mayor Mike Spano delivered an official proclamation declaring June 8th to be "The Fitzgerald Family Day." Learn more at ypie.org

Yonkers Artist Haifa, continued from pg 1-

ships between dissimilar objects such as matchboxes and old photographs, I've developed ideas about the use of space in my art. When I compare and contrast these forms, I find a sense of comfort and place. These abstract forms communicate the tensions of finding self, but they also hold an indelible space for my own history as my identity has developed."

Another free Undermyer Performing Arts Council program!

Please bring lawn chairs or picnic blankets, as we don't provide seating.

RAIN SITE: Saunders High School, 183 Palmer Road, Yonkers

In case of inclement weather, please call the UPAC Arts Line at 914-375-3435 or visit our website www.undermyerperformingarts.org after 2 pm the day of the performance to learn if we will be at Saunders.

This program is presented in cooperation with Mayor Mike Spano, the City of Yonkers, and the Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation.

Funding also is received from Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins, Senator Shelley Mayer, Assemblymember Nader Sayegh, Empire City Casino by MGM, and our many loyal arts patrons.

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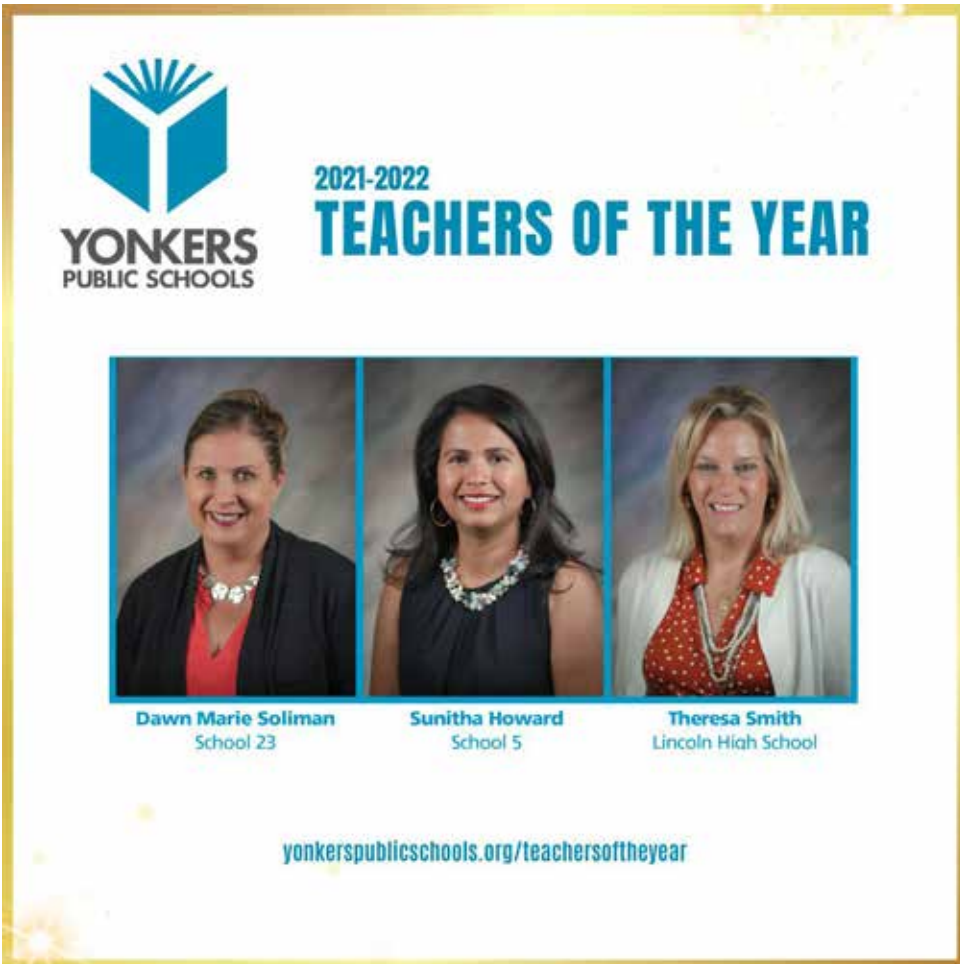
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Dawn Marie Soliman, Kindergarten, School 23

Sunitha Howard, Science and Living Environment, Grades 7-8, School 5

Theresa Smith, Science Grades 9-12, Lincoln High School



A \$75 Tank of Gas



By Eric Wolf Schoen

I knew it was coming. I would go to fill my car up with gas. Correction. I go to a station that provides full service. My tank was 1/8 full. I said 'fill it up, Regular please.' And the bill came to \$75. For many of you I am sure the fill-up is higher.

Normally I would tip the guy, but you want a tip you wash my windows. No window wash, no tip. I don't care that the price is so high and they don't wash windows. Want a tip wash my windows like you did when gas was \$2 a gallon. And the higher price should incentivize full service to please their customers by washing the windows because we all know the price will ultimately come down.

So Biden at press time is waiting to decide if he will suspend the federal gas tax. What's his big question? People can't afford \$5 gas. He better do something. We all can't ride our bikes like he does to get where we need to go. And restart drilling that he stopped when he came in office. People can't afford to go anywhere.

Planes. Last weekend 2 of 3 friends got their planes cancelled. And the third had a two hour delay as the captain abruptly stopped the plane as the brakes were not working. They were screeching. Doesn't someone like a mechanic check out the brakes on the plane before it is put into service? The friendly skies really aren't friendly anymore. Remember the days when flying was fun?

Who would want to be a flight attendant or pilot and get abused by passengers? Everyone wants to fly now that the threat of Covid is lessening. It seems like the airlines are booking flights for which they don't have pilots or flight attendants for. And let's not even talk about the costs for these flights that will never fly!

Have you been to Ridge Hill lately. No more Orvis, Lord and Taylor, REI, Brooks Brothers, and many other little stores. Closed tight. During the pandemic they discontinued the parking fee when all those stores were open. Now with \$75 gas fill ups they are 'attempting' to reintroduce the parking fees.

I say attempting because they have removed the machines that let you pay with cash or card. Now you are supposed to pay via your cell phone. Text a number, capture one of those squares with lines with the camera on your iPhone. Are they kidding? Do the realize that many people don't have cellular phones. Or maybe their cellular phones don't work and they are on the way to the Apple Store. Or that they haven't a clue how to do what they are being asked to do.

Or are Senior citizens unfamiliar with the technology? When I go to Ridge Hill they have a man there to explain the new way of paying for parking and most people laugh at him. I asked what are people to do if they can't pay using the new technology. The answer I got was 'park outside.'

Where is one supposed to 'park outside' I asked the ignorant jerk who offered that as an alternative to parking in the garage. You remember when they first opened they had parking meters and it was determined they were illegal. There is an insufficient number of handicapped parking spaces and numerous 10 minute spaces for quick pickups and drop offs at various stores. There is no where to 'park outside.' And the garage is such a hazardous nightmare to begin with I am surprised with drivers going crazy speeding in that lot that there aren't more accidents. At least one set of the elevators by the movie theaters is always out of service.

If Ridge Hill needs parking fees so badly given the fewer stores that exist, things must be pretty bad. The only way we will stop these fees is if consumers put pressure on merchants to put pressure on Ridge Hill Management to put an end to the fees or to reintroduce the machines that they had in the past.

I went to vote in the primary and got to the Will Library before the polls opened at noon. I walk in the door, inquire about the primary (I thought they started voting at 10:00 a.m.) and the man said to me 'wait a minute you have to put a mask on.' I could not vote, wanted to pick up something at the library where masks are not required so I did not put on a mask. Wasn't the purpose of early voting where you have for the Primary the choice of one person to avoid the mask nonsense. If masks are so important, I suggest people vote by absentee ballot giving Covid exposure as their reason for a ballot to be mailed to them.

How come every time Apple introduces a new operating system there are problems. This time, my iPad clock is on Military Time and my iPhone speakerphone stopped working. What do they do there in Cupertino, California? Don't they test out these operating systems before they automatically download on your iPhone or iPad?

I ran into reader Joe Cianciulli when I stopped to pick up some wake up wraps at Dunkin Donuts. I showed him my receipt that listed the tax on my purchase as 'City of Yonkers' and we both agreed that the sales tax on our purchases was not just Yonkers but a combined city, county and state sales tax. Something for the Mayor and his aides to correct.

Food prices are out of control. My box of 5 Think energy bars which 2 months ago was \$5.50-\$6 is now \$8.69. Where could an almost 50% increase be coming from? Boats stuck at sea? Price of production going up? Or are companies just getting damn greedy with their prices. I cannot believe the increases in so many products we purchase. Start reading those sales flyers to get some ideas of the products that are discounted.

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Mayor Spano Signs Legislation to Expand Green Building Code to Include EV Parking More

Mayor Mike Spano signed legislation that will expand the Yonkers Green Buildings ordinances to cover new construction and major renovations citywide and require electric vehicle (EV) infrastructure to be installed at newly developed parking facilities. Mayor Spano's signing of the ordinances comes after the Green Buildings Code legislation was passed by the Yonkers City Council on Tuesday, June 14th.

"Expanding participation in green development practices will further support energy and water conservation, lower emissions, reduce building operating costs and promote an overall healthier city for our residents and businesses," said Mayor Spano.

The expanded Green Building Ordinance now applies to all non-residential developments greater than 15,000 square feet and residential developments with more than 25 units citywide. Additionally, the newly amended Ordinance requires new parking lots and garages with 10 or more parking spaces to be constructed with at least 5 percent of parking spaces, and not less than 2 spaces, equipped for EV charging.

Compliance with the expanded Green Building Ordinance will apply to all covered projects entering the design phase 90 or more days after the effective date of the legislation.

In May 2013, Mayor Spano signed into law a Green Building Ordinance, establishing a policy for the City to design and construct its facilities to be sustainable and to encourage commercial and residential developers to do the same. The City also adopted the Yonkers Green Development Workbook, including a checklist and standards, to guide this policy which required compliance for construction projects in designated areas of Downtown Yonkers.

For more information, residents are encouraged to visit www.yonkersny.gov



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**36th Annual African-American Heritage Festival
Returns to Kensico Dam Plaza June 26**

Join us to celebrate African-American Culture and honor essential workers at the African-American Heritage Festival on Sunday, June 26, from noon to 6 p.m. at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla.

County Executive George Latimer said, "African-American culture focuses on values emphasizing the closeness of family and the importance of community. I applaud the organizers of this festival for honoring our essential workers. These dedicated and selfless employees held the frontline while serving the greater community and helping all of us navigate through the pandemic."

Parks Commissioner Kathleen O'Connor said, "We are excited to be able to come together in person at the Kensico Dam Plaza and celebrate African-American heritage and culture. Gather with friends and family to enjoy this majestic park and the live entertainment.

The African-American Heritage Festival takes place from Noon until 6 p.m. There will be live entertainment, music, dance, drama, poetry, ethnic foods, line dancing, cultural arts and crafts, health vendors, educational vendors and much more!

The festival will be held rain or shine. Seating is informal; bring blankets or folding chairs for seating on the lawn. No coolers will be allowed. Admission and parking are free. Carpooling or taking mass transit is encouraged. A free shuttle service will be offered (by Accredited Limousine Service) to and from Valhalla and North White Plains Train Stations from 1:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m.

The other heritage festivals, all being held at Kensico Dam Plaza in Valhalla, are:

Hispanic	Sunday, July 10	Noon – 6 p.m.
Italian	Sunday, July 24	Noon – 6 p.m.
India	Sunday, Aug. 7	Noon – 6 p.m.
Jewish	Sunday, Aug. 21	Noon – 6 p.m.
Muslim Heritage	Sunday, Aug. 28	Noon – 6 p.m.

The African-American Heritage Festival is co-sponsored by Westchester County Parks and the Coalition of African American Organizations.

Kensico Dam Plaza is located at 1 Bronx River Parkway, Valhalla. For more information, call 914-864-PARK or visit parks.westchestergov.com.

Please be advised that on June 26 the Bronx River Parkway will be closed for Bicycle Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. between Scarsdale Road in Yonkers and the Westchester County Center in White Plains. The park can be accessed via Route 22, from the north or south.

Letters to the Editor:

Dear Mr. Murphy,

Thank you for the article on The Enslaved Africans Rain Garden in the June 17 edition of Yonkers Rising. I am very happy to see the public display of recognition to the numerous individuals who have been appreciated for so long, and who contributed so much to our county. Please thank Vinney Bagwell for her research and for choosing Yonkers to display her inspiring and informative art. Such art should be displayed throughout the city.

Dominic Sacchetti, Yonkers

Dear Yonkers Rising:

This letter is in support of Councilman Anthony Merante. He has every right to just ask the question, and to raise the issue, of whether families and their children, should attend the PRIDE festival held in downtown Yonkers last week.

Shame on you Mr. Murphy, for taking advantage of Mr. Merante's raising of this issue, which some us view as an important. For many of us here in Yonkers, there was no harm in his raising the issue. And no, I didn't not attend the festival.

Carol McKechnie, Yonkers

Mr. Murphy:

I am glad you raised the issue of Councilman Anthony Merante telling parents and young children not to attend the Pride Festival. I did attend and was pleasantly surprised to see many families with young children. I also agree with you that most families that had a problem with the Drag shows weren't coming anyway. But it also raises the issue of whether Mr. Merante should be re-elected to the City Council, or other office in the future. I think he lost the gay vote, and a note to Mr. Merante; you may be surprised how many people have gay friends and family and are welcoming and accepting.
-Ralph Wilson, Yonkers

\$2 Million Climate Gift for SW Yonkers, continued from pg 1-

The partnership empowers local people, businesses, and government to identify, understand, and mitigate the most serious climate risks, while being better prepared for extreme weather emergencies. It is also engaging local youth to nurture the climate resiliency leaders of the future. The influx of resources from Bank of America, Bezos Earth Fund, and EFC will enable the partnership to:

- Significantly increase the number of local youth employed in green jobs that deploy nature-based solutions like planting and maintaining trees to reduce heat and flood risks;
- Support the community-led climate resiliency task force for Southwest Yonkers to inform community-based interventions to mitigate priority heat islands and flood zones identified through a two-year data collection and mapping process;
- Broadly expand climate education and literacy efforts to thousands of additional people in Southwest Yonkers through public outreach, education, and media;
- Work across the city's municipal housing system to improve the lives of thousands of vulnerable, low to moderate income residents through green infrastructure interventions at high-need housing sites, better prepare residents for extreme weather events, and train resident volunteers to safeguard ongoing climate resiliency improvements.

Brigitte Griswold, the Executive Director of Groundwork Hudson Valley, is thrilled to have Bank of America, the Bezos Earth Fund, and the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation provide the climate initiative a much-needed boost as risks related to climate change have become ever more apparent. "Having such major private and public sector collaboration to support our community is a huge opportunity for everyone involved. The need is especially great in Southwest Yonkers, which is highly vulnerable to climate change impacts with its Hudson River waterfront, its history of redlining, and its low-lying urban landscape that intensifies the impact of heat waves, storms, and floods."

Wilson Kimball, President and CEO of MHACY is very grateful to New York State, Bank of America and the Bezos Earth Fund for their vision and commitment to environmental justice. She expressed that, "it is leadership like theirs and at Groundwork Hudson Valley that will help our communities achieve climate resiliency and ensure a more sustainable future."

The Vice-President of Bank of America said that, "our institution and employees are very proud of this major investment in our local community to address one of the world's most urgent environmental issues." Adding, "The Climate Safe Neighborhoods Partnership is a truly impressive collaboration that puts the most vulnerable people and small businesses first in responding to the climate crisis. We are proud to be involved and this project will, without a doubt, provide a road map for other communities to follow to achieve a more equitable and sustainable future."

New York Senate Majority Leader, Andrea Stewart-Cousins added, "I believe we must do everything we can to ensure that communities disproportionately affected by the climate crisis become more sustainable and resilient to climate change. Extreme weather events that have been referred to as "once in a lifetime" are now becoming more common. I am proud of the climate resilience work that Groundwork Hudson Valley is doing in Southwest Yonkers. That is why I was glad to help secure funding for the organization to support these critical investments. This community partnership will ensure our communities are better prepared for extreme weather emergencies."

Other current supporters of the Climate Safe Neighborhoods Partnership include NYC DEC, The Kresge Foundation, JPB Foundation, Swiss Re Foundation, The Baldwin Foundation, and Verizon.

To learn more about the Climate Safe Neighborhood Partnership for Southwest Yonkers please contact Candida Rodriguez at candida@groundworkhv.org.

Sayegh, Diapers Salex Tax relief, continued from pg 1-

Senate Sponsor Jamaal T. Bailey said: "One in three American families struggled to afford diapers even before the pandemic. Diaper need has only increased during the pandemic and New York's diaper banks are struggling to pay for the supplies themselves. This legislation is critical to addressing diaper need and alleviating costs for families and diaper banks across the state by exempting adult and children's diapers from sales and use taxes. Thank you Assemblyman Sayegh for sponsoring and championing in the Assembly, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Speaker Carl E. Heastie, and the advocates and diaper bank organizations – Every Bottom Covered, the National Diaper Bank Network, CNY Diaper Bank, Junior League of Central Westchester, and Baby Steps Baby Pantry Diaper Bank – for their tireless work on this critically important issue."

Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie said: "Diapers are an item essential to the health and wellbeing of our youngest New Yorkers, yet too many families struggle to afford them," Speaker Carl Heastie said. "By exempting them from local taxes, this legislation will help ease the financial burden on New Yorkers, and make diapers and incontinence products more affordable at a time where we are seeing the cost of necessities rise."

The National Diaper Bank Network's Lacey Gero said: "We applaud New York State Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, the primary sponsor of the DIAPER Act, and Senator Jamaal Bailey who sponsored the DIAPER Act in the Senate for passing legislation that will end local sales taxes on diapers. Eliminating this regressive tax will make diapers, a material basic necessity for all babies, more affordable for New York families. It will also relieve the tax burden on numerous nonprofit diaper banks working to support the 1 in 3 families who struggle with diaper need," said Lacey Gero, policy and coalition coordinator, National Diaper Bank Network. "NDBN member diaper banks throughout the state have worked with elected officials and fellow advocates to make this happen and respectfully request Governor Hochul's signature on this important bill."

Michelle Memolil, President of the Junior League of Central Westchester said: "Through the Westchester County Diaper Bank, JLCW has leveraged our resources to yield sustainable impact for people by combatting diaper deprivation for babies, easing the financial burden for families, and increasing access to a basic need. We are proud to add to that positive impact by supporting Assemblyman Sayegh and Senator Bailey in their successful advocacy efforts to eliminate local sales taxes on diapers."

The DIAPER Act now goes to the office of Governor Kathy Hochul for review. Assemblyman Sayegh's office received no memorandums in opposition to the legislation from county or local government.

Editor's Note: Some Yonkers residents live and vote in the 92nd Assembly District, and the 89th Assembly District. Both of those districts have democratic primaries. Please visit Yonkerstimes.com to learn more. Most of Yonkers lives in the 90th district, represented by Assemblyman Nader Sayegh, who does not have a democratic primary.

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July Events at Untermyer Gardens Conservancy



July Events at Untermyer Gardens

Sunday, July 3
Family Adventure Tour - Temple of Love to Dell, 10:00 - 11:00 a.m. \$12.00 per child, accompanying adults are free

Garden History Tour: Part 2, 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m. \$12.00 per person

Friday, July 8
Minnie Untermyer Series -Mudavis Performing Arts Company, 7:00-8:15 PM, \$40.00 per person

Saturday, July 9
Easy Walking Tour, 11:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m., \$12.00 per person

Sunday, July 10
Family Adventure Tour: Walled Garden, 10:00-11:00 a.m., \$12.00 per child, accompanying adults are free

President's Tour, 11:00 a.m.-12:30 p.m., \$25.00 per person

Saturday, July 16
Illustrative Drawing with Donna Ingram (Raindate Sunday 17th 2022), 10:00 a.m.-noon, \$40.00 per person

Sunday, July 17
Family Adventure Tour: Vista to Ruin Garden , 10:00-11:00 a.m., \$12.00 per child, accompanying adults are free

Garden History Tour: Part 1, 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m., \$12.00 per person

Minnie Untermyer Series - Ana Vidovic Guitar, 5:00-6:30 PM, \$50.00 per person

Sunset Yoga with Sylvia Samilton-Baker, 7:30-8:30 PM, \$25.00 per person

Friday, July 22
Minnie Untermyer Series - Tom Gold Dance, 7:00-8:30 PM, \$50.00 per person

Saturday, July 23
Plant Geek Tour, 9:00-10:30 AM, \$20.00 per person

Sunday, July 24
Family Adventure Tour: Temple of Love to Dell, 10:00-11:00 a.m., \$12.00 per child, accompanying adults are free

Garden Seasonal Highlights Tour, 11:00 a.m.-12:15 p.m., \$12.00 per person

Sunset Yoga with Sylvia Samilton-Baker, 7:30-8:30 PM, \$25.00 per person

Visit untermyergardens.org for more information.

2022 Yonkers High School Graduation Schedule

The schedule for 2022 Yonkers Public Schools-High School graduation dates are listed below. Congratulations to all of the graduates.

Note: No one will be admitted without a ticket.

School	Date	Time	Location
Palisades Prep	Wed. June 22	3:30 p.m.	School Campus 201 Palisade Ave
Yonkers Montessori	Wed. June 22	6:30pm	School campus-160 Woodlawn Ave.
Saunders Trade and Technical High School	Fri June 24	830am	Westchester Community College 75 Grasslands Road Valhalla
Yonkers Middle High School	Fri, June 24	11:30 a.m.	Westchester Community College
Lincoln High School	Fri, June 24	3:00 p.m	Westchester Community College
Roosevelt Early College	Sat., June 25	8:30 a.m.	Westchester Community College
Gorton High School	Sat., June 25	11:30 a.m.	Westchester Community College
Riverside High School	Saturday, June 25	3:00 p.m	Westchester Community College

On This Day in Yonkers History...



A Postcard of the Yonkers City World War Monument

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

Monday, June 27th
June 27, 1911: Yonkers welcomed more than fifty survivors of the famous Mozart Regiment; fifty years earlier they mustered into service in Yonkers to fight the Civil War. Their barracks were a large brick flourmill and a machine shop on the waterfront; their encampment was in a large field called Camp Wood on Vineyard Avenue near High Street. Two Mozart Regiment members were awarded Medals of Honor, Sergeant Robert Boody and Private Henry Klein.

June 27, 1932: Two proud young boys delivered a 30-inch alligator to Parkway Police headquarters! They had seen it lurking under the bushes at Crestwood Lake near the Bronx River Parkway, so the youngsters captured and killed it for delivery.

Tuesday, June 28th
June 28, 1927: The Yonkers All Stars, a newly formed semi-pro baseball club under the management of Walter Donohue, played their premier game at Pelton Oval against the Brooklyn Royal Giants. Team members were Tex Greening, Frank Debroske, Boss Landy, Bill Ungvasky, Lou Becker, Lefty Brooks and Cy Barker. Pitcher was Harry Beamish; catcher Pete Ormond completed the line up. Umpire was Bill Grieve.

June 28, 1933: Part of President Roosevelt's recovery program went into effect in Yonkers; first class mail postage rate for a letter mailed locally, normally three cents, was reduced to two-cents. This reduction affected all areas of Yonkers except Nepera Park; that area had its own local post office and its own postmaster.

Wednesday, June 29th
June 29, 1914: New York Giants' star pitcher Christy Mathewson visited Leake and Watts Orphan Home. After speaking to the boys, he gave an impromptu training on how to throw a baseball.

June 29, 1916: Habirshaw Cable and Wire Company filed plans to build a \$150,000 building on the Hudson River waterfront.

Thursday June 30th
June 30, 1927: Yonkers' Gold Star Mothers announced total opposition to the plan to move the World War Monument away from Washington Park to what became Larkin Plaza. The sculptor put a stop to the plan when he said it was not created to be a stand alone memorial, but was designed to be embedded into the hill. In other words, the back of the piece was not attractive.

June 30, 1944: Private Alfred J. Cerone was selected as "Guard of the Week" by Captain Robert Harmon, Provost at Columbia Army Air Base, SC. Cerone was selected for appearance, courteousness and performance of duty as a guard at the Post Exchange and base theaters.

Friday, July 1st
July 1, 1913: Reginald G. Whittemore and Company of Wall Street retired from the investment business. Whittemore, who lived on Arden Place, had accepted the presidency of the Automatic Calculator Company. He and other Wall Street players organized the company to sell the Sloan payroll and other "efficiency machines." Former Senator George Agnew was treasurer and R. Hoyt Sloan secretary of the company.

July 1, 1944: Riverdale Avenue resident and NY Central Railroad employee, Private First Class Thomas Ryan was wounded in action in France. Ryan sent a letter to his sister Catherine announcing he "met with a little accident." Then a telegram from the War Department arrived a few days later, informing Catherine her brother had a serious chest injury. Ryan's next letter told his sister he was "feeling fine," and was "up and about" at the base Hospital in England; Catherine's next letter from the War Department assured her his progress was normal. Ryan's Purple Heart was sent to his sister.

Saturday, July 2nd
July 2, 1907: Lockwood Avenue was abuzz with the discovery of children with dynamite. While playing in the woods, the children found the explosives in an unlocked powder magazine at the corner of Gordon and Roosevelt streets in Palmer Heights. The children opened it and took ten sticks of dynamite to bring home. Police returned the dynamite to William Folkes, Superintendent of the Heights. He promptly locked it up in the storehouse owned by the company laying out the new streets.

July 2, 1942: Taking the first step towards establishing wartime industry for arming, degaussing and repairing merchants' ships, the Common Council cut \$61,300 from the assessed valuation of the Yerks Dock on the Hudson. Briggs Avenue's

continued on pg 7-



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NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO RELOCATE A BRANCH OFFICE

Notice is hereby given that Citizens Bank, National Association, One Citizens Plaza, Providence, RI 02903, has filed an application with the Comptroller of the Currency on June 24, 2022, as specified in 12 CFR 5 for permission to relocate the branch at 2371 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710 to 2195 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710. Any person wishing to comment on this application may file comments in writing with the Director for Large Bank Licensing, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, 400 7th Street SW, Mail Stop 10E-2, Washington, DC 20219 within 15 days after the date of this publication.

**NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER**

JPMorgan Chase Bank, National Association, Plaintiff

AGAINST

Rosetta Silvestro as heir at law and next of kin of Luigia Silvestro a/k/a Luisa Silvestro; et al., Defendant(s)

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly dated July 8, 2021 I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd., Courtroom 200, White Plains, NY, 10601 on July 1, 2022 at 9:30AM, premises known as 147 Florence Street, Yonkers, NY 10704. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester, State of New York, Section 5 Block 5235 Lot 34 & 35. Approximate amount of judgment \$101,787.83 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index# 69552/2016. The auction will be conducted pursuant to the COVID-19 Policies Concerning Public Auctions of Foreclosed Property established by the Ninth Judicial District.

John Gifford Molloy, Esq.,
Referee LOGS Legal Group LLP f/k/a Shapiro, DiCaro & Barak, LLC Attorney(s)
for the Plaintiff
175 Mile Crossing Boulevard, Rochester, New York 14624, (877) 430-4792
Dated: February 3, 2022
For sale information, please visit www.Auction.com or call (800) 280-2832

Classifieds

Attorney
DIVORCE \$389 - Uncontested divorce papers prepared. Only one signature required. Poor person Application included if applicable. Separation agreements. Custody and support petitions. 518-274-0380

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Miscellaneous
DIRECTV for \$79.99/mo for 12 months with CHOICE Package. Watch your favorite live sports, news & entertainment anywhere. First 3 months of HBO Max, Cinemax, Showtime, Starz and Epix included! Directv is #1 in Customer Satisfaction (JD Power & Assoc.) Some restrictions apply. Call 1-888-534-6918

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Notice of formation of LaceMafia LLC Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/20/2022. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202 Brooklyn, NY 11228 . Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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

Notice of Formation of INNER THEIA LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 03/01/2022. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Inner Theia LLC at 5 Aspen Road, Scarsdale NY 10581. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

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.

However, due to the COVID-19 Pandemic and in line with the directives issued by the Mayor of Yonkers regarding public safety, there is limited access to One Larkin Center. 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 wear face coverings and see the Public Safety Officer in the library atrium, who will clock in the bid and then contact Purchasing to pick up the bid. Sealed Bids will continue to be opened and read on the dates below, however, there will not be a public opening of bids. 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 6809A- Opening date: 7/13/2022: 12-month contract to purchase 46 B&T, or equal, 9mm submachine guns as needed for the SWAT unit (NG).
2. Bid 6810A- Opening date: 7/8/2022: Purchase of two Silicon Forensics, or equal, forensic computer systems to maintain evidence (SR).
3. Bid 6826- Opening date: 7/13/2022: One-time purchase of Lighting Services, or equal, art gallery track lighting fixture heads for the Hudson River Museum West Wing, 511 Warburton Avenue (TC).
4. Bid 6820A - Opening date: 7/8/2022: Purchase of various brands, or equal, automotive tools (60 items) for the Vehicle Maintenance Department (FB).
5. Bid 6801B – Opening date: 7/8/2022: Purchase of Lucas, or equal, CPR systems and Lifepak, or equal medical monitors and related accessories (JH).
6. Bid 6829 – Purchase of bulk quantities of 36% phosphoric acid as needed for 6-months with option to renew for 6-months (AC).
7. Bid 6827 – Opening date: 7/13/2022: Hillview Orthophosphate Tanks Replacement Project (AS).
8. Bid 6802A - Opening date: 7/13/2022: Furnish and install new fire alarm system at the Spreckman Community Center, 777 McLean Avenue (DC).
9. Bid 6824: Opening date 7/13/2022: Purchase of 28 most current model year Ford marked Hybrid Police Interceptors, or equal (FB).
10. Bid 6759B - Opening date: 7/13/2022: Provide maintenance and landscaping services for the three Daylighting locations through 10/15/2022, with option to renew for 2023 (DC).
11. Bid 6825 – Opening date: 7/8/2022: Provide GM parts and repair services, as needed, for a term of 12-months, with option to renew for 12-months (FB).
12. Bid 6830 – Opening date: 7/15/2022: Purchase of 4 most current model year Ford Transit 250 LR, or equal, cargo vans (FB).
13. Bid 6767A - Opening date: 7/29/2022: Asbestos abatement and roof replacement at North Yonkers Boys and Girls Club, 233 Ridge Avenue (FB).

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

In Yonkers and most of Westchester we have a Congressman out of touch with the interests and philosophies of most of his constituents. The State Legislature came up with an illegal redistricting plan that a court appointed Special Master had to change. County Legislator Vedat Gashi stepped up to the plate to primary the AOC branded Jamaal Bowman, a guy who goes on television representing our district wearing a sweater versus a collared shirt most Congressman wear, many with suit and tie.

Out of the clear blue sky County Legislator Catherine Parker joined the race. She could have been a candidate throughout the whole redistricting process but chose to enter the race at the last minute. If we end up with the current out of touch Congressman in November thank Catherine Parker for being the spoiler in this most important race.

That's the city to our country today. We are off next week for the 4th of July. Make sure you fly your flag no matter how big or small it is. And God Bless America, My Home Sweet Home!

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

Notice of formation of Sutton E.L.S Ent, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/18/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 103 McLean Avenue Apt.# 3b, Yonkers NY 10467. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Color It Black, LLC. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/28/2022. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the Color It Black LLC, 33 Cliffside Drive, Yonkers, NY 10710 Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Sutton E.L.S Ent, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/18/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 103 McLean Avenue Apt.# 3b, Yonkers NY 10467. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of J Troncoso Construction LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/29/2022. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, P.O. Box 1434 Yonkers, NY 10702. Purpose: General Construction

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Feds Charge Elmsford Nurse in \$10 Million Loan Fraud Scam



Catherine Seemer, left, was arrested on June 15 for orchestrating a \$10.5 Million loan fraud scheme that included stealing physicians identities and falsifying disabilities.

On June 15, US Attorney Damian Williams announced today the unsealing of a criminal complaint charging Catherine Seemer, 42, of Elmsford, with wire fraud, federal financial aid fraud, and aggravated identity theft in connection with a scheme that resulted in the fraudulent discharge of over \$10.5 million worth of student loans on the basis of falsified medical certifications of permanent disabilities.

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said: “The Total and Permanent Disability Discharge Program is designed to help ease the financial burden of those who suffer from permanent physical or mental disabilities, including military veterans who endure service-related disabilities, by relieving them of their student loan obligations. As alleged, the defendant defrauded this program for her own benefit. She stole the identities of more than a dozen medical doctors and falsified the disabilities of more than 100 borrowers in order to profit from the multi-year scheme, which resulted in the fraudulent discharge of over \$10.5 million in loans. This Office, along with our law enforcement partners, will continue to vigilantly protect the integrity of critical programs that exist to help those who are most in need.”

FBI Assistant Director-in-Charge Michael J. Driscoll said: “As alleged, Ms. Seemer fraudulently orchestrated the discharge of student loans in excess of \$10 million on behalf of more than 100 borrowers she led to believe were eligible for various forms of student-loan relief. She ultimately reaped more than \$1 million in ill-gotten gains by charging borrowers fees in exchange for her “services.” The action we have taken today is yet another example of the FBI’s commitment to protecting government programs from fraudsters who seek to undermine them for their own selfish purposes.”

As alleged in the Complaint filed in White Plains federal court: From June 2017 through March 2022, Seemer orchestrated a scheme to cause the fraudulent discharge of millions of dollars’ worth of student loans for borrowers who did not qualify for relief under the federal Total and Permanent Disability Discharge Program and its private analogue. As part of the scheme, SEEMER deceived over 100 borrowers into believing they qualified for various forms of student loan relief and charged them fees—often between 10% and 20% of the loan amount—to facilitate their loan discharge process.

She then used the personal identifying information of the unsuspecting borrowers to submit fraudulent applications for student loan discharge on the basis of non-existent permanent physical and mental disabilities. In support of these applications, Seemer used the stolen identities, medical license numbers, and forged signatures of over a dozen medical doctors to falsify medical diagnoses and disability certifications. The scheme resulted in the wrongful discharge of over approximately \$10.5 million in loans under the disability-based relief programs. It is estimated that Seemer earned at least approximately \$1 million as a result of the scheme.

Seemer is charged with one count of wire fraud, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison; one count of federal financial aid fraud, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison; and one count of aggravated identity theft, which carries a mandatory consecutive sentence of two years in prison.

The case is being prosecuted by the Office’s White Plains Division. Assistant U.S. Attorney Qais Ghafary is in charge of the prosecution.

Letter to the Editor: Vote for Astorino and Early Voting Dates and Polling Places

Attention registered Republicans. Starting June 23, you can vote in the gubernatorial primary. Election Day is Tuesday June 28th but below are times and locations to vote early.

Please join me in voting for Rob Astorino. We must turn our state around before it’s too late. Westchester was thriving when Rob was County Executive. He will do the same for our state and is the only one that can beat Kathy Hochul in November. First we need to make sure he is the Republican candidate for Governor by sending as many people to vote over the next 9 days. It will be a very low turnout so every vote will count.

New Early Voting Hours: Thursday, June 23, 2022 from noon until 8 p.m. Friday, June 24, 2022 from 8 a.m. until 4 p.m.; Saturday, June 25, 2022 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.; Sunday, June 26, 2022 from 10 a.m. until 6 p.m.

- Yonkers Early Voting Locations
- Grinton I. Will Library, 1500 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710
 - Nodine Hill Community Center, 140 Fillmore Street, Yonkers, NY 10701
 - Riverfront Library, One Larkin Center, Yonkers, NY 10701

Anthony Giacobbe, Eastchester

Primaries in Westchester, continued from pg 2-

Harry Wilson, and Andrew Giuliani are the four republicans seeking to become the first elected Governor in NY since George Pataki in 2002.

Zeldin is the endorsed candidate of the NY GOP. He has the support of most of the local GOPs across the state and should have closed the deal on a primary victory long ago. But for some reason, Zeldin has been unable to resonate, and appeal to a majority of New York republicans.

Part of the reason is that his record of serving in the NY State Senate before serving in Congress has become a major campaign issue. Harry Wilson has launched a TV ad campaign highlighting Zeldin’s prior support of Andrew Cuomo, and Zeldin’s own comments that Cuomo would make a good president.

We also agree with several other NY newspapers who reject Zeldin based on his vote against certifying the 2020 Presidential election of Joe Biden. Zeldin joined 146 republican members of Congress in that vote, but none of those other republicans are running for NY Governor. And in deep blue New York State, that vote, in our view disqualifies Zeldin and makes it impossible for him to win in November.

And in a year of voter anger at crime, inflation, gas prices and a lack of baby formula, a Red Wave is possible even in NY.

Rob Astorino has run another good campaign for Governor. He ran in 2014 but was stabbed in the back by his fellow republicans (including Zeldin and Chris Christie) who forged an alliance with Andrew Cuomo and did not support his campaign.

Astorino would have been the logical alternative to Zeldin for NY republicans. But Harry Wilson decided to get into the race and has taken most of the energy and republicans who don’t support Zeldin.

And while Astorino has tried to distance himself from Trump and January 6, 2021, there is a playbook from 2017 that NY democrats will use against him if he wins this NY GOP primary. Westchester democrats played the Trump card against Astorino, and he lost to George Latimer in his re-election bid for Westchester County Executive by 16 points. And the photo of Astorino visiting Trump in the Oval is still out there, ready to be pounded away on TV and in the mal.

We have appreciated and respected Astorino’s service to Westchester and to NY State. Andrew Giuliani has been unable to distinguish himself in any of the debates, nor present a reason why he should be elected governor.

We endorse Harry Wilson in the republican primary for Governor. Zeldin has tried to counterattack Wilson’s effective ad campaign against him by highlighting two points; that Wilson did not vote for Trump in 2020 (he voted for SC governor Nikki Haley) and that he worked for former President Obama.

Wilson will have to win over republicans, independents and moderate democrats in order to win in November, and the two facts that Zeldin has used to try and harm Wilson will help him in November, in our view.

Wilson helped save General Motors after the financial collapse of 2008, saving millions of American jobs. That experience is a badge of honor, in our view, and is desperately needed in New York state.

Wilson is also detached from Trump, so that democrats can’t use it. Wilson is not a career politician, and as an outsider, can truly reach out to every New Yorker. And he has the resources to make the 2022 race for Governor and real contest, something we haven’t seen in 20 years.

Kathy Hochul and Harry Wilson would give New York voters the best options when they vote in November.

Yonkers History continued from pg 5-

Arthur Blair, Blair Shipyard, held two master contracts with the Federal government for ship work and anticipated employing 1200 men. The shipyard also would utilize the Yonkers Recreation Pier for their important work.

Sunday, July 3rd
 July 3, 1911: The Ringling Brothers Circus came to Yonkers! More than 15,000 people enjoyed the greatest of all circuses, making Yonkers one of Ringling’s most profitable stops that year. It arrived with “peoples of a hundred nations and tribes,” a “large menagerie displayed in open dens,” and an “endless panorama of world wonders “ that “unfolded before the eyes.” Unfortunately, the heat was too much for several of the animals, and several horses were left at the crematory. Two local teenagers disappeared with the circus. One was found with the circus at the next stop in Poughkeepsie, but the second was not located.

July 3, 1949: Hero sea Captain George Fried passed away at his home in Yonkers. During his life, Fried was awarded several hundred medals and awards in recognition of his heroism. Two of his most notable and daring rescues at sea were of the Italian freighter Florida during a storm off the Virginia Capes while Captain of the SS America, and, while Captain of the SS Roosevelt, saving the crew of the British freighter Antioe in a North Atlantic storm.

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.

Gorton Val-Sal continued from pg 1-

Elham enjoyed her time at Gorton. “Charles E. Gorton High School is one of the best schools. During these past four years, I’ve had teachers and friends who have helped me in many ways not just academically, and I will forever be grateful for them.”

Any advice for future Valedictorians? One piece of advice I would give to all students is Set high personal and academic expectations for yourself and live up to them. The work will get difficult sometimes but do not lose motivation. Settle for nothing less than your very best and if you’re not satisfied with the results work harder.

Gorton Salutatorian Kwadwo Osarfo-Akoto will graduate with a 98.96 GPA. He has completed six AP and College Link courses. His extra-curricular activities include My Brother’s Keeper, YPIE Scholar, YPIE Debate Team, Creator Club, and a member of the Gorton HS Baseball Team.

Kwadwo’s awards include the University of Massachusetts Amherst Chancellor Award, the Yonkers Historical Society American History Recognition Award, and a YPIE Debate Team Winner.

Community Service and Work Church of Pentecost USA volunteer assistant technology manager and advisor, and a Camp Ray’s counselor in training.

Osarfo-Akoto likes fixing computers and started a free repair service at his church. He also enjoys solving Rubik’s Cubes, is a red-black belt in Taekwondo. His other interests include Japanese culture and the stock market.

Kwadwo was also accepted into Harvard, Yale, Columbia and NYU. He will be attending the University of Massachusetts, Amherst in the fall.

Yonkers Rising

PO Box 705, Yonkers NY 10702 -914-815-1388.
 Proudly serving the City of Yonkers as the official weekly newspaper with hyperlocal news. Member NY Press Association.
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Juneteenth in Yonkers

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Top photo-Vinnie Bagwell's Enslaved African Rain Garden has already become a tourist attraction.

Middle-at the Yonkers MBK Golf Outing, former NY Giant Tiki Barber attended and is pictured with Treat Williams, MBK alum, Saunders HS graduate and currently attending the Naval Academy.

Left: The Pan-African flag was lifted above City Hall for Juneteenth

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FROM L TO R: LOUIS ANDRONE, MD; ANDREW FADER, MD; ANA ANDRONE, MD
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